

Bali Process Regional Symposium on Trafficking for the Purposes of Labour Exploitation

25-26 March 2015, Bangkok, Thailand

Summary of Outcomes

On 25-26 March 2015, the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Australian Attorney-General's Department co-chaired the *Bali Process Regional Symposium on Trafficking for the Purposes of Labour Exploitation*. The symposium fulfilled an outcome from the 2 April 2013 Bali Process Ministerial Conference and was the Bali Process Working Group on Trafficking in Persons' first event.

The symposium was attended by 117 participants, including officials from 35 Bali Process member countries and observers, and experts from academia, international organisations, industry and NGOs. It facilitated a rich discussion on labour trafficking issues, focused on examining emerging trends in labour trafficking in the region, and identifying areas for cooperation between Bali Process members to address the issue. Participants identified the following key themes that Bali Process members could further explore:

- the need for effective **legislative frameworks** that criminalize trafficking in persons consistent with international standards
- the importance of **awareness-raising** in supporting prevention, to build resilience in vulnerable groups and prevent re-victimisation (eg about safe and legal migratory pathways; migrant workers' rights and obligations; and access to complaint mechanisms and referral pathways for support services)
- the need for more **training for frontline officials** to support better investigation and prosecution of cases, and ensure meaningful implementation of legal frameworks for combating trafficking in persons, including about the **indicators** of trafficking
- the need for **better stakeholder coordination** in identifying and protecting victims, including the involvement of **civil society** (who often act as the first responder to support victims) and **recruitment agencies** (to prevent fraudulent recruitment practices) where appropriate
- the need for robust mechanisms for **international crime cooperation**, including mutual legal assistance and extradition mechanisms, to underpin an effective criminal justice response to labour trafficking
- the need for greater **assistance for and protection of victims**, including through implementation of practical and sustainable policies, victim-sensitive procedures and a focus on aftercare, and
- the value of regional cooperation, and the potential to learn from the **experiences of other regional forums** focused on combatting trafficking in persons.

Outcomes from the symposium were considered at the first meeting of the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons on 27 March 2015. Items that build upon the key themes identified have been incorporated into the Working Group's Forward Work Plan for 2015-17.