



June 22nd, 2024

ITF FISHERS RIGHTS NETWORK SOUTHEAST ASIA REGIONAL SUMMIT STATEMENT

The International Transport Workers Federation's Fishers Rights Network (ITF-FRN) is building a regional movement of fishers to end exploitation and raise industry standards, because all fishers in Southeast Asia deserve respect and justice. Governments are not addressing our main concerns, and our rights continue to be violated by our employers. This is why we are forming our union—to protect ourselves as fishers and fight for justice for all fishers.

We demand the:

- Ratification and effective implementation of ILO Convention C188 by all countries across the region to ensure comprehensive protections for fishers, including decent working conditions, fair pay, occupational health and safety, and social security benefits;
- Protection of Fishers' right to freedom of association and collective bargaining, by all countries in the region ratifying ILO Conventions C87 and C98, empowering fishers to negotiate for fair treatment, better pay, and decent working and living conditions;
- Mandatory and free access to WIFI onboard all fishing vessels, and unrestricted freedom to use WIFI without surveillance;
- End to any coercive recruitment, placement, and broker fee systems across the region, ensuring that fishers are not placed in positions of debt bondage;
- Expansion of the Fisher Rights Network to other countries in the region;
- Adoption and promotion of the model ITF Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) to ensure standard rights and protections for all fishers, regardless of nationality or location;
- Coordination of social media campaigns to expand and strengthen fisher solidarity throughout the region;
- Strengthening of social partnerships with other unions, NGOs, civil society organizations, politicians, governments and inspectors to enhance support and advocacy for fishers;
- Synchronizing of regional days of action, such as International Human Rights Day, International Fisherman Day, Fisheries Day, Seafarers Day, and World Maritime Day, to amplify advocacy efforts and strengthen collective action across the region;
- Identification of key agency targets such as counsels, embassies, and government agencies, to assist with case processing and enforcement;
- Inclusion of Human Rights and Due Diligence (HRDD) clauses in seafood supply chain agreements and policies;
- Eradication of forced labor, child labor, human trafficking and modern-day slavery.

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