

RESPONSE TO

THE US TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT 2009

August 2009

I. Foreword

Trafficking in persons constitutes a serious criminal violation of human rights that governments around the world pay considerable attention to and work hard to combat. The Executive Yuan established the Human Trafficking Prevention Inter-Agency Meeting to effectively integrate the resources of government agencies. In close collaboration with non-government organizations (NGOs), Taiwan's actions towards combating trafficking in persons have produced some positive results, particularly in the areas of victim identification, placement and protection. While legislation has gradually incorporated these into government systems, there have nevertheless been a number of cases where trafficking victims have been mishandled. As such, honing the professional judgment and sensitivity of frontline law enforcement personnel, as well as stepping up the enforcement of prevailing laws, have therefore been identified as the focus of future efforts.

II. Response to the 2009 US Trafficking in Persons Report

A. Response to the comment "NGOs report that immigration, police, and local law enforcement officials continue to view trafficking victims as runaways or criminals, resulting in some victims being penalized rather than assisted... Although Taiwan authorities have adopted formal victim identification procedures, implementation was not consistent and the process of referring victims from law enforcement custody to shelter facilities remained unreliable":

1. Procedures for handling trafficking cases, and problems encountered:

The Executive Yuan approved the Process for Handling Human Trafficking Cases in June 2007 as clear guidelines for the judicial police to follow when handling human trafficking cases. The process

specifies that, when discovering or receiving reports on suspected human trafficking cases, the judicial police agency should promptly assign staff to take over the case and proceed with victim identification in accordance with the Principles for the Identification of Human Trafficking Victims and, if deemed necessary, request the onsite assistance of interpreters, social workers and other relevant personnel. Such procedures are in place to avoid misidentifying possible trafficking cases and missing the window of opportunity to track down organized crime groups. Once persons are identified as trafficking victims, they are informed as to follow-up procedures, as well as to the protective measures and services available to them. However, before the Human Trafficking Prevention Act was enacted, “human trafficking” was not an understood legal term, and law enforcement personnel in general were not clear over its definition or connotations. The previous lack of standard criteria for victim identification made identification work difficult.

2. Improving procedures for handling human trafficking cases:
 - a. Revising the Process for Handling Human Trafficking Cases:

In consideration of the complex patterns of human trafficking crimes, Reference Indicators for Identification of Human Trafficking Victims have been drafted to provide reference on how to question suspected victims so law enforcement personnel can identify victims more consistently. The Process for Handling Human Trafficking Cases has also been revised in accordance with the recently enacted Human Trafficking Prevention Act. The revision instructs that, for any given case, victim protection and referral to the prosecutor be done separately. That is, the judicial police should promptly perform victim identification and, once the person involved is identified as a victim or suspected victim,

adopt protective measures without waiting for confirmation from the prosecutor. This places emphasis on protecting trafficking victims.

b. Implementing the victim protection mechanism:

In order to safeguard the rights of trafficking victims and keep law enforcement personnel from misjudging the victim or the situation due to language barriers, judicial police agencies have been asked to provide interpreters during investigations. As of April 2009, a social worker will accompany victims during questioning to lend emotional support and assist in explaining the follow-up procedures and available protective measures. Further, to ensure the safety of victims appearing in court as witnesses, the shelter facilities can ask the judicial police agency to assign an officer to escort them to court.

c. Reinvestigating suspected victims:

The Ministry of Interior (MOI) drafted the Operating Procedures for Handling Suspected Human Trafficking Victims by the Detention Facilities of the National Immigration Agency in September 2008. The procedures instruct that, in cases where people staying at National Immigration Agency (NIA) detention facilities are suspected of being trafficking victims, the facility should ask the agency that originally referred the person to once more perform identification procedures and take actions where necessary. In the first seven months of 2009, eight suspected victims were transferred from detention facilities to shelters, and two was repatriated according to his/her own wishes.

d. Stepping up capacity building and training:

We will continue to hold courses on anti-trafficking laws and regulations, as well as provide practical training for judicial

police and prosecutors to raise their awareness of trafficking in persons and hone their skills in victim identification. Law enforcement personnel will be urged to adopt all kinds of protective measures to make sure the rights of victims are safeguarded. Starting in 2009, training for prosecutors and judicial police assigned to trafficking cases includes visits to detention and shelter facilities, where dialogue with staff gives them a better understanding of available placement and protection services and victims' needs. Armed with such first-hand knowledge, prosecutors and judicial police are in a better position to initiate placement and protective measures for identified victims.

B. Response to the recommendation "Encourage victims to voluntarily assist in the prosecution of traffickers":

To encourage victims to voluntarily assist in the prosecution of traffickers by allowing prosecutors and judicial police to collect more evidence against traffickers, we have taken both a legal and practical approach to the issue:

1. Legal approaches: the Human Trafficking Prevention Act (HTPA) enacted on June 1, 2009, has relaxed the requirements for trafficking victims to apply for visitor (resident) permits and/or work permits. A person who has been identified as a trafficking victim can legally reside and work in Taiwan during investigations or trials without acquiring a witness protection certificate from a judge or prosecutor. In addition, victims who meet certain criteria can apply for permanent residence. These provisions are expected to give victims greater incentive to assist in the prosecution of traffickers.
 - a. According to Article 16 of the HTPA, the NIA should issue a

temporary visitor (resident) permit, valid for no more than six months, to any person without a valid visa who is identified as a trafficking victim. According to Paragraph 1 of Article 28 of the same act, the permit may be extended according to the progress of the investigation or trial. Between June 1 and August 25, 2009, the NIA issued 42 such temporary visitor permits.

- b. According to Paragraph 3 of Article 28 of the HTPA, if a trafficking victim's cooperation in an investigation or trial endangers his or her personal safety after repatriation, the NIA may grant visitor or residency permits on a case-by-case basis. Persons staying legally in Taiwan for more than 270 days a year for five consecutive years are eligible for permanent residency.
- c. According to Paragraph 4, Article 28 of the HTPA, a trafficking victim who has been granted a temporary visitor (resident) permit and extended visitor (resident) permit may apply to the Council of Labor Affairs (CLA) for a work permit. Once trafficking victims have work permits, staff at local employment service centers and public occupational training centers which has one-stop service will be assigned to provide or arrange services, including gaining hands-on work experience, workplace learning, a maximum three-month adaptation allowance, accompaniment to interviews, help coordinating with employers, assistance with workplace adaptation, and free occupational training courses. The aim is to help the victims acquire professional skills that will allow them to make a living and rebuild their lives while in Taiwan assisting with investigations and/or trials. Between June and August 25, 2009, the CLA issued eighteen such work permits.
- d. According to Article 17 of the HTPA, competent authorities and

labor authorities at all levels shall, either by themselves or by commissioning non-governmental organizations, provide human trafficking victims or suspected victims with personal protection, necessary medical assistance, interpretation services, legal assistance, psychological advice and counseling, accompaniment to questioning sessions throughout investigations or trials, and necessary financial and other assistance. When providing this assistance, the authorities should give consideration to the victims' rights and benefits so that they will be encouraged and more willing to stay in Taiwan and assist with investigations and trials.

- e. According to Article 11 of the HTPA, personnel responsible for identifying victims shall inform the suspected victim of the follow-up procedures and related protective measures before commencing the identification process.

2. Practical approaches:

- a. Courses on the newly enacted HTPA are being included in the 2009 training curriculums for prosecutors and law enforcement personnel to familiarize them with the law and protective measures in place so that they might better encourage victims to cooperate during the investigations and/or trials.
- b. The MOI finished building a national interpreter database in April 2009, which will boost the cross-district sharing of interpreter resources and facilitate the investigation of trafficking cases. The MOI has again reminded government agencies to provide interpreter services during investigations of human trafficking cases. The practice of assigning a social worker to accompany victims to questioning sessions for emotional support, as well as to explain follow-up procedures and protective

measures, began in April 2009 to better protect the rights of victims.

- c. The government also commissions NGOs to provide victim-oriented placement and protection services, including general day-to-day support and psychological counseling, accompanying victims to hospital and questioning sessions, medical examinations, and legal aid and interpreter services. It is hoped that, by keeping victims adequately informed of their situation and giving them sufficient psychological support and assurances, they will be willing to assist in the prosecution of traffickers.

3. The protective measures for victims stipulated in the HTPA are available to all trafficking victims, not just to victims who assist in judicial investigations and/or trials.

C. Response to the recommendation “Implement the new comprehensive anti-trafficking law and effectively carry out its victim and witness protections so that victims are not penalized for acts committed as a direct result of being trafficked”:

1. Since the Human Trafficking Prevention Act was enacted on June 1, 2009, all regulations and orders under the Act have been drafted and implemented. These include: Enforcement Rules of the Human Trafficking Prevention Act; Regulations Governing the Placement and Protection of Victims and Suspected Victims of Human Trafficking; Regulations Governing Visits, Residence and Permanent Residence of Human Trafficking Victims by Special Permission; Regulations Governing the Transfer of Seized Proceeds of Human Trafficking Crime and Compensation of Victims; and Regulations Governing the Permission and Administration of

Employment of Human Trafficking Victims.

2. On June 26, 2009, the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) issued a circular on Points to Note for Prosecutor Offices in Handling Human Trafficking Cases to facilitate the enforcement of the Human Trafficking Prevention Act and prompt the adoption of victim protection measures by prosecutor's offices. The MOI also issued a circular on Guidelines for Judicial Police Agencies in Coordination and Communication on Human Trafficking Cases to improve the judicial police agencies' investigative work, as well as identification, placement, protection and repatriation of trafficking victims.
 3. According to Article 29 of the HTPA, human trafficking victims who have violated other provisions of the criminal code or administrative regulations as a result of being trafficked can be absolved of liability or have liability reduced. Point 29 of the MOJ's Points to Note for Prosecutor Offices in Handling Human Trafficking Cases also instructs that, by their vested authority, prosecutors may consider a decision of non-prosecution or deferred prosecution on crimes committed by a trafficking victim as a direct result of being trafficked. Thus, regulations to ensure that victims are not penalized for acts committed as a direct result of being trafficked are already in place.
- D. Response to the comment "NGOs continued to report an increase in the number of boys rescued from prostitution, mainly discovered during police investigations of online social networking sites suspected of fronting for prostitution rings":
1. This comment is possibly a misunderstanding arising from outdated data. According to the annual Child and Juvenile Sex Trade Prevention Work Report published by the MOI's Children's Bureau

between 2004 and 2008, the number of underage boys caught and suspected of involvement in commercial sex acts peaked in 2006 and has since been in decline.

Year	Total	Male	Female
2004	523	94	429
2005	437	147	290
2006	615	227	388
2007	578	173	405
2008	437	73	364
2009 ¹⁻⁵	93	2	91

2. According to the Child and Juvenile Sex Trade Prevention Work Reports, crimes that violate the Child and Youth Sexual Transaction Prevention Act mostly break Article 29 of the Act by disseminating information on sexual transactions through various channels (including over computer networks). For example, of the 3,177 cases of people suspected of violating the Child and Youth Sexual Transaction Prevention Act forwarded to the district prosecutors' offices in 2008, 822 persons were prosecuted. Of these, 554 (67.4%) violated Article 29 and 166 (20.2%) violated Article 23 of the Act.
3. The majority of underage boys caught by police monitoring the internet were found posting messages offering sexual services on social networking sites. Social workers who later talked to those boys found that some of them made sex offers online simply out of curiosity and fun, and had no intention of actually engaging in sex. Thus the Children's Bureau has for three years running subsidized NGOs to run education campaigns in online chat rooms, reminding users that the act of posting such information online alone is an offense punishable by law.

- E. Response to “Extend labor protections to all categories of workers including domestic helpers and caregivers to prevent labor trafficking”:
1. Regulations that protect the labor rights of foreign caregivers and domestic helpers are already in place. Domestic helpers, such as household helpers and caregivers, regardless of citizenship, are entitled to maternity leave and protection against sexual harassment under the Gender Equality Employment Act. Under the National Health Insurance Act, workers are also required to join the national health insurance program to receive healthcare coverage for disease, injury and childbirth. Workers may voluntarily join labor insurance program if so agreed with their employers and will be eligible for benefit payments for injury, disease, medical care, dismemberment and death.
 2. The chapter of Taiwan’s Employment Services Act devoted to labor protection for foreign workers and employer responsibility also applies to foreign caregivers and domestic helpers. Specific protective measures governing the employment of foreign workers are as follows:
 - a. Before a foreign caregiver or domestic helper enters Taiwan to work, the employer must reach an agreement with the foreign worker on wages, overtime pay, work hours, vacation, and other labor terms, sign a labor contract in writing according to law, and sign the Foreign Worker’s Affidavit Regarding Expenses Incurred For Entry Into The Republic of China To Work And The Wage/Salary (“Wage Affidavit” hereafter) together with the local and foreign brokers. The Wage Affidavit must be authenticated by the source country. The work contract and the Wage Affidavit will be used as the basis for future reference, if needed.

- b. An employer must pay the full amount of the wages owed to his/her foreign worker directly. The Wage Affidavit may not be revised in a way that is unfavorable to the foreign worker. Early termination of the labor contract must be verified by the local government. In addition, employers have the responsibility to provide a foreign caregiver or domestic helper with safe and gender-conscious living space in accordance with the Foreigner Living Care Service Plan.
- c. On July 1, 2009, together with the aid of NGOs, we established a nationwide 24-hour free counseling window: the foreign worker counseling and protection hotline (1955). Now we also assign an interpreter or staff member with social work and legal experience to accompany foreign workers during questioning or interrogation. A foreign worker service counter and bilingual complaint hotline have been established at international airports. Upon arrival in Taiwan, foreign workers receive the pamphlet *What Foreign Workers in Taiwan Need to Know* to inform them of their rights and obligations, including the hotline number. These measures ensure that foreign workers understand that help is readily available to them should they have a problem. They also make sure that the rights of the foreign workers are not compromised due to language barriers and/or unfamiliarity with Taiwan's laws and regulations.
- d. In December 2007 a Direct Employment Service Center was established to help employers rehire a particular foreign worker without a broker. The direct hiring process therefore foregoes the fees that the foreign worker would have to pay the brokers in Taiwan and their home country, thereby preventing them from falling into debt bondage. In 2008, this program was only

available to household employers rehiring the same foreign caregiver, benefiting 4,712 caregivers. In 2009, the program was extended to the rehiring of a particular foreign worker for other types of employment (e.g. manufacturing, fishery, construction, caregiver in an institutional setting, and domestic helper).

- e. Foreign worker inspectors have been stationed at all 25 cities and counties, where they look into the working and living conditions and management of foreign workers. This helps guarantee that foreign caregivers and domestic helpers are not maltreated or exploited by their employers. We also have established a manpower agency rating and award/punishment system and have heightened the scrutiny of fees charged by poorly rated manpower agencies. Between January and June 2009, fines were imposed on unlawful employers in 603 cases, on unlawful manpower agencies in 80 cases, and on illegal individual brokers in 16 cases. In addition, 54 employers had their permit revoked, and 14 related businesses were forced to suspend operations.
3. When planning additional benefits for foreign caregivers and domestic helpers that compliment the protection measures already in place, the complex and particular nature of domestic work needs to be taken into consideration. For instance, the actual hours a caregiver or domestic helper is asked to work, kept on standby and allowed to rest can be hard to distinguish. On the other hand, one cannot forget that the majority of families that need a full-time caregiver come from economically disadvantaged groups in society and, therefore, are heavily burdened by numerous expenses, including the wages for the caregiver. As additional benefits for domestic helpers could very well impact the families hiring them,

we will continue to look into protection measures and benefits that ensure the rights of domestic helpers.

F. Response to the comment “Many migrant workers are charged job placement and service fees up to the equivalent of \$14,000, some of which are unlawful, resulting in substantial debt that unscrupulous labor brokers or employers may use as a coercive tool to subject the workers to involuntary servitude”:

1. Before a foreign worker finds employment in Taiwan, he or she most likely has gone through intermediaries, including relatives, friends, local contacts and brokers. As they typically pay a considerable amount of referral fees in addition to the fees demanded by the broker and the government, they are often heavily indebted before even arriving in Taiwan. After they start working in Taiwan, their wages then are collected by the broker here to pay back the high placement fees and other debts incurred back home. However, it is the wage collection by the broker that often is the source of disputes.
2. In its efforts to uphold the rights and interests of foreign workers, the Council of Labor Affairs (CLA) has suggested that source countries limit the job placement and service fees charged by brokers to one month of the basic wage stipulated under Taiwan’s Labor Standards Act. It also has strongly urged the source countries to clearly indicate the fee items and schedule for job placement services on the Foreign Worker’s Affidavit Regarding Expenses Incurred for Entry into the Republic of China to Work and the Wage/Salary, and authenticate the Affidavit.
3. It is nearly impossible for Taiwan to verify the overcharging of fees by foreign brokers for that requires the cooperation of the source

countries. Therefore, this problem is essentially beyond Taiwan's control due to the lack of jurisdiction over the brokerage fee policies of foreign countries. The political and economic situations of each country vary and, although the fee items and schedule may be regulated in writing, again the actual enforcement thereof is out of Taiwan's jurisdiction. Nevertheless, the CLA will continue to confer with the source countries over these issues through established bilateral communication channels and labor cooperation meetings. In the meantime, it is hoped that the United States will further urge source countries to review their job placement fee schedule and step up their administration of brokers through international and regional anti-trafficking organizations so as to better protect foreign workers from human traffickers.

4. The regulations for Taiwan's Employment Services Act stipulate specifically that a local broker can only charge foreign workers monthly "service fees," which may not exceed NT\$1,800, NT\$1,700, and NT\$1,500 in the first, second, and third year of employment, respectively. The CLA also has adopted a reward/punishment mechanism in the form of a rating system for manpower agencies. The CLA has increased its visits to the manpower agencies with a low rating, and metes out penalties, such as fines, temporary suspension of operation or permanent permit revocation, to agencies not complying with the law, as appropriate. Manpower agencies found charging for anything other than the standard fees are fined from 10 to 20 times the overcharged amount and/or forced to suspend their business operations. In 2008, fines were issued 70 times and business operations suspended 7 times for manpower agencies overcharging fees.

5. The CLA aims to prevent disputes from the overcharging of fees arising from the collection of fees or loan payments from foreign workers by a local broker on behalf of a foreign broker. Therefore, it will revise the Foreign Worker's Affidavit regarding Expenses Incurred for Entry into the Republic of China to Work and the Wage/Salary. In the future, local brokers will not be allowed to collect loan payments from foreign workers on behalf of a foreign creditor, with violators being subject to the penalties for overcharging fees stipulated in the Employment Service Act. The revised Affidavit is scheduled to be promulgated and implemented around the end of October 2009, after completing the legislative and administrative procedures, thereby better protecting the interests of foreign workers.

G. Response to the comment "Taiwan regulations allow employers to implement a system of 'forced savings,' a practice known to facilitate trafficking":

1. The Employment Services Act has never allowed employers to implement forced savings on foreign workers since its enactment in May 1992. There was a provision enacted in July 1999, allowing a voluntary savings program for foreign workers, but setting a maximum of 30% of their wages. To keep the public from misinterpreting it as a form of forced savings, the said provision was retracted on November 7, 2001. In addition, the Regulations on the Permission and Administration of the Employment of Foreign Workers were amended and promulgated in January 2008, stipulating that the employers could only deduct the following from employee wages: the national health insurance premium, labor insurance premium, income tax, boarding fees, employee welfare

fund and other expenses borne by the foreign worker and deductible from his/her wages according to the law. Should an employer fail to pay the foreign worker the remaining wages in full, the competent authority may order the employer to pay it to the employee within a prescribed time period. The aforementioned regulations also explicitly prohibit an employer from deducting part of an employee's wages as a form of savings. If an employer knowingly deducts items not provided by law from the monthly wage of a foreign worker, the employer is considered as violating the provisions of the Employment Services Act. As a result, the employer will be subject to a fine of up to NT\$300,000, have its recruitment permit and employer permit revoked, no longer allowed to submit future applications for hiring a foreign worker. The competent authority will also assist the foreign worker concerned in finding other employment, thereby protecting his/her right to work in Taiwan.

2. A foreign worker's bank book, seal, and funds in the bank account are considered the personal belongings of the worker. The Employment Services Act also stipulates that an employer is prohibited from withholding the passport, alien resident certificate and other belongings of a foreign worker in order to ensure that the foreign workers can use their earnings at their own discretion. In some instances, foreign workers enter an agreement with their employer to deposit part of their monthly wages into a separate bank account or leave these funds with the employer, during which time the employer also keeps their bank book, seal and/or funds. Should the employer refuse to return some or all of the items upon the request of the employee, the employer will be considered in violation of the Employment Services Act. At this point, the

employer will be fined up to NT\$300,000 and risk having his/her recruitment and employer permits revoked, and future applications for hiring a foreign worker denied. The competent authority will also assist the foreign worker concerned in finding other employment, thereby protecting his/her right to work in Taiwan.

3. The CLA has striven to raise awareness among foreign workers of their right to keep their own bank book, seal, ATM card, and ID papers, and to discourage them from signing any unwarranted promissory notes or IOUs. To the end, the CLA has produced the flyer *Attention! Keep Your Belongings Safe* in several foreign languages and a bilingual pamphlet *What Foreign Workers in Taiwan Need to Know* (in Chinese along with either Thai, Indonesian, Vietnamese or English). These campaigns aim to help prevent human trafficking and secure the personal property of foreign workers.

H. Response to the comment “Labor brokers often help employers forcibly deport ‘problematic’ employees, thus allowing the broker to fill the empty quota with a new foreign worker who must pay placement and brokerage fees that may be used to subject them to involuntary servitude”:

1. To protect foreign workers from being coerced into leaving Taiwan, the government has set up foreign worker service counters and bilingual complaint hotlines at international airports. It also hands out the pamphlet *What Foreign Workers in Taiwan Need to Know* to foreign workers upon their arrival in Taiwan to inform them of their right to request from their employer verification of labor contract termination by the local governing agency. The government has made complaint hotlines available to them in the event that they find

themselves about to be deported due to the early termination of their labor contract. In addition, Taiwan has established a 24-hour foreign worker counseling and protection hotline (1955) on July 1, 2009. This hotline combines the 0800 toll-free complaint hotline for foreign workers and the counseling hotlines of the local labor authorities. It provides information, legal counseling, referrals, protection and placement services, information on services by other government agencies, and fast-track complaint service free 24-hours a day, including holidays. The 1955 hotline also forwards the cases to local governments for investigation and follow-up.

2. The CLA implemented a termination of employment verification procedure in November 2006. This requires that, before deporting a foreign worker, the employer and the said foreign worker must appear at the local government to verify the real reason behind the early termination of the labor contract.
3. According to the provisions of the Employment Services Act, an employer who deports a foreign worker without notifying the local government and completing the verification procedure will have his/her quota for hiring foreign workers reduced by the number of foreign workers deported without verification. The said employer's pending applications for hiring new foreign workers in general may be denied as well.
4. Under the Employment Services Act, a manpower agency that uses intimidation tactics in the process of terminating the employment of a foreign worker on behalf of an employer will be fined between NT\$300,000 and NT\$1,500,000. In addition, the said manpower agency's establishment permit will be terminated.

I. Response to the recommendation to “improve cooperation with

governments of labor source countries on trafficking investigations”:

1. Cooperation with labor source countries:

- a. The CLA has established communication channels through bilateral ministerial-level labor cooperation meetings or work meetings in order to protect foreign workers from human trafficking with its counterparts in the Philippines, Thailand and Indonesia in 2007 and in Vietnam in 2008. The labor source countries have agreed to hasten the issuance of travel documents to foreign workers who fell victim to human trafficking and placed in a shelter and to assist in arranging their repatriation.
- b. In September 2008, the CLA submitted to the Indonesian government revisions to the Taiwan-Indonesia MOU on labor cooperation that would pave the way for the establishment of a bilateral cooperation mechanism for matters on trafficking in persons. If the Indonesian government agrees to the amendments, the CLA will make arrangements for the signing of the revised MOU. In the mean time, the CLA is communicating with its Thai counterpart about adding a similar mechanism in the Taiwan-Thailand Direct Employment Agreement.

2. Strengthening mutual legal assistance with other countries:

To further curb cross-border human trafficking, the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) are actively promoting the signing of a mutual legal assistance agreement (MLAA) with Southeast Asian countries.

3. Strengthening exchange and cooperation with NGOs:

- a. The National Immigration Agency under the Ministry of Interior held the International Workshop on the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons in August 2008 and an International Forum on Prevention of Trafficking in Persons in October 2008. Several

experts were invited to give talks on the practical and legal issues of trafficking in persons, including Senior Investigator James Felte from the Immigration and Customs Enforcement of the US Department of Homeland Security, a US Department of Justice prosecutor who handles human trafficking cases, a representative of Oxfam Quebec International (an NGO in Vietnam), and a representative of Caram Cambodias (an NGO in Cambodia). It is hoped that through experience sharing the CLA can stay on top the latest developments on trafficking in persons in the international community.

- b. The CLA held the 2009 International Workshop on Prevention of Trafficking in Persons and Elite Seeds Camp on July 27-29, 2009. The experts invited to speak and share ideas on trafficking case analysis and victim identification and protection included US Immigration and Customs Enforcement of US Department of Homeland Security Attachés in Hong Kong Tatum King and Fanny Chu; US Immigration and Customs Enforcement Attaché in Beijing Alice Wu; and Chairperson Siriporn Skrobanek of the Foundation for Women (a Thai NGO). This workshop aimed to foster the establishment of international cooperation channels and reach consensus with NGOs so as to enhance the effectiveness of anti-trafficking activities.
- c. The CLA is planning to hold the 2009 International Forum on the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons. It hopes to invite keynote speakers to share their experience on the issues of trafficking in persons, including a representative of the Indonesian immigration and labor organization, a prosecutor with the US Justice Department, the director of the Trafficking in Persons Office of the US Department of Homeland Security, and the acting director

of the Detention and Repatriation Center of the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The government also plans on subsidizing domestic NGOs to participate in international exchange activities in hopes of joining forces with Taiwan's NGOs in the fight against human trafficking.

III. Conclusion

With the increase in international travel, an ever increasing number of foreigners have been coming to Taiwan to work or get married, with some of them eventually attaining citizenship. It is the joint responsibility of the government, employers and related businesses to defend the basic rights of foreign workers in Taiwan and protect them from exploitation. Trafficking in persons is a heinous violation of human rights universally condemned by the international community. Taiwan, a staunch advocate of human rights, has been creating an inclusive legal system for the prevention of human trafficking. The government will continue to coordinate with various agencies so as to effectively curb trafficking in persons, just like other members of the international community.