



SUMMARY REPORT

THE WORKSHOP ON THE ASEAN CROSS-SECTORAL COLLABORATION AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS TOWARDS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ASEAN CONVENTION AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, ESPECIALLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN (ACTIP) AND THE ASEAN PLAN OF ACTION AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, ESPECIALLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN (APA)

Bohol, Philippines, 16-17 November 2016

INTRODUCTION

1. The Workshop was Chaired by Attorney. Robert Larga, Director of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, and was attended by representatives from the Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime, except Lao PDR, Singapore and Viet Nam and representatives of the Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM); the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR); the ASEAN Senior Law Officials Meeting (ASLOM); the Senior Officials Meeting on Education (SOM-ED); the Senior Labour Officials Meeting (SLOM); the Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD); the Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development (SOMHD)-Philippines; the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), and the ASEAN Secretariat attended the Workshop. The list of delegates appears as **ANNEX 1**.

WELCOME REMARKS

2. On behalf of Mr. Edgar M. Chatto, Governor of the Province of Bohol, Mr. Ricky Masamayor, Board Member of the Province of Bohol welcomed all delegates to Bohol. He highlighted that economic crises has further aggravated the situation for human security and in this regard trafficking in persons has become a global business, making huge profit for the criminals. This situation has been exacerbated by the ease of travel and the speed of internet, which rendered the exploitation of human beings becoming easier. He mentioned that it is not enough to catch and punish perpetrators, and that it is also important to improve the socio-economic condition of the region. The convening of this Workshop demonstrates determination

and commitment among ASEAN Member States to fight against trafficking in persons. He further called upon the delegates of the Workshop and ASEAN to end the atrocity that degrades human dignity. Mr. Masamayor wished the delegates a fruitful deliberation during the Workshop. The text of his remarks appears as **ANNEX 2**.

KEYNOTE SPEECH

3. At the outset, Undersecretary Allan C. Guisihan, Executive Director of the Philippine Center on Transnational Crime thanked all delegates for attending the Workshop. He mentioned that ASEAN has come a long way since the ACTIP and APA was signed in November 2015. He recalled that a number of Meetings have been convened to further work on the implementation of the ACTIP and APA, which aim to harmonise regional efforts to end trafficking in persons, especially for women and children. He looked forward to the success of implementing the ACTIP and APA to promote the rights of women and children. The text of his speech appears as **ANNEX 3**.

PLENARY SESSION 1: OVERVIEW OF THE MATRIX OF POSSIBLE AREAS OF COLLABORATION AMONG RELEVANT ASEAN SECTORAL BODIES/ORGANS UNDER THE FRAMEWORK OF THE APA

4. Atty.. Robert Larga briefed the delegates on the background and rationale of the Matrix of Possible Areas of Collaboration among Relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies/Organs under the Framework of the APA, which was to serve as a tool to map out existing initiatives in the fight against trafficking in persons in ASEAN. He also recalled the decisions of the two preceding cross-sectoral meetings in January and March 2016 respectively. With regard to the Meeting in January, i.e. the Socialisation of the ACTIP and APA in Manila in January 2016, Atty.. Larga emphasised the importance of avoiding duplication of efforts and that the Meeting agreed to circulate the Matrix for further inputs from all Sectoral Bodies/Organs. He further mentioned that the SOMTC-ASEAN Sectoral Bodies/Organs Collaboration Meeting on Trafficking in Persons in Manila in March 2016 agreed to further consider and discuss the purpose of the matrix, either to serve as a cross-sectoral work plan or as a reference document to develop a work plan. The Meeting in March also agreed to provisionally adopt the Matrix, subject to further comments and inputs of the sectoral bodies as well as to consider identifying a contact person from each sectoral body to ensure and facilitate smooth communication.

5. After the circulation of the Matrix to seek inputs from all relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies/Organs, it was noted that the Matrix served as a good source of

information on the existing initiatives to address trafficking in persons at the national and regional levels. The Matrix was able to identify common areas of collaboration, including research, training-and development of regional standards, guidelines and protocols, setting up specific measures/mechanisms to address movement of traffickers and victims as well as pursuing legal cooperation. However, Atty.. Larga pointed out that there was little input on regional activities and cross-sectoral cooperation. For the way forward, there is a need to reflect programmes which fulfil the implementation of the ACTIP and APA. Atty.Larga's presentation appears as **ANNEX 4**.

6. The delegates of the Workshop noted that the Matrix is concluded and will be used as a reference document to develop a more concrete regional document which can be implemented by all relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies/Organs, in the form of a Work Plan. It was also noted that the Work Plan would only refer to the regional activities and programmes reflected in the Matrix. The final version of the Matrix appears as **ANNEX 5**.

7. On the Work Plan, the delegates of the Workshop highlighted the following issues:

- a. To identify priorities that ASEAN should focus on;
- b. To indicate a timeline, outcome; and
- c. To put in place a monitoring and evaluation mechanism.

PLENARY SESSION 2: DISCUSSION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WORK PLAN TO IMPLEMENT THE APA AND CONSIDERATION OF ITS ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

8. This Plenary Session discussed the details in developing the Work Plan to harmonise and streamline all ASEAN programmes and efforts in combating trafficking in persons, which will complement existing national and sectoral body work plans and help avoid duplication of efforts among relevant Sectoral Bodies/Organs. Atty. Larga further highlighted that the importance of developing a Work Plan to Implement the APA, includes identifying and addressing the gaps of the APA Provisions that have not been reflected in the existing work plans/work programmes of ASEAN Sectoral Bodies/Organs.

9. It was agreed that the timeline of the Work Plan should be four years, from 2017-2020, aligned with the end of the APA's timeline. The delegates of the

Workshop took note of the following key considerations to be made when developing the Work Plan:

- a. To reflect programmes/projects/activities that will be implemented from 2017-2020 across the region, or implemented by a sectoral body or bodies, instead of national-level efforts;
- b. To identify sectoral body focal points for ease of coordination; and
- c. To agree on the mechanism for reporting, monitoring and evaluation;

10. The Plenary agreed that the modalities of the Work Plan would be further discussed in the working group sessions.

11. The ASEAN Secretariat briefed the Meeting on the SMART goals, encouraging delegates to populate the Work Plan with action lines that are specific, measurable, attainable, results-focused and time-bound.

12. With regard to funding resources in implementing the activities of the Work Plan, the Lead Sectoral Body can come up with the concept paper/note or cross-sectoral project proposals and seek inputs from other Sectoral Bodies, in line with the ASEAN Project Appraisal and Approval Process. These activities may be funded by ASEAN Member States or ASEAN's Dialogue Partners

BREAKOUT SESSION

13. During the Breakout Session, the participants were divided into three groups based on the relevance of their scope of work, namely (i) prevention of trafficking in persons; (ii) protection of victims; and (iii) law enforcement and prosecution of crimes of trafficking in persons/regional and international cooperation and coordination. The list of the Breakout Sessions groups appears as **ANNEX 6**.

14. SOMTC-Philippines briefed the delegates the mechanics and the guiding questions of the breakout session, which appears as **ANNEX 7**.

15. As requested by the delegates of the Workshop, the Matrix of Summary of Findings and Recommendations from the group discussions during the "AICHR – SOMTC Consultation on Human Rights-based approach in implementing ACTIP" in Jakarta on 29-30 September 2016 was distributed to the participants for their reference, which appears as **ANNEX 8**.

PLENARY SESSION 3: PRESENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BREAKOUT SESSION GROUPS

16. The three groups presented their inputs to the draft Work Plan, specifically on the following columns:

- a. Possible Areas of Collaboration Amongst ASEAN Sectoral Bodies under the Framework of APA;
- b. Proposed Programmes/Projects/Activities for 2016-2020; and
- c. Lead Sectoral Body/Cooperating Sectoral Body.

17. A number of suggested possible areas and proposed programmes/projects/activities were replicated under the different provisions in the Work Plan, therefore the Workshop agreed that SOMTC-Philippines will streamline these activities to avoid duplication.

18. The draft Work Plan components with inputs from the three groups appear as **ANNEX 9**.

19. The delegates also noted that some activities of the Work Plan may only be implemented by one Sectoral Body/Organ. The outcomes of these activities will be shared with other Sectoral Bodies/Organs through the “Implementation Status” column of the Work Plan. In addition, the activities may also invite experts and speakers from other sectors.

PLENARY SESSION 4: WAYS FORWARD

20. The delegates of the Workshop acknowledged that the draft Work Plan still needs to be fine-tuned, including the formatting of the inputs, and that there are a number of inputs from each group discussion which have been referred to the other groups based on relevance. In this regard, it was agreed that the process of streamlining will be done by the SOMTC-Philippines Secretariat, assisted by the facilitators of each group discussion.

21. The delegates deliberated on the modalities of the Work Plan and agreed on the following:

- a. The Work Plan would be adopted by the SOMTC as the overseeing body of the implementation of the APA;

- b. The Work Plan would be in place from 2017- 2020, i.e. until the end of the APA's timeline;
 - c. The Work Plan would undergo reporting and monitoring and evaluation twice annually, during which all relevant Sectoral Bodies/Organs will report the progress of implementation of the relevant provisions. The monitoring and evaluation model would be based on that of the APSC Blueprint 2025 and the SOMTC will be in charge of this exercise. It was noted that changes would have to be made to the template monitoring matrix to align it with the draft Work Plan;
 - d. There would be mid-term (end of 2018) and final (end of 2020) reviews of the Work Plan, led by the SOMTC. The mid-term can be done by an external party while the final review can be done internally. These options would be tabled to the SOMTC for consideration;
 - e. A chapeau paragraph to provide background information and rationale of the Work Plan would be developed by SOMTC-Philippines;
 - f. The next Workshop would discuss an additional outcome column of the Work Plan; and
 - g. The Work Plan shall be referred to as "Bohol TIP Work Plan".
22. The Chair briefed the Workshop on the timeline for adoption of the Work Plan, as follows:
- a. Draft circulated to all Sectoral Bodies/Organs by early January 2017;
 - b. Deadline for Sectoral Bodies/Organs to provide inputs by end of January 2017;
 - c. Subsequent cross-sectoral meeting in March 2017;
 - d. Final clean up by the 14th SOMTC Working Group on Trafficking in Persons for adoption by 17th SOMTC, both to be held in Lao PDR (tentatively held in May 2017);
 - e. Noted by the 11th AMMTC in the Philippines in September 2017; and

- f. The 31st ASEAN Summit in 2017 to recognise the cross-sectoral collaboration against trafficking in persons.

23. The delegates of the Workshop agreed that a list of multi-sectoral focal points should be established for easier coordination and communication regarding the development and later on the implementation of the Work Plan to Implement the APA. It was noted that a template matrix would be circulated to all relevant Sectoral Bodies/Organs, along with the description of the role of the focal points, for inputs. It was also agreed that the relevant desk officers from the ASEAN Secretariat should also be included in the focal points list.

24. The Summary of Recommendations was considered and adopted by the delegates of the Workshop.

25. The Summary Report of the Workshop will be circulated to all participants in soft copies via e-mail.

CLOSING REMARKS

In his closing remarks, Ambassador Anselmo Simeon P. Pinili, the Philippines Special Envoy on Transnational Crime appreciated and commended the work of the delegates at the Workshop. He mentioned that while AMS have national efforts, they should further enhance the regional efforts through the established regional framework which is the ASEAN Convention against trafficking in persons especially women and children and its complementary regional document the ASEAN Plan of Action against trafficking in persons especially women and children; and this Workshop is part of the enhancement effort to fight TIP. He encouraged the continued support and cooperation of all ASEAN Member States on the efforts against trafficking in persons.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The delegates expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of the Philippines for the warm hospitality accorded to them and the excellent arrangements made for the Workshop, as well as to the ASEAN Secretariat for its assistance.

ISSUES TO BE FOLLOWED UP

No	Key Decisions/Issues	Timeline	Follow-up By
1.	To circulate the draft Work Plan to seek inputs.	Early January 2017	SOMTC-Philippines, the ASEAN Secretariat

			and other Sectoral Bodies/Organs
2.	To circulate the matrix of multi-sectoral focal points with the attached description.	Immediate	SOMTC-Philippines and the ASEAN Secretariat

