

# Mekong Youth Forum on Human Trafficking

2 - 9 September 2007, Bangkok, Thailand

## *Their Voices. Their Views. – Are you listening?*

Attention: Asia Correspondents/Editors



Human trafficking, labour and sexual exploitation of young migrants – and stories of forced labour – are making headlines as never before.

While Governments, both here in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) and indeed worldwide, grapple with these issues, and the issues brought about by mass movements of people in 'globalizing' economies, one may wonder why there is such little 'public' consultation - especially with the groups most vulnerable to abuse - on how to better prevent trafficking-related exploitation.

The **Mekong Youth Forum on Human Trafficking (MYF)** will bring together vulnerable young people from across the Greater Mekong Sub-region to Bangkok for a week-long intensive consultation on finding ways to better prevent trafficking of children and youth within countries and across borders of the GMS. All of the young delegates have participated in similar national forums on trafficking in their own countries prior to their arrival in Bangkok.

On the penultimate day of the Forum, the Royal Thai Government will host a dialogue between the young people and representatives from all six Governments of the GMS, at a special session convened by the UN Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region (UNIAP)

The sub-regional recommendations of these young delegates will then be finalized and later shared with the Governments of the six GMS countries (Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam) through the UNIAP.

The MYF represents the second round of sub-regional consultations with young people about human trafficking in the GMS, with the first held in 2004. The young people's participation in this Forum is jointly sponsored by the International Labour Organization's Mekong Sub-regional Project to Combat Trafficking in Children and Women, Save the Children UK and World Vision International in the countries in which they work. Also involved in the 2004 Forum, UNIAP has continued to be actively engaged with the youth forums at the national and sub-regional levels.

**You or your representatives are cordially invited to attend an open media session where several of the young participants will be on hand to share their experiences and lessons learned about ways to prevent human trafficking and the related sexual and labour exploitation that result. (Attn: TV producers: Broadcast-quality video of the forum will be available on this day in Beta SP.)**

### Time and Place:

Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> September at 12:30 pm  
Montien Riverside Hotel, Vimarnthong Room 4<sup>th</sup> floor,  
372 Rama 3 Road, Bangkhlo, Bangkok.  
(Refreshments on arrival)

Given the nature of the Forum, and a duty of care to protect children's privacy, adult participation/observations in the working sessions of the Forum are limited. However a Website will also carry information about the Forum and its outcomes (available by late August) at [www.mekongyouthforum.com](http://www.mekongyouthforum.com)

**For further information, please contact:**

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