

## **Royal Thai Government and Thai Industries take another key step to end child and forced labour**

The Royal Thai Government (RTG) and key stakeholders, including Thailand's industry associations, trade unions, and civil society jointly agreed to take the Good Labour Practices Programme (GLP) forward for another three years, through a shared vision and roadmap for GLP in Thailand.

The high level workshop's participants developed a common vision for the Good Labour Practices Programme.

This landmark agreement was the result of the ILO-RTG Multi-stakeholder workshop to develop the GLP Roadmap, conducted in October 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand. It was co-organised by the ILO and the Royal Thai Government's Department of Labour Protection and Welfare, the Ministry of Labour and the Department of Fishery, and MOAC. The GLP aims to become a fully multipartite Programme. The workshop provided a platform for the stakeholders to come together and develop a unified vision for a three-year roadmap for the GLP in Thailand.

A common vision for the Good Labour Practices Programme:

Workers' quality of life will be improved by realising fundamental rights of workers and achieving decent work without discrimination, and competitiveness of producers will be increased through Good Labour Practices (GLP), which is a multi-stakeholders' mechanism that will be internationally recognized and expanded into other economic sectors in a sustainable way.

About 126 participants including government officials, representatives from industry and trade unions, NGOs, international buyers, embassies and UN agencies and experts from the ILO attended the workshop. The group agreed on multiple objectives to support the GLP vision, including the need to establish a platform to enable dialogue and collaborative action amongst stakeholders and to address grievances. In addition, it was agreed that the GLP Programme will expand to include the entire supply chain in the shrimp, seafood and fishing industry in order to protect the workers and to keep them employed in decent work.

### ***Voices from the representatives at the workshop***

#### ***Ms. Kanchana Thevasilpachaikul, Deputy Director General, Department of Labour Protection and Welfare***

*Ministry of Labour has given priority to addressing human trafficking, forced labour and child labour, as well as the protection of migrant workers. We commit to work with other stakeholders to effectively tackle these problems. This GLP Roadmap Workshop is very helpful for us in integrating with the relevant agencies and move it forward. I am thankful to ILO as well as other stakeholders in jointly developing the very first draft of the GLP roadmap.*

#### ***Dr. Waraporn Prompoj, Representative of Department of Fisheries***

*DOF would like to strongly commit to support the Ministry of Labour in the GLP Programme. We also would like to ask for technical supports from Ministry of Labour in educating peeling sheds. We would aim at having 200 registered with DOF to be part of GLP programme in the near future. I would like to thank TUs and NGOs for becoming part of this programme because you can definitely access the workers much better than government officials.*

**Mr. Prapan Simasanti, Representative from the Thai Frozen Food Association**

*On behalf of the industry, I would like to thank all participants for moving forward the GLP Programme, and for developing the GLP Roadmap. The industry will continue to collaborate with all stakeholders involved in the Programme.*

**Ms. Assarin Kaewpradab, Representative from the Trade Unions**

*I am thankful for having trade unions involved in the GLP roadmap development process. We were not clear about GLP, but now I'm confident that I can communicate with the TU members about what GLP is. The trade unions represent all workers. Therefore, I promise we will work hard for all workers no matter what their nationality is.*

**Mr. Promboon Panichapakdi, Representative of NGOs**

*It is remarkable that representatives of 10 NGOs have participated in this process! All NGOs promised to join hands and walk collectively towards the next step of GLP. NGOs are willing to play their role in supporting this programme by spreading awareness, participating in a taskforce or in committees at national and provincial levels and by facilitating training.*

**Mr. Peter Stedman, TESCO, Representative of buyers**

*As a representative of buyers, I am very impressed by the fact that I had a chance to participate in this workshop. The workshop is very fruitful and there was participation from various sectors – not only government and ILO, but also the industry, workers and NGOs. I saw people consult with each other freely and straightforwardly, in a constructive environment.*

**Mr. Maurizio Bussi, ILO Country Office for Thailand, Cambodia and Lao PDR**

*Outcomes of this workshop are invaluable and are indicators of our joint commitment. We have seen some innovation in the process, during these three days. ILO will continue to support Thailand on this programme through our technical support, sharing good practices from other parts of the world, facilitating consultations among sectors, designing guidelines, as well as contributing to the development of the GLP Roadmap.*

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