Committee: Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (GA3)

Topic: Tackling Forced Labour in Cyber Scam Networks in the Special Economic Zones in South-East Asia

Student Officer: Miki Saltzman

Position: Co-Chair

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear all, my name is Miki Saltzman. I am a 12th year student at Pinewood, the American International School of Thessaloniki, and it is my honour to serve as one of the Co-Chairs of the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (GA3) for this DSTMUN conference. I am very excited and enthusiastic about this opportunity, hopefully as much as you are about yours.

MUN is all about debating and reaching consensus on the topics at hand. It requires patience, respect, and leadership skills, which I urge all of you to demonstrate. I trust that you will provide this committee with high-quality discussions and a strong spirit of fellowship. I am eager to see what each of you can contribute to this conference, as I am sure it will not disappoint. Do not hesitate to make speeches, and especially to make mistakes, as it is only natural.

This study guide focuses on this year's one of two GA3 committee topics; "Tackling Forced Labor in Cyber Scam Networks in the Special Economic Zones in South-East Asia." Although this study guide is an elaborate document that describes and explains the topic, I encourage you to further research it yourselves. In this study guide, you will read about the problems this topic poses for countries in the South-East Asia region, an elaboration of the issues this topic poses, a list of significant states and acting bodies that are involved with this issue, the expected formation of blocs, a timeline that describes the history of the actions taken against this issue, a summary of significant resolutions and conventions and how they aim to handle the problem, how this issue has been addressed in the past, and lastly, some possible solutions that delegates are urged to consider for integration in their resolutions.

If any questions arise, do not hesitate to reach out to this email address; msaltzman@pinewood-school.gr.

Good luck with your preparation for this conference, and I look forward to meeting each one of you.

Sincerely,

Miki Saltzman

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

Southeast Asia's special economic zones (SEZs) criminal landscape underwent a significant transformation following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and Myanmar's Coup D'état in February of 2021, which left a critical vacuum in the region's security capabilities, most severely compromising governance and law enforcement. This crucial security threat has allowed criminal organizations that already deal with the production of narcotics, weapons smuggling, human trafficking, and illegal gambling to develop a highly resilient cyber-scam industry that originated in Myanmar and spread across the Mekong region in under five years, leading to yearly losses that sum up to approximately $37 billion [IISS][1] in East and Southeast Asia. The rise of cyberscams and the repeated attempts to combat them have brought significant political and security consequences for states such as Thailand, Cambodia, and Myanmar. Efforts to address these issues are being challenged by conflict, ongoing corruption, and domestic politics. Although some governments possess the will to act upon the crimes being committed, they do not do so because they would rather benefit from financial support from regional 'elites' or people who will back their regimes. Criminal organizations are highly financially motivated, and because they operate in frontier areas, they thrive where authorities struggle to maintain order.

Moreover, these scam centers pose a risk to national security and sovereignty. China is exerting considerable pressure on the Mekong region, often stirring up military conflict between the government and local militias. In Myanmar, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has been supporting both armed opposition groups and the Myanmar military. Thailand too faces significant pressure from Beijing to rapidly deal with scammers, even though this industry is directly tied to criminal networks and quasi-legal entities that originate in China [CNA][2]. By being so involved in trying to mitigate this issue, Beijing has been able to expand its security footprint in ways that reshape the Mekong region.

Although Beijing is applying considerable pressure to resolve the issue directly, current enforcement often fails to prioritize the forced labor that drives this operation across Southeast Asia. Many people are being lured into this industry for several reasons, such as being offered illegitimate job opportunities, being abducted while flying on vacation, having their passports stolen, and out of fear of being beaten by the abductors. The labourers often face harsh punishments if they don't meet scamming quotas, and experience beating, waterboarding, and being locked in dark confinement rooms for several days. Additionally,

[1]IISS. "The Geopolitics of Southeast Asia's Cyber-Scamming Crisis." IISS, 2019, https://www.iiss.org/publications/armed-conflict-survey/2025/armed-conflict-survey-2025/regional-spotlight-asia/ . Accessed 25 July 2026.

[2] "Southeast Asia's Rampant Scam Industry Still Morphing, Adapting Despite Beijing Flexing Its Muscle." *CNA*, 2025, https://www.channelnewsasia.com/asia/scamming-compounds-myanmar-cambodia-thailand-crackdown-crimes-5007171.

since 2024, sexual violence has reportedly increased, with many women reporting rape, forced prostitution, and forced abortions. A clear violation of human rights [The Guardian][3].

The illegal operations usually originate from compounds that, according to UN sources, resemble self-contained towns, with some spanning more than 500 acres [UN][4]. In these compounds, frequent reports mention supermarkets, casinos, restaurants, and brothels [UN][5]. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has mentioned that the following must happen to ensure the protection of human rights relating to the cyberscamming industry: embed "non-punishment" principle meaning that the forced labourers would not bear any guilt because they were forced to commit the crimes, guarantee safe and timely operations to rescue those people who are being forced to commit the crimes, provide proper rehabilitation and medical treatment to the traumatised victims, expand safe labour migration and tighten oversight of recruitment agencies, crack down on corruption that enables these crimes, and strengthen cooperation between government, digital platforms and financial institutions to disrupt the criminal industry. [UN][6]

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Coup-D'état

"A sudden overthrow of a government through illegal force by a small group, often a military one." [Cambridge][7]

Cyber Scams

"Online and digital fraud that occurs via the internet, often through deceptive emails, websites, or messages that trick people into providing personal information and money."[OCC][8]

Forced Labour

[3] Guardian staff reporter. "Trafficked, Beaten and Raped: Raids Reveal Scale of Abuse of Women in Asia's Cyberscam Centres." *The Guardian*, The Guardian, 29 June 2026, https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2026/jun/29/trafficked-beaten-raped-raids-abuse-women-asia-cyberscam-centres.

[4] UN. "UN INFORMATION SERVICE GENEVA PRESS BRIEFING | the United Nations Office at Geneva." *The United Nations Office at Geneva*, 20 Feb. 2026, https://www.ungeneva.org/en/news-media/press-briefing/2026/02/un-information-service-geneva-press-briefing.

[5] "UN Report Exposes Torture, Rape in Southeast Asia's Multi-Billion-Dollar Scam Centres." *UN News*, 20 Feb. 2026, https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/02/1167012.

[6] "UN Report Exposes Torture, Rape in Southeast Asia's Multi-Billion-Dollar Scam Centres." *UN News*, 20 Feb. 2026, https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/02/1167012.

[7] Cambridge Dictionary. "Coup D'État." *@CambridgeWords*, 8 May 2024, https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/coup-d-etat#google_vignette. Accessed 21 July 2026.

[8] Office of the Comptroller of the Currency. "Online and Digital Scams | OCC." OCC.Gov, 2025, https://www.occ.gov/topics/consumers-and-communities/consumer-protection/fraud-resources/online-and-digital-scams.html. Accessed 20 July 2026.

"All work or service which is exacted from any person under the threat of a penalty and for which the person has not offered himself or herself voluntarily." [ILO][9]

Frontier Area

A frontier is most often defined as the border between two countries. However, it can also be classified as the area beyond settled or "known" territory, sometimes occupied by a hostile population. [EBSCO][10]

Human Rights

"Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, or any other status. Human rights include the right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to work and education, and many more." [UN][11]

Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS)

The Greater Mekong Subregion comprises Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam, China (specifically Yunnan Province and the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region), Lao, and Myanmar.

In 1992, with the assistance of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), these six countries entered into a program of subregional economic cooperation, designed to enhance economic cooperation. This cooperation program focuses on high-priority sub-regional projects in energy, health and human resource development, environment, agriculture, tourism, urban development, and transport. [Greater Mekong Subregion][12]

[9] ILO. "What Is Forced Labour? | International Labour Organization." Www.Ilo.Org, 28 Jan. 2024, https://www.ilo.org/topics/forced-labour-modern-slavery-and-trafficking-persons/what-forced-labour. Accessed 20 July 2026.

[10]EBSCO. "Frontier | Research Starters | Ebsco Research." Ebsco, 2023, https://www.ebsco.com/research-starters/military-history-and-science/frontier. Accessed 20 July 2026.

[11] United Nations. "Human Rights." United Nations, United Nations, 2023, https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/human-rights. Accessed 20 July 2026.

[12]Greater Mekong Subregion. "About the Greater Mekong Subregion | Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS)." Greatermekong.Org, 2021, https://greatermekong.org/about-greater-mekong-subregion. Accessed 20 July 2026.



Figure 1: Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS)[13]

Pig-Butchering Scams

Pig butchering scams involve scammers gaining victims' trust, often through an established romantic relationship, and persuading them to invest their money in fake cryptocurrency projects. These scams usually begin when a victim meets someone on an online dating app. [USSS][14]

Special Economic Zones (SEZs)

An area with particular economic advantages, for example lower taxes than the rest of the country, to encourage investment and development there. [Cambridge][15]

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Exploitation of Special Economic Zones by Transnational Criminal Networks

Special Economic Zones (SEZs) were initially established to drive regional economic development by offering fewer regulations, streamlined governance, and tax incentives; states use them to encourage the flow of foreign capital into regions that otherwise would not attract investment. Across the Southeast Asian mainland, approximately 120 of those zones were established over the last two decades, along the borders of Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, and Cambodia, often in areas that do not have a high state presence to begin with. What was initially established as a tool for economic growth has become the physical and legal infrastructure that sustains one of the largest forced-labour economies in the world, a

[13] ———. *Mekongregion.Com*, 2023, https://www.mekongregion.com/.
[14] United States Secret Service. "Avoid Scams: Investment Fraud and Pig Butchering." *Secretservice.Gov*, 2023, https://www.secretservice.gov/investigations/investmentfraud-pigbutchering.
[15] ———. "Special Economic Zone." *@CambridgeWords*, 7 Aug. 2024, https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/special-economic-zone.

criminal environment that is being described as quickly evolving into one of the most powerful ones in this era [USIP][16]. This is not mainly an incidental side effect, but rather a direct consequence of the legal circumstances that allow SEZs to serve their purpose. These include limited government regulation, limited regional transparency, and administrative autonomy from the state government [World Bank][17].

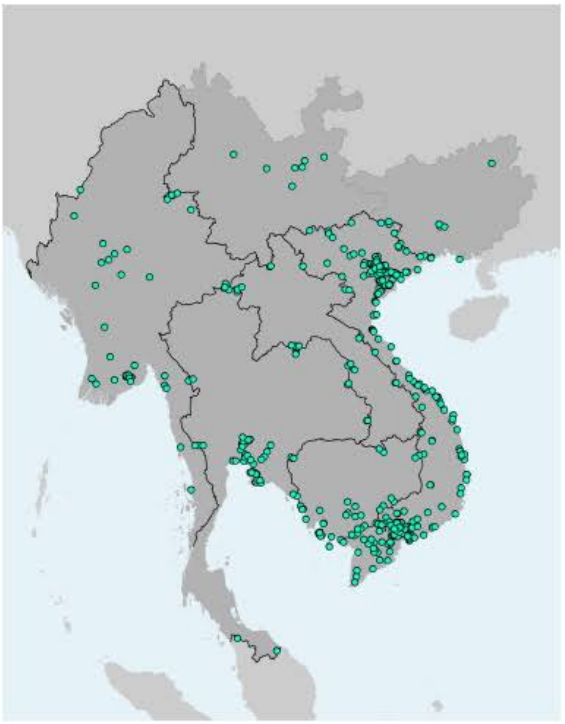


Figure 2: SEZs and Industrial Zones in the Mekong Subregion [GMS][18]

Loopholes in the Regulatory Framework of SEZs and the Deterioration of State Authority

The core principle of SEZs is to loosen the regulatory and tax burden on businesses and individuals that a state would usually impose, allowing specific zones to compete more fairly with the rest of the country for foreign investment [NLI][19]. In practice, this deregulation has extended beyond tax policy and affects law enforcement itself. In most cases,

[16] USIP. "Transnational Crime in Southeast Asia: A Growing Threat to Global Peace and Security - Myanmar." *ReliefWeb*, 7 June 2024, https://reliefweb.int/report/myanmar/integratingintegratingtransnational-crime-souhas theast-asia-growing-threat-global-peace-and-security. Accessed 25 July 2026.

[17] World Bank (FIAS). *A P R I L 2 0 0 8*. Apr. 2008, https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/343901468330977533/pdf/458690WP0Box331s0April200801PUBLIC1.pdf.

[18] "Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS)." Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS), https://www.greatermekong.org/. Accessed 4 Aug. 2026.

[19] anadevt@newlinesinstitute.org. "Cybercrimes, Human Trafficking, and Cryptocurrency in Southeast Asia's Special Economic Zones." New Lines Institute, 13 May 2026, https://newlinesinstitute.org/global-security-mil-priorities/cybercrimes-human-trafficking-and-cryptocurrency-in-southeast-asias-special-economic-zones/. Accessed 25 July 2026.

governments treat SEZs as extraterritorial because they operate under different financial policies than the rest of the state for the purpose of trade benefits, declining to enforce criminal law within their boundaries. A local United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) ambassador has stated that Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) governments do not apply their laws within SEZ zones, basically creating a vacuum where no authority has any meaningful influence [asiafinancial][20]. The effect of this vacuum is significant: an estimated 240 casinos are active across 120 SEZs in the Mekong Subregion, attracting criminal networks to loosely regulated, cash-intensive environments. Criminal organizations have exploited the loose regulations and tax incentives, integrating themselves as 'legitimate' businesses in those zones and benefiting from their policies; hotels and casinos inside the SEZs avoid the tax and regulatory burdens that a normal business environment would impose on them [USIP][21].

How Forced Labour and Human Trafficking are the Operating Model of Scam Compounds

The jurisdictional vacuum described above does not merely enable illegal activities, but it enables the exploitation of one specific and severe human rights violation [UNODC][22]. Within these compounds, forced labor is not treated as a criminal activity but as an operating model, the main force driving it. UNODC estimates that across the Mekong Subregion, hundreds of thousands of individuals have been forcefully trafficked and coerced into committing the cyber-scamming crimes themselves, under conditions that meet the international definition of forced labor [IOM][23].

Misleading Recruitment and the Pathway to Forced Confinement

Recruitment often begins online as fraudulent job offers or fake recruitment agencies offering legitimate-sounding positions in their firms, often at salaries higher than local rates, purposefully targeting regional and international job seekers [OHCHR][24]. Once captured, many individuals are informed that they owe a 'debt' for their transport and living expenses, which they must repay. That is a common tool used by criminals to justify the continued

[20] Financial, Asia. "Crime Gangs Control Some Myanmar, Laos Economic Zones: UN." Asia Financial, 26 June 2022, https://www.asiafinancial.com/crime-gangs-control-some-myanmar-laos-economic-zones-un. Accessed 25 July 2026.

[21] USIP. "Transnational Crime in Southeast Asia: A Growing Threat to Global Peace and Security - Myanmar." *ReliefWeb*, 7 June 2024, https://reliefweb.int/report/myanmar/integratingintegratingtransnational-crime-souhas theast-asia-growing-threat-global-peace-and-security. Accessed 25 July 2026.

[22] United Nations. "Billion-Dollar Cyberfraud Industry Expands in Southeast Asia as Criminals Adopt New Technologies." *United Nations : UNODC Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific*, 2024, https://www.unodc.org/roseap/en/2024/10/cyberfraud-industry-expands-southeast-asia/story.html. Accessed 25 July 2026.

[23] "Key Facts: Human Trafficking Into Online Scam Operations." *International Organization for Migration*, 2025, https://www.iom.int/explainer/key-facts-human-trafficking-online-scam-operations.

[24] OHCHR. "A Matter of Survival: The Human Cost of Cyber Scam Operations in South-East Asia." *Ohchr*, 2026, https://www.ohchr.org/en/stories/2026/02/matter-survival-human-cost-cyber-scam-operations-south-east-asia. Accessed 25 July 2026.

confinement and work of many of the individuals who are caught and brought to work forcefully [The420][25]. Upon arrival, many individuals also have their passports and documents confiscated; should they attempt to escape, they would not have the appropriate documentation for the government or any law enforcement agency to assist them [UN][26]. Moreover, they are physically prevented from leaving the compound in which they are working, which is usually surrounded by high walls, barbed wire, and armed guards [asiafinancial][27].

Forced Integration Into Cyberscamming Activities

The forced-labor world deepens once a victim is confined because the operation of cyber-scams by criminal networks depends significantly on labor, and that labor comes from forcefully confining individuals who commit those cyber-scams themselves. To further enlarge the operations, labourers who resist or underperform in their scamming quotas are sometimes coerced into recruiting the next wave of forced laborers, often resorting to family and friends, making the cycle self-sustaining [USIP][28]. victims are then coerced into running the scams that provide the criminal networks with their revenues and resources, most commonly romance scams and pig-butchering, in which an individual is persuaded to move certain amounts of money over time into a bank account of a fake investment platform [GI-TOC][29]. Profits from those scams are being laundered, usually through cryptocurrencies. One large-scale blockchain-tracing study discovered that these networks moved about $75 billion into crypto exchanges over the years 2020-2024, with the majority of it being settled in Tether (USDT), a stablecoin that moves fast and can enable cross-border transactions while going unnoticed by the banking system [TIME][30]. Labourers are told to meet certain scamming quotas; if not met, they face harsh physical consequences, and families are frequently told to pay ransom money, reportedly $3,000-$20,000 for an individual's release from the labour compounds [Asia Financial][31].

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[25] The420 Web Correspondent. “How Southeast Asia’s Multi-Billion Dollar Scam Hubs Weaponize Human Trafficking.” *The420.In*, 22 June 2026, https://the420.in/southeast-asia-cyber-scam-hubs-human-trafficking-apg-report/. Accessed 25 July 2026.

[26] “Key Facts: Human Trafficking Into Online Scam Operations.” *International Organization for Migration*, 2025, https://www.iom.int/explainer/key-facts-human-trafficking-online-scam-operations.

[27] Financial, Asia. “Crime Gangs Control Some Myanmar, Laos Economic Zones: UN.” Asia Financial, 26 June 2022, https://www.asiafinancial.com/crime-gangs-control-some-myanmar-laos-economic-zones-un. Accessed 25 July 2026.

[28] USIP. “Transnational Crime in Southeast Asia: A Growing Threat to Global Peace and Security - Myanmar.” *ReliefWeb*, 7 June 2024, https://reliefweb.int/report/myanmar/integratingintegratingtransnational-crime-souhas theast-asia-growing-threat-global-peace-and-security. Accessed 25 July 2026.

[29] GI-TOC. *Compound Crime Cyber SCAM Operations in Southeast ASIA*. 2025, https://globalinitiative.net/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/GI-TOC-Compound-crime-Cyber-scam-operations-in-Southeast-Asia-May-2025.pdf. Accessed 25 July 2026.

[30] FAUX, Zeke. “$75 Billion Lost to Pig-Butchering Scam, New Study Estimates.” *TIME*, 1 Mar. 2024, https://time.com/6836703/pig-butchering-scam-victim-loss-money-study-crypto/. Accessed 25 July 2026.

[31] Financial, Asia. “Crime Gangs Control Some Myanmar, Laos Economic Zones: UN.” *Asia Financial*, 26 June 2022, https://www.asiafinancial.com/crime-gangs-control-some-myanmar-laos-economic-zones-un. Accessed 25 July 2026.

The Structural Challenges that Prevent Accountability

Despite numerous reports and documents published by the UNODC, investigative journalists, and even sanctioning governments on the issue of scamming compounds, criminal networks continue to operate with no action taken against them. Domestically, the actors who can shut these compounds down most of the time have a significant financial stake in them. Internationally, the transnational structure of the crime almost always outpaces the legal and institutional ability of the state; a point that the 2024 USIP study has emphasized, concluding that only unilateral, coordinated action would offer any real hope of disrupting the criminal networks [World Bank][32].

Corruption and Cooperation on the Local Level

In several reports, armed groups have taken on a protective role, leasing land to compound operators and providing security for that compound in exchange for shares of the profit being made inside the compound. Myanmar's Karen Border Guard Force, for example, is reported to be earning close to $192 million annually through such deals with compounds such as Shwe Kokko and KK Park [AMLrightsource][33]. For this reason, in 2025 the United States (U.S.) Treasury has sanctioned the military force and its leaders for facilitating and protecting the existence of cyber scams, trafficking, and cross-border smuggling from a SEZ under the force's control [USDT][34]. A similar event was documented in Laos, where an individual sanctioned by the U.S. in 2018 for trafficking, drug offenses, and money laundering is still active in a SEZ called the Golden Triangle, and with the support of the local political authorities [The420][35].

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[32] World Bank (FIAS). *A P R I L 2 0 0 8*. Apr. 2008, https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/343901468330977533/pdf/458690WP0Box331s0April200801PUBLIC1.pdf.

[33] AML RIGHTSOURCE. "Scam States: The Cybercrime-Corruption Complex in Southeast Asia and the Collapse of Anti-Money Laundering Enforcement." *Amlrightsource.Com*, 2025, https://www.amlrightsource.com/resources/scam-states-the-cybercrime-corruption-complex-in-southeast-asia-and-the-collapse-of-anti-money-laundering-enforcement. Accessed 25 July 2026.

[34] US. Department of Treasury. "Treasury Sanctions Southeast Asian Networks Targeting Americans with Cyber Scams." *U.S. Department of the Treasury*, 8 Sept. 2025, https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sb0237. Accessed 25 July 2026.

[35] The420 Web Correspondent. "How Southeast Asia's Multi-Billion Dollar Scam Hubs Weaponize Human Trafficking." *The420.In*, 22 June 2026, https://the420.in/southeast-asia-cyber-scam-hubs-human-trafficking-apg-report/. Accessed 25 July 2026.



Figure 3: Known Cyber-scamming compounds across Myanmar [Mekongeye][36]

Fractured Jurisdiction and Limited Cross-border Enforcement Cooperation

The case remains that, even if the state hosting those compounds is willing to take certain action against those in charge of those organizations and the organizations themselves, the transnational structure of these operations makes unilateral action extremely difficult in practice. Targets for abduction, perpetrators, and the individuals themselves who are getting scammed could physically be located in three or more different countries simultaneously, meaning that any state that attempts to carry out an operation against those criminal networks faces the difficulty of having partial visibility into, and limited legal authority, over the crime [World Bank][37]. Using underground banking systems and cryptocurrencies, criminals are able to move money that supports the whole operation in a highly rapid manner, often faster than what financial regulators are able to track, an issue that undermines the ability to share intelligence and act upon a suspected crime in any country, challenging the will to operate against those crime syndicates [NLI][38]. The consequence of this is an endless chase after the criminal organizations. For instance, once a scamming compound is targeted, its easiest option is to move across the border to another state, where the law enforcement that was previously chasing them will have a difficult time stopping their operations, considering that it's another jurisdiction. And so, law enforcement

[36] Kannikar Petchkaew. "The World's Cyber Scam Hub in Myanmar Gets Even Dirtier." *Mekong Eye*, 10 Nov. 2025, https://www.mekongeye.com/2025/11/10/cyber-scam-myanmar-dirtier.
[37] World Bank (FIAS). *A P R I L 2 0 0 8*. Apr. 2008, https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/343901468330977533/pdf/458690WP0Box331s0April200801PUBLIC1.pdf.
[38] anadevt@newlinesinstitute.org. "Cybercrimes, Human Trafficking, and Cryptocurrency in Southeast Asia's Special Economic Zones." New Lines Institute, 13 May 2026, https://newlinesinstitute.org/global-security-mil-priorities/cybercrimes-human-trafficking-and-cryptocurrency-in-southeast-asias-special-economic-zones/. Accessed 25 July 2026.

chooses to relocate their resources across the border, where the criminal organizations relocated to, often undermining the effectiveness of their operations.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

Cambodia

Unlike Myanmar, Cambodia is in a different situation with a notably lower presence of criminal militias, and the compounds in Cambodia have expanded through cooperation between criminal organizations and political elites. There are frequent crackdowns, resulting in thousands of arrests, but major operating compounds sometimes get tipped off in advance and are left untouched by law enforcement. [Therecord.Media][39]

China

China is the biggest source for trafficked individuals and criminal syndicates, and the state whose citizens are most targeted as scam victims. This circumstance gives Beijing special leverage, allowing it to change its border policy in 2023 from non-intervention to direct intervention, especially on Myanmar, showing how unilateral action can work, but only for a country with this much leverage. [Mekongeye][40]

India

India is one of the largest targets for trafficking victims across the Southeast Asian scam compound industry, with governmental bodies placing the repatriations at more than 2,400 citizens from Myanmar as of mid-2026, with hundreds more coming from Cambodia and Laos [The420][41]. India's Ministry of External Affairs has coordinated multiple large-scale airlifts to return citizens to India, including 270 citizens flown from Myanmar's KK Park compound, following a military raid in November 2025, and its Central Bureau of Investigation has begun working against recruitment agents in the state that have been directly tied to trafficking Indian citizens into these scamming compounds. However, some sources suggest that around 30,000 Indian citizens who have traveled to Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar, and Vietnam for tourist purposes between 2022 and 2024 never returned home. [Statista][42]

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[39] Reddick, James. "Feds Sanction Cambodian Conglomerate Over Cyber Scams, Seize $15 Billion From Chairman." *Therecord.Media*, The Record, 23 June 2026, https://therecord.media/feds-sanction-cambodian-conglomerate-scams-seize-15-billion.

[40] Kannikar Petchkaew. "The World's Cyber Scam Hub in Myanmar Gets Even Dirtier." *Mekong Eye*, 10 Nov. 2025, https://www.mekongeye.com/2025/11/10/cyber-scam-myanmar-dirtier.

[41] The420 Correspondent. "Over 2,400 Indians Rescued From Myanmar Cyber Scam Compounds, 150 Still Trapped." *The420.In*, June 2026, https://the420.in/india-myanmar-cyber-scam-compounds-rescue-digital-slavery/.

[42] Buchholz, Katharina. "Infographic: 30,000 Indians in Southeast Asia Amid Cyber Slavery Allegations." *Statista Daily Data*, Statista, 30 Sept. 2024, https://www.statista.com/chart/33158/indian-states-with-the-highest-number-of-visitors-not-returned-from-southeast-asia/.

Laos

Laos's Golden Triangle SEZ, which was established in 2007, is primarily owned by a single individual, Zhao Wei, whose company owns 80% of the zone in businesses, compared to the Lao government holding 20%, meaning that local authorities require his permission to enter and cannot act without it [RFA][43]. In 2018, the U.S. Treasury sanc21§tioned Zhao's "King Romans Casino" on the counts of trafficking, drug smuggling, and money laundering. Despite the sanctions, in August 2024, a joint Lao-Chinese raid in the zone detained over 770 individuals, while the casino remained open throughout the operation, showing that enforcement can disrupt individual compounds without violating the economic factors in the zones. [RFA][44]

Myanmar

Myanmar hosts the most cyber-scamming compounds regionally, most notably Shwe Kokko and KK Park, which continue to operate under the protection of forces such as the Karen Border Guard Force and the Karen National Army, which reportedly earn $192 million annually from leasing and protecting land [The420][45]. In 2025, the U.S. Treasury sanctioned the KNA and its leaders for alleged human trafficking and scams within the SEZ. [asiafinancial][46]

Myanmar is also at the center of China's crackdown on the situation; in 2023, Chinese nationals died after escaping a Kokang compound. Beijing sent out an operation to release the captives, and tens of thousands of Chinese nationals were released. [Global Initiative][47]

Philippines

The Philippines' Alice Guo case quickly became the country's main court prosecution. As mayor of the city of Bamban, Alice Guo revealed that she is a Chinese national who hid her nationality to obtain public office, and that she approved business permits in SEZs for scam operators Zun Yuan and Hongsheng Technology despite two prior police raids on their

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[43] Radio Free Asia. "Lao Authorities Seem Powerless to Stop Crime in Golden Triangle Economic Zone." *Radio Free Asia*, https://www.rfa.org/english/news/laos/golden-triangle-11252022131629.html. Accessed 4 Aug. 2026.

[44] Lao, RFA. "Lao Authorities Raid More Golden Triangle Scam Centers as Deadline Passes." *Radio Free Asia*, 29 Aug. 2024, https://www.rfa.org/english/news/laos/golden-triangle-scam-centers-raids-08292024143130.html.

[45] The420 Web Correspondent. "How Southeast Asia's Multi-Billion Dollar Scam Hubs Weaponize Human Trafficking." *The420.In*, 22 June 2026, https://the420.in/southeast-asia-cyber-scam-hubs-human-trafficking-apg-report/. Accessed 25 July 2026.

[46] Financial, Asia. "Crime Gangs Control Some Myanmar, Laos Economic Zones: UN." Asia Financial, 26 June 2022, https://www.asiafinancial.com/crime-gangs-control-some-myanmar-laos-economic-zones-un. Accessed 25 July 2026.

[47] Global Initiative. "China's Acquiescence to Myanmar's Military Regime Fuels 'Foreigner Butchering' Scam Epidemic." *Global Initiative*, 2025, https://globalinitiative.net/analysis/chinas-acquiescence-to-myanmars-military-regime-fuels-foreigner-butchering-scam-epidemic/. Accessed 26 July 2026.government

compounds. She was ultimately sentenced to life in prison under a newly established law stating that whoever organizes and directs forced labor activities, even without directly running them [The Diplomat][48]. In reaction to that scandal, President Marcos then banned POGOs (Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators) entirely in July 2024.

Thailand

Thailand's role crosses borders. Many compounds along Myanmar's border, notably Shwe Kokko and KK Park, rely on Thai electricity, internet, and fuel to maintain their operations, since Thai sources are more reliable than Myanmar's conflict-affected resources. This dependency became leverage for the Thai government after the high-profile abduction of Chinese actor Wang Xing; under pressure from Beijing, they cut power, internet, and fuel to several scamming compounds, leading to the rescue of thousands of trafficked workers [JFM][49]. However, in 2023, similar cuts had a more limited effect, as syndicates resorted to alternative power sources and continued operating as usual.[CNN][50]

Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG)

APG operates as the region's financial action task force body, and has launched a thematic review specifically assessing member states' capability to detect and prevent scam-related financial flows [TrustSphere][51] It mainly focuses on aligning national anti-money laundering frameworks, given that illicit funds tied to these compounds routinely move across borders quickly, in a matter of hours, using unregulated crypto exchanges.

International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)

In 2022, INTERPOL considered this issue a purple notice; in 2023, it was an orange notice; and in November 2025, it published a resolution formally designating scam centers a global threat. Its 2024 operation against these criminal networks spanned across 116 states and arrested approximately 2,500 individuals. [INTERPOL][52]

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[48] Strangio, Sebastian. "Ex-Philippine Mayor Sentenced to Life in Prison for Involvement in Cyberscams." *Thediplomat.Com*, The Diplomat, 21 Nov. 2025, https://thediplomat.com/2025/11/ex-philippine-mayor-sentenced-to-life-in-prison-for-involvement-in-cyberscams/.

[49] Justice For Myanmar. "Who Powered the Expansion of Cyber Scams in Myawaddy? | Justice for Myanmar." *Justiceformyanmar.Org*, 2025, https://www.justiceformyanmar.org/stories/who-powered-the-expansion-of-cyber-scams-in-myawaddy.

[50] Kocha Olarn, and Ross Adkin. "Power Cut to Site of Global, Billion-Dollar Scam Industry. But Will It Halt the Swindling?" *CNN*, 5 Feb. 2025, https://edition.cnn.com/2025/02/05/asia/myanmar-thailand-scam-power-cuts-intl-hnk.

[51] TrustSphere Network. "Inside the Scam-Centre Economy: Southeast Asia's Enforcement Reckoning." *TrustSphere.Ai*, 7 July 2026, https://www.trustsphere.ai/post/inside-the-scam-centre-economy-southeast-asia-s-enforcement-reckoning.

[52] INTERPOL. "Growing Threat of Transnational Scam Centresimportantemphasizedmportantcentersapproximatelystimatesfromt considered an;ighlighted at Interpol General Assembly." *Interpol.Int*, 2025,

UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

UNODC is arguably the most significant organization in fighting this issue. It produces the data for this topic, such as revenues from the scams and workforce estimates [GMS][53]. It has also emphasized the importance of unilateral action to eliminate this issue. [NLI][54]

BLOCS EXPECTED

Bloc A

This bloc is made up of countries that believe in sovereignty and non-interference, so much so that they consider these compounds to be internal criminal and security issues for host countries to handle as they see fit. They claim that the reason for enforcement failure is not deliberate government policy but rather the result of real capacity limitations, such as weak institutions, disputed border areas, and post-coup instability, and that foreign pressure may aggravate already fragile governments. The bloc's members include countries such as Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, and other ASEAN nations that tend to align more closely with the bloc's founding principle of non-interference.

Bloc B

The second bloc is comprised of countries that see this as a crisis of mass forced labor and trafficking that requires international and binding obligations, a stance that argues that sovereignty should not be used as a shield when the involvement of states and/or militias is so well documented. These countries demand improved monitoring, sanctions, and cross-border reporting requirements. The countries in this bloc are those with a large number of trafficking victims or scam targets, such as the United States, China, and India.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of event
2007-2018	**Zhao Wei Establishes Laos' Golden Triangle Special Economic Zone** In 2018, the U.S. Treasury sanctions him for trafficking, money laundering, and

https://www.interpol.int/News-and-Events/News/2025/Growingcenters;approximately 2,500-threat-of-transnational-scam-centres-highlighted-at-INTERPOL-General-Assembly. Accessed 26 July 2026.

[53] "Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS)." Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS), https://www.greatermekong.org/. Accessed 4 Aug. 2026.

[54] anadevt@newlinesinstitute.org. "Cybercrimes, Human Trafficking, and Cryptocurrency in Southeast Asia's Special Economic Zones." New Lines Institute, 13 May 2026, https://newlinesinstitute.org/global-security-mil-priorities/cybercrimes-human-trafficking-and-cryptocurrency-in-southeast-asias-special-economic-zones/. Accessed 25 July 2026.

	drug offenses, crimes that had been committed in the zone, and an early indicator of how the zones are prone to exploitation. [GI-TOC][55]
1st February, 2021	**Myanmar's Military Coup** Myanmar's military coup destabilizes the region and causes military resources to be allocated to the internal conflict. Criminals then exploit the issue and begin to establish scam compounds across the border, notably Shwe Kokko, KK Park, and more.
2022-2023	**International Police Action** INTERPOL issues a Purple Notice to surrounding countries, warning them of social-media recruitment strategies, then an Orange Notice warning of trafficking-fueled fraud [INTERPOL][56] Chinese nationals died because they tried to escape a compound named Kokang [Mekong Eye][57], indirectly pushing Beijing to apply more pressure on Myanmar juntas to dismantle, eventually succeeding and cracking down on criminal networks in the region and resulting in the release of tens of thousands of individuals. [TIME][58]
2024-2025	**United Nations and U.S. Treasury Action**

[55] GI-TOC. *Compound Crime Cyber SCAM Operations in Southeast ASIA*. 2025, https://globalinitiative.net/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/GI-TOC-Compound-crime-Cyber-scam-operations-in-Southeast-Asia-May-2025.pdf. Accessed 25 July 2026.

[56] "Growing Threat of Transnational Scam Centres Highlighted at INTERPOL General Assembly." *Interpol.Int*, 2025, https://www.interpol.int/News-and-Events/News/2025/Growing-threat-of-transnational-scam-centres-highlighted-at-INTERPOL-General-Assembly.

[57] Kannikar Petchkaew. "The World's Cyber Scam Hub in Myanmar Gets Even Dirtier." *Mekong Eye*, 10 Nov. 2025, https://www.mekongeye.com/2025/11/10/cyber-scam-myanmar-dirtier.

[58] FAUX, Zeke. "$75 Billion Lost to Pig-Butchering Scam, New Study Estimates." *TIME*, 1 Mar. 2024, https://time.com/6836703/pig-butchering-scam-victim-loss-money-study-crypto/. Accessed 25 July 2026.

	USIP [USIP][59] and UNODC [UNODC][60] publish reports documenting the crisis's severe scale, while the U.S. Treasury sanctions the Karen National Army [TIME][61] and INTERPOL declares scam centers a global threat.
20th February, 2026	**Published Reports by the UN and Blockchain Studies Emphasizing the need for action** OHCHR publishes reports documenting individuals who escaped the scam compounds, further emphasizing the need for unilateral action [OHCHR][62], while a blockchain tracing study finds $75 billion moving in cryptocurrency form as a result of pig-butchering scamming methods since 2020. {USIP][63]

RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

Conventions

United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNOTC)

On November 15 2000, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/55/25, which was signed in Palermo, Italy, and entered into force in 2003. This makes the UN an essential actor in acting against scam compounds across states, especially because these crimes happen across multiple jurisdictions. [UNODC][64]

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[59] USIP. "Transnational Crime in Southeast Asia: A Growing Threat to Global Peace and Security - Myanmar." *ReliefWeb*, 7 June 2024, https://reliefweb.int/report/myanmar/integratingintegratingtransnational-crime-souhas theast-asia-growing-threat-global-peace-and-security. Accessed 25 July 2026.

[60] United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. "United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime." *Unodc.Org*, United Nations, https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/intro/UNTOC.html. Accessed 27 July 2026.

[61] FAUX, Zeke. "$75 Billion Lost to Pig-Butchering Scam, New Study Estimates." *TIME*, 1 Mar. 2024, https://time.com/6836703/pig-butchering-scam-victim-loss-money-study-crypto/. Accessed 25 July 2026.

[62] OHCHR. "A Matter of Survival: The Human Cost of Cyber Scam Operations in South-East Asia." *Ohchr*, 2026, https://www.ohchr.org/en/stories/2026/02/matter-survival-human-cost-cyber-scam-operations-south-east-asia. Accessed 25 July 2026.

[63] USIP. "Transnational Crime in Southeast Asia: A Growing Threat to Global Peace and Security - Myanmar." *ReliefWeb*, 7 June 2024, https://reliefweb.int/report/myanmar/integratingintegratingtransnational-crime-souhas theast-asia-growing-threat-global-peace-and-security. Accessed 25 July 2026.

[64] United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. "United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime." *Unodc.Org*, United Nations, https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/intro/UNTOC.html. Accessed 27 July 2026.

Despite near-global ratification, UNOTC's effectiveness in this matter remains limited, as some states show little willingness to cooperate and prosecute cases involving local officials and law enforcement.

Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (Palermo Protocol)

The Palermo Protocol added to UNTOC policies and was integrated into the same resolution adopted in 2000, making it the first globally legally binding tool with an established definition of human trafficking of individuals, becoming the legal basis for defining compound recruitments and confinement practices as trafficking, allowing bodies to take action upon finding a violation.

While the objective of the Protocol provides the international community with legal definitions of trafficking, by itself it does not establish any form of enforcement, fails to prosecute scam-compound-related trafficking crimes, and emphasizes that such cases remain rare compared to the scale of the trafficking crisis it was meant to address. [OHCHR][65]

Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)

One of the ILO's oldest and most widely backed conventions, obligating member states to suppress compulsory or forced labour in all of its forms.

It worked to prevent forced or compulsory labor in all its known forms and was ratified by 178 of 187 ILO member states. However, the convention does not cover cyber-enabled crimes, meaning that institutions had to rework the protocol to cover a crime that did not exist back in the 1930s, and the 2014 convention covered this issue. [ILO][66]

Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (P029)

Adopted by the International Labour Conference in June 2014 and ratified in November 2016, it establishes international obligations to prevent forced labour, protect individuals who were trafficked, and provide access to medical resources, being directly applicable given the many reports documenting the harsh circumstances trafficked individuals exist in.

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[65] ———. "Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime." *Ohchr*, United Nations, 2000, https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/protocol-prevent-suppress-and-punish-trafficking-persons.

[66] ILO. "Convention C029 - Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (medicalNo. 29)." *Ilo.Org*, 2024, https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/nrmlx_en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_INSTRUMENT_ID:312174. Accessed 27 July 2026.labor

This is the most directly applicable convention tool for this crisis, because it fully recognizes forced labour and trafficking as a cross-border issue. However, as of 2026, it has been backed by only a fraction of ILO member states and has not been ratified by the primary host members regarding scam compounds. [ILO][67]

Resolutions

Human Rights Council Resolution 53/9 - Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children

The Philippines, alongside Argentina, Germany, and Jordan, introduced this resolution at the Human Rights Council, which was adopted on the 12th of July, 2023 without a vote. The Philippines is a major host country for scam compounds, which explains why it introduced this resolution. At the heart of its proposals was the extension of an existing UN position, the UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, particularly women and children, for three additional years, so that the UN would continue to make dedicated, independent reports on the trends in trafficking as this crisis was being actively ramped up in Southeast Asia. The resolution reiterates states' commitments to the UNTOC and the Palermo Protocol, and the need to enhance the identification of victims, their protection, and access to remedies.

The significance of this resolution lies less in the obligations it imposes than in the mandate it has renewed, which has enabled investigations and reporting on new trends and trafficking patterns, such as forced criminality in scam compounds, during the height of this crisis. [HRC][68]

2025 Political Declaration on the Implementation of the UN Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons - General Assembly Resolution A/80/L.8

This resolution, adopted unanimously at a High-Level Meeting for the Fifteenth anniversary of the original 2010 Global Plan of Action, reaffirms the collective commitment of UN member states to combating trafficking in persons and was directly influenced by this crisis – a survivor trafficked into forced criminality inside a scam compound addressed the Assembly personally. Many of the provisions in its text are relevant to compound victims

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[67] International Labour Organization. “Protocol P029 - Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930.” *Ilo.Org*, 2016, https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/nrmlx_en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:P029. Accessed 27 July 2026.

[68] UN. Human Rights Council (53rd sess. : 2023 : Geneva. “Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children : Resolution / Adopted by the Human Rights Council on 12 July 2023.” *United Nations Digital Library System*, UN, 20 July 2023, https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4020282?ln=en&v=pdf.

who are forced to engage in scams themselves, and include the obligation to update domestic legal frameworks to explicitly mention "emerging forms of trafficking, including for the purpose of forced criminality" and the principle of not punishing trafficking victims, which means that trafficked persons should not be prosecuted for crimes committed as a direct consequence of their trafficking.

It is important to note that the resolution was passed by consensus, but not without controversy, as the United States formally distanced itself from a few paragraphs due to their unrelated wording, demonstrating how even widely supported resolutions can split over contentious phrasing. [HRC][69]

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

China's Individual Pressure-exerting Campaign

In 2023, Chinese nationals were killed on the run while escaping from a Kokang compound in Myanmar, prompting China to drop its non-interference policy and support a Kokang rebel attack that disrupted the Border Guard Force's operations and resulted in the arrests, extraditions, and repatriation of tens of thousands of Chinese nationals.[70] In early 2025, after famous Chinese actor Wang Xing was abducted, China once again went up a notch, putting Thailand under pressure to reduce electricity, internet, and fuel supplies to clusters along the Myawaddy border, thus saving thousands of workers. [JM][71]

The effect was the most significant of the year but short-lived; similar to the power cuts of 2023, compounds used alternative resources and continued operating.

U.S. Treasury Sanctioning Regional Regimes

In 2018, the United States Department of the Treasury designated the Golden Triangle cyberscamming network as sanctioned, and in 2025, the leadership of the Karen National Army. [AML][72] The biggest action taken occurred in 2025 against the Prince Group

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[69] UN. Human Rights Council (53rd sess. : 2023 : Geneva. "Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children : Resolution / Adopted by the Human Rights Council on 12 July 2023." *United Nations Digital Library System*, UN, 20 July 2023, https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4020282?ln=en&v=pdf.

[70] Global Initiative. "China's Acquiescence to Myanmar's Military Regime Fuels 'Foreigner Butchering' Scam Epidemic." *Global Initiative*, 2025, https://globalinitiative.net/analysis/chinas-acquiescence-to-myanmars-military-regime-fuels-foreigner-butchering-scam-epidemic/. Accessed 26 July 2026.government

[71] Justice For Myanmar. "Who Powered the Expansion of Cyber Scams in Myawaddy? | Justice for Myanmar." *Justiceformyanmar.Org*, 2025, https://www.justiceformyanmar.org/stories/who-powered-the-expansion-of-cyber-scams-in-myawaddy.

[72] AML RIGHTSOURCE. "Scam States: The Cybercrime-Corruption Complex in Southeast Asia and the Collapse of Anti-Money Laundering Enforcement." *Amlrightsource.Com*, 2025,

in Cambodia, which resulted in the largest Indictment and $15 billion cryptocurrency forfeiture in U.S. history.

Effectiveness is demonstrated by the ability to freeze named operators' access to the U.S. financial system, but there are restrictions on the range of potential targets that can be affected, and it does not prevent another operator from replacing those targeted.

INTERPOL's Notice system and Published Resolution

From a 2022 Purple Notice on recruitment tactics to an Orange Notice in 2023 on trafficking-fuelled fraud, leading to a General Assembly resolution in November 2025 declaring scam centers as a global threat [INTERPOL][73]. This supported a 116-country operation that produced more than 2,500 arrests.

Provided one of the few instruments here that had a quantifiable result, yet notices and resolutions do not have any legal force, and the result remains contingent on individual states deciding to act upon the issue.

ASEAN's United Front

Most of the host states are members of ASEAN, so ASEAN's response has remained voluntary: the declaration on tech-facilitated trafficking in 2023, the declaration on law enforcement cooperation in 2024, and the declaration for cooperation with financial institutions and crypto platforms in 2025. [ASEAN][74]

For every such declaration, the focus escalates further as awareness increases, but none generates any obligation, nor is there a system of accountability to monitor implementation.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Regulating Special Economic Zones

Resolutions would urge minimal oversight within SEZs, a mandatory law-enforcement presence, independent business auditing, and a focus on ensuring that

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https://www.amlrightsource.com/resources/scam-states-the-cybercrime-corruption-complex-in-southeast-asia-and-the-collapse-of-anti-money-laundering-enforcement. Accessed 25 July 2026.

[73] INTERPOL. "Growing Threat of Transnational Scam Centres Highlighted at Interpol General Assembly." *Interpol.Int*, 2025, https://www.interpol.int/News-and-Events/News/2025/Growing-threat-of-transnational-scam-centres-highlighted-at-INTERPOL-General-Assembly.

[74] ASEAN. "ASEAN DECLARATION on COMBATTING CYBERCRIME and ONLINE SCAMS." 2025, https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/03.-ASEAN-Declaration-on-Combatting-Cybercrime-and-Online-Scams.pdf.protection

these measures do not eliminate the investment incentives these zones offer, thereby directly addressing the systemic issues that make SEZs so prone to exploitation.

It is important to note, however, that this solution might not be applicable in countries such as Myanmar, Cambodia, and Laos because it undermines the main purpose of SEZs by introducing an additional layer of oversight. Given that some of those governments have direct financial ties to these criminal compounds, as seen in the Karen Border Guard Force's $192 million in annual protection fees, voluntary cooperation from the governments without external pressure or a genuine willingness to change the domestic situation seems unlikely.

Strengthening Cross-Border Legal Cooperation

Delegates are encouraged to establish rapid extradition mechanisms, joint prosecution frameworks, and standardized legal foundations for trafficking and forced labor of individuals between ASEAN member states and major sourcing states (like China), a point that addresses jurisdictional issues across bordering states. A resolution might also provide a mandatory, rather than voluntary, framework establishing information-sharing requirements between national law enforcement and intelligence agencies, modeled on INTERPOL's existing notice system.

This solution might function better if paired with a dedicated regional enforcement body, since governments have little incentive to benefit other regional governments or victims of another nationality.

Victim-Centered Protection and Recovery

Since most victims are used to drive the scamming operation, they are often misidentified as perpetrators. Delegates should propose victim-identification protocols, the non-prosecution of those individuals, and funded recovery and support for social reintegration.

This solution is likely to receive broad backing from regional governments, since it is less political than other solutions that directly target host states' sovereignty. However, funding remains an issue. A possible solution could be to use assets and capital confiscated in certain operations, such as the $15 billion in the Prince Group case [USDJ][75], as it could possibly offset costs, but would still require host states to come to an agreement on how these funds will be used, something that might be difficult given the different national priorities of each state.

Cryptocurrency Regulation Systems and Blockchain-Tracing Collaboration

[75] USDJ. "Chairman of Prince Group Indicted for Operating Cambodian Forced Labor Scam Compounds Engaged in Cryptocurrency Fraud Schemes." *Justice.Gov*, 14 Oct. 2025, https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/chairman-prince-group-indicted-operating-cambodian-forced-labor-scam-compounds-engaged.

Delegates might call for adopting Know-Your-Customer (KYC) protocols for crypto exchanges in the region and those serving it, a coordinated blacklist of wallet addresses used in trafficking, and greater cooperation and collaboration between national financial intelligence units and companies specializing in on-chain analysis. This would expand upon APG's (Asia/Pacific Group) current typologies work and would serve to mitigate the laundering mechanism in which stablecoins are the preferred medium for facilitating cross-border laundering of illicit funds.

This solution is arguably the most feasible, as it does not require cooperation from host states and can be implemented through major international financial bodies and exchange regulations.

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