



ข่าวสารนิเทศ • Press Release

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Thailand's Progress in Combating IUU Fishing

On 14 January 2016, the Command Center for Combatting Illegal Fishing (CCCIF) held a press conference to provide latest updates on the government's efforts in combating IUU fishing. Several concrete results and progress have been highlighted in the following five areas, including restructuring of the legal framework, development of key systems, law enforcement, enhancing international cooperation, and assistance to victims of illegal fishing.

1. Restructuring of Legal framework

The Royal Ordinance on Fisheries B.E. 2558 (2015) has entered into force since 14 November 2015. The law has two main objectives; namely, elimination of illegal fishing and promotion of sustainable fishing industry. These goals can be achieved through five mechanisms including licensing system, vessel monitoring system, vessel inspection, traceability system and effective law enforcement. The law is being implemented by 28 port-in-port-out (PiPo) Centers and officers from the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Labour, Marine Department and Mobile Team units. To promote understanding about these major legal changes, a "fishermen's" legal handbook has been published.

2. Development of key systems

Two main systems have been set up. First, Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) system has been established at the CCCIF and the Department of Fisheries. This system will soon be integrated with all the local centers. Moreover, vessel monitoring systems (VMS) have also been installed in 2,076 out of 2,216 fishing vessels of 60 gross tonnage or more (93.7 percent). The installation of this particular system has led to more effective monitoring and detecting of vessels that engage in illegal fishing. Second, traceability system has also been launched which enables relevant officers and consumers to detect whether fishery products originate from illegal fishing. The components of this mechanism include: a) E-License system which will be operational by 30 March 2016, b) Real-time and online vessel registration system that has been operational since December 2015, c) training course for observers on board fishing vessels (the first batch has finished their training on 4 December 2015, and will be ready for deployment in January 2016), and d) capacity building programme such as training courses and operational manuals for officers involved.

3. Law enforcement

Law enforcement in fishing vessels and marine products processing plants have been implemented. With regard to fishing vessels, special task force units comprising several agencies have been set up to inspect vessels and enforce the law. To date, 474 fishing vessels of 60 gross tonnage or more operating in Thai waters (215 percent of

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the E.U.'s recommendations) and 73 of those operating outside Thai waters have been inspected. In total, 90 were found to violate the laws and are being prosecuted. In addition, a temporary ban on transshipment at sea has been imposed for a period of 180 days starting from 25 December 2015. The ban is designed to eliminate the possibility of transshipment of IUU fish and illegal labour by Thai-flagged vessels operating in high seas and territorial waters of foreign states. In our effort to legalise foreign workforce, employers are urged to register their foreign workers in order to get work permits by February 2016. At the moment, over 35,000 have done so. Moreover, on 12 January 2016 the Cabinet has approved in principle two additional measures aiming to boost worker's rights. These are (1) a draft Ministerial Regulation on Prohibition on hiring of labor ages less than 18 years old B.E..... and (2) a Bill on Human Trafficking Case Procedure B.E.

4. International cooperation

Thailand realizes that the combat against illegal fishing requires close collaboration with international partners both governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. First, MoUs on fisheries and labour have been signed or in process of negotiation with 13 countries ranging from our immediate neighbours to pacific island nations as well as a European member state. For instance, Thailand has signed bilateral MoUs on labour importation with Cambodia and Vietnam, and another one on Agriculture and Fisheries with Fiji. Second, international organizations such as Green Peace, EJF (Environmental Justice Foundation) and ILO (International Labor Organization) have also recognised Thailand's effort in tackling illegal fishing and have thus extended valuable and continued support in enhancing vessel monitoring system as well as in promoting labour standards.

5. Assistance for affected fishermen and fisheries workers

The Royal Thai Government is determined to help victims of human trafficking in the industry. For instance, 1,398 of Thai fishing seamen have returned to Thailand, among whom 54 are victims of trafficking. Zoning distinguishing commercial and artisanal fishing vessels will also be introduced, in consultation with all those involved. This will assist small scale local fishermen to stay in the business. Furthermore, 70 percent of 873 fishing vessels that have submitted their requests have been granted financial assistance, and the remaining ones are being expedited. All of these measures will ensure that legal, legitimate and sustainable fisheries will not be affected by our fight against the illegal fishing.

In conclusion, the Royal Thai Government is committed to work closely with all the relevant stakeholders, including the private sector and civil societies in order to combat illegal fishing and to foster a sense of collective responsibility on this issue on all parts. The result of the EU evaluation is beyond the Government's control. Nevertheless, whatever the outcome of the EU's decision shall be, Thailand reiterates its unwavering efforts to fight illegal fishing in order to protect and preserve the marine resources and promote sustainable fishing for our future generations

15 January 2016

The Joint Standing Committee on Commerce, Industry and Banking (KorKorRor) together with private sector notify their operations in tackling human trafficking and fishing issues.

15 January 2016

The Joint Standing Committee on Commerce, Industry and Banking (KorKorRor) which comprise of Thai Chamber of Commerce; Thai Federation of Industries and Thai Bankers Association together with Thai Fishery Producers Coalition (TFPC) which comprise of eight (8) fishery product related associations namely the Thai Frozen Food Association; Thai Food Processors' Association; Thai Shrimp Association; Thai Tuna Industry Association; National Fishery Association of Thailand; Thai Overseas Fishery Association; Thai Fishmeal Association; Thai Fishmeal Producer Association and Charoen Pokphand Foods Public Company Limited (Thailand). which all their members are also members of the Thai Chamber of Commerce and the Thai Federation of Industries, are jointly notified the progress of their operations by the private sector i.e. the manufacturers and exporters in solving Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing throughout the supply chain of fishery products, and that they are strictly responsible and comply with the Fisheries Act 2015, International Standard in fishing and producing fisheries products on the sustainable basis without the use of child labor, labor trafficking nor exploiting workers.

Dr. Poj Aramwattananont stated on behalf of all the above mentioned private sector that all of these sectors have confirmed to cooperate and support all the policies and all the activities of the Government. Each and every trade association has amended their operations in accordance with the rules, regulations and policy as set by the Government in order to effectively create sustainable development and build up the confidence that IUU Fishing should be eliminated as soon as possible for the wealth of aquatic resources of Thailand. These practices will be in accordance with World Standards and there will be no risk of the raw materials derived from IUU fishing to contaminate in the production chain. Thus the operations in the fishing industry can be traced back (Traceability), no child labor, no trafficking labor nor labor exploitation. Each organization has operated as follows:?

The Thai Chamber of Commerce and Thai Federation of Industries had declared their policy and speed up their support for their members to do all things correctly in accordance to the law, policy and order of the Government.

Each Trade Association had declared their stand points and policies that their members must do every things in accordance to the Fisheries Act 2015 and do not buy raw material from the fishing boats nor supplies that do not comply with the Law. If

found to be in contact with IUU Fishing or has problem in labor and human trafficking that member will be ban from membership and thus they can not engage in their export.

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Join with International Labor Organization : ILO and Ministry of Labor to set up and educate all the members to know and implement Good Labor Practices GLP in their organization.

Cooperate with various human rights organizations both at home and abroad (NGO) in educating their members and their labor to comply with Labour Relations Act. Support budget for activities such as building school, education scholarship, hiring teachers and training seminars, etc.

Cooperate fully with government agencies to implement and documentation on traceability control (Traceability) for products of all types. The farming sector will require a certificate of moving aquatic animals (Movement Document: MD), and the catching sector must have certificate of trades for aquatic animals (Marine Catch Purchasing Document: MCPD), including import and export sectors of all types of fishing must have documentation that can be verified and trace back.

Support for the government to tackle IUU Fishing in accordance with international principles - UNCLOS 1982 and the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

Support the Fisheries Act 2016 and the management plans for marine fisheries of Thailand, National Marine Fisheries Management Policy 2016.

Each association has conducted a survey and had corrected their weaknesses on the issue of goods throughout the production chain in order to ensure that all goods produced must not practice against the Fisheries Act BE 2558 / IUU Fishing / labor law. For example, the Thai Frozen Food Association and the Thai Tuna Industry Association had already canceled the use of peeling sheds outside the factory among their members, and so on.

Dr. Poj Aramwattananont concluded that "the private sector in this industry reaffirms and recognizes the importance of such cooperation and pledged to support the government's policy to fix the problem IUU Fishing and labor law. We will be in compliance with Law and International legal standards, ethical guidelines for the good image of Thailand and Thai products. This makes Thailand's seafood industry sustainable and become part of government policy of "Thailand : Kitchen to the World".
