

**INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL AGAINST TRAFFICKING (IACAT)**  
Republic of the Philippines

**ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT**  
For the reporting period: CY 2016

Submitted by:

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## INTRODUCTION

### **Philippine Government Efforts Against Trafficking In Persons**

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On 30 June 2016, the Philippines was finally **upgraded to Tier 1** after being in Tier 2 for five consecutive years prior. In the 2016 Annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report of the US State Department, countries under Tier 1 "fully meet" the minimum standards "for the elimination of human trafficking" under the US Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000. Philippines is the only Southeast Asian country currently under Tier 1.

On a similar note, the Global Slavery Index ranked the Philippines as **first in Asia, third in Asia-Pacific, and 29<sup>th</sup> in the world** for the government response to modern slavery, with a **BB rating**. The Global Slavery Index, which was released on 1 June 2016, seeks to mobilize action against human exploitation by quantifying the scale of the problem and the quality of current responses. The said index recognized the Philippine Government's innovative measures and wide range of mechanisms to protect its overseas labor force and considered the country as a regional leader in terms of victim support and protection.

These two recognitions signify the Philippine Government's effective implementation of the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) Second National Strategic Action Plan Against Trafficking in Persons (2012 – 2016) wherein all the plans, programs and activities of the Council are aligned into four (4) Key Result Areas (KRAs), namely: Advocacy and Prevention; Protection, Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reintegration; Prosecution and Law Enforcement; and Partnership and Networking.

## 4 KEY RESULT AREAS

### I. Advocacy and Prevention

#### A. Legislation

1. Republic Act No. 6955 or the "Anti-Mail Order Bride Act" was recently repealed by Republic Act No. 10906 or the "Anti-Mail Order Spouse Act" which lapsed into law on 21 July 2016. The new law prohibits the act of engaging in any business or profitable schemes that match and/or offer Filipinos to foreign nationals for purposes of marriage or common law partnership through mail-order basis, personal introduction, email or websites in the internet. Other prohibited acts include exhibiting, printing, or distributing materials which promote the mail-order spouse industry; attracting or inducing any Filipino to join any club or association that matches Filipinos to foreign nationals for a fee; and using postal service or websites on the internet in promoting this law's prohibited acts.

The salient features of the new law are the inclusion of Filipino men against acts of matching for purposes of marriage or common law partnership to foreign nationals; matching through the use of internet; confiscation and forfeiture of proceeds and instruments derived from committing the prohibited acts in favor of the government; and provision on the formulation of an implementing rules and regulations.

To ensure the prevention, protection, and rehabilitation for victims of mail-order spouse scheme, this law mandates the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), and the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) to conduct programs such as constant monitoring and formulating of policies pertinent to the scheme, and the mandatory provision of temporary shelter, free legal assistance, case management, psychological support, and other intervention programs for the victims.

2. On 28 April 2016, the **2016 Revised Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) Rules and Regulations Governing the Recruitment and Employment of Land based Overseas Filipino Workers** took effect; while on 2 September 2016, the **2016 Revised POEA Rules and Regulations Governing the Recruitment and Employment of Seafarers** took effect. Below are some relevant changes:
  - a. Recruitment agencies whose licenses were revoked due to violation of the Anti-TIP law are now disqualified to participate in the overseas employment program of the Government;

- b. The Legal Assistance and Enforcement Measures of the POEA, which were mainly Anti-Illegal Recruitment programs are now Anti-Illegal Recruitment and Anti-Trafficking in Persons programs;
  - c. Administrative violation of the Anti-TIP law by foreign employers/foreign placement agencies is now considered a serious offense punishable by permanent disqualification (in participating in the overseas employment program) and delisting from the roster of accredited principals/employers;
  - d. The Administration may issue an Order of Preventive Suspension upon recommendation of the embassy/POLO, or when recommended by any government agencies who are members of the IACAT supported by a detailed report, sworn statement/s of worker/s, and other evidence; Provided that, the concerned party shall be given a period of five (5) days from receipt of the Show Cause Order within which to file an Answer/Explanation. Failure to file such Answer/Explanation within the prescribed period may result in the imposition of Order of Preventive Suspension on the agency concerned. No Motion for Extension to file an Answer/Explanation shall be allowed;
  - e. The Comprehensive and Integrated Public Education Program of POEA, involving workers, licensed recruitment agencies, principals/employers and government personnel, now undertakes to promote safe and legal migration and prevent illegal recruitment and TIP, in partnership with local government units (LGUs), other government agencies, private sector and civil society organizations advocating the rights and welfare of Overseas Filipino Workers.
3. On 18 May 2016, **Republic Act No. 10821 or the "Children's Emergency Relief and Protection Act"** was signed into law. It provides that upon the declaration of a national and local state of calamity, the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the DSWD, with the assistance of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), operating units in the area and local councils against trafficking and violence against women and their children, in accordance with existing laws, shall immediately heighten comprehensive measures and monitoring to prevent child trafficking, labor, and prostitution, including domestic and sexual violence, in the areas declared under a state of calamity.
4. The Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) is actively pursuing legislative advocacy for the following:
- a. Amendment of the Revised Penal Code provisions on prostitution, and for the enactment of an Anti-Prostitution bill redefining prostitution and persons exploited in prostitution; Shifting criminal liability to buyers or customers, business owners, and users perpetuating prostitution; treating persons in prostitution as victims of the system; and according higher penalties to those committing child prostitution;

- b. Proscription of purchasing of sexual services in the final draft of the new Criminal Code of the Philippines (PCC). Also being pursued in the completed draft of the PCC are the trans-border crimes, among others;
- c. Amendment of the Anti-Rape Law provision on "pardon" and "consent";
- d. Amendment of the Anti-Sexual Harassment Law expanding the definition of sexual harassment to include peer sexual harassment and cyber harassment, strengthen the Committee on Decorum and Investigation (CODI) in establishments and increase penalties for the crime.

## **B. Updates on Policy Development**

- The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) issued the following policy guidelines intended to regulate hiring and improve working conditions of employees, to wit:
  - a. Department Order (DO) No. 149, Series of 2016 entitled "Guidelines in Assessing and Determining Hazardous Work in the Employment of Persons Below 18 Years of Age" was issued on 15 February 2016 providing for different work and activities declared hazardous for persons below 18 years of age such as preparing and serving alcoholic drinks for immediate consumption in the premises of the establishment and work which exposes the child to sexual abuse such as in lewd shows, KTV bars, massage parlors and other similar establishments.
  - b. DO No. 156, Series 2016 entitled "Rules and Regulations Governing the Working and Living Conditions of Fishers on Board Fishing Vessels Engaged in Commercial Fishing Operation" was issued on 25 May 2016 which provides that fishing vessel owners engaged in child labor and forced labor shall be penalized pursuant to appropriate provisions of the Revised Penal Code, Republic Act No. 7610, Republic Act. No, 7658, Republic Act No. 9208, Republic Act No. 9231 and Republic Act No. 10364.
  - c. DO No. 159, Series of 2016 entitled "Guidelines for the Employment of Migratory Sugarcane Workers" was issued on 22 June 2016 prescribing standards to be followed in hiring migratory sugarcane workers such as the requirements for the issuance of authority to hire before employers and/or contractors may be allowed to hire and/or transport these workers, among others. It also includes a provision on prohibition against child labor.
- Formulation of the Guidelines on Referral System Involving Trafficking In Persons Cases – Considering IACAT's drive to strengthen interventions to address Forced Labor Trafficking, several technical working group (TWG) meetings were conducted in 2016 to formulate a comprehensive and strategic TIP case referral system. The mechanism establishes a streamlined and efficient delivery of services for survivors involving key duty-bearers such as the POEA, DOLE, DFA, PNP, Bureau of Immigration (BI), DSWD, and the DOJ.

A key success in the system is the drafting of a singular unified Referral Sheet that will be utilized by all agencies which addresses issues on re-traumatization resulting from multiple interviews and a burdensome access process.

- Formulation of the Money Laundering Dimensions of Trafficking in Persons, a revision of the IACAT Handbook in Combating TIP Using the Anti-Money Laundering Act (Handbook). Among the gaps in addressing TIP cases are financial investigations and the civil remedies. As such, the IACAT conducted several TWG meetings to revise the Handbook with a view of strengthening protocols and of setting clearer guidelines in investigating money laundering dimensions of trafficking.
- Development of an Ordinance Template for Local Government Units – IACAT has started conducting a series of TWG meetings in the first quarter of 2017 to develop an 'Ordinance Template' to guide municipal, city, and provincial government units in the formulation of their respective anti-trafficking ordinances. The passing of an LGU ordinance on TIP is important as it serves as basis for the LGU to regularly allocate funds for anti-trafficking concerns, among others.

IACAT has launched the Manual on the Labor Dimensions of Trafficking in Persons on May 6, 2016. This is a manual for Investigators, Prosecutors, Labor Inspectors and Service Providers which is designed to establish conceptual clarity on forced labor; improve investigative techniques; distinguish acts of trafficking for labor exploitation from other penal laws; expound other legal options covered by civil, labor, migration and administrative law regimes; and outline the legal protection and other forms of assistance to victims and survivors of trafficking for labor exploitation, as well as roles and responsibilities of agencies and institutions. The said manual further aims to increase detection, prevention, investigation and prosecution of labor trafficking cases. A total of 1,000 copies were already distributed to the Regional Anti-Trafficking Task Forces and IACAT member agencies.

- The PNP Women and Children Protection Center (WCPC) launched the **Revised Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) on Trafficking in Persons Investigation**. This manual provides a comprehensive approach to the campaign against TIP and serves as a reference for all police investigators in the investigation of TIP cases. It is an easy-to-read manual that shows a step-by-step guide for operational planning, risk management of victims, and the use of special investigative tools and techniques. The manual also underlines the importance of strategic planning for police personnel to achieve quality TIP investigations. Lastly, the manual is intended to emphasize the protection of victims as a paramount consideration in TIP operations, and the importance of inter-agency and international cooperation in the investigation process.

It was approved by the PNP Board of Doctrine Development on July 19, 2016 and the manual was launched on October 15, 2016.

### **C. Formulation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Strategic Action Plan Against Trafficking in Persons**

The IACAT is currently in the process of formulating the Third National Strategic Action Plan Against Trafficking in Persons covering the period from 2017 to 2021 through a highly consultative process. Several summits were held in the last 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2016 precisely for the purpose of developing the plan, to wit:

- **Civil Society Organizations (CSO) Summit** held from 21–23 September, 2016 at Cherry Blossoms Hotel, Manila City. More than 200 participants from different CSOs representing women, children, and Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW) and partners from recruitment agencies, media and international organizations.
- **Anti-Trafficking Task Force Summit** held from 25–27 October, 2016 at Cherry Blossoms Hotel, Manila City. The said summit was a consultative conference of 120 participants from Regional Anti-Trafficking Task Forces, Seaport and Airport Based Task Forces, Sea Marshall, and Sea and Air Transport sector representatives.
- **Caraga Local Council Against Trafficking and Violence Against Women and Children (LCAT-VAWC) Summit** held from 18-19 November, 2016 in Almont Hotel, Butuan City. The summit was envisioned to develop a strategic action plan for the entire Region XIII (Caraga), anchored on a functional LCAT-VAWC mechanism in fulfillment of the mandate to localize interventions and infuse investment into anti-trafficking interventions from the local government level.
- **ARMM Anti-Trafficking Summit** held from 24-25 November, 2016 in Zamboanga City. The Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao is identified as a priority area; thus the need to develop interventions that can effectively prevent the trafficking of its people and its utilization as a transit and exit point. IACAT deems it necessary to ensure that the next five-year strategic action plan specifically addresses and responds to the unique intricacies of trafficking in this region.
- **The National Anti-Trafficking Summit** held from 7–9 December, 2016. This was the final consultation where all the information, suggestions, comments and inputs from the three previous summits were thoroughly discussed and considered for the formulation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Strategic Action Plan Against Human Trafficking.

The five summits endeavored to achieve the following objectives:

- To assess the gains of IACAT over the past years in addressing human trafficking;
- To draw a local and national landscape of TIP in the country and identify key gaps and challenges in addressing it;



- To consult and solicit inputs as well as identify priority goals and targets for the 3rd 5-year Strategic National Action Plan;
- To share lessons learned or best practices on prevention, protection, investigation, and partnership; and
- To continue the dynamic engagement and ensure the sustainability of programs/projects towards eliminating human trafficking.

Outputs from the summits are being consolidated for validation and final consultation with the IACAT member agencies on 23 February 2017 to be held in Manila City. The Plan is set to be rolled out in the first quarter of 2017 and shall remain in effect until end of 2021.

#### **D. Anti-TIP Awareness Programs**

**Table 16. Anti-TIP Awareness Programs**

| <b>Program</b>  | <b>Description and Target Audience</b>  | <b>No. of Participants benefited</b>                                   | <b>Source of Funds</b> |
|---|---|--|------------------------|
| <b>Pre-Employment Orientation Seminars (PEOS)</b>                           | The <b>PEOS</b> 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 the 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. | 851,170  | POEA                   |
| <b>Anti-Illegal Recruitment /Trafficking -in-Persons (AIR/TIP) Seminars</b> | The <b>AIR/TIP Seminar</b> 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 ATIP Act). 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.   | 2,561  | POEA                   |
| <b>Capability Enhancement Trainings (CETs)</b>                              | The <b>CET on the Overseas Employment Program</b> 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. For the first three awareness campaigns, POEA utilized generally funds appropriated from the national budget. Although LGUs sometimes offered to fund the activities themselves.   | 1,501 participants were gathered in all 22 CETs conducted              | POEA                   |
| <b>AIR-TIP Campaign by DOLE</b>   | The AIR/TIP Campaign targets communities, especially those vulnerable to illegal recruitment and human trafficking.   | 170,777 participants in 769 AIR-TIP                                    | DOLE                   |
| <b>Community Education Program (CEP)</b>                                    | The Community Education Program (CEP) is a nationwide annual information campaign in coordination with various government agencies, NGOs, LGUs and academic institutions that caters to assist prospective migrants in making informed decisions regarding working or migrating abroad, generate community involvement on migration concerns and getting in touch with their homeland, Philippines.   | It has covered: + 18 provinces; 33 cities and municipalities; 33 LGUs; | CFO-DOJ-IACAT          |

The CEP has also been an avenue for the CFO to raise awareness to the public about the Anti-Trafficking Law as prospective migrants may also be possible victims of human trafficking. This is also to mobilize the public as they can act as agents of the law in protecting the victims and in case they may have knowledge of perpetrators. CEP also covers-up raising public awareness on various issues concerning migration, intermarriages and existing government policies. It is also linked to various programs directed against illegal recruitment, mail-order bride scheme, 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.

The funding for the implementation of CEP was sourced from the CFO amounting to Php 400,000.

39 schools;  
15 radio stations;  
5 churches; and  
6 NGOs.  
A total of 9,401 number of attendees directly benefited during the campaign. For its radio interview, there is an estimated 100,000 listeners.

**DFA**

Foreign Service Posts have regular engagements with the Filipino communities in the countries under their jurisdictions through consular outreach missions, as well as other community gatherings, enabling them to monitor possible irregularities in employment statuses.

**DFA**

For example, the Philippine Embassy in Paris, in partnership with *Comite Generale des Association Philippine en France* and with some French NGOs, organized seminars to raise the level of awareness of Filipinos on various issues affecting them, including human trafficking and illegal recruitment.

The Philippine Consulate General in Hong Kong, in partnership with International Organization on Migration (IOM) and Domestic Workers Project (DWEPP), conducted a TIP awareness raising seminar for OFWs on 31 July 2016.

In commemoration of the World Day Against Trafficking last July 2016, the following FSPs conducted information drive, film showing, workshops, display of banner at Posts' public area, to sensitize the Filipino community as well as the Embassy personnel of the latest developments in the government's fight against human trafficking:

- 1.) The Philippine Consulate General in Agana
- 2.) The Philippine Embassy in Buenos Aires
- 3.) The Philippine Embassy in Berne
- 4.) The Philippine Embassy in Dhaka
- 5.) The Philippine Consulate General in Hong Kong
- 6.) The Philippine Consulate General in Milan
- 7.) The Philippine Embassy in New Delhi
- 8.) The Philippine Embassy in Muscat
- 9.) The Philippine Embassy in Ottawa
- 10.) The Philippine Embassy in Prague
- 11.) The Philippine Embassy in Rome
- 12.) The Philippine Consulate General in Shanghai
- 13.) The Philippine Embassy in Seoul
- 14.) The Philippine Consulate General in Vancouver
- 15.) The Philippine Embassy in Vatican
- 16.) The Philippine Consulate General in Dubai
- 17.) The Philippine Embassy in Abu Dhabi

Attended by more than 140 participants composed mainly of DWEPP members.

17 Foreign Service Posts commemorated and participated

The Regional Consular Offices also participate in various inter-agency fora organized by local governments.

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>IACAT-Regional Celebration: International Day Against Trafficking (IDAT)</b> | 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 <b>"Protocol To Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children"</b> , series of activities in the Regions and Provinces headed by IACAT Task Forces were conducted.   | Region 11: DOJ-IACAT<br>Region 10: 350<br>Region 9: 300<br>Region 8: 1000<br>Region 3: 400<br>Region 2: 460 |
| <b>18-Day Campaign to End VAW</b>   | The PCW led the 2016 annual observance of the 18-Day Campaign to End Violence Against Women (VAW), with the theme "VAW-free community starts with me". The campaign gave emphasis on everyone's commitment and contributions to ending VAW and continued pursuit for common vision of a VAW-free community. The Campaign kicked-off on 25 November 2016 at Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) and the event was participated by 2,593 individuals from NGAs, LGUs, private sector, and CSOs. The event served as venue for government (as duty-bearers) and advocates in highlighting actions to 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. The PCW also launched the "ORANGE YOUR ICON for 18 Days Advocacy Initiative" as one of the major activities. This activity aimed to strengthen the ANTI-VAW advocacy in the tourism sector where women can become vulnerable and become victims of sexual exploitation, prostitution and trafficking. The budget spent for the Campaign activities was P2.8 Million which came from PCW's General Appropriations Act (GAA) Fund and funding support from the Department of Tourism (DOT) and its attached agencies, Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), and Tourism Promotions Board (TPB). | 2,593 individuals from NGAs, LGUs, private sector, and CSOs<br>PCW  |
| <b>IACAT: World Day Against Trafficking (WDAT)</b>                              | Since the adoption of resolution A/RES/68/192 designating July 30 as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons (WDAT) by the United Nations General Assembly (GA) in 2013, the Philippines have commemorated the World Day Against Trafficking as an awareness-raising event for all anti-trafficking efforts in the country. For this year, IACAT gathered all leaders and advocates in one forum with the theme "Ituloy and Laban Kontra Human Trafficking!" The theme was specifically designed to highlight the gains and accomplishments in this advocacy and to reinforce the alliances of key agencies, stakeholders, and partners. It intended also to strengthen the commitment of the present administration by emphasizing that human trafficking is second to drug trafficking in the high-income, low risk organized transnational crime. The event highlighted the strong and resilient pledge of commitment of partners from law enforcement, prosecution, judiciary, foreign missions, and international organization. It was attended by heads and representatives of government agencies, civil society, international community, and media that all together signify their unwavering support by signing the statement of collective commitment in the fight against human trafficking. The bulk of the expense was paid by the IOM.  | 250 participants from IACAT member agencies, Partners, Media, CSOs<br>DOJ-IACAT                             |
| <b>2nd International Dialogue on Human Trafficking</b>                          | During the 1 <sup>st</sup> International Dialogue on Human Trafficking in June 2015, delegates from 19 embassies in the Philippines, 11 NGOs, and 15 government agencies signed the Manila Declaration to Enhance International Cooperation in Combating Human Trafficking. As a way forward on the four action papers (relating to trafficking of domestic workers; of tourist workers; of seafarers; on-line child exploitation) endorsed by the signatories of the Manila Declaration, three technical working groups (TWGs) were created: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- TWG on Household Service Workers (HSW) and Tourist Workers led by the IACAT and the POEA</li> <li>- TWG on Online Child Exploitation led by the United States and Australian Embassies with IACAT</li> </ul>   | DOJ-IACAT   |

- TWG on Seafarers led by the Embassy of the King of the Netherlands with IACAT

These TWGs have held focused group discussions on their respective action papers – in particular, on achievements and relevant efforts since the recommendations were drawn up, lessons learned, existing challenges, best practices, gaps, and recommendations for the present administration.

Thus, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Dialogue held on 31 May 2016, all signatories of the 2015 Manila Declaration and additional anti-trafficking stakeholders convened and considered the recommendations of the technical working groups as well as renewed commitments and welcomed new partners for the enhanced international cooperation of anti-trafficking efforts. As a result, the Second Dialogue was able to draft a matrix of existing anti-trafficking initiatives, results, challenges, and recommendations from the TWGs; a summary document with priority action points agreed upon by the stakeholders; and an updated directory of anti-trafficking focal persons from attending organizations, including new participants.

|             |   |             |
|-------------|---|-------------|
| <b>PCTC</b> | The PCTC conducts an awareness campaign about the effects of TIP in the remote communities within the Zamboanga Peninsula. This includes conducting seminars for the local Barangay/village officials regarding the recruitment mode of traffickers, psychological effects on the victims and ways to prevent people from becoming victims of human trafficking. This campaign is conducted by PCTC in cooperation with some government agencies in the area. | <b>PCTC</b> |
|-------------|---|-------------|

## **E. Social Media Publicity**

IACAT maintains the utilization of the social media as an effective tool in reaching and informing the maximum number of individuals about the menace of human trafficking and at the same time providing them with alternative access or linkages to relevant government agencies and other service providers. The IACAT Secretariat through its Public Information and Communications Section regularly supervised 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 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. Infused in its homepage are the twitter and facebook account page with its real-time updates.
- **IACAT Public Assistance Corner (I-PAC)** page which can be accessed through the IACAT website. 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 is an inexpensive and effective medium that Filipinos can use to seek assistance

from the government. Majority of the I-PAC correspondence involves OFWs seeking assistance on various issues such as objectionable working situations, information regarding the whereabouts of their respective recruiters, non-payment of salaries, substitution of contracts, and confiscation of passports, among others.

The public assistance tool is also useful 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 interest of students regarding TIP and how it relates to existing social science models.

#### **F. Other Anti-TIP Information Campaign**

- The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), International Justice Mission (IJM), National Youth Commission (NYC), World Vision and CFO developed anti-trafficking posters and stickers. The said materials used IACAT 1343 Actionline as the campaign anti-trafficking hotline.
- On 5 July 2016, the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) issued a memorandum directing all Theater Operations to air the audio visual presentation of IACAT. The three (3) IACAT infomercials include "Dilim", "Selda" and "1343 Actionline Against Trafficking". The said infomercials will be shown during trailer gap and/or before the exhibition of main features with Parental Guidance (PG) and up classification ratings. This effort is part of a massive information dissemination campaign in partnership with MTRCB on the existence of the law and the various issues and problems attendant to human trafficking.
- CFO distributed 10,000 primers on the Republic Act No. 9208, otherwise known as the "Anti-Trafficking In Persons Act of 2003," as amended by Republic Act No. 10364, also known as the "Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2012" (collectively the "Expanded Act") during its advocacy campaigns, including community education program activities.
- An electronic primer on the RA No. 10906 or the Anti-Mail Order Spouse Law was also disseminated to about 500 partners.
- The PCW updated, redesigned and reprinted 4,500 copies of the Anti-Trafficking flyers or brochures. The budget spent for this activity came from the Inter-Agency Council on Violence Against Women and Their Children (IACVAWC) Fund in the GAA. The flyers or brochures were distributed during PCW organized activities (i.e., Consultation Workshops on VAW in Quezon city, Provincial Government of Albay, General Santos City, Legazpi City, and 18-Day Campaign to End VAW Kick-off in PICC), and to walk-in researchers and other partner agencies during inter-agency meetings. Soft copies were also shared to the following partners for reproduction and distribution to their staff and clients, such as GSIS, PCUP, PRA, NFRDI, PEZA, BMB and IACVAWC.
- Revalidation of the Trafficking in Person & Illegal Recruitment Target Personalities List. This is a list of identified and validated personalities

nationwide, suspected as human traffickers and/or illegal recruiters with information on their modus operandi/typology, routes and demography of victims.

Child Labor-Free Barangays aim to contribute to the vision of a “Child Labor-Free Philippines” by influencing change and obtaining commitment and support from various stakeholders to make barangays free from child labor. Consistent with the vision of the Philippine Program Against Child Labor to implement a sustainable and responsive convergence program by providing community-based, focused, converged, and synchronized strategies to eliminate child labor, the DOLE issued **Administrative Order No. 657** series of 2014 on 15 December 2014. The Order lays down the guidelines for the certification of barangays. This year 86 barangays from four Regions, namely Regions I, VI, IX, and NIR, were certified as “**Child Labor Free.**”

### **G. Interception of Potential Victims**

To prevent potential TIP victims from being exploited at their destination areas, IACAT established anti-trafficking port-based task forces in major airports and seaports. These task forces are equipped to profile possible victims of trafficking as well as suspected human traffickers. At international ports, this involves the strict implementation of the Revised Guidelines on Departure Formalities for International-bound Passengers which was revised on 15 June 2015. Under said guidelines, upon assessment of the totality of the circumstances, the BI 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 or other related crimes.

Based on record, most of the passengers endorsed to the IACAT Task Forces are those who are suspected to be ‘tourist workers’ and those who are in possession of questionable travel documents with possible involvement of a facilitator or illegal recruiter. Passengers usually pose as a tourist but with the intention to find work abroad. Thus, they run the risk of being an undocumented overseas worker. Others, to avoid going through the regular migration procedures and legal documentation, usually present fake travel documents.

In 2016, the IACAT Secretariat received **412 deferred departure incidents** involving **2,069 passengers** who were endorsed to the port-based task forces. In the conduct of investigation, **28** of these incidents were found to be actual cases of TIP and/or illegal recruitment. Note that most of the investigations resulted to closure without prosecution basically because of the victim/witness’ economic restraint and necessity. Mostly, these victims defer to seek legal recourse and opt to look for another job locally or internationally, thus there are less cases filed especially for labor trafficking.

Part also of the prevention and detection program in ports is the Risk Assessment of the Manila Harbor Task Force Against Trafficking in Persons in Manila North Harbor. Under the risk assessment, all unaccompanied minor passengers are

being interviewed and assessed by a social worker before they are turned-over to their respective relatives. Since January 2016, **944 individuals** were already assessed and made sure that they will be endorsed or turned-over to their real relatives.

## **H. Implementation of IACAT 1343 Actionline**

The IACAT 1343 Actionline is the first telephone hotline dedicated to combat human trafficking and other related cases. The main function of this hotline is to receive and immediately respond to requests for assistance, inquiries and referrals from the victims, their families and the public pertaining to Human Trafficking. The service has been expanded to accommodate online reporting and text messaging. In 2016, the Hotline received a total of **74** reports and assisted **64** victims.

The operation of the 1343 Actionline and Textline is being managed by the CFO in partnership with the Dynamic Outsource Solutions, Inc. (DOS1) for the provision of human resource and technical support. 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.

## **I. Capacity-building Activities**

The IACAT continues to invest on enhancing the capability of its officers and personnel in handling TIP cases through appropriate training. For 2016, IACAT, through the efforts of all IACAT member agencies and Regional Task Forces, conducted a total of **268 trainings** which were attended by a total of **22,255 participants**. From these participants, **7,089** were composed of labor inspectors, social workers, immigration officers, law enforcement agents, prosecutors, and judges, including key players and service providers from other various government agencies from local government and barangay officials. While the remaining **15,166** participants came from the private sector and NGOs (e.g. Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), school faculty, students, hotel managers, staff, and security, bus operators/drivers, and crew members of Shipping Lines).

Here is the breakdown on number of government personnel trained:

**Table 18. No. of Government Personnel Trained CY 2016**

| <b>Government Personnel</b>                  | <b>No. of Government Personnel Trained</b> |
|--|--|
| Judges                                       | 111  |
| Prosecutors                                  | 334  |
| Law Enforcers                                | 2387                                       |
| Social Workers                               | 432  |
| Other Govt. Personnel,<br>Barangay Officials | 3825                                       |
| <b>Total</b>                                 | <b>7,089</b>                               |

In the 268 trainings conducted, 61 trainings (23%) were organized and conducted by DOJ-IACAT and Regional Task Forces, while 207 (77%) were organized by other member agencies and partners, in which activities IACAT assisted by providing resource persons. Compared to the previous year, there was a decrease on the number of trainings organized and funded by the IACAT Secretariat. However, this decrease did not have a significant effect on the number of personnel trained. This can be attributed to the fact that there was an increase on the number of trainings supported by IACAT through provision of resource speakers; IACAT task force members are now highly trained to conduct their own TIP trainings as a result of the previous capacity building trainings they have attended; IACAT member agencies and local government units are allocating more budget on anti-trafficking efforts such as capacity building and trainings for its respective personnel; and international partners are aggressively supporting the training programs of the Government by providing or supporting several TIP trainings for our front-liners.

In sum, below is the list of skills enhancement seminars conducted for designated government officials, law enforcers and service providers:

**Table 7. Specialized Anti-TIP Training 2016**

| <b>Lead Agency</b>                | <b>Seminar/Training</b>  |   | <b>No. of Training Conducted</b> | <b>No. of Trained Personnel</b> |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| DOJ-IACAT, PCTC, US-OPDAT, PSCCJP | Workshops-Training on Trafficking in Persons for Investigators, Prosecutors, and the Academe | IACAT, PCTC, in partnership with the Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance and Training (OPDAT) and Philippine Society of Criminologist and Criminal Justice Professionals (PSCCJP) conducted 4 trainings to strengthen the coordination on investigating labor TIP cases through combined capacity trainings for Prosecutors and Investigators. The 4 Trainings were completed in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apr 12-14: General Santos City, South Cotabato</li> <li>• Jun 21-23: Tacloban City, Leyte</li> <li>• Oct 18-20: Bacolod City, Negros Occidental</li> <li>• Nov 15-17: Puerto Princesa, Palawan</li> </ul> All 4 trainings were funded by US DOJ-OPDAT. IACAT as its counter-part provided resource persons and staff, and assisted in the administrative arrangement of all participants. | 4                                | 311                             |
| DFA                               | Regional Seminar on Gender Sensitivity, Assistance to Nationals, and Psychological First Aid | This is intended to sensitize members and personnel of DFA and develop their professional and personal competencies in identifying and addressing issues involving gender. It will equip DFA and Philippine embassies' personnel with basic knowledge in dealing with recurring issues encountered by OFWs such as human trafficking versus illegal recruitment, family law, sextortion and sexual harassment. The workshops were conducted as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foreign Service Posts in Americas and Canada on 8-13 August 2016 in</li> </ul>   | 4                                | 133                             |



- Vancouver, Canada;
- Foreign Service Posts in Europe on 17-22 September 2016 in Rome, Italy;
- Foreign Service Posts in Asia and the Pacific on 9-14 October 2016 in Hong Kong;
- Foreign Service Posts in the Middle East and Africa on 9-14 November in Doha, Qatar.

|         |  |   |                               |   |
|---------|--|---|-------------------------------|---|
| DFA-FSI | Foreign Service Officer's Cadetship Course                                       | This special course will introduce to the participants the basic procedures in protecting the rights and promoting the welfare of OFWs. Through workshops, participants will be immersed in the pressing cases that ATN officers attend to. It also includes skills training in basic counseling, as well as an orientation in gender sensitivity and migration issues, including the Expanded Act and IACAT (August, October, November 2016) | 4                             | 128   |
| PNP     | 12-Day Specialized course for Women and Children Protection Desk (WCPD) Officers | Part of enhancing the investigative skills of police officers particularly in handling different cases and situations that pertains to abuses in women and children. Topics include the handling of media, laws pertaining to women and children, stress management, interviewing a child victim, CICL, mock trial and making and submitting a complete case folder.  | 5<br>Assisted by Task Forces  | 194   |
| PNP     | Investigation Officers Basic Course (IOBC)                                       | The IOBC is one of the PNP's Ladderized Investigative Training Programs in the field of investigation in order to upgrade the level of competence and skills of its field investigators and ensure that they meet the training requirement of the Certification Program.  | 12<br>Assisted by Task Forces | 581   |
| BI      | Bureau of Immigration Program – Basic Immigration Officers Course (BIOC)         | This is part of the workforce capability development and technical skills enhancement program conducted by the BI Center for Training and Research in which new Immigration Officers were trained before deployment to their respective airport terminals.<br><br>BIOC training comes from the national budget while recurrent and/or update trainings were from BI's special funds.  | 2                             | 226   |
| POEA    | Capability Enhancement Training on the Overseas Employment Program               | This was conducted in March and December 2016.  | 2                             | 22 POEA Personnel<br><b>25</b> Labor Attachés, Assistant Labor Attachés & ASSIST WELL personnel |
| DOLE    | Law Compliance Officer on Child Labor (LLCO)                                     | Capacity building for the LLCO is being conducted to increase pro-active efforts to identify labor trafficking victims especially children. The concept of child labor, effective approaches to address child labor, competencies necessary in undertaking assessment, and the challenges facing LLCOs were among the topics discussed during the training. Participants to the training were   | 1                             | 35 LLCOs<br>17 DOLE Regional Offices  |

required to train and cascade the learning to other LLCOs within their respective regions after completion of the training. Region 7 Task Forces assisted in one of these trainings. This is with the support of the International Labour Organization.

|                   |   |  |                        |                                      |
|-------------------|---|--|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| DSWD              | Capacity Enhancement for RRPTP Social Workers on Managing TIP Cases in Times of Emergencies and Family Therapy                                      | The Protective Services Bureau spearheaded the conduct of the Capacity Enhancement for RRPTP Social Workers on Managing TIP Cases in Times of Emergencies and Family Therapy last September 12-16, 2016 at Hotel Salcedo de Vigan, Ilocos Sur. The activity was participated by 37 social workers from all DSWD Field Offices nationwide. The participants had enhanced knowledge and skills in managing and handling victim-survivors of trafficking and their families.  | 1                      | 37                                   |
| DSWD              | Trauma Informed Care (participated by Social Welfare Officers from the LGUs, Field Offices, Centers and NGOs, Law Enforcement Agents, House parents | Seventeen (17) Field Offices conducted one (1) training each on Trauma Informed Care, Enhancement Training on Handling Cases of Trafficking and On Line Child Abuse and Caring for the Caregivers  | 17                     | 487                                  |
| IACAT Task Forces | Capacity Enhancement Seminar for Law Enforcement Officers, Social Workers, Philippine Coast Guards (PCG), Local Officials, & Military               | <p>IACAT Task Forces co-organized with local partners various capacity enhancement with its respective local government personnel intended to strengthen coordination among key partners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law Enforcer</li> <li>• Social Workers</li> <li>• Philippine Coast Guard</li> <li>• Local Officials</li> <li>• Military (To augment the knowledge of military personnel in relation to pertinent laws affecting the performance of their duties)</li> </ul>   | 25<br>4<br>4<br>8<br>1 | 699<br>159<br>100<br>411             |
| IACAT Task Forces | Various Seminars on Trafficking Through Internet  | <p>Members of Task Forces participated as Resource Speakers on several cyber-trafficking discussions in its respective Regions. Some of these are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigation of Computer Facilitated Crime Against Children (Regions 7 &amp; 10)</li> <li>• Advocacy Training/Seminar on Anti-Human Trafficking Act, Child Pornography Act, and Cyber Crime Law</li> <li>• Angel Net Summit 2016: Keeping our Child Safe Online</li> <li>• Consultation Workshop in the Implementation of Anti-Pornography Act of 2009</li> <li>• Training of Trainers on Internet Safety and Child Online Protection</li> <li>• Demand and Supply of Online Trafficking</li> <li>• Multi-Sectoral Convention on Protecting Children Against Online Exploitation</li> </ul> | 20                     | 540 Government Personnel<br>712 NGOs |

A separate list of trainings and seminars are provided below to highlight the commitment and partnership between IACAT and Australia-Asia Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons (AAPTIP) to reduce the incentives and opportunities for TIP in the Philippines by enhancing the skills of law enforcers, prosecutors, judges in their respective roles relating to TIP cases:

**Table 8. Specialized Anti-TIP Training Funded by AAPTIP**

| <b>Lead Agency</b>                                   | <b>Seminar/Training</b>  | <b>No. of Training Conducted</b> | <b>No. of Trained Personnel</b> |
|--|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| DOJ-IACAT  | Training of Trainers on ASEAN Skills Program on TIP  | 2                                | 10                              |
| DOJ-IACAT  | ASEAN Skills Training for Specialist Prosecutors (TOT). This is a five-day training composed of all prosecutors handling TIP cases from different Regions that tackles TIP issues under the international perspective to court techniques. (25-29 April, 2016; 7-11 November 2016) | 2                                | 21                              |
| DOJ-IACAT  | Training for Victim Witness Coordinators and IACAT-OPCEN Agents (11 July, 2016)  | 1                                | 17                              |
| DOJ-IACAT  | Refreshers' Course for Prosecutors Trainers This is a 2-day training attended by prosecutors who has already been identified as a trainer on TIP. (6-7 October, 2016)  | 1                                | 9                               |
| DOJ-IACAT<br>PNP, NBI-<br>AHTRAD<br>Supreme<br>Court | ASEAN-AAPTIP Training Program on Financial Investigation on TIP (26-28 October 2016)<br>(2 Judiciary; 8 Prosecutors; 4 NBI; 12 WCPC Investigators)   | 1                                | 28                              |
| DOJ-IACAT<br>Supreme<br>Court                        | Competency Enhancement Training for Judges, Prosecutors, Social Workers, & Law Enforcement Officers in Handling TIP Cases<br>(15-17 September, 2016)   | 1                                | 49                              |
| DOJ-IACAT<br>Supreme<br>Court                        | Advanced Competency Enhancement Training for Judges, Prosecutors, Social Workers, Legal Researchers and Law Enforcers  | 3                                | 103                             |
| PNP & NBI  | Introduction to Cybercrime Investigation Course<br>(11-15 April, 2016)   | 1                                | 20                              |
| PNP  | Professional Gender Mentoring Workshop for Female Police Officers (2 June, 2016)   | 1                                | 6                               |
| PNP  | Trafficking in Persons Specialist Investigator Course Training of Trainers (TIPSIC TOT). This is a 12-Day Specialist Training on TIP for police officers who will be among the pool of trainers of PNP   | 1                                | 18                              |

|                     |   |   |    |
|---------------------|---|---|----|
| (1-12 August, 2016) |   |   |    |
| PNP                 | Gender Mentoring Workshop<br>(17-19 August, 2016)                                       | 2 | 8  |
| PNP                 | Transnational Investigation Cooperation<br>(TIC) Training (30 August - 3 Sept.<br>2016) | 1 | 29 |
| PNP                 | Financial Investigation Training<br>(26-28 October, 2016)                               | 1 | 26 |
| PNP & NBI           | Surveillance awareness Workshop for<br>PNP & NBI  | 1 | 14 |
| PNP                 | Gender Sensitivity Training for Law<br>Enforcers  | 1 | 41 |
| PNP & NBI           | Anti-Trafficking Unit (ATU) Commanders<br>Course  | 1 | 19 |

The DOJ Office of Cybercrime (OOC) also conducts Computing Technology Industry Association (COMPTIA) A+ Certification Training for law enforcers and prosecutors in order to better equip them on building cases involving computer systems and networks.

IACAT also supports 47 training activities that address gender-based violence and child labor participated in by **1,279** government personnel and **1,095** NGOs, among these are the following:

- Seminars on the proper procedures and handling cases of VAWC;
- Capacity enhancement of Barangay Officials on Children's welfare and protection;
- Consultation workshop in the implementation of Anti-Child Pornography Act of 2009, and the Cybercrime Act of 2012
- Seminar on Trafficking In Persons for Social Workers and District Coordinators of Barangay Council for the Protection of Children;
- Orientation Forum for Child Exploitation and Protection Mechanism Standards;
- Child Protection and Gender and Development (GAD) on VAWC;
- Capacity building and planning workshop for Reservists of the 102<sup>nd</sup> Army Infantry Brigade, and Gender and Development Focal Persons of the local government of Quezon City;
- Documentary letter gender-based violence, ensuring Gender Equality in Batangas City;
- Advocacy Training on Laws that Protect Women and the Children;
- 1 Billion rising: the role of the Youth in anti-VAWC Campaign;
- Seminar on Women Empowerment;
- Child Trafficking and Rights of Children;
- Seminar on Summation of Laws involving Women's right including VAWC and Expanded Act; and
- Forum on Strengthening the Capacity of Stakeholders to address Gender-Based Violence, TIP, and Child Sex Tourism in the Province of Bohol.

## **J. International Training/Cooperation**

1. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Women, and World Health Organization (WHO) co-organized and co-sponsored the **Regional Meeting on Multi-Sectoral Services to Respond to Gender-Based Violence Against Women and Girls in Asia and the Pacific** held at Amari Watergate Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand from November 21-23, 2016. The meeting provided the necessary venue that strengthen the multi-sectoral response to gender-based violence against women and girls with a focus on the police, justice, social and health sector and the role of coordination and governance in this regard. Philippines shared its best practices and lessons learned in multi-sectoral coordination in response to gender-based violence against women and girls, including trafficking victims.
2. In 16-17 November, 2016, SOMTC-Philippines, as lead, organized a **Workshop on the ASEAN Cross-Sectoral Collaboration Against Trafficking in Persons** in Bohol, Philippines. As a way forward towards the implementation of the ACTIP and APA, the ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Work Plan, also referred to as the "Bohol TIP Work Plan" has been developed during the workshop. This Work Plan which is envisioned to drive the work of ASEAN in TIP, highlights harmonized regional activities to combat TIP in four thematic areas of the APA. It further includes the expected outputs of each activity and its implementation status that will be used as reference in monitoring and evaluating the work plan. The final draft of the Work Plan will be forwarded to the Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and other ASEAN Sectoral Bodies for the consideration.
3. IACAT participated in the **Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Group and Region Focus) Promotion of Networking among ASEAN Countries on Anti-Trafficking in Persons** held in Japan from October 23, 2016 to November 5, 2016, under the technical cooperation program of the Government of Japan. This is in coordination with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).
4. On 19–21 October 2016, the Philippines participated in the **4<sup>th</sup> Interpol Global Trafficking in Human Beings (THB) Conference** intended to promote and enhance international cooperation and support member countries in understanding new trends in THB. This will contribute to the development of new methods of investigation and improvement of existing ones, as well as the elaboration of a global map of trafficking routes (origin, transit and destination countries). The main themes of the Conference are divided into four (4) concerns, to wit: Trafficking of Human Beings in Irregular Migration; Victim Identification by Law Enforcement; Improving International Police Cooperation and Prosecution; and Trafficking the supply chain.
5. The City and County of Honolulu Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, National District Attorneys Associations, and the Honolulu City Council organized and co-sponsored the **"2016 International Sex Trafficking Summit"** held at

the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel in Honolulu, Hawaii, U.S.A. from 28 – 30 September 2016. Philippines, Thailand, Taiwan, Japan, China, Korea, and USA presented their respective country's or county's efforts against human trafficking. The attendance of the Philippine delegation gave the opportunity to share and learn with other anti-trafficking advocates. It has also strengthened Philippine's network with regional and international counterparts as well as established new contacts with stakeholders working on investigation and prosecution of cases, and on protection of victims.

6. **Enhancing a Victim Centered Approach: Identification, Assistance, and Protection of Trafficking Victims in the Asia-Pacific Region** (13–16 June 2016 at the UNITAR CIFAL Jeju/Jeju International Training Center IN Jeju-do, Korea). The workshop aims to advance an understanding of human trafficking among local stakeholders, including: trafficking trends in East Asia; available international legal tools to combat trafficking; international and national standards of assistance and referral systems for victims of trafficking; and the role of government agencies, NGOs and civil society.
7. **Basic Trial Advocacy Training** (27 February to 5 March 2016 in Columbia, South Carolina, United States of America). The one-week highly technical training aims not only to build the capacity of participants to monitor and combat TIP but also provide new techniques, methodology, and best practices that can be used in the presentation of evidence and prosecution of cases in court.
8. **Transnational Investigation Cooperation (TIC) Training Program for Royal Malaysia Police-Philippine National Police.** This is a continuing program which started in 2015 when the first meeting was held from 1-2 December in Malacca, Malaysia followed by the second meeting held from 18–22 January 2016 at Hotel Equatorial, also in Malacca, Malaysia. The third meeting was held in Manila City from 30 August to 1 September, 2016, followed by the last meeting for 2016 held from 8-9 September, in Malaysia. The TIC is a five-day, interactive program for current and future Philippine and Malaysian specialist investigators and prosecutors that have responsibility for the conduct of transnational trafficking cases. It has been designed to enable the participants to identify and analyze the key legislative, procedural and operational challenges that they will face when working at the transnational level and to develop their ability to meet those challenges. Moreover, during the program, the two countries proposed operational cooperation to investigate trafficking flows from Zamboanga, the Philippines to Sabah, Malaysia. To strengthen further the collaborative efforts and sustain the momentum, the 5<sup>th</sup> bilateral meeting will be held from 23-24 February, 2017 in Makati City.
9. **ASEAN Workshop on improving Border Controls and Strengthening the Capacity of Law Enforcement Authorities to Address Irregular Migration and Trafficking in Persons.** Philippines as lead shepherd in

TIP, in collaboration with ASEAN Secretariat and EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument (READI) Facility co-organized the ASEAN workshop. It was held at Crimson Hotel, Filinvest, Muntinlupa City, Metro Manila from 1-2 June, 2016.

10. **Philippines-Cambodia Round Table Meeting on Migration and Human Trafficking.** The round table discussion was co-sponsored by the Philippine Government and the Royal Government of Cambodia held at Phnom Penh, Cambodia from 3-4, May, 2016. Both countries shared its efforts and counter measures against trafficking and people's smuggling.

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11. **Policy Conference on Refugee and Migration in Europe and Asia.** This event was organized by Konrad Adenauer Stiftung-Singapore held at Makati Diamond Residences, Makati City from 4-5, April, 2016. Philippines was invited to chair a session on "Policy Responses to Refugee Movements". Philippines had the opportunity to share and learn about the challenges and cost of migration.
12. **SOMTC-ASEAN Sectoral/Organs Collaboration Meeting.** SOMTC-Philippines, as lead shepherd in TIP, in collaboration with ASEAN Secretariat, organized the socialization of the different sectoral organs in the ASEAN. Philippines gave inputs on areas of collaboration on TIP. It was held at the Acacia Hotel, Alabang, Muntinlupa City, from March 31-April 1, 2016.
13. The Philippine also attended the **Bali Process: Following the Money Forum** at Dusit Thani Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand on 16-17 May 2016. The 2-day forum provided information to practitioners on how to leverage Basic Anti-Money Laundering (ML) and asset recovery tools to combat TIP and related Transnational Crime, including people smuggling.
14. Efforts to discuss issues on fishing industry was also participated by the Philippine in Seoul, Republic of Korea on 25-26 August 2016 entitled "**East Asia/ Southeast Asia (EA/SEA) Regional Conference and Ethical Recruitment and Policy Harmonization in the Fishing Industry**". The conference aims to develop a regional policy platform for harmonization of recruitment policy framework for employers, migrant workers and recruiters in the EA/SEA fishing industry.

#### **K. Significant National and LGU initiatives to Combat Trafficking in Persons**

1. Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) issuances, particularly the Memorandum Circular Nos. 2016-11 and 2016-124 relative to the conduct of the Barangay Assembly Day, included discussions on Expanded Act in March and October 2016.

2. DILG issued an advisory to its Regional Offices to regularly submit report on the accomplishments of the Local Committee Against Trafficking in Persons and Violence Against Women and their Children (LCAT-VAWC) in every province, city and municipality every July and January. (Please see separate sheet for the Summary of LGUs with accomplishments against Trafficking in Persons.)
3. The E-learning or online course on Strengthening the Capacities of Punong Barangays and Barangay Violence Against Women (VAW) Desk Persons in handling VAW cases is now on its final phase. The course, which will be accessible to all the 42,036 barangays, includes discussions on the Expanded Act and the roles of the VAW desk persons in the advocacy of the laws and the handling of cases on TIP.
4. Developed a Manual on Capacity Building of Direct Service Providers of Local Government Units in Handling VAWC cases. The manual contains, among others, the roles of VAW Desk Persons in the Advocacy of the Laws, as well as in the Handling cases of TIP.
5. Monitored the following:
  - a. Functionality of the Local Councils for the Protection of children (LCPC) per DILG MC No. 2008-126 – Monitoring the Functionality of LCPC.  
  
 As of December 31, 2016, the reported functional LCPCs are:
    - Provincial - 41 or 50.61% of the 81 provinces
    - HUC/ICC/CC - 106 or 73.10% of the 145 cities
    - Municipal - 761 or 51.10% of the 1,489 municipalities
    - Barangay - 17,657 or 42% of the 42,036 barangays
  - b. Number of LGUs with Organized Local Committee Against Trafficking – Violence Against Women and Their Children (LCAT-VAWC)
    - Provincial - 38 or 47% of the 81 provinces
    - HUC/ICC/CC - 108 or 74% of the 145 cities
    - Municipal - 1,061 or 71% of the 1,489 municipalities
  - c. Barangay Compliance on the Establishment of Violence Against Women (VAW) Desk Persons  
  
 As of December 31, 2016 there are **37,065** or 88.17% of the total number of barangays (42,036) reported to have organized Barangay VAW Desk Persons.
6. Per collated reports received from the field, among others, here is the summary report of the list of activities and initiatives accomplished by the LCAT-VAWC at the provincial, city and municipal levels in 2016:

**Table 23. LGUs' Accomplishments on Anti-Trafficking in Person**

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|--|
|  |
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**Capacity Building**

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- Conducted Seminars on Human Trafficking participated by Punong barangays, Barangay Secretaries, and other stakeholders;
  - Conducted Skills Enhancement Trainings on RA No. 9262 and Expanded Act for Barangay Tanods;
  - Conducted Basic Orientation Seminars on TIP for Barangay Officials; and
  - Conducted Advance Paralegal Training on TIP
- 

**Advocacy**

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- Conducted Advocacy Campaign Against Human Trafficking during Barangay Assemblies;
  - Distributed IEC on Human Trafficking included in the Parent Effectiveness Session conducted by MSWDO and MHO;
  - Distributed Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials on Human Trafficking during the pre-marriage seminars in a number of municipalities and cities;
  - Conducted IEC campaigns on TIP during "LIGA ng mga Barangay" Meetings/ Management Committee Meeting;
  - Conducted school visitation in different schools within the municipality and distributed flyers/IEC materials on the Expanded Act;
  - Conducted symposium and information dissemination regarding human trafficking to public elementary and high school students;
  - Awareness campaign on human trafficking by posting tarpaulins in several identified areas; and
  - Conducted Basic Orientation Seminar on the Expanded Act for Women's Group and Day Care Workers
- 

**Issuance of Executive Orders/Passage of Local Ordinances**

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- Adoption of ordinances on human trafficking by the city/municipal/barangay to emphasize and strengthen the implementation of the Expanded Act.
- 

**Provision of Assistance**

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- Provided food, clothing and transportation assistance to victims;
  - Provided medical checkup and medicines to trafficking victims;
  - Coordinated with authorities (PNP and Barangay Security officers) in providing security to the victims while cases are on-going; and
  - Victims were provided temporary shelter while cases are on-going and before reintegration to the community
- 

**Provision of Legal Assistance**

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- Referred to Public Attorney's Office for free legal advice and assistance; and
  - Provided legal services by filing cases in court involving human trafficking.
- 

**Provision of Intervention Program**

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- Prepared Family Assessment reports of the referred victims of trafficking; and
  - Conducted family counselling.
- 

**Referral System**

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- Assessment, counseling, and referral of trafficking victims to appropriate agencies (PNP, DSWD, etc.)
- 

**Presence of Monitoring System**

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- Monitored bars and other similar establishments by conducting joint inspection purposely to check possible presence of trafficking victims;
  - Adopted an ordinance requiring the barangays to have inventory of out-going
-

- constituents (domestic/international) for work or education purposes; and
- Regularly monitored job hiring activities being conducted, in coordination with PNP, DOLE and other concerned agencies.

#### **Provision of After-Care Program**

- Trafficking victims referred to legitimate employment agencies/job fairs for special hiring;
- Financial assistance given to victims; and
- Provided alternative livelihood programs for victims in a number of localities

### **L. Establishment of Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Section**

Acknowledging the increase in the prevalence of Filipino children made to pose and perform lewd acts to foreign customers online, the PNP established the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Section under the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division (ATIPD) of the WCPC which was inaugurated on 13 July 2016. It aims to curb the rapid growth of online sexual exploitation of children and other forms of internet-facilitated sex trafficking.

### **M. 'Child Soldier' Preventive Measures**

To address the allegations of recruitment and use of child soldiers by government forces and government-supported militias or armed groups in the country, the Government has reconstructed the Inter-Agency Committee on Children in Armed Conflict (IAC-CIAC) and strengthened the Council for the Welfare of Children through Executive Order No. 138, series of 2013. Under the said Executive Order, the IAC-CIAC was placed under the direct supervision of the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC).

#### **• Completion and Initial Implementation of the IAC CIAC Advocacy and Communications Plan**

The IAC CIAC developed an Advocacy and Communication Plan for children in armed conflict. The committee was able to identify key messages and the collaterals have been developed in the form of advocacy shirts, tumblers, and eco-bags which will be used and distributed during the installation ceremony.

The plan will be implemented in three (3) major phases. This will guide the IAC CIAC to systematically implement the plan in pursuing the campaign for children protection and prevention of grave child rights violations in situations of armed conflict.

CWC has coordinated with its Regional Sub-Committee for the Welfare of Children (RSCWC) of ARMM and Region XI, including the two pilot provinces of Maguindanao and Compostela Valley to prepare for the implementation of Phase 1: Advocacy and Communication Plan. Phase 1 implementation includes the installation of the advocacy campaign in selected public schools, day-care centers and

playgrounds. The actual installation is expected to be launched in the early quarter of 2017. CWC has already completed the set of advocacy materials to be distributed.

- **MRRS 2016 Orientation Workshops**

Three (3) batches of Monitoring, Reporting and Response System (MRRS) orientation workshops were completed in 2016. Such orientations involved participants from selected NGO/CSOs with programs/projects for CSAC, CHR lawyers/investigators appointed as focal officers for children and information officers from CHR Regional Offices in Mindanao and local stakeholders composed of DSWD, AFP, PNP-WCPD, DOJ, DILG, DepED, PSWDOs and MSWDOs from Provinces of Region V. A total of 83 participants were able to attend the said orientation workshops.

The output of the orientation is a re-entry plan which includes the drafting of internal guidelines which will define roles and functions in the implementation of MRRS, cascading of orientation sessions to their assigned units/ barangay level representatives, feed backing to LCEs and LCPC members re MRRS, reproduction of IEC Materials on Child's Rights and other advocacy efforts, reporting of GCRVs, tapping of local structures to be members of the MRRS Team at the Municipal and Barangay levels.

These activities were carried-out through joint efforts of CWC, DSWD Central Office – Protective Services Bureau, DSWD Field Office V, CHR Child Rights Center (CRC), Crisis Conflict and Humanitarian Protection Center (CCHPC) under the Human Rights Centers Management Office (HRCMO) and other IAC CIAC member agencies.

- **DILG – Issuance of the Memorandum Circular No. 2016-67**

To enjoin all Local Chief Executives (LCEs) to adopt and utilize the Protocol In Monitoring, Reporting, and Responding to the Victims of Grave Child Rights Violations (GCRV), DILG, through its National Barangay Operations Office (NBOO), issued Memorandum Circular No. 2016-67 entitled "Adoption of the Protocol on the Monitoring, Reporting, and Response System (MRRS) on the GCRV in the context of Armed Conflict" on May 19, 2016. Along with this, DILG is also expected to provide technical assistance to the LGUs in organizing the Local Council for the Protection of Children (LCPC) and ensuring their functionality. In support of this initiative, DILG will issue another memorandum circular encouraging all LCEs to issue an executive order to form a local MRRS team and direct local government offices to ensure that victims of GCRVs are and immediately responded to, properly documented, and reported.

- **AFP and DND – Issuances of CPDACS**

The AFP General Headquarters promulgated Circular Number 01, entitled "Child Protection During Armed Conflict Situations" (CPDACS) on 4 February 2016.

The circular prescribes policies that prohibit the commission of GCRVs; and sets the procedures and guidelines in monitoring, reporting, and responding to GCRVs committed by either state or non-state actors. It aims to protect the children from GCRV during armed conflict situations by state and non-state actors. The guidelines include pertinent provisions on the selection of volunteers to the CAFGU Active Auxiliary Corps (CAAC) and Special CAFGU Active Auxiliary Corps (SCAAC), the conduct of military activities in schools and hospitals, and the commanders' responsibilities in advocating for this policy.

The circular applies to the following:

1. AFP military personnel, including members of the AFP Reserve Force on active duty training;
2. Members of the CAAC / SCAAC in the active service;
3. Members of the military investigating organizations who are in charged with the implementation of the military justice system;
4. Members of military education and training institutions who shall be among the frontline advocates of the child protection policy to student military personnel; and
5. Human Rights Officers who shall facilitate the implementation of the protocol on MRRS.

Annexed to this circular are the Standard AFP Form for Child Rescue and Handover, and a roster of the RSCWC Directory.

The AFP through its Human Rights Office is on top of the agency' advocacy efforts particularly in the dissemination of directives from the General Headquarters down to their tactical units in AFP training and seminars conducted.

#### • **Development of MRRS Database**

Pursuant to the provisions of Executive Order No. 138, series of 2013, the CWC as focal agency for MRRS-GCRVSAC is mandated to establish a system which will serve as repository of all cases/ incidents received and reported to CWC. Through a 3-month consultation, the development of the system to manage the information being reported to CWC has been completed. The system aims to generate reports monitored and collated by CWC, and will be for the internal use of CWC to test its applicability and to make adjustments, if necessary. CWC plans to have a continuing consultation with other IAC-CIAC members, including the users of the system relative to the verification and investigation of incidents.

## **II. Protection, Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reintegration**

### **A. Victim Care Assistance**

**Table 10. Types of Victim Care Services available to Trafficking Victims**

| <b>Agency</b> | <b>Victim Care Services</b>  |
|---------------|--|
| DSWD          | DSWD has the Recovery and Reintegration Program for Trafficked Persons (RRPTP) |

which was implemented since 2011. RRPTP is a comprehensive program that ensures adequate recovery and reintegration services is provided to trafficked persons. Utilizing a multi-sectoral approach, it delivers a complete package of services that will cater to the psychosocial, social and economic needs of the clients. It also enhances the awareness, skills and capabilities of the clients, the families and the communities where the trafficked persons will eventually return to. It also improves community-based systems and mechanisms that ensures the recovery of the victims-survivors, and prevent other family and community members from being victims of trafficking.

Services for Trafficked Persons – refers to the direct assistance and services that will be extended to trafficked persons. These include psychosocial, medical, legal and economic services that will better enable the clients to recover from the traumatic experience. Multi-sectoral approach will be applied in order to maximize existing programs and services for trafficked persons.

Specific activities under this component are the following:

- 1.1 Case Management – the process of analyzing the problems and needs of trafficked persons, planning and implementing interventions and monitoring and evaluating their progress towards their successful recovery and reintegration with their families and into their communities;
- 1.2 Services for Trafficked Persons – this involves the provision of direct service assistance to victims of trafficking in identifying career opportunities, develop skills, and obtain decent work or livelihood in order to achieve economic independence and a strong sense of self-worth. It includes the following:
  - (1) provision of financial assistance while awaiting employment;
  - (2) provision of financial assistance while undergoing skills trainings; and
  - (3) provision of capital assistance;
- 1.3 Support for Victims/Witnesses – refers to the auxiliary services that will be extended to clients with on-going court cases. Said service may be used to defray the clients' expenses for traveling, temporary board and lodging, documentations, and other incidental expenses. This may also include provision of Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) testing for trafficked persons, which may help in the prevention and prosecution of TIP' cases; and
- 1.4 Shelter for victims-survivors of trafficking – this involves the repair and maintenance of existing centers to accommodate victims-survivors in need of temporary shelter because they need specialized intervention due to traumatic trafficking experience, and those with on-going court cases. Separate units will be constructed for male and female clients.

Furthermore, residential care is also provided to the victim-survivors of TIP needing protective custody under DSWD managed residential care facilities nationwide. DSWD residential care facilities cater to women and children who are victims of abuse and exploitation.

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| DOJ | <p>Under the Expanded Act, preferential entitlement under the Witness Protection Security and Benefit Program (WPSBP) is given to a material witness in a TIP case whose life or any member of the family within the second civil degree of consanguinity or affinity is subjected to threats. Upon admission, the victim-witness shall be entitled to the following rights and benefits, among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secured housing facility or entitled to relocation and/or change of personal identity at the expense of the Program;</li> <li>• Assistance in obtaining a means of livelihood;</li> <li>• The Witness shall not be removed from or demoted in work because or on account of his absences due to his attendance before any judicial or quasi-</li> </ul> |
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judicial body or investigating authority; Provided, That his employer is properly notified;

- Payment of salary due to his absence from work to testify in court;
- Provided with reasonable traveling expenses and subsistence allowance;
- Provided with free medical treatment, hospitalization and medicines for any injury or illness incurred or suffered by him because of witness duty in any private or public hospital, clinic, or at any such institution at the expense of the Program.

Further, the DOJ grants victims' compensation through the Board of Claims. From January to December a total of **24** trafficked victims were granted the compensation. Most of these were processed with the assistance of the IACAT Victim Witness Coordinators.

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| DOJ-IACAT | Two Victim Witness Coordinators (VWC) were detailed at the DOJ and Manila Task Force. The main role of the VWC is to make sure that the needs of the victims are met by coordinating with the service providers and police; facilitating the delivery of support and protection; maintaining frequent personal contact with victims; providing information to victims; arranging transportation to and from the prosecutor's office or court house; and staying with the victims during court hearing to make sure that they are not approached by the accused, accused's friends or relatives, defense lawyer, or the media. |
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This is in response to the significant numbers of TIP cases that have been severely weakened or dismissed because victim-witnesses refused to cooperate during the investigation, prosecution and trial of TIP cases, despite the availability and provision of the mandatory services.

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| DFA | <p>The Philippine Embassies and Consulates provide the following services for the victims of TIP:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Request host countries to secure the safety and the welfare of Filipino victims and ensure protection of their basic human rights;</li> <li>2. Provide temporary shelter, basic necessities, and emergency medical and other necessary services to Filipino victims overseas, both males and females;</li> <li>3. Repatriate Filipino victims when it is to their best interest; 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;</li> <li>4. Provide lawyers and payment for legal costs:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. For the prosecution of traffickers in the host country; or</li> <li>b. The application of social benefits for the Filipino victim as allowed by the host country;</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. Referral to appropriate rehabilitation of reintegration service providers (DSWD, NGOs, etc.); and</li> <li>6. Organize TIP awareness workshops/fora for members of the Filipino community.</li> </ol> |
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|------|---|
| DOLE | <p>The following care services are available to trafficking victims as provided for in the Manual of Operation in the management of Child Labor, Illegal Recruitment and TIP:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. DOLE lawyers shall provide legal counselling to victims of illegal recruitment, local trafficking, and child labor exploitation; and</li> <li>2. Endorsement to Livelihood Assistance under the DOLE Integrated Livelihood Program.</li> </ol> <p>Job Search Assistance – Focal person shall register the victims in the Phil-Jobnet or refer the victim to the nearest Public Employment Service Office (PESO) or to private employment agencies with the job orders suitable to the victim.</p> |
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| POEA | The POEA provides 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 lawyers as Special Counsel for the complainants during preliminary investigation and continuation of legal service in courts as Special Collaborating Prosecutors. |
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CFO The CFO refers victims of human trafficking to the DSWD and other agencies that provides protection, recovery, reintegration, including financial assistance, e.g. a minor victim of trafficking and her family were provided with financial assistance by DSWD and IOM to assist them in setting up a store which sells processed foods; and an overseas Filipino from Qatar was provided full scholarship for the college education of the minor victim. In another case, the DSWD and IOM provided educational assistance to 47 trafficking victims from Palawan.

## Recovery and Reintegration Program for Trafficked Persons (RRPTP)

Based on the report from the DSWD Field Offices, a total of **1,713 cases** were served in 2016 involving **1,437 (84%) female** and **276 (16%) male**.

**Table 13. Number of Trafficking Victim Served through RRPTP**

| Purpose                       | Male | Female | Total | Percentage   |
|-------------------------------|------|--------|-------|--------------|
| Illegal Recruitment           | 70   | 460    | 530   | <b>31%</b>   |
| Labor Trafficking             |      |        |       |              |
| Forced Labor                  | 50   | 143    | 193   |              |
| Involuntary                   | 0    | 35     | 35    | <b>14%</b>   |
| Servitude                     | 0    | 4      | 4     |              |
| Slavery                       |      |        |       |              |
| Sex Trafficking               |      |        |       |              |
| Prostitution                  | 17   | 192    | 209   |              |
| Sexual Exploitation           | 13   | 181    | 194   | <b>27%</b>   |
| Pornography                   | 10   | 52     | 62    |              |
| Child Trafficking             | 0    | 11     | 11    | <b>0.6%</b>  |
| Organ Trafficking             | 49   | 6      | 55    | <b>3%</b>    |
| Repatriation                  | 0    | 14     | 14    | <b>0.8%</b>  |
| Adoption                      | 1    | 2      | 3     | <b>0.1%</b>  |
| Others (Intercepted, Rescued) | 66   | 337    | 403   | <b>23.5%</b> |
| Total                         | 276  | 1437   | 1713  | <b>100%</b>  |

In 2016, **55** individuals were identified as victims of organ trafficking during the community orientation program conducted by the Municipal Social Workers in Region 4A, particularly in Quezon Province. None of the 55 were interested to pursue a case against their recruiters. However, DSWD is planning to organize a group meeting with these clients to gather more information and enroll them as beneficiaries of the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP).

## Witness Protection Security and Benefit Program (WPSBP)

In 2016, the WPSBP admitted **9** additional trafficked victims, bringing the total to **72** victim-witnesses under the program. 22 of the victim-witnesses are minors and 50 are of legal age. The WPSBP provides security protection, livelihood assistance, education, travel and subsistence allowance as well as medical care through enrolment in public insurance program.

## Victim Witness Coordinators (VWC) Program

The VWC assisted and handled a total of **106** trafficking victims since the implementation of the program in July 2015. Out of these victims, **35** have already testified in court and **62** are waiting for trial schedule. However there were 9 victims/witnesses originally enrolled to VWC program but refused to testify and cooperate during the proceedings.

**Table 13. Attendance of Victims/Witness in Court Hearings**

|  | <b>MATTF</b> | <b>TFATIP</b> | <b>Total</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|--|--------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------|
| No. of Victims/Witness who Completed Testifying in Court | 27           | 8             | 35           | <b>33%</b>        |
| No. of Victims/Witness with on-going hearing             | 30           | 32            | 62           | <b>59%</b>        |
| No. of Victims/Witness who refused to testify            | 8            | 1             | 9            | <b>8%</b>         |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>65</b>    | <b>41</b>     | <b>106</b>   | <b>100%</b>       |

The 2 VWC also assist the victims in securing financial assistance from the Board of Claims and admission under the WPSBP. Moreover, a personal visit in their respective community and shelter is being conducted on a regular basis. 13 has already been discharged and reintegrated in their communities. In terms of assistance, **18** received financial assistance released by the DOJ Board of Claims, **17** in DSWD's Recovery and Reintegration Program for TIP, **2** are under the WPSBP of the DOJ, while others are still in the process of availing the assistance from the government.

After only more than a year in implementation, based on monitoring and evaluation results, it was found that **90%** of the victim-witnesses will appear and testify in court if they are supported by the VWCs. Without such assistance, only about 64% of the victims will testify in court. Further, without the VWCs, prosecutors will just depend on court subpoena, and assistance of law enforcements and shelter personnel for victims' attendance during court trials. Thus, IACAT intends to institutionalize the program by including a plantilla position for VWCs in the proposed IACAT organizational structure to ensure one VWC in all regions under the supervision of the Regional Anti-Trafficking Task Force Heads.

### **Assistance to Nationals (ATN)**

The DFA assisted a total of **348** alleged victims of TIP. Of this number, **256** came from the Middle East and Africa, **40** from Asia and Pacific, **41** from Europe, and **11** from Americas. Majority of the victims are female exposed to labor exploitation.

Victims were visited using the ATN Funds (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 government, local NGOs, the Filipino community, and international organizations such as IOM.



## **B. Residential Care Facilities**

DSWD manages **44** residential care facilities for victims of trafficking: 24 (for children); 13 (for women); 1 (male); 4 (for older persons); 2 (processing centers); details below.

**Table 11. Residential Care Facilities**

| <b>Sector</b>                              | <b>Name of Residential Care Facility</b>                                     | <b>Clients Served</b> | <b>Location (Region)</b>                        | <b>Total Number of Facilities</b> |
|--|--|-----------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 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                                 |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                               |  |                       |   | <b>44</b>                         |

Victim-survivors are also placed in government accredited or supported shelters operated by NGOs, or shelters built and maintained by government but leased to civil society organizations for operation. These shelters often provide a plethora of services including psychosocial care, protective custody, legal and medical assistance, access to education, and facilitation into employment opportunities, either on short or long-term basis.

To date, there are 2 DSWD accredited halfway houses operated by NGOs but are built and maintained by the Philippine Government. These are the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Halfway House in Metro Manila, and the Zamboanga City Halfway House in Zamboanga City. Both serve as Halfway Houses for actual and potential trafficking victims.

The IACAT also provides resource support to the Alternative Safe Space (ASS) that serves as transitory shelter for rescued trafficking victims in Quezon City

operated by the Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit. The ASS was established through 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). A total of **109** rescued victims involving **12** minors were already assisted and provided temporary shelter in the ASS for aftercare processing.

The DFA has also operationalized the first temporary shelter for distressed overseas workers including trafficked persons in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Moreover, in every law enforcement operation, coordination with DSWD, or the LSWDO of the place where the operation will be conducted, or an accredited NGO that services trafficked persons, is a must to ensure the presence of a social worker during the operation. The DSWD, LSWDO or NGO social worker or any registered and accredited social worker shall provide protection and assistance to trafficked persons as soon as they are in the custody of the authorities. In cases where there is a large number of trafficked persons to be rescued, the attending social worker may, prior to or after the rescue, request reinforcement from nearest DSWD Field Office/LSWDO/NGO.<sup>1</sup>

### **C. IACAT Operations Center**

The IACAT Operations Center (OpCen) plays an important role in the investigation and prosecution of TIP cases, as well as in locating, protecting, and assisting witnesses of trafficking cases.

In 2016, through the TIP victim/witness location assistance, OPCEN operatives located and persuaded a total of **forty five (45) victims/witnesses** in different areas in the country and escorted them to appear and testify before the Court. It also provided transportation and security assistance to **one hundred forty four (144) TIP victims/witnesses** for their scheduled court hearings and legal briefings. **65 out of 144** TIP victims assisted were **minors**. All these efforts to secure the appearance of these victims and witnesses in Prosecutor's Office and in Court greatly contributed to the investigation and prosecution of TIP cases.

## **III. Prosecution & Law Enforcement**

### **A. Anti-TIP Operations**

The Philippine government sustains its law enforcement and rescue operations through the collaborative efforts of all law enforcement agencies, anti-trafficking task forces and key partners. Notably, there is an average of twenty to

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<sup>1</sup> Sec. 15. Coordination with DSWD, LSWDO, NGO and other relevant government agencies prior to the conduct of law enforcement operation.

thirty (20-30) rescue operations or interceptions conducted monthly by the law operatives and task forces.

### Philippine National Police

The WCPC, as the PNP's specialized anti-trafficking in persons' arm, has launched a total of **42** anti-TIP operations leading to the rescue of **267** victims, arrest of **74** alleged traffickers, and the filing of **28** cases before the Prosecutor's Office. This is part of the PNP's nationwide data on TIP cases, in which PNP conducted a total of **233** anti-TIP operations which resulted in the rescue of **1,118** victims, arrest of **198** suspected traffickers and the filing of **140** cases before the Prosecutor's Office.

**Table 1. PNP Anti-TIP Operations**

| Agency     | No. of Alleged TIP Investigated | Status of Cases   | No. of Victims | No. of Minor Victims | No. of Alleged Traffickers Identified |
|------------|---------------------------------|---|----------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>PNP</b> | 233 Operations                  | 67 Under Investigation<br>140 Referred to Prosecutor<br>2 Filed in Court<br>19 Cases where Victims refused to execute Affidavit<br>5 Referred to other Agencies | 878            | 240                  | 198 Arrested<br>223 At-Large          |

Here are the list of notable anti-TIP operations conducted by PNP:

- 30 minors rescued from "sex party" in Barangay Calumpang, Binangonan, WCPC arrests 2 pimps;
- 16 Women rescued in Bubuan Island, Basilan Province;
- Frank Orville mader, notorious Canadian pedophile, arrested in Taguig for child sex trafficking;
- 3 month-old, 1 y/o, 2 teenagers rescued in Barangay Basak, Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu for child sex trafficking;
- 11 women, 5 minors, rescued from prostitution bars in Malabon;
- Carlo Berkeley, Australian abusing adopted daughter arrested in San Juan, Siquijor;
- 2 teachers, boatman, arrested for offering boys to foreigners; 7 victims rescued in Sipalay, Negros Occidental;
- 2 women, 1 minor, rescued in Zamboanga Port;
- 7 child laborers rescued in Brgy. Holy Spirit, Quezon City;
- 2 minors-victims of child pornography rescued in Barangay Buagsang Cebu;
- 31 women rescued for attempted trafficking in Brgy. Cawit, Zamboanga City; &
- Gholamreza Farhanipour, Australian pedophile, nabbed at NAIA Airport for online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC).

### National Bureau of Investigation

Under the National Bureau of Investigation is the Anti-Human Trafficking Division (NBI-AHTRAD) which is primarily tasked to investigate and conduct surveillance on human trafficking cases and file appropriate criminal and administrative cases against perpetrators of human trafficking, their cohorts and protectors. For 2016, NBI-AHTRAD investigated a total of **221** TIP cases and **248** Illegal Recruitment and conducted **12** rescue operations. As a result, **52** alleged traffickers and/or facilitators were arrested and **35** cases are now pending in Prosecutor's Offices and in Courts.

**Table 1. Trafficking in Persons and Illegal Recruitment Cases Investigated**

| <b>Agency</b>     | <b>No. of Alleged TIP &amp; IR Investigated</b> | <b>Status of Cases</b>                   | <b>No. of Victims</b> | <b>No. of Minor Victims</b> | <b>No. of Alleged Traffickers/ Facilitators Identified</b> |
|-------------------|---|--|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>NBI-AHTRAD</b> | 221 TIP   | 23 Cases brought for Inquest Proceedings | 42                    |                             | 18 Arrested  |
|                   | 248 IR  |  |                       |                             |  |
|                   | 12 Operations                                   | 12 Filed in Court                        | 114                   | 20                          | 34 Arrested  |

Noteworthy is the TIP related investigation conducted by BI in coordination with NBI-AHTRAD where several Indonesian Nationals together with their respective facilitators/recruiters were identified. The investigation revealed that the Indonesian Nationals, in possession of illegally acquired and procured Philippine passports, used the same without authority in order to attend the 2016 Hajj – a Muslim Pilgrimage in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. The cases are now pending before the Regional Trial Court – Pasay for violations of Large Scale Estafa; Commonwealth Act No. 613 otherwise known as "Philippine Immigration Act of 1940"; Republic Act No. 8239 otherwise known as "Philippine Passport Act of 1996"; and the Expanded Act. For this purpose, a DO dated 17 September 2016 was issued creating a Special Task Force on Philippine Hajj Passports (OPLAN JANUS). The said task force is mandated to:

1. Monitor, tract, detect and apprehend foreign nationals bound for Mecca, Saudi Arabia who arrive to and depart from the Philippines using illegally issued Hajj passports;
2. Undertake case build up and investigation on the illegal issuance of Philippine Hajj passports to non-Filipino citizens;
3. Filed and prosecute cases against responsible individuals and government officials;
4. Coordinate with the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos and the DFA to stop further issuance of Philippine Hajj passports to foreign nationals; and
5. Explore, evaluate and recommend possible courses of action, legal processes or legislation in order to concretely put an end to the anomaly.

### **Anti-Trafficking Task Forces**

The DOJ-IACAT completely supports the operational and administrative management of **24 anti-trafficking task forces (16 regional task forces, 2 national task forces, and 6 port-based task forces)** composed of prosecutors (DOJ), law enforcement investigators, (NBI/PNP), welfare officers (DSWD) and NGOs personnel covering hotspot areas, including seaports and airports all over the Philippines.

These task forces significantly contribute to the implementation of IACAT's plans and programs at the local level, particularly by strengthening the local operative's enforcement of the law in surveillance/rescue operations, case build-up and prosecution of TIP cases. They likewise lead the preventive activities and initiatives in their respective jurisdiction as well as educate the public about the menace of TIP. They also conduct capacity building and trainings of duty-bearer and stakeholders. They are monitored and evaluated by way accomplishment reports centering, but not limited to, rescue/surveillance operations conducted; cases initiated, handled and monitored; and the trainings and capacity building seminars organized.

In 2016, regional task forces conducted **43 actual rescue operations** where **40 suspected traffickers** were arrested and **231 identified trafficked victims** were rescued. While, port-based task forces intercepted a total of **2,069 in 412 interceptions**.

**Table 1. Trafficking in Persons and Illegal Recruitment Cases Investigated**

| Agency                   | No. of Alleged TIP & IR Investigated | Status of Cases                                   | No. of Victims | No. of Minor Victims | No. of Alleged Traffickers Identified |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|----------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>IACAT Task Force</b>  | 43 Operations<br>103 Surveillance    | 10 Preliminary Investigation<br>20 Filed in Court | 231            | 32                   | 40 Arrested                           |
| <b>Air &amp; Seaport</b> | 412                                  | 10 Preliminary Investigation<br>18 Filed in Court | 2069           | 5                    | 23 Arrested                           |

## Department of Labor and Employment

One of the programs being implemented by DOLE as lead agency in combating forced labor in the domestic front is the **Sagip Batang Manggagawa (SBM)**. The SBM is an inter-agency quick action mechanism which aims to respond to cases of child labor in extremely abject conditions. It employs an inter-agency quick action team for detecting, monitoring and rescuing child laborers in hazardous and exploitative working conditions. In 2016, SBM conducted **24** operations rescuing **65** minors and closing **4** establishments through Notice of Closure and subsequent filing of criminal cases.

**Table 1: DOLE Sagip Bata Maggagawa**

| Regional Office | # of Operations | # of Minors Rescued |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| NCR             | 14              | 24                  |
| 6               | 2               | 10                  |

|              |           |           |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| NIR          | 1         | 12        |
| 7            | 4         | 7         |
| 9            | 3         | 12        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>24</b> | <b>65</b> |

## Philippine Overseas Employment Administration

The POEA received a total of **140 TIP** cases for investigation: **134** of which came from the Philippine Consulate General-Dubai and Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO)-Abu Dhabi, **3** from POLO-Doha and the last **3** were walk-in complainants. Most of the cases involved maltreatment, reprocessing of contracts/visa; and misrepresentations.

Of the **140 TIP** cases received, half are still pending investigation. 3 cases were endorsed for the conduct of preliminary investigation:

- The first one involves 2 male fishermen in Taiwan. The case was dismissed by DOJ due to non-appearance of the complainants during preliminary investigation.
- The second case is a case for promoting TIP, which involves one female domestic worker whose departure to UAE was deferred by the Immigration Officer. She filed a case against her recruiter/trafficker who processed her fake travel documents. The case is still pending preliminary investigation before the Prosecutor's Office.
- The third case is another case involving one female domestic worker in Dubai who entered UAE using fake documents. To escape from her work confinement, she jumped over her employer's residence window and sustained a spine fracture. The case is now submitted for resolution in the Provincial Prosecution Office of Nueva Ecija.

POEA also investigated **108** illegal recruitment cases, involving **245** complainants, who were endorsed to the DOJ and local prosecution offices for the conduct of preliminary investigation. POEA Anti-Illegal Recruitment Branch lawyers likewise appeared as Special Counsel for the complainants during preliminary investigation in **35** illegal recruitment cases. POEA likewise appeared as Special Collaborating Prosecutor and have actively prosecuted **13** illegal recruitment cases, during the reporting period.

**Table 1. Trafficking in Persons and Illegal Recruitment Cases Investigated**

| Agency      | No. of Alleged TIP & IR Investigated | Status of Cases  | No. of Victims | No. of Minor Victims | No. of Alleged Traffickers Identified |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|--|----------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>POEA</b> | 140 TIP                              | 3 Preliminary Investigation;<br>½ Pending Investigation; |                |                      |                                       |
|             | 108 IR                               | 8 Closed and Terminated;<br>7 Pending Investigation;     | 245            |                      |                                       |

80 Submitted for  
Resolution/Pending with  
DOJ; 1 Dismissed in Court;  
3 With Standing Warrant of  
Arrest; 5 For filing of  
Information; 4 Dismissed on  
Preliminary Investigation

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As a means in increasing efforts in investigation of illegal recruitment, including labor trafficking, the POEA also docketed **2,137** administrative cases against licensed recruitment agencies. It issued **43** first time cancellation orders.

### **Philippine Center on Transnational Crime**

PCTC, as the secretariat of the INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB)-Manila, serves as the designated contact point for all National Law Enforcement Agencies and other INTERPOL member countries requiring assistance on overseas investigations, location and apprehension of suspects/fugitives. INTERPOL Notices are being maintained to assist the international law enforcement community in investigating and solving cases. A total of **17** INTERPOL Notices were referred and acted upon by the law enforcement agencies in 2016.

Further, the PCTC's western Mindanao Field Office, in cooperation with the Zamboanga Sea-Based Anti-Trafficking Task Force (ZSBATTF), has profiled and rescued a total of **239** potential victims of TIP. This figure includes men, women, and children. The victims were referred to the DSWD 9 and the Visayan Forum Foundation, Inc. (VFFI) for debriefing, proper care, and temporary shelter. Majority of them opted to return to their hometown afterwards.

## **B. Statistical Report on TIP Cases**

### **Case Monitoring**

From the enactment of Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law in 2003, IACAT has monitored a total of **3,065** TIP cases.

**Table 5. TIP Cases from the passage of RA 9208 to present**

| <b>Status of Trafficking Cases for Investigation, 2003-2016</b> | <b>Number</b> | <b>%</b>   |
|---|---------------|------------|
| Under Preliminary Investigation at DOJ                          | 190           | 6.2%       |
| Dismissed on Preliminary Investigation at DOJ                   | 262           | 8.6%       |
| Pending Petition for Review                                     | 4             | 0.1%       |
| Filed in Court  | 2,609         | 85.1       |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>3,065</b>  | <b>100</b> |

  

| <b>Status of Trafficking Cases Filed in Court, 2003-2016</b> | <b>Number</b> | <b>%</b> |
|--|---------------|----------|
| On Trial   | 1157          | 44.3     |
| Dismissed in Court   | 438           | 16.8     |

|                                    |              |            |
|------------------------------------|--------------|------------|
| Archived                           | 465          | 17.8       |
| With Standing Warrant of Arrest    | 153          | 5.9        |
| Submitted for Decision             | 6            | 0.2        |
| Decided                            | 390          | 15.0       |
| <i>Acquittals</i>                  | - 94 (24%)   |            |
| <i>Convictions</i>                 | - 296 (76%)  |            |
| Guilty of Trafficking in Persons - | 273 (92%)    |            |
| Guilty of other related laws -     | 23 (8%)      |            |
| <b>Total</b>                       | <b>2,609</b> | <b>100</b> |

## Convictions

In 2016, the DOJ convicted **52** traffickers in **43** decided TIP cases. More than half of the convictions involved **36** persons who were sentenced to life imprisonment with fines from 2 Million to 2.5 Million pesos. **Three (3)** of the convicted persons are foreign nationals (American, Swiss and German) who were all sentenced to life imprisonment. To date, the **total number of persons convicted** is **299** in **270 TIP convictions** since 2005.

Note that the government was able to sustain the number of convictions for the last six years, as reflected below:

**Table 5. TIP Cases from the passage of RA 9208 to present**

| <b>Year</b>  | <b>Number of Convictions</b> | <b>Number of Persons Convicted</b> |
|--------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2005         | 7                            | 6                                  |
| 2006         | 0                            | 0                                  |
| 2007         | 3                            | 4                                  |
| 2008         | 5                            | 4                                  |
| 2009         | 10                           | 11                                 |
| 2010         | 17                           | 15                                 |
| 2011         | 23                           | 30                                 |
| 2012         | 26                           | 32                                 |
| 2013         | 26                           | 35                                 |
| 2014         | 59                           | 62                                 |
| 2015         | 54                           | 52                                 |
| 2016         | 43                           | 52                                 |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>273</b>                   | <b>303</b>                         |

## C. Administrative Cases

The DOJ, under the leadership of SOJ Vitaliano N. Aguirre II, Chair of IACAT, adopts a zero tolerance policy for corrupt employees in its Department and all its



attached agencies and will use the considerable power of his office to hold government officials accountable for their complicit actions.

The DFA has implemented the DO No. 20-2016 which provide new guidelines in the employment of private staff by its Foreign Service personnel. Through these new guidelines, the Department seeks the elimination of trafficking initiatives through new requirements relating to rest hours and rest days, guaranteeing their privacy during their rest periods, and prescribing a transparent mode of payment of salaries which can be monitored by the Department. DFA also conduct seminars about the DO and on TIP.

A case for violation of Expanded Act is pending before the judicial tribunal against a DFA Home Office personnel and an administrative case against him is still on-going.

Facilitators of trafficking continue to use similar modus at our international ports, especially in provincial hotspots like Zamboanga International Seaport (ZIS), Clark International Airport (CIA), and Kalibo International Airports (KIA). They transport possible victims of trafficking overseas, in conspiracy with complicit BI officers who allow the departure of passengers despite their apparent lack of capacity to travel as tourists, or are in possession of fraudulent documents.

The BI through its POD-Legal Section, continues to monitor its personnel on cases/charges relating to TIP particularly on determining if a case warrants filing of formal charge against BI personnel. The POD-Legal was able to investigate a total of **37** cases relating to TIP. Confirmed cases were brought to the BI Board of Discipline (BOD) for the issuance of a show-cause order. However, the Office of the Commissioner of BI can issue, *motu proprio*, a show cause order to any erring BI officer.

Lastly, two (2) Police Officers were charged for Qualified Trafficking together with one (1) accused as principal and the other as an accomplice, before the Regional Trial Court of Dipolog City. Based on the Resolution and Information, the police officers offered and hired 5 victims initially as housekeepers or internet café attendants but were made to work as models by performing sexual or pornographic acts in front of a computer web camera for a fee to satiate the sexual desires of online customers. If convicted, sentence is life imprisonment and a fine ranging from 2 to 5 million pesos. Police officers will likewise be dismissed from service with permanent disqualification.

#### **D. International Investigation and Cooperation**

In 2016, several efforts were made to identify, prevent, locate, investigate and arrest foreign sex offenders through the close collaboration with foreign counterparts and local law enforcement authorities.

The DOJ-Office of Cybercrime (DOJ-OOC), as the point of contact for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) notes that there were **37,715** reported cases of online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC), and that some of these cases involved child sex tourism (CST).

On the other hand, the PNP observes that there is a low prevalence of CST in the country owing to the convenience of anonymity and efficiency in exploiting children via the internet.

The BI also reports that it has refused entry to aliens who have been involved or convicted of crimes involving moral turpitude, including Registered Sex Offenders. In 2016, BI has excluded a total of **118** Registered Sex Offenders (RSOs). These RSOs were denied entry from all international ports, pursuant to Section 29 (a) (3) of Philippine Immigration Act.

All three agencies identified that perpetrators often originate from developed countries like the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, The Netherlands, and Australia, among others.

The DOJ has **14** on-going cooperative international investigations, as follows:

**Table 9. International Legal Cooperation**

| Country     | Crime   | Assistance                              |
|-------------|---|---|
| Germany     | Child Abuse   | Updates on Investigation                |
| Germany     | Paternity cases Involving Minor Filipino Child  | Evidence gathering                      |
| US          | Illicit Sex Acts with Children  | Prosecution/ Evidence gathering         |
| Norway      | Aggravated Human Trafficking (exploiting minors for prostitution & other sexual acts)     | Investigation/ Evidence                 |
| US          | Sexual conduct with Minor   | Investigation and Prosecution/ Evidence |
| Germany     | Aggravated Sexual Abuse of Children and Distribution of Pornographic Contents of Children | Information                             |
| France      | Sexual Crimes Against Certain Filipinos   | Investigation/ Evidence                 |
|             | Registered Sex Offender (Child Molestation in First Degree)                               | Denial of delisting from blacklisting   |
| US          | Production of Child Pornography   | Travel arrangement of Witnesses         |
| Netherlands | Possessing, producing and distributing pornographic images of children and sexual abuse   | Investigation                           |
|             | Registered Sex Offender (Child Molestation in First Degree)                               | Denial of delisting from blacklisting   |
| France      | Complicity of rape, sexual harassment of minor, importations and transmission of          | Investigation                           |

|             |                                 |             |
|-------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
|             | pornographic images of a minor) |             |
| Indonesia   | Trafficking in Persons          | Prosecution |
| Netherlands | Trafficking in Persons          | Prosecution |

The DOJ also filed a total of **one hundred forty six (147)** TIP cases against **78** foreign nationals since the enactment of the Expanded Act. **77** of these cases are still pending trial before the Regional Trial Courts all over the Philippines. Most of these foreigners are Americans, Australian, Japanese and Koreans.

In 2016, **7** foreign nationals (2 Americans, 2 Australians, 1 Canadian, 1 Malaysian, and 1 Japanese) added to the list of foreigners charged for violation of R.A. 10364. Two are still pending for preliminary investigation and the rest are on trial stage at the Regional Trial Courts.

Further, DOJ-OOC received case referrals from several complainants most of which comes from NCMEC with a total number of 45 cases with different classification of reports. This includes the recent arrest and conviction of an American National for online child abuse or CST as a result of the close cooperation between the Philippine and foreign authorities, especially the US Homeland Security Investigation. Among the successful case referrals and request for assistance from foreign law enforcement officers involves an Australian national who frequently travelled in the Philippines in 2015-2016 to commit child sexual abuse and exploitation. Presently, he is detained in the PNP and facing charges for violation of R.A. No. 9775 or the "Anti-Child Pornography Act," and the Expanded Act.

## **E. Database on TIP Cases**

### **Prosecutor's TIP Case Management System (PTCMS)**

IACAT is currently working on the Prosecutor's TIP Case Management System (PTCMS) in cooperation with the AAPTIP. The PTCMS is a web-based intranet application which will be used by Regional Prosecutors' Office through our anti-trafficking task forces, to assist in the monitoring, handling and managing of TIP cases. IACAT Secretariat serves as the central administrator of the system to oversee and provide support to the regional offices. The system will address the challenge of gathering data in a reliable and timely manner, as the data will be updated at the regional level and will be transmitted to the IACAT Secretariat through the virtual private network (VPN). The initial implementation of the PTCMS will replace the current master file and will provide some basic tools and information to help with the management of TIP cases. The system aims to provide accurate, relevant and critical information on TIP cases to prosecutors to ensure prioritization of TIP cases and speedy dispensation of justice.

### **Online Trafficking in Persons Blacklist Database**

In pursuance to the mandate under the Expanded Act, the POEA developed the Online Trafficking in Persons Blacklist Database. It is a blacklist database that

enlists all persons, entities and recruitment agencies that are involved in TIP. The Blacklist operates as an online and public monitoring system that will serve as the IACAT repository of information regarding those who are involved in TIP.

The database will be available to the public thru an online platform where data will be shared by all government agencies concerned in TIP. The TIP database is one of the priority projects of the Administration and scheduled to be launched in the first quarter of 2017.

#### **IV. Partnership and Networking**

##### **A. International Partnerships**

IACAT recognizes the important role of partners in the implementation of all anti-TIP programs and action plan. In 2016, the Government built more bridges and fostered global partnership through the following:

- **2<sup>nd</sup> International Dialogue to Enhance International Cooperation in Combating Human Trafficking.**

During the 1<sup>st</sup> International Dialogue on Human Trafficking held in June 2015, delegates from 19 embassies in the Philippines, 11 NGOs, and 15 government agencies signed the “Manila Declaration to Enhance International Cooperation in Combating Human Trafficking” (Manila Declaration). As a way forward on the four action papers (relating to trafficking of domestic workers; of tourist workers; of seafarers; online child exploitation) endorsed by the signatories of the Manila Declaration, three technical working groups (TWGs) were created:

- TWG on Household Service Workers (HSW) and Tourist Workers led by the IACAT and the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration
- TWG on Online Child Exploitation led by the United States and Australian Embassies and IACAT
- TWG on Seafarers led by the Embassy of the King of the Netherlands and IACAT

These TWGs had focused discussions on their respective action papers – in particular, on achievements and relevant efforts since the recommendations were drawn up, lessons learned, existing challenges, best practices, and gaps.

As a result of the TWG meeting, matrices of existing anti-trafficking initiatives, results, and challenges concerning domestic/tourist workers, seafarers, and online child abuse victims, were drafted with top 3 recommendations and plan of actions for the present administration.

Thus, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Dialogue held on 31 May 2016, all signatories of the 2015 Manila Declaration and additional anti-trafficking stakeholders

convened and adopted the recommendations of the TWGs. Commitments were renewed; new partners welcomed for better, more enhanced international cooperation of anti-trafficking efforts.

- **Continued implementation of 8 projects with the AAPTIP with the end goal of reducing the incentives and opportunities for trafficking persons in the ASEAN region.**

The DOJ, through IACAT, in partnership with the AAPTIP implements the following eight (8) projects intended to reduce the incentives and opportunities for the TIP in the Philippines:

- Project 1 – Professional development program for law enforcement officials
- Project 2 – Transnational Investigation Cooperation – this seeks to strengthen the bilateral relationship between the PNP and the Royal Malaysian Police (RMP) in exchanging TIP data and investigating TIP cases as origin and destination countries, respectively.
- Project 3 – Victim Witness Coordinator (VWC) Program
- Project 4 – Prosecutor TIP Case Management System (PTCMS)
- Project 5 – Prosecutors Professional Development Program
- Project 6 – Professional development of judges and court officers
- Project 7 – Marathon Hearing
- Project 8 – Referring Labour Trafficking Cases for Prosecution

All of these projects are being implemented through lead partner agencies per outcome area, namely: PNP, DOJ, Office of the Court Administrator (OCA) through the Philippine Judicial Academy (PHILJA) and POEA.

- **Philippine operatives continued to strengthen its ties with their counterparts in other countries in the rescue of trafficked victims and addressing cross-border TIP.** In 2016, a 3<sup>rd</sup> bilateral meeting on Cross-Border Cooperation with Royal Malaysian Police (RMP) was held in Sabah, Malaysia. The crafting of a Memorandum of Agreement regarding cross-border anti-TIP cooperation was agreed upon.
- **A potential Child Protection Compact (CPC) Partnership between the United States and the Philippines is being discussed through series of meetings with the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking (J/TIP).** This proposed partnership is intended to strengthen Philippine capacity to address issues on online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC) and child labor trafficking.
- **Continued partnership with the Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance and Training (OPDAT) in terms of capacity building for Prosecutors and Investigators and advocacy building with Academe.**

In 2016, four (4) Trainings were completed in the following areas:

Apr 12-14: General Santos City, South Cotabato

Jun 21-23: Tacloban City, Leyte

Oct 18-20: Bacolod City, Negros Occidental

Nov 15-17: Puerto Princesa, Palawan

Participants included prosecutors-members of the anti-trafficking task forces, law enforcement agents, and college deans, professors, and students of criminology.

- **The government is in close partnership with INTERPOL through PCTC and has implemented anti-trafficking programs and cross-border operations in the Philippines since 2012.** There are 17 INTERPOL Notices referred and acted upon by the law enforcement agencies in 2016.
- **The Philippine Government co-hosted several SOMTC ASEAN Conference on Trafficking in Persons (ACTIP) and ASEAN Plan of Action (APA).** The completion of the ACTIP and APA draft is an effective step to combat human trafficking, especially of women and children. It is a landmark achievement for ASEAN member states as it reflects regional solidarity in combating human trafficking.
- **Philippine Government assisted and supported Vietnam, Thailand, Jamaican Government, and City Government of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia during its respective study visit to learn from the Philippine anti-trafficking efforts.**

*Vietnamese Official's Study Visit, 16-20 May 2016:* **7** Vietnamese Officials visited the Philippines to learn and share experiences in addressing Online Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of Children (OSEAC). This is in response to the emerging issue in Vietnam with 35% of the population using the internet and a large part of children and youth use mobile phones and access the social media. The Philippines appreciates the opportunity to support the Government of Vietnam in their efforts to strengthen current legislation and structures to address the needs of child online protection, as well as to develop optimal services to respond to the need for social support for victims of OSEAC.

*Study Tour Royal Thai Embassy on Information about the Philippine Policies on Human Trafficking, August 19, 2016:* **5** Thai officials visited IACAT with the objective to know more about the legal and organizational framework on TIP and how the member agencies work together in combatting TIP in the Philippines and within the ASEAN Region.

*Study Mission of Jamaican Government Representatives, 10-13 October 2016:* A study mission to the Philippines was conducted by relevant Jamaican Government ministries, departments and agencies working on the

implementation of Jamaica's National "International Migration and Development Policy" and on the development of its Migration & Development (M&D) framework.

*Learning Visit of the Representatives from the City Government of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 11 November 2016:* The IACAT shared the country's anti-trafficking interventions and strategies to 15 government officials and civil society leaders of Addis Ababa on a visit to the country to learn about key successes in addressing TIP.

- **Fourteen (14) Training / Conferences abroad were attended by the Philippine delegation/s:**

Attended as an Expert Resource Person:

- **Policy Workshop on National Referral Mechanism** in Aoluguya Hotel, Harbin, China from 11-12 January, 2017;
- **Workshop on the ASEAN Cross-Sectoral Collaboration Against Trafficking in Persons**, 16-17 November, 2016, held in Bohol, Philippines.
- **2016 International Sex Trafficking Summit** held at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel in Honolulu, Hawaii, U.S.A. from 28 – 30 September 2016;
- **Enhancing a Victim Centered Approach: Identification, Assistance, and Protection of Trafficking Victims in the Asia-Pacific Region** held at the UNITAR CIFAL Jeju/Jeju International Training Center IN Jeju-do, Korea, 13 – 16 June 2016;
- **Philippine – Cambodia Round Table Meeting** was held in Phnom Penh from 3-4 May 2016;

Attended as a participant (group sharing of information)

- **Consultation Workshop on the Bali Process Regional Strategic Roadmap on Strengthening Counter-Trafficking Responses"** in Bangkok, Thailand on 8 February, 2017.
- **Regional Meeting on Multi-Sectoral Services to Respond to Gender-Based Violence Against Women and Girls in Asia and the Pacific** held at Amari Watergate Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand from November 21-23, 2016; 6 delegates;
- **4<sup>th</sup> Interpol Global Trafficking in Human Beings (THB) Conference** held in Geneva, Switzerland from 19 – 21 October 2016; 3 delegates;

- **Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Group and Region Focus) Promotion of Networking among ASEAN Countries on Anti-Trafficking in Persons** held in Japan from October 23, 2016 to November 5, 2016;
- **Basic Trial Advocacy Training** held in Columbia, South Carolina, United States of America; 27 February to 5 March 2016;
- **Transnational Investigation Cooperation (TIC) Training** (18-22 January 2016 at Hotel Equatorial, Malacca, Malaysia, and 30 August to 3 September 2016, Manila, Philippines;
- **The Bali Process: Following the Money Forum** at Dusit Thani Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand on 16-17 May 2016;
- **East Asia/ Southeast Asia (EA/SEA) Regional Conference and Ethical Recruitment and Policy Harmonization in the Fishing Industry**, Seoul, Republic of Korea on 25-26 August 2016;
- **ASEAN Workshop on Improving Border Controls and Strengthening the Capacity of Law Enforcement Authorities to address Irregular Migration and Trafficking in Persons**, 1-2 June 2016.

## **B. Local Partnerships**

The government also continued to partner with local NGOs:

- The Caraga LCAT–VAWC Summit was conducted in partnership with the Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation – Integrated Development Center in Butuan City on 18-19 November 2016;
- The Civil Society Organizations Summit in September 2016 was a collaborative effort among IACAT, the Blas F. Ople Policy Center and Training Institute, IJM, and VFFI. Due to funding constraints, IACAT also partnered with AWO International and the Wholistic Transformation Resource Center Foundation, Inc., who co-funded the summit;
- The celebration of the World Day Against Trafficking in July 2016 was a joint endeavor of IACAT and the IOM;
- Task Forces at the regional and local levels continue to engage NGOs. NGOs often play a huge role in Task Force operations as they provide much needed resources especially for prevention and protection programs.
- POEA signed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on the AIR/TIP Campaign with **5 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, **53 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 TIP.

- 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 TIP. 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. 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 TIP, especially those undertaken in the pretext of 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.

### **C. Bilateral Agreements**

At present, there are forty (40) bilateral labor agreements under review by DFA:

1. Philippines-Kazakhstan MOU on Labor Cooperation
2. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department of Labor of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Employment and Labor of the Republic of Korea on the Sending and Receiving of Workers to the Republic of Korea under the Employment Permit System
3. Agreement on Domestic Worker Recruitment between the Ministry of Labor of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the DOLE of the Republic of the Philippines
4. MOU between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on Filipino Household Workers in Jordan
5. Philippines-Israel Agreement on Labour Cooperation
6. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of Spain Concerning Filipino Manpower Employment in Spain
7. MOU on Labour Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the Republic of Seychelles

8. Philippines-United Arab Emirates MOU on Labour Cooperation
9. Philippines-Yemen Agreement on Labour Cooperation
10. Philippines-Vietnam MOU on Labour Cooperation
11. Philippines-Brunei MOU on Labour Cooperation
12. MOU between the Philippines and Timor-Leste on Cooperation in the Fields of Labor and Employment
13. MOU on Labor Cooperation between the Philippines and Trinidad and Tobago
14. Philippines-Syrian Memorandum of Agreement on Labour Cooperation
15. Philippines-Oman MOU in the Field of Labor
16. Philippines-New Zealand Arrangement on the Principles and Controls on the Recruitment and Protection of Filipino Workers in New Zealand
17. MOU between the Philippines and Morocco on Labour Cooperation
18. MOU between the Philippines and Mongolia on Labour Cooperation
19. Philippines-Malaysia Agreement on Labor Employment and Manpower Development and Exchange
20. Memorandum of Agreement between the Philippines and Maldives on Labour Cooperation
21. MO between the Republic of the Philippines and Lao People's Democratic Republic on Technical Cooperation on Labor and Employment
22. Philippines-Belgium Agreement on Labor Cooperation
23. Philippines-British Columbia MOU Concerning Cooperation in Human Resource Deployment and Development
24. Philippines-Ethiopia Agreement on Labour Cooperation
25. Philippines-France MOU on Labor and Migration
26. Philippines- Greece MOU on Labour Cooperation
27. Philippines and Indonesia Agreement on Labor and Manpower
28. Philippines-Bahrain MOU in the Field of Labour and Technical Vocational Education and Training
29. MOU between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of Australia Concerning Cooperation on Migration Management and Border Control
30. Proposed Philippine-Russia labor Cooperation Agreement
31. Kuwait-Agreement on Domestic Worker Recruitment
32. Philippine-Qatar Bilateral Labor Agreement
33. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia-Agreement on Maritime Transport and Agreement on the Recognition of Seafarer's Certificate; Cooperation in Human Resources Deployment and Development
34. Oman-MOU in the Mutual Recognition of Maritime Certificates
35. Israel – Bilateral Labor Agreement; Government-to-Government Mechanism for the Recruitment of Caregivers
36. Ethiopia-Agreement on Labor Cooperation
37. Libya-MOU in the Field of Employment and Manpower Development
38. South Africa – MOU on Labor Cooperation
39. Sudan – MOU on Labor and Employment
40. Ukraine – Agreement on Labor

The Philippines has **thirteen (13)** bilateral and multilateral law enforcement cooperation and coordination agreement with other countries.

A. Bilateral Agreements:

1. Arrangement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of New Zealand on Law Enforcement Cooperation to Combat Transnational Crime  
Signed on 28 May 2007  
Ratified on 25 September 2007  
Entered into force on 20 December 2007
2. Letter of Agreement on Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement between the Government of the Philippines and the Government of the United States of America  
Signed on 20 May 2003  
Entered into force on 20 May 2003
3. MOU between the PNP and the Qatar State Security Bureau on Cooperation in Preventing and Combatting Transnational Crimes  
Signed on 23 June 2014
4. MOU between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Cooperation in Combatting Transnational Crime  
Signed on 30 October 2001  
Entered into force on 28 May 2002
5. MOU between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Cooperation in Combatting Transnational Crime  
Signed on 14 January 2003  
Ratified on 19 November 2003
6. MOU between the PNP and the Australian Federal Police on Combatting Transnational Crime and Developing Police Cooperation  
Signed on 02 October 2012

B. Multilateral Agreements:

7. United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime
8. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime  
Signed by the Philippines on 14 December 2000  
Ratified on 28 May 2002

9. Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea, and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime  
Signed by the Philippines on 14 December 2000  
Ratified on 28 May 2002
10. Philippine-Sweden Memorandum of Understanding on Law Enforcement
11. Proposed MOU on Cooperation in Combating Transnational Crime with Romania
12. Proposed Agreement on Cooperation in Fighting Crime, Especially in its Organized Forms with Russian Federation
13. Agreement on Cooperation on Preventing and Combating Transnational Crime between the DILG and Ministry of the Internal Affairs of Georgia