

SPEECH

Remarks by USAID/Cambodia Mission Director Erin Soto, IOM Final Evaluation of the TIP Assistance

Himawari Hotel, Phnom Penh
August 10, 2006

Behalf of USAID, Excellency Minister of Women's Affairs, Deputy General of PP, Deputy and Under Secretary of State, Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen – good morning and thanks for invitation.

Two weeks in country and listening to understand learning mode.

Story and what I learned – my first exposure Maggie 13 trafficking of children learned is that by preventing one child from traffickers, you protect your own child – everyone must get involved to make a difference.

I have read evaluation and I congratulate you all:

- MoWA – salute your courageous leadership – tribute to your efforts;
- And to government staff and civil servants – for your hard work and commitment;
- IOM – for your guidance and high quality technical assistance.

Understand three fold strategies for IOM projects to reduce trafficking of women and children:

- Raising awareness
- Prevention
- Development of the database

These are significant activities and no doubt you have much to be proud of however we can all agree that there is much left to do.

Share my thoughts in the form of question – too new to make proclamations.

1. Are we doing enough to treat the root causes of this illicit industry?
2. Is our strategy fully informed by an analysis of the economic interests of the actors involved in this illicit business?

3. Are we addressing the drivers of this illicit business?
4. Does the average Cambodian view trafficking as their problem?
5. Is the media seized with the issue?
6. Are public officials at all levels of government taking a public position on the issue? – setting norms.

These were simply my thoughts as I reviewed our assistance program.

I salute your efforts and those of the Royal Government of Cambodia and congratulate you on the significant progress made to date highlighted as mentioned by MoWA. I look forward to working together to prevent the trafficking of children because as far as the USG is concerned, one child trafficked, is one child too many.

Thank you.