

**Attention: Asia Correspondents/Editors/TV Producers
For Immediate Release:**



Their Voices.

Their Views.

Are you listening?

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

While Governments, 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.

From 2 – 9 September, in Bangkok, Thailand 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.

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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 collective experiences and lessons learned about human trafficking and the related sexual and labour exploitation that result and, most importantly, ways to prevent it. (Accredited journalists/technicians only please)

Time and Place:

**Thursday, 6th September at 12:30 pm
Montien Riverside Hotel, Tarnthong Room, Ground Floor,
372 Rama 3 Road, Bangkok, Bangkok.
(Refreshments on arrival)**

(Attention TV News producers: Broadcast-quality video of the forum (B-roll) will be available on this day in Beta SP – it will also include a **'survivor's story'** and 30x promotional spot. This package will also be played out via ABU-Asiavision immediately following the first Asiavision feed (08:30 GMT feed), EBU Transponder – on the 6th September.)

Given the nature of the Forum, and a duty of care to protect children's privacy, adult participation/observation and media access to the working sessions of the Forum is limited. However a Website is also carrying information about the Forum and its outcomes at www.mekongyouthforum.com

For further information, please contact:

Allan Dow
Mekong Youth Forum on Human Trafficking
Tel: +66 (0)2 288 2057
Mob: +66 (0)89 891 5003
Email: prevention@childtrafficking.net

For Thai Language enquiries, please contact (ภาษาไทย):

Ratirose Supaporn
Mekong Youth Forum on Human Trafficking
Tel: 02 652 0518
Mob: 081 490 0990
Email: ratirose@savethechildren.or.th

www.mekongyouthforum.com