

## **INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL AGAINST TRAFFICKING**

### **KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Pursuant to the Government's obligations under the **Protocol To Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children**, the Philippines enacted Republic Act No. 9208, otherwise known as the "Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003" (Act) which became effective on June 19, 2003. The law lays down policies and procedures for a comprehensive approach to combating TIP. It also adopts the definition under the said Protocol and expands it to afford more protection of, and assistance to victims. Further, it created the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT), the body mandated by law to coordinate and monitor the implementation of Republic Act No. 9208. On 6 February 2013, Republic Act No. 10364 or the "Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2012" was signed into law, thereby amending R.A. No. 9208.

In order to have a comprehensive, coordinated and concerted response of all IACAT member agencies to counter trafficking in persons, the Second National Strategic Action Plan Against Trafficking in Persons 2012 to 2016 ("Strat Plan") was developed in 2012 with the vision to attain a just, humane, gender-fair and empowered society that protects its people from all forms of TIP, thus enabling them to fully exercise their rights, realize their potentials in the development of the country, and experience a happy and peaceful family life. IACAT's commitment is to sustain transparent, accountable and responsive anti-trafficking initiatives in the Philippines with an overall goal that by 2016, the state shall have put in place an efficient and functional system to prevent, protect, assist and track victims of TIP and to ensure their recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration into mainstream society through convergence and complementation of resources and services of both government and non-government organizations, local, national and international.

Since 2012, IACAT has gone a long way in the implementation of its projects, programs and activities (PPAs) in accordance with the Strat Plan that will conclude in 2016. The Strat Plan establishes the timelines and the particular measures to be implemented by the member agencies of the IACAT in accordance with four key result areas:

- A. ADVOCACY AND PREVENTION
- B. PROTECTION, RECOVERY, REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION
- C. PROSECUTION AND LAW ENFORCEMENT
- D. PARTNERSHIP AND NETWORKING

## **A. ADVOCACY AND PREVENTION**

The prevention programs, activities and services of the Government of the Philippines are geared towards building the capacity of service providers and creating increased community awareness and education regarding human trafficking to enhance detection and reporting to support services. In this vein, the IACAT and its member agencies continue to innovate and adopt new measures to bring its anti-trafficking advocacy to the maximum number of people as possible with the resources available and with similar intensity of strengthening the laws and institutions towards effective handling of trafficking in persons.

### **Legislation**

- 1. Republic Act No. 10364 or "An Act to Institute Policies to Eliminate Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, Establishing the Necessary Institutional Mechanism for the Protection and Support of Trafficked Persons, providing penalties for its violations, and for other purposes",** was signed into law by the President on 6 February 2013.
- 2. Republic Act No. 10361 or "An Act Instituting Policies for the Protection and Welfare of the Domestic Workers",** was signed into law by the President on 18 January 2013. The law will benefit 1.9 million domestic workers in the country, stressing that these workers who care for families and household must have the same basic labor rights as other workers and should be treated with dignity.

### ***Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO)***

As head of the IACAT – Advocacy and Communications Committee (ADVOCOM), the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) continued implementing IACAT's anti-trafficking programs. In July 2015, the CFO launched its technology-based legal counselling called "Itanong mo kay Ato" in partnership with the Arellano Law Foundation, through its Office of the Legal Aid. It is a web application which aims to provide free legal counselling to the public on their concerns on trafficking in persons, illegal recruitment and other related acts. It is an effort to directly provide online legal opinion as a means to further reach out to Filipinos who cannot afford legal consultation. The said web application can be accessed through the official page of the 1343 Actionline, <http://www.1343actionline.ph> or through the link: <http://onlinelegalcounseling.1343actionline.ph>. Once accessed, the public has the options to avail of the live chat or send a message to the partner lawyers. All information received through chatting or e-mails will be held with utmost confidence.

Further, the CFO continued to conduct its Community Education Program (CEP), a nationwide annual information campaign in coordination with various government agencies, non-government organizations, local government units and academic institutions that assist prospective migrants in making informed decisions regarding working or migrating abroad. The CEP also generates community involvement on migration concerns and assists migrants in getting in touch with

their homeland, Philippines. The CEP has also been an avenue for the CFO to raise public awareness regarding RA 9208 and RA 10364 as prospective migrants may also be possible victims of human trafficking. The program also seeks to mobilize the public as they can act as agents of the law in victim protection. CEP also covers various issues concerning migration, intermarriages and existing government policies. It is also linked to various programs directed against illegal recruitment, mail-order bride schemes, documentation fraud, among others.

The CEP covers the following topics:

- Introduction to CFO and CEP;
- Overview of International and Philippine Migration;
- Filipinos in Intermarriage;
- Illegal Recruitment;
- Human Trafficking; and
- IACAT-ADVOCOM and 1343 Actionline against Human Trafficking.

A Speakers' Bureau was conducted prior to the implementation of the information campaign to discuss updates on certain topics and to serve as a forum for the exchange of views from the participants' experiences to better improve the campaign.

In 2015, the CEP has covered 24 provinces and 55 cities and municipalities. During the duration of the campaign, 49 local government units, 34 schools, 14 radio stations, 6 churches, 6 NGOs, 1 cooperative group and 1 port office were visited. A total of 6,387 (female: 4,093, male: 2,294) number of attendees directly benefited during the campaign. For its radio interview, there is an estimated 60,000 listeners.

The funding for the implementation of CEP was sourced from the IACAT amounting to Php 700,000.

The CFO also conducted an awareness campaign in Hong Kong for Filipino migrants. The awareness campaign was participated by at least 120-150 migrants who are members of migrants' organizations in HK which includes Progressive Labor Union of DW in HK, Asian Migrants Credit Union, APL SENTRO, FILCOMSIN, Wimler Foundation, Help for Domestic Helpers, Catholic Center and other OF/OFW groups. As an organization identified as a support network for migrants, Progressive Labor Union (PLU) was tapped by the ADVOCOM to be a partner/convenor in Hong Kong for this activity. To formalize the partnership, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with PLU is currently being discussed. The MOA stipulates both parties' responsibility in the dissemination of 1343 Actionline and free online legal counseling; referral of cases from Hong Kong and Macau; and provision of free legal assistance.

The IACAT, through the CFO, was the source of fund amounting to about Php 150,000.

Moreover, the CFO continues to lead the operation of the 1343 Actionline, which served as the first telephone hotline dedicated to combat trafficking in persons and other related crimes.

Lastly, a Sub-Committee on Cybercrime under the National Law Enforcement Coordinating Council (NALECC), which CFO is one of the members, was created to cover online child sexual exploitation. In December 2015, a Round Table Discussion together with the government, non-government organizations, and academe were conducted to discuss cyber pornography and online child exploitation in relation to human trafficking. A symposium was also conducted in one of the schools as well as posting of IEC materials covering 14 barangays in the identified hotspots for these crimes in the province of Cebu.

The RTD and symposium had an estimated number of 60 participants while the posting of IEC materials in some of the barangays covered an estimated number of 60,000 residents. With these activities, the participants and residents where cybercrime and online child exploitation are rampant, are anticipated to be informed of this crime and become aware of the efforts of the national government in addressing this menace.

The IACAT, through the CFO, was the source of fund amounting to about Php 27,000.

### ***Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA)***

The **POEA** undertook massive nationwide public information dissemination against illegal recruitment and human trafficking, through the conduct of PEOS, CETs on the Overseas Employment Program, and AIR/TIP Seminars with the following number of participants:

- 341,436 people benefited from PEOS;
  - 1,241 participants were gathered in all 25 CETs conducted; and
  - 3,391 attended the 35 AIR/TIP Seminars
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- The *PEOS* is a public information service provided to any individual contemplating on working overseas. It is an educational strategy for worker protection and empowerment given to the general public and prospective job seekers who would like to voluntarily attend the seminar. In PEOS, the overseas jobseekers is provided relevant information on overseas employment, particularly the legal modes of recruitment, the procedures and documentary requirements in applying, the advantages and disadvantages of overseas employment, as well as the government services available to overseas job applicants and hired workers. Moreover, he is taught on how to detect illegal recruitment activities by informing him of the modus operandi of illegal recruiters. The PEOS is pursued in two (2) major forms, i.e. the Regular mass-based PEOS and PEOS Online. The mass-based PEOS is done in local communities, schools/universities, churches, etc.

- The *CET on the Overseas Employment Program* is a trainers' training undertaken for program partners from various government and non-government entities to meet the objective of the program in reaching out to the grassroots through multiplier effect. The POEA trains its partners to conduct PEOS themselves. Special mention is the conduct of CET on IR and TIP for law enforcers and intelligence officers in Region VI (held in Iloilo City) and in Tawi-Tawi considering these are among the country's backdoor exits.
- The *AIR/TIP Seminar* is given to law enforcers, prosecutors, Public Employment Service Officers, and barangay officials to inform them of the law on illegal recruitment (Republic Act 8042, as amended by R.A. 10022) and the expanded law on trafficking in persons (RA 9208, as amended by RA 10364). Also discussed in this seminar are the modus operandi of illegal recruitment, as well as the tips on how to detect and avoid illegal recruitment activity.

2015 also saw the launching of the new AIR/TIP campaign materials developed by POEA in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration and funded by the European Union (EU). These materials included 2 cinema plugs, 4 AM and FM radio plugs, 1 advocative video and 1 infographic video. The 4-minute advocative video entitled "How to Legally Process Your Application for Work Abroad" has already generated over 2 million views since it was launched. The POEA's various information, education and communication (IEC) materials, such as posters, flyers, audio-visual presentations, powerpoint presentations are supplementary materials to the seminars and trainings conducted.

In the same period, POEA signed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on the AIR/TIP Campaign with 15 various entities, non-government institutions, faith-based groups, academic institutions, professional groups, socio-civic organizations, etc.), while under the Convergence of DOLE Programs and Services for OFWs and their Families, 67 MOAs on the Convergence on Illegal Recruitment-Free LGUs were forged with LGUs. Forging partnerships is a strategy to expand the network in the campaign against illegal recruitment and trafficking in persons.

In the data of **DOLE**, a total of **1,463** AIR TIP campaign activities were conducted by the regional offices attended by **124,463** participants, details of which are provided below:

- Region 1 - 831 AIR TIP campaign activities attended by **51,344** participants.
- Region 3 - 628 AIR TIP Campaigns – **72,067** participants
- Region 5 - Radio Advocacy on Illegal Recruitment entitled "10 Utos Kontra Illegal Recruiter and Kilalanin ang Illegal Recruiter, School Advocacy on IR to students.

- Region 6 -3 Advocacy activities against Child Labor during PDO to 1049 Migratory Sugar Workers; distribution of flyers, hanging of streamers, (3) LGU's orientation on Child Labor; advocacy activities on Child Labor to barangay residents and officials.
- Region XI facilitated the passage of two (2) Resolutions by the Banana Industry Tripartite Council supporting the DOLE campaign against trafficking in the banana industry and by District Tripartite Council condemning the child labor in the sugar industry.

### ***Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)***

A curriculum on combatting human trafficking is part of the DFA's Pre-Deployment Orientation Seminar (PDOS) for Foreign Service Personnel who will be assigned at Post. In fact, DFA has published a **Handbook on International and National Legal Frameworks** in Combating Human Trafficking in 2015, which was launched in February 2016.

Moreover, in order to further strengthen the Department's counter-trafficking efforts for household service workers working in Filipino diplomatic households overseas, a new administrative regulation has been drafted which sought to eliminate the emergence of trafficking indicators identified by international organizations like the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Once the administrative process has been completed, the new administrative regulation is meant to eliminate human trafficking in Filipino diplomatic households.

### ***Bureau of Immigration (BI)***

One of the key measures undertaken by the government to prevent TIP was the strict implementation of the Guidelines on Departure Formalities for International-bound Passengers which was revised on 15 June 2015. This revision was in response to the need to redefine the guidelines and the clamor for a more stringent and non-discriminatory implementation thereof. Under the Guidelines, upon assessment of the totality of circumstances, the Bureau of Immigration (BI) Officer may defer the departure of passengers who are found to be in possession of fraudulent documents, having doubtful purpose of travel, or are possible victims of human trafficking. In other words, the said guidelines expounded that the right to travel may be regulated by the Bureau at the Philippine international airports and seaports, whenever a trafficking situation, illegal recruitment or other related crimes is reasonably detected.

The Bureau's Travel Control and Enforcement Unit (TCEU) is mandated to monitor the strict implementation of the aforesaid guidelines. With the creation of the TCEU, the BI has increased its level of examination to three: (1) Primary examination conducted by the Immigration officer at the counter; (2) Secondary examination by the Supervisor, as referred by the primary inspector, for further investigation; and (3) Tertiary examination by the TCEU at the boarding gates. This would ensure that possible trafficking victims are properly detected and assessed, especially passengers who already passed the primary and secondary inspections in

connivance with Immigration personnel suspected to be part of human smuggling rackets at the airport.

Further, the procedure on departure formalities does not end with the clearance of prospective passengers or their disallowance for travel. If prospective passengers are not cleared for departure because of vulnerability to trafficking, illegal recruitment, or other related crimes, they shall be immediately turned over by the BI to the IACAT Task Force or to designated agencies for further information-gathering and to receive services such as temporary shelter, legal assistance, or psycho-social interventions, in accordance with Section 23 of the R.A. No. 9208.

For this year, IACAT Secretariat received 364 deferred departure incidents involving 3,587 passengers who were indorsed to the port-based task force. In the conduct of the investigation, 18 of these incidents were found to be actual cases of trafficking in persons and/or illegal recruitment.

### ***Philippine National Police (PNP)***

PNP, through the **Women and Children Protection Center**, initiated various activities to promote awareness and generate support among stakeholders focusing on prevention of violence against women and children including TIP cases.

- *Sustained Public Information and Dialogue.* Series of awareness programs were conducted towards the realization of having a safer child-friendly environment. The table below shows the summary of the awareness programs conducted and the number of participants who attended the said activity:

<b>Awareness Program on Women &amp; Children</b>	<b>Number of Activities</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>
a. Lectures conducted in training/seminars	10	500
b. Lectures conducted in schools	4	170
c. Lectures conducted through dialogue for NGO, CVO, and other Socio-Civic Organizations	5	150
d. Lectures conducted in Barangays (with parents)	3	180
e. Advocacy Program (Lecture on Child's Right)	3	150
f. Advocacy Program	9	270
g. Outreach Programs	4	148
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>1,568</b>

- *Quad-media Engagements.* As the Center believes that the public should be informed, several radio interviews and press conferences were conducted in order to give important information for the protection of

women and children in all forms of violence, discrimination, neglect and exploitation Shown below are the quad-media engagements, to wit:

<b>MEDIUM</b>	<b>NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES</b>
a. Television (interview/appearance)	5
b. Radio (interview /appearance)	9
c. Print/Online articles	9
d. Press/News Releases	5

- *Related Information, Education & Communication (IEC) Materials.* Increasing our presence to the community, the WCPC was able to produce and distribute a total of 1,200 flyers, 1,000 Manuals, 300 posters, 170 Trainer's Manuals mainly about VAWC and TIP.
- *Information Dissemination.* In line with the advancement of technology, this Center has also made way on conveying information through utilizing Facebook and Twitter as the two most prominent Social Networking Sites (SNS) this day. The WCPC accounts in the said SNS continue to reach many followers.

**Facebook-** 3,929 friends as of December 31, 2015

**Twitter-** 1,607 followers as of December 31, 2015

- *Quality Service Lane.* The WCPC maintains management of its Quality Service Lane for the general public. It is both available for women and children concerns as well as trafficking in persons cases. Its clients also include dependents of police personnel.
- *Advocacies.* Every year, the WCPC never fails to celebrate and put the spotlight on the Women's and Children's Month Celebrations to raise awareness on women and children's rights. This year, the Freedom Walk on Trafficking in Persons was conducted on 29 July 2015 to raise awareness on human trafficking cases in the country. WCPC personnel also conducted school visitations during the Children's Month Celebration and joined the Philippine Commission on Women in the observance of the International Women's Day on March 8, 2015. An advocacy on End-VAW (End Violence Against Women), an 18-day yearly campaign to raise awareness among all stakeholders that VAW is a public issue of national concern, is also one of the advocacies of the WCPC.
- *Outreach Programs.* The WCPC has conducted outreach programs to schools and shelters of abused women and children. Through these programs, the WCPC gives a more personal touch through face to face interactions with children and victims of abuse. Further, WCPC spreads the happiness of Christmas to victims of abuse through gift giving.



### ***Philippine Commission on Women (PCW)***

The Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), serving as the primary policy-making and coordinating body on women and gender equality concerns, spearheaded the 2015 18-Day Campaign to End VAW, with the theme "End VAW Now! It's Our Duty!: Gains and Ways Forward", which highlighted the milestones and accomplishments of duty-bearers and advocates in the last five years, and emphasized the need to continue looking forward to our vision of a VAW-free community.. The Campaign, dubbed as the "Assembly of Anti-VAW Advocacy Supporters" kicked-off on November 25 and was participated by 123 agencies/organizations from government, non-government, academe and private sector stakeholders. The event served as venue for government (as duty bearers) in highlighting the mid-decade (2010-2015) actions in ending VAW, as well as continuing commitment to sustain the gains and pursue further actions to move towards the shared vision of a VAW-free community. It also depicted the vision of a VAW-free community which was demonstrated through the use of different art forms such as interpretative dance from ERDA-Sanayan ng mga Batang Nanambakan (SABANA) Children's Theatrical Group, shadow play performance by the first Asia's Got Talent Champion El Gamma Penumbra Dance Company, and visual arts. Simultaneous activities to raise awareness on VAW including Anti-Trafficking in Persons were also conducted by different national government agencies.

On 5-8 May 2015, **PCTC-WMFO** conducted an information drive on Human Trafficking simultaneously with the SBATTF advocacy campaign in Zamboanga Sibugay PPO, Zamboanga del Sur PPO, and Zamboanga del Norte PPO. During the information drive, visual aids and materials provided by the POEA such as leaflets and posters were distributed. The IEC materials contained important aspects that job seekers needed to know when applying abroad. Among the topics discussed were the following:

- Safest ways to get an overseas job
- How to know if the agency is licensed and if job order is from POEA
- Basic steps in applying/hiring for an overseas job
- Availing the POEA-GPB job placements
- Documents for registration of applicant workers
- How much to pay for placement fees
- Documentation costs and processing costs
- What to do if one gets hired abroad through the internet
- Direct hire fees
- OFW on vacation to the Philippines and back
- Family members visiting an OFW in his worksite

### ***Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)***

The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) is spearheading the Government's anti-trafficking in persons programs in the local government units. As

part of awareness campaign of the department, the following projects provided an extensive reach to all Barangays:

- DILG issued Memorandum Circular Nos. 2015-24 dated March 5, 2015 and 2016-116 dated October 6, 2015 regarding the Conduct of Synchronized Barangay Assembly day for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of 2015, respectively. Included in the circular is the discussion on the monitoring and strict implementation of Laws and Issuances in addressing Trafficking in Persons (TIP);
- Developed and pilot tested Training Modules/Manual and Enhanced Resource Materials on Strengthening the capacities of Direct Service Providers of LGUs in Handling VAW cases. Part of the said module are topics on RA 9208 amended by RA 10364, specifically, the roles of concerned local functionaries and Barangay VAW Desk Persons in handling cases of trafficking. The DILG partnered with the Polytechnic University of the Philippines for the development and pilot testing of the Training Manual on VAW. The said manual was used in the Capacity-Building Activities for the 25 beneficiary-barangays of PUP. PUP has also committed to continue this advocacy and part of their plan for 2016 is to expand the coverage of their beneficiaries by covering more barangays of the City of Manila;
- Engagement of Universities in Capacity-Building Activities for Barangay VAW Desk Persons/Officers. The activity aimed to: a) tap a state university in the province of Aklan and Iloilo, as partners to deliver the capacity building project; and b) Equip punong barangays and barangay VAW desk persons/officers with necessary knowledge of laws on gender-based violence and mechanism in addressing GBV. Highlights of the activity include discussion on handling cases of trafficking in persons. The 3-day training on capacity-building was funded by AECID and conducted in Malinao, Aklan (19 Barangays) for the 1<sup>st</sup> batch; in Kalibo, Aklan (20 Barangays) for the 2nd batch; and in Oton, Iloilo (37 Barangays) for the 3rd batch. Moreover, the process employed in the engagement with the partner was documented for possible replication in other areas of the country. For continuity and sustainability, the present partners are expected to serve as training managers in their areas of jurisdiction to cover other parts of the province of Aklan;
- DILG has also continued to monitor the creation of Local Committees on Anti-Trafficking and Violence Against Women and Children (LCAT-VAWC) in all provinces, cities and municipalities nationwide pursuant to Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2010-2. As of December 2015, there are 39 provinces or 48% that have PCAT-VAWC, 108 cities or 75% have CCAT-VAWC and 1,058 municipalities or 71% have MCAT-VAWC.
- Another is the creation/strengthening of the Local Council for the Protection of Children (LCPC) - This is a structure utilized by the

government in preventing and responding to violence, exploitation, and abuse against children. Functionality of Local Councils for the Protection of Children (LCPC) are as follows: PCPC – 31 OR 34.8%; CCPC – 70 OR 48.6%; MCPC – 475 or 31.9% and BCPC – 13,072 or 31.3%;

- Lastly, DILG also monitors the compliance in the establishment of VAW Desk. In 2015, the number of Barangays that have VAW Desk already reached 35,093 or 83.50%.

### ***Social Media Publicity***

Awareness advocacy of IACAT and its main functions has improved immensely through the IACAT Secretariat's Public Information and Communications Section. The IACAT maintains an active presence in the internet through the following online accounts:

- The Council has a Facebook account: **IACAT-News DOJ** ([www.facebook.com/pages/IACAT-News-DOJ](http://www.facebook.com/pages/IACAT-News-DOJ)), a twitter account: **iacatnews** ([www.twitter.com/iocatnews](http://www.twitter.com/iocatnews)) and a YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/user/iocatnews](http://www.youtube.com/user/iocatnews). The use of new media such as Youtube, Twitter and Facebook pages has increased the reach of IACAT to the public. Materials from its media monitoring activities are posted to the said social networking sites.
- The IACAT also maintains a website ([www.iocat.net](http://www.iocat.net)) wherein basic information on the Council and its partners and updates on their activities against trafficking are provided. It was re-launched in the month of July 2012. Infused in its homepage are the twitter and facebook account page with its real-time updates.
- Another tool that the public can access to report or share information about violations of the Expanded Act is through the **IACAT Public Assistance Corner (I-PAC)** page which can be accessed through the IACAT website. This has proven to be effective in furthering the reach of IACAT, particularly to the vulnerable sector of youth. Since its inception in late September of 2012, IACAT has accommodated numerous queries and vital tips on human trafficking activities through its official website ([www.iocat.net](http://www.iocat.net)). The I-PAC has been used by both Filipinos living in the country and Filipinos living abroad, including OFWS as an inexpensive and effective means to get in touch with the government. Majority of the I-PAC correspondence involves OFWs seeking assistance on various issues ranging from objectionable working situations to vital information regarding the whereabouts of their respective recruiters.

The public assistance tool has also been instrumental for members of the academe and universities, particularly, in data gathering with reference to their related studies of government's efforts in fighting human trafficking.

Based on the entries, requests for data and those seeking appointments for interviews with IACAT resource persons has been prevalent, showing an increase in the interest of students regarding the trafficking in persons and how it relates to existing social science models.

### ***Awareness Campaigns***

IACAT continued to strengthen anti-trafficking information and education campaigns and provides support to similar measures undertaken by other agencies/organizations. The two (2) main advocacies in which IACAT is actively supporting to raise public awareness and knowledge on the ills of human trafficking are as follows:

- **World Day Against Trafficking (WDAT)**

In 2013, the United Nations General Assembly held a high-level meeting to appraise the Global Plan of Action. Member States also adopted resolution [A/RES/68/192](#) and designated July 30 as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons. This resolution declared that such a day was necessary to “raise awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking and for the promotion and protection of their rights.”<sup>1</sup> The World Day Against Trafficking (WDAT) is to be observed every year from 2014 onwards.

In celebration of WDAT, IACAT organized a “Walk for Freedom” on 29 July 2015, in partnership with the local government of Quezon City. No less than 5,000 IACAT member agencies marched along Quezon City Circle to show unity and strength in combating human trafficking, together with equally committed IACAT partner agencies from the government, civic and faith-based organizations, students and other private sectors.

- **International Day Against Trafficking**

Pursuant to the Proclamation No. 1172 declaring the observance of December 12 of every year as the “International Day Against Child Trafficking” to mark the adoption in Palermo, Italy in 2000, of the “**Protocol To Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children**”, series of activities in the Regions and Provinces headed by IACAT Task Forces were conducted as follows:

- IACAT Task Force XI issued a Resolution No. 01, Series of 2014, declaring November 12 to December 12 of every year as a month long observance of the International Day Against Trafficking in Persons (IDAT) in the Davao Region. In 2015, Region XI officially launched the Month-Long celebration of IDAT through the “Zumba for A Cause” attended by 313 participants coming from different IACAT XI Network;

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.un.org/en/events/humantrafficking/>

- IACAT Task Force II and XI conducted video Infomercials in their respective regions which were participated by students who produced their own video infomercial on how to fight human trafficking. This is to rouse further public attention to the issue of human trafficking;
- IACAT Task Forces II and IX led a motorcade in Tuguegarao City and Zamboanga City, respectively;
- IACAT Task Force IV celebrated through information and awareness campaign and free legal assistance;

During the IACAT celebration, IACAT XI Network signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the NCCC Cinema and Southern Maligaya Taxi, Inc. (SMTI) for the playing of the video infomercials selected in the cinemas of NCCC and in the video monitor of taxicabs unit owned by SMTI, respectively. The videos were selected during the video infomercial competition conducted by the IACAT XI.

### ***Capacity Building Trainings***

Capacitated and well-equipped service providers are crucial in preventing, detecting, and responding to human trafficking incidents. IACAT Secretariat Training Section conducted 36 trainings for the year 2015. These were participated and attended by 120 IACAT personnel; 42 Judges; 426 Prosecutors; 495 Law Enforcers; 159 Social Workers and 76 other government personnel. Private sectors and civilians also participated in the trainings, with a total of 790.

The IACAT Task Forces also conducted a total of 280 trainings, which were attended by a total of 7,300 government personnel and 11,028 non-government participants from the Secondary & Tertiary Students, Faculty, Hotel Managers, Hotel Staff and Security, Academe and Bus Operators/Drivers. Of these trainings, 128 were organized by Task Forces while the remaining 152 were conducted by other agencies where heads and members of Task Forces were invited as lecturer or resource speaker. Funding for the said trainings are derived from the general IACAT fund. The IACAT also conducts capacity-building trainings in partnership with NGOs and other international organizations.

Below is the list of specialized trainings/seminars conducted and facilitated by IACAT and member-agencies in 2015:

#### **1. OFW Briefings abroad by IACAT**

IACAT, (involving DOJ, BI, POEA, and DFA) in a joint legal mission of IACAT and the International Pro-Bono Alliance - Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP), Bulacan Chapter (IPBA-IBP Bulacan), conducted and funded the **“Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) Briefing on Trafficking in Persons and Other Related Laws”** in Hongkong SAR and Macau, on October 16 and 18, 2015 respectively. In both events, about seventy (70) OFWs, ten (10) consulate

personnel, including participants from print and internet media attended the activity. After the briefing on TIP, Expanded Act, Labor and Immigration policies as well as on civil matters, OFWs and other participants were given the opportunity to ask questions during the Open Forum. Despite the time constraints, the participants gained good working knowledge about the topics discussed.

In Hongkong SAR, common recruitment violations include contract substitution, charging/overcharging of placement fees, and “cross border recruitment”. Most of the OFWs working in Hong Kong and Macau are being enticed by third party illegal recruiters based in HK to work in Macau and Canada. The recruiter would charge them exorbitant fees to facilitate the processing of documents prior to expiration of their contract. OFWs, while waiting for the approval of their alleged visa, would exit to Macau and stay there for 14 days, instead of returning to the Philippines upon expiration of the current contract.

At the end of the briefing, the IACAT Team and the PCG Hongkong and Macau strictly advised OFWs to consult the nearest Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) or PCG for proper guidance on any recruitment activity to validate the name hire and registration of foreign employers and the legitimacy of their operation.

IPBA-IBP Bulacan Team’s presence as a partner was a welcome addition to IACAT’s regular OFW briefing activity abroad. They were able to address many concerns on marriage, separation, and annulment and its correspondence effect on the properties and custody of children.

One-on-one legal consultation immediately followed after the open forum. Members of Filipino Community, mostly OFWs, availed of the free legal counseling provided by the IACAT and IPBA-IBP Bulacan teams.

## 2. IACAT DOJ with US DOJ-OPDAT Trainings

During the training period, IACAT DOJ, in collaboration with United States Department of Justice, Criminal Division, Office of the Overseas Prosecutorial Development Assistance and Training (OPDAT), conducted workshop-training on Trafficking in persons (TIP) for new investigators and prosecutors. The workshop-training was also in partnership the Philippine Society of Criminologists and Criminal Justice Professional, Inc. (PSCCJP). The workshop-training provided TIP basic training laws and investigative techniques on criminal data analysis and profiling. The activity aimed to collect information in support of another U.S. DOJ/OPDAT program to establish accredited law and criminology courses in TIP and other types of investigations.

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Topic/Training</b>	<b>Place Held</b>	<b>No. of Participant s</b>
20-22 May 2015	<b>Investigative Training on Trafficking in Persons:</b> Laws on Trafficking and the Agencies Involved in Investigating and	El Cielito Hotel, Sta. Rosa, Laguna	85

	Prosecuting TIP		
5-7 August 2015	<b>Investigative Training on Trafficking in Persons:</b> Laws on Trafficking and the Agencies Involved in Investigating and Prosecuting TIP	The Oriental Hotel, Legaspi City	121
9-11 September 2015	<b>Investigative Training on Trafficking in Persons:</b> Laws on Trafficking and the Agencies Involved in Investigating and Prosecuting TIP	Cagayan De Oro	110
2-4 November 2015	<b>Trainer's Training Program on Investigating and Prosecuting Trafficking in Persons</b>	Marriot Hotel, Cebu City, Cebu	60
9-12 November 2015	<b>Trainer's Training for Trafficking in Persons</b>	Seda Hotel, Cagayan De Oro City	65

Participants included law enforcement agents, prosecutors and Academes.

### **3. Regional Anti-Trafficking in Persons Workshops for Foreign Service Posts**

The DFA held a series of Regional Anti-Trafficking in Persons Workshop for Foreign Service Posts from 2014 to 2015 to enhance the capacity of frontline Foreign Service Personnel and to equip them with skills necessary in identifying potential victims of trafficking and consequently provide immediate assistance. The workshops were conducted as follows: for Foreign Service Posts in the Middle East and Africa on 22-26 April 2014 in Ankara, Turkey; for Foreign Service Posts in the Americas on 22-26 September 2014 in Mexico City, Mexico; for Foreign Service Posts in Asia and the Pacific on 11-15 December 2014 in Osaka, Japan, for Foreign Service Posts in Europe on 16-20 March 2015 in Vienna, Austria. To conclude the series, a two-day training for Home Office Personnel was held in Tagaytay on 6-7 June 2015.

The workshops were done in partnership with United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), IOM, DOJ, DSWD, and DOLE. Representatives from the US Embassy were also invited to discuss the US Experience in Trafficking in Persons. A representative from the Australian Embassy in the Philippines also gave the Australian perspective on trafficking in persons during the last workshop.

In order to pass down the information learned during the Regional Workshops, the Philippine Ambassadors headed echo-training seminars for their personnel. The following Posts conducted echo-training seminars:

1. Philippine Embassy in Abuja
2. Philippine Embassy in Budapest
3. Philippine Embassy in Ankara
4. Philippine Embassy in Canberra
5. Philippine Embassy in Chicago
6. Philippine Embassy in Hanoi
7. Philippine Consulate General in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

8. Philippine Consulate General in Jeddah
9. Philippine Consulate General in Macau Special Administrative Region
10. Philippine Embassy in Madrid
11. Philippine Consulate General in Manado
12. Philippine Consulate General in Milan
13. Philippine Embassy in Oslo
14. Philippine Embassy in Prague
15. Philippine Embassy in Rome
16. Philippine Embassy in Santiago
17. Philippine Embassy in Singapore
18. Philippine Consulate General in Shanghai
19. Philippine Embassy in Tel Aviv
20. Philippine Embassy in Vatican

#### **4. Regional meeting of Philippine ambassadors assigned in the Middle East**

DFA likewise held a regional meeting of Philippine ambassadors assigned in the Middle East last December 3, 2015 in Manila where the ambassadors were oriented on TIP, and the modus operandi employed by human traffickers in deploying workers in the Middle East countries who end up being exploited thereat.

#### **5. Department of Foreign Affairs Ladies Foundation (DFALF)**

The Department of Foreign Affairs Ladies Foundation (DFALF) and DFA Office of the Personnel and Administrative Services also hosted a "Ladies who Lunch" Talk Series with Human Trafficking as the main topic. This event was attended by 75 members held at DFA last September 17, 2015.

#### **6. Specialized trainings/seminars attended by PNP-WCPC personnel**

Several specialized trainings/seminars were attended by WCPC personnel in partnership with different local and international agencies and stakeholders including the International Justice Mission (IJM), International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Australia-Asia Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons (AAPTIP). Topics include trainings on surveillance, cybercrime investigation, cyber safety and protection for children, online sexual exploitation of children course, psychological recovery and social reintegration for TIP, law enforcement, and topics related to handling of cases in TIP.

- a. **Mandatory Courses.** Part of career development, several personnel have successfully finished the mandatory courses: Two (2) Police Commissioned Officers (PCOs) for the Public Safety Officers Advance Course (PSOAC); one (1) PCO for Public Safety Officers Basic Course; and one (1) Police Non-Commissioned Officer (PNCO) for the Public Safety Junior Leadership Course (PSJLC).



b. **Individual Training Program.** Several programmed and non-programmed courses were availed by WCPC personnel to improve their competencies and inculcate the core values necessary in the performance of their duties.

c. **Specialized Training Program.** Recognizing the value of having the precise skills and competencies for the job, a total of forty (40) specialized trainings/seminars were attended by the personnel of this Center in partnership with different stakeholders. Shown is the list of specialized trainings/seminars attended:

1. **Foreign Training Program.** Five (5) WCPC personnel were sent abroad to undergo trainings in different countries, as shown below:

	<b>TITLE OF THE COURSE</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>VENUE</b>	<b>PARTICIPANTS</b>
1.	International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards & Training (IADLEST)	May 31- June 3, 2015	San Antonio, Texas, USA	PCSUPT ROSAURO V ACIO
2.	Workshop on TIP Indicators	Dec. 15-16, 2015	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	PSUPT NOEL R SANDOVAL
3.	TIP & Terrorism Seminar		Royal Police Academy	PSINSP ESTELLA MARIE A DELIZO
4.	UNEP Seminar		UN Bangkok	PSINSP ESTELLA MARIE A DELIZO
5.	Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation Training	July 12-26, 2015	Thailand	PSUPT CHRISTINE TAN
6.	1 <sup>st</sup> INTERPOL Training on Obtaining Cybercrime Investigation-Related Information Across Multiple Jurisdictions	Mar 2-4, 2015	Singapore	PSINSP TAMAYO
7.	Training Course on Recovery of Illicit Proceeds and Fugitives Oversees for ASEAN Police Officers	October 18-24, 2015	Ministry of Public Security (MPS) of China/ Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, China	PSINSP TAMAYO
TOTAL 7				

2. **Other Trainings Facilitated by WCPC.** A total of seven (7) batches of Specialized Courses for WCPD Officers were initiated by this Center in coordination with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and CPN with a total of 416 attendees. Three (3) batches were conducted at Iloilo City, two (2) at Cebu City and another two (2) at Palo, Leyte.

- d. **Lectures, Meetings, Conferences and Events Participation.** In an aim to enhance the skills and form strong linkages with different local agencies and stakeholders, the WCPC participated in different events and attended meetings, both national and abroad, in line with matters pertaining with TIP and VAWC. The highlight of this year was the Bilateral Meeting between WCPC and the Malaysian Royal Police on matters regarding cross-border cooperation on TIP. Below is the compendium of the significant events it has participated in 2015:

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Attended</b>	<b>Initiated</b>
Workshop	2	
Meetings	30	
Lectures	7	
Workshop	6	
Advocacies	8	
Conferences	1	1
Total	54	1

Meanwhile, all police regional offices have conducted 24 specialized courses participated by 1244 WCPD personnel which include topics on TIP from January to December 2015. These include specialized courses initiated by the WCPC in coordination with the UNICEF and CPN with a total of 416 attendees.

## **7. POEA Workshop and Capacity Enhancement Training**

- A workshop on investigation and prosecution techniques, and review of existing practices and procedures with regards to countering TIP and IR was held on May 12-14, 2015. It was organized and conducted in the framework of the Migration European Union Expertise (MIEUX) Project, through the International Center for Migration and Policy Development (ICMPD), and was fully funded by EU. The POEA was ICMPD's counterpart in coordinating pre-activity preparations, as well as in handling administrative and logistical requirements during the activity.

The workshop focused on the cooperation and coordination, tools and procedures in the central and local levels. It explored, defined and identified comprehensively the legal, institutional and operational frameworks and procedures related to IR in the Philippines.

Representatives from the collaborating national agencies such as POEA, DOJ, PNP, and BI from selected provincial and regional areas comprised the 21 total participants.

- The Presidential Task Force against Illegal Recruitment (PTFAIR) conducted two Capability Enhancement Training for law enforcers and intelligence officers with focus on laws on illegal recruitment and trafficking in persons,

their similarities and differences, latest modus operandi, arrests and effective prosecution thereof in:

<b>Venue</b>	<b># of Participants</b>	<b>Date of Training</b>
Iloilo City (for Region 6 law enforcers)	96	August 18, 2015
Tawi-Tawi	133	October 20, 2015

The funding for the trainings were co-sponsored by different member agencies of PTFAIR.

- The POEA also conducted Capability Enhancement Training, as part of the Onsite Legal Assistance Mission, for personnel of the Philippine Overseas Labor Office and Philippine Embassy and Consulate General in UAE and in KSA. The participants were trained on the laws on illegal recruitment and trafficking in persons, their similarities and differences, legal remedies for OFWS, key considerations in filing cases and taking and preparation of sworn statements.

<b>Venue</b>	<b># of Participants</b>	<b>Date of Training</b>
Dubai, UAE	36	November 21, 2015
Riyadh, KSA	36	November 28, 2015
Jeddah, KSA	27	December 03, 2015

The trainings were funded by POEA.

- On January 14, 2016, two (2) POEA lawyers were invited by DOLE lecturers during its conduct of the Classroom Training for the Pre-Deployment Training and Immersion Program of POLO personnel, in Bayview Park Hotel. The training was participated by 62 POLO personnel. The lecturers discussed legal remedies for OFWs, key considerations in filing cases and taking of sworn statements for IR and TIP victims.

## **8. National VAW Documentation System (VAWDocS) Rollout**

The PCW is currently implementing a Province-wide rollout on the use of the National VAW Documentation System (VAWDocS), a secure web-based documentation system that facilitates and integrates the collection and standardization of information from concerned government agencies and service providers dealing with the problem of VAW. It is envisioned that this database system will be able to share data with the anti-trafficking database of IACAT, so that service providers especially at the local level will only use one database system in recording cases. The Anti-TIP law was included in the module for the training conducted in October to December 2015 to service providers in Albay, Iloilo and Sarangani provinces.

## 9. TIP Related Trainings for Bureau of Immigration Personnel

BI has conducted/attended 13 trainings for period covering 01 April 2015 to 31 December 2015. Of these trainings, 7 were conducted by the Bureau.

<b>Dates</b>		<b>Place Held</b>	<b>Sponsored by:</b>	<b>Attended/Conducted by:</b>	<b>No. of Participants</b>
04-08 May 2015	Training of Trainers for the ASEAN Training Program on TIP for Frontline Law Enforcement Officials	Camp Crame, PNP	ASEAN	Head, TCEU	
10-23 May 2015	Intermediate Border Control Officers Course Class 4 – trains Immigration Officers on latest trends, routes and modus operandi of traffickers	Philippine Immigration Academy (PIA), Clark, Pampanga	BI	Head, TCEU and Deputy Head for Administration	50
11-13 May 2015	Faculty Enhancement Program – a training attended by selected TCEU members who will become trainers or speakers to enhance their teaching strategies which will be useful when asked to conduct training about human trafficking and illegal recruitment	PIA, Clark, Pampanga	BI	Head TCEU, selected members	20
12-14 May 2015	Workshop on Investigation and Prosecution Techniques	ICMPD-EU		Deputy Head for Administration, TCEU	
25-28 May 2015	Illegal Immigration Network Training	POD, NAIA Terminal 3	POD, BI	Selected TCEU Officers	50
16-17 June 2015	Modus Operandi and Immigration Remedies for Prosecutors	Baguio	IACAT & Aus Embassy	Head, TCEU	45
30 June 2015	Basic Border Control Officer Course Class 12 – newly appointed Immigration Officers are trained on Phil. Immigration Laws, Anti-Human Trafficking and Illegal Recruitment Laws and Airport Operations. They were provided trainings on departure formalities for international-bound passengers, profiling both foreign nationals and	PIA, Clark, Pampanga	BI	Head, TCEU	90

	Filipinos, assessment of passengers, recent modus operandi, trends and routes of human trafficking				
17-19 Aug 2015	Capability Enhancement Training for Law Enforcers and IOs of the PTFAIR – topic discussed latest modus operandi of traffickers	Iloilo		Head, TCEU	
03 Sep 2015	Traveler Risk Assessment and Interview Techniques – among the topics to be discussed for Capacity Building for Multi-Sectoral Service Providers and Responding to Trafficking in Persons for Yolanda affected areas in Region 8	Calbayog City	Plan International for Yolanda affected areas in Region 8	Head, TCEU	
30 Sep – 02 Oct 2015	Lectures on BI Accreditation, "Philippine Immigration Laws, Policies and Procedures Batches 69, 70 & 71		BI	Head, TCEU	50
19-21 Oct 2015	Capability Enhancement Training for Law Enforcers and IOs of the PTFAIR			Head, TCEU	
22 Oct 2015	Human Trafficking Awareness Training for the Agents and Special Investigators of the NBI		BI	TCEU Member	
15 Dec 2015	Basic Border Control Officers Course Class 13 – newly appointed Immigration Officers are trained on Phil. Immigration Laws, Anti-Human Trafficking and Illegal Recruitment Laws and Airport Operations. They were provided trainings on departure formalities for international-bound passengers, profiling both foreign nationals and Filipinos, assessment of passengers, recent modus operandi, trends and routes of human trafficking	PIA, Clark, Pampanga	BI	Head, TCEU	200

## 10. PCTC Capacity-Building Activities

The PCTC initiated capacity-building activities related to combating TIP in Davao, Cebu and Zamboanga and has partnered with relevant agencies and the US

Government to enhance the capacity of TIP law enforcers and investigators in conducting the following:

- a. The PCTC hosted seminars in Cebu and Davao on 30-31 March 2015. The seminars were conducted to enhance further the investigative capacity of the personnel of PCTC at hotspot areas where TIP cases are prevalent. The seminar conducted in Davao was attended by members of the IACAT 11 network and other government agencies in Davao Region. Meanwhile, in Cebu, there were twenty two (22) attendees composed of personnel from Regional Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force 7 and IACAT-MCIIA Task Force.
- b. On information exchange, the PCTC has attended 15 conferences related to TIP which were conducted by other agencies under the IACAT, Zamboanga Sea-Based Anti-Trafficking Task Force (ZSBATTF) and RIACAT.

#### **11. Workshop on Strengthening the Capacities of Direct Service Providers of LGUs**

Five (5) batches of 3-day Workshops on Strengthening the Capacities of Direct Service Providers of LGUs in Handling VAW Cases (to pilot test the said Training Module) were conducted from October 7 – November 6, 2015 and participated by DILG Field Officers, Punog Barangays, VAW Desk Officers, LSWDO, LHO, PNP Officers, as follows:

<b>Venue/Date</b>	<b>Participating LGUs</b>
Subic, Olongapo City October 7-9, 2015	San Fernando City, Pampanga with 8 Barangays
Tagaytay City October 14-16, 2015	Nabua, Camarines Sur with 8 Barangays Calapan City, Or. Mindoro with 5 Barangays San Fernando City, Pampanga with 8 Barangays
Cebu City October 21-23, 2015	Palo, Leyte with 8 Barangays Maayon, Capiz with 8 Barangays Calbayog City, Western Samar with 8 Barangays
Davao City October 27-29, 2015	Dipolog City, Zamboanga del Norte with 8 Barangays Tubod, Lanao del Norte with 8 Barangays Isulan, Sultan Kudarat with 6 Barangays
Subic, Olongapo City November 3-6, 2015	City of Manila with 22 Barangays. These barangays are beneficiaries of our partner-academe, the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP)

#### **12. Seminar-Workshops on Inter-Marriages Involving Filipinos**

Because of the rising number of problematic cases involving Filipinos in intermarriages, the CFO is faced with the challenge of trying to identify more professionals who can give initial assistance to Filipino fiancé(e)s, spouses and other partners even before their attendance at the CFO's GCP. One proposed solution is the conduct of a seminar for those who have for some reason or the other have an opportunity to meet with Filipinos who are spouses, fiancés or partners of foreign

nationals, namely, local civil registrars, pre-marriage counselors from the local social welfare offices, faith-based organizations and parishes.

The primary objective of the seminar is to provide awareness to the intended participants on the specific issues of inter-marriage and to enhance their counseling skills in addressing the needs of Filipinos in intermarriage. Specifically, it aims to engage the participants in disseminating the information about the mandatory Guidance and Counseling Program of the CFO; review the current Philippine laws regarding marriage; provide orientation on the salient features of RA 9208 as amended by 10364 and other laws related to intermarriage and violence against women; discuss the issues and concerns on intermarriage encountered and identified by the participants; and popularize the use of the IACAT 1343 Actionline against Human Trafficking as a means to report suspected or confirmed cases of human trafficking and mail-order bride scheme.

Human trafficking in the guise of intermarriage is the least discussed type of trafficking which leads either to labor or sexual exploitation. Like any human trafficking activities, its proliferation is perpetrated by an organized group who is facilitating the recruitment of victims to their arrival overseas. The Philippines' effort to address this issue aims to protect and empower victims of mail order scheme and other similar practices to file cases against the seller, promoter, manager, broker, owner, etc., and promote the sanctity of marriage which solely should be for the establishment of conjugal and family life.

From August to December 2015, seminar-workshops were conducted in Davao City, Cebu City, Angeles City, and Metro Manila. The areas were selected based on the number of registrants in the CFO's GCP. The activities were attended by 130 participants who are marriage counselors from the local government units and faith-based organizations, and social workers. The IACAT, through the CFO, allocated Php 500,000 for its implementation in all areas.

### **13. Basic Para-Legal Training for Counselors and Case Officers**

As part of the partnerships between ADVOCOM and Arellano Law Foundation, the latter conducted a basic para-legal training for CFO Counselors and Case Officers. The primary objective of the training is for the CFO case officers and counsellors to be familiar with the basic provisions of laws and fundamental principles that will be very useful in legal activities like surveillance, investigations, gathering of evidence, interviewing and taking statements of witnesses, preparations of reports, memoranda and affidavits. Moreover, the participants are trained to pursue better case disposition of various cases relation to Assistance-to-Nationals (ATN), human trafficking and administrative cases. The training was attended by 47 participants (29) CFO officers, nine (9) DOS1 call agents and nine (9) Arellano interns).

## **B. PROTECTION, RECOVERY, REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION**

It is the paramount concern of the government to provide the utmost protection and assistance to every victims of human trafficking. Bearing in mind the best interest and welfare of every human beings, the government, through IACAT member agencies and Non-Government Organizations, came in full force to promote and protect the rights of victims of trafficking in persons and their eventual reintegration to the community.

### **Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act**

Under the Act Expanding R.A. No. 9208, several provisions are incorporated in order to reinforce the protection given to trafficking victims.

1. The confidentiality of the identity and other personal circumstances of the trafficking victim are still guaranteed under the amendatory law. It is also provided that a third person may only publicize personal information of the victim if the latter consents thereto. The consent must be contained in a duly notarized written statement where the victim knowingly, voluntarily and willingly waives the said confidentiality. Moreover, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges, court personnel, social workers, and medical practitioners are mandated by the said law to undergo training on the importance of maintaining confidentiality as a means to protect the right to privacy of the victims. The training will also emphasize the measures which will encourage victims to file complaints against their traffickers.
2. Amendments to Section 16 of R.A. No. 9208 on preventive, protective and rehabilitative programs for trafficked persons now enumerate specific measures to be followed by the member agencies for the protection and assistance of trafficked victims, to wit:
  - a. The DFA shall provide Filipino victims of trafficking overseas with a) free legal assistance and counsel to pursue legal action against his or her traffickers; b) represent his or her interests in any criminal investigation or prosecution; and c) assist in the application for social benefits and/or regular immigration status as may be allowed or provided for by the host country. The DFA shall also repatriate trafficked Filipinos with the consent of the victims.
  - b. In coordination with the DOLE, the DFA shall provide free temporary shelters and other services to Filipino victims of trafficking overseas through the migrant workers and other Filipinos resource centers established overseas under R.A. No. 8042 or the "Migrant Workers Act of 1995", as amended.
  - c. The DSWD shall establish free temporary shelters for trafficking victims. The DSWD shall also provide the following basic services to trafficked persons:
    1. Temporary housing and food facilities;
    2. Psychological support and counselling;



3. 24-hour call center for crisis calls and technology-based counselling and referral system;
  4. Coordination with local law enforcement entities; and
  5. Coordination with the Department of Justice, among others.
3. Legal protection is also granted to victims of trafficking. For instance, they are given immunity from suit and will not be penalized for any unlawful act committed as a direct result of or as an incident to being trafficked. It also extends to any unlawful act committed in obedience to an order made by the trafficker or in relation thereto.
  4. Law enforcement officer is now directed under the amendatory law to immediately place a potential victim of human trafficking in the temporary custody of the local social welfare and development office or any accredited or licensed shelter institution.
  5. The new law also treats any proof of past sexual behaviour or the sexual predisposition of a trafficked person as inadmissible in evidence for the purpose of proving consent of the victims to engage in sexual behaviour, or to prove the predisposition, sexual or otherwise, of a trafficked person.
  6. The Expanded Anti-TIP Act seeks to protect trafficking victims from malicious prosecution that may be filed by the traffickers against them. The amendatory law now specifically provides that the prosecution of retaliatory suits against victims of trafficking shall be held in abeyance pending final resolution and decision of the criminal complaint for trafficking.

## **Recovery and Reintegration Program for Trafficked Persons**

The DSWD is the primary agency which handles the government's effort towards the victim's protection, recovery, and reintegration. The Department oversees the implementation of the Recovery and Reintegration Program for Trafficked Persons (RRPTP), a comprehensive package of services for the individual victim-survivor of TIP, the immediate family and the community at large. The RRPTP has the following major program components: (1) capability enhancement for service providers; (2) direct services to trafficked persons; (3) upgrade of temporary shelters; (4) implementation of the National Referral System and updating and maintenance of the National Recovery and Reintegration Database; (5) advocacy.

The specific services and/or interventions under above-indicated program component aim to enhance the psychological, social and economic needs of the clients; increase the awareness, skills and capabilities of the clients, the families and the communities where the trafficked persons will be eventually reintegrated; improve community-based systems and mechanisms to ensure the recovery of the victims-survivors and prevent vulnerability of individuals, families and communities to trafficking.

To be specific, there are ten (10) forms of direct service interventions readily available to victim-survivors of trafficking, namely:

- (1) livelihood assistance;
- (2) skills training;
- (3) support for victims/witnesses;
- (4) Balik-Probinsya (financial and food assistance);
- (5) temporary shelter;
- (6) educational assistance;
- (7) financial assistance (for medical purposes, purchase of assistive devices,
- (8) psycho-social counseling;
- (9) referral; and
- (10) airport assistance for offloaded and/or intercepted and repatriated (potential) victims of trafficking.

In 2015, a total of 1,465 individuals were assisted through the RRPTP. Among this number, 281 were male while 1,037 were female<sup>2</sup>. The respective type of trafficking and ages of TIP victims are provided below:

Age Disaggregation	Total
0-6 years old	13
7-12 years old	61
13-17 years old	237
18-30 years old	667
31-59 years old	357
60 years old and older	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>1351</b>

Moreover, a total of 1,889 assistance were provided to TIP victims during the same period: provision of temporary shelter (28% of total service provided); psychosocial counseling (23%); balik-probinsya (16%), livelihood assistance (16%); referral to other service providers (12%); skills training, support to victims/witnesses and financial and educational assistance (5%).

### **DSWD Shelters**

There are 44 residential care facilities available in the country for victims of trafficking: 24 (for children [male and females]); 13 (adult females only); 1 (adult males only); 4 (for older persons [male and females]); 2 (processing center [males and females]). These are the following:

- ***The Haven*** – A Substitute Home care for Women that provide direct interventions to women victims of gender-based violence or those vulnerable to abuse and exploitation whose ages are from 18-59 years old, who need protective service as well as other services that will promote healing and recovery.

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<sup>2</sup> 147 individuals had no sex indicated.

- **Home/Center for Girls** – A child-caring facility that provides protection, care, treatment and rehabilitation services to abused and exploited girls below 18 years old.
- **Marillac Hills (Also known as National Training School for Girls)** – A child-caring facility that provides care and rehabilitation to female children in conflict with the law, abused and exploited girls below 18 years old.
- **Reception and Study Center for Children** – a child-caring facility that provides psychosocial services to children 0 to 6 years of age. The RSCC aims to help the child achieve child survival, development and protection.

Sector	Name of Residential Care Facility	Clients Served	Location (Region)	Total Number of Facilities
Children	Reception and Study Center for Children (Male and Female)	Male & Female	NCR, CAR, II, III, V, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII	11
	Nayon ng Kabataan	Male & Female	NCR	1
	Marillac Hills	Female	NCR	1
	Home for Girls	Female	I, III, IV-A, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XII, CARAGA	11
Youth and Women	Haven for Women	Female	I, III, IV-A, VI, VII, IX, X, NCR	9
	Haven for Women and Girls	Female	CAR, II, V, XI	4
Older Persons	Golden Acres: Haven for Elderly	Male & Female	IV-A	1
	GRACES (Golden Reception and Center for the Elderly and other special needs)	Male & Female	NCR	1
	Home for the Elderly/Aged	Male & Female	IX, XI	2
Individual and Family in Crisis Situations	HerSpace	Male & Female	VII	1
	Jose Fabella Center	Male	NCR	1
	Processing Center for Displaced Person	Male & Female	IX	1
TOTAL				44

The services under direct service intervention of RRPTP are available and accessible to trafficking victims staying at the residential care facilities.

## **IACAT Operation Center**

Among the functions of the OpCen is to locate, protect, and assist witnesses of trafficking cases that are referred to the Center. On protection of victims, OPCEN serves as a temporary holding area for the rescued victims who were eventually turned over to the DSWD for the provision of protection services. They likewise make referrals to other agencies for the provision of financial/livelihood assistance, capacity building, and other trainings.

OPCEN also greatly contributed to the prosecution of TIP cases. In compliance with requests from various IACAT task forces and prosecutors, OPCEN operatives located and persuaded a total of seventy five (75) victims/witnesses in different areas in the country and escorted them to attend their respective court hearings.

In addition to locating witnesses, OPCEN also rendered security services to a total of two hundred forty seven (247) witnesses/victims and ensured their attendance to case conferences with prosecutors and attendance in court trials. Shelters like Marillac Hills and Haven for Women of the DSWD have requested on several instances for security assistance for the witnesses while attending their respective court hearings in Metro Manila and nearby Provinces.

## **Construction of Victim Processing Center**

The IACAT is in the process of constructing a Victim Processing Center in Mandaluyong City which, once built and becomes operational, will serve as a one-stop-shop for rescued TIP victims from around NCR where they may be interviewed and their statements obtained by law enforcement authorities and where they can temporarily stay while their cases are being investigated. Pending the completion of the Victim Processing Center, IACAT entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit (a religious congregation within the Catholic Church whose ministries include education, health, pastoral care, spiritual guidance, social work, administration and interfaith dialogue) to provide alternative safe space to serve as a temporary shelter for women and children who may be victims or potential victims of human trafficking. The Alternative Safe Space was inaugurated on 7 September 2015 and 3 days thereafter 3 rescued minor-victims among others, were endorsed to the center for interview, documentation and temporary shelter.

## **1343 Actionline against Human Trafficking**

The IACAT 1343 Actionline Against Human Trafficking ("1343 Actionline") was established by the IACAT as the first telephone hotline dedicated to combat human trafficking and other related offenses. IACAT-Advocacy and Communications Committee (ADVOCOM) headed by the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) oversees the operation of the 1343 action line geared to address the gap in services of the different government agencies and NGOs in assisting victims of human trafficking. The objectives of the 24/7 Action Line are as follows:

1. Receive and respond to requests for assistance, inquiries and referrals from victims including their families and the public on matters related to cases of human trafficking regardless if the crime was committed locally or internationally; and
2. Systematize the referral of cases to appropriate agencies or NGOs

The service has been expanded to accommodate on-line reporting and text messaging/short messaging services (SMS) as alternative methods for reporting. The online reporting is being handled by the CFO, while the text messaging/SMS is being handled by Dynamic Outsourcing Solutions, Inc. (DOSI), a private company engaged in business process outsourcing.

In 2015, the CFO received a total of 62 reports inclusive of 38 calls, 20 website reports and three (3) mobile application reports. Out of these reports, 27 were intelligence reports, 10 involved illegal recruitment, nine (9) were crisis call reports and 15 were reports which are not directly related to human trafficking. Within these reports, the CFO assisted 25 cases of trafficking involving 62 victims, 32 male and 30 female victims, 18 victims were identified as minors.

### **Witness Protection Program (WPP)**

The Government strengthened the Witness Protection Program (WPP) in relation to witnesses in trafficking cases. A total of eighty one (**81**) victims are currently under the WPP. In 2015, twenty nine (**29**) trafficking victims were referred to the WPP for financial assistance, security and protection. In terms of funding, the same was sourced mainly from the budget of the WPP under the Office of the Secretary of Justice.

To give the witnesses enhanced medical care, the Government enrolled them in its public insurance program, which is administered by Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), and accorded them preferential treatment in its flagship medical center, the Philippine General Hospital (PGH). The Government also leased several farmlands and developed them into "witness colonies," where witnesses learn farming, poultry, cattle raising and other livelihood skills that tangibly increase their economic self-sufficiency and improve their psychological well-being.

### **Travel Clearance to Minors**

Minors unaccompanied by their parents must register with the DSWD to ensure that they are travelling for appropriate purposes. The DSWD and its regional offices issue a travel clearance certificate to child below 18 years old who is traveling alone or accompanied by somebody other than his/her parent. This aims to protect the child from abuse, exploitation and trafficking by ensuring he/she is traveling for legitimate reason and with an authorized person. To prevent trafficking in children,

social workers have likewise been posted at the airports to monitor the travel of children abroad.

### **International Social Welfare Services for Filipino Nationals**

In response to the rising incidence of distressed Overseas Filipino Workers abroad, the DSWD has institutionalized a system of providing social welfare services to Filipinos in a foreign country to promote their best interest and general welfare pursuant to RA 8042 or "the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995. From 2 attaches deployed in 2010, the DSWD has already maintained 8 Social Welfare Attaches in the following posts:

1. Philippine Embassy in Kuwait
2. Philippine Embassy in Abu Dhabi
3. Philippine Embassy in Qatar
4. Philippine Embassy in Riyadh, KSA
5. Philippine Consulate General in Jeddah, KSA
6. Philippine Embassy in South Korea
7. Philippine Embassy in Kuala Lumpur
8. Philippine Consulate General in Hong Kong

### **Partnerships between law enforcers and service providers**

Regional Task Forces created by the IACAT, which serves as its law enforcement component, is a multi-disciplinary body designed to address the immediate concerns and needs of trafficking victim once rescued or intercepted. It is composed of prosecutors (DOJ), law enforcement investigators (NBI/PNP), social welfare officers (DSWD), and non-government organizations (NGOs).

The DSWD also assigned social workers at international airports to be part of the Anti-Trafficking Task Force at the airports in order to assist potential victims of trafficking in persons, illegal recruitment and other related crimes.

### **Assistance to Victims**

Deferred departure passengers who are possible victims of human trafficking, illegal recruitment or other related crimes are being endorsed by the Bureau of Immigration to the IACAT port-based Task Force for further information gathering and are not considered or treated as suspects in trafficking case. Once turned over to the task force, the victims will be assisted by the assigned social worker. Further, female Immigrations Officers with sufficient background on gender and development (GAD) programs are tasked to assist profiled female victims during the interview and other processes conducted by the Bureau in order to encourage the victims to divulge the necessary information on their respective cases.

The POEA and DOLE provide free legal assistance to all victims of illegal recruitment and trafficking in person. The free legal assistance extends to preparation of sworn statement, appearance of POEA & DOLE lawyers as Special Counsel for the complainants during preliminary investigation and continuation of legal service to court as Special Collaborating Prosecutors.

DOLE also maintains the **Integrated Livelihood Program** where victims of illegal recruitment, labor trafficking and child labor are being endorsed for livelihood assistance. At the same time, a focal person facilitates the registration of the victims in the Phil-Jobnet or refer the victim with the nearest PESO or to private employment agencies with job orders suitable to the victim as part of the **Job Search Assistance**. These services are provided by DOLE to victims of illegal recruitment, local trafficking and child labor. Region IV-A reported that it has provided livelihood assistance to the parents of child labourers residing in two (2) barangays which amounted to P818,600.00 and P233,750.00, respectively. Region VI provided livelihood project to parents of child labourers amounting to Two (2) Million with 200 beneficiaries situated in three (3) barangays.

For consular and legal assistance, Philippine Embassies and Consulates provide the following services:

- 1.) Request host countries to secure the safety and the welfare of Filipino victims and ensure respect for their human rights.
- 2.) Provide temporary shelter, basic necessities, and emergency medical and other necessary services to Filipino victims overseas, both males and females.
- 3.) Repatriate Filipino victims upon their consent. If the victim is a minor, then repatriation shall be mandatory. This entails negotiation and payment of exit visas, immigration penalties, and payment of airline tickets.
- 4.) Provide lawyers and payment for legal costs:
  - a. For the prosecution of traffickers in the host country; or
  - b. The application of social benefits for the Filipino victim as allowed by the host country.
- 5.) Referral to appropriate rehabilitation or reintegration service providers (Department of Social Welfare and Development, NGOs, etc.).
- 6.) Organize TIP awareness workshops/fora for members of the Filipino community.

In 2015, the DFA assisted a total of 223 victims of human trafficking. Of this number, 131 come from the Middle East Region, 70 from Asia and Pacific, 12 from Europe and 10 from the United States. Victims were assisted using the **Assistance to Nationals (ATN)** Fund (expenses for temporary shelter, basic necessities, and repatriation) and the **Legal Assistance Fund** (expenses for legal services). Some victims were assisted in collaboration with the host governments, local NGOs, the Filipino community, and international organizations such as IOM.

Moreover, in order to address earlier gaps in providing temporary shelters to **male overseas Filipinos** who have fallen victims to human trafficking and illegal recruitment syndicates, the Department of Foreign Affairs intends to enter into lease agreements with landlords in countries where there are significant concentration of overseas Filipinos in order to obtain temporary boarding and lodging facilities to these male Filipino victims. These temporary shelters are intended to operate separate from the Overseas Filipinos Welfare and Resource Center already managed

by the Philippine Overseas Labor Office in 36 posts where Philippine Embassies and Consulates are present. The first temporary shelter now operates in Riyadh.

Lastly, one of the functions of the CFO as a member of the Assistance-to-Nationals (ATN) Task Force under Administrative No. 182 is to respond to welfare cases involving Filipino migrants. In 2015, the CFO assisted 36 reported cases under its ATN, a separate origin of cases aside from the CFO's 1343 Actionline.

The nature of these cases are domestic violence (8), requests for travel documents assistance (10), report of falsification of documents (4), location of whereabouts (3), labor disputes (3), and request for repatriation (2). There were also reported cases of mail-order bride scheme, rescue operation, medical attention, child support, illicit relationship, child sex offenders and drug use.

### **C. LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PROSECUTION**

One of the instituted measures successfully established in the law enforcement and prosecution area is the creation of Anti-Trafficking Task Forces all over the Philippines. The task forces are guided with very important component of coordination and cooperation among the key players in investigating and prosecuting trafficking in persons cases. This measure is further strengthened by laws providing harsher penalties to the unlawful act and by law enforcement entities well trained in combating traffickers. In all these, the interests of the victims are accorded with necessary protection and assistance.

#### **Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act**

Salient features of the amendatory law which strengthen the enforcement and prosecution against human traffickers include the following, to wit:

1. The amendatory law fills voids in the existing law by expanding the enumeration of acts that promote trafficking under Section 5 of R.A. No. 9208, to include an act to destroy or tamper with evidence, to influence witnesses, in an investigation or prosecution of a trafficking case and the utilization of a person's office to impede the investigation, prosecution or execution of lawful orders in a trafficking case.
2. The new law now mandates that case involving trafficking in persons should not be dismissed based on the affidavit of desistance executed by the victims or their parents or legal guardians. In such cases, the public and private prosecutors are directed to oppose and manifest their objections to the motions for dismissal.
3. Any act, by means of threat, or use of force, or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or of position, taking advantage of the vulnerability of the person, or, the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another



person or any attempt thereof for the purpose of securing an Affidavit of Desistance from the complainant shall be punishable under the expanded law.

4. The NBI and the PNP are now recognized under the expanded law as the primary law enforcement agencies to undertake surveillance, investigation and arrest of individuals or persons suspected to be engaged in trafficking.
5. The expanded law now directs the IACAT to establish a central database on trafficking in persons which shall have, at the minimum, the following information:
  - a. The number of cases of TIP, sorted according to status of cases, including the number of cases being investigated, submitted for prosecution, dropped, filed and/or pending before the courts and the number of convictions and acquittals;
  - b. The profile/information on each case;
  - c. The number of victims of trafficking in persons referred to the agency by destination countries/areas and by area of origin; and
  - d. Disaggregated data on trafficking victims and the accused/defendants.
6. A permanent IACAT Secretariat, which will provide valuable support to the programs and projects of the Council and its member agencies, is now directly created by the amending statute.
7. One of the most important amendment introduced in the expanded law is the provision containing the immunity from suit of public officers. The amendatory law states that no action or suit shall be brought, instituted or maintained in any court or tribunal or before any other authority against any (a) law enforcement office; (b) social worker; or (c) person acting in compliance with a lawful order from any of the above, for lawful acts done or statements made during an authorized rescue operation, recovery or rehabilitation/intervention, or an investigation or prosecution of an anti-trafficking case; Provided, that such acts shall have been made in good faith.
8. To ensure that the legal process against traffickers are continuous and that public officers will not be remiss on their duty to see to it that the traffickers answer for their crimes, the new law provides that DFA, DOLE, and POEA officials, law enforcement officers, prosecutors and judges are prohibited to urge complainants to abandon their criminal, civil and administrative complaints for trafficking.
9. The new law grants the remedies of injunction and attachment of properties of the traffickers, illegal recruiters and persons involved in trafficking. The writs pertaining to the said remedies may be issued motu proprio by judges.

## Department of Justice (DOJ)

In 2015, the Department of Justice (DOJ) received 274 TIP cases against 569 alleged traffickers for potential prosecution. After inquest or preliminary investigation, the department disposed of the cases as follows:

- Filed 164 cases against 290 accused for violation of the Act;
- Filed 1 case against 4 accused for violation of other related laws in Courts;
- Dismissed 19 cases against 42 alleged traffickers; and
- The remaining 90 cases against 233 alleged traffickers are still pending for preliminary investigation.

From these cases, six hundred one (601) were identified trafficked victims, three hundred eighty three (383) of whom are female adults, one hundred thirty three (133) are female minors, eighty one (81) are male adults and fifteen (15) are male minors.

From the enactment of Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law in 2003, IACAT has monitored a total of 2,831 TIP cases.

<b>Status of Trafficking Cases for Investigation, 2003-2015</b>	Number	%
Under Preliminary Investigation at DOJ	172	6.1
Dismissed on Preliminary Investigation at DOJ	267	9.4
Pending Petition for Review	3	0.1
Filed in Court	2,389	84.4
	<b>2,831</b>	<b>100</b>

<b>Status of Trafficking Cases Filed in Court, 2003-2015</b>	Number	%
On Trial	1048	43.9
Dismissed in Court	425	17.8
Archived	450	18.8
With Standing Warrant of Arrest	135	5.7
Submitted for Decision	14	0.6
Decided	317	13.2
<i>Acquittals</i> - 69 (22%)		
<i>Convictions</i> - 248 (78%)		
Guilty of offense as charged - 228 (92%)		
Guilty of lesser offense - 20 (8%)		
Total	<b>2,389</b>	<b>100</b>

Evidently, IACAT sustained the rate of convictions by convicting 48 traffickers in 46 cases in 2015. Among the 48 convicted felons, 9 were convicted for cyber-sex trafficking. This can be viewed as strong response to a growing trend of cyber-sex activities in the Philippines.

From July 2010 to December 2015 (5 years), Philippines sustained 686% increase in conviction or almost 7 times increase from the 5 years prior. To date, the total the number of persons convicted is 248 in 224 TIP convictions since 2005. This clearly shows the government's resolve in curbing human trafficking despite all the gaps and limitations in the criminal justice system. Further, the average trial duration of TIP cases has significantly reduced from 5 to 2 years.

Below is the table showing the number of convictions attained by the Philippine Government per year:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Convictions</b>	<b>Number of Persons Convicted</b>
2005	7	6
2006	0	0
2007	3	4
2008	6	5
2009	10	11
2010	18	16
2011	25	32
2012	27	32
2013	27	37
2014	55	57
2015	46	48
2016	4	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>248</b>

Notable convictions for 2015:

1. Case Title: PP vs. Marajas, Aquilina M. & Pilac, Raymond under Criminal Case No.: R-PSY-12-05572-CR, RTC 111, Pasay City

Accused Aquilina Marajas facilitated the departure of Nieves Tag-at for employment in Beijing, China, by instructing her to fall in line where Raymond Pilac, a BI Officer, was stationed and by handing her a fake letter of support and invitation. Accused Raymond Pilac immediately cleared Tag-at for departure, despite her fake documents and financial incapability to support her travel abroad. This illegal transaction was discovered when NBI-IACAT heard accused Marajas instructing private complainant Tag-at which counter to queue. Both accused Pilac and Aquilina were found guilty of violation of Section 5 of RA no. 9208 and sentenced to 15 years imprisonment and a fine of Php 500,000.

2. Case Title: PP vs. Fernandez, Edgardo y Pillara Luar, Lennie y Fernandez under Criminal Case No.: 21802-B; 21803-B; 21804-B & 24608-B, RTC, Binan City, Laguna

This is a cybersex trafficking case involving two accused who are the parents of three 3 minors complainants. The minors positively identified their father and mother as the persons who made them dance in front of a computer with camera wearing only panties and bra. While they were dancing their mother was also inside their room chatting with Sam (American national) while their father made sure the computers worked just fine. Upon complaint by the social worker in Cabuyao City, NBI conducted technical verification of the websites (www.readytochat.com and www.asianbabescan.com) mentioned by the victims and the same contained pornographic images and profile of performers.

3. Case Title: PP vs. Sinasap, April Lyn & Sinasap, Kristin under Criminal Case No.: 77,577-14, RTC, Davao City

This is another cyber-sex conviction where RATTF 11 acted upon a report that accused engaged in cyber pornography involving their own minor children and nieces ages 8-16 years old. In the implementation of the search warrant, accused were arrested since they were caught in the act of instructing a 2-year old minor to perform lewd acts in front of a computer fitted with a camera and connected to the internet while a foreign client views her in real time.

## Operations

### i. IACAT Anti-Trafficking Task Forces

In 2015, one hundred twelve (**112**) operations and one hundred sixty two (**162**) surveillance activities were conducted by the IACAT Anti-Trafficking Task Forces. These are results of effective coordination and cooperation between IACAT Task Forces and its member-agencies and partners. The operations resulted to the rescue of seven hundred forty four (**744**) alleged trafficking victims, one hundred sixty four (**164**) of which are female minors and twenty six (**26**) male minors. From these operations, one hundred forty seven (**147**) cases were filed.

Task Force	No. of Operation Conducted			Number of Victims Rescued	Number of Alleged Offenders Arrested	No of Cases filed Resulting from Operations
	Surveillance and Casing Operation	Rescue/Entrapment Operation	Total			
RATTF 2	18	6	24	36	10	8
RATTF 3	47	6	53	88	50	11
RATTF 5	7	8	15	35	12	13
RATTF 7	44	7	51	31	10	9
RATTF 8	29	1	30	2	2	1
RATTF 9		13	13	104	21	8
RATTF 11		5	5	24	9	14
PATTF		1	1	26		
NIATFAT		5	5	34	8	9

MATTF		9	9	57	10	4
OPCEN	17	3	20	4	1	1
AHTRAD		48	48	303	151	69
<b>Total</b>			<b>274</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>147</b>

### **Notable Operations:**

Three (3) simultaneous rescue operations were conducted last April 3, 2015 by the Regional Anti-Trafficking Task Force Region II (RATTF 2) at My Lady Videoke Bar, ML Videoke Bar and Angel Lady Videoke Bar, all located at Barangay Dagupan, San Mateo, Isabela. The operations came as a result of the reports received by the Task Force from concerned citizens alleging that the said bars were employing and/or engaging minors to works as entertainers/GROs. The minors were also being bar fined for and in consideration of a one thousand peso in exchange for sexual activities. The operation resulted to the rescue of three (3) minors and eighteen (18) female victims and the arrest of six (6) alleged human traffickers. Three (3) separate cases were then filed in court on August 20, 2015 against the owners, bouncer and cashier of the said bars(NPS Nos. II-04-INQ-15D-00032 to 34, Office of the Provincial Prosecutor of Isabela).

On October 12, 2015, the Regional Anti-Trafficking Task Force-Region III (RATTF 3) with PNP-WCPC, RATTG 3, PRO 3, DSWD Region 3 and International Justice Mission, conducted a successful rescue and entrapment operation inside the compound called TERRITORYO which covered a total of 20 bars located in Barangay Mambangan, San Leonardo, Nueva Ecija. A total of thirty nine (39) women were rescued and seven (7) suspects of trafficking in persons were arrested. Three (3) charges were filed against perpetrators under NPS Nos. III-09-INV-15J-01605 to 07 before the Office of the Prosecutor and eventually filed in Court on October 15, 2015 at RTC, Nueva Ecija.

The Regional Anti-Trafficking Task Force - Region V (RATTF 5), in coordination with PSWD and PNP Catanduanes, rescued five (5) female victims including (3) minors, all natives of Negros Occidental, who were being booked for prostitution at Starnight Videoke Bar, Barangay San Vicente, Virac, Catanduanes last May 21, 2015. The operation also resulted to the arrest of one (1) alleged human trafficker. Five (5) separate cases were filed against the perpetrator under NPS. Nos. V-11-INV-15E-00075, V-11-INV-15E-00108, V-11-INV-15E-00110, V-11-INV-15E-00115 & V-11-INV-15E-00116. Eventually, one information under V-11-INV-15E-00075 was filed in Court on 22 May 2015.

On August 14, 2015, ten (10) minors were rescued in the cybersex dens located at Barangays Mactan and Babag in Lapu-Lapu City as a result of the simultaneous operations conducted by the Regional Anti-Trafficking Task Force – Region VII (RATTF 7) and NBI 7. Prior to their arrest, the three (3) cybersex operators were under surveillance by NBI and International Justice Mission for six (6) months. They were tracked down due to the information forwarded by the National Crime Agency in London. Cases for violation of R.A. No. 9208, as amended,

and R.A. No. 7610 were filed in court under Criminal case Nos. R-LLP-01179-CR, R-LLP-01191-CR, R-LLP-01181-CR & R-LLP-01192-CR.

A stake-out activity was conducted by the IACAT Operation Center (OpCen) Intel Operatives to verify the information that a certain "SONNY KUBA" is allegedly involved in illicit activities by offering minor female street-dwellers to male customers for sexual activities in exchange for money. According to Trixie (13 years old), she was pimped twice by Sonny in September 2015. She was brought to a hotel and paid ₱500.00 for the sex service after which ₱150.00 was given to Sonny. On December 4, 2015, social workers from Visayan Forum Foundation (VFFI), officers of the Manila Police District-Legal Division, Manila Anti-Trafficking Task Force (MATTF) and IACAT OpCen apprehended the principal subject during the joint entrapment and rescue operation. Five (5) female minors were rescued and brought to VFFI shelter for protection, reintegration and disposition. A case for violation of the Expanded Act was filed at RTC, Manila against the accused under Criminal Case No. 15-321870.

Upon the complaints made by the mothers of the victims and the victims themselves, operatives of NBI-AHTRAD and DSWD-IV rescued six (6) victims of hard labor and in debt bondage on May 29, 2015. The victims were recruited in Davao City who were offered to work at a gasoline station in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. Upon their arrival in Sta. Rosa, they discovered that their work was different from what they expected. The three (3) minors and two (2) adults worked in stalls selling gasoline by the bottle to tricycle and jeepney drivers. One worked as nanny for the couple-accused. Victims worked from 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM and were hardly fed. Salaries earned were offset to pay all debts they allegedly owed for travel expenses incurred. The victim who worked as nanny for the couple claimed that she was raped repeatedly by one of the couple's body guards. The couple together with two (2) other subjects are now facing charges for violation of the Expanded Act and RA 9231. Rape charges were also filed against the body guard. These cases are now pending before the RTC, Davao City.

On September 11, 2015, NBI-AHTRAD arrested a Netherlands national, JOUKE MULDER and her Filipina live-in partner in Opol, Misamis Oriental and rescued a ten (10) and fourteen (14)-year-old female victims. NBI-AHTRAD received notice from the INTERPOL the possible presence and activities of Mulder in the Philippines. Mulder has prior conviction from his home country involving the crime of sexual abuse of the minors along with other crimes. During the arrest, Mulder was totally naked while sitting in front of his laptop computer just few seconds after the victims exited the house. During the investigation, the fourteen (14) year old victim revealed that she was sexually abused by Mulder since she was nine (9) years old. The case is pending preliminary investigation under NPS. No. X-05-INQ0-15I-00405.

**ii. National Bureau of Investigation – Anti-Human Trafficking Division (NBI-AHTRAD)**

The National Bureau of Investigation-Anti Human Trafficking Division (NBI-AHTRAD) conducted a total of forty eight (48) rescue and entrapment operations which resulted to the arrest of 151 suspected traffickers/facilitators and rescue of 303 identified trafficked victims. All of these operations resulted to 100% filing of cases.

In addition, AHTRAD investigated 109 trafficking in persons cases and 352 illegal recruitment cases.

### iii. IACAT Operations Center

The IACAT Operation Center (OPCEN) received and processed a total of eighty one (81) walk-in complaints for TIP, seven (7) of which involve TIP. OPCEN also received a total nineteen (19) referral of cases for initial assessment and investigation of possible Illegal Recruitment (IR) and Trafficking in Persons (TIP) from Department of Foreign Affairs – Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Worker's Affairs (DFA-OUMWA), Bureau of Immigration (BI), Department of Labor and Employment, Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), IACAT Secretariat, and other non-government agencies. Finding the walk-in complaints and referrals meritorious, the same were thereafter referred to National Bureau of Investigation-Anti Human Trafficking Division (NBI-AHTRAD) for proper disposition and action.

OPCEN operatives conducted seventeen (17) surveillance operations, and in support to the operations of IACAT Task Forces, NBI and PNP, the former assisted in eighteen (18) rescue and entrapment operations in various clubs and other private establishments that resulted to the apprehension of forty nine (49) suspected human traffickers and illegal recruiters and the rescued a total of one hundred twenty seven (127) victims, including forty four (44) minors.

### iv. Other Inter-Agency task forces: IACAT Anti-Trafficking Port-based Task Forces

Sea/Air Port Task Force	Profiling/Deferred Departure/Interception and Rescue Incidents	Numbers of Victims Rescued	Number of Alleged Offenders Intercepted	No of Cases Filed
APBATTF	1	7		
MHTFAT	57	949		
ZSBATTF	85	2224	2	6
MCIA	65	166		
CIATFAT	43	89	6	
NAIATFAT	213	505	13	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>3940</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>

The IACAT anti-trafficking port-based task forces in collaboration with their member and partner agencies profiled/deferred departure/received/intercepted and rescued three thousand nine hundred forty (3940) potential victims of human trafficking. Nine hundred fifty four (954) or 24% of these are minors.

#### **v. Philippine National Police**

The Philippine National Police handled 329 trafficking in persons cases which rescued a total of 1,505 victims and arrested 292 offenders. Below is the detailed summary of investigated cases on TIP from January – December 2015:

<b>Nature of TIP Cases</b>	
PNP Initiated Operations	183
Referred Cases	39
Walk-in	107
Total	329
<b>Sex/Category of Victims</b>	
Male Adults	105
Female Adults	1014
Male Minor	75
Female Minor	311
Total	1505
<b>Status of Suspects</b>	
Arrested	292
At-Large	274
Total	566
<b>Status of Cases</b>	
Under Investigation	84
Referred to Prosecutor	189
Filed in Court	44
No. of Cases where Victims Refused to Execute Affidavit	12
No. of Cases Referred to other Agencies	
Total	329
<b>Purpose of TIP</b>	
Child Trafficking	27
Sex	173
Labor	128
Mail Order Bride	1
Total	329

PNP has intensified its anti-trafficking in persons campaign through the creation of a Specialized Unit within the police organization that is solely dedicated to the investigation and operation of all cases of human trafficking. The Anti-trafficking unit



that is created is the strengthened and restructured Women and Children Protection Center or WCPC.

The strengthening and restructuring of WCPC through NAPOLCOM Resolution 2014-441 paved the way to the inclusion of TIP as additional mandate of the WCPC in April 2015. ATIP operation of the WCPC started in June 2015 in which a total of 78 comprehensive intelligence-driven surveillance activities, contact meeting and debriefing were conducted leading to the conduct of 26 operations on violation of the Expanded Act which resulted in the arrest of 60 suspects, identified 41 other offenders at large and the rescue of 274 victim-survivors in TIP activities.

#### **vi. Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA)**

The POEA investigated 98 cases, involving 231 complainants of Illegal Recruitment from April 2015 to January 15, 2016. The following are the status of the cases:

Total Number of Cases	98
Less: Closed & Terminated	14
Number of Endorsed Cases to DOJ/ Local Prosecution Offices	84
With Pending Warrant of Arrest	6
Submitted for Resolution/ Pending with DOJ/ Local Prosecution Offices	76
Dismissed	2

The POEA monitored 6 Illegal Recruitment convictions:

1. People of the Philippines vs. Marissa Escobar y Castillo with Criminal Case No. 2012-14489-MK, RTC, Branch CLVI (156) Marikina City (Simple Illegal Recruitment Section 6 or RA 8042)
2. People of the Philippines vs. Lucilla Ellaurza, Norrie Trellanes With Criminal Case No. 12-291167, RTC Branch 03, Manila
3. People of the Philippines vs. Maria Raquel Villes with Criminal Case Nos. MC10-13377, MC1013378, MC 1013380, MC10-13381, MC10-13382, MC10-13383, NCR Branch 213 Mandaluyong City (Large Scale Illegal Recruitment and Estafa)
4. People of the Philippines vs. Adriano Toston et.al., with Criminal Case No. 14-303962-63 RTC Branch 20, Manila ( Simple Illegal Recruitment and Estafa)
5. People of the Philippines vs. Gloria R. Gaspar and Jaydee Ann Gaspar with Criminal Case No. T5516 Branch 51, Tayug Pangasinan (Simple Illegal Recruitment)
6. People of the Philippines vs. Rexzhelle Seriosa y Gabriel with Criminal Case no. 07-1454 to 57 RTC Branch 117, Pasay City (Large Scale Illegal Recruitment and Estafa)

Moreover, the POEA through the Operations and Surveillance Division (OSD) conducted 193 surveillance/special operations. Of these 193, the subject of 65 surveillance involved unlicensed entities and those agencies whose licenses were cancelled. Three (3) were conducted against agencies whose licenses were suspended and 125 are against licensed agencies to verify reported violations.

The 65 surveillances conducted against unlicensed entities /agencies led to the closure of 12 establishments due to confirmed illegal recruitment activities covering the reporting period:

1. Johmadz International Corporation (Antipolo)
2. Jhomadz International Corporation (Paco)
3. Ayoneil Travel and Tours
4. Margaphil Technical Institute Inc.,
5. Lehi International
6. RPU International Manpower Services
7. Mind Resources Corporation
8. World Travel and Booking Express ( Baguio City)
9. World Travel and Booking Express ( 2<sup>ND</sup> office in Baguio City)
10. M.R. International Manpower Services Inc.,
11. Notre Dame Oilfield Maritime Services
12. Gemelli Travel and Tours

Further, five hundred six (506) administrative cases were filed against licensed recruitment agencies. The Administration has ordered the cancellation of thirty two (32) licenses of recruitment agencies found to have committed violations on the rules on overseas employment covering the same period.

## **International Cooperation**

1. The Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Ministers signed the **ASEAN Convention on Trafficking in Persons (ACTIP)** and the **ASEAN Plan of Action (APA)** last 21 November 2015 during the 25th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. These complementary instruments will have a regional impact in all of the ASEAN Community as it reaffirms the commitment to a stronger and more effective regional and international cooperation against TIP in terms of investigation, prosecution, and elimination of safe haven for the perpetrators and accomplices of TIP, and more importantly for the effective protection of, and assistance to victims of trafficking. The Philippine government, as the lead shepherd in TIP, played a vital role that lead to this significant event. PH Government drafted these 2 instruments, hosted several ASEAN Expert Technical Working Group meetings that resulted to the conclusion of the 2 drafts in December 2014, which drafts were thereafter approved by the SOMTC in June 2015 and finally signed by the ASEAN Ministers in November 2015. Recently, PH Government again hosted the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN SOMTC Working Group on TIP and Socialization of ACTIP and APA last January 20-

21, 2016 with the objective to discuss areas of effective cross-sectoral collaboration of TIP under the framework of APA, among others.

2. DOJ and the **Prosecutor's Office of the Netherlands** concluded and agreed on the terms of the MOU that lay down the mechanism to enhance cooperation and coordination in the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking, child sexual exploitation (including *via* internet) and child sex tourism.
3. The Manila International Dialogue was held in 2-3 June 2015. The event was organized by IACAT and Netherlands Embassy and participated in by Manila-based embassies, international organizations, civil society and private sector representatives and Philippine authorities. The participants then signed a **Manila Declaration** which affirms support for strengthened cooperation on recommended actions on domestic and tourist workers, seafarers, and online child sexual exploitation. Technical Working Groups are created specifically to review programs and actions taken as well as address the challenges in each of these group areas.
4. The Government of **Australia** and the PH through the Australia-Asia Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons (AAPTIP), signed the Subsidiary Arrangement which formulated the AAPTIP Philippines Country Program Strategy 2015-2018. The work plan for 2015 had been successfully rolled in several project areas (all ongoing):
  - Law enforcement officers professional development
  - Cross-border joint TIP investigations
  - Prosecutors Victim-Witness Coordination Program
  - Prosecutors TIP Computerized Case Management System
  - Prosecutors Professional Development
  - Judges/Court Officers Professional Development
  - Marathon Hearings and Plea Bargaining Guidelines
  - Referral of Labor TIP Cases for Prosecution
5. The DOLE/POEA reviews, in coordination with the DFA, proposed bilateral labor agreements in both the Technical Working Group (TWG) level, headed by the POEA and the DOLE Steering Committee on Bilateral Labor Agreement, chaired by the DOLE Undersecretary for Employment.

In 2015, there were twenty four (24) bilateral labor agreements and one (1) multilateral labor agreement reviewed:

The proposed BLAs reviewed were:

- For the Middle East: Bahrain (Field of Labour and Technical Vocational Education and Training Protocol and Standard Employment Contract (SEC)); Kuwait (domestic worker recruitment and Protocol and SEC); Oman (Field of Labour), Qatar (Protocol and SEC)), KSA (Protocol on domestic workers and amendment to the SEC and on Labour

Cooperation)), UAE (Labour Cooperation and Protocol and SEC)) and Egypt (Field of Health, Medical Sciences and Pharmaceutical Production)

- For Asia and the Pacific: Azerbaijan (Cooperation), Brunei (Labour Cooperation), Mongolia (Labour Cooperation), New Zealand (Principles and Controls on the Recruitment and Protection of Filipino Workers in New Zealand)
- For Europe: France (Youth Mobility), Canada (IRR for Canada British Columbia), Canada (IRR for Canada Saskatchewan)
- For Africa: Ethiopia (Labour Cooperation), Morocco (Migrant Workers), Seychelles (Labour Cooperation)
- For Maritime: Proposed Instrument to Implement the ASEAN Convention on Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and their Families, Proposed BLA to implement the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC), 2006 with Flag Ships carrying Filipino Seafarers, and Proposed BLA for Migrant Fishers.

Of these reviewed instruments, four (4) have been signed:

- Canada (Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Canadian Center for Occupational Health and Safety);
- Canada – British Columbia (Cooperation in Human Resource Deployment and Development);
- Italy (Labor Cooperation between the Philippines and Italy in the management of migration flows); and
- New Zealand (Arrangement on the Principles and Controls on the Recruitment and Protection of Filipino Workers in New Zealand)

The government conducted the following cooperative international investigations on TIP cases in 2015:

1. WCPC has effected two (2) successful operation rescuing 13 Filipino women trafficked victims in Bondusan, Sabah, Malaysia in close coordination with the Royal Malaysian Police (RMP) utilizing the Head of Special Unit (HSU) ASEAN Processes through intelligence exchanges of information on cross-border coordination and investigation with ASEAN counterparts.
  - Rescue of fourteen women victims of TIP in Kota Kinabalu, Bondusan, Malaysia on 7-10 October 2015
  - Rescue operation in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 18-23 October 2015
2. DOJ has seven (7) on going cooperative international investigations on TIP involving the following countries: 1 with United States, 2 with the Netherlands, 1 with Indonesia, 1 with Malaysia, 1 with Australia and 1 with Spain.

3. The Philippine Embassy successfully coordinated with Kurdistan Regional Government resulted to the rescue of ten (10) sex trafficking victims in Baghdad who were repatriated through the assistance of IOM.

### **Foreign Sex Offenders and Pedophiles:**

A total of 101 registered sex offenders were excluded or refused admission to the country by the Bureau and sent back to their country of origin, pursuant to Section 29 (a) (3) of Commonwealth Act No. 613, as amended, otherwise known as the Philippine Immigration Act.

<b>Nationality of Excluded Registered Sex Offenders</b>	
USA	61
Australia	32
United Kingdom	6
Netherlands	2

## **D. PARTNERSHIP AND NETWORKING**

The law on trafficking in persons specifically states the inclusion of three representatives from non-government organizations to represent the sectors of OFWs, women, and children to the IACAT. In 2015, the following NGOs are nominated for a second term, and awaiting appointment from the Office of the President's official members of the Council:

- International Justice Mission (IJM) for the children's sector;
- Visayan Forum Foundation Inc. (VFFI) representing the sector of women; and
- Blas Ople Policy Center and Training Institute (BOPCTI) for the OFW sector.

The government through IACAT and together with its member agencies joined forces with several partners through the following:

1. The Philippines, strengthening its commitment against trafficking, contributed a modest US\$10,000.00 to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons;
2. DOLE signed 22 Memorandum of Agreements between the Municipalities of Surigao del Norte and DOLE Caraga to fight illegal recruitment and strengthen advocacy on laws governing local and overseas employment in the said province. The MOA provides among others, technical and financial assistance to parents of illegally recruited minors to help augment their income and cope with poverty. The President of the Chamber of the Mines signed a Pledge of Commitment of 46 mining companies operating in Caraga to stop or prevent engaging the services of children in their companies and in mining sites;

3. IACAT entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit (a religious congregation within the Catholic Church whose ministries include education, health, pastoral care, spiritual guidance, social work, administration and interfaith dialogue) to provide alternative safe space to serve as a temporary shelter for women and children who may be victims or potential victims of human trafficking. The Alternative Safe Space was inaugurated on 7 September 2015.
4. IACAT XI Network signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the NCCC Cinema and Southern Maligaya Taxi, Inc. (SMTI) for the playing of the video infomercials selected in the cinemas of NCCC and in the video monitor of taxicabs unit owned by SMTI, respectively. The videos were selected during the video infomercial competition conducted by the IACAT XI participated by students.
5. Continued partnership with other NGOs, including faith-based organizations and sectoral communities, in conducting advocacy campaigns and regularly provides support in their anti-trafficking activities.
6. Promotion of awareness of and involvement of private sector in all TIP projects such as the International Day Against Trafficking, World Day Against Trafficking and the NGO Summits. Partnerships with SCAP, UNICEF, UNFPA, IOM, MTV Exit, PLAN Phil. and PACT were maintained;
7. Enhanced partnership with The Government of Australia Australia-Asia Program Against Trafficking in Persons (AAPTIP) through a Subsidiary Arrangement through the Australia-Asia Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons (AAPTIP). Pursuant to such arrangement, AAPTIP Philippines Country Program Strategy 2015-2018 was formulated which will focused on eight (8) main areas:
  - LEOs professional development;
  - Cross-border joint TIP investigations;
  - Prosecution's Victim-Witness Coordination Program;
  - Prosecutors TIP Computerised Case Management System;
  - Prosecutors Professional Development;
  - Judges/court officers Professional Development;
  - Marathon Hearings; and
  - Plea Bargaining Guidelines
8. Active involvement of trafficking survivors in policy development and in the campaign against TIP. TIP survivors were involved in campaigns against TIP (Survivor's day, Film Showing, Sharing of Experiences etc.);
9. Strengthening of relationships with foreign partners/ international funding/ donor organizations (AAPTIP, IOM, ARTIP, UNICEF, AUSAID, USAID) for funding of both continuing programs and new initiatives developed (proposals, training, research, etc.) to address TIP issues, local, national and international in nature;

10. At the strategic level, the PCTC is in close partnership with INTERPOL and has implemented anti-trafficking programs and cross-border operations in the Philippines since 2012 sponsored by the Canadian government;
11. DILG entered into a partnership with the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, for the development and pilot testing of the Training Manual on VAWC. The said manual was used in the Capacity-Building Activities for the 25 beneficiary-barangays of PUP. PUP has also committed to continue this advocacy and part of their plan for 2016 is to expand the coverage of their beneficiaries by covering more barangays of the City of Manila;
12. DILG also partnered with Aklan State University, Banga, Aklan and Central Philippines University, Iloilo City for the implementation of Capacity-Building for Barangay VAW Desk Persons/Officers. The activity aimed to:  
a) tap a state university in the province of Aklan and Iloilo, as partners to deliver the capacity building project; and b) Equip punong barangays and barangay VAW desk persons/officers with necessary knowledge of laws on gender-based violence and mechanism in addressing GBV. Highlights of the activity include discussion on handling cases of trafficking in persons. Moreover, the process employed in the engagement with the partner was documented for possible replication in other areas of the country. For continuity and sustainability, the present partners are expected to serve as training managers in their areas of jurisdiction to cover other parts of the province of Aklan;
13. CFO continued its partnership with the Dynamic Outsource Solutions, Inc. (DOS1) for the provision of human resource and technical support for the operations of the 1343 Actionline and its textline. In order to expand the services of the 1343 Actionline, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed between CFO and Quantum X, the company behind WorkAbroad.ph, on the development of the 1343 Actionline mobile application. Other partnerships were forged with the Catholic Women's League (CWL) and the Local Government of Sta. Rosa in the implementation of anti-trafficking advocacy activities;
14. Officers from Polaris Project, an NGO operating the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) in the US, conducted a study visit on anti-trafficking hotlines in the Philippines. CFO organized their meetings with the 1343 Actionline case officers and call takers, and IACAT Secretariat;
15. Partnership with Arellano Law Foundation (ALF) through the Office of the Legal Aid on the provision of free legal assistance to victims of human trafficking whose cases were reported through the 1343 Actionline. The same is being replicated with other top performing law schools not only in Luzon but also in Visayas. A plan to have a centralized free legal service

to victims of human trafficking nationwide in partnership with the academe;

16. For the youth sector, the CFO networked with the World Youth Alliance, a global coalition of young people advocating for human dignity. Regional Conferences on anti-trafficking for the members will be conducted in partnership with the IACAT.
17. The American-Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) has partnered with CFO in the planning and implementation of the Training of Trainors (TOT) on disaster counseling to be held in Manila and Cebu.
18. For the protection of the marriage migrants in the USA who might be victims of human trafficking in the guise of intermarriage, domestic violence or mail-order bride scheme, the CFO networked with the New York Asian Women's Center based in New York, USA for the referral of counselees for temporary shelter, legal counseling and services;
19. The POEA forges partnerships with LGUs and various socio-civic organizations to expand the network in the campaign against illegal recruitment and to increase public awareness on overseas employment, particularly on information that will protect them from illegal recruitment and trafficking in persons. POEA concretizes this cooperative alliance through the signing of an MOA on the AIR Program with non-government institutions, faith-based groups, academic institutions, professional groups, socio-civic organizations, among others;
20. With regard to the LGUs, the POEA, together with the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, DOLE Regional Offices, signs an MOA on the Convergence on IR-Free LGUs.

The scope of cooperation among the parties signatory to the MOA, covers:

- Intensification of local information campaign against illegal recruitment and trafficking in persons, especially those undertaken in the guise of, or through recruitment for overseas employment; and
  - Establishment of local mechanisms for the protection and support of migrant workers through continued technical assistance by relevant national agencies to LGUs, capacity building, and enhanced coordination and cooperation.
21. Philippine Missions abroad continue to network and partner with the host government, International Organizations, non-government organizations and with civil society groups at their countries of jurisdiction in order to combat human trafficking. Such efforts include:



- The Philippine Embassy in Berlin participated in an information drive for household employees of UN Staff hosted by the Federal Foreign Office (Auswartiges Amt) where 8 out of the 14 foreign household employees are Filipinos. The Embassy also strengthened linkages with Ban Ying, the Berlin-based social work organization that runs a shelter for women from Southeast Asia as well as a counseling and coordination center against trafficking in persons. Ban Ying is one of the several NGOs in Europe known for raising awareness of rights violations experienced by domestic workers employed by diplomats, and they have worked closely with the Federal Foreign Office and select Diplomatic Missions on specific cases that concern exploitation and domestic abuse.
- The Philippine Consulate General in New York has an on-going understanding with the San Lorenzo Chapel in Lower Manhattan, which the Consulate utilizes as shelter for trafficking victims. The Consulate also uses its close relations and partnership with Filipino-American Legal Defense and Education Fund (FALDEF) to provide legal assistance to trafficking victims. Other assistance is available through Safe Horizons (for female victims) and DAMAYAN (for trafficking victims brought to the US as domestic workers). Post also has cultivated close relations with the New York Police, US Department of Labor and Department of Homeland Security to ensure that trafficking victims are immediately referred to the Consulate for assistance, and that the Consulate is notified as soon as possible about any trafficking cases.
- The Philippine Embassy in Prague is working with agencies such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Filcom Groups such as Las Damas de Rizal and the European Network of Filipinos in Diaspora (ENFiD) in preventing TIP, by encouraging them to report cases to the Embassy. Post is building a network of services providers such as a legal aid, medical facilities, psycho-social services, temporary accommodation, among others.
- The Philippine Consulate General in Chicago has a standing partnership with the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, which operates out of Chicago, to support the investigation, prevention and overall conviction of sex traffickers, particularly those involving American nationals.
- The Philippine Embassy in Singapore participated in a two-day workshop conducted by UN Women Singapore from 12 to 13 March 2015. Representatives from multinational companies such as HP, Microsoft, etc. took part in the two-day seminar and made recommendations on how TIP can be better addressed by various companies. In particular, it was agreed that there should be greater bilateral dialogue between the two sectors in order to

establish standards on recruitment fees and other circumstances that lead to TIP.