

Thai Union and Nestlé launch demonstration boat to promote human rights in fishing industry



Caption: A demonstration boat to promote human rights of workers in the Thai fishing industry, renovated by Nestlé and Thai Union, is pictured near a pier in Thailand's Trat Province in December 2017. Photo credit: Thai Union

13 DECEMBER 2017, BANGKOK — Thai Union Group PCL and Nestlé have launched a demonstration boat to promote the human rights of workers in the Thai fishing industry. The boat is the first of its kind in Thailand.

The two companies, in collaboration with global non-profit Verité, renovated a standard Thai fishing boat, transforming it into a modern vessel demonstrating improved working conditions and labor standards.

The renovated boat demonstrates the standards set for boats greater than 24 meters by the International Labor Organisation's (ILO) C188 convention for human rights at sea, as well as Thailand's updated fisheries regulations.

To meet these standards and regulations, boat owners should provide proper safety equipment as well as adequate and clean food and drinking water for the crew. Appropriate rest, dining and leisure areas on-board the vessel demonstrated with this vessel, is mandatory, along with a first-aid kit and toilet facility with proper sanitation standards.

Regularly scheduled viewings and training workshops will demonstrate to boat owners and crew how to improve the working standards for fishers at sea.

The initiative started in March 2016, supported by the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) and the Thai Department of Fisheries (DOF).

“Human rights abuses have no place in our supply chain. Nestlé is committed to improving livelihoods in the communities in which we operate. We will continue to work with the Thai fishing industry through our supply chain to exhibit best practices in respecting and promoting human rights for fishery workers,” said Benjamin Ware, Global Head of Responsible Sourcing for Nestlé.

“Holding up human rights and providing safe, legal and freely-chosen employment in our own facilities and in supply chains is critically important to Thai Union,” said Dr. Darian McBain, Thai Union’s global director for sustainable development. “While we have significant programs in place for our own employees, we partner with government and stakeholders on projects such as this to ensure that those working in the wider industry are protected.”

Thai Union and Nestlé helped fund development of the refurbished boat, including providing required tools and equipment, along with ongoing various expenses associated with its demonstration and training sessions.

The project is in line with Nestlé’s Thailand Action Plan for Responsible Sourcing of Seafood and Thai Union’s sustainability strategy, SeaChange® – an integrated plan of initiatives, organized into four programs, to drive meaningful improvements across the entire global seafood industry. SeaChange® programs include safe and legal labor, responsible operations, responsible sourcing, and people and communities.

ABOUT THAI UNION

Thai Union Group PCL is the world’s seafood leader bringing high quality, healthy, tasty and innovative seafood products to customers across the world for almost 40 years.

Today, Thai Union is regarded as the world’s largest producer of shelf-stable tuna products with annual sales exceeding THB 125 billion (US\$ 3.7 billion) and a global workforce of over 46,000 people who are dedicated to pioneering sustainable, innovative seafood products.

The company’s global brand portfolio includes market-leading international brands such as Chicken of the Sea, John West, Petit Navire, Parmentier, Mareblu, King Oscar, and Rügen Fisch and Thai-leading brands SEAELECT, Fisho, Bellotta and Marvo.

As a company committed to innovation and globally responsible behavior, Thai Union is proud to be a member of the United Nations Global Compact, and a founding member of the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF). In 2015, Thai Union introduced its SeaChange® sustainability strategy. Thai Union’s on-going work on sustainability issues was recognized by its inclusion in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index Emerging Markets (DJSI) in 2014. In 2017, Thai Union was named to the DJSI for the fourth consecutive year. Thai Union has also been included in the FTSE4Good Emerging Index.

ABOUT NESTLÉ

Nestlé is the world's largest food and beverage company. It is present in 191 countries around the world, and its 328,000 employees are committed to Nestlé's purpose of enhancing quality of life and contributing to a healthier future. Nestlé offers a wide portfolio of products and services for people and their pets throughout their lives. Its more than 2000 brands range from global icons like *Nescafé* to local favourites like *Milo*. Company performance is driven by its Nutrition, Health and Wellness strategy. Nestlé is based in the Swiss town of Vevey where it was founded more than 150 years ago.

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