

The Recent Actions Japan has taken to combat TIP

Trafficking in persons is a grave violation of human rights and dignity, and it requires a prompt and appropriate response from a humanitarian perspective, as trafficking in persons causes serious emotional and physical pain for the victims, especially women and children, and whose recovery from such damage is very difficult.

With such recognition, Japan established the Inter-Ministerial Liaison Committee (Task Force) at Kantei (Prime Minister's Office) in April 2004, and the Member Ministries/Agencies of the Task Force (Cabinet Secretariat, National Police Agency, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare) have taken various effective and swift measures as follows;

1. Adoption of the Comprehensive National Action Plan of measures to combat trafficking in person

The Task Force adopted the National Action Plan on 7th December 2004, and it was approved by the Cabinet Meeting on Anti-Crime Measures on 14th December 2004(see attached).

2. Conclusion of the Protocol

The conclusion of the Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children, has been submitted to this session of the Diet for approval.

3. Amendment of Laws/Regulations (under discussion at this session of the Diet for approval. No.(6) has already been implemented)

(1) The Penal Code

to criminalize the conduct of buying and selling of persons, and the conduct of transporting, transferring and harbouring of victims of kidnapping, abduction, buying or selling.

(2)The Law for Punishment of Organized Crimes, Control of Crime Proceeds and Other Matters

to designate trafficking in persons as an offence to be covered as predicate offences for money laundering

(3) The Law on Control and Improvement of Amusement Businesses

to oblige employers of amusement/sex-related businesses to check documents such as status of residence of foreigners they hire.

(4) The Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act

to stipulate that a special permission of status can be given to a victim of trafficking in persons for the purpose of protection, as well as to criminalize the conduct of procuring, providing or possessing a fraudulent foreign passport for the purpose of facilitating illegal entry to Japan, which contribute to punish traffickers.

(5) Passport Law

to prevent the production of forged passport and illegal use of passport by incorporating IC chips onto passport, as well as to criminalize the conduct of procuring, providing or possessing a fraudulent Japanese passport.

(6) The Ministerial Ordinance to Provide for Criteria pursuant to Article 7, Paragraph 1(2) of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act

to prevent the residence status of entertainer from being abused for trafficking in persons.

4. Prevention

(1) For the purpose of preventing the resident status of entertainer from being abused by trafficking in persons etc, the Criteria of landing permit for the residence status of “Entertainer” was reviewed and has enforced since March 15th 2005.

(2) Strict border control is going to implement for effective monitoring of possible victims of trafficking in persons by means of Pre-Clearance System at some airports in Taiwan and Korea, Secondary Inspection System at main airports from April this year.

(3) The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport occasionally instructs travel agencies not to assist sexual exploitation of children. Furthermore, Japan Association of Travel Agents (JATA), Overseas Tour Operators Association of Japan (OTOA), and 60 major travel agents signed “The Code Project for Child Protection from sexual exploitation in travel/sight seeing” which is promoted by UNICEF etc to prevent sexual exploitation of children.

5. Crackdown and Prosecution

(1)The number of cleared cases, arrested persons and victims has increased .

	2002	2003	2004
Number of cleared cases	44	51	79
Number of arrested persons	28	41	58
Number of victims	55	83	77

(2)The number of prosecution has increased.

- 2002 26 offenders
- 2003 37 offenders
- 2004 48 offenders

6. Protection

It is very important to properly protect victims. Therefore, the Government of Japan has established the protecting process of victims (see attached) and tried to diffuse the information to victims as well as the general public. Due to the Government's efforts, the number of protected victims at the Women's Consulting Offices has been increased (protected victims last year were 4 times more than that of previous year). The Government of Japan continues to make strenuous efforts to realize the effective protection for victims.

(1) The number of victims who were protected at Women's Consulting Offices has increased.

FY2002	2 (2 Thais)
FY2003	6 (3 Thais and 3 Filipinos)
FY2004 (As of March 1st)	25(17Thais, 4 Taiwanese, 2 Filipinos, 1 Colombian, 1 Korean)

(2)Commission of temporary protection to private shelter starts from April 1st. The Government has budgeted around 100,000US\$ to private shelters to protect victims.

(3)Repatriation assistance to victims through IOM starts from April 1st.

The Government funded around 160,000 US \$ to IOM for this assistance.

(4) The notifications of how to protect victims by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, the Ministry of Justice, and the National Police Agency,

and have been dispatched to its related offices throughout Japan.

7. Public Relations for public awareness

(1) Broadcast on TV and radio

(a)Fuji TV, Kansai TV, CS Asahi (March 4th,10th, 19th, 21st, 26th)

(b)TBS Radio(February 27th)

(2) Publicize on News Paper and Magazine

(a)News Paper

- February 21st (Yorimuri), 22nd (Hokkaido, Tokyo-Chuniti, Nishinohon)

23rd (Sankei),24th (Mainichi),25th(64 local Newspapers), 26th (Asahi, Yaeyama-Mainichi, Miyako-Mainichi), 27th(Nikkei)

- March (To be decided)

(b)Magazines

February 1st (Toki-no-ugoki) ,February 15th(News from the headquarters for the Promotion of Gender Equality)

(3) Making leaflets for victims (around 1 million copies)

Translated in English, Spanish, Tagalong, Thai, Chinese, Russian.

(4) Print posters (28,000 copies)

8. International Cooperation

(1) The Government Delegation visited related countries as follows:

- September 2004 Philippines, Thailand

- January 2005 Colombia, The USA, Philippines

to discuss how to prevent trafficking in persons as well as to share information with Governments, International Organizations, NGOs and Religious Groups (Catholic churches etc)

(2) The cooperation with Faith Based Organizations.

→ The Government of Japan has cooperated with the Catholic Church in the Philippines and Colombia as well as the Holy Sea for prevention of trafficking in persons and protection for victims. The Government of Japan also requested public awareness campaigns by Catholic Church, and asked for the support for the Action Plan the Government of Japan adopted.

Further, the Government of Japan has requested the cooperation with relevant Buddhist Associations in Thailand in this regard.

(3)In cooperation with international organizations such as UNICEF, IOM,ILO, WHO, UNDP etc, the Government supports various

preventive/protective programs for trafficking in persons through utilizing the Trust Fund for Human Security (established in the UN by Japan's initiative) etc..

Especially, to help the children who suffered most severely from the disasters caused by the major earthquake off the coast of Sumatra and the tsunami in the Indian Ocean, Japan is implementing the "Japan's Children Support Plan for Tsunami Victims" focusing on both child protection including anti-human trafficking measures and child survival including measures against infectious diseases, by utilizing about \$86 million as part of the emergency assistance of \$250 million already contributed to international organizations including the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in response to the emergency appeal. (See attached)

(4) Official Development Assistance (ODA) is used for prevention of trafficking in persons

For example, the Japanese Government funded a local NGO in Colombia to provide information of trafficking in persons by distributing leaflets as well as by setting up Kiosk at main airports.

(5) The participation/financial contribution to the Bali Process (Follow up process of The Regional Ministerial Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime)

to participate the regional framework for countering trafficking in persons as well as to fund around 10,000 US \$ to the re-design and maintenance of the Bali Process website.

(6) Various symposiums and seminars have been held by the Government. For example:

- "1st Contact Point Meeting for Trafficking in Persons" (December 17th 2004) established a Network among the Government, Embassies in Tokyo, International Organizations, and NGO to discuss the issue of trafficking in persons and exchange information.

- "18th Seminar on Immigration Control" (Nov. 29th to Dec. 3rd 2004) etc.

discussed the present situation of trafficking in persons in the participated countries and how to protect/relieve victims etc. in cooperation with countries including the Philippines, UN, international organizations such as IOM.