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**STATE DEPT ANTI-TRAFFICKING DIRECTOR CALLS HUMAN
TRAFFICKING THE SLAVERY OF OUR TIME**

WASHINGTON, DC –The American Society of International Law (ASIL) hosted the US State Department’s Director of Monitoring and Combating Trafficking in Persons, [**Ambassador Mark P. Lagon**](#), on Wednesday, May 7, for a talk on *Closing the Window of Vulnerability: Preventing Trafficking of Migrant Laborers*.

Lagon’s speech to an audience of about 70 ASIL members, diplomatic staff, NGO representatives, and members of the press can be found at <http://www.asil.org/events/calendarmore.cfm?confid=629&URLmonth=4&URLyear=2008&CatID=0&TheType=>. (Audio that also includes a question and answer period will soon be available at this link.) The event came just weeks before the State Department’s annual Trafficking in Persons Report which ranks countries worldwide on their efforts to eliminate human trafficking.

According to the State Department, there are today 175 million migrant workers in the world, some of whom are susceptible to being lured into the trap of slave labor and sex trafficking. In his talk Lagon, who declared human trafficking “the slavery of our

time,” explored domestic law and international law as they relate to the grossest form of exploitation of migrant workers. Illustrating his points with a variety of specific case histories, he addressed the unique vulnerability of migrants to human trafficking and the necessity to employ national laws, bilateral accords, and international instruments to protect their basic human dignity.

For more information on the event, contact ASIL Director of Communications and Member Relations, Sheila Ward, at sward@asil.org.

ASIL is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, educational membership organization. It was founded in 1906, chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1950, and has held Category II Consultative Status to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations since 1993. ASIL’s mission is to foster the study of international law and to promote the establishment and maintenance of international relations on the basis of law and justice. The Society’s 4,000 members (from nearly 100 countries) comprise attorneys, academics, corporate counsel, judges, representatives of governments and nongovernmental organizations, international civil servants, students, and others interested in international law.

ASIL events, such as *Closing the Window of Vulnerability: Preventing Trafficking of Migrant Laborers*, generally deal with one of the Society’s seven thematic focal areas: Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, International Institutions, International Law and Development, International Security, Science and Technology, Trade and Investment, and Transnational Litigation and Arbitration. For more information, visit www.asil.org.