

**2017 Republic of China (Taiwan)
Trafficking in Persons
Report**



August 2018

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I. Prologue

Due to the rapid growth of the global economy and the subsequent increase in the cross-border flow of human traffic, 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).

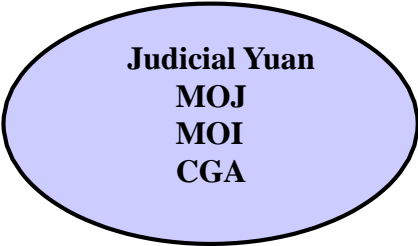
The government announced the Human Trafficking Prevention Action Plan in November 2006 and set up a cabinet-level anti-TIP coordination task force in January 2007 to streamline interagency resources and ensure full commitment to the prevention of human trafficking. In January 2009, the Human Trafficking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

The increasing cross-border movement of people due to globalization has been fostering exchanges of talent and the development of tourism throughout the world. For its part, the Taiwanese government has launched the New Southbound Policy and relaxed immigration rules to recruit and retain global talent in Taiwan. As a result, both tourist arrivals and departures continue to rise, exceeding 50 million for two years in a row, while international arrivals have exceeded 10 million for three consecutive years. More foreigners have been coming to Taiwan for business, tourism, education, employment, or marriage. Foreign workers constitute the majority of this influx, followed by marriage-based 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 the exploitation of domestic workers and fishing industry workers, and has aimed to prosecute those who abuse or traffic deep-sea fishing workers. Even though the R.O.C. 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 the exercise of jurisdiction and de jure recognition, and require mutual assistance among countries.

With regard to Taiwan's anti-TIP efforts in 2017, thanks to cooperation between the central government, local governments, and nongovernmental organizations, Taiwan was named a Tier 1 country in the US *Trafficking in Persons Report* for the eighth consecutive year. TIP prevention requires not only long-term and continuous efforts, but also international collaboration and worldwide vigilance. In 2018, Taiwan will continue to work closely with the international community to combat TIP and promote human rights-based governance.

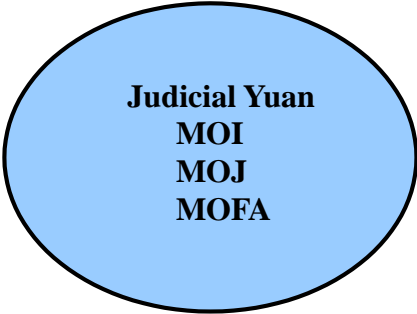
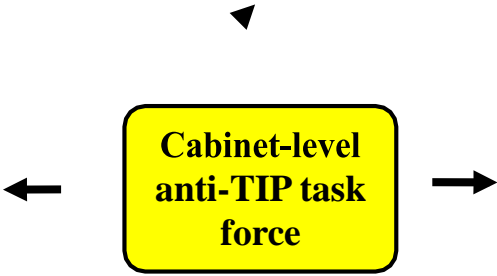
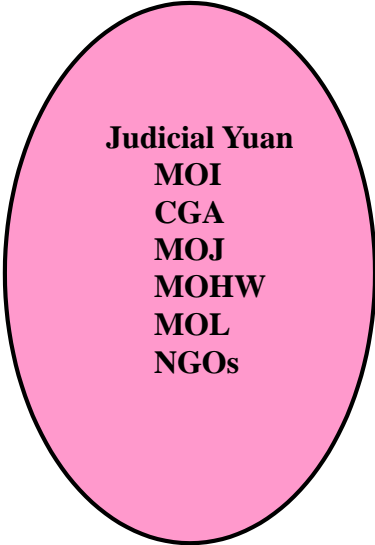
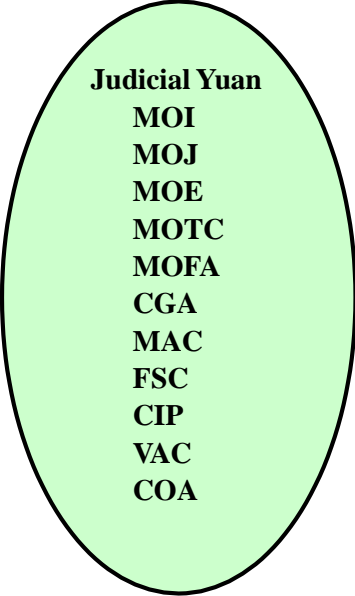
Interagency TIP Prevention Mechanism

Prosecution



Prevention

Protection



Partnership

The Judicial Yuan is the highest administrative body of the judicial branch of the Taiwanese government.

The following agencies fall 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 2017

During 2017, R.O.C. government agencies continued to aggressively combat human trafficking. With the cabinet-level anti-TIP task force consolidating the 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 145 TIP cases (37 cases of labor exploitation and 108 cases of sexual exploitation). A total of 248 individuals were prosecuted in 87 TIP cases.

Protection: Working under the MOI and the MOL, the National Immigration Agency (NIA) operates 21 shelters in cooperation with civic groups. During 2017, a total of 208 newly identified victims were placed in shelters. Aside from having their everyday needs met, these residents received additional services such as psychological counseling, interpreting, legal aid, accompaniment during judicial proceedings, and medical care. Arrangements were made by the relevant agencies to help 45 victims return to their home country following the end of judicial proceedings. In 2017, the NIA provided medical services 270 times, interpreting services 1,048 times, legal aid 24 times, consultations 739 times, and accompanied persons to court (or interrogations) 79 times. In addition, the NIA issued 159 temporary stay permits and extended 113 temporary stay permits to TIP victims, while the MOL issued work permits to 155 victims. Some 136 people also found employment with the help of public job placement centers.

Foreign worker services: The Consolidated Job Service Center set up by the MOL helps prevent exploitation and minimize broker fees, which often place a heavy financial burden on foreign workers. During the year, the center helped 7,849 employers hire foreign employees, referred and transferred 16,109 applications to authorities other than the MOL, and provided consultations on 92,466 occasions—either onsite or over the phone—regarding the hiring of foreign workers. In 2017, the center helped save a total of NT\$169.97 million (approximately US\$5.52 million) in broker, employer registration, and overseas introduction and recruitment fees.

Prevention: The government and civil society have mobilized various communications 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. Celebrating the 10th anniversary of the founding of the anti-TIP coordination task force, the NIA once again organized the 2017 International Workshop on Strategies for Combating Human Trafficking from July 25 to 26 to discuss such key issues as protecting the rights of overseas fishing workers, domestic workers, and those on working holidays, and enhancing the investigation and prosecution of trafficking cases. Speakers from Canada, Armenia, and other countries were invited to share experiences that could be incorporated into the fight against human trafficking in Taiwan in the future.

Government agencies have also integrated TIP prevention into training courses in their respective fields of expertise. The NIA held two events on general TIP literacy and two seed personnel training events for public servants. The Judicial Yuan held a hands-on workshop on the prevention of human trafficking and child and youth sexual exploitation, while the MOJ held an anti-TIP workshop to strengthen the expertise of attending judges, prosecutors, and judicial police in handling TIP-related crimes.

Besides conducting preventative tasks in line with existing anti-TIP campaigns, government agencies also developed various innovative approaches in 2017, such as improving the living conditions and care of foreign fishing workers. Based on the ILO (International Labor Organization) C188: Work in Fishing

Convention and domestic and foreign fishing vessel regulations, an accommodation and recreation center was opened for foreign fishing workers, and information about the 1955 Counseling and Protection Hotline for Foreign Workers is now clearly specified in employment contracts. Any children of TIP victims under the age of 18 may live with their parents in their designated shelter, while accompaniment and interpreting services are also made available in cases of criminal litigation in an effort to further enhance victim protection.

Meanwhile, to effectively facilitate anti-TIP campaigns, the MOI continued to conduct assessments of municipal and county governments' efforts. This raised awareness among these governments, deepening and broadening TIP prevention efforts.

Partnership: As of the end of 2017, Taiwan had signed memorandums of understanding on cooperation concerning immigration affairs and human trafficking with 19 countries: Belize, El Salvador, Eswatini (previously Swaziland), The Gambia, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Japan, the Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Nauru, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Solomon Islands, the United States, and Vietnam.

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 2017, important anti-TIP conferences organized or attended by representatives of Taiwan's government agencies included the first Taiwan-Panama bilateral meeting on immigration affairs, the third Taiwan-Vietnam bilateral meeting on immigration affairs, the fifth Taiwan-Indonesia bilateral meeting on immigration affairs, the first Taiwan-Belize bilateral meeting on immigration affairs, the seventh Taiwan-Japan bilateral meeting on immigration affairs, the seventh Taiwan-Philippines bilateral meeting on labor affairs, the 18th Taiwan-Thailand bilateral meeting on labor affairs, the fifth Taiwan-Vietnam bilateral meeting on labor affairs, and a Taiwan-Philippines meeting on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters.

NGOs also proactively participated in international exchanges in 2017: The Good Shepherd Social Welfare Foundation participated in the Taiwan-Thailand cross-border campaign against human trafficking; the Garden of Hope Foundation attended the Conference on United Partnerships against Human Trafficking held in Thailand; and ECPAT-Taiwan (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography & Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes) took part in the INHOPE general meeting held in Budapest.

III. Achievements in 2017

1. Actively stamping out TIP-related crimes

1.1. Results of investigations

To enhance interagency communication, use resources appropriately, and optimize enforcement with regard to illegal brokers and high-risk sites—such as employment agencies, places where foreign workers gather, and establishments of ill repute—judicial police agencies have entrusted specific units with the task of overseeing the investigation of TIP-related crimes. 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 2017, 118 underage girls (under 18 years of age) were identified as part of 77 cases. In accordance with the Child and Youth Sexual Transaction Prevention Act, 103 of these girls were placed into the care of local social welfare agencies, while 15 were taken home by their parents.

In 2017, judicial police agencies investigated 145 human trafficking cases, 37 of which involved labor exploitation and 108 sexual exploitation. All of these cases were referred to district-level prosecutors. The relevant statistics for judicial police investigations from 2008 to 2017 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
2017		145	37	108

1.2. Indictments and sentences

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

Sentencing information was added for crimes that violate Articles 31 and 32 of the HTPA to the Judicial Yuan’s database on sentencing information in similar cases. A reference list for the sentencing of crimes that constitute violations of Articles 31 and 32 of the HTPA was also devised in accordance with the results of focus group meetings attended by representatives of the court, prosecutors’ offices, law firms, academia, and victim protection and assistance groups, reminding judges to pay attention to proportionality in sentencing. The Judicial Yuan also continued to call on judges at various levels to use the aforementioned reference list.

In 2017, a total of 248 individuals were indicted by district prosecutors in 87 TIP cases. Prosecution figures from 2008 to 2017 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
2017	87	248	19	66	68	182

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

In 2017, 62 individuals were convicted in TIP-related cases, of whom 18 were sentenced to a jail term of six months or less, 10 to between one and two years, and 23 to between three and five years. Sentences imposed for TIP-related crimes from 2008 to 2017 were as follows:

Year \ Sentence	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
< 6 months	181	256	192	98	144	155	97	103	96	18
6-12 months	50	58	37	15	16	21	10	10	13	4
1-2 years	34	30	34	27	27	36	20	14	23	10
2-3 years	3	4	4	5	3	5	6	1	4	3
3-5 years	3	7	19	17	32	41	30	29	21	23
5-7 years	0	1	0	2	2	4	2	1	0	0
7-10 years	1	13	1	1	3	2	1	0	3	0
10-15 years	1	0	1	0	0	0	3	1	1	2
Short detention	11	6	8	6	11	4	5	2	0	2
Fine	3	1	4	2	62	1	1	2	1	0
No sanction	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Total	287	376	300	174	300	270	175	163	162	62

Unit: Persons

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

1.3. Expanding investigations into the sources of human trafficking

Tightening the inspection of travel documents at the border and clamping down on runaway workers: To prevent foreign workers from falling into situations in which they are vulnerable and easily exploited, Taiwan has aimed to stop crime syndicates from transporting victims, as well as making illegal border crossings during flight transit stops. In other words, the goal has been to actively prevent human trafficking from occurring by focusing on its sources. The results of related efforts by the NIA and National Police Agency (NPA) from 2008 to 2017 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 R.O.C. 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
2017	170	21,846

Verifying marriages through interviews

R.O.C. 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 and the development of the relationship and marriage, and thereby verify the authenticity of the marriage. This approach has proven helpful in clamping down on fake marriages and preventing human trafficking.

Interview mechanism for spouses from mainland China: According to current regulations, when a mainland Chinese person marries an R.O.C. national and applies to join his or her spouse in Taiwan, both parties 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. The NIA conducted 8,979 interviews in 2017, 5,867 of which took place at the border.

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 their 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 R.O.C. national and the foreign spouse applies to travel to Taiwan, both parties must go to a designated R.O.C. overseas mission to be interviewed.

The following is a summary of interviews conducted from 2008 to 2017:

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%)
2017	8,979	7,450 (83%)	1,128 (13%)	401 (4%)

Note: The 2008 and 2009 figures are for interviews conducted within R.O.C. borders; the figures for the period 2010-2017 are for interviews conducted either within or at R.O.C. borders.

Strengthening investigations into the illegal employment of foreign workers and illegal broker services

Foreign nationals coming to Taiwan, and particularly foreign workers, are at a disadvantage due to cultural and language barriers, as well as the possibility of workplace confinement, 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 2017 concerning this type of illegal activity are as follows:

Hiring violations and related penalties

Penalty/year/ no. of cases	Fines imposed									
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Hiring violation										
Illegally harboring foreigners	181	152	186	255	305	376	317	370	390	465
Hiring unauthorized foreign workers or foreign workers assigned to other employers	767	582	777	960	1,136	1,450	1,224	1,372	1,563	1,830
Hiring foreigners to work for others	27	12	26	17	14	13	20	16	10	10
Assigning foreign workers to do unauthorized work or changing their work location without approval	414	410	545	746	768	897	689	848	664	554
Employer's license revoked	137	116	133	197	161	227	174	151	163	167

Broker violations and related penalties

Penalty/year/ no. of cases	Fines imposed										Business operations suspended									
Broker violation	20 08	20 09	20 10	20 11	20 12	20 13	20 14	20 15	20 16	20 17	20 08	20 09	20 10	20 11	20 12	20 13	20 14	20 15	20 16	20 17
Collecting unauthorized fees	77	110	22	21	23	16	5	2	6	6	14	10	2	6	12	5	8	2	4	5
Fiduciary failure causing employers to violate the law	45	52	52	58	60	64	65	83	58	65	0	0	1	1	3	2	5	1	0	0
Unauthorized job placement (including individuals and legal entities)	76	92	62	81	73	106	98	109	110	115	7	10	17	18	9	14	13	10	7	6

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

Case studies

Case 1: Recovering compensation for victims

Description

In 2009 (at which time the HTPA was not yet effective), a suspect surnamed Lin who ran 14 brokerage companies was sentenced by the Taichung Branch Court of Taiwan High Court to five years in prison, starting to serve time in jail from 2014. A total of 5,282 Indonesian domestic caregivers had been charged excessive brokerage fees and had wages deducted unlawfully. The sum of money collected by the firms over the years had amounted to NT\$210 million (approximately US\$6.83 million).

To help the victims file civil claims for compensation, the Taiwan Miaoli District Prosecutors Office asked for assistance from the Legal Aid Foundation in July 2016, and identified 1,405 victims who were still in Taiwan thanks to the NIA's help.

The foundation set up a special task force dedicated to contacting the victims, either by seeking help from the Indonesian Economic and Trade Office in Taipei, the NIA, the NPA, the MOL, local labor bureaus (departments), religious groups, labor organizations, the labor-related press, and INTAI (an Indonesian magazine published in Taiwan), or by making calls. In order to improve the search for victims, the foundation also held an international press conference, put up a website, and advertised through a range of channels.

By the end of 2017, the foundation had received applications from 347 other victims and helped all of them file civil claims for compensation. The NIA and the MOL continued to look for more victims, seeking their cooperation on the case in hopes of extending its scope and pursuing more compensation for the victims.

Case 2: Labor exploitation of foreign fishing workers employed overseas

Description

In May 2016, Kaohsiung City Police Department identified 49 foreign fishing workers who were being exploited while employed overseas by members of a criminal syndicate.

Their freedom had been restricted, and their movements curtailed without their consent or other authorization. Eighteen of them had been kept in confined quarters (30-36 m²) that had been locked from outside and were monitored by security cameras. Their passports were confiscated, their salaries were significantly below the minimum wage and not commensurate with the amount of time they had worked, and they had been forced to work long hours without receiving any compensation for overtime. The Kaohsiung District Prosecutors Office therefore commenced a formal investigation and indicted the suspects for violations of the HTPA in August 2017.



Case 3: Uncovering human trafficking and other crimes

Description

The New Taipei District Prosecutors Office uncovered a case in which victims were being held and sexually exploited. The perpetrator had been using local Indonesian grocery stores to engage in underground currency exchange operations in violation of the HTPA and the Banking Act. The prosecutor also discovered that the migrant workers in this case were victims of labor exploitation and were living in a five-story building that was illegally divided into 153 rooms. The prosecutor instructed the local construction office and fire department to demolish the house so that the landlord could no longer rent rooms to migrant workers or people on low incomes, which would otherwise have posed a threat to public safety.

Case 4: Human trafficking syndicate specializing in sexual exploitation

Description

In March 2017, the NIA's Taoyuan City Special Operations Brigade launched operations against a sex trafficking syndicate led by a suspect surnamed Yeh. The syndicate had recruited women from mainland China traveling to Taiwan under the

pretense of marriage. After obtaining residence permits, they had started to provide sexual services at Yeh's brothels. The Taipei District Prosecutors Office formed a case against a total of 20 suspects, including Yeh, other Taiwanese nationals, and the women from mainland China, for violating the HTPA, the Criminal Code and the Act Governing Relations between the People of the Taiwan Area and the Mainland Area.



Case 5: Sexual exploitation of Indonesian victims

Description

The Taipei District Prosecutors Office instructed the NIA's Taipei City Special Operations Brigade and Taipei City Police Department's Wanhua Precinct to launch a raid against a human trafficking syndicate led by a person surnamed Chou in June 2017, identifying eight Thai women and three Indonesian women who had come to Taiwan as tourists, but engaged in commercial sexual transactions. A large part of their wages had been deducted and seized by the syndicate. One Indonesian woman was later identified as a victim of trafficking. The case was transferred to the Taipei District Prosecutors Office for further investigation in November 2017.



Case 6: Sexual exploitation of Thai victims

Description

A human trafficking ring led by an R.O.C. national surnamed Hsu recruited women from Thailand to engage in prostitution for 30-day periods while in Taiwan on visa-free travel. Although many of the women had experienced serious sexual exploitation, they had had difficulty seeking help due to debt bondage and the language barrier. The case was uncovered by the NIA's New Taipei City Special Operations Brigade and transferred to the New Taipei District Prosecutors Office, which later indicted the culprits for violations of the HTPA and the Criminal Code in August 2017.



Case 7: Labor exploitation of Filipino fishing workers

Description

The Coast Guard Administration's Yilan Brigade uncovered a case at Yilan's Nanfangao and Daxi fishing ports in January 2017, in which four Filipino fishing workers were found to have been exploited and had their passports confiscated. The Yilan District Prosecutors Office later brought a case against six R.O.C. nationals for violations of the HTPA.



Case 8: Sexual exploitation of Filipino victims

Description

In March 2017, the NIA's Southern Taiwan Administration Corps launched operations against a sex trafficking syndicate led by a suspect surnamed Wu. Ten Filipino women had initially been recruited and brought to Taiwan through bogus job advertisements, and then forced to provide sexual services. They escaped and sought help from the Catholic Stella Maris International Service Center, which reported the case to the NIA's local brigade. After investigation, the case was transferred to the Kaohsiung District Prosecutors Office, which indicted Wu and 12 other suspects in March 2017.

Case 9: Labor exploitation of 14 Indonesian victims

Description

Following a report by the NIA's Southern Administration Corps in May 2017, the New Taipei District Prosecutors Office instructed the police, the MOJ's Investigation Bureau, and the military police unit to jointly investigate and subsequently launch a raid against a criminal ring led by a person surnamed Chen in July 2017, identifying 14 Indonesian victims of labor exploitation. The office brought a case against the suspects in September 2017, and associated investigations were concluded in October, with six persons being indicted for violations of the HTPA.



Case 10. Human trafficking syndicate specializing in labor exploitation

Description

The NIA's Southern Taiwan Administration Corps uncovered a case in which three R.O.C. nationals led by a person surnamed Lee had exploited 13 Indonesian workers employed in a food company run by Lee's syndicate. The workers' passports had been seized and they had been forced to work overtime. Wages had been deducted on false pretenses and were not commensurate with time worked. The victims were eventually able to report the crime to the police with the help of Indonesian friends, and the case was transferred to the Kaohsiung District Prosecutors Office in October 2017 for further investigation.

2. Enhancing victim protection

2.1 Providing appropriate shelter and strengthening protective services

Settlement and protection of foreign victims

To account for the need for the even distribution of protective services across the country and ensure that victims do not have to travel far to receive such services, the NIA and the MOL operate 21 shelters throughout Taiwan in collaboration with civic groups. Aside from having their everyday needs met, shelter residents receive additional services such as psychological counseling, interpreting, legal aid, accompaniment during judicial proceedings, and medical care.

In 2017, 208 newly identified victims were placed in shelters, of whom 146 were female and 62 were male. In terms of nationality, Indonesian nationals formed the largest group, at 109 persons. The chart below provides details of foreign TIP victims placed in shelters.

Year	2007/2008			2009			2010			2011			2012			
Exploitation type	S	L	Total	S	L	Total	S	L	Total	S	L	Total	S	L	Total	
Newly placed victims	9	97	106	85	244	329	45	279	324	56	263	319	152	310	462	
Male	0	15	15	0	71	71	5	61	66	0	90	90	0	66	66	
Female	9	82	91	85	173	258	40	218	258	56	173	229	152	244	396	
Indonesian	4	63	67	45	120	165	14	147	161	20	155	175	131	225	356	
Vietnamese	4	9	13	12	73	85	4	71	75	1	83	84	1	59	60	
Thai	0	13	13	1	6	7	6	6	12	1	9	10	0	1	1	
Philippine	0	0	0	0	14	14	2	37	39	1	13	14	0	23	23	
Mainland Chinese	0	0	0	27	0	27	19	2	21	33	0	33	20	0	20	
Cambodian	0	12	12	0	9	9	0	13	13	0	0	0	0	2	2	
Bangladeshi	0	0	0	0	22	22	0	2	2	0	3	3	0	0	0	
Indian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Year	2013			2014			2015			2016			2017			
Exploitation type	S	L	Total	S	L	Total	S	L	Total	S	L	Total	S	L	S + L	Total
Newly placed victims	121	245	366	86	206	292	64	122	186	40	116	156	61	135	12	208
Male	0	47	47	0	52	52	0	64	64	5	64	69	9	53	0	62
Female	121	198	319	86	154	240	64	58	122	35	52	87	52	82	12	146
Indonesian	110	166	276	67	95	162	53	83	136	21	55	76	14	94	1	109
Vietnamese	1	64	65	4	61	65	4	29	33	0	30	30	5	14	1	20
Thai	0	6	6	2	4	6	0	0	0	10	0	10	39	6	0	45
Philippine	1	7	8	0	43	43	1	10	11	3	30	33	3	18	10	31
Mainland Chinese	9	0	9	13	2	15	6	0	6	6	0	6	0	0	0	0
Cambodian	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bangladeshi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
Indian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0

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

Settlement and protection of Taiwanese victims

Settlement in shelters

The MOHW's Social and Family Affairs Administration (SFAA) coordinates with local governments to place victims in existing facilities. When facilities have been unavailable or deemed inappropriate, local governments have been asked to work with

NGOs to come up with a solution, establishing a comprehensive network of placement services. In 2017, two persons were placed. Services such as medical care, consultation, and accompaniment during interrogations were provided on seven occasions.

Financial support and subsidies

The SFAA provides financial support as necessary for such items as emergency assistance, children's education, placement, litigation, medical care, and psychological counseling. Local governments also commission lawyers to provide legal aid according to victims' needs.

Support services and activities

The SFAA has highlighted the importance of providing support services to human trafficking victims in its guidelines for social welfare services, requesting that local governments work with civil society groups to organize support groups, self-growth courses, and other activities that provide victims with emotional support.

Follow-up services for victims who wish to return home

The SFAA has requested that if the various judicial and police agencies handling a case encounter a victim who has not expressed a preference over returning home or being referred for settlement, the victim must be consulted before being referred, after which local social welfare departments will offer follow-up services.

To protect the rights and interests of those returning home, the SFAA has requested that the various judicial and police agencies handling a case pass on a booklet that explains their rights and ensures that they know how to seek help after returning home.

Provision of services to child and juvenile victims of sexual exploitation

Article 20 of the HTPA stipulates that any minor or juvenile suspected of being a victim of human trafficking, having been suspected of engaging in sexual transactions and subsequently deemed by a court at a trial to have been engaging in sexual transactions in accordance with the Statute for Prevention of Sexual Transactions Involving Children and Adolescents, shall be sheltered and protected in accordance with the prioritized Statute for Prevention of Sexual Transactions Involving Children and Adolescents, receiving such services without the need for any further recognition from any government agency.

In 2017, placement and protection services were also provided in accordance with the HTPA:

Accompaniment during interrogation

In accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 9 of the Statute for Prevention of Sexual Transactions Involving Children and Adolescents, the relevant departments of municipal or local governments should arrange for social workers to accompany victims to interrogations to give emotional support and explain judicial procedures and the protective measures available. Services were provided on 514 occasions in 2017.

Shelter

Options include emergency and short-term shelters, child and youth welfare institutes, and special schools. In 2017, municipal and local agencies helped place 164 persons in

emergency shelters and provided medical care, psychological counseling and other necessary services.

Follow-up services for victims after they return home

In accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 30 of the Statute for Prevention of Sexual Transactions Involving Children and Adolescents, the competent municipal or local 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 20,147 times in 2017.

2.2. Rescreening people to identify suspected victims of human trafficking

To help ensure all cases of suspected human trafficking are identified, the NIA regularly screens people at its detention centers. If anyone appears to be a victim of human trafficking, his or her case is referred back to the original agency, which checks again and deals with any subsequent issues. In 2017, a total of six people were found to be human trafficking victims following these checks, and were transferred from a detention center to a shelter. This number had fallen by one compared to the seven persons identified in 2016.

2.3. Providing temporary residence permits

To allow victims to remain safely in Taiwan and integrate with society as soon as possible, as well as to combat crime, in 2017, the NIA granted 159 temporary residence permits to victims, and approved 113 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 2017, work permits were provided to 155 people. Public job placement centers provided services to 136 people and helped 11 of them find employment. Some 67 people also found a job independently.

2.5. Offering vocational training

In line with the responsibility of the MOL's Workforce Development Agency (WDA) to provide vocational training to the unemployed, its local offices are expected to contact shelters housing TIP victims who have acquired a work permit but not yet found a job so as to better understand their intentions regarding participating in courses and provide information on courses they are eligible for. The goal is to assist victims in finding courses that best meet their needs and abilities. Course fees are fully paid for by the government. In 2017, the WDA's local offices assisted 116 TIP victims holding work permits. Of these, 46 have found a job, four can no longer be contacted, five are still in job counseling, and 61 have not yet indicated an intention to receive vocational training.

2.6. Safeguarding workers' rights through the 1955 hotline

Since 2010, the 1955 Counseling and Protection Hotline for Foreign Workers 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 2017, the 1955 hotline received a total of 189,500 calls, among which 25,865 were to report grievances. In addition, there were 2,220 cases of foreign workers switching employers with the help of the 1955 hotline.

2.7. Recovering back pay owed to foreign workers

In 2017, there were 13,232 cases in which back pay was recovered for foreign workers as a result of mediation with 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\$324.86 million (approximately US\$10.56 million).

2.8. Offering protection during investigations and judicial proceedings

Interpreting services and accompaniment to interrogations: To protect victims' rights and facilitate investigations, judicial police agencies are required to provide interpreting services when dealing with human trafficking cases. Social workers are also provided to accompany victims to interrogations to give emotional support and to explain judicial procedures and protective measures. In 2017, police agencies offered interpreting services on 207 occasions and accompaniment services on 193 occasions while investigating cases of human trafficking and when referring such cases for prosecution.

Legal aid: To safeguard victims' human and legal rights, since 2008 the Legal Aid Foundation has been providing legal aid to human trafficking victims who have been under placement and legally reside in Taiwan and whose cases meet the requirements of the Legal Aid Act. In 2017, out of 258 applications for legal aid, 243 were fully approved (nine of which were for legal counseling), 12 were rejected, and three were returned for further review. Thus, legal aid was provided to 94.19 percent of those requesting such aid.

To help victims return home as soon as possible, the MOJ continues to request that prosecutors in charge of TIP-related cases take a number of proactive measures, as follows:

- (1) When a TIP-related case is transferred to the prosecutor's office, the fact that there are victims of this case residing in a shelter should be noted in the case document, and the prosecutor is required to expedite the trial. The supervision and review of such cases should be processed at a similar pace to or faster than criminal cases in which a suspect is kept in custody for trial.
- (2) TIP-related cases involving such victims should be concluded as soon as possible. If a victim asks to return home, the prosecutor should try their best to send them home if the situation allows.
- (3) TIP-related cases should be thoroughly investigated, with a confrontation between TIP victims and defendants arranged if necessary. Any information provided to the original unit that transferred the case, or to shelters and their employees, as to the progress of investigations and judicial proceedings should be provided under the prerequisite of not violating the Code of Criminal Procedure, which stipulates that an investigation cannot be made public.

- (4) Any letters from shelters or legal documents from TIP victims should be well taken care of and reviewed thoroughly. The appropriate measures should then be taken.
- (5) When a case is concluded, a notification letter should be sent to the original unit that transferred the case, and to the shelter, informing them of the results of the case and stating that the victim is willing to return home. In the case of an indictable offense, the letter should state that the case has been transferred, and that the court will decide whether the victim's placement will be extended.

Strengthening protection of social workers and interpreters: The MOJ requests that prosecutor's offices ensure the safety of social workers and interpreters who accompany TIP victims to court, or appear in court as witnesses, by using code names and not revealing their real names.

Increasing judicial efficiency through web conferencing: To help TIP victims return home earlier, and aiming to strike a balance between victims' right to return home and the need to confront defendants in court, the MOJ works with MOFA, where feasible, to interview victims at overseas missions through web conferencing.

Enhancing interpreting accuracy: The MOJ provides interpreters with regular training courses on interpretation ethics, legal knowledge, and investigation and prosecution processes, allowing them to better understand the relevant regulations and deliver accurate, high-quality interpreting services. When there is a need for the interpretation of a language not commonly spoken in Taiwan, the MOJ contacts Taiwan's overseas missions or partner NGOs to find someone who can speak the language, helping facilitate communication and thereby protecting the foreigner's rights.

Safeguarding TIP victims' rights in criminal proceedings: The Judicial Yuan is working on amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure that would allow TIP victims to join ongoing litigation after the prosecutor presses charges against the suspects, before oral arguments of the second instance are concluded.

Keeping victims abreast of the progress of investigations and judicial proceedings: Judicial police and shelter staff are required to inform victims about 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 testify. Every three months, the NIA and MOL will check the progress of relevant cases and report to the MOJ and the Judicial Yuan to help expedite the judicial process, thereby enabling victims to return home sooner.

Protecting the rights of foreign fishing workers: Regulations on the Authorization and Management of Overseas Employment of Foreign Crew Members drafted by the COA became effective on January 20, 2017. The COA's Fisheries Agency can now check on foreign fishing workers' circumstances by asking them to fill out questionnaires (Mandarin, English, Vietnamese, and Indonesian versions are available) to see if shipowners and brokers are abiding by regulations.

Facilitating a safe return home: When the investigation of a trafficking case has been completed, or when a victim’s assistance is no longer needed, and when a shelter sees no reason to postpone a victim’s return home, the relevant agencies coordinate with each other to ensure a quick and safe return home for the victim. In 2017, a total of 45 victims were assisted to return home following the end of their placement.

2.9. Service highlights at publicly established, privately run shelters

Protection services

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

Physical and psychological recovery: To help human trafficking victims in their physical and psychological recovery, shelters provide comprehensive assistance in fostering self-esteem, relieving emotional distress, and building confidence. Services comprise two main components, the first restoring a victim’s sense of security and trust, and the second rebuilding self-respect and a sense of control over a victim’s life. Measures include the provision of a family-like environment and a carefree atmosphere that avoids unnecessary rules; group activities; and encouragement to engage in interpersonal interaction and relationships.

Assisting victims to ensure they will not fall victim to re trafficking: TIP victims can be easy targets for exploitation because they lack sufficient information and have limited opportunities to learn and to expand their 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. The provision of short-term allowances, vocational training, and job placement meets victims’ financial needs and helps them foster the professional skills that will improve their future job prospects. They also gain a better understanding of lawful working conditions and workers’ rights in Taiwan.



Nantou Shelter

The Nantou Shelter, founded in October 2009, is run by the Good Shepherd Social Welfare Foundation. As of the end of 2017, the shelter had helped 330 people. Its services and achievements are highlighted below.

Physical and psychological recovery and support: The shelter considers recovery its core task, providing special services for the victims it accommodates. Victims can be

physically and psychologically traumatized from the mistreatment and exploitation they have experienced, and find it hard to readjust to society. Through continuous care and medical treatment, emotional support, the celebration of annual festivals and occasions, and outdoor activities, victims can regain trust in other people, leave their unhappy experiences in the past, and become reacquainted with Taiwanese society.

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 that meet victims' needs through a combination of skills training, lectures, counseling, job placement, and home-based employment. Providing residents with opportunities to acquire professional skills and elevating their capabilities in a range of areas cultivates their knowledge and puts them at an advantage, enabling them to better deal with any problems and challenges that may arise in the future.

Prevention of re trafficking: Besides providing shelter and services to TIP victims during their stay in Taiwan, preventing them from being re trafficked is also a key priority. The 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 becoming the target of human trafficking groups once again.

Group activities: Supportive, exploratory group activities tailored to victims' circumstances are organized in order to build self-confidence. These activities also serve to enhance cohesion and trust among participants.

Cross-border cooperation and return to home country: Visits by government and NGO personnel from Indonesia and Thailand provide victims with more information about the resources available to them after returning home. Before leaving Taiwan, victims can talk to a nun who worked in Indonesia and Thailand for many years and can provide first-hand and up-to-date information about living in these countries. This helps victims in seeking the 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, and ultimately helping them avoid becoming a target of human trafficking syndicates once again.

Highlights



Holiday celebrations: Celebrating the Mid-Autumn Festival and talking about holiday traditions in different countries.



Outdoor activities: A fun and relaxing day trip to Sun Moon Lake in Nantou and Lihpao Land in Taichung.



Skills development curriculum: A variety of courses tailored to the needs of shelter residents are provided to help them find what they like to do and work on the skills they need.



<p>Lectures help shelter residents better understand the nature of human trafficking and how to prevent such crimes from happening.</p>	<p>Partner lawyers from the Legal Aid Foundation provide legal advice to shelter residents and help them acquire the legal aid they need.</p>
	
<p>Checking how shelter residents are doing at work and evaluating the possibility of further cooperation.</p>	<p>Visiting companies and factories in the neighborhood to find job opportunities for shelter residents and thus provide them with stable incomes.</p>
	
<p>Yoga and other stress-relief classes are provided to help shelter residents relax.</p>	<p>Taking basic Mandarin lessons to better adjust to the working environment and a new life in Taiwan.</p>
	
<p>Visiting related government agencies and NGOs in victims' home countries (Indonesia and Thailand) to work on the process of sending them home, including providing a safe place for them to stay, investigating job opportunities, and helping them readjust and rebuild their lives.</p>	

Campaigns to educate the public about TIP prevention

On campus

A total of 13 TIP and child and youth sexual exploitation prevention activities were held at three schools—Our Lady of Providence Girls' High School in New Taipei City, Tung Hai Junior High School in Taitung, and Bausun Junior High School in Taitung—

attended by 650 persons.

Seed teacher program

Three workshops were held in the second half of 2017 to educate seed teachers about reducing the risk of migrant workers becoming trafficking victims or trapped in vulnerable situations, as well as raise awareness of the protection of human rights.

Anti-TIP personnel training

A number of courses were provided to enhance the professional skills and practical experience of personnel engaged in anti-TIP work. Such courses covered the basic situation regarding human trafficking and child and youth sexual exploitation prevention and associated skills, more advanced discussion of the handling of child and youth sexual exploitation, and cybersecurity.

Campaigns to prevent human trafficking targeting foreign workers

Targeting migrant laborers' social circles: To strengthen the 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 for seeking help.

Leveraging various channels to promote anti-TIP campaigns: Given 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 the four most common languages spoken by foreign workers. Messaging software is also used to quickly respond to questions. In 2017, 53 articles on regulations and labor rights were posted.

3. Prevention: curbing human trafficking

3.1. Enhancing general awareness through multiple channels

Numerous campaigns have been implemented through multiple channels, boosting understanding of the HTPA and protective services for victims among both Taiwanese people and foreign nationals, and thus raising public awareness and expanding the effectiveness of anti-TIP measures.

Ministry of Labor

- (1) In 2017, the MOL commissioned five broadcasters to produce 13 episodes of a radio program in Filipino, Indonesian, Mandarin, Thai, and Vietnamese on the theme of human trafficking prevention, migrant worker safety, and the 1955 hotline in order to educate employers, brokers, and foreign laborers as to related laws and regulations. Through the end of 2017, an estimated 5.51 million people had listened to these programs.
- (2) Filipino, Indonesian, Thai, 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, and airport migrant worker service centers to inform migrant workers how to report grievances and protect their rights.
- (3) A short film, "The Rights of Foreign Laborers in Taiwan," was incorporated into job training programs provided in foreign laborers' home countries and into the

orientation sessions provided at airports for foreign laborers who have just arrived in Taiwan. The film introduces related regulations and explains how workers can protect themselves and report grievances.

- (4)The MOL set up migrant worker service centers at both Taoyuan and Kaohsiung international airports, each providing 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 migrant workers 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 186,074 persons received such orientation in 2017.
- (5)The relevant local government agencies were provided funding to organize 27 anti-TIP training courses targeting the supervisors or employers of migrant workers. These were attended by 2,578 persons. Some 178 anti-TIP meetings targeting migrant workers and introducing related regulations were also attended by 59,800 persons, increasing awareness of human trafficking among migrant workers, employers, and brokers.

Ministry of Health and Welfare

- (1)Electronic LED bulletin boards were used in train and bus stations countrywide from June 20 to July 17, and from August 1 to 14, 2017, to publicize measures designed to prevent the sexual exploitation of minors and sex tourism.
- (2)The MOHW held a press conference on the prevention of child and youth sexual exploitation on September 7, 2017, specifically to address the problem of nude selfie pictures or private images of children posted online. Personnel responsible for cybersecurity from the NPA, the MOE, Taichung City government’s Education Bureau, and the Institute of Watch Internet Network were invited to take part in this joint effort, which raised awareness among parents and schools and urged the relevant authorities to launch campaigns to end the sexual exploitation of children.
- (3)The MOHW held a meeting on October 23, 2017, inviting representatives from government agencies, local government departments, ECPAT-Taiwan, the Garden of Hope Foundation, and Taipei Women’s Rescue Foundation to formulate an awareness campaign on the prevention of child and youth sexual exploitation. This would aim to strengthen public awareness and on-campus education and publicity, raise the proficiencies of anti-TIP personnel, prevent trafficking and re trafficking, and help victims learn how to protect themselves by having the relevant government agencies and municipal and local governments launch projects.
- (4) The MOHW requested that all psychiatric centers under its psychiatric hospital network incorporate anti-TIP and victim protection sessions (one to two hours each session) into their training programs for mental health administrative and medical personnel. A total of six sessions were attended by 647 persons in 2017.

Ministry of Justice

Campaign /event	Date	Sponsoring party	Target audience	Method	Funding	Achievements
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74th Youth Law Program	July 7 -13	National Taipei University	Junior high school students	Summer camp	NT\$30,000 (US\$980)	Attended by 100 persons
Radio programs on judicial Protection	May 1 - July 31	Police Broadcasting Service	General public	Radio drama	NT\$19,800 (US\$650)	31 episodes
Discussion: the law abroad	August - December	Brilliant Time Bookstore	Immigrants, migrant laborers	Legal counseling	NT\$186,600 (US\$6,084)	8 sessions

National Immigration Agency

Type	Campaign /event	Target audience	Method
Media and poster campaign	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An anti-TIP film created by the NIA, “Say No to Bad Guys,” was broadcast by Taiwan Television Enterprise (TTV) and five other TV channels on 251 occasions during public service announcement time slots. 2. Anti-TIP advertisements were shown at 127 locations in train and bus stations, and Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport. 	General public	TV, radio, posters
Giving out event gifts	Gifts such as file fasteners and phone cleaning cloths were given away during the 2017 International Workshop on Strategies for Combating Human Trafficking from July 25 to 26.	Frontline personnel	Posters, pamphlets, giveaways
Anti-TIP campaign funded by the NIA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Good Shepherd Social Welfare Foundation promoted its Taiwan-Thailand cross-border project to end human trafficking in Thailand from August 8 to 11. 2. ECPAT-Taiwan held a training course for law enforcement personnel on the sexual exploitation of minors through the internet on September 25. 3. The Good Shepherd Social Welfare Foundation launched a poster campaign on the protection of human rights and prevention of human trafficking and child and youth sexual exploitation. 4. The Yilan County Fishermen’s Union held a recreational event on November 5 to raise awareness among foreign fishing workers about the prevention of human trafficking. 5. The Garden of Hope Foundation attended the Conference on United Partnerships against Human Trafficking in Thailand from November 13 to 17. 	General public, potential victims	NGOs funded to organize anti-TIP campaigns

Fisheries Agency

Campaign /event	Venue	Date	Organizer (sponsor)	Target audience	Method	Achievements
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Free health check; free haircuts; movie events	Chiencheng fishing port, Kaohsiung	June 24	Taiwan Seamen and Fishermen's Service Center	Foreign fishing workers, local residents	Documentary film, "The Cries of Sea," broadcast to promote the rights of foreign fishing workers	Attended by 200 persons
Free clinics; free haircuts	Fish market operated by the Suao Fishermen's Association	June 25; Dec. 17	NIA, Fisheries Agency, Yilan County government, Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation, Suao Fishermen's Association	Foreign fishing workers	Anti-TIP signs and placards	Attended by 100 persons per event
Fisherman's Day Ocean Culture Night 2017	Chiencheng fishing port, Kaohsiung	June 30	Taiwan Seamen and Fishermen's Service Center	Foreign fishing workers, local residents	Evening events on Fisherman's Day promoting the fight against human trafficking	Attended by 200 persons
Free clinics; free haircuts	Donggang Fishermen's Association	Sep. 10	NIA, Fisheries Agency, Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation, Donggang Fishermen's Association	Foreign fishing workers	Anti-TIP signs and placards	Attended by 100 persons per event
2017 Christmas Talent Show	Chiencheng fishing port, Kaohsiung	Dec. 13	Taiwan Seamen and Fishermen's Service Center	Foreign fishing workers, local residents	Christmas party promoting the fight against human trafficking	Attended by 150 persons

Tourism Bureau

At annual orientation sessions, new tour guides and tour managers are encouraged to report related crimes and gain an understanding of commercial sexual exploitation. The Tourism Bureau also makes information concerning the prevention of human trafficking available to the public and tourism industry professionals on its website. Such materials constitute a part of the online courses offered annually to individuals hoping to become tour guides and tour managers. Indeed, general literacy on the HTPA and the Child and Youth Sexual Exploitation Prevention Act is now taken into account in the final evaluation of such courses in the hope that participants will help promote the importance of preventing sexual exploitation among their clients in the future. A

total of 3,922 tour guides and managers received training in 2017.

In accordance with 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 are invited to speak about efforts to curb the sex trade at training sessions for hotel staff. In 2017, a total of 1,270 hotel staff attended 11 orientation sessions in 11 cities and counties, including Hsinchu City, Nantou County, Taoyuan City, and Yunlin County.

A campaign to promote a general understanding of related regulations was launched to coincide with annual hotel inspections. A total of 7,365 staff members from 77 hotels attended related events in 2017.

Ministry of Education

On campus

Through collaboration with the local newspaper *Mandarin Daily News*, the *Legal Digest for Teenagers* was launched as a supplement. An article on human trafficking, "Forced Labor is against the Law," was published on May 16, 2017. The core concepts of combating human trafficking, such as human rights, the rule of law, and gender equity, were shared with the newspaper's readers (circulation about 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 24 universities. A total of 22 lectures on preventing human trafficking were held for 4,762 persons. Two workshops on legal education and human rights for high school and vocational school teachers were also held. They showed anti-TIP videos and suggested that the attending teachers incorporate some TIP relevant news stories, such as ones on people entering Taiwan through marriage fraud to engage in the sex trade or on migrant workers, into their civics classes on the constitution and human rights. This would let students know how human trafficking violates human rights and what preventative measures the government has taken. The special task force on national curriculum and human rights education of the MOE held 19 seminars on human rights and the rule of law, while the National Education Radio was commissioned to produce the program *Special Love*. The program consisted of two episodes, "Enhancing Human Rights—Human Trafficking of the Disabled," and "Understanding and Empathy—Human Trafficking of the Disabled," which were broadcast on March 4 and September 2, 2017, respectively.

In curriculum and teaching materials

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 to introduce human trafficking issues and ways to prevent human trafficking. Teachers are also encouraged to download materials for classroom use. Materials on the Human Trafficking Prevention Act were incorporated in an introductory training program held from May 8 to 12, 2017, for student affairs counselors. Colleges and universities were encouraged to offer courses on human rights, gender equity, and the rule of law. A total of 9,660 courses were taught in 2017.

Enhancing teacher competency

Providence University and Tamkang University received subsidies in 2017 to hold two classes each for teachers, so as to help improve their teaching of human rights.

The prevention of child and youth sexual exploitation

The MOE launched guidelines to promote school campaigns to help prevent child and youth sexual exploitation. Schools are required to promote the prevention of sexual exploitation at all grade levels and adopt protective measures in accordance with the Protection of Children and Youths Welfare and Rights Act and its guidelines. This requirement aims to raise the awareness of faculty and students on gender equality and children's rights and to facilitate the organization of sex education programs in schools to effectively mitigate child sexual exploitation. Two networking meetings jointly organized by the MOE, MOHW, and five transition schools were held to promote the importance of the prevention of child sexual exploitation on June 27 and November 22, 2017, respectively. Workshops on the protection of children and youth, and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child were also held for senior high school teachers and seed teachers trained by local governments in order to strengthen appropriate attitudes toward sex among students and help keep children and youth out of the sex trade.

National Police Agency

In 2017, police departments of special municipalities, counties, and cities held 3,030 seminars on community security for 121,477 attendees. These seminars raised public awareness by playing videos about TIP issues and measures and regulations to prevent such crimes.

LED electronic bulletin boards and website banners of police agencies and related organizations helped spread awareness of anti-TIP hotlines. Anti-TIP print materials, such as booklets and pamphlets, were made available on the counters of local police departments and offices, while posters were also displayed to raise the public's awareness.

Coast Guard Administration

To promote anti-TIP awareness, the CGA held 34 seminars last year around Taiwan, thereby educating the 1,799 attendees in the fishing industry to take into consideration human trafficking issues when hiring either local or foreign fishing workers.

Veterans Affairs Council

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 1,948 persons attended 19 such events, at which government officials spoke on regulations and how to respect, accept, and treat as equal persons of different cultural backgrounds.

A training program was held in March 2017 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, enhance the quality of their services, and highlight the importance of

preventing TIP at their workplaces.

Veterans service centers throughout the country were requested to put up anti-TIP banners and posters and hand out anti-TIP print materials to better educate visiting veterans and their families.

Financial Supervisory Commission

Banking industry

The Taiwan Academy of Banking and Finance was commissioned to incorporate human trafficking issues in its eight auditor training programs and e-courses for financial sector employees. A total of 424 persons attended these educational events.

Securities/futures industry

The Securities and Futures Institute and the Securities Investment Trust and Consulting Association were commissioned to incorporate human trafficking issues in their preemployment orientation sessions, securities house internal audit training programs, and courses on the prevention of money laundering and insider trading for employees of securities and futures holding companies. A total of 5,329 persons attended 130 such events.

Insurance industry

The Taiwan Insurance Institute, Professional Insurance Brokers Association, and Insurance Agency Association were commissioned to incorporate human trafficking issues in auditor training programs and seminars on prevention of money laundering for insurance personnel. A total of 4,391 persons attended 73 such events.

Council of Indigenous Peoples

A total of 884 persons attended 17 lectures and classes on social welfare and human trafficking organized by the Service Center for Family and Women.

An online training program was provided to 287 central/local government level indigenous social work professionals and an anti-TIP film created by the NIA was also shown in the class to raise awareness of human rights and the work to counter human trafficking.

3.2. Strengthening regulations and administrative measures

Promoting direct hiring service

Founded on December 31, 2007, the Direct Hiring Service Center expanded the scope of direct hiring into the fields of manufacturing, construction, deep-sea fishing, nursing homes, and domestic (in-home) care in 2009. In 2017, the center helped 7,849 employers extend the contracts of current foreign employees or hire foreign employees for the first time, referred and transferred 16,109 applications to authorities other than the MOL, and provided consultation on the hiring of foreign workers to 92,466 individuals either on-site or via telephone. The center helped workers save a total of NT\$169.97 million (US\$5.54 million) in brokerage fees and minimized their risk of being exploited by brokers.

Enhancing management of brokerage firms

Private brokerages engaging in cross-border job placement are evaluated annually. In 2017, a total of 1,333 brokerage firms were evaluated, of which 487 (36.53 percent) earned a grade of A (above 90 points), 772 (57.91 percent) a B (70 to 89 points), and 74 (5.55 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 the following year. This system seeks to improve the quality of brokerage services and eliminate substandard firms.

Raising informants' rewards

Amendments were made to the Guidelines Governing the Payment of Rewards to Members of the Public Informing the Authorities about Violations of the Employment Service Act on September 11, 2015. As a result, rewards have been increased according to whom (employers, private employment companies, or individuals, including illegal aliens) is being reported and the number of individuals being arrested. The amendments aim to help increase the reporting of such cases, protect job opportunities for Taiwan nationals, and maintain social order. In 2017, a total of NT\$11.5 million (US\$375,000) in reward money was paid to 1,018 informants for reporting illegal foreign laborers or employers/brokers engaging in illegal hiring practices.

Refining foreign labor policies

To ensure that brokerage firms fulfill their recruitment responsibilities and provide follow-up services to prevent foreign laborers from illegally changing jobs, the MOL announced the amendment of the Regulations for Permission and Supervision of Private Employment Services Institutions on October 8, 2014. The amendments increased fines for private employment placement firms found to have over a certain number of foreign laborers unaccounted for during an inspection or assessment. A total of 19 brokerage firms were fined in 2017.

Promoting legal protections for domestic (in-home) workers

- (1) The Labor Standards Act does not apply to domestic workers currently. However, the Employment Service Act stipulates that migrant workers should sign labor contracts before coming to Taiwan, and that the contract content should be verified by competent authorities in the source countries and conform to the rules of the act. Should any disputes arise, migrant workers can consult with local competent authorities for mediation, or file a civil lawsuit in accordance with the Code of Civil Procedure.
- (2) The MOL created a special taskforce to help protect domestic workers' rights. The taskforce held two meetings on April 26 and October 30, 2017, to solicit input from scholars and experts on how to better safeguard domestic workers' rights and discuss how the drafted Domestic Worker Protection Act could work in practical terms. The meetings called on the MOL to apply expert opinion to develop feasible means of enhancing domestic workers' rights.

Offering lectures to 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 a class in accordance with Article 48-1 of the Employment Service Act. The class will give employers a chance to understand related

regulations and improve worker management. A total of 80,633 employers had attended orientations and obtained certificates as of December 31, 2017.

Protecting the rights of foreign fishing workers employed overseas

Regulations on the Authorization and Management of Overseas Employment of Foreign Crew Members were installed, providing better protections on the rights of foreign crew members, as follows:

- (1) The shipowner, local and foreign brokerage firms, and foreign workers must sign a fixed term contract that specifies the rights and obligations of the parties under a contract.
- (2) Foreign workers must be paid a monthly wage no less than US\$450.
- (3) The shipowner must provide foreign workers accident, medical, and life insurance. The life insurance policy must be no less than NT\$1,000,000 (approx. US\$32,800).
- (4) Foreign fishing workers must be provided at least 10 hours of rest every day, and four days off every month. Through mutual consent, compensatory rest time may be offered to meet working needs.
- (5) The shipowner must ensure that foreign fishing workers enjoy the same benefits and protection as their Taiwanese counterparts.
- (6) 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.
- (7) Should a foreign worker be injured, or killed in a work-related accident, the shipowner must report the incident to the competent authorities immediately. Should a foreign worker be seriously injured, the shipowner must help the worker receive emergency medical treatment.
- (8) When the fishing vessel is no longer able to operate, the shipowner must help foreign fishing workers return to their home country.
- (9) Shipowners must submit plans on improving living conditions and care of foreign fishing workers, specifying details of drinking water, accommodation, and emergency plans.

Creating a joint liability and evaluation system for brokers

Brokers must be approved and must pay a deposit from NT\$1,500,000 (US\$49,000) to NT\$5,000,000 (US\$162,000) depending on the number of foreign fishing workers contracted. They must also be evaluated by the Fisheries Agency or a third party commissioned by the agency. The Fisheries Agency has approved 52 brokers so far and on November 27, 2017, updated its evaluation criteria for brokerage firms hiring foreign fishing workers overseas, which will be applied in the evaluation process in 2018.

Raising punishments on shipowners and brokers in noncompliance

In accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 42 of the Act for Deep-sea Fisheries, brokers in violation of the law will be fined from NT\$1,000,000 (US\$32,000) to NT\$5,000,000 (US\$162,000), and the broker's license to introduce foreign fishing workers may be suspended and its deposit confiscated. Paragraph 3 stipulates that shipowners found violating the law will be fined from NT\$50,000 (US\$1,625) to NT\$250,000 (US\$8,100), and their license may be revoked for up to a year. In 2017, 12 shipowners were fined a total of NT\$1,800,000 (US\$58,500) for violating the law.

Amending regulations to further protect the rights of children and youth

Two amendments were published by the Presidential Order made to the Child and Youth Sexual Exploitation Prevention Act on November 29, 2017, and January 3, 2018, respectively, to improve care and diversify intervention services according to the needs of victims, such as by expanding the types of personnel responsible for reporting such crimes and raising punishments for violations.

Safeguarding the rights of foreign fishing workers

The Fisheries Agency has set standard procedures and follow-up steps for disputes and problems that arise due to violations of the HTPA involving foreign fishing workers hired overseas. Accordingly, it may notify the district prosecutor's office where a suspect fishing vessel is registered about reported cases needing further investigation.

3.3. Developing online anti-TIP information for training and teaching materials

Compiling and publication of training materials and reference materials

- (1) To enhance the abilities of judges presiding over anti-TIP cases so that they can make appropriate rulings and raise the standards for decisions on court cases, the Judicial Yuan published a manual for handling human trafficking cases. The manual has also been uploaded to the section on its website for sexual assault and TIP cases for the convenience of related personnel. It contains related regulations and laws and the rationale behind them, other resources needed for processing cases, as well as a variety of articles from professionals in other fields.
- (2) The MOJ created a manual on handling cases involving women and children in March 2017, with the online version being launched on May 1, 2017, so as to enhance the professional skills of prosecutors and strengthen the prosecution of TIP crimes.
- (3) The MOJ sent a letter to all prosecutors' offices to urge them to actively investigate violations of the HTPA by Taiwanese deep-sea fishing vessels employing foreign workers overseas. It also called on chief prosecutors and head prosecutors to properly supervise these efforts. In the TIP section of its manual on handling cases involving women and children published in March 2017, a sub-section on violations of the HTPA by Taiwanese deep-sea fishing vessels employing foreign workers overseas was included. This should help prosecute the exploitation of fishing workers, so as to protect the rights of victims.
- (4) To formulate standard procedures for judicial police to better protect victims and enforce the law, the NIA posted online written materials from the workshop on anti-TIP networking and counseling for use in training courses by all agencies.

Strengthening training for law enforcement personnel

- (1) To help personnel better understand TIP cases from different perspectives and facilitate cooperation between judicial organizations and other government agencies and NGOs involved in TIP cases, the Judicial Yuan held a seminar on TIP crimes at the Judges Academy on June 2, 2017. During the seminar, criminal court judges and representatives of the MOJ and the NIA gave lectures on human trafficking cases and their legal proceedings, and international cooperation on TIP crimes. MOJ department heads and judges were also invited to attend.
- (2) In response to the suggestions given by the US State Department in its annual TIP report and to foster bilateral cooperation on combating human trafficking, the MOJ

held a workshop on fighting TIP on May 5, 2017. The American Institute in Taiwan invited the federal prosecutor from the Western District of Washington (Seattle Division) to share experiences in handling TIP cases in the US, and the head prosecutor at the New Taipei District Prosecutors Office talked about Taiwan's experience. A panel discussion was also arranged to help improve the professional skills of prosecutors investigating related crimes.

- (3) The MOJ organizes training courses on handling human trafficking cases every year to help prosecutors better understand all aspects of such cases, including the investigation, public prosecution, and judgment of crimes, as well as the protection and placement of victims. For instance, it held a workshop on fighting TIP on September 25-26, 2017, inviting a federal prosecutor from the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section of the US Department of Justice to speak on such topics as the online sexual exploitation of children and conviction of perpetrators of such crimes in the United States. Such workshops give Taiwanese prosecutors the opportunity to better understand the latest international approaches and exchange experiences with foreign prosecutors.
- (4) To oversee the work done by prosecutors' offices on human trafficking cases, increase the effectiveness of their 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 to discuss statistics on the investigation, prosecution, and sentencing of human trafficking cases, and relevant targets are set, in order to assess the human trafficking problem and identify new directions in the investigation of TIP cases. In the two meetings convened in 2017, the NIA discussed issues in bringing TIP cases to court, based on the experience of the TIP police unit of Kaohsiung City, and the Taichung District Prosecutors Office reported on labor exploitation cases involving foreign fishing workers. Such workshops also help improve professional skills of prosecutors handling such cases.
- (5) Every year the NPA and special municipality and local police departments hold classes on TIP concepts and investigation skills for front-line police personnel. A total of 19,893 persons attended 292 such events in 2017.
- (6) The NIA held 21 classes on fighting and preventing TIP crimes in 2017. A total of 1,228 persons, including new immigration officers, labor affairs and public health personnel of local governments, and judicial police officers attended the classes. Two workshops on anti-TIP networking and counseling were offered to 85 staff members at government agency windows for TIP consultation. In addition, to clamp down on illegal entry into the country, in 2017 training courses on passport and document verification were provided for 98 new customs and immigration officers on nine occasions and for 1,904 current personnel on 59 occasions, while advanced courses were provided for 159 persons on eight occasions.
- (7) The CGA held three anti-TIP workshops in 2017 to teach TIP investigation concepts and skills for 129 front-line personnel and high-level officers.
- (8) Since 2013, the Institute of Diplomacy and International Affairs has added classes on the prevention of human trafficking in the workshops held twice a year for Executive Yuan personnel, especially for those to be stationed abroad. It has also added anti-TIP classes for new diplomatic and consular personnel.
- (9) The MOL held four training programs between June and July 2017 for 420 persons, including local government foreign laborer inspectors, foreign labor service center staff, and local placement center staff to enhance their professional skills and

knowledge regarding TIP crimes and the protection and placement of victims.

Establishing regional networking and cooperation mechanisms

The NIA's Southern Administration Corps built a regional anti-TIP network in southern Taiwan to better deter trafficking crimes involving foreign fishing workers hired overseas.

Regional networking

- (1) To help prevent foreign fishing workers hired overseas from changing jobs illegally in southern Taiwan, the Fisheries Agency, Marine Bureau of the Kaohsiung City government, Kaohsiung City Fishermen's Association, the NIA Border Affairs Corps, and Kaohsiung City Special Operations Brigade jointly established a coordination platform in Kaohsiung. The CGA's Pingtung Patrol Corps and Sixth Reconnaissance Brigade of the Southern Branch; and the Pingtung County government's Labor Affairs Department, Marine and Fisheries Management Institute, Police Bureau, and military police unit; and the NIA's Pingtung County Brigade launched a coordination platform in Pingtung to help protect the rights of foreign fishing workers hired overseas and keep them from illegally changing jobs.
- (2) The NIA's Border Affairs Corps held a seminar for its branches, shipping agents, and representatives of shipowners and foreign fishermen to discuss such topics as the prevention of human trafficking and the collection of IDs and other documents from mainland Chinese fishing workers.
- (3) The NIA developed contacts (windows) and maintained contact with the Taiwan Muslim Association, the Seamen's/Fishermen's Service Center of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan, the mosque at Donggang fishing port, and other areas frequented by foreign fishing workers. It is hoped that this network will help better keep track of the movement of foreign fishermen in these areas.
- (4) NIA branches regularly check the list of brokers approved to recruit foreign fishing workers overseas, and visit those in their jurisdiction on a regular basis.
- (5) The NIA continues to enhance interaction with partner agencies. It encourages the head of the CGA's Southern Coast Patrol Office and representatives of the Kaohsiung Harbor Police Department to visit local fishermen's associations, promote TIP awareness, and investigate TIP crimes involving fishing workers.



A meeting with shipping agents and representatives of shipping companies and fishermen's associations



A panel discussion on overseas Taiwanese youth seeking an education in southern Taiwan



Visiting the Donggang Fishermen's Association



A meeting with representatives of foreign missions and groups in Taiwan

Campaigns

- (1) The NIA, local governments, charity groups and/or NGOs worked together on various endeavors, such as the making of anti-TIP short films. NIA local service centers also joined forces to promote the importance of anti-TIP work.
- (2) The Police Broadcasting Service and other local radio stations helped promote anti-TIP work.
- (3) When providing immigrant counseling services and free clinics, NIA local service centers and the Border Affairs Corps also promoted anti-TIP work.
- (4) Community centers also joined forces to promote anti-TIP work.
- (5) Member schools of the NIA's strategic alliance held anti-TIP events on campus.
- (6) Electronic LED bulletin boards were used by partner military units and government agencies to fight human trafficking.
- (7) Representatives of foreign institutions and organizations in Taiwan were invited to participate in seminars and campaigns.



Joint campaign with a community college



A family education event for immigrant families



A winter event at Chiencheng fishing port gave out hand warmers, toiletries, and secondhand clothes to foreign fishing workers.



A meeting on anti-TIP policies and care for fishing workers

Implementation

The NIA promoted a special anti-TIP project regarding fishing workers in Kaohsiung and Pingtung, inviting the two local governments to discuss how to beef up efforts for the prevention and investigation/prosecution of trafficking crimes. It obtained permission from the Fisheries Agency to access the agency's database of foreign fishing workers hired overseas. It then incorporated relevant information in its inspections, so as to better verify the identity of fishing workers. Monthly meetings were also held for regular review. In 2017, a total of 17,165 foreign fishing workers were hired overseas, 1,286 persons more than in 2016, while 76 fewer foreign workers went missing compared to 2016. The percentage of missing foreign workers was 3.97 percent in 2017, and 4.77 percent in 2016. The decrease shows that the project has helped cut down the number of missing foreign fishing workers hired overseas and reduce possible instances of human trafficking.

4. Enhancing international exchange and cooperation

4.1. International exchange and activities

Mutual visits and exchanges for government officials

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 on a variety of subjects, including human trafficking. The major events of 2017 were as follows:

- (1) The NIA held the first Taiwan-Panama bilateral meeting on immigration affairs in Taiwan on January 24. It was cochaired by Ho Jung-chun, Director-General of the NIA, and Javier Leonelli Carrillo Silvestri, Head of Migration Services of Panama. The two sides came to a consensus on various issues, including the training of immigration officials, establishment of a 24-7 contact window for information sharing and cooperation on illegal immigration and human trafficking, the attendance of regional and international immigration conferences held in Taiwan and Panama by immigration officials from both sides, and a mechanism to repatriate trafficking victims to their home countries.
- (2) The third Taiwan-Vietnam bilateral meeting on immigration affairs was held in Hanoi, Vietnam, on March 16. It was cochaired by Major General Le Xuan Vien, Director of the Immigration Department of Vietnam's Ministry of Public Security,

and Ho Jung-chun, Director-General of Taiwan's NIA. Various issues were discussed, such as how to simplify Vietnam's exit procedures for Taiwan nationals who have lost their passports/visa, the possibility of more favorable visa treatment for Taiwan nationals, how to prevent Vietnamese nationals from using fraudulently obtained passports, and how to improve the reporting of smuggling cases. Vietnamese officials were also invited to take part in the 2017 Immigration Benchmark Training Program in Taiwan.

- (3) The 2017 Immigration Benchmark Training Program held from April 22 to May 1 was chaired by Ho Jung-chun, Director-General of Taiwan's NIA. Seven immigration officials from Indonesia, Mongolia, Panama, and Vietnam came to Taiwan for the week-long course to learn about the effective measures taken by the NIA in international cooperation, immigration information management, alien residency management, border control, detention systems, prevention of human trafficking, and immigrant support services.
- (4) The fifth Taiwan-Indonesia bilateral meeting on immigration affairs was held in Jakarta, Indonesia, on May 10. It was cochaired by Ronny F. Sompie, Director General of Indonesia's Directorate General of Immigration, and Ho Jung-chun, Director-General of Taiwan's NIA. The two sides exchanged ideas on how to strengthen border control and management, track down foreigners overstaying their visits or switching jobs illegally, better train immigration officers, and tackle human trafficking, smuggling, online/phone scams, terrorist activity, and other crimes.
- (5) In the 18th Taiwan-Thailand bilateral meeting on labor affairs held by the MOL on June 23, both sides agreed to work together to promote direct hiring and provide necessary information to employers to further protect the rights of foreign workers. Taiwan will also continue to work with Thailand to fight human trafficking.
- (6) Every year, the NIA, MOL, MOFA, and Tourism Bureau hold special events in conjunction with UN World Day against Trafficking in Persons on July 30. As 2017 was the 10th anniversary of the anti-TIP coordination task force, the NIA held the International Workshop on Strategies for Combating Human Trafficking from July 25 to 26. A total of 350 people attended, including government officials, ambassadors and representatives of foreign missions in Taiwan, and representatives of NGOs from 20 countries, including Australia, Armenia, Canada, EU members, the United Kingdom, the United States, Indonesia, Thailand, and other Southeast Asian countries. They discussed key issues, such as the rights of foreign fishing workers and domestic workers, prevention of forced labor, protection of one's rights on a working holiday, and enhancing the investigation and prosecution of trafficking cases. Speakers from a few tier-one countries in the US TIP Report, such as Canada and Armenia, were invited to share experiences that could be incorporated into Taiwan's future efforts to combat human trafficking.
- (7) The MOL held the seventh Taiwan-Philippines bilateral meeting on labor affairs on September 5. This ministerial-level meeting continues to help prevent foreign workers from falling victim to human trafficking, protect their employment rights in Taiwan, and enhance bilateral cooperation on fighting human trafficking.
- (8) The NIA held the Border Management Seminar on September 14. It was attended by 245 participants, including 11 immigration officers and technology firm representatives from home and abroad, as well as ambassadors and representatives of 28 foreign missions in Taiwan. Attendees exchanged ideas on a variety of issues, including border management and the latest relevant technologies, so as to build a cross-border network for future cooperation.



- (9) The MOL held the fifth Taiwan-Vietnam bilateral meeting on labor affairs on September 25. This ministerial-level meeting continues to help prevent foreign workers from falling victim to human trafficking, protect their employment rights in Taiwan, and enhance cooperation between Taiwan and Vietnam on preventing human trafficking.
- (10) The Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development held the 24th Apostleship of the Sea World Congress from September 29 to October 8. Deputy Director Michael Duthie of the Santa Marta Group, an alliance of international police chiefs and bishops from around the world working with civil society to fight human trafficking and modern day slavery, visited Taiwan to attend the event. MOFA helped make arrangements for him to call on the NPA, NIA, MOL, and other government agencies responsible for combating human trafficking, as well as on civil society groups, such as ECPAT-Taiwan, Rerum Novarum Center, and the Good Shepherd Social Welfare Foundation. He shared his experience in working with international partners to fight human trafficking and talked about possibilities for greater cooperation with Taiwan.
- (11) The seventh Taiwan-Japan bilateral meeting on immigration affairs was held in Tokyo, Japan, on December 20. It was cochaired by Seiko Sasaki, Deputy Director General of the Immigration Bureau of Japan, and Jeff J. J. Yang, Director-General of the NIA. The two sides exchanged ideas on a variety of issues, including border management and safety, and alien residency management, while reaching consensus on the establishment of a real-time reporting mechanism on high risk individuals.
- (12) Foreign guests who visited the NIA in 2017 with regard to TIP issues:

Foreign guests visiting the NIA in 2017			
	Date	Foreign guest	Topics discussed
1	Feb. 7	Suree Trairatananukool, Deputy Executive Director of the Thailand Trade and Economic Office and three other officers	Exchanging ideas on future visits to the Nantou shelter; how the NIA protects, shelters, places, and repatriates TIP victims and relevant regulations; how to enhance bilateral cooperation and uncover criminal syndicates that take advantage of Taiwan's visa-free treatment to recruit women from Thailand to engage in the sex trade in Taiwan
2	Mar. 31	Chairperson and three members of the Peace and Order Council of Makati City in the Philippines	Taiwan's policy on prevention of human trafficking and its implementation, and anti-TIP campaigns
3	Apr. 13	Professor Dina Siegel and a representative of Utrecht University and Willem Pompe Institute in the Netherlands	Taiwan's policy on prevention of human trafficking and its implementation, and anti-TIP campaigns
4	May	Liaison Officer Thorsten	Taiwan's policy on prevention of human

	15	Schleuning and an officer of the German Federal Police	trafficking and its implementation, and anti-TIP campaigns
5	May 16	Ms. Adeline Trouillet, Police Captain and Head of Strategic Analysis Unit in France, and an officer	Taiwan's policy on prevention of human trafficking and its implementation, and anti-TIP campaigns
6	Aug. 17	Ambassador Diane Haylock of Belize and a representative	Exchanging ideas on how to help Belize fight human trafficking and going through details for more cooperation after the signing of the MOU
7	Sep. 25	Michael Peyrefitte, Attorney General and Minister of Justice; Beverly Williams, Minister of Immigration and Nationality; Anthony Martinez, Minister of Human Development, Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation; Dorian Pakeman, Director of the Government Press Office; and Diane Haylock, Ambassador of Belize	Border control, prevention of human trafficking, refugee management, and possible areas of future cooperation after the signing of the MOU
8	Oct. 5	Michael Duthie, Deputy Director of the Santa Marta Group	Taiwan's policy on prevention of human trafficking and its implementation, and anti-TIP campaigns
9	Nov. 2	Freddy Rosemont, Director General of the Belgian Immigration Office	Border control, immigration management, and future cooperation in the areas of combating human trafficking and sharing of information on illegal immigrants

NGO-initiated or government funded exchanges

The Good Shepherd Social Welfare Foundation 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 2017, as follows:

Good Shepherd Social Welfare Foundation

The Good Shepherd Social Welfare Foundation is a dedicated partner of anti-TIP campaigns launched by civil society groups in the Asia-Pacific and attends meetings with international NGOs to support the enhanced cooperation and partnership. It facilitates experience exchange with other Asian countries on combating TIP crimes and protecting victims. It also shares Taiwan's achievements in combating human trafficking and ensuring the human rights of victims at international conferences and workshops.

This NGO has spent much time working with its branches in Thailand, the Philippines, and Malaysia to provide services and resources to TIP victims who have returned to their home countries. In 2013, it set in motion procedures to help Thai and Filipino TIP victims and migrant workers return home safely. It periodically checks on how they adapt to their new life.

The Good Shepherd Social Welfare Foundation's network to end human trafficking in the Asia-Pacific region:

Bangkok	Temporary housing for female victims, short term placement for pregnant women, infant daycare service and regular visits
Pattaya	Social worker introduction, job training and job placement, child daycare service
Manila	Temporary housing for male and female victims, social worker introduction, regular visits, child care and placement
Cebu	Temporary housing for female victims, long term recovery center for female victims, regular visits, social worker introduction, job training and job placement, education on TIP prevention
Mindanao	Social worker introduction, temporary housing for female victims, regular visits, education on TIP prevention
Jakarta	Temporary housing for female victims, social worker introduction, regular visits, job placement
Kuala Lumpur	Together with partnering agencies/groups provides resources and services to victims who have returned home

The Good Shepherd Social Welfare Foundation sent staff to Indonesia and Thailand in 2017 to discuss plans with the representatives of local governments and NGOs there to ensure the safety of TIP victims who have returned home. It maintains close contact with its counterparts in both countries to develop and adjust plans to better meet the needs of victims.

	
<p>Public event in conjunction with the Blue Heart campaign</p>	<p>Meeting on human trafficking prevention work in Indonesia</p>

ECPAT-Taiwan

(1) International experts and scholars were invited to join the International Conference

on Child Online Safety on June 8 to share their experiences on various issues, including online risks for children, children's rights in the digital era, online child sexual exploitation and different classifications of it, and online safety education.

- (2) ECPAT-Taiwan attended the 2017 Annual General Meeting of the International Association of Internet Hotlines from June 13 to 15 in Budapest, Hungary, to exchange ideas with the representatives of 35 member associations on the operation of internet hotlines and enhancing online safety to make sure images and videos of child sexual exploitation are removed at the earliest possible time and are not disseminated further.
- (3) ECPAT-Taiwan, ECPAT International, and Taiwan's National Chung Hsing University held the Technical Workshop and Conference: Practical Ethical Considerations for Involving Children in Research on Child Sexual Exploitation at Ambassador Hotel Taipei from September 27 to 28, 2017. International and local experts and scholars in this field, as well as workers responsible for the prevention of child sexual exploitation and sex trafficking, used this platform to address different issues and share experiences.
- (4) To better implement the newly amended Child and Youth Sexual Exploitation Prevention Act in 2017 and broaden the horizon of its frontline staff, ECPAT-Taiwan visited London with scholars, experts, and civil society representatives from November 6 to 10, 2017. There they exchanged ideas with their UK counterparts dedicated to the prevention of child and youth sexual exploitation and human trafficking.

Taipei Women's Rescue Foundation

In April 2009, the foundation started arranging for social workers to accompany suspected TIP victims to prosecutors' offices or police departments during the victim identification and interrogation process and make sure that they understand the follow-up legal procedures and available protective measures. Accompaniment services were provided on 46 occasions in 2017.

4.2. Strengthening international cooperation

By the end of 2017, Taiwan had signed memorandums of understanding on immigration affairs and prevention of human trafficking with 19 countries to enhance international cooperation and better combat human trafficking.

- (1) An MOU on immigration affairs and prevention of human trafficking was signed between Yeh Jiunn-rong, Minister of the Interior, and Billy G. Kuartei, Palau's Minister of State, on March 17, 2017.
- (2) An MOU on immigration affairs and prevention of human trafficking was signed between Yeh Jiunn-rong, Minister of the Interior, and Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, Air and Sea Port Development of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, on April 21, 2017.
- (3) The first Taiwan-Belize bilateral meeting on immigration affairs was held on September 28, cochaired by Jeff J. J. Yang, Director General of the NIA, and Beverly Williams, Belize's Minister of Immigration and Nationality, to establish platforms for cooperation on immigration affairs, including exchanges of information on human trafficking prevention and mutual visits of high-level officials. Witnessed by Diane Haylock, Ambassador of Belize, DG Yang and Minister Williams also signed

the meeting minutes.

- (4) During her trip to the Marshall Islands, President Tsai Ing-wen witnessed the signing of the Taiwan-Marshall Islands MOU on immigration affairs and prevention of human trafficking. It was signed by David Lee, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and John M. Silk, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Marshall Islands, on October 30, 2017.

5. Innovative measures

Removing the negative label on absentee Southeast Asian migrant workers

Southeast Asian migrant workers who choose to leave their work and fit the description in the Employment Service Act (“Should an employed foreign worker be unjustifiably absent from his/her work and not in contact for three consecutive days, the employer must notify in writing the local competent authority”) are usually seen as *runaway/undocumented migrant workers*. According to statistics, out of the foreign TIP victims rescued and sheltered in Taiwan, 86 percent are migrant workers. To show Taiwan’s goodwill, respect for human rights, and hope that foreign workers will not be exploited or sexually abused, the NIA proposed to change the aforementioned term to a more neutral one—*missing migrant workers*. The proposal was approved by the MOI in October 2017. The NIA will continue to encourage the public to adopt the term *missing migrant worker* to describe such cases involving Southeast Asians, showing the government’s determination to promote the principles of human rights and equality.

Improving the living conditions of foreign fishing workers

- (1) To provide foreign fishing workers hired in Taiwan decent living conditions, the MOL announced amendments to the Regulations on the Permission and Administration of the Employment of Foreign Workers; the Directions of the Employment Transfer Regulations and Employment Qualifications for Foreigners Engaging in the jobs specified in items 8 to 11, paragraph 1, Article 46 of the Employment Services Act; and the review standards for improving the living conditions of and care for foreign workers on July 6, 2017. Starting from January 1, 2018, employers hiring foreign workers to work on fishing vessels should submit a plan that specifies the steps taken to care for the workers to the competent authority of the local government.
- (2) For special cases, such as for small fishing vessels, the MOL is funding local governments to establish onshore rest facilities in major fishing ports for foreign fishing workers to be housed on land as an alternative, thereby improving the workers’ quality of life. For instance, in 2018, the Yilan County government had part of the onshore center for mainland Chinese fishing workers at Nanfangao Fishing Port refurbished as a dormitory and recreation center for all foreign fishing workers.
- (3) The Fisheries Agency funded the renovation of a building owned by the Penghu Fishermen’s Association in 2017, turning it into a recreation and rest center for foreign fishing workers that provides such amenities as Wi-Fi and prayer rooms. Such facilities will also be built in Pingtung and Suao in the future to build a more hospitable and welcoming environment for foreign workers.

Enhancing victim protection

- (1) In accordance with the Guidelines Governing Placement, Reimbursements and Collection of Past-Due/Non-Performing Loans for TIP Victims with Work Visas and Suspected TIP Victims announced on June 19, 2017, TIP victims’ underaged children

should be placed at the same shelter and the costs of placement, necessary medical services or use of child care facilities must also be covered.

- (2) Amendments to the Guidelines Governing Accompaniment of NGO Personnel Arranged by Local Governments during Questioning of Foreigners went into effect on August 11, 2017. The guidelines now stipulate that the accompaniment of interpreters or interpretation services should be made available upon request, and that subsidies for interpretation rates should be raised. In addition, the working hours and payment for of each interpretation assignment, as well as transportation expenses, should be specified in advance for the interpreter's reference.

Enhancing regional networking and cooperation

The NIA's Southern Administration Corps has combined the resources of local governments and civic groups in southern Taiwan so as to build a regional anti-TIP network and better fight the trafficking of fishing workers hired overseas. It has proposed plans on both human trafficking prevention and the investigation and prosecution of TIP crimes, including a special anti-TIP project for foreign fishing workers in Kaohsiung and Pingtung. The project has helped cut down the number of missing foreign fishing workers hired overseas in these two areas and discouraged human trafficking.

Diversifying campaigns

- (1) The Fisheries Agency promotes channels for handling grievances from foreign workers, such as by adding information on the 1955 hotline in the fixed term contract (four language versions available) between the shipowner and foreign fishing workers hired overseas. The agency also produces pamphlets in four languages that contain labor rights information, such as the minimum wage, labor insurance, rest hours, and grievance channels. Local governments, fishermen's associations and unions, brokerage firms, and human rights groups are sought to help distribute the pamphlets among foreign fishing workers hired overseas.
- (2) The CGA has assigned the Maritime Patrol Directorate General and the Coastal Patrol Directorate General to implement special plans to handle TIP cases. It continues to urge the fishing industry not to violate the HTPA when employing domestic or foreign fishing workers.
- (3) The Good Shepherd Social Welfare Foundation held 13 TIP prevention activities for 650 students at schools in 2017 to increase their awareness of how to keep from falling victim to human trafficking and child sexual exploitation, as well as how and where to seek help.



Anti-trafficking event held at Providence Girls' High School in Taipei	Anti-trafficking event held at Bausun Junior High School in Taitung
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IV. Future work

Enforcement

1. The National Police Administration 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 NPA also conducts unannounced checks on locations where TIP syndicates may be hiding or employing foreigner workers. Such inspections have been successful and show the government's determination to fight human trafficking.
2. The government endeavors to enhance cross-border law enforcement operations with other countries and territories based on agreements such as the Cross-strait Joint Crime-Fighting and Judicial Mutual Assistance Agreement, the Preventing and Combating Serious Crime 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. Such instruments aim to foster the cross-border exchanges of information, as well as criminal investigation assistance and cooperation, to combat TIP crimes.
3. Prosecutors are urged to seek out TIP crimes involving foreign fishing workers hired overseas to work on Taiwan's deep-sea fishing vessels so as to prevent such fishing vessels from engaging in human trafficking and protect the rights of victims.
4. The MOJ has drafted amendments to the Communication Security and Surveillance Act with the aim to relax regulations on surveillance and other investigative techniques employed in TIP cases.
5. Since smart phones and messaging software, such as Line, WeChat, and BeeTalk, have become extremely popular, crime syndicates have stopped using phones and other traditional communication channels that can be more readily tapped. Currently, telecommunication supervisory units in the judicial branch cannot decrypt or tap encrypted network packets, making it more difficult to uncover crimes. The MOJ has made the following suggestions:
 - (1) Regulations should be amended to enhance the competent authority's supervision of telecommunication companies and allow for requests to monitor communications. Should messaging software be used to commit crimes, telecom companies should be obligated to block the software to prevent further dissemination and use of such messages.
 - (2) Most messaging software is developed by foreign companies and both the companies and servers are located overseas. Therefore, the competent authority finds it difficult to request cooperation or companies may refuse to submit any information. Under such circumstances, the authorities may seek cooperation with companies by signing legal assistance agreements or engaging in consultations. Such agreements must be in line with international conventions on cross-border investigations, so that foreign judicial units can require local companies to monitor communications on the behalf of Taiwan's authorities.
6. The CGA has been able to encourage its first-line officers to work harder to combat

human trafficking by taking into consideration their achievements in combatting TIP in year-end evaluations.

Protection

1. To evenly distribute resources and provide placement locally, the Kaohsiung shelter, scheduled to open in 2018, will help ensure that victims have their daily needs met and receive a variety of services, such as free shelter, psychological counseling, interpretation access, legal aid, accompaniment at investigation interviews, and medical assistance during their stay. The shelter will be run by an NGO to provide better placement for TIP victims.
2. 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, as well as their willingness to testify in court.
3. Judicial police and shelter staff are required to inform victims of Taiwan's judicial proceedings, and keep them abreast of the progress of their case. This helps increase their willingness to remain in Taiwan and testify in court.
4. The NIA and the MOL continue to team up with NGOs to improve services at shelters responsible for victim safety assessment and protection, and provide a wide range of services, including individual counseling, accompaniment to court and medical appointments, legal aid, interpretation, language and skills education, and provision of information on welfare resources. These services help victims recover from both physical and psychological trauma and enable them to make future career plans. By working with partnering employers, shelters help residents eager to work find a job either outside or in the shelters. This is an important step for victims trying to rebuild their lives.
5. Prosecutors in charge of TIP cases should inform TIP victims of how their assistance with the investigation can make a big difference so that they will report what happened and can obtain help.
6. The MOJ continues to work with MOFA on the possibility of interviewing victims through teleconferencing with the aim to strike a balance between a victim's right to return home and right to confront defendants in court.
7. To keep TIP victims abreast of the progress of their case, minimize their anxiety during legal proceedings, and protect their basic human rights, the MOJ is formulating measures for related agencies to extend the stay of victims, locate job opportunities for them, or repatriate them.

Prevention

1. Amending the Human Trafficking Prevention and Control Act
To further protect TIP victims' rights; strengthen the training of law enforcement personnel and prosecutors; and bring the HTPA in line with the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, the NIA is drafting amendments to the HTPA.

2. Enhancing awareness campaigns and training on prevention

- (1) A wide range of media campaigns will be set in motion in 2018 and civic organizations will be enlisted to help educate the general public and foreigners in Taiwan about TIP issues, relevant laws, and victim protection services. Specific campaigns will also be launched for specific target groups: for employers and foreign laborers on regulations and rights; for tourism and entertainment industry personnel and the general public on the importance of ending sexual exploitation (including online child pornography and child sex tourism); for shipowners on the provision of safe working and living environments to foreign fishing workers and prevention of their exploitation.
- (2) On-the-job training in actual cases for front-line personnel and professional workers in related fields will continue in 2018. Case studies and proficiency and sensitivity enhancement classes will also be incorporated into training for new law enforcement personnel.
- (3) Given the challenges in investigating TIP cases, such as the complicated background of each case, difficulties with victim identification or information inconsistencies, it is hard to collect evidence. The MOJ will continue to organize training courses on TIP cases for prosecutors and related personnel. For instance, it will hold an anti-TIP workshop in December 2018 to heighten the knowledge of prosecutors investigating related crimes.
- (4) The NPA requests local police departments to promote awareness of TIP regulations and show anti-TIP videos at community security seminars to enlist their aid in combating TIP. It also continued to require them to hold campaigns on self-protection and crime prevention for women and children.
- (5) The Service Center for Family and Women (SCFW) under the Council of Indigenous Peoples and local aboriginal affairs departments continue to organize lectures and campaigns to increase anti-TIP awareness among indigenous people. Special taskforces of the SCFW in five different regions also incorporated anti-TIP topics in its seminars and supervisory meetings.
- (6) The Financial Supervisory Commission continues to incorporate the prevention of human trafficking issues in training programs for personnel in banking, securities/futures, insurance, and other industries under its jurisdiction.
- (7) Topics regarding gender equity, human rights, and the rule of law have been incorporated into the curriculum of primary and secondary schools to help raise student awareness of how to stop human trafficking. School meetings hosted by the principal or senior school officials can be used to discuss such topics as the prevention of child and youth sexual exploitation so as to strengthen their counseling of students, join the efforts to combat child and youth sexual exploitation, and prevent human trafficking.

3. Rectifying problems to improve the foreign worker regime

- (1) Promoting direct hiring: Several convenient tools, such as an app for employing foreign laborers and an online platform for managing foreign laborers in Taiwan, have been launched to encourage employers to utilize the direct hiring system. Employers will also receive phone calls to remind them to complete certain steps, as needed. The MOL continues to work with source countries to simplify the online platform and streamline required paperwork to find better qualified candidates and speed up the hiring process.

- (2) Increasing punishments for illegal brokerage activities: The MOL is amending the Employment Service Act to further deter illegal brokerage activities, such as by increasing the fine for violating Article 45 to between NT\$300,000 (US\$10,000) and NT\$1.5 million (US\$50,000). Brokers who commit the same violation again within five years could face a jail term of up to five years, probation, or a fine of up to NT\$2.4 million (US\$80,000). Punishment will be based on the number of persons involved instead of the number of cases in order to curb illegal brokerage activities.
- (3) Fostering communication with source countries: The MOL will continue to urge labor source countries to review standards for brokerage fees and ensure that brokerage firms abide by the rules to prevent foreign laborers from being exploited and charged excessive fees.
- (4) Regulating domestic (in-home) workers' employment: The MOL will continue to discuss how to implement feasible regulations under the Long-Term Care Services Act and build up public consensus step by step so as to better safeguard domestic workers' rights.
- (5) Safeguarding the rights of foreign fishing workers: The COA will continue to encourage Taiwanese fishing workers to feel empathy toward foreign fishing workers and take into consideration cultural differences. It will review the evidence of all suspect labor exploitation or human trafficking cases and transfer credible cases to the appropriate prosecutor's office for further investigation in accordance with related procedures so as to root out such illegal activity.

4. Strengthening protections for victims of child and youth sexual exploitation

- (1) The MOHW requests local governments to provide assistance to child exploitation victims and keep track of them so as to better protect them. Social workers are to provide comprehensive protection services, such as through family functioning assessments, parenting classes, psychological counseling, psychiatric therapy, and addiction treatment, as well as other child welfare services.
- (2) The MOHW continues to hold consultative meetings with relevant agencies on the prevention of child and youth sexual exploitation and publicizes the results of educational campaigns, rescue/protection services, prosecution of criminals, victim placement, and other services.

International exchanges and cooperation

- 1. Organizing international workshops: The NIA will continue to host international workshops, inviting representatives from the public sector and NGOs of major countries. The workshops will cover case studies and practical issues with respect to victim identification and protection measures. Judges, prosecutors, judicial police officers, officials, NGO representatives and other experts will also be invited to exchange views on these issues.
- 2. Facilitating cooperation in cross-border investigations: The MOJ (Investigation Bureau), MOI (NPA, NIA), and Taiwan's diplomatic missions will continue to foster law enforcement assistance, such as the exchange of information on crimes, for the investigation of cross-border TIP crimes, even if Taiwan has yet to sign legal assistance MOUs or agreements with the countries involved.
- 3. The Cross-strait Joint Crime-Fighting and Judicial Mutual Assistance Agreement lists human trafficking as a major crime of mutual concern. Therefore, the MOJ will

work with mainland China's Ministry of Public Security to create a mechanism for investigation assistance and evidence collection to combat human trafficking. It will also continue to work closely with countries that have signed mutual legal assistance agreements with Taiwan on cross-border TIP cases.

4. Pursuing bilateral immigration agreements: Taiwan continues to reinforce partnerships with other countries to weave a seamless anti-TIP network for the exchange of related information and cooperation on fighting cross-border TIP crimes.
5. The NIA will continue to improve the professional knowledge of Taiwan's immigration officials through exchanges with countries with which it has signed MOUs on mutual law enforcement assistance and prevention of human trafficking.
6. MOFA will continue to incorporate mechanisms to end the exploitation of migrant workers by signing agreements or MOUs on labor affairs with other countries, thereby enhancing cooperation with the international community to fight human trafficking and raising Taiwan's profile in the world.

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. Thanks to its painstaking efforts, Taiwan has been rated a Tier 1 country in the US State Department's TIP report for eight consecutive years. Nevertheless, due to the different pace of economic development in Asia-Pacific countries and the ever-widening wealth gap, human trafficking has remained a 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 its utmost to prevent such crimes. For instance, it will continue to raise public awareness, increase protections for victims, and enhance the investigation, indictment, and conviction of human traffickers. The Republic of China (Taiwan) will continue to deepen international cooperation to keep Taiwan a tier-one country and make it an indispensable partner in related international initiatives.