

8th MEKONG REGIONAL WORKSHOP



Assisting Victims of Trafficking in Building New Lives:

Exploring “Successful” Social Reintegration
for Victims of Trafficking
and Good Initiatives to Promote It

7th - 9th March 2018
At The Twin Towers Hotel
Bangkok, Thailand



Division of Anti-Trafficking in Persons (DATIP)
Office of the Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of Social Development and Human Security

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)



Technical Support By:
United Nations Action for Cooperation against
Trafficking in Persons

Report

The Eight Mekong Regional Workshop on Assisting Victims of Trafficking in Building New Lives: Exploring “Successful” Social Reintegration for Victims of Trafficking and Good Initiatives to Promote It

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Workshop Report
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FOREWORD

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to those who participated in the 8th Mekong Regional Workshop, which took place on 7th-9th March 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Workshop was successfully concluded thanks to the active participation and the strong commitment demonstrated by the representatives from 7 countries, namely, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam, Japan, Thailand and China (observer). This year, we officially invited the civil society organization (CSO) as the country representatives, to emphasize its significant role in protecting the victims of trafficking, and to reiterate the importance of continued coordination between the government agencies and the CSO. This document is the report that captured the entire experience of the Workshop for those who participated to recall our experience, and for those who missed it to learn from our experience.

Division of Anti-Trafficking in Persons (DATIP), Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS), Thailand and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) have been partners in implementing an Anti-Trafficking in Persons Project since 2009, and our work has been focused on protecting and assisting victims of trafficking. This Workshop is an integral part of our joint project, it marks our 8th year of our joint initiative. The theme of this year's Mekong Regional Workshop was "Assisting Victims of Trafficking in Building New Lives: Exploring "Successful" Social Reintegration for Victims of Trafficking and Good Initiatives to Promote It."

We put quotation marks on "successful" as we are still trying to figure it out what successful social reintegration for victims of trafficking is all about, how to define "successful social reintegration" means to victims of trafficking and what we can do to assist victims in a meaningful way. The thrust of the Workshop was exactly that point. Through country presentations, technical presentations on some guidelines and research, the Workshop provided a platform for us to explore what "successful" social reintegration is. This year, we invited UN-ACT (United Nations - Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons) as technical contributor to the Workshop and UN-ACT shared its regional guidebook on social reintegration with us. It gave us an overview of what kind of assistance expected to guide victims to achieve successful social reintegration. We believe, through the discussions and ideas generated through this Workshop, that we could share a common understanding on "successful social reintegration" among participating countries. Having the same or similar understanding of social reintegration is an initial step forward to collaboratively work to assist victims of trafficking, and to provide seamless assistance to victims from one country to another.

Finally, as a teaser to the next year Workshop, we shared our project experience in the border cooperation between Ubonratchatani (Thailand) and Champasak (Lao PDR). It was the first joint reporting made by the two countries to demonstrate their solidarity to combat trafficking in persons, culminated in its Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) of the two provinces. We believe the more hands are united, the tighter our net of assistance would be for victims of trafficking, so we most welcome and encourage boarder level collaboration as well as regional and country level collaboraiton.

We hope that this report would serve as a useful information tool in order to improve assistances to victims of trafficking and a base for intensified regional cooperation in order to combat trafficking in persons.

Sunee Srisangatrakullert

Director, Division of Anti-Trafficking in Persons, Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security

Ayaka Matsuno

Chief Advisor, Project on Capacity Development on Assisting Victims of Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-Regional Countries, Japan International Cooperation Agency

Photos

Open Ceremony



Opening Speech by Mr. Shigeki Miyake
Senior Representative, JICA Thailand Office



Opening Speech by Mrs. Suwaree Jaiharin
Technical Adviser on Social Development,
MSDHS



Keynote Speech by Ms. Ayaka Matsuno
Chief Adviser, JICA CM4TIP Project

Group Photos



Cambodia



China



Japan



Myanmar



Thailand



Vietnam

Presentations



Country Presentation: Thailand



Guideline on Handling of the Property of Organized Criminal Organizations Associated with Human Trafficking



Regional Guidebook on Social Reintegration by UN-ACT



Social Reintegration Handbook for Thai VOT by ARCM



The Current TIP Situation in Japan and Japan's 2014 Action Plan to Combat TIP



Japan's Effort and Challenges on Protection and Repatriation of VOT



Country Presentation: Cambodia



Country Presentation: Lao PDR



Country Presentation: Myanmar



Country Presentation: Vietnam



Repatriation for Victim of Trafficking/ Deportees by CWCC



CM4TIP Project Progress Report



Anti-TIP Cooperation between Ubon Ratchathani -
Champasak



Master of Ceremonies (MC)

Group Work



Cambodia



China



Lao PDR



Myanmar



Thailand



Facilitator



Vietnam



Closing Remarks

Field Trip at Nakorn Ratchasima Welfare Protection Center for VOT





ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AAT	Aliamce Anti Trafic (NGO)
AMLO	Anti Money Laundering Office (Thailand)
ARCM-CU	Asian Research Center for Migration, Chularongkorn University
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ATD	Anti-Human Trafficking Department (Lao PDR)
ATIPD	Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division (Myanmar)
BCATIP	Border Cooperation on Anti-Trafficking in Persons (Myanmar- Thailand)
CBTIP	Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons (Myanmar)
CCPCR	Cambodian Center for the Protection of Children's Rights
CEDAW	Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
COMMIT	Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking
CRC	Convention on Rights of the Child
CM4TIP	Project on Capacity Development on Assisting Victims of Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-Regional Countries
CMM	Case Management Meeting
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSR	Cooperate Social Responsibility
CWCC	Cambodian Women's Crisis Center (NGO)
DATIP	Division of Anti-Trafficking in Persons (Thailand)
DOLISA	Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (Vietnam)
DSI	Department of Special Investigations (Thailand)
DSW	Department of Social Welfare (Myanmar)
GMS	Greater Mekong Sub-region
GO	Governmental Organization
IO	International Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
JFY	Japanese Fiscal Year
MC	Master of Ceremony
MDT	Multi-Disciplinary Team
MLSW	Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (Lao PDR)
MOFA/MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MOLISA	Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (Vietnam)



MoSVY	Ministry of Social Affairs, Veteran and Youth Rehabilitation (Cambodia)
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSDHS	Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (Thailand)
MSWRR	Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief & Resettlement (Myanmar)
NCCT	National Committee for Counter Trafficking (Cambodia)
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NPC	National Project Coordinator (UN-ACT)
NSC	National Steering Committee on Human Trafficking (Lao PDR)
OAG	Office of the Attorney General (Thailand)
PSDHS	Provincial Social Development and Human Security Office (Thailand)
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
TIP	Trafficking in Persons
UN-ACT	United Nations Action for Cooperation against Trafficking in Persons
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drug and Crime
VFI	Village Focus International (NGO)
VoT	Victim of Trafficking



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1. INTRODUCTION

Division of Anti-Trafficking in Persons (DATIP), Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) have jointly organized the Eighth Mekong Regional Workshop on Assisting Victims of Trafficking in Building New Lives: Exploring “Successful” Social Reintegration for Victims of Trafficking and Good Initiatives to Promote It on 7-9 March 2018 (See Annex 1 for the Workshop Program).

This Workshop was implemented under the Project on Capacity Development on Assisting Victims of Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-Regional Countries (CM4TIP), a four-year Technical Cooperation Project by JICA with DATIP that started from April 2015.

United Nations Action for Cooperation Against Trafficking in Persons (UN-ACT) enacted as a technical contributor to the workshop and nominated Civil Society Organization (CSO) representatives from each country. Cambodian Women’s Crisis Center (CWCC) from Cambodia presented CSOs based on its experience on social reintegration and long-term commitment to anti-human trafficking.

138 participants on Day 1 and 120 participants on Day 2, consisting of government officers and CSOs responsible for human trafficking issues from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam, Japan and Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) members from Thailand (See Annex 2 for List of Participants) took part in the workshop. This was the first time that the Mekong Regional Workshop invited CSO representatives in consultation with UN-ACT as an official delegate from each country (except Myanmar). We also had Chinese delegates as observers for the first time in the Mekong Regional Workshop history.

2. OBJECTIVES

Objectives of the Workshop were as follows;

1. To explore the idea of what consists of “successful” social reintegration and building a common understanding on “successful” social reintegration;
2. To share experiences regarding social reintegration of victims of trafficking (VOT) from each participating country and to learn what it takes to achieve “successful” reintegration from each other;
3. To identify good initiatives to promote “successful” social reintegration in the region for possible future exchange visits;
4. To strengthen networking among the participants for effective information sharing and for future possible collaboration.



3. SUMMARY RECORD OF THE WORKSHOP

DAY 1: 07 March 2018

SESSION 1: OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Kobchai Songsrisanga and Ms. Pusa Srivilas, the Masters of Ceremony (MCs), opened the Eighth Mekong Regional Workshop.

- Mr. Shigeki Miyake, Senior Representative, JICA Thailand welcomed the participants of the Eighth Mekong Regional Workshop. Mr. Miyake shared JICA's objective in anti-TIP in the Greater Mekong Sub-region(GMS) to utilize long experiences to intensify its efforts towards counter trafficking in persons (TIP). JICA is in support of repatriation and social reintegration and support victims in building their lives through assisting in gaining access to social services. On behalf of JICA, Mr. Miyake thanked UN-ACT for their technical contribution. (Please see Annex 3 for full welcome speech)
- Ms. Suwaree Jaihar, Technical Advisor for Social Development, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) granted an opening speech. Ms. Jaihar addressed the MSDHS's commitment and intension to promote social reintegration and the good services that come with it. JICA-CM4TIP Project began in April 2015 and will continue operations until April 2019. MSDHS is putting emphasis in capacity development in assisting VOT in the GMS. Mekong Regional Workshop, co-organized by MSDHS and JICA aims to share information in trafficking situation and social reintegration assistance as well as to build and strengthen GMS /regional cooperation. (Please see Annex 3 for full opening speech)
- Ms. Ayaka Matsuno, Chief Advisor/JICA Expert, JICA- CM4TIP, gave a keynote speech on behalf of JICA. She stated the JICA's commitment to anti-human trafficking efforts in Thailand and the greater Mekong sub-region (GMS) was backed by the concept of human security articulated in the Japan's development cooperation charter. She elaborated her understanding of human security by sharing her experience with street children in Dhaka, Bangladesh and stressed the importance of ensuring human security for all. Ms. Matsuno also shared a case story of Saa (not her real name), a Thai woman who went to South Africa as a masseuse but fell a prey to human trafficking. Ms. Matsuno articulated the point of the Mekong Regional Workshop where participants would discuss on how to assist social reintegration of people like Saa. She concluded her speech by ensuring the JICA's cooperation with Thailand as well as GMS countries to combat human trafficking and wished the success of the workshop. (Please see Annex 3 for full key note speech)

SESSION 2: INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPANTS

The MCs explained the agenda of the first day of the workshop. They then requested all participants to introduce themselves by sharing their name, position and agency representation.



SESSION 3: THAILAND COUNTRY PRESENTATION

Ms. Patarapond Uparirat, Director of Pathumthani Welfare Protection Center for VOT, presented the Thailand country presentation. (Please see Annex 4 for full presentation)

Situational Analysis:

- Thailand has 8 VOT shelters located in Chiang Rai, Phisanulok, Nakorn Ratchasima, Nonthaburi, Patumthani, Ranong, Surat Thani, and Songkla provinces.
- In 2017, 337 foreign VOTs have been repatriated to domicile, with 67 being Rohingya have settled in a third country (36 are VOT/ 31 are irregular migrants).

Repatriation and Reintegration:

- Incident report requires a rigorous victim identification process. If proved to be VOT, the VOT will be granted protection at shelter as well as medical/ social/ legal assistance to prepare for repatriation and social reintegration.

Case Study:

- Case 1: A migrant couple from Myanmar working in a farm for 17 years in Petchaburi province. They were in debt bondage and forced to work. When the male got injured causing him a disabled arm, backbone fixation and chronic wound around coccyx area which required continuing medical treatment it came to the attention of officials that he was a VOT. Shortly after discovery, as of 16 November 2012, the couple was then protected at Pathumthani Welfare Protection Center for VOT. With access to the right assistance agencies and counterparts, a request for TIP Fund for male VOT was issued. Details comprise of compensation for medical treatment, loss of income, living allowance, consumption goods, and transportation to domicile. While the female VOT also received compensation for the loss of income, living allowance, consumption goods, and transportation to domicile. While at the shelter, the shelter provided jobs for the two inside and outside the shelter with highest consideration of their safety. The migrant couple was repatriated to domicile on 4 August 2014. On 24 July 2017, the Phetchaburi Court had a final verdict of Supreme Court No. 1340/2560 dated 11 April 2017 ordering the offender for 8 year and 9-month imprisonment and compensation of 900,000 THB.
- Case 2: A Cambodian male was found in forced labour circumstances in a fishing vessel in Somalia territorial waters. The VOT was protected at the shelter on 5 May 2017 and repatriated to domicile on 28 December 2017. The VOT had been found of urogenital symptoms and backache, so he was sent to Thanyaburi Hospital. Later, he was sent to see a specialist at Pathumthani Hospital and was diagnosed of having kidney stone. He received surgery on 16 June 2017 and went back to the shelter on 21 June 2017. He regularly saw the doctor as appointed until fully recovered. He received 570,000THB of compensation, but wanted to claim for 1 million THB as compensation. On 15 September 2017, VOT gave a testimony as the witness to the court (prehearing) and requested for compensation from the TIP Fund for VOT comprising of the living expenses, medical expenses and vocational support.

**Questions and Answers Session:**

- Mr. Tith Lim, UN-ACT Cambodia National Project Coordinator (NPC) asked, what are the 3 criteria for success in the first and second case study? Ms. Patarapond Uparirat thanked Mr. Lim for his question and answered, according to the processes of the MSDHS, there is a standard of procedures VOT have to go through once they enter the shelter. Attention is given to their mental/physical well-being and preparation for rehabilitation and repatriation. For cases that fall out of hand, follow up will be conducted each case through coordination with related agencies. Thailand's legal system is one of the most effective systems in regards to TIP and labour cases. Thailand will provide VOT with good legal aid. Thailand has the political will to tackle trafficking and try to criminalize perpetrators. Shelters also follow up on each case, even when VOT are repatriated abroad. MSDHS also advocates for compensation and legal support (under Article 420 of Civil and Commercial Code) from the TIP Fund/ court approval. Thailand is serious on wanting to solve the issue of human trafficking and providing support to VOT for reintegration. Mr. Lim thanked Ms. Uparirat for her answer and commented that the Cambodian government is also trying to setup a TIP Fund and would like to learn from Thailand. He also added a question on whether or not the VOT had received any compensation from the trafficker. Ms. Uparirat replied that Thailand was trying its best to provide compensation for VOT. Last week she went to the Chiang Rai Welfare Protection Center for VOT regarding 70,000 Baht compensation for a trafficking case. In the Case Management Meeting (CMM) Forum, they are trying to invite the involved governments to discuss upon the compensation for the Burmese VOT. In the case, the offender did not comply with the court order; therefore, compensation will be provided through the TIP Fund.
- Mr. Win Naing Tun, Director General of Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Myanmar commented that he acknowledged that the case studies were successful but would like to point out that the case opened in 2012 and finished in 2017. The time spent for this case was quite long. He raised 3 main points. First, he believes the court process will be faster if there is a stronger bilateral cooperation between involved agencies. It is the burden of the two countries to work together to quicken the help for the VOT. Second, regarding translations, interpreters should not be changed often for each case as it complicates the case and pace of case. Third, after the Thai verdict, I would like to request for the translated version of the verdict to them also. Ms. Uparirat thanked the Myanmar representative for the comments and addressed that once a case is received, they work on the case without any delay. Cases may be slow due to the rehabilitation process, in which, VOT's mental/physical health must be checked first before proceeding to the next steps. Therefore, the speed of each case depends on the mental/physical wellbeing of the VOT and being ready to proceed on the following steps. It is part of MSDHS's duty to protect and care for VOT and attend to each procedure with checks and balances. As in the case study, had the VOT not experience an injury, the case would not have been identified and appropriate amount of compensation would not have been addressed. The justice process in Thailand is quite fast.
- Ms. Orawan Permpoon, Counselor of the Protection of Thai Nationals Abroad Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) would like to clarify on the statistics, on which the VOT statistics on different slides on the PowerPoint presentation do not match – number of foreign VOT assisted in 2017 and number of foreign VOT returned to domicile in 2017. She



also added that case studies were also good examples but would like to focus more on the social reintegration process. For instance, we would like to learn how the injured migrant worker from Myanmar who was introduced in the case study returned to the society with disability. Ms. Uparirat thanked Ms. Orawan for her undivided attention and attending to the details and explained that the pending number of VOT were not yet confirmed and so whenever they become available, the statistic will be added to the following year. As foreign VOT stay in Thailand sometime before repatriation, there is a gap between the assisted number and repatriated number in the same year.

SESSION 4: GUIDELINE ON HANDLING OF THE PROPERTY OF ORGANIZED CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Ms. Suwaree Jaiarn, Technical Advisor for Social Development, MSDHS, thanked JICA for allowing her to share her findings with the audience and began her presentation on the Guideline on Handling of the Property of Organized Criminal Organizations Associated with Human Trafficking.

Human trafficking is one kind of transnational crime with different motives that put vulnerable populations at risk of being exploited. Transnational crimes prosper in countries where law enforcement is loose. According to UNODC, perpetrators make profit from the trade of approximately 100,000 USD per year. Perpetrators use this profit to expand these operations. At times, certain governments do not have measures par to international standards, as governments pay for compensation.

According to Ms. Uparirat's presentation, she presented on a successful case of receiving compensation. However, not all cases receive compensation, particularly from the perpetrator. From her study, she shares that there is a gap of compensation measures between different countries. The framework used in her study focuses on the influence of economic and legal factors and the deterrence of criminal motive. Perpetrators engage in such a crime with regards to its economic gains that outweigh loss. Governments need to change this perception by increasing the net profit margin and making criminals pay.

Another measure is to confiscate property of perpetrators, under the order of the judicial court as indicated in Thailand's Anti-Money Laundering Act. VOT should receive compensation from perpetrator(s) and claim for compensation through the TIP Fund from the government. Perpetrator(s) are obligated to pay with court approval. According to the Anti-Money Laundering Act, human trafficking is one of the offenses under this Act, which gives authorities verification to forfeit/confiscate assets. The Anti-Money Laundering Fund under the criminal law can also be used as compensation for VOT. VOT are regarded as persons harmed from perpetrators and can reimburse compensation from the criminal offenses acted against them.

The procedures of Thailand do not yet allow VOT to get compensation from the remedy of the perpetrators, but from the government fund that is gained from tax payers. Chances in VOT getting remedies are rare. According to her study, she proposes there are three ways to tackle the issue, 1) how to make HT forfeited assets paid to victims as compensations for victims as opposed to using government budget, 2) collaborate with Anti-Money Laundering Office (AMLO) not handling of property obtained from money laundering in human trafficking cases, and, in substitution, assigning MSDHS to conduct legal execution as imposed by a court ruling, 3) to amend the Anti-TIP Act to mandate MSDHS with legal procedures to handle property associated with human trafficking offences



including forfeiture of property to be sent to the Anti-TIP Fund. (Please see Annex 5 for full presentation)

Questions and Answers Session:

- Ms. Sudarat Sereewat, Face Foundation Thailand, shared that she was very interested in this presentation and shared that MSHDS had experience in these kinds of cases. There was a case in which she worked with a lawyer to trace for assets and asked the court to temporarily assets. She would like to ask what the potential obstacles in these kinds of cases are. She recommended MSDHS should advocate for organizations that do not have their own lawyers to commission lawyers to work on this process. Ms. Jaiarn appreciated the comment by Ms. Sudarat.
- Ms. Pattraporn Pommanuchatip, Provincial Public Prosecutor, Office of the Attorney General (OAG), Thailand raised that the biggest concern was the investigation, because all the procedures needed to be followed in order to pay compensation to the VOT. Asset tracing will be done only after the trial. She also added that working with the Department of Legal Execution would also be helpful, although it might be a difficult process, there is possibility in exploring the different channels of cooperation so that offenders cannot move their assets. Also, if MSDHS discusses with the VOT to find out about the assets of the offender, this may be a faster way to approach the issue. MSDHS should think out-of-the-box to find a quicker solution to this matter.
- Ms. Phatchara Khaisaeng, Legal Officer, Senior Professional Level, AMLO added that the scenario would apply to the Anti-Money Laundering Act, as the Act covers in the cases of drugs or prostitution. AMLO has to trace assets that are associated with such crime. In terms of the assets, after AMLO collects the evidence showing assets of the offender, the asset owner must prove how they retrieved the assets. If the court finds out the assets involves with the offence, the court will order the assets to belong to the state. Out of the seized assets, AMLO only receives the assets in cash. Other types of assets such as immoveable asset and right asset will be transferred to Ministry of Finance and the Treasury Department. Only 50% of cash from the offense will be sent to the Anti-Money Laundering Fund. The difficult part is that there are also inherited assets before committing the offense that AMLO cannot touch. If they find that the assets which involved with the human trafficking, they may ask MSDHS in order to give a temporary protection so that the offenders will not manipulate the assets. We have to investigate the fact and to present the fact to our transaction committee for the assets for the future within 90 days to send the case to prosecutors and have the court trial so that all of the forfeited assets will belong to the states. Usually offenders will have to find the 2-3 courts, which takes quite a long time (5-6 years) before the assets will belong to the state and reach to VOT. AMLO is currently in the process of amending the law in order to be able to facilitate the forfeit of the asset better.
- Ms. Orawan Permpoon, Counselor of the Protection of Thai Nationals Abroad Division, MFA, commented that the three proposed solutions to tackle the issue were good initiatives to bring compensation to VOT according to international standard and would solve the aspect of time consuming process to compensate VOT. However, in the case of insufficient assets of the offender to compensate the VOT, she asked in what forms the compensation would be held. Ms. Jaiarn explained that there were two approaches. One, they are in the process of amending the current law to cover this aspect. Two, they



will setup a legal team to find out how to enforce the law in ‘asset tracing.’ They will need to cooperate with prosecutors in this process. Under the current system, the government pays compensation to the VOTs in form of daily financial assistance (300 Baht/day) with allowance.

- Mr. Samroum Waiwasa, Social Development Officer, DATIP, MSDHS replied that according to the old law of AMLO, the forfeited assets would belong to the state. However, there is an effort to amend the law so that the money will go to MSDHS instead, and the money will be used to compensate VOT. This idea has been discussed and currently in consultation with related agencies, and it will be presented to the government. Another issue that was discussed is regarding the asset tracing, DATIP appoints a legal team to find out how to enforce the law. It is cooperated with the prosecutor as they are in charge of claiming compensation from the perpetrators on behalf of VOT. In addition, it was discussed to amend the law in order to commission the private lawyers to trace the asset after the court ruling.

SESSION 5: UN-ACT REGIONAL REINTEGRATION GUIDEBOOK

Mr. Paul Buckley, UN-ACT Regional Project Coordinator, introduced the Regional Reintegration Guidebook. The Guidebook is an important outcome of the work between UN-ACT and COMMIT. COMMIT was established in 2004 through an MOU between different governments in the GMS to enhance intergovernmental cooperation with the understanding that no country can combat trafficking on its own. It is a multi-country and multi-stakeholder framework against human trafficking, engaging relevant government agencies, IOs, CSOs and the private sector. UN-ACT serves as its Secretariat for COMMIT, providing technical, financial and coordination support.

‘After Trafficking’ research was released in 2014 based on extensive research on experiences of trafficked persons in the GMS and victim identification support services with credit to the government. Successful reintegration needs to consider the access to support, safe and secure environment, reasonable standard of living, good mental and physical well-being and opportunities for development. The approach is not a one size fits all, as there are many complexities in these concepts. Three broad areas include: programming, attention to children and policy/advocacy. Supporting successful and sustainable reintegration requires the following services: housing, care and accommodation, medical assistance, psychological support and counseling, education and life skills, economic empowerment programs, administrative support, legal assistance and support, safety and security assessments, family assistance, mediation and counseling, and case management (please see Annex for specifics). The guidebook goes through the specific needs of VOT and details regarding short-term and long-term needs, reflecting on the experiences of VOT. Case management is a very important aspect in responding to the needs of VOT. This process helps provide assistance to VOT and feeds back into the system on how to provide better services. (Please see Annex 6 for full presentation)

The Reintegration Guidebook can be found on the UN-ACT website with other CTIP resources within the six countries at: <http://un-act.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Final-Reintegration-Guidebook-3.pdf>

**Questions and Answers Session:**

- Ms. Pongthong Onoora, Legal Advisor of Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives thanked Mr. Buckley for his presentation. She addressed the point number 7 regarding legal assistance and support and asked him regarding how we can develop laws and regulations in a similar manner. Mr. Buckley answered that the Reintegration Guideline was not developed at an ASEAN-level but developed by COMMIT. The guidebook is meant to be a resource to provide recommendations of how to improve the processes in victim identification and reintegration.
- Mr. Anthony Posnett, Ratanak International, asked about budget implications and what the gap between the guidebook and the real experience is. He also asked what the roadmap for it would look like. Mr. Buckley answered that while all service areas need to be assessed, not all were needed in a given case, and a cost-benefit analysis for budget provision should not just be economic, but include the harm done to VOTs and the impact of that. These are the guidelines adopted by governments – cooperation of support services, governments looking at the provisions they have in those guidelines and where the gaps still exist. The guidebook acts as a guideline for support services to approach in attending to the needs of VOTs. It also varies a lot depending on the independent case.
- Ms. Kongseng Piengpanya, Village Focus International (VFI), Lao PDR requested for examples of best practices for children. From her experience, VOT are treated the same way despite their age differences, but the specific needs of child VOT should be properly addressed. Mr. Buckley thanked her for highlighting the issue and notified the participants that there was a certain section of the guidebook that focused on children services and understanding the kinds of trauma/abuse children experienced.
- Mr. Tith Lim, UN-ACT Cambodia NPC added some comments to Ratanak International's question about the budget implications that the cost of social reintegration assistance per VOT was around 2,000 USD 4-5 years ago, but the cost is increasing. Mr. Buckley added that it would be helpful to also understand the extent of success within cases, amidst the complexities needed to be taken into account in doing so.

SESSION 6: ARCM, CHULALONGKORN UNIVERSITY SOCIAL REINTEGRATION HANDBOOK FOR THAI VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

Dr. Ratchada Jayagupta, Asian Research Center for Migration (ARCM), Chulalongkorn University (CU) thanked JICA and MSDHS for having her to present on the research conducted by CU. (Please see Annex 7 for full presentation)

- The main objective of this research was to implement essences of the handbook for developing the social reintegration process of Thai VOT and to be a practical handbook for all relevant organizations to be able to use regarding social reintegration of Thai VOT.
- The research was conducted in Ubon Ratchani, Nakorn Ratchasima, Chiang Rai and Phayao provinces. Data was also collected from Chonburi and Bangkok vicinity.
- Dr. Jayagupta revisited the definition of reintegration and shared that it refers to “a process of assisting and following up of VOT. The reintegration also includes the preparation of families and communities. The ultimate aim of reintegration programs is



to ensure the VOT can be integrated with their communities safely and the VOT have to be able to access human security.”

- In Thailand, the reintegration of VOT aims to “rehabilitate and provide socio-economic assistance for VOT as well as provide opportunities for VOT to be able to live in the communities based on human security and being accepted as a member of the community.”
- 4 different categories of VOT: 1) identified as VOT 2) identified as VOT but refuse services 3) identified as not a trafficked victim 4) not aware of being a VOT and/or own rights as VOT.
- The flowchart of Thai VOT protection process in Thailand (Please see Annex). When identification as victims, VOT can choose to receive or deny assistance. In the case of children, in accordance to the Child Protection Act, children have no choice but to seek assistance.
- In order to engage in a success as an MDT, the team is needed to trust one another, respect one another, collaborate in the planning process, clarify/specify tasks and responsibilities for each organization, provide constructive suggestions and recommendations, be open to help, and understand and empathize with VOT.
- Ways in which VOT can engage in social reintegration is through practical process, building trust, building mental security, providing consultation services, providing activities and service in which can provide options for VOT, preparing and presenting information about rights of VOT to the VOT, providing temporary shelter and established self-help/peer support group for assistance.
- Some of the current challenges in trying to promote successful social reintegration including building understanding among VOT and communities, coordination issues, lack of human resources, engagement in long and big governmental systematic procedures, monitoring and evaluating cases, and lack of success in reintegration.
- Despite the challenges it is important to take note of the rights of VOT that they are entitled the rights to assistance, victims should not be held as criminals, rights to claim for compensation from perpetrators, rights to claim for compensation from TIP Fund, rights to privacy and confidentiality, and rights to safety/protection from perpetrators.

Questions and Answers Session:

- Ms. Orawan Permpoon, Counselor of the Protection of Thai Nationals Abroad Division, MFA commented that successful reintegration was associated with VOT not being re-trafficked or becoming the perpetrators themselves. She raised the question on what factors that prevent re-trafficking or VOT becoming perpetrators. Dr. Jayagupta answered that economic factor was one of the important factors in successful social reintegration. If the former VOT could find a way of living in the community, the risk of re-trafficking and motivation for migration become lower. For instance, one survivor of trafficking was supported by an international NGO to develop a future plan for social reintegration while in the destination country and she was engaged in planning on how to start a grilled chicken stall business within her community. When the survivor started earn the money from this business, she was financially independent and not at risk of being re-trafficked.



- Ms. Kaori Kwarabayashi, UN-ACT Regional Project Manager, posed the question of how long after social reintegration a VOT was to be followed-up as there may be implications of long-term psychological effects. Dr. Jayagupta answered that according to Thai standards, follow-ups were provided every month in the first 3 months and every 3 months after that period, which would take place up to a year by the government sector. In some cases, long-term follow-ups are provided by NGO and community-based organizations such as housewife group called “Mae Ying” group through GO-NGO collaboration.
- Ms. Rattana Nonthapattamadul, Director of Protection and Right Advocacy Section, DATIP, MSDHS added that their focus had been put more onto reintegration. They try to engage in a systematic process and work closely in collaboration with JICA to repatriate and reintegrate VOT. Assisting the repatriation of foreign VOT from Thailand to their countries of origin is equally important as assisting Thai VOT repatriating from abroad. This workshop provides a good opportunity for all of us to partner and connect in assisting VOT.

SESSION 7: CURRENT TIP SITUATION IN JAPAN AND JAPAN’S 2014 ACTION PLAN TO COMBAT TIP

Ms. Mari Shigenari Deputy Counselor, Cabinet Secretariat, Japan began her presentation by introducing the recent situation in Japan on TIP, arrests and suspects and status of residence of 25 foreign victims. (Please see Annex 8 for full presentation)

- Trends – Findings from the arrests indicate that foreign victims tend to be forced to work as “hostess” or forced to engage in prostitution at entertainment establishment. For instance, a Thai woman was told she could go sightseeing in Japan for free. When agreed and arrived, she was found at large debt and was forced into prostitution as repayment of her debt. It was soon revealed that a broker (a Thai female) had procured four victims (Thai females), made them live in the dormitories of entertainment establishment, forced them to engage in prostitution, and had siphoned the proceedings from their work. The victims were granted special permission to stay, and after receiving livelihood support and medical services from Women’s Consulting Offices they were repatriated through support from the International Organization for Migration (IOM.) In the case of Japanese women, they tend to be forced to engage in prostitution via online matchmaking sites.
- Framework – As a means towards combating the issue, the Government of Japan established a Council for the Promotion of Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons. The chairperson is the Chief Cabinet Secretary. Members include: Minister of State for Special Missions (Gender Equality), Chairman of the National Public Safety Commission, Minister of Justice, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry and Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.



- Japan's process of taking VOT into custody either happens from request for protection some an entity (Embassy, civilian, etc.) to the Police/Immigration Bureau. Police/Immigration Bureau will then protect victims for safety reasons and request for protection at the Women's Consultation Office, which will work in coordination with foreign countries' diplomatic offices in Japan, the Immigration Bureau, or IOM to seek for assistance in receiving protection and services.
- Action Plan – Based off the 2014 Action Plan to Combat TIP to prevent labour exploitation and promote the identification of victims, the plan consists of 6 steps: Assessment, Prevention, Promotion of identification of victims, Eradication, Protection and support of victims, and Establishment of foundations for promotion of measures.
- Measures to Combat TIP – the Government of Japan sees importance in information sharing and close coordination. In 2004, the Government of Japan has dispatched a Government Delegation on Anti-Human Trafficking Measures headed by a senior official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and comprised of officials from relevant ministries and agencies to a total of 24 countries and regions. In January 2015, the Government Delegation was dispatched to Bangkok, Thailand, where the fifth meeting of the Japan-Thailand Joint Task Force on Counter-Trafficking in Persons was held. At the meeting, both countries shared their recent initiatives to combat TIP and discussed further coordination.

SESSION 8: JAPAN'S EFFORT AND CHALLENGES ON PROTECTION AND REPATRIATION OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

Ms. Tomoko Ohashi, Director of Aichi Prefecture Women's Counseling Center presented on the current efforts and challenges Japan is facing in combating TIP. (Please see Annex 9 for full presentation)

- In the process of Protecting the Victims of Human Trafficking (Please refer to Annex 9), VOT are sent to the counseling reception office after receiving protective custody by the police, the Immigrant Bureau, Women's Counseling Offices, NGOs and/or Embassies in Tokyo. The VOT will be in temporary protective custody at a Women's Counseling Office or to a private shelter to receive social services before repatriation and social reintegration.
- Women's Counseling Office is a public institution that aims to consistently provide seamless and professional assistance such as consultation, protection, independence assistance, etc. to those women who have to face complicated and serious problems, by which their body and mind are hurt, and/or had their human rights infringed upon them.
- According to their statistics from JFY2001 to 2015, 95.8 % of the counseling route leading to protective custody is the police or the Immigration Bureau. Indonesians, Thais and Filipinos make up 88.5% of victims. There were 20 VOT who are under 18 years old. The youngest was 14 years old. Average was 25.5 years old.
- A total of 409 victims were recorded of protective custody by Prefecture. 137 out of 409 are outsourced for temporary protective custody. The average number of days in protective custody is 45.1 days.



- Case Study 1 – Thai VOT: Ms. A recently graduated from a vocational school and was introduced by an acquaintance to a highly paid job as waitress in Japan. The man she met at the airport seized her passport and she was taken to work at a bar. She was forced to go out with the male clients and be engaged in prostitution. When she said she wanted to return to Thailand, she was threatened to pay back a bundle of cash she owed. About a week after arriving in Japan, she ran away from the dormitory (apartment), borrowed a telephone at a nearby company and asked the Thai Embassy for help. She strongly desired for repatriation and showed symptoms of anxiety.
- Case Study 2 – Filipino VOT: Ms. B learned from a friend that she can work in Japan and make good money to pay her debt. She was offered a sham marriage to legally stay in Japan. Upon entry into Japan, her passport was seized and she lived in the homeowner's house and forced to work as a bar hostess at a Filipino pub every day. She was promised a monthly salary of 70,000 yen but only receive 30,000 yen. Two Filipinas working at the same pub as Ms. B went to the Immigration Bureau in hopes to return home. The home was searched and Ms. B was discovered and taken into protective custody (96 days) before repatriation.
- Considerations of Support for VOT – providing a safe shelter to reside in during custody, attend to VOT's mental and physical health, enrich communication, respect the customs and values of the person, and to provide therapeutic and restful activities for the VOT to enjoy.

Questions and Answers Session:

- Ms. Pattaporn Pommanuchatip, Provincial Public Prosecutor, OAG, Thailand thanked for the interesting presentation. She had a question regarding the nationality of the victim. In the case, woman that is not a spouse of Japanese man, will the child have Japanese citizenship? Will the child be considered a foreign victim? Does Japan consider nationality by birth/residency or by blood? Regarding the slide 6, nationality on the slide is dependent on the status of residence. Ms. Shigenari clarified that point by saying that in terms of Japanese law, even if the spouse is not married, as long as the father accepts the child is his child, the child will receive Japanese nationality. In addition, a DNA test can now be used to assist to determine the relationship between the father and the child. Ms. Pattaporn further asked where the counseling center's source of fund was coming from. Ms. Ohashi explained that the Counseling Center was a national program. Legally, each prefecture has to have at least 1 center and shelter. The shelter is not only a shelter for VOT, but also serves as a shelter for victims of different forms of abuses.
- Ms. Nguyen Van Anh, Director of Center for Studies and Applied Sciences in Gender, Family, Women, and Adolescents (CSAGA), Vietnam asked if Japan has a hotline and how many percent of the VOT out of the 409 victims come through the hotline. Ms. Shigenari explained that there was no one specific hotline number for VOT, there are many numbers to call. The reason is because the VOT may not see themselves as a VOT so they call through hotlines for emergencies. Even the hotline for emergency, equivalent to 911 in the US, provides consultations for foreigners on issues related to their human rights or information center for foreign residents, which is common. All hotlines receive a tremendous amount of phone calls; therefore, Japan does not have a record of the



percentage, because the contacts are anonymous for confidentiality reasons. In 2016, there were 180 phone calls related to trafficking, but may not lead to arrests.

- Mr. Kenichi Tamada, JICA Volunteer who has been volunteering at Ranong Welfare Protection Center for VOT for 5 months commented that Thai youth are interested in visiting Japan and he sees it as a dangerous situation as people are not informed of the risks. He further asked if there was any measure in Thailand to warn these people. As this is a question to Thai side, Ms. Rattana Nonthapattamadul of DATIP responded that Thailand had a project to engage in preventative measures to educate society and risky populations to tell them possible risks in working overseas not only in Japan but elsewhere. There is also projects to educate youth the basic rights and make media and publications to inform the community. Often times, Thai youth are overenthusiastic about working in a developed country. Thailand is working with embassies to prevent and assist VOT (repatriation). Training youth to educate their peers. Ms. Orawan of MFA also added that Thais trafficked to Japan is relatively low compared to other countries such as South Korea or Bahrain. She would also like to cross-check if there were Thais whom identified as VOT in 2017 in Japan, as according to Thai statistics, there was none. Most of Thai people who were in trouble last year resulted from being a sex worker or illegal laborer with voluntary intention, so they are not regarded as a victim. An incentive that Thais work abroad is due to the fact that the Thai government usually offers assistance to all Thai, regardless of their intentions of illegal work or performing the crime. They know about this so when they are in trouble, they call the embassy for assistance. They can borrow money from the embassy to return home and can receive services for assistance such as a fund from MSDHS if they claim themselves as a victim. Accordingly, MFA is proceeding a preventive measure by establishing the database of Thai citizens who were involved in the illegal activities abroad. It would be difficult, but the government is considering to prohibit the overseas travel of those who were involved in the illegal activities abroad in the past.
- Ms. Pattraporn Pommanuchatip, Provincial Public Prosecutor, OAG, Thailand commented that to prevent human trafficking, it does not depend on any individual agency. Many agencies have spent their effort to prevent the problem. For the OAG, the office is establishing 80 offices of to Office of Rights Protection nationwide to educate people by sending prosecutors to teach school children and people in community to prevent them from being victimized. OAG also conducts PR through its radio program. MSDHS and other agencies also educate people similarly. Also, the Thai agencies do not have different treatment or discrimination between Thai people and foreign workers. In addition, we should be aware that vulnerable people such as poor or uneducated people would become victimized. Thailand is trying its best in implementing preventative measures to prevent those vulnerable from being trafficked. Aside from awareness raising, prosecution of the offenders is important to prevent TIP.



DAY 2: 08 March 2018

SESSION 9: CAMBODIA COUNTRY PRESENTATION

H.E. Channy Toch, General Director, Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY) gave an introduction that if there is no buyer, there will be no seller. It is important to reduce the demand for human trafficking. Cambodia has limited resources but would like to provide support to VOT.

Mrs. Sokhun Prom, Director of Anti-Human Trafficking and Reintegration Office (ATRO), MoSVY did the country presentation. Cambodia is a source, transit and destination country for TIP. For domestic trafficking, people are trafficked from rural areas to urban and from one province to another. Current trends indicate that Cambodians are trafficked to Thailand, Southeast Asia, Malaysia, South Korean, China and other regions. Cambodia also is a destination and transit country for Vietnamese and Chinese migrants. (Please see Annex 10 for the full presentation)

Case Study:

Sophea is a 34-year-old lady, who worked for a garment factory in Phnom Penh. She was convinced by a broker to marry a Chinese man in China for better income. Her travels through Vietnam to China were arranged by the broker. In Vietnam, she was arrested by the police for 5 days. When identified as a VOT, she was repatriated to Cambodia with facilitation from MoSVY and Chab Dai coalition. Upon repatriation, Sophea was referred to the RAP Community Home for mental and physical recovery. In the process of social reintegration, Sophea received medical care for her health problems (teeth, stomach pains and digestive system), and receiving counseling. She attended vocational training in sewing skill and life skill. She is a tailor staff in a dress making design shop and earns at least 200 USD per month.

Questions and Answers Session:

- Ms. Kongseng Piengpanya from Village Focus International (VFI), Lao PDR asked if Cambodia could share some experiences of best practices and cases of children and key challenges in assisting child victims.
- Ms. Rattana Nonthapattamadul of DATIP was impressed by the work and procedures in Cambodia. She shared that Thailand and Cambodia have been working together on different issues as well as establishing a MOU and SOP for guidelines for the repatriation and reintegration. Thai government is following up all the cases whom repatriated from Thailand to Cambodia.
- Ms. Chu Xuan Hoa, Senior Program Officer of JICA Vietnam Office, asked about the function of National Committee for Counter Trafficking (NCCT) and 6 working groups under NCCT. Ms. Chu also clarified that Vietnamese government did not arrest the Cambodian VOT as presented in the case study, but they provided protection to the VOT. Ms. Prom responded that NCCT is a national central body of anti-TIP in Cambodia and working groups are set to address specific issues such as prevention, prosecution and protection. MoSVY is a lead ministry of the protection working group.



SESSION 10: LAO PDR COUNTRY PRESENTATION

Ms. Khambonh Soulivong, Deputy Head of the Secretariat Division, Anti-Human Trafficking Department, Ministry of Public Security and Ms. Vannaly Inphaphom, Deputy Head of Protection Division, the counseling and protection center for women and children, Lao Women's Union gave the Lao PDR country presentation. (Please see Annex 11 for the full presentation)

Lao PDR is mainly a source country of human trafficking. Lao trafficking victims are often migrant workers seeking better opportunities outside the country, who then experience labor or sexual exploitation after arriving destination countries, most often Thailand. Many victims, particularly women and girls, many younger than 18 years old, are exploited in commercial sex industry and in forced labor in domestic service, factories, or agriculture. Men and boys are victims of forced labor in fishing, construction, and agricultural industries in the past 3 years.

Case Study:

- Case Study 1: Sai is a 16-year-old girl. Her family is poor and has debt, resulting her in leaving school. In May 2016, she decided to go to Thailand for work to earn money for her family. Her friend, Phetsy (who had been to Thailand before) traveled with Sai to Thailand. She worked in Karaoke bar in Thailand and she was forced to have sex with the bar clients without salary and was locked up in the bar. She worked there for 3 months and was rescued by some Thai police and sent to a shelter in Thailand. She lived there for a year and later she was sent back to Laos (Lao Women's Union's shelter) on October 19, 2017. At present, she has been repatriated to her family and assisted to attend school.
- Case Study 2: Mr. Souk is 14 years old. During school holiday, he was looking for a job to buy clothes and school materials so he went to Khammouane market in June 2016. He met one man who suggested him to work in Thailand because of the good pay, so he agreed to his suggestion, went to Thailand and worked at an ice making factory. He worked there for a month and the owner moved him to a new ice making factory. He worked at the 2nd factory for 3 months. The work started from 4 AM and ended at 8 PM without salary nor day off. After Thai police rescued him, he was sent to a shelter in Thailand for a year. Finally, on 25 January of 2018, Souk was sent back to Laos (Lao Women's Union's shelter). At present, he has been repatriated to his family.

Questions and Answers Session:

- Ms. Nguyen Van Anh, Director of Center for Studies and Applied Sciences in Gender, Family, Women, and Adolescents (CSAGA), a Vietnamese NGO mentioned one of the obstacles for social reintegration is that victims often feel discriminated against and disempowered through the classification of being a 'victim.' She asked how we should proceed to overcome this obstacle. In Vietnam, communication strategy to educate communities about TIP is being implemented. The Laotian presenter responded that they should also provide education towards communities to inform them of human trafficking and to address the issue of discrimination. Ms. Nguyen asked about the statistics in the slide 3. She asked the reason why the majority of VOT are under 18 and female-dominated. The Laotian presenter clarified that the statistics showed the number of VOT,



who were repatriated from Thailand only. They were identified as VOT in Thailand. The majority of VOTs are under 18 years old and female.

- Mr. Zaw Min Thant, Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division, Myanmar Police Force asked about compensation to VOT and care at the shelter.
- A representative from Thailand asked how Laotian government would address the major gaps, obstacles and challenges in order to move forward, especially regarding the issue of re-trafficking and coordination among different agencies. The Laotian side responded that we would need to work on coordination and setup a committee in order to provide effective and efficient response to trafficking cases. Lao PDR has already setup a provincial committee in order to work on this gap.

SESSION 11: MYANMAR COUNTRY PRESENTATION

Mr. Win Naing Tun, Director General, Ministry of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement, Department of Rehabilitation would like to thank MSDHS, JICA and delegates from NGOs, CBOs and other leaders in related agencies. He mentioned that there are 3-4 million Myanmar migrant workers working in Thailand and they are in vulnerable status. Myanmar government is supporting this group by issuing the identification document in Thailand.

Ms. Khine Su Lwin, Assistant Director, Ministry of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement, Department of Rehabilitation conducted the country presentation with Mr. Zaw Min Thant of Myanmar Police Force. (Please see Annex 12 for the full presentation)

Myanmar is a source and transit country. The three types of trafficking prevalent in Myanmar are labor trafficking, sexual exploitation and forced marriage.

Case Study:

A male from Chin State was trafficked to a fishing boat in Thailand. After he was rescued by DSI, Thailand, he was cared at a shelter under MSDHS. A Myanmar social worker visited him at the shelter in Thailand to provide repatriation and reintegration assistance. He was repatriated to Myanmar in February 2017. Later, he passed the exam to be a government staff and became a social worker at the Department of Social Welfare, regional office. Currently, he provides psycho-social support to victims.

Questions and Answers Session:

- Mr. Tith Lim, UN-ACT Cambodia NPC thanked the presenters and asked for the information regarding upcoming MOU between Myanmar-India. Cambodia is interested in signing MOU with India as they are willing to recruit Cambodians to work in poultry factories. Mr. Win Naing Tun answered that in Chin state, women and men have a tendency to be trafficked or work into India. In order to protect these people, Myanmar took this matter into account and signed the MOU with India. Myanmar people also work in Thai/Chinese fishing boats, some of the workers were arrested in Indian territorial waters. With the trafficking cases with Myanmar-India, we do not have specific cases, but we plan to prevent the foreseeing problems that may take place in the future.
- Mr. Jianfeng Chen, Director of Anti-Trafficking Office, Ministry of Public Security, China expressed his pleasure in partaking in the workshop as observer. In 2009, China-Myanmar



signed an MOU on TIP. We conducted regular meetings and found that many Myanmar people were introduced into forced marriage. The difficulty encountered is the complexity in identifying the will/intention of Myanmar women. For instance, at first, they are voluntarily marrying Chinese men; however, later they find out the marriage is not up-to-par with their expectations, which leads them to report to the authority and claim as VOT.

China is willing to continue the bilateral efforts to combat TIP with Myanmar.

SESSION 12: VIETNAM COUNTRY PRESENTATION

Ms. Dang Huong Giang, Vice Head of Information – Education – Communication, Vietnam Women's Union conducted the country presentation along with Ms. Le Thi Thao, Counselor of Anti-TIP Hotline, Center of Consultation and Communication Service/ Department of Children Affairs/ MOLISA and Ms. Nguyen Van Anh, Director, Center for Studies and Applied Sciences in Gender, Family, Women and Adolescents (CSAGA) (nominated by UN- ACT Vietnam). (Please see Annex 13 for the full presentation)

Vietnam is a source and, to a lesser extent, a destination country for men, women, and children subjected to sex trafficking and conditions of forced labor. Vietnamese from Northern Vietnam are trafficked into China (75%) for forced marriage, sexual exploitation, labor exploitation or child abduction, and others are trafficked from Southern Vietnam to Cambodia, Malaysia, Lao PDR, or Thailand for sexual exploitation. Some are lured into arranged marriages in Taiwan, South Korea, Singapore, and Malaysia. Vietnamese go beyond the GMS, and trafficked to countries such as Macau, Hong Kong, Japan, and Europe mainly for sexual exploitation. In addition, internal trafficking is prevalent in most provinces in Vietnam for the purpose of labor exploitation and sexual exploitation.

Case Study:

- On Jan 1, 2016, Ms. H. of World Vision (a NGO) called the Anti TIP Hotline 18001567, informing a case of H.T.D. (a girl), born in 2002, H'Mong ethnic, in Muong Cha, Dien Bien, being missing since July 17, 2015. On March 15, 2016, Ms. H called the Anti TIP Hotline, informing that on March 13, D. called her father, saying that she was sold by her boyfriend, and now she lived in a H'Mong Chinese family. D. wanted to return home. Ms. H provided the phone number that D. used to call home. On March 18, Mr. V of Blue Dragon (an NGO) informed that he found the place where D. was residing. D. was 2-month pregnant and a rescue was being planned. In early May 2016, D. was rescued safely to home and got various supports: cash (1,5 million VND), maternal care, psychological support. After giving birth, D. wanted to go back to school. Blue Dragon supported all necessary expenses to send D. to go to Hanoi to attend a vocational school. D. is staying in the Blue Dragon shelter, and she is happy with her new life. Her child is taken care by grandparents. The Hotline continues to work with Dien Bien DOLISA in order to for D. to apply social protection support as "poor - single mother" category.

Questions and Answers Session

- No questions asked.

SESSION 13: CSO EXPERIENCE PRESENTED BY CAMBODIAN WOMEN'S CRISIS CENTER (CWCC)

A CSO experience presented by Ms. Panhavichetr Pok, Executive Director, Cambodian Women's Crisis Center (CWCC). The organization's objective is to empower target communities to exercise their



human rights to overcome challenges related to human trafficking. Their target populations are women and men affected by and/or vulnerable to all forms of Exploitation/trafficking in Phnom Penh, Siem Reap and Banteay Meanchey. (Please see Annex 14 for the full presentation)

Questions and Answers Session:

- Ms. Rattana Nonthapattamadul of DATIP asked about the popular skills in the job in Cambodia. As Thai government has a plan to establish a transit center for VOT with vocational training center at the Thai-Cambodian border, Ms. Rattana would like to receive recommendations of skill sets ideal for VOT to be reintegrated back into society. Director Pok responded that there was no one-size fits all answer.
- Skill assessment is important, as some VOT have skills from their work experience in Thailand that can be helpful in their work. It is better to build upon what is existing. To facilitate the economic empowerment of VOT in a timely manner, skills which can be acquired in a short time frame is recommended. For women, jobs related to coffee shop and beauty salons are popular.
- Mr. Tith Lim, UN-ACT Cambodia NPC, shared that the tourism industry in Cambodia is booming. The job demand for hospitality is increasing. Poipet Center is being built, partnership with French school in Siem Reap to train people in hospitality. They provide scholarship support but their curriculum is 2 years. However, the graduates from the program turn out very well. VOT are able to gain stable high paying jobs.
- Ms. Kongseng Piengpanya, Program Coordinator, VFI asked about 1) how to assist the VOT who dropped out of school at young age and cannot read and write, 2) when VOT are more vulnerable, how we can help children in overcoming such issues and 3) between sending them back to school or assisting them for the job matching, which one is recommended. Ms. Pok answered that CWCC provided scholarship packages. Those who are already residing at the shelter also have the opportunity to catch up at school. A shelter provides them with literacy classes and work with family for support.



SESSION 14: PROGRESS OF THE PROJECT ON CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT ON ASSISTING VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN THE GREATER MEKONG SUB-REGIONAL COUNTRIES (JICA-CM4TIP)

Ms. Ayaka Matsuno, Chief Advisor, JICA-CM4TIP project gave a presentation regarding the strategies, activities and progress made so far in the project. She explained that they had been working with DATIP, MSDHS closely to improve protective assistance for VOT and trafficked persons (Thai and foreigners) rescued and protected in Thailand through capacity building and promotion of a victim-centered approach. There are three important pillars in the project, which include social reintegration, repatriation, and regional cooperation. Ms. Matsuno emphasized the importance of social reintegration assistance for VOT because everyone deserves a second chance (human rights); VOT should take control over their own life (human dignity), and the vicious cycle of human trafficking needs to be broken (end human trafficking).

She further articulated four strategies that the project employed; 1) capacity development of MDT for improved assistance for VOT through the usage of handbook production, trainings, coordination meetings, and MDT driven activities at the provincial level, 2) calling for the inner strength of VOT through capacity development of VOT peer support group, delivery of VOT's voice to MDT via forum, promotion of victim-center approach, publications of VOT experiences and access to information, 3) engaging in bilateral cooperation that facilitates seamless repatriation, and 4) promoting regional cooperation. The current Mekong Regional workshop is an integral part of this 4th strategy of regional cooperation where counterparts are engaged in regional dialogue, set a common goal/standard, share knowledge and experiences in assisting VOT for social reintegration in the region, and provide seamless assistance to VOT through effective bilateral cooperation at the border areas of the project sites. She then introduced the representatives from Ubon Ratchatani and Champasak provinces in Thailand and Lao PDR to the podium to demonstrate bilateral cooperation at the border level. (Please see Annex 15 for the full presentation)

SESSION 15: PROJECT ACTIVITY – THAI-LAO PDR BORDER COOPERATION AT THE PROVINCIAL LEVEL (UBON RATCHATHANI-CHAMPASAK EXPERIENCE)

Ms. Nattaya Jitkoh, Chief of Ubon Ratchathani PSDHS and Mr. Gnokda Xayyachak, Deputy Director of Champasak Department of Labour and Social Welfare presented the Thai-Lao PDR Border Cooperation of Ubon Ratchathani-Champasak experience together. Ms. Jitkoh presented the background of the two provinces' relation stating that they have both land and water borders. There are various border crossing routes between the provinces: common route, local route, and informal route. Most locals of both provinces have agricultural occupations and similar cultures. However, the differences in economic status between people of Ubon Ratchathani and Champasak attract many Laotians to migrate to Thailand. Some of them crossed the border illegally and had high risks of becoming trafficked victims.

In order to protect and assist the VOT, on November 2010, Ubon Ratchathani and Champasak with support from MSDHS organized an anti-TIP meeting and signed an agreement on the minute. This was concluded with an intention to improve their anti-TIP cooperation including assistance provision to VOT and operation together as MDT. The organizations that play the main parts in coordination are Ubon Ratchathani PSDHS and Champasak Department Labour and Social Welfare. Both sides cooperate as agreed in the meeting. They regularly share experiences and problems and tackle them together to solve. Finally, they had the 2nd agreement on June 2013, in Pakse District, Champasak.