

## **Addressing Fisheries and Human Rights Challenges in Deepsea Tuna Longline Fishery**

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### **Abstract**

The distant-water fisheries sector holds strategic significance, encompassing a country's maritime rights and interests, economic concerns, food security, resource management, and diplomatic strategies, among others. First, distant-water fisheries, like energy and mining sectors, are resource-based strategic industries. With nearshore fishery resources facing serious depletion, it is necessary for countries to fully develop and utilize high-seas resources, implementing a "resource replacement" strategy and reducing the pressure of overexploitation of nearshore resources. Secondly, distant-water fisheries have a significant stimulative effect, driving surrounding industries and contributing to job creation. Thirdly, distant-water fisheries offer opportunities for expanding diplomatic relations and fostering economic cooperation.

We observe a global trend where international fishery management and key market countries are committed to combating IUU fishing and prioritize the human rights protection for fishery workers. The trade of aquatic products has been linked to efforts to combat IUU fishing and eradicate forced labor.

In light of the growing challenges in the business environment, the distant-water tuna longline fishery aims to address industry-specific characteristics and identify viable improvement measures aligned with the ILO No.188 Convention, indicators of forced labor, and Taiwan's commitment to human rights and the rule of law. It is essential to safeguard fishing workers' rights and welfare, while also striving to foster prosperity within the industry.

In the global distant-water fisheries sector, we can enhance our competitiveness through diligence and dedication. We aspire for Taiwan to progress steadily towards sustainable fisheries practices and enhance its capacity to deliver high-quality aquatic products to markets worldwide.

### **Speaker Profile**

Han-Yu Lin is the Secretary-General of Taiwan Tuna Association (TTA), President of the Distant-Water Youth Association, and Supervisor of the Kaohsiung City Navigation Association.

During his tenure, he spearheaded the Pacific Albacore Tuna Fishery Improvement Plan, Electronic Observer Pilot Project, and Project on Seabird-scaring Lines. He helped formulate the template that records the weekly and daily work schedules for fishing vessel crews, and worked on appointing experts to revise the labor contract template for foreign fishery workers. He also worked with National Chung Cheng

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University on "Leveraging Technology to Improve Maritime Human Rights Protection and Sustainable Development: Devising Appropriate Labor Policies for a People-centered Distant-Water Fishery" and completed the signing of the "Collective Agreement on Promoting Fair Working Conditions for Seafarers and Sustainable Industry Development" with the Indonesian Fishermen's Union (SPPI). He has actively involved in writing and participating in relevant international and domestic conferences on fisher human rights to advocate for the industry.