



Improvement of M.V. PLALUNG 1 Compliance to ILO Conventional Standard (C188) and Working Condition

Thaweesak Thimkrap



Thailand received its first yellow card from European Union(EU) in April 2015, because Thailand had not been doing enough to tackle Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. Thailand needs to improve its fisheries' monitoring, control, and surveillance systems to comply with international obligations, and to certify the

origin and legality of its fishery exports concerning forced labor. The yellow card warning was a wake-up call for Thailand to clean up its fishing industry to avoid EU trade bans. The imposition of trade sanctions may have a negative impact on the Thai seafood industry between \$ 200 million and \$ 500 million.

To reduce the impact of EU policies on Thai fishing industry, and participation in tacking IUU fishing both of TUF and Nestle as a company on sea food exporting business take actions by announcing to stop purchasing products and terminate contracts with all suppliers that violate human rights or the Fisheries Act 2015.

In addition to the actions of the government and other key stakeholders, both parties carried out several projects to avoid illegal and forced labor. The purpose is to raise awareness among fishing vessel owners and fishing crews about the good practices, the protection of ocean ecosystems, the promotion of human rights, safety onboard and living conditions for the crews.

At global level, about 38 million people work in capture fisheries, and 15 million are full-time fishers. Fishing which is considered as one of the world's most challenging and hazardous occupations. Thailand as a member state would by the end of 2018 ratify the ILO's Convention No.188 concerning work in the fishery sector and covering fair wages, working hours, quality of shelter for laborer, and sanitary standards. The government should clear policies to enable all migrant workers to work legally through a nationality-verification process and the memorandum-of-understanding (MoU) process, as well as to strengthen law enforcement to the enhancement of working conditions to decent the conventional standards,

SEAFDEC is an inter-governmental organization have mission “to develop and manage the fisheries potential of the region by rational utilization of the resources for providing food security and safety to the people and alleviating poverty through transfer of new technologies, research and information dissemination activities. To support the Thai fishing fleet through the Department of Fisheries on raise up the working standard of crews onboard according to the ILO Conventional no.188 SEAFDEC/TD provided M.V. PLALUNG 1 with a capacity of 35 Gross tonnage, 17.5 meters in length use as the sample vessel of the joint project between SEAFDEC/TD, Department of Fishery, Thai Union Group and Nestle Thailand were funding to renovate the vessel and develop the training program, training package and capacity building of resource persons of all project partners including the Department of Fisheries.

The sample vessel will be renovated according to the conventional standard no.188 and use as the model to demonstrate session of the training. The participants comprise of fishing vessel owners, captains and crews along the important fishing port of Thailand e.g. Rayong, Song khla and Pattani provinces. The training includes four (4) components as follows:

1. Ways of vessel renovation for the appropriate shelters, dining and leisure areas onboard the vessel is mandatory, along with a first-aid kit, toilet and facilities with proper sanitation standard.

- 2.The promotion and protection of human rights of crews/workers. A new Ministerial Regulation which came into force on February 2016 that sets to secure the health, safety and welfare of crews.

- 3.Safety at sea and the regulation requires for the vessel owner to provide appropriate safety equipment as well as adequate and clean food and drinking water for the crews.

4. Fishery machinery to support and improve working condition onboard, engine maintenance, and energy efficient used.

Outcomes of the joint project on renovation of “Sample vessel”

1. The most importantly, they have learnt on ways to renovate and visions needed to transform for their own fishing vessel into ones with decent working and living conditions.

2. Through this approach, the ‘Sample vessel’ is lesson learn that would lead to tangible improvements of fishing vessels across Thai fishing fleet, making a difference to the lives of hundreds of thousands who worked at sea.



3. This project, SEAFDEC/TD also considers through the decent of working standard and smart working by implementing of appropriate technology onboard according to the government policy named "Thailand 4.0" for reducing the numbers of man power onboard by installing a net drum and other associated to fishing operation e.g. refrigeration system and so on thus manpower can be reduce for more than 30%.
4. Hence, the government will have a clear policy and provide with appropriate actions to enable the associated fishing vessel to the enhancement of shelter area to decent the working standards onboard as well as to strengthen law enforcement including the structure flexibility, supporting program or source of loan.

