



กระทรวงแรงงาน

Ministry of Labour Informs US About Thailand's Effort to Solve Human Trafficking Problem in Fishery Sector

Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Labour receives an economic counselor of the US Embassy in Thailand and informs her that Ministry of Labour has intensified labour inspection, ensured fairness to workers, prevented child labours, and prepared to set up coordination centre for fishery workers. He believes the U.S. will have better view on Thailand's effort to solve its human trafficking problem next year.

Mr. Jirasak Sugandhajati, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Labour, said Mrs. Kristina Kvien, an economic counselor of the US Embassy in Thailand, paid a courtesy call on him and inquired him about the Ministry of Labour's policy on addressing human trafficking.

Mr. Jirasak said the policy of Pol. Capt. Chalerm Ubamrung, Minister of Labour, focuses on three issues, namely addressing human trafficking, eliminating drug problem and fostering labour unity. On the drug problem, the ministry has worked with concerned agencies to battle the issue. It has launched anti-drug campaign in local areas and workplaces and provided jobs for hill-tribe people, who are both victims and traders of drugs, to help them find income and prevent them from getting involved with drugs.

On labour solidarity, Mr. Jirasak said the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare has intensified labour inspection to ensure there is no labour abuse and urged victims to make complaint via the Office of Social Security's Call Centre at 1506. The complaint will be sent to concern agencies of the Ministry of Labour for solution finding. It also has a policy to provide protection to Thai and foreign workers by bringing them into the social security system so they are entitled to seven benefits.

On human trafficking, Mr. Jirasak said the minister of labour is determined to help Thailand being removed from Tier 2 Watch List of the U.S. Trafficking in Person Report. The Department of Labour Protection and Welfare and the Department of Employment has been instructed to check on workers and make sure they receive protection according to laws and prevent child labour problem. It also works with police and the navy in inspecting and finding information on the matter, especially in local areas. Job placement firms that send workers to work overseas, and brokers are required not to charge their customer job placement fee above legal limit. They will be prosecuted and arrested if they violate the law. As for migrant workers from Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos, they will receive protection and wage according to laws if they enter to work in Thailand legally. As for fisher workers, seven coordination centres have been set up to create database on fishing vessel and fishery workers, to determine guidelines/rules/measures to prevent human trafficking and to determine employment and labour protection conditions. The centres have authorization over 22 provinces.

Mr. Jirasak said the Thai government has attached importance in solving human trafficking. It has convened agencies to find ways to address the problem. The Ministry of Labour has also taken measures to prevent the problem. These measures include intense labour inspection to prevent child labour problem

and labour abuse and setting up coordination centres for fishery workers. He believes the U.S. will have better view on Thailand's effort to solve its human trafficking problem next year.