

THA/15/03/EUR (105548)

Combatting Unacceptable Forms of Work in the Thai Fishing and Seafood Industry

1st Project Steering Committee Meeting

Ministry of Labour, Bangkok Thailand, 10 May 2016

Meeting Minutes

Summary:

The ILO project **Combatting Unacceptable Forms of Work in the Thai Fishing and Seafood Industry** held its 1st Project Steering Committee (PSC) on 10th May, 2016. The two hour meeting at the Ministry of Labour in Bangkok was co-chaired by Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Labour, ML Puntrik Smiti, and Mrs Luisa Ragher, Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to Thailand, and initiated formal project cooperation between the ILO project, the Thai Ministry of Labour (MOL), and key national stakeholders in Thailand. The ILO was the secretariat to the meeting. The meeting was well attended by representatives of Government, Employers and Industry, Trade Unions and Civil Society. The meeting will be followed by cooperation to launch research and mapping activities and the establishment of Task Forces to provide technical guidance and support during project implementation. The project started on 1 February 2016, and will last 42 months. Discussion during the meeting was participatory and a number of stakeholders provided comments and had the opportunity to raise questions.

Objectives

The 1st Project Steering Committee objectives were as follows:

1. Review and adopt the proposed TOR for Project Steering Committee (PSC) and governance structure including review of committee members of the PSC;
2. Review and adopt the work plan for a 5 month project inception phase with feedback and guidance from PSC members to identify key activities for cooperation and immediate action;
3. Review and discuss selection criteria for identifying field sites for intensive operations/activities;
4. Review and adopt options for a project short name;
5. Set an agenda and identify timeframe for 2nd PSC meeting;
6. To share information and updates relevant to the work on combatting unacceptable forms of work in the Thai fishing and seafood industry;

(See the Meeting Agenda in Annex I.)

Meeting participants

A total of 34 persons attended the 1st Project Steering Committee meeting, including representatives of Government, Employers and Industry, Trade Unions and Civil Society, and the EU. Representatives were senior officials or staff responsible for areas of work that will contribute to the achievement of project objectives.

(See the List of participants in Annex II.)

Meeting content and key discussion points

Welcoming remarks: The opening remarks were given by ML Puntrik Smiti, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Labour, and Ms. Luisa Ragher, Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to Thailand, as co-chairs of the project steering committee. ML Puntrik Smiti highlighted how the project will be a strong alliance in pushing forward decent working conditions in the Thai fishing and seafood industry so as to align with international standards. Mrs. Luisa Ragher stressed that this project is a key step forward in EU cooperation with the Government of Thailand and urged all stakeholders involved to work together to eradicate child labour and other unacceptable forms of work in the Thai Fishing and Seafood Sectors.

After the opening remarks Mrs. Luisa Ragher passed the floor to Mr Maurizio Bussi, Director of the ILO Country Office for Thailand, Cambodia and Lao PDR, to present the meeting's agenda and an overview of the project's background and objectives.

Project overview: Mr Maurizio Bussi, Director of the ILO Country Office for Thailand, Cambodia and Lao PDR, recognized the solid history of collaboration between the ILO and the Royal Thai Government, and noted the project's genesis in the TRIANGLE and IPEC projects where a common understanding was formed that intervention in the fishing and seafood sector was needed. Mr Bussi highlighted how a number of measures had been taken in recent years by the Royal Thai Government with the ILO to address unacceptable forms of work and that this work was consistent with efforts being made in a number of countries and outside the region. This new project will look at a number of issuers related to fundamental principles and rights at work, migration issues, labour inspection, occupational safety and health, and close engagement with workers and employers. The four objectives or pillars have been defined for this work: (1) law and policy, (2) labour inspection and enforcement, (3) voluntary compliance initiatives within the industry, and (4) providing support services and empowering workers through workers and civil society organizations.

Project Steering Committee and Task Forces: ML Puntrik Smiti provided an overview of the Project Steering Committee as outlined in the circulated Terms of Reference (*Annex III*) and invited feedback and inputs on PSC composition. Participants suggested inviting the MSDHS to participate because of the link with labour trafficking, and the MECC, as the CCCIF is seen as a temporary body and MECC is an established structure. There was also discussion on which NGO working on labour rights in the seafood processing sector should participate in the PSC. Ms Simrin Singh, ILO Senior Child Labour

Specialist, then delivered a presentation outlining the proposal for establishing a Task Force structure to assist with providing technical inputs and activity coordination during project implementation, meeting on a more regular basis than the PSC. Discussion then turned to the grouping of task forces, their composition, and their internal governance structure.

During discussion, clarification was sought whether the Task Force proposed on GLP and Inspection and activities planned would be coordinated via a new task force or previously established mechanisms. Concern was raised that transition from existing GLP processes to a new Task Force mechanism could be difficult and request for support from ILO as secretariat was requested.

Action points and follow up:

- The Terms of Reference for the PSC was endorsed;
- Secretariat to brief industry associations, the Ministry of Social Security and Development, and the Maritime Enforcement Coordination Centre (MECC) about the project and provide support to identify and invite representatives to the next PSC and Task Forces;
- Migrant Workers' Group (MWG) will appoint a representative by the 19th of May and inform ILO as secretariat;
- The Department of International Organisation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should be in the PSC (not the PS office of the MFA). Other line departments of the MFA can be members of taskforce.
- The PSC will meet at least twice a year;
- Two Task Forces will be established: (1) on legal and regulatory environment and worker organising and support services, and (2) on labour inspection and enforcement and Good Labour Practices (GLP) including worker management dialogue;
- Task Forces will be co-chaired by government and one representative from either trade unions and industry;
- Members of the task forces and nominated chairs will be communicated to the ILO as secretariat by 19th May;
- Task Forces will meet at least quarterly;
- Membership should be at a manageable number while being representative

Overview of Work plan – Inception Phase: Mr Max Tunon, ILO Senior Programme Officer/ Coordinator of the TRIANGLE II Project, presented the proposed work plan for the project inception phase from May – September 2016 (*Annex IV*). ML Puntrik Smiti opened the floor for feedback and inputs from the PSC. Complementary research to the EU project, a national working children survey that the ILO will shortly begin to work on with the RTG was referenced for information. A recommendations was put forward that research methodology and Terms of References should be developed in a participatory manner through the Task Force structure and ILO was encouraged to build on past research and studies conducted. There was also discussion on the need to coordinate efforts on GLP, as DLPW, DOF, industry associations and trade unions had each a different perspective and activities on GLP. The DOF noted that they would support GLP but not be leading the initiative any longer.

Action points and follow up:

- The Inception Phase Work plan was endorsed by the PSC;
- The task forces will provide inputs for the development of some key aspects like the terms of reference and methodologies for any research activities proposed and the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (M&E Framework), while respecting international standards for data collection and analysis;
- The ILO will discuss with the industry associations, the DLPW, trade unions and CSOs on the next steps under the GLP and bring a proposed strategy to the first Task Force meeting.

Field site identification: Mr Max Tunon, ILO Senior Programme Officer/ Coordinator of the TRIANGLE II Project, presented the proposed selection criteria that had been identified through consultations with PSC members in preparation for the meeting and those provinces that had already been identified using this criteria. Mr Tunon highlighted that though the project will cover the 22 coastal provinces of Thailand in the case of Component 1 (Policy and legal framework) and Component 2 (Inspection and enforcement), specific focus for Component 3 (Voluntary compliance) and Component 4 (support to workers) will be placed on 5 to 7 provinces. Concerns were raised that of the estimated 40,000 commercial vessels in Thailand, data was only available for around 10,000 that were over 30 tonnes and registered in the NFAT database. Additionally, there is an estimated 77,000 traditional fishing vessels (recognized under the new Fisheries Act as vessels under 30 tonnes) in that apply a range of different fishing equipment and practices of which under 2,000 are registered and data available. The recommendation was that selection of field sites based on the data available needs to take note of this sample bias and to differentiate between fishing vessels.

The selection criteria put to the PSC for feedback and inputs was:

- Concentration and diversity of industry
- Incidents of violations
- Capacity and coordination of local authorities
- Presence / lack of presence of trade union and CSO partners
- Mix of nationalities

Using the selection criteria proposed and the geographical divisions of Thai coastal areas used by the Royal Thai Navy, the following provinces were identified as a potential shortlist:

Central/Eastern Seaboard: Trat, Rayong, and/or Samut Sakhorn
South/Gulf of Thailand: Songkhla, Nakhon Si Thammarat, and/or Surat Thani
South/Andaman Sea: Phulet, Ranong, and/or Trang

The co-chair suggested that an additional criteria be added: the number of migrant workers registered in the province.

Action points and follow up:

- ILO to collect and analyse existing data and information available and propose target sites according to the selection criteria, and put forward to the Task Forces for final determination

to be presented to the PSC;

Project Branding and Visibility: Mr Maurizio Bussi, Director of the ILO Country Office for Thailand, Cambodia and Lao PDR, introduced the importance of an effective communications and visibility plan for external communication activities that need to take place at key stages in the life of the action. After discussion of different options presented, the project catch name/nickname “Ship to Shore Rights Project” was proposed by some members of the PSC. Mr Bussi also noted that the ILO is planning activities for World Day Against Child Labour and an event with international buyers during ThaiFEX where the ILO will raise awareness about child labour and other unacceptable forms of work in supply chains, some of the project work undertaken and planned.

Action points and follow up:

- The short name for the project “Ship to Shore Rights” was endorsed by the project;
- ILO to finalize the communications and visibility strategy, including branding, for presentation at the next PSC;

2nd PSC Meeting: ML Puntrik Smiti proposed the next PSC meeting for September after Task Forces have been established and the first round of meetings have taken place. PSC members were encouraged to identify who would represent their institution in the Task Forces, including nomination of co-chairs. The ILO was requested to circulate the work plan and agenda ahead of the next PSC.

Action points and follow up:

- PSC members to submit nominations for Task Forces and co-chair nominations to ILO within 7 working days of the PSC (by 19 May, 2016);
- Task Forces meetings to be convened before the next PSC.
- Next PSC meeting will take place in mid-September (12th of September);

Closing remarks: Ms. Luisa Ragher, Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to Thailand, provided a summary of the key decisions and action points made during the 1st Project Steering Committee. Mr Maurizio Bussi, Director of the ILO Country Office for Thailand, Cambodia and Lao PDR, summarized the management and coordination mechanism endorsed by the PSC and noted that some of the activities now progressing may need for a more agile mechanism to provide authority to the co-chairs to respond to project issues if and as required without the need to await the next project steering committee. Such a mechanism was put forward as an agenda item for the next PSC along with updates on the work that has been undertaken so far. Mr Bussi also noted that activities to support the development of a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework would be launched immediately and that a dedicated ILO project team will be on staff over the coming months and available to brief the PSC at the next meeting.

Action points and follow up:

- ILO to circulate the meeting minutes and documents discussed to all PSC members;

List of Annexes

- Annex I Meeting Agenda**
- Annex II List of participants for 1st Project Steering Committee meeting**
- Annex III Terms of Reference for Project Steering Committee**
- Annex IV Inception Phase Work Plan for 2016**
- Annex V Project Summary and Log frame**
- Annex VI Presentation Materials used at 1st PSC**

Annex I. Meeting Agenda

Combating Unacceptable Forms of Work in the Thai Fishing and Seafood Industry

1st Project Steering Committee Meeting

Ministry of Labour, Bangkok Thailand, 10 May 2016

Time	Content
08:30 - 09:30	Registration
09:30 - 09:40	Welcoming Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ML Puntrik Smiti Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Labour ▪ Ms. Luisa Ragher Minister-Counsellor, Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to Thailand
09:40 – 09:45	Project Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr Maurizio Bussi Director of the ILO Country Office for Thailand, Cambodia and Lao PDR
09:45 – 10:10	Project Steering Committee and Task Forces
10:10 – 10:35	Overview of Work Plan – Inception Phase
10:35 – 11:00	Field Site Identification
11:00 – 11:10	Project Branding and Visibility
11:10 – 11:20	2nd PSC Meeting
11:20 – 11:25	Other business
11:25 – 11:30	Closing remarks

Annex II. List of Participants

	Name	Title	Organization
Government			
1.	M.L. Puntrik Samiti	Permanent Secretary	Ministry of Labour
2.	Ms. Piangpab Witayachamnankul	Expert Officer, Anti-Trafficking	Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Labour
3.	Ms. Pattana Phanthufak	Director	International Cooperation Bureau, Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Labour
4.	Ms. Phattana Walts	Director	Foreign Relations Bureau, Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Labour
5.	Ms. Sureeporn Tuppasoot	Senior Labour Specialist	International Cooperation Bureau, Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Labour
6.	Ms. Phornicha Whang A Kad	Foreign Relations Officer	International Cooperation Bureau, Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Labour
7.	Mr. Tawatchai Leksumrit	Labour Migration Management Officer	Department of Employment, Ministry of Labour
8.	Ms. Kanchana Akebutra	Foreign Relations Specialist	Department of Employment, Ministry of Labour
9.	Mr. Thirapat Jetinai	Legal Specialist	Department of Employment, Ministry of Labour
10.	Ms. Kannikar Boonmee	Legal Officer	Department of Employment, Ministry of Labour
11.	Ms. Parichart Phromsaka	Public Relations Officer	Department of Skills Development, Ministry of Labour
12.	Ms. Narueporn Boonyaban	Foreign Relation Officer	Department of Skills Development, Ministry of Labour
13.	Mr. Pira Chokboonchareon	Thai Labour Standards	Department of Labour Inspection and Welfare, Ministry of Labour
14.	Mr. Pongpol Baili	Legal Officer Practitioner Level	Department of Labour Inspection and Welfare, Ministry of Labour
15.	Mr. Boonta P.	Legal Officer Practitioner Level	Department of Labour Inspection and Welfare, Ministry of Labour
16.	Ms. Ampai Sriruenglar	Director of Protection Division	Department of Labour Inspection and Welfare, Ministry of Labour
17.	Ms. Nawarat Boonpiam	Senior Labour Specialist	Social Security Office, Ministry of Labour
18.	Mr. Raksak Chotchaisathit	Representing the Secretary	Social Security Office,

		General of the Social Security Office, Advisor to the Security General	Ministry of Labour
19	Ms. Rapatporn A.	Legal Officer	Social Security Office, Ministry of Labour
20	Ms. Pawitra Suthathorn	Legal Officer	Social Security Office, Ministry of Labour
21	Mr. Adisorn Promthep	Director General,	Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
22	Mr. Thaworn Thanjai	Senior Fisheries Biologist Officer	Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
11.	Mr. Cherdsak Chookong	Fisheries Biologist Officer	Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
12.	Mr. Phitan Nongnual	Senior Fisheries Biologist Officer	Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
13.	Ms. Watchulee Chotinakul	First Secretary	Department of International Organization, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
14.	Ms. Sophon Piyaphani	Transport Technical Officer	Marine Department, Ministry of Transport
Employers and Industry			
15.	Mr. Kornchai Kaewmahawong		Employers Confederation of Thailand (ECOT)
16.	Ms. Watcharawan Chondong	Director	Thai Frozen Food Association (TFFA)
17.	Mr. Athorn Prompatanapak	Secretary General	Thai Frozen Food Association (TFFA)
18.	Ms. Attaphan Masrangsan	Secretary General	Thai Frozen Food Association (TFFA)
19.	Mr. Kamolsak Lertpaiboom	Secretary General	National Fishery Association of Thailand (NFAT)
Workers /trade union			
20.	Mr Tavee Techateerawat	Chairman	Thai Trade Union Congress (TTUC)
21	Mr. Tavee Deeying	President	National Congress Private Industrial of Employees (NCPE)
Civil Society			
22.	Mr. Adisorn Keardmongkol	Coordinator	Migrant Working Group (MWG) Representative
23.	Ms. Apinya Tajit	Deputy Director	Stella Maris
24.	Mr. Napasorn Taajit	Director	Stella Maris
European Delegation to Thailand			

25.	Ms. Luisa Ragher	Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to Thailand	European Union Delegation to Thailand
26.	Ms. Ana Maria Pena Segura	Attache (Cooperation)	European Union Delegation to Thailand
27.	Mr. Brian Fornari	Desk Officer	European Union Delegation to Thailand
28.	Ms. Myo Ghattalae	Political Officer/Human Rights Focal Point	European Union Delegation to Thailand
International Labour Organization			
29.	Mr. Maurizio Bussi	Director of the ILO Country Office for Thailand, Cambodia and Lao PDR	International Labour Organization (ILO)
30.	Ms. Simrin Singh	Senior Child Labour Specialist.	International Labour Organization (ILO)
31.	Mr. Max Tunon	ILO Senior Programme Officer/ Coordinator of the TRIANGLE II Project	International Labour Organization (ILO)
32.	Ms. Kuanruthai Siripatthanakosol	National Project Coordinator (NPC) for Thailand, TRIANGLE II Project	International Labour Organization (ILO)
33.	Ms. Jittima Srisuknam	National Programme Officer, Thailand	International Labour Organization (ILO)
34.	Mr. Wade Bromley	Technical Officer	International Labour Organization (ILO)