



Taipei, December 10, 2011

On International Human Rights Day, December 10, 2011, Dr. Nguyen Dinh Thang, Executive Director of BPSOS and co-founder of Coalition to Abolish Modern-day Slavery in Asia (CAMSA), accepted the 2011 Asia Democracy and Human Rights Award from Republic of China President Ma Ying-Jeou. Below is Dr. Thang's acceptance speech.

His Excellency Ma Ying-Jeou, President of the Republic of China,  
His Excellency Wang Jyn-Ping, Chairman of the Legislative Yuan,  
Dr. Huang The-Fu, President of Taiwan Foundation for Democracy, and

Distinguished guests,

First, I would like to congratulate the Taiwanese people for the 100th anniversary of the Republic of China, an important milestone to be proud of. I would like to thank President Ma and Speaker Wang for taking time off their busy campaign schedule to be here.

We are humbled for being selected by the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy for the 2011 Asia Democracy and Human Rights Award. This humility reflects our recognition that our achievements of the past 32 years have depended on the contributions and sacrifices of so many others, including organizations, individuals and champions.

Our proudest achievement started almost seven years ago, when in early 2005 we had the privilege of hosting a delegation from the Republic of China. This joint delegation of government officials and NGO leaders came to the United States to examine our model to combat human trafficking. In return I visited Taipei later that year and have since witnessed Taiwan's emergence as a leader in the global fight against modern-day slavery.



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