

SUMMARY TABLE OF NATIONAL INITIATIVES ON TOPIC B	
SUMMARY TABLE FOR: THAILAND	
WELFARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN	
National Initiative/s	Areas for Possible Common Legislation
<p>1. Thailand has established appropriate institutional arrangement in the form of a sub-committee to review laws and regulation concerning children in compliance with the Thai Constitution and the CRC in 2000. The sub-committee comprises law experts and child rights practitioners from both the government and non-government sectors and has been working continuously in this direction to date.</p> <p>2. A number of new legislations concerning the protection and development of children were introduced, including those concerning the safety promotion in sports and recreational activities; suppression of items instigating dangerous behaviors; protection of children born by assisted reproductive technology; and child adoption.</p> <p>3. Efforts to promote and protect the rights of the child are demonstrated in the following significant legislations and national policies and programmes;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child Protection Act of 2003; - National Child and Youth Development Promotion Act of 2007; - Domestic Violence Victim Protection Act of 2007; - Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2008; 	<p>1. Due to the fact that all ASEAN member countries ratified the the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), it would be possible to develop, among other thing, the common guidelines of the effective implementation of the CRC taking into account the context of ASEAN member countries. The guidelines might include the exchange of good practices and experiences in areas of enacting or amending domestic laws in compliance with the CRC and the recommendation of the Committee on CRC. This would facilitate the efforts to withdraw the reservation(s) of each ASEAN member country. In addition, AIPA should play an active role in supporting ASEAN in promoting and protecting the rights of the child in the region through constructive dialogues and workshops.</p> <p>2. Development of a common legislation is a major challenge task of AIPA which requires closely cooperation and consultation from all relevant parties in ASEAN both governments and civil society. This initiative must take several factors into account, among other things, the different advancement of laws in each country and the existing framework on children and youth under ASEAN.</p> <p>3. Education is commonly accepted as a firm ground of empowerment</p>

- The National Policy and Strategy for the “World Fit for Children;
- The National Policy to Stop Domestic Violence against Child and Women;
- The National Plan and Policy on the Prevention, Suppression and Combating Domestic and Transnational Trafficking in Children and Women;

4. In terms of national mechanisms, Thailand established national and local mechanisms for strengthening enforcement of the laws, policies and strategies. Moreover, training of personnel in concern includes workshop, seminar, and sensitization for child protection workers, officers, professionals, and anti-human trafficking multi-disciplinary team as well as regional networking activities;

5. The National Agenda for Children and Adolescents in 2008 announced by the Prime Minister includes five main issues:

1) Promotion of creative activities, through Child Development Caravan Project;

2) Family strengthening, creating network and knowledge;

3) Promotion of educational and learning media for children and adolescents and their families;

4) Development of Child Friendly City Strategy (safe city, healthy city, family-oriented city, learning city, rights-based city, participation-centered city, risk-free city, and other appropriate issues)., and

5) Promotion of early childhood development. The implementation is under the responsibility of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security.

6. In 2008, the provision of free

and promotion of the better life. In addition, poverty cycle can be intervened by giving quality education to children and people. In this regard, efforts and cooperation among AIPA members that aim to provide compulsory education with free of charge should be seriously taken to make education universal access to all children in the region.

basic education is expanded to 15 years, from pre-school up to upper secondary level. Additional budget was allocated for this purpose to be used for subsidizing textbooks, learning equipment, school uniforms and development activities. The right of all children in Thailand to receive education on an equal basis and without discrimination is guaranteed in the Constitution and other acts, regulations and policies concerning the provision of education. In addition, the right of children with disabilities to access special education according to their disabilities is guaranteed under the Persons with Disabilities Education Act of 2008. The Act promotes fairness of access to education and vocational training for all persons with disabilities. Presently, children with disabilities are provided with free education up to university level

7. Health services in Thailand are accessible to all people across the country. Sub-district health centers are functioning nation-wide. There are public health mobile units providing out-reach services to both rural and urban communities, including in remote areas. Services include pre- and post-natal care, vaccination, breastfeeding support, disease surveillance and nutrition and development surveillance up to pre-school level. Efforts to promote breastfeeding have been intensified in compliance with the goals of World Fit for Children (2007-2016) and through technical cooperation with UNICEF.

8. Recognizing that children and youth have been the prime target victims of human trafficking, The

Royal Thai Government proclaimed human trafficking a national agenda in 2004. Women and children, in particular are the most vulnerable groups to be easily trapped by organized crime gangs. An important progress is the enactment of the Anti-Trafficking in Person Act of 2007 which adopts a right-based approach for a more effective fight against traffickers and a more comprehensive protection of the victims. The law includes the following key elements;

1) heavier penalties on all persons involved in human trafficking;

2) compensation which victims may claim from the offender for any damages caused by human trafficking;

3) shelter and other necessities including physical, psycho-social, legal, educational and healthcare service provided to victims; and

4) protection of all victims of trafficking regardless of their gender, nationality or legal status. In this regard, Baan Kredtrakarn Protection and Occupational Development Center is one among the welfare homes that has been widely recognized by anti-trafficking organizations as performing good practices.

It has recently been developed to be an exemplary learning center in the region for its holistic assistance to victims of trafficking. Services provided to trafficked women and children by the government include basic necessities, education, vocational training, physical and psychological recovery, telephone counseling (at phone number 1300), etc. In addition, the government ensures that all victims are considered and treated as victims, not criminals.