

**2016 Republic of China (Taiwan)
Trafficking in Persons
Report**



June 2017

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I. Prologue

Due to rapid growth of the global economy and the subsequent increase in the cross-border flow of people, developmental differences among countries may lead to a wider gap between rich and poor, as well as uneven regional development. Such circumstances tend to lead to human trafficking (also known as trafficking in persons, or TIP). With respect for human rights as a core national value, the Republic of China (Taiwan) will continue to pay close attention to the problem of human trafficking, which constitutes a serious violation of people's human rights, and strengthen its efforts to prevent human trafficking from occurring.

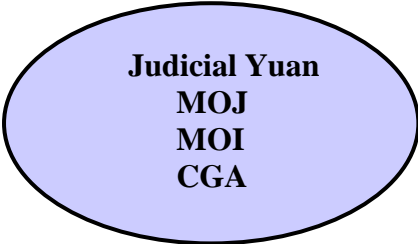
The government announced the Human Trafficking Prevention Action Plan in November 2006 and set up a cabinet-level anti-TIP coordination task force in January 2007 to streamline cross-agency resources and ensure full commitment to prevention. In January 2009, the Human Trafficking Prevention and Control Act was promulgated, entering into force in June of that same year. Relevant agencies base their efforts on the HTPCA, which has ensured progress in the fight against human trafficking.

With increasing cross-border movement of people due to globalization, more foreigners (including people from mainland China, Hong Kong, and Macau) have been coming to Taiwan for business, tourism, education, employment, or marriage. Foreign workers constitute the majority of this influx, followed by marriage immigrants. These people have a higher chance of being mistreated due to cultural and language barriers as well as workplace confinement. Meanwhile, in recent years, the international community has placed great emphasis on the issue of exploitation of domestic workers and fishing industry workers, and aimed to prosecute those who abuse or traffic deep-sea fishing workers. Even though the ROC government has taken appropriate preventive and control measures, such human trafficking problems have not yet been fully eradicated. Also, TIP cases that occur overseas involve such issues as exercise of jurisdiction and de jure recognition, and require mutual assistance among countries.

With regard to Taiwan's anti-TIP efforts in 2016, through cooperation between the central government, local governments, and nongovernmental organizations, Taiwan was named a tier-one country in the US *Trafficking in Persons Report* for the seventh consecutive year. TIP prevention requires not only long-term and continuous efforts but also international collaboration and worldwide vigilance. In 2017, Taiwan will continue to work closely together with the international community to combat TIP and promote human rights-based governance.

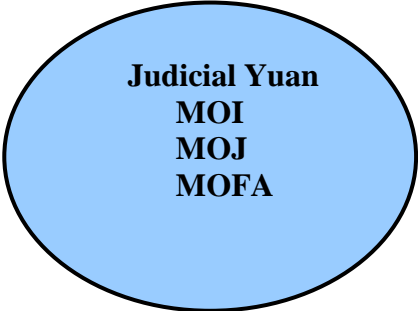
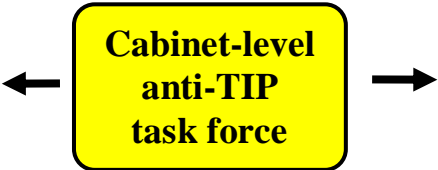
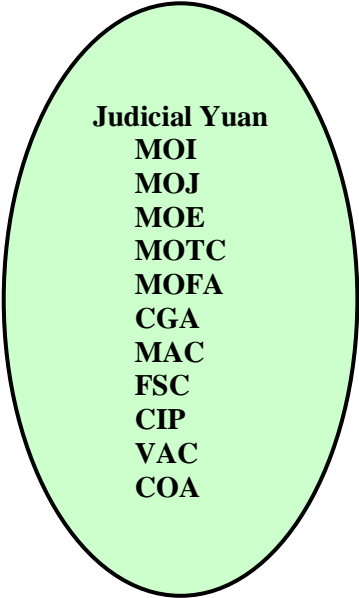
Cross-Agency TIP Prevention Mechanism

Prosecution



Prevention

Protection



Partnership

The Judicial Yuan is the top administrative body of the judicial branch.

The following agencies are under the Executive Yuan (the cabinet):

CGA: Coast Guard Administration

CIP: Council of Indigenous Peoples

COA: Council of Agriculture

FSC: Financial Supervisory Commission

MAC: Mainland Affairs Council

MOE: Ministry of Education

MOFA: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

MOHW: Ministry of Health and Welfare

MOI: Ministry of the Interior

MOJ: Ministry of Justice

MOL: Ministry of Labor

MOTC: Ministry of Transportation and Communications

VAC: Veteran Affairs Council

II. Highlights of 2016

During 2016, ROC government agencies continued to aggressively combat human trafficking. With the cabinet-level anti-TIP task force consolidating resources of related agencies and with NGOs working in close cooperation with the government, significant achievements were made in the fight against human trafficking.

Law enforcement and prosecution: Judicial police agencies uncovered 134 TIP cases (40 cases of labor exploitation and 94 cases of sexual exploitation). A total of 171 individuals were prosecuted in 69 TIP cases.

Protection: The National Immigration Agency under the MOI and the MOL, together with civic groups, operate 23 shelters. During 2016, a total of 192 newly identified victims were placed in shelters. Aside from having their everyday needs met, the residents received additional services such as psychological counseling, interpreting, legal aid, escort during judicial proceedings, and medical care. Arrangements were made by relevant agencies to help 60 victims return to their home country following the end of judicial proceedings. In 2016, the NIA provided medical services 245 times, interpreting services 630 times, legal aid five, counseling eight, consultation 898, and accompaniment to court (or interrogation) 48. In addition, the NIA issued 92 temporary stay permits and extended 133 temporary stay permits for TIP victims, while the MOL issued work permits to 199 victims. Also, 93 people found employment through the help of public job placement centers, while 64 people found jobs on their own.

Foreign worker services: The Consolidated Job Service Center set up by the MOL helps prevent exploitation and minimize broker fees, which often constitute a heavy financial burden on foreign workers. During the year, the center helped 25,971 employers hire foreign employees, referred and transferred 71,937 applications to authorities other than the MOL, and provided consultation on 181,407 occasions—either onsite or over the phone—on hiring foreigners. In 2016, it helped save a total of NT\$1,137,820,000 (approx. US\$37,390,000) in broker, employer registration, and overseas introduction and recruitment fees.

Prevention: The government and civil society have mobilized various communication channels to raise public awareness of human trafficking and help immigrants better understand their rights. Every year, the NIA, the MOL, MOFA, and the Tourism Bureau hold special events in conjunction with the UN World Day against Trafficking in Persons on July 30. The NIA organized the 2016 International Workshop on Strategies for Combating Human Trafficking from July 27 to 29 to discuss key issues such as the rights of overseas fishing workers and domestic workers and prevention of forced labor, so as to foster international exchanges, combat illegal activity, and ensure compliance with the law. ROC Vice President Chen Chien-jen delivered remarks at the event.

Government agencies have also integrated TIP prevention in training courses in their respective fields of expertise. The NIA held two events on general TIP literacy and one seed personnel training for public servants. The MOJ held an anti-TIP workshop from November 7 to 8, during which various topics were discussed—i.e., issues of concern pertaining to the Child and Youth Sexual Exploitation Prevention Act as well as points of attention for investigations, TIP case studies involving sexual exploitation, and

introduction of the HTPCA—to strengthen attending prosecutors’ expertise in handling TIP crimes.

Besides conducting prevention tasks in line with existing anti-TIP campaigns, government agencies also developed various innovative approaches in 2016, such as improving living conditions and care of foreign fishing workers (deliberations were held on the scope of relevant plans to include living conditions on both land and on vessels in regulations; in addition, a plan was developed catering to foreign workers on small fishing vessels, so as to improve their housing conditions when staying on land), holding orientations for employers who hire foreign domestic workers for the first time, promoting TIP-related laws and regulations during coast guard service meetings, and developing broker evaluation standards to strengthen management of overseas employment of foreign fishing workers.

Meanwhile, to effectively facilitate anti-TIP campaigns, the MOI continued to conduct assessments of municipal and county governments’ efforts in 2016 to raise awareness among such governments and further deepen and broaden TIP prevention efforts.

Partnership: As of the end of 2016, Taiwan had signed memorandums of understanding on cooperation concerning immigration affairs and human trafficking with 16 countries, including Mongolia, Honduras, Indonesia, Vietnam, Paraguay, the US, Solomon Islands, Belize, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Japan, Guatemala, Swaziland, Nauru, El Salvador, and Panama. The signing of the Taiwan-Panama MOU occurred on June 27, 2016, during a visit to Panama by ROC President Tsai Ing-wen, and was witnessed by her as well as Panamanian President Juan Carlos Varela.

Through mutual visits with foreign experts, as well as seminars and other events, Taiwan shares experiences and exchanges views on the prevention of human trafficking, and establishes cooperation mechanisms with other countries. In 2016, international agencies and organizations that took part in Taiwan’s anti-TIP campaigns included the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons of the US Department of State, the US Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center, the American Institute in Taiwan/Taipei Main Office, the US National District Attorneys Association, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu, the Taipei office of the Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association, the Indonesian Economic and Trade Office to Taipei, the Department of International Cooperation of Indonesia’s Directorate General of Immigration, related departments under Indonesia’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, related departments under Vietnam’s Ministry of Public Security, Paraguay’s immigration agency and embassy in Taiwan, the UN Commission on the Status of Women, Cambodia’s Attitude Center for Education, the International Center for Missing and Exploited Children, ECPAT International, and the International Association of Internet Hotlines.

In 2016, the NIA provided financial support to help the Taiwan branch of the Pan Pacific and Southeast Asia Women’s Association participate in the 2016 meeting of the UN Commission on the Status of Women and organize a parallel meeting in New York in March; Taiwan’s Police Research Association attend the 14th Freedom Network USA Conference held in Chicago in April to talk about the influence of human trafficking on society, culture, the economy, and politics; the Yilan County Fishermen’s Union visit Indonesia in April to conduct interviews with migrant workers, study how

the broker system works, gain insight into the structural problems concerning workers in the deep-sea fishing industry, and improve protection of the rights of foreign fishing workers; and the same union participate in the 105th International Labor Conference held in Europe in June and engage in exchanges with European labor and employer organizations.

III. Achievements in 2016

1. Actively stamping out TIP crimes

1.1 Results of investigations

1.1.1 Judicial police agencies have entrusted specific units with the task of overseeing investigations of TIP crimes, so as to enhance cross-agency communication, appropriately connect resources, and optimize enforcement with regard to illegal brokers and at high-risk sites, such as employment sites and gathering places of foreign workers, as well as establishments of ill repute. Combating the sexual exploitation of minors (anyone under the age of 18) and comprehensively fighting this type of human trafficking crime has been a top priority for judicial police agencies. In human trafficking cases investigated and referred for prosecution in 2016, 93 underage girls (under 18 years of age) were identified. In accordance with the Child and Youth Sexual Transaction Prevention Act, 86 of them were placed by local social welfare agencies and seven were taken home by parents.

1.1.2 In 2016, judicial police agencies investigated 134 human trafficking cases, 40 of which involved labor exploitation and 94 sexual exploitation. All of these cases were referred to district-level prosecutors. Relevant statistics on judicial police investigations from 2008 to 2016 are as follows:

Year \ Cases	Total no. of cases investigated	Type of case	
		Labor exploitation	Sexual exploitation
2008	99	40	59
2009	88	46	42
2010	123	77	46
2011	126	73	53
2012	148	86	62
2013	166	84	82
2014	138	51	87
2015	141	44	97
2016	134	40	94

1.2 Indictments and sentences

1.2.1 To oversee the work done by various prosecutors' offices on human trafficking cases, increase efficiency of such work, and strengthen communication between relevant agencies, the MOJ instructed the Taiwan High Prosecutors Office to create a special human trafficking task force on January 1, 2007. This task force holds regular meetings at which various statistics on investigation, prosecution, and sentencing aspects of human trafficking cases are discussed and relevant targets are set, in order to assess the human trafficking problem and identify ways of better dealing with it. In the two meetings convened in 2016, the Fisheries Agency under the COA discussed standard operating procedures to deal with notifications of and conduct follow-up procedures for violations of the HTPCA involving Taiwanese deep-sea fishing vessels employing foreign workers overseas. If Taiwanese fishing vessels are implicated in human trafficking crimes overseas, these SOPs are provided to overseas ROC missions

or personnel of relevant agencies, so that they can quickly help collect information and preserve evidence, with an eye toward upcoming investigations. Meanwhile, prosecutors from the Taiwan High Prosecutors Office delivered presentations on reasons for nonprosecutorial disposition and not-guilty verdicts in human trafficking cases, so as to improve prosecutors' professional ability to deal with such cases.

1.2.2 From 2015 to 2016, the MOJ added a TIP section in its guide on handling cases involving women and children, so as to enhance the professional knowledge and skills of prosecutors and boost prosecution of TIP crimes.

1.2.3 In December 2016, the MOJ sent a letter to prosecutors under its purview, urging them to proactively investigate cases in which Taiwanese deep-sea fishing vessels employing foreign workers overseas violate the HTPCA, and calling on chief prosecutors and head prosecutors to properly supervise these efforts.

1.2.4 The Judicial Yuan formulated various administrative support measures to pursue TIP cases, as follows:

1.2.4.1 It added sentencing information for crimes that constitute violations of Article 31 and Article 32 of the HTPCA to its database on sentencing information in similar cases. This was done to help judges formulate appropriate sentences in human trafficking cases that deliver punishment in line with the nature of the crime, reflect public opinion, and incorporate the US Department of State's suggestions on the prevention of human trafficking. The information added consisted of sentences handed out by courts of first instance from 2012 to 2015. It also devised a reference list for sentencing on crimes that constitute violations of Articles 31 and 32 of the HTPCA according to the results of focus group meetings and issued an official document (dossier no. 1030021028) on July 25, 2014, reminding judges to pay attention to proportionality in sentencing. It also continued to call on judges at various levels to use the aforementioned reference list.

1.2.4.2 It modified information on violations of the Child and Youth Sexual Exploitation Prevention Act in the database on sentencing information in similar cases. To gain a better understanding of actual sentences for people involved in human trafficking and in violation of the Child and Youth Sexual Exploitation Prevention Act, the Judicial Yuan collected information on sentences for violations of Articles 32, 33, and 34 of the act (Articles 23, 24, and 25 of the Child and Youth Sexual Transaction Prevention Act prior to the revision). With the Child and Youth Sexual Exploitation Prevention Act to be implemented on January 1, 2017, the database on sentencing information in similar cases was updated accordingly, so as to assist judges in formulating appropriate sentences.

1.2.4.3 The Judicial Yuan has continued to update the reference guide on its website on dealing with human trafficking cases. To enhance judges' professional knowledge concerning TIP cases, and to help them make appropriate rulings in a timely manner to increase the conviction rate for TIP crimes, the Judicial Yuan has published the reference guide in book form. It will also publish sections of that guide on a special section of its internal website concerning sexual abuse and human trafficking cases, for reference by court personnel. The guide includes not only TIP-related laws and regulations, the reasons for such laws and regulations, and resources that could be used

in legal proceedings, but also articles written by experts from various fields that might be helpful for personnel handling related cases. In the future, information will be added or adjusted based on changes to laws and regulations, which will be reflected in a timely manner in the guide and on the website, so as to be in line with actual circumstances. Relevant information will also be posted on the website of the Judicial Yuan open to the general public, so as to give them a better understanding of the various types of TIP cases.

1.2.4.4 The Judicial Yuan held a seminar to strengthen its handling of TIP cases on June 27, 2016, at the Judges Academy, to give court personnel insight into TIP cases from various perspectives, and to improve cooperation between judicial agencies, other government agencies, and NGOs. Judges of the Judicial Yuan’s Criminal Department, as well as representatives of the MOJ and NIA, served as speakers for an audience that consisted of judges from various courts under the Judicial Yuan, prosecutors under the MOJ, judicial associate officers, and law clerks. Topics discussed at the symposium included the cross-border and cross-cultural aspects of human trafficking, the fast-changing nature of related crimes because of technological, communication, and generational changes, and criminal procedures in TIP cases. The symposium enhanced the professional skills of judges and the appropriateness of verdicts in TIP cases.

1.2.5 In 2016, a total of 171 individuals were indicted by district prosecutors in 69 TIP cases. Prosecution figures from 2008 to 2016 are shown below:

Year	Cases prosecuted	Persons indicted	Type of case			
			Labor exploitation		Sexual exploitation	
			Cases	Persons	Cases	Persons
2008	165	601	40	106	113	452
2009	118	335	35	102	83	233
2010	115	441	41	110	76	346
2011	151	437	72	179	80	259
2012	169	458	34	57	136	408
2013	127	334	84	246	46	103
2014	102	184	21	52	88	153
2015	63	148	12	25	52	127
2016	69	171	18	45	54	132

Notes: Starting in June 2009, certain cases were registered under more than one type if applicable. Therefore, the total number of cases may not be same as the sum of the different types.

1.2.6 In 2016, 162 individuals were convicted in TIP cases. Of them, 96 were sentenced to a jail term of six months or less, 27 to between one and three years, and 21 to between three and five years. Sentences imposed for TIP crimes from 2008 to 2016 are as follows:

Year \ Sentence	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
< 6 months	181	256	192	98	144	155	97	103	96
6 ~ 12 months	50	58	37	15	16	21	10	10	13
1 ~ 2 years	34	30	34	27	27	36	20	14	23
2 ~ 3 years	3	4	4	5	3	5	6	1	4
3 ~ 5 years	3	7	19	17	32	41	30	29	21
5 ~ 7 years	0	1	0	2	2	4	2	1	0
7 ~ 10 years	1	13	1	1	3	2	1	0	3
10 ~ 15 years	1	0	1	0	0	0	3	1	1
Short detention	11	6	8	6	11	4	5	2	0
Fine	3	1	4	2	62	1	1	2	1
No sanction	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Total	287	376	300	174	300	270	175	163	162

Unit: no. of persons

Note: TIP crimes refers to any acts that violate the HTPCA, the Criminal Code, the Labor Standards Act, the Child and Youth Sexual Exploitation Prevention Act, or related crimes.

1.2.7 With regard to exploitation of deep-sea fishing workers, the MOJ, the Fisheries Agency, the National Police Agency, and the NIA, following numerous meetings, established SOPs for dealing with disputes concerning violations of the HTPCA by Taiwanese fishing vessels employing foreign workers overseas. On September 14, 2015, the Fisheries Agency submitted these SOPs—including those on related notifications and follow-up measures—to relevant agencies. In that same month, the MOJ sent them to prosecutors' offices, demanding that they be followed closely. If Taiwanese fishing vessels are involved in TIP crimes overseas, ROC overseas missions or personnel of relevant agencies should help collect information and preserve evidence in a timely manner, so as to assist further investigations, enhance protection of the rights of foreign fishing workers, and demonstrate Taiwan's determination to combat human trafficking. Meanwhile, in accordance with the Act for Distant Water Fisheries that entered into effect on January 20, 2017, the Regulations on the Authorization and Management of Overseas Employment of Foreign Crew Members were formulated, with key points being the following:

1.2.7.1 Protecting the rights of foreign fishing workers employed overseas:

- A. Foreign workers shall be paid a monthly wage of no less than US\$450.
- B. The shipowner shall provide the foreign worker with accident, medical, and life insurance. The life insurance policy shall be no less than NT\$1,000,000 (approx. US\$32,800).
- C. Rest hours for foreign fishing workers shall be no less than 10 hours every day, and the number of rest days shall be no less than four days every month. Through mutual consent, compensatory rest time may be arranged to meet working needs.
- D. The shipowner shall pay the full salary directly to the foreign fishing worker, except in situations where relevant regulations stipulate otherwise or where the owner and worker have mutually agreed to a different arrangement.
- E. The shipowner shall make sure that foreign fishing workers enjoy the same benefits and protection as their Taiwanese counterparts.
- F. The shipowner shall not force foreign fishing workers to work on other vessels or in

other work locations, or to engage in any work that is unrelated to the fishing sector.

G. When the fishing vessel is no longer able to operate, the shipowner shall help foreign fishing workers return to their home country.

1.2.7.2 Creating a joint liability and evaluation system for brokers

Brokers shall pay a deposit commensurate with the number of foreign fishing workers contracted. If contractual obligations concerning foreign workers' salaries, insurance, medical fees, transportation fees, injury compensation, or other aspects are not properly fulfilled, the COA will give the shipowner and brokers a deadline for payment. If such deadline is not met, the COA can make use of the aforementioned deposit to make outstanding payments.

1.3 Expanding investigations of human trafficking sources

1.3.1 Tightening border control of travel documents and clamping down on runaway workers: Taiwan has aimed to stop crime syndicates from transporting victims through flights or illegal border crossing during flight transits, so as to prevent foreign workers from falling into situations in which they are vulnerable and easily exploited. In other words, the goal is to actively prevent human trafficking from occurring by focusing on the sources. The results of related efforts by the NIA and NPA from 2008 to 2016 are as follows:

Year \ Type	Forged, altered, stolen travel documents or fingerprint mismatches discovered at the border (no. of cases)	Runaway foreign workers found within ROC territory (no. of persons)
2008	149	8,562
2009	81	9,998
2010	57	10,045
2011	35	8,474
2012	29	13,594
2013	17	16,269
2014	49	14,120
2015	41	16,851
2016	120	20,678

1.3.2 Verifying marriages through interviews with persons concerned

ROC nationals and their foreign spouses (including people from mainland China, Hong Kong, and Macau) are interviewed separately, so as to better understand each person's background as well as the development of the relationship and marriage, and verify the authenticity of the marriage. This approach has proven helpful in clamping down on fake marriages and preventing human trafficking.

1.3.2.1 Interview mechanism for spouses from mainland China: According to current regulations, when a mainland Chinese person marries an ROC national and applies to join his or her spouse in Taiwan, both of them must be interviewed. If the NIA, during its interview, finds the marriage to be suspicious, the case will be referred to local prosecutors for further investigation. If the mainland Chinese spouse is already in Taiwan, follow-up interviews and visits are performed to verify the authenticity of the

marriage. To keep illegal activity out of the country, the NIA conducted 10,515 interviews in 2016, 6,990 of which took place at the border.

The following is a summary of interviews conducted from 2008 to 2016:

Year	No. of interviews	Interviewee passed (%)	Interviewee failed (%)	Follow-up interview arranged (%)
2008	30,500	20,904(69%)	3,726(12%)	5,870(19%)
2009	28,686	20,302(71%)	2,857(10%)	5,527(19%)
2010	23,533	17,930(76%)	1,972(8%)	3,631(16%)
2011	19,862	15,227(77%)	2,080(10%)	2,555(13%)
2012	18,405	13,863(75%)	2,297(13%)	2,245(12%)
2013	15,569	11,997(77%)	2,284(15%)	1,356(8%)
2014	13,782	10,826(79%)	1,928(14%)	1,028(7%)
2015	11,182	9,019(82%)	1,319(12%)	661(6%)
2016	10,515	8,592(82%)	1,294(12%)	629(6%)

Note: The 2008 and 2009 figures are for interviews conducted within ROC borders; the figures for the period 2010-2016 numbers are for interviews conducted either within or at ROC borders.

1.3.2.2 Interview mechanism for foreign spouses: In consideration of the large number of cases in which people from Southeast Asia enter Taiwan under the pretense of marriage and subsequently engage in activities other than those stated on the visa application, MOFA has stipulated, in accordance with the Statute Governing Issuance of ROC Visas in Foreign Passports and the Document Legalization Act for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Overseas Missions, that in cases where nationals of Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam marry an ROC national and apply to travel to Taiwan, in principle both husband and wife must go to a designated ROC overseas mission to be interviewed.

1.3.3 Strengthening investigations of illegal employment of foreign workers and illegal brokerage

Foreign nationals coming to Taiwan, particularly foreign workers, are at a disadvantage due to cultural and language barriers, as well as the nature of the workplace, which can lead to unfair treatment or even exploitation. Therefore, to prevent human trafficking, the MOL strictly enforces the law when it comes to the employment of foreign workers and related broker services. Statistics from 2008 to 2016 concerning illegal activity in this regard are as follows:

1.3.3.1 Hiring violations and related penalties

Penalty/ year/no. of cases	Fines imposed									Employer's license revoked									
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
Hiring violation																			
Illegally harboring foreigners	181	152	186	255	305	376	317	370	390	137	116	133	197	161	227	174	151	163	
Hiring unauthorized foreign workers or foreign workers assigned to others	767	582	777	960	1,136	1,450	1,224	1,372	1,563										
Hiring foreigners to work for others	27	12	26	17	14	13	20	16	10										
Assigning foreign workers to do work other than specified in the authorization or changing the work location without approval	414	410	545	746	768	897	689	848	664										

1.3.3.2 Broker violations and related penalties

Penalty/year/ no. of cases	Fines imposed									Business operations suspended								
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Broker violation																		
Collecting unauthorized fees	77	110	22	21	23	16	5	2	6	14	10	2	6	12	5	8	2	4
Fiduciary failure causing employers to violate the law	45	52	52	58	60	64	65	83	58	0	0	1	1	3	2	5	1	0
Unauthorized job placement (incl. individuals and legal entities)	76	92	62	81	73	106	98	109	110	7	10	17	18	9	14	13	10	7

Note: Fines can be imposed on both individuals and companies, whereas the suspension of business operations only applies to companies.

1.4 Actual cases

Case 1. Sexual exploitation of Thai nationals

Description

In September 2016, the Chiayi City Brigade of the NIA requested permission from the Chiayi District Prosecutors Office to investigate a human trafficking syndicate led by a suspect surnamed Hong. In mid-October, an operation was launched in cooperation with the Investigation Bureau's Chiayi office as well as local police, which uncovered a case of sexual exploitation. Five TIP victims from Thailand were given shelter. This case was transferred to the Chiayi District Prosecutors Office on December 1, 2016. Subsequent investigations were concluded on February 6, 2017, with 18 persons indicted for violations of the Anti-Corruption Act and the HTPCA.

Case 2. Labor exploitation of foreign fishing workers employed overseas

Description

On May 20, 2016, the Kaohsiung District Prosecutors Office instructed the NIA's Kaohsiung City Brigade, the Kaohsiung criminal police unit, and the CGA to jointly launch a raid in two groups on the locations of a human trafficking syndicate led by two people both surnamed Huang. They uncovered 88 foreign fishing workers who had been employed overseas without a proper work permit and were being illegally held by members of the syndicate after their fishing vessels had arrived in port. Their freedom was restricted, and the salary they received was not commensurate with the amount of time they worked. It was thus suspected that they had been seriously exploited by either the shipowner or the employer. The Kaohsiung District Prosecutors Office determined that 23 of them were TIP victims, and a formal investigation then commenced on August 17, 2016.

Case 3. Human trafficking syndicate specializing in sexual exploitation

Description

The NIA's Taoyuan City Brigade launched operations against a sex trafficking syndicate on April 25, 2016, led by a suspect surnamed Hsu. The syndicate recruited women from mainland China, who traveled to Taiwan under the pretense of either business or tourism purposes, to provide sexual services at its brothels. The case first came to light because the women and their pimps were found by the police to be using drugs. The Taoyuan District Prosecutors Office brought charges against seven suspects on February 20, 2017.



Case 4. Human trafficking syndicate specializing in labor exploitation

Description

The CGA's Kaohsiung First Patrol Corps uncovered a case in Kaohsiung City on May 20, 2016, in which nine ROC nationals led by a person surnamed Huang had exploited and restricted the freedom of 37 foreign fishing workers. The case was transferred to the Kaohsiung District Prosecutors Office for violations of the HTPCA.



2. Enhancing victim protection

2.1 Providing appropriate shelter and strengthening protective services

2.1.1 Foreign victims

2.1.1.1 Taking into account the need for even distribution across the country and ensuring that victims do not have to travel far, the NIA and the MOL, in collaboration with civic groups, operate 23 shelters throughout Taiwan. Aside from having their everyday needs met, shelter residents receive additional services such as psychological counseling, interpreting, legal aid, escort during judicial proceedings, and medical care. If deemed necessary, fees for air tickets back to their home country following their stay in a shelter are also covered. Originally, the NIA had set up two shelters for human trafficking victims (built with public funds, run by private-sector entities), one of which—the Yilan Shelter—was closed on August 31, 2015, due to the success in reducing the number of prosecuted cases and related victims. In 2016, the NIA spent a total of NT\$12,772,545 (approx. US\$419,800) on placement services, while the MOL

spent NT\$2,247,043 (approx. US\$73,900). The other 21 shelters are run by civic groups with the help of subsidies provided by the MOL.

2.1.1.2 In 2016, 156 new victims were placed, of whom 87 were female and 69 were male. In terms of nationality, Indonesian nationals formed the largest group (76), followed by Philippine nationals (33). The chart below provides details of foreign TIP victims placed in shelters.

Year	2007/2008			2009			2010			2011			2012			2013		
Exploitation type	S	L	Sum	S	L	Sum	S	L	Sum	S	L	Sum	S	L	Sum	S	L	Sum
Newly placed victims	9	97	106	85	244	329	45	279	324	56	263	319	152	310	462	121	245	366
Male	0	15	15	0	71	71	5	61	66	0	90	90	0	66	66	0	47	47
Female	9	82	91	85	173	258	40	218	258	56	173	229	152	244	396	121	198	319
Indonesian	4	63	67	45	120	165	14	147	161	20	155	175	131	225	356	110	166	276
Vietnamese	4	9	13	12	73	85	4	71	75	1	83	84	1	59	60	1	64	65
Thai	0	13	13	1	6	7	6	6	12	1	9	10	0	1	1	0	6	6
Philippine	0	0	0	0	14	14	2	37	39	1	13	14	0	23	23	1	7	8
Mainland Chinese	0	0	0	27	0	27	19	2	21	33	0	33	20	0	20	9	0	9
Cambodian	0	12	12	0	9	9	0	13	13	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0
Bangladeshi	0	0	0	0	22	22	0	2	2	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Indian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Year	2014			2015			2016											
Exploitation type	S	L	Sum	S	L	Sum	S	L	Sum									
Newly placed victims	86	206	292	64	122	186	40	116	156									
Male	0	52	52	0	64	64	5	64	69									
Female	86	154	240	64	58	122	35	52	87									
Indonesian	67	95	162	53	83	136	21	55	76									
Vietnamese	4	61	65	4	29	33	0	30	30									
Thai	2	4	6	0	0	0	10	0	10									
Philippine	0	43	43	1	10	11	3	30	33									
Mainland Chinese	13	2	15	6	0	6	6	0	6									
Cambodian	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0									
Bangladeshi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0									
Indian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0									
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1									

Note: S refers to sexual exploitation and L refers to labor exploitation.

2.1.2 Taiwanese victims

2.1.2.1 Shelter

The Social and Family Affairs Administration of the MOHW coordinates with local governments to place victims in existing facilities. If facilities are unavailable or deemed inappropriate, local governments are asked to work with NGOs to come up with a solution, so as to set up a comprehensive network of placement services. In 2016, one person was placed. Services such as medical care, consultation, escort during interrogations, and psychological and emotional support were provided on 19 occasions.

2.1.2.2 Financial support

The SFAA provides necessary financial support for such items as emergency assistance, children's education, placement, litigation, medical care, and psychological counseling. Lawyers commissioned by local governments are also available to provide legal aid based on victims' needs.

2.1.2.3 Follow-up services for victims who wish to return home

The SFAA has requested that the NPA, the CGA, and the Investigation Bureau gain consent of victims who prefer to return home over being placed for referral to other agencies. If consent is given, a referral sheet will be faxed to local social welfare departments, which will then offer follow-up services. A booklet that introduces the rights of TIP victims will also be provided, so that the victims know how to seek help after returning home.

2.1.3 Children and juvenile victims of sexual exploitation

For children or youth identified as victims of sexual exploitation, services continued to be provided in 2016 in accordance with the Child and Youth Sexual Transaction Prevention Act. Placement and protection services are provided in accordance with the act, as follows:

2.1.3.1 Shelter

Options include emergency and short-term shelters, child and youth welfare institutes, and special schools. In 2016, there were 23 emergency and short-term shelters, five special schools, and 10 child and youth welfare institutes. In 2016, 326 persons were placed in emergency shelters in accordance with the Child and Youth Sexual Transaction Prevention Act, while 88 persons were sent to special schools.

2.1.3.2 Financial support

Special municipality, county, and city governments decide what services to provide to victims in different stages based on their needs. The fee associated with accommodating a victim in a shelter for one month is about NT\$18,000 (approx. US\$600), but this may differ based on the facilities and amenities of the shelter in question as well as the financial capabilities of local governments and partner agencies.

2.1.3.3 Follow-up services for victims after they return home

The competent authority is required to keep track of victims after they return home and provide assistance regarding education, employment, living independently, or any other needs for at least one year or until the victim turns 20 years old. Such services were provided 507 times in 2016.

2.1.4 The number of labor exploitation victims decreased by six in 2016 compared to 2015.

2.2 Rescreening people to identify human trafficking victims

To help ensure all human trafficking victims are identified, the NIA regularly screens people at its detention centers in Taipei, Hsinchu, Yilan, and Nantou. If anyone appears to be a victim of human trafficking, his or her case is referred back to the original agency to be checked again and to deal with any subsequent issues. In 2016, a total of seven people were found to be human trafficking victims following these checks. They were transferred from a detention center to a shelter. This number was down by eight compared to the 15 identified in 2015.

2.3 According temporary stay permits

In 2016, the NIA granted 92 temporary stay permits to victims, and approved 133 applications to extend such permits.

2.4 Protecting employment rights

According to the Regulations on Work Permit and Administration for Human Trafficking Victims promulgated on June 8, 2009, competent labor authorities, when issuing work permits to victims, should inform the public job placement center in the jurisdiction of the organization offering shelter to the victim, so as to provide the victim with employment services. In 2016, work permits were provided to 98 people.

2.5 Offering vocational training

In line with the responsibility of the MOL's Workforce Development Agency to provide vocational training for the unemployed, its local offices take the initiative in contacting shelters where TIP victims who have acquired a work permit but not yet found a job are residing, so as to better understand their intention to participate in courses and provide information on courses they are eligible for. The goal is to assist victims in finding the course that best meets their needs and abilities. Course fees are fully paid for by the government. In 2016, the local offices of the WDA assisted 86 TIP victims holding work permits. Of these, 62 have found a job, four have returned to their home country, three have gone missing, seven are still in job counseling, and 10 have not yet indicated an intention to receive vocational training.

2.6 Safeguarding workers' rights through the 1955 hotline

Since 2010, the 1955 hotline has used a computerized system to assign cases to local labor agencies to investigate complaints and disputes, creating a management mechanism that keeps track of cases and related follow-up measures, thereby properly safeguarding the rights of foreign workers. In 2016, the 1955 hotline received a total of 214,086 calls, among which 189,500 were for consultation and 24,586 were for general and emergency inquiries. In addition, there were 2,455 cases of foreign workers switching employers with the help of the 1955 hotline.

2.7 Recovering back pay owed to foreign workers

In 2016, there were 8,188 cases in which back pay was recovered for foreign workers as a result of mediation with the employers and brokers and the help of the 1955 hotline as well as foreign worker service stations in special municipalities, counties, and cities and at airports. The total amount of wages and related fees recovered amounted to

NT\$213,062,583 (approx. US\$7.04 million).

2.8 Offering protection during investigations and judicial proceedings

2.8.1 Interpreting services and escort to interrogations: To protect victims' rights and facilitate investigations, judicial police agencies are required to provide interpreting services when dealing with human trafficking cases. In addition, social workers are arranged to accompany victims to interrogations to give emotional support and to explain judicial procedures and protective measures. In 2016, police agencies offered interpreting services on 54 occasions and accompaniment services on 115 occasions when investigating human trafficking cases and referring such cases for prosecution.

2.8.2 Legal aid: To safeguard victims' human and legal rights, the Judicial Yuan, in coordination with the Legal Aid Foundation, provides legal aid to human trafficking victims who have been under placement and legally reside in Taiwan when the case meets the requirements of the Legal Aid Act. In 2016, out of 157 applications for legal aid, 155 (two on legal counseling) were fully approved and one was rejected, while in one case only limited assistance was offered. Thus, legal aid was provided to 98.73 percent of those requesting such aid.

2.8.3 Keeping victims abreast of the progress of investigations and judicial proceedings: Judicial police and shelter staff are required to inform victims of judicial procedures in Taiwan. The prosecutor in charge should inform the victim of the case's progress, while not violating Paragraph 1 of Article 245 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which stipulates that an investigation cannot be made public. This aims to make the victim feel at ease and encourage him or her to stay in Taiwan to provide evidence. Every three months, the NIA and MOL check the progress of relevant cases and report to the MOJ and the Judicial Yuan to help expedite the judicial process, thereby enabling the victims to return home sooner.

2.8.4 Facilitating a safe return home: When the investigation of a trafficking case has been completed, or when the victim's assistance is no longer needed, and when the shelter sees no reason to postpone the victim's return home, relevant agencies coordinate with each other to ensure a quick and safe return home for the victim. In 2016, a total of 60 victims were assisted in going home following the end of their placement.

2.9 Service highlights at publicly established, privately run shelters

2.9.1 Protection services

For human trafficking victims who are physically and psychologically traumatized, specific services are provided to aid their recovery, as detailed below:

2.9.1.1 Physical and psychological recovery

To help human trafficking victims in their physical and psychological recovery, the shelter provides comprehensive assistance in fostering self-esteem, relieving emotional distress, as well as building confidence. The service consists of two main components, i.e., restoring the victim's sense of security and trust, and rebuilding self-respect and a sense of control over his or her life. Concrete measures include providing a family-like environment and carefree atmosphere without unnecessary rules, offering group activities, and encouraging interpersonal interaction and relationships.

2.9.1.2 Assisting victims in ensuring that they will not again be the victim of human trafficking: TIP victims are easy targets of exploitation because of inadequate information and limited opportunities to learn and to expand horizons in their communities in their home country. Career planning has therefore become a top priority, helping victims find jobs and take part in vocational training. Through short-term monetary allowances, vocational training, and job placement, victims' financial needs are met, while also helping them foster professional skills that will improve their future job prospects. They also gain a better understanding of lawful working conditions and workers' rights in Taiwan.



2.9.2 The Nantou Shelter

The Nantou Shelter was founded in October 2009, and is run by the Good Shepherd Social Welfare Services, which also set up an anti-TIP office in Taipei in 2011 to promote the prevention of TIP, conduct related campaigns, and engage in international cooperation. As of the end of 2016, the shelter had helped 270 people. Eighteen people were newly placed there in 2016. Its services and achievements are highlighted below:

A. Physical and psychological recovery and support: The shelter considers recovery as its core task, providing special services for victims it accommodates. While being mistreated and exploited, victims are physically and psychologically traumatized, and they find it hard to readjust to society. Through continuous care and medical treatment, emotional support, holiday celebrations, and outdoor activities, victims can regain trust in other people, leave their unhappy experiences in the past, and get acquainted with Taiwanese society.

B. Empowerment and stable employment: To help victims return to society, gain economic security, and acquire the skills to plan for the future, the shelter has actively developed employment services, combining skill training, lectures, counseling, job placement, and work-at-home jobs to meet victims' needs. Indeed, the shelter provides residents with opportunities to acquire professional skills and elevate their capabilities in various aspects, cultivating their knowledge and advantages, so as to enable them to better deal with any problems and challenges that may arise in the future.

C. Prevention of re-trafficking: Besides providing shelter and various services to TIP victims during their stay in Taiwan, preventing them from being re-trafficked is also a key priority. Shelter provides information about human trafficking and working overseas to those who plan to work overseas again. Based on their own experiences, victims develop plans to protect themselves and to avoid again becoming the target of human trafficking groups.

D. Group activities: According to victims' circumstances, support groups and related

activities are organized to build self-confidence. These activities also serve to enhance cohesion and trust among participants.

E. Cross-border cooperation and return to home country: Through visits by people who had previously worked for related organizations in Indonesia, Indonesian victims are given more information about various resources they can use after they go home. Before embarking on their trip, victims can meet with a nun who had worked in Indonesia for many years and can provide first-hand and up-to-date information about living in Indonesia. This enables victims to seek necessary assistance at relevant agencies after returning home. The shelter also invites lecturers to talk about topics such as the hidden dangers of working overseas and employment contracts, giving them a better understanding of working overseas and developing plans to protect their own safety. This helps them avoid once again becoming a target of human trafficking syndicates. The Good Shepherd Social Welfare Services has also held discussions with its offices in Thailand, the Philippines, and Malaysia on cross-border cooperation to develop projects aimed at providing services to victims after they return to their home country. In 2013, it started working with Thailand and the Philippines on assisting (suspected) human trafficking victims, as well as vulnerable foreign workers in Taiwan, with returning home and monitoring their lives and family dynamics there.

F. Campaigns to educate the public about TIP prevention

(i) The 2016 outreach programs by child and youth centers in Taitung County were a new experiment. Instead of just targeting the police and judicial personnel like in the past, TIP prevention activities were held at five schools—i.e., Haiduan Junior High School, Chang Pin Junior High School, National Taitung Girls' Senior High School, Lanyu Junior and Senior High School, and National Taitung Senior High School—using multimedia materials such as videos and animated films, in order to promote human rights and let the students know how to prevent human trafficking in Taiwan.



(ii) Raising public awareness of TIP prevention

Various channels have been used to help employers, brokers, and foreign workers better understand human trafficking and teach them how to seek help. A course on migration, human rights, and cultural diversity is taught at the New Zhonghe Community College from 19:00 to 21:30 every Wednesday. By discussing related topics and using different materials such as poetry, prose, image, and video, the students gain comprehensive insight into TIP.

(iii). Campaigns targeting foreign workers to prevent human trafficking

1. Entering the social circles of migrant laborers

To strengthen prevention of human trafficking, visits are made to restaurants and other places frequented by migrant laborers to help them understand employment regulations

in Taiwan, how to protect themselves, and what channels are available to seek help.

2. Leveraging variety of channels to promote anti-TIP campaigns

In consideration of the convenience of online communication and the popularity of Facebook and messaging software such as Line, a special Facebook page was set up to post articles in four major languages used by foreign workers. Messaging software is used to quickly respond to questions. Between February 19 (the day the Facebook page was set up) and December 31, 2016, 148 articles were posted, 43.2 percent of which were about upcoming events and 20 percent about relevant regulations and labor rights. Other articles provided useful information, event reviews, and relevant local and international news.

Highlights



Showing Lunar New Year gifts incorporating creations made during group activities



Celebrating a birthday



Celebrating the Mid-Autumn Festival



Celebrating Christmas



Biking along the beautiful Houfeng bike trail



Picking strawberries



Taking part in skills development course



Taking part in skills development course



A special art exhibition and lecture series was jointly held by the government and NGOs to mark the UN World Day Against Trafficking in Persons on July 30 and show determination to safeguard human rights.



Art works by TIP victims expressing their feelings about past experiences



Lectures are given to teach workers how to avoid becoming a victim of human trafficking if they again go overseas to work.



Shelter residents are introduced to local employers so that they can have a job and earn a steady income.



Through painting and similar activities, shelter residents gain a better understanding of Taiwan.



Through painting and similar activities, shelter residents gain a better understanding of Taiwan.

2.9.3 The Yilan Shelter

Founded in August 2008 and run by the ECPAT-Taiwan for eight years, the Yilan Shelter has provided services to a total of 144 victims. From January to August of 2016, five new victims were placed.

Services and Achievements:

- A. Respect for victims: The Yilan Shelter respects each resident's culture, language, and religion and encourages understanding and tolerance. The unique needs of all are accepted, and orientation programs are multilingual, with visual aids. The shelter emphasizes victim-centered services and allowing residents the freedom to leave the premises and interact with the outside world.
- B. Self-governance: Upon entering the shelter, residents sign an agreement and work up a placement plan. The agreement details daily routine, group meetings, assignment of chores, and discussion of same. Residents are encouraged to exercise their rights to facilitate shelter activities, classes, and self-governance. By participating in volunteer services, residents feel empowered through service to others.
- C. Physical, mental and spiritual care: Medical services, meetings, consultations, emotional support, support groups, and group therapy are all offered based on an assessment of each victim and with his/her consent.
- D. Respecting the human rights of residents' children: For residents with young children, adaptation to live in Taiwan, parental education and preschool education will be arranged as needed.
- E. Building relationships: Social workers attempt to gain victims' trust by listening, showing acceptance, and empathy. They help relieve victims' stress from the difficulty adapting to a new environment, dealing with the uncertainty arising from dealing with judicial procedures, or being homesick. Social workers stay with victims and support them, increasing their self-reliance.
- F. A wide variety of services: Group activities are proposed and planned with victims to increase their willingness to participate and to boost the effectiveness of such activities. Among activities are skills training courses, multicultural classes, support groups, and seminars; all are open and flexible.
- G. Protection of victims' legal rights: Victims are helped to secure their optimal rights by means of matching to legal aid and agents or legal counseling. Shelter staff also help victims apply for expedited trials, and communicate with the prosecutor and the judge to address their anxiety due to homesickness, and also confirm their placement plans.
- H. Enhance judicial efficiency through web conferencing: To prevent victims and accompanying social workers from going back and forth repeatedly through the judicial procedure, the use of web conferencing is advised to minimize victims' anxiety and the time spent in transportation, and also to increase administrative efficiency.
- I. The right to leave the premises: Residents are allowed to leave the premises on short trips, such as walks, outings, and shopping without an escort after a thorough safety assessment.
- J. Freedom of employment and protection of working rights: Victims are helped to take job-search related tests and be matched to job opportunities by working with partnering factories and stores; victims' own desires are taken into account before a final placement is made.

3. Prevention: curbing human trafficking

3.1 Enhancing general awareness

3.1.1 Raising awareness of anti-TIP law and protective services

Numerous campaigns have been executed through multiple channels to boost public awareness of the HTPCA and protective services for victims so that the public is able to help TIP victims obtain timely assistance.

3.1.1.1 The Fisheries Agency has incorporated anti-TIP programs into training for fishing workers so that no fishing workers or shipowners will engage in human trafficking and so that foreign fishing workers will enjoy a safe working and living environment free from any kind of labor exploitation. Articles in fishing industry magazines are also used to regularly remind shipowners not to turn their vessels into tools for goods/human smuggling and human trafficking.

3.1.1.2 Anti-TIP campaigns/events organized or sponsored by the MOJ:

Campaigns/ Events	Date	Sponsored Party	Target Audience	Method	Funding	Achievements
The 72nd Youth Law Program	7.7~7.13 2016	National Taipei University	First and second graders, junior high school students	Summer camp	NT\$25,000 (US\$820)	Attended by 109 persons
Radio Programs on Judicial Protection	5.1~7.31 2016	Police Broadcasting Service	General public	Radio drama	NT\$19,800 (US\$650)	31 episodes
Discussion: The law abroad	June~ December 2016	Brilliant Time Bookstore	Immigrants, migrant laborers	Legal counseling	NT\$154,000 (US\$5,050)	7 sessions

3.1.2 Preventing trafficking of foreign laborers

Numerous campaigns through various channels have been launched to give employers, brokers, and migrant workers a better understanding of human trafficking and aid available for victims:

3.1.2.1 Channels used

- A. The NIA commissioned five broadcasting stations to produce 13 episodes of a radio program in Chinese, Filipino, Indonesian, Vietnamese, and Thai on the theme of human trafficking prevention, migrant worker safety, and the 1955 hotline to educate employers, brokers, and foreign laborers on related laws and regulations. Through the end of 2016, an estimated 4,267,209 people had listened to these programs.
- B. Thai, Indonesian, Filipino, and Vietnamese editions of the handbook *What Foreign laborers Must Know When Working in Taiwan* were printed and distributed to local governments, public job placement centers, foreign missions in Taiwan, airport migrant worker service centers, and nonprofits to inform migrant workers how to report grievances and protect their rights.

- C. The short film *The Rights of Foreign Laborers in Taiwan* was incorporated into orientation sessions provided at airports for foreign laborers who just arrived in Taiwan, introducing related regulations, how to protect oneself, and ways to report grievances.
- D. The MOL set up migrant worker service centers at both the Taoyuan and Kaohsiung international airports that provide multilingual services, assistance on proceeding through customs and immigration, information on workers' rights, and legal counseling. A 10-minute video on workers' rights and regulations is played for foreign laborers at the airport upon their arrival. Oral introductions are made, and written texts made available, about life in Taiwan, work, religion, pay and benefits, medical care, job training, how to seek counseling, workers' rights, and related regulations. It is hoped that foreign laborers will come to understand local regulations, customs, and their own rights and adjust to life in Taiwan quickly, thus minimizing discomfort and anxiety due to homesickness. A total of 187,060 persons received such orientation in 2016.
- E. The MOL and the Yilan County Fishermen's Union held a year-end event on November 26, 2016, for 220 foreign fishing workers to better understand labor rights at which lectures on the trafficking of migrant workers were given.

3.1.2.2 Raising awareness of TIP issues

Relevant local government agencies were provided funding to organize 12 anti-TIP training courses targeting migrant worker supervisors or employers. These were attended by 673 persons, and 126 anti-TIP meetings targeting migrant workers and introducing related regulations were attended by 35,413 persons. These aimed at increasing awareness of human trafficking among migrant workers, employers, and brokers.

3.1.2.3 Training labor affairs staff to recognize TIP victims

A total of 420 persons consisting of local government foreign laborer inspectors, foreign labor service center staff, and local placement center staff attended a training program held four times between October and December to enhance their professional ability and knowledge regarding anti-TIP issues and victim protection/placement.

3.1.2.4 Facilitating direct hiring, helping foreign laborers save brokerage fees up to NT\$1.14 billion

Since 2009, the Direct Hiring Service Center has expanded the scope of direct hiring into the fields of manufacturing, construction, deep-sea fishing, nursing homes, and domestic (in-home) care. Throughout the year, the center helped 25,971 employers extend the contracts of current foreign employees or hire foreign employees for the first time, referred and transferred 71,937 applications to authorities other than the MOL, and provided consultation to 181,407 individuals, either on-site or via telephone, on hiring foreigners. The center helped workers save a total of NT\$1.14 billion (US\$37,733,000) in brokerage fees, and minimized their risk of being exploited by brokers.

3.1.2.5 Enhancing management of brokerage firms

According to the annual evaluation held in 2016 for private brokerages engaging

in cross-border job placement in the previous year, a total of 1,255 brokerage firms were evaluated, of which 347 (27.65 percent) earned a grade of A (above 90 points), 826 (65.82 percent) a B (70 to 89 points), and 82 (6.53 percent) a C (under 70 points). Firms given a grade C are not permitted to set up subsidiaries and their license will not be renewed if they fail to improve and achieve a grade B in the following year. This system seeks to improve the quality of brokerage services and eliminate substandard firms.

3.1.2.6 Raising informants' rewards

With amendments to the Guidelines Governing the Payment of Rewards to Members of the Public Informing the Authorities about Violations of the Employment Service Act made September 11, 2015, rewards have been increased according to whom (employers, private employment companies or individuals—aliens, in violation of the law) is being reported or the number of individuals being reported to enhance the efficiency in uncovering such cases, so as to protect job opportunities for nationals of Taiwan as well as maintain social order. In 2016, a total of NT\$12,210,000 (US\$401,000) in reward money was paid to 1,027 informants for reporting illegal foreign laborers, employers, or brokers.

3.1.2.7 Refining foreign labor policies

To ensure brokerage firms fulfill their responsibilities toward recruitment and provide follow-up services to prevent foreign laborers from running away, thus resulting in serious social problems, the MOL announced the amended Regulations for Permission and Supervision of Private Employment Services Institutions on October 8, 2014, increasing fines where private employment placement firms in Taiwan have missing foreign laborers over a certain number as discovered during regular inspections and assessments. A total of 21 brokerage firms were fined in 2016.

3.1.2.8 Formalizing domestic (in-home) workers' employment

- A. The MOL has held several meetings and public hearings to solicit input from employers, employees, brokers, scholars, experts, and government representatives to safeguard domestic workers' employment rights and finished a draft Domestic Worker Protection Bill that stipulates crucial elements of a domestic worker's rights, including a consecutive eight-hour rest every day, one rest day in every seven-day period, various forms of leave (marriage, death of family members, sickness, or special reasons), minimum wage, payment guidelines, employment termination, insurance, and grievance resolution procedures.
- B. Family caretakers and domestic workers are employed by individual families, provide care for family members, and take care of household chores. Their work environment, the type of work they do, and work/rest hours are different from other laborers. There are also different opinions regarding labor standards for family caretakers and domestic workers, making it difficult to have the Labor Standards Act apply to them.
- C. The labor rights and working conditions of family caretakers and domestic workers are based on the contract signed by the worker and the employer in accordance with the law. Wages, working hours, time off, and other details are specified in the labor contract certified by the worker's home country as well as

other documents, such as the standard wage rate for foreigners and the pay agreement.

- D. With the Long-Term Care Services Act about to take effect, the MOL continues to gather feedback from the society and modify related regulations concerning the labor rights of domestic workers.
- E. The MOL held a meeting on April 25, 2017, at which experts and scholars discussed details of the labor rights of domestic workers and planned to put together a draft set of guidelines for the protection of domestic workers' labor rights to encourage employers and workers to include basic labor rights in the contract. Follow-up meetings will be scheduled to address more details.

3.1.3 Enlisting the public's aid in stopping child sex tourism

3.1.3.1 Target audiences and objectives

It is essential to educate the general public, businesses linked to tourism, and youth at schools and in communities on the definition of child sex tourism, and the measures taken to curb commercial sex transactions with minors. Taiwan has endeavored to raise awareness of sexual exploitation of minors. It is hoped that with greater understanding of human trafficking and child sex tourism the public will better avoid committing such crimes.

3.1.3.2 Government endeavors

A. The Ministry of Health and Welfare (MOHW)

- (i) Electronic LED bulletin boards were used in train and bus stations from February 23 to March 7 as well as June 28 to July 11, 2016, to fight sex tourism; other billboards addressing the sexual exploitation of minors were displayed from May 24 to June 6 as well as August 9 to September 5, 2016.
- (ii) Two 30-second video clips on eliminating child and juvenile sex abuse and Internet safety for children were played on TV at 25 train and bus stations (Taiwan Railways Administration and Kuo Kuang Motor Transport) some 7,840 times (a total length of 235,200 seconds) from August 1 to October 31.
- (iii) *Warmth*, an 80-minute film based on a true story, was aired on TV and online. 1,800 DVDs were also sent to high (vocational) schools and correctional institutions to give the general public a deeper look into the vulnerability of sexually exploited children and youth and help prevent such tragedies from happening.

B. Tourism Bureau

- (i) At annual orientation sessions, new tour guides and tour managers are encouraged to report related crimes and understand commercial sexual exploitation. Information concerning prevention of human trafficking is also available for the public and tourism industry professionals on the bureau's website. Such materials constitute a part of the e-courses offered annually to individuals hoping to become tour guides and tour managers. General literacy on the HTPCA and the Child and Youth Sexual Exploitation Prevention Act will also be taken into account in the final evaluation in the hope that such persons will help promote the importance of preventing sexual exploitation to their clients in the future. A total of 5,475 tour guides and managers received training in 2016.

- (ii) According to a collective self-regulation agreement signed by various parties in the hospitality industry on November 27, 2015, experts and police officers responsible for women and children’s affairs at local police departments were to be invited to speak about preventing youth sexual transactions at training sessions for hotel staff. In 2016, a total of 1,230 hotel staff attended 12 orientation sessions in 11 cities and counties, including New Taipei City, Yilan County, Hsinchu County, and Taichung City.
- (iii) A campaign on general understanding of related regulations was launched during the annual hotel inspection. A total of 770 staff members from 77 hotels attended related events in 2016.

3.1.4 Advocacy through the educational system

The Ministry of Education (MOE) has taken measures to instill the core concepts of combating human trafficking (i.e., human rights, the rule of law, and gender equity) into students’ minds.

3.1.4.1 On campus

Through collaboration with the local newspaper *Mandarin Daily News*, the “Legal Digest for Teenagers” was launched as a supplement. Two articles on human trafficking entitled, “Watch out for Human Trafficking when Working Overseas,” and “Say No to Human Smugglers” were published on May 10 and October 4, 2016, respectively. The core concepts of combating human trafficking such as human rights, law, and gender equity have thus been shared with the newspaper’s readers (circulation reached 180,000 copies) and subscribing schools. Funding for legal education programs for elementary and secondary school students and community residents was provided to the law departments of 23 universities. A total of 15 lectures on preventing human trafficking were held, attended by 1,615 persons. Three workshops on legal education targeting high (vocational) school teachers and one on human rights and civic education for special education teachers were held, while the special task force on national curriculum and human rights education of the MOE held 13 seminars on human rights and legal education. National Education Radio was commissioned to produce the program *Special Love*, of which two episodes, “TIP – the Disabled,” and “Gender Equity Education for the Disabled” were broadcast on March 5 and September 10, 2016, respectively.

3.1.4.2 In classrooms

Gender equity, human rights, and the rule of law have been incorporated into the curriculum guidelines of primary and secondary schools, including regular and vocational high schools. Teaching materials have been developed for two courses: primers on human trafficking and prevention of human trafficking. Teachers are encouraged to download materials for classroom use. Incentives are in place for colleges and universities to offer courses on human rights, gender equity, and rule of law. A total of 10,655 courses were taught in 2016 and related activities were also funded by the MOE to raise awareness at schools.

3.1.4.3 Enhancing teacher competency

Two schools, including Providence University, were given approval in 2016 to

hold a total of three programs for on-the-job training or continuing education in a special field targeting teachers specialized in human rights and civic education. Some 39 universities responsible for teacher training also held such classes, for a total of 170 courses offered that year. National Kaohsiung Normal University was funded to develop materials and launch an online course on human rights to enhance teachers' professional knowledge on human rights as well as democracy and rule of law.

3.1.5 Reaching out to specific audiences

Besides the NIA, other government agencies also helped educate specific audiences about human trafficking. They are the National Police Agency, the MOJ, the COA, the Coast Guard Administration, the Veterans Affairs Council, the Financial Supervisory Commission, and the Council of Indigenous Peoples.

National Police Agency

- A. Community based security seminars were held to raise communal awareness and facilitate voluntary services, community security and the combating of human trafficking and other crimes. During the year, a total of 117,200 people attended 2,302 such seminars held by the police departments of special municipalities, counties, and cities. These seminars raised public awareness by playing anti-TIP video clips and introducing related regulations.
- B. LED electronic bulletin boards and website banners of police agencies and related organizations were used to spread awareness of anti-TIP hotlines. Anti-TIP print materials, such as booklets and pamphlets, were placed at the counters of local police departments and offices while posters were also displayed to raise the public's awareness.

Council of Agriculture

Anti-TIP and related policies were incorporated in the training program for shipowners and fishing workers to prevent them from engaging in any kind of human trafficking and encourage shipowners to provide a safe working and living environment for foreign fishing workers so that no labor exploitation of foreign fishing workers happens. Fishing industry magazines were also used to remind shipowners not to turn their vessels into tools for smuggling (goods or human) and human trafficking.

Coast Guard Administration

The CGA carried out anti-TIP campaigns during the agency's mobile seminars around Taiwan. In 2016, a total of 1,353 persons attended 40 such events and learned to avoid human trafficking when hiring either local or foreign fishing workers.

Veterans Affairs Council

- A. Veterans Affairs Council service centers were provided funding to organize events for foreign and mainland Chinese spouses to help them adapt to the living environment of Taiwan. A total of 1,290 persons attended 22 such events, where government officials spoke on regulations and how to respect, accept, and treat as equal persons of different cultural backgrounds.
- B. A training program was held in November 2016 at which Lee Ling-feng,

Director of the Immigration Affairs Division of the National Immigration Agency, spoke on anti-TIP policies and their implementation in Taiwan. The 72 trainees will utilize what they learned in their work and enhance the quality of their services so as to highlight the importance of preventing TIP.

- C. Service centers were requested to put up anti-TIP banners and posters in places where visiting veterans and their families could see them; they were also encouraged to hand out anti-TIP print materials.

Financial Supervisory Commission

A. The Banking Industry

The Taiwan Academy of Banking and Finance was commissioned to hold auditor training programs (human trafficking included) and e-courses on the Money Laundering Control Act for financial sector employees. A total of 731 persons attended 20 such events.

B. The Securities/Futures Industry

The Securities and Futures Institute and the Securities Investment Trust and Consulting Association were commissioned to hold preemployment orientation, securities house internal audit training programs, and courses on the prevention of money laundering and insider trading (human trafficking included) for the employees of securities and futures holding companies. A total of 4,840 persons attended 110 such events.

C. The Insurance Industry

The Taiwan Insurance Institute, the Professional Insurance Brokers Association, and the Insurance Agency Association were commissioned to hold auditor training programs and seminars on prevention of money laundering (human trafficking included) for insurance personnel. A total of 1,927 persons attended 38 such events.

Council of Indigenous People

- A. 47,775 persons attended 1,079 lectures and classes on social welfare and human trafficking organized by the Service Center for Family and Women.

- B. Two training programs targeting indigenous social work professionals were held and attended by 232 persons. An anti-TIP film created by the NIA, "Say No to Bad Guys," was played during the training to raise awareness of human rights and the work to fight against human trafficking.

3.2 Developing anti-TIP online information as well as consultation and teaching materials

3.2.1 Training materials and related information

- 3.2.1.1 To enhance the abilities of judges sitting over anti-TIP cases so that they might make rulings efficiently and correctly and facilitate the conclusion of cases, the Judicial Yuan continued to provide administrative resources to judges, including putting together a book of human trafficking cases as a reference. Related information has also been uploaded to a special section of its website providing case studies on sexual assault and TIP cases such that related personnel will have more convenient access to such content.

- 3.2.1.2 The Judicial Yuan created sentencing guidelines concerning actions running counter to Article 31 and Article 32 of the HTPCA for the courts in the hope that judges may make more appropriate rulings by increasing or reducing sentencing

accordingly. It also created an online system for civil procedures (including district courts and courts of the first through the third instance) that showed the number of civil claims for compensation on TIP cases and notified all the courts on June 30 to conduct follow-up registration. This could serve as reference for policy analysis and for the judges to make better rulings on compensation.

3.2.1.3 To bring judicial police understanding concerning protecting victims and enforcing the law in line with standard procedures, the NIA put written materials from the workshop on anti-TIP networking and counseling online, for use by the training courses of different agencies.

3.2.2 Training and seminars for law enforcement personnel

3.2.2.1 To help personnel involved in legal proceedings better understand TIP cases from various perspectives and facilitate coordination between the adjudicating agency and other government agencies and NGOs, the Judicial Yuan held a seminar on preventing TIP crimes at the Judges Academy on June 27, 2016, at which judges attached to the Criminal Department of the Judicial Yuan and representatives of the MOJ and the NIA spoke to an audience of judges attached to different courts under the Judicial Yuan, prosecutors under the MOJ, administrative officers in charge of legal affairs, and legal assistants. Addressed during the conference were human trafficking cases and the legal proceedings and international cooperation to deal with TIP crimes, as well as the changing nature of TIP crimes due to advancements in communications technology. The aim was to help judges make more professional, appropriate rulings in the future.

3.2.2.2 The MOJ organizes training courses on judicial practices in human trafficking cases every year to help prosecutors better understand various aspects of such cases, including investigation, public prosecution, judging and protection/placement of victims. A hands-on workshop on fighting TIP was held on November 7-8, 2016, where various topics, including the Child and Youth Sexual Exploitation Prevention Act and related investigations, a TIP case study on sexual exploitation, and an introduction to the HTPCA, were discussed to increase prosecutors' expertise in investigating related crimes.

3.2.2.3 Special municipality and local police departments, at the request of the NPA, held training classes on TIP crimes focusing on general information on human trafficking and investigation skills for front-line police personnel. A total of 9,326 persons attended 123 such events in 2016.

3.2.2.4 The NIA held two seminars to reinforce front-line civil servants' proficiency in fighting TIP and prevent human trafficking. A total of 201 persons from local departments of labor and health as well as judicial police units attended the classes.

4. Enhancing international partnerships and cooperation

4.1 International discourse and activities

4.1.1 Foreign governments

Taiwan has diplomatic missions in major cities around the world to maintain contact with other governments. During visits to Taiwan, foreign delegates exchange ideas and form networks for cooperation with their counterparts in Taiwan. The 2016 International Workshop on Strategies for Combating Human Trafficking is an important platform for such exchanges. The major events of 2016 were as follows:

- A. MOFA maintains frequent exchanges with the American Institute in Taiwan-Taipei Office (AIT/T) on the annual US TIP report and other issues. It also keeps the AIT/T updated on the anti-TIP courses included in recent years in the training of diplomats posted overseas and incoming foreign service personnel for the State Department's reference.
- B. The 4th Taiwan - Indonesia bilateral meeting on immigration affairs was held in Taipei from May 11-14, 2016, co-chaired by Chen Su-lan, Director of the International Affairs & Law Enforcement Division of the NIA and Asep Kurnia, Director of International Cooperation at the Directorate General of Immigration of Indonesia. Following the conference, Ambassador Chang Liang-jen, Head of the Taipei Economic and Trade Office in Indonesia and Arief Fadillah, Representative of the Indonesian Economic and Trade Office to Taipei, signed an agreement to facilitate a 24-7 information exchange system on illegal immigrants, human trafficking, and cross-border crime to enhance cooperation on related matters.
- C. The 2nd Taiwan - Vietnam bilateral meeting on immigration affairs was held in Taipei from June 1-5, 2016, where Deputy Director General of the NIA Chang Chi, along with Chen Su-lan, Director of the International Affairs & Law Enforcement Division, and Dau Hien Luong, Deputy Director of the Department of Immigration of Vietnam's Ministry of Public Security, along with Nguyen Dinh Huan, Director of International Cooperation, and Nguyen Trung Hieu, Deputy Head of the Foreigners' Office in Southern Vietnam, agreed to facilitate a 24-7 information exchange system to enhance cooperation on immigration affairs, border control and prevention of human trafficking and cross-border crimes.
- D. A delegation consisting of members from the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Immigration and Border Protection of Indonesia took part in the 2016 International Workshop on Strategies for Combating Human Trafficking (July 27-28, 2016) held by the MOI; delegation members were impressed by Taiwan's expertise in immigration management and control and expressed hopes of greater cooperation on immigration affairs and migrant laborer protection with the NIA. Susan Coppedge, US Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and Senior Advisor to the Secretary of State, who also participated in the workshop, was received by the President. Related information published by MOFA and AIT/T and media coverage helped raise public awareness of this issue.
- E. The US National District Attorneys Association and the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City & County of Honolulu held the 2016 Sex Trafficking Summit from September 28-30. Prosecutor Chen Yu-feng from the

Chiayi District Prosecutors Office was selected by the MOJ to join the conference. His talk “Sex Trafficking: Taiwan’s Perspective” received excellent feedback from the audience.

- F. The 2nd Taiwan - Paraguay bilateral meeting on immigration affairs was held in Taipei on September 29, 2016, and was co-chaired by Ho Jung-chun, Director General of the NIA, and Jorge Kronawetter, General Director of Migration in Paraguay. Chen Su-lan, Director of the International Affairs & Law Enforcement Division, Wu Chia-Hung, Deputy Chief of the Border Affairs Corps and Deputy Director of the Immigration Affairs Division, and Marcial Bobadilla, Paraguayan Ambassador to Taiwan, attended the meeting to talk about cooperation on immigration officer training programs, mutual visits, establishment of a 24-7 information exchange window, and combating human trafficking.
- G. Robert Bentall, Acting Director of the Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center (HSTC) and five investigators, including Jamison R. Matuszewski, received a Taiwan delegation consisting of seven members, including Chen Su-Lan, Director of the International Affairs & Law Enforcement Division, and Chen Ching-fu, Secretary of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States, at Trump International Hotel Washington, D.C. on October 6, 2016. This marked the first time the NIA had met representatives of the HSTC since the signing of an MOU on immigration affairs and anti-TIP efforts in May 2015.
- H. The NIA held the 6th Taiwan - Japan Immigration and Border Management Conference on December 19, 2016, at which Yang Chia-chun, Deputy Director General of the NIA; Chen Su-lan, Director of the International Affairs & Law Enforcement Division; Wu Chia-hung, Deputy Chief of Border Affairs Corps; and the NIA’s officers had fruitful discussions with their Japanese counterparts on border control and safety.

4.1.2 NGO-initiated or government funded exchanges

Good Shepherd Social Welfare Services and ECPAT-Taiwan have gained tremendous insights after years of protecting human trafficking victims. Besides launching long-term initiatives in Taiwan, these organizations also participated in international exchanges in 2016, including:

Good Shepherd Social Welfare Services

Good Shepherd Social Welfare Services is a dedicated partner of anti-TIP campaigns launched by civil society groups in the Asia-Pacific and attends meetings with international NGOs to enhance cooperation and partnership. It also facilitates experience exchanges with other Asian countries on combating TIP and victim protection, and shares Taiwan’s achievements in combating human trafficking and protection of victims’ human rights at international conferences and workshops.

1	<p>March 13-23, 2016</p>
	<p>The 60th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women/New York, USA</p>
	<p>The Good Shepherd Social Welfare Services took part in the 60th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women held in New York to share its observations and experiences with how single mothers and female migrant laborers fare in Taiwan and the difficulties they face. Representatives spoke on the social support system, how women achieve financial independence, and how an empowering system works. Through exchanges with attendees, it worked to help more women stand on their own feet.</p>
	
	
2	<p>October 18-27, 2016</p>
	<p>Asia-Pacific Anti-TIP Workshop/Manila, the Philippines</p>
	<p>Participants from different offices of Good Shepherd Social Welfare Services in 20 Asian countries discussed practices on protection, prosecution, prevention, and partnership. A strong network was formed to improve placement of victims after repatriation, victim protection, and resource-sharing, so as to prevent victims from being re trafficked.</p>



November 28-December 3, 2016

2016 Taiwan - Cambodia Cross-Border Anti-TIP Campaign/Phnom Penh, Cambodia

The Good Shepherd Social Welfare Services worked with the local Attitude Center for Education in 2016 to hold training programs and launched a special project to cultivate young people and teachers in Cambodia to carry out anti-TIP plans. It also went into poor rural areas having a high risk for human trafficking to talk about important issues, such as working overseas and hiring fishing workers overseas to prevent human trafficking among minority groups and fishing workers from Cambodia.

3



ECPAT-Taiwan

- A. Representatives of ECPAT-Taiwan attended the 2016 Annual General Meeting of the International Association of Internet Hotlines from May 10 to 13 in Copenhagen to exchange ideas on coping with human trafficking and child prostitution, thereby strengthening international legal assistance and cooperation.
- B. ECPAT-Taiwan and the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children held a training course for law enforcement personnel on the sexual exploitation of minors through the Internet on the 4th floor of the Taipei Hakka Cultural Center from June 1-3, 2016. Co-organized by the MOJ, the NPA's Criminal Investigation Bureau, and MOFA, this event fostered exchanges between experts and law enforcement personnel from Taiwan and abroad. Practitioners in this field had the opportunity to learn the latest international developments and new ideas while front-line personnel learned about different types of sexual exploitation of minors through the Internet and were empowered to uncover such cases more effectively in the hope of eliminating human trafficking and sexual exploitation of minors.
- C. Representatives of ECPAT-Taiwan attended the regional meeting of the International Association of Internet Hotlines in Tallinn, Estonia, from October 31-November 3, 2016, to learn the latest trends and developments in work to combat child cybersex crimes.
- D. ECPAT-Taiwan held an international conference on Ending Child Sexual Exploitation: A Commitment to the Future (co-organized by MOFA) at the lecture hall of the College of Law of National Taiwan University on November 28, 2016. Ms. Carol Bellamy, Chair of ECPAT International, and Ms. Arda Gerken, President of the International Association of Internet Hotlines, gave keynote talks in which they urged the world to reach the UN's sustainable development goal of eliminating all kinds of violence and sexual exploitation against women and girls by 2030. Domestic and foreign experts in the field of fighting child sexual exploitation discussed the progress made in preventing child and youth sexual exploitation over the past 20 years as well as how to end cybersex offenses against minors and future strategies. The international delegation led by Ms. Carol Bellamy was received by the Vice President on November 29, at which time they discussed strategies and action plans to protect children from cybercrimes and sexual exploitation.

4.1.3 Anti-TIP campaigns funded by the NIA

The NIA reviews applications made by civil society groups for anti-TIP activities or to attend international exchanges every March, June, and September. Six projects were funded in 2016:

Organization funded	Project	Description
Pan-Pacific & South-East Asia Women's Association, PPSEAWA Taiwan, ROC	Participate in the 2016 NGO-CSW Forum and organize a parallel event	The PPSEAWA Taiwan, ROC took part in the 60th Annual Forum of the UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York from March 9-20, 2016, and organized a parallel event with the Modern Women's Foundation to talk about cybercrime against women and girls: high-tech stalking, Internet-initiated sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and human trafficking. Representatives of related NGOs

		and experts in the US discussed the issue and shared experiences about how to prevent such crimes. Through extensive exchanges, attendees gained a better understanding of human trafficking and other issues.
Asian Association of Police Studies, Taiwan, ROC	Participate in the 14th Freedom Network USA Conference	The AAPS Taiwan, ROC took part in the 14th Freedom Network USA Conference in Chicago from April 2-8, 2016, where issues related to human trafficking, such as the social, socioeconomic, and political effects of same, as well as regulations, law enforcement, and victim protection were covered. This is the most important human trafficking conference in the US. Representatives of AAPS Taiwan, ROC exchanged ideas with US officials, NGOs, and experts, paving the way to future cooperation.
Yilan County Fishermen's Union	Launch a special project to safeguard the labor rights of foreign deep-sea fishing workers	To prevent foreign fishing workers from being cheated or becoming victims of human trafficking and forced labor (for example, excessive workloads and long hours that might lead to occupational injuries), the Yilan County Fishermen's Union traveled to Indonesia from April 6-15, 2016, to conduct interviews with migrant workers, study how the brokerage system works, and build a bilateral relationship to ascertain structural problems in the current system and incorporate findings into future reform.
Yilan County Fishermen's Union	Participate in the 105th International Labor Conference and engage in exchanges with European labor/ employer organizations	From June 1-18, 2016, the Yilan County Fishermen's Union traveled to Switzerland, Belgium, and the UK to share Taiwan's policies on protecting migrant laborers' rights and preventing human trafficking and eliminating forced labor with experts in this field. The achievements, problems, and challenges of cross-border direct hiring was another topic that led to much discussion. Some ideas and practices learned from NGOs in Europe could be incorporated into future campaigns and policies in Taiwan.

4.2 Strengthening international cooperation

By the end of 2016, Taiwan had signed memorandums of understanding (MOUs) on immigration affairs and prevention of human trafficking with 16 countries: Belize, El Salvador, Gambia, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Japan, Mongolia, Nauru, Panama, Paraguay, Solomon Islands, St. Kitts and Nevis, Swaziland, the US, and Vietnam to enhance international cooperation and better combat human trafficking.

4.2.1 Taiwan signed memorandums of understanding (MOUs) on cooperation to prevent cross-border crimes and human trafficking with Guatemala, Swaziland, and

Nauru to facilitate immigration affairs, TIP prevention, and exchange of information on border control.

- A. An MOU on cooperation to prevent cross-border crimes and human trafficking was signed between the MOI and Department of Justice of the Republic of El Salvador on January 21, 2016, to foster cooperation and exchanges on a solid legal basis.
- B. An MOU on cooperation to prevent cross-border crimes and human trafficking was signed between the MOI and Ministry of Justice and Border Control, the Republic of Nauru on June 8, 2016.
- C. An MOU on cooperation to prevent cross-border crimes and human trafficking was signed between the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the Republic of Panama on June 27, 2016, to foster a closer partnership on a solid legal basis.

4.2.2 Taiwan continued its efforts on investigation and evidence collection of cross-border TIP cases and strengthened cooperation on exchanges of information, evidence collection, and cross-border investigation in 2016.

4.2.3 To safeguard the rights of Taiwan's nationals convicted of criminal offenses overseas and show goodwill, the government signed an agreement on transfer of sentenced persons with Germany on November 6, 2013 (the first such pact signed with a European country), and a similar agreement with the UK on May 3, 2016.

4.2.4 Taiwan signed a joint police cooperation agreement with Swaziland on June 8, 2016.

5. Innovative measures

5.1 Improving the living conditions of foreign fishing workers: Given foreign fishing workers are constantly working at sea and living on the fishing vessel, it is difficult for local governments to provide services and check on their living conditions. To better take care of foreign fishing workers and ensure that employers fulfill their managerial responsibilities, the MOL held three meetings in 2016 on living standards for foreigners with the Fisheries Agency, the Maritime Bureau of the MOTC, the CGA, local governments, fisheries organizations, and human rights groups. Two crucial elements were discussed: living conditions on land and living conditions at sea, and their incorporation into the living standards for foreigners. Amendments to the standards were scheduled to be completed by the end of April 2017. For special issues, such as where living conditions cannot be improved given a vessel's existing structure based on initial construction design, local governments are advised to propose a plan for foreign fishing workers to live on land as an alternative. These efforts, jointly funded by the MOL and the COA, aim at improving foreign fishing workers' quality of life.

5.2 Orientation for first-time employers of foreign domestic workers: Since July 1, 2016, any employer who hires foreign caregivers or domestic workers for the first time is required to attend an orientation session. In doing so, the employers have a chance to understand related regulations, health checkups for foreigners, how to address communicable diseases among foreign workers, follow-up procedures after foreign workers enter Taiwan, and the labor rights of foreign workers. This is done to facilitate the employer-employee relationship and minimize violations of the law. A total of 27,094 employers had attended orientations and obtained certificates as of

December 31, 2016.

- 5.3** The CGA has assigned the Maritime Patrol Directorate General and the Coastal Patrol Directorate General to implement special plans to handle TIP cases and continues to underscore the importance to the fishing industry of not violating the HTPCA when employing domestic or foreign fishing workers.
- 5.4** The Tourism Bureau continues campaigns to remind tour guides and tour managers of reporting related crimes and preventing locals from engaging in sexual exploitation of minors.
- 5.5** The Fisheries Agency is working on an evaluation system to eliminate brokerage firms that do not meet standards and its personnel stationed overseas, ship visits on the high seas, or in-port inspections of fishing vessels determines whether violations are occurring, so as to improve better supervision and management of foreign fishing workers hired overseas.

IV. Future work

1. Prosecution

- 1.1** The judicial police continue to carry out an anti-slavery plan that focuses on law enforcement against crimes committed jointly by at least three persons and syndicated crimes in order to track down criminal masterminds, persons engaged in marriage fraud, and other suspects. The judicial police also conduct unannounced checks on locations TIP syndicates regularly use or where foreign laborers are likely to be working. Law enforcement at high-risk places aims at stamping out TIP crimes and shows the government's determination to fight human trafficking.
- 1.2** Facilitating cooperation with other countries: the government endeavors to enhance cross-border law enforcement operations with other countries based on agreements such as the Cross-Strait Joint Crime-Fighting and Judicial Mutual Assistance Agreement, the Preventing and Combating Serious Crime (PCSC) agreement between Taiwan and the US, as well as the MOU on Dissemination and Exchange of Information Relating to Human Smuggling and Trafficking between Taiwan and the US that aim to foster exchanges of information and cross-border prosecutorial and judicial assistance and cooperation to eradicate TIP crimes.
- 1.3** Prosecutors are urged to work proactively on TIP crimes involving foreign fishing workers hired overseas on Taiwan's deep-sea fishing vessels to prevent such fishing vessels from engaging in human trafficking and to protect the rights of victims.
- 1.4** The MOJ held an anti-TIP seminar in May 2017 to enhance exchanges between US and Taiwan prosecutors. An anti-TIP case study workshop held in 2017 focused on prosecution, the application of law, and victim protection to increase the proficiency of prosecutors in related matters to empower them to find and prosecute TIP criminals more efficiently.
- 1.5** The CGA has seen greater achievements in combating human trafficking since it incorporated the ability to cope with TIP cases in its year-end personnel evaluations. It will continue to work to make this one of the contributing factors in handing out rewards in 2017, which will further enhance frontline law enforcement efforts.
- 1.6** Increased punishments for illegal brokerages: the MOL is in the process of amending the Employment Services Act to reduce illegal brokerage activities, increasing the fine for violating Article 45 to between NT\$300,000 (US\$10,000) and NT\$1.5 million (US\$50,000), while prescribing a jail term of less than five years, detention, or a fine of less than NT\$2.4 million (US\$80,000) for a second violation within five years of the first. Punishment will be based on the number of persons involved instead of the number of cases in order to curb illegal brokerage activities.

2. Protection

- 2.1** Law enforcement agencies offer interpretation services and ensure the presence of a social worker at police interviews, keep victims well-informed, and respect their decisions regarding protection and placement, and willingness to testify in court.
- 2.2** Judicial police and shelter staff are required to inform victims of Taiwan's

judicial proceedings, and to keep them abreast of the progress of the investigation. This aims at increasing their willingness to remain in Taiwan and testify in court.

- 2.3** The NIA and the MOL continue to team up with NGOs to improve services at shelters that are responsible for victims' safety assessment and protection, and provide a wide range of services, including individual counseling, escort to court, escort to medical centers, legal aid, interpretation, language and skills education, and access to welfare resources. These services help victims recover from both physical and psychological trauma and enable them to make their own career plans. By working with partnering employers, shelters help residents who are willing to work find a job either outside or in the shelters. This is an important step for victims in rebuilding their life.
- 2.4** Prosecutors in charge of TIP cases should inform TIP victims of the need to assist with the investigation and the difference it makes so that they may reveal what happened and obtain help.
- 2.5** To keep TIP victims abreast of the progress of the investigation and ameliorate their anxiety during legal proceedings—thereby protecting their basic human rights—proactive measures are to be developed for related agencies to extend stay permits, locate job opportunities for victims, or repatriate victims to their home countries.

3. Prevention

3.1 Amendment of the HTPCA to expand protection of TIP victims' rights, such as by diversifying options for placement and protection of victims, the NIA will draft amendments to the HTPCA and submit them the Executive Yuan to review by the end of 2017.

3.2 Broadening campaigns and training on prevention

3.2.1 Various media campaigns will continue in 2017 to inform the general public (including students), foreigners in Taiwan, employers, brokers, as well as front-line civil servants about TIP, relevant laws, and victim protection services. An informed and vigilant society helps curb trafficking in persons. Specific campaigns will also be launched for different target groups: for employers and foreign laborers to better understand the regulations and their rights; for those who work in the tourism industry, entertainment industry as well as the general public to understand the importance of ending sexual exploitation (cyber child pornography and child sex tourism); for shipowners to provide a safe working and living environment for foreign fishing workers and to prevent any kind of labor exploitation.

3.2.2 On-the-job training in actual cases for front-line personnel and staff in various fields will continue in 2017, while case studies and proficiency and skill enhancement classes will also be incorporated into training for law enforcement personnel, focusing on investigations and the protection of Taiwan's TIP victims, signs of labor exploitation, and the difficulties in uncovering such cases.

3.2.3 Following amendment of the Child and Youth Sexual Exploitation Prevention Act, the Good Shepherd Social Welfare Services is holding networking meetings

regularly to review, with the representatives of related authorities, the achievements of educational campaigns, rescue and protection work, punishment of perpetrators, victim placement, and other services to make sure that the act is implemented smoothly. It will also carry out widespread campaigns on campuses to raise awareness of child and youth sexual exploitation and human trafficking among both students and the public and encourage them to protect themselves and help those who are in need.

3.3 Reviewing the migrant worker regime

3.3.1 Promoting direct hiring: Several convenient tools, such as an app for employing foreign laborers, an online application system and an online platform for management of foreign laborers in Taiwan, have been launched to help employers better adjust to the direct hiring system. Reminders will also be given through phone calls according to each employer's needs. The MOL continues to work with source countries on a simplified online platform to streamline paperwork requirements and customized projects that help employers choose and interview candidates from a foreign worker pool (facilitated by source countries, this has grown twofold or more) either in person in the source countries, or via a webcam or a review of written documents and eventually, to locate employees through a direct-hiring process.

3.3.2 Increasing punishments for illegal brokerage activities: the MOL is in the process of amending the Employment Service Act to reduce illegal brokerage activities, increasing the fine for violating Article 45 to between NT\$300,000 (US\$10,000) and NT\$1.5 million (US\$50,000), while prescribing a jail term of less than five years, detention, or a fine of less than NT\$2.4 million (US\$80,000) for a second violation within five years of the first. Punishment will be based on the number of persons involved instead of the number of cases in order to curb illegal brokerage activities.

3.3.3 Regulating domestic (in-home) workers' employment: The MOL will continue to work on the terms of labor-rights-related regulations in response to the Long-Term Care Services Act, which is to take effect in the near future. It plans to put together draft guidelines on the protection of domestic workers' labor rights to create social consensus and safeguard domestic workers' rights.

3.3.4 Fostering communication with the home countries of foreign laborers: the MOL will continue to urge that labor source countries review standards for brokerage fees and ensure brokerage firms abide by the rules to prevent foreign laborers from being exploited and charged excessive fees.

3.3.5 Safeguarding the rights of foreign fishing workers: The COA has drafted a standard procedure and follow-up steps for disputes and problems that arise due to violation of the HTPCA involving foreign fishing workers hired overseas to ensure said workers' rights. Taiwanese fishing workers are encouraged to empathize with how foreign fishing workers might feel and tolerate cultural differences. The competent authority will take seriously any cases of labor exploitation or human trafficking after reviewing the evidence. The competent authority is obliged to transfer such cases to judicial institutions to end any possible crime. The COA will

continue to review fishing worker management regulations and measures and make further adjustments as necessary.

4. International exchanges and cooperation

4.1 Organizing international workshops: following on years of well-attended events, the NIA will continue to host international workshops, inviting speakers from the public sector and civil society to analyze cases and practical issues with respect to victim identification and protection measures. Judges, prosecutors, judicial police officers, officials, and NGOs may also send representatives to take part in an exchange of views.

4.2 Pursuing bilateral immigration agreements: the global fight to stamp out cross-border human trafficking requires the international community to make a concerted effort in a timely and effective manner. Taiwan continues to reinforce partnerships with other countries to build a seamless anti-TIP network.

4.3 The NIA launched a program to improve the professional knowledge of Taiwan's immigration officials through exchanges with countries with which it has signed MOUs on law enforcement and prevention of human trafficking. A pilot program was carried out in late April, and regular exchanges are scheduled to start in 2018.

4.4 Collecting and assessing information: staff at Taiwan's diplomatic missions will continue to collect and assess information on anti-TIP policies and regulations that can be leveraged into regulatory improvements and adjustments in Taiwan. When nationals of Taiwan are found to be victims of labor or sexual exploitation overseas, Taiwan's diplomatic missions will provide aid and keep track of the latest developments.

4.5 Facilitating cooperation in cross-border investigations: we will continue to foster exchanges of information on crimes and law enforcement assistance to maximize the achievements of cross-border investigation of TIP cases.

4.6 Participating in international conferences: Taiwan will take part in international meetings to learn from other countries' experiences and build relationships for further exchanges and cooperation, and to share the results of Taiwan's anti-TIP efforts with the international community.

V. Conclusion

The cabinet-level anti-TIP task force has been effective in coordinating resources from the public sector, and in advancing partnerships with NGOs and civil society in general, helping Taiwan achieve global recognition for its efforts in combating human trafficking. Taiwan has been rated a tier-one country in the US State Department's TIP report for seven consecutive years. Nevertheless, due to the different pace of economic development in Asia-Pacific countries, and an increasing wealth gap, human trafficking remains a very serious problem. The government pledges to continue to expand its efforts to combat human trafficking by coordinating resources from both public and private sectors, doing whatever it can to prevent such crimes, including raising public awareness, increasing protection of victims, as well as enhancing law enforcement, indictments, and convictions of human traffickers to keep Taiwan on the tier-one

country list. The Republic of China (Taiwan) will continue to pursue international partnerships to jointly safeguard peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific.