



กระทรวงแรงงาน

## **US House Representatives Invited to Help Solve Human Trafficking in Thailand**

Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Labour reveals Ministry of Labour is poised discuss with U.S. House Representatives about ways to solve human trafficking in Thailand in a bid to move the country from the ‘Tier 2’ watchlist of the Trafficking in Person Report (TIP Report).

Mr. Pakorn Amornchewin, Deputy Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Labour, said U.S. House Representatives were to meet with the permanent secretary for Labour to discuss six topics, namely investigations and prosecutions against forced labours and debt bondages, education for migrant workers on compensations and financial assistances from labour trafficking offenders, hotline services for migrant workers who are victims of human trafficking, services for victims of human trafficking including travel permission and accommodation outside shelter centres, management of migrant workers including regulations on fees and services in relation to brokers who import and legalize illegal alien workers in Thailand and attempts to reduce demands from those who take advantages from labour abuse.

He said this during a meeting at Ministry of Labour, aimed at preparing for the meeting with U.S. House Representatives to solve child and forced labour problems in Thailand on August 6.

In addition, the deputy permanent secretary said the US TIP report reported four issues which are related to Ministry of Labour, namely insufficient surveillance measures to monitor forced labours and debt bondages in factories in Thailand, efforts to improve surveillance measures, -- noting that monitoring human trafficking in factories is also not an effective way to solve the problem --, registration process, -- noting that it involves fees and expenses charged by illegal broker, which increasingly risks migrant workers to become debt bondages while the complexity in the government’s national verification process and the reliance of migrant workers on illegal brokers also risk migrant workers of being taken advantages of --, and unclear efforts to improve work conditions in the fishery sector in the past years.

Nevertheless, the meeting took advices from the report including increasing efforts to prosecute and punish human trafficking offenders, dissemination of operational plans against human trafficking in Thailand to affirm that offenders against human trafficking are prosecuted, investigations on criminal cases involving state officials who commit human trafficking offences, and education for migrant workers on rights and duties of officials on migrant workers. These advices would be considered and proposed to the permanent secretary for Labour for him to use in the meeting with S. House Representatives on August 6 at Ministry of Labour. In addition, the meeting results would be discussed in detail with Ministry of Labour’s executives because solutions to problems require cooperation from several agencies.