

## Press Release



### Development of Thailand's Fishing Industry for Sustainability and Recognition

Bangkok, January 18, 2024 - The Thai Tuna Industry Association (TTIA) joined a seminar and press conference on the topic of “The Direction of Thailand's Fishing Industry in the Context of International Trade: Considerations on Labour Rights, Environment, and Seafood Market Standards” at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand (FCCT). The Association provided information on its activities in **the fishing and labour areas to promote sustainability** and reflect Thailand's development that is globally recognized.

**Dr. Chanintr Chalisarapong**, the President of the TTIA, stated, “Thailand still holds the potential to be a global leader in the production and export of canned fish and pet food for dogs and cats, generating an annual income of THB 160 billion from both industries. The Association aims for sustainable growth through three main policies: food safety, ethical labour practices, and sustainable resource use.”

#### Addressing Thailand’s IUU Fishing issues and its human trafficking situation

Dr. Chanintr mentioned, “In 2014, Thailand received a yellow card from the European Union to address the Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IUU Fishing) issues. Within the same year, the United States ranked Thailand as Tier 3 in the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, **reflecting the country’s key challenges** such as human trafficking, forced labour, and unregulated marine resource use. This necessitated efforts from *all stakeholders, including the government, to use human and financial resources to address these issues* and restore Thailand's credibility.”

The government of Thailand has taken significant steps to address the issues, such as the issuance of the Fisheries Act B.E. 2558 (2015), the ratification of the ILO’s Work in

Fishing Convention No. 188, 2007, and the ratification of the ILO Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930.

Dr. Chanintr added, “The Association has established the TTIA Code of Conduct for its members, covering principles such as no child labour, no forced labour, non-discrimination, no human trafficking, and freedom of association for negotiation. Additionally, we have collaborated with the ILO and the government to implement the Good Labour Practice (GLP) in the tuna industry. At present, the Association has developed the GLP as part of the Ship to Shore Rights Project to address fisheries labour and seafood issues.”

As a result of Thailand's consistent efforts in labour improvement, the country has been removed from the yellow card status in IUU Fishing in 2019 and has been elevated to Tier 2 in the human trafficking situation in 2022-2023. This has led to an improved image of the country, sustainable marine resources, alleviation of labour shortages, and enhanced advantages in trade negotiations.

**Dr. Chanintr** concluded by saying, “*Regarding the views on relaxing the fisheries standards, there should be a comprehensive impact assessment and stakeholder consultation meetings to ensure that it does not adversely affect the overall situation.*”