

Justice officials learn more about human trafficking

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Human trafficking was a terrible trade because it didn't just involve trade in people but sometimes the sale of human organs, the Deputy Minister of Justice said last Friday. Deputy Minister Ketietti-sak explained that most people perceived human trafficking as involving prostitution and forced labour, but what many people didn't know was that traffickers also sometimes forced their victims to sell their body parts.



"It's a major problem and we want all officials concerned to know about this problem and how to prevent it," he said.

Mr Ket was speaking at a workshop organised by the Ministry of Justice and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for its Core Training Group on human trafficking, from October 28-31.

The purpose of the workshop was to review some of the concepts and issues presented in earlier workshops held in 2007 and allow participants to reflect upon the workshop series and clarify any outstanding queries or concerns they may have.

A test was administered at the end of the workshop on the areas covered by all the workshops to date. The test must be passed by each participant before they can successfully complete the first series of the training programme.

The workshop reviewed issues associated with human trafficking that had been addressed previously. These included the Transnational Organised Crime Convention and its accompanying protocols on Trafficking in Persons, Smuggling of Migrants and Fire Arms, Lao legislation on human trafficking and the work of the UNODC in this area, according to a workshop handout.

The aim of the programme is to raise greater awareness to prevent human trafficking. The workshops aims to teach officials about appropriate forms of response to trafficked victims within the criminal justice system, legal and safe labour practices to prevent illegal labour migrants from becoming victims of trafficking, specialized assistance and support to child victims of human trafficking, and appropriate interviewing techniques.