

2023 Republic of China (Taiwan) Trafficking in Persons Report



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Table of Contents

I. Prologue	1
II. Highlights of 2023.....	2
1. Prosecution	3
2. Protection.....	3
3. Prevention.....	5
4. Partnership.....	7
III. Achievements in 2023	9
1. Actively Prosecuting Crimes Related to Human Trafficking	9
2. Enhancing the Protection of TIP Victims....	21
3. Active Prevention of the Occurrence of Human Trafficking Cases.....	37
4. Strengthening Domestic and Foreign Partnerships	67
5. Key Points in Response to the Amendment to the Human Trafficking Prevention Act and Supporting Laws and Regulations	82
IV. Future Work.....	87
1. Prosecution	87
2. Protection.....	89
3. Prevention.....	92
4. Partnership.....	103
V. Conclusion	105

Annexes

Figure 1: Taiwan's 4P Policy and Public-Private Partnership Mechanism for Combating Human Trafficking.....	108
Table 1: Cases Referred by Judicial Police Authorities from 2009 to 2023.....	109
Table 2: Type and Number of Hiring Violation Cases from 2009 to 2023.....	110
Table 3: Cases Prosecuted and Persons Indicted for Tip-Related Offences by District Prosecutor's Offices from 2009 to 2023	112
Table 4: Sentences Imposed on Tip-Related Crimes from 2009 to 2023.....	113
Table 5: Statistics of Foreign TIP Victims Placed in Shelters from 2009 to 2023	114
Table 6: Inspection Visits of Overseas Employment of Foreign (Fishing) Crew Members from 2019 to 2023	116
Table 7: Punishments for (Fishing) Ship Owner's Violation from 2019 to 2023	117
Table 8: Cases for Broker's Violations and Fines Imposed from 2019 to 2023	119
Table 9: Statistics of 1955 Hotline Complaints Filed by Overseas Foreign (Fishing) Crew Members from 2019 to 2023.....	120

2023 Republic of China (Taiwan) Trafficking in Persons Report

I. Prologue

1. The effects of globalization have perpetuated issues such as economic disparities, wars, regime transitions, and wealth inequality across nations, leading to increased movement of people between countries and indirectly contributing to numerous human trafficking problems. To consolidate resources across central and local government agencies, Taiwan announced the "Human Trafficking Prevention Action Plan" in November 2006. In February 2007, the Executive Yuan established a cabinet-level Anti-Trafficking in Persons (TIP) coordination task force followed by the promulgation and enforcement of the Human Trafficking Prevention Act in June 2009. The aim is to work closely with non-governmental organizations to effectively curb human trafficking activities.
2. In the U.S. Department of State's 2023 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, Taiwan was rated as a Tier 1 country for the 14th consecutive year. However, the report raised concerns, stating that "insufficient investigative personnel and inadequate regulations within government agencies continue to hinder efforts to identify, investigate, and prosecute labor exploitation on Taiwan's distant water fleet." The report urged Taiwan to address human trafficking issues in the distant water fishing industry through legislative amendments, enhanced law enforcement, and formal inclusion of civil society participation.
3. To effectively implement Taiwan's anti-human trafficking policies, significant amendments to the Human Trafficking

Prevention Act were made in June 2023. These amendments aim to broaden the scope of criminal behavior definitions and enhance victim protection, thereby improving Taiwan's overall effectiveness in combating human trafficking. Additionally, through the "2023-2024 Anti-Exploitation Action Plan," Taiwan continues to adjust and refine its preventive strategies and specific measures. Furthermore, under the supervision of the Executive Yuan, the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Labor, Ministry of Justice, Ocean Affairs Council, and Ministry of the Interior revised the “Action Plan for Fisheries and Human Rights” in July 2023. The plan's budget was increased from NT\$603.624 million to NT\$1.139225 billion, along with an enhancement of related subsidy items and expenses. The plan is structured around seven key implementation strategies, including ensuring labor conditions, strengthening living conditions and social security, improving intermediary management, enhancing monitoring and management capacity, reinforcing the management of flag of convenience fishing vessels, establishing and deepening international cooperation, and promoting partnerships for collective well-being, all aimed at comprehensively safeguarding the rights of fishery workers.

II. Highlights of 2023

To effectively combat human trafficking crimes and address related issues, the Executive Yuan established the “Cabinet-Level Anti-Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Coordination Task Force” in 2007, serving as a platform to coordinate and integrate resources and policies across various sectors. In 2023, the Executive Yuan continued to vigorously promote anti-

trafficking efforts, including Taiwan's 4P policy and public-private collaboration mechanisms (as illustrated in Figure 1). Furthermore, to implement the spirit and policies of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the scope of the original meeting was expanded in May 2020, and its name was changed to the “Executive Yuan Coordination Committee on Prevention of Human Trafficking and Elimination of Racial Discrimination.” Currently, Taiwan’s anti-human trafficking strategy continues to focus on four key pillars: Prosecution, Protection, Prevention, and Partnership (collectively referred to as the 4P strategy), aligning with the strategies adopted by most countries worldwide. A summary of the 2023 achievements is as follows:

1. Prosecution

- 1.1 Judicial and law enforcement agencies referred a total of 148 human trafficking cases to district prosecutors' offices for investigation, including 63 cases of labor exploitation, 80 cases of sexual exploitation, and 5 cases of attempted organ harvesting.
- 1.2 District prosecutors' offices prosecuted, including filing for summary judgment, a total of 231 human trafficking-related cases, involving 404 defendants.
- 1.3 A total of 56 defendants were convicted of human trafficking by the courts, with final judgments rendered.

2. Protection

2.1 Provision of Shelters for Foreign Victims:

The National Immigration Agency (hereinafter referred to as NIA) and the Workforce Development Agency

(hereinafter referred to as WDA) under the Ministry of Labor, in collaboration with civil society organizations, established 25 shelters. In 2023, these shelters provided refuge for 109 newly admitted foreign victims. During their stay, victims were provided with essential protection services, including daily care, psychological counseling, interpretation services, legal assistance, accompany during investigations, and necessary medical aid.

2.2 Safeguarding Work Rights and Providing Vocational Training for Foreign Victims:

In 2023, the Ministry of Labor issued 76 work permits to foreign victims. Additionally, the ministry notified local public employment service centers to provide employment-related consultation services, resulting in 81 consultations and successfully assisting 65 victims in finding employment.

2.3 Continued Service Provision through the “1955 Labor Consultation and Complaint Hotline”:

In 2023, the hotline received a total of 245,076 calls for consultations and complaints. This included 215,986 consultation calls and 29,090 general and emergency complaint calls. The hotline assisted with 2,790 cases where migrant workers successfully changed employers, facilitated the return of unpaid wages in 3,604 cases, and recovered a total of NT\$125,783,859 in unpaid wages and related costs.

2.4 Protection of Taiwanese Victims

1. Child and Adolescent Sexual Exploitation Victims:

In accordance with the Child and Youth Sexual Exploitation Prevention Act, related services were

provided. In 2023, local governments handled 215 reported cases where children or adolescents were engaged in paid sexual or indecent acts.

2. Special Protection for Taiwanese Victims of the Cambodia Incident:

The Ministry of the Interior, in consultation with relevant agencies, issued the “Guidelines on the Repatriation and 2. Protection of Taiwan Nationals who are Victims of Human Trafficking or Other Crimes Overseas” in September 2022. These guidelines established a procedure for the protection of Taiwanese victims, including victim identification, shelter needs, medical assistance, financial support, and employment matching. The Ministry of Health and Welfare (hereinafter referred to as MOHW), WDA, local government social services, judicial and law enforcement agencies, and civil society organizations jointly implemented the guidelines. As of 2023, 349 suspected victims were identified, with 29 agreeing to join the protection service program. A total of 578 protection services were provided or referred by the relevant agencies.

3. Prevention

3.1 Actively Implementing the "2023-2024 Anti-Exploitation Action Plan":

The Ministry of the Interior coordinated and integrated resources from various central government agencies, issuing the “2023-2024 Anti-Exploitation Action Plan” in 2023. This plan encompasses 4 major aspects, 19

initiatives, and 81 specific strategies. In 2023, except for the draft amendment of the “Appropriate Sentencing Guidelines for Criminal Cases” led by the Judicial Yuan (Criminal Department) and certain strategies requiring inter-agency cooperation and public consensus, which will continue into the next fiscal year, all other strategies were completed. Additionally, measures such as strengthening the supervision and management of labor recruitment and intermediary agencies continue to be promoted under the "2023-2024 Anti-Exploitation Action Plan."

3.2 Continuing the Implementation of the "Action Plan for Fisheries and Human Rights” Project:

In May 2022, the Executive Yuan approved the Ministry of Agriculture's medium- to long-term project, which spans approximately four years (2022-2025). In July 2023, the plan underwent rolling revisions, with the total budget adjusted to NT\$1.139225 billion. These revisions also included enhancements to related subsidy items and expenses, as well as strengthened measures for the supervision and management of fishing vessels.

3.3 Strengthening the Prevention of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Child and Adolescent Victims in Taiwan:

The Ministry of Health and Welfare continues to urge relevant ministries and agencies to implement and promote educational campaigns on the prevention of child and adolescent sexual exploitation. The Ministry regularly reviews and reports on the progress of these efforts during the Advisory Committee on Child and

Youth Sexual Exploitation Prevention meetings. Additionally, the Ministry coordinates with local governments to provide services for adult victims in Taiwan, aiming to establish a comprehensive support network.

4. Partnership

4.1 Enhancing Practical Cooperation on Immigration Affairs and Combating Human Trafficking

1. In 2023, no new agreements or memorandums of understanding on immigration affairs and human trafficking prevention were signed with other countries. However, as of 2023, Taiwan has signed agreements with 22 countries, including Mongolia, Indonesia, The Gambia, Honduras, Vietnam, Paraguay, the United States, the Solomon Islands, Belize, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Japan, Guatemala, Eswatini, Nauru, El Salvador, Panama, Palau, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the Marshall Islands, Belgium, Australia, and the Philippines. These agreements have significantly enhanced Taiwan's international cooperation on immigration affairs, contributing to joint efforts in combating transnational crime and human trafficking.
2. Taiwan enacted the "Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Act" in May 2018. As of 2023, Taiwan has signed mutual legal assistance treaties (agreements) with 12 countries, including the United States, the Philippines, South Africa, Poland, Nauru, Belize, Slovakia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines,

South Korea, Germany, Tuvalu, and Saint Lucia. These treaties enable reciprocal requests for judicial assistance, providing substantial benefits in combating crime.

4.2 Strengthening Transnational Symposiums and Exchange Activities

1. Taiwan is a member of the Asset Recovery Interagency Network Asia-Pacific (ARIN-AP) and is invited annually to participate in training sessions and annual meetings organized by the network. In May 2023, the Ministry of Justice sent representatives to Seoul, South Korea, to attend the network's training sessions, where they exchanged views with officials from the South Korean Ministry of Justice and the Supreme Prosecutors' Office. In November, the Ministry of Justice also dispatched a delegation to Bangkok, Thailand, to participate in the network's annual meeting. During this meeting, Taiwan and the Office of the Attorney General of Thailand discussed deepening criminal justice cooperation between the two countries. The theme of the meeting was "Synergy of Effective Confiscation of the Proceeds of Crime." Taiwanese prosecutors and investigators were invited to present on the evolution of legal frameworks and practical outcomes in cases involving virtual currencies and asset confiscation. The presentations received significant attention, contributing to enhanced cooperation in law enforcement between Taiwan and other countries, particularly in the pursuit of criminal proceeds in human trafficking cases.

2. From October to November 2023, the Ministry of Justice hosted a two-day “2023 International Seminar on Combating Cross-Border Fraud—Enhancing Efforts through International Cooperation.” The seminar focused on issues closely related to Cross-Border fraud crimes linked with human trafficking in recent years. Representatives from the U.S. Department of Justice, the Canadian and Polish Ministries of Justice, the Swiss Federal Office of Justice, the Office of the Attorney General of Thailand, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) were invited to participate. The event also facilitated exchanges between these international experts and domestic law enforcement personnel and judges specializing in combating fraud crimes.

III. Achievements in 2023

1. Actively Prosecuting Crimes Related to Human Trafficking

1.1 Human Trafficking Case Investigations

1. Since 2009, judicial and law enforcement agencies have continuously designated specialized units to coordinate and plan operations targeting human trafficking crimes. These units strengthen horizontal communication, effectively utilize resources, and focus their investigations on potential or suspicious locations, including illegal brokers, places frequented or inhabited by foreign nationals, and establishments associated with vice activities. Protecting children and

adolescents under the age of 18 from sexual exploitation remains a key priority in these efforts.

2. The National Police Agency of the Ministry of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the “NPA”) has formulated the “Special Implementation Plan for Strengthening the Investigation and Crackdown on Human Trafficking Brokers and Organizations” (Anti-Slavery Plan) in accordance with the “Executive Yuan’s Action Plan for the Prevention of Human Trafficking.” This plan integrates the efforts of various police departments nationwide, including those specializing in foreign affairs, criminal investigations, and the protection of women, children, and juveniles. The NPA has planned extensive inspections and special operations to actively investigate and crack down on human trafficking cases.
- 3 In 2023, various judicial and law enforcement agencies referred a total of 148 human trafficking cases to local prosecutors' offices for investigation. Among these cases, 63 involved labor exploitation, 80 involved sexual exploitation, and 5 were related to attempted organ harvesting. The number of human trafficking cases referred by judicial and law enforcement agencies from 2009 to 2023 is detailed in Table 1.
- 4 The Fisheries Agency of the Council of Agriculture (hereinafter referred to as the “Fisheries Agency”) has established the “Standard Operating Procedures for Receiving and Reporting Disputes on Distant Water Fisheries with Overseas Employment of Foreign Crew Members Suspected of Violating the Human

Trafficking Prevention Act” If the Fisheries Agency receives allegations from foreign crew members abroad accusing a Taiwanese distant water fishing vessel of human trafficking, the agency will forward the relevant evidence to the prosecutor’s office in the jurisdiction where the fishing vessel is registered for investigation, with a copy sent to the Taiwan High Prosecutors Office. In 2023, the Fisheries Agency referred seven such suspected cases to local prosecutors' offices.

- 5 To proactively prevent human trafficking cases from occurring at the source and to reduce the vulnerability of migrant workers in Taiwan—who may face challenges due to cultural and language barriers as well as restrictive working environments, potentially leading to unfair treatment—the Ministry of Labor has implemented stringent oversight and management of the employment and brokerage of migrant workers in strict accordance with the law. The violations and number of cases related to illegal employment investigated from 2009 to 2023 are detailed in Table 2.

1.2 The Prosecution and Sentencing of Human Trafficking Cases

1. In an effort to enhance the appropriateness and predictability of sentencing and to strengthen the public's trust in the judiciary authorities, the Judicial Yuan set up the Committee of the Sentencing Commission for Criminal Cases in December 2019, which convened 20 meetings from January 2020 to

November 2021. After extensive consultations with various sectors of society and several revisions, the draft amendment of the Draft Act for Sentencing Guidelines in Criminal Cases was proposed and approved in the 198th meeting of the Judicial Yuan in December 2021 and submitted to the Legislative Yuan in the same month for review. If enacted, the Sentencing Guidelines Council will be established to formulate sentencing guidelines for criminal cases, so as to enhance the appropriateness, transparency, fairness, and reasonable predictability of sentencing and to meet society's expectations for fairness and justice in sentencing.

2. In 2023, a total of 404 individuals were prosecuted (including cases requesting for summary judgments) by District Prosecutors Offices under a total of 231 trafficking charges (Cases Prosecuted and Persons Indicted for TIP-related Offences by District Prosecutors Offices from 2009 to 2023 are shown in Table 3)
3. In 2023, 56 individuals were convicted in human trafficking-related cases by local district courts. The sentencing details are as follows: 1 person was sentenced to imprisonment for more than 7 years but less than 10 years; 22 people were sentenced to imprisonment for more than 3 years but less than 5 years; 4 people were sentenced to imprisonment for more than 2 years but less than 3 years; 23 people were sentenced to imprisonment for more than 1 year but less than 2 years; 1 person was sentenced to

imprisonment for more than 6 months but less than 1 year; 5 people were sentenced to imprisonment for 6 months or less. The sentencing statistics from 2009 to 2023 are detailed in Table 4.

1.3 Cases of Investigation, Prosecution, and Sentencing

1. Investigation Examples

(1) Case Example: Sexual Exploitation by Liang and Six Others

The Taoyuan District Prosecutors Office, in coordination with the Taoyuan City Police Department, successfully uncovered a human trafficking case involving sexual exploitation by a criminal group led by Liang and six other suspects. The suspects, driven by the intent to profit, coerced the victim into sex work by exploiting improper debts. During a party organized by the suspects, the victim became unconscious due to physical discomfort, at which point the suspects transported the victim to a location in Pingzhen District, Taoyuan City. There, the victim was detained, assaulted, and forced to sign promissory notes and perform labor. The suspects further compelled the victim to engage in sexual transactions and accompany clients at various venues, including hotels, private residences, and exclusive clubs, without any compensation. The victim eventually managed to alert a male customer, who contacted the victim's mother to report the incident to the police. Upon receiving the report, law enforcement officers rescued the victim. All suspects were

apprehended and brought in for questioning. The case was subsequently referred to the Taoyuan District Prosecutors Office in August 2023 under Article 31 of the Human Trafficking Prevention Act (as amended prior to its enforcement), leading to their prosecution.



(2) Case Example: Labor Exploitation by Ho and Two Others

In March 2023, under the direction of the Taichung District Prosecutors Office, the Taichung Specialized Operation Corps of the National Immigration Agency uncovered a labor exploitation case involving a Taiwanese citizen, Ho, and her two daughters, both surnamed Wen. The three were found to have acted with the shared intent to profit by enslaving others, employing methods such as violence, coercion, threats, confinement, and surveillance against the will of the employed caregivers. In addition to their caregiving duties, the caregivers were forced to perform cleaning tasks that were grossly disproportionate to their compensation, clearly violating the terms of their labor contracts. Moreover, the employers imposed unfair debts, such as charging fees for the use of the

restroom and laundry services, resulting in the caregivers receiving only NT\$924 in wages after 10 months of work. The victims were also subjected to harm, unlawful confinement, and threats to their safety. The case was referred to the Taichung District Prosecutors Office for investigation in 2023 under the Anti-Human Trafficking Act (prior to the amendment), Article 32, and Articles 296 and 277 of the Criminal Code. The prosecutor subsequently filed charges in May of the same year.

(3) Case Example: Investigation and Arrest of Qi and Others for Labor Exploitation

Under the direction of the Hsinchu District Prosecutors Office, the Hsinchu Specialized Operation Corps of the National Immigration Agency and the Investigation Team of the First Precinct of the Hsinchu City Police Bureau uncovered a case involving Taiwanese citizens Qi, Huang, and Xu. These individuals were suspected of recruiting Taiwanese nationals to engage in fraudulent activities in Cambodia. In the case involving Liu, the Hsinchu District Prosecutors Office filed charges in July 2023 under Article 297 of the Criminal Code and Article 32 of the Anti-Human Trafficking Act (prior to the amendment).

(4) Case Example: Investigation and Arrest of Zhan and Three Others for Labor Exploitation and Organ Harvesting

The suspects, Zhan and three others, formed a human trafficking criminal organization with the

intent to profit by harvesting organs and forcing individuals to engage in labor for disproportionately low wages. The group used messaging apps to recruit victims by falsely advertising temporary job opportunities, requiring them to submit personal information such as ID cards, National Health Insurance cards, health check reports, passports, and COVID-19 vaccination records as part of the job qualification process. They also negotiated organ sale prices and transportation arrangements with overseas buyers. However, the organ sale fell through due to the buyer's offer being lower than expected. Subsequently, the suspects deceived the victims by promising high-paying jobs abroad, only to sell them to Laos and force them into telecom fraud work, where they received minimal compensation.

The organ harvesting activities came to light during an October 2022 police operation to arrest and search Zhan, leading to an expanded investigation that uncovered the subsequent labor exploitation. The entire case was investigated under the direction of prosecutors from the Taipei District Prosecutors Office, with all suspects being apprehended by the police. In January 2023, the case was transferred to the Taipei District Prosecutors Office for further investigation under Articles 34 and 32 of the Anti-Human Trafficking Act (prior to the amendment), with charges filed in June of the same year.

2. Judicial Case

(1) Case: Criminal Judgment No. 1034, Taichung District Court, 2023

Ho ○, Wen ○-hui, and Wen ○-zhen were found to have conspired with the intent to profit by using violence, coercion, threats, confinement, and surveillance to force individuals into labor for disproportionately low wages. They engaged in acts of assault, unlawful confinement, and threats to safety. Exploiting the vulnerability of foreign workers who cannot freely seek employment in Taiwan's labor market and fear the risk of termination and deportation, the defendants took advantage of the victims' unfamiliarity with Taiwan, lack of knowledge of the local language, absence of friends or relatives, and the fact that important documents such as passports, residency permits, health insurance cards, bank account passbooks, and mobile phones were in Wen ○-zhen's possession. The victims' salaries were arbitrarily deducted and controlled by Wen ○-zhen, leaving them in a disadvantaged position with limited means to seek help.

During the period of the labor contract, in addition to the originally assigned caregiving duties for Wen ○-rong, the victims were also forced to perform household chores such as cleaning the first, third, and fourth floors of the residence. As a result, the victims' workdays started at around 6:30 a.m. and did not end until about 3:00 a.m. the following day. From August 2023 onwards, whenever Ho ○○,

Wen ○-hui, or Wen ○-zhen were dissatisfied with the victims' work, they subjected them to violent acts such as slapping, pulling their hair, punching them in the eyes and ears, stepping on their hands and feet, and twisting their arms.

After deducting loan amounts and other charges from the victims' wages, the defendants paid the victims a mere NT\$924, which was grossly disproportionate to the work performed. Their actions constituted offenses under Article 32 of the Anti-Human Trafficking Act (prior to the amendment) and Articles 296 and 277 of the Criminal Code.

The court sentenced Wen ○-hui to one year in prison, suspended for three years, and ordered her to pay NT\$200,000 to the public treasury; Wen ○-zhen to one year in prison, suspended for three years, and ordered her to pay NT\$100,000 to the public treasury; and Ho ○○ to ten months in prison, suspended for three years, and ordered her to pay NT\$100,000 to the public treasury. (Judgment date: October 25, 2023)

(2) Case Example: Criminal Judgment No. 1415, Taichung District Court, 2023

Hsiao ○-ping, Zheng ○-xian, and a male adult from Mainland China with the nickname "Nange," whose real name and age are unknown, were all aware that the location for recruiting people from Taiwan was Myanmar. They also knew that the job involved using the internet to lure others into

fraudulent investments. Despite this, they conspired with the intent to profit by deceiving individuals into leaving the territory of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and using violence, coercion, threats, confinement, and exploiting the victims' disadvantaged positions to force them into labor for disproportionately low wages.

In February and March 2023, Hsiao ○-ping was responsible for posting on the social media platform Instagram (IG) in Taiwan, advertising phrases like "Work abroad, high salary, change your life, make big money with me" and "If you have debts and want to repay them, change your life, message me." These messages targeted people in Taiwan with debts who were in desperate need of money. After seeing these messages, the victim contacted Hsiao ○-ping, who falsely claimed that the job involved going to Thailand to work in customer development, online chat promotion for gaming, and customer service. The promised base salary was NT\$30,000, with food, accommodation, and travel expenses, including airfare, all covered by the company. Hsiao also claimed that the victim could return to Taiwan at any time and that they could potentially earn up to NT\$1,000,000 per month if they met performance targets. Believing these false promises, the victim agreed to work abroad.

In April 2023, the victim flew to Bangkok, Thailand, and then crossed into Myanmar's Shuikou Valley Camp by rafting illegally. Upon arrival at the camp,

the victim's passport was taken by Zheng ○-xian and "Nange" for safekeeping. The victim was then required to work by using the internet to meet clients and persuade them to invest in fraudulent schemes—a job that had never been disclosed to them. The working hours were from 12:20 p.m. to 12:20 a.m., with additional overtime required until around 2:00 a.m. If performance targets were not met, the victim would be subjected to corporal punishment. Armed military personnel patrolled around the camp, restricting free entry and exit, and the victim's freedom was severely limited. The camp manager threatened that violations of rules would result in physical abuse. Since the victim had entered Myanmar illegally, they were in a foreign land with a language barrier, making it difficult to seek help, and were thus forced to engage in this labor with disproportionately low wages.

When the victim could no longer endure the conditions and wanted to return to Taiwan, "Nange" informed them that there was a binding contract for work in Myanmar, and to leave early, they would have to pay a compensation of approximately NT\$160,000 or assist in recruiting others to work at the camp. The victim was forced to hand over all their earnings from the camp, about 90,000 Thai Baht (approximately NT\$75,600), and their girlfriend had to transfer an additional NT\$82,000 to the designated account. Only then was the victim allowed to leave the camp and return to Taiwan,

ultimately receiving no actual compensation for the work performed in Myanmar.

Hsiao ○-ping's actions constituted multiple offenses under Article 32 of the Anti-Human Trafficking Act (prior to the amendment) and Article 297 of the Criminal Code for profit-driven deceit leading individuals out of the territory of the Republic of China. Hsiao was sentenced to three years and six months in prison for each count, to be served consecutively, resulting in a total prison term of six years and four months. (Judgment date: June 29, 2023)

2. Enhancing the Protection of TIP Victims

2.1 Safe and Secure Protective Measures

1. Providing Protection and Shelter for Foreign Victims

(1) The National Immigration Agency, in collaboration with the Workforce Development Agency and nonprofit organizations, has established 25 shelters to provide various services for foreign victims of human trafficking. These services include accommodation, daily care, psychological counseling, interpretation, legal assistance, support during investigations, and necessary medical assistance. The interpretation services, in particular, require professionals who possess multicultural awareness, gender sensitivity, empathy, and knowledge of relevant regulations.

(2) Regarding Victims Holding Work Visas: In 2023, a total of 89 new victims were admitted to shelters,

including 38 females and 51 males. The nationalities of these victims were as follows: 13 from Indonesia, 69 from Vietnam, 6 from Thailand, and 1 from the Philippines.

(3) Regarding Victims Without Work Visas: In 2023, a total of 20 new victims were admitted to shelters, including 19 females and 1 male. The nationalities of these victims were as follows: 1 from Indonesia, 13 from Vietnam, and 6 from Thailand.

(4) Overall, the majority of foreign victims were from Indonesia and Vietnam. The number of foreign victims admitted to shelters over the years is shown in Table 5. Compared to 2022, the number of foreign victims holding work visas increased significantly in 2023. This increase is likely due to the global COVID-19 pandemic subsiding and the subsequent reopening of Taiwan's borders, leading to a gradual recovery in the number of applications from foreign migrant workers, thus reflecting a growing trend in foreign victims holding work visas.

2. Providing Services for Domestic Adult Victims:

In 2023, local governments provided various services for adult victims of human trafficking in Taiwan. The services offered are detailed as follows:

(1) General Adult Victims: Services provided included one session each of psychological counseling and medical assistance (total cost: NT\$1,000), 38 consultation services, 11 instances of financial assistance (total cost: NT\$34,892), and 48 other

services, including information on networks and employment, phone calls, care calls, home visits, and case discussions.

(2) Victims Under the Repatriation Protection Project:

The services provided included three sessions of psychological counseling, 289 consultation services, three instances of accompaniment during interviews, medical assistance (total cost: NT\$1,250), shelter-related services (total cost: NT\$7,700), financial aid (total cost: NT\$212,387), legal assistance (total cost: NT\$13,320), and 227 instances of other services such as information on networks and employment, phone calls, care calls, home visits, and case discussions (total cost: NT\$1,000).

3. Provision of Services for Child and Adolescent Victims of Suspected Human Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation

(1) In 2023, the National Police Agency identified and referred 92 victims under the age of 18 involved in human trafficking cases for sexual exploitation. According to the Child and Youth Sexual Exploitation Prevention Act and related regulations, 32 of these victims were placed in the care of local social welfare agencies, 56 were returned to the custody of their parents, 1 was placed in a juvenile detention center, and 3, who had reached the age of majority by the time of the police intervention, were allowed to return home on their own.

(2) Local governments processed approximately 215

reported cases of suspected child and adolescent sexual exploitation. In each case, authorities provided services in accordance with the law, including accompaniment during investigations, assessments of the necessity of placement (including evaluations of family functionality), placement and protection services, referral to relevant service resources, and post-return counseling and follow-up care, all aimed at safeguarding the rights and welfare of the victims.

4. Protection Services for Foreign Crew Members:

The Fisheries Agency has entrusted the governments of Kaohsiung City, Pingtung County, Keelung City, and Yilan County with the management of foreign crew members hired for offshore fishing operations. If foreign crew members employed in Taiwan experience cross-border human trafficking, abuse, or assault, the local governments can provide protection services in accordance with the Human Trafficking Prevention Act and related regulations. Additionally, they can seek assistance from the Catholic Social Welfare Foundation to arrange shelter services for the affected crew members.

5. Ensuring Protection of Rights During Investigation and Trial

- (1) When law enforcement agencies apprehend human trafficking cases, they must follow the victim identification principles of the Human Trafficking Prevention Act. Victims should be fully informed of their rights prior to identification, including the

right to be accompanied during investigations, residence options post-identification, the progress of the investigation and trial, and the right to apply for work permits. The agencies should also explain the relevant procedures of the case. To alleviate the psychological burden on victims, a designated and comforting interview room separate from the regular interrogation room is planned for use.

- (2) In cases where foreign victims are involved and do not understand the local language, law enforcement agencies will arrange for interpreters to assist in recording statements, ensuring that the victims' rights are protected. In 2023, the National Police Agency provided interpreter services for 9 instances and accompaniment services for 152 instances. The National Immigration Agency offered interpreter services for 76 instances and accompaniment services for 18 instances.

2.2 Comprehensive Provision of Stay Permits

In accordance with Articles 16 and 28 of the Human Trafficking Prevention Act (as amended prior to its enforcement), temporary stay permits (including new applications and extensions) are granted to foreign victims to ensure they can safely remain in Taiwan to testify and aid in the fight against crime. In 2023, a total of 38 temporary stay permits were issued, and 29 stay permits were extended.

2.3 Ensuring the Protection of Work-Related Rights

1. In accordance with Article 28 of the Human Trafficking Prevention Act (as amended prior to its

enforcement) and relevant provisions of the Regulations on Work Permits and Management for Victims of Human Trafficking, foreign victims of human trafficking who have been issued temporary stay permits valid for less than six months by the Ministry of the Interior or who already hold valid stay permits are eligible to apply for work permits from the Ministry of Labor if they wish to work. This allows them to legally stay and work in Taiwan, maintaining their economic livelihood. In 2023, a total of 76 work permits were issued.

2. When issuing work permits to victims, the Ministry of Labor simultaneously notifies the relevant public employment service centers within the jurisdiction of the victim's shelter to provide employment services. In 2023, 81 individuals received such services, with 65 successfully securing employment.

3. The Fisheries Agency

(1) In 2022, the Fisheries Agency increased the recruitment of 60 labor inspectors and amended the "Regulations on the Permit and Management of Employment of Foreign Crew Members Outside the Republic of China." These amendments authorize the competent authorities to conduct inspections on fishing vessels, operators, and intermediary agencies regarding the labor rights of fisheries workers. The inspections include reviewing records on wages and working conditions, as well as interviewing crew members through questionnaires provided in Chinese, English, Indonesian,

Vietnamese, and Burmese. In 2023, a total of 4,989 foreign crew members were interviewed, covering 676 fishing vessels. Additionally, inspections were conducted at 299 operator sites and 55 intermediary agency sites. The statistics on interviews with foreign crew members employed outside the Republic of China from 2019 to 2023 are presented in Table 6.

- (2) For fishing vessels suspected of violations during inspections, the Fisheries Agency conducts further investigations and imposes penalties on those confirmed to be in violation. If there are concerns regarding the compliance of operators or intermediary agencies, the Fisheries Agency will launch a special investigation. The statistics on penalties imposed on operators for violations from 2019 to 2023 are shown in Table 7, while the statistics on violations and penalties imposed on intermediary agencies from 2019 to 2023 are shown in Table 8.
- (3) The Fisheries Agency continues to handle complaints related to the employment of foreign crew members outside the Republic of China, as referred by the Ministry of Labor. In 2023, a total of 79 cases were reported through the 1955 complaint hotline. The annual statistics on handling such cases are presented in Table 9.

2.4 Proper Referral or Provision of Vocational Training

The various branches of the Workforce Development Agency (WDA) continue to coordinate with the shelters

of unemployed transnational human trafficking victims who have obtained work permits. They assess the victims' willingness to participate in vocational training and provide information on relevant training programs to help them enroll in suitable courses, with full subsidies covering training costs. In 2023, a total of 76 victims who had obtained work permits were served. Among them, 42 were employed, 4 had no interest in training, 4 returned to their home countries, 1 expressed no need for employment services, 1 was in the process of job matching, 8 had their placement terminated, and 16 were referred to the Kaohsiung City Government Training and Employment Center for employment assistance.

2.5 Efficiency of the 1955 Labor Consultation and Complaint Hotline

1. The Ministry of Labor established the "1955 Labor Consultation and Complaint Hotline" on July 1, 2009. This hotline is staffed with personnel proficient in five languages—Mandarin, English, Vietnamese, Indonesian, and Thai. It offers 24-hour (including holidays) bilingual, toll-free phone consultation and complaint services. The hotline also provides legal aid consultation resources, referrals for protection and placement, and information on other government services. Upon receiving a complaint, cases are electronically dispatched to local governments for investigation and are subject to follow-up management. Additionally, the hotline offers real-time online interpretation services for medical visits, official affairs, work, or daily life needs.

2. Regarding the volume of consultations and complaints handled, a total of 245,076 calls were received in 2023. Among these, 215,986 were consultation service cases, and 29,090 were general and emergency complaint service cases. Additionally, 2,790 cases involved migrant workers successfully changing employers with the assistance of the hotline, and 13 cases were identified as suspected human trafficking.

2.6 Multiple Assistance for Migrant Workers to Recover Due Wages

In 2023, the “1955 Labor Consultation and Complaint Hotline” and various local government migrant worker consultation service centers assisted in coordinating the return of owed wages from employers or agencies in a total of 5,006 cases. The total amount of recovered wages and related fees amounted to NT\$125,783,859.

2.7 Implementation of Investigation and Trial Work by Police and Prosecutors

1. When handling human trafficking cases, judicial police should assist victims of human trafficking in understanding the investigation and trial process, as well as the progress of their cases. This is to implement the principle of trauma-informed care and reduce secondary harm caused by the investigation procedures. Additionally, if victims need to testify at local prosecutors’ offices or district courts, personnel should be assigned to escort them as needed to ensure their personal safety.
2. When handling human trafficking cases, prosecutors should follow the procedures below:

- (1) When a case is transferred, if the victim is placed in protective custody, the case file should include a note stating, "This case involves a victim currently under protective custody," to prompt the assigned prosecutor to expedite the investigation.
 - (2) If the prosecutor becomes aware that the victim wishes to return to their home country (or region), they should immediately question the victim and take the necessary investigative actions to conclude the investigation of the case as quickly as possible, facilitating the National Immigration Agency's arrangements to safely return the victim to their home country (or region).
 - (3) The case should be thoroughly investigated. If necessary, the victim and the defendant should be confronted with each other. Upon receiving correspondence from the shelter or written statements from the victim, attention should be paid to the content, and appropriate action should be taken promptly.
 - (4) After the investigation is concluded, relevant documents should be attached and sent to the transferring unit and the shelter. If the case is prosecuted, it should also be communicated that "the case has been moved to trial."
3. When social workers, interpreters, or other personnel accompany human trafficking victims to court or appear as witnesses, their identification and personal safety should be carefully monitored during check-in. To effectively maintain the confidentiality of the

accompanying person's identity, it is advisable to appropriately use a "Code Name and Real Name Correspondence Table" based on the specific case.

4. To ensure the quality of interpretation, ongoing training sessions on interpreter ethics, basic legal knowledge, and investigation procedures should be provided to currently contracted interpreters, ensuring their work complies with relevant legal regulations.
5. The Taiwan High Prosecutors Office should regularly update the contact list of personnel handling human trafficking cases at various local prosecutors' offices to establish a comprehensive network for investigation, prosecution, and victim protection.
6. The Code of Criminal Procedure includes provisions for victim participation in litigation, strengthening the victim's role in the legal process and protecting their dignity, thereby enhancing trust in the criminal justice system. For example, if the victim is incapable of acting, has limited capacity, is deceased, or is otherwise unable to file a lawsuit, their legal representative, spouse, or certain relatives may file on their behalf (Article 455-38). Additionally, participants in the litigation may appoint an agent at any time (Articles 455-41 to 455-47), or in certain circumstances, the court may appoint an agent for them. These measures are designed to fully safeguard the procedural rights of participants, ensuring that victims are substantive participants in criminal proceedings rather than merely playing a secondary role.

7. The Judicial Yuan and the Ministry of Justice have jointly established the "Victim's Criminal Litigation Information Platform": Victims can apply to the competent prosecutor's office during the investigation or to the trial court during proceedings. Once the application is submitted and approved, the platform provides one-stop services through which victims can receive automatic email notifications or log in to the platform's webpage to check the status of their case. They can access information on case progress, compulsory measures, judgment results, and criminal enforcement, enabling them to stay informed about the proceedings and their content.

8. Amendment to the "Court Guidelines for the Victim's Criminal Litigation Information Platform Operations": To strengthen the protection of the right to information for crime victims or their families during litigation, the guidelines were amended in June 2023. This amendment aligns with the revised Article 26 of the Crime Victim Protection Act, which was updated in February 2023. Under the new guidelines, prosecution authorities or courts may, upon the request of crime victims or their families, provide case progress updates or notification services through the Victim's Criminal Litigation Information Platform.

2.8 Service Outcomes of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) Entrusted with Shelter and Protection Responsibilities

1. Overview of the Shelter Mechanism

(1) When judicial and law enforcement agencies

investigate cases, they follow the "Principles for Identifying Human Trafficking Victims" to refer victims to the appropriate shelter and protection authority based on the victim's nationality and visa type. These authorities, either on their own or by entrusting NGOs, provide shelter, protection, and other necessary assistance.

(2) The National Immigration Agency operates two shelter and protection service locations: the Nantou Shelter and the Kaohsiung Shelter. These facilities provide shelter and necessary services for victims who are non-work visa holders, including foreign nationals, residents from Mainland China, Hong Kong, and Macau, as well as nationals without household registration in Taiwan. Victims holding work visas are managed by the Ministry of Labor. In 2023, the National Immigration Agency provided shelter for 20 non-work visa holders, while the Ministry of Labor provided shelter for 89 work visa holders.

(3) Services provided by the shelter and protection facilities include:

A. Physical and Psychological Rest and Support: With resilience as the core value, these services are designed to meet the needs of the victims. Victims who have endured mistreatment and exploitation often suffer from physical, psychological, and social challenges. Continuous care is provided through medical check-ups, emotional support, counseling, long-term

companionship, and collaborative work with the victims. These efforts help victims reacquaint themselves with Taiwanese society, rebuild trust, and accept others. Additionally, through celebrations of traditional festivals and outdoor activities, victims are given opportunities to relieve stress, engage in social interactions, and receive emotional support, helping them to overcome the traumatic experiences of exploitation.

- B. Empowerment and Stable Employment: To assist victims in reintegrating into society with adequate economic security and the ability to plan for the future, the shelter actively develops employment services. This includes a combination of skills training, expert lectures, psychological counseling, job matching, and family-based work opportunities. The goal is to provide victims with the chance to learn professional skills, enhance their abilities, and increase their advantages, enabling them to better face future challenges and problems.
- C. Judicial Rights and Translation Resources: To support victims in understanding and exercising their legal rights, relevant legal information is provided. When necessary, assistance is offered to help victims apply for legal aid through the Legal Aid Foundation, ensuring access to lawyer services. Recognizing the differences in Chinese language proficiency among victims, suitable

interpreters fluent in the victims' native languages are arranged to assist with translation. This ensures that during questioning, victims can comfortably and accurately express themselves in their native language, minimizing the risk of misunderstandings or errors that could negatively impact their legal rights.

D. Prevention of Re-Trafficking: To prevent victims from falling prey to trafficking again, information on identifying and preventing human trafficking is provided during their time in shelter services. For foreign victims planning to work abroad again as migrant workers, additional information about working overseas is offered. This guidance helps victims draw from their own experiences, develop self-protection strategies, and reduce the risk of becoming targets for trafficking in the future.

2. The Nantou Shelter's Achievements in Assisting Victims: Commissioned by the National Immigration Agency, the Good Shepherd Social Welfare Foundation has been providing relevant services since its establishment in October 2009, serving for over 14 years. In terms of 2023 service outcomes, the shelter provided medical services a total of 17 times, interpretation services 113 times, consultation services 58 times, court and investigation accompaniment 9 times, and other necessary assistance (including document processing, vocational training, employment matching, and repatriation to the country of origin) 28 times.

3. The Kaohsiung Shelter's Achievements in Assisting Victims: Commissioned by the National Immigration Agency, the Taiwan Association for the Rights of Labor has been providing relevant services since its establishment in January 2019, now almost four years ago. In terms of 2023 service outcomes, the shelter provided medical services a total of 62 times, interpretation services 137 times, legal assistance 17 times, court accompaniment 4 times, and other necessary assistance (including document processing, vocational training, employment matching, and repatriation to the country of origin) 74 times. Additionally, 25 participants attended growth training courses.
4. Legal Aid Foundation (LAF) Victim Assistance Achievements:
 - (1) To protect the human rights and basic litigation rights of victims, LAF established the "Human Trafficking Victims Legal Aid Project" in 2008, providing legal assistance to those who meet the criteria set by legal aid regulations. In 2023, the project received a total of 156 applications, with 136 cases approved for assistance (including litigation representation, defense, and mediation), resulting in an approval rate of approximately 87.1%.
 - (2) Since 2007, LAF has participated in the Civil Anti-Human Trafficking Alliance, assisting in promoting the legislative process of the Human Trafficking Prevention Act. LAF continues to attend alliance

meetings, staying engaged in human trafficking issues, and has been involved in the amendment work of the Human Trafficking Prevention Act. Thanks to the efforts of the alliance and various stakeholders, the amended Human Trafficking Prevention Act was officially promulgated in June 2023, aiming to enhance the effectiveness of anti-human trafficking efforts.

3. Active Prevention of the Occurrence of Human Trafficking Cases

3.1 Collaborative Implementation of the "2023-2024 Anti-Exploitation Action Plan"

To strengthen the efforts of central government agencies in combating human trafficking and to guide local governments in aligning with or referencing central strategies, the "2023-2024 Anti-Exploitation Action Plan" was issued in 2023. This plan integrates and coordinates the resources and capabilities of various agencies to collaboratively prevent human trafficking and ensure the protection of human rights. The plan is based on the four pillars of Taiwan's anti-human trafficking policy: Prosecution, Protection, Prevention, and Partnership. It addresses unresolved human trafficking issues raised by various sectors, proposing 19 initiatives and corresponding 81 specific strategies. A summary of the implementation results is provided below:

1. Ministry of Labor (MOL)

(1) In 2023, the Ministry of Labor conducted 101 labor condition inspections and 180 occupational safety

and health inspections in the fishing industry. Violations were found in 9 labor condition inspections and 1 occupational safety inspection, and all were dealt with according to the law.

(2) To protect the rights of migrant workers and prevent private employment service agencies from overcharging fees, the Ministry of Labor implemented the "Inspection Plan for Private Employment Service Agencies Engaged in Cross-Border Labor Brokerage by Municipal and County (City) Governments." Local governments, based on the evaluation grades of brokerage firms, inspect the fees charged, documentation, and record-keeping of cases assigned by employers and migrant workers to ensure that agencies charge fees in accordance with regulations. Agencies with an A-grade evaluation should be inspected once a year; B-grade agencies should be inspected 2 to 3 times a year; and C-grade agencies should be inspected 4 times a year. In 2023, a total of 2,957 inspections of brokerage firms were conducted.

2. Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA):

Based on reports from domestic competent authorities regarding suspicious specific patterns, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has strengthened visa screening procedures. Suspected cases of human trafficking or exploitation are reported to the relevant competent authorities for further action, with the aim of identifying and protecting vulnerable groups at risk of human trafficking.

3. Ministry of Education (MOE)

- (1) The MOE continued to strengthen the screening process for foreign students and other vulnerable groups, and referred them for counseling based on the results. In 2023, the MOE received a total of 103 counseling cases related to entry, visas, studies, transfers, internships, scholarships, and employment in Taiwan after graduation. Since 2019, the MOE has continuously optimized the counseling mechanism for overseas students, including setting up a mail address for counseling overseas students, an inquiry hotline for overseas students, and an interagency online reporting platform.
- (2) From October to November 2023, the MOE hosted four workshops for overseas students to promote awareness of anti-exploitation and human rights issues. These workshops invited overseas and international students from public and private universities and tertiary colleges, alongside guests from the MOL, the MOI, and other relevant agencies.

4. Ministry of Transportation and Communications (MOTC): To prevent the trafficking of foreign passengers aged 12 to 18, the Civil Aeronautics Administration under the MOTC issued an official letter in May 2023. This letter requested that airlines remind foreign passengers to provide their parents' or legal representatives' contact information at the departure counter.

5. Coast Guard Administration, Ocean Affairs Council (CGA): In 2023, the CGA received a total of 10 reports of suspected human trafficking cases from the Maritime and Port Bureau (MPB) under the MOTC, the FA, and the Environmental Justice Foundation. All cases were promptly assigned to subordinate agencies for investigation. Seven cases were closed after preliminary investigations found no evidence of wrongdoing, while three cases remain under investigation to clarify the criminal facts. In addition, the CGA has instructed its subordinate agencies to continue implementing the Enhancing Measures for Investigating Human Trafficking Cases promulgated in 2022, which includes guidelines for examining crew members for labor exploitation or any suspicious situations involving human trafficking during the course of their duties, as well as identifying victims and investigating cases as needed to enhance TIP prevention efforts.

6. National Immigration Agency (NIA)

- (1) To address concerns raised by local labor departments regarding potential labor violations in distant water fisheries, unannounced inspections were conducted under the FA's Standard Operating Procedures for Receiving and Reporting Disputes on Distant Water Fisheries with Overseas Employment of Foreign Crew Members Suspected of Violating the Human Trafficking Prevention Act. These inspections aimed to identify cases of forced labor, unauthorized labor, crew member

impersonation, and vessel abandonment.

- (2) To prevent human trafficking involving foreign minors (ages 12-18), the NIA has intensified its scrutiny of suspicious cases involving foreign minor travelers accompanied by others, inquiring about the nature of their relationship and the purpose of their visit to identify any potential red flags. For cases with high possibility of involving human trafficking, the NIA initiates the victim identification process as outlined in the Principles for Victim Identification of Human Trafficking. Even without conclusive evidence, the NIA records detailed contact information of the accompanying individual before granting entry and refers the case to Specialized Operations Brigades for further investigation.
- (3) To enhance the Program of Accompanying to Investigations for Suspected Human Trafficking Cases, the NIA has thus implemented a mechanism that assigns a senior social worker to mentor less experienced personnel. This approach pairs less experienced accompanying personnel with seasoned professionals to improve overall performance and optimize the deployment of judicial police officers.

7. Fisheries Agency (FA)

- (1) In 2023, the FA conducted inspections (visits) at domestic ports for 448 distant water fishing vessels, 299 operators' premises, 55 agents' premises, and 2,832 foreign crew members; at foreign ports for

192 fishing vessels with 920 crew members; and for 1,237 crew members at high seas or via phone visits. These inspections (visits) aimed to uncover whether the labor conditions for foreign crew members on board complied with the required standards.

- (2) The FA has introduced a joint and several guarantee liability and evaluation system for agencies. Prospective agencies must operate in accordance with the Regulations for Permission and Supervision of Private Employment Services Institution and obtain approvals to recruit foreign workers for employment in Taiwan. Additionally, agencies must submit a guarantee bond, based on the planned recruiting number of foreign crew members, ranging from NT\$500,000 (approximately US\$16,135) to NT\$2,000,000 (approximately US\$64,538) to the competent authority. In 2023, the FA implemented evaluations for 45 agencies, of which 14 graded A and 31 graded B, to ensure the protection of labor rights and welfares for foreign crew members in distant water fisheries.

3.2 Continuous Implementation of the Action Plan for Fisheries and Human Rights:

1. Taiwan's distant water fishing industry faced scrutiny in the 2020 Trafficking in Persons Report, with allegations of labor exploitation such as excessive working hours, abusive conditions, and verbal and physical violence. The U.S. Department of State further highlighted concerns about wage theft,

excessive working hours, poor living conditions, lack of care aboard, and extended sea voyages without port stops, leading to the inclusion of Taiwanese fisheries on its List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor. In response, Taiwan's Executive Yuan convened a Coordination Conference in October 2020, assigning the Council of Agriculture (COA) with the task of developing an Action Plan for Fisheries and Human Rights. Approved in May 2022 and amended in July 2023, this plan outlines comprehensive measures to address these issues.

2. The Action Plan outlines actions for a four-year period (2022-2025). In July 2023, the related subsidy items and expenses were adjusted, with an increase of total budget to NT\$1,139,225,000 (approx. US\$31.79 million). Having taken into consideration of the main issues about fisheries and human rights at the current stage, the Action Plan has proposed seven implementation strategies, each detailing specific actions to strengthen legal institutions and ensure thorough execution. The seven strategies are “Full Implementation of Agreed Labor Conditions,” “Improvement on Living Conditions and Social Protection,” “Strengthening Management of Recruitment Agents,” “Increasing Monitoring and Control Capacity,” “Strengthening Management of Foreign-flagged Fishing Vessels,” “Establishing and Deepening International Cooperation,” and “Promoting Mutually-Beneficial Partnerships.”
3. The implementation strategies related to the prevention

of human trafficking are summarized as below:

(1) Full Implementation of Agreed Labor Conditions:

As "Guidance on Salary Payment to Foreign Crew Members Employed Overseas" was already formulated, operators are subject to verification and inspection to ensure that wages are paid in full and directly to foreign crew members. With the minimum monthly wage increasing from US\$450 to US\$550, operators are mandated to make direct and complete wage payments to foreign crew members, prohibiting payments processed through foreign agencies. To guarantee proper rest periods, regulations governing rest hours align with the standards set forth in the ILO-C188 Convention, and operators are required to maintain records of crew members' working hours through punch clocks or other methods.

(2) Improvement of Living Conditions and Social Protection:

A. In line with the Labor Occupational Accident Insurance and Protection Act, enacted in 2022, and utilizing new employment approval data from the WDA, the procedures for applying labor insurance for foreign crew members have been streamlined. This initiative aims to assist operators and increase labor insurance coverage for foreign crew members from 51% in late 2019 to 92% by 2024, bring the coverage rate in line with that of Taiwanese employees.

B. The Ministry of Labor (MOL) provides solatium

payments to domestically employed foreign crew members who are victims of crimes or are unable to work due to occupational hazards, illnesses, or injuries. In 2023, one crew member received a solatium payment of NT\$3,000 (approximately US\$92).

(3) Strengthening Management of Recruitment Agencies: To enhance oversight of recruitment agencies under the Employment Service Act, particularly those managing the domestic employment of foreign crew members, the frequency of inspections has been increased. The duties and responsibilities of recruitment agencies have been clearly defined. In cases of forced labor or human trafficking on foreign-flagged vessels, recruitment agencies failing to fulfill their legal obligations will face revocation of their authorization.

(4) Increasing Monitoring and Control Capacity

A. The MOL conducted joint inspections of distant water fishing vessels with the MOA. The CGA increased the frequency of high seas inspections as appropriate in view of the FA's demand for carrying out labor inspections. Additionally, the NIA conducted random inspections of coastal and offshore fishing vessels with foreign crew members onboard to assess evidence of forced labor or human trafficking.

B. In 2023, the CGA received five reports of suspected human trafficking cases from the MPB

and the FA. These cases were immediately referred to its subordinate units for investigation. Three cases were closed with no evidence of illegal activity, while two cases remain under investigation to enforce cross-ministerial efforts to combat human trafficking at sea.

- C. The MOL conducted 60 labor condition inspections and 124 occupational safety and health inspections in the fisheries sector in 2023. Notably, experts and scholars participated in 11 labor condition inspections and 25 safety and health inspections, covering over 15% of external participation in both categories.
 - D. The NIA conducted joint inspections on foreign crew members totaling 28 persons with the CGA and local labor authorities in Keelung City and Yilan County. Additionally, the NIA partnered with the Chiayi County Government's Labor and Youth Development Department to conduct 20 labor inspections.
 - E. In 2023, the government subsidized the installation of CCTV systems on 257 fishing vessels and offered rewards for the 35 vessels installing Wi-Fi for crew use. The revised law stipulates that distant water fishing vessels shall not remain at sea for more than 10 consecutive months and mandates continuous monitoring through the FA's 24-hour Fisheries Monitoring Center.
- (5) Strengthening Management of Foreign Fishing Vessels (including FOC-Vessels):

- A. In 2023, the CGA conducted joint inspections of 15 foreign-flagged fishing vessels entering Taiwanese ports with the FA to enhance the management of FOC-Vessels. No illegal activities were found in these inspections.
 - B. In December 2022, the “Regulations on the Approval of Investment in or the Operation of Foreign Flag Fishing Vessels” were revised, specifying the labor conditions for crew members on FOC Vessels. It was additionally mandated that the conditions for hiring crew members shall be consistent with those for employing foreign crew members overseas; furthermore, it requires the submission of a crew employment data roster every six months.
- (6) Establishing and Deepening International Cooperation:
- A. The European Union has continued to be concerned about the issue of Decent Work in Fishing. In the sixth Human Rights Consultation in 2023, the EU and Taiwan exchanged views and agreed to take possible joint actions under the Taiwan-EU exchange mechanism.
 - B. In response to the ongoing concerns about labor rights in Taiwan’s distant-water fisheries in the annual US Trafficking in Persons Report, the MOFA has actively engaged in exchanges with the US through various channels, including timely briefings by our overseas missions to the US about the content and implementation progress of

Taiwan's "Action Plan for Fisheries and Human Rights". Additionally, the second round of negotiations for the "US-Taiwan Initiative on 21st Century Trade" was launched in August 2023, and both sides continued to exchange views on labor issues related to distant water fishing vessels.

(7) Promoting Mutually-Beneficial Partnerships: Every year, five annual seminars take place for vessel operators to promote corporate social responsibility. Seven human rights education and promotion events were held in collaboration with fisheries associations and private organizations in 2023. Every year, at least two dialogue sessions were convened with migrant workers' rights groups or NGOs.

3.3 Deepening Training and Workshops for Public and Private Sectors Personnel

Central and local government agencies have consistently conducted training and workshops for judicial police, prosecutors, judges, and public sector officials across immigration, fisheries, labor, social affairs, education, and foreign affairs.

1. Ministry of Labor (MOL)

(1) Anti-TIP Educational Training: Between August and November 2023, the MOL and the NIA collaborated on five anti-TIP training sessions for labor inspectors to enhance their competency to identify forced labor. Training focused on the ILO's 11 indicators of forced labor, enabling inspectors to promptly recognize potential labor exploitation

cases during complaint handling or inspections and refer them to judicial and law enforcement authorities.

- (2) Seminars on Foreign Labor Counseling Service and Investigation: Between August and October 2023, five three-day, two-night seminars on foreign labor counseling and investigation were conducted. Targeting public sector employees and NGO representatives, these sessions aimed to deepen understanding of labor exploitation cases under the Human Trafficking Prevention Act and related victim protection regulations. A total of 575 participants, including 560 from the public sector and 15 from NGOs, attended the training.
 - (3) 1955 Foreign Workers' Free Hotline Personnel Training: Two training sessions on "Analyzing the Identification and Handling Principles of Human Trafficking Cases" were conducted in 2023, with 132 participants.
2. The Ministry of Health and Welfare (MOHW) has tasked the core hospitals of the mental health network in the "Mental Health Network Regional Support Plan" to incorporate issues related to human trafficking and victim protection services into the professional training courses for mental health administrative personnel and medical staff. In 2023, six sessions were conducted, with a total of 674 participants receiving training.
 3. The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) has consistently allocated funds for prosecutor training on human

trafficking prevention, covering victim protection, placement, investigation, prosecution, and trial procedures. In October 2023, the MOJ collaborated with ECPAT Taiwan to organize a seminar on “The Prevention of Human Trafficking and Child Sexual Exploitation,” inviting international and domestic experts to lecture. Attorneys from the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS) of the U.S. Department of Justice shared insights on U.S. juvenile labor laws, successful prosecution cases of online child and youth sexual exploitation offenders. Domestic experts, prosecutors, and judges exchanged ideas on the punitive framework of the amended Human Trafficking Prevention Act, cross-border prevention strategies, case studies involving Ugandan and Taiwanese victims, and the challenges of investigation. The seminar aimed to foster knowledge exchange and enhance prosecutors’ capabilities in combating human trafficking and online sexual exploitation cases.

4. Ministry of Education: The 12-Year Basic Education Curriculum Guideline has incorporated “human rights education” as a major theme. A total of six learning topics were included, including basic knowledge of human rights, human rights and responsibilities, human rights and democracy and the rule of law, human rights and life practices, human rights violations and remedies, and important human rights themes, with the connotation of “preventing human trafficking” and other content integrated into the

curriculum. In 2023, a total of 17 workshops on human rights education were held nationwide, with a total of 647 participants.

5. Ministry of Transportation and Communications

- (1) Civil Aviation Administration: In May 2023, the Civil Aviation Administration issued an official announcement to all domestic airlines requesting them to conduct training on “Identification and Reporting of Suspected Human Trafficking Cases.” All relevant personnel from domestic airlines have completed the online training course by November 2023.
- (2) Highway Bureau: In August 2023, the Bureau sent an official letter to all highway authorities, requesting promotion to taxi operators on the website and related anti-human trafficking materials provided by the NIA, to raise awareness among taxi drivers.
- (3) Tourism Administration: During the training of tour guides, tour managers and other tourism industry practitioners, the Administration strengthens the promotion of practitioners’ responsibilities to report crimes and raises the awareness of the public about the prohibition of commercial sexual exploitation upon traveling domestically and abroad. The Human Trafficking Prevention Act and the Child and Youth Sexual Exploitation Prevention Act are also included as course topics to highlight the reporting responsibilities. In 2023, a total of 2,965 tour guides and tour managers participated in the

personnel training. In addition, the Administration emphasized reporting responsibilities at the annual general meetings of the Taiwan Tourist Hotel Association and training sessions for industry practitioners, with a total of 560 participants.

6. Ministry of Foreign Affairs: The Institute of Diplomacy and International Affairs regularly conducts training courses on the prevention of human trafficking every year. For example, courses on human trafficking prevention are included in the pre-departure orientation workshops held twice a year for reserve personnel and personnel stationed abroad of subordinate agencies of Executive Yuan, and professional training courses held once a year for new diplomatic and consular personnel, to enhance participants' awareness. In 2023, a total of 158 persons participated in these trainings.
7. Ministry of National Defense: To enhance the intelligence and investigation capabilities of Military Police personnel, the MND incorporates courses on preventing human trafficking. Two rounds of recurrent specialty training were administered in 2023, with a total of 104 participants.
8. Ministry of Economic Affairs: The Industrial Development Administration, MOEA conducted one digital course on human trafficking prevention from June to October 2023, with a total of 85 participants.
9. Fisheries Agency (FA)
 - (1) In June 2023, the FA conducted an “Internal Training for Fisheries Labor Rights Inspectors,”

inviting scholars and personnel from the NIA to share practical experiences, with a total of 42 participants.

(2) The FA held one professional training course respectively in August and December 2023 for specializing in inspections on ocean fishing work and protecting the labor rights of foreign crew members employed overseas, in order to instruct interviewers and inspectors about anti-human trafficking laws and regulations, as well as case studies. A total of 109 people participated.

(3) The FA continues to hold awareness campaigns and informational meetings for fishermen. Additionally, during the training and regular re-training of our country's crew members, courses are arranged to promote the idea that foreign crew members shall be regarded as important partners in maritime work, while also raising awareness of corporate social responsibility to maintain a mutually beneficial relationship.

10. National Police Agency: The NPA recalls police officers who are directly involved in investigating human trafficking cases to complete training for frontline enforcement in combating human trafficking and the improvement of investigative skills. Experienced judges, prosecutors, and experts specializing in preventing human trafficking, as well as immigration officers serving as seed instructors, were invited to lecture on the Human Trafficking Prevention Act, Principles for Human Trafficking

Victim Identification, and investigative practices to enhance the investigative skills and professional competencies of investigating officers. The police departments of local governments conducted 48 regional training sessions on preventing human trafficking, with a total of 6,898 participants in 2023.

11. National Immigration Agency (NIA)

- (1) The NIA has mandated Border Affairs Corps at all ports to implement procedures for investigating and identifying suspected human trafficking cases. In cases of shipwreck, ship stranding, or crew members stranded in maritime areas or ports without the ship owner's active assistance, Border Affairs Corps must initiate crew interviews and identification processes if issues of labor disputes or suspected exploitation arise. To determine if forced labor offenses, as defined by ILO indicators, are present, the Reference Indicators for the Identification of Human Trafficking Victims will be applied, focusing on exploitation purpose, illegal means, and human trafficking acts.
- (2) In September and October 2023, the Northern, Central, and Southern Taiwan Administration Corps conducted a total of 7 training sessions on investigating illegal foreigners by including case studies of human trafficking, essentials of identifying suspected TIP victims, and the practices of the amended laws and regulations. A total of 414 people participated.
- (3) To enforce the capacity of the frontline law

enforcement officers, the NIA held two training sessions in November and December 2023: “Basic General Training on Preventing Human Trafficking and Digital Sexual Violence” and “Roundtable Forum - 2nd Seed Instructors Training on Preventing Human Trafficking.” Personnel from the FA (including fishery administration agencies of local governments), the MOL (including labor administration agencies of local governments), regional judicial police and others related to human trafficking prevention and control were invited to participate, with a total of 189 participants.

12. The Coast Guard Administration conducted seven training sessions in 2023 for relevant personnel and frontline officers. The training covered basic human trafficking concepts, key points of the law amendment, TIP investigation enhancements, and case exemplifying. A total of 280 individuals participated.

13. Financial Supervisory Commission (FSC)

(1) Banking industry: The FSC has commissioned the Taiwan Academy of Banking and Finance to conduct 43 pre-employment training sessions on anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism for relevant practitioners, including content on human trafficking awareness, with a total of 1,743 participants receiving training.

(2) Securities and Futures: The Securities and Futures Institute (SFI) and the Securities Investment Trust and Consulting Association of the R.O.C. (SITCA) were commissioned to incorporate human

trafficking issues in the pre-job training for securities dealers and futures-related dealers as well as anti-money laundering and insider trading prevention education and training courses. A total of 8,319 persons attended these 144 sessions of courses.

(3) Insurance: The Taiwan Insurance Institute (TII), and Institute of Financial Law and Crime Prevention (IFLCP) were commissioned to incorporate human trafficking issues in the training on anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing issues. A total of 7,434 persons attended 140 such events.

14. Veterans Affairs Council: In April 2023, the VAC held a New Immigrant Counseling Work Training Program via Video Conference. Officers from the NIA were invited to lecture on human trafficking prevention and the role of the VAC. 53 seed personnel completed the training. Upon returning to their work posts, these seed personnel could apply their knowledge based on the characteristics of their units, enhance their counseling capabilities, strengthen service and care work, and promote the prevention of human trafficking.

15. National Communications Commission: The NCC organized 3 professional training sessions for broadcasting practitioners, promoting awareness of relevant laws on human trafficking prevention. A total of 255 people participated in these trainings.

16. Council of Indigenous Peoples

(1) The 2023 educational training course for aboriginal

social workers was provided to 290 trainees. The training aimed to raise awareness of anti-human trafficking among supervisors and social workers of the Indigenous Peoples Family Service Center, officers of aboriginal affairs in the local governments, and the aboriginal social workers and professional supervisors of the regional Indigenous Peoples Family Service Center.

- (2) Indigenous Family Service Centers under the Council of Indigenous Peoples continued to organize lectures and campaigns in their social network meetings, trainings and major tribal gatherings and worships to increase anti-TIP awareness among indigenous people.

17. Mainland Affairs Council: In October 2023, the Council organized a training session on human trafficking prevention and screened the film "Vanishing." Approximately 59 participants, including staff from the Straits Exchange Foundation, attended the event.

3.4 Diverse Multilingual Communication Channels and Actions

To strengthen and implement human trafficking prevention policies, government authorities continue to hold and promote relevant awareness campaigns as summarized below:

1. Ministry of Labor (MOL)

- (1) The MOL set up migrant worker service centers catered for inbound migrant workers at both Taoyuan and Kaohsiung international airports.

These two centers provide migrant workers guidance upon arrival, legal information, and complaint services upon departure. In addition, service centers offer orientation sessions to incoming migrant workers, including informative videos, printed materials, and in-person explanations about Taiwan's laws, customs, and workers' rights. This helps migrant workers adapt to life in Taiwan and reduce anxiety. In 2023, a total of 264,721 migrant workers received orientation.

- (2) To assist migrant workers in adapting to their jobs in Taiwan, local governments have set up Migrant Workers Consultation Service Centers nationwide with funding from the MOL. These service centers employ native-speaking personnel to provide migrant workers with various services, such as legal consultations, psychological counseling, assistance with work adjustment, and filing complaints related to labor disputes. They also offer subsidies for legal proceedings and referrals to legal aid services. Migrant workers who are experiencing illegal treatment from their employers, such as unilateral termination of contracts, improper treatment, withholding of property, unpaid wages, or sexual assault, can file complaints and seek advice from the local government or the nearest migrant worker consultation service center.
- (3) To provide information on employment, rights, and relevant laws to employers, migrant workers, and the public, the MOL has set up the Foreign National

Labor Rights Portal in six languages (available in Chinese, English, Filipino, Indonesian, Thai, and Vietnamese) for inquiries about legal rights, consultations, and complaints. As of the end of 2023, the website had received 4,095,784 visits. Further, in May 2021, an updated version “Line@1955” was released to actively push the latest information on epidemic prevention and employment rights to migrant workers. In June 2022, the “1955 real-time text message service” was launched, where native-speaking staff respond to questions by text about pandemic prevention regulations, labor conditions, employment applications, and other frequently asked questions. Also, the “1955 hotline” migrant worker Facebook page was set up to provide migrant workers with information on employment rights, which is synchronized on the Taiwan Workforce Development Agency Information Site of Foreign Worker Rights Defense.

- (4) Since 2021, the MOL commissioned five broadcasters to produce 13 episodes of a radio program in English, Indonesian, Mandarin, Thai, and Vietnamese. The programs covered topics such as the prevention of human trafficking and personal safety for migrant workers, as well as providing information on the 1955 Foreign Workers' Free Hotline. The aim was to strengthen the legal awareness of employers, brokers, and foreigners and to provide a platform for interaction with

listeners. By the end of 2023, the broadcasts had reached an estimated 4.8 million people.

2. Ministry of Health and Welfare (MOHW)

(1) In 2023, a campaign to raise awareness about child and youth sexual exploitation utilized LED electronic boards at railway and highway stations nationwide. The 12 announcements served as a reminder to both domestic and foreign passengers and commuters that engaging in sexual intercourse or obscene acts with children and adolescents is prohibited.

(2) The 4th meeting of the 3rd year and 1st meeting of the 4th year Child and Youth Sexual Exploitation Prevention and Control Advisory Committee were held in May and December 2023, respectively. Relevant ministries, local government authorities, experts and scholars, and NGOs were invited to review the implementation of the education and preventive measures of child and youth sexual exploitation in the year and to urge the central authorities and local governments to continue the scheduled implementation.

3. Ministry of Justice (MOJ): During the "Judicial Protection Month" from August to October 2023, the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) partnered with the Police Broadcasting Service (National Safety and Traffic Network) to educate the public about labor exploitation of migrant workers. This initiative aimed to raise awareness and prevent such exploitation through dramatized episodes broadcasting on the

National Safety and Traffic Network.

4. Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA)

- (1) MOFA employed a multi-faceted approach, such as press conferences, websites (MOFA website, ROC Embassies and Missions Abroad website), brochures and publications displayed at consular lobbies of overseas missions, to raise awareness among citizens about the various forms of human trafficking and the importance of preventing such crimes while traveling abroad. This comprehensive strategy aims to protect ROC citizens from becoming victims or perpetrators of human trafficking, thereby safeguarding Taiwan's image on the global stage.
- (2) A bilingual website on the Working Holiday Program (available in Chinese and English) has been established to promote the concept of safe working holidays for the youth, remind them of rights precautions, and share cases of human trafficking. The MOFA has also been cooperating with the MOE and related ministries to organize promotional events for the Youth Working Holiday Program and update the Advocacy Online Handbook on the website. Since its establishment in 2016, the webpage has been viewed over 1.79 million times.
- (3) In response to cases of R.O.C. (Taiwan) nationals lured to job scams in Southeast Asian countries, the MOFA has taken several preventive measures including real-time travel advisories and promotion

campaigns. MOFA updated the Myanmar Travel Advisory in October 2023 to remind nationals to pay attention to personal safety when traveling to Myanmar and added prominent warnings to the country information section on MOFA's website to raise the alertness of nationals traveling to Myanmar in all aspects. In 2023, the Bureau of Consular Affairs (when participating in the Taipei International Tourism Exposition) and MOFA's Central Taiwan Branch Office, Yunlin-Chiayi-Tainan Joint Services Center, and Southern Taiwan Branch Office (when participating in the International Travel Fair nationwide) publicized the topic of preventing overseas job scams to warn the public from falling into overseas frauds.

5. Ministry of Education (MOE)

- (1) In 2023, 67 general universities offered 4,145 courses on human rights, civic education, and the rule of law (including human trafficking), taken by 226,566 students; 79 technical and vocational colleges and universities offered 2,136 courses on human rights and the rule of law, taken by 95,596 students.
- (2) The MOE continued to provide subsidies to 17 law departments of universities and tertiary colleges for conducting Legal Education Programs for Primary and Junior High Schools and Communities. A total of 10 sessions on preventing human trafficking were held, with 208 participants.
- (3) In April 2023, the MOE requested the NIA and other

relevant agencies to assist in updating the information on preventing human trafficking in the Youth Working Holiday Advocacy Online Handbook on a rolling basis. The handbook is available for download on the MOFA website, the Youth Development Administration's website, and the iYouth Platform for Making Youth's International Dream Happen. The MOE also requested the MOFA, universities and tertiary colleges, and local governments to assist in the promotion to protect the safety and rights of the youth working abroad.

- (4) In October and November 2023, the MOE organized four joint visits to engage with overseas and international students residing in the north, central, south, and east regions. The visits aimed to promote awareness and understanding of human rights and the rule of law. Approximately 618 individuals participated, comprising overseas and international students from 98 universities, tertiary colleges, high schools, and junior colleges, along with representatives from various agencies.
- (5) To safeguard the rights and interests of foreign students studying in Taiwan, an explanatory meeting was held in January 2023 to announce amendments to Articles 6, 7, and 25 of the Regulations Regarding International Students Undertaking Studies in Taiwan. According to the amendments, universities and tertiary colleges are prohibited from commissioning external entities

(including institutions, legal persons, groups, or individuals) to handle international student recruitment, except for publicity, promotion, and assistance with necessary procedures. Additionally, to ensure that international students in Taiwan understand their rights and obligations, provisions were added mandating that admission notices include detailed and pertinent information in a format accessible to the student, including a version in their native language.

6. Ministry of Transportation and Communications (MOTC)

(1) Land Transportation: In August 2023, the Highway Bureau instructed all highway authorities to educate taxi operators about the website and TIP promotional materials provided by the NIA. The goal was to raise awareness among taxi drivers about anti-human trafficking. Additionally, the state-owned Taiwan Railway Co., Ltd. instructed all regional operating offices to display human trafficking reporting hotlines and other relevant information on scrolling displays, thereby strengthening prevention efforts and public awareness.

(2) Air Transportation: All airports under the Civil Aviation Administration, including Taoyuan International Airport, use multimedia equipments (electronic billboards, scrolling displays) to broadcast various promotional materials on “human trafficking prevention.” In 2023, videos were

played over 80,000 times, and promotional slogans were displayed 45,000 times.

(3) Maritime Transportation: The Taiwan International Ports Corporation, Ltd. (TIPC) consistently displays anti-trafficking slogans on electronic billboards and scrolling displays throughout its ports. Slogans include calls to "Combat human trafficking, respect human rights," "Spot trafficking, call 110," and "Defend human rights, call 110/02-23883095/1955."

7. National Police Agency (NPA): Local police departments were instructed to organize Community Security Meetings to raise awareness of human trafficking prevention laws. During these meetings, promotional videos were screened, and community members were educated on how to collaborate in preventing trafficking. A total of 2,719 meetings were held in 2023. The NPA also utilized banners on official websites, LED billboards, and scrolling displays to promote information of reporting human trafficking and relevant hotlines. Additionally, brochures and pamphlets on prevention were made available at public service counters.

8. National Immigration Agency (NIA)

(1) In addition to broadcasting anti-trafficking messages at service centers, the NIA expanded its outreach through mobile service buses, family education initiatives, and legal advocacy activities. In 2023, a total of 157 such events were organized. Furthermore, multilingual posters were displayed in

public areas of service stations, and anti-human trafficking videos were broadcast online, reaching an estimated 3,600 people.

(2) Recruitment agencies were asked to conduct promotional activities at migrant worker dormitories, distributing materials in Chinese, Indonesian, Thai, and Vietnamese. Additionally, migrant workers were informed about anti-human trafficking measures when visiting NIA service stations for applying for certificates, during interactions with Specialized Operation Brigades, or through care activities. An estimated 1,728 persons were reached out in 2023.

(3) In April 2023, the NIA partnered with local governments to co-host the "Tainan Selamat Hari Raya Idul Fitri" event. The NIA set up an exhibition booth to raise awareness of human trafficking and job scams among international students from five universities, including Chung Hwa University of Medical Technology (HWAI) and Southern Taiwan University of Science and Technology (STUST). The outreach efforts reached an estimated 300 students.

9. Fisheries Agency (FA)

(1) The FA produces and distributes approximately 10,000 multilingual information cards biennially to foreign crew members. These cards, available in Chinese, English, Indonesian, and Vietnamese, provide information on crew members' rights and benefits. The FA also requires that hotline numbers

for filing complaints be prominently posted in the onboard accommodation spaces of fishing vessels.

(2) In 2023, the FA organized 41 recreational activities to educate crew members on Taiwan's laws, regulations, and their rights and benefits. Additionally, they held eight sessions on corporate social responsibility and human rights for vessel operators, and six events specifically focused on the well-being of foreign crew members, including information on their rights and benefits.

10. Veterans Affairs Council (VAC): In 2023, during the New Residents' Life Adaptation Counseling and Happy Family Recognition and Meet Activities held by local governments and the VAC, government officers conducted 19 sessions to educate a total of 869 participants on human trafficking policies and laws.

11. Council of Indigenous Peoples: In 2023, the Council of Indigenous Peoples held 136 lectures and workshops at the Indigenous Peoples Family Service Centers, reaching a total of 4,483 participants. These events focused on the welfare of indigenous people and included integrated promotions on the control and prevention of human trafficking.

4. Strengthening Domestic and Foreign Partnerships

4.1 Participation in International Exchanges and Activities

1. Ministry of Justice (MOJ)

(1) Through the efforts of the Ministry of Justice's, the R.O.C. (Taiwan) successfully joined the European Judicial Network (EJN) as an observer, with

appointed a prosecutor serving as our country's contact point. This annual invitation to the EJP's plenary assembly enables Taiwan to engage in discussions on the latest topics in European judicial cooperation. It also facilitates valuable exchanges of views and experiences with other countries' contact point, establishing communication channels and learning opportunities. This engagement with European countries is particularly beneficial for understanding their experiences in recovering proceeds from human trafficking cases, contributing to Taiwan's practical operations.

- (2) As a member of the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network of – Asia/Pacific (ARIN-AP), Taiwan actively participates in officer training and the annual conference each year. In May 2023, Taiwanese personnel to participate in ARIN-AP's Asset Recovery Training which was held in Seoul, South Korea, and engage in exchanges with the Ministry of Justice, the Supreme Prosecutors' Office, and other legal institutions. Subsequently, in November, a delegation attended the ARIN-AP Annual conference in Bangkok, Thailand, where they discussed strengthening criminal justice cooperation with Thailand's Office of the Attorney General. The conference's theme, "Synergy of Effective Confiscation of the Proceeds of Crime," provided a platform for Taiwan's prosecutors and Ministry of Justice Investigation Bureau (MJIB) investigators to showcase the development of

Taiwan's legal system and practical achievements in virtual currency-related cases and asset forfeiture. The presentations were well-received and are expected to contribute to future cooperation of international law enforcement in recovering criminal proceeds, including those from human trafficking cases.

- (3) In May and June 2023, appointed prosecutors to participate in the "International Conference on Human Trafficking" which was held in Florida, USA. organized by the International Association of Human Trafficking Investigators (IAHTI) " During the conference, the US shared the victim-centered approach and legislative trends beneficial for Taiwan's reference. . It also facilitated connections with agents and prosecutors specializing in human trafficking cases in Florida and at the federal level promoting deeper exchanges between law enforcement officers of Taiwan the U.S.
- (4) In August 2023, Patrick McElwain, Deputy Director of the U.S. Homeland Security Investigations, visited the Ministry of Justice and met with the Minister. The discussion focused on enhancing the education and practical training of prosecutors and law enforcement officers, including those involved in human trafficking prevention. The Deputy Director McElwain expressed that if a case has a U.S. nexus, Homeland Security Investigations can collaborate with Taiwan on the investigation.
- (5) In September 2023, prosecutors from the Ministry

of Justice attended the 28th annual conference of the International Association of Prosecutors (IAP) in London, UK, a four-day conference. Topics included sharing experiences on handling human trafficking cases. A notable highlight was the presentation by Simons Davis, Director of Public Prosecution of the Cayman Islands, to share his team's experience in handling a cross-border modern slavery case involving traffickers using voodoo beliefs to traffic African tribal women to European countries. This dialogue helped enhance prosecutorial skills in such cases and served as a model for effective transnational cooperation.

- (6) From October to November 2023, a two-day "2023 International Seminar on Combating Cross-Border Fraud Crimes-Enhancing Cooperation to combat Cross-Border " was held by the Ministry of Justice (MOJ). It focused on issues closely related to human trafficking and cross-border fraud crimes in recent years. Participants included officials from the U.S, Canada, the Poland's Ministry of Justice, the Swiss Federal Department of Justice, the Thai Office of the Attorney General, and the U.S. Homeland Security Investigations Who engaged in exchanges with domestic prosecutors, judges, and experts specializing in fraud crimes. The second session, "Sharing Mechanisms and Experiences in Combating Cross-Border TelecomFraud," was chaired by Chang Tou-Hui, Chief Prosecutor of the Taiwan High Prosecutors Office. Prosecutors from

the Taipei District Prosecutors Office shared Taiwan's experiences in investigating human trafficking cases involving Taiwanese citizens being trafficked to Cambodia for fraudulent activities. The Criminal Investigation Bureau of the National Police Agency shared a case from 2019 involving a fraud ring in Kofu, Yamanashi City, Japan. A prosecutor from the Thai Office of the Attorney General shared Thailand's challenges and future prospects in combating cross-border telecom fraud. A lawyer from the International Assistance Group of the Canadian Department of Justice shared the application of mutual legal assistance treaties in cross-border telecom fraud investigations in Canada.

- (7) In December 2023, the Deputy Minister of Justice led a delegation to Washington, D.C., to meet with the U.S. Homeland Security Investigations, exchanging views on combating human trafficking and achieving a good consensus between the two agencies.

2. Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA)

- (1) During the 6th "Taiwan-EU Human Rights Consultation" was held in Brussels in June 2023. The EU maintained its focus on the issue of Decent Work in Fishing in Taiwan. Both sides exchanged views during the meeting and reached an agreement to take potential joint actions through the Taiwan-EU exchange mechanism.
- (2) The U.S. annual "Trafficking in Persons Report"

continued to express concerns about DWF labor rights in Taiwan. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs actively communicated with the U.S. through various channels to address these concerns. Including properly explanations by overseas missions to the U.S. on the content and progress of Taiwan's "Action Plan on Human Rights and Fishery Industry." Additionally, during the second round of negotiations for the "U.S.-Taiwan Initiative on 21st Century Trade" in August 2023, both sides continued discussions on labor issues related to distant water fishing vessels.

- (3) In November 2023, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and the Ministry of Justice Investigation Bureau (MJIB) co-hosted the 2023 Taiwan-Western Asia & Africa Forum on Regional Security and Transnational Crime (TWAF). The forum invited 250 law enforcement officials, experts, and scholars from 38 countries who participated in discussions and delivered keynote speeches. The conference focused on issues such as geopolitical face by Taiwan's semiconductor industry, human trafficking, cybersecurity, combating disinformation attacks, and emerging new types of crime. Through the international conference, participants shared practical cases and theoretical knowledge to develop countermeasures against transnational crimes, promoting collaboration among professionals in related fields both domestically and internationally.

3. National Police Agency (NPA)

- (1) In September 2023, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Mainland Affairs Council co-hosted the "2023 International Forum on Police Cooperation: Combating Transnational Crime." The seminar focused on critical topics such as "Cybercrime, Telecommunication Fraud, and Human Trafficking" and "Illegal Financial Flows and Money Laundering." This platform enabled the exchange of crime prevention experiences with countries worldwide, strengthening connections and cooperation between Taiwan's police units and international counterparts. Furthermore, the forum facilitated discussions on new international cooperation methods to combat fraud and human trafficking, laying the foundation for future collaborative efforts.
- (2) Police liaison officers were stationed in Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, the United States, and Vietnam, to establish and maintain close cooperation and liaison with local police units in investigating cross-border human trafficking cases. Furthermore, the National Police Agency also requested that police agencies to invite NGOs to participate in prevention advocacy and training sessions to strengthen partnerships and dedicate to anti-human trafficking.

4. National Immigration Agency (NIA)

- (1) In May-June 2023, the immigration attachés of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Miami participated in an international conference on combating human trafficking organized by the International Association of Human Trafficking Investigators (IAHTI).
- (2) In August of 2023, the immigration attachés of the Embassy of the Republic of Paraguay was invited to participate in the "Conference on Combating Human Trafficking and International Cooperation," held by the Paraguayan Court of Justice of the Sixth Judicial District of the Department of Alto Paraná. The secretary presented on Taiwan's achievements, legal applications, and challenges in combating transnational trafficking, engaging in fruitful discussions with speakers from Brazil, Paraguay, Spain, and the United States. Over 200 attendees including Paraguayan judges, prosecutors, lawyers, and police officers in the conference, promoting valuable international exchange on combatting human trafficking.
- (3) In September of 2023, the National Immigration Agency held the "2023 International Workshop on Strategies for Combating Human Trafficking". The opening ceremony was attended by ex-Premier Chen Chien-Jen, ex-Deputy Interior Minister Wu Jung-Hui, and ambassadors to Taiwan. Approximately 300 representatives from various countries, government agencies, and NGOs participated in the workshop to discuss the

prevention of global telecom fraud and human trafficking, and the strengthening of protection measures for vulnerable populations susceptible to labor exploitation, such as domestic workers, crew members, and foreign students. The workshop aimed to enhance anti-human trafficking efforts by facilitating the sharing of experiences in policy formulation, investigation, and court precedents from experts and scholars from different countries, thereby providing more comprehensive protection for basic human rights.

- (4) In September of 2023, the immigration attachés of the Taipei Representative Office in the U.K. visited the Heathrow Airport Operations Control Center. Both sides exchanged views on anti-human trafficking, with a view to strengthening practical exchanges and cooperation in the fight against human trafficking.
- (5) In November of 2023, the immigration attachés of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Toronto (Toronto TECO) visited the Human Trafficking Enforcement Team (HTET) of the Toronto Police Service and exchanged views on issues such as Canada's crackdown on human trafficking cases and trends among Asian victims. In December of 2023, the secretary at Toronto TECO also participated in a workshop on combating human trafficking organized by the Peel Regional Police. The workshop facilitated exchanges on practical anti-human trafficking work with officials from various

police departments in Ontario, the Ministry of Labor, and correctional institutions.

4.2 Signing or other efforts to promote substantive cooperation with the international community

1. The Ministry of Labor produced a 30-minute pre-employment video, dubbed into 5 languages (English, Indonesian, Mandarin, Thai, and Vietnamese). Copies of the videos were provided to foreign missions in Taiwan so that it may be sent to be broadcast in the job-training centers of their home countries to educate migrant workers on the information required for work in Taiwan (including regulations and culture) and enhance the mechanism of pre-employment training.

2. Ministry of Justice (MOJ)

- (1) The “treaty on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters between the government of the republic of china (taiwan) and the government of saint vincent and the grenadines” and the “treaty between the government of the republic of china (taiwan) and the government of saint vincent and the grenadines on the transfer of sentenced persons” were signed in August 2022, will allow the two countries to request mutual legal assistance in cases including human trafficking, once the treaties enter into force. The Legislative Yuan approved the two treaties in April 2023, and the President announced their entry into force in August 2023.

- (2) In February of 2023, the Memorandum of Understanding on Mutual Legal Cooperation between the Taipei Mission in Korea and the

Korean Mission in Taipei was signed and submitted to the Legislative Yuan for review. This agreement, once enacted, will contribute to the efforts of Taiwan and Korea in combating human trafficking.

- (3) In March 2023, the Taiwan-Japan Relations Association and the Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Judiciary and Legal Affairs Cooperation, which facilitate cooperation between Taiwan and Japan in combating human trafficking crimes.
- (4) The Agreement between the Taipei Representative Office in the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Institute Taipei on Cooperation in the Area of Judicial Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters was signed in March of 2023. Under the agreement, the Department of International and Cross-Strait Legal Affairs of the Ministry of Justice and the German Federal Office of Justice are designated as the Central Authorities responsible for its practical implementation. Requests for mutual legal assistance can be submitted from each other in writing or electronically, with the option for advance submission to expedite the process. The content of the agreement provides versatile and practical tools for international cooperation and crime fighting. Notably, it stipulates that the processing of personal data must fully comply with EU data protection legislation. This provision will facilitate further judicial cooperation between

Taiwan and the EU, enhance the protection of rights for Taiwanese citizens interacting with EU countries, and strengthen joint efforts to combat transnational human trafficking crimes. The agreement has been approved by the Executive Yuan and is currently under review by the Legislative Yuan.

- (5) The Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters between the Government of the R.O.C. (Taiwan) and the Government of Tuvalu, signed in June of 2023, aims to streamline cross-border evidence collection, and facilitate substantive cooperation between law enforcement officers from both countries in the fight against cross-border crime. Once in effect, this treaty is expected to significantly enhance crime prevention efforts. The treaty has been submitted by the Executive Yuan and is currently awaiting review by the Legislative Yuan.
- (6) In June of 2023, the MOJ and the Office of Attorney General of Thailand jointly assisted the District Prosecutors Office in investigating a ketamine trafficking case. This case marked a landmark in Taiwan-Thailand cooperation on video interrogation and was the first example of Thailand directly assisting another country in conducting video interrogation within a Thai prison. This development is expected to facilitate future judicial cooperation between Taiwan and Thailand on human trafficking cases.

- (7) In August of 2023, the MOJ convened the 11th contact window consultant meeting to implement the Agreement between the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Vietnam and the Vietnam Economic and Cultural Office in Taipei. The delegation of the Ministry of Justice of Vietnam and the representative of the Vietnam Economic and Cultural Office in Taipei also attended the meeting. The MOJ will continue to promote Taiwan-Vietnam mutual legal assistance in criminal matters to strengthen joint efforts in combating human trafficking crimes
- (8) In August and October 2023, the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters between the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the Government of Saint Lucia was signed in counterparts. Once in effect, this treaty will enable both countries to request mutual legal assistance in cases including human trafficking.
- (9) In 2023, the U.S. Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Liaison Officer in Taiwan held a case briefing meeting with the MOJ regarding a human trafficking case under investigation in the United States. This meeting aimed to enhance the efficiency of assistance in the event of a formal request for mutual legal assistance from the U.S. in the future.
- (10) In 2023, the Attorney General's Office of Mexico filed a formal request for mutual legal assistance to Taiwan for the investigation of a child abduction

case. The request asked Taiwan to provide personal information and cross-border entry and exit records of the abducted child and his biological mother, as well as information on the investigation and trial records of relevant cases in Taiwan. The local prosecutor's office in Taiwan assisted in completing some of the requested items.

3. The National Immigration Agency: To facilitate cooperation on immigration matters and combating human trafficking. Up to the end of 2023, Taiwan has signed Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) on cooperation concerning immigration affairs and human trafficking prevention with 22 countries: Australia, Belgium, Belize, El Salvador, Eswatini, Gambia, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Japan, the Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Nauru, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, the Philippines, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Solomon Islands, the United States, and Vietnam. These MOUs have significantly enhanced international cooperation on immigration affairs, cross-border crime, and anti-TIP efforts.

4.3 Sponsoring or participating in events organized by Domestic NGO

1. The Ministry of Labor continued to subsidize NGOs to organize training courses for employers, migrant workers, and agents, as well as cultural exchanges, festivals, and Chinese-foreign language courses. These activities served as a platform to promote the prevention of human trafficking, employers' attention

to migrant workers' personal safety and privacy protection, fulfillment of due diligence in taking care of migrant workers' lives, as well as the 1955 hotline consultation and complaints channels.

2. Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA)

(1) In April of 2023, the MOFA subsidized the ECPAT Taiwan to attend the INHOPE 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Hotline Training Meeting (HTM) in Malta. The events focused on exchanging information and facilitating discussions on combating online child and youth sexual exploitation, with the goal of strengthening international dialogue and connections.

(2) To highlight the government's achievements in promoting child and youth protection, preventing human trafficking, combating cybercrime, and implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the MOFA subsidized ECPAT Taiwan to host the ECPAT International Conference on Child Safety in Taipei and Training for Law Enforcement Officers on Online Child Sexual Exploitation from October to November of 2023. Nearly 200 domestic and foreign law enforcement officers, scholars, and NGO representatives participated in the conference to exchange views on the issue of children's well-being in the digital environment, enhancing Taiwan's international visibility in this field.

3. The Fisheries Agency subsidized relevant NGOs to invite experts and scholars to conduct professional training sessions for Fisheries Agency staff and related

personnel to enhance their capacity in handling human trafficking cases. In 2023, a total of three training courses were held, including one internal training session for fisheries labor rights inspectors and two professional training sessions on the protection of labor rights and inspection of fishing operations for foreign crew members employed overseas.

5. Key Points in Response to the Amendment to the Human Trafficking Prevention Act and Supporting Laws and Regulations

5.1 Human Trafficking Prevention Act

1. Reasons for Amendment: Since the implementation in June of 2009, the Human Trafficking Prevention Act had not been substantially amended. To align with the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons and bolster the protection of victims' rights, the Act has been amended. This amendment, the most significant revision in 14 years, was passed by the Legislative Yuan in May of 2023, promulgated by Presidential Decree in June of 2023, and is set to take effect on January 1, 2024. This landmark amendment aims to make Taiwan's anti-human trafficking mechanisms aligned with international standards.

2. Key Points of Amendment

(1) In line with international legal trends: Acknowledging that some countries consider forcing victims to engage in criminal activities as a form of labor exploitation, the definition of human trafficking has been amended. The revised

definition now includes subjecting victims to "committing acts that are criminally punishable under the laws of the R.O.C. (Taiwan)" within the scope of labor exploitation.

(2) Strengthening the Protection of the Victims' Rights:

The amendment introduces several key provisions to enhance the protection of victims' rights. Firstly, it allows suspected victims who disagree with their identification results to object through the original identification agency to the superior authority, thereby expediting the remedy process. Secondly, to facilitate foreign victims' ability to stay in Taiwan for employment and encourage their willingness to testify or identify perpetrators, the amendment extends the issuance of victim residence permits to one year. Finally, to offer a broader range of resettlement services for victims in need, they are now able to choose between renting external housing or residing at their workplaces. If approved, they can receive rental subsidies and other necessary financial assistance.

(3) Expanding Punishment and Severely Punishing

Illegal Acts: To avoid the recurrence of incidents like those in Cambodia, a new provision has been added to impose stricter penalties. Anyone exploiting and utilizing victims to committed acts that are criminally punishable under ROC laws shall be sentenced to imprisonment for more than one year and less than seven years. Furthermore, anyone who recruits, transports, accommodates, or engages

in other illegal acts, by force, threat, fraud, or other means, with the intention of subjecting victims to exploitation, shall be sentenced to imprisonment for up to five years. If the victim is under the age of 18, the sentence can be up to seven years.

- (4) Strengthening the Link between Government Procurement and Human Rights Governance: To strengthen the fight against human trafficking and align with international human rights standards, a new article has been added: any natural person convicted of human trafficking, or any legal person, unincorporated association or natural person imposed with fine for human trafficking crimes, within five years of the date of final and unappealable judgement entered, shall not be eligible for participating in tendering, being awarded or sub-contracting, or assisting tenderers in government procurement.

5.2 Supporting laws and regulations: In line with the amendment of the Human Trafficking Prevention Act, more than 40 laws, orders, and administrative rules are involved, and the key points are summarized as follows:

1. The Regulations for the Assistance of Victims or Suspected Victims of Human Trafficking outline the referral procedures for victims and suspected victims, and specify 11 types of assistance that competent authorities and labor competent authorities at all levels should provide, either directly or by commissioning NGOs, to victims or suspected victims of human trafficking.

2. The Regulations Governing the Placement and Service of Victims and Suspected Victims of Human Trafficking standardize the management of institutional placement services, procedures for addressing unauthorized absences or disappearances, and case management and assistance for community-based placement services. These provisions aim to protect the rights of victims and suspected victims, ensure diverse placement options, and regulate placement service procedures and management.
3. The Regulations Governing the Residence, and the Ad Hoc Permanent Residence for Human Trafficking Victims outline the application procedures, required documents, qualifications, and cancellation processes for human trafficking victims seeking residence permits under the Human Trafficking Prevention Act.
4. The Regulations Governing Subsidy for Victims of Human Trafficking allow victims to apply for condolence payments, unemployment benefits, and other subsidies not covered by the Crime Victim Rights Protection Act, strengthening the protection of victims' rights and interests. Additionally, to align with national policy on crime victim protection, the nature of compensation has been adjusted from civil subrogation to administrative social welfare subsidies.
5. The Enforcement Rules of the Human Trafficking Prevention Act was amended to include provisions on the identification notice that the judicial police authority should provide to suspected victims before and after identification; the objection handling

procedure; circumstances deemed “necessary” for the judicial police to request assistance from social workers or relevant experts; and the exemption of administrative fines for victims overstaying their visits or periods of residence in R.O.C. (Taiwan).

6. The Regulations on Work Permit and Administration for Human Trafficking Victims stipulate that victims holding residence permits may apply for work permits from the Ministry of Labor. The regulations also amended the required documents and issuance conditions for work permit applications to align with recent amendments to the Human Trafficking Prevention Act.
7. The Principles for Human Trafficking Victim Identification were revised to streamline the identification process and enhance the protection of victims' rights and interests. The revisions aim to equip judicial police authorities (units) with the skills to accurately identify signs and indicators of human trafficking, and to effectively utilize the relevant experts of identification assisting personnel, thereby ensuring objectivity and transparency throughout the process.
8. The Procedures for Handling Identification of Suspected Human Trafficking Cases and Objections to Identification by Judicial Police Authorities (Units) mandate that judicial police authorities must immediately initiate the identification process upon receiving or uncovering a suspected human trafficking case. If identification is uncertain or cannot be

completed promptly, the individual's status may be temporarily classified as a suspected victim, with identification to be completed within 30 days of case acceptance or discovery. Individuals who disagree with the identification results may submit a written objection, stating reasons, to the superior authority (unit) through the original identification agency (unit) within 20 days of receiving the identification notice. This process aims to safeguard the rights and interests of the identified individuals.

9. The Operating Procedures Regarding Public-Private Partnership for the Safe Return of Human Trafficking Victims to Their Country (Region) of Origin were amended to align with the Human Trafficking Prevention Act and to reflect the necessity of collaboration between government authorities (units) and placement service facilities for the safe return of victims.
10. The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) has amended the Procedures for Investigating Human Trafficking Cases to align with the Human Trafficking Prevention Act amendments promulgated on June 14, 2023. The key point is that prosecutors are no longer responsible for identifying human trafficking victims, and the victim identification mechanism has been adjusted accordingly.

IV. Future Work

1. Prosecution

- 1.1 To enhance the appropriateness and predictability of

sentencing and strengthen public trust in the judiciary, the Judicial Yuan organized the “Committee of the Sentencing Commission for Criminal Cases” in December of 2019 to study and draft the Basic Law of Sentencing in Criminal Cases. Between 2020 and 2021, the committee convened 20 meetings to solicit opinions from various sectors. After several revisions, the basic law was drafted and titled the Draft of Appropriate Sentencing in Criminal Cases Act. This draft was approved by the Judicial Yuan in December of 2021 and submitted to the Legislative Yuan for deliberation. If legislation is passed in the future, the “Commission for Sentencing Guidelines in Criminal Cases” (the “Sentencing Commission”) will be set up to formulate the “Sentencing Guidelines for Criminal Cases”, so as to enhance the appropriateness, transparency, fairness, and reasonable predictability of sentencing, and to respond to the community’s expectation for fairness in sentencing and justice in cases.

1.2 Strengthening Education and Training and Investigation Skills

1. Judicial police authorities will keep on investigating organized and syndicated human trafficking cases to trace their origins and expand the scope of investigations. Judicial police agencies also enhance their skills through training on investigation, evidence collection, and relevant laws to effectively combat illegal syndicates. In addition, the National Immigration Agency will expand inquiries into the seized, received (accepted), self-reported and detained

foreigners, utilizing investigative techniques to uncover clues. It will also collaborate with national security units under its jurisdiction to conduct joint inspections and hold coordination conferences, focusing on locations where migrant workers congregate or suspected illegal workplaces. The NIA will also continue to strengthen intelligence and implement joint and proactive inspections.

2. To share expertise and develop trainers, the NIA continues its Seed Instructor Training Program, targeting judicial police officers experienced in human trafficking cases. Prosecutors and seasoned experienced officers were invited to give lecture on investigation and evidence collection techniques. The Seed Instructors training was conducted through case studies, aims to equip these Seed Instructors to lead judicial police officers in future investigations. Additionally, all judicial police authorities, local governments, and labor administration agencies are encouraged to establish and expand their pool of Seed Instructors, tailoring their expertise to the specific types of human trafficking crimes they encounter, thereby increasing the overall detection rate of such cases.

2. Protection

2.1 Strengthening the protection of child and youth sexual exploitation (in cases involving human trafficking)

1. To strengthen prevention of child and youth sexual exploitation, increase penalties and protect victims, the

MOHW amended the Child and Youth Sexual Exploitation Prevention Act in February of 2023. The amendment added provisions for punishing offenses committed outside Taiwan, regardless of where the laws where of conduct occurred, and increased penalties for causing a child or a youth to engage in sexual intercourse or obscene acts. The MOHW will also constantly review relevant laws and regulations on a rolling basis to enhance protection mechanisms for children and youth.

2. To comprehensively strengthen the prevention promotions on of child and youth sexual exploitation, the MOHW will continue to urge relevant agencies to conduct promotions of educational programs on child and youth sexual exploitation prevention. Regular announcements and reviews of the results of such tasks will be made in the Advisory Committee of Child and Youth Sexual Exploitation Prevention under the MOHW.

2.2 Enhance the function of assisted victim identification in suspected human trafficking cases

The Judicial police agencies overseeing suspected human trafficking cases should invite, whenever necessary, social workers or other professionals to accompany the victim(s) in the investigation and assist in victim identification. So that the professional helpers can instantly be dispatched to a scheduled interrogation. In 2023, the NIA expanded its roster of accompanying interrogators to 60 individuals, divided into "Northern Region," "Central Region," "Southern Region," and

"Offshore Islands" (based on geographical areas), to integrate and dispatch personnel promptly, providing timely assistance to judicial police in identification tasks. In 2024, the NIA will propose to expand the roster of accompanying persons to 100 individuals and plans to conduct two training sessions for accompanying persons, each lasting at least 6 hours, to strengthen their professional knowledge and skills before carrying out their duties, thereby enhancing the function of their assistance in identification.

2.3 Implementation of the victim protections

1. To avoid misunderstandings or misjudgments caused by language barriers during the identification, examination, or interrogation of the judicial police, the NPA and NIA continue to instruct the judicial police authority to request the presence and assistance of interpreters or accompanying persons during the investigation, in accordance with the regulations to protect the rights and interests of the victims. Additionally, the judicial police should refer to the "Guideline of Human Trafficking Victim Identification" to implement identification and pay attention to relevant matters. Gender transition or transgender victims can be placed in a separate room during placement to protect their rights.
2. The NPA and NIA will continue to instruct police agencies to supervise and see that the investigation non-disclosure rule is observed and victim privacy is protected in a press releases. Also, when the safety of a victim admitted to a shelter or during the court

presence for testimony needs to be safeguarded by police protection, the police should dispatch officers to provide the protection.

2.4 Follow-up Statistics on Protection Services for Victims

The NIA, the Social and Family Affairs Administration (SFAA), and other central and local authorities involved in the placement and protection of victims, whether R.O.C. (Taiwan) or foreigners, admitted to the shelter or not, will follow up to ensure the implementation of the services and the protection of the victims.

3. Prevention

3.1 Planning for Supporting Measures and Implementation Strategies for the Human Trafficking Prevention Act

1. Ministry of Labor (MOL)

(1) In response to the amendments of the Human Trafficking Prevention Act and related regulations, the current "Disposal Directions the Placement and Protection of Human Trafficking Victims and Suspected Victims Holding Work Visas, and the Advance Payment of Expenses" are no longer consistent with the new regulations. Therefore, in 2024, the MOL will amend the Directions to regulate subsidies for flight tickets returning to Taiwan and living expenses. Follow-up publicity and implementation will be carried out to protect the relevant rights and interests of victims.

(2) To raise awareness among county and city governments on identifying labor exploitation, the MOL sent out 2,000 copies of the "Reference

Manual on the Prohibition of Forced Labor" to the Judicial Yuan, municipal, and county (city) governments for promotion and to assist relevant personnel in conducting comprehensive assessments and case identification.

2. Ministry of Transportation and Communications (MOTC)

- (1) In October 2023, the Maritime and Port Bureau (MPB) amended the “Notification Mechanism for Human Trafficking Involving Crew Members” Under the notification mechanism, upon handling a suspected human trafficking case involving crew members, officers of maritime affairs centers should immediately notify the judicial police authority, regardless of nationality of the crew member, and assist in providing relevant information. In addition, if " any blacklisted vessel with a history of forced labor, human trafficking, or crew abandonment enters into ports, foreign crew members should be provided with contact cards so that they can-contact the maritime affairs centers of the Maritime and Port Bureau of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications or the contact person of the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) at any time to obtain necessary assistance immediately. Additionally, the MPB regularly updates the information of the ship that has abandoned its crew and is recognized as posing a risk to commercial ports or public safety on the website of the International Transport Workers’

Federation (ITF), and notifies the relevant units, operators, industrial groups and labor unions, in order to strengthen the monitoring and management of malicious abandonment of seafarers and to proactively prevent the occurrence of human trafficking cases.

- (2) The MOTC continues to publicize and boost the awareness of the tourism professionals and the public of their duty to report and the prohibition of engaging in commercial sex exploitation during tourism. It also assists hotel operators in establishing self-discipline pacts including the duty to report cases of sex tourism and protective measures.

3. Ministry of Health and Welfare (MOHW)

- (1) Taiwanese Adult Victims: In 2024, the Social and Family Affairs Administration (SFAA) will formulate “Guidelines for Social Welfare Agencies on Placement and Social Welfare Services for Domestic Adult Victims of Human Trafficking”. These guidelines will serve as a reference for local government social welfare units to ensure appropriate placement and services. The SFAA will also require monthly reporting of statistics on these services to monitor implementation. The SFAA will continue to coordinate with local authorities to provide services to Taiwanese adult victims for establishing a complete network of services.
- (2) Child and youth Victims: In accordance with Article 18 of the pre-amendment version of Human

Trafficking Prevention Act, any child or youth suspected or known as victims of human trafficking being suspected of committing sexual or lewd acts in exchange for money, shall be provided with placement in accordance with the Child and Youth Sexual Exploitation Prevention Act; in the case of provision concerned is absent, the applicable law shall be presumed to be the Human Trafficking Prevention Act. Additionally, if child and youth victims of human trafficking have been subjected to acts of mistreatment under Article 49 of the Protection of Children and Youths Welfare and Rights Act, the provisions of this Act may apply. Relevant mandatory reporting procedures, handling processes, and services have been established and are currently being implemented.

4. Ministry of Justice (MOJ): To ensure that prosecution authorities properly oversee human trafficking cases, the “Directions Governing the Prosecution Authorities' Handling of Human Trafficking Cases” were promulgated in June of 2009. In response to the amendment of the Human Trafficking Prevention Act, the MOJ will study to revise these Directions in 2024 to meet the needs of the practical handling of such cases.

5. National Immigration Agency (NIA)

(1) The Trafficking Prevention Act and related regulations will come into effect on January 1, 2024. To implement the Act's and regulations' provisions, the NIA will continue amending

(revising) administrative rules, procedures, registered information in the relevant management system, and the layout design of residence certificate in 2024. This is to best serve victims' interests and comprehensively protect their rights.

- (2) According to reports from the International Labor Organization (ILO), the Walk Free Foundation (an Australian human rights organization dedicated to ending modern slavery), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), there were approximately 50 million people in present day slavery as of September of 2022, including those forced to work against their will or forced into marriage. Among them, approximately 27.6 million people were in forced labor. To align with international standards and strengthen the prevention of forced labor, the NIA will study the establishment of mechanisms in 2024 to end forced labor in the global supply chain, thereby expanding human rights protection.

6. Public Construction Commission, Executive Yuan

- (1) As of 2024, records of vendors who violate Article 41, Paragraph 1 of the Human Trafficking Prevention Act and are convicted under a final and unappealable court judgment will be ineligible to be final bidders or subcontractors in government procurement for five years from the judgment date. The MOI will publish these records in the Government Procurement Gazette and disclose them on the Government e-Procurement website for

inquiry by various authorities. The Public Construction Commission will actively complete the publication procedures and systems for the Procurement Gazette and the website.

- (2) In 2024, the Commission will organize basic training courses for government procurement professionals to educate agency personnel and vendors about the provisions of Article 41 of the Human Trafficking Prevention Act. This article prohibits vendors convicted of human trafficking crimes from participating in government procurement bidding or being awarded contracts or subcontracts.

3.2 Strengthening the protection of the rights and interests of crew members

1. Continuing the labor inspection and implementing the enforcement of laws: The labor inspections of fishing vessels in the DWF and the premises of vessel operators and recruitment agents will continue, examining the senior crew and ship owner compliance with relevant fishery laws, and the offenses of human trafficking. Also, continual negotiations with port states will be carried out with the help of the MOFA to increase the number of officers (or inspectors) stationed in overseas ports. In addition, third-party inspections is also conducted to increase the capacity of inspections in foreign ports.
2. Conducting victim-centered interviews: The FA conducts at least 4 hours of training courses for interviewers and investigators annually. Under the

standardized operational procedure, the crew members will be informed of the non-disclosure of personal information and separated from the vessel owner and senior crew during interviews. If necessary, the interviews could be conducted together with judicial police agencies. Victim-centered interviews could be conducted during portside and or at-sea vessel inspections. The assessment and identification could be made in accordance with the “Checklist of the Suspected Case of Labor Exploitation of Foreign Crew Member” to screen foreign fishing crew members for forced labor indicators.

3. Strengthening the management of FOC vessels: Conducting interagency joint inspection of foreign flagged fishing vessels entering Taiwanese ports to ensure that FOC vessels comply with labor standards; Ensuring that FOC-vessels comply with the labor standards; Reviewing the implementation on a rolling basis.
4. Promoting diversified channels for foreign crew members to file complaints: The FA has added the 1955 hotline employment contracts (such as Mandarin, English, Vietnamese and Indonesian versions). It has also established a multilingual website to disseminate information on crew members' rights and benefits, basic vessel information, and to provide complaint filing channels.
5. Encouraging vessel operators to join the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program: The MOA assists operators in joining CSR initiatives to enhance

their awareness of corporate social responsibility and labor rights. The MOA will continue to support, guide, and promote fisheries associations and seafood buyers to collectively participate in CSR programs, such as joining the Fisheries Improvement Project (FIP) and obtaining Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) eco-certifications.

3.3 Optimizing the Protection of Migrant Workers' Rights

1. The Ministry of Labor set up the Domestic Workers' Protection Task Force and convened the Discussion Meeting of Regulations on Domestic Workers Labor Right Protection in August of 2023. The event addressed critical issues such as preventing sexual harassment and assault and enhancing personal data protection within the migrant domestic workers to uphold migrant domestic workers' rights and interests.
2. The employment of domestic workers requires permit(s). Although the employment of domestic workers is currently not covered in the Labor Standards Act, it is explicitly stated in the Employment Service Act that a foreign worker should sign a written labor contract with domestic employers before entering R.O.C. (Taiwan), and the labor standard must comply with the labor contract verified by the competent authority in the home country of the foreign worker. The Labor Occupational Accident Insurance and Protection Act has been expanded to include domestic workers, enhancing their protection.
3. The MOL will review ILO Convention No. 189 on Domestic Labor and corresponding ROC laws and

regulations. The Domestic Workers' Protection Task Force will be convened to gather input from all stakeholders and conduct thorough deliberations. These efforts aim to conduct reviews to be in line with the promotion of the long-term care system.

4. Aside from the promotion of direct employment and consultation services in various languages, the MOL sets up specialists to assist employers in applying and tracking the progress of the case, and remind employers of matters to be done during the employment permit period. In addition, the Direct Hiring Service Center has been operating a consulting service for matters not related to the employment of migrant workers since August of 2022, and migrant workers can consult information on legal assistance, labor insurance and occupational accident insurance benefits through the toll-free 4-language (English, Indonesia, Thai, and Vietnamese) hotline (0800-665-800). Since its launch, the center has assisted nearly 13,000 migrant workers. Additionally, instant online interpretation services are available for work- and life-related matters to aid migrant worker integration so as to assist migrant workers fit in with the life in Taiwan.
5. The National Immigration Agency (NIA) is responsible for inspecting and interviewing foreign nationals in Taiwan. NIA's specialized operation brigades, employing an immigration-responsible area management model, target enterprises hiring migrant workers for inspections and interviews. This approach aims to foster shared social responsibility, enhance

corporate legal compliance and internal control, and ultimately increase employee awareness of labor exploitation.

3.4 Enforcing the Implementation of the Notification Mechanism and Preventive Promoting

1. The Ministry of Transportation and Communications (MOTC)

(1) The MOTC implements the “Notification Mechanism for Human Trafficking Involving Crew Members” and makes amendments to the mechanism on a rolling basis. In addition, the MOTC regularly updates the information of the ship that has abandoned its crew and is recognized as posing a risk to commercial ports or public safety on the website of the International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF), and notifies the relevant units, operators, industry groups, and labor unions, in order to strengthen the monitoring and management of malicious abandonment of seafarers and to proactively prevent the occurrence of human trafficking cases.

(2) The MOTC continues to publicize and boost the awareness of the tourism professionals and the public of their duty to report and the prohibition of engaging in commercial sex exploitation during travel. The MOTC also assist hotel operators in establishing self-discipline pacts including the duty to report cases of sex tourism and preventive measures.

2. The Ministry of Labor will continue organizing Labor

Standards Act workshops with a focus on promoting regulations related to forced labor as outlined in both the Labor Standards Act and the Human Trafficking Prevention Act.

3. The Fisheries Agency will continue conducting campaigns and holding meetings to explain current laws and regulations, FA also organized educational courses and periodical training for domestic vessel senior crew and crew members to promote the importance of treating foreign crew members as key partners during operations at sea, raise the awareness of corporate social responsibility and to maintain mutually beneficial partnerships.
4. The National Police Agency continues to request police departments to utilize multiple channels to promote public awareness of the prevention and control of human trafficking and call on victims' self-awareness to encourage TIP victims to report crimes for the police to initiate the corresponding investigations and rescues.
5. National Immigration Agency (NIA)
 - (1) Article 9 of the Human Trafficking Prevention Act and Article 13 of its Enforcement Rules designate various professionals, including police, immigration officers, social affairs personnel, labor affairs personnel, household registration personnel, medical personnel, educational personnel, and employees of the tourist entities, as mandatory reporters of suspected human trafficking cases. To enhance the reporting process and facilitate

subsequent investigations and rescues, the NIA will revise notification and reporting procedures, as well as associated forms, in 2024.

- (2) To bolster public and judicial police officers' understanding of the amended Human Trafficking Prevention Act, the NIA has created a dedicated "Human Trafficking Prevention Act Amendment Zone" on its website. This platform features informative posters and films addressing human trafficking issues. To reach a wider audience, some materials are available in multiple languages (English, Indonesian, Vietnamese, etc.). This multilingual approach empowers foreign workers, new immigrants, and other vulnerable populations to comprehend human trafficking risks and protect themselves from exploitation.

4. Partnership

4.1 Continuously Strengthening International Exchanges and Cooperations

1. Ministry of Justice (MOJ)

- (1) The MOJ maintains smooth communications with the mutual legal assistance of various countries. In addition, The MOJ keeps close contact with the Investigation Bureau, National Police Agency, National Immigration Agency, Mainland Affairs Council, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and overseas missions. This collaboration will obtain intelligence on human trafficking cases and provide essential support to prosecutors in case management.

(2) The MOJ continues to promote the signing of mutual legal assistance treaties, and agreements, or memorandums of understanding with other countries to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of cross-border cooperation in combating crime. When a country that has not signed a mutual legal assistance treaty (arrangements), with Taiwan requests mutual legal assistance in criminal matters from Taiwan, we may still, in accordance with the provisions of the “Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Act” and on the basis of the principle of reciprocity, provide assistance to the country in investigating and handling such cases, so as to effectively combat cross-border crimes together and to strengthen liaison and cooperation with the law enforcement agencies of other countries.

2. National Police Agency (NPA)

- (1) Promoting international police cooperation through platforms such as Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) and the network of ~~overseas~~ police liaison officers abroad to strengthen international law enforcement cooperation, exchange crime intelligence with local police authorities or civilian groups and communicate on the investigation and prevention of cross-border human trafficking cases.
- (2) Applying the "third-party policing" strategy to maintain close inter-agency communication with local agencies in labor and social administration to actively identify sources of crime through joint

investigations and advocacy efforts; drawing on the expertise, experience, and resources of the private sector in preventing human trafficking, and jointly organizing educational training and promotion of prevention measures, to strengthen bilateral partnerships.

4.2 Maintaining Cooperation Between Central and Local Authorities to Preventing Human Trafficking

1. Since 2014, local governments have been assessed on their implementation of human trafficking, which is jointly organized by the NPA, the NIA, and the MOL, in cooperation with experts and scholars from the private sector. Over the past eight years, local governments have gradually improved their implementation and will continue to carry out and overseeing the works.
2. In order to implement the Action Plan on Human Rights and Fishery Industry, the MOI has formulated the “Enhanced Cooperation Mechanism for Combating Human Trafficking at Sea” to strengthen the sensitivity of administrative departments and judicial police officers in accepting complaints from foreign crew members, and to enhance the division of responsibilities and cooperation mechanisms, so as to facilitate the fight against crimes and ensure immediate, clear, complete and safe services for suspected victims.

V. Conclusion

The government has made tangible progress in combating

human trafficking. However, incidents such as labor exploitation of crew members on distant water FOC vessels and foreign students, and sexual exploitation of foreign victims persist. To proactively address these issues, Taiwan has implemented the “2023-2024 Anti-Exploitation Action Plan”, amended the “Action Plan for Fisheries and Human Rights”, Human Trafficking Prevention Act and relevant regulations. These efforts aim to strength the prevention system.

Given that most human trafficking victims in Taiwan are foreign nationals, while child and youth sexual exploitation victims are predominantly Taiwanese, language barriers pose significant challenges within the judicial system. To safeguard victims' rights, judicial police must continue to enhance their investigative expertise and rescue capabilities. Simultaneously, the quality and capacity of interpretation services must be improved to ensure accurate and effective communication between victims, judicial police, and legal authorities throughout the investigation and trial processes.

In addition, according to reports from the International Labor Organization (ILO), the Walk Free Foundation, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), in September 2022, there were approximately 50 million people were trapped in present day slavery, including 27.6 million people in forced labor. To align with international standards and strengthen the prevention of forced labor, Taiwan will consider establishing a mechanism to disrupt forced labor supply chains in 2024, expanding human rights protections.

The newly enacted Human Trafficking Prevention Act expands the scope of anti-human trafficking efforts to include

penalties for criminal syndicates involved in trafficking or coercing victims into criminal activities. The Act and its relevant regulations also provide community-based placement services and provided related subsidies for victims, expanding the protection. While the Act requires implementation and promotion, continued efforts are essential. The government will regularly review laws, strengthen public-private partnerships, and promote corporate social responsibility among transnational transport operators. By combining robust law enforcement with comprehensive victim support, Taiwan aims to upgrade its capacity in combating human trafficking and fulfill its commitment to human rights.

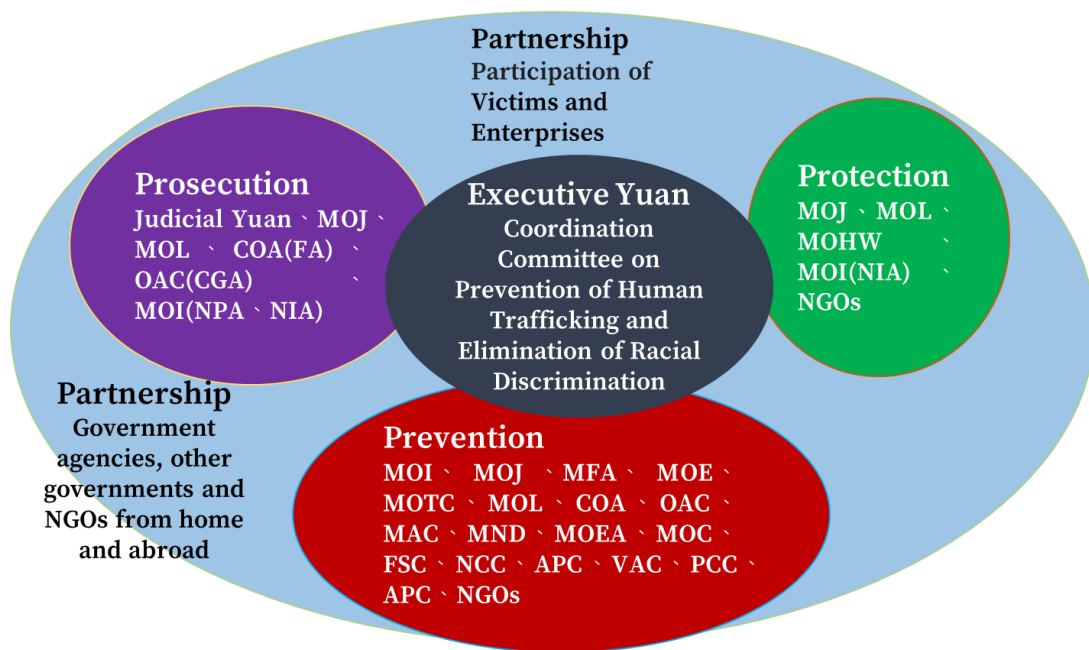


Figure 1: Taiwan's 4P Policy and Public-Private Partnership Mechanism for Combating Human Trafficking

Table 1 : Cases Referred by Judicial Police Authorities from 2009 to 2023

<div> <div>Cases</div> <div>Year</div> </div>	Total cases referred to the District prosecutors' offices	Type of cases		
		Labor exploitation	Sexual exploitation	Organ harvesting
2009	88	46	42	0
2010	123	77	46	0
2011	126	73	53	0
2012	148	86	62	0
2013	166	84	82	0
2014	138	51	87	0
2015	141	44	97	0
2016	134	40	94	0
2017	145	37	108	0
2018	133	38	95	0
2019	143	32	111	0
2020	159	29	130	0
2021	107	21	86	0
2022	161	75	85	1
2023	148	63	80	5

(Statistics provided by the judicial police agencies; compiled by the NIA)

Table 2 : Type and Number of Hiring Violation Cases from 2009 to 2023

Type of Hiring violations Year / No. Of cases		Illegally harboring foreigners	Hiring unauthorized foreign workers or foreign workers assigned to other employers	Hiring foreigners to work for others	Assigning unauthorized work or changing work location without approval
2009	Cases for which fines were imposed	152	582	12	410
	Cases for which employer's license was revoked	116			
2010	Cases for which fines were imposed	186	777	26	545
	Cases for which employer's license was revoked	133			
2011	Cases for which fines were imposed	255	960	17	746
	Cases for which employer's license was revoked	197			
2012	Cases for which fines were imposed	305	1,136	14	768
	Cases for which employer's license was revoked	161			
2013	Cases for which fines were imposed	376	1,450	13	897
	Cases for which employer's license was revoked	227			
2014	Cases for which fines were imposed	317	1,224	20	689
	Cases for which employer's license was revoked	174			
2015	Cases for which fines were imposed	370	1,372	16	848
	Cases for which employer's license was revoked	151			
2016	Cases for which fines were imposed	390	1,563	10	664
	Cases for which employer's license was revoked	163			
2017	Cases for which fines were imposed	465	1,830	10	554
	Cases for which employer's license was revoked	167			
2018	Cases for which fines were imposed	495	1,708	3	556
	Cases for which employer's license was revoked	183			
2019	Cases for which fines were	981	3,563	13	723

	imposed				
	Cases for which employer's license was revoked	203			
2020	Cases for which fines were imposed	910	2,171	4	701
	Cases for which employer's license was revoked	181			
2021	Cases for which fines were imposed	724	1,830	13	750
	Cases for which employer's license was revoked	153			
2022	Cases for which fines were imposed	459	1,302	8	249
	Cases for which employer's license was revoked	138			
2022	Cases for which fines were imposed	647	1,778	8	321
	Cases for which employer's license was revoked	192			

(Statistics provided by the MOL; compiled by the NIA)

TABLE 3: Cases Prosecuted and Persons Indicted for Tip-Related Offences by District Prosecutor's Offices from 2009 to 2023

Year	Cases Prosecuted	Persons Indicted	Type Of Cases					
			Labor Exploitation		Sexual Exploitation		Organ harvesting	
			Cases	Persons	Cases	Persons	Cases	Persons
2009	118	335	35	102	83	233		
2010	115	441	41	110	76	346		
2011	151	437	72	179	80	259		
2012	169	458	34	57	136	408		
2013	127	355	84	246	46	103		
2014	102	184	21	52	88	153		
2015	63	148	12	25	52	127		
2016	64	166	17	44	50	128		
2017	87	248	19	66	68	182		
2018	71	113	24	40	47	73		
2019	71	122	14	22	57	100		
2020	78	132	18	31	63	105		
2021	58	78	14	26	44	52		
2022	153	325	78	175	68	138	7	12
2023	231	404	124	231	83	143	26	44

Note: From June 2009, certain cases were registered under more than one type, if applicable. Therefore, the total number of cases may not be equal to the sum of the different types.

(Statistics provided by the MOJ; compiled by the NIA)

**TABLE 4: Sentences Imposed on Tip-Related Crimes from
2009 to 2023**

Year Sentence	Unit: Person(s)														
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
< 6 months	256	192	98	144	155	97	103	96	18	9	7	5	3	4	5
6-12 months	50	37	15	16	21	10	10	13	4	2	2	4	5	6	1
1-2 years	30	34	27	27	36	20	14	23	10	14	15	12	22	21	23
2-3 years	4	4	5	3	5	6	1	4	3	2	5	1	9	9	4
3-5 years	7	19	17	32	41	30	29	21	23	21	18	26	23	29	22
5-7 years	1	0	2	2	4	2	1	0	0	0	2	1	3	0	0
7-10 years	13	1	1	3	2	1	0	3	0	2	1	5	7	3	1
10-15 years	0	1	0	0	0	3	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0
Short detention	6	8	6	11	4	5	2	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
Fine	1	4	2	62	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No sanction	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	376	300	174	300	270	175	163	162	62	50	50	55	73	72	56

(Statistics provided by the MOJ; compiled by the NIA)

**Table 5: Statistics of Foreign TIP Victims Placed in Shelters
from 2009 to 2023**

Gender and nationality Year/Exploitation type		No. of Newly Admitted Victims	Gender		Nationality								
			Male	Female	Indonesian	Vietnamese	Thai	Filipino	Mainland Chinese	Cambodian	Bangladesh	Indian	Other
2009	Sexual Exploitation	85	0	85	45	12	1	0	27	0	0	0	0
	Labor Exploitation	244	71	173	120	73	6	14	0	9	22	0	0
	Total	329	71	258	165	85	7	14	27	9	22	0	0
2010	Sexual Exploitation	45	5	40	14	4	6	2	19	0	0	0	0
	Labor Exploitation	279	61	218	147	71	6	37	2	13	2	1	0
	Total	324	66	258	161	75	12	39	21	13	2	1	0
2011	Sexual Exploitation	56	0	56	20	1	1	1	33	0	0	0	0
	Labor Exploitation	263	90	173	155	83	9	13	0	0	3	0	0
	Total	319	90	229	175	84	10	14	33	0	3	0	0
2012	Sexual Exploitation	152	0	152	131	1	0	0	20	0	0	0	0
	Labor Exploitation	310	66	244	225	59	1	23	0	2	0	0	0
	Total	462	66	396	356	60	1	23	20	2	0	0	0
2013	Sexual Exploitation	121	0	121	110	1	0	1	9	0	0	0	0
	Labor Exploitation	245	47	198	166	64	6	7	0	0	0	0	2
	Total	366	47	319	276	65	6	8	9	0	0	0	2
2014	Sexual Exploitation	86	0	86	67	4	2	0	13	0	0	0	0
	Labor Exploitation	206	52	154	95	61	4	43	2	1	0	0	0
	Total	292	52	240	162	65	6	43	15	1	0	0	0
2015	Sexual Exploitation	64	0	64	53	4	0	1	6	0	0	0	0
	Labor Exploitation	122	64	58	83	29	0	10	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	186	64	122	136	33	0	11	6	0	0	0	0
2016	Sexual Exploitation	40	5	35	21	0	10	3	6	0	0	0	0
	Labor Exploitation	116	64	52	55	30	0	30	0	0	0	0	1
	Total	156	69	87	76	30	10	33	6	0	0	0	1
2017	Sexual Exploitation	61	9	52	14	5	39	3	0	0	0	0	0
	Labor Exploitation	135	53	82	94	14	6	18	0	0	3	0	0
	Sexual and Labor	12	0	12	1	1	0	10	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	208	62	146	109	20	45	31	0	0	3	0	0
2018	Sexual Exploitation	29	1	28	15	8	4	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Labor Exploitation	79	35	44	59	15	0	4	0	0	1	0	0
	Sexual and Labor	12	0	12	11	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	120	36	84	85	24	4	4	0	0	1	0	2

2019	Sexual Exploitation	30	0	30	11	8	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Labor Exploitation	61	24	37	43	11	0	4	0	0	0	0	3
	Sexual and Labor Exploitation	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	92	24	68	55	19	11	4	0	0	0	0	3
2020	Sexual Exploitation	38	0	38	11	4	23	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Labor Exploitation	64	32	32	24	30	0	10	0	0	0	0	0
	Sexual and Labor Exploitation	6	0	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	108	32	76	41	34	23	10	0	0	0	0	0
2021	Sexual Exploitation	36	0	36	20	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Labor Exploitation	70	51	19	28	41	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Sexual and Labor Exploitation	15	0	15	14	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	121	51	70	62	58	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
2022	Sexual Exploitation	16	0	16	4	9	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Labor Exploitation	32	17	15	7	4	0	5	0	0	0	0	16
	Sexual and Labor Exploitation	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	49	17	32	11	14	3	5	0	0	0	0	16
2023	Sexual Exploitation	17	0	17	13	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Labor Exploitation	77	52	25	58	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sexual and Labor Exploitation	15	0	15	11	2	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	109	52	57	82	10	2	0	0	0	0	0	0

(Statistics provided by the WDA and the NIA; compiled by the NIA)

Table 6: Inspection Visits of Overseas Employment of Foreign (Fishing) Crew Members from 2019 to 2023

Year	Statistics	Port(s) in ROC	Foreign port(s)	Onboard inspections while at sea	Total
2019	Fishing workers	468	193	59	720
	Fishing vessels	82	75	43	200
2020	Fishing workers	560	95	3	658
	Fishing vessels	102	20	2	124
2021	Fishing workers	550	55	0	605
	Fishing vessels	98	12	0	110
2022	Fishing workers	1,371	50	21	1,442
	Fishing vessels	351	9	13	373
2023	Fishing workers	2,832	920	1,237	4,989
	Fishing vessels	448	192	36	676

(Statistics provided by the Fisheries Agency; compiled by the NIA)

**Table 7: Punishments for (Fishing) Ship Owner's Violation
from 2019 to 2023**

Violation type	Year	No. of violations	Cumulative penalty amount (NT\$)	Duration of license suspension (Months)
Employment without permission	2019	98	1,259	24
	2020	126	1,234	-
	2021	33	349	-
	2022	17	115	-
	2023	1	40	-
Wage violations	2019	5	110	3
	2020	7	155	6
	2021	7	155	6
	2022	2	45	-
	2023	4	95	4
Working hour violations	2019	1	-	3
	2020	-	-	-
	2021	-	-	-
	2022	-	-	-
	2023	-	-	-
payroll roster not kept	2019	1	5	-
	2020	2	10	-
	2021	2	10	-
	2022	-	-	-
	2023	3	15	-
Labor not related to fishing	2020	1	5	-
	2021	-	-	-
	2022	-	-	-
	2023	-	-	-
Failure to fulfill the obligations to supervise and manage foreign crew members in accordance with the regulations	2020	3	35	-
	2021	4	40	-
	2022	3	40	1
	2023	-	-	-
Failure to promptly notify relevant agencies in case of injury, casualty or another serious emergency of any foreign crew member	2020	4	100	8
	2021	1	25	-
	2022	-	-	-
	2023	-	-	-
Failure to renew the contract after expiration	2020	1	5	-
	2021	-	-	-
	2022	-	-	-

	2023	-	-	-
Violation of regulations on living conditions	2021	1	9	-
	2022	-	-	-
	2023	-	-	-
Failure to ensure foreign crew members enjoy the same welfare and labour protection as others of the same position	2021	1	10	-
	2022	-	-	-
	2023	-	-	-
Failure to use a template of the employment contract	2021	1	17	-
	2022	-	-	-
	2023	-	-	-
Others	2023	3	30	4

(Statistics provided by the Fisheries Agency; compiled by the NIA)

Table 8: Cases for Broker's Violations and Fines Imposed from 2019 to 2023

Violation type	Year	No. of violations	Penalty amount (NT\$ 10,000)
Employment without permission	2019	1	200
	2020	0	-
	2021	0	-
Illegal brokerage	2019	1	400
	2020	0	-
	2021	0	-
Wage violations	2019	4	420
	2020	3	300
	2021	0	-
	2022	1	200
	2023	1	100

(Statistics provided by the Fisheries Agency; compiled by the NIA)

Table 9: Statistics of 1955 Hotline Complaints Filed by Overseas Foreign (Fishing) Crew Members from 2019 to 2023

1955 Complaints	Cases					Case Status		
	Cases closed	Pending cases	No. of complaints by foreign crew members	Incomplete or absent vessel information	Total	Wages recovered	Guarantee bonds recovered (prior to the enforcement of new regulations)	Passport recovered (visas)
2019	35	7	7	-	49	US \$ 30,713	US \$ 8,759	25
2020	44	4	27	-	75	US \$ 31,138	US \$ 3,600	19
2021	20	20	18	-	58	US \$ 32,237	US \$ 1,400	14
2022	42	13	8	1	64	US \$11,324	US \$0	13
2023	74	5	-	-	79	80,043	897	51

(Statistics provided by the Fisheries Agency; compiled by the NIA)