

NEWS ADVISORY  
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## **Philippines hosts ASEAN regional workshop on investigation and prosecution of trafficking in persons**

The Philippines is set to host the *ASEAN Regional Workshop On Effective Investigation and Prosecution of Trafficking in Persons for Labor Exploitation* from June 6-8, 2017 at Dusit Thani Hotel in Makati City.

The workshop aims to provide a platform for discussion of the labor dimensions of trafficking in persons and to examine how investigation and prosecution of labor trafficking could be enhanced to protect migrant workers from exploitation.

The workshop is organized under the auspices of the ASEAN Committee on the Implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (ACMW) through the Philippines, in collaboration with the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT). The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) serves as the IACAT secretariat. Other partners include the International Labor Organization (ILO), the ASEAN Secretariat and the Australia-Asia Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons (AAPTIP).

The workshop discussion will examine four key thematic areas such as: 1) Complaint Response and Labor Inspection; 2) Investigation; 3) Cooperation; and 4) Prosecution and Compensation.

Each ASEAN Member State is sending a delegation of three participants to the workshop comprising one experienced supervisory investigator, one experienced prosecutor with experience in prosecuting forced labor cases, and one experienced labor inspector.

Resource persons and technical experts will come from six ASEAN Member States, ILO. And AAPTIP.

The United Nations estimates that human trafficking has victimized 21 million men, women, and children around the world. Between 600,000 and 800,000 victims are trafficked across borders globally each year.

According to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, 79% of human trafficking falls in the category of sexual exploitation, followed by forced labor at 18%. Both of these forms of abuse are prevalent in Asia. /END