

**EFFORTS BY THE SINGAPORE INTER-AGENCY TASKFORCE ON
TRAFFICKING-IN-PERSONS IN 2013**

Date	Milestones
Jan 2013	<p>MOM required employers of Foreign Domestic Workers (FDWs) to give them one rest day per week or to compensate their FDWs with extra pay if the FDW agrees to work on their rest day. This was implemented on 1 January 2013. A rest day provides the FDW with an emotional and mental break from work, and it may increase the opportunities for distressed FDWs to seek help. (Press release: http://bit.ly/KOHKWB)</p> <p>The Taskforce held an engagement session with the key stakeholders. About 40 participants from local CSOs, businesses, academia and students from tertiary institutions attended the half-day programme. In addition to providing updates on the Taskforce's National Plan of Action (NPA) since its launch in March 2012, the Taskforce also sought the stakeholders' views about two key issues: (i) ways to raise public awareness about TIP; and (ii) ways to enhance the case referral process. (Press release: http://bit.ly/1l42xpM)</p>
Feb 2013	<p>The Singapore Police Force (SPF) set up a dedicated specialist sex trafficking team, made up of investigation and intelligence officers working together to proactively detect sex trafficking syndicates through enhanced enforcement efforts.</p>
Apr 2013	<p>MHA embarked on a one-year sex trafficking victimology research with the aim to understand the prevalence of sex trafficking, the profile of trafficked victims, and the modus operandi of the sex trade in Singapore.</p>
Jun 2013	<p>The Taskforce awarded an S\$80,000 public awareness grant to three proposals on a matching dollar principle to carry out a one-year TIP public awareness programme. (Press release: http://bit.ly/1hQW6Sg)</p>
Aug 2013	<p>The Taskforce, in consultation with civil society organisations, developed a TIP case referral mechanism. The referral mechanism ensures that cases are followed up diligently and facilitates more effective case-tracking.</p>
Oct 2013	<p>SPF collaborated with the Direction de la Cooperation Internationale of the French Embassy in Singapore to organise a three-day TIP workshop. The workshop, attended by more than 50 representatives</p>

	from the respective ASEAN law agencies and local agencies, was part of a collaborative effort between Singapore and the French Government to enhance ASEAN participants' capabilities and knowledge in the detection, enforcement, investigation and prosecution of sex trafficking and child exploitation cases.
Nov 2013	MOM announced changes to the Employment Act to extend better protection for more workers, including foreign workers, and improve employment standards. The enhancements include (a) a new 25% sub-cap imposed for deductions to employees' salaries for accommodation, amenities and services, to prevent excessive deductions to their salaries; (b) enhancing enforcement of and compliance with employment standards. (Press release: http://bit.ly/1hq3ymK)

Others

- Other than the above initiatives, the Taskforce also ramped up the training of frontline officers and support staff across government agencies in 2013, so that they are more familiar with the standard operating procedures and case management approach to accurately detect and act on TIP cases.
- The Taskforce conducted a briefing to the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority of Singapore to raise the general awareness about TIP issues and cases, and enable officers to accurately flag any labour trafficking cases at the borders and checkpoints.
- Enforcement officers were also sent to TIP-related courses and programmes organised by the various international bodies, i.e. International Law Enforcement Academy, U.S. Department of State, United Nations, etc. These programmes served as platforms for sharing of regional and global trends in legislative developments and best anti-TIP practices. They also provided opportunities to network and collaborate with regional law enforcement agencies in fighting TIP.
- In 2014, we will focus on the public consultation for the dedicated TIP legislation, and will also continue to engage our stakeholders actively for our various initiatives.