



December 2018

Thailand to Ratify ILO C. 188

Bangkok (29 November)—The Thai National Assembly marked four years of reform of the legal framework for work in fishing and seafood with its vote to [approve ratification](#) of the ILO Work in Fishing Convention (2007). This follows Thailand’s ratification of the Forced Labour Protocol in June 2018, and makes Thailand the first in Asia to adopt these international standards. By chance, the vote came on the closing day of the ILO’s Southeast Asia [regional workshops](#) in Bali to promote decent work in fishing. The ILO’s EU-funded Ship to Shore Rights Project will continue to support implementation of new rules with the Thai government, and workers’ and employers’ organizations.

New Focus on Front-line Enforcement

Pattani—New data from the Ministry of Labour show the number of enforcement actions in fishing for labour law violations up from 15 in 2017 to 43 in the first eight months of 2018. The drive to make enforcement of labour rules more intensive and consistent across ports will be helped by new hires in the Thai labour inspectorate, and by expert advice from the ILO and the national manager of New Zealand’s labour inspectorate Mr Stuart Lumsden (picture) who joined the Project for a second time in September to assess labour inspections in fishing at six ports around Thailand.



Making Good Labour Practices Better

Bangkok—Twenty-five key seafood suppliers—all member of the [Thai Tuna Industry Association](#) or [Thai Frozen Foods Association](#)—joined the Ship to Shore Rights Project and Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI U.K.) in November to deepen their engagement with workers and to measure risk on labour issues in their own factories and further upstream (picture). The new Good Labour Practices guide will be published in January 2019 with TTIA and TFFA, and a tripartite committee named to oversee progress under their strengthened GLP programmes.



Bigger Numbers for FRN, New Tools at HRDF

Ranong—Migrant fishers are building their own organization to win improvements in fisher health, minimum pay, and access to their contracts. The [Fishers Rights Network](#) (FRN, picture), now supporting more than 1,000 workers in Songkhla, Ranong, and Trat, have engaged port officials, vessel owners, and buyers including Thai Union Foods to help keep up momentum for decent work in Thai fishing (picture). FRN leaders—all working fishers—were recognized in the recent October 2018 ITF Global Congress and the MOL- and EU-chaired committee of the Ship to Shore Rights Project in December 2018.



Another Ship to Shore Rights partner Human Rights and Development Foundation ([HRDF](#)) rolled out new tools for legal and advocacy work for Cambodian unions and civil society organizations supporting migrant workers in Thailand's fishing sector. The Phnom Penh training was produced in collaboration with the Solidarity Center Cambodia.

Celebrating International Migrants Day (18 Dec)

Mahachai (17 December)--To celebrate International Migrants Day, [Raks Thai Foundation](#) supporters filled a Samut Sakhon superstore parking lot for their "Fill Migrant's Rights in the Blank" with movie screenings, day-long exhibitions on worker health and labour rights, and a tripartite dialogue on migrant worker access to social security and medical insurance (picture). In nearby Chonburi Province, Stella Maris organized another in its series of working conditions workshops for migrant fishers. And finally, a Ship to Shore Rights opinion piece detailing the recent changes for migrant workers and work in Thai fishing was published in the (Bangkok) Nation. Read it [here](#).



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Funded by the European Union

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