



July 2018

Thailand Ratifies ILO Forced Labour Protocol

Geneva (4 June)—Thailand's government became the first in Asia and the 24th globally to ratify the [Forced Labour Protocol](#), a 2014 complement to the ILO Forced Labour Convention of 1930. Proposed changes to Thai law designed to meet the standards set by the Protocol began with the legal '[gap analysis](#)' conducted by the ILO and its Ship to Shore Rights Project (funded by the EU), and are nearing completion with technical support from the ILO.

Next on the Government's priority list for 2018 is ratification of the ILO Work in Fishing Convention of 2007 (C. 188), and drafting of Thailand's Labour in Fishing Act has advanced through a 'tripartite-plus' consultation organized by the Ministry of Labour and Ship to Shore to Rights Project to bring together leaders from government, employers, unions, and civil society organization.



Combating Forced Labour with electronic payment

Bangkok (10 May)—Ending pay violations including wage withholding--an ILO forced labour indicator--in the Thai fishing industry means turning the [ILO's 2018 baseline research](#) on wages ([video](#)) into new systems for tracking and fixing pay problems. The Thai government's requirement that all fishers be paid through bank accounts took effect in May 2018 and was accompanied by Ship to Shore Rights videos and leaflets to help fishers--90% of whom are migrants to Thailand--learn the basics of bank accounts and ATMs. ILO [videos](#) and [leaflets](#) are available to workers, unions, employers, labour officials, and civil society organizations in Thai, Burmese, and Khmer. The Project is engaging the lead regulator Bank of Thailand, Ministry of Labour, CCCIF, unions, and employers to help ensure worker control of their accounts.



Also rolled out in May is a Ship to Shore Rights [animated film](#) (made with IOM-X) that aims at teaching fishers and would-be migrants about what to expect in the Thai fishing industry and how to protect against abuses in recruitment and work on-board.

Global Union rolls out Fishers Rights Network

Songkhla (29 June)—The global union for transport and maritime workers, [ITF](#), launched its [Fishers Rights Network](#) in late May in Songkhla. Now hundreds of members strong, the union is moving into two new ports to support the building of an "independent and democratic fishers' union in Thailand" with support from the Ship to Shore Rights Project.



Rebooting Good Labour Practices

Pattani (29 June)—New [GLP Principles](#) including worker engagement, progress metrics, and public reporting are built into the GLP programmes of the Thai Tuna (TTIA) and Thai Frozen Food (TFFA) associations. The Ship to Shore Rights Project and London-based Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) joined the two associations May 21 - 22 in Bangkok to raise the bar for industry labour programmes. The ILO also joined [Thai Union Foods](#) and the International Transport Workers Federation to pilot GLP standards with vessel owners in Pattani in late June (photo).



Assessing front-line enforcement

Ranong (15 June)—Straight from the June 2018 Global Summit of the Consumer Goods Forum in Singapore, ILO Fundamentals Bureau Chief Beate Andrees (photo) joined ILO Thailand Country Office Director Graeme Buckley and the Ship to Shore Rights Project team for a first-hand look at the Thai government's fishing enforcement systems in Ranong on the Thailand-Myanmar border. The focus was on use of blockchain technologies including facial recognition and electronic payment to help reduce forced labour in fishing and seafood in Thailand and globally.



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ILO Country Office for Thailand,
Cambodia and Lao People's Democratic Republic
United Nations Building, Rajdamnern Nok Ave
Bangkok 10200, Thailand

+662 288 1234
+662 280 1735
shiptoshorerights@ilo.org
www.ilo.org/asia

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