



กระทรวงแรงงาน

Ministry of Labour Campaigns for Human Trafficking, Narcotic Preventions

Ministry of Labour and its agencies have organized a rally to campaign for human trafficking and narcotic preventions after the United States has placed Thailand in its Tier 2 Watch List and closely monitored four Thai products, namely shrimp, sugar cane, garment and pornography.

Mrs. Narumol Thandamrong, Advisor to the Minister of Labour, said the U.S. Trafficking in Persons Report for 2012 places Thailand in the Tier 2 Watch List, which groups countries whose governments do not fully comply with the U.S. Trafficking Victims Protection Act's minimum standards but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with the law. Four Thai products, namely shrimp, sugar cane, garment and pornography, have also been placed on the list of goods the U.S. claimed as produced by child or forced labour, for three consecutive years.

This could affect the image of Thai products selling in the U.S., particularly seafood products. If the problem continued or got worsened, Thai products could also be banned or Thailand could be at risk of losing financial aid from the U.S., she said.

According to the advisor to the labour minister, the spread of drug abuse among workers is another urgent issue, which affects image of Thai products and the country. Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra has instructed Mr. Phadornchai Sasomsab, Minister of Labour, to explain the matter to the U.S. embassy in Thailand.

She said Ministry of Labour and concerned agencies have carried out a drug-free workplaces project to sustainably eliminate the problem.

As for child labour, Mrs. Narumol said it is a practice in Thailand that workers sometimes take their children to their workplace since they do not want to leave their children alone at home while they are at work. The children are not employed at all.

She said Ministry of Labour along with organizations in all sectors, including the National Fisheries Association of Thailand, the Thai Frozen Foods Association, the Thai Garment Manufacturers Association, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security and Ministry of Foreign Affairs have campaigned to raise awareness of relevant parties on the matter.

The advisor to the labour minister added that Ministry of Labour has organized a rally on the route from Ministry of Labour to Nong Nuch Park in Chonburi province to campaign for human trafficking and narcotic preventions with over 200 people and 100 vehicles participating. The campaign, promoted by Department of Labour Protection and Welfare, HR club and Safety Officer Club in Pathum Thani province and area 10, is expected to help strengthen labour network and ties among Ministry of Labour's agencies.