



PRESS RELEASE



## AFPPD Co-Organizes Human Trafficking Parliamentarians' Conference

**BANGKOK, 20 March 2017** – Over 40 Members of Parliament from 21 Asia-Pacific countries are expected to attend ***Regional Parliamentarians' Conference on Combatting Human Trafficking*** on March 21 – 22 in Bangkok, Thailand, co-organized by the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) and the South Asian Initiative to End Violence against Children (SAIEVAC), the apex body of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SARRC).

The event, funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) of the Government of Australia, will address the role of parliamentarians in the fight against human trafficking, highlighting good practices of prevention, protection, prosecution, repatriation, and partnerships. While the conference's regional focus is on Southeast Asia, parliamentarians from South Asia, Central Asia, and the Pacific, will also voice their concerns on this global crisis.

Among the participants are Mr. Suthi Sukosol, Inspector General at the Ministry of Labour of Thailand representing H.E. General Sirichai Distakul, Minister of Labour of Thailand; H.E. Mr. Isra Sunthornvut, Secretary-General of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly; H.E. Amjad Hussain Sial, Secretary-General of SARRC; H.E. Paul Robilliard, Ambassador of Australia to Thailand; as well as representatives from various United Nations agencies and CSOs.

By the end of the conference, participants are expected to reinforce their commitments and establish sub-regional action plans for parliamentary cooperation to combat human trafficking. As the UN Sustainable Development Goals call for member states to “*eradicate forced labour*,