# Human Trafficking: Transnational Crime between Japan and Thailand

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Human trafficking is a form of modern day slavery

It is a heinous and widespread crime occuring around the world

It is a very profitable but low risk crime

Most of human trafficking involve or are organized or controlled by organized criminal groups

#### **Definitions**

- "Trafficking in persons" means
- 1 recruitment ,transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons,
- 2 by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the buse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person,
- 3 for the purpose of exploitation.

#### **Definitions**

• Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, force labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs

• The recruitment, transportation, transfer, hobouring or receiving of a child for the purpose of exploitation shall be considered 'trafficking in persons' even if this does not involve any of the means used against adults

#### Types of human trafficking

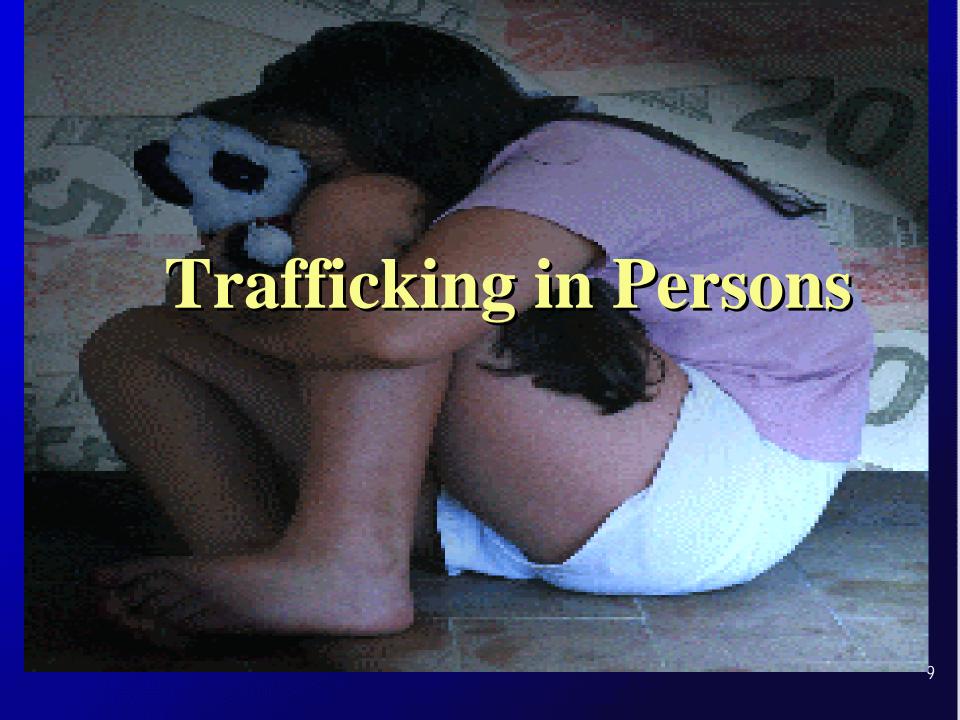
- There are 4 main types of human trafficking:
- 1 Trafficking for prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation,
- 2 Trafficking for forced labour or service,
- 3 Trafficking for slavery or practice similar to slavery,
- 4 Trafficking for the removal of organs.

- Thailand has 3 statuses:
- 1 as a country of origin,
- 2 as a country of destination
- 3 as a transit country

Human trafficking between Thailand and Japan:

- Thailand is the country of origin
- Japan is the country of destination

The main type of human trafficking from Thailand to Japan is trafficking for the exploitation of prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation,



#### Human trafficking for forced prostitution



More than 20,000 Thai women were brought to Japan each year to work in commercial sex businesses, e.g. brothel, massage parlour, bars, pubs and other types of commercial sex businesses

- There are 3 types of women coming to work in Japan
- 1 They are deceived about the works and the condition of the works. When they arrive, they are detained and forced to work in commercial sex business

- They know that they are going to work in commercial sex business but are deceived by the conditions of the work. When they arrive in Japan, they are told to pay back the debt of 5 million yen or sleep with 500 customers without pay. They are detained and forced to work under that condition.
- 3 They receive correct information and willing to come to work in commercial sex business under the condition set by the brothel owners.

- The first and the second types are considered to be human trafficking in accordance with the definition of the trafficking protocol
- They are told that they are in debt of 5,000,000 Yens and have to service 500 customers to clear the debt
- Their passports are confiscated, they are detained and forced to be prostitutes by the brothel owners and are punished if they try to escape

- Thailand tries to solve the problem by:
- 1 Campaign against human trafficking, esp. in the rural areas,
- 2 Raising awareness of the public and law enforcement on human trafficking issue,
- 3 Enact a new Anti-Human Trafficking Act to severely punish human aand fully protect victims
- 4 Arrest the traffickers in Thailand who trafficked the victims to Japan

- In case it is possible Thailand asks for extradition of the traffickers or exploiters from Japan to Thailand to prosecute them in Thai court
- 6 The Thai Embassy is ready to help the Thai victims of human trafficking if they ask for help and will repatriate them back to Bangkok
- 7 The Thai authorities will wait for the victims at the airport and try to get information to arrest the traffickers.

- 8 Thailand is trying to enhance cooperation with Japan in several aspects to fight human trafficking between the two countries
- 9 Thailand and Japan is negotiating an agreement to exchange of information for the purpose of preventing Thai women from being trafficked to Japan and for safe repatriation
- 10 The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand has improves the passport security to counter fake passport

Many human traffickers who trafficked women to be prostitutes in Japan had been severely punished by Thai court.

In one case, two traffickers were prosecuted and the court convicted the first trafficker with 39 years imprisonment and the second trafficker with 28 years imprisonment.

#### How Thailand and Japan join hands in solving the problem

Japan is also trying very much to solve this problem as well.

One measure used is to strengthen immigration control both in visa issuing and entry control plus other measures.

#### How Thailand and Japan join hands in solving the problem

However, without close cooperation, it is very difficult for both countries to solve the problem

Cooperation between Thailand and Japan just cover the areas of prevention, suppression, protection of victims, repatriation, reintegration, exchange of information, extradition and mutual legal assistance.

#### How Thailand and Japan join hands in solving the problem

The most important thing is to put the traffickers in Thailand and the exploiters in Japan in jail for the offence of human trafficking, or else they will traffic more and more women into Japan and the problem will never end.

Thailand is ready to cooperate with Japan in every aspect because we want very much to solve the problem.

