

Japan's Actions to Combat Trafficking in Persons

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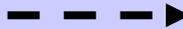
On the Occasion of the Bali Process SOM
Brisbane, 24th February 2009

Overview of the Action Plan of Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons

I. Importance of Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons

○ Trafficking in persons is a grave violation of human rights and requires a prompt and appropriate response from a humanitarian perspective

○ Formulate an action plan for taking general and comprehensive measures as quickly as possible



- Consider victims to be entitled to protective custody and respond carefully
- Establish penal regulations and tighten control
- Prevent trafficking in persons, including revising various systems that have failed to prevent trafficking in persons

II. Thorough Grasping of the Current Situation of Trafficking in Persons



III. General and Comprehensive Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons

1. Conclusion of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children

5. Points to be considered

- Cooperate with domestic and international agencies concerned, etc. (foreign agencies, NGO, etc.)
- Raise social awareness and conduct PR activities
- Implement training for officials involved in measures to combat trafficking in persons
- Examine and review the action plan

2. Various measures to prevent trafficking in persons

- Strengthen immigration control
- Ensure security of travel-related documents
- Review residence status and visas for “entertainers”
 - * Eliminate the standard which states that the condition will be fulfilled if foreign organizations provide certification of eligibility
- Countermeasures against false marriages
- Measures to prevent illegal employment
- Measures to prevent prostitution

3. Various measures to eradicate trafficking in persons

- Revise criminal laws
 - * Criminalize trafficking in persons by revising the Penal Code
- Implement thorough crackdown
- Promote information exchange on travel documents, etc.
- Enhance coordination with and promote information exchange among the investigating authorities, etc. of foreign countries

4. Protect victims of trafficking in persons

- Identify victims
- Provide shelters
 - Use Women’s Consultation Offices
 - Entrust private sector shelters, etc. to offer temporary protective custody
- Conduct counseling and consultation activities, etc.
- Provide protection to victims who have sought shelter at police boxes, etc.
- Handle residence status of victims (give special permission for residence)
- Ensure the safety of victims
- Offer repatriation assistance to victims (repatriate victims at government expense and through IOM)

Immediate Priority Policies in the Action Plan of Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons

Prevent trafficking in persons

○ Strengthen immigration control

○ Review residence status and visas for “entertainers”

- * Eliminate the standard which states that the condition will be fulfilled if foreign organizations provide certification of eligibility

Eradicate trafficking in persons

○ Revise criminal laws

- * Criminalize trafficking in persons by revising the Penal Code

○ Implement thorough crackdown

Protect victims of trafficking in persons

○ Provide shelters

- * Use Women’s Consultation Offices
- * Entrust private sector shelters, etc. to offer temporary protective custody

○ Handle residence status of victims

- * Revise the Immigration Control Law, including giving special permission for residence

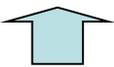
○ Repatriation assistance

- * Repatriation assistance programs for victims through the International Organization for Migration (IOM)

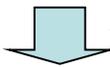
Process of Protecting & Assisting Victims of Trafficking in Persons

Victims of Trafficking in Persons

Identifying the victim in collaboration with all concerned agencies



Consultation



Request for protection from the victim (e.g. seeking shelter at police boxes)

Protection by the Police, Immigration Bureau, Women's Consultation Offices, NGOs, Embassies in Japan
Technical Advice from IOM



Temporary protection by Women's Consultation Offices

Temporary protection by private-sector shelters

- Conduct counseling and consultation activities
- Conduct flexible operation of immigration control-related procedures
- Rescue victims through flexible operation of special permission for residence
- Ensure the safety of victims



Assistance to voluntary return and reintegration of victims

- Voluntary return and reintegration assistance through IOM
 - Assisted return by other agencies
- Return assistance through coordination with agencies concerned



Social reintegration of victims in their home countries

Japan's international cooperation for victims support