

**Draft**  
**Minutes for Joint Task Force Meeting**  
**Combatting Unacceptable Forms of Work in the Thai Fishing and Seafood Industry**  
**28 June 2017, 09:00 – 12:00 hrs.**  
**Amari Watergate Hotel**

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**Objectives:** Joint Taskforce meeting are to validate the results of the baseline survey of working conditions in the fishing and seafood industry conducted by RapidAsia and also endorse the Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Framework before submission to the Project Steering Committee (PSC) for final approval.

**Agreed Follow-up Points:**

- The participants to share their comments to the baseline survey by the 14 July 2017. ILO will be developing a policy brief report to present the key findings from the baseline.
- The meeting endorsed the M&E Framework in principle with some changes to be included in the Framework. The participants to share additional comments to the ILO for inclusion in the M&E framework. ILO will submit it the Project Steering Committee (PSC) for formal approval.

**1. Opening Session**

*Mr. Jason Judd, ILO Senior Technical Officer*, opened the special Joint Taskforce meeting and explained today's objectives are to validate the results of the baseline survey on working and living conditions in the fishing and seafood industry undertaken by RapidAsia and to endorse the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework.

**2. Presentation of key findings from the baseline research (RapidAsia)**

*Mr. Daniel Lindgren, Founder of RapidAsia*, presented on the background & methodology, general worker profile, recruitment, work conditions and support services, wages and remittances, work conditions on different fishing vessels, and forced labour indicators. Specific details can be found in their powerpoint presentation.

Plenary Discussion highlighted the following issues on:

- EU questioned why debt bondage and isolation is a not a measure under forced labour indicators. It was explained that some results were not significant size to be able to drawn out specific conclusions as sign of forced labour indicators. She also noted that Rayong is singled-out with more abuses and if there is a link between labour abuses and their access to services.
- CCCIF raised his concern about the question on being asked about Trafficking in Persons by government official because all workers that are issued a seabook will be interviewed as well as if they received a copy of their work contract. It was explained that in many cases that the numbers should be higher, but several questions are recall questions and many workers may not remember as they arrived 4 years ago.
- ITF/SERC asked if the workers understood the difference between a union or migrant worker associations. However, the question didn't go into depth about the extent of their awareness about the differences.
- FED asked about the selection of employers and their freedom to talk to workers without the presence of employers. It was clarified that workers are not interviewed in front of employers.

- TTIA asked if 434 workers is a good representation of migrant workers. It is true that a larger sample can be disaggregated easier, but the sample size of 400+ is a reasonable size in the middle. TTIA commented that Thai law only allows two sets of clothes as part of the given benefits. DLPW explained that according to the law, the employer can deduct the additional costs for clothing and equipment.
- NFAT asked for a breakdown on the use of social media if that figures covers facebook usage as they have used facebook as an effective channel to communicate with workers. He questioned that all workers should have a work contract, especially if they have to pass through the PIPO centre. Majority of workers are illiterate even in their own language and may not understand the work contract even in their own native language.
- NFAT also commented that working conditions and hours will differ according to the type of fishing vessels and equipment used. In reality, the actual working hours is very small and most of the workers get to rest throughout the day interval periods. Most of the time, the workers have more resting hours than actual fishing hours and maybe maximum of 10 hours a day so the data is not reliable. He also commented on there are only male workers so there should be no benefits for pregnancy leave at all. On advances, the data does not reflect reality as sufficient food and water are provided on board and all workers demand for advances even before boarding, at least 10,000 baht. The data shows that some workers have received pay after 24 months is not possible and inaccurate. On accommodation, many workers (26%) are staying on boats because they don't have housing on- shore. The 65% of workers have pink cards which will soon expire. It was explained that many questions are recall questions and have different understanding about their working hours from employers.
- It was clarified that the final report will also include specific references on where we can make the language clearer on questions that are based on their memory.
- ILO suggested to analyze data based on compliance to legislation and law enforcement, such as rest hours, or benefits that workers receive according to the law. The data produced is not a prevalence data and the complexity of abuses goes beyond just number of abuses. The analysis should also take into account the dimension of severity of abuses.

### Follow-up Actions

- The participants to share their comments to the baseline survey by the 14 July 2017. ILO will be developing a policy brief report to present the key findings from the baseline.

### 3. Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Framework

Ms. Supavadee Chotikajan, ILO National Project Coordinator, presented a brief overview about the Results-Based Management (RBM), the process over the past nine month within the PSC, Taskforces, and technical meeting on M&E framework, as well as highlighted the changes to the indicators as recommended.

Plenary discussion highlighted the following issues:

- Solidarity Center and DLPW suggested under Outcome 1 to include new legislation, including the Royal Ordinance on Management and Employment of Migrant Worker, and laws related to social protection.



- CCCIF added that they have additional comments to add under Outcome 2.
- NFAT stated that their Code of Conduct (COC) is in line with Good Labour Practices (GLP) and they are not in a position to provide financial contribution to the establishment of the GLP institute.
- TFFA commented that under 3.3 all associations have set up a complaint mechanism through the establishment of a welfare committee.

#### Follow-up Actions

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- The participants to share additional comments to the ILO for inclusion in the M&E framework.
- ILO will submit it the Project Steering Committee (PSC) for formal approval.