



## USAID Asia Counter Trafficking in Persons Newsletter

*First Edition*

June 2018

Dear Colleagues,

The USAID Asia CTIP e-newsletter showcases program information and updates which include success stories, publications, upcoming activities and events. The e-newsletter also features news, updates and articles from other USAID-funded CTIP projects around the region. In this edition, we are pleased to share highlights from USAID Asia CTIP and other USAID-funded CTIP projects implemented by Winrock.

Kind Regards,

The **USAID ASIA Counter Trafficking in Persons Team**

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*Funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), USAID Asia CTIP is a five-year (2016-2021) regional activity that focuses on transnational and regional challenges to combat human trafficking. The program aims to reduce the trafficking of persons in Asia through a coordinated and consolidated action by governments, civil society and business that will foster cross-border cooperation, develop opportunities for private-sector leadership and improve the quality of data associated with human trafficking. See more at: <https://go.usa.gov/xUcyQ> and <https://www.winrock.org/project/ctip-asia/>*

## Regional: Engaging the Private Sector



On March 29, USAID Asia CTIP launched an on-going series of technical exchange webinars to bring together key project staff and USAID TIP focal points to highlight issues, initiatives or approaches across the region. The first exchange, organized by USAID Asia CTIP partner Resonance, highlighted the project's approach to private sector engagement. Over 15 participants from other USAID programs in Cambodia, Laos, Nepal, Thailand and Bangladesh joined this event. Discussion focused on:

- Challenges faced by country programs such as how to effectively engage companies on issues related to TIP and how to identify key decision makers;
- Best practices for source countries interested in recruitment and safe migration;
- Managing expectations and negotiating project interests with companies;
- How to align project and company interests in partnership design;
- Best practices on supply chain management and worker voice.

USAID Asia CTIP also published the “Malaysia Palm Oil Industry” report developed by partner Liberty Asia. Palm oil is a key industry that has experienced significant growth accompanied by systematic exploitation of migrant workers, who constitute the majority of the workforce on plantations. Through industry-focused analysis, the report assesses the current governance framework and the different certification standards that support sustainable palm oil production in Malaysia. It provides recommendations and outlines opportunities for the business and all interested stakeholders.



(Find this report at: [http://freedom.collaborative.prod.s3.amazonaws.com/Malaysia\\_Analysis\\_120218\\_FINAL.pdf](http://freedom.collaborative.prod.s3.amazonaws.com/Malaysia_Analysis_120218_FINAL.pdf))

## Regional: Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group Tracks Results



USAID Asia CTIP established an M&E Working Group comprised of representatives from project implementing partner NEXUS Institute and CTIP and M&E Specialists from USAID CTIP projects in Asia. The Working Group developed 10 regional indicators at output and outcome levels, and methodology and mechanisms for data collection, all of which are intended to track and capture the progress and context of USAID CTIP interventions across the region. These indicators include harmonized definitions and are linked to project data collection systems. The M&E Working Group is now testing these indicators to assess their feasibility and utility by collecting data from both bilateral projects and secondary sources. Once tested and rolled out, the indicators will provide country programs with key data for context monitoring and, at the regional level, demonstrate collective results of USAID CTIP programs in Asia.

## Bangladesh: Orienting Judicial Officers on Victims' Rights



On February 25, 2018, in Dhaka, Bangladesh Counter Trafficking-in-Persons (BC/TIP) and partner Judicial Administration Training Institute conducted an orientation on Trafficking in Persons and Protection of Victims' Rights in Domestic and International Laws. Thirty-eight judicial officers from 25 districts attended. The event aimed at increasing district and session judges' capacity to decide cases involving trafficking victims and traffickers in accordance with national law. The orientation helped judicial officers better understand their roles and responsibilities in ending impunity for traffickers and securing justice for victims. Issues covered included avoiding bias in judging, dealing with conflicts of interest and ethical issues, and effective collaboration between criminal justice actors.

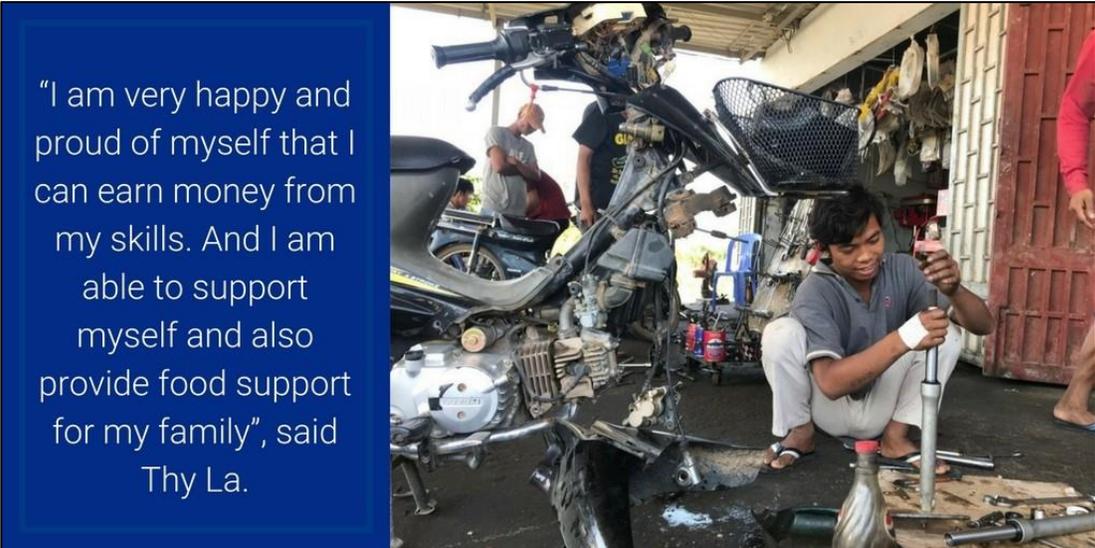


Irinel Cocos, Bangladesh Chief of Party, conducting session on Judicial Officers' Orientation (Credit: Winrock/BC/TIP)

## Cambodia: A Young Man's Journey from Monk to Mechanic



Thy La is 17 years old, with only a fifth-grade education. He dropped out of school as a child because he faced learning difficulties. Without an education, his future would surely be difficult. Thy La decided to become a monk as a young boy, as it is common for boys to join the monkhood in Cambodia to receive basic support and show thanks to their family and country. Sovann Phoum, a Cambodia CTIP project partner, worked directly with Thy La to find a skills training program that fit his interests and could provide him with a livelihood. It was Thy La's dream to become a mechanic, and through this initiative, Thy La received vocational training to learn how to repair motorbikes. He also received food and transportation support for one year, so he could complete the training. Following a one-year course, Thy La is working at the same repair shop where he completed his training and expects to become a full-time mechanic within the next six months after gaining more experience. He is on a path to self-sufficiency and even able to help provide food for his family.



*Thy La learning motorbike repair skills (Photo: Sovann Phoum)*

### **Nepal: Workshop on Strengthening Shelter Services**

With the onset of federalism in Nepal, the provision of shelter services for trafficking survivors will be managed by the sub-national government. The USAID Hamro Samman project is working with national and local-level governments to help them navigate these changes. On March 28, Hamro Samman supported the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens to bring together 26 deputy mayors, women development officers, and NGOs operating government shelters to discuss national minimum standards and operating procedures, gaps, challenges, and priorities for strengthening services.

The workshop emphasized the need to extend shelters’ capacity, allocate sufficient budget, enhance the capacity of service providers and extend partnership among local actors.

### **Photo Exhibition to Give Voices to Male Trafficking Survivors**

Men are often overlooked as victims of human trafficking in the foreign labor migration process. To bring attention to this issue, the USAID Hamro Samman project documented the experience



of a male trafficking survivor in a photo story that is the beginning of an integrated outreach campaign aimed at drawing the attention of policy makers and other members of the wider counter-trafficking in persons community to the problem of trafficking in the foreign migration process. It will be used as a tool by Hamro Samman and its partners to raise awareness about male trafficking.

*The photo exhibition featured photos of male trafficking survivors from the USAID Hamro Samman project (Photo: Winrock/Hamro Samman project).*

## Cambodia: Youth Empower Rural Communities to Prevent Human Trafficking

CTIP Cambodia partnered with BBC Media Action to provide Training-of-Trainer (TOT) workshops to youth, partner organizations, and government agencies to empower low-skilled workers to find jobs in Cambodia and learn soft skills that can increase chances of employment. After the training, participants shared their knowledge with job seekers in rural communities who are the most vulnerable to labor exploitation and human trafficking.

Pictured below, Ros Dane, was a TOT participant and is a member of the ASEAN Youth Leadership Association (AYLA), a CTIP Cambodia project partner. “After joining this training, I gained knowledge on finding jobs, knowing oneself, and understanding soft skills including negotiation and communication. I will share knowledge gained from this training to youth and other people in my community so they can find jobs and develop their skills.”



Members of the ASEAN Youth Leadership Association participated in Training of Trainer workshop to disseminate soft skills toolkit to rural communities. (Photo: Buthan Eang/CTIP)

The soft skills trainings target those with low education levels to enhance their capacity to access the job market, improve communication skills, and build their confidence. An online toolkit was developed for easy dissemination and will be delivered in rural communities by the TOT participants.

“I want to encourage Cambodian youth both in cities and provinces to study hard and if you want to migrate please get as much reliable and trustworthy information as possible to avoid risky migration and refrain from being cheated by brokers,” said Ms. Dane.

## USAID CTIP Programs in Thailand and Laos Get Underway

### *Thailand*



The five-year USAID Thailand CTIP project (2017-2022) works with communities and identifies champions among government, civil society and the private sector to address demand and the enabling environment for Trafficking in Person's (TIP), empower at-risk populations to safeguard their rights, and strengthen protection systems for survivors. The project will connect those most at risk for human trafficking with up-to-date information, networks and services, minimizing trafficking risks for vulnerable groups. The project will also help to protect the rights of trafficked persons and prevent re-victimization by ensuring that trafficked persons are identified and receive the support they need.

### *Laos*



The five-year USAID Laos CTIP project (2017-2022) aims to reduce trafficking in persons and to strengthen and enhance the rights of targeted vulnerable populations in Lao PDR. Through its "3 P" approach focused on protection, prevention and partnership, the project will engage and empower women, girls, marginalized communities, and other at-risk populations in equitable benefit sharing to reduce the prevalence of human trafficking in Laos. The project will support vocational training and employment opportunities of targeted vulnerable populations, beginning with survivors of human trafficking to prevent their re-trafficking. The program will also support the Laos government's efforts to implement related national laws, policies and programs, and provide high quality support services to trafficked persons.

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### **USAID Asia CTIP Learning Forum**

CTIP stakeholders came together in early June for a two-day Learning Forum in Bangkok, Thailand to assess what's being done in the fight to address trafficking, and how to learn from our previous efforts. Stay tuned for an update on the meeting's outcomes in our next newsletter!

### **Winrock and TIP**

Winrock counters the global scourge and crime of Trafficking in Persons (TIP) by undercutting the systems and people responsible for it and providing hope and practical assistance to those affected by it. For more information, click [here](#).

## USAID ASIA CTIP CONTACTS

The USAID Asia CTIP program is based out of Bangkok, Thailand, and key staff include:

- Chief of Party, Susan Ward
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Please contact us if you have questions and feedback. You can reach us at [USAIDAsiaCTIP@winrock.org](mailto:USAIDAsiaCTIP@winrock.org)

**Connect with us on social media!**



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