



Press Release

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Actions against Illegal activities in Thailand's seafood supply chain

With reference to the Australian article “Stench of seafood slavery in Thailand” by Peter Alford, published on 30 December 2015. The article attempts to inform readers about the working conditions and illegal labour in the fishing industry in Thailand. The Royal Thai Embassy would like to state the following:

The Royal Thai Government will take actions against all those who are found to be involved in illegal activities and are determined to ensure that the country's seafood supply chain is free of human trafficking and forced labour.

The police are now conducting investigation into cases. Arrests have been made and victims are being cared for in a government shelter for victims of human trafficking. Awareness raising campaign is being conducted for operators so that they will be better aware of the laws and regulations.

The Royal Thai Government will do its utmost to ensure effective enforcement of the new laws and regulations against human trafficking and forced labour in the fisheries sector which have been revised to bring them in line with the international standards.

The new fisheries law of Thailand, which came into force on 14 November 2015, prohibits unlawful labour practices in seafood processing factories. The factory operator who violates the labour protection law or

employs illegal foreign workers is liable to criminal penalties and revocation of license.

The Royal Thai Government is working with the ILO and civil society partners to raise awareness and build capacity of inspectors and law enforcement officials. A database and complaint mechanisms have also been set up.

A new round of registration of illegal migrant workers from neighbouring countries in fishing vessels and seafood processing factories has started from 2 November 2015 to 30 January 2016 in order to facilitate their regularization. During the registration, the authorities will inform the workers of their rights and status.

The Royal Thai Government supports and will work closely with the “Shrimp Sustainable Supply Chain Taskforce” – an international industry alliance set up in July 2014 with members from leading retailers, manufacturers and NGOs to ensure that Thailand’s seafood supply chain is free of illegal and forced labour.

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