

BRIGHT HONG KONG



*"Freedom does not need wings. What it needs is to put down roots".
Octavio Paz, 1914-1998.*



“Modern Slavery. The New Abolitionist Movement”

Main Speakers: *Sylvia Yu & Mr. Matthew Friedman*

Special Participation: Kathleen Ferrier on her report on HR to UN that will be delivered to the Secretary General. Dr. Ban Ki Moon

30th of October, 2015



Participants

Name	Title & Organization
1. Mrs. Sylvia Yu	Journalist & Writer “No More Silence”
2. Matthew Freedman	CEO at The Mekong Club
3. Germán Muñoz	Host / Founder & Director Bright Hong Kong
4. Kathleen Ferrier	Human Rights Specialist and Bright Hong Kong Co-Founder
5. Alicia Buenrostro Massieu	Consul General of Mexico in Hong Kong & Macau
6. Deborah Biber	CEO, Pacific Basin Economic Council
7. Alicia García-Herrero	Chief Economist Asia Pacific for Natixis
8. Andrew Work	Editor-in -Chief Harbour Times
9. Tjeerd de Boer	Faculty Member at Lutheran Theological Seminary
10. Naomi Sedney	Global Marketing Heineken
11. María Pérez-Ribes	Deputy Consul General, Spain
12. Mario Artaza	Director Banco Security
13. Irene Lacasa	HKUSPACE

Notes

- Every five seconds, a person enters slavery somewhere in the world. One minute it might be a 15-year-old girl forced into prostitution, the next a young boy forced onto a fishing boat to work 18 hours a day for years without coming to port, or a mother who is forced to work in a sweat shop to pay off a fraudulent debt. Globally, it is estimated that there are nearly 36 million men, women and children in situations in modern day slavery today, with about 66 percent in Asia alone. This is more than the total population of Canada. These victims, who can be found in factories, construction sites, within fisheries and sex venues, are forced to work for little or no pay, deprived of their freedom, and often subjected to unimaginable suffering.
- While most people think that human trafficking focuses primarily on women and girls being forced into the sex industry, according to one major UN study, this represents only about 25 percent of the total cases. The remaining 75 percent fall under the heading “forced labor.” Out of this figure, about 60 percent of the victims are associated with manufacturing supply chains, which begin with a grower or producer and end as a finished product purchased by consumers in the retail market. As consumers we directly or indirectly contribute to this problem.
- Over more than a decade, the international human trafficking community has not come close to meeting its full potential. While individual, small-scale success stories can be found, many victims are never identified. For example, the 2014 Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP Report) was only able to account for 48,000 victims receiving assistance globally. During the same time period, there were less than 4,000 convictions. This means that less than 0.04 percent of the victims are being identified and assisted each year.
- Why are these numbers so low? According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), the profits generated from this illicit trade are estimated to exceed US\$150 billion annually. But despite the size of the problem, annual global donor contributions add up to only around US\$350 million, which represents less than one percent of total profits generated by the criminals. It is not surprising that the number of trafficked persons continues to increase. In fact, the UN has indicated that there are more modern slaves in the world today than at any other time in history. Realizing that we are not making a difference in this fight, it is clear that something significant needs to change.
- To bring about a tangible change, a global, second-generation abolitionist movement is needed in which individuals and nations from around the world come together to address this crisis. This approach has worked before (150 years ago in the USA) and can work again today. To make this happen, we need to reach people with the information they need to understand the issue and to offer a “call to action” that is in line with what they have to offer. General awareness is an essential tool in this process. Our hope is that you can use your office and influence to encourage corporations, schools, faith-based groups and the general public to learn about this important problem and provide support for efforts that will offer a united front.