

**Trafficking in Persons in the  
Greater Mekong Sub-Region:  
Focusing on the Roles of  
Shelter for  
Women and Children**

**SEMINAR REPORT**  
prepared by

*Japan International  
Cooperation Agency (JICA)  
Regional Support Office for  
Asia (RAS)*

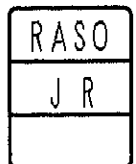


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March 2007





**Trafficking in Persons in the Greater Mekong Sub-  
Region (GMS) : Focusing on the Roles of Shelter for  
Women and Children**

**Seminar Report  
7-9 March 2007  
Bangkok, Thailand**

**Japan International Cooperation Agency  
Regional Support Office for Asia (RAS)  
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Bangkok, Thailand**

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## **Forward**

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has been concerned with trafficking in persons (TIP) in the ASEAN region as a part of promoting regional cooperation on cross border development issues from the perspective of human security. In this connection, the JICA Regional Support Office for Asia (JICA/RAS), established in Thailand in October 2004 in order to promote project/program identification and formulation as well as aid coordination for Asia, has been undertaking a study on trafficking in persons in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) since 2005.

In this connection, we have sent fact finding missions on TIP to Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Viet Nam since January 2006 as well as actively participated in TIP seminars and workshops organized by such agencies as Association for Women in Development (AWID), Thailand National Commission on Human Rights, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), UNESCO, USAID/Vital Voices, IOM, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and National Women's Education Center (NWEC). We were also invited to the ASEAN Senior Officers Meeting on Social Welfare and Development held in Mandalay, Myanmar, in December 2006 to exchange views on how to deal with the social delivery issues concerned with TIP, with special reference to women and children.

Based upon the information collected through the fact finding missions, we organized a Seminar on Trafficking in Persons in the GMS Focusing on the Roles of Shelters for Women and Children in Bangkok from 7-9 March 2007, from the perspective of improving social delivery services and women's empowerment. We are well aware that a lot has been already done to deal with TIP in the region by such organizations as AusAID, IOM, ILO, UNIAP, UNIFEM, UNESCO and USAID at the macro policy as well as grass-roots levels. Many Government agencies as well as NGOs have been dedicated to tackle the TIP issues as well: to name a few, AFESIP, Asia Foundation, Cambodian Women's Crisis Center, Foundation for Women, Save the Children, World Vision, etc. However, we found that the social support system for victims, especially women and children, have not been sufficient for them to be well protected, re-integrated and fully empowered. We also felt obliged to deal with this issue in Japan, which has been one of the largest destination countries for trafficked women and children in Asia.

We are thankful for all the governments, NGOs and international agencies who participated in the Seminar to review the major issues and share with us successful practices on TIP in the GMS. Based upon the findings of the Seminar, we are hoping to initiate effective regional cooperation programs with partner countries in the GMS in the coming years.

**Katsuji ONODA**  
**Resident Representative**  
**Regional Support Office for Asia**  
**JICA Thailand Office**



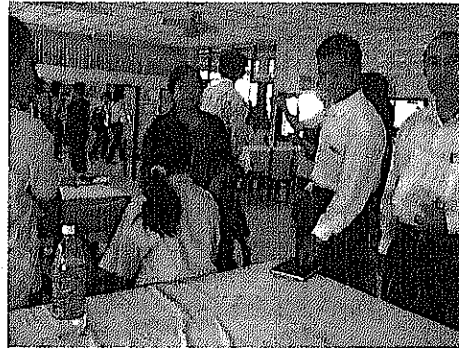
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**Pictures**  
**7 March 07**

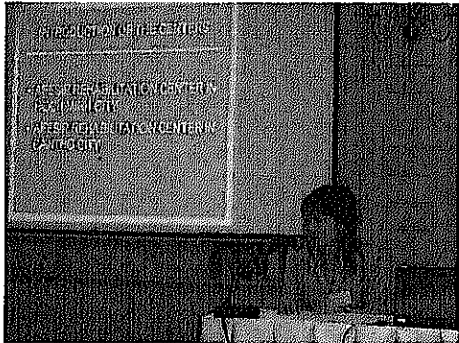


**Site Visit to Kredtrakarn Protection and Occupational Development Centre**

**8 March 07**



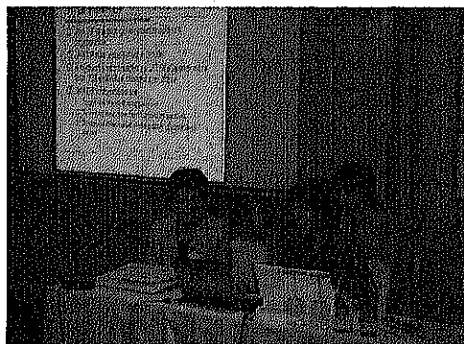
**Country Presentation, Cambodia**



**Country Presentation, Vietnam**



**Country Presentation, Myanmar**



**Country Presentation, Japan**



**Country Presentation, Lao PDR**

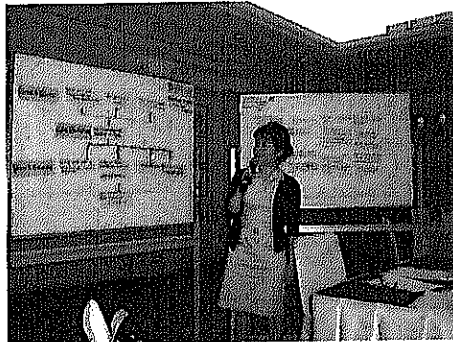
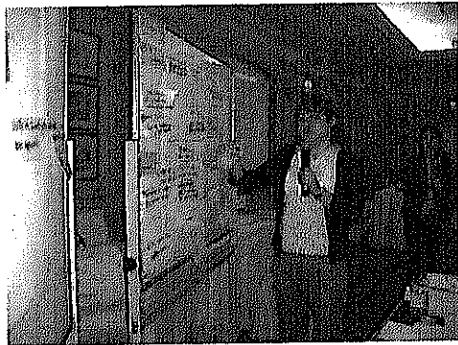


**Country Presentation, Thailand**

9 March 07



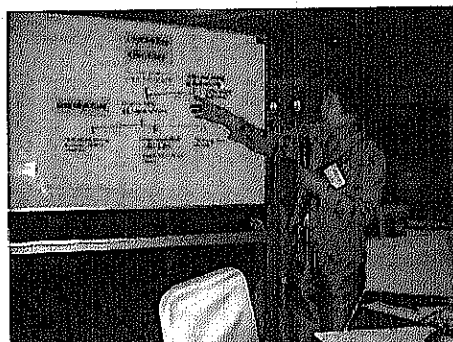
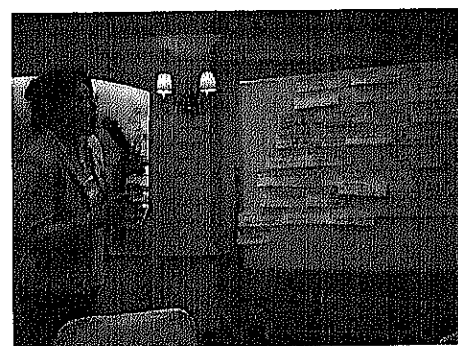
Working on Problem Analysis



Presentation of the Problem Analysis



Working on Objective Analysis



Presentation of the Objective Analysis

## Abbreviations and acronyms

TIP	Trafficking in Persons
AFESIP	Agir pour les Femmes en Situation Precaire
AIT	Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand
AWID	Association for Women in Development
CCPCR	Cambodian Center for the Protection of Children's Rights
CWCC	Cambodian Women's Crisis Center
CWD	Center for Women and Development, Vietnam
DEPDC	Development and Education Program for Daughters and Communities, Thailand
DSW	Department of Social Welfare, Vietnam
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
GMS	Greater Mekong Sub-region
HCC	Healthcare Center for Children, Cambodia
HELP	House in Emergency of Love and Peace, Japan
HIV/AIDS	Human immunodeficiency virus/ Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
JICA/RAS	JICA Regional Support Office for Asia
JNATIP	Japan Network against TIP
MLSW	Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Lao PDR
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRICRH	Mekong Regional Indigenous Child Rights Home, Thailand
LPTU	Lao Anti-People Trafficking Unit, Lao PDR
LWU	Lao Women's Union
MNCWA	Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs
MNWCWA	Myanmar National Working Committee for Women's Affairs
MoLISA	Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, Vietnam
MSWRR	Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
MWAF	Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NWEC	National Women's Education Center, Japan
PCM	Project Cycle Management
PDM	Project Design Matrix
PWCTIP	Preventive Working Committee for Trafficking in Persons
SKK	Child Protection Services Center, Cambodia
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
USAID	US Agency for International Development
UNIAP	UN Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-region
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
VWU	Vietnam Women's Union
VTW	Vocational Training Centers for Women, Vietnam



## **(1) Summary Outcomes of the Seminar**

Seminar on Trafficking in Persons in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region (GMS), Focusing on the Roles of Shelter for Women and Children was organized by the Regional Support Office for Asia (RAS), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), in Bangkok from 7-9 March, 2007. Please see Annex 1 for the Seminar Program.

In total, twenty-one representatives, both from governments and NGOs, from Cambodia, Lao, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam participated in the Seminar. Three resource persons from Japan and observers from international organizations, NGOs, Embassy of Japan in Thailand, academic institutions and governmental organizations in Thailand, also participated in the Seminar. Please see Annex 2 for the List of Participants.

The main objectives of the Seminar were as follows:

- a. To review the major achievements and good practices for the social protection and re-integration of the victims of human trafficking in GMS countries
- b. To provide opportunities to officers and staff concerned with the management of the shelters to exchange information, share experiences, and develop regional networks among shelters, and
- c. To formulate regional cooperation programs to be supported by RAS/JICA and other concerned agencies in the region.

The Seminar had a series of presentations, discussions and participatory workshops for two and half days. Major outcomes of the Seminar were as follows:

### 1) Review of the achievements and good practices

Achievements and good practices for the social protection, re-integration and empowerment of the victims of trafficking in persons were shared among the participants, not only through presentations by country, but also through the participatory workshops organized on the third day. Individual experiences of resource persons, government officers and NGOs, as well as useful know-how and lessons were shared among the participants.

### 2) Networking among shelters and information sharing

Through interactions during the site visit to Kredtrakarn Protection and Occupational Development Centre, and the two days presentations and discussions, the participants developed networking among themselves. The participants shared the difficulties in conducting protection and reintegration activities in each country. The group discussions also served as a platform to examine the ways to solve specific problems in cooperation with relevant persons from other countries. Networking for future cooperation among the participants is expected to be further evolved.

### 3) Gained a tool to formulate future action plans

The method of Project Cycle Management (PCM) was introduced to the Seminar with five discussion topics. The core problems of each topic were analyzed with their causes and effects. After Problem Trees were created, the participants transformed them into the Objective Trees. The participants saw the virtual linkages of causes and effects, as well as the means and ends, through the application of the simple PCM methods. The participants learned about "logical thinking" of the PCM through the participatory processes. However, due to time constraints, the participants were not able to formulate their action plans and Project Design Matrix (PDM). However, they learned about the basic PCM methods which could be well applied to problem analysis and planning in their own countries in the future.

The RAS/JICA, distributed a seminar evaluation form to the participants, resource persons and observers at the end of the Seminar. Of the 50 participants, 27 completed and returned the Form. The result of the evaluation is separately available.

## **(2) Summary of the Seminar**

### **2-1. Site Visit to the Government Shelter**

The participants and resource persons visited the Kredtrakarn Protection and Occupational Development Centre, which is a government shelter for women and girls who are victims of trafficking, family violence and other problems, on 7 March 2007. The Center provides not only protection but also skill development opportunities for the victims from Thailand and other GMS countries. Ms. Jarinporn Intuvisangul, Deputy Director, explained the main purposes, functions and issues they were concerned with by showing the video and power-point presentations. Then, the participants visited different training rooms and facilities in the Center, talked with the girls from their own countries and learned about various procedures and problems concerned with sending them back to home countries.

### **2-2. Seminar on 8 March 2007**

#### **Session 1: Opening Session (9:00 – 10:00 hours)**

1. Mr. Katsuji Onoda, Resident Representative of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Regional Support Office for Asia (RAS) and Thailand Office, welcomed all the participants and made an opening remark. He said that trafficking in persons was a modern form of slavery which affected the lives of human beings both physically and mentally. The government of Japan has been raising awareness about the issue of TIP in Japan and taking strenuous efforts to combat TIP not only in Japan but also in developing countries through supporting the UN Trust Fund for Human Security and other measures. (See Annex 3)

2. Ms. Chanthol Oung, Executive Director of Cambodian Women's Crisis Centre (CWCC) delivered the key note address on *the Roles of Drop-in Shelter and Confidential Crisis Centre for Social Protection and Reintegration of Trafficked Women and Children in Cambodia*. She introduced Cambodia's experience of successful collaboration between government and NGOs in running two forms of shelters, i.e., drop-in shelters and confidential centers, which were effective in terms of providing security to victims and preparing them for reintegration and repatriation. She referred to the practices of "good case management", which was necessary to lessen trauma of the victims by providing a one-time interview by intake staff, counselor, lawyer, and reintegration staff, or a so-called one-stop-service. She also mentioned that the success of reintegration depended on effectiveness of healing and skills development of the victims in the shelter. The shelter should also respect freedom of movement of residents, and should not act as a study visit place by outsiders to avoid uncomfortable feelings of residents. The Seminar learned not only good practices, but also obstacles being faced by the shelters in Cambodia such as raids, less financial support for shelters' activities, lack of support for economic empowerment of residents, difficulties in family tracing, and etc. Ms.Chanthol finally stressed that good mental and physical health, justice, and economic empowerment would be of the utmost importance for survivors of trafficking, and successful recovery would lead into successful reintegration. (See Annex 4)

**Session 2: Presentations on Good Practices and Major Issues on TIP by country group (10:20 – 12:15)**

3. Ms. Yumiko Tanaka, Senior Regional Advisor on Monitoring & Evaluation/ Gender and Ms. Arphatchanee Hongswadhi, Special Coordinator for Asia-Africa Cooperation of JICA/ Regional Support Office for Asia (RAS), presented *the Interim Report on the Fact Finding Missions on Trafficking in Persons in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region*. The main purposes of the mission were to find out the prevailing problems concerned with TIP and the effective measures taken by the governments, NGOs and UN agencies concerned. The data and information collected would be input to the regional project formulation on TIP to be undertaken in May-June 2007 by a consultant team. The mission went to 4 GMS countries, mainly to border areas and areas with high-risk groups. Other missions would be sent to Myanmar and China. The Interim Report was presented by country, including such contents as present situations and major issues on TIP, measures for anti-TIP, legal frameworks, national policies and action plans, National Focal Point and national mechanism, and social delivery policies and programs. Ms. Tanaka hoped to find through the Seminar good practices on empowerment of returnees from the perspective of human rights, civil rights, gender equality, partnership among governments and NGOs, regional cooperation, etc. (See Annex 5-1)

**Cambodia**

4. H.E Mrs. You Ay, Secretary of State, Ministry of Women's Affairs, Cambodia presented and shared *Cambodia's Experiences on the Perspectives on Human Trafficking*. She provided information on the situation of trafficking, forms of trafficking, and causes of trafficking in Cambodia, including legal measures taken by the Cambodian government. She highlighted the government's efforts on the fight against human trafficking through the establishment of a unique National Mechanism to implement bilateral/multilateral MOU/agreement. Obstacles being faced, such as lack of knowledge and skills about the law, lack of law enforcement, and lack of human resources, lack of shelters, lack of database, and etc. were presented. She emphasized the importance of providing economic support and skill training to the victims. She urged the development of a standard database, the increase of shelters with minimum standard, and changes in education and information dissemination strategies by focusing more on safe migration. Further, promoting police-prosecutor-judge cooperation, strengthening their use of forensic evidence, improving their cooperation with victims and NGOs, and not treating victims as criminals were mentioned as issues to be dealt with. (See Annex 5-2)

5. Mr. Chhoeurth Sao, Technical Coordinator/Deputy Executive Director of AFESIP, Cambodia, presented a paper on *the Roles of Shelters for Women and Children in Cambodia*. A clear picture of the types of services and supports provided by both governmental centers; i.e. Transit center, and Child Protection Services (SKK) center, and NGOs centers of AFESIP, CWCC, CCPCR, HCC, etc, was presented to the participants. He concluded that though Cambodia has made some progress on combating TIP in these past few years, more actions are needed on promoting gender equality approach, strengthening of law enforcement, executing related laws and agreements among relevant countries, facilitating several processes for repatriation, providing alternatives for skill trainings, providing adequate information of cross-border cases, and establishing more centers along the country borders. (See Annex 5-3)



## Vietnam

6. Ms. Luu Thi Hien, an expert from Department of Social Evils Prevention, Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MoLISA), presented a paper on *the Policies on Anti-human Trafficking in Vietnam*. She introduced an overview of the human trafficking situation, legal systems, national action plans, and economic/social programs, such as vocational training, job creation and poverty alleviation. She also highlighted some projects being executed under the National Plan to Combat Trafficking in Women and Children (2004 -2010). She clarified the different roles of agencies which received and supported victims upon their return to countries in accordance with the Regulation of Trafficked Victims Reception and Support 2007. The challenges in Vietnam in protection and reintegration of victims would be the reluctance of victims themselves in requesting for assistance, as well as a lack of human and financial resources for the effective implementation of the National Action Plan. (See Annex 5-4)

7. Ms. Nguyen Thi Ninh, Head of the Personnel Department, Vietnam Women's Union (VWU), presented the organizational outline of VWU and its functions with focus on its role to formulate an action plan on anti-trafficking on women and children with propaganda activities. The action plan included such activities as drafting training documents for trainers and propagandists, issuing brochures and newsletters, and launching anti-trafficking campaigns. The VWU also assisted victims to be reintegrated into society, provided with financial support, job placement and training, and organized community assistance groups to prevent TIP. The Center for Women and Development (CWD) was recently established as a model shelter for providing services for trafficking victims. The CWC will provide long-term support for the reintegration of women and children in the northern areas of Vietnam for 18 months with a capacity of 20 residents. Vocational training, medical and psychological support, legal and administrative support, informal education, group therapy and life skills training, and follow-up for former residents for 2 years, will be provided as well. She referred to the difficulties of supporting victims since trafficking was a sensitive issue in Vietnam and defining who the victims were was rather difficult. Besides, the shelter lacks specialists and well-trained social workers since it was a new concept in Viet Nam. (See Annex 5-5)

8. Ms. Pham Thi Thuy Linh, Programme Assistant, AFESIP Vietnam, presented *Cooperation Model of Social Reintegration Supporting for Women and Children Victims of Sexual Abuse and Human Trafficking in Rehabilitation Centers in Hochiminh City and Can Tho City in Vietnam*. She introduced activities of shelters, one in Ho Chi Minh City and the other in Can Tho City. The former is being run by AFESIP in cooperation with Women's Union of Ho Chi Minh City under the project titled "Supporting Rehabilitation and Reintegration for Women and Children Victims of Human Trafficking and Sexual Slavery" since December 2002. The latter was opened in May 2005 with cooperation from the National Women Union as a regional center receiving victims from all provinces in the Mekong Delta. She also introduced AFESIP's activities on outreach to at-risk groups and rehabilitation of victims. The rehabilitation and reintegration processes were highlighted with specific cases. The four-year experience of the shelter gave lessons learned to AFESIP on the necessity of integrated approaches to include social services, stable job creation with follow-up services, and alleviating community discrimination against the victims. (See Annex 5-6)

Lunch (12:15 – 13:15 hours)

**Session 3: Continuation of Country Presentation / Video Presentation  
(13:15 – 15:40 hours)**

**Myanmar**

9. Mr. Aung Thu Khaing, Deputy Director General, Department of Social Welfare, Myanmar, expressed his appreciation of the attendees' presence at the Seminar and addressed the importance of tackling trafficking in persons. After that, Mr. Thien Naing, Deputy Director presented *Myanmar Activities on Combating Trafficking in Persons*. He introduced the Department of Social Welfare (DSW), Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, as the responsible organization for repatriation, rehabilitation, reintegration, and aftercare services, under Myanmar National Plan of Action for Anti-Trafficking in Persons. Repatriation processes with temporary care at Vocational Training Centers for Women (VTW) under the Department of Social Welfare were introduced to the Seminar with highlights on recreation programme and awareness-raising for preventing HIV/AIDS and re-trafficking, which were provided during the stay in the training centers. The victims will be handed over to their parents through the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation (MWAFF) at the State/Division, District, and Township levels. The MWAFF provided aftercare services and income generation programs to the victims in collaboration with international agencies and NGOs. He underlined that the VTW under the DSW took care of the victims; however, they faced difficulties in providing them with proper accommodation, meals and clothes. Future plans on anti-trafficking would be as follows: 1) collaboration and implementation of the programs to emerge from the repatriation guidelines in the GMS, 2) recruitment of volunteers for conducting follow-up programs, 3) establishment of separate building for the trafficking victims at Yangon, 4) upgrading of the VTW at Kyaing-tone, and 5) establishment of half-way houses in Myawaddi, Kawthaung and Muse to urgently provide cares for victims. (See Annex 5-7)

10. Mr. Zaw Zaw Oo, Police Captain of Myanmar Police Force presented *Myanmar's Efforts on Anti- trafficking in Persons*. He outlined the trafficking situations and nature of trafficking in Myanmar and pointed out major steps taken by the government of Myanmar towards anti-TIP. Some agencies dealing with anti-trafficking were Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs (MNCWA), Myanmar National Working Committee for Women's Affairs (MNWCWA), and Preventive Working Committee for Trafficking in Person (PWCTIP). The Receiving Center had accommodated 21,089 victims since its opening on 18 February 2002. He outlined Myanmar's efforts on legal promulgation on Anti-trafficking and international cooperation to enhance combating TIP carried out in Myanmar. (See Annex 5-8)

11. Ms. Yumiko Tanaka asked for comments from the floor and since there were none, the session was adjourned.

**Video Presentation**

12. A 30-minute video film on trafficking in persons in Japan was screened on. The video introduced the organized crime on trafficking in Japan and showed the problems of Thai and Columbian women who were trafficked to Japan and forced into prostitution. The problems of missing girls and children in Thailand traced by Thai NGO were also reported. Some girls were believed to be trafficked to Japan. The activities of Asian Women's Shelter HELP, a Japanese NGO providing a shelter to the victims before their repatriation to the origin countries, were also introduced. It was established in 1986 to provide emergency shelter to women

and children. It was reported at the end of the film that the government of Japan admitted trafficking in persons as an issue needed to be urgently tackled with integrated approaches under international collaboration.

## Japan

13. Ms. Keiko Otsu, Former Director of HELP and Representative of Japan Network against TIP (JNATIP), made a presentation on *Violence Toward Women: Circumstances of trafficking survivors at HELP*. She highlighted the "fake debts" of victims which sometimes amounted to over 6 million yen in Japan, threats to the life of victims and their families in the origin countries, and emotional and physical abuse with forced prostitution. She explained the terrible mental conditions of survivors when they arrived at HELP, such that they got confused and mistook the shelter as another brothel to which they had been resold. She also reported that the survivors were discriminated after going back to the origin countries by being affected by HIV/AIDS in some cases. Based on her experiences, she proposed some specific countermeasures to be taken by the Japanese government on TIP as follows: 1) ensuring safety and security of women victims so that they can act as witnesses to arrest brokers, 2) providing counseling in their native languages, 3) establishing more shelters and step houses in Japan, 4) cooperating with private NGO shelters, 5) providing victims with a means to claim unpaid wages, 6) covering of the cost of repatriation by the government, 7) providing social education to Japanese men, and 8) providing children with human rights education, with specific focus on TIP. She posed a question whether the recent decrease of the number of women who came to HELP and governmental women's consultation centers really meant the decrease of victims in Japanese society. (See Annex 5-9)

14. Ms. Yuriko Saito, a Representative of Japan Network Against TIP (JNATIP) and lecturer of Keisen University, made a presentation on *the Situation of Supporting TIP Victims after Action Plan Combating TIP in Japan*. She highlighted the importance of establishment of JNATIP in 2003 by NGOs and individuals concerned with TIP in Japan, its activities and measures taken for supporting TIP victims. Major activities of JNATIP were conducting research on TIP, lobbying for comprehensive laws against TIP and promoting a campaign to raise public awareness on the problems of TIP. The researchers interviewed 17 government and 10 NGO shelters in Japan and made a study visit to Thailand. They found that TIP victims protected in the shelters in Japan were multi-national. The largest numbers were those from Thailand, the Philippines and Indonesia. Due to changes in the law, after 2005 lengths of stay of victims in the shelters got shorter. She emphasized the need for improvements of the quality of services in the government shelters. (See Annex 5-10)

15. Ms. Miho Watanabe, a researcher of the National Women's Education Centre (NVEC), Japan, presented *the Interim Study Report on Research on Prevention, Education, and Awareness-Raising of Trafficking*. The research aimed at raising awareness among Japanese on women's rights, supporting empowerment of TIP survivors, analyzing demand side problems on TIP in Japan and proposing international cooperation measures against TIP. The surveys were conducted on the behavior and ways of thinking of Japanese men and women, and returned victims in Thailand and the Philippines. The interim report would be finalized by May-June 2007. She also presented the contents of the trainings on awareness-raising on TIP and gender equality conducted by the NVEC. She stressed the need for the Japanese society to strengthen strategic information collection, develop networks among various stakeholders in Asia, and

undertake targeted training and awareness-raising programs to prevent TIP and created strong safety net for victims. (See Annex 5-11)

16. Mr. Hiromoto Oyama, First Secretary, Embassy of Japan in Thailand, informed the meeting that the government of Japan formed an Inter-Ministerial Task Force on Anti-Trafficking at the Cabinet Office in Japan in April 2004 and formulated a National Action Plan accordingly. They have made strenuous efforts to tackle the problems of TIP in Japan together with civil societies and NGOs. They revised the laws so that they could catch the brokers and traffickers in Japan. They also supported the establishment of shelters and training centers in Thailand, Laos and other countries with the Japanese Grassroots Grant Scheme. A Task Force on TIP was established between Thailand and Japan in 2006 as well to strengthen collaboration on the prevention of organized crimes on TIP. He showed a brochure distributed at airports in Japan, which included contact phone numbers for emergency in different languages. He further said that the general public's support was very crucial in order to reduce TIP crimes in Japan.

Coffee Break (15:40 – 16:00)

#### **Session 4: Continuation of Country Presentation (16:00 – 17:30 hours)**

##### **Lao PDR**

17. Mr Prasith Phommatheth, Acting Director General, Social Welfare Department, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MLSW), presented a paper on Lao Country Overview on Human Trafficking. He reported existing policy frameworks both at the national and regional levels, and mentioned that the protection and prevention programmes were extensively implemented in the country. The Lao Anti-People Trafficking Unit (LAPTU) was established in the Department of Immigration in 2005 to develop a system to record the numbers and outcomes of arrests and prosecutions on TIP. Since 2001, 807 trafficking victims have officially returned from Thailand. He highlighted the country's participation in many regional and international forums and agreements made on combating TIP. He urged that TIP be an inter-agency and cross border issues, to which cooperation and coordination among relevant persons working to combat trafficking would be essential. (See Annex 5-12)

18. Mrs. Keomany Soudthichak, Director of shelter AFESIP, presented a power point on *AFESIP in the Lao PDR Project*. She mentioned that AFESIP's Women and Girl Children Centre was established in Vientiane in October 2006 with an accommodation capacity up to 20 persons. The main aims were to rehabilitate and develop the physical and psychological health of women and girls victims of internal and external trafficking for sexual exploitation and to reintegrate them into society in a sustainable manner. She stressed that there were needs for additional funds and skill development of the Centre staff in order to give support to the victims and also for long term sustainability of the Centre. They have 9 staff in total. (See Annex 5-13)

19. Represented for Ms.Thoummaly Vongphachanh, Director General, Ms. Bounleua Chanthaphomma, Technical Staff, Counseling and Protection Centre for Women and Children, Lao Women's Union (LWU), made a brief presentation on LWU organization structure and the roles and functions of the Centre. They highlighted that the Centre provided a wide range of counseling services on legal, psychological and healthcare services. The LWU also had a plan to extend counseling services in the whole country, initially to five target provinces, namely Oudomsay, Vientiane Province, Vientiane Capital City, Savannkhet and Champasack. They further addressed future challenges such as raising

community awareness on needs for counseling and protection of women victims of trafficking and domestic violence, disseminating knowledge and information about the law on TIP and domestic violence, mobilizing funds for anti-trafficking activities, and etc. (See Annex 5-14)

## Thailand

20. Ms. Yanee Lertkrai, Director of the Bureau of Anti-Trafficking in Women and Children, presented a power point on *Policies and Measures of the Thai government on Trafficking in Persons and Shelters*. She mentioned that Thailand had adopted a policy on combating trafficking as a national agenda on 6 August 2004, and initiated a six-year plan on "National Policy and Plan on Prevention, Suppression, and Combating Domestic and Transnational Trafficking in Women and Children". One of the Policy highlights was the establishment of a 500 million baht fund by the government to support anti-trafficking projects, activities and plans, and rehabilitation and reintegration. She further outlined Thailand's initiatives on domestic and international MOUs. She reported: 1) prevention measures through campaigns and education/training funds, 2) legislative measures with several laws and acts enacted, 3) protection measures through 7 major shelters and 96 emergency welfare homes over the country, 4) repatriation and reintegration measures with principles of safety of returnees and continued aftercare services, and 5) international cooperation. (See Annex 5-15)

21. Mrs. Ladda Benjatachah, Director of Kredtrakarn Protection and Occupational Development Centre, gave an overview presentation on the Centre. She gave a detailed background of the Centre, established in 1960. Based upon the 1996 law, victims became treated not as criminals but victims of trafficking. She provided information on rescue and protection steps with deliberate care given by well-practiced social workers of the Centre. She also reported the number of victims staying in the Centre by country, with the majority of girls from Laos, Myanmar and Thailand. (See Annex 5-16)

22. Ms. Amy Braun, International Funding Coordinator of Development and Education Program for Daughters and Communities (DEPDC), a representative of Ms. Alinda, Executive Director of DEPDC, presented a paper on *Mekong Regional Indigenous Child Rights Home (MRICRH) Project* in Chaing Rai. The Project provided shelters for children along the border. The Project provided not only vocational/skills training, but also cultural activities and sports for recreation, and meditation and yoga for peaceful mind and body. She highlighted rehabilitation and reintegration activities provided by the Project by pointing out the deliberate care needed in reconciling with communities. She further reported the challenges of the Project such as the process to identify victims in order that they are not re-victimized, methods to prevent re-trafficking under vulnerable situations faced by returnees, and the existence of a negative social stigma towards victims. Finally, she underlined the needs for more cross-border cooperation in law enforcement, case follow-up, safety assessment, and tackling with organized crime in origin, transit and destination countries. (See Annex 5-17)

23. Ms. Yumiko Tanaka concluded the session by thanking all the country team members, observers, resource people and all the other participants for taking part in the sessions. She opened the floor for questions.

### **Session 5: Questions and Answers (17:30 – 18:00 hours)**

24. Dr Kyoko Kusakabe, Associate Professor, Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand, raised a question of the distinctions between trafficking and migration. She further put up a question for the Thailand team about the drawbacks in the measures taken by the government in order for people to know about trafficking. She asked the Thailand team whether they had any attempts to allow labor protection of these migrants.

25. Ms. Miho Watanabe, a researcher from the National Women's Education Center (NVEC), Japan, responded about the existing policies and measures taken in combating trafficking.

26. The Thailand team responded, explaining the policies and measures of the Thai Government on trafficking in persons and the awareness raising activities carried out by the Bureau of Anti-Trafficking in Women and Children.

27. The first day meeting was adjourned at 18:00 hrs.

### **2-3: Participatory Workshop on 9 March 2007**

#### **Session 6: Presentation on Project Cycle Management (PCM) and group work (9:30– 10:20 hours)**

28. Ms. Yumiko Tanaka gave a brief presentation on the Project Cycle Management (PCM). She mentioned that the PCM method was introduced to the Seminar with an objective to provide a planning tool to the participants for developing action plans and designing new projects on TIP. (See Annex 6)

29. The participants were divided into five groups to work on different topics on TIP: 1) rescue operation and interview methods, 2) skill training programs and market development by the shelters, 3) repatriation and reintegration of the victims, 4) alternative forms of shelter assistance, and 5) networking of agencies dealing with anti-trafficking. Each group started with stakeholder analysis, then problem analysis, with facilitation by a facilitator assigned to each group. (See Annex 7 for the topics of group discussions and Annex 8 for the group members and facilitators in charge)

#### **Session 7: Presentation of Stakeholder Analysis and Problem Analysis (10:20-11:00 hours)**

30. All groups made a presentation on their outputs and received comments from other participants. For the presentation of group 3), questions on the attitude of parents' acceptance and sustainability of reintegration were raised. For the presentation of group 4), comments were made mainly on victims' empowerment for self-independence and assistance to victims such as job placement after getting out of the shelter. For the presentation of group 5), questions were raised on the implementation and further recognition of MOU. Points on cleverness of traffickers and ways to tackle different strategies used by the traffickers were raised to group 1) for further discussions. Comments were raised on effective coordination of trainings done by countries and sensitivity of the trainers toward trafficking. (See Annex 9 for the detailed comments on problem trees)

**Session 8: Continuation of Group Work (11:00-16:45, with lunch break during 12:00-13:00)**

31. After the first presentation session, participants continued working on problem analysis with comments made by other participants. The second presentation was made by all groups at 14:25 after completion of the problem analysis. (See Annex 10 for Problem Trees)

32. After the second presentation, Ms. Yumiko Tanaka explained to each group how to conduct an objective analysis. Each group continued to work on the objective analysis with assistance of facilitators. Presentations of each group were made before ending the session. Among others, group 4) suggested an idea to open restaurants or coffee shops at shelters as an alternative income generating activity to manage the long-term shelters. Intensive discussions were made regarding victim's security and vulnerable situations since they were contacted by different people at the shelters and communities. (See Annex 11 for Objective Trees)

33. Due to time constraints, the participants could not work on Project Design Matrix (PDM) and Action Plans, but were requested to continue working in their own organizations upon return to their respective countries.

**Session 9: Closing Session (16:45-17:15 hours)**

34. Mr. Shuichi Ikeda, Director of the Gender Equality Promotion Team, JICA Headquarters in Tokyo, gave a closing remark, thanking the participants for their contributions and participation. He stated that he had little idea of emerging issues on TIP in GMS before coming, but the Seminar gave him a great opportunity to learn about the urgent issues to be dealt with by JICA in collaboration with all the governments, NGOs and international organizations. He also mentioned that TIP was a shadow of development and had become darker, and therefore needed to be eradicated by all the parties concerned. Finally, he thanked all the participants for their efforts to share their experiences and good practices against TIP in GMS.

35. Ms. Yumiko Tanaka made a brief concluding remark, as the secretariat, thanking the participants, the interpreters and all the others who contributed to the success of the Seminar. She expressed her expectations for strengthening networking among the participants and, in particular, those concerned with managing the shelters, to develop more effective measures to protect, prevent and empower the victims of the TIP.

36. Ms. You Ay, and Ms. Miho Watanabe, as representatives of the participants, expressed their thanks to all.

37. The Seminar was adjourned at 17:15 hours.





# ANNEXES



## PROGRAMME

**Seminar on Trafficking in Persons in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region (GMS)  
Focusing on the Roles of Shelter for Women and Children  
Bangkok Panorama 1, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, The Imperial Queen's Park Hotel  
Tentative Schedule**

### 7 March (Wednesday)

Time	Main Program
13:00	Meet at the lobby
13:30	Leave the hotel for Kredtrakarn
14:00-17:00	(2) Site visit to Kredtrakarn Protection and Occupational Development Centre (Government shelter for the victims of human trafficking and other problems located in Bangkok)
17:00-18:00	Leave Kredtrakarn for Reception venue
18:30-20:30	Reception party at the Emporium Suites, EL Floor

### 8 March (Thursday)

9:00-10:00	(1) Opening Ceremony 1. Welcome Address by Resident Representative of RAS/JICA 2. Key Note Speech by Ms.Chanthol OUNG
10:00-10:20	Coffee break
10:20-12:15	(2) Presentation of the interim report on human trafficking survey in GMS by Ms. Y. Tanaka and Ms. A. Hongswadhi, RAS/JICA (3) Country Presentation: Good practices and Issues (30 minutes for each country) 1. <b>Cambodia</b> ● Policies and measures of Government on TIP and shelter ● Report on the shelters and centers for women and children 2. <b>Vietnam</b> ● Policies and measures of Government on TIP and shelter ● Report on the shelters and centers for women and children
12:15-13:15	Lunch
13:15-14:00	3. <b>Myanmar</b> ● Policies and measures of Government on TIP and shelter ● Report on the shelters and centers for women and children
14:00-14:30	Video presentation (30 minutes)
14:30-15:40	4. <b>Japan</b> ● Policies and measures of Government on TIP and shelter ● Report on the shelters and centers for women and children ● Presentation of the Interim Study Report on TIP in Japan by National Women's Education Center
15:40-16:00	Coffee break
16:00-17:30	5. <b>Viet Nam</b> ● Policies and measures of Government on TIP and shelters ● Report on the shelters and centers for women and children 6. <b>Thailand</b> ● Policies and measures of Government on TIP and shelters ● Report on the shelters and centers for women and children
17:30-18:00	Plenary Discussion

**9 March (Friday)**

9:30-12:00	(4) Participatory Group Workshop : Problem analysis, Objective analysis by PCM method
12:00-13:00	Lunch
14:00-16:45	(Continued) Participatory Group Workshop: Problem analysis, Objective analysis by PCM method
16:45-17:15	(5) Closing ceremony and Evaluation

**Seminar on Trafficking in Persons in  
the Greater Mekong Sub-Region (GMS)  
Focusing on the Roles of Shelter for Women and Children  
7-9 March 2007  
Regional Support Office for Asia (RAS), JICA Thailand Office  
Bangkok, Thailand**

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**Welcome Address by  
Mr.Katsuji ONODA  
Resident Representative of Japan International Cooperation Agency  
on the occasion of  
The Seminar on Trafficking in Persons in the Greater Mekong Sub-  
Region  
Focusing on the Roles of Shelter for Women and Children  
Bangkok, 7-9 March, 2007  
At Bangkok Panorama 1 Room, Imperial Queen's Park Hotel**

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- ◆ Your Excellency Mrs. YOU Ay, Secretary of State, Ministry of Women's Affairs, Cambodia
- ◆ Distinguished guests, participants, Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of Japan International Cooperation Agency, or JICA, it is an honour to welcome all representatives, both from governments and NGOs, from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam, Thailand and Japan--- all with first hand experience of dealing with anti-trafficking in persons in your respective countries. It is also a true pleasure for me to see so many distinguished representatives from international organizations and academic organizations both from within Thailand and from outside the country. I believe your presence here today clearly demonstrates that Trafficking in Persons is an increasingly important issue that needs to be focused on in our region.

Trafficking in Persons is the modern form of slavery, which affects the lives of human beings both physically and mentally. The government of Japan, with a perspective of promoting human security, has been trying to raise the issue of foreigners being trafficked in Japan for immediate action, and has been supporting various anti-trafficking programmes through the UN Trust Fund for Human Security.

It can be noted that most trafficking victims originate in and around this region. The number of trafficking victims has been increasing, sometimes within the context of labour migration, legally and illegally, internally and internationally. Trafficking becomes a cross-border issue, needing collaboration among relevant persons in our region to successfully tackle. The governments in the GMS countries have been trying to reform their laws and legal systems to be more supportive for the victims and to be harder on the traffickers and brokers. A large number of international and national NGOs have been working for the prevention and advocacy campaigns as well as assisting victims to be rescued and re-integrated into their communities and societies. However, the policies and guidelines on the protection and re-integration of the victims, in particular, have not yet been sufficiently developed, especially the establishment of shelters and emergency centers for the victims in most GMS countries. Therefore, it can be noted that focusing on social services delivery for the victims of trafficking in ASEAN countries is highly needed.

In view of the above concern, *the Seminar on Trafficking in Persons in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region, Focusing on the Roles of Shelter for Women and Children* has been organized with the purpose of reviewing the major achievements and good practices for the social protection and re-integration of the victims of trafficking in GMS countries. It will focus on the functions and roles of the shelters and centers established for the victims of trafficking for their protection and social re-integration so that the officers and staff concerned with the management of the shelters can exchange information, share experiences, develop regional networks among shelters, and formulate regional cooperation programs, in particular with Japan, to be supported by JICA and other concerned agencies in the region.

I hope today and tomorrow will be a platform where all delegates can share their indigenous and extensive experiences with our friends from neighbouring countries, with the viewpoint that our region could have full collaboration through learning from each other.

Lastly, I hope you aspire to take the greatest achievement through this Seminar. Thank you again to all the participants, all speakers, and all distinguished resource persons.

Thank you very much.

## **Roles of Dropped-in Shelter and Confidential Crisis Center for Social Protection and Reintegration of Trafficked Women and Children**

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**Seminar Organized By JICA**

**Imperial Queen Park Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand,  
March 7-9, 2007**

**Presented by Chanthol Oung  
Executive Director of CWCC**

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### **I. Implications on Trafficked Women and Children**

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The regional trafficking is mainly for the purposes of forced labor, prostitution, begging, domestic help, adoption, fake marriage, and fishery. Most of victims are experiencing four types of abuses::

- 1. physical abuses-** working long hours, drug use, harsh working condition, unwanted pregnancy, HIV/AIDS infection, malnutrition, injuries, torture, and disability;
- 2. Sexual abuses-** rape and prostitution; and
- 3. Mental and Psychological abuses-** threat, intimidation, confinement, passport confiscated, degradation, and discrimination.
- 4. Economic exploitation-** no or low salary, became debt owner, and/or landless,

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## II. Roles and Function of Dropped- in Shelters and Confidential Centers

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Both dropped in shelter and confidential shelter are playing very crucial roles in social protection and reintegration of survivors to normal lives through:

- ✓ **Dropped-in shelter**- place for open communication, identification of victims, provision immediate needs and security;
- ✓ **Confidential Center**- security, medication, healing of and recovery from trauma, special program for children, literacy, daycare, skill and small business building, justice obtaining, family and community tracing and assessment, preparation for working reintegration and repatriation;
- ✓ **Reintegration and repatriation**- accompanying home or community, job placement, regular follow up, and continue support for a certain duration to make sure that they are safe, non discriminated, and not being re-trafficked.

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## III. Main Achievements

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A number of shelters have been set up in different countries to protect and recovery of the survivors. They are run in different management styles:

- Some shelters purely run by government, some by NGOs and some by joint collaboration
- Cambodia experience- Transit Center (dropped-in-shelter) by MOSVY, most confidential crisis centers by NGOs, CWCC's shelter in BMC with cooperation of government,
- Experience of Thailand? VN? Laos? And Burma?
- Signing Guideline of Collaboration, which increasing the service quality and protection to shelter management in Cambodia, between 5 ministries and 24 NGos
- Proclamation of MOSVY on the Minimum Standard for Running the Shelter
- Signing MOU between Thailand and VN for assisting the survivors and repatriation; and
- start working with Malaysia on repatriation and MOU initiative

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## IV. Major Obstacles Facing by Shelters and solutions

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- ✓ **Security issue-** raids on AFESIP, CWCC, and CWCC's shelters by gangsters, threats of throwing grenade or firing into shelter,
- ✓ CWCC's staff were **almost killed**
- ✓ **Defamation** by traffickers and syndicates- CWCC,
- ✓ **Suing** shelter for confinement due to having fence, which protect victims from further attack from outsiders
- ✓ Feeling of **withdrawal** from working on high profile cases
- ✓ **support** from police and government on shelters lessen NGOs' fear
- ✓ **Lessen funding** support on shelter and moving to prevention or prosecution
- ✓ **Lack of support for economic empowerment** program for survivors
- ✓ Lack of human resource, esp. counselor
- ✓ **Identify of children**-lost or unclear
- ✓ Family are cannot be traced or found
- ✓ Traumatized children and women **cannot focus** training

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## V. Good Practices

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### In the shelter

- ✓ The successful of reintegration is depend on the effectiveness of healing and capacity building in the shelter
- ✓ shelter running with cooperation between government and NGOs seem more effective and protective in most of the countries
- ✓ Good case management lessen trauma- intake staff, counselor, lawyer, reintegration staff – one stop service
- ✓ traumatized women and children need appropriate length of stay for the recovery
- ✓ Respect freedom of movement
- ✓ Equal treatment and non-discrimination
- ✓ Shelter is not a zoo
- ✓ Cooperation from State and employers

### Reintegration and repatriation

- ✓ Cooperation with state institutions for safety of victims and better coverage
- ✓ Confidentiality
- ✓ Local mechanism for follow up and support (CWCC and DSALVA)

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## VI. Future Challenges for the Shelters

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- The problems of our clients and obstacles challenged by staff present continual challenges at different shelters and we attempt to keep abreast of all possible solutions:

- Shelter protection is needed;

It is recognized that good mental and physical health, justice, and economic empowerment are of the utmost importance for women and girls who have been survivors of trafficking and a core part of successful reintegration and repatriation; and

- Strong support from donors in all areas, including shelter, of work for combating trafficking and assisting survivors are still very needed.

- **Recovery is adhered to reintegration: Successful Recovery is the success of Reintegration**

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