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INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

THE UN MIGRATION AGENCY



Photo: IOM 2017 / Benjamin Suomela

## Strengthening Border Management and Intelligence Capacity of Thai Government Officials

Thailand is a migration hub in Southeast Asia and simultaneously a country of origin, transit and destination for large numbers of migrants. Many low-skilled workers from neighboring countries enter Thailand irregularly, often through the help of smugglers and brokers, aiming to find work and better lives.

Thailand has also been used as an important transit point for smuggled migrants transiting through Thailand. Some smuggled migrants enter Thailand legally on tourist visas before beginning their journey onwards while many others enter irregularly by boat or land from neighboring countries. The smuggling of migrants from Thailand occurs primarily via air transport, land or long boat journeys, and is often facilitated by the use of fraudulent documents.

The “*Strengthening the Border Management and Intelligence Capacity of Thai Government Officials*” program is designed to support efforts by the Thai authorities and their regional counterparts to tackle Human Smuggling and Trafficking. Funded by the Government of Canada, the project has been ongoing since January 2012 and is currently in its third phase.

### KEY FACTS

# Canada

**Donor:** Government of Canada

**Project Duration:** January 2012 - July 2018

**Areas Covered:** Thailand

**Project Beneficiaries:** Thai Immigration Bureau, Royal Police Cadet Academy, Tourist Police, Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division Police, Office of Attorney General, Immigration and Law Enforcement Officers from Cambodia, Malaysia and Myanmar

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



55 immigration police, inquiry police, and prosecutors trained on strengthening inter-agency case management of smuggling/trafficking cases.



347 officials from five countries trained on cross border cooperation in investigations of transnational crime including smuggling/trafficking cases.



129 immigration and tourist police trained on travel document examination procedures.



97 police cadet instructors trained in human smuggling and trafficking for further dissemination to police cadets.



Network of 56 trainers and resource persons on document examination created through advanced training series.



Document examination laboratories established at 8 immigration checkpoints, including Suvarnabhumi and Don Muang Airports, and Aranyaprated Checkpoint.

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## Phase I & II

During Phase I (2012-2013) and Phase II (2013-2014), IOM Thailand successfully initiated and implemented a series of highly effective training programs, including capacity building workshops for frontline officers on identifying and assisting smuggled or trafficked persons at borders and cross-border capacity building workshops to support the collection, analysis and sharing of information on human smuggling; as well as the development and dissemination of information, education and communication (IEC) materials on human smuggling.

## Phase III

The third phase of the project (August 2016 - July 2018) aims to further support the Royal Thai Government, particularly the Immigration Bureau and other key agencies of the Royal Thai Police, to combat human smuggling and trafficking.

### Outcome I: Sustainable and Efficient Mechanisms to Intercept Human Smuggling

- Establishment of document examination laboratories at 5 key immigration checkpoints, complete with the latest travel document and passenger verification equipment 'Verifier TD&B'.
- Training of Trainer (TOT) on travel document examination, use of equipment and advanced biometrics for 25 immigration officers.
- Development and institutionalization of the Bali Process Immigration induction training as the standardized training program on human smuggling in Thailand through a Training of Trainers (TOT) for 30 Royal Police Cadet Academy instructors, Immigration and Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division police trainers.
- Training for a minimum of 200 immigration officers on travel documents and imposters examination procedures.

### Outcome II: Effective Coordination in Identification, Investigation and Prosecution of Human Smuggling Cases

- A series of four cross-border trainings on international cooperation in the investigation of smuggling and trafficking cases for a total of 120 immigration officers from Thailand, Myanmar and Malaysia.
- Three inter-agency trainings on enhancing the management of smuggling and trafficking cases from interception to investigation and prosecution for 90 immigration officers, police, and prosecutors.



Immigration officers at Aranyaprathet at a training on the use of Verifier TD&B system to detect passport fraud and imposters. Photo: IOM 2017



An expert trainer demonstrates interview techniques for trafficked persons at a Thailand-Myanmar Cross Border Training. Photo: IOM 2017



Immigration officers examine passports during a Training of Trainer (TOT) workshop on Travel Document Examination and Advanced Biometrics. Photo: IOM 2017



Immigration police, investigators and prosecutors brainstorm during a tabletop exercise on investigating transnational crimes. Photo: IOM 2017