

 **TIJ QUARTERLY**

Thailand Institute of Justice Newsletter

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**The Rule of Law  
and Sustainable Development**

Following His Majesty  
the Late King Rama IX's Footsteps

Thailand has remained unwavering over the past seven decades due to the graciousness of His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who implemented the rule of law in improving the lives of his subjects throughout his reign. A society that embraces such guideline is one that gives prominence to the fundamentals of law, wherein the law is transparent and utilised in promoting equal justice for all.

In this sense, the law is not just a control mechanism, but is instrumental in driving the society towards stability and sustainable development. It integrates understanding and promotion of cooperation amongst the people to engage in the development of those on the individual, community and collective levels.

His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej was exemplary in this regard. Giving prominence to the benefits of his subjects, he had initiated numerous royal projects to alleviate all aspects of their concerns. Each royal initiative did not forgo the dimensions of equality in independence and welfare. His Majesty was one of the first people in Thailand to implement the concept of public hearings into the development of projects. This illustrates that he saw the importance of communal participation, which is a critical element of the Rule of Law.

This quarterly newsletter by TIJ is put together in loving memory and in remembrance of His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej. It will particularly explore His Majesty's royal guidance in utilising the fundamentals of law in generating justice and impartiality within the society. Furthermore, it will seek to generate an understanding that law does not only concern legal practitioners, but is an important matter that all sectors of the society should acknowledge and engage in to move the society forward and foster sustainable developments by means of one's roles, in accordance to His Majesty's royal initiatives.

We do hope that TIJ's quarterly newsletter will provide our readers with rewarding stories and informative facts.



Kittiyong Kittiyark

Executive Director of Thailand Institute of Justice



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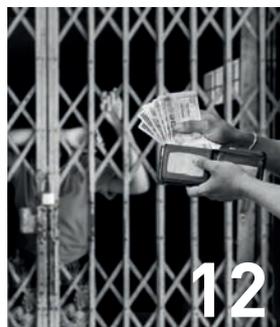
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# The Rule of Law and Sustainable Development:

Following His Majesty  
the Late King Rama IX's Footsteps



At present, the rule of law is widely discussed in the context of social development. The United Nations has given great prominence to the Rule of Law, setting it as one of the 17 goals of 2030's sustainable development agenda and defining it as the following, "The rule of law as a concept refers to a principle of governance in which all persons, institutions and entities, public and private, including the state itself, are accountable to laws that are publicly promulgated, equally enforced and independently adjudicated, and which are consistent with international human rights norms and standards."

Promoting the rule of law in society therefore promotes a peaceful society, justice and effective governance—all based on human rights measures. Hence, the rule of law is not only an important goal in itself, but is a vital supporting factor for other goals.

His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej was the figurehead in applying the rule of law to his development initiatives, as seen through his royal command, **"We shall reign in righteousness for the benefit and happiness of Siamese people."** The phrase, **"reign in righteousness,"** refers to the concept of virtuousness—a King's dharma. The phrase, **"for the benefit and happiness of the people,"** refers to the public.

Throughout His Majesty the late King Rama IX's reign, he had performed his royal duties while illustrating a model of trust and adherence to the law. Applying law enforcement through the rule of law, he gave prominence to visionary, honest, reasonableness, and effective laws, in consistent with one of his royal speeches, **"Laws are especially crucial for the country because they serve as the norms and standards of living together, prompting orderly co-existence and allowing everyone in the nation to lead prosperous lives..."** Laws that are harmonious to the rule of law serve as guidance towards the development of the country.



In addition, His Majesty gave royal speeches and guidance to different groups of people on various occasions, demonstrating the importance of applying legal matters in accordance with the rule of law. That is, **in applying laws, it is crucial to take into consideration the real intents as well as societal contexts**, as mentioned in His Majesty's royal speech, such as, **"...Law enforcement should be executed for justice, not for legal provisions. In maintaining justice in the nation...it has to be branched out towards morality as well as factual rationality..."** His Majesty gave an example of the rule of law as the following.

**"We mark reserved forests on the map... How would the inhabitants know that the place they are residing on is considered a reserved forest? It is the duty of those who are aware of the law to understand this, not to oppress and strictly enforce laws..."**

Laws should adapt to the changing society and economy, as per His Majesty's royal speech, **"...According to the basis of law itself, laws will change—not because of their maturity, but because the society and those who obey the laws change..."**

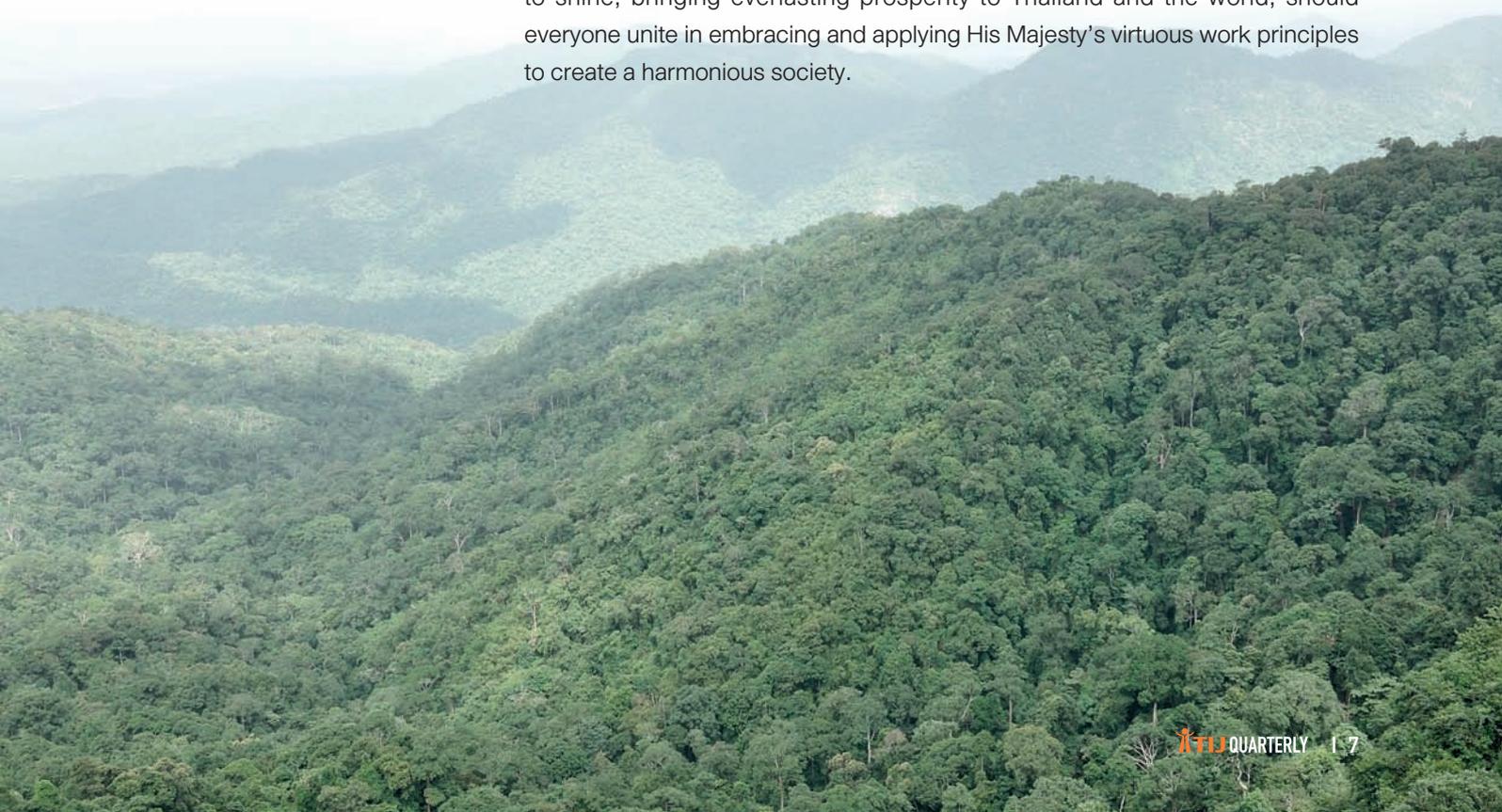
**The enactment of laws must take into consideration the participation of those in the society** (stakeholders participation) because laws are the codes of conduct for coexistence. As His Majesty once said, **"If there is anything that could be resolved, examine it, debate about it and perhaps share it with 'the people.' Inform the seniors...he or she may take it into the legislative assembly and then adapt the legal criteria for successful execution. This will foster more justice..."**

His Majesty the late King Rama IX gave great value to the welfare of his subjects. He had initiated various royal projects **emphasised on fostering widespread equality within the society**, utilising the rule of law in developing and solving various problems. Examples include **projects resolving situations of statelessness** that the government has embarked on to assist



non-Thai nationals and later **issued policies that take into consideration basic human rights standards.** As for the Baan Huai Pla Lod Project at Tak Province, the Hydro and Agro Informatics Institute (HAI) and the Utokapat Foundation Under the Royal Patronage of His Majesty the late King have both implemented His Majesty's initiatives to solve the problem of villagers trespassing forest reserves by negotiating and creating mutual agreements with the villagers on upstream reforestation and water management. Both, for instance, support community development so that villagers could live in harmony with the forest without having to move out of the area.

It can be observed that His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej's work principles are in concord with the rule of law. This can be compared to a guiding light towards a truly sustainable development, a glow that continues to shine, bringing everlasting prosperity to Thailand and the world, should everyone unite in embracing and applying His Majesty's virtuous work principles to create a harmonious society.



# Alternative Non-custodial Measures for the Development of a Sustainable Justice System

By Wisoot Chanthadansuwan

In essence, a prison acts as a place that punishes offenders by means of taking away their freedom. But at the same time, a prison should also be a place that changes lives by fostering a sense of genuine remorse. This could be achieved through procedures that aim at adjusting attitudes and behaviours, as well as enhance vocational skills, thus creating valuable members of society that impose no harm to themselves and others.

Throughout the past decade, there has been a continuous increase of prisoners in Thailand. At present, there are up to 308,000 prisoners<sup>1</sup>, and with a comparison to a prison's standard capacity of supporting 200,000 individuals<sup>2</sup>, it has therefore resulted in prison overcrowding, a major problem that Thailand is trying to solve. The Department of Corrections, as the last sector of the justice system process, has to face various challenges that come with the increasing number of prisoners.



When taking into consideration the sentencing rates of inmates in prisons, which indicate the level of severity of the crimes, it is found that more than half of the prisoners are serving light penalties of less than five years<sup>3</sup> of imprisonment. Additionally, 74 percent of the prisoners are affiliated with drug offenses<sup>4</sup>—most of them are either addicts or addicts with small possession of drugs for distribution. In other words, they are also considered patients. Placing these individuals into correctional institutions without providing them drug treatments may not be a sustainable solution. Furthermore, being labelled as a convict can create a sense of stigma, wherein they may not be fully accepted by the society in the future.

Thailand, therefore, recognises the importance of promoting alternatives to imprisonment. This does not mean that all offenders will not be detained, but there will be a proportionality of sanction, taking into account the nature and severity of each offense. Various factors will be considered, including the causes of extenuating circumstances, extending sentences as well as gender-related issues. These are illustrated in the Corrections Act, B.E. 2560 (2017) and the Probation Act, B.E. 2559 (2016).

Additionally, there are alternative measures to imprisonment that focus on rehabilitation for offenders so that they can return to the society in normalcy without engaging in wrongdoings again. This is considered an efficient social reintegration process that leads to a peaceful community and society, in accordance with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and especially Goal 16, which states, “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.”<sup>5</sup>

An important guideline in rehabilitating offenders is the implementation of a development-oriented approach. It focuses on amending risk factors that are the causes of criminal acts through appropriate and effective training and rehabilitation programmes. This approach will be especially beneficial for the groups of convicts that are more vulnerable and lack development opportunities. Once rehabilitated in a non-prison environment, it should reduce the chances of them returning to their wrongdoings as well as preventing crime.

A guideline aimed at utilising developments in preventing crime is stemmed from the same principle of alternative development, which is in accordance with the development-oriented drug control policy. The policy has been proven successful, as seen from His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej’s royal initiative in solving the cultivation of opium on Northern highlands. The opportunity to shift from planting opium to other economical alternatives that promotes the development within households and communities were initiated. When stable income is earned, there are therefore no risk factors to commit illegal acts from cultivating opium. Hence, it is evident that the development-oriented approach in rehabilitating offenders is not considered new in Thailand—His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej’s mentioned royal initiative is thus a successful example that could be further implemented in the justice system.



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As for the alternative means for imprisonment in Thailand, the Department of Probation is the primary unit directly responsible for the involvement of probation, rehabilitation and support, community service, drug addict treatments as well as community-based treatments amongst offenders. At present, Thailand has improved the laws relating to probations so that they are more clear and effective, while increasing the likelihood of implementing alternative measures in alternative to imprisonment. Prominent examples of alternative measures that are in accordance to development-oriented approaches are used to lead rehabilitation efforts amongst offenders.

The first prominent example is pre-sentence investigations by probation officers. The court could order the probation officers to enquire into details about the age, behavioural history, intellect, education or training background, health, mental condition, personality, career, environment, offenses, feelings of guilt, attempt to alleviate the consequences, factors to have mercy on and other factors about the offender. A report is to be drafted with opinions and recommendations for the court to consider for judgement or sentencing.<sup>6</sup> In the case that the court is about to sentence with the imprisonment not exceeding five years<sup>7</sup>, the court may take into consideration these facts to suspend the sentence of imprisonment. Deliberating over these facts is in accordance to the mentioned proportionality of sanction; therefore, it promotes the use of alternative measures to imprisonment, while also implementing the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (The Tokyo Rules).<sup>8</sup>

Moreover, the Department of Probation and Thailand Institute of Justice had collaborated in putting together a pre-sentence investigation handbook for female offenders so that probation officers from various probation offices nationwide could use as a practical guideline in investigating women offenders. It includes the sensitive factors, such as pregnancy, domestic violence, caretaking responsibilities towards the family and more, which have to be addressed as they could affect the court's judgements on penalties. It is in conformity with the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (The Bangkok Rules)<sup>9</sup>, an international standard that Thailand Institute of Justice has continuously supported and publicised, as well as promoted for acceptance and implementation across many countries.



Another example is the promotion of the implementation of a restorative justice process, an administration that relies on the involvement of the family and community in rehabilitating offenders. While doing so, it also takes into consideration the consequences that transpire amongst the victims and society as a whole. At present, the Department of Probation has implemented the restorative justice approach throughout the pre-sentence investigation process, in parallel with standard investigative procedures carried out by probation officers or even during the probation period. Restorative justice allows both parties to negotiate so that the injured parties could share their distress, while the offenders get the opportunity to express their guilt as well as to make amends and find solutions to the problem.<sup>10</sup> If the restorative justice process goes well and both parties reach an agreement, it will be beneficial for the offender in making amends and rehabilitating within the community.

Promoting alternative measures instead of imprisonment will only be constructive with the cooperation of all sectors, including non-governmental organisations (NGOs), academics as well as people in the society and community, all of which are important components in the rehabilitation of offenders. To place an emphasis on the significance of promoting and encouraging the implementation of alternatives to imprisonment as part of comprehensive crime prevention and criminal justice policies on an international level, Thailand had proposed a draft on the promotion of alternative measures to imprisonment to the 26<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), in which the proposal was drafted by Thailand Institute of Justice. With the consensus from Member States, the draft is currently being proposed for approval from the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It is convinced that the approach will be able to rehabilitate offenders so that they return to the society effectually, reducing the number of prisoners as well as recidivism, for a truly peaceful society for all.

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#### References

- <sup>1</sup> Information from the Department of Corrections as of September 1, 2017
- <sup>2</sup> Information from Criminology News Centre; ref: [www.nathee-chitsawang.com](http://www.nathee-chitsawang.com) in 2017
- <sup>3</sup> Information from the Department of Corrections as of March 1, 2017
- <sup>4</sup> Id.
- <sup>5</sup> <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg16>
- <sup>6</sup> Section 30 of the Probation Act, B.E. 2559 (2016)
- <sup>7</sup> Section 56 of the Penal Code
- <sup>8</sup> Rule 7.1, United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (The Tokyo Rules)
- <sup>9</sup> Rule 57, 61, 62, United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (The Bangkok Rules)
- <sup>10</sup> Section 36 of the Probation Act, B.E. 2559 (2016)



## Retracing the Steps of Women Prisoners in Cambodian Penal Institutions

### **A research report on “Vulnerabilities, Victimization, Romance and Indulgence: Thai Women’s Pathway to Prison in Cambodia for Drug Trafficking”**

Throughout the past 10 years, the number of female prisoners in Thailand has escalated by 60 per cent in the year 2017, as compared to 2007. While most are those convicted with drug offenses, the significant increase in number has led to an over population of women prisoners in penal institutions. Additionally, it was found that from 2012 to 2014 there were up to 190 Thai female drug offenders imprisoned in foreign countries. This leads to an important issue that requires us to trace the facts—what are the reasons why these women chose to break the law, especially with drug-related cases?

On that account, TIJ has partnered with Griffith University in Australia to conduct a research on “Vulnerabilities, Victimization, Romance and Indulgence: Thai Women’s Pathway to Prison in Cambodia for Drug Trafficking” exploring the factors that may have influenced those Thai women to engage in wrongdoings, later becoming drug offenders imprisoned in Cambodia. Interviews were conducted with 10 prisoners aged between 24 to 47 years old and sentenced from 25 years to a life imprisonment, in which before being arrested, all of them engaged in honest careers and had no criminal records.

The study concludes that most of the female prisoners convicted with drug offenses have these similar crime progressions.



The key factor that leads them into the drug cycle is that they are responsible for being a provider for the family—it is required that they earn money, and therefore, it is easier for them to be lured into the drug trade business. In addition, many prisoners have shared about their bad relationship experiences with the opposite sex, thus, their low self-esteem makes them fall for romance scams from foreign men and become victims easier. Moreover, the case study shows that none of these prisoners—although having been convicted of drug trafficking across borders for someone else—are criminals, have knowledge about transnational drug trafficking or are affiliated with transnational crime organisations.

According to study results, the researchers have therefore proposed a policy and action plan to (1) reduce the risk of Thai women being imprisoned for transnational drug trafficking and raising awareness about the risk (2) protect their legal rights once taken into custody and (3) provide better living conditions while in prison.

## Child Sex Tourism, a Challenge for the Tourism Industry

### ***A research report on “Child Sex Tourism: Patterns, Evolutions and Best Practices in Selected ASEAN Countries (Lao PDR, Cambodia and Thailand)”***

The tourism industry is one that generates revenue for Thailand. Relevant organisations from various sectors have cooperated in promoting tourism in Thailand, highlighting the country’s diverse culture and beautiful sceneries. However, a number of tourists travel to Thailand to have sex with children that are victims of prostitutions. TIJ has therefore conducted a study on the topic of Child Sex Tourism: Patterns, Evolutions and Best Practices in Selected ASEAN Countries, including Laos, Cambodia and Thailand. A panel discussion was organised to share the research reports and exchange knowledge and experience between practitioners and experts on child and human trafficking.

According to research results examining Thailand, all offenders are males with an average of 51.58 years old, in which most are Europeans from England, Germany, France, Belgium and so on. They are mostly wealthy individuals with job descriptions such as English teacher, businessman, charity officer, manager and so forth. The most common behaviour is using their career to get through to these child victims, interacting with them directly and using valuable items in luring them to have sex. In some cases, there will be an intermediary involved in sourcing these children. The victims are often poor or from poverty-stricken families, thus, they need to work to provide for their families. They may not receive proper education and may be orphaned or homeless, in which the proportion of females and males are not much different.



The key findings from the study include the following: Modern day offenders are now utilising technology in committing crimes or gaining access to the victims through Facebook or other social media channels, such as WeChat, Line and several other websites, before meeting with the victims and harassing them. Moreover, it usually involves the recording of videos and still images for sharing amongst related groups or social media networks, or for generating pornographic contents to be sold in the dark market.

The seminar also explored the lessons learned from the collaborative effort between international officers during prosecutions, to further plan the implementation of the training programme on the issue. It was attended by representatives from government agencies, transnational crime departments from embassies, divisions from the United Nations as well as civil society sectors, such as FACE Foundation, UNICEF Thailand, ECPAT International, DSI and the Royal Thai Police.

## Strengthening the Role of Women in the Justice System

***A research report on “Women as Justice Makers: Perspectives from Southeast Asia”***



**FAIRNESS AND EQUALITY**

**IMPROVE  
WOMEN'S  
ACCESS TO  
JUSTICE**



Thailand Institute of Justice (TIJ) collaborated with the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy (ICCLR) on a research on “Women as Justice Makers: Perspectives from Southeast Asia.” The study was initiated to understand the women who work within organisations that are related to the various spheres of the legal system, both in the academic and law enforcement sectors. These include judges and attorneys in Southeast Asian countries, such as Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Philippines and Vietnam.

The case study shows that, although legal professions are increasingly accepting of women, those that actually embark on the career path are often faced with challenges and limitations that are due to gender ideologies in a patriarchal society. Hence, those women are expected to work in accordance to the mentioned

ideals, which a lot of the times are not consonant with their working lives. For that reason, women in law professions often fall in a dual path and experience a dilemma in having to choose between work and personal life as a mother or wife. In many circumstances, these women may face limitations in moving forward in their careers, from coming across mobility to a glass ceiling. Both are due to a gender stereotype that women are not suited to work in management positions of high levels like men.

Although the findings have revealed the many limitations and obstacles that women face in the legal profession, the research also attempted to identify the different possibilities of eliminating and reducing such challenges, in order to encourage equal career advancement opportunities amongst both men and women.



## Understanding Immigrants and Opposing Human Trafficking

### ***A research report on “Human Trafficking from Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar to Thailand”***

This research report is a joint effort between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and Thailand Institute of Justice (TIJ) to develop knowledge on the region’s human trafficking situation. The study shows that, in 2015, the number of illegal immigrants in Thailand amounted to four million, in which 90 per cent came from neighbouring countries along the Mekong Basin, including Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar. A lot of the immigrants travelled to Thailand by unusual means. The status of these immigrants is considered abnormal, therefore, they are at risk of being baited and extorted, and often encounter violence and exploitation since the beginning of the journey, during the expedition and upon arrival. It is also found that there are greater chances of the mentioned risks towards illegal immigrant children.

Upon their arrival to Thailand, these immigrants will be sent to do labor work of various kinds, such as fish farming and construction. For women and children, apart from labor work, they are often subjected to human trafficking for sexual exploitations. Victims of human trafficking are lured by their weaknesses in requiring higher pay or physically and verbally abused.

From the study results, the research team had therefore encouraged the government and related agencies to work together in promoting safe migrations and preventing illegal labor trade. This is to maximize the benefit of relocating migrant workers as well as prevent and suppress human trafficking and transnational trading of labor workers, which require national policies to be implemented and enforced. Human resources and an adequate budget will enable the policy goals to be measurable by practice, and must be accompanied by the promotion of a sustainable development, economic growth, democracy, the rule of law and peace.

For more information  
on the research,  
visit [www.tijthailand.org](http://www.tijthailand.org)



## HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha Attended the 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the CND



On March 13-17, 2017, Her Royal Highness Princess Bajrakitiyabha attended the 60<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna. During the opening ceremony, Her Royal Highness, in the capacity of the UNODC Goodwill Ambassador on the Rule of Law for Southeast Asia, gave a statement highlighting the Alternative Development as the model that could led to healthy and resilient communities, citing His Majesty the late King Bhumibhol Adulyadej’s initiatives in eliminating the cultivation of opium poppy in rural Thailand as an example. Her Royal Highness then presided over the formal launch of Thailand’s exhibition on His Majesty the late King’s contribution to Alternative Development organised by TIJ and Ministry of Justice, Thailand.

On March 14, 2017, Her Royal Highness moderated the High-level Panel Discussion, which was co-organized by UNODC, TIJ, the government of Thailand, Germany, Colombia and Peru on the topic of “Human Security and the Rule of Law: Alternative Development’s Contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.” Joining the panel was Mr. Yury Fedotov, UNODC Executive Director, and senior experts from the co-organizing countries.

On this occasion, Her Royal Highness also attended a bilateral meeting with Mr. Yury Fedotov and the UNODC executive team to discuss future cooperation.



## HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha Attended UN's High-Level Panel Discussion in New York

On June 23, 2017, Her Royal Highness Princess Bajrakitiyabha attended the United Nations' high-level panel discussion on organised crime at the United Nations office in New York City, United States as a Goodwill Ambassador on the Rule of Law, raising its position on fairness in criminal justice systems for Southeast Asia. Several senior executives from various organisations in Thailand attended the function, such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Office of the Attorney General and Thailand Institute of Justice.

United Nations' high-level panel discussion on organised crime was held to commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of when Mr. Giovanni Falcone, an Italian judge who dedicated his life to fighting organised crime, was assassinated. It emphasised on implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which recognises the importance of combating transnational organised crime, so that member states could discuss about the directions and challenges, as well as its impact on sustainable development.

At the convention, HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha made a royal speech commending the bravery and work of Mr. Falcone as well as the state officials who died from organised crime. She stressed that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development can be achieved through the strengthening of the rule of law as well as stability. In this regard, putting an end to transnational organised crime is a crucial mission.



HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha also delivered a speech at a joint convention about "Transnational Organised Crime: Challenges and Responses in Southeast Asia". She addressed that merely signing an international treaty would be insufficient. It is important that the ASEAN countries engage in a cross-border cooperation, both in regards to law enforcement and assistance in legal issues. Additionally, it is necessary that each country cooperates in helping and protecting the victims of transnational crimes, including the community. HRH also addressed the linkage between the visions of ASEAN in 2025 and the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Both of these documents will help lay the foundation for the future as well as reiterates the requirement for the rule of law, peace and stability that will lead towards sustainable development.



**TIJ Discusses the Issues of Female Prisoners, Myths and the World behind the Walls**

On April 27, 2017, TIJ hosted a forum to discuss the issues of “Female Prisoners, Myths and the World Behind the Walls” to present an overview of the criminal justice procedure and the treatment towards female offenders in Thailand. It provided a perspective on the causes of women’s wrongdoings, the Bangkok Rules and its significance, which puts to the fore the United Nations’ treatment guidelines towards women prisoners and measures that does not require confinement. Furthermore, it presented about the lives behind prison walls as well as standard prison measures for rehabilitation and skills development, preparing them for their return to the outside world.

The forum, therefore, was a topic of the TIJ Executive Program on the Rule of Law Development (RoLD), in which 45 executives from the public, private and social administration sectors attended.



**TIJ Organised the Bangkok Rules Training and a Press Trip to a Model Prisons.**

On August 14-25, 2017, TIJ hosted the second training on the management of female prisoners in accordance with the implementation of the Bangkok Rules for senior correctional officers from Thailand and ASEAN countries. The purpose was to elevate the living standards of women prisoners to be consistent to basic human rights guidelines, to prepare them for their release, to reduce the chance of recidivism in the future and expand the concept of model prisons to other countries in the ASEAN network. Additionally, participants were given the chance to visit and observe the Ayutthaya Prison and the Pathum Thani Correctional Institution for Female Drug Addicts, both of which are model prisons implementing the Bangkok Rules, as well as the Thonburi Women Correctional Institution, which has adjusted its operations in accordance to guidelines of the Bangkok Rules.

**Announcement of the First Full Implementation of the Mandela Rules in the World**

On July 18, 2017, in commemoration of Nelson Mandela International Day, the Ministry of Justice’s Department of Corrections (DoC) joined hands with TIJ to fully implement the Mandela Rules—the United Nations’ standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners—for the first time in the world. The Thonburi Remand Prison is the pilot model and will fully apply the Mandela Rules within 2018. Protection standards for the inherent dignity of prisoners without discrimination are not only a good practice, but also a tool to promote better lives for prisoners after they are released and to reduce the problem of recidivism.



## **Thailand Institute of Justice**

# **Collaborates with Harvard Law School's IGLP to Offer Two Programs on the Rule of Law to Promote Academic Development and Support Emerging Leaders in Asia**

The Thailand Institute of Justice (TIJ) is collaborating with the Harvard Law School's Institute for Global Law and Policy (IGLP) to hold the "TIJ Workshop for Emerging Leaders on the Rule of Law and Policy" and the "IGLP Workshop," which will take place from 7 to 12 January 2018. The collaboration aims to strengthen the capabilities of personnel and agencies involved in justice systems in Thailand, Asia, and the international community through a globally-renowned curriculum designed by professors and experts from the Harvard Law School and the TIJ network.

The first program, the TIJ Workshop for Emerging Leaders on the Rule of Law and Policy, is an intensive co-program designed exclusively for scholars, policymakers, and emerging leaders who want to drive positive change in society and are aware of the importance of the justice system and its link to the policymaking process in Thailand and throughout the ASEAN region. The workshop will unlock their perspectives and focus on issues related to the rule of law, reform of the judicial process, policymaking for sustainable development, reducing inequality, and the capacity to cope with change. There should be practical links between the rule of law and the policymaking process relating to economic, political, and social development at the local, regional, and international levels.

The second program, the IGLP Workshop is designed for academics and researchers, specifically professors from Thailand, the ASEAN region, and other countries. Participants will share their teaching and research experiences to foster research excellence and increase academic knowledge about the rule of law. They will also share their expertise with students and related personnel in policy advocacy, extending the workshop to a new generation.

As the first and only courses in Asia focused on the rule of law in collaboration with the Harvard Law School, the workshops have been developed to cover related laws and the judicial process in various dimensions to support the successful application of the rule of law, which is crucial to ending inequality and injustice in society. This will help lay a foundation for sustainable development in accordance with United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Number 16 - Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, which is one of the 17 SDGs.



For more information,  
please visit: [tijforum.org](http://tijforum.org)



**Thailand Institute of Justice**  
affiliated with the United Nations

Thailand Institute of Justice (Public Organization)

GPF Building Tower B, 15 - 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, Witthayu Road, Lumpinee, Pathumwan, Bangkok 10330, Thailand

Tel: +66 (0) 2118 9400, Fax: +66 (0) 2118 9425, 26

E-mail: [info@tijthailand.org](mailto:info@tijthailand.org)

 [www.tijthailand.org](http://www.tijthailand.org)  [www.facebook.com/tijthailand.org](https://www.facebook.com/tijthailand.org)  [www.youtube.com/JustRightChannelTIJ](https://www.youtube.com/JustRightChannelTIJ)