



DILGinsider

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DILG joins SOMTC-ASEAN meeting

Human trafficking is a cross-sectoral concern. According to a report from the International Labor Organization (ILO), an estimated 21 million victims are trapped in modern-day slavery. Of these, 14.2 million (68%) were exploited for labor, 4.5 million (22%) were sexually exploited, and 2.2 million (10%) were exploited in state-imposed forced labor.

Cognizant of the importance of addressing the problem on human trafficking, country representatives converged recently for the SOMTC-ASEAN Sectoral Bodies/Organs Collaboration Meeting on Trafficking In Persons (TIP) in Acacia Hotel, Muntinlupa City.

The two-day event, led by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) headed by Undersecretary and SOMTC Leader-Philippines Peter Irving C. Corvera, discussed and explored ways to further enhance cross-sectoral collaboration among member-countries to address concerns on human trafficking in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Region.


The meeting resulted to the adoption of the earlier agreed Matrix of Possible Areas of Collaboration under the Framework of ASEAN Plan of Action (APA) which include the following:



1  **NEED TO INCREASE AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS TO EDUCATE ALL LEVELS OF SOCIETY ON TIP AND ITS LINKAGE TO VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS;**

3  **DEVELOPMENT OF APPROPRIATE CARE, PROTECTION AND SUPPORT FOR TIP VICTIMS; AND**

2  **EFFECTIVE INVOLVEMENT OF MASS MEDIA TARGETING THOSE MOST AT RISK;**

4  **STRENGTHENING OF CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES TO IMPROVE THE PREPARATION AND RECEIVING OF REQUESTS RELATING TO MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE, EXTRADITION AND CROSS-BORDER LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION TO COMBAT TIP.**

The outputs from the two-day meeting will be reported to the next SOMTC Working Group on TIP and SOMTC in Indonesia.

Other participating agencies include: Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE); Philippine Commission on Transnational Crime (PCTC); respective Chairs of relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies/Organs; Directors-General of Immigration and Consular Matters (DGICM); representatives of SOMTC from each ASEAN Member States; and representative from ASEAN Secretariat Political and Security Division.

During the 27th ASEAN Summit held in Malaysia in 2015, the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children was signed as the first-ever legal binding instrument on human trafficking by the ASEAN. The signing, according to DILG Secretary Mel Senen S. Sarmiento, exemplified the effective leadership of the Philippine government as Lead Shepherd on TIP and the DILG as the Leader of the ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Transnational Crimes (AMMTC).

Daryl M. Jaramilla

DILG-CO QUALITY POLICY

We, the DILG Central Office, commit to formulate sound policies and provide effective technical and administrative services to promote excellence in local governance, strengthen local government capacities, and enhance the service delivery of our Regional and Field Offices.