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Minister of Labour Discusses Ways to Prevent Human Trafficking

Minister of Labour holds talks with over 60 representatives from government organisations and NGOs over human trafficking prevention, as Ministry of Labour eyes to works and take advice from all concerned agencies to combat the problem. He points out misunderstanding plays part in Thailand being placed in the U.S. Tier 2 Watch List and that human rights principle can tarnish a country image.

Mr. Phadarmchai Sasomsub, Minister of Labour, said during a meeting on prevention and solution to human trafficking and prostitution, held at the Royal Thai Police headquarter in Bangkok that the government needs better information on the matter, which can only result from closer cooperation among agencies involved in the prevention and suppression of human trafficking and prostitution. Ministry of Labour is willing to hear opinions and take advice from all the concerned agencies, which has proved in the past that would lead to right solution to the problems, including the worst form of child labour – the latest case children aged under 15 were hired to perform work in a low-temperature room – and child labour in agricultural sector.

Mr. Phadarmchai said his ministry invited shrimp-peeling operators and other manufactures for a meeting to inform them human trafficking situation in Thailand. They also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to prevent the use of child and illegal labour.

The ministry has also instructed coordination centre for fishery workers in Samut Sakhon, Rayong, Trad, Chumphon, Songkhla, Ranong and Satun provinces to inform employers and employees about the rights workers are entitled for before they set off to the sea to ensure law compliance.

The labour minister also said that it is essential to create a common understanding among concerned agencies when they have to work together. He said misunderstanding played part for Thailand being placed under Tier 2 Watch List in the TIP Report issued by the U.S. government.

He said some Thai traditions are in contrast with human rights, pointing out that foreign countries view that child boxing during Thai festivity as a cruelty to child, which in fact is a Thai martial art and a tradition that has been practiced for a long time.