

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](#) website for more information.

### **Nothing Good Lasts Forever**

*The Convention Project has finally reached its end and will phase out by the end of June after more than five years in operation on interventions in CSEC and prevention, capacity development, rehabilitation and responsible tourism. Read about the latest activities and developments in CSEC in this last issue of the Info letter.*

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If you do not wish to receive further messages from the Convention Project, please notify us by replying to [nochildabuse@gtz.de](mailto:nochildabuse@gtz.de) and using "unsubscribe" in the subject line.

You can also download the info letters as PDF files from our [website](#).

### National Follow Up of the World Congress III against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents

As part of ongoing efforts to develop a cohesive advocacy movement to tackle the sexual exploitation of children starting in the early 1990s and including two World Congresses against CSEC, the World Congress III against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents has been an important opportunity to renew world commitment for combating sexual exploitation of children and to galvanize international will and support for the concrete actions required.

The high media coverage, this event gained, has also led to an increased awareness of the issue of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in Germany. In consequence of the Rio process, the German Government will continue the Plan of Action on the Protection of Children and Young People from Sexual Violence and Exploitation. To lay the foundation for the ongoing progress in this field, a national conference to protect children and youth from sexual violence took place from 25.-26. March in Berlin. The event, which presented topics and recommendations to be integrated in the Plan of Action, was hosted by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ). Major topics focused on preventing online sexual violence and support of child protection measures. Some 150 participants urged for a holistic view and participatory process to develop up scaling measures in prevention, care and support.

Visit the [BMFSFJ website](#) for more information (German only).

The BMFSFJ will host to the European follow-up conference to the World Congress on 30 June 2009 in Berlin.

Germany has made many legislative changes that improve criminal law provisions and victim protection of children and young people with respect to sexual violence in 2008. According, the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography is about to

be completed and will be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

In due course the German Government will pass a new law authorising the blocking of Internet pages containing child sexual abuse images to make it harder for criminals to profit from distributing the material.

Click [here](#) for more information.

### 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.]

On May 26th, the Working Group on Activities against CSEC met for the last time. The Convention Project will actually come to its end in late June. As the Working Group has been able to conduct informal exchange with tremendous successes during the last years the idea came up that it would be wise to continue its story. To this end, the VENRO working group on Child Protection joined in the meeting in order to identify a possible common ground and keep up the good work.

The meeting focussed on the following subject: Working group presentations were facilitated by a thorough comparison prepared by VENRO. All participants agreed on the fact that it was wise to confer the knowledge base of the GTZ working group to the VENRO one, yet details need to be settled in order to establish a level playing field for all institutions involved. These will be analysed and presented in the next VENRO meeting. Closer inclusion will then be discussed. This allows for the content-based transfer of the GTZ working group issues.

Much attention was paid to the input from various conferences. Some of the members had participated in the Rio world conference III and gave in-depth reviews of their experiences. They especially mentioned the successful integration of the youth into the conference, the importance of private sector

commitment in the thematic area, and discussion on institutional child protection. Other topics raised were more connected to the European and German context regarding foremost child protection in the new media. Several current conferences cover these aspects. The Rio conference gave boost to European efforts.

Next to that, all participants received information about up-coming conferences and related events. Last but not least, the working group entered into a full-fledged discussion of the *weltwärts* programme. Child protection plays a relevant, but yet rather neglected role not only for the youth affected in projects in developing countries – but also for the youth send into these projects. A two-pronged approach should assure adequate training in Germany as well as supervision abroad.

Although the working group will soon close its doors, the participants agreed that there is a need and a commitment to keep up this network under the umbrella of VENRO.

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### Convention Project to Phase Out

On behalf of the BMZ, the Convention Project will cease its activities by mid year.

Looking back at the period from mid 2004 (when the Convention Project implementation actually started) till the end of the project, some interventions have created dynamic development processes against CSEC. To name some successful interventions of more than 22 projects at country level that are i) the psychosocial training for social workers and counsellors in Cambodia; ii) the tool kit on gender-based violence for youth in Cambodia, iii) law enforcement trainings on CSEC in Guatemala, iv) the information booklet on CSEC for youth and young women in Nicaragua; and the numerous activities to prevent CSEC in the tourism business. Professional and committed people are essential to spur and support national, regional and international strategies against

CSEC. The Convention Project has substantially contributed to develop such qualities and capacities:

- Professional exposure and training have significantly raised capacities and awareness among law enforcement staff, social workers and tourism professionals.
- Better communication between the public and private sector has been facilitated.
- Ownership and institutional achievement motivation has been established in partner organisations.

The accompanying promotion of capacity development and organizational development has firmly established the approach, reach and scope of selected in-country projects. With a view towards sustainability in many cases follow up structures have been put into place such as evaluations and follow-up projects or facilitated cooperation and funding through third parties. All this should not hide the fact that challenges for sustainability remain.

The transfer of knowledge and experience, the promotion of capacities of people and organizations has been an important element in the Convention Project. The GTZ will continue to advise the BMZ on developments and strategies against CSEC in terms of children and youth rights. For future questions regarding CSEC please refer to Ms. Bettina Silbernagel, head of the Sector Project "Implementation of Children and Youth Rights",

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For information regarding the sexual exploitation of children in tourism, please refer to Mr. Klaus Lengefeld, Sector Project "Tourism and Sustainable Development",

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The Convention Project is producing a final CD ROM with all project publications and GTZ online data on CSEC. If you are interested in receiving a copy please refer your request to [gabriele.gahn@gtz.de](mailto:gabriele.gahn@gtz.de) specifying your postal address.

The CD ROM manual on Monitoring and Evaluation of projects to combat commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) has proved successful and will be still available on enquiry. Please send your request directly to [sovaffm@t-online.de](mailto:sovaffm@t-online.de) to receive a copy.

**The Convention Project Team Dr. Gabriele Gahn and Ramona Wong-Grünwald will join GTZ projects in public health. We will, of course, still be involved in questions related to human and children rights, gender issues and aspects of sexual violence.**

**We would like to thank you for the very fruitful collaboration we have had so far and for the important results we have achieved together to combat commercial sexual exploitation of children.**

Convention Project "Protection of Minors against  
Sexual Exploitation"

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