

The 9th Mekong Regional Workshop



**Towards Well-Knit Net of Assistance
for Victims of Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-region:
Learning from the Bilateral and Regional Cooperation Experiences**

22-24 January 2019

At The Ambassador Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand



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

Japan International Cooperation Agency

REPORT

**The Ninth Mekong Regional Workshop
Towards well-knit net of assistance for victims of trafficking
in the Greater Mekong Sub-region:
Learning from the bilateral and regional cooperation experiences**

22 – 24th January 2019

Ambassador Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

**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)**



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in the Greater Mekong Sub-region:
Learning from the bilateral and regional cooperation experiences**

**Workshop Report
22 – 24th January 2019
Ambassador Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand**

**Project on Capacity Development
on Assisting Victims of Trafficking
in the Greater Mekong Sub-Regional Countries**

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FOREWORD

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to those who participated in the 9th Mekong Regional Workshop, which took place on 22th – 24th January 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Workshop was successfully concluded thanks to the active participation and the strong commitment demonstrated by the representatives from 6 countries, namely, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam and Japan. This year, we focused on our effort on regional cooperation, reviewing the current existing bilateral/trilateral and regional cooperation, identifying challenges and good practices to further improve our future cooperation. This document is the report that has captured the entire experience of the Workshop for those who participated to recall our experience, and for those who missed to learn from our discussion.

As we believe that the more hands are united, the tighter our net of assistance would be for victims of trafficking, so we most welcome and encourage bilateral/trilateral and regional initiatives including those at the border level. Under the theme of “Towards Well-knit Net of Assistance for Victims of Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-region: Learning from the Bilateral and Regional Cooperation Experiences”, we explored the ways to tighten the net of assistance for victims of trafficking by reviewing existing mechanisms to advance its cause, tools to be used, and people and organizations to connect to. We also talked about some emerging types of human trafficking operations such as surrogacy business and trafficking of newborns.

We hope that this report would serve as useful information in order to strengthen our regional cooperation to facilitate smooth repatriation and sustainable social reintegration of victims of trafficking and to intensify our regional cooperation in order to combat trafficking in persons together.

Lastly, we would like to thank all of you for the cooperation, commitment and trust you have given us to host this important annual event. The Mekong Regional Workshops had served as a venue for the countries in the region to share experiences, to learn from each other, and to join hands together to take actions to combat human trafficking. Through the joint technical cooperation project (CM4TIP Project) between 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), we had an honor to host the 9th Mekong Regional Workshop, which would be the last one in the current arrangement. We trust that the strong network we have built together through the Mekong Regional Workshop contributes to advance our effort to fight against this vicious crime - human trafficking.

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



Opening Speech by
General Surasak Srisak, Deputy Minister MSDHS



Keynote Speech by Ms. Yanee Lertkrai,
Expert of National Committee on the prevention
and suppression of trafficking in persons



Closing Speech by Ms. Katsura Miyazaki,
Chief Representative, JICA Thailand Office



All Participants



Cambodia



Lao PDR



Myanmar



Viet Nam



Japan



Thailand

Group Work



Cambodia



Lao PDR



Myanmar



Viet Nam



Thailand

Field Trip



Ms. Darunee Manussavanich

Director of Social Assistance Center Hotline 1300



Operational Center



Hotline Operation



Walk-in Area



Counseling Room

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

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)
BLO	Border Liaison Office (Myanmar – Thailand, Myanmar - China)
CBTIP	Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons (Myanmar)
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
DATIP	Division of Anti-Trafficking in Persons (Thailand)
DOLISA	Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (Vietnam)
DOR	Department of Rehabilitation, MSWRR (Myanmar)
DSI	Department of Special Investigations (Thailand)
DSW	Department of Social Welfare (Myanmar)
GMS	Greater Mekong Sub-region
GO	Governmental Organization
HQ	Headquarters
IJM	International Justice Mission (an NGO)
IO	International Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
JFY	Japanese Fiscal Year
LWU	Lao Women’s Union (Lao PDR)
MC	Master of Ceremony
MDT	Multi-Disciplinary Team
MLSW	Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (Lao PDR)
MOC	Memorandum of Cooperation
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)
NCAHT	National Committee on Anti-Human Trafficking (Lao PDR)
NCCT	National Committee for Counter Trafficking (Cambodia)
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NRM	National Referral Mechanism
OAG	Office of the Attorney General (Thailand)
POA	Plan of Action
POCHT	Provincial Operational Center on Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking (Thailand)
PSDHS	Provincial Social Development and Human Security Office (Thailand)
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SPA	Sub-regional Plan of Action
TICA	Thailand International Cooperation Agency
TIP	Trafficking in Persons
TRM	Transnational Referral Mechanism
UN-ACT	United Nations Action for Cooperation against Trafficking in Persons
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations International Children’s Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drug and Crime
VFI	Village Focus International (NGO)
VOT	Victims of Trafficking
WV	World Vision (NGO)

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WORKSHOP PROGRAM

1 st Day (22 nd January, 2019 Tuesday)		
1	09:00 – 09:30	Opening Speech Speaker: Gen. Surasak Srisak, Deputy Minister, MSDHS
2	09:30 – 09:45	Photo Session
3	09:45 – 10:15	Keynote Speech Speaker: Ms. Yanee Lertkrai, Expert of National Committee on the prevention and suppression of trafficking in persons
4	10:15 - 10:30	Coffee Break
5	10:30 – 10:45	Introduction to the workshop (Objectives, structure of discussion, etc.) Speaker: Ms. Ayaka Matsuno, Chief Advisor, JICA CM4TIP Project
6	10:45 – 11:00	Introduction of Participants
7	11:00 – 11:45	Country Presentation: Thailand Speaker: Ms. Rattana Nontapattamadul, Director of Protection and Right Advocacy Group, DATIP
8	11:45 – 12:30	Country Presentation: Cambodia Speaker: Ms. Prom Sokhun, Department of Anti-Human Trafficking and Reintegration of Victims, MOSVY
9	12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
10	13:30 – 14:15	Country Presentation: Lao PDR Speaker: Mr. Vongkham Phanthanouvong, General Deputy Director, Department of Social Welfare, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MLSW)
11	14:15 – 15:00	Country Presentation: Myanmar Speaker: Ms. Aye Aye Kyaw, Police Colonel, Head of Law Enforcement Department, Against Transnational Crime Division, Myanmar Police Force
12	15:00 – 15:15	Coffee Break
13	15:15 – 16:00	Country Presentation: Viet Nam Speaker: Mr. Nguyen Cong Hieu, Vice Director of Child Helpline and Anti-TIP Hotline 111, The Bureau of Child Protection, Department of Children Affairs, Ministry of Labour, Invalid and Social Affairs (MOLISA)
14	16:00 – 16:30	The Current Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Situation in Japan and Japan's 2014 Action Plan to Combat TIP Speaker: Mr. Daisuke Fujimori, Deputy Counsellor, Office of Assistant Chief Cabinet Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat
15	18:00 – 20:00	Welcome Reception hosted by MSDHS, Thailand
2 nd Day (23 rd January, 2019 Wednesday)		
1	09:00 – 09:15	Recap of the 1 st day and the program of 2 nd day
2	09:15 – 09:45	JICA's assistance to anti-TIP in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region Speaker: Ms. Haruko Kamei, Senior Director, Office for Gender Equality and Poverty Reduction, Infrastructure and Peacebuilding Department, JICA HQ
3	09:45 – 10:15	Lessons learned from the Project on Capacity Development on Assisting Victims of Trafficking in Persons in the Greater Mekong Sub-Regional Countries (CM4TIP Project) Speaker: Ms. Rattana Nontapattamadul, Director Protection and Right Advocacy Group DATIP on behalf of CM4TIP team
3	10:15 – 10:30	Coffee Break
4	10:30 – 11:30	(Trans-)National Referral Mechanisms in Counter-Trafficking: Experiences from the COMMIT Process Speaker: Mr. Sebastian Boll, UN-ACT
5	11:30 – 12:00	Introduction of the recently development tools for effective bilateral and regional cooperation Speaker: Mr. Ratchapon Maneelek, Director of Coordinating Assistance and Protecting Group
6	12:00 – 13:00	Lunch

7	13:00 – 13:15	Introduction to Group work Speaker: Ms. Shoko Sato, Expert on Anti-TIP Regional Cooperation, JICA CM4TIP Project
8	13:15 – 15:00	Group work <working coffee break>
9	15:00 – 16:00	Group work presentation
10	16:00 – 16:30	Closing Ceremony Speaker: Ms. Katsura Miyazaki, Chief Representative, JICA Thailand
3 rd Day (24 th January, 2019 Thursday) International participants only		
1	09:00 -	Departure from the Hotel
2	9:30 – 11:30	Field Visit to Social Assistance Center 1300 at MSDHS
3	11:30 – 12:30	Lunch
4	12:30 -	Delegates from Cambodia, Myanmar and Vietnam Departing for the airport



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 Ninth Mekong Regional Workshop on Towards Well-knit Net of Assistance for Victims of Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-region: Learning from the Bilateral and Regional Cooperation Experiences.

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. The Mekong Regional Workshops for the last 9 years have served as a venue for sharing information and experiences to facilitate further cooperation in the region.

85 participants, consisting of government officers and CSOs responsible for human trafficking issues from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Viet Nam, Japan and Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) members from Thailand (See Annex 1 for List of Participants) took part in the workshop.

Last year, JICA launched the second phase of the technical cooperation project in Myanmar and Viet Nam. So the JICA experts from both projects along with the national counterparts joined the Workshop as well as the JICA HQ staff to show their commitment to anti- human trafficking in the region.

2. OBJECTIVES

Objectives of the Workshop are as follows:

1. To review the existing bilateral/trilateral and regional cooperation mechanisms on anti-trafficking in persons (TIP), particularly on repatriation and social reintegration
 - What are the existing cooperation mechanisms?
 - How effectively are they being utilized or not being utilized? Why?
2. To discuss issues related to bilateral/trilateral and regional cooperation on anti-TIP and the way(s) to improve the cooperation mechanisms,
3. To share the good practice(s) and innovative approach in bilateral/trilateral and regional cooperation on anti-TIP, and
4. To strengthen networking among the participants for effective information sharing and for future possible collaboration.

3. SUMMARY RECORD OF THE WORKSHOP

DAY 1: 22 January 2019

OPENING CEREMONY

The Workshop was blessed to have these two Masters of Ceremony (MCs) for the last three times. Mr. Kobchai Songsrisanga, Senior Program Officer, JICA Thailand and Ms. Pusa Srivilas, Expert on anti-TIP issues welcomed the participants to start the Ninth Mekong Regional Workshop. The Workshop was officially opened by Gen. Surasak Srisak, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Thailand.



MCs: Mr. Kobchai and Ms. Pusa

Opening Speech by Gen. Surasak Srisak, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Thailand.



Opening Speech of Gen. Surasak Srisak, Deputy Minister of Social Development and Human Security

Gen. Surasak Srisak welcomed the participants of the Ninth Mekong Regional Workshop. Gen Srisak highlighted the last 9 years of Thailand – JICA cooperation on anti-TIP issues and expressed his appreciation to JICA's cooperation. He wished the participants to learn from sharing and exchanging of their working experience especially in the fields of repatriation and social reintegration of VOT. In addition, he expected that the approach and information shared by each country be useful for further work and improvement in assisting VOT to be more effective and suitable with the situation of

each country. He reiterated the importance of regional cooperation and requested the participating countries to continue working together to combat human trafficking. To keep this momentum, Gen. Srisak requested JICA's assistance in the region and in Thailand in particular in preventive aspect. (Please see Annex 2 for full opening speech)

After the photo session, Ms. Yanee Lertkrai, Expert of National Committee on the Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Persons presented her keynote speech. Ms. Yanee was formerly the Director General of Department of Social Development and Welfare, MSDHS and also Director of Kredtrakarn Shelter, one of the eight government shelters dedicated to victims of trafficking. With her direct and rich experience in protection of victims of trafficking, her keynote speech was very inspirational to all participants.

Ms. Yanee touched upon her experience as a participant to the first Mekong Regional Workshop in 2010. She reviewed the work that had been done over the course of 10 years and congratulates everyone in the room for his/her contribution to combat human trafficking. While she acknowledged the progress made so far, she also pointed out some challenges that still exist.



Keynote speech by Ms. Yanee Lertkrai

She also mentioned her experiences to assist foreign victims of trafficking from Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar who stayed at Kredtrakarn Shelter. Her experiences were very inspirational for us to remind how it is important to work closely between countries to materialize smooth repatriation and sustainable social reintegration of victims of trafficking.

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORKSHOP

Ms. Ayaka Matsuno, Chief Advisor of JICA-CM4TIP Project first touched upon the history of the Mekong Regional Workshops. This Workshop is one of the most important activities of CM4TIP Project, especially in terms of facilitating regional level dialogue, mutual understanding and future cooperation.

Below is the run-down of the last Mekong Regional Workshops since 2010.

The History of Mekong Regional Workshop

1 st phase project	1st	MDT approach in protection of trafficked persons: sharing experiences with Mekong regional countries	23-25 Feb. 2010 Bangkok
	2nd	MDT approach in protection of trafficked persons: sharing experiences with Mekong regional countries	15-17 Feb. 2011 Nakhon Pathom
	3rd	MDT approach in protection of trafficked persons: sharing experiences with Mekong regional countries	7-9 Feb 2012 Nakhon Nayok
	4th	MDT approach in protection of trafficked persons: sharing successful cases on managing cross-border trafficking	26-28 Feb. 2013 Bangkok
	5th	MDT approach in protection of trafficked persons: sharing experiences with Mekong regional countries (Challenges and successful cases on repatriation and social integration for trafficked persons)	17-21 Feb. 2014 Bangkok
2 nd phase project	6th	Assisting victims of trafficking building new lives: sharing experiences with Mekong regional countries	16-18 Feb. 2016 Ambassador Hotel, Bangkok
	7th	Identifying resources and service provisions to assist victims of trafficking build new lives sharing experiences with Mekong regional countries	8-10 Feb. 2017 Arnoma Grand Hotel, Bangkok
	8th	Assisting Victims of Trafficking in Building New Lives: Exploring “Successful” Social Reintegration for Victims of Trafficking and Good Initiatives to Promote It	7 – 9 Mar. 2018 The Twin Towers Hotel
	9th	Towards well-knit net of assistance for victims of trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-region: Learning from the bilateral and regional cooperation experiences	22 – 24 Jan. 2019 Ambassador Hotel, Bangkok



Ms. Ayaka Matsuno, Chief Advisor of CM4TIP/JICA

Ms. Matsuno introduced three repatriation handbooks for foreign VOT (Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam), which were products born from the discussions and country presentations made in the 6th and 7th Mekong Regional Workshops. In the handbook, the flow of repatriation was included for reference for practitioners on the ground. She also reviewed the last Mekong Regional Workshop, in which participating countries explored “successful” social reintegration and what consists such successful reintegration.

For this Mekong Regional Workshop, the effort in regional cooperation was highlighted. Considering the close links that this region enjoys, it is imperative for our effort in regional cooperation as well as bilateral/trilateral cooperation to be intensified. She reiterated the importance of regional cooperation and wished this Workshop could be a platform for better communication, mutual understanding and learning and identifying any future cooperation opportunity. The objectives of the Workshop are stated in the earlier section, 2. OBJECTIVES.

INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPANTS

The MCs opened the floor to the participants to make a self-introduction to all.

COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS <Instructions>

Each country was assigned to prepare its country presentation based on the following guidelines:

1. **Country situation on TIP**
Q1: What is your country situation on TIP?
2. **Overview of anti-trafficking law, policy and system**
Q1: What is the overview of the anti-trafficking law, policy and system of your country?
3. **Anti-TIP cooperation with the neighboring countries**
Q1: Regarding TIP, which countries does your country has close relationship with?
Thailand – Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam and which country?
Cambodia – China, Thailand and which country? Malaysia?
Lao PDR – China, Thailand and which country?
Myanmar – China, Thailand and which country?
Vietnam – China, Thailand and which country? Malaysia?
Q2: What is the TIP trend and statistics with the Country A?
Q3: What is the existing cooperation framework with the Country A?
Q4: What are the challenges to enhance the cooperation on anti-TIP with the Country A and what are the way forward?
4. **Anti-TIP cooperation by using the regional framework (COMMIT)**
Q1: What is your country’s involvement in COMMIT?



- Q2: What activities are being implemented under COMMIT framework, especially under Sub-Regional Plan of Action (SPA) IV in your country?
- Q3: What is the advantage of COMMIT? What does your country benefit from COMMIT mechanism?
- Q4: What is the expectation to COMMIT in the future? How does your country like to utilize the COMMIT mechanism?

5. Anti-TIP cooperation by using the regional framework (ASEAN)

- Q1: What is your country's involvement in ASEAN?
- Q2: What activities are being implemented under ASEAN framework, especially under the Bohol TIP Work Plan (2017-2020) in your country?
- Q3: What is the advantage of ASEAN? What does your country benefit from ASEAN mechanism?
- Q4: What is the expectation to ASEAN in the future? How does your country like to utilize the ASEAN mechanism?

6. National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and Transnational Referral Mechanism (TRM)

- Q1: What progress has been made towards developing an NRM in your country?
- Q2: What is planned for 2019 in developing the NRM further?
- Q3: What structure/format do you propose for a regional-level TRM, and how could this connect to the NRM in your country?

 **THAILAND COUNTRY PRESENTATION**

By Ms. Rattana Nontapattamadul, Director of Protection and Right Advocacy Group, DATIP

Ms. Rattana presented the Thailand country presentation according to the presentation in Annex 3. Please see the full presentation for more details.

Thailand has been proactively seeking bilateral cooperation with neighboring countries and beyond. Especially in 2018, in order to protect Thai people, who go abroad to work, the Thai government concluded two bilateral MOU with the destination countries. Ms. Rattana highlighted the key achievements in 2018 by informing that the new MOU between Thailand and United Arab Emirates, which was signed in February 2018, and the MOU between Thailand and the People's Republic of China, which was signed in Nov 2018.



Country Presentation of Thailand by Ms. Rattana

In addition, she emphasized Thailand's continued effort to updating the existing MOUs with the neighboring countries to address the current situations of human trafficking between the two countries. For example, the MOU between Thailand and Myanmar had been reviewed several times, and as of her reporting, the revised MOU was expected to be signed in 2019. The new MOU between Thailand and Lao PDR was signed in 2017 and currently, they were in the process of preparing a SOP and POA. With regards to bilateral cooperation between Thailand and Cambodia, they were going to review the implementation of the POA Phase I (2016 - 2018) and will draft the POA phase II in 2019.

After her presentation, MC opened the floor for questions from the participants.



Q&A

Referring to the slide number 6, Mr. Phearith Kou from Rattanak International pointed out there was no victim identified and returned from UAE for the last three years (2015 -2017). None the less, Thai government concluded an MOU with the government of UAE. What was the reason behind the conclusion of the MOU and was there any good practice that Thailand can share with us to keep the number of victims from UAE to zero?

Responding to the question, Ms. Rattana highlighted the great risk of future Thai VOT in UAE considering the significant number of Thai migrant workers working in UAE. The Thai government took a proactive step towards protecting the future cases. Even though the official number of VOT is recorded as zero, it does not guarantee that there is no Thai VOT in UAE. Maybe there are some VOTs already in UAE now so, it is important for the Thai government to take preventive measures to human trafficking. Currently, Thai government is discussing on the joint action plans. Ms. Rattana emphasized the importance of prevention in combat human trafficking.



CAMBODIA COUNTRY PRESENTATION

By Ms. Prom Sokhun, Department of Anti-Human Trafficking and Reintegration of Victims, MOSVY

Ms. Sokhun presented the Cambodia country presentation according to Annex 4. Please see the full presentation for more details.



Country Presentation of Cambodia by Ms. Sokhun

Ms. Sokhun is a regular participant to the Mekong Regional Workshop and made several presentations previously. However, for the first time, she brought the issue related to surrogacy and newborn babies as a new type of human trafficking operation. As of now, there is no law specifically addressing and prohibiting the surrogacy business in Cambodia, but last year, Cambodia managed this emerging issue using the existing anti-TIP law. She emphasized the importance of welfare and education of those children who were born by

surrogate mothers, which would deserve a special attention and new law to regulate such business.

While she explained the Cambodian relationship to China, she pointed out some key points that deserve more strict monitoring, especially in the case of forced marriage. She acknowledged the role of COMMIT and its support to their initiative in relation to China. Based on the action plan, Cambodia is now fully aware of who to contact in China and what to work on with it.

With regards to the Cambodian relationship with Thailand, all kinds of exploitations were observed in the VOT from Thailand. She shared the example of the VOT cases in 2018. On November 10, 2018, Cambodia received VOT from Thailand, who had worked in the fishing industry. Within the VOT, there were 5 Mongolian VOT included but thanks to the coordination with COMMIT and other country's support, those 5 Mongolian could also return to their home country.

Ms. Sokhun also shared the TIP situation between Cambodia and Viet Nam. The number of Cambodian VOT in Viet Nam is significant and vice versa (many Vietnamese are trafficked in Cambodia), so it is important for both countries to share information about those VOT and tighten our follow up after



their return so that they would not be re-victimized. Finally, she raised the issue of family tracing. She acknowledged that family tracing can be challenging sometimes.

After her presentation, MC opened the floor for questions from the participants.

Q&A

Since no question was raised upon opening the floor, Ms. Sokhun took the floor once again to elaborate the Cambodia's current talk with Thailand regarding the SOP (Standard Operating Procedure). She highlighted a need of establishing the SOP between Cambodia and Thailand as information sharing is not done in a timely manner. And she strongly requested both countries to immediately establish the SOP in order to protect VOT, physically and mentally. The contents of SOP have been discussed by both countries and submitted to the official approval. It will be signed early this year.

Ms. Shoko Sato, JICA Expert on Regional Cooperation, JICA – CM4TIP raised a question regarding family tracing. She asked Ms. Sokhun why family tracing can be a challenge. Is it because sometimes VOTs don't tell the truth? Or no standardized format exists between the two countries? Or the national system to registering residents is not adequate? Or accessing to the remote areas in the country is posing a challenge? Finally, she asked what would be a good way to improve the family tracing procedure.

In response, Ms. Sokhun urged both countries to think together as there were many reasons why the family tracing could be a challenge. VOT may not give his/her ID even when s/he had one due to fear of getting into a trouble, and also there is always language difficulty. Or sometimes, VOT's memory is vague, if s/he left home country long ago. Or it is difficult to identify children who went to Thailand together with their parents, and later separated from their parents as they don't have their ID with them to begin with. By sharing her personal experience in visiting a Thai shelter, she highlighted the difficulty she faced in identifying a Cambodian child whom she met there as s/he did not even speak Khmer. Family tracing is a challenge, for which both countries need to work together harder.

In addition to Ms. Sokhun, H.E. Toch Channy, General Director of Technical, Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY) took the stage to say few words. He reiterated the importance to work together as any one country cannot solve this human trafficking problem alone. He acknowledged that regardless of numerous workshops, the problem still existed. H.E. Channy urged all of the participants to foster mutual understanding and partnership building, which would be the key to work effectively together. To this end, he sees a valuable role that JICA can play. He requested JICA to play a coordinating role and to provide technical support in two areas: 1) SOP implementation, 2) the transit center at Poi Pet, (TICA-funded shelter).



LAO PDR COUNTRY PRESENTATION

By Mr. Vongkham Phanthanouvong, General Deputy Director, Department of Social Welfare, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MLSW)

Mr. Vongkham Phanthanouvong presented the Lao PDR country presentation according to Annex 5. Please see the full presentation for more details.

He started by saying the Lao government's commitment to combat human trafficking and had made some progress in reducing the number of Lao VOT in Thailand. He attributed this result to the strong partnership between Thailand and Lao PDR. He mentioned the renewed bilateral cooperation mechanism between Thailand and Lao PDR and acknowledged continuing efforts and improvements made from both countries, which resulted in the significant decrease in number of Lao VOT.



Country Presentation of Lao PDR by Mr. Vongkham

In the meanwhile, he pointed out the recent trend of increasing human trafficking cases among Lao migrants to China. He alerted the participants with the increasing cases in forced marriage. To address this issue, Mr. Vongkham acknowledged the important role that the COMMIT process played by providing tools and methods to combat human trafficking in the Mekong sub-region. He added that the COMMIT process provided a platform to share information and foster networking among the countries in the region.

Lastly, he assured that Lao PDR was in the process of establishing a National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and subsequently a Trans-national Referral Mechanism (TRM). He stated that the NRM was a part of the guideline that Lao PDR had prepared on protection.

Q&A

Ms. Hitomi Sato, JICA Volunteer at Nakhon Ratchasima Welfare Protection Center for VOT asked Mr. Vongkham to elaborate the background of forced marriage to China.

Mr. Vongkham responded by saying that the situation was more prominent especially in the northern part of the country. Those who go overseas to work from there do not necessarily have adequate knowledge in labour migration and international marriage. They would only think that they would go to work in China and no details or possible risks would be understood. Hence, they are lured to China. It is difficult to regulate those who marry to Chinese men as marrying them itself is legal. Once married in China, language barrier makes it harder to communicate with those around her (Lao wife) and for her to ask any help in case of any situation arises. He further alerted a possibility of increasing cases along with the increased investment from China to Lao PDR and subsequent human interactions between the two countries.

Mr. Vongkham concluded his presentation by expressing his deep appreciation to JICA and MSDHS, Thailand.



MYANMAR COUNTRY PRESENTATION

By Ms. Aye Aye Kyaw, Police Colonel, Head of Law Enforcement Department, Against Transnational Crime Division, Myanmar Police Force

Ms. Aye Aye Kyaw, Police Colonel, Head of Law Enforcement Department, Against Transnational Crime Division, Myanmar Police Force presented the Myanmar country presentation according to Annex 6. Please see the full presentation for more details.

She brought a new trend observed in human trafficking situation in Myanmar, which was surrogacy business. She cited a particular city of Muse, a city of Myanmar close to the border to China where advertisements of recruiting surrogate mothers for Chinese men were publicly displayed. Following the report from



Country Presentation of Myanmar by Ms. Aye Aye Kyaw, Myanmar Police Force



Cambodia, this was the first time in the Mekong Regional Workshops that the issue related to surrogacy business was raised and discussed.

Q&A

Ms. Moch Sovannara, director of aftercare, International Justice Mission (IJM) requested Ms. Aye Aye Kyaw to elaborate the functions of the information center for victims of trafficking supported by JICA (slide 17).

Ms. Wai Wai Lat, staff officer, Information Center for Victims of Trafficking, Department of Rehabilitation, MSWRR explained the functions of the information center including referral of the case to relevant departments/ministries as well as service providers including INGOs such as IOM, UNICEF and World Vision (WV), based on the individual needs. To begin with, in order to access to assistance resource, ID card is required. Some of VOT do not have one such as house registration card; hence, the information center will assist them to get one or search for house registration/ check with village leader which is quite challenging. For female users, if necessary, the center also provide a blood test service. She also shared some difficult cases that she encountered in family tracing as some users who stayed in China for 9-10 years did not remember where they used to live prior to moving to China. Ms. Lat also shared her experience in reconciliation between the VOT and their parents. In addition, the center also verifies job postings if they are genuine or not. In the past, the center successfully could intercept two young ladies from being trafficked to China by getting the brokers arrested. By our staff calling around to check on the information regarding the brokers, their black-listed status was revealed.

Mr. Kou Pharith, Ratanak International, Cambodia asked about the increasing number of VOT from China. He asked if there was any strategic plan to suppress the situation.

Ms. Mi Ni Oo, Police Lieutenant Colonel, Anti-Trafficking in Person Division, Myanmar Police Force responded by saying that the reason of this increased number of Myanmar VOT in China is attributed to the efforts made by the more numbers of Border Liaison Offices (BLO). Thanks to BLO, more cases were identified and protected. She also pointed out the impact of the China's one child policy on demand for Myanmar women in China. Thus, the situation could be intensified even more in the future, for which the Myanmar government tightened the border cooperation with the Chinese government by setting up BLOs at the border areas.

Ms. Kongseng Piengpanya, Program Coordinator, Village Focus International Laos asked if there was any NGO (or CSO) in China involved in the effort to combat human trafficking between Myanmar and China.

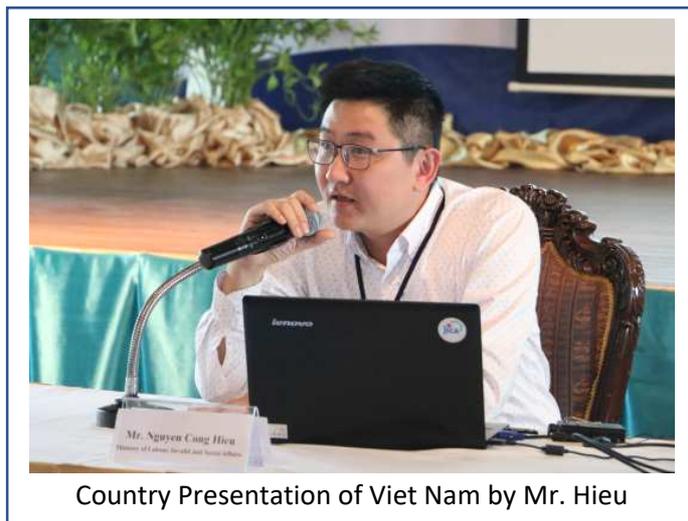
Ms. Mi Ni Oo, Police Lieutenant Colonel, Anti-Trafficking in Person Division, Myanmar Police Force clearly stated that there was no NGO involved in the effort.



VIET NAM COUNTRY PRESENTATION

By Mr. Nguyen Cong Hieu, Vice Director of Child Helpline and Anti-TIP Hotline 111, The Bureau of Child Protection, Department of Children Affairs, Ministry of Labour, Invalid and Social Affairs (MOLISA)

Mr. Nguyen Cong Hieu, Vice Director of Child Helpline and Anti-TIP Hotline 111, The Bureau of Child Protection, Department of Children Affairs, Ministry of Labour, Invalid and Social Affairs (MOLISA) presented the Viet Nam country presentation according to Annex 7. Please see the full presentation for more details.



Country Presentation of Viet Nam by Mr. Hieu

Mr. Hieu also mentioned about a new type of crime, which was human trafficking in surrogacy business. This is an emerging trend. Prospective mothers (surrogate mothers) cross borders to give birth and come back without babies. Those babies are treated like commodities, or organs to be trafficked. He alerted the participants to the need to address this new type of crime.

Mr. Hieu acknowledged the deficiency in implementation of the legal framework, which was set very clearly and comprehensive as per Prime Minister's

decision (slide 2) in 2007. Regardless of the efforts made thus far, only a tip of the iceberg of VOT could be identified. Therefore, the current statistics does not represent the current situation, he suspected that there must be many more victims to be identified and protected.

In 2010, Viet Nam concluded an agreement with China. He explained the cooperation between Viet Nam and China and highlighted the 3-month high peak period to combat human trafficking crime annually. This is a unique effort which focuses on movement of people between the two countries and in the high peak period efforts are intensified.

As the Cambodian representative already explained the bilateral cooperation between Viet Nam and Cambodia, Mr. Hieu skipped the relevant part and moved on to discuss on the bilateral cooperation between Viet Nam and Laos and Viet Nam and Thailand. Since Viet Nam has bilateral partnership agreements also with countries outside of the Mekong region such as Malaysia and the United Kingdom, he pointed out that the regional mechanism such as ASEAN ACTIP became very important.

Q&A

Ms. Kanae Tanaka, Project Coordinator, JICA project on capacity development and promotion of networking on assisting victims of trafficking in Myanmar raised two questions. One was regarding the 3-month high peak period to combat human (slide 7). She asked about how to identify this high peak period and what kind of activities are implemented. Another one was the bilateral partnership with UK. She requested Mr. Hieu to elaborate the background of this agreement with UK.

Responding to the first question Ms. Tanaka raised, Mr. Le Quang Nguyen, Officer, Unit of Anti-drug Trafficking and Crime Suppression Department, Border Guard Force explained that the 3-month high peak period was identified based on the month have more crime than other which is July to October. It is around Lunar New Year when people came back from other countries to celebrate. July 30 was set as the national Anti-TIP Day, which starts the 3-month high peak period.

Regarding the second question, Mr. Hieu explained that the Vietnamese government took a proactive approach to prevent Vietnamese migrant workers from being trafficked to UK. He stated that regardless of the two governments had been working very closely for the last 15 – 20 years in prevention, there were some reports of children and migrants being trafficked to UK to plant marijuana.

Ms. Wai Wai Lat, staff officer, Information Center for Victims of Trafficking, Department of Rehabilitation, MSWRR asked about the serviced provided to VOT in general. She was keen to know more about the types of services, and kinds of assistance that Vietnamese VOT require from the Bureau of Child Protection, Department of Children Affairs, MOLISA.



Ms. Nguyen Thi Thuy Ha, Specialist, Department of Social Vices Prevention, MOLISA responded by saying that the office would refer them to the shelter and provided psychological assistance, medical fee, transportation fee, legal procedures etc. In case of a child VOT, the office extends its assistance to providing a birth certificate. In addition, it also provides assistance to vocational training, social reintegration.

Mr. Hieu supplemented Ms. Thi Hai's response by saying that the hotline operation is comprehensive, starting from the reception of information, referral of the case, information sharing with the concerned family, mobilization of the network of assistance via hotline etc. Myanmar representative also mentioned about its hotline operation. Viet Nam would like to request more information sharing and exchange between the two hotline operations between the two countries.

Ms. Mi Ni Oo, Police Lieutenant Colonel, Anti-Trafficking in Person Division, Myanmar Police Force raised a question regarding the number of VOT presented in the slide 3. She was wondering the reason behind the significant reduction of the number of VOT.

Mr. Hoang Minh Cuong, Officer, Department of Criminal Police, Ministry of Public Security explained that those who were identified VOT sometimes turned to be non-VOT, which reduced the number of VOT. The other reason is the difficulty in identifying Vietnamese child VOT in China. It takes time to verify the nationality.

He also pointed out a new way of human trafficking by using young Vietnamese women as tools to deliver offspring of Chinese families. He explained that the traffickers would recruit young women in Viet Nam, move them to China with an intention to exploit their bodies for reproduction, find families in China who want to have their offspring and produce babies just to take them away from Vietnamese birth mothers, and send them back to Viet Nam. And he alerted the participants to this new type of crime and human trafficking case.

 **JAPAN COUNTRY PRESENTATION** The current Trafficking in Persons (TIP) situation in Japan and Japan's 2014 Action Plan to Combat TIP

By Mr. Daisuke Fujimori, Deputy Counsellor, Office of Assistant Chief Cabinet Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat



Mr. Daisuke Fujimori, Deputy Counsellor, Cabinet Secretariat, Japan presented the Japan country presentation according to Annex 8. Please see the full presentation for more details.

He elaborated the information he shared in the slide 13. The Japanese government dispatched a delegation on anti-human trafficking measures to 25 countries including South East Asian countries such as Thailand, Cambodia and Lao PDR to learn the human trafficking issues and measures to combat them. He emphasized the point that the Japanese

government has strengthened cooperation with different countries with a view to sharing information and smooth cooperation in case of need.



Q&A

Ms. Ni Ni Aung, IOM Thailand, asked Mr. Fujimori to elaborate the technical intern training program. Joined by Ms. Ayaka Matsuno, Chief Advisor, JICA-CM4TIP Project, Mr. Fujimori explained the background behind the newly enacted the technical intern training act. Japan has been criticized for its technical intern training program, which can offer opportunities for employers to exploit technical interns. Although there was no technical intern who was officially identified as victim of trafficking in Japan, the Japanese government took the reported news and criticisms seriously to take a step towards its improvement of the program by enacting a new law to regulate both employers and sending agencies with an intention to protect the rights of technical interns. He added that the Japanese government has concluded Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) with concerned governments to ensure that the technical interns would be recruited through official channels, and some MOCs are under discussion.

Ms. Matsuno supplemented Mr. Fujimori's response by saying that in order for the technical intern training program to work effectively, intern sending countries can also play an important role by monitoring and regulating the local agents. It was reported frequently that technical interns were obliged to pay a large sum of money as a deposit prior to departing their countries, which is prohibited under the Japanese law. Nonetheless, keeping a deposit from technical interns has been commonly practiced and that would give a huge psychological impact to the technical interns, who may rather go home, not bearing the poor treatment and working conditions they experience in Japan. They would bear their hardships no matter what due to the contract they have with the agents to complete their terms. Failure to complete the contracted term would result in non-refund of the deposit they left. This situation creates an opportunity for any employer with mal-intention to exploit the technical interns. Therefore, it is important to regulate the local agents not to keep any deposit from the outgoing technical interns.



DAY 2: 23 January 2019

The MC, Mr. Kobchai Songsrisanga and Ms. Pusa Srivilas welcome back the participants to the second day of the Mekong Regional Workshop. They quickly recap the discussions we had in the first day by going about the table asking one key word that had stuck in their mind.

A Key Word from the 1st Day Mekong Regional Workshop

Cambodia – prevention work is important

Laos – MDT approach

Japan – an emerging new type of TIP: surrogacy

Lao participants – forced marriage

Thailand – Border level cooperation is effective

Viet Nam – surrogacy

Myanmar – more cooperation and sharing information is needed

Ms. Pusa introduced the program of the second day and introduced the first presentation of the day.



JICA's Assistance to Anti-TIP in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region

By Ms. Haruko Kamei, Senior Director, Office for Gender Equality and Poverty Reduction, Infrastructure and Peacebuilding Department, JICA HQ

Ms. Haruko Kamei made a presentation according to the presentation in Annex 9. Please see the full presentation for more details.

She gave the background of JICA's assistance in the area of anti-TIP and reviewed the last 10 years of JICA's assistance in the region. In addition, she renewed JICA's commitment in the effort to combat human trafficking in the region by introducing the two new technical cooperation projects in Myanmar and Viet Nam. Two JICA experts; Ms. Kanae Tanaka, Project Coordinator, JICA technical cooperation project in Myanmar, and Ms. Masako Iwashina, Chief Advisor, JICA technical cooperation project in Viet Nam also joined Ms. Kamei for this occasion to strengthen their network with their respective national counterparts and in the region.



While admitting that the Thai-based JICA technical project will conclude with the CM4TIP Project, Ms. Kamei acknowledged the need to continue strengthening the regional level cooperation and network, and reassured that JICA would continue to support the effort to combat human trafficking in this region in a different capacity.



Lessons Learned from CM4TIP Project

By Ms. Rattana Nontapattamadul, Director of Protection and Right Advocacy Group, DATIP



On behalf of the CM4TIP Project, Ms. Rattana, the Assistant Project Manager, made a presentation regarding the experience and lessons learned from the activities carried out by the CM4TIP Project for the last 4 years, according to the presentation in Annex 10. Please see the full presentation for more details.

Ms. Rattana reviewed the activities in the three main focuses of the project operation. The first focus is to build the national capacity to assist victims of trafficking for their sustainable social

reintegration. The second focus is to facilitate smooth and seamless return and repatriation process by building capacity of the concerned officials and by streamlining the policies and procedures. The last focus is to stimulate regional cooperation through regional level dialogue and a policy-oriented research. Followed by the Thai national policy on victim-centered approach, the Project paid special attention to the victim-centered approach and provided a venue for former victims to voice their concerns directly to MDT members and through publications.

Ms. Rattana concluded her presentation by sharing lessons learned from this project, especially in the area of regional cooperation (slide 18). While she acknowledged the numerous achievements made through this Project, she reemphasized the importance of continued effort in regional cooperation and urged the participants to keep their communication tight. She expressed her sincere appreciation to all who helped this Project to implement all the planned activities and those working for the Project.

Q & A

Mr. Phearith Kou, Rattanak International, Cambodia raised a question regarding JICA's assistance to Cambodia in the area of combatting human trafficking.

Responding to this question, Ms. Kamei from JICA HQ took the floor and clarified that there was no concrete plan for JICA to provide technical assistance on anti-TIP to Cambodia at this point. Having said that, she pointed out that she would not totally deny a possibility to discuss it with the Cambodian government in the future. JICA's technical assistance is granted based on the request by the host government, thus, if the Cambodian government prioritizes the request for technical assistance in this area, it is possible to plan a future cooperation. She urged the Cambodian delegate to discuss this issue with the relevant government agency which is the main counterpart to plan the JICA's assistance in Cambodia, and then take the matter to JICA Cambodia.

Ms. Ni Ni Aung, Project Officer, IOM Thailand asked Ms. Rattana to elaborate the CM4TIP's work to support bilateral cooperation at the border areas, especially between Tachilek (Myanmar) and Chiang Rai (Thailand).

Ms. Shoko Sato, JICA Expert on Regional Cooperation responded to Ms. Ni Ni's question by first acknowledging the limitation that the Project faced in accessing to the counterparts directly in Tachilek. Then she continued to say that the CM4TIP Project provided support to some coordination meetings

between Tachilek and Chiang Rai, if and when requested through the work of the Chiang Rai PSDHS (Office of Social Development and Human Security).

In addition to Ms. Sato's response, Ms. Panee Jantan, Director, Chiang Rai Welfare Protection Center for Victims of Trafficking and Chief a.i., Chiang Rai PSDHS elaborated the work that her office did through the official bilateral cooperation mechanism called BCATIP (Border Cooperation on Anti-Trafficking in Persons) between Myanmar and Thailand.

Ms. Sangiam Chaiwong, Provincial Operational Center on Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking (POCHT) Officer, Chiang Rai PSDHS supplemented by saying that not only at the official government to government cooperation, the CM4TIP Project supported the cooperation through NGOs. NGOs registered under Chiang Rai PSDHS often work directly with the counterpart in Tachilek. Working very closely with NGOs in Chiang Rai and assisting Chiang Rai PSDHS, the CM4TIP Project is indirectly assisting the work directed to enhance the coordination between Chiang Rai and Tachilek.



(Trans-) National Referral Mechanisms in Counter-Trafficking: Experiences from the COMMIT Process

By Mr. Sebastian Boll, Regional Research Specialist, UN-ACT/UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub



Presentation by Mr. Boll, UN-ACT/UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub

Mr. Sebastian Boll presented on the experiences of the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT Process), an intergovernmental initiative between the countries of the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS: Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam), in setting up and operationalizing (Trans-)National Referral Mechanisms for trafficked persons. UN-ACT serves as the Secretariat to the COMMIT Process, providing coordination, technical and financial support.

Mr. Boll first provided a brief introduction to the COMMIT Process, highlighting its

multi-stakeholder framework, the combination of regional commitments with national implementation, and the results-oriented, measurable nature of the agreements facilitating monitoring of progress. He then outlined COMMIT's history of seeking to strengthen victim identification, referrals and services, including materials available for use among policy-makers and practitioners. The latter include research reports, toolkits and guidebooks, designed to strengthen (re)integration services and available on the UN-ACT website.

Mr. Boll then introduced COMMIT's current initiative to establish (Trans-)National Referral Mechanisms across the GMS. The process will involve three components, an assessment of existent structures and capacities, the development of an institutional design, and a capacity development plan. The foundation for these have been laid through COMMIT's adoption of common indicators and guidelines of victim identification and referrals, emphasizing a rights-based approach and recognizing international standards and best practices.



He emphasized that the process was ongoing; that it was key to bring together all relevant stakeholders including civil society in its implementation; and that it needs to build upon and coordinate with other initiatives in this area. In that spirit, Mr. Boll concluded his presentation and looked forward to collaborating with many of the partners in attendance in the future.

Q & A

Mr. Phearith Kou, Rattanak International, Cambodia asked Mr. Boll regarding the study he mentioned in his presentation about human trafficking and forced marriage between Cambodia and China. He also raised another question regarding service provisions for male VOTs. In his experience, the services directed for male VOTs are limited, so he requested Mr. Boll to share his experiences in the COMMIT process.

Mr. Boll addressed to the first question, by saying that the study was complete in 2017 and available on UN-ACT website.

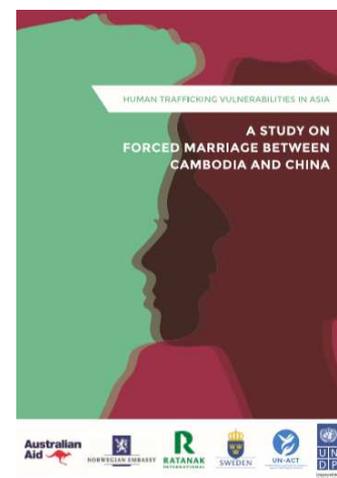
A STUDY ON FORCED MARRIAGE BETWEEN CAMBODIA AND CHINA

http://un-act.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Final_UN-ACT_Forced_Marriage_Report.pdf

He also shared other reports relevant to the same topic between China and Myanmar, and between China and VN. Please visit UN-ACT website, <http://un-act.org/>

Additionally, he informed that a study on nexus between trafficking and forced marriage would be forthcoming and available in March 2019.

Mr. Boll responded to the second question by admitting that the services towards male survivors are limited compared to the services available for women and children. Over the years, it has widely accepted that human trafficking is a crime not only for sexual exploitation of women and children, but also many other types of exploitation. Thus, a broader target population needs to be deal with in the context to human trafficking including provision of services available to them.



Introduction of the Recently Developed Tools for Effective Bilateral and Regional Cooperation

By Mr. Rachapon Maneelek, Director, Coordinating Assistance and Protecting Group, DATIP, MSDHS

Mr. Ratchapon Maneelek made a brief introduction to the recently developed tools for effective bilateral and regional cooperation according to the presentation in Annex 12. Please see the full presentation for more details.

He first introduced the “Notification of Rights for Victims of Trafficking” document in 7 languages (Myanmar, Chinese, English, Khmer, Laotian, Thai and Vietnamese). DATIP prepared this document with an intention to help victims from different countries protected and identified in Thailand to



Mr. Rachapon Introduced Recently Developed Tools



understand their rights better by making them available in their mother tongue. The government of Thailand, as per its victim-centered approach, strives to make sure that the Thai protection assistance be understood by VOT.

Another document that Mr. Rachapon introduced was a series of “Repatriation Handbooks for Foreign Victims of Trafficking (Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam versions)”. They are drafted with the assistance from JICA CM4TIP Project. These handbooks include essential information, the flow of repatriation process, documents relevant to repatriation process between Thailand and its neighboring country. The handbooks are available in Thai language and English.



Lastly, Mr. Rachapon shared the “Welcome Home Package” prepared jointly by DATIP, IOM and JICA. With an intention to improve access to information by Thai returnees (both officially identified VOT and suspected cases) from overseas. This package will be distributed via Thai diplomatic channels such as embassies and consulates, Thai overseas networks, IOM, NGOs and DATIP.

[The picture showed here is an inner cover page to show the joint effort put into this document. There is no logos and names of organizations placed on the cover page, which indicates that this information is relevant to those who have been trafficked, to respect the recipient’s feelings.]

Q & A

Ms. Mi Ni Oo. Police Lieutenant Colonel, Anti-Trafficking in Person Division, Myanmar Police Force shared a Myanmar case who had complained about the allowance provided (300 Thai baht a day) by the Thai government was not enough. She asked if this amount was considered adequate.

Mr. Maneelek was not clear about if Ms. Oo was referring to the allowance provided by the anti-TIP Fund as a part of compensation or unpaid wage for the victim. He clarified that 300 Thai baht a day was equivalent to the minimum wage in Thailand and should be provided to the victim immediately after s/he was identified and protected as VOT as part of compensation from Anti-TIP Fund. However, if she was talking about the unpaid wage, the due amount would be paid to the victim only after the labour court settled the case and the due amount would be determined by the court.

Adding to the response from Mr. Maneelek, Mr. Rupawat Phonoy, Head of Legal Assistance Section, DATIP, commented that the unpaid wage would be sent to the victim in coordination with the Ministry of Labour, once the labour court reached the decision. In case the victim is already repatriated to his/her original country, the due money would be sent via respective embassy. In addition, a claim for restitution will be accepted only after the criminal court reached the decision. It is required to settle all the court procedures before the restitution money is disbursed to the victim.

GROUP WORK: Plan to improve bilateral and regional cooperation on anti-TIP



Ms. Shoko Sato, CM4TIP/JICA, giving the instruction to the group work

Ms. Shoko Sato, Expert on Anti-TIP Regional Cooperation, JICA CM4TIP Project provided instructions for the group work.

Below is her instruction for the group work.

INSTRUCTION TO THE GROUP WORK

1. Good practice and innovative approach

- Please discuss the good practice and innovative approach to improve bilateral and regional cooperation in your country.
- Introduce this good practice to the audience by explaining the objectives and activities.
- Some examples of good practice are case worker visit between Thailand and Myanmar (to be presented by

Myanmar) and sending country meeting among Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar (to be presented by Cambodia)

2. Tools to improve the cooperation

- What kind of tools are needed to further improve the bilateral and regional cooperation?
- Examples of tool includes MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) between countries, SOA (Standard Operating Procedures), guidelines, operational manual, multi-language information for foreign VOT, and awareness raising materials.
- Please list the existing tools that you can use to improve the cooperation with other countries.
- Please discuss the tools that you need to develop to improve the cooperation.
- For Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam, please take a look at the repatriation flowchart developed by CM4TIP Project and discuss how you can link this to the National Referral Mechanism in your country.

3. Working with external partners

- Please discuss how to work with external partners such as UN agencies, bilateral development assistance agency such as JICA, International NGO and local NGO.
- What is the current framework to work with external partners?
- What is your expectation to the external partners? What are their advantage?
- For Myanmar and Vietnam, please share your expectation to JICA projects in your countries with JICA experts.
- Thailand could introduce the innovative approach to work with NGO in investigation of TIP case, rescue operation and protection of VOT at the shelter.

4. Emerging issues (if you have enough time for discussion)

- New type of human trafficking such as surrogacy and 'newborn trafficking' was identified as emerging challenges in the country presentations.
- Please discuss how to address the emerging issues.

After the group work, each country had 10 minutes to present what they had discussed according to the instruction.



CAMBODIA GROUP WORK PRESENTATION

By Mr. Phearith Kou, Rattanak International, Cambodia



Mr. Phearith, Rattanak International, Cambodia

Mr. Phearith Kou reported the results of group discussion according to the presentation in Annex 13. Please see the full presentation for more details.

He presented that Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) as well as the regular and ad-hoc meeting with the neighboring countries, especially at the border areas are good practices.

For the tools to improve the cooperation, although Cambodia has developed various

agreements, policies, guidelines and standards, the implementation and monitoring of these tools was identified as a challenge.

There are many NGOs providing direct service for VOT in Cambodia. It is required for them to make an MoU with the government and report the progress quarterly. Funding, experiences, technical supports and service provision to VOT are the main advantages of the external partners.

In order to address the emerging issue such as human trafficking using surrogacy, Cambodia government is drafting a new law on surrogacy. Training of service providers and local authorities on this issue is being implemented.



VIET NAM GROUP WORK PRESENTATION

By Mr. Nguyen Cong Hieu, vice Director of Child Helpline and Anti-TIP Hotline 111, The Bureau of Child Protection, Department of Children Affairs, Ministry of Labour, Invalid and Social Affairs (MOLISA)



Mr. Hieu, MOLISA

Mr. Nguyen Cong Hieu reported the results of group discussion according to the presentation in Annex 14. Please see the full presentation for more details.

Vietnam has made agreements on strengthening cooperation on preventing and combating human trafficking with various countries including China, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand. The implementation status of these agreements is reviewed regularly. Setting the three months high peak season in relation to anti-TIP work with China is one

of the effective measures to prevent the incident. In the border areas, cooperation in joint rescue and handover of VOT and regular meeting at the provincial level has been conducted with neighboring countries.

Viet Nam would like to develop the guiding documents with Cambodia to improve the investigation, information exchange and repatriation of VOT between two countries. The repatriation handbook,

especially the repatriation flowchart between Thailand and Viet Nam, developed by CM4TIP Project is very detailed and useful. Viet Nam will adopt the tools presented by Thai government into their context.

The law on combat and prevention of human trafficking (Anti-Trafficking Law) 2011 and the National Plan of Action (2016-2020) is the central instrument to coordinate the external partners working in anti-TIP. Not only JICA is assisting the hotline activities in Viet Nam, they play a role as a focal point for communication between Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) countries.

Surrogacy and baby trading are the emerging issue in Viet Nam. To address this issue, it is necessary to investigate the situation, review the loop-holes in the law and amend them and raise awareness in the community.



LAO PDR GROUP WORK PRESENTATION

By Ms. Vannaly Inphaphom, head of division of counseling, the counseling and protection center for women and children, Lao Women's Union (LWU)



Ms. Vannaly, LWU

Ms. Vannaly Inphaphom reported the results of group discussion according to the presentation in Annex 15. Please see the full presentation for more details.

She introduced that COMMIT process is one of the good practices to improve bilateral and regional cooperation because it contributed to make bilateral agreements between Lao PDR and Thailand, Viet Nam and China. Another good practice is Case Management Meeting (CMM) with Thailand. Lao PDR would like to duplicate this mechanism to their cooperation with Viet Nam and China respectively.

Lao PDR is currently developing POA and SOP with Thailand and there is a plan to do so with Viet Nam and China. The repatriation handbook developed by CM4TIP project is very useful. It will be incorporated to the on-going effort to develop National Referral Mechanism.

The Secretariat to the National Committee for Anti-Human Trafficking (NCAHT) is a central body to coordinate relevant ministries and external partners. UN agencies, bilateral agencies and NGOs are working with Lao government to provide direct services for VOT as well as to improve the government capacity on anti-TIP work. The advantages of external partners are funding and technical support; and linkage between bilateral and regional cooperation. Ms. Vannaly also mentioned that JICA's project in the legal sector (The Project for Human Resource Development in the Legal Sector) is contributing to strengthen law enforcement capacity on anti-TIP work although this project is not directly targeting anti-TIP.



MYANMAR GROUP WORK PRESENTATION

By Ms. Khine Su Lwin, Assistant director, Department of Rehabilitation (DOR), Ministry of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement (MSWRR)

Ms. Khine Su Lwin reported the results of group discussion according to the presentation in Annex 16. Please see the full presentation for more details.



Ms. Khine Su introduced the good practices conducted between Myanmar and Thailand and China respectively. Myanmar is coordinating with Thailand by using the various mechanisms such as quarterly Case Management Meeting (CMM) at the central level, case worker visits and regular meeting by multiple actors at multiple layers including the border cooperation meeting (BCATIP) at three border points. They also use LINE application to promote communication among social workers in Myanmar, Myanmar VOT in Thai shelters and anti-TIP officials in Thailand.



Ms. Khine Su, MSWRR

MOU and SOP are the useful tools to improve the bilateral cooperation on anti-TIP. The MoU with Thailand is at the final stage of amendment.

Myanmar is working with various external partners in anti-TIP work. Each partner has different type of expertise. International organizations have advantage on technical and financial assistance, while local NGOs are working with the government for family tracing and follow up of VOT.

Emerging issues in Myanmar is also human trafficking by using surrogacy. There is a high demand in China. The phenomenon that VOT turned to trafficker is another new trend which requires immediate action.

Q&A

A question was raised by Ms. Moch Sovannara, Director of Aftercare, International Justice Commission (NGO). She raised a concern regarding the privacy and confidentiality issue of the survivors, when social workers from Thailand visited survivors in Myanmar in order to monitor and to follow up. She found it very useful and a good initiative in general, but she was just concerned about their privacy. Ms. Sovannara also asked about the way in which social workers communicate with the survivors to bring back the dignity of survivors. She added that this question was not only addressed to Burmese representatives, but to all of us.



Ms. Sovannara, International Justice Commission

To respond to Ms. Sovannara’s question, Ms. Khaine assured that their confidentiality was highly respected and the victims were asked to provide their consent to every step that they take while being protected and assisted.

She highlighted that the social workers and staff who assisted survivors were very careful with others in the concerned community. For the case of the visit by Thai social workers, only those who provided consent were visited. She understood the reasons why social workers from Thailand would like to visit the survivors, as they would like to make

sure that the survivors were well settled back in their respective communities. She concluded her response by assuring that the dignity of survivors is well respected.



THAILAND GROUP WORK PRESENTATION

By Mr. Rupawat Phonoy, Head of Legal Assistance Section, DATIP



Mr. Rupawat, DATIP

Mr. Rupawat Phonoy reported the results of group discussion according to the presentation in Annex 17. Please see the full presentation for more details.

Mr. Rupawat introduced the three actions as good practice.

1. Preventing risk group to enter Thailand by tightening immigration screening.
2. Engaging NGOs in anti-TIP work.
3. Improving foreign labour management by increasing the penalties and using the database system.

As a tool to improve the cooperation, Thailand is applying new technologies in its immigration control, such as finger-print screening and retinal screening for biometric identification.

Similar to other countries, Thailand is working with various external partners in anti-TIP work. They are both domestic and international.

Mr. Rupawat reported that Thailand is now having VOT from non-GMS countries, especially from African countries. It is challenging to rescue and protect the VOT from these countries given the different culture norms of both offenders and victims. Another emerging issue is human smuggling from Myanmar to Malaysia through Thailand.

Q&A

Mr. Hoang Minh Cuong from Vietnam asked about the emerging issue of surrogacy and human trafficking. Understanding that Thailand had successfully managed issues related to surrogacy and regulated surrogacy business, Mr. Cuong requested Mr. Rupawat to share Thailand's experience in combating this issue.

Mr. Rupawat, DATIP swiftly responded by saying that the new law created to specifically address the issues related surrogacy helped them manage the problem. He welcomed the participants to review the law itself.

Ms. Moch Sovannara, Director of Aftercare, International Justice Commission (NGO) asked about the issues related to human smuggling. She requested Mr. Rupawat to elaborate the source and destination of human smuggling.

Mr. Rupawat answered by pointing out that there were two dimensions to human smuggling in Thailand. Thailand as a destination country for human smuggling and Thailand as a transit country for human smuggling from Myanmar to Malaysia.

Ms. Hitomi Sato, JICA Volunteer raised a question regarding the new born babies who were born by their surrogate mothers. She asked what would be the purpose of those babies. Are they for organ trading, or for off springs, or for future sex workers etc....

Ms. Rattana Nontapattamadul, DATIP, Thailand responded by saying that they were for commercial business. If the babies were traded as commodities, that is simply wrong and it could be considered as a new type of human trafficking. She urged to raise awareness among multiple actors, not only those



directly involved in human trafficking issues, but also other line ministries such as Ministry of Public Health to address the issue from different angles.

Finally, Ms. Sato wrapped up the group work presentations made by the country representatives.

1. IDENTIFYING GOOD PRACTICES IN REGIONAL COOPERATION

She emphasized the importance of the regular communication between countries. It should include multi-layers channels such as government to government, police to police, social workers to social workers. And it should be made flexible enough to respond to the emerging situations in a timely manner. She also mentioned that the border cooperation would be an effective mechanism, whose experiences should be duplicated in different border areas.

2. EFFECTIVE TOOLS TO FACILITATE BILATERAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

There are already many effective tools available, some of which have been shared in this workshop. The issue here is its implementation, effective utilization, and monitoring its usage. Another point raised was the application of new technologies such as LINE application used between social workers in Thailand and Myanmar, and a new ID system using biometric identification technology to manage the migrant workers in Thailand etc. to facilitate cooperation.

3. MOBILIZING EXTERNAL PARTNERS TO FACILITATE REGIONAL COOPERATION

The main expectations to the external partners such as UN agencies, bilateral development assistance agency such as JICA and international/local NGO are for their funding and technical support. NGOs are active service providers in anti-TIP work in this region, but there is an existing gap in terms of geographic coverage, time and variety. It is the government responsibility to ensure the quality service to be provided nationwide. The national anti-TIP law and Plan of Action can serve as a central instrument to coordinate the various actors in this area.

4. EMERGING ISSUES RELATED HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE REGION

This was the first time that the issues related to surrogacy was brought to the table of Mekong Regional Workshop. The representatives from Cambodia, Myanmar and Viet Nam also expressed their concerns regarding this new form of human trafficking. As the offenders often take advantage of loop-hole in the existing laws, amendment of laws is required to address the emerging issues.

The representative from Thailand raised a concern on the diversification of the origin countries of VOT identified and protected in Thailand. In recent years, victims are not only from the neighboring countries, but some from other countries especially from African continent. Human smuggling was also another concern raised in the discussion.



CLOSING CEREMONY



CLOSING SPEECH

By Ms. Katsura Miyazaki, Chief Representative, JICA Thailand



Ms. Miyazaki, Chief Representative, JICA Thailand

Ms. Miyazaki congratulated all the participants for successfully completing the ninth Mekong Regional Workshop and expressed sincere gratitude to the host country, Thailand for the last 9 years of cooperation. Although this is the last Mekong Regional Workshop in the present form, she assured that JICA would be committed to work on Anti-TIP efforts in the region, and two technical cooperation projects to support this region's Anti-TIP efforts started in Myanmar and Viet Nam, through which she requested the participating countries

to provide continued cooperation with JICA. In addition, Ms. Miyazaki mentioned that JICA would explore a possibility to create another venue to bring countries in the GMS countries together for knowledge sharing and mutual learning in the near future. Finally, she concluded her speech by appreciating active participation made by the participants and smooth organization of the workshop by the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security and the Project team in Thailand.

Ms. Miyazaki's full speech is attached in Annex 2.



DAY 3: 24 January 2019

SITE VISIT TO SOCIAL ASSISTANCE CENTER

This year, the MRW participants paid a visit to **Social Assistance Center (Hotline 1300)**.

Ms. Darunee Manussavanish, Director of Social Assistance Center warmly welcomed the MRW participants to the Center. She introduced the operation of the Center as follows.

Social Assistance Center (Hotline 1300) is a hotline operation center under supervision of Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS). Established in December 2014, it acts as the main channel for citizen to report on and receive guidance or assistance regarding social problems, including trafficking in persons.

According to its mission of “Friendly and fairly helpline service for powerful society”, the Center aims to provide friendly and undiscriminating service for all, regardless of social status or nationality. The Center operates around the clock to receive incident reports, monitor media channels for incidents, and if required, mobilize mobile team instantaneously in urgent situation.

A number of TIP cases are reported to the Center every year, with source of information being the potential VOT themselves, friends or relatives of the potential VOT, or good citizen. Reports are made from both within Thailand or from overseas. For 2018, potential victims of the reported case are mostly female if categorized by gender, and children if categorized by age of the target group.

Suspicious TIP case can be reported through 5 channels:

1. Thailand Domestic Hotline (Dial 1300) – Free of charge
* Interpreter service available
2. Line Application ID: sac1300news or access the QR code
3. Walk-in
4. Website: <http://www.1300thailand.m-society.go.th/home>
5. Telephone from overseas: +66 99 130 1300 (call-back system)



Identity and information regarding the individual who report the case will be kept confidential. For clients who do not speak Thai, the Center has a network of volunteer interpreters in 19 languages to assist with communication through 3-line conference call system.

Details of cases received by the Center will be input into digital database system. Every year, the data of the Center will be collected by Thai Government to be sent to Department of State, U.S., for TIP report.

After a case is notified, the Center will coordinate with relevant agencies such as police station or DATIP to provide assistance according to the need or circumstance of the case, or mobilize mobile team in the situation requires immediate response. Social workers of the Center sometimes participate in victim identification process along with MDT team.



Cooperation with Outside Agency regarding TIP Issue

In 2017, MSDHS signed an agreement with National Broadcasting and Telecommunication Commission to establish an international call number (+66 99 130 1300) of the Social Assistance Center for Thai citizen overseas who encounter problems or is at risk of falling victim to human trafficking.

Currently the number operates on a call-back system. The call made to the number will be automatically cut off, after which the operator will call back. This way, the cost will be shouldered by the Center, not the caller.

The Center is currently making an effort to enable instant pick-up for international calls, since in some cases, the operator cannot reach through the number after the line is cut off by the call-back system.

Thai citizen facing problems domestically or overseas or foreigners who encounter social problems in Thailand can contact the Social Assistance Center via:

- Thailand Domestic Hotline (Dial 1300) – Free of charge
 - * Interpreter service available
- Line Application ID: sac1300news or access the QR code
- Website: <http://www.1300thailand.m-society.go.th/home>
- Telephone from oversea: +66 99 130 1300 (call-back system)



Q & A

Ms. Moch Sovannara, Director of Aftercare of International Justice Mission, NGO representative from Cambodia asked whether they ever received any phone call or reports from forced labour victims on illegal fishing boats, or not. Ms. Darunee Manussavanish, Director of Social Assistance Center answered that so far there was no direct phone call from victims on fishing boat to seek assistance to SAC 1300. However, SAC received several reports from citizens who have witnessed forced labour in fish processing factories in Samut Prakan and Chonburi province.

Ms. Nguyen Thi Hai, Chief Head of Vietnam National Hotline, requested to elaborate how SAC worked as member of MDT. A social worker of SAC explained that social workers in SAC worked 24 hours in three shifts, i.e.; 8:00-16:00, 16:00- 24:00, and 24:00-8:00. Police officers in suburb of Bangkok often call to the center requesting to send a social worker to their police station for victim identification. Social workers jointly identify victims of trafficking by interviewing. They also protect victims temporarily at home for children and families (short-term shelter) before sending them to long-term shelters for VOT. In many cases, such call comes to the center during night time and finishes work in early morning.

Mr. Nguyen Cong Hieu, Vice Director of Child Helpline and Anti-TIP Hotline of Vietnam asked importance of a hotline in National Government's Policy and how much is the annual budget allocated to the hotline. Director Darunee answered that combatting human trafficking is a national agenda and SAC is mentioned in the 20 years national strategic plan. She also answered about annual budget to the SAC is as much as 22 to 23 million baht every year including operation of hotline, cost for operators and honorarium of volunteers.