



สมาคมอาหารแช่เยือกแข็งไทย THAI FROZEN FOODS ASSOCIATION

92/6 ชั้น 6 อาคารสาทรธานี 2 ถนนสาทรเหนือ เขตบางรัก กรุงเทพมหานคร 10500 โทร. (662) 235-5622-4, (662) 636-9001-4 โทรสาร (662) 235-5625
92/6 6th Floor Sathorn Thani II, North Sathorn Rd., Bangrak Bangkok 10500 Tel. (662) 235-5622-4, (662) 636-9001-4 Fax. (662) 235-5625
E-mail : thai-frozen@thai-frozen.or.th, Web Site : www.thai-frozen.or.th

TFFA on Thai Shrimp and the current Labor issues

In June this year, the Guardian published a story alleging that small fishing boats in Thailand used slave labor. The by-catch from these boats went into fishmeal, then to feed mills producing shrimp feed. The story concluded that Thai shrimp was thus tainted with slave labor. Conspicuously, the timing of said publication was one week ahead of the planned release of the TIP Report by the United States, in which Thailand was relegated to Tier 3.

Thai Frozen Foods Association (TFFA), whose memberships include all Thai frozen shrimp exporters, make this statement to clarify the issues.

1. TFFA strongly oppose Child and Forced Labor. Our members have worked for many years to eliminate this horrific practice from the shrimp supply chain. Any member found violating the Ethical Code will be expelled and thus permanently barred from the trade. Members will be monitored by the Good Labor Practice (GLP) program sanctioned by the ILO.
2. Since we export only aquacultured shrimps, our leverage on fishing boats are minimal. Still, we insist that our suppliers not use any undocumented raw materials, to fulfil the traceability requirement. The Thai Fishmeal Producers Association has agreed to enforce this mandate, buying only from registered boats which are monitored by the Thai Department of Fishery.
3. TFFA continuously support schools for children of migrant workers, have worked with ILO on mapping and monitoring of pre-processing facilities, and finance hotline operation run by LPN - Labor Rights Promotion Network - to provide needed advices and assistance to migrant workers in their own languages. As a result, the TIPs Report of 2014 does not find any offenders concerning Child or Forced Labor within the shrimp processing supply chain. The focus is now on the few undocumented boats and fragmented enforcement agencies.
4. Because of the disease outbreak - the EMS - these past three years, Thai shrimp production is down to about one-third of the peak level of 2010. Our market share in EU is now less than 10%, and our ranking in the U.S. dropped from first to fifth, less than 15% market share. We no longer dominate either markets, and there is much less pressure on hiring workers for the processing plants.

For TFFA members to maintain the high standards on both the product and the practice, we need the support of our trade partners everywhere. The Guardian article and the TIP Report have raised the awareness of this labor problem that we believe is very near the point of total and permanent solution.

TFFA : July 17, 2014



สมาคมอาหารแช่เยือกแข็งไทย THAI FROZEN FOODS ASSOCIATION

92/6 ชั้น 6 อาคารสาทรธานี 2 ถนนสาทรเหนือ เขตบางรัก กรุงเทพมหานคร 10500 โทร. (662) 235-5622-4, (662) 636-9001-4 โทรสาร (662) 235-5625
92/6 6th Floor Sathorn Thani II, North Sathorn Rd., Bangrak Bangkok 10500 Tel. (662) 235-5622-4, (662) 636-9001-4 Fax. (662) 235-5625
E-mail : thai-frozen@thai-frozen.or.th, Web Site : www.thai-frozen.or.th

Statement

BKK, July 17, 2014

Thai Frozen Foods Association (TFFA), whose memberships include all Thai frozen food exporters, makes this statement to clarify the labor issues :

- TFFA members do not employ under-age workers. There is absolutely no child labor in any of our members' premises.
- TFFA members do not employ unregistered or illegal immigrants.
- TFFA members' employment practices are in full compliance with Thai labor laws, covering working conditions, wages, benefits and welfares.
- TFFA members provide workers with free health check-ups and immediate medical services.
- TFFA members' employees are free to all legal movements : no restriction, no seizure of documents or passports, etc.
- TFFA members' employments are covered by working contracts in accordance with Thai labor laws.
- TFFA members do not discriminate on nationality. Workers performing same works under the same conditions are paid the same wages whether they are foreign migrants or Thai.

.....
Dr. Poj Aramwattananont
President, Thai Frozen Foods Association