

This biannual electronic info letter from the GTZ Convention Project "Protection of Minors against Sexual Exploitation" keeps you updated on project activities and addresses a network of colleagues and professionals involved in activities to combat commercial sexual exploitation of children and young people.

Convention Project Protection of Minors against Sexual Exploitation

GTZ implements the supraregional Convention Project "Protection of Minors against Sexual Exploitation" (hereafter Convention Project) on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

By supporting the implementation of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child with regard to trafficking in children, child prostitution and child pornography in the partner countries of German development cooperation, the project makes a contribution to international responsibility for protecting children and young people. Both governmental and non-governmental institutions are supported in developing and implementing appropriate intervention models to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC).

Visit the [nochildabuse](http://nochildabuse.org) website for more information.

In This Issue

Destination Workshop on the "Code of Conduct to Protect Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism"

June 17-18, 2008 in Thailand

Preparations for the Upcoming World Congress III against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents

Working Group Report on Activities against CSEC

New Publications

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You can also download the info letters as PDF files from our [website](http://www.gtz.de).

Destination Workshop on the “Code of Conduct to Protect Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism”

June 17-18, 2008 in Thailand

To date, the international Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from sexual exploitation in Travel und Tourism (www.thecode.org) has been signed by approximately 600 tour operators, travel agencies and associations. Committed to support the protection of children against sexual exploitation in tourism, the German Travel Association (DRV), on behalf of the German tourism business, adopted the code of conduct in 2001. The code comprises several criteria, including the training and information of staff in the tourism industry.

Lessons learned so far demonstrate that the implementation of the code of conduct is most successful, if the tour operators from the sending countries cooperate with the destinations. The trainings in a holiday destination (so called destination workshop) offer a platform for an exchange of experiences between the destination countries and their tourism business partners.

On June 17-18, the DRV, ECPAT Germany and the Convention Project successfully held the 2nd multidisciplinary destination workshop on the code of conduct for the tourism industry on Phuket in Thailand. The workshop was attended by 31 participants. Representatives from German and local tourism businesses discussed the implementation of the code of conduct, law enforcement and good-practices with the aim to raise awareness and sharpen participants' perception on the issue of sexual exploitation of girls and boys in tourism and travel.



The first destination workshop took place in the Dominican Republic, in May 2006. The positive response from tourism stakeholders in the Dominican Republic was mainly a result of the interdisciplinary approach used to network with other stakeholders involved in combating commercial sexual exploitation of children. Following this approach, during this year's workshop, staff from hotels and travel-agencies came together with representatives from the Ministry of Tourism, German and Thai police investigation, the German Embassy and NGOs. Discussions and group work exercises focused mainly on possible modes of implementation of the code of conduct and how to assume



responsibility for child protection in the respective business setting. The interactive sessions were characterized by surprisingly open minded discussions. An unexpected result of the workshop was the statement of a travel agency and a hotel to join the code of conduct as soon as possible.

To make the workshop approach available to others involved in the code of conduct, the lessons learned will be reflected in IEC material which will be produced shortly, with support from the Convention Project.

Preparations for the Upcoming World Congress III against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents

Sexual exploitation of girls and boys is one of the most severe violations of children's rights. According to the UN study on violence against children, 1.8 million girls and boys worldwide are forced into prostitution and pornography. 1.2 million children are displaced and traded by traffickers. However, the overall dimension of (commercial) sexual exploitation of children and young people remains unknown due to the fact that the perpetrators usually act in secrecy and, this subject is treated as a taboo in most societies.

Following the Stockholm 1996 and Yokohama 2001 global forums, Brazil will host the World Congress III against the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents in Rio de Janeiro, to be held on 25 – 28 November 2008.



The conference committee – the hosting government of Brazil, UNICEF, ECPAT International, and the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child - broadened the scope of the 3. World Congress beyond the focus of the previous congresses on *commercial* sexual exploitation. The aim of the conference is to renew and enforce global commitment to combating sexual exploitation of children and adolescents and to galvanize international will and support for the concrete action required.

Five key themes will be addressed at the World Congress:

1. New Dimensions of Commercial Sexual Exploitation
2. Legal Frameworks and Enforcement
3. Integrated Inter-Sectoral Policies
4. Role of the Private Sector and Corporate Social Responsibility
5. Strategies for International Cooperation.

Please visit www.ecpat.net or www.iiicongressomundial.com for more information.

National Preparations

Regional and thematic expert meetings go along with the conference progress since 1996, because the discussions are based on data and research from the field, bringing the process closer to the work of implementing action on the ground. These conferences have produced regional strategies, partnerships and key interventions for tackling commercial sexual exploitation of children.

In Germany, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, UNICEF and ECPAT Germany invited experts to the national preparatory thematic consultation on “*Children Not For Sale: Protection against Sexual Exploitation*”. On June 10, 2008 experts met in Berlin to bring the protection of children against sexual exploitation to the forefront of working agendas. The conference provided a forum for discussion, joint recommendations and a working programme for the World Congress with regard to

- Prevention;
- Child Protection and Reintegration;
- Internet; and
- The Perspective of Young People.

The Berlin conference was attended by approx. 90 participants, including youth representatives. The participants agreed on goals and strategies to meet the challenges of the national action plan and came up with a set of recommendations to be addressed in Rio.

Hilde F. Johnson, UNICEF Deputy Executive Director, urgently called on the government, internet providers and the public to support the fight against CSEC.

Download:

[Speech of Hilde F. Johnson](#)

[Read the UNICEF press note.](#)

[Click here for more information about the Berlin conference and upcoming documents \(German only\).](#)

Adolescents and youth will play an important role in the preparatory meetings and in the World Congress III itself.

ECPAT Germany is organising several youth workshops across Germany to prepare for a nationwide workshop to be held on September 20 (place tbc). ECPAT cooperates with the German Federal Youth Council and other youth organisations to enable adolescents to discuss the issues that concern them. On international level, all youth participants are connected through the ECPAT International Child and Youth Advisory Committee ([EICYAC](#)).

Working Group on Activities against CSEC

[Since 2005, the "Working Group on Activities against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children" in the German development cooperation meets bi-annually to exchange information on activities and discuss current developments in Children Rights and CSEC.]

In March, the Working Group met to exchange experiences and information on the upcoming World Congress III against sexual exploitation of children and the development of a Code of Conduct to protect children from sexual violence and abuse in member organisations of VENRO.

VENRO, the Association of German development non-governmental organisations, is the umbrella body of 100 independent and church related NGOs and around 2000 regional NGO networks working in the fields of development cooperation, emergency assistance, development education, and advocacy.

VENRO is aware of the potential risk for children and youth to be abused in organisational settings. Therefore, they look at child protection as a future quality feature in German non-governmental and governmental development cooperation. In December 2007, the VENRO general meeting passed a basic principles paper on a Code of Conduct to protect children from abuse in development cooperation. In cooperation with several Working Group members and other NGOs, VENRO is drafting a Code of Conduct and appropriate strategies to increase child protection in the context of member organisations. The Code of Conduct is supposed to be available by the end of 2008.

For more information please contact:

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The German Federal Government is about to prepare a report on the implementation of the *National Plan of Action for the Protection of Children and Juveniles from Sexual Violence and Exploitation*, which has come into force in 2003. On behalf of the responsible Federal

Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, the implementation so far will be evaluated during an expert workshop to be held on June 26-27 at the German Youth Institute (DJI). The DJI is Germany's largest non-university research institute devoted to research on children, youth, and families. The aim of the workshop is to identify future national strategies in protecting minors from sexual violence and exploitation and to highlight the need for action in view of the upcoming World Congress.

Contact the DJI for more information:

Information centre child abuse and neglect

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The next working group meeting is proposed for late September 2008. Other institutions interested to participate are welcome to inform us.

New Publications

Fact sheets now Available in Spanish Language

The thematic factsheets on HIV/AIDS and the lessons learned experiences in Central America are now available in Spanish language.



Download:

[Explotación sexual comercial de menores y VIH/SIDA](#)

[Turismo y VIH/SIDA](#)

[Explotación sexual comercial de menores en Guatemala](#)

[Explotación sexual comercial de menores en Nicaragua](#)

To receive any hard copies of our fact sheets, please inform us by email to nochildabuse@gtz.de

Sympathie Magazin „Kinderrechte verstehen“ (Magazine of Understanding on Child Rights)

A recently published booklet on child rights is now available in German language. The purpose of the booklet is to sensitize the general public and to provide compiled information through reports related to CSEC and other violations of children's rights throughout the world. The document was produced in cooperation with the Institute for Tourism and Development.



“Sympathie Magazine” (“magazines of understanding”) inform about European and Non-European travel destinations with the aim to facilitate understanding for the way of life and habits of people in a host country through insights behind the touristic image, through reports about every day life, about cultural, economic, social and political phenomena. Supplementary to magazines dealing with individual countries, some magazines focus on specific issues such as religions, human rights, environment, globalisation and tourism.

For more information on the child rights booklet go to [SympathieMagazine](#) (German language only).

Law enforcement manual on commercial sexual exploitation in Guatemala

As noted in an earlier issue of this newsletter, the NGO ECPAT Guatemala implemented training workshops for Guatemalan police, migration and judiciary staff on CSEC. For a country like Guatemala, characterised by strong conservative values, openly discussing sensitive topics such as gender relations, masculinity and exposure to sexuality is a new phenomenon.

With a view to strengthening the institutional capacities of the public prosecution service of Guatemala, a joint manual is currently produced on investigative procedures and the application of the law in cases of CSEC.

Please contact ECPAT Guatemala for more information: Mrs. María Eugenia Villarreal vilareal@c.net.gt

Get Youth on Board! A toolkit for stakeholder collaboration and youth promotion

The Toolkit “Get Youth on Board!” has been developed by the GTZ project “Implementation of Children and Youth Rights”. The aim is to inform project staff working in other sectors than youth promotion on how to plan and implement activities with and for young people. The topic of commercial sexual exploitation of minors has been added to the toolkit, which offers a training manual, thematic factsheets, PowerPoint presentations, and background materials.



For more information contact Ms. [Christiane Frische](#).

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