



משרד העבודה והרווחה

US Sees “Significant Progress” in Thailand’s Effort to Solve Human Trafficking: MOL

Ministry of Labour reveals that the U.S. acknowledges a “significant progress” in Thailand’s effort to solve child labour and human trafficking problems and advises the country to strictly carry out works relating to laws, regulations, coordination and law enforcement.

M.L. Puntrik Smitri, Deputy Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Labour, in her capacity of chief of the group on work security missions, revealed the 2011 report on findings on the worst form of child labour situation in Thailand informed and received by the U.S. Embassy in Thailand and the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare’s Labour Standard Development Bureau respectively, saying that the report indicates that Thailand has made very good progress in term of child labour eradication. The country has issued the ministerial regulations to protect home workers and limit the minimum age for home workers, adjusted the list of hazardous works for children, expanded health care benefits for female and child refugees, provided free medical care for children and activated programs to eradicate child labour problems in shrimp and seafood processing industries, it says.

The report also says the enforcement of laws on child labour in Thailand remains weak and the government is still lack of general information about child labour in the country. The worst form of child labour still exists in Thailand, as child workers are still hired to perform dangerous work and works in shrimp and seafood processing industries. It recommends Thailand to carry out works relating to laws, regulations, coordination and law enforcement. The report rates different countries’ efforts on eradicating child labour in four levels, namely “significant”, “moderate”, “minimal” and “no progress”. Thailand is among 10 countries rated “significant”, the highest level, by the U.S. in term of child labour eradication.

M.L. Puntrik said the Executive Order 13126 issued by the executive branch under thr president has provided the U.S. Department of Labour, the Department of State, and the Department of Homeland Security authorities to create a list of products produced by child, forced and bonded labours. The list contains 35 prodcuts of 26 countires, inlcuding cloth and shrimp products from Thailand, despite it having made “significant” advancement in term of child labour eradication in 2012. Removing a prodcut from the list would require authoirty from the executive branch. In doing so, it would consider the child and forced labour situations in that particular country.