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UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST 2014

The UN-ACT national project launch for Lao PDR took place 17 July in Vientiane with representatives from various UN agencies, international organizations and NGOs eager to contribute to the fight against human trafficking.

Upcoming Events

August 7
No Child is Illegal: Press Briefing
Bangkok, Thailand
(Contact: a.husni@tdh.nl)

August 28-30
GMS Follow-up Workshop for Joint Standard Setting on TIP Victim Guidelines and SOP’s
Bangkok, Thailand

August 29
Saphan Siang Capstone Event
Bangkok, Thailand
(Contact: aanas@saphansiang.org)
Trafficking Trends and Developments

CAMBODIA

- The Cambodian government has taken measures to address issues of migration following the June mass exodus of Cambodian migrant workers who returned home from Thailand. The government has announced that fees for passport processing for both migrant workers and students will now cost only $4 USD, with the intention of providing safe and legal channels for migrants in order to reduce instances of trafficking and exploitation.

- The Cambodian government has issued a new Royal Decree on the restructuring of the National Committee on Counter Trafficking. Under this new model, the National Committee will now receive part of its annual budget to finance operations and programming.

- The Cambodian Human Rights and Development Association (ADHOC), a local Cambodian NGO, held a press conference stressing that more needed to be done in the anti-trafficking field in light of increasing reports of women being trafficked for forced marriage. ADHOC reported that in the first six months of 2014, they received a total of 108 cases of human trafficking, with 298 victims.

CHINA

- UN-ACT China received an interpretation assistance request from the Hebei Province Police Bureau regarding a case that involved 38 Vietnamese women, presumably trafficked to China for forced marriage. Two interpreters received informed consent from the potential VoTs (Victims of Trafficking), to pass on information to UN-ACT in order to provide reintegration assistance. The collection of testimonies lasted over two weeks, with the 38 women having officially been identified as VoTs from very poor areas of Vietnam, and with 4 desiring to return home.

- A China-Myanmar Bilateral Meeting took place from 15-18, July in Anhui province, coordinated between UN-ACT China and UN-ACT Myanmar. The meeting focused on how respective police forces could cooperate in sharing information on known criminal networks and human trafficking perpetrators, as well as providing law enforcement training, and prosecuting offenders.

LAO PDR

- The final UN-ACT national project launch took place in Lao PDR on 17 July in Vientiane. There were approximately 50 attendees including representatives from the UN, government ministries, international organizations, and NGOs, with both television and print media coverage.

- A two day training entitled “Children on the Move” was organized and supported by Village Focus International (VFI) and held at the Lao Women’s Union Center in Vientiane. 33 participants from various organizations, including UN-ACT, participated in a training focusing on issues surrounding children's needs, children's rights and how to ensure protection for migratory children.
**MYANMAR**

- 42 Myanmar workers arrived safely in Yangon to be reunited with their families. The workers reported facing **inhumane working conditions in two garment factories in China** in the Xiban Industrial Zone, where they were beaten and denied their wages. The workers reported their mistreatment to the 88 Generation (Peace and Open Society) and the International Labor Organization (ILO). Myanmar anti-trafficking police also assisted the workers, who are now considering available legal channels to seek compensation.

**THAILAND**

- The National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) has released a series of announcements and orders to **register migrant workers** and tackle human trafficking issues in Thailand. As part of the interim measures being implemented, under NCPO Announcement No. 77, **One Stop Service Centres** will be established in every province to register migrant workers, and in 22 coastal provinces to register workers employed on fishing vessels.

- The Department of American and South Pacific Affairs, the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs and representatives of **Thai food associations conducted a mission to the United States** to discuss issues of migrant workers and human trafficking. Following discussions, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported that the U.S. government has acknowledged the labour solutions being implemented and may remove four Thai products from its child and forced labour watch list.

**VIETNAM**

- The second Cambodian-Lao-Vietnamese Ministerial Conference on crime prevention and control was held in Da Lat, Vietnam. Participants shared their experiences in crime prevention, import/export control and migration in border areas. The Vietnamese Minister of Public Security, Cambodia’s Deputy Prime Minister and the Lao Minister of Public Security signed a **joint statement on anti-crime**, a declaration that places an emphasis on effective coordination in combating organized crime, transnational crime, cybercrime, terrorism, drug trafficking and trafficking in persons.

**ANTI-TRAFFICKING PARTNERS**

Under the auspices of the **ILO GMS Triangle Project**, the **Saphan Siang Youth Ambassadors** programme has marked a new success and proven to be an instrumental part of the wider **Saphan Siang** campaign. Twelve Youth Ambassadors were chosen in the beginning of March and have since been working alongside a number of civil society organizations throughout Thailand. Assigned with varied placements, these young students have been contributing to the campaign’s objective – to create a positive image of migrant workers by highlighting their social and economic contribution to the country. The Capstone Event will be held on 29 August 2014 at the UNESCAP Building to celebrate the end of the Youth Ambassadors’ volunteer placements. The event will be held with the goal of allowing the Youth Ambassadors to present their placement outcomes and share experiences with their peers and campaign partners. It also aims to provide an opportunity to reflect on lessoned learned and to strategize the next steps of the programme, while allowing the Youth Ambassadors to present their social outreach activities as part of their continued engagement with the campaign. The Youth Ambassadors have been documenting their journey since the beginning of the programme.

**Find out more at:**

[www.saphansiangambassadors.wordpress.com](http://www.saphansiangambassadors.wordpress.com)
ANTI-TRAFFICKING PARTNERS

In line with the ILO's "Migration Works" campaign to promote a more positive image of migrant workers, a Public Service Announcement (PSA) has been produced in collaboration with MTV EXIT. The PSA profiles a domestic worker, a security guard, and a waiter, and challenges the audience to think beyond the job titles of migrant workers, and to recognize the significant contributions they make to Malaysia's economy and society. By focusing on what migrants and Malaysians have in common, rather than their differences, the PSA fosters greater understanding and appreciation of this contribution.

To watch the PSA and learn more about the campaign, please visit www.migrationworks.org and www.facebook.com/migrationworks

To watch the PSA on youtube: Migration Works PSA
ILO blog on the PSA: ILO Blog

Chab Dai is conducting a collaborative research study on the Impact and Perceptions of Short-Term Volunteers in the Human Rights Sector in Cambodia. For the purposes of this study, Chab Dai is recruiting short-term volunteers who fit the following criteria, to fill out an Entry and Exit survey:

- Volunteering in Cambodia from 1-6 months
- Volunteering in the human rights sector
- Arriving in Cambodia in May, June or July 2014

Chab Dai is also recruiting NGO leaders/staff who manage/host short-term volunteers, as well as Cambodian staff who interact and work with short-term volunteers, for interviews on perceptions of volunteer impact and information on volunteer program structures.

To complete the survey, please follow this link: Volunteer Survey

For further information, please contact Julia Smith-Brake at julia.smithbrake@chabdai.org

The Anti-Trafficking Review is an open access, academic publication with a readership in 78 countries, published by the Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW). The Anti-Trafficking Review calls for papers for a Special Issue entitled 'Forced Labour and Human Trafficking.'

For more detailed information, please click here: Call for Papers

Deadline for submission: 30 November 2014

Word count for Full Article submissions: 4,000 - 6,000 words, including footnotes, author bio and abstract

Special Issue to be published in 2015

We advise those interested in submitting to follow the Review's style guide and submission procedures, available at www.antitraffickingreview.org. Please email the editorial team at atr@gaatw.org with any queries.
**NEWS UPDATES**

**Brides-to-China trafficking ring uncovered in Shan State**
“Lashio police officer Chit Htoo identified a man and a woman, ethnicity unknown, who sold their daughters to a woman in the Sino-Burmese border town of Namhkam to be smuggled into China to marry Chinese men.” (Democratic Voice of Burma)

**Trafficking Victims Told to Find Own Compensation**
“Men who were trafficked to work in slave-like conditions on fishing boats will be deprived of court-ordered compensation unless their lawyers can locate assets in Cambodia belonging to the Taiwanese citizens who were found guilty of trafficking them, court and Ministry of Justice officials said Tuesday.” (Cambodia Daily)

**LCT calls for action on trafficking gangs**
“The state has focused on making money from tourism, so investigation procedures [for refugee smuggling] are lax. This increases the chances for human traffickers to exploit refugees," said subcommittee chairman Surapong Kongchantuk.” (Bangkok Post)

**A Sustainable Approach to Combating Human Trafficking**
“The best way to prevent a tree from growing is to attack its roots; in other words, vigorous efforts to prosecute and punish traffickers -- which serve as a deterrent to would-be traffickers -- must be coupled with strategic efforts to prevent this crime.” (Huffington Post)

**US pushes Asean on trafficking**
“The United States urged Southeast Asia’s regional bloc on Tuesday to do more to combat human trafficking after two of its member states were blacklisted for failing to act decisively against exploitation of migrant labourers.” (Bangkok Post)

**Two held for kidney trafficking scam**
“Reports from Phnom Penh say Cambodian police have arrested two local people for trafficking in human kidneys...the suspects were arrested on Tuesday night in the capital following a complaint filed by one of five people who each sold a kidney through them.” (Bangkok Post)

**Thai agencies revising labour law to deal with human trafficking**
“Thailand’s labour law is now being revised by several concerned government agencies and upon completion it could guarantee customers overseas that there is neither child labour, forced labour nor human trafficking in Thailand, said Ms Puntarik Smiti, deputy permanent secretary for labour.” (Pattaya Mail)

**Australia’s ‘hidden’ abusive migrant marriages**
"It’s an absolute deception on the part of the perpetrator...marriage was the tool that was used to exploit the women for profit, gain or personal advantage.” (Bangkok Post)

**'I’m a victim': accused trafficker**
“Phnom Penh Municipal Court yesterday heard the case of two alleged human traffickers, one of whom told the court that she herself had been a victim of trafficking just last year.” (Phnom Penh Post)
Thailand, ILO to cooperate in tackling human trafficking

“Jirasuk Sugandhajati, Thailand’s permanent secretary for labour, discussed the implementation of good labour practices (GLPs) in the Thai shrimp and seafood production sectors with Maurizio Bussi, director of ILO Decent Work Technical Support Teams for East and South-East Asia and the Pacific.” (Pattaya Mail)

18,000 Vietnamese marry foreigners each year

“On average 18,000 Vietnamese marry foreigners each year, with 78% of them coming from Ho Chi Minh City and poor areas of the Mekong Delta region.” (Vietnam Net)

Sentence slashed for convicted pedophile

“The Appeal Court yesterday slashed 18 years off the sentence of a man convicted of child sex charges, drawing the condemnation of an NGO who helped bring about his conviction.” (Phnom Penh Post)

Woman sent to China sold ‘as sex slave’

“The Phnom Penh Municipal Court yesterday heard the brutal testimony of a 19-year-old Cambodian woman who was allegedly trafficked to China as a for-purchase bride last year.” (Phnom Penh Post)

Kawasaki trio arrested in sex-trafficking of woman

“Three people from Kawasaki were under Metropolitan Police Department custody as of Thursday for allegedly trafficking a Filipino woman in May for sexual exploitation…It is the nation’s first sex-trafficking-related arrest, according to police.” (Japan Times)

Workers Still Willing to Risk Illegal Thai Crossing

“Despite a government strategy to help migrant workers return to Thailand legally after nearly 250,000 workers flooded back to Cambodia last month amid rumors of a crackdown, thousands are again crossing the border illegally.” (Cambodia Daily)

Supermarket giants in Thailand for prawn slavery talks

“UK and US supermarket groups are meeting in Thailand this week to create a taskforce to tackle trafficking and forced labour in the shrimp feed industry.” (The Guardian)

$80,000 in grants awarded to three anti-human trafficking proposals

“The Singapore Inter-Agency Taskforce on Trafficking-in-Persons (TIP) has awarded up to $80,000 for the TIP Public Awareness Grant to the Singapore Committee for UN Women, EmancipAsia and Dr Sallie Yea from the National Institute of Education (NIE).” (Asia One)

UN battles for more human trafficking convictions

“Global efforts to stop the multi-billion-dollar business of trafficking in people are being hampered by perceptions that it is a soft crime unlikely to be punished, the head of the U.N. drugs and crime office told Reuters.” (Reuters)

Cambodia, China Drafting Agreement to Curb Bride Trafficking

“Cambodia and China are drafting a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to stamp out the exploitative trade of Cambodian women to China, where there have been increasing reports of women being abused by their Chinese husbands and sold into the sex trade.” (Cambodia Daily)
## Concern for Children as Migrants Return to Thailand

"In the wake of a mass exodus of Cambodian migrant workers from Thailand last month, World Vision says that an alarming number of children have found themselves lost and separated from their parents at the border."  
(China Daily)

## Myanmar set to enforce ILO convention to eliminate worst forms of child labour

"The convention calls for the elimination of all types of slavery, including the sale and trafficking of children, forced labour to pay off a debt, any other type of forced labour, including using children in war and armed conflict."  
(Eleven Myanmar)

## Sattahip agencies meet on illegal labor, human trafficking

"About 20 Sattahip organizations met to develop solutions to illegal foreign labor and human trafficking in the district."  
(Pattaya Mail)

## US understands Thailand’s measures to address human trafficking problems

"The Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported that the United States has acknowledged labour solutions in National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) actions and might remove four Thai products from its child and forced labour watch list."  
(Pattaya Mail)

## Four Offices to Open for Thailand-Bound Workers

"Four “one-stop” offices to process documentation for Cambodians seeking legal work in Thailand will open on Tuesday after the Ministry of Labor issued a directive last week outlining how the migration process will operate."  
(Cambodia Daily)

## Ringleaders Arrested Attempting to Smuggle Workers Into Thailand

"Oddar Meanchey provincial court charged four men and a woman with human trafficking on Saturday for attempting to illegally smuggle 51 migrant workers into Thailand, officials said Sunday."  
(Cambodia Daily)

## Cambodia’s vanishing workforce

"...informal work in Thailand remains risky...it has resulted in unsafe or abusive working conditions, indentured servitude, or outright theft. At the extreme end, the situation has allowed for enslavement and trafficking..."  
(Al Jazeera)

## Malaysian police arrest Vietnamese sex workers in national raids

"Malaysian police arrested 39 foreign sex workers, 18 of whom were Vietnamese at a café in Kuala Lumpur...police said all of the women – 20 from China, 18 from Vietnam and one from Myanmar – have travel documents and are under investigation by the Immigration Department."  
(Thanh Nien News)

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**Disclaimer:**

Please note that the views and opinions expressed in the above news articles do not express the views and opinions of UN-ACT or any of its affiliated agencies or partners.
MONTHLY FOCUS

The United Nations Inaugural

World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

*United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon: Message on World Day against Trafficking in Persons, 30 July 2014*

Human trafficking is a callous global industry that denies victims their rights and dignity and generates billions of dollars for organized criminal networks. Most of those trafficked are vulnerable women and children deceived into a life of suffering. They are exploited for sex and forced to work in conditions akin to slavery.

This first World Day against Trafficking in Persons is a call to action to end this crime and give hope to the victims, who often live unrecognized among us. To stop the traffickers, we must sever funding pipelines and seize assets. I urge all countries to ratify and fully implement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol on Trafficking in Persons.

Enforcement, cross-border cooperation and information-sharing can all be effective, but ending human trafficking also means tackling the root causes. Extreme poverty, entrenched inequality and a lack of education and opportunity create the vulnerabilities that traffickers exploit. Ultimately, the best protection is to accelerate development for all.

Victims of trafficking who are fortunate enough to be freed need assistance to regain their rights and reintegrate into society. The UN Trust Fund for the Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, works on their behalf but needs additional funding. I appeal to everyone to support the UN campaign, "Have a Heart for Victims of Human Trafficking".

Let us open our eyes to this crime and our hearts to the victims. It is time to say no to human trafficking.
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Executive Director Yury Fedotov: Message on World Day against Trafficking in Persons, 30 July 2014

Not a single day goes by without a fresh report of women, men and children being sold into modern-day slavery; forced to work in sweatshops, fields and brothels, hidden in plain sight in the richest countries in the world, and in the poorest.

Human trafficking exploits the dream of millions for a better life for themselves and their children. Traffickers steal this hope to turn people into commodities in a pernicious trade that, despite our efforts, continues to operate with impunity.

This 30 July, we are marking the first ever United Nations World Day against Trafficking in Persons. The day aims to raise awareness of the plight of human trafficking victims, and help promote and protect their rights. It is a chance to express our solidarity with the vulnerable, and pledge to give back the precious commodity stolen from them: hope.

Because the truth is that we are still far from winning this fight.


In this time we have achieved a lot. In 2003, less than half of countries in the world had legislation criminalizing human trafficking. Now more than 90% of countries do.

Nevertheless, legislation does not always comply with the Protocol, and fails to cover all forms of trafficking and their victims. In effect, there are billions of people who are not adequately protected and remain vulnerable.

Even when legislation is enacted, implementation falls short. Since 2007, the number of convictions reported globally has remained extremely low.

As UNODC's forthcoming Global Report on Trafficking in Persons shows, some 15 per cent of countries did not record a single conviction between 2010 and 2012, while 25 per cent only recorded between one and 10 convictions.

This is of great concern because convictions not only ensure that the offenders have to answer for their crimes. They send an important signal to criminals - for whom human trafficking is a low-risk, high-profit activity - that this violation will not be tolerated.

At the same time, we have found that more and more detected victims are children, particularly girls under the age of 18.

We can all do our part to fight human trafficking. Awareness is key, because even though human trafficking is a transnational crime happening everywhere, it is a crime that is committed locally, in our neighbourhoods and local communities.
The majority of convicted traffickers - the recruiters, transporters and exploiters - are from the same country as the victims, or are nationals of the country to which the victims are taken. Even when international borders are crossed, the origin and destination countries are often within the same region.

I encourage everyone to do and give what they can.

The United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons supports grassroots organizations directly assisting victims of human trafficking. The fund is financed solely through voluntary contributions from governments, the business community and people of goodwill. Every donation counts.

Let us mark this first United Nations World Day against Trafficking in Persons by doing more. We need more awareness, more education, more training and more determination to see - and stop - what is happening right in front of our eyes.

UN-ACT staff from the Lao PDR office showing their support for the blue heart campaign, and the ongoing fight against trafficking in persons.
“In the 14 years the United States has produced the *Trafficking in Persons Report*, the world has made tremendous progress in the fight against human trafficking. There is no government, however, that has done a perfect job responding to this crime. In the years ahead, it seems unlikely that any government will reach perfection. But should that day arrive when human trafficking disappears, one fact will remain certain: what has happened to the victims of modern slavery can never be undone. For those who have endured the exploitation of modern slavery, even the most effective justice system and the most innovative efforts to prevent future trafficking will not reverse the abuse and trauma that millions of trafficking victims have endured. With the right support and services, however, victims can move beyond their suffering and forward with their lives.

With the right legal structures and policies, they can see justice done. With the right opportunities, they can make choices about the lives they want and even use their experiences to help guide and strengthen efforts to fight this crime. This process is unique for each victim, and each must take steps based on his or her own strength, agency, and determination. Governments play a vital role in facilitating this process. While a government institution will never be able to reverse what has happened to someone abused in a situation of modern slavery, governments can aid an individual's recovery by providing support to each victim on his or her journey toward becoming a survivor. In addition to assessments of what almost every government in the world is doing to combat modern slavery, this year's *Trafficking in Persons Report* takes a hard look at the journey from victim to survivor, making recommendations and highlighting effective practices that, if implemented, could ease the path forward for countless survivors around the world.”

A full copy of the report is available online at:

[TIP Report 2014](#)
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