

The Code Quarterly,

International Newsletter No.19, January – March 2009

Contributions:

1. **TheCode.org, Chair, Giorgio Berardi; Code Secretariat, Dr. Camelia Tepelus**
2. **ECPAT International, Patchareboons Sakulpitakphon**
3. **ECPAT Germany, Dr. Steffi Trankle**
4. **ECPAT Netherlands, Theo Noten**
5. **ECPAT Sweden, Helena Klingvall**
6. **South American Task Force on the Protection of Children in Tourism, Sandy Morales Herrera**
7. **ECPAT USA, Carol Smolenski and Amaya Renobales**
8. **World Childhood Foundation – Brazil, Tatiana Prado Larizzatti**
9. **Belize Travel Industry Association, Nicole Solano**
10. **FairTrade in Tourism South Africa, Sarah van Mill**
11. **ETurbo News reports on child sex tourism in South East Asia**
12. **Inter Press report on the role of airlines in international trafficking**
13. **Press release from the European Commission on improved legislation addressing child sex tourism**



EQUATIONS, SANLAAP and ECPAT International participants at the workshop presenting the Code of Conduct in Goa, India, on February 24-25, 2009.

Calendar of events March - June 2009

Date	Place	Main organizer, Event, Participation
March 8-10	Berlin	International expert meeting on combating child sex tourism, convened by ECPAT Netherlands and ECPAT Germany
March 12-13	Toledo	Council of Europe "Protection of Children in European Justice Systems"
March 13	Berlin	24 th Meeting of the UNWTO Task Force on the Protection of Children in Tourism
March 14	Berlin	Code AGM 2009
March 18-20	Bali	Southeast Asian Conference on Child Sex Tourism
June 5	tbd	Code EGM
June	Quito	Train-the-trainers course organized by the South American Task Force on the Protection of Children in Tourism
July	Vienna	Train-the-trainers organized by ECPAT Austria
Oct 8-9	Carlsbad, CA	The Global Forum on Human Trafficking hosted by the Not For Sale Campaign

INPUTS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF THIS NEWSLETTER ARE WELCOME BEFORE

June 26, 2009



The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism, an industry-driven responsible tourism initiative, in collaboration with ECPAT, co-funded by UNICEF and supported by the UNWTO.

www.thecode.org

Editor: Secretariat Coordinator, Dr. Camelia Tepelus
c/o ECPAT-USA, 157 Montague Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, USA.
Ph: +1 718 935 9192, Fax: +1 718 935 917; camelia.tepelus@thecode.org

1. Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism

- **AGM 2009, Berlin March 14**
Giorgio Berardi (ECPAT International), Code Chair

The Code.org Annual General Meeting took place on March 14, 2009 at the Novotel Berlin Am Tiergarten (kindly hosted by the Swiss Government/SECO). The Draft Statutes document circulated to the AGM - proposing a revision of the Code Swedish statutes and statutes registration in Switzerland - was extensively analyzed by the present AGM members.

As a result of the need for additional time for consultations and inputs and in light of new issues raised by the AGM members, the AGM decided on the appointment of 2 Work Groups that will further continue the efforts undertaken so far in two key areas of elaboration:

a) Fee structure

Tom Selänniemi, TOI; Marina Diotallevi, UNWTO; Jennifer Seif, FTSTA; Mechtild Maurer, ECPAT Germany; and Federico Martinez-Carrasco, Solmelia /Group Leader.

b) Structure and governance of the Code.

Jennifer Seif, FTSTA; Helena Karlen, ECPAT Sweden; Matthias Leisinger, Kuoni; Astrid Winkler, ECPAT Austria; Milena Grillo, Paniamor; Elina Fleishmann, M-Travel; Debora Dalleva, ECPAT Spain; Jim Power, SKÅL International/Group Leader .

The outcomes of the 2 Work Groups will be further processed by the Code StCom members before the end of April 2009, and consequently published on TheCode website for all members' information and feedback before an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM).

An EGM was preliminarily scheduled for June 5 2009 (date and location to be confirmed), to further decide on subsequent organizational developments.

- **Presentations at the 24th meeting of the UNWTO Task Force on the Protection of Children in Tourism, at ITB on March 13, 2009**

The 24th meeting of the UNWTO Task Force on the Protection of Children in Tourism took place at ITB on March 13, 2009.



From left to right photos: Giorgio Berardi (ECPAT International), Jasper Tautz (DRV), Fausta Borsani (TheCode.org) and Yoshihisa Togo (Japan Committee for UNICEF) addressing the UNWTO Task Force on the Protection of Children in Tourism.

Several Code StCom and ExCom members of the Code carried out presentations on different themes including: the outcomes of the World Congress III (Giorgio Berardi, ECPAT International and TheCode), the plans for the Code expansion (Fausta Borsani, TheCode), German tourism industry trainings in Bangkok (Jasper Tautz, DRV), and aspects of sexual exploitation of children in travel and cyberspace (Yoshihisa Togo, Japan Committee for UNICEF).

- **Council of Europe conference “Protection of Children in European Legal Systems”, Toledo, March 12-13, 2009**
Secretariat Coordinator, Dr. Camelia Tepelus



A presentation of the Code as an instrument of social responsibility in tourism was carried out by the Code Secretariat Dr. Camelia Tepelus at the invitation of the Council of Europe in Toledo, on March 12, 2009. The conference examined how to combat all forms of violence against children, notably through the legal framework, by enhancing the role of the private sector in the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse of children, and by developing standards for civil and criminal proceedings adapted for children. With regard to the role of the private sector in preventing sexual exploitation and abuse of children, the participants called on states to:

- Require information technology industries, in particular Internet Service Providers (ISPs), mobile phone companies and search engines to cooperate with law enforcement agencies on child pornography cases, and to inform users about the criminal sanctions related
- Oblige ISPs to retain traffic data for a fixed period of time in order to assist international investigations under judicial supervision
- Raise parents' awareness of the risks of the Internet for children, such as grooming
- **Require travel, tourism and hotel industries to join the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children in Travel and Tourism, and to inform clients in brochures, in-flight magazines and hotel rooms that they can be prosecuted for engaging in sexual activities with a child** (see Council of Europe press release 212 (2009) available at <https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1418667&Site=CM&BackColorInternet=9999CC&BackColorIntranet=FFBB55&BackColorLogged=FFAC75>)

For more information on the Council of Europe program for the promotion of children's rights and the protection of children from violence see:
http://www.coe.int/T/TransversalProjects/Children/Default_en.asp

2. ECPAT International

Patchareboon Sakulpitakphon, April 2, 2009



ECPAT International
END CHILD PROSTITUTION CHILD PORNOGRAPHY AND
TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN FOR SEXUAL PURPOSES

On February 24 -25, 2009 a training workshop was held in Goa, India on The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism (The Code of Conduct) for the ECPAT groups in India (EQUATIONS and SANLAAP), local NGOs in Goa and other interested individuals with interest on the issue so that they can support the Code of Conduct initiative in India and South Asia. The training workshop was supported by Kuoni, a signatory company of the Code of Conduct that has operations in India and is eager to see the Code of Conduct being implemented within the tourism industry in India.

This training workshop specifically introduced The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism to the participants/ECPAT groups and at the same time explained the role of ECPAT groups/NGOs working to support the initiative. The training will put ECPAT groups and participants in the position to assist the Code signatory companies by assistance in creating child protection policies and procedures, training of staff, providing information on the issue to the public/tourists and how to report cases to the authorities.

Discussions at the training also revolved around the challenges the Code of Conduct initiative may face in India and how to best move this initiative forward. In the end, this workshop was a successful start towards the Code of Conduct's implementation in India.



EQUATIONS, SANLAAP and ECPAT International participants at the workshop presenting the Code of Conduct in Goa, India, on February 24-25, 2009.

3. ECPAT Netherlands

Theo Noten, April 2, 2009

- **ECPAT Netherlands International expert meeting on combating child sex tourism**

ECPAT the Netherlands, together with ECPAT Germany organized an expert meeting on 8, 9 and 10 March 2009 about the multi stakeholder approach to combat the sexual exploitation of children in tourism. The role of tourism professionals as well as NGOs in tourism destinations and countries of origin were discussed in relation to law enforcement. More than forty participants from law enforcement agencies, NGOs and tourism businesses attended the meeting.

The sexual exploitation of children in tourism is still a large problem and probably will increase due to the economical crisis and the effect this has on developing countries. More families will become poor and more children and young people will be forced to work in the sex industry. Flight tickets and hotels become cheaper and funds to protect children from sexual exploitation will decrease. In many destination countries the combat of sexual exploitation of children has no priority. Child sex tourists go to countries where there is a small chance to be caught.

The gathering of evidence in cases of child sex tourism is extremely complex. It is important to look for other evidence than the possible statement of the victim(s), such as another witness (like a tourist), a medical examination or pornographic images (as a holiday souvenir). An interview with a victim should be done by trained law enforcement officials. There is a great need for specialized prosecutors. Cases are very time consuming and expensive when applying extraterritorial legislation. For that reason, the extraterritorial legislation should only be used as a last resort, only when suspects escape to their home land. Sending countries should help build capacity in destination countries, train local police and help financing detention costs.

Travellers (both foreign and domestic) play an important role. Travellers can be potential offenders but they can also be part of the prevention network. It is important that tourists know the risks and how to report suspicious behaviour. The travel and tourism industry has a responsibility to inform them about this. Therefore, tourist staff needs training on when, what and how to inform tourists about the sexual exploitation of children linked to tourism, which tourists and how to report offenders.

Constraints that law enforcement experiences in the combat of sexual exploitation of children, is the difference in criminal intelligence, the lack of cooperation, the lack of harmonization of age of consent, corruption within law enforcement and the judiciary and the slow flow of information at national level (from national to local police departments) and international level between police forces.

The Code of Conduct aims to make tourists and tourist personnel more aware of the problem of sexual exploitation of children in tourism. It is a concrete and measurable expression for tourism and travel companies of sustainable and responsible tourism. The Code organization at international level is currently changing its organisation and structure.

The main challenge for the Code is to find a practical way of verifying the suppliers' or key-persons' loyalty to their pledge. However, there are signs of possible interesting developments in an all-round adoption of the Code. Therefore, it is also interesting to look into whether a link with other systems is a possibility. More pressure should be put on governments, tour operators, key-persons and suppliers to sign the Code. The Code of Conduct should be included in National Action Plans in countries of destination and origin.

Local partners, such as ECPAT must fulfil a clear role in the future as national contact and information point. For the success of the Code, it is very important to have strong local partners. NGOs of North and South should exchange more information and experiences. International meetings, such as this meeting in Berlin are very good for making contacts and sharing experiences. Cooperation between the different stakeholders is essential if we want to make a difference in protecting children at risk and prosecute and convict the child sex exploiters. Although it is important to cooperate informally, it is also helpful to formalize cooperation one way or the other in Memorandum of Understanding or as in the Code.

4. ECPAT Germany

Dr. Steffi Traenkle, ECPAT Germany, March 31, 2009

The Code of Conduct promoted at the International Tourism Fair (ITB), Berlin

Every March, tourism professionals and people, who want to catch up on the most beautiful travel destinations, meet at ITB Berlin. The combination of trade exhibition, public exhibition and the biggest professional convention worldwide attracts tens of thousands of visitors, exhibitors and media representatives every year. With a total of nearly 12.000 international exhibitors, 180.000 private visitors and 111.000 trade visitors, the ITB is the world's leading tourism fair. It is obvious that the ITB is an important event for the promotion of the "Code of Conduct for the Protection Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism". Financially supported by the European Commission and co-funded by German tourism associations (Association of German Travel Association (DRV), Federation of German Tourism Industry (BTW), ECPAT Germany made the Code of Conduct visible on this year's ITB which took place from March 11-15.

This was rendered possible in the framework of the European project "Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism", which involves five ECPAT groups from Europe and six from the South and which is carried through under the lead of ECPAT Germany from 2008 to 2011 (for more information please refer to TheCode Newsletter, n°17, 2008).



ECPAT Germany Code of Conduct stand at the ITB, and panel discussion moderated by Mechtild Maurer, with contributions by Jennifer Seif (FTSA), Rosemary Viswanath (Equations) and Theo Noten (ECPAT Netherlands)

All project partners from the South were present during the ITB due to the fact that an international expert meeting on the topic of law enforcement was organized by ECPAT Netherlands and ECPAT Germany in Berlin on the eve of the tourism fair. Therefore, partners from Preda Philippines, MAIS/ECPAT Dominican Republic, Fundación Paniamor Costa Rica, Equations India, Fair Trade in Tourism South Africa and Solwodi Kenya were able to support the promotion of the Code of Conduct in meetings and lectures with public, tourism professionals and media during the ITB.

For the first time, the ITB "Corporate Social Responsibility Day" took place within the scope of the ITB Convention which presented examples of best practices as well as professional experiences of other industry sectors. Ms. Mechtild Maurer, representing ECPAT Germany, promoted the Code of Conduct on the occasion of a panel discussion with CSR experts from the industry. The discussion focused on the question whether CSR concepts in the tourism industry are only niche products ("nice to have") or whether there are best practice examples with a potential impact on the entire industry.

Steffi Traenkle, project coordinator of ECPAT Germany, invited Jennifer Seif (Fair Trade in Tourism South Africa), Rosemary Viswanath (Equations India) and Theo Noten (ECPAT Netherlands) to a panel discussion organized by Tourism Watch, a special desk of German Church Development Service (EED). The invitees pointed out the situation of CSEC in their countries to the public, tourism professionals and journalists. Theo Noten made clear that it is the responsibility of the tourism industry to implement CSR schemes such as the "Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation".

Contact for further information:

Dr. Stefanie Traenkle (project coordinator), traenkle@ecpat.de, +49 761 45 68 71 48.

5. ECPAT Sweden

Helena Klingvall, March 31, 2009

- **Brazil-Swedish seminar at Travel and Tourism Fair in Gothenburg, Sweden**

The TUR-fair is the largest annual travel and tourism fair in Scandinavia/Northern Europe and took place between the 19-22nd of March in Gothenburg, Sweden. ECPAT Sweden had a stand with information about the work against child sex tourism and what the travel industry can do through CSR and adopting the Code of Conduct.

ECPAT Sweden also arranged seminars and spoke about the work against child sex tourism done by ECPAT, the Swedish government and the travel industry from the perspective of being a sending country of tourists.



Francisco Rosário, representing the CTI/NE Foundation, Helena Klingvall, ECPAT Sweden and Enzo Avezum, head of Brazilian Tourism Office for the Scandinavian Market at the TUR-fair.



To present an example of work done in a receiving country of tourists, Brazil and the work done by EMBRATUR and the “Sustainable Tourism and Childhood” was invited to one seminar. Enzo Avezum, head of Brazilian Tourism Office for the Scandinavian Market and Francisco Rosário, Executive Director of a consultancy agency working with the CTI/NE Foundation in north-eastern Brazil presented the recent developments and the campaign “call 100” that is currently ongoing in Brazil.

- **New consumer campaign: “Are you a demanding traveller?”**

In March ECPAT Sweden launched a campaign encouraging travellers to become more demanding – through asking their tour operators or travel agencies to work against child sex tourism.

On the campaign website www.besvarlig.se the traveller will find a test giving them questions regarding the importance of travellers being active in the fight against child sex tourism.

The purpose is to reach awareness among the travellers, to increase the number of travellers reporting cases of child abuse when travelling, and to encourage travellers to ask their travel companies to incorporate child sex tourism in their work on CSR.

6. South American Task Force

Sandy Morales-Herrera, April 1, 2009



REGIONAL TASK FORCE FOR THE AMERICAS

The Regional Task Force for South America was institutionalized in October 2005 in Rio de Janeiro – Brazil, during the 1st Meeting of Ministers and High Tourism Authorities for South America. The participants from Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Surinam, Venezuela, Ecuador, Uruguay, Peru, Paraguay, Chile, Costa Rica (associated), Curacao Island (associated), Dominican Republic (associated), Mexico (associated), and Cuba (associated); and UNWTO, UNICEF; signed an agreement for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation of Children in Tourism. In this way they decided to create the Regional Task Force for South America, with the Model of the International Task Force to Protect Children in Tourism. The Ministry of Tourism of Brazil took office of the Executive Secretariat and carried out an excellent work focused on achieving regional goals until November 2008, when Ecuador was elected and now coordinates the Executive Secretariat.

The first three years, the Regional Task Force for South America has been accomplishing some activities through Tourism Governmental Bodies, International and Local Organizations, and the Tourism Business sector. These activities embrace particularly: Partnerships and Alliances, Awareness Campaigns, and Training all along the region.



Ecuador Minister of Tourism, Veronica Sion, with TheCode.org Camelia Tepelus and Lotta Sand, at the World Congress III in Rio de Janeiro, Nov. 2008; Sandy Morales Herrera at the UNWTO Task Force on the Protection of Children in Berlin, March 2009.

During the 24th meeting of the Task Force for the Protection of Children in Tourism, in Berlin –Germany, the Regional Task Force had the opportunity to report its current status of work as well as the planned activities of the Plan of Action.

Regional Plan of Action

1. Annual Regional Meeting and Minister Summit: The goal of ARM is to determine regional strategies, presenting, through roundtables, progress and setbacks in the execution of the components of the Plan of Action as well as in the Implementation of the Code of Conduct or any Instrument of Good Practices. The Minister Summit function is to define the policies to be followed by the Member Countries of the Regional Task Force.
2. Creation of a Multidisciplinary Committee of support in each country: This public and private body is to operate as a focal point in each country for Implementing and Monitoring the Components of the Plan of Action, as well as the Code of Conduct or an Instrument of Good Practices. The Ministry of Tourism of Ecuador has already launched a Committee through an Inter-ministerial Agreement.
3. International Awareness Training Program - “Training the trainers”: With the aim of building competencies at the national level, Ecuador, through its Ministry of Tourism, is organizing a regional-training of trainers program against CSECT, including the adoption of the Code of Conduct. In turn, these trainers are committed to replicate the training in their countries. This is to be held during June 2009.
4. Creation of the Website and the Forum for the Regional Task Force: The website is being created with an independent domain. However, some public and private Organizations will host a link/space on their websites. This website will be managed for the member countries, which will interact and publish information of each country.
5. Promoting the Participation of Children and Adolescents in the Regional Task Force: Involvement of minors, including victims of commercial sexual exploitation in tourism, to

give some input in finding solutions and alternatives to the problem. It is also important to encouraging the formation of networks and forums for children and adolescents as rights defenders.

6. Regional Awareness Campaign: After having analyzed the experiences in communication campaigns along the region, it is planned to produce a regional awareness campaign with a **“positive message of prevention”** to the entire region against the CSEC specifically in the travel and tourism sector. That means to disseminate the same message but the information (contacts) and images are to be adapted to each country.

We, as Regional Task Force for South America, would like to encourage Organizations from all over the world, involved in Child Protection, to join efforts, both technical and financial, at combating child-sex tourism and other forms of sexual exploitation of children. Moreover, we look forward to the adhesion of other countries of the continent (North, Central, and South America) to be one force, and being the **Regional Task Force for The Americas**.

7. ECPAT USA

Amaya Renobales (ECPAT USA – PCT Project Director based in Mexico/Cancún, Q. Roo) and Carol Smolenski, Executive Director ECPAT USA



- **ECPAT USA Activities in Cancún, Riviera Maya and Tulum (Mexico)**

On January 28th, Oasis Hotels and Resorts signed the Code. ECPAT USA Carol Smolenski visited Cancun for that purpose signing the Code with Mr. Fernando Rúa, Oasis Hotels and Resorts Director in Mexico. With this signature, the 10 Oasis hotels in Cancun and Riviera Maya join the Code.

On February 10th, 35 members of the main tourism sector union in the Quintana Roo State, the CROC, were trained by Gilberto Esponda, ECPAT USA project assistant. The 35 people trained will be trainers of the rest of more than 35,000 members of the union, as sexual exploitation of children will be included as a subject in their regular training. As part of the strong commitment showed by the Solidaridad Municipality (Riviera Maya), on February 19th and 20th. 51 municipality civil servants were also trained showing a lot of interest and concern about the issue and being very participative in the discussion. On March 13th, the staff of the Vista del Mar Hotel, from Akumal, was trained, and on March 19th, 16 members of the both signatories from Tulum Nueva Vida de Ramiro Hotel and Enchanting Group were trained.

During the week of February 23-27 Cancun and Riviera Maya were visited by the Fiscalía Especial para los Delitos de Violencia contra las Mujeres y Trata de Personas (Especial Prosecution Office for Crimes related to Violence against Women and Trafficking) to know more about the ECPAT USA Protect Children in Tourism project and the remarkable response of the private and public sector of the region. Due to the big interest shown by the Riviera Maya public and private sector the Fiscalía decided to organize its next Trafficking Conference in Riviera Maya during June 2, 3 and 4, were authorities from 6 States of the Country will attend to the newest reports, experts conferences and best practices panels, including the Code experience.

On March 25th, all authorities of Cancun gathered to discuss about their role on sexual exploitation of children, the process of the aggressor and the victim and the responsibility of each public authority at each moment. ECPAT USA conducted the meeting. The active participation of all authorities involved showed their great interest to be well coordinated and help preventing and combating the problem.

- Salvation Army conference in Chicago

On March 20, 2009, ECPAT USA staff made presentations at a conference organized by Salvation Army at the Illinois University in Chicago, attended by over 120 people. Carol Smolenski presented the results of the World Congress III, and Amaya Renobales presented the Protect Children in Tourism Project in Mexico and Belize.



ECPAT USA Amaya Renobales and Carol Smolenski, and Salvation Army Frank Massolini.

- **Association of Corporate Travel Executives (ACTE) education session addresses child exploitation**



The Association of Corporate Travel Executives (ACTE), in partnership with ECPAT-USA, will devote an education session at its upcoming Global Education Conference in Washington (April 5-7), to the issue of child sexual exploitation, its impact on business, and the measures companies can take to comply with global standards. The session is titled *"Beyond Green: Are Your CSR Efforts Going Far Enough?"* It featured Carol Smolenski, executive director of ECPAT-USA, and Amy O'Neill Richard, senior advisor to the director of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking. ■

8. World Childhood Foundation Brazil

Tatiana Prado Larizzatti, March 23, 2009



Atlantica Hotels and Childhood Brazil – the creation of a model story to advance the cause of children and adolescents in Brazil

Managing 70 hotels throughout the main cities and state capitals of Brazil, Atlantica Hotels International is the country's second largest hotel chain. For almost 11 years it has been operating on the Brazilian market and has not only been continually expanding its horizons within the hotel industry but also its responsibility to become an exemplary company in terms of quality management.

And when it comes to setting the example, Atlantica Hotels spares no efforts and initiatives to ensure the sustainable development of this sector. Based on this philosophy, in 2005, the company decided to enter into a pioneering partnership with Childhood Brasil, the Brazilian chapter of the World Childhood Foundation. Created by Her Majesty Queen Silvia of Sweden, the main purpose of this foundation is to protect children and adolescents against sexual abuse and exploitation.

As a result of this partnership, Atlantica Hotels was the first company to adopt a Code of Conduct against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents in national level. A specific manual was elaborated to train all employees, regardless of their position, rank, or status, and makes the issue an integral part of the everyday life of each hotel within the chain. Therefore, the cause has been consistently advocated not only among employees but also guests and suppliers.

Atlantica Hotels's partner companies also began to assume responsibility for preventing and supervising actions against child and adolescent exploitation under the penalty of having their contracts canceled by Atlantica if any risk to this audience was ascertained as a corporate practice.

Coordinated by Herminia Valle and a multidisciplinary team that reports to Human Resources Vice-President Dináurea Cheffins, Atlantica Hotels' Social Responsibility policy is now totally grounded on the Code of Conduct with all of its initiatives aimed at reinforcing the daily exercise of good practices for the benefit of children and adolescents by all company audiences.

At the company, the challenging step of integrating the issue into the culture of employees, guests and suppliers has already been overcome. The ongoing focus now falls on creating new attitudes to transform the country's distressful scenario of this cause: thousands of children and adolescents remain exposed to sexual exploitation situations related to tourism as well as to other forms of sexual violence. Atlantica Hotels's annual agenda includes several initiatives to generate income for Childhood Brasil's projects and programs. In 2008, these actions resulted in a total amount of 350,000 Brazilian reais and the goal for 2009 is 500,000 Brazilian reais. Therefore, when it signed The Code last November, Atlantica Hotels consolidated its best practices for the protection of children and adolescents at an international level, becoming an example of a responsible compromise to the global community as well. Fortunately, Atlantica Hotels had already been following all recommendations of The Code at that time. As the company was convinced of the worthiness of supporting the cause in its adherence to The Code, it was further able to stand up to its commitment.

9. Belize Tourism Industry Association

Nicole Solano, Executive Director March 30, 2009



Early in 2009 the new BTIA President, Dionne Miranda Chamberlain, signed on for Phase III ECPAT USA/BTIA Project to continue the work of implementing the Code of Conduct in Belize and to gain new signatories to The Code of Conduct. BTIA sub-contracted the project manager/trainer for Phase III and the work plan for Phase III was finalized in planning meeting with Amaya Renobales on March 2, 2009.



A. Renobales, N. Solano, L. Soberanis, M. Vega
BTIA Belize City March 2, 2009

During her visit, ECPAT's Amaya Renobales met with BTIA personnel and also attended the Caye Caulker BTIA Annual General Meeting on Caye Caulker on March 3, 2009. Ms. Renobales addressed the 45 participants at the pre-AGM business training and Protect Children in Tourism logo stickers were distributed to all.

On the invitation of Professor Lawrence Sticca, M.A. tourism instructor, BTIA arranged for a CSEC trainer to give a presentation on The Code of Conduct to the tourism class at Galen University on March 18, 2009.



A. Renobales ECPAT USA and D. Miranda C., BTIA President meeting with Caye Caulker BTIA members. Community Center Caye Caulker, Belize March 3, 2009



This lecture to seven students was delivered by Mr. Raymond Mossiah who also distributed The Code booklets and Protect the Children logo stickers.

While in the Cayo District, Mr.

Mossiah did a brief intro of the topic with video clips to 24 Std. 6 students at Santa Familia Primary School. BTIA's Protect the Children project manager continues to fulfil requests for information and presentations in collaboration with other agencies. In the first quarter, queries have been fulfilled for BTB, Galen University, ILO, the tourism private sector and a couple teachers. Upcoming for the next quarter is BTIA's full drive for training delivery and gaining new signatories to The Code of Conduct.

10. Fair Trade in Tourism, South Africa

Sarah van Mill, March 30, 2009



Molo Songololo, a South African non profit organisation that focuses on children's rights issues and education, conducted in 2008 a rapid assessment of the suspected impact of the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ on the abuse, exploitation and trafficking of children. The report found that trafficking in persons is an existing concern in the SADC region and that the current vulnerability of children in South Africa puts them at increased risk of exploitation during this mega-event.

As one way of addressing this, South African stakeholders, led by Fair Trade in Tourism South Africa (FTTSA), have agreed to launch The Code during the run-up to the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

Implementation of The Code will include a media campaign as well as the provision of training materials to the hospitality and tourism sector. Fair Trade in Tourism South Africa is collaborating with a variety of organisations and government bodies in this regard, including the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Molo Songololo, Child Welfare South Africa and the Department of Social Development. These organisations provided input on the Department of Social Development's draft strategy for the prevention of child exploitation and their action plan for the 2009 Confederation Cup and the 2010 FIFA World Cup™, which specifically refers to the importance of The Code. The action plan will ensure an effective, efficient and integrated child protection strategy.

Despite efforts to curb the crime rights groups say child sex abuse rampant in tourism industry

BY MONSTERSANDCRITICS.COM | MAR 19, 2009

Sexual exploitation of children in the tourism industry is rampant in southeast Asia despite efforts to curb the crime, child-protection groups said on Wednesday. In Indonesia, child sex



Image via cor.org

tourism is a major problem on the resort islands of Bali and Batam, said Irwanto, chairman of the National Coalition against Sexual Exploitation of Children. "If we ignore the problem, Bali's tourism industry could be threatened, because it would be associated with child sex tourism," Irwanto told an international conference. A researcher for the coalition, who declined to be identified, said Bali had become a haven for international pedophile rings. "They travel around Bali to look for poor children as their targets in areas such as Karangasem," the researcher said.

Irwanto said poverty was one of the reasons children were lured into prostitution. "In some case[s], children could be lured into sexual exploitation by enticing them with mobile phones, a nice house, and other facilities," he said.

Frans van Dijk, director of Terre des Hommes, a Geneva-based child rights group, said between 50,000 and 60,000 children were exploited as sex workers in southeast Asia. "It is a crime that scares almost every country and has grown into a multi-billion [dollar] international business, despite encouraging and positive steps taken by various governments in terms of legislation to protect children from sexual exploitation," van Dijk said.

Even in west European countries, North America, and Australia, perpetrators are very seldom brought to court, he said. A court in Bali last month sentenced an Australian man, Philip Robert Grandfield, to eight years in prison for having sex with boys. He was one of several Australians to have been arrested in Indonesia in recent years for pedophilia. Human rights activists said Australian pedophile rings had infiltrated Bali using the pretense of adopting or fostering impoverished children. They said Australians were also involved in the trafficking of Indonesian children for sex to foreign countries, including Australia.

Source: <http://www.eturbonews.com/8342/rights-groups-say-child-sex-abuse-rampant-tourism-industry>

Child sex tourism under siege in Southeast Asia

BY NELSON ALCANTARA | MAR 23, 2009

The three-day Southeast Asia Conference on Child Sex Tourism ended on Friday, March 20, 2009 in Bali, Indonesia with a declaration by 205 participants identifying the current challenges and a plan of action towards approaching governments in members' states from the Association of Southeast Asian (ASEAN) region, as well as the private sector and the general public.



In a written statement, participants declared: "We, representatives from governments, non-governmental organizations, human rights institutions, the private sector, law enforcement and legal community, researchers, academics, civil society, and children, have gathered together in Bali, Indonesia at the Southeast Asian Conference on Child Sex Tourism. We have reviewed the progress of the steps taken by governments in the region in addressing the child sex tourism."

Participants also said: "We commend many local, national, and regional efforts to promote the rights of the child and to combat child sex tourism. However, we witness an increasing incidence of this crime against children. We urge all sectors of society, particularly the ASEAN member states, to immediately

escalate action to protect children and prosecute offenders. We recognize the importance of regional and international cooperation to ensure offenders are brought to justice.” In the document titled, “Bali Commitment and Recommendation,” participants recognized that one of the most prominent challenges facing child sex tourism in the ASEAN region is poverty. The participants were unanimous in their belief that “poverty remains a root cause of child sex tourism.” Other factors include limited access to education, gender relations, and weak law enforcement capacity. Technological advances, in particular the pervasiveness of the Internet and child abusive images, have contributed to the current magnitude of the sexual exploitation of children.

In addition, participants also felt that there is no international agreement on the term “child sex tourism.” They agreed that some tourism stakeholders are concerned about the possible undesirable effect on the tourism industry. “Moreover, the term may not accurately capture the phenomenon, as long-term visitors, foreign residents, and domestic travelers are increasingly committing this crime,” participants said. “An alternative term used by law enforcers is ‘traveling child sex offenders.’” Delegates also said they believe the current economic crisis will increase children’s vulnerability to child sex tourism, and that there are some inconsistencies between customary law and state law, in particular in the context of consent to marriage. “While all ASEAN member states are state parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), not all national legislation is compatible with the obligations of the CRC,” participants claimed. They added that offenders are increasingly traveling to remote communities and using alternative accommodation (such as home-stays). “Education and awareness in these areas is very limited.” According to the delegates, there is limited coordination and collaboration across different government agencies and also between civil organizations, and that there is limited engagement and support by the private sector in efforts to combat child sex tourism.

In issuing the aforementioned challenges, the 205 participants from 17 countries called on governments and the private sectors, as well as civil society in the ASEAN region to help combat child sex tourism. In their joint statement, participants said:

“We call on ASEAN member states to ratify the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography, if they have not already done so; enforce legislation to prosecute child sex offenders and where relevant, collaborate regionally and internationally to ensure successful prosecution; harmonize national legislation with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and where relevant, to consult with the religious leaders to resolve inconsistencies between customary and state law; enhance technical support for law enforcers, such as prosecutors and judiciary; address root causes of child sex tourism, including by ensuring that every child has equal access to education; initiate or enhance further inter-sectoral collaboration and cooperation to protect children from child sex tourism; meet annually in a regional forum to monitor the implementation of actions to protect children; support and implement The South East Asian Plan – A Sustainable Regional Response to Preventing the Sexual Exploitation of Children in Tourism (2009-2013); enhance mechanisms for child protection, including recovery, reintegration, and compensation for children affected by child sex tourism; promote and provide opportunities for active participation of children in responding to child sex tourism; and develop curriculum on sex education and reproductive rights for children in school.”

They added:

“We call on the private sector to increase their efforts to protect children from child sex tourism; produce and display education materials to raise awareness and empower children to protect themselves from child sex tourism; and sensitize clients and customers to understand their roles and responsibilities to protect children and specifically for Internet providers, to establish an Internet-based reporting mechanism.”

And finally, the 205 participants jointly said:

“We call on civil society and international agencies to strengthen collaboration and coordination to ensure effectiveness of activities and programs to protect children and prevent child sex tourism; and participate in the process of the ASEAN Charter to ensure the protection of children and promotion of a caring society.”

The three-day event was held under the auspices of End Child Prostitution Pornography and Trafficking (ECPAT), which is an organization that has been at the forefront in fighting child sex tourism. Visit the group’s website at www.ecpat.net to learn more about their latest efforts. (Dwi Yani contributed to this report.)

Source: <http://www.eturbonews.com/8401/child-sex-tourism-under-siege-southeast-asia>

12. Inter Press Service

LABOUR-ASIA: Airlines Turn Modern Day Slavers

By Marwaan Macan-Markar

BANGKOK, Feb 16 (IPS) - The presence of East Asian human trafficking victims in places as far-removed as Southern Africa and Central and South America confirm the ease with which modern merchants of slavery exploit international air travel.

This geographic spread makes East Asian victims stand out when compared with victims from other corners of the planet, according to a report released Friday by the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC). "East Asia was the region of origin of victims trafficked to the widest range of destinations," revealed the 'Global Report on Trafficking in Persons', described by the U.N. agency as its first comprehensive report on criminal justice statistics related to human trafficking across the world. "Victims from West Africa may frequently be detected in a few specific countries but are not found elsewhere, as opposed to East Asian victims that may be detected less frequently but are found in more countries," the report states. "East Asian victims were detected in many regions, including Western and Central Europe, North America, the Middle East, Afghanistan, Southern Africa, and, of course, East Asia and the Pacific," the report states. "East Asian victims were also detected in Central America (El Salvador), South America (Venezuela) and Central Africa (Gabon)."

"Outside Asia, East Asians represented a significant proportion of the victims detected in South Africa (Thai victims), the United States (41 percent of the victims detected in 2007 were East Asians) and in a few European countries (Chinese victims in Belgium)," the report states. "The trafficking routes coming out of East Asia appeared to be the most diverse," it adds.

In the majority of cases the victims are tricked into travelling voluntarily on airlines, says Christopher Lowenstein-Lom, spokesperson for the Asia-Pacific regional office of the International Organisation of Migration (IOM). "The traffickers promise them non-existent jobs in the foreign countries, secure the tickets, passports and the travel documents for the journey." "It is only on arrival that the victims realise that they've been trafficked into a coercive situation of gross exploitation, slavery," he explained in an interview. "And (they) can't escape because of the threat of violence, isolation, no common language, no papers and no money."

Identifying such victims at airports or on airlines is difficult, "because they still believe that they were going to legitimate, well paid jobs," adds the official of the U.N. agency that has been trying to raise awareness of this scourge through information campaigns that focus on transport hubs, including airports. Compounding that challenge is the weakness within the airline sector, where some international carriers from poorer Asian and African countries are known to be lax in scrutinising the passengers, says an airline industry source who spoke on condition of anonymity. "The traffickers know which airlines are not that strict and can be used to ferry their human cargo without many problems." Airports across the region also offer openings as a supply route for this modern form of slavery, the source added. "Easy visa regulations to fly into some airports have made them transit points. In some airports, the guard is down when people check-in as a group."

"The loopholes are so amazing; they are unstoppable," adds Imtiaz Muqbil, executive editor of the 'Travel Impact News Wire,' a regional travel-industry media outlet. "You need to examine the whole chain from departure to where the victims end to realise the gaps that make trafficking possible." Yet Muqbil confirmed in an interview that this disturbing side of air travel is being addressed by the industry. "The airlines are aware about the problem. They know what is going on and it is being discussed at internal meetings. Some airlines have more rigorous checks of passengers."

According to the UNODC report, most of the human trafficking victims from East Asia are women and girls, and often "for the purpose of sexual exploitation". Cases of human trafficking for forced labour were also detected. Consequently, "trafficking for sexual exploitation has been a prominent focus of legislation (in East Asia and the Pacific," states the 292-page report. "As of November 2008, the Republic of South Korea, Singapore and Vietnam had specific provisions on trafficking in persons solely addressing sexual exploitation."

But regional efforts have still been unable to curb another feature of the human-trafficking chain where the region stands out - there are a growing number of women, identified as offenders, who draw their compatriots and trap them into a life of misery abroad. "The role of female offenders appears to be predominant in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region and very significant in other regions of the world, such as East Asia and the Pacific, and Central America and the Caribbean," adds the report.

"Airlines can help stop this trade," says Lowenstein-Lom of IOM. "They are now expected to look at people's documents more closely. It wouldn't do any harm if they looked for potential victims." But ultimately, "the gatekeepers are the immigration officers at all airports where the victims pass through," he added. "(There is a) training focus on immigration and law enforcement officials, who can ask to see employment contracts, ask questions and hopefully identify potential victims."

Source: <http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=45780>

13. EU Comission

The EU Commission cracks down on modern slavery and child sexual abuse

IP/09/472 ; Brussels, 25 March 2009



The European Commission has today adopted two proposals for new rules to step up the fight against trafficking in human beings and child sexual abuse, sexual exploitation and child pornography. These new proposals replace existing legislation which has been in place since respectively 2002 and 2004. The new proposals will guarantee full alignment with the highest European standards, provide better assistance for victims and tougher action against criminals responsible for child sexual abuse and trafficking. The proposals also deal with the rapidly changing technologies in the cyberspace.

Vice President Barrot, in charge of Justice, Freedom and Security said : "We want to build an EU that is truly able to protect the most vulnerable citizens against the most terrible crimes. When we say trafficking in human beings we are talking about women and girls reduced to sexual slavery, children beaten and mistreated, forced to beg and to steal, young adults compelled to work in appalling conditions for hunger wages. When we speak about child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation, we are speaking about horrendous crimes against children that leave deep scars and suffering for their whole lives."

Key facts and figures

According to International Labour Organisation globally 1.225 million people are trafficked transnationally or within their own countries. Most victims of trafficking are exploited for prostitution (43%) or for labour (32%). Regarding forced commercial sexual exploitation, an overwhelming majority (98%) are women and girls. It is reasonable to estimate from the available figures that several hundred thousand people are trafficked into the EU or within the EU every year. Studies suggest that a significant minority of children in Europe, between 10% and 20% as an informed scientific estimate, will be sexually assaulted during their childhood. In 2008 more than 1000 commercial and about 500 non-commercial child abuse content websites were found, of which 71% in the US. It is estimated that about 20% of child porn websites are non-commercial (mostly Peer-to-Peer (P2P)). It is estimated that some 20% of sex offenders on average (with big differences between different profiles of offenders) go on to commit new offences after conviction.

The new proposals

The two proposals for Council Framework Decisions would oblige EU countries to act on the three fronts of prosecuting criminals, protecting victims and preventing the offences.

The proposal to **fight trafficking in human beings** approximates national legislations and penalties, makes sure that offenders are brought to justice even if they commit crimes abroad. It will allow police to use phone tapping, eavesdropping and other similar tools used to fight organised crime. Victims will receive accommodation and medical care and if necessary police protection so that they recover from their plight and are not afraid to testify against their perpetrators. They will be protected from further traumatisation during criminal proceedings, deriving for example from probing questions about the experience related to their forced sexual exploitation. Victims will receive free legal aid throughout the proceedings

including for the purpose of claiming financial compensation. The proposal encourages sanctions against clients of people forced to offer sexual services and against employers exploiting trafficked people. The proposal also establishes independent bodies to monitor implementation of these actions.

The proposal to **fight the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children** makes it easier to punish those who abuse children by providing criminal sanctions for new forms of abuse like 'grooming' - luring children through internet and abusing them, viewing child pornography without downloading files or making children pose sexually in front of webcams. **"Sex tourists" travelling abroad to abuse children will face prosecution when they come home. Child victims will be able to testify without having to face the offender at court to spare them from additional trauma and will be helped by a free lawyer.** Every offender should be assessed individually and have access to tailor made treatment so that they don't abuse again. The prohibitions from activities involving contact with children imposed on offenders should be effective not just in the country where they were convicted but across the EU. Systems to block access to websites containing child pornography will be developed

The proposals will be discussed in the EU Council of Ministers and once approved should be translated into national legislations. VP Barrot concluded: "Our message is clear. These crimes which know no borders are unacceptable. Europe will continue to set the highest and most ambitious standards in fighting them".

Sources :

http://ec.europa.eu/news/justice/090325_1_en.htm

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/472&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

THANK YOU!
INPUTS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF THIS NEWSLETTER ARE WELCOME BY
Friday, June 24, 2009