

## ILO GMS TRIANGLE project: Protecting migrant workers in the fishing sector in Thailand

The ILO GMS TRIANGLE project has adopted a sectoral approach to extending protection to migrant workers in fishing because of the specific nature of work and the urgency of the situation. Activities are being carried out under each of the GMS TRIANGLE project's objectives:

### *Strengthening the legal and policy framework*

- The ILO has submitted technical comments on several drafts of the Thailand Ministerial Regulation No. 10 on Sea Fisheries Work and on standard contracts for fishers, drawing on the ILO Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188) and other relevant international labour standards. Several multi-stakeholder meetings have also been organized to discuss measures to strengthen labour legislation in the fishing sector, fostering dialogue between different government departments, the Thai Law Reform Commission, industry representatives, workers' organizations, and NGOs.
- Labour Coordination Centres for the Fishing Industry (LCCs) were established by the government in seven provinces in 2013. The LCCs were envisioned as a hub for the registration of fishers, captains and vessels; recruitment; training; and for receiving complaints and providing support services. The ILO supported a working group that brought together the various stakeholders involved in establishing the LCCs, and also conducted an assessment to help to shape future policies and programmes with similar objectives.
- The ILO conducted the largest known quantitative survey of employment practices and working conditions in the Thai fishing sector, interviewing nearly 600 fishers in four provinces. This has strengthened the knowledge base and has guided ILO inputs to policy dialogue. The study can be downloaded from: [http://www.ilo.org/asia/whatwedo/publications/WCMS\\_220596/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/asia/whatwedo/publications/WCMS_220596/lang--en/index.htm)

### *Building the capacity of government, industry and workers' organizations.*

- The Department of Labour Protection and Welfare (DLPW) and the ILO have jointly developed a set of training materials and tools to enable labour inspectors and other authorized officers to carry out their duties more effectively, particularly with regard to the protection provided to children and young workers, migrant workers, and those in hard to reach sectors. Guidelines for inspecting conditions in the fishing sector have been developed and were tested in 2013.
- In 2014, 123 labour inspectors from the 22 coastal provinces of Thailand received five days of training, which included inspections at sea in collaboration with the Marine Police and NGOs. The DLPW and ILO are currently monitoring the number and outcomes of inspections of fishing vessels, and will conduct future coaching and monitoring in target provinces.
- A multi-disciplinary inspection team has been established that includes the DLPW, Marine Police, Navy, and the Department of



Joint inspection conducted with Marine Police during training for labour officials © ILO

Fisheries, among others. This team has been inspired by the Brazilian labour ministry, following an advisory mission to Thailand organized by the ILO. Training tools and support will be provided to the inspection team.

- The ILO has provided support to the National Fisheries Association of Thailand (NFAT) in the development of a Code of Conduct (COC) for their members. NFAT will deliver training on the COC and develop a mechanism to monitor compliance with the COC in late 2014.
- NFAT, DLPW and ILO cooperated on the development of occupational safety and health (OSH) training materials specific to fishing, and will begin roll-out of the training for vessel owners, skippers, supervisors and crew in late 2014.
- The Good Labour Practices (GLP) programme, developed by the ILO International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) project, is a platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue and a training programme for the seafood sector, covering farms, primary processing units and factories. The GLP programme will be extended to include the fishing sector.
- The ILO ASEAN TRIANGLE project organized a regional workshop in September 2013 in Makassar, Indonesia to share experiences among ASEAN member States and States employing workers from the ASEAN region. Future regional meetings are planned in late 2014 to discuss the drafting of Guidelines for Flag State Inspection under the ILO Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188).

### *Support services for migrant fishers*

- The ILO is supporting the Foundation for AIDS Rights (FAR), an NGO, to provide support services to Cambodian fishers in Rayong province. Information, counselling and training on labour rights, organizing, and OSH is provided to migrant workers at drop-in centres and through outreach activities. FAR has also supported the establishment of a working group of local authorities, the provincial fisheries association, and a local trade union to promote dialogue and strengthen cooperation.



Migrant workers  
at a network  
meeting in  
Rayong province  
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Tripartite Action to Protect the Rights of Migrant Workers within and from the Greater Mekong Subregion from Labour Exploitation (**the GMS TRIANGLE project**) aims to strengthen the formulation and implementation of recruitment and labour protection policies and practices in the Greater Mekong Sub-region, to ensure safer migration resulting in decent work. The project is operational in six countries: Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. In each country, tripartite constituents (government, workers' and employers' organisations) are engaged in each of the GMS TRIANGLE project objectives - strengthening policy and legislation, building capacity of stakeholders and providing services to migrant workers. These goals are interdependent, with policy advocacy and capacity building activities driven by the voices, needs and experiences of workers, employers and service providers.

For more information on the GMS TRIANGLE project, visit [www.ilo.org/asia/triangle](http://www.ilo.org/asia/triangle) or contact Max Tunon, GMS TRIANGLE Senior Programme Officer/Project Coordinator: [tunon@ilo.org](mailto:tunon@ilo.org)