

# **2022 Republic of China (Taiwan) Trafficking in Persons Report**



**July 2023**



# Table of Contents

<b>I. Prologue.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>II. Highlights of 2022 .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>1. Prosecution .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2. Protection.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3. Prevention .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>4. Partnership .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>III. Achievements in 2022 .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>1. Active prosecution of TIP-related crimes .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>2. Enhancing the protection of TIP victim.....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>3. Active Prevention of the Occurrence of Human         Trafficking Cases .....</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>4. Strengthening domestic and foreign partnerships</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>5. Achievement of Programs for Cambodia Incident</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>IV. Future endeavors .....</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>1. Prosecution .....</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>2. Protection.....</b>	<b>98</b>
<b>3. Prevention .....</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>4. Partnership .....</b>	<b>107</b>
<b>V. Conclusion.....</b>	<b>111</b>

## **Annexes**

<b>Table 1 : Interagency Tip Prevention Mechanism.....</b>	<b>113</b>
<b>Table 2 : Statistics Of Tip Cases Investigated By Judicial Police Agencies From 2009 To 2022 .....</b>	<b>114</b>
<b>Table 3 : Cases Prosecuted And Persons Indicted For Tip-Related Offences By District Prosecutor’s Offices From 2009 To 2021 .....</b>	<b>115</b>
<b>Table 4 : Sentences Imposed On Tip Related Crimes From 2009 To 2022.....</b>	<b>116</b>
<b>Table 5 : Type And Number Of Hiring Violation Cases From 2009 To 2022.....</b>	<b>117</b>
<b>Table 6 : Type And Number Of Broker Violation Cases From 2009 To 2022.....</b>	<b>119</b>
<b>Table 7 : Statistics Of Foreign TIP Victims Placed In Shelters From 2009 To 2022 .....</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>Table 8 : Inspection Visits Of Overseas Employment Of Foreign (Fishing) Crew Members From 2019 To 2022 .....</b>	<b>122</b>
<b>Table 9 : Punishments For (Fishing) Ship Owner’s Violation From 2019 To 2022 .....</b>	<b>123</b>
<b>Table 10 : Cases For Broker’s Violations And Fines Imposed From 2019 To 2022 .....</b>	<b>124</b>
<b>Table 11 : Statistics Of 1955 Hotline Complaints Filed By Overseas Foreign (Fishing) Crew Members From 2019 To 2022.....</b>	<b>125</b>

# **2022 Republic of China (Taiwan) Trafficking in Persons Report**

## **I. Prologue**

1. With the rapid growth of the global economy, expanding turmoil of wars, regime changes, and the exacerbating divide between rich and poor, the cross-border flow of people has increased and driven a boom in human trafficking. In November 2006, the government promulgated the Human Trafficking Prevention Action Plan and, in February 2007, set up a cabinet-level anti-TIP coordination task force to integrate resources from local and central government agencies. With the Human Trafficking Prevention Act entering into force in June 2009, along with partnerships and joint efforts from NGOs, Taiwan looks forward to waging a vigorous campaign against trafficking in persons (TIPs).
2. In recent years, there have been a number of cases in Taiwan in which distant water fishermen working on flags of convenience ships were forced to work overtime, with their wages being harshly deducted, and with foreign students coming to Taiwan to study were reduced to targets of labor exploitation, etc. In addition to adopting the “2021-2022 Anti-Exploitation Action Plan” as the inter-ministerial guideline for the promotion of the prevention and control of trafficking and continuously adjusting preventive countermeasures and specific measures on a rolling basis, the Executive Yuan has also directed the Council of Agriculture of the Executive Yuan (COA), the Ministry of Labor (MOL), the Ministry of Justice (MOJ), the

Ocean Affairs Council and the Ministry of the Interior (MOI) to formulate the Action Plan On Human Rights and Fishery Industry in May 2022. The Action Plan proposes seven strategies, including “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.” It is expected that systematic improvement can be made to better protect the foreign crew.

3. In 2022, hundreds of R.O.C. (Taiwan) nationals were lured to work abroad and fell victims to human trafficking (hereinafter referred to as the Cambodia Incident). The Executive Yuan has held meetings with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (the MOFA), the Ministry of Justice (the MOJ), the Ministry of Health and Welfare (the MOHW), the Ministry of Transportation and Communications (the MOTC), the Ministry of the Interior (the MOI), the Council of Indigenous Peoples (the CIP), the Association for Victims Support (the AVS), and the Legal Aid Foundation (the LAF) to formulate guidelines for rescue work and other programs, and instructed a certain number of ministries to set up working groups for prompt rescue, dissuasion and advocacy, enhanced protection, and severe punishment, in order to take actions to rescue Taiwanese abroad, enhancing protection of victims’ rights after returning to

- Taiwan, and imposing severe punishment on crime syndicates.
4. Since the outbreak of Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in 2020, there have been three years to the end of 2022. With the development of vaccines and mass vaccination and preventive measures globally, the death rates and critical illness rates have decreased. Many countries are gradually reopening their borders. This has also created opportunities for human trafficking criminal groups to re-emerge. In response to the changing patterns and trends of trafficking in persons during the epidemic, to prevent R.O.C. (Taiwan) citizens from falling prey to human trafficking overseas and to eradicate the rampant crimes of the syndicates, the government has launched the “2023-2024 Anti-Exploitation Action Plan”. Also, the amendment to the Human Trafficking Prevention Act” was passed by the Legislative Yuan on May 19, 2023.
  5. As we look to the future, cross-border cooperation to prevent and combat trafficking in persons is becoming more and more important. Taiwan will continue to work together with the international community to combat TIP and uphold human rights.

## **II. Highlights of 2022**

To prevent and combat TIP crimes effectively and address related issues, the Cabinet-Level Anti-Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Coordination Task Force was set up under the Executive Yuan in 2007 as a coordination platform for policies and resources from various sectors and continued to promote preventive measures and control work throughout 2022 (as shown in Table 1: Interagency TIP Prevention Mechanism). Also, to fulfill the spirit of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and related policies, the Task Force broadened its efforts and was renamed the “Executive Yuan Coordination Committee on Prevention of Human Trafficking and Elimination of Racial Discrimination” on May 8, 2020. At present, the government continues to adopt four approaches to prevent and control human trafficking: prosecution, protection, prevention, and partnership (hereinafter referred to as the 4P strategy) to be consistent with the anti-TIP strategy in most countries. The highlights of 2022 are as follows:

### **1. Prosecution**

1.1 The judicial police authorities uncovered 161 human trafficking cases, among which 75 involved labor exploitation, 85 sexual exploitation and 1 forced organ harvesting (attempt to commit). All of them have been referred to district-level prosecutors for investigation and eventual prosecution.

1.2 A total of 325 individuals were prosecuted (or requested



by the public prosecutor for summary judgment on a sentence) by district prosecutors offices in 153 TIP cases.

1.3 72 individuals were convicted in TIP-related cases.

## **2. Protection**

2.1 Settlement and protection of foreign victims: The National Immigration Agency (hereinafter referred to as the NIA) and the Workforce Development Agency (hereinafter referred to as the WDA) under the Ministry of Labor together operate about 25 shelters in collaboration with NGOs under contract. In 2022, 49 newly identified victims were placed in shelters to receive daily care, psychological counseling, translation services, legal aid, accompaniment at investigation interviews, and necessary medical care.

2.2 Protecting the employment rights of foreign victims and providing vocational training: In 2022, the Ministry of Labor issued 34 work permits to foreign workers identified as TIP victims. Also, when issuing work permits to human trafficking victims, the MOL informed the regional Public Employment Service Centers to provide consultation for 36 victims seeking new employment, and 33 of them successfully found new jobs.

2.3 Routine services provided through the 1955 hotline: In 2022, the 1955 hotline received a total of 258,480 calls, among them 233,033 were seeking consultation, and 25,447 were filing general or emergency complaints. In a total of 2,761 cases, migrant workers successfully changed employers through the hotline. In a total of 3,604 cases,

migrant workers recovered outstanding wages from employers or brokers with the help of the 1955 Hotline. The amount of wages and related fees recovered totaled NT\$112,600,744 (approximately US\$ 3,671,845).

#### 2.4 Protection of Taiwanese victims:

1. Child and Youth Sexual Exploitation Victims: In 2022, protective measures were adopted in accordance with the Child and Youth Sexual Exploitation Prevention Act and local governments received 177 reported cases of making children or youths engage in any sexual intercourse or lewd acts in exchange for any monetary or other considerations.
2. Taiwanese adult victims of human trafficking: The local governments provided services for Taiwanese adult victims in accordance with the Human Trafficking Prevention Act and other applicable laws. In 2022, shelters were provided to 1 person, and 40 times of services were provided to victims.
3. Programs to protect Taiwanese victims of Cambodia Incident: In September 2022, the Ministry of the Interior held several meetings with relevant authorities (units) and formulated the “Guidelines on the Return and Protection Program of R.O.C. (Taiwan) Nationals Being Trafficked or Victimized and Being Forced into Criminal Activities Overseas” aiming to provide protection for the rights of victimized R.O.C. (Taiwan) nationals, such as the determination (identification) of suspected victims,

settlement requirement, medical assistance, financial support, and job placement. A set of procedures for programs was formulated to be implemented by the MOHW, the WDA, and the social affairs unit of the local government, the judicial police agencies, and civil organizations. In 2022, 236 suspected victims were identified and 24 of them agreed to join the protection services program. A total of 397 victims were provided with protection services or their cases were referred by the relevant authorities (units). The program is still operating.

### **3. Prevention**

3.1 Active Implementation of the “2021-2022 Anti-Exploitation Action Plan”: The Ministry of the Interior coordinated the central ministries to integrate their resources and then to promulgate the “2021-2022 Anti-Exploitation Action Plan” in 2021. The Action Plan includes 4 major directions, 25 programs, and 76 strategies. Except for the 11 strategies involving law amendments that require inter-ministerial deliberations and public consensus building, such as the “Draft Act for Sentencing Appropriateness in Criminal Cases” proposed by the Judicial Yuan (Criminal Department), which will continue to be included in next year’s work, all other strategies have been completed. The measures of importance and continuity in the “2021-2022 Anti-Exploitation Action Plan”, such as toughening the

supervision and management of labor recruitment and intermediaries, were also included in the "2023-2024 Anti-Exploitation Action Plan" and will continue to be promoted.

3.2 Continual promotion of the Action Plan on Human Rights and Fishery Industry: In May 2022, the Executive Yuan approved this 4-year (2022-2025) medium to long-term program, with funding of more than NT\$600 million (approximately US\$ 19,147,917), which is being promoted by the COA and related ministries. In 2022, the COA increased the number of labor inspectors by 52 to conduct workforce development and inspection in fisheries and amended rules such as the "Regulations on Permission and Management of Overseas Employment of Non-national Crews" to strengthen the supervision and management of fishing vessels.

3.3 The Prevention Program of Cambodia Incident:

1. In August 2022, the MOFA set up an "Overseas Employment Trap Alert" section on its official website, with concise text, pictures, and case studies to remind our fellow citizens to be vigilant against overseas telecommunications fraud or falling victim to human trafficking, and to provide information for the related agencies.
2. The NPA set up a program called "Instant Notification and Joint Interdiction Mechanism", whereby police agencies shall notify the Aviation Police Bureau within

one hour of receiving reports of R.O.C. (Taiwan) citizens being victims (or suspected victims) of overseas employment frauds, so as to facilitate the interdiction of the victim before departure.

3.4 Strengthening prevention of R.O.C. (Taiwan) Nationals being victims of human trafficking (for child and youth sexual exploitation): The MOHW will continue to make utmost efforts to urge relevant agencies to carry out educational campaigns for child and youth sexual exploitation prevention. The Advisory Committee (of Child and Youth Sexual Exploitation Prevention under the MOHW) shall periodically announce the results of such tasks as educational campaigns. Also, the MOHW will continue to coordinate with local authorities to provide services to Taiwanese adult victims for establishing a complete network of services.

#### **4. Partnership**

4.1 Enhancing cooperation on immigration matters and substantive cooperation in combating human trafficking:

1. There is no added cooperation agreement or memorandum of understanding (MOU) on cooperation concerning immigration affairs and human trafficking prevention in 2022. However, as of 2022, Taiwan has signed MOUs 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, which effectively enhance international cooperation on immigration matters, and jointly combat cross-border crimes and human trafficking.

2. The “Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Act” was promulgated and came into force in May 2018. As of 2022, Taiwan has signed mutual legal assistance treaties (agreements) with seven countries, including Belize, Nauru, the Philippines, Poland, Slovakia, South Africa, and the United States, allowing us to request mutual legal assistance and thereby contributing to the fight against crime.

3. The Judicial Yuan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the NIA jointly held a consultation meeting on the communication of mutual judicial assistance in civil matters in Vietnam in October 2022, and met with competent authorities concerning mutual legal assistance in criminal matters in Vietnam to actively promote judicial cooperation.

4.2 Strengthening Cross-National Research and Exchange Activities: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of the Interior, and the Mainland Affairs Council co-hosted the 2022 International Police Cooperation Forum in September 2022, inviting 2,500 police and judicial and law enforcement officers from nearly 42 countries in the Asia Pacific, Middle East, Africa, Europe, North

America, Latin America, and the Caribbean to participate in the event either physically or online. The theme of the forum was “Combating Cross-Border Telecommunication Fraud in the Post-Epidemic Era”, aiming to strengthen the cooperation between the police administrative departments of Taiwan and other countries and to enhance the joint efforts to combating telecommunication fraud, human trafficking, and money laundering and other cross-border crimes.

4.3 The Partnership of Cambodia Programs: The Ministry of the Interior (National Police Agency) was in command of the rescue program. Faced with a challenging international environment and diplomatic circumstances, apart from setting up an inter-ministerial working group to promote the rescue work, the MOI set up a rescue team with the Global Anti-Scam Organization (GASO), Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce in Southeastern Asia, Cambodian Red Cross Society, religious groups, and other NGOs. Police attachés stationed in overseas offices further liaised and cooperated with official representatives of local or neighboring countries to promote instant rescue work and send R.O.C. (Taiwan) citizens home.

### **III. Achievements in 2022**

#### **1. Active prosecution of TIP-related crimes**

##### **1.1 Results of investigations into TIP-related crimes**

1. Since 2009, the judicial police authorities have designated specialized units for coordinating and overseeing the investigation of TIP-related crimes, enhancing inter-agency communication, and utilizing resources appropriately, so as to target potential or suspicious locations where illegal brokers and foreigners tend to visit or congregate, and red-light districts, as well as to make the protection of minors under the age of 18 from sexual exploitation as a key priority.
2. In 2022, the judicial police authorities uncovered 161 human trafficking cases, among which, 75 involved labor exploitation, 85 sexual exploitation and 1 forced organ harvesting (attempt to commit). Statistics for TIP cases referred by the judicial police authorities from 2009 to 2022 are shown in Table 2.
3. The Fisheries Agency under the COA (hereinafter referred to as the FA) 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 HTPCA. In the event that any foreign crew member reports our distant water crew of being suspected to be involved in human trafficking cases, the FA shall transfer the case along with supporting evidence to the prosecutor's office of the registered place of the



fishing vessel. In 2022, a total of 3 suspected cases were submitted to the district prosecutors office.

## **1.2 The Prosecution and Sentencing of Human Trafficking Cases**

1. In order to ensure appropriate sentencing in human trafficking cases, taking into account the principle of culpability and the purpose of punishment, and incorporating the public's point of view, the Judicial Yuan invited the representatives from the court, prosecutor's offices, law firms, academia, and the victim protection and assistance groups to formulate the reference list for the sentencing of crimes that constitute violations of Articles 31 and 32 of the HTPA, which was devised in accordance with the results of focus group meetings. The Judicial Yuan also combined these resources into the "Guideline Manual of Sentencing Circumstances in Criminal Cases", copies of which were delivered to courts of all levels to use the aforementioned sentencing materials on August 24, 2018.
2. In order to avoid discrepancies in sentencing and enhance fairness and transparency of judicial information, the Judicial Yuan has set up the "Sentencing Information Retrieval System" to retrieve the sentencing information for cases under Articles 31 and 32 of the Human Trafficking Prevention Act, to provide a reference for sentencing, and has continued to urge courts at all levels to refer to the above sentencing information in trials of such cases.

3. In 2022, a total of 325 individuals were prosecuted by district prosecutors offices in 153 TIP cases (including those cases in which prosecutors filed motions for summary judgments). The statistics of prosecuted human trafficking cases from 2009 to 2022 are shown in Table 3.
4. In 2022, the number of persons convicted by district courts in human trafficking-related cases is 72. Among them, 3 persons were sentenced to more than 7 years and less than 10 years of imprisonment; 29 persons were sentenced to more than 3 years and less than 5 years of imprisonment; 9 persons were sentenced to more than 2 years and less than 3 years of imprisonment; 21 persons were sentenced to more than 1 year and less than 2 years of imprisonment; 6 persons were sentenced to more than 6 months and less than 1 year of imprisonment; and 4 persons were sentenced to less than 6 months of imprisonment. The statistics of sentencing for TIP-related cases from 2009 to 2022 are shown in Table 4.

### **1.3 Expanding preventive efforts by further investigation into the sources of human trafficking**

1. To actively investigate and punish illegal employment and brokerage: Due to cultural and language barriers and workplace constraints, migrant workers are vulnerable to unfair treatment while working and living in Taiwan. In order to actively disrupt human trafficking networks at the source, the Ministry of Labor strengthened the investigation and management of the employment and

brokerage of migrant workers in accordance with the law. Statistics concerning the category and number of hiring violation cases and broker violation cases from 2009 to 2022 are shown in Table 5 and Table 6.

2. To strengthen the investigation and screening of suspected foreign victims of forced labor and sexual exploitation: The NIA and other judicial police authorities carried out basic service/duties (including visits and inspections of foreigners, accepting self-report or conducting an investigation on received reports, etc.) conscientiously to strengthen the inspection and screening of foreigners. If there are suspected victims or offenders of labor or sexual exploitation, the investigation mechanism will be immediately activated: analyzing the interpersonal network of the suspected offenders, expanding the investigation at the source, and actively conducting activities to combat human trafficking crimes.

#### **1.4 Cases of investigation, prosecution, and sentencing**

##### 1. Examples of investigation

- (1) Case: Uncovering 4 suspects led by a suspect surnamed Hsiao for labor exploitation

##### Description:

The Kaohsiung City Field Division, the Investigation Bureau under the Ministry of Justice (hereinafter referred to as the MJIB) and other units busted a fraud syndicate luring R.O.C. (Taiwan) Nationals to work in

Dubai. From May 2021 to July 2020, the syndicate members surnamed Chen and Hsiao posted fake job ads on Facebook. Job openings in Dubai with food, accommodation, airfare, PCR tests and other expenses provided for free, payment of \$200,000 (approximately US\$ 6,383) upon arrival, a salary of more than NT\$30,000 (approximately US\$ 957) per month, plus bonuses for earning more than NT\$1 million (approximately US\$ 31,913.20) for six months or RMB 10,000 (approximately US\$ 1,379) per month, and normal working hours. Upon arrival, the Taiwanese job seekers were picked up by the fraudsters' cadres and confiscated passports and restricted from using mobile phones, and then transferred to telecoms rooms to work in fraud. Some of them with poor performance or refusing to work as fraud workers were sold to other fraud syndicates for a price ranging from 30,000 dirhams each (equivalent to about NT\$250,000 [approximately US\$ 8169]) to continue working in other fraud telecoms rooms. Some of them were even handcuffed, beaten, or electrocuted for trying to escape. The case was referred to the Kaohsiung District Prosecutor's Office for investigation for violation of Articles 2 and 32 of the Human Trafficking Prevention Act, Articles 296-1, 297 and 339-4 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of China.

(2) Case: A syndicate operated by 9 “Bamboo Union” gang members, including one Taiwanese surnamed Lee, was busted for labor exploitation.

Description:

The Taipei City Police Department busted a suspected labor exploitation ring operated by a Taiwanese “Bamboo Union” gang member surnamed Lee and 8 others. The criminal syndicate was headed by Lee, and other members were responsible for contacting, negotiating prices, assigning tasks, recruiting, transporting applicants, and assisting in surveillance, etc. They lured 85 Taiwanese to work in Cambodia with high salaries, but they deprived the victims of freedom of mobility to force those victims into telecommunication fraud with no payment or to which pay was not commensurate with the work duty. Those that refused to comply would be subjected to physical punishment, assault, electric shock, confinement in a confined space, threat of organ removal, burial alive, high ransom demand, or transfer to a local lawless group, reducing victims in a situation of inability, ignorance, or helplessness. In August 2022, the Taipei City Police Department referred the case to Taipei District Prosecutor’s Office for investigation for violation of Article 296-1 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of China and then in the same month a public prosecution has been brought against those gang

members for violation of Article 296-1 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of China and Article 32 of the Human Trafficking Prevention Act.

- (3) Case: A syndicate led by a Taiwanese surnamed Wang was cracked down for offenses of labor exploitation.

Description:

Under the command of the prosecutor of the Tainan District Prosecutors Office, the Tainan City Specialized Operation Brigade of the NIA, and the Criminal Investigation Corps, the Tainan City Police Department jointly busted a human trafficking case involving a criminal syndicate in Cambodia with the suspect surnamed Wang and other gang members luring victims to engage in fraud in Cambodia. Victims were beaten, confined, and trafficked by the gang members. After the report by victims' relatives, the Criminal Investigation Corps, Tainan City Police Department launched a rescue operation and successfully rescued all the victims. Six suspects were arrested in the crime spot in Tainan and relevant evidence was seized. The case was then referred to the Tainan District Prosecutor's Office on suspicion of violating the "Human Trafficking Prevention Act".

- (4) Case: An illegal migrant worker broker group led by a suspect surnamed Liu was busted for having committed offenses of labor exploitation.

Description:

The Taipei City Specialized Operation Brigade of the NIA busted an illegal migrant worker broker group suspected of human trafficking and labor exploitation. The suspect surnamed Liu, in collaboration with several other brokerage companies, arranged serious mental illness patients as nominee employers or nominee care receivers. They applied to the Ministry of Labor for work permits with inaccurate and forged application documents and signatures of migrant workers. Subsequently, victims were arranged to work in a mental rehabilitation facility or private residence, with either the labors incompliant with the work permits or the pay not commensurate with the work duty. By intimidation, purposeful concealment of important information, or other means violating the free will of victims, the broker forced victims to work overtime, with no leave. The case was referred to the Taipei District Prosecutors Office for violating the Human Trafficking Prevention Act, the Criminal Code of the Republic of China for offenses of “Forgery” and “breach of trust”, and the Employment Service Act for investigation.

- (5) Case: Uncovering 2 suspects led by a suspect surnamed Chai for labor exploitation

Description:

The Changhua County Specialized Operation Brigade of the NIA uncovered suspects surnamed Chai and Lan

for offenses of labor exploitations. While working at technical university, the offender recruited students from Uganda to study at the university and arranged them to work at various companies operated by a Taiwanese surnamed Chen. Through fraudulence, induce, debt bondage, and other means, Chai took advantage of the victims' inability, ignorance, or helplessness to force them to engage in labor not commensurate with the actual remuneration received. The case was transferred to the Changhua District Prosecutor's Office for investigation on suspicion of violating the Human Trafficking Prevention Act, the Criminal Code of the Republic of China for offenses of Fraud and the Employment Service Act in October 2022 and were prosecuted under the Human Trafficking Prevention Act in the same month.

- (6) Case: A case of forced organ harvesting committed by a suspect surnamed Lin and other 2 suspects was busted

Description:

Under the command of the Taiwan Taoyuan District Prosecutor's Office, the Zhongli Precinct, Taoyuan Police Department busted an organ harvesting case committed by a suspect surnamed Lin and the other 2 suspects. Lin and the other two suspects fanned out to target victims, monitor victims, and find organ buyers. They lured victims to work abroad with high salaries.



Once the victims accepted the offer to work abroad, they tricked victims to have health checks for traveling abroad during the COVID-19 pandemic and sent victims on flights to Cambodia. Fortunately, the buyer refused the deal for some reason and the victims fled home in panic. In September 2022, the case was referred to the Taoyuan District Prosecutor's Office for investigation into violation of Article 2 of the Organized Crime Prevention Act, and Article 34 of the Human Trafficking Prevention Act, and in October of the same year indicted for (attempt to commit) Article 34 of the Human Trafficking Prevention Act. This case is the first human trafficking case involving organ harvesting in Taiwan.

- (7) Case: A syndicate led by a Taiwanese surnamed Chen was cracked down for offenses of sex exploitation.

Description:

Under the command of the Tainan District Prosecutor's Office, the Chiayi County Specialized Operation Brigade of the NIA, and the Chiayi County Field Office, MJIB busted a case of sexual exploitation of undocumented migrant workers. The brothel owner surnamed Chen with several accomplices coerced victims into sex trades for travel fees to Taiwan and unreasonably high amounts of agency fees. The police seized a total of six Taiwanese and Vietnamese women at the brothel for prostitution and transferred these

cases to the Chiayi District Prosecutor's Office to be jointly investigated under the Human Trafficking Prevention Act.

## 2. Examples of Trial Cases

Case: The criminal judgment of the Chiayi District Court  
(2022) Su-Tzi No. 638

Description:

In June 2022, suspects surnamed Wang and Lin joined suspects surnamed Tsai, Lin, and Hsieh to operate a human trafficking ring to lure Taiwanese abroad for organ harvesting and other illegal acts for profit. For the purpose of gain, they co-conspired to fraudulently cause victims to leave the territory of the Republic of China, and co-conspired to use such means as fraud to subject victims to organ harvesting for profit. Their illegal acts were divided as follows: Hsieh was responsible for fraudulently inducing victims to leave the country and applying for passports in the name of clerical work; Tsai was responsible for managing victims who agreed to leave the country and ensuring their departure; Lin acted as an intermediary to contact buyers wanting to buy human organs in Cambodia and then asked the buyers to contact Tsai; and Wang and Lin were responsible for delivering documents for departure procedures to victims at the airport and make sure that victims took flights to Cambodia on time. Wang and Lin violated the second part of Paragraph 1 of Article 3 of the Organized

Crime Prevention Act for participating in criminal organizations, Paragraph 1 of Article 297 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of China for fraudulently causing another to leave the territory of the Republic of China for purpose of gain, and Article 34 of the Human Trafficking Prevention Act for attempting to use fraud against another person's will to subject him/her to organ harvesting for profit. Wang was sentenced to imprisonment of 6 years and 6 months, and Lin to imprisonment of 6 years (On March 31, 2023).

## **2. Enhancing the protection of TIP victim**

### **2.1 Safe and Secure Placement and Protection Measures**

#### **A. Settlement and protection for foreign victims**

- (1) The NIA and the WDA, in conjunction with non-profit organizations, set up about 25 shelters to provide foreign victims with related services, including residential arrangements, living care, psychological advice and counseling, interpretation assistance, legal assistance, accompaniment when questioned (interrogated) throughout the investigation or trial, and necessary medical assistance, and other protection services. And the interpreters should meet the professional qualifications, including respect for multicultural perceptions, awareness of gender equality, empathy towards victims, and familiarity with related laws and regulations.

- (2) For victims holding work permits, in 2022, shelters accommodated the placement of a total of 28 newly identified victims, 19 of whom were female and 9 males. Among them, 11 were Indonesians and 11 were Vietnamese, 5 were Philippines, and 1 was American.
- (3) For victims not holding work permits, in 2022, shelters accommodated the placement of a total of 21 newly identified victims, 13 of whom were female and 8 males. Among them, 14 were Ugandans and 3 were Thailanders and 1 was Malaysian.
- (4) Overall, in the past years foreign victims mainly came from Indonesia or Vietnam, and the number of foreign victims placed in the shelters is shown in Table 7. However, in 2022, the largest number of foreign victims came from Uganda due to the fact that more than 10 male Ugandan students in Taiwan were identified by the judicial police authorities as having been subjected to labor exploitation and were placed in shelters. In addition, the number of foreigners from Southeast Asian countries entering Taiwan dropped significantly during the COVID-19 epidemic, which contributed to the decrease in Southeast Asian victims.

**B. Various services for Taiwanese adult victims:**

In 2022, the local governments provided related services to a total of 40 adult TIP-victims. The services

provided include:

- (1) General Adult Victims: Services were provided to 2 persons, including 1 legal assistance, 12 counseling services, placement-related services (costing NT\$39,249), and financial assistance (costing NT\$20,000).
- (2) The program to provide protections to victims after return home: Services were provided to 27 persons, including 1 psychological counseling, 222 counseling services, 1 accompaniment when questioned (interrogated), medical assistance (costing NT\$250), placement-related services (costing NT\$7,700), financial assistance (costing NT\$147,995), and 47 other services (including network information, employment information, telephone interview, caring phone, home visits, and case studies).

C. Providing related services to child and youth suspected victims of human trafficking and sex exploitation

- (1) Among the human trafficking cases investigated and transferred by the National Police Agency in 2022, a total of 94 victims under the age of 18 were subjected to exploitation. Among them, 39 victims were placed in shelters by local social agencies in the jurisdiction where investigations took place in accordance with the “Child and Youth Sexual Exploitation Prevention Act”, and other related regulations; 41 were

remanded to the custody of their parents by a court ruling; 1 was detained in the Juvenile Detention Houses; 13 were adults at the time of investigation and were free to go home by themselves.

- (2) Local governments received about 259 reports of suspected child and youth sexual exploitation cases (177 were human trafficking cases for causing a child or a youth to engage in sexual intercourse or lewd acts in exchange for monetary or other considerations; 82 were not human trafficking cases for causing a child or a youth to act as a host or a hostess in a bar or a club or engage in any acts associated with any escort companion services, singing companion services, or dancing companion services that involve any sexual activity or in any other similar acts). The competent authorities provided services to victims in accordance with the applicable laws to protect the welfare and rights of children and youth, including assigning accompanying persons when questioned (interrogated) throughout the investigation or trial, evaluating the necessity of placement (including the functions of the victim's family), placing victims under protection and sheltering, referring victims to service resources, offering consultation, intervention, and follow-up services after victims returning home.

D. Providing protection services to foreign crew member victims: The FA has commissioned the governments of

Kaohsiung City, Pingtung County, Keelung City and Yilan County to participate in the management of foreign crew members employed overseas and related businesses. Should any foreign crew member become a victim of cross border trafficking or be abused or beaten, etc., local governments shall provide assistance and placement at the early stage within their respective competencies pursuant to the regulations related to the protection of victims.

E. Carrying out the protection of rights and interests during investigations and court Proceedings:

- (1) When investigating human trafficking cases involving foreign victims, the judicial police authorities are required to have interpreters on hand to assist in the production of written records to protect victims' interests and rights. In 2022, the NPA provided interpretation services for 13 persons and accompanying social workers during the investigation for 153 persons. The NIA provided interpretation services for 42 persons and accompanying social workers during the investigation for 45 persons.
- (2) In conducting the victim identification and placement, the judicial police authorities shall inform the victims of their rights and interests, including the accompanying social workers during investigation and trial, the rights of knowing the progress of the

case proceedings, residence and work permit. The SOP of case handling should also be explained to the victims. Also, the authorities have set up heartwarming victim conversation rooms that are different from the examining room (warmer and less oppressive) to alleviate the psychological burden of the victims.

## **2.2 Dynamic identification and inquiry of suspected victims**

1. To ensure that all suspected human trafficking victims are properly identified and investigated, Specialized Operation Brigades and detention centers under the NIA have conducted inquiries in writing toward those undocumented migrant workers surrendering to immigration authorities or falling out of visa status to investigate victimization of human trafficking during their stays in Taiwan. In particular, those undocumented migrant workers surrendering to immigration authorities would receive a “Trafficking Victims’ Rights Guide”. A total of 10,188 copies were distributed in 2022.
2. After the inquiry, if anyone appears to be a suspect victim of human trafficking, the case will be referred to the original investigating authority for further identification. In 2022, the expanded identifications of suspect victims were conducted on 9,628 persons. Among them, 8 persons were identified as victims after inquired and immediately referred to the placement and follow-up services pursuant to regulations.



### **2.3 Adequate provision of visitor (resident) permits**

In accordance with Articles 16 and 28 of the Human Trafficking Prevention Act, temporary visitor permits will be issued or extended to foreign victims of human trafficking, so as to facilitate their stay in Taiwan to testify and combat TIP crimes. In 2022, 20 persons were issued temporary visitor permits and 35 were extended the permits.

### **2.4 Ensuring the protection of employment rights and other interests**

A. In accordance with Paragraph 5 of Article 28 of the Human Trafficking Prevention Act and provisions of the Regulations on Work Permits and Administration for Human Trafficking Victims, for recognized human trafficking victims having a temporary visitor permit (issued from the Ministry of the Interior) valid for 6 months or holding a legal and valid visitor (resident) permit are allowed under these regulations and by the intent of the victims to apply for a work permit with the Ministry of Labor, for working legally in Taiwan and maintaining income and economic stability. A total of 34 foreigners were issued work permits in 2022.

B. When issuing work permits to human trafficking victims, the Ministry of Labor should inform the public employment service center where the shelters are located to provide the victims with employment services. In 2022, services were provided to 36 persons, among them 33 successfully found new jobs.

### C. The Fisheries Agency

- (1) In 2022, 52 labor inspectors were recruited and Regulations on the Authorization and Management of Overseas Employment of Foreign Crew Members was amended to authorize the competent authority to conduct the inspection(s) into fishing vessels, operators, and agents on matters regarding the labor rights in fisheries. For example, documents related to labor incomes and labor standards were inspected and interviews were conducted with crew members through questionnaires (in Mandarin, English, Indonesian, Filipino, Vietnamese, and Burmese) to monitor operators' and agents' compliance with the Regulations. In 2022, 1,442 foreign crew members of 373 fishing vessels took the questionnaires during inspection visits. Also, a total of 33 operators' premises and 41 agents' premises were inspected. Inspection visits of overseas employment of foreign crew members from 2019 to 2022 are shown in Table 8.
- (2) Fishing vessels suspected of violating applicable regulations during the inspection visits were placed under further investigation to determine the applicability of potential administrative penalties or judicial proceedings. If any operator or agent was suspected of violations, the Fisheries Agency would conduct a special investigation. Statistics of

punishments for violations by ship operators from 2019 to 2022 are shown in Table 9 and cases of violations by agents from 2019 to 2022 are shown in Table 10.

- (3) The Fisheries Agency continued to handle the complaints by foreign crew members employed overseas. The complaints were forwarded to the Fisheries Agency by the Ministry of Labor. A total of 64 complaints through the 1955 hotline were filed in 2022 and the statistics by year are shown in Table 11.

## **2.5 Proper referral or Self-conducted vocational training**

For unemployed TIP victims with valid work permits, the regional branches of the WDA continued to contact the shelters to learn more about the victims' willingness to take training and to provide information on the vocational training courses to help them find proper jobs. Expenses for such training were subsidized in their entirety. In 2022, the regional branches of the WDA provided assistance to a total of 67 TIP victims holding valid work permits. Among them, 10 found new jobs, 55 had no intention to participate in vocational training, 1 did not need employment services and 1 accepted counseling and follow-up counseling.

## **2.6 Effective and instant 1955 Labor Consultation and Complaint Hotline for Foreign Workers**

1. On July 1, 2009, the Ministry of Labor set up the 1955 Labor Consultation and Complaint Hotline for Foreign Workers (hereinafter "1955 hotline"), staffed by personnel with expertise in five languages (Chinese,

English, Vietnamese, Indonesian, and Thai), to provide 24-hour (including holidays) bilingual, toll-free phone consultation and complaint services, legal aids and consultation resources, referrals for protection and placement, and information on services provided by other government agencies. After receiving complaints, the case would be electronically assigned to the local government for investigation and follow-up management. It also features instant online interpretation services for medical, business, work or living needs.

2. In 2022, the hotline received a total of 258,480 calls, among them 233,033 were to seek consultation, and 25,447 were to file general or emergency complaints. In addition, there were 2,761 cases in which migrant workers successfully transferred employers through the hotline.

### **2.7 Assisting migrant workers in recovering outstanding wages**

In 2022, foreign workers recovered outstanding wages from employers or agents with the help of the 1955 Hotline or migrant worker service stations at the city/county level in 3,604 cases. The amount of wages and related fees recovered totaled NT\$101,260,744 (approximately US\$3,282,943).

### **2.8 Criminal investigation matters implemented by judicial police, prosecutors, and courts**

1. In investigating human trafficking cases, the judicial police should notify victims of the progress of police

investigations, criminal investigations, and trial procedures, implement a trauma-informed approach, and reduce secondary injuries to victims caused by investigation procedures. When any human trafficking victim testifies as a witness before a prosecutor in an investigation or before a court in a trial and is deemed by the prosecutor or judge to be in need of protection, he/she shall be escorted to protect the personal safety of the victim.

2. Prosecutors in charge of TIP-related cases should:

- (1) When a TIP-related case is forwarded, if the victim is placed in a shelter, the fact of the “victim being referred to the shelter” should be noted in the court dossiers to remind the prosecutor in charge of the case concerned to expedite the investigation.
- (2) TIP cases should be thoroughly investigated, and confrontations between TIP victims and defendants should be arranged if necessary.
- (3) When an investigation is closed, a notification letter should be sent to the originating unit and the shelter he victim's identification result and consent for the victim to return to his/her home country. If a public prosecution is initiated for the case, the letter should state that the case has been transferred and that the court will decide on whether the victim’s placement is to be extended.

3. The prosecutor authorities should ensure the

confidentiality of identities and the personal safety of social workers, interpreters and other persons who accompany TIP victims to court or appear in court as witnesses. Also, to strengthen confidentiality, comparison tables should be employed in specific cases for the names or information that may lead to the identification of social workers and interpreters to be replaced with code numbers.

4. To ensure the accuracy and quality of interpretation services, courses and training on interpretation ethics, general legal knowledge, and overviews of a prosecutorial investigation are conducted on a regular base.
5. To ensure that victims can keep track of the progress of their cases, the Code of Criminal Procedure has added provisions regarding the participation of victims in trial, so that victims can keep track of the progress properly, exercise their rights, strengthen their subjectivity in the criminal procedure and safeguard their dignity and needs, which in turn enhance their trust in the criminal justice, for example:
  - (1) Scope of Application (Article 455-38): Considering the limited judicial resources and the necessity of participation, victims' participation in proceedings is applicable to criminal offenses that cause injury to the life, body, freedom, sex liberty, or other legal rights concerning personality in a severe way. Such cases are

covered in the Criminal Law, the Human Trafficking Prevention Act, the Child and Youth Sexual Exploitation Prevention Act, and other special criminal laws.

- (2) Petitioners (Article 455-38): In principle, victims may petition with the court for participating in the proceedings of the case concerned. However, where the victim of the offenses is without legal capacity, of limited legal capacity, deceased, or for other legitimate reasons, the victim cannot make the petition, the petition may be made by the statutory agent, spouse, or blood relative of the said victim. But where the accused is the only person with one of the forementioned identities, and there is no other person with the identities to make the petition, the petition may be made by the competent authority or the Association for Victims Support.
- (3) The procedure to submit a petition (Article 455-39, Article 455-40): A petition for participating in the proceedings shall be made to the respective court of instance. The court shall, by a ruling, approve the petition for participating in the proceedings where the court is of the opinion that the petition is appropriate, or overrule the petition where the petition is not appropriate, after consulting the opinions expressed by the prosecutor, the accused, the defense attorney and the assistant, and after taking into account the

circumstances of the case, the petitioner's relationship with the accused, the progress of the case proceedings, and the interests of the petitioner.

(4) The subjectivity of victims in the proceeding (Articles 455-41 to 455-47): Participants in the proceedings may retain an agent at any time (or the court may appoint one under certain circumstances); request to receive copies of the case files and exhibits; be notified of the dates of the preliminary proceeding and appear before the court; elect one or more persons to represent the participants concerned; state their opinions regarding the matters in the preliminary proceeding, the probative value of evidence, the possible range of sentencing, so as to protect the subjectivity of victims in criminal proceedings, instead of merely as a supporting role.

6. The establishment of Victims' Information Platform for Criminal Proceedings: The Judicial Yuan has already established the "Case Progress Inquiry System" for defendants (including victims) and other parties related to the litigation to inquire about the progress of the concerned cases online after filing requests with the court during the trial. In order to further protect the victims' right to request criminal procedure information, the Judicial Yuan and the Ministry of Justice have jointly established the Victims' Information Platform for Criminal Proceedings. The platform was officially



launched on July 1, 2021. Victims filing requests with the prosecutor's office during investigations or with the court in a trial will be permitted to access information regarding the progress of the case, compulsive measures, the decision of the trial, and criminal enforcement through the one-stop service of the Platform, which can be sent automatically by e-mail notification or by searching on the Platform so as to keep track of the progress and its contents.

7. The Instruction for Courts to Handle Referred Restorative Justice Processes during Trial and Diversity Promotion Program of Referred Restorative Justice in Criminal Trials were promulgated. Criminal courts should choose the right time, occasion, and method when asking victims or family members whether or not to petition for a restorative justice program to avoid re-victimization of the victim. Also, victims or family members and defendants should be revealed of the meaning of and the procedure for restorative justice, and that either party may withdraw from the procedure at any time without any reason.

## **2.9 Achievements of commissioned private shelters**

1. Protection services:

- (1) During investigation, the judicial police authority should refer identified victims of human trafficking for protection and placement in shelters and other necessary assistance by social affairs, immigration, or

labor affairs authorities of local governments or entrusted private institutions according to the nationalities and types of visas held by the victims in accordance with the “Guideline of Human Trafficking Victim Identification”.

(2) The Nantou Shelter and Kaohsiung Shelter are the 2 locations for protection and placement in shelters entrusted by the NIA. They provide placement and necessary services for foreigners, Mainlanders, Hong Kong or Macau residents, or Taiwanese people without household registration that are recognized as human trafficking victims. In 2022, among the persons placed in shelters, 18 were victims without work permits. Only 2 held valid work permits.

(3) The services provided by the shelters are as follows:

A. Physical and psychological recovery and support:

The shelters consider recovery their core value and provide a variety of services to the victims it accommodates. Victims can be physically (psychologically) traumatized and socially maladjusted from mistreatment and exploitation. Through continuous care, medical checkups, emotional support, interviews, long-term companionship, and work with the victims, victims get to know about Taiwan and rebuild their trust and acceptance of others. Also, through annual festivals and outdoor activities held by the shelters, victims

get to forget about the unpleasant experience of being exploited.

B. Empowerment and stable employment: To help victims return to society, gain economic security, and acquire the skills for the future, shelters provided a combination of employment services, including skills training, expert lectures, psychological counseling, job placement, and home-based employment, to offer residents opportunities to acquire professional skills and to elevate their capabilities. Victims were empowered and aware of their own advantages to cope with future challenges.

C. Prevention of being re-trafficked: To prevent TIP victims from being exploited again, the shelters instilled information regarding the prevention and control of human trafficking. Those who planned to work abroad were provided with information on overseas employment. Also, they were taught to learn from their own experiences and develop plans to protect themselves and avoid becoming TIP targets again.

2. The achievement of the Nantou Shelter: The Nantou Shelter was founded in October 2009 and is run by the Good Shepherd Social Welfare Foundation entrusted by the NIA for over thirteen years. As for the achievement in 2022, the shelter provided medical services to 51

persons, interpretation assistance to 190 persons, legal assistance to 4 persons, consultations to 54 persons, accompany services during interrogation to 19 persons, other necessary assistance to 19 persons, and introduction to employment opportunities to 7 persons.

3. The achievement of Kaohsiung shelter: The Kaohsiung shelter was founded in January 2019 and is run by the Taiwan Labor Rights and Care Association and has been entrusted by the NIA for 3 years. As for its achievements in 2022, the shelter provided medical services to 35 persons, interpretation assistance to 49 persons, legal assistance to 15 persons, consultations to 353 persons, accompany services during interrogation to 2 persons, other necessary assistance to 4 persons and 2 development training courses to 24 persons.

4. Services and achievements of the Legal Aid Foundation:

- (1) To safeguard human rights and basic litigation rights for human trafficking victims, the Legal Aid Foundation (the LAF) set up the Legal Aid for Victims of Human Trafficking Program in 2008 to provide legal aid to qualified TIP victims that meet the requirements in the Legal Aid Act. In 2022, of the 74 applications for legal aid, 55 were approved (litigation representation, defending, and mediation). In total, legal aid was provided in 74.3 percent of applications.
- (2) Since scams in Cambodia and other human trafficking cases are getting more and more serious, the Legal Aid

Foundation joined the “Program to Protect Taiwanese Victims of Cambodia Incident” established by the NIA in August 2022 and the network of government agencies. Also, the Legal Aid Foundation liaised with the social units of local governments, so as to facilitate the provision of legal assistance to victims.

- (3) Since 2007, the Legal Aid Foundation has participated in the civil group Supervision Alliance for Human Trafficking Prevention to assist in the promotion of the legislative process of the Human Trafficking Prevention Act. The Legal Aid Foundation will continue to participate in the Alliance’s meetings to address issues related to human trafficking and the modification of the Human Trafficking Prevention Act. At the Executive Yuan’s meeting to review the amendment to the Human Trafficking Prevention Act, the Legal Foundation, on behalf of the Supervision Alliance for Human Trafficking Prevention, shared its experience in assisting victims of human trafficking for the consideration of the proposed amendment.

### **3. Active Prevention of the Occurrence of Human Trafficking Cases**

#### **3.1 Implementation of the 2021-2022 Anti-Exploitation Action Plan**

In order to keep strengthening the central authority’s promotion of anti-human trafficking and offering the local authorities guidelines to work with the central authorities, we propose the “2021-2022 Anti-Exploitation

Action Plan” to integrate and coordinate the resources and strengths from ministries to curb human trafficking and to implement the measures for the protection of human rights. The Action Plan is based on four aspects (prosecution, protection, prevention and partnership) of Taiwan’s anti-human trafficking policy. It proposes 25 projects and 76 corresponding strategies to tackle the undealt problems of trafficking in persons (TIP). As for the implementation results in 2022, except for the 11 strategies involving law amendments that require inter-ministerial deliberations and public consensus building, such as the “Draft Act for Sentencing Appropriateness in Criminal Cases” proposed by the Judicial Yuan (Criminal Department), which will continue to be included in next year’s work, all other strategies have been completed. The achievements are as follows:

1. The Ministry of Labor: The MOL conducted 122 inspections on labor conditions in the fishing industry and 208 inspections on occupational safety and health. The achievements are as follows: Violations were found in 5 inspections and penalties were imposed according to applicable laws. In order to protect the rights and interests of migrant workers and to curb the overcharging of fees by private employment service organizations, the Ministry of Labor has implemented the “Program for Municipal and County (City) Governments to Visit Private Employment Service Organizations Engaged in

Transnational Manpower Intermediary Services”, in which the local governments, in accordance with the evaluation results of the intermediary firms, will visit and conduct inspections on the fees charged to employers and migrant workers by intermediary firms in their jurisdiction, as well as the preparation and storage of such documents, so as to ensure that the charges of intermediary firms are in compliance with the regulations. Intermediary firms with Grade A ratings should be visited once a year; Grade B firms should be visited two to three times a year; and Grade C firms should be visited four times a year. A total of 2,800 visits were made to intermediary firms in 2022.

2. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs: In 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs sponsored the ECPAT Taiwan (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography, and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes), which is dedicated to promoting the prevention of child and youth sexual exploitation and human trafficking), to attend the INHOPE (International Association of Internet Hotlines) 2022 Annual General Meeting and Hotline Training Meeting in Portugal in November 2022, where the hotline members exchanged knowledge and information of the crimes and discussed affairs relevant to the INHOPE and the Internet-based content of child and youth sexual exploitation.
3. The Ministry of Transportation and Communications:

- (1) The Ministry of Transportation and Communications 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 the nationality of the crew member, and assist in providing relevant information. In June 2022, the Maritime and Port Bureau notified the NIA and the Coast Guard Administration of two vessels suspected of being involved in human trafficking. 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.
- (2) The “Assistance Mechanism for R.O.C. (Taiwan) Nationals Lured to Southeast Asian Countries to Seek Help on Board Aircraft” is enacted so that if a passenger seeks help on board of an aircraft, notification procedures will be activated, and relevant assistance will be provided.



#### 4. The National Immigration Agency

- (1) In January 2022, the “Guidelines Governing Re-entry Fees for Victims of Trafficking in Persons Not Holding Employment Visas” was issued to regulate the subsidies for victims’ re-entry tickets and living expenses after their return to Taiwan, so as to enhance the protection of victims’ rights and strengthen the opportunities for discovering the true facts of the criminal case and confronting defendants.
- (2) In August 2022, “Guidelines on the Return and Protection Program of R.O.C. (Taiwan) Nationals Being Trafficked or Victimized and Being Forced into Criminal Activities Overseas” was formulated, so that if any R.O.C. (Taiwan) national being human trafficked or victimized overseas, the judicial police officers could protect the victim’s rights. If any R.O.C. (Taiwan) national is identified as a victim by judicial police officers, the victim shall be informed of his/her rights and interests with documents such as a Description of the Rights Protection of Victimized R.O.C. (Taiwan) Nationals. If the victim does not wish to be placed in settlement and chooses to return home on his/her own, judicial police officers should inquire of the victim whether or not to accept referrals and provide such documents as a “Referral Form for Self-Return Victims”. Then, the victim will be referred to the local agencies or units in charge of the social

administration system to provide follow-up services.

- (3) In October 2022, the NIA made another notification to each unit to promote the “2022 Program for the Accompaniment upon Investigations of Suspected Human Trafficking Cases”. The mechanism of “Duty Operations with Senior Accompanying Persons”, whereby the NIA can select accompanying persons without any field experience to be accompanied by an experienced senior accompanying person to perform duty operations, so as to improve the functions of the accompanying persons and to expand the opportunities for the deployment of the judicial police officers.

## 5. The Fisheries Agency

- (1) In 2022, the FA conducted inspections (visits) in domestic Ports on 351 distant water fishing vessels, 33 operators’ premises, 41 agents’ premises, and 1,371 foreign crew members, as well as in foreign ports on 9 fishing vessels with 50 crew members, and 48 NGOs were invited to participate in the inspection (visits). Also, the FA conducted joint inspections with the Ministry of Labor and other units on 11 R.O.C. (Taiwan) fishing vessels and 7 foreign flag fishing vessels invested by R.O.C. (Taiwan) nationals (Flag of Convenience, hereinafter referred to as FOC vessels) to uncover if the labor conditions for foreign crew working onboard the foreign fishing vessel fails

to meet the requirements.

- (2) In May 2022, the amendment to the Regulations on the Authorization and Management of Overseas Employment of Foreign Crew Members was promulgated. It is clearly stated in Article 30, paragraph 4 of the Regulations that the wages shall be paid fully and directly by the distant water fisheries operator to the foreign crew members. Items and amounts may not be directly deducted from the wages unless pursuant to other laws and regulations, to prevent any offense such as using illegal debt bondage to subject migrant workers to exploitation.
- (3) It is provided in the “Regulations on the Management and Approval of Foreign-Flag Fishing Vessels Entering into Ports of the Republic of China” amended on August 2022 that one of the conditions for any foreign flag fishing vessel applying for port entry into the Republic of China is that no international organization or foreign government has determined that the foreign flag fishing vessel is involved in forced labor or human trafficking (except for those who have been acquitted of such crimes or is removed from the list(s) notified by the international organization or foreign government).
- (4) The FA has administered a joint liability and evaluation system for agents. Any applicant intending to become an agent shall be established in accordance

with the Regulations for Permission and Supervision of Private Employment Services Institution and approved to recruit foreign persons to work in the Republic of China. Also, applicants should submit a guarantee bond in advance to the competent authority. The amount shall be from NT\$500,000 (approximately US\$16135) to NT\$2,000,000 (approximately US\$64538) in accordance with the number of foreign crew members the agency plans to employ. In 2022, the FA conducted a review of 49 agents, with 16 receiving grade A and 33 receiving grade B on the labor rights and interests of foreign crew member(s) of the distant water fisheries.

### **3.2 Amendments to regulations on the prevention of human trafficking**

#### **1. Regulations involving Criminal Penalties:**

##### **(1)The National Immigration Agency: The Human Trafficking Prevention Act**

It has been more than 10 years since the Human Trafficking Prevention Act came into effect in June 2009. In the meantime, despite the recognition of the anti-trafficking efforts by the international community, new forms of human trafficking have been emerging. As a result, the NIA invited experts and scholars, civil organizations, the Judicial Yuan, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Labor, and the Ministry of Health and Welfare to jointly study and revise all the provisions of the Act. The drafted

amendment to 47 articles of the Act was submitted to the Legislative Yuan by the Executive Yuan in March 2023 for deliberation and passed in May 2023, with a view to improving the protection of human rights in Taiwan through “tough-on-crime” and “victim protection” policies.

(2)The Ministry of Justice: The Organized Crime Prevention Act

Organized crime has the characteristics of the mass against the minority and the strong against the weak, which brings great harm to society. Recently, there have been even more criminal organizations and syndicates of accomplices that violate human rights, recruiting R.O.C. (Taiwan) nationals abroad to engage in telecoms frauds, sexual exploitation, and labor exploitation, which have seriously impacted social security and inflicted major damages to Taiwan’s international image. So as to combat organized crime and curb the expansion of criminal organizations, Taiwan pushed for an amendment to the Organized Crime Prevention Act to comprehensively examine any inadequacies in the Act, as well as “strengthened the regulatory intensity” and “expanded the scope of confiscation,” to deprive proceeds derived from organized criminal activities and curb the flames of organized crime syndicates. The Ministry of Justice has prepared a draft amendment to some of the

provisions of the Organized Crime Prevention Act, which was submitted to the Legislative Yuan by the Executive Yuan for deliberation in December 2022 and was passed on the third reading in May 2023.

(3) The Ministry of Health and Welfare: Child and Youth Sexual Exploitation Prevention Act

With the rapid development of digital technology, once the sexually explicit electromagnetic recordings of victims are circulated and disseminated, the harm to victims is done and unerasable. In order to prevent such occurrences, the MOHW has prepared a draft amendment to some of the provisions of the Child and Youth Sexual Exploitation Prevention Act, stipulating that an Internet platform provider shall spontaneously restrict access to (the browsing of), or remove, webpage materials related to the sexually explicit electromagnetic recordings of victims, and the crime-related webpage materials shall be retained for one hundred eighty (180) days and provided to judicial authorities and police agencies for investigations. Also, victims may submit a request to the responsible prosecutor during the investigation, or the competent court during the trial, to reproduce (any of) the confiscated sexually explicit electromagnetic recordings of the said victims. The competent authority may assist victims to compare, remove, or take down the sexually explicit electromagnetic

recordings. The criminal liability shall be increased for any person who films or causes a child or a youth to self-film or self-produce any sexually explicit electromagnetic recordings of sexual intercourse or lewd acts. Any national of the R.O.C. (Taiwan) who commits any offense of distributing any sexually explicit electromagnetic recordings of a child or a youth outside the territory of the R.O.C. (Taiwan) shall also be punished. The law was passed on its third reading in January 2023 to protect child and youth victims.

2. Regulations involving non-Criminal Penalties: The FA amended the Regulations on the Authorization and Management of Overseas Employment of Foreign Crew Members in May 2022 to consummate the protection of the rights and interests of foreign crew member(s). The monthly minimum wage of seafarers shall be increased to 550 U.S. Dollars and paid fully and directly to the foreign crew member. Making wage payments to the foreign crew member through any foreign agent shall be prohibited. The minimum rest hours per day for foreign crew members shall comply with the ILO Work in Fishing Convention No.188 (2007). The coverage of pay-as-you-go medical insurance shall not be less than NT\$300,000 (approximately US\$9,660) and the insured amount of life insurance shall not be less than NT\$1,500,000 (approximately US\$48,301).

### **3.3 Extensively deepen educational training and workshops**

The central and local government agencies have continued to conduct educational training and workshops for judicial police, prosecutors, judges, and officials of the administrative authorities with regard to immigration, fisheries, labor, social affairs, education, foreign affairs and other areas, which can be summarized as follows:

#### **1. The Ministry of Labor**

- (1) To implement employers' orientation program before hiring a foreign worker to render home care or household assistance and to enhance employers' understanding of laws and regulations on migrant workers and management responsibilities, it is provided that local employers must complete the employers' orientation program before their applications for the first time. The orientation program provides information on the laws and regulations regarding the employment of migrant workers, the prevention of human trafficking, the customs and traditions of their home countries, labor-management relations and related insurance regulations, labor contracts and wage payments, and the termination of employment to promote harmonious labor relations. In 2022, 31,500 employers attended orientation programs and obtained certificates.
- (2) The MOL, in cooperation with the MOI, organized 5 sessions of anti-TIP educational training for labor



inspectors on forced labor in 2022 (from August to November) to enhance their knowledge of the 11 indicators of forced labor proposed by the International Labor Organization, and to facilitate the immediate identification of suspected cases of labor exploitation when accepting complaints or carrying out labor inspections, and to notify the judicial police authorities to intervene in the investigations.

## 2. Ministry of Justice

- (1) The Ministry of Justice has budgeted every year for the in-service training of prosecutors on conducting the prevention of human trafficking by introducing all aspects of issues related to the protection and placement of victims during investigations, prosecutions, and trials of TIP cases. In October 2022, the Ministry of Justice held an annual seminar on the Prevention of Human Trafficking and Child Sexual Exploitation in cooperation with ECPAT Taiwan, inviting United States Attorneys to share practices regarding the behavioral patterns and sentencing standards of serious child exploitation offenses. The US National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) and Cybertip.ca, the Canadian Centre for Child Protection were also invited to lead courses on ending the cycle of distributing child sexual abuse/exploitation content.
- (2) Aside from online courses on criminal cases by foreign

law enforcement officers, face-to-face courses were also held by domestic scholars, prosecutors, and judges on human trafficking in the distant water fishing industry and the necessary responding actions to be taken. The experience in investigating the case of Da-Wang fishing vessel, the dilemmas and opportunities in investigating sex websites, and the application of laws in cases of human trafficking and sexual exploitation of children were shared by their legal analyses and investigative practices. This seminar promoted the exchange of investigating experiences to strengthen the effectiveness in investigating cases of human trafficking and Internet sexual exploitation.

### 3. The Ministry of Education

- (1) The 12-Year Basic Education Curriculum Guideline has included “human rights education” as an issue. A total of six learning topics were added, 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 “prevention of human trafficking” and other contents integrated into the curriculum. In 2022, 14 seminars on human rights education were held across the country (3 professional development activities for members of the Central Counseling

Group for Human Rights Education field of the K-12 Education, 3 workshops, 3 regional seminars, 1 annual symposium, and 1 colloquium for the convener and professional counselors), with a total of 573 participants.

- (2) In order to protect the rights and interests of foreign students studying in Taiwan, the Regulations Regarding International Students Undertaking Studies in Taiwan was amended in 2022. According to the amendment, universities and tertiary colleges that handle the recruitment of international students are not permitted to commission any external institution, legal person, group, or individual to handle related matters except publicity and promotion, and to assist students to undertake the necessary related procedures. Also, to make sure that international students studying in Taiwan understand their rights and obligations, the admission notice should set out in detail the pertinent information that international students must be notified of. Versions of these details should be provided in both Chinese and English and may be provided in other mother languages.
- (3) The MOE continued to implement reviews (visits) of international programs in universities and colleges to make a clear distinction between internship programs and student work-study activities. Should there be any suspected case of foreign students' labor rights being

compromised, the MOE will request the Ministry of Labor to provide assistance and refer the case to the local government for investigation and the Ministry of Labor and related units will provide the investigation results to the Ministry of Education for follow-up, so as to help foreign students protect their rights and interests in Taiwan. Also, the MOE set up a webpage, a feedback box and a hotline for international students, and an inter-ministerial notification platform to provide a consulting channel for foreign students so that effective responses can be made.

4. The Ministry of Transportation and Communications: At the annual orientation sessions for tour guides, tour escorts and other tourism workers held by the Tourism Bureau of the MOTC, general knowledge on the HTPA and the Child and Youth Sexual Exploitation Prevention Act was taken into account in the final evaluation of such training. A total of 1,995 persons received training in 2022. The Tourism Bureau of the MOTC also conducts legal education for hotel service personnel during regular inspections of tourist hotels every year, and in 2022, 12 tourist hotels joined the promotional session, with a total of 180 participants.
5. The Financial Supervisory Commission (the FSC): Training courses (including human trafficking awareness) for staff in the bank were convened, with a total of 44 sessions and 1,784 participants. For Securities

and Futures practitioners, 159 training sessions were held, with 7,973 participants, and for insurance practitioners (including human trafficking awareness), 114 training sessions were held with 6,107 participants.

## 6. The Fisheries Agency

- (1) Interviewers and investigators are required to take training courses of at least 4 hours 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 the supervisors during the interviews. If necessary, the interview could be conducted together with judicial police agencies. Victim-centered interviews could be conducted on vessel inspections at port side or at sea, so as to detect signs of forced labor among foreign crew members.
- (2) Aside from promotional campaigns and briefing sessions on current laws and regulations, the FA also organized educational courses during the periodical retraining sessions for crew members and officer members, which emphasized the importance of treating foreign crew members as key partners during operations at sea, and raised the awareness of corporate social responsibility to maintain mutually-beneficial partnerships.
- (3) In May 2022, the FA organized the Professional Training Courses on Protecting the Rights and

Interests of Foreign Crew Members Employed Overseas and Visit Inspection of Ocean Fishing Work, inviting public sectors such as the Prosecutor's Office and the NIA to share professional skills and experience in identifying TIP, along with a 5-hour professional training course for the FA inspectors of the labor rights of crew members. In addition, the professional training program for newly recruited labor inspectors in fisheries was organized in September 2022, including an 8-hour course regarding the prevention of human trafficking.

7. The National Police Agency: In 2022, the police departments of local governments held courses for police officers in active service on the concepts of human trafficking enforcement and the improvement of investigative skills. A total of 1,097 individuals attended 22 such courses in 2022. Judges and prosecutors were invited to speak on TIP legislation, victim identifications and investigative techniques to enhance the investigative skills and professional competencies of police officers in proceeding with the assigned cases.

8. The National Immigration Agency

(1) In August 2021, the National Immigration Agency instructed Border Affairs Corps at all ports to implement procedures for the investigation and identification of suspected human trafficking cases. In the event of a shipwreck, ship stranding, or ship

owner's failure to actively deal with crew members unduly staying in the maritime area and ports, if a labor dispute or suspected labor exploitation case is spotted, the Border Affairs Corps should initiate the crew interview and identification process immediately to assess whether crew members are victims of forced labor offenses in accordance with the ILO Indicators of Forced Labor published by the International Labor Organization (ILO). When initiating the investigation and identification of suspected labor exploitation of crew members, exploitation purpose, illegal means, and human flow are used to assess cases of labor exploitation in accordance with the Reference Indicators for the Identification of Victims of Human Trafficking. The same procedures were followed in similar cases in 2022.

- (2) In July and October 2022, the National Immigration Agency held two training sessions (one in Taipei and one in Kaohsiung) on the topic of Combating Human Trafficking and Online Gender-Based Violence, with a total of 222 attendees from the FA (including fishery agencies of local governments), the MOL (including labor agencies of local governments), and judicial police officers from all over the country engaged in the business of preventing trafficking in persons, so as to strengthen the competence of front-line law enforcement officers.

- (3) Under the NIA Experience Inheritance Program of Human Trafficking Case Investigation, the 2nd session of the 1st seed instructor training course was launched in October 2022, regarding the current events of R.O.C. (Taiwan) nationals being trafficked abroad, digital investigation techniques, and labor inspections of distant water fishing vessels. The training was differentiated by crime techniques and patterns and victim identities, etc., with a total of 41 participants in face-to-face and video training.
9. The Veterans Affairs Council: The New Immigrant Counseling Work Video Training Program was held by the VAC in April 2022, inviting officers from the NIA to lecture on the concept of human trafficking and the role of the VAC, with a total of 63 participants.
10. The National Communications Commission: Through the Program of Media Literacy Cultivation and Citizen Empowerment Promotion, the NCC carried out the promotion of human trafficking regulations. In 2022, 14 professional trainings for the radio and television industry were held, including 12 online courses and 2 blended courses (combining onsite and online modes), with a total of 2,732 participants.
11. The Council of Indigenous Peoples: In 2022, the Council of Indigenous Peoples held Educational Training for Indigenous Social Workers to promote and boost awareness of the prevention of human trafficking.



A total of 249 attendees joined the course, including managers and social workers of the Indigenous Peoples Family Service Center, officials of the local government aboriginal affairs administrative units, and the aboriginal social workers and professional supervisors of the regional Indigenous Peoples Family Service Center.

### **3.4 Multilingual and Diverse Promotional Channels**

To strengthen and implement policies for human trafficking prevention, various activities were held and promoted, as summarized below:

#### **1. The Ministry of Labor**

(1) The MOL set up foreign worker service stations at both Taoyuan and Kaohsiung international airports to provide migrant workers arriving at the airport multilingual services, assistance in proceeding through customs and immigration, information on workers' rights, and legal counseling. A 10-minute video on regulations was played for foreign workers at the airport upon their arrival, along with pamphlets and verbal introductions to educate them on regulations and cultures, their rights, and interests. Such efforts aimed to help migrant workers adjust to life in Taiwan and minimize the stress and uneasiness of working in a foreign environment. Starting from March 2020, border control measures were implemented in Taiwan due to COVID-19. In

response to pandemic-related restrictions on public gatherings, pamphlets to promote labor rights and regulations for working in Taiwan were handed to migrant workers instead. In total, 196,208 migrant workers received the manuals in 2022.

- (2) For the adaptation to work in Taiwan, the MOL funded local government agencies to set up counseling service centers for migrant workers, employing native speaking personnel to provide them with complaint or consultation services such as legal counseling, psychological counseling, work adaptation, and labor disputes, as well as providing subsidies for legal fees and referrals to legal assistance resources. In need of legal advices or cases of being subjected to illegal incidences from employers, including unilateral termination of contracts, improper treatment, withholding property, unpaid wages, or sexual assaults, migrant workers may file complaints and seek advices from the local governments or the migrant worker counseling service centers.
- (3) In order to help employers, migrant workers, brokers and the general public in Taiwan understand migrant workers' hiring practices, rights protection and related legal information, a Taiwan Workforce Development Agency Information Site of Foreign Worker Rights Defense was setup in five languages (Chinese, English, Indonesian, Vietnamese, and Thai) by the

MOL, available for migrant workers to inquire about their legal rights and seek advice to protect their rights. Further, in May 2021, an updated version “Line@1955” was released to actively push the latest epidemic prevention information and employment rights information to migrant workers. In June 2022, the “1955 real time text message service” was launched, where the staff of native speakers would respond to questions by text about pandemic prevention regulations, labor conditions, employment applications, and other frequently asked questions. The “1955hotline” migrant worker Facebook page was set up to provide migrant workers with information on the epidemic and their employment rights, which would be synchronized on the Taiwan Workforce Development Agency Information Site of Foreign Worker Rights Defense.

- (4) In 2021, the MOL commissioned 5 broadcasters to produce 13 episodes of a radio program in English, Indonesian, Mandarin, Thai, and Vietnamese on such topics as prevention of human trafficking, and bodily harm onto migrant workers, and the 1955 Consultation and Complaint Hotline for Foreign Workers. Besides promoting current policies and legislation, the programs also aimed to provide a venue for interaction with the callers to further educate employers, brokers, and foreigners the rule of

law. By the end of 2022, these programs had reached an estimated 4.8 million people.

## 2. The Ministry of Health and Welfare

- (1) In accordance with the 2022 Mental Health Network Regional Support Plan, the MOHW requested that all psychiatric centers in its psychiatric hospital network incorporated anti-TIP and victim protection sessions into their training programs for mental health administration and medical personnel. A total of 7 sessions were attended by 628 persons in 2022.
- (2) Through the LED electronic signage in every railway and highway station across the country, the MOHW launched the campaign aiming at passengers and commuters using public transportation to promote the prevention of sexual exploitation of minors and the prohibition of domestic and foreign travelers from causing a child or youth to engage in sexual intercourse or obscene acts in exchange for monetary or other considerations. In total, there were 15 publishing applications in 2022.
- (3) The 2nd and 3rd sessions of the 3rd Child and Youth Sexual Exploitation Prevention and Control Consultative Meetings were held in March and October 2022 respectively, inviting representatives of ministries and local governments, experts and scholars, and civil groups to review the situation of education and promotion of child and youth sexual

exploitation prevention and control in 2022, and to urge the central authority in charge of the field concerned and local governments to continue the implementation of the projects.

3. The Ministry of Justice: The MOJ promoted Judicial Protection Month (Prevention of Foreign Labor Exploitation) in a series of dramatized episodes on the Police Broadcasting Service (National Safety and Traffic Network) between May and July 2022.

4. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

(1) Thorough multiple channels such as press conferences, websites (including the MOFA website, the R.O.C. (Taiwan) Embassies and Missions Abroad website, and other platforms), sending out prints of publicity, and putting up publications in the consular lobby of overseas missions, the MOFA continued to remind R.O.C. (Taiwan) citizens traveling overseas of keeping alert to various forms of human trafficking, and to prevent violations of the law and jeopardizing the image of Taiwan due to a lack of knowledge.

(2) The MOFA has established the website of the Working Holiday Program ([www.youthtaiwan.net](http://www.youthtaiwan.net)) to promote the correct concept of working holidays for the youth and remind them of the importance of preventing human trafficking. The Bureau of Consular Affairs has also set up the Working Holiday Visa website (in English and Chinese) for the youth from 17 countries

that have signed an agreement on the youth program of working holiday with Taiwan to refer to.

#### 5. The Ministry of Education

- (1) In September 2022, the National General Conference of Directors of Academic Affairs and School Management of Public and Private Colleges and Universities and the National Joint Meeting of Academic Affairs Directors of Technical and Vocational Education Institutions were held. During the conference, the MOE encouraged schools to offer courses on human rights and the rule of law, including the awareness of human trafficking.
- (2) During October to November of 2022, 4 joint visits were made to overseas and international students in the Northern, Southern, Eastern, and Central parts of Taiwan, promoting the concept of human rights and rule of law, with a total of 650 participants, including overseas and international students from 86 colleges and universities, high schools and junior colleges and representatives from various agencies nationwide.
- (3) The MOE continued to subsidize law departments of relevant colleges and universities to run the Legal Education Program for Elementary and Junior High Schools and Communities. A total of 17 departments held 8 sessions of seminars on preventing human trafficking with 400 participants.
- (4) In cooperation with the MOFA's Youth Working

Holiday Program, the Youth Development Administration of the MOE divided up the work of promoting Taiwan's youth working overseas by publishing the 2022 Youth Working Holiday Advocacy Online Handbook and requesting colleges, universities, and local governments to assist with announcements and publicity, and incorporating explanations related to the prevention of human trafficking in the MOE and MOFA's websites for the promotion of the Youth Working Holiday Program.

6. The Ministry of Transportation and Communications: In 2022, the MOTC requested all the local competent authorities in charge of highway transportation to promote anti-trafficking to taxi operators under their jurisdiction, so as to raise the awareness of taxi drivers and curb human trafficking. The MOTC put up multi-media equipment (electronic signage, running lights, etc.) at airports under the Civil Aeronautics Administration (CAA) and Taoyuan International Airport Corporation Ltd. to broadcast various publicity materials on "preventing human trafficking", with over 100,000 times of videos and 90,000 times of campaign slogans in 2022. In the passenger service centers or office buildings at the ports under the management of the Taiwan International Ports Corporation Limited, electronic signage, and running lights were adopted to continuously broadcast slogans to prevent human

trafficking, reaching more than 977,000 persons in 2022.

7. The National Police Agency: In 2022, each local police department propagated anti-trafficking laws and regulations in the Community Security Meeting under its jurisdiction. Advocacy videos were broadcasted in a total of 1,588 meetings to educate people in the community to work together to combat human trafficking. The police departments also put up banners on the official websites and LED displays and running lights in the agencies and organizations under their jurisdictions to enhance the publicity of contact information for reporting human trafficking cases. Also, brochures and pamphlets on the prevention of human trafficking were available to the public at service counters.

8. The National Immigration Agency

(1) The NIA stepped up publicity at its service centers by utilizing the internal communication facilities and took advantage of opportunities such as the Mobile Service Train and publicity activities on family education and relevant laws and regulations to promote the importance of migrant workers' keeping their own identity papers and travel documents. In 2022, an estimated 236 mobile service trains and 159 family education or legal advocacy activities were held, with viewers of estimated 17,207 people (including recipients of the Handbook for Migrant Workers in Taiwan). Multi-language posters were also



posted at the public areas of the service centers and advocacy videos on the prevention of human trafficking were broadcasted online.

- (2) The brokerage firms were invited to visit migrant worker dormitories to publicize, post, and distribute printed literature in Chinese, Indonesian, Thai, and Vietnamese. The NIA also took the initiative to publicize when migrant workers visited the service centers of the NIA to apply for permits in person. Upon accepting cases or on visits to check on the welfare of migrant workers, the Specialized Operation Brigade of the NIA would also publicize the prevention of human trafficking. It was expected to reach 2,973 people in 2022.

#### 9. The Fisheries Agency

- (1) The FA distributed more than 10,000 copies of multilingual cards (Chinese, English, Vietnamese, and Indonesian) containing information on basic rights to crew members and required hotline numbers for filing complaints to be posted in the onboard accommodation spaces of fishing vessels. In 2022, the FA conducted promotions of laws and regulations and rights and interests at 3 recreational activities for crew members, and promotions of corporate social responsibility and human rights education for business operators at 9 sessions.
- (2) The FA maintained regulations that standardized

fishing workers' employment contracts (in Chinese, English, Vietnamese and Indonesian) should include information on the 1955 hotline. A multi-language website has been launched to announce information on foreign worker rights and basic information on fishing ships. The FA also established access to new complaint mechanisms.

10. The Veterans Affairs Council: In 2022, on the occasions of the New Immigrants Life Adaptation Counseling and Commendation of Happy Family performed by local governments, officers from government departments lectured on the regulations of human trafficking, with a total of 898 participants in 19 sessions.
11. The Council of Indigenous Peoples: A total of 7,849 persons attended 270 lectures on the welfare of indigenous people and workshops for indigenous communities in the Indigenous Peoples Family Service Center, during which promotions of the control and prevention of human trafficking were implemented. Also, in an effort to increase public awareness of the incidents of R.O.C. (Taiwan) citizens being deceived into criminal work abroad (such as in Cambodia), which involved human trafficking, 209 educational workshops were held in 2022, with a total of 6,436 participants.

### **3.5 Promotion of the Action Plan on Human Rights and Fishery Industry:**

1. In the 2020 Trafficking in Persons Report, the U.S.

Department of State concluded that labor exploitation issues existed on fishing vessels in Taiwan's Distant Water Fleet (DWF), such as excessive working hours, poor environment, and severe verbal and physical abuse. It was noted that DWF vessels were involved in wage discrepancies, excessive overtime, degrading living conditions and care, and excessively-long fishing trips. Thus, Taiwan-caught fish was included in the List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor. In view of this, the Executive Yuan coordinated ministries and instructed the Council of Agriculture to consult with a certain number of ministries in May 2022. The Action Plan on Human Rights and Fishery Industry was approved by the Executive Yuan and implemented in October 2022.

2. The estimated budget for this four-year action plan (2022-2025) is NT\$603.62 million (approximately US\$19,268,055). Having taken into consideration the main issues about fisheries and human rights at the current stage, the Action plan has proposed seven implementation strategies, under which actions are outlined, to strengthen legal institution and ensure complete implementation. 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 below:

- (1) Full Implementation of Agreed Labor Conditions: Formulating the “Guidance on Salary Payment to Foreign Crew Members Employed Overseas” for operators’ reference. Operators will also be subject to verification and inspection to ensure full wage payment to foreign crew members. The minimum monthly wage will be increased from US\$450 to US\$550, and the operators will be required to maintain accurate attendance records of crew members.
- (2) Improvement on Living Conditions and Social Protection: Constructing on-shore living care facilities for foreign crew members in major domestic fishing ports; producing and distributing information cards with information on crew members’ rights and benefits and requiring information on crew members’ rights and benefits and complaint channels to be posted in the accommodation space on board.
- (3) Strengthening Management of Recruitment Agents: Increasing the inspection frequency of recruitment agents (including those who recruit domestically

employed foreign crew members) established in accordance with the Employment Service Act; Specifying recruitment agents' obligations and responsibilities. In the event where there is forced labor or human trafficking on board foreign-flagged vessels, the authorization of the recruitment agents involved being revoked or suspended when found they did not assume their legal responsibilities.

- (4) Increasing Monitoring and Control Capacity: Recruiting 52 additional manpower responsible for conducting labor inspection of crew members; drafting the Cooperative Mechanism for Strengthening Combat against Human Trafficking at Sea, and amending the Human Trafficking Prevention Act to increase the penalty for human trafficking; subsidizing 25 fishing vessels to be equipped with CCTV systems.
- (5) Strengthening Management of FOC-Vessels: The COA having amended the Regulations on the Approval of Investment in or the Operation of Foreign Flag Fishing Vessels in December, 2020, regulating labor conditions of FOC-Vessels when granting approval of new FOC-vessel application, and requiring submission of information on crew employed every six months; conducting cross-agency joint inspections of foreign-flagged fishing vessels entering Taiwanese ports, inspecting a total of 7

foreign fishing vessels in 2022.

- (6) Establishing and deepening international cooperation: Seeking cooperation on fishing crew members affairs with the main countries of origin of foreign crew members through channels including the missions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and the bilateral dialogue organized by the MOL.
- (7) Promoting Mutually-Beneficial Partnerships: Holding five (5) seminars for vessel operators annually, promoting corporate social responsibility. Holding at least four (4) human rights education trainings annually with fisheries associations and civic society organizations. Holding at least two (2) discussion meetings with migrant workers' rights promotion groups or civic society organizations.

## **4. Strengthening domestic and foreign partnerships**

### **4.1 Participation in International Exchanges and Activities**

#### **1. Ministry of Justice**

- (1) In February 2022, prosecutors from the Ministry of Justice, together with officials from the Agency Against Corruption attended online the 9th Anti-Corruption Authorities and Law Enforcement Agencies Network (ACT-NET) meetings, the First Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM1) of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in Thailand. The network aims to provide an effective platform for international cooperation, intelligence exchange, and

mutual legal assistance among the APEC member economies, and to strengthen the efforts to combat cross-border crimes.

- (2) Taiwan is a member of the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network of Asia/Pacific (ARIN-AP) and is invited to participate in officer training and the annual conference each year. The Ministry of Justice sent personnel to participate in the International Anti-Corruption Training Course which was held in Seoul, South Korea in October 2022, and sent delegates to attend the Annual Conference in Queenstown, New Zealand in November 2022. Aside from the briefings on Taiwan's legal system and current law enforcement put forward by the prosecutors attending the training course and annual conference. The MJIB investigators were also invited as interlocutors at the Annual Conference to participate in the various activities of the conference to promote understanding of Taiwan's commitment to combating crimes and law enforcement efforts. During the conference, Taiwan's delegates also exchanged opinions with the ministries of justice, prosecutors, and specialists from money laundering prevention units of various countries, which not only facilitated future cooperation of law enforcement; but also helped to draw on the experience of other countries in recovering proceeds of crime from human trafficking cases, serving as an

important reference for law enforcement agencies in Taiwan.

## 2. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- (1) In response to the concerns on DWF labor rights raised in the U.S. annual Trafficking in Persons Report, Taiwan has communicated with the U.S. through dialogs and explained to the U.S. properly the Action Plan on Human Rights and Fishery Industry. In addition, Taiwan and the U.S. convened a labor working group under the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA ) in 2022 to exchange views on labor issues of mutual concern.
- (2) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of the Interior, and the Mainland Affairs Council co-hosted the 2022 International Forum on Police Cooperation in September 2022. 2,500 police, judicial and law enforcement officers from nearly 42 countries in the Asia Pacific, Middle East, Africa, Europe, North America, Latin America, and the Caribbean were invited to the event in person and through teleconference. The theme of the conference is Combating Transnational Telecommunications Fraud in the Post-Pandemic Era, to strengthen the cooperation between the police administrative departments of Taiwan and other countries and to enhance the joint efforts to combat various transnational crimes, such as telecommunication



fraud, human trafficking and money laundering.

### 3. The National Immigration Agency

- (1) In August 2022, the immigration attaché of the R.O.C. (Taiwan) invited the Belgian Prosecutor's Office and the Australian Federal Police to Taiwan for the International Workshop on Strategies for Combating Human Trafficking 2022, to share their experiences and achievements in preventing trafficking in persons and to facilitate exchanges on the international prevention of trafficking in persons.
- (2) In September 2022, the immigration attachés of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States attended the one-way video conference on "The Relationship Between Government Corruption and Human Trafficking" organized by the Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (JTIP). In October 2022, the immigration attachés of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in Japan attended the video conference of the 18th partnership liaison against Human Trafficking held by the Japanese Community Safety Bureau of the National Police Agency to exchange experiences on human trafficking cases and the protection and sending victims back to their home countries.
- (3) In October 2022, the immigration attachés of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Malaysia

called on the Malaysian Immigration Department. In November 2022, the immigration attachés of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Miami called on the Bureau of Diplomatic Security of the United States Department of State to exchange on the prevention of human trafficking, with the hope of strengthening the exchange and cooperation in combating human trafficking at various levels.

(4) In November 2022, the immigration attachés of the Taipei Representative Office in the U.K. invited the International Liaison Officer of the National Crime Agency of the British Consulate-General Hong Kong to visit the National Immigration Agency in Taiwan and exchange on modern slavery, human trafficking, and illegal tourism activities.

4. The National Police Agency: The NPA stationed police liaison officers in Indonesia, Japan, 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 to investigate cross-border human trafficking.

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

##### **1. The Ministry of Labor**

(1) The MOL commissioned the production of a 30-minute educational video, dubbed into 5 languages (English, Indonesian, Mandarin, Thai, and

Vietnamese). Copies of the video 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) To solve the problem of labor shortage in industries and families, Taiwan opened borders to Filipino, Vietnamese, Indonesian, and Thai workers in 2022. In order to reduce over-reliance on a single labor source and to provide diverse choices, the Ministry of Labor has been actively exploring labor source countries. For example, continual visits and exchanges with respective institutes of target countries in Taiwan have been made since 2020, and working groups were set up by mutual agreement to confirm the follow-up cooperation and to ensure the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Meanwhile, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) has also been proactively consulting target countries to be in line with the New Southbound Policy.

## 2. Ministry of Justice

- (1) The Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Act was promulgated and came into force in May 2018, under which Taiwan has signed mutual legal assistance treaties (agreements) with 7 countries,

including Belize, Nauru, the Philippines, Poland, Slovakia, South Africa, and the United States, to allow us to request or provide legal assistance.

- (2) 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 Arrangement between the Government Of The Republic Of China (Taiwan) And The Government Of Saint Vincent And The Grenadines on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons and Cooperation in the Enforcement of Penal Sentences were signed in August 2022, and submitted to the Legislative Yuan for deliberations. After the Treaty enters into force, the two countries shall provide mutual assistance in connection with the criminal investigation, prosecution, court proceedings, examining witnesses by video conference, providing documents of evidence, executing requests for searches and seizures, and prevention of offenses; and after the Arrangement comes into effect, if the sentenced person consents to the transfer and the conditions for transfer are met, the sentenced person may be transferred to the territory of the receiving authorities to continue serving the sentence. It enhances the corrective effects and demonstrates the spirit of humanitarianism. The arrangement is also symbolic of the fruitful results of

friendship and judicial cooperation between Taiwan and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

- (3) The Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters between the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the Government of the Republic of Palau was signed in August 2022, and submitted to the Legislative Yuan for deliberations. After the Treaty enters into force, the two countries shall provide mutual assistance in connection with the criminal investigation, prosecution, court proceedings, examining witnesses by video conference, providing evidence, serving documents, locating or identifying persons, such as examining objects and sites, executing requests for searches and seizures, assisting in proceedings related to immobilization and confiscation of assets or collection of fines, and any other form of assistance. With prior consent, the law enforcement authorities of both countries may examine witnesses by video conference, or taking the testimony or evidence with the help of technological equipment when a witness or a defendant is present to enhance the efficiency of cross-border evidence collection. Also, through the establishment of a joint investigation involving members from both authorities, investigations of cross-border offenses may be conducted more effectively and the aim of preventing crimes could be achieved.

- (4) The Judicial Yuan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the NIA jointly held a Consultation Meeting on the Communication of Mutual Judicial Assistance in Civil Matters in Vietnam in October 2022. They also visited the competent authorities of mutual legal assistance in criminal matters in Vietnam to actively promote judicial cooperation between the two countries.
  - (5) In December 2022, the Ministry of Justice visited the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) headquarters in Washington, D.C., where the U.S. side briefed on its experience and strategies in investigating human trafficking cases and exchanged views on possible cooperation between Taiwan and the United States.
3. Ministry of Foreign Affairs: In 2022, Taiwan and the United States worked together to support the Republic of Marshall Islands in human trafficking prevention. Taiwan provided approximately US\$33,000 to the Malaysian Ministry of Justice to carry out relevant programs, while the United States sponsored the Asia Foundation (TAF) through a funding program from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), to carry out anti-trafficking activities in Malaysia. TAF thus brought in technical experts and deployed effective preventions. The USAID also provided US\$100,000 to assist in the establishment of shelters and to provide consultation services to victims of human trafficking.

4. The National Immigration Agency: The NIA made efforts to facilitate cooperation on immigration matters and combating human trafficking. Up to the end of 2022, Taiwan has signed 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, effectively enhancing international cooperation on immigration affairs, cross-border crime prevention, and anti-TIP efforts.

#### **4.3 Sponsoring or participating in events organized by domestic civil organizations**

1 The Ministry of Labor: The MOL continued to subsidize civil organizations to organize lectures, cultural exchanges, festivals, and Chinese and foreign language courses for employers, migrant workers, and agents. These activities served as a platform to promote the prevention of human trafficking, employers' attention to migrant workers' safety and privacy protection, and fulfillment of due diligence in taking care of migrant workers' lives, as well as the 1955 hotline consultation and complaint channels.

2. The Fisheries Agency: To enhance the experience of managing labor conditions in the international fishing

industry, in 2022 the FA subsidized NGOs to organize relevant conferences and invited relevant fishery organizations to attend as guests.

## **5. Achievement of Programs for Cambodia Incident**

In 2022, it was found that, in order to avoid detection and legal punishment, fraud syndicates, taking advantage of the challenges of cross-border investigations in evidence collection and rapid development of social media, recruited people on social media (such as Facebook and LINE) with appealing offers (such as no experience necessary, over one million dollars of annual salary, make fast cash) to lure job seekers to Southeast Asian countries (such as Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand) and other areas (such as Dubai). According to the reports and data of Taiwanese seeking emergency assistance abroad, the MOFA and NPA staff stationed abroad found that the reported cases increased rapidly. In response to this, the Executive Yuan called 2 inter-ministerial discussion meetings in August 2022 on “Measures Taken to R.O.C. (Taiwan) Citizens Lured To Work Abroad Involving Crimes or Human Trafficking” and proposed to take into consideration of proactive promoting victim rescue, prosecutions and maximum punishments by law, advocating against overseas frauds, intensified and diverse prevention and advocacy, and strengthened protection of the rights and benefits of Taiwanese victims after returning to Taiwan. It was decided that competent agencies should carry out victim rescues as soon as possible in accordance with their functions. The



achievements of the implementation are set out below:

## **5.1 The Ministry of Labor**

### **1. Enforced Promotion of Recruitment Fraud Prevention**

In conjunction with local governments, the MOL has stepped up the promotion of recruitment fraud prevention, reminding the public of following a 3 Yes's and 7 No's Principle when hunting for jobs, and has set up a section on Taiwan Jobs for adolescents looking for part-time jobs. It prints a manual to avoid workplace traps when job hunting. It has also developed the "Overseas Employment Self-Check Form" (which includes reminders before choosing jobs, before boarding planes, and after arriving at an overseas location) with tips for fraud prevention and overseas employment.

### **2. Establishment of a new procedure for detecting and handling unusual recruitment information online**

In October 2022, the MOL invited social media platform operators to discuss the management of recruitment information. If any unusual advertisement is detected and hard to trace, the MOL or local governments can take a screenshot of the content and report it to the operators through the platform's internal report mechanism to have the ads deleted, taken down, or have the access of the user suspended. Also, in November 2022, the MOL invited local governments to review relevant inspection procedures, so that if any unusual recruitment message is detected, the local government

shall notify platform operators of such message and anyone making such false ads in violation of the Employment Service Act shall be fined in accordance with the Act. In 2022, local governments uncovered a total of 14,429 cases of unusual recruitment ads and then provided help to make improvements. 304 reported cases were accepted and 10 of them were fined, with a total of NT\$1,950,000 (approximately US\$ 62450) in fines.

3. Strengthened inspection of job vacancies and raise public awareness

The MOL supervised private employment services institutions to confirm that employers are incorporated and registered with the competent authorities and strengthen the inspection of the rationalization of contents of job vacancies. The MOL also instructed the Manpower Bank to vet job vacancies in high-risk overseas countries (Cambodia, Kenya, Laos, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, and the United Arab Emirates) on the principle of not being advertised, including sex industry and gambling industry and screen out those job vacancies with descriptions of exaggerated benefits and perks, vague job contents, financial investment lures, and so on.

4. Intensified inter-agency liaison and cooperation with the police agencies

The NPA's Anti-fraud Center has used information technology to search for fraud cases on social media

platforms and sent them to platform operators for follow-up. In the future, the MOL will strengthen inter-agency liaison and cooperation with the police agencies to have the perpetrators investigated and punished according to the law.

5. Mechanisms for assisting deceived overseas employment victims to find jobs after returning to Taiwan

In accordance with the “Guidelines on the Return and Protection Program of R.O.C. (Taiwan) Nationals Being Trafficked or Victimized and Being Forced into Criminal Activities Overseas” issued by the MOI, the NIA, the MOHW, and the WDA have formulated a referral service procedure for those who are in need of employment services. 7 cases were accepted in 2022, of which 2 were employed, 1 was enrolled in a vocational training program and 4 were lost contact.

## **5.2 Ministry of Justice**

1. The Association for Victims Support produced the Guidelines on Services for Human Trafficking Cases of Overseas Employment and Tourism in September 2022, providing explanations on intake, assessment, evaluation, treatment, and resource inquiries. Also, the Guidelines on the Return and Protection Program of R.O.C. (Taiwan) Nationals Being Trafficked or Victimized and Being Forced into Criminal Activities Overseas issued by the MOI shall be complied with when handling victim protection in such incidents. In 2022, the Association provided 15 cases of needs assessment

services for victims of human trafficking, 12 cases of trial assistance or counseling, 14 cases of emergency assistance, 10 cases of care services, and 16 cases of psychological counseling.

2. In 2022, the Investigation Bureau referred 25 people in 9 cases of overseas employment frauds to District Prosecutor's Office for investigations.

### **5.3 The Ministry of Education**

1. Promotion against overseas work fraud and human trafficking to graduates and drop-out students:

- (1) In a series of activities (such as career and workplace-related symposiums, lectures, workshops, recruitment orientations, and job fairs) organized by colleges and universities and senior high schools, the MOE supervised colleges and universities and senior high schools to incorporate the topics of overseas work fraud and human trafficking into employment counseling to enhance students' awareness of self-protection and safety.

- (2) The MOE integrated the employment counseling resources (with the Youth Development Administration of the MOE, the MOL, and other administrative agencies) to assist graduates or current students in career planning; and coordinated with the policies and publicity measures (of the NPA and the NIA), to boost students' awareness of the risks of overseas work fraud and human trafficking.

2. Education and awareness increase to promote against fraud and human trafficking:

- (1) The MOE established quick guides on employment frauds, and e-posters of “Be Aware of Overseas Work Fraud” and “Don’t Be Fooled by One-Page Ads” and mailed them to education authorities and schools at all levels across the country to carry out the promotion in December 2022.
- (2) In October 2022, the MOE and the Anti-Money Laundering Office of the Executive Yuan co-organized the 2022 Anti-Money Laundering Seminar for National Colleges and Universities. Prosecutors and special agents shared information with the academic staff on money laundering pipelines of virtual assets, online games, and online gambling, as well as patterns of money laundering issues encountered by students of colleges and universities, aiming to raise the students’ awareness of money laundering to avoid falling into the money traps of criminal organizations and becoming helpers of money laundering.
- (3) In November 2022, the MOE updated the publicity materials of a number of ministries at the central government level and make version 2 of the “Overview of Central Government Ministries Anti-Fraud (Including Overseas Work Fraud and Human Trafficking) Publicity Websites and Publicity

Materials” (including links to 15 publicity websites and 35 publicity materials/videos). Schools at all levels were instructed to incorporate these materials into the ‘Friendly Campus Week’ and the curriculum properly, and to carry out age-diversified thematic anti-fraud publicity in assembly activities.

3. Any school aware of any student involved in overseas employment fraud or human trafficking should report in accordance with the Operation Rules of Campus Security and Disaster Event Reporting and related regulations, and classify the incident as an emergency to effectively protect student safety.
4. Schools were urged to use publicity materials or videos produced by various ministries to raise awareness among students, such as “Taiwanese duped by job scams in Cambodia” and “Overseas Employment Fraud Awareness Slogan” by the MOFA and the NPA, as well as the video “Don’t fool me!” produced by the NPA and a YouTuber.

#### **5.4 The Ministry of Transportation and Communications**

1. Strengthening publicity and assistance for preventing outbound R.O.C. (Taiwan) citizens from overseas employment frauds: Promoting at airports and airlines, such as putting up multimedia equipment, and signboards at Taipei, Taoyuan, Taichung, and Kaohsiung airports, or pushing warning signs and posters produced by the MOFA and the MOI on social network websites;

requesting airlines to remind passengers spotted of any unusual behavior of the relevant anti-fraud information at check-in counters and notify the Aviation Police Bureau of the National Police Agency for assistance when necessary.

2. CAA has promulgated the “Assistance Mechanism for R.O.C. (Taiwan) Nationals Lured to Southeast Asian Countries to Seek Help on Board Aircraft” so that if a passenger seeks help on board an aircraft, notification procedures will be activated and relevant assistance will be provided.

### **5.5 The Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

1. Reminding and promotion: The MOFA launched promotional campaigns to proactively remind the public to avoid fraudulent information, and to strengthen the sense of self-protection: (1) In August 2022, the MOFA set up an “Overseas Employment Trap Alert” section on its official website to upload relevant advocacy materials from various ministries. (2) Printed warning posters were placed in the consular lobbies and service counters of the MOFA’s Consular Affairs Bureau, the Central Taiwan Office, the Southwestern Taiwan Office, the Southern Taiwan Office, the Eastern Taiwan Office, and the Taoyuan Airport Visa Office. (3) Anti-Fraud Cards were enclosed in newly issued passports for the reference of the public. (4) The MOFA promoted the prevention of overseas employment fraud to the returning delegation of

the Emergency Assistance Association. (5) Anti-Fraud promotional campaigns and prized quizzes were held at events such as the Taipei Tourism Expo and the Taiwan Reading Festival's Reading Carnival. (6) Online learning activities were organized to raise awareness of the prevention of overseas employment fraud among high school, junior high school, and elementary school students.

2. Prevention and Curbing: The MOFA would forward the information collected by relevant overseas missions regarding scam cases and R.O.C. (Taiwan) citizens seeking help regularly to the NPA and provide such information in cooperation with the law enforcement agency for investigation.
3. Rescue Assistance: In cases involving major international crimes (such as fraud and human trafficking), the Emergency Rescue Task Force set up by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Ho Chi Minh City, the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Thailand, and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Myanmar takes charge of the operation. Members of the task force, including MOFA personnel stationed in the countries as well as personnel from the NPA, the MOJ, and the NIA, continued to make further exchanges with the local police and judiciary authorities to establish an inter-agencies communication for instant exchange of intelligence and response to the situation, so as to rescue



the victims of human trafficking.

## **5.6 National Police Agency**

1. In 2022, police departments accepted a total of 693 reports (693 people) from the public. At the command of the MOI, by establishing the rescue program, promoting an inter-ministerial working group, and setting up a rescue team with the Global Anti-Scam Organization (GASO), Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce in Southeastern Asia, Cambodian Red Cross Society, religious groups, and other NGOs, 421 R.O.C. (Taiwan) citizens were rescued and sent home (including those with the inter-ministerial supports and cooperation of public and private sectors, and those returning home by themselves). Among them, 237 were identified as victims of human trafficking, including 24 being referred to local government social units for services and 1 being provided with placement and protection. 155 cases were set up by the police departments for investigation and referred to the prosecutor's office, with 463 seized suspects, 90 of which were detained by the court's ruling.
2. The NPA set up a program called "Instant Notification and Joint Interdiction Mechanism", whereby police agencies shall notify the Aviation Police Bureau within one hour of receiving reports of R.O.C. (Taiwan) citizens being victims (or suspected victims) of overseas employment frauds, so as to facilitate the interdiction of the victim before departure.

3. The NPA produced publicity materials and videos, such as “Taiwanese duped by job scams in Cambodia”, “Overseas Employment Fraud Awareness Slogan”, and “Don’t fool me!”.

### **5.7 The National Immigration Agency**

1. The achievement of overseas offices staffed with immigration attachés:

- (1) Joining the task force under the command of the overseas missions: The NIA has stationed immigration attachés in representatives’ offices (including Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam) to join the task forces to handle cases of R.O.C. (Taiwan) citizens being lured to high-risk countries under the command of the head of the overseas offices., the task force joined to co-handle the cases: The NIA has stationed immigration attachés in representatives’ offices (including Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam) to join the task forces to handle cases of R.O.C. (Taiwan) citizens being lured to high-risk countries, under the command of the head of the overseas offices.
- (2) Rescue work launched to help Taiwanese victims back home: Upon receiving reports of R.O.C. (Taiwan) citizens being suspected victims, immigration attachés of the NIA immediately joined the overseas missions to identify the whereabouts of the Taiwanese victims, coordinated with the relevant authorities of

the host countries to assist in the rescue work, and made arrangements for sending victims home. Immigration attachés assisted a total of 314 Taiwanese to return home in 2022.

- (3) Rescue manpower for the specific program: In September 2022, 2 mission-oriented attachés were dispatched to Thailand, and 1 to Cambodia in October, to strengthen the liaison with the Thai and Cambodian immigration (police) authorities to expedite the returns of Taiwanese victims.

2. Achievements of domestic duty units/implementation units: Advocate, discourage and interdict R.O.C. (Taiwan) citizens before departure (pre-emptive prevention):

- (1) For any R.O.C. (Taiwan) citizen traveling to countries at high risk of human trafficking, traveling abroad for the first time, or having concerns or being uncertain of itineraries, step-up measures were taken to advocate and discourage them from leaving the country.
- (2) Care (subsequent supports) for victims of overseas frauds: Upon receipt of notification of the return of suspected victims of Cambodian human trafficking, the NIA notified the police departments for follow-up investigations, and provided victims arriving at the airport with the “Entry Care Notice” with information on reporting crimes, application of legal aids, protection and placement, and other services provided

by various governmental agencies as well as the contact information.

(3) Screening and tracking of human trafficking syndicates: The domestic units of the NIA further analyzed the entry/exit information of passengers who have not yet returned from Cambodia, the list of R.O.C. (Taiwan) citizens seeking help from overseas missions, and related information and filtered out suspected victims and members of fraud syndicates, in order to track down suspects in Taiwan and the network of human trafficking syndicates behind recent incidents.

## **IV. Future endeavors**

### **1. Prosecution**

#### **1.1 Initiating the Study of the “Basic Law of Sentencing in Criminal Cases”**

1. In order 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 2019 to study and draft the Basic Law of Sentencing in Criminal Cases. The Committee convened 20 meetings between 2020 and 2021 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. The above draft was approved by the Judicial Yuan in December 2021 and

submitted to the Legislative Yuan for deliberation.

2. 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 Investigative skills**

1. Judicial police authorities will continue to investigate organized and syndicated human trafficking cases, so as to trace the origin of human trafficking cases and expand the scope of investigations. Also, judicial police agencies will strengthen education and training in detection, evidence collection, and related laws, and enhance investigative skills to effectively crack down on illegal syndicates. In addition, the NIA will expand inquiries into the seized, received (accepted), self-reported, detained foreigners, and apply investigative techniques to uncover clues. It will also work with national security units under its jurisdiction to implement expanded and joint inspection duties, and hold coordination conferences. In places where migrant workers tend to visit or illegal workplaces under suspicion, it will continue to strengthen the deployment of criminal intelligence and implement joint and proactive

inspections.

2. To pass on the experience and cultivate trainers, the NIA continues to organize the Seed Instructor Training Program, with skilled judicial police officers handling human trafficking cases to be the target trainees. Prosecutors and experienced officers were invited to give lectures on the investigation of human trafficking cases and key points in evidence collection. The Seed Instructors training was conducted through case studies, in the hope to foster these Seed Instructors to lead judicial police officers in future investigations.

## **2. Protection**

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

The MOHW will continue to urge relevant agencies to carry out educational promotions 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, in conjunction with the competent authorities in charge of relevant industries or businesses.

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

The Judicial police agencies handling suspected human trafficking cases may invite, whenever necessary, social workers or other professionals to accompany the victim(s)

in the investigation and assist in victim identification. The NIA will continue to look into the feasibility of expanding the database of available social workers to accompany victims in investigations. This includes the integration of local governments and civil society organizations to support governments and civil society organizations to support the accompaniment in investigations. The combined and expanded roster works in favor of the instant dispatch of professional helpers to a scheduled interrogation so that the accompanying social workers or other professionals get to help stabilize the mood of the victims in the investigations and thus the victims get to state the situation of their victimization clearly. During the process, accompanying social workers and professionals also serve to pass on to the social workers and professionals also serve to social workers and professionals also serve to pass on to victims information concerning the victims' rights and interests in getting protections and services provided by the government.

### **2.3 Implementation of the victim protections**

1. To avoid misunderstandings and 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. Also, the judicial police should refer to the “Guideline of Human Trafficking Victim Identification” and the “Human Trafficking Victims Identification Indicators” formulated by the MOJ to implement interrogation techniques.

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 release. 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, 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 Finalizing the Amendment of the Human Trafficking Prevention Act as the supportive regulation**

1. The Human Trafficking Prevention Act has not been substantially amended since its implementation in June 2009. In order to comply with international trafficking in-person protocols and to deepen the protection of victims’ rights, the full amendment was drafted and



submitted to the Executive Yuan for review and passed by the Legislative Yuan in May 2023. Competent authorities (units) and civil organizations will be convened to discuss supporting measures, so as to make the Human Trafficking Prevention Act in line with international standards.

## 2. Highlights of the amendment:

- (1) Considering that some countries have included the conduct of subjecting victims to engage in criminal activities for exploitation as one kind of labor exploitation, the definition of labor exploitation was amended to include the conduct of subjecting victims to “engage in a conduct punishable under the laws of the R.O.C. (Taiwan)” as acts of labor exploitation.
- (2) The amendment adds the provisions that suspected victims who are dissatisfied with the identification results may file an objection with the superior authorities (units) through the original identification authorities (units), so as to expedite the remedial procedures. Also, in order to help foreign victims stay in Taiwan to seek employment and encourage them to testify or identify the offender, the amendment adds the provisions that the central competent authorities may issue one-year residence permits; and in order to provide diverse choices for any human trafficking victim of a R.O.C. (Taiwan) national or foreign victim that is in need of sheltering services, non-institutional

sheltering services (shelter homes) have been added, with a view to deepening the protection of victims' rights and interests.

- (3) In order to prevent the recurrence of the Cambodian incident, punishments are aggravated. Anyone exploiting and making use of the victim to conduct acts punishable under the R.O.C. (Taiwan) laws shall be sentenced to imprisonment for more than one year and less than seven years of imprisonment; and anyone who recruits, transports, accommodates, and conducts other illegal acts, by force, threat, fraud, or other means, for the intention of subjecting victims to exploitations shall be sentenced to imprisonment under five years, and if the victim is under 18 years old, the offender shall be sentenced to imprisonment less than seven years, in the hope that aggravated penalty would severely punish the offenders.

### **3.2 Deepening the protection of the rights and interests of foreign crew members employed abroad**

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 be continued, examining the senior crew and ship owner compliance with relevant fishery laws, and the offenses of human trafficking. Also, continual negotiations with the 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 inspection 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 the interviews. If necessary, the interview could be conducted together with judicial police agencies. Victim-centered interviews could be conducted during portside and 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 and enhance the functions of investigative agencies in comprehensive detection and victim identification.

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 to

employment contracts (such as Mandarin, English, Vietnamese and Indonesian versions) and distributed promotional pamphlets with above mentioned hotline (such as Mandarin, English, Vietnamese and Indonesian versions) when conducting labor inspections. Information on crew members' rights and benefits and compliant channels should be available in the cabins of fishing vessels.

5. Strengthening advocacy among crew members: Aside from 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.

### **3.3 Optimizing 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 July 2022 to discuss measures for protecting migrant domestic workers and conduct reviews to be in line with the promotion of the long-term care system.
2. In order to protect the wage rights (the right to be paid) of domestic migrant workers, in August 2022, the

Employment Stabilization Fund Management Committee under the Ministry of Labor approved a salary adjustment program for domestic migrant workers to increase the monthly salary of newly hired domestic migrant workers from NT\$17,000 (approximately US\$ 543) to NT\$20,000 (approximately US\$ 638), and suggested the monthly salary to be raised by NT\$1,000 (approximately US\$ 32) when continuing to work for the same employer for three years and another NT\$1,000 when continuing to work for the same employer for six years. The MOL will continue to step up its efforts in this regard.

3. 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) to protect their labor rights, and the labor standard must comply with the labor contract verified by the competent authority in the home country of the foreign worker and related provisions in Employment Service Act. In case of any dispute, domestic workers can apply for mediation of labor disputes or initiate litigation according to the Civil Code to protect their rights and interests.
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 2022, and migrant workers can consult information on legal assistance and labor insurance through the toll-free 4-language (English, Indonesia, Thai, and Vietnamese) hotline (0800-665-800), so as to assist migrant workers fit in with the life in Taiwan.

### **3.4 Enforcing the Implementation of the Notification Mechanism and Preventive Promotion**

#### **1. The Ministry of Transportation and Communications**

(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, 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. The MOTC also assists hotel operators in establishing self-discipline pacts including the duty to report cases of sex tourism and protective measures.

2. 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 investigation and rescue.

## **4. Partnership**

### **4.1 Continuously Strengthening International Exchanges and Cooperation**

#### **1. Ministry of Justice**

- (1) The MOJ maintains smooth communications with the mutual legal assistance of various countries in order to readily provide assistance to prosecutors investigating human trafficking cases on matters related to judicial cooperation. In addition, The MOJ keeps close contact with the judicial police authorities, immigration attachés, legal attachés, and liaison officers of the R.O.C. (Taiwan) embassies and missions abroad to establish a bridge of communication and to obtain intelligence on human trafficking cases.
- (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 (agreement) 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

- (1) Promoting international police cooperation through platforms such as Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) and the network of 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 investigation



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, so as to strengthen bilateral partnerships.

#### **4.2 Maintaining cooperation between central and local authorities to prevent 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 supervisory 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.

#### **4.3 Collaborative Implementation of the 2023-2024 Anti-Exploitation Action Plan**

1. The NIA formulates an Anti-Exploitation Action Plan every 2 years to consolidate resources and strengthen the

central government's efforts to promote human trafficking prevention and to encourage local governments to cooperate with or refer to the central government's plans and strategies for implementation.

2. The "2023-2024 Anti-Exploitation Action Plan" includes a review of the Cambodian incident and key issues raised by various sectors that need to be strengthened in the efforts to prevent human trafficking, such as the protection of the rights and interests of foreign students, fishermen, and migrant domestic workers, etc. The central authorities will put forward specific measures and continue the follow-up management in the Cabinet-Level Anti-Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Coordination Task Force under the Executive Yuan.

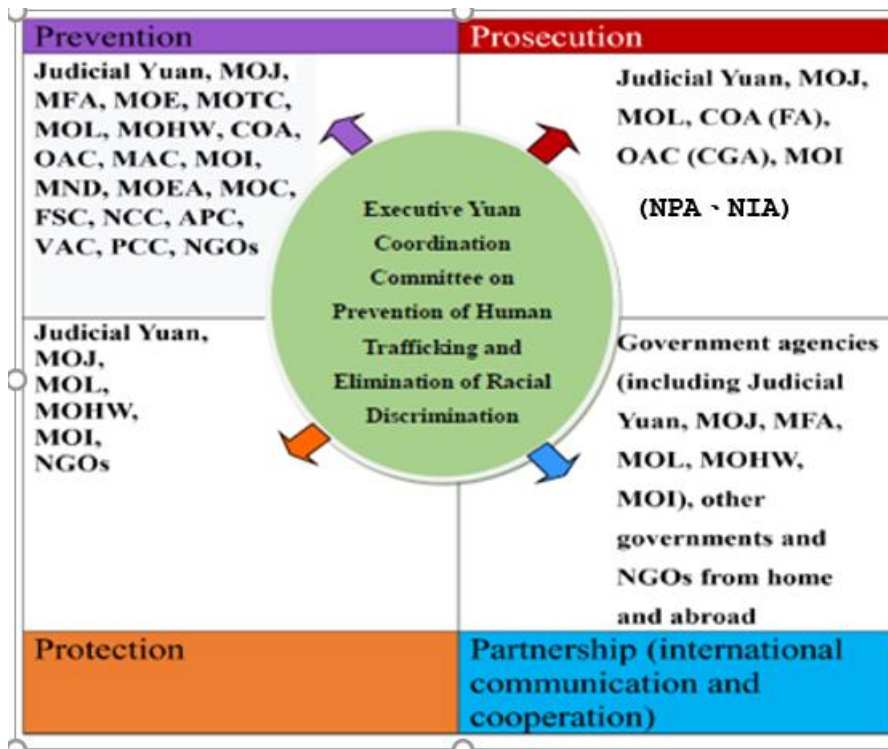
## **V. Conclusion**

Taiwan's government has achieved concrete results in the overall efforts to prevent human trafficking, despite of incidents of crew members on FOC vessels in Taiwan's DWF fleet, labor exploitation of foreign students, and R.O.C. (Taiwan) citizens' employment scams in Cambodia in recent years. In order to crack down on crimes of human trafficking and eradicate the occurrence of human trafficking cases, Taiwan has formulated the "2021-2022 Anti-Exploitation Action Plan" and the "Action Plan on Human Rights and Fishery Industry", and amended the "Human Trafficking Prevention Act" to establish a sound prevention system. The system has been implemented by various authorities in cooperation with civil organizations and will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

Looking ahead, Taiwan will continue to enhance the professional knowledge of judicial police authorities in investigating human trafficking cases and carrying out the rescue work of human trafficking victims. With the third reading of the "Human Trafficking Prevention Act", not only will the victims have access to more comprehensive and diversified placements and treatments, but also will the fight against human trafficking be expanded, so that no matter whether criminal syndicates use victims to engage in criminal conducts or criminal syndicates engage in criminal trafficking, there will be penalties for them, in the hope to prevent crime before it happens. In addition, we will promote sustainable

prevention by strengthening the effective coordination between the public sector and civil organizations and working closely with all sectors, so as to fulfill two approaches of combating human trafficking works in tandem with victim protection. That will bring forth the spirit of the Human Trafficking Prevention Act and manifest the constitutional principle of protecting human rights.

**TABLE 1 : Interagency Tip Prevention Mechanism**



**TABLE 2 : Statistics Of Tip Cases Investigated By  
Judicial Police Agencies From 2009 To 2022**

Year	Cases 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

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

**TABLE 3 : Cases Prosecuted And Persons Indicted For Tip-Related Offences By District Prosecutor’s Offices From 2009 To 2021**

Year	Cases Prosecuted	Persons Indicted	Type Of Cases			
			Labor Exploitation		Sexual Exploitation	
			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

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 2022**

Unit: Person(s)

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

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



**TABLE 5 : Type And Number Of Hiring Violation Cases  
From 2009 To 2022**

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 imposed	981	3,563	13	723
	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			

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

**TABLE 6 : Type And Number Of Broker Violation Cases  
From 2009 To 2022**

Violation		Collecting unauthorized fees	Failure to perform entrusted duties, causing employers' violation of the law	Illegal brokerage (including individuals and entities)
Year/No. of cases				
2009	Fine(s) imposed	110	52	92
	Business operation suspended	10	0	10
2010	Fine(s) imposed	22	52	62
	Business operation suspended	2	1	17
2011	Fine(s) imposed	21	58	81
	Business operation suspended	6	1	18
2012	Fine(s) imposed	23	60	73
	Business operation suspended	12	3	9
2013	Fine(s) imposed	16	64	106
	Business operation suspended	5	2	14
2014	Fine(s) imposed	5	65	98
	Business operation suspended	8	5	13
2015	Fine(s) imposed	2	83	109
	Business operation suspended	2	1	10
2016	Fine(s) imposed	6	58	110
	Business operation suspended	4	0	7
2017	Fine(s) imposed	6	65	115
	Business operation suspended	5	0	6
2018	Fine(s) imposed	4	77	123
	Business operation suspended	1	0	2
2019	Fine(s) imposed	15	65	134
	Business operation suspended	7	0	4
2020	Fine(s) imposed	15	81	106
	Business operation suspended	12	0	6
2021	Fine(s) imposed	15	84	113
	Business operation suspended	11	0	4
2022	Fine(s) imposed	10	115	123
	Business operation suspended	7	0	1

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

**TABLE 7 : Statistics Of Foreign TIP Victims Placed In Shelters From 2009 To 2022**

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

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

**TABLE 8 : Inspection Visits Of Overseas Employment  
Of Foreign (Fishing) Crew Members From  
2019 To 2022**

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

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

**TABLE 9 : Punishments For (Fishing) Ship Owner's Violation From 2019 To 2022**

<b>Violation type</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>No. of violations</b>	<b>Cumulative penalty amount (NT\$)</b>	<b>Duration of license suspension (Months)</b>
Employment without permission	2019	98	1,259	24
	2020	126	1,234	-
	2021	33	349	-
	2022	17	115	-
Wage violations	2019	5	110	3
	2020	7	155	6
	2021	7	155	6
	2022	2	45	-
Working hour violations	2019	1	-	3
	2020	-	-	-
	2021	-	-	-
payroll roster not kept	2019	1	5	-
	2020	2	10	-
	2021	2	10	-
Labor not related to fishing	2020	1	5	-
	2021	-	-	-
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
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	-
Failure to renew the contract after expiration	2020	1	5	-
Violation of regulations on living conditions	2021	1	9	-
Failure to ensure foreign crew members enjoy the same welfare and labour protection as others of the same position	2021	1	10	-
Failure to use a template of the employment contract	2021	1	17	-

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

**TABLE 10 : Cases For Broker's Violations And Fines  
Imposed From 2019 To 2022**

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

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



**TABLE 11 : Statistics Of 1955 Hotline Complaints Filed  
By Overseas Foreign (Fishing) Crew Members  
From 2019 To 2022**

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

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