Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Human Trafficking
COMMIT Building Blocks

• Government-led process between 6 GMS governments (China, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Thailand and Myanmar)
• COMMIT Memorandum of Understanding signed by 6 countries in 2004 (Ministerial level)
• Multi-sectoral COMMIT Task Forces established to oversee national activities
• Sub-regional Action Plan (COMMIT SPA) and annual COMMIT SOMs provide the operational framework
• Annual Workplans developed and implemented
• Monitoring meetings (Project Steering Committee and Senior officials Meetings)
Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation against Trafficking in Persons in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region

We, the representatives of the Governments of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the People’s Republic of China, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, the Union of Myanmar, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam:

Deeply Concerned over the suffering caused by the trafficking in persons within the Greater Mekong Sub-Region and from the Greater Mekong Sub-Region States to other regions of the world;

Acknowledged that it is completely unacceptable that human beings are traded, bought, sold, transported, placed, and maintained in exploitative situations, thus being denied their most fundamental and inalienable rights;

Recognizing that poverty, lack of access to education, and inequalities, including lack of equal opportunity, make persons vulnerable to trafficking;

Further recognizing the link between trafficking and the growing demand for exploitative labour and exploitative sexual services;

Acknowledging that trafficking is intensified by discriminatory attitudes, practices and policies based on gender, age, nationality, ethnicity, and social grouping;

Emphasizing that children and women who become victims of trafficking are particularly vulnerable, and need special measures to ensure their protection and well being;

Concerned by the involvement of both community members and organised criminal groups in trafficking in persons;

Recognizing the need for a strengthened criminal justice response to trafficking in order to secure justice for victims of trafficking and end impunity for traffickers and others who derive benefits from this crime;

Acknowledging the importance of effective and proportionate penalties for traffickers, including provision for freezing and confiscating their assets, and for the proceeds to be used for the benefit of victims of trafficking;

Recognizing the important contribution that survivors of trafficking can, on a strictly voluntary basis, make to developing, implementing, and evaluating anti-trafficking interventions, and in securing the prosecution of traffickers;

Acknowledging the important role played by victim support agencies in the areas of prevention, protection, prosecution, rescue, repatriation, recovery and reintegration, as well as in supporting a strengthened criminal justice response;
Sub-regional Plan of Action (SPA): 8 Activities (PPCs)

POLICY AND TECHNICAL
1) Training and Capacity Building
2) National Plans of Action
3) Multi-sectoral and Bilateral Partnerships
4) Management: Cooperation, Monitoring and Evaluation

PROSECUTION
5) Legal Frameworks, Law Enforcement and Justice

PROTECTION
6) Victim Identification, Protection, Recovery and Reintegration

PREVENTION
7) Preventive Measures
8) Cooperation with the Tourism Sector
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-Regional Plan of Action (SPA II)</th>
<th>WORKPLAN</th>
<th>Division of Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indicative activities</td>
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<td><strong>Steps involved</strong></td>
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</table>

### 1.1 Regional Training Programme

- Regular training courses throughout the year
- Continuation of the Regional Training Programme for governments, as well as selected non-government actors
- Updating and improving regional curriculum to ensure that it includes all latest developments
- Participation in all aspects of training design and refinement
- Feedback provided on regional training needs
- Selection of candidates for training

### 1.2 Development of nationally based adaptations

- Continue translating regional training materials (completed in most countries)
- Continue adapting curriculum and translations in preparation for the national training
- Provide technical and financial support upon request
- National curriculum adaptations completed through a consensus process and pilot trainings
- Updating and improvement of national curricula as appropriate and in tandem with the regional curriculum
### Objective 1: Services to Governments. Support Governments in the institutionalization of effective multi-sectoral approaches to combat trafficking.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPA II PPC</th>
<th>SPA II Activity Number</th>
<th>SPA II Activity Title</th>
<th>SPA II Target Number</th>
<th>Output indicators</th>
<th>Activity description</th>
<th>Planned start &amp; end date</th>
<th>Actual start &amp; end date</th>
<th>Focal point/human resources</th>
<th>PMO resources</th>
<th>Charge Code: PPC</th>
<th>PMO’s RTP evaluation will inform this process</th>
<th>Total budget amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>Development of national training adaptations</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>(1) Develop the national training materials based on last training book for anti-trafficking in persons in Chinese by national training trainers; (2) Publish the training materials;</td>
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<td>PMO’s RTP evaluation will inform this process</td>
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<td>1.3</td>
<td>Training of trainers (TOT)</td>
<td>1.2</td>
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<td>(1) National training team should be identified (4 members);</td>
<td>February - March</td>
<td>Universities and Chinese</td>
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<td>National training needs assessment (TNA)</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>(1) The questionnire for training needs should be developed; (2) National and provincial mail surveys should be undertaken by national training team in Beijing and Guangxi, Yunnan; (3) Data analysis and report for training needs should be finished;</td>
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<td>1.4</td>
<td>Training courses at country level</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>(1) Staff from provincial level (one workshop) will be trained using update training materials; (2) 90% participants from above workshops will get very good understanding human</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>TF members and National training trainers</td>
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**National Workplans**
**Safe and Timely Repatriation (Protection) – PPC 6 (DRAFT)**

**Objective:** To establish regional and national level procedures for efficient and transparent repatriation of victims of human trafficking in line with the standards set out by the COMMIT MOU, and the instruments referenced in that MOU.

**Timing:** Three-years

**Linkages to PPC targets and activities:**
- **Core:** PPC 6
- **Related:** PPC 2, PPC 4, PPC 5, PPC 7

### Target 1: Regional guidelines for repatriation agreed by consensus and adopted by governments (December 2007)

- Regional assessment on repatriation and reintegration process with specific sections on national context
- Draft common guidelines on repatriation for adoption at regional level (Link to PPC 2 and PPC 7)
- National level preparatory meetings to review assessment findings and draft common guidelines on repatriation
- Sub-regional technical workshop to review key findings of the assessment and modify/improve common guidelines for regional adoption
- Adoption at the regional level by all countries of common guidelines on repatriation at the next SOM meeting

**Contributing Agencies and Responsible Ministries**
- Govt. agencies
- IOM
- UNIAP
- UNICEF
- ILO
- WV

**Budget:** $TBD

**Geographical:**
- All six Mekong countries and regional

### Target 2: Bilateral and National level policy and procedure changes implemented to address key gaps identified in regional assessment (December 2009)

- Bilateral and national level activities to address key areas causing delays in repatriation process, as identified in regional assessment (family tracing/security, legal process, decentralized return mechanisms to provincial level)
- Cross border technical exchanges between sending and receiving social welfare authorities/NGOs involved in family tracing to improve information exchange (Link to PPC 4, PPC 6)
- Procedures, policies and legal framework improved to support victim participation in the legal process in country of destination after return to country of origin (Link to PPC 4, PPC 5)
- Ensure average length of stay in destination country upon identification and prior to return to home country does not exceed 3 weeks unless special circumstances (health, security) require longer stay that is in the victim’s best interest (Link to PPC 2, PPC 5, PPC 6)

**Contributing Agencies and Technical Assistance**
- Govt. agencies
- IOM
- UNIAP
- UNICEF
- ILO
- WV
- Other

**Regional Workplans**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity title</th>
<th>National Training on Human Trafficking for the Government Officials</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Cambodia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity charge code</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(if COMMIT SPA II) SPA II Activity number</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity target</td>
<td>1.2 Training courses at country level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date/s of activity implementation</td>
<td>25-28 March-2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective</td>
<td>This training course is aimed at providing the government officials at the provincial levels with knowledge of human trafficking (4P: Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Policy) so that they are able to better respond to the issue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity description</td>
<td>This 4 day training course will assist government officials in responding to human trafficking issues. The course involves officials from different ministries and district governors in Siem Reap province. The first day of the training will focus on defining human trafficking, basic concepts of the 4Ps, the role of the 4Ps, and the victim-centered approach. The second day is dedicated to prevention strategies and responses. The third day focuses on the needs of victims and their repatriation and reintegration. Participants will also learn about key elements and tools of the criminal justice system. The final day looks at the New Anti-Human Trafficking Law, policy and planning, and monitoring and evaluation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government and non-government participants</td>
<td>Government: 40 government officials will take part in the training. 10 trainers and 1 key facilitator will be involved in the training.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inter-agency technical or financial support (if any)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expected outcomes</td>
<td>The participants will gain knowledge on human trafficking on the 4Ps based on the pre and post test evaluation. The summary report, including recommendations for future training courses, in Khmer and English will also be</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Outcome of this process?

• Partner Ownership
• Efficiency
• Transparency
• Precision
• Accountability
• Harmonization
Partnership, Leadership, Solidarity

COMMIT Task Forces
Relevant government ministries

UNIAP
UNICEF
ILO
IOM
ARTIP

Inter-agency Alliance
Regional and country partners (UN, IO, NGO, CBO)
COMMIT

Government, UN and Civil Society Implementation

COMMIT

TF Meeting

SOM
Monitoring Process
COMMIT achievements: concrete and measurable since 2004

**MONITORING & COORDINATION**
Analysis

What makes this process work?
Factors that contributed to success

• Good foundation – MOU, SPA, etc
• Governments control the process (high level) and all countries are considered equals
• Focus on one issue – human trafficking
• Top down/bottom up emphasis
• Tangible, measurable results – a bit of competition
• Technical assistance provided by multiple sources
• Sustainability – Activities now part of government mechanisms
Other factors that also contribute to its success

- Emphasis on “process, process, process”
- Attention to inter-governmental issues
- Patience – achievements happen at a natural pace
- Governments are considered equals
- Attention to protocol issues
- Respect for the process and outcome – thread that unites everything together
- Brand recognition
No, it isn’t perfect....

- Periodic issues between partners
- Fear of taking risks – internal concerns
- Government/partner relationships very fluid – a moving target
- Personal and political factors sometimes get in the way
Significant Achievements

• Acceptance of trafficking as an issue (governments)
• Acceptance of a multi-lateral approach (Gov, UN, civil society)
• COMMIT and SPA II – blueprints for action with supporting indicators
• Many interventions protect victims
• Bilateral collaboration (many MOUs)
• Reintegration mechanisms in place
• MOUs used to address inter-agency issues
• The recognition of the importance of citizenship and emphasis on the needs of specific ethnic groups
Common Policy mistakes: Many Regional Forums

• Events occur, but without funding in between
• Recommendations offered, but without a plan
  – Who will carry out?
  – How?
  – Where is the funding?
  – No accountability
• Outcomes happen at a high level – don’t take into consideration local conditions
• Outcomes do not always address the needs of real people
• Trafficking one of many, many forum goals – the issue is lost among the other topics
COMMITS Guiding Principles

Guiding Principles for a Common Vision

- Support Partner ownership and implementation
- Be collaborative at all levels – link efforts together
- Ensure that all programs and initiatives are empirically-based
- Ensure that all programs have the technical support needed for interventions to meet an international standard
- Instill a sense of urgency -- move initiatives forward at a pace that allows the project to show tangible results
- Maintain quality and precision
- Demonstrate a measurable impact
- To serve those in need – those who are vulnerable and/or those who have been trafficked