

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Introduction

1. The Helsinki Process Workshop on Human Trafficking: Enhancing Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships and International Cooperation was held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, on 22 – 23 February 2007. The Workshop was organized and hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand.

2. The Workshop was attended by government representatives from the Friends of the Helsinki Process, including like-minded countries and other interested multi-stakeholders, totaling approximately 130 participants. Government officials from 25 countries, comprising many different regions, were represented, namely: Algeria, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Canada, Cambodia, Egypt, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Netherlands, Norway, the Philippines, Spain, Tanzania, the United Arab Emirates, the United States, Vietnam and Thailand. The Workshop was also attended by representatives from the following international organizations: the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Office of the Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) for Asia-Pacific, Interpol and the United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking (UNIAP) in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region. Observers from the following civil society groups and academia were also represented: Women's Studies Center and Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration of Chiang Mai University, ECPAT Foundation, Anti-trafficking Coordination Unit of Northern Thailand (TRAFCORD), Asia Acts Against Child Trafficking (AAACT), Asia Regional Trafficking in Persons Project (ARTIP), Chiang Mai Home for Boys, Development and Education Programme for Daughters and Communities (DEPDC), International Justice Mission (IJM), Fight Against Child Exploitation Foundation (FACE), Save the Children (UK), New Life Foundation, Association for the Rescue of North Korean Abductees (ARNKA) of Payap University.

3. The Workshop was divided into the following six sessions: (1) opening session and presentation of the objectives of the workshop, (2) human trafficking vs. people smuggling: how to enhance national capacity to identify victims of human trafficking, with due respect to the protection and promotion of the victims' human rights and human security, (3) prevention and protection activities: sharing national experiences, (4) sharing national experiences in the development and effective implementation of national plans of action on anti-human trafficking, (5) enhancement of regional and international cooperation, and (6) conclusions and recommendations for further actions.

4. The First Session of the Workshop opened with welcoming remarks from Mr. Vilas Rujiwattanapong, Vice Governor of Chiang Mai Province (details as appear in Annex 1); followed by a keynote address delivered by H.E. Mr. Sawanit Kongsiri, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand (details as appear in Annex 2). The opening session of the Workshop also included guest speaker Mr. Jukka Leino, Ambassador for the Helsinki Process, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland (details as appear in Annex 3).

5. In his keynote address, H.E. Mr. Sawanit Kongsiri welcomed all participants to the Workshop and stressed that, owing to the transnational nature of human trafficking, no

government or country could tackle the problem alone. Thailand, which is a country of origin, transit and destination of human trafficking, realizes the necessity of multi-stakeholder partnerships and international cooperation in combating this issue. Therefore, the Deputy Foreign Minister expressed his pleasure that the Workshop included not only countries from the Friends of the Helsinki Process, but also several interested countries from the Regional Ministerial Meeting Conference on People's Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crimes (Bali Process), the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT), the Human Security Network (HSN), international organizations and interested multi-stakeholders from civil society from within Thailand as well as abroad.

Workshop Sessions

6. In Session Two, which commenced the substantive portion of the Workshop, three lead discussants shared their experiences and insights on the issue of enhancing national capacity with respect to the victim identification process, in particular the necessity to distinguish between people smuggling and human trafficking. There was also a big emphasis placed on full protection for the victim. The lead discussants were (1) Dr. Saisuree Chutikul, Member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), (2) Mr. Daniel Collinge, Human Rights Officer on behalf of the Regional Representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights' Regional Office for South-East Asia, and (3) Mr. Wanchai Roujanavong, Director General of the Department of Probation, Ministry of Justice of Thailand and Chairman of FACE Foundation.

7. Session Three was led by presentations on the prevention and protection activities and experiences of the Chiang Mai Provincial Operational Center on the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking, the Chiang Mai Home for Boys and the Anti-trafficking Coordination Unit of Northern Thailand (TRAFCORD). Emphasis was placed on local community participation, legal protection for victims as well as effective repatriation and reintegration. The lead discussants for this session included (1) Ms. Rosukon Tariya from the Chiang Mai Provincial Operational Center on the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking, (2) Mrs. Boonmee Saweangtham from the Chiang Mai Home for Boys and (3) Mr. Ben Svasti from TRAFCORD. Afterwards, a visit to the New Life Foundation of Chiang Mai was arranged to allow the participants to learn and get first-hand experience about the activities of the said Foundation which is an NGO active in the area of prevention and protection of trafficked victims, with special focus on vulnerable ethnic minority groups, both in Thailand and neighbouring countries in the region.

8. In Session Four, lead discussants offered their experiences with their own national plans of action on anti-human trafficking and their views on the key components of an effective national plan of action. Mr. Rauno Merisaari, Senior Advisor on human rights, development and democracy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland and Mr. Somchai Charoenumnuaisuke, Deputy Director-General of the Office of Welfare Promotion, Protection and Empowerment of Vulnerable Groups, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security of Thailand were the lead discussants for session four.

9. Session Five of the Workshop focused on improving regional and international cooperation with regard to data collection and data exchange and the linkage between transnational crimes and human trafficking. The lead discussants for this session were (1) Mr. Lance Bonneau, Senior Programme Development Officer at the International Organization for Migration, (2) Professor Vitit Muntarbhorn, Law Faculty, Chulalongkorn University, Former UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and currently UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic

of Korea, and (3) Pol. Maj. Gen. Kreukpong Pukpayura, Bali Process Coordinator on Policies, Legislative Framework and Law Enforcement.

10. The final session wrapped up the Workshop by presenting and discussing conclusions and recommendations for further action on key issues. Dr. Omary Mjenga, National Secretary for the Helsinki Process of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tanzania, in the capacity of the co-chair country of the Helsinki Process delivered the vote of thanks to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand for hosting this important Workshop, which allowed in-depth-discussions and produced meaningful recommendations for way forwards (details as appear in Annex 4). The Workshop was concluded by Mr. Charivat Santaputra, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand (details as appear in Annex 5).

Summary of discussions on specific issues

1. On Victim Identification

11. The Workshop acknowledged that the proper identification of trafficked victims is the first step in ensuring that the rights of the trafficked victims are fully protected throughout the entire process from prevention and protection to recovery, repatriation and reintegration.

12. The Workshop noted the importance of ratifying the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (Palermo Protocol) and the Optional Protocol of the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography. It was also stressed that countries should consider disseminating and implementing important and relevant guidelines such as the OHCHR's "United Nations recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking" and the World Health Organization's "Ten Guiding Principles to the Ethical and Safe Conduct of Interviews with Women who have been Trafficked".

13. The Workshop noted that there are crucial and fundamental differences between people smuggling and human trafficking, which must be acknowledged and appreciated for the effective protection of victims and the appropriate prosecution of perpetrators. There are three main ways to help distinguish between smuggling and trafficking; they are 1) the focus of the crime, 2) the means to conduct the crime and 3) the purpose and end result of the crime. For instance, it was noted that the purpose and end result of human trafficking is the exploitation of the victim. It was also noted that both smuggling and trafficking can occur in the same case. More importantly, however, the treatment of people who are objects of smuggling and trafficking must reflect these differences. Objects of trafficking should be treated as victims and placed in temporary shelters, not detention centers. Furthermore, if possible, they should be allowed temporary stay in the country while awaiting safe repatriation, as the testimony of the victims is crucial to the prosecution of the traffickers and effectively prevent future trafficking.

14. The Workshop noted further that there is a need for the said differences between people smuggling and people trafficking to be understood and agreed upon at the national, bilateral and multilateral level, so that they will form the basis of a common set of guidelines and criteria that all officers and all others working on the issue of human trafficking can use. Only then can the victim identification process become an efficient and powerful tool in the fight against trafficking in humans.

15. The Workshop acknowledged that most existing laws were drafted to suppress crimes done by the individual and not designed to combat organized crime. There is oftentimes no

specific multi-agency unit available to deal directly with anti-trafficking and/or to give full support, protection and assistance to trafficked victims, which is necessary to persuade trafficked victims to offer testimony in court. Finally, there is often a lack of adequate and timely cooperation between countries concerned.

16. The Workshop acknowledged that in order to strengthen prevention and protection of risk groups, it must be understood that, oftentimes, the root of the problem of human trafficking lies in poverty, a lack of education and a lack of knowledge about methods and purposes of trafficking; hence, appropriate policy measures are needed to effectively address these issues among potential risk groups at the community level.

17. The Workshop recognized that human trafficking must be dealt with in the context of organized crime, both domestic and transnational.

18. The Workshop noted the willingness of the Office of the Regional Representative of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights for Asia-Pacific to assist governments in developing an official mechanism or system that is responsive to and upholds human rights in this regard. In view of the drafting of the first ASEAN Charter, for example, the Office offered its readiness to assist in inserting and prioritizing a human rights mechanism in the said Charter.

2. On Prevention and Protection of Trafficked Victims

19. The Workshop noted the best practices of certain countries that have

(1) adopted a multidisciplinary approach in the conduct of anti-human trafficking efforts, through the establishment of provincial and national operation centers on the prevention and suppression of human trafficking comprising all concerned government agencies, including NGOs, and

(2) developed a data base of information and statistics on such useful items as risk groups and risk areas, which is crucial to effective anti-trafficking efforts, in particular with respect to planning, prevention and protection activities.

36. The Workshop acknowledged the importance of allocating funds to assist trafficked victims with provisions of temporary shelters, physical and mental rehabilitation services as well as expenses related to the repatriation and reintegration process.

3. On National Plans of Action on Anti-Human Trafficking

37. The Workshop noted that national plans of actions are central to anti-trafficking efforts and that there should be a common understanding regarding how to develop, operationalize, monitor and evaluate the plans.

38. The Workshop acknowledged that a multidisciplinary approach involving all concerned agencies and covering all aspects of anti-trafficking efforts is crucial.

39. The Workshop recognized that a good national plan of action should adopt a human rights- and victim-centered approach, taking into account the vulnerabilities of the trafficked victims, in particular with regard to the principle of the best interest of trafficked children.

40. The Workshop noted that there should be common definitions of all relevant terminology used by all relevant authorities.

41. The Workshop acknowledged the different nature of the problem in different regions of a country; for example, some parts of a country are a destination of trafficked victims while others are origins of trafficked victims. Therefore, regional plans of action must reflect these specific situations and conditions in order to strengthen overall national efforts to combat human trafficking in the country.

42. The Workshop emphasized the important role of the media in promoting the empowerment of victims and gender equality.

4. On Enhancing Regional and International Cooperation

43. The Workshop acknowledged that human trafficking is a global, regional and domestic problem which affects both individuals and states. Even though regional and international cooperation plays an important role in combating human trafficking, the most effective way to address this problem rests with national governments and institutions.

44. The Workshop noted that regional and international cooperation is not an end in itself, but a means by which human trafficking problems can be addressed. There exist many international treaties/instruments and regional consultative processes on anti-trafficking but whether these mechanisms help reduce the number of trafficked persons is yet to be proved.

45. The Workshop acknowledged the importance of the role of regional consultative processes (RCPs) on human trafficking in encouraging open and constructive dialogue among countries, enhancing national capacity building, promoting the exchange of national best practices and lessons learned and enhancing networking among actors concerned at the regional and international levels.

46. The Workshop also emphasized the need to maintain the flexibility and the non-legally binding nature of these regional consultative processes, which are crucial to stimulate regional and international cooperation in combating human trafficking. Furthermore, political will is needed to strengthen regional and international cooperation on this issue.

Recommendations for further action¹

1. On National Plans of Action:

1.1 *Countries are encouraged to set* a clear timeline with measurable benchmarks with regard to the implementation of their national plans of action on human trafficking by each concerned agency.

1.2 *Countries are encouraged to allocate* a budget for each area of cooperation under the national plan of action.

1.3 *Countries are encouraged to consider* the establishment of a national rapporteur on national efforts to combat human trafficking who is independent and has roles, for example, to collect data, monitor and evaluate the implementation of the plan and report to the government for further and continual improvement of the plan as well as to disseminate information to the public to increase awareness.

¹ The italicized words in this section were discussed and endorsed by the Workshop during its final session on 23 February 2007.

2. On Victim Identification:

2.1 To protect the human rights and human security of the victims *and potential victims* in the victim identification process, countries *are encouraged to* consider the following:

- (1) To introduce an effective screening process for *potential victims of trafficking*, which includes developing a model for interviewing to ensure appropriate questions are asked to determine whether they have been trafficked;
- (2) To ensure that cooperation between relevant authorities, officials and NGOs is in place to facilitate the identification and provision of assistance to trafficked persons;
- (3) To enable representatives of NGOs and officials outside the Ministry/*agencies in charge* to have periodic access to detention centres to help verify whether trafficked persons are being detained;
- (4) To recognize the central role that NGOs *and civil society* can play in improving the law enforcement response to trafficking by providing relevant authorities with information on trafficking incidents and patterns; and
- (5) To provide adequate and appropriate training for persons working with child victims of trafficking.

2.2 Countries should be encouraged to establish criteria for identification of victims of trafficking and as much as possible have agreements on them bilaterally or multilaterally to avoid misunderstanding.

2.3 Countries should continuously engage in capacity building through training and developing user-friendly manuals to be used by law enforcers, social workers and those involved in anti-trafficking *efforts* in order to strengthen the victim identification process.

3. On Protection and Prevention:

3.1 Countries should *consider increasing* public awareness on the issue of human trafficking and promote cooperation between government agencies, NGO's, civil society, private sector and the media in preventing human trafficking and protecting the trafficked victims.

3.2 Countries should provide universal access to education to prevent children from falling into trafficking.

3.3 Countries should encourage more local community involvement in anti-trafficking efforts, in particular with respect to monitoring and reporting potential and possible instances of human trafficking to assist the work of officials and social workers on this issue.

3.4 Countries should consider establishing guidelines *using a human rights approach* to assist and protect the victims.

3.5 Countries should note that effective witness and victim protection law is crucial to anti-human trafficking efforts. The law also needs to be expanded to protect the adult male.

3.6 Countries should consider increasing the penalty to suit damages done by human trafficking and protect the privacy of the victims as well as developing *comprehensive legislation* that provides adequate and unconditional assistance for victims, such as compensation for victims in civil cases.

3.7 Countries should *consider* developing laws to establish a plea bargaining system, laws to criminalize obstruction of justice and more victim-friendly immigration laws with a new attitude toward trafficked victims.

3.8 Countries should ensure safe repatriation and reintegration with measures to allow victims temporary stay in the country.

4. On Prosecution and Law Enforcement:

4.1 Countries should *consider* establishing that conspiracy, preparation and attempt to commit trafficking in humans are serious offences.

4.2 Countries should *consider* developing special law enforcement units specializing in anti-trafficking in humans.

4.3 Countries should *recognize that* trafficking in humans *is* a crime and *that individuals and juridical* persons involved with human trafficking *should be punished*. There should also be special provisions in *anti-trafficking laws, providing for higher penalties for* officials involved in human trafficking.

4.4 Countries should *consider undertaking* analysis of domestic laws and legal systems with a view to improving the work on combating trafficking in persons.

4.5 Countries should *consider* developing anti-organized crime laws, including a law that deals specifically with human trafficking as well as special criminal procedures for human trafficking and other related offences committed by organized criminal syndicates.

4.6 Countries should consider developing laws authorizing the use of special investigation techniques such as wire tapping, electronic or other forms of surveillance and undercover operations to be able to more effectively combat organized crime in human trafficking. Furthermore, money laundering laws should include all serious crimes committed by organized criminal groups as predicated offenses.

4.7 Countries should *consider* continually improving the enforcement of law in the suppression of human trafficking and the protection of trafficked victims. In this regard, there should also be a continued improvement of measures that support the prosecution of traffickers, both in countries of origin, *transit* and destination.

5. On Data Collection and Exchange of Information:

5.1 Countries should consider adopting a multidisciplinary approach in combating human trafficking and developing a national data base to assist in anti-trafficking efforts.

5.2 Countries *should* promote cooperation on *research*, data collection and exchange of information on anti-trafficking efforts.

5.3 Countries should encourage the collection and analysis of cases as well as the identification of lessons learned, so that countries can conduct periodic monitoring and evaluation of the process and results for further improvement.

6. On International Legal Framework:

6.1 Countries *are* encouraged to ratify the Palermo Protocol, the Optional Protocol of the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and *the ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labor* and to further commitment and willingness to enhance regional and international cooperation on the issue of human trafficking.

6.2 Countries should *consider* improving laws to enhance international cooperation in extradition, mutual legal assistance and other informal assistance for trafficked victims. Furthermore, countries should enhance international law enforcement cooperation and *consider developing* agreements to suppress and prevent transnational trafficking.

6.3 Countries *are encouraged to* ensure that the development, implementation and evaluation of regional and international agreements related to human trafficking either directly (MOUs on human trafficking) or indirectly (MOUs on Labor Migration Management and Cross Border Agreements) are in line with international human rights and humanitarian laws.

7. On Regional and International Cooperation:

7.1 Countries *are encouraged to promote* the participation of multi-stakeholders, i.e. governments, NGOs, private sectors, families and members of civil society in regional and international cooperation frameworks against human trafficking.

7.2 Countries *are encouraged to* have domestic legislative mechanisms and national policies in place to implement their obligations under international treaties/instruments which aim to combat or are related to human trafficking.

7.3 Countries should *facilitate information* sharing and networking among concerned government agencies, their counterparts abroad and other *relevant stakeholders*.

7.4 Countries should *consider* assigning the relevant agencies/authorities to attend regional and international forums and facilitating follow-up action. Besides this, countries should encourage close coordination between such agencies/authorities and other government agencies.

7.5 Countries *are encouraged to work* together to develop coherent immigration policies.

7.6 Countries are encouraged to engage Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs), regional and international organizations to strengthen cooperation and coordination in order to avoid duplication of efforts.

7.7 Countries are encouraged to work out modalities for international technical assistance in implementing their national action plans.

8. Specific Recommendation to Friends of the Helsinki Process:

This document will be *shared with* UN member countries and UN agencies concerned for their consideration, in addition to being submitting to the ministerial meeting of the Friends of the Helsinki Process in September 2007 *for further consideration*.

**Last revision as of 14 March 2007
By the Secretariat**

Opening Remarks
by VDC. Col. Vilas Rujiwattanapong
Deputy Governor of Chiang Mai Province
at the Opening Ceremony
of the Friends of the Helsinki Process Chiang Mai Workshop on Human
Trafficking: Enhancing Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships
and International Cooperation
22 February 2007
Chiang Mai Plaza Hotel
Chiang Mai, Thailand

Your Excellency Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Your Excellency Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Social
Development and Human Security,
Representatives from Various Countries, International Organizations and NGOS,
Heads of Thai Government Agencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a distinct honor for Chiang Mai Province to take part in Thailand's important role in hosting a workshop on anti-trafficking efforts under the Helsinki Process, in an effort to promote international cooperation and partnership between stakeholders. On behalf of the people of Chiang Mai, I would like to extend my warmest and most sincere welcome to all of you.

I would also like to take this opportunity to inform all of our guests on the progress of Chiang Mai's anti-trafficking efforts and activities as well as to discuss with you our role and duty in fighting human trafficking in the northern region of the country. In these efforts, Chiang Mai has taken a pro-active, lead role on many different fronts and has received very good cooperation from public, private and local entities in combating human trafficking at the local, regional and national level.

The Secretary General of the International Labor Organization has stated on many occasions that human trafficking is a negative side effect of globalization and can be summed up as modern day slavery. For Chiang Mai province, we realize the gravity of this statement and the seriousness of this problem. Chiang Mai does not only represent the *supply end* of the human trafficking network where poor women and children who migrate for work end up becoming victims of trafficking, but we are also a *transit point* for the human trafficking network where persons being trafficked from border areas of the country transit here before being moved to other regions of the country and the world. Finally, Chiang Mai province also represents the *destination point* of human trafficking where many women and children from our neighboring countries end up and are either forced into prostitution, forced labor, or begging. In 2006, there were 114 cases of police investigations, inspections, and rescues,

19 of which were victims of human trafficking and mostly foreigners. The remaining 95 were cases of illegal immigration and violators of the Prevention and Suppression of Prostitution Act of 1996.

For Chiang Mai, the cause of the problem lies partly in its geographic location and close proximity to the border areas as well as in its status as a tourist hub and trade center, where both legal and illegal labor migration occurs from within and outside of Thailand. These migrating laborers, then, easily fall prey to human trafficking once they arrive in Chiang Mai. Compounding and supporting the network of human trafficking in Chiang Mai is the fact that one third of the population of Chiang Mai province still lives in poverty. There are also still too many gaps and major differences that exist between the city and the countryside and there is a wide diversity of races and ethnicities present, which has usually meant unequal access to educational and employment opportunities.

Chiang Mai understands these realities and was the first province in the region to realize the seriousness of the problem. Chiang Mai was, therefore, also the first to have clear guidelines on collaboration between agencies and the multi-stakeholders in combating human trafficking and eliminating exploitation in women and children.

In 2003, we established the Chiang Mai Coordination Center for the Protection of Children's and Women's Rights (CCPCWR) in 1998 and until now, the good experience we have had with inter-agency collaboration has led to efficiency in assisting and protecting victims, and suppressing human trafficking in all forms. Chiang Mai province, therefore, together with the Sub-Committee on Coordinating Efforts in Anti-Trafficking in Women and Children of Thailand and the Department of Social Development and Human Security had the right experience to draft the Memorandum of Understanding on guidelines for effective cooperation among stakeholders in dealing with trafficking in women and children in the 9 northern provinces. This document, more commonly known as "the Northern MOU", was a working mechanism for cooperation at the provincial level and was considered to be the prototype for provincial cooperation in other parts of the country as well. Moreover, the multi-stakeholders, who were grouped in the Committee for the Chiang Mai Operational Center on the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking, which also had an operational unit offering protection and assistance in accordance with the Northern MOU, were also recognized as a prime example of successful cooperation for other teams.

With regard to prevention, Chiang Mai province has continuously developed both the qualitative and quantitative potential and ability of its officials working on anti-trafficking at all levels. We have also developed our knowledge and capacity to strengthen cooperation with the business and private sectors and to build them into an operational network to combat trafficking. Moreover, we have tried our best to raise the awareness of the community and the target group,

especially women and children, by using all forms of media. Each year, we organize an anti-trafficking campaign in the Chiang Mai metropolitan area called “the campaign to stop human trafficking” for which we have received the consistent cooperation of the private sector. However, the most important activity we have initiated with regard to prevention is in the area of information technology development. We are the first to create a database system that pulls in all sectors to assist in the prevention and suppression of human trafficking in an efficient and comprehensive manner.

All these activities signify that Chiang Mai province has actively responded to the government’s policy of prioritizing anti-trafficking efforts on the national agenda. We are also ready to cooperate and determined and sincere in assisting the *global* network to combat human trafficking. In this connection, I would like to take this opportunity to thank such international organizations as the ILO/IPEC and UNICEF who have always offered Chiang Mai province their full cooperation and support.

Last but not least, I would like to thank the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in their capacity as host of this workshop, the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security in their capacity as coordinator in Chiang Mai, all the representatives from various countries, international organizations, NGOs, as well as all participants who have expressed an interest in the activities of Chiang Mai province on this issue. During your stay in Chiang Mai, the people of Chiang Mai and I hope that you will have an enjoyable time visiting the scenic places, taking in the natural landscape and learning about the rich culture and heritage of Chiang Mai. We wish all of you good health and the mental and physical strength to lead this valuable operation to a successful outcome. I hope this workshop will achieve all of its goals and I look forward to welcoming you all again in the future.

Thank you and good luck.

**Keynote Remarks by
H.E. Mr. Sawanit Kongsiri
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand
At the Friends of the Helsinki Process Workshop on Human Trafficking:
Enhancing Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships and International Cooperation
22 February 2007
Chiang Mai Plaza Hotel,
Chiang Mai, Thailand**

**Excellencies,
Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is my pleasure to formally welcome all of you to the Friends of the Helsinki Process Workshop on Human Trafficking: Enhancing Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships and International Cooperation. I would like to thank Khun Vilas Rujiwattanapong, Vice Governor of Chiang Mai Province, for his warm welcoming remarks. I am certain that the hospitality of the Chiang Mai people and the active anti-trafficking work of Chiang Mai Province will greatly contribute to meaningful discussions and a successful outcome of this important meeting.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Over the past decade, human trafficking has reached epidemic proportions. No one knows the exact figures because of the underground nature of the business. However, it is estimated that between 600,000-800,000 men, women and children are trafficked every year across borders. The said figure does not yet include millions of victims around the world who are trafficked within their own national borders.

Human trafficking deprives a person of all their fundamental freedoms and human rights. It not only impinges on a person's physical and mental security, but it also destroys a person's sense of dignity and integrity.

Human trafficking, in all its forms, from forced labour to prostitution, from slavery to servitude, are all serious offences and are closely intertwined with other transnational crimes such as drug trafficking and kidnapping. One problem breeds another and, owing to their transnational nature, no Government can tackle these problems alone.

Being a country of origin, transit and destination of human trafficking, Thailand fully understands the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships and international cooperation to combat the problem. Thailand has been a staunch supporter of several initiatives to promote international cooperation, for instance through our active participation in anti-human trafficking regional cooperative networks, such as, the Regional Ministerial Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crimes (or Bali Process) and the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT). Thailand is also a member of the Human Security Network or HSN initiated by Norway and Canada in 1999, and the Friends of the Helsinki Process on Globalization and Democracy initiated by Finland and Tanzania in 2005. These two informal inter-regional groups of like-minded countries work to promote human security and solution-oriented co-operation to global problems with human trafficking being identified as one priority area of cooperation.

With our experience and complementary involvement in various sub-regional and regional initiatives related to human trafficking, Thailand stands ready to serve as a bridge to cultivate and enhance partnerships among existing cooperative networks and like-minded countries. Concerted efforts are needed from all like-minded countries as well as all parts of society to combat this crime as it directly threatens human rights and the livelihood of our peoples.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In Thailand's capacity as the facilitator of the Friends of the Helsinki Process' cooperation on anti-human trafficking, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand has the honour to host this Workshop in the hope that all of us from the public sector, international organizations, academia and NGOs, through different viewpoints but committed to common goals, will brainstorm on what more can be done to tackle human trafficking and pave the way forward. We are pleased to have with us not only countries from the Friends of the Helsinki Process, but also several interested countries from the Bali Process which is the relevant forum in the Asia-Pacific region, from the COMMIT which is very active in this area in the Mekong sub-region, and from the Human Security Network, the United States, international organizations concerned, and interested multi-stakeholders from civil society both from within Thailand as well as abroad.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We are all here today to exchange information, to jointly coordinate policies, suggest strategies, and also to promote awareness on this issue.

May I encourage you to use this opportunity to open up to new ideas, learn from each others' experiences and best practices, and foster an anti-trafficking network at both the state-to-state and people-to-people levels in order to lessen this multi-dimensional problem.

Regardless of our diverse backgrounds, I am confident that we can do our part to tackle human security threats together and, in addition, we can advance this agenda further in other parts of society. As policy-makers, academics, researchers, businesses, NGOs or government officials, we have responsibilities on this issue not only in our own societies but as citizens of the world.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Allow me to say that Thailand is very honoured to have many distinguished moderators, panelists as well as participants with extensive experience and expertise on countering human trafficking present here. I encourage you to delve into the heart of the issue. Particularly, this Workshop seeks your contributions on how to enhance state capacity to identify victims of human trafficking, with respect to protection and promotion of individuals' human rights and human security.

Thailand is committed to the protection and promotion of human rights and has incorporated human rights considerations into its national practices of victim identification. We would like to learn the practices of others on this matter as well. Participants are very much welcomed to exchange national experiences in the development and implementation of national plans of action to counter human trafficking. Furthermore, as the global efforts to combat human trafficking are large in number but rather fragmented, Thailand hopes that the Workshop's outcome will ultimately suggest ways and means to enhance and solidify regional and international cooperation on this issue.

In addition to the discussion among the participants, this afternoon, the local government-NGO joint anti-trafficking team will give you an overview of a model for multi-stakeholder partnership and cooperation. Afterwards, a fieldtrip is arranged for you to visit the New Life Center Foundation, one of the best NGO centers in Thailand providing a rehabilitation programme for victims of human trafficking.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs chose to hold this Workshop outside Bangkok because of our "people-centric diplomacy." By hosting an important

international conference in Chiang Mai in the northern part of the country, we seek to bring foreign friends to witness the reality of the anti-human trafficking work on the ground and to see the livelihood of the people outside the capital city. We can also, in turn, raise awareness of the human trafficking issue in this community. The very issue that we will discuss in this Workshop concerns the local people the most; and what we do from here forward is for the sake of improving their lives. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs believes in our guiding principle that diplomacy should, above all, serve the people.

Local participation is very important for successful public policy implementation and democratic governance. We have therefore also invited local government agencies, academics and NGOs in Chiang Mai and neighbouring provinces to participate in this Workshop in order to promote local anti-trafficking initiatives and link them to efforts at the global level. I hope they will make contributions with their real life experiences and benefit from this workshop.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Judging from the level of participation at this Workshop, I am pleased to see that the human trafficking issue has attained international attention, with a common understanding of the benefits of cooperation. Our participation today shows that we, from many parts of the globe, care about the human trafficking problem and will to our best ability try to bring about constructive change.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all the distinguished speakers and participants for making this Workshop another step towards a world more free of human trafficking. Again, I very much hope that all delegates will use this opportunity to exchange views and build bridges with each other. And I look forward to seeing fruitful discussions and a meaningful outcome from this Workshop.

Finally, I hope you all will enjoy your stay in Chiang Mai and take the time to appreciate all that this charming city, the Rose of the North, has to offer.

Thank you.

Helsinki Process Workshop on Human Trafficking, 22-23 February 2007, Chiang Mai
Ambassador Jukka Leino

22 February

Honourable Minister(s),

Dear Distinguished Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Helsinki Process on Globalisation and Democracy was launched in 2003 by the governments of Finland and Tanzania to promote a more democratic governance of globalisation and to foster cooperation and bridge divisions between different stakeholders from the North and South. The Helsinki Process provides a neutral and informal forum for open and inclusive dialogue between major actors, and is in search for common ground to further the implementation of global commitments, such as the Millennium Declaration.

The key idea behind the Helsinki Process is the notion that various stakeholders – governments, civil society, the business community, international organisations, academia and the media – can play a major role in accelerating thinking on global problem solving. The involvement of all stakeholders in various capacities in global decision-making processes, as such, does not solve the problem, but it can help in highlighting where gaps and difficulties remain.

The Second Phase of the Helsinki Process, culminating at the end of 2007, focuses on specific issues instead of broad themes and seeks to introduce multi-stakeholder dialogue and cooperation to areas where it could bring value-added but is currently not common practice. The Helsinki Process aims to be more action-oriented and focuses on the questions: what needs to be done and, most importantly, how are we going to do it?

In 2005, building towards the Helsinki Conference, a group of "Friends of the Helsinki Process" governments – Algeria, Brazil, Canada, Egypt, Hungary, India, Malaysia, Mexico, South Africa, Spain, Thailand, and the United Kingdom – was invited to engage in the process and its follow-up. This group in particular has provided valuable political support to the Process.

The Friends of the Helsinki Process governments play a key part in promoting the implementation of proposals made by the First Phase of the Process. They have assessed these proposals and jointly selected some to be taken forward. The Friends of the Helsinki Process

have developed Road Maps for promoting action on each issue chosen: Anti-Corruption (facilitated by Finland), Gender Equality (facilitated by South Africa), Promoting Information and Communication Technology (facilitated by Egypt), and Water and Sanitation (facilitated by Spain), International Migration (facilitated by Mexico), and Human Trafficking (facilitated by Thailand).

Human trafficking is a complex set of issues with socio-cultural, economical, and developmental implications. It requires broad and coherent cooperation on national, regional and global levels. Hence, I hope that the Helsinki Process and this meeting could bring value-added by proving a forum for the different stakeholders to exchange views and experiences in order to find common ground and to build partnerships.

I wish all the success to this meeting and hope that this will be a forum where innovative ways of tackling the challenges posed by human trafficking could be found.

Thank you.

**VOTE OF THANKS BY MR. OMARY MJENGA, TANZANIA NATIONAL
SECRETARY OF THE HELSINKI PROCESS DURING THE CLOSING
SESSION OF THE ROUNDTABLE ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING,
CHIANG MAI, THAILAND, 23RD FEBRUARY 2007.**

**Honorable Mr. Charivat Santaputra, the Deputy Permanent Secretary of the
Thailand Ministry of Foreign Affairs,**

Distinguished Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, allow me on behalf of the Helsinki Process Secretariat and the Co-chair countries- Finland and Tanzania, to thank the Royal Thai Government and its people for accepting to host this extremely important roundtable workshop on human trafficking here in Chiang Mai. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs deserves our recognition in this hosting. We thank you very much Hon. Charivat Santaputra on behalf of the Ministry. We would like also to extend our gratitude to the Provincial Authorities of the Chiang Mai for housing us in this very beautiful city. We convey our sincere and innermost gratitude and thanks to all of you who made our stay the most excellent.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Through this workshop we have been able to acquaint ourselves more on the magnitude of the problem and each one of us in one way or another has been able to learn from the experiences of others. This is a good start that has to be heeded by each of us. Indeed, the discussions have been of great in-depth, in which several recommendations and way forward have been charted out for us to consider.

It is our great expectation that the Royal Thai Government together with other participants here today would be in the front line in ensuring proper implementation of these recommendations and resolutions reached in this workshop.

We heartily thank all the participants to this workshop, particularly their countries and organizations who have made it possible for them to be here today and for taking their time and interest to come. In a very special manner, allow me to thank those participants and countries who are not members of the Group of Friends of the Helsinki Process for supporting this Process. Indeed we feel obliged to have you here today, and heartily welcome you to the Group in order to assist in the implementation of the final recommendations of the work of the Helsinki Process at all possible forums.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The objectives of the Helsinki Process are still far from done. We need you all in realizing them. We have several forums ahead of us in which we invite you

all to attend. Most important to mention, is the Review Conference of the Helsinki Process to be held in Dar es salaam, Tanzania in November 2007. This conference expects to review the work and progress so far reached in the Helsinki Process. As a hosting country, let me take this opportunity to welcome you all to Tanzania. Our Kiswahili welcoming word is KARIBUNI SANA.

Lastly, Ladies and Gentlemen, it would be a remiss of me, if I did not recognize the warmth of reception accorded to us by the organizing committee of this workshop, under the great supervision of Madam Phantipa and her entire crew. We indeed thank you very much for the hospitality and work well done.

'Kob Khun Krap'

Thank you very much.

Closing Address
by a Senior Official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand
23 February 2007
Chiang Mai Plaza Hotel
Chiang Mai, Thailand

Your Excellency Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security of Thailand,
Mr. Merisaari,
Khun Somchai,
Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have now come to the end of our two-day workshop on human trafficking. I believe you share my view that it has been two solid days of intense discussions and extremely useful presentations. We have been given the opportunity here to share, learn and reflect on how we can individually, nationally, regionally and internationally enhance our anti-trafficking efforts together. The conclusions and recommendations for further actions that we have reached through this two-day process are truly the product of the earnest and concerted efforts of leading and much accomplished persons in the field, which without a doubt will give more meaning and effectiveness to our final document.

I wish to reiterate that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand has truly the honor and pleasure of hosting this Friends of the Helsinki Process Workshop on Human Trafficking here in Chiang Mai. We certainly could not have proceeded as smoothly as we have without the full cooperation and commitment of the Chiang Mai Provincial authorities and the warm hospitality of Chiang Mai Province. On behalf of the Foreign Ministry, I would also like to express our gratitude to all participants and all our distinguished lead discussants and guest speakers in the workshop, and in particular the International Organization for Migration for helping to support the participation of government representatives of some countries to this Workshop.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The workshop has been a success in many different aspects. But the real success in our efforts lies not in today's final document but in the days and months ahead in our continuing fight against trafficking in humans. Let us allow the commitment of the past two days revive our efforts in this respect and remind us of the work that still needs to be done.

Finally, I do sincerely hope that you will all take away with you lasting impressions and fond memories of your visit here. Let's look forward to strengthening our cooperation in the future.

Thank you for your participation in the Workshop and good luck.