

Response of the Republic of China (Taiwan)
to the
US Department of State
2015 Trafficking in Persons Report

November 2015

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I. Introduction

The US Department of State published this year's *Trafficking in Persons Report* on July 27, 2015. The report recognized the overall efforts of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to prevent trafficking in persons (TIP), and listed it as a Tier 1 country. Various constructive suggestions are made in the report. However, the report also suggests that prosecutors and judges are unable to recognize TIP victims or have limited knowledge about TIP criminals, and therefore lack sufficient understanding when it comes to human trafficking cases. We believe this is not an accurate reflection.

This response therefore aims to explain the concrete measures Taiwan has taken to combat TIP with regard to prosecution, protection, and prevention. The ROC government has instructed relevant agencies to continue to strengthen their efforts and cooperate with the international community to combat TIP crimes.

II. Prosecution

1. Strengthening the prosecution and convictions of perpetrators

1.1 To enhance judges' knowledge of TIP, and to help them make appropriate rulings in a timely manner, the Judicial Yuan has published a special guidebook covering related court proceedings as a reference for judges. Its contents are also available in the sexual harassment/TIP case studies section of its website, making it is easier for Judicial Yuan personnel to access the information. The guidebook includes TIP-related regulations, legal reasoning, and resources that can be used in proceedings. It also features articles written by experts from various fields that are useful to personnel in charge of such cases.

1.2 There are many challenges in pursuing and investigating TIP crimes, such

as the complex contributing factors behind human trafficking, and the difficulty in discovering where victims hide and obtaining accurate information, making it hard to collect evidence. Proving victim vulnerability and other facts vital for prosecutors to form a case is also problematic. In response, various competent authorities are working on amendments to the Human Trafficking Prevention and Control Act (HTPCA), while prosecutorial institutions under the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) also urge prosecutors to collect evidence from a variety of channels to help with prosecutions and convictions in the future. In order to enhance the professional skills of prosecutors working on TIP cases, a three-day seminar is held every year on judicial practices in TIP cases, covering such areas as an introduction to the HTPCA, types of TIP crime, investigation techniques, evidence collection, and court decisions. The anti-TIP task force established by the Taiwan High Prosecutors Office convenes representatives from different prosecutorial institutions and relevant central government agencies every six months to foster interagency cooperation. It also supervises prosecutors handling TIP cases, and maximizes efficiency of investigations and prosecutions.

1.3 Now that six years have elapsed since the HTPCA came into force, amendments are needed to cope with the evolving nature of TIP crimes and latest trends. The National Immigration Agency (NIA) has invited scholars to make suggestions, including on the definition of human trafficking, and the protection and placement of victims. On May 6 and September 5, 2014, the NIA gathered representatives of relevant government agencies to exchange opinions, while seminars attended by participants of 18 NGOs were held in both Taipei and Taichung, on May 16, October 27, and November 13. Follow-up meetings to allow government officials and scholars to go over specific articles also took place on April 14, July 16 and September 10, 2015. Following a review by the Executive Yuan, the amended version will be sent to the Legislative Yuan for further deliberation. If passed after three readings, it

will provide a sound legal basis for the judicial and police agencies, as well as prosecutors' offices and the courts.

2. Designating training personnel with professional knowledge in combating human trafficking to enhance effectiveness of investigations, and reduce the knowledge gap between prosecutors and judges

2.1 The Judicial Yuan held a seminar on the prevention of TIP crimes on June 10, inviting officials from the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT), supreme court judges, MOJ representatives, and professors from National Chengchi University to give talks for an audience composed of judges from different courts under the Judicial Yuan, prosecutors under the MOJ, as well as participants from the National Police Agency (NPA), the NIA, social welfare groups, and NGOs. Topics discussed included the rapidly changing nature of human trafficking methods, as well as knowledge and regulations that can be applied to assist TIP victims, the hope being that all personnel involved in the legal proceedings can understand TIP cases from a variety of different perspectives and facilitate cross-agency cooperation with personnel in charge of anti-TIP campaigns from other government agencies, as well as with NGOs. Related information has also been uploaded to the sexual assault and TIP case study section on the Judicial Yuan website as reference for people conducting such cases.

2.2 Following the entry into force of the MOJ's special TIP guidelines on December 27, 2006, prosecutors' offices throughout Taiwan began, on January 1, 2007, designating staff to head special TIP investigation task forces. Seminars are also held every year on judicial practices in TIP cases, covering such aspects as types of crime, investigation techniques, evidence collection, and court decisions. This has enhanced the professional skills of prosecutors working on cases. The 2014 seminars, held from June 11 to 13, focused on the HTPCA, the investigation and sentencing of TIP cases, the confiscation of

illegal gains, identification and placement of victims, and networking and collaboration. To strengthen cooperation with the countries of origin of TIP victims, law enforcement personnel from mainland China's public security departments were also invited to take part along with prosecutors (head prosecutors) from Taiwan in charge of human trafficking cases. The MOJ will continue to give these seminars, and encourage prosecutors responsible for TIP cases to take part in related seminars, increase their proficiency, and be more proactive on investigating human trafficking crimes.

2.3 The Ministry of Labor (MOL) holds symposiums every year for foreign labor inspectors and counselors from the labor affairs agencies of local governments to increase their awareness of human trafficking crimes. Relevant officials, scholars, and experts are invited to talk on different topics, such as case studies relating to violations of the Employment Service Act and human trafficking, or regulations and case studies relating to the placement and protection of human trafficking victims and the issuance of work permits. The aim is to further combat human trafficking and narrow the knowledge gap between local governments and judicial agencies.

2.4 To eradicate human trafficking channels, incentives, and syndicates, as well as strengthen investigations into TIP cases, the NPA requested that local police departments provide training classes on TIP crimes to various units, including foreign affairs branches, criminal police units, juvenile delinquency prevention teams, women and children's protection teams, and police personnel responsible for investigating TIP crimes. Experienced judges and prosecutors were invited to talk about the HTPCA, victim identification, and investigation skills. A total of 3,207 persons attended 49 related events in 2014. In Taipei City, Taoyuan City, Pingtung County, Hualien County, Taitung County, and Kinmen County, AIT officials were also invited to share their views on how to combat human trafficking.

2.5 The NIA held the anti-TIP networking workshop from July 21 to 22, 2014,

inviting the Director General of Justice and Home Affairs of the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, as well as AIT officials, to give keynote speeches to a total of 207 attendees comprised of representatives from labor affairs departments of municipal and local governments, the Coast Guard Administration, the MOJ Investigation Bureau, the NPA, the NIA, the Central Police University, Taiwan Police College, as well as judges and prosecutors with previous training.

3. Investigating and prosecuting, in accordance with the latest regulations (standard procedures), owners of deep-sea fishing vessels that either fly the national flag of the ROC (Taiwan) or are owned by ROC nationals, and that are involved in the abuse or trafficking of fishing workers

3.1 The Fisheries Agency, under the Council of Agriculture (COA), convened representatives of relevant agencies on October 27, 2014, to come up with standard procedures for handling disputes or problems arising due to suspected HTPCA violations against foreign fishing workers hired abroad to work on deep-sea fishing boats. On April 21, 2015, the Fisheries Agency also requested that the NIA present procedural flow charts and survey questionnaires to the anti-TIP coordination task force. The standard operating procedures were later promulgated on September 14 that same year, and all relevant government agencies, municipal and local governments, as well as deep-sea fishery organizations, were duly informed.

3.2 When the Fisheries Agency receives information on a deep-sea fishing vessel suspected of violating the HTPCA, it should quickly decide whether it constitutes a criminal case and, if so, transfer information to the prosecutor's office of the local court according to the vessel's port of registry. The MOJ will then request the prosecutor's office to investigate. If no concrete evidence is found, it will seek the help of judicial and police agencies to uncover related information. With regard to foreign fishing vessels operated by ROC nationals,

according to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) jurisdiction belongs to the flag state, which is therefore responsible for the management of related labor and fishing affairs. Taiwan has no right to intervene in these cases, but is willing to work with the flag state through bilateral mechanisms to handle cases.

3.3 Before local labor affairs agencies conduct inspections on employment management and labor conditions of foreign fishing workers, the CGA can assist by confirming the status of fishing vessels in harbors. Moreover, should foreign fishing workers become victims of human trafficking, sexual abuse or personal injury caused by the actions of employers, persons representing employers, persons in charge, persons handling labor related issues, or relatives living with the employers, and their cases have been identified and investigated as such by judicial police agencies, then the MOL has the right, before a criminal court decision has been made, to annul employment contracts in accordance with subparagraph 3 of Article 73 of the Employment Service Act so as to protect foreign workers should they wish to end the employment relationship. Foreign fishing workers are also allowed to change employers or jobs according to subparagraph 4, paragraph 1, Article 59 of the Employment Service Act to safeguard their personal safety and employment rights.

3.4 In accordance with subparagraph 15, paragraph 1, Article 54 of the Employment Service Act, if employers who hire foreign workers to engage in work specified in subparagraph 8 to 11, paragraph 1, Article 46 are found violating labor protection regulations, the MOL has the right to partially or completely annul their recruitment permits or employment permits according to Article 72 of the Employment Service Act. Item 6, subparagraph 15 of the guidelines, prohibiting or suspending employment recruitment in cases where employers violate Article 54 of the Employment Service Act, stipulates that, in cases where employers, care recipients, or cohabitant relatives commit trafficking activities specified in the HTPCA, and violate either the HTPCA,

the Criminal Code, the Labor Standards Act, the Sexual Assault Prevention Act and/or other regulations, and have been detained by judicial police departments, prosecuted by the prosecutor's office, or found guilty in the first instance by a court of law, the MOL shall turn down their applications for labor recruitment, including first-time recruitment, additional recruitment, second-time recruitment, employment permit or extension of employment permit, as well as suspend any recruitment applications in progress.

4. Enhancing information sharing based on MOUs, including cases of ROC nationals engaging in child sex tourism overseas

4.1 Penalties for ROC nationals engaging in the sexual exploitation of women or children outside of Taiwan are based on Articles 31 and 42 of the HTPCA, as well as Articles 22, 34, and 35 of the Child and Youth Sexual Prevention Act that was amended and renamed the Child and Youth Sexual Exploitation Prevention Act on February 4, 2015. Taiwan also promulgated the Convention on the Rights of the Child on June 4, 2014, which came into effect on November 20 that same year. This will make Taiwan's regulations on protecting the rights of children more complete.

4.2 Given its special diplomatic status, only a few countries have signed mutual legal assistance agreements with Taiwan. As a result, foreign law enforcement authorities lack channels for notifying the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) of cases involving Taiwanese perpetrators. Given the difficulty in signing mutual legal assistance agreements with other countries, liaison officers, immigration personnel, and investigators of the Criminal Investigation Bureau of the NPA, the NIA, the Investigation Bureau of the MOJ, or other agencies, stationed in major cities around the world, therefore have the responsibility to enhance cooperation with foreign law enforcement authorities, so as to detect related criminal offenses at an early stage and launch cross-border investigations. Furthermore, since it is relatively easy for frontline law

enforcement units of two sides, such as the police and investigation agencies, to cooperate in terms of legal assistance in cross-border crimes (sharing information or collecting evidence), the ROC government can sign agreements on mutual assistance in criminal matters with specific countries (including Thailand and Cambodia) to eradicate cases of child sexual exploitation committed by ROC nationals.

4.3 At annual training courses for tour guides, tour managers, and other personnel, the Tourism Bureau tries to raise awareness of their responsibility to report cases of sexual exploitation and inform the public that such behavior is illegal both in Taiwan and overseas.

4.4 Regarding the comment in the US TIP report that “some women from Taiwan were recruited by classified advertisements and brought to Japan, Australia, the UK and the US and forced to engage in prostitution,” MOFA has found that none of its offices in Australia has ever reported cases of Taiwanese females being forced to provide sexual services in that country. Sex work in Australia has been decriminalized, and state and local governments all have related laws to regulate the industry. Anyone entering Australia on working holiday visas can legally work in the sex industry. Based on the understanding of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Australia, we have heard that a number of young people from Taiwan with working holiday visas are providing sexual services voluntarily and legally, but not that they are being forced to engage in such work. Similarly, MOFA has not received reports in recent years from its diplomatic offices in the UK of women from Taiwan being forced into prostitution there.

4.5 In view of the need for international cooperation when investigating crimes committed by ROC nationals overseas, the ROC government will consider the following measures to enhance the prosecution of such individuals:

4.5.1 Fostering relations with other countries: Child sex tourism is particularly rife in such Asian countries as Thailand and Cambodia, as well as in Central

and South America. Once it is confirmed which countries are popular destinations among ROC nationals, and what type of activities they engage in, competent authorities and scholars of these countries can be invited, along with Taiwan prosecutors and competent authorities (e.g. the Social and Family Affairs Administration of the Ministry of Health and Welfare), to international seminars on mutual legal assistance on criminal matters organized by the MOJ. Exchanges and discussions at such events can help produce opportunities for bilateral cooperation and create contact windows. If these countries discover that ROC nationals are engaging in child sex exploitation in their territories, relevant information can be provided to judicial agencies in Taiwan for further investigation and prosecution.

4.5.2 Setting up mutual legal assistance mechanisms with specific countries: In consideration of the fact that information sharing, evidence collection, and other forms of mutual legal assistance are required in the fight against cross-border crime, it is preferable that prosecutors and police agencies of cooperating countries engage in institutionalized collaboration. By signing mutual legal assistance agreements on criminal matters with specific countries (e.g. Thailand and Cambodia), the ROC government can work with them to clamp down on ROC nationals who engage in child sex exploitation overseas.

5. Sentencing human trafficking criminals with appropriate jail terms as strict punishment

Based on judicial independence, judicial discretion allows a judge to freely rule on a legal case or matter as long as the terms of Article 57 of the Criminal Code, as well as the principles of proportionality and equality, have been taken into account, and sentencing does not exceed statutory limits. To have judges incorporate public opinion into sentencing and issue appropriate rulings, the Judicial Yuan invited representatives from the courts, and prosecutors' offices, lawyers, and victim protection groups to work on a sentencing reference list

for crimes against Article 31 and 32 of the HTPCA for use by the courts. Also, to prevent sentencing discrepancies between different cases, and enhance transparency and impartiality, information on jail terms for crimes specified in paragraph 2, Article 2 of the HTPCA and against the Child and Youth Sexual Prevention Act (renamed the Child and Youth Sexual Exploitation Prevention Act) was also incorporated in the search system for sentencing of similar cases as reference for judges when ruling on TIP cases involving sexual transactions.

III. Protection

1. Simplifying direct hiring procedures and enhancing the public's understanding of the Direct Hiring Center, reducing exploitation by brokers (including staff of recruitment firms and employers in Taiwan) of foreign workers

1.1 The MOL set up Direct Hiring Service Centers on December 31, 2007, so as to provide employers with a wider variety of channels to hire foreign workers and to reduce the financial burden placed on foreign workers. Service counters were also set up at seven job service centers established under the Workforce Development Agency of the MOL to assist employers in hiring foreign workers without the help of a broker. To expand the scope of direct hiring, the MOL also established an online platform at the end of December 2011 to create links with human resource databases of other countries and streamline administrative procedures. This allows employers to use an online platform to directly select workers, and enables foreign workers to save money otherwise spent on high brokerage fees in their home country.

1.2 To further promote direct hiring, the MOL also produces pamphlets and flyers, as well as provides assistance for first-time users. As of the end of August 2015, six meetings had been held for employers to enable them to better understand the direct hiring process. A mobile app was also launched on August

5, 2014, to provide employers with information on procedures, the latest news, and updates on how their applications are proceeding. An online system was built at the end of 2014 to assist employers fill out forms online, while a foreign worker management and information platform was introduced on July 31, 2015, to give employers access to various services and information, such as airport pick-up, designated hospitals for health checkups, residency certificates, and labor and health insurance. On March 31, the MOL also integrated and streamlined procedures for households looking to rehire a foreign worker or bring one into the country. Now, less than five documents are required for a Taiwanese employer to apply for a direct hire. Efforts to negotiate with source countries and further simplify the process will continue.

1.3 Given that brokerage fees paid by workers before coming to Taiwan differ by country, and to protect workers' rights, the MOL has advised source countries that these fees should be no more than the equivalent of one month's minimum wage in Taiwan. It has also worked with source countries to clearly define the types of fees that have to be paid by workers coming to Taiwan, as well as related amounts. Foreign workers should pay fees in accordance with these standards, and sign an affidavit verified by local labor agencies. This will be used as reference when authorities check the status of these payments following the worker's arrival in Taiwan. In bilateral meetings with source countries on labor issues, the ROC government has urged them to review their brokerage fee standards and strengthen oversight of situations in which brokers overcharge workers, so as to prevent exploitation of foreign workers.

1.4 To prevent Taiwan brokers from charging excessively high fees, the MOL has formulated standard types of fees and related amounts for private employment service companies, stipulating that service fees can only be charged when services are provided to the foreign worker based on a written service agreement, in line with standard practice in society. Brokers are therefore not allowed to collect service fees before services have been actually

provided. A broker evaluation system was also created so that results could serve as reference for local governments to check whether brokers abide by the law. Any Taiwan brokers found requesting nonstandard fees will be subject to fines of between 10 and 20 times the amount requested, business closure, and annulment or nonrenewal of brokerage permits. The aim is to eliminate unqualified brokers and safeguard the rights of foreign workers.

1.5 To ensure foreign workers are paid and not charged excessive fees, Article 43 of the Permission and Management Regulations for Employers to Hire Foreigners stipulates that employers should pay foreign workers their salaries in lump sums after labor insurance fees, national health insurance fees, income tax, board and lodging fees, and employee benefits have been deducted. Those who fail to pay in lump sums will be requested by the competent authority to do so within a given deadline or fined between NT\$60,000 and NT\$300,000. The competent authority might also partially or completely annul the employers' recruitment or employment permits. To safeguard foreign fishing workers rights and ensure proper payment, on July 30, 2015, the MOL announced wage guidelines for foreign fishing workers that include payment terms, a bilingual sample salary form, related regulations, and payment methods when wages are paid by brokers on the employer's behalf. The guidelines have been sent to fishery employer associations and brokerage firms in Taiwan as reference to help prevent workers from not being fully paid and other violations.

2. Discussing the gap in basic labor rights of domestic caregivers and domestic helpers

2.1 The Labor Standards Act (LSA) applies to all workers and industries stipulated in the act or specified by the MOL, regardless of nationality. If foreign workers are employed in an industry covered by the LSA, their rights in terms of wages, working hours, rest hours, and days off are protected by law.

2.2 Domestic workers, who are employed by individual families, provide care for family members and do household work. Given the difficulty in defining the type of labor they perform, as well as their work and rest hours, and the different nature of their employment contracts, the LSA is not readily applied to domestic workers. So to safeguard their rights, the MOL has drafted a domestic worker protection bill, which was sent to the Executive Yuan for review on March 15, 2011. It specifies hours of rest, days off, and annual leave for those who have worked for a certain period of time.

2.3 The nature of the work domestic workers perform is very different to that of foreign laborers employed by general businesses, and the families of people receiving care have different opinions to those of migrant worker groups in terms of how working conditions should be regulated. Society has yet to reach a consensus, and there is still a way to go before a law is passed. In the meantime, the MOL will continue to communicate with different sectors, give administrative guidance to both employers and workers on matters needing attention, and look into enhancing basic labor rights and incorporating improvements into contracts, so as to strengthen the rights and interests of domestic workers.

2.4 Against a background of rising inflation, and taking into account the labor rights and interests of foreign domestic workers as well as the financial burden on Taiwan employers, the MOL held a multilateral meeting with foreign labor source countries, including Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam, on August 28, 2015. As a result, the salary specified in domestic worker contracts used by the employment offices in source countries was raised to NT\$17,000 as of September 1, 2015.

3. Analyzing data from individual cases to ensure accurate TIP victim identification

The MOJ has established principles on TIP victim identification to enable judicial police and prosecutors to correctly identify potential trafficking victims, and effectively investigate cases, as well as provide victims appropriate safeguards. It also provides prosecutorial institutions with reminders on matters needing attention to help prosecutors working on TIP cases. Under Taiwan High Prosecutors Office guidelines for human trafficking prevention task forces, the various local prosecutor's offices supervised by the Taiwan High Prosecutors Office can launch effective investigations into human trafficking cases.

IV. Prevention

1. Formulating an information sharing system to enhance cross-agency coordination on combating human trafficking

1.1 As early as November 2006, the government promulgated the Human Trafficking Prevention Action Plan and set up a cabinet-level anti-TIP coordination council in January 2007 that has been meeting regularly so as to streamline cross-ministry endeavors and coordinate resources aimed at preventing related crimes. Various government ministries concerned with human trafficking are requested to review their achievements, education and training programs, and campaigns to raise awareness every two years, and refresh their prevention and implementation plans accordingly.

1.2 The National Police Agency has adopted the following measures to increase cross-agency coordination, as well as information sharing with their international counterparts:

1.2.1 Compile and maintain an up-to-date database of contact information for personnel in charge of anti-human trafficking work at the judicial police departments in local governments to strengthen coordination and enhance the efficiency of anti-TIP work.

1.2.2 Police departments in different regions should coordinate and network with each other to track down and investigate cross-regional human trafficking syndicates. They should also further cooperate with the CGA, the Investigation Bureau of the MOJ, and the NIA in relation to information sharing and hunting down perpetrators more quickly and efficiently.

1.2.3 When uncovering TIP cases in Taiwan, information on any foreigners involved should be handed over to the CPA's Criminal Investigation Bureau so that, through its liaison officers in overseas branches (or cooperation with foreign police departments through INTERPOL) or through cross-strait crime prevention mechanisms, information can be exchanged, overseas human trafficking rings clamped down on, and trafficking channels obstructed.

2. Providing regular training on combating human trafficking to personnel posted overseas

2.1 Classes on prevention of human trafficking are incorporated in workshops held by the Institute of Diplomacy and International Affairs, MOFA, twice a year for officials of ministries and agencies under the Executive Yuan being stationed abroad. MOFA also often reminds its diplomats to adhere to related regulations, act in accordance with the law, and exercise prudence, so as to avoid abusing their official authority or violating laws either in Taiwan or in host countries. MOFA also continues to enhance audits of overseas offices and performance reviews of heads of mission, and sends inspection teams to these offices.

2.2 In response to the US comment that "diplomatic envoys do not receive sufficient training before assuming posts overseas," the Institute of Diplomacy and International Affairs not only runs a systemic program for envoys, but also incorporates anti-human trafficking classes in the yearly orientation program for newly recruited diplomatic and consular personnel, as well as diplomatic administrative personnel.

2.3 In addition to the above, the Institute of Diplomacy and International Affairs is set to run these classes for all MOFA personnel, not just those about to be sent abroad or new recruits. It will also upload slides and videos of classes to the MOFA website as reference for all its staff, including those stationed abroad, to boost their understanding of the issues.

3. Continuing to enhance public awareness of different kinds of human trafficking

3.1 Judicial Yuan

The Judicial Yuan puts timely information about its anti-TIP seminars, as well as sexual offences and human trafficking crimes, on its official website.

3.2 Ministry of Justice

The MOJ worked with the Police Broadcasting Service of the MOI to launch a competition open to radio broadcasters to encourage the production of short radio programs on the rights of children, new immigrants, and indigenous people. A comic book competition aimed at enhancing people's legal knowledge was held by the MOJ and the Shih Hsin University-affiliated *Lihpao Daily* to encourage new immigrants, immigrant workers, and second generation immigrants from Southeast Asia to create cartoons on such issues as drug addiction, drunk driving, human trafficking, and domestic violence in their own languages. It was hoped that participants would get to better understand Taiwan's laws and regulations, be less likely to accidentally break these, and better able to safeguard their own rights and interests. The MOJ will continue to use a range of platforms, such as media, publications, and schools to strengthen public knowledge of different kinds of TIP crimes and related regulations.

3.3 Ministry of Labor

3.3.1 To enhance awareness of TIP crimes among foreign workers and their supervisors/managers, the MOL subsidizes local governments to hold related training programs. Two workshops targeting supervisors/managers of foreign workers were attended by 88 participants, while five meetings to familiarize foreign workers with their legal rights and related regulations were attended by 3,088 participants.

3.3.2 Foreign laborer inspectors from local authorities, and staff of foreign laborer service centers and local placement centers, attended training programs held on four occasions in 2015, and seminars on management of foreign laborers are held at the local level between September and October 2015.

3.3.3 A 30-second TV commercial was produced and light box advertisements placed at railway stations to heighten awareness of illegal employment. A short film on the rights of foreign workers in Taiwan is also incorporated into orientation sessions for those who have just arrived in Taiwan, introducing rights of foreign workers, recreational activities, ways to seek counsel and raise complaints, protection mechanisms, related regulations, as well Taiwan's customs and traditions.

3.3.4 The MOL commissioned six radio stations, including Radio Taiwan International, to produce 13 radio programs, such as *Hello, Sawadika* to be broadcast in Chinese, Filipino, Indonesian, Vietnamese, and Thai. The themes included human trafficking prevention and safety of migrant workers, the 24-hour free bilingual hotline (1995), regulations for hiring foreign workers, and background information on foreign customs and traditions, so as to educate employers, brokers, and foreign workers on the related laws and regulations, and provide an avenue for cultural exchange. From January to July 2015, an estimated 2,158,630 people listened to these programs.

3.3.5 To help foreign workers become familiar with their new environment more quickly, the MOL set up migrant worker service centers at both Taiwan

Taoyuan and Kaohsiung International Airports that provide bilingual services, assistance on entering Taiwan, lessons on workers' rights and legal counseling. A 10-minute film on workers' rights and regulations is played to foreign workers at the airport on their arrival, and written or spoken introductions are given by staff on life in Taiwan, work, religion, average salaries, medical care, job training, ways to seek counseling, and workers' rights and related regulations. It is hoped that foreign workers can quickly get a grasp of local regulations, customs, as well as their personal rights, and therefore adjust to the life in Taiwan with minimum discomfort and anxiety. A total of 95,012 persons received these services between January and July, 2015.

3.3.6 To educate foreign workers on how to protect themselves, and prevent crimes against their personal safety, a 24-hour free bilingual hotline (1955) was launched. The hotline accepts inquiries about counseling, complaints, legal aid, referrals, and placements, as well as providing information about other related sectors. From January to July in 2015, the hotline received 99,208 calls for counseling services and 13,012 calls regarding complaints that have since been transferred to local competent authorities for further investigation.

3.4 Ministry of Health and Welfare

To raise public awareness of anti-human trafficking, the MOHW incorporates the TIP issue in training programs provided to frontline personnel in charge of preventing youth sexual exploitation. Eye-catching electronic LED bulletin boards are also used to promote the campaign against human trafficking, and against sexual transactions involving children and minors, in order to prevent TIP crimes.

3.5 Ministry of Transportation and Communications

3.5.1 The Taiwan Railways Administration (train stations and inside carriages), the Bureau of High Speed Rail (train stations and inside carriages), the Civil

Aeronautics Administration (airports), the Directorate General of Highways (bus stations), and the Tourism Bureau (tourist service centers and tourist centers at national scenic areas) under the MOTC all set up LED electronic bulletin boards to promote anti-TIP campaigns.

3.5.2 Tour guides and tour managers are encouraged at industry gatherings to report related crimes and remind travelers that they must not engage in sexual exploitation. On the bureau's website, information about prevention of human trafficking is available for the public and tourism industry professionals. Such materials constitute a part of the e-course available over the internet for individuals hoping to become tour guides and tour managers. General literacy in the HTPCA, and the Child and Youth Sexual Transaction Prevention Act, is also taken into account in their final evaluations, in the hope they will inform their future clients of the seriousness of sexual exploitation.

3.5.3 Experts and police officers responsible for women's and children's affairs from local police departments are invited to talk to hotel staff about anti-TIP regulations, cases, and prevention.

3.5.4 Campaigns to remind tour guides and tour managers to report related crimes and prevent Taiwanese citizens from engaging in any form of sexual exploitation are ongoing.

3.6 Council of Agriculture

The Council of Agriculture holds anti-TIP training programs that target fishing boat owners, captains, and fishing workers. Anti-human trafficking information is also spread through its fisheries magazine, relevant radio stations, as well as anti-TIP classes to increase these people's knowledge about related crimes, and protect the rights of foreign fishing workers. Fishing boat owners have access to information through a range of channels and can help prevent human trafficking.

3.7 Coast Guard Administration

The Coast Guard Administration continues to use informal channels to run anti-TIP campaigns that focus on crime prevention and reporting of related crimes around Taiwan. It hopes to raise awareness of human trafficking and prevent related crimes.

3.8 The National Police Agency

3.8.1 Community safety meetings are held to raise community awareness and facilitate voluntary services, maintain community safety, and combat human trafficking and other crimes. During the year, a total of 56,846 people attended 1,151 meetings, held by municipal and local police departments, at which short anti-TIP films were played and regulations introduced.

3.8.2 To make women, children, and teenagers more aware of their personal safety and crime prevention, municipal and local police departments launch periodic meetings that enhance the knowledge of students, school teachers, company employees, and private sector representatives on various topics, such as prevention of youth sexual transactions, prevention of sexual assault, and protection of children and minors.

3.9 National Immigration Agency

The NIA has devised numerous campaigns to boost public awareness of the HTPCA and protective services for victims so that the public is better equipped to help victims obtain timely assistance.

3.9.1 TV and Radio

3.9.1.1 A 30-second anti-TIP campaign film clip was broadcast through six terrestrial TV channels 629 times during public service announcement time slots.

3.9.1.2 Through the coordination of the Office of the Spokesperson of the Executive Yuan, a radio campaign involving discussions on sexual exploitation

(entitled *Suspicious Women*) and on labor exploitation (titled *Ma'am and Mary*) was broadcast on Taiwan Radio–Taipei Station, Taipei Broadcasting Station, Fuhsing Broadcasting Station, and 62 other radio stations 9,678 times during public service announcement time slots.

3.9.1.3 A total of 724 copies of anti-TIP DVDs were disseminated to the Coast Guard Administration, the National Police Agency, the Investigation Bureau under the MOJ, as well as central and local departments of labor (and social) affairs in January.

3.9.2 Out-reach Events

3.9.2.1 The NIA worked with the MOL and the ECPAT-Taiwan to launch the blue heart campaign on July 30 (world day against trafficking in persons) 2014, to raise public awareness on the issue of human trafficking. Representatives from the government and NGOs, as well as nearly a hundred members of the public, took part to show their support.

3.9.2.2 The NIA organized a special mid-autumn festival charity event with Yi-Mei Multimedia E-Content Production and Marketing Co., Ltd., 1111 Job Bank, and the Yuanta Foundation in the plaza in front of Eslite bookstore in Ximending, Taipei, on August 30, 2014. Members of new immigrant groups were also invited to attend the event to promote the importance of anti-TIP campaigns.

3.9.2.3 The NIA was invited to participate in the event Excellent Indonesia held by the Indonesian Economic and Trade Office to Taipei to celebrate Indonesia's 69th national day by setting up a booth at the Miramar shopping mall in Taipei on August 31, 2014, and holding an anti-TIP slogan painting activity, among other things, to raise public awareness.

3.9.2.4 A short-story comic competition on the prevention of human trafficking open to students and young adults was held by the NIA to enhance awareness of TIP issues among this demographic. A press conference was launched at the Taipei Artist Village on October 6 to announce the winners, who were

presented with prizes in the 2014 International Workshop on Strategies for Combating Human Trafficking held two days later on October 8.

3.9.2.5 A press conference was held at the office of the NIA on October 24 to demonstrate the outcomes of a special project aiming to foster digital education for new immigrants that familiarized new immigrants taking part with the TIP issue and government efforts to prevent human trafficking.

V. Conclusion

Preventing human trafficking requires a long-term effort, international cooperation, and worldwide vigilance. In the future, the ROC government will continue to oversee the public sector while also integrating private sector resources. In addition to amending the Human Trafficking Prevention and Control Act (HTPCA), the government is active in preventing human trafficking criminal activity and raising awareness, while also enhancing compensation and protection schemes for victims, and strengthening the investigation, prosecution, and conviction of perpetrators. Taiwan wants to remain a tier-one country and to continue to be a role model in the Asia-Pacific region.