

Human Trafficking in Songkhla

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Origin of human trafficking in Songkhla

- In 1989, the storm surge (Typhoon Gay) swept through the Gulf of Thailand, and there was a decrease in aquatic animal resources in the Gulf of Thailand. This forced Thai entrepreneurs to rely on resources of neighboring countries such as Malaysia, Indonesia, Myanmar, as well as Somalia. Therefore, Thai fishery workers at that time had the feeling of uncertainty about the safety of their fishing occupation. Since then, the phenomenon of labor shortages has been present in the area.

What has happened as a result of the shortages of Thai fishery workers?

- Movement for recruiting local workers, e.g. motorcycle taxi drivers, employees, and service providers
- International movement, e.g. friends/people who persuade somebody living in the same region to work, or movement that persuades somebody at the bus station, train station or public park to work
- Movement that recruits international workers, e.g. Myanmar brokers provide workers for Thai brokers or Cambodian brokers provide workers for Thai brokers

How do people get workers?

- Persuading somebody to drink alcohol or chloroforming drugging
- Threatening, forcing, and taking somebody into a car
- Persuading somebody to drink alcohol and sleep with a woman and then overcharging them
- Deceiving somebody about a well-paying job

Who are the victims?

- People faced with difficulties, e.g. those faced with money problems including travelers who have little or no money
- Heavy drinkers, e.g. somebody who drinks so heavily that they become unconscious and do not have enough money to pay the bill
- Weak people, e.g. elderly people, children, and mentally ill people

Operations to deal with Human Trafficking

- Proactive operations, field trips for education, and group & individual training and consultation
- Creating a formal and informal relationship with entrepreneurs, organizing meetings with entrepreneurs or representative employers, and coordinating assistance
- Creating relations with communities/workers, activities in the community, community leader meetings, cultural days, and forums
- Establishing worker networks, creating leaders in local areas, training for leaders, and meetings
- Participating in provincial/national networks, and meetings of provincial networks

Operations to deal with Human Trafficking (cont'd)

Defensive operations

Center for receiving incident reports and providing assistance

Center for coordinating between the government and human trafficking victims, as well as between officers and local leaders

Providing shelters and food

Assistance plan



Challenges

- Despots
- Delays in assistance
- Insufficient personnel
- Interpretation and definition
- Inaccessibility of assistance to the victims

Suggestions

- Solving the problem of illegal migrants in the country
- Creating motivation for fishery and taking care of welfare in the fishing industry
- Establishing an MOU between countries involved in the fishing industry to keep crew victims under surveillance

Training for leaders



Assistance



Training for crews

