

Invite an Expert

Invite one of our modern slavery experts to come to your place of work and deliver a 60-90-minute tailored talk on the topic of modern slavery.

The Problem



Modern slavery is arguably the most serious human rights violation of our time. Often a result of human trafficking, it occurs when a person is tricked, sold or forced into a highly exploitative, work-related situation, with little or no payment, or few options to escape because of fraudulent debt or threats of violence. Because modern slavery tends to be an underground practice, there is a false perception that this form of slavery was abolished years ago and therefore no longer exists. However, it is estimated that there are several million men, women and children languishing in slavery today – more than at any other time in history. Following recent legislation shifts such as the California Supply Chains Act and the Modern Slavery Act, the issue has gained new international attention both from the public and private sector. Understanding what the problem is, and what the current and emerging responses are, is an important component for any students and practitioners in human rights, cooperation and development, corporate responsibility, diplomacy, risk and compliance, and other fields.

Learning and Sharing

A 60-90-minute seminar on the issues of modern slavery and human trafficking will be offered to the audience. The overall goal of the seminar is to equip the audience with the most relevant notions on the topic of modern slavery/human trafficking, and an understanding on how this process functions and what is currently being done to address it. The seminar will cover the following topics:

- What is modern slavery
- Types and examples of modern slavery worldwide
- Emerging definitions
- The changing human trafficking paradigm
- Global trends and patterns
- Financial aspects of modern slavery
- Emerging anti-slavery legislation
- Traditional responders and emerging solutions
- Future developments and trends

About the Mekong Club

Based in Hong Kong, the Mekong Club provides unmatched technical expertise to empower and mobilize the private sector, development workers, diplomats, law enforcement professionals and the broader community to fully understand and address the issue of human trafficking. The organisation is comprised of leading experts in human trafficking, as well as a broad coalition of experienced volunteers and consultants. The Mekong Club also offers mentoring support to schools, NGOs and community organizations on awareness raising, and education on the issue of modern slavery.

Watch the Mekong Club [promo](#) video.

Our Awareness Raising Program

We have trained over 52,300 people and over 8,000 companies since our awareness program started in 2011. We have presented in over 15 countries, including Hong Kong, Australia, Macau, USA, Singapore, Thailand, Japan, Bangladesh, Italy, China, and Sri Lanka.

Speakers



Matt Friedman

Matt Friedman is an international human trafficking expert. From 2006 to 2012, Matt was the Regional Project Manager of the UN Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking (UNIAP) in Thailand. From 1991-2006, Matt worked for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Thailand, Bangladesh and Nepal. He also helped establish a counter-trafficking regional training centre, participated in resource mobilization, and produced two award-winning international films about sex trafficking.



Silvia Mera

Silvia Mera has a background in supply chain management and international trading. She develops and promotes the Mekong Club's activities and projects and works directly with multinational corporations from the manufacturing, retail, hospitality and banking sectors to support and advise them on their anti-trafficking policies and practices. She is also involved in regional activities with partners such as the United Nations, Thomson Reuters and the Thomson Reuters Foundation and delivers training and presentations on the topic both in Asia and overseas.



Dr. Zoë Fortune

Zoë Fortune is an experienced researcher and project consultant with 14 years of experience across a range of academic, business and not-for-profit settings. She uses research to understand the problem of modern slavery and how it can best be tackled and works with the Mekong Club to ensure quality and effective utilisation of research resources. Before moving to Hong Kong, Zoë was the Senior Research and Evaluation Officer leading research at the Freedom Fund in London.



Phoebe Ewen

Phoebe Ewen is a project manager at The Mekong Club, engaging with the association of businesses, coordinating and managing projects, writing and conducting research. Phoebe has a background working in financial services, specialising in financial crime compliance and anti-money laundering, with a strong belief in the role of the financial service sector in the global fight against modern slavery. She is also ACAMS accredited as a Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist.

For more information or to book a session, please contact info@themekongclub.org.