

THE **MODEL PRISON** PROJECT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN BANGKOK RULES

THAILAND INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE (TIJ)
IN COOPERATION WITH
THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS OF THAILAND



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4

7

10

11



14

16

Introduction: The UN Bangkok Rules

Concept of the Model Prison Project

Selected model prisons

Selection Criteria

Types of correctional institution

Index of Implementation

Evaluation Committees

Project Timeline

TIJ's support and inputs

Note

The UN Bangkok Rules

The United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules), adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 21 December 2010, is the first international instrument which provides specific and detailed guidelines on responding to the gender specific needs of women in the criminal justice system, as well as of the children of such women. After the adoption, Thailand, along with many other countries, international organizations and criminal justice agencies working with women, place a strong emphasis on putting these Rules into practice.

The road towards the inauguration of UN Bangkok Rules originated under the strong royal patronage and leadership of HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha who has a keen interest in women and children involved in the Thai criminal justice system. Her desire to push forward the UN Bangkok Rules started when she visited female prisoners and children with mothers at the

Central Women Correctional Institute in Bangkok in July 2001 and witnessed those women's deprived lives behind bars. Her strong inspiration to help this specific group of women and children was carried out through various projects under the supervision of the Ministry of Justice of Thailand.

The Kamlangjai Project, literally translated from Thai as 'inspire', was the first project launched on the 31st October 2006. The project aims to provide moral support, basic healthcare, and opportunities for women prisoners in Thailand, both while serving sentences and after their release, with a view to returning them back to society as good citizens, minimizing their chance of re-offending, and raising public awareness about giving a second chance to female ex-offenders.

In 2008, Thailand presented the Kamlangjai Project at the 17th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) in Vienna; the level of support from various countries was encouraging.

With the outstanding success of the existing Kamlangjai Project, the Ministry of Justice of Thailand launched another project, namely, Enhancing Lives of Female Inmates, also known as 'ELFI'. The main task of ELFI is to augment the wisdom of what would later become the Bangkok Rules, by developing a set of rules specific to the treatment of women prisoners which aim to narrow the gap of negligence so that the specific needs of women prisoners can be appropriately addressed.

Ultimately, the successful establishment of both the Kamlangjai and the ELFI projects, coupled with HRH Princess' willful determination and her lead support in the advancement for the livelihood of the women prisoners and offenders worldwide, the provision on the treatment of women prisoners was drafted by an international expert group and brought to UN's consideration. Finally, the United Nations General Assembly at its 65th session adopted the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders in December 2010. The name 'Bangkok Rules' given was to honor Thailand which strongly reinforced the rules to the UN's recognition.

The concept of the UN Bangkok Rules stands on the principle that women prisoners and offenders have a different profile of risks and needs from their male counterparts. As women prisoners are not the majority population in the criminal justice system throughout the world, correctional facilities as well as treatment programs in prison in many countries are likely to be designed for male inmates. As a result, the existing correctional facilities do not effectively respond to gender sensitivity of women prisoners such as hygiene and health care, children with mothers in prison, etc. Therefore, a standard guideline should be introduced to those correctional staff who work closely with the women prisoners and offenders.

The implementation of the Bangkok Rules is regarded as an addition to the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (SMRs) 1955 and United Nations Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (Tokyo Rules) that would ensure that the treatment of women prisoners and non-custodial measures for women offenders is carried out with dignity and preserves their human rights as much as possible.

Key Components of the UN Bangkok Rules

Part

1

Rules of General Application

Covering the general management of institutions, is applicable to all categories of women deprived of their liberty, including criminal or civil, untried or convicted women prisoners, as well as women subject to “security measures” or corrective measures ordered by a judge.

Part

2

Rules Applicable to Special Categories

Focusing on the treatment of specific categories of women such as those whom have been victims of violence, pregnant inmates, and ethnic and racial minorities or indigenous inmates.

Part

3

Non-custodial Measures

Covering the application of non-custodial sanctions and measures for women and juvenile female offenders, including on arrest and at the pre-trial, sentencing and post-sentencing stages of the criminal justice process.

Part

4

Research, Planning, Evaluation and Public Awareness Raising

Containing rules on research, planning, evaluation, public awareness-raising and sharing of information, and is applicable to all categories of female offenders covered in these Rules

Concept of the “Model Prison” Project

While the adoption of the UN Bangkok Rules was the first important step for improving treatment and living conditions of women prisoners across the world, significant efforts are needed to ensure that the Rules are understood and implemented. With the aim to promote the implementation of the UN Bangkok Rules worldwide, the Thailand Institute of Justice (TIJ), was established by the Royal Thai government on 13 June 2011. One of the TIJ’s missions is to promote and support the implementation of the UN Bangkok Rules in correctional institutions at both international and domestic levels.

In 2015, TIJ in cooperation with the Department of Corrections of Thailand established the Model Prison Project with the aim to enhance understanding of prison staff about the UN Bangkok Rules and to encourage female prisons/correctional institutes across Thailand to carry out their policies and practices on the treatment of women prisoners in line with the UN Bangkok Rules.

Prisons around the country are invited to join the project and being evaluated in several aspects using the indicators developed by TIJ and the Department of Corrections. Prior to the evaluation, each prison is tasked to achieve gender sensitive operation while technical support is provided during the improvement process.

Thus far, 6 prisons/correctional institutes have been selected as the Model Prison including Uthaitani Provincial Prison, Ayutthaya Provincial Prison, Chiang Mai Women Correctional Institute, Women Correctional Institute for Drug Addicts, Chonburi Women Correctional Institute, and Samutsongkram Central Prison. The Model Prison serves a practical example of how several provisions of the UN Bangkok Rules can be put into practice despite common constraints such as overcrowding and low level of financial resources.

Objectives of the Model Prison Project

1

To enhance understanding and knowledge on international standards and norms related to treatment of prisoners among Thai correctional staff

2

To encourage and support Thai prisons in implementing the UN Bangkok Rules

3

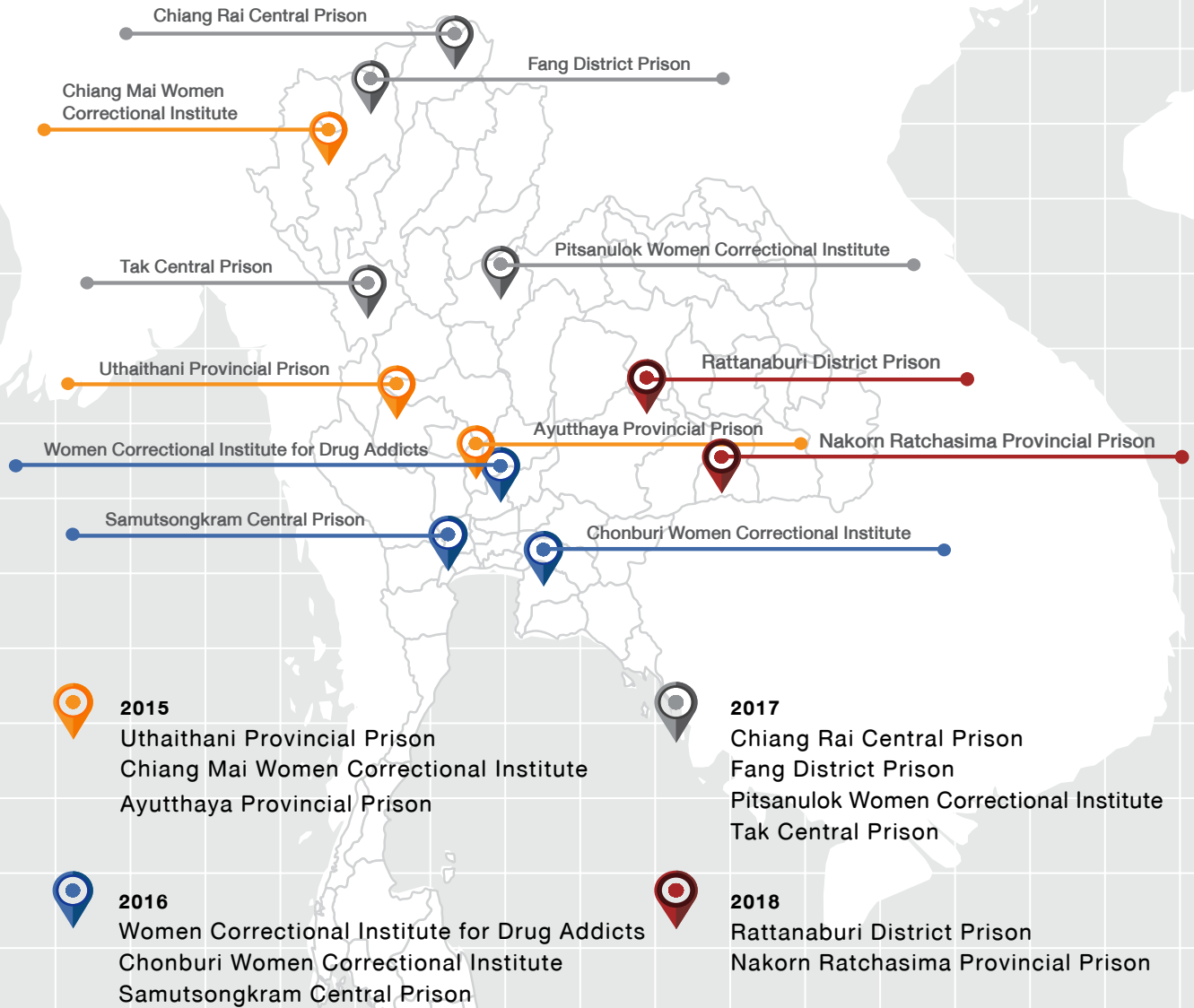
To select prisons with satisfactory level of implementation and whose practices are appropriate and in line with the UN Bangkok Rules as the “Model Prison”.



Certificate Award
Ceremony for the model prison
project 2017

TIJ's ultimate aim for this project is to increase numbers of model prisons in all regions of Thailand and create the Regional Learning Hub for both Thai and international correctional staff to be able to exchange ideas and good practices on gender sensitive treatment of women prisoners. Also, this project represents continuous commitment of the Thai government to elevate the standard of treatment of women prisoners in accordance with the international level. In fulfilling the goals of this project, it is our aim that there will be at least 3 designated model prisons in each region namely the North, North-East, and South of Thailand from 2017-2019.

Selected Model Prisons



Selection Criteria

Types of correctional institution

- Women Correctional Institute
- Prison with large size of women's unit
- Prison with small size of women's unit

Index of Implementation



The Index of Implementation used for the assessment of the Model Prison in Thailand is based on the index of implementation developed by the Penal Reform International (PRI). TIJ in cooperation with the Department of Corrections of Thailand, revised and modified the Index to ensure that the assessment tool is suitable and appropriate for the Thailand context.

There are a total of 9 sections covering several areas from policies to practice levels. The Index of Implementation is designed as a set of checklists, allowing both a rapid assessment with questions that merely require positive or negative responses, and an in-depth and detailed assessment through follow-up questions giving both quantitative and qualitative outcomes. Thus, the outcomes of this assessment can help indicate the areas for future improvement.

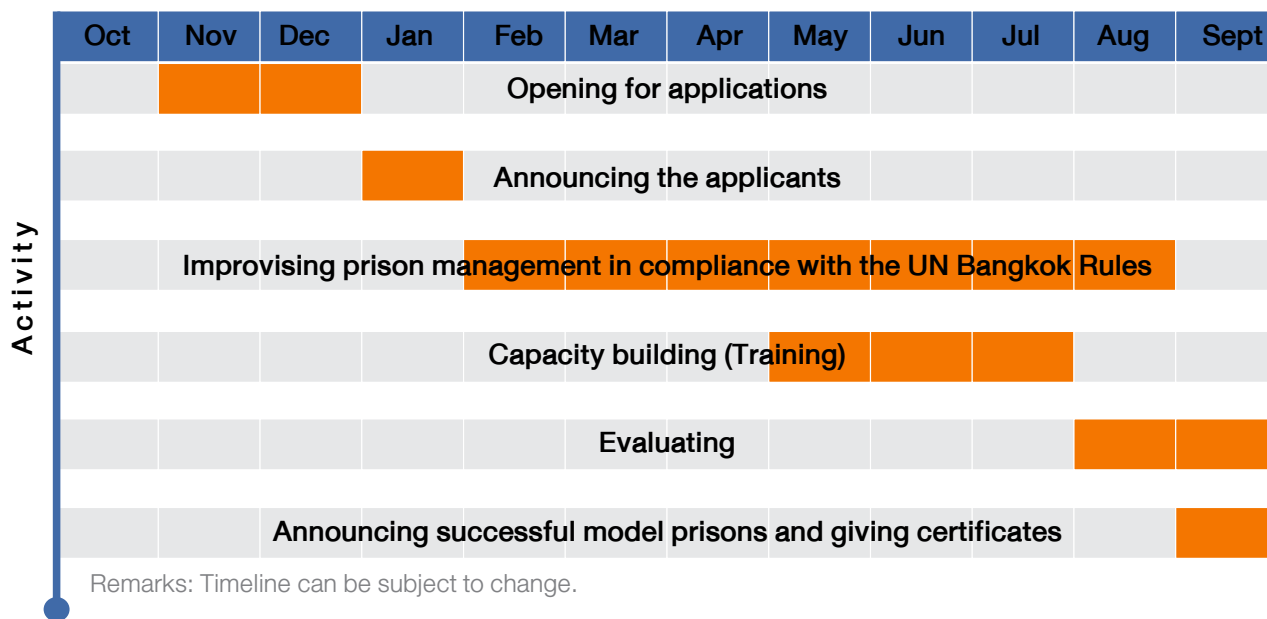
Index of Implementation comprises of **9 Sections** with 154 indicators

Prison Policy	●	13
Admission and registration	●	9
Hygiene and health care	●	43
Safety and security	●	19
Contact with the outside world	●	17
Inmates classification	●	6
Special categories	●	
Foreign nationals	—	4
Monitories and indigenous people	—	3
Inmates under arrest or awaiting trial	—	4
Pregnant women breastfeeding women, and mothers with children in prison	●	25
Pre-release Program	●	11
Total		154

Evaluation Committees

2 external evaluators
and 1 evaluator from TIJ

Project Timeline



TIJ's support for the Model Prison

- **Capacity building for senior correctional staff such as**
 - TIJ's Training on the Management of Women Prisoners for senior correctional staff in the ASEAN Region (2 week-course)
 - Study visits to various model prisons around Thailand and prisons abroad
- **Advisory input and support from specialists on prison management and programme such as**
 - Correctional facilities design and renovation
 - Occupational skills for prisoners
 - Marketing and value-enhancement of prison products
 - Treatment of special category prisoners
- **Specific skills building for correctional practitioners such as**
 - Workshop on the UN Bangkok Rules
 - Workshop on specific areas such as management of specific needs prisoners: pregnant women, children with mothers, minorities, foreigners, etc.
- **Wider networks with private sector, the Department of Correction in ASEAN Region and international organizations**



Correctional staff from the Model Prisons visit Hong Kong Correctional Services



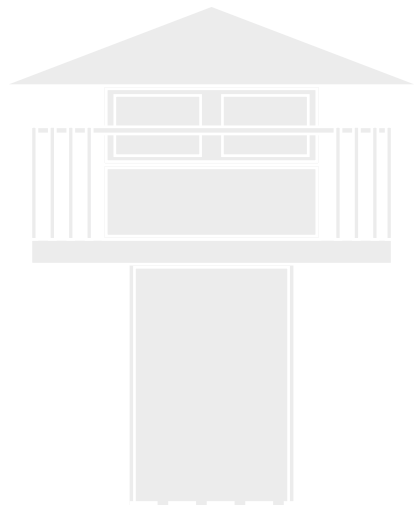
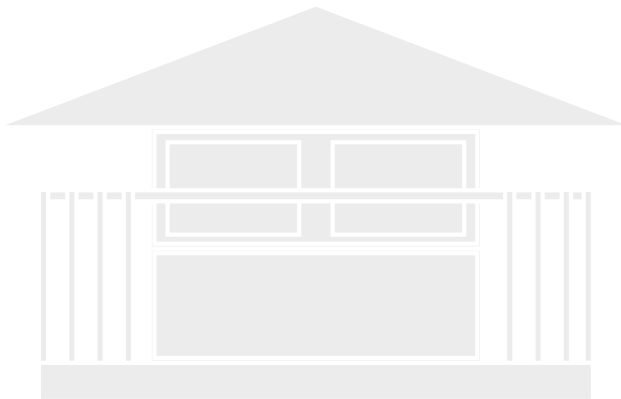
ASEAN correctional staff visit one of the model prisons –Ayutthaya Provincial Prison



TIJ's Training on the Management of Women Prisoners for senior correctional staff in the ASEAN Region in August 2016



NOTE



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