

The Code Quarterly

International Newsletter No. 20, April - June 2009

Contributions:

1. **The Tourism Child Protection Code of Conduct,**
Secretariat, Dr. Camelia Tepelus
2. **Kuoni and Equations (India)**
3. **ECPAT International, Marco Sotelo**
4. **ECPAT Austria, Astrid Winkler**
5. **ACIM/ECPAT Spain, Debora D'Alleva**
6. **Fair Trade in Tourism South Africa, Sarah van Mill**
7. **ChildWise (ECPAT Australia), Anneka Farrington,**
Afroz Kaviani Johnson
8. **ECPAT USA, Carol Smolenski**
9. **Belize Tourism Industry Association, Maria Vega**



Image from the International Train of Trainers' Course organized by the Ecuador Ministry of Tourism, 16-18 June, 2009, Quito. (Photo, M.Sotelo) For more information see
http://www.turismo.gov.ec/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1114&Itemid=&Itemid=43.



The Rio de Janeiro Declaration and Call for Action to Prevent and Stop Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents

now available

<http://www.ecpat.net/WorldCongressIII/index.php>

Calendar of events June - Sept 2009

Date	Place	Main organizer, Event, Participation
June 5	Madrid	Code EGM
June 16-18	Quito	Train-the-trainers course organized by the South American Task Force on the Protection of Children in Tourism
June 22-25	Manila	US Department of Homeland Security training conference on Forced Labor, Child Sex Tourism and Trafficking
July 9-11	Vienna	European Train-the-trainers seminar: The Protection of Children from sexual exploitation in travel and tourism – best practice, challenges and discussion of new tools (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
September 25, 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

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We protect
children from
sex tourism.

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

• EGM 2009, Madrid, June 5

In following the analysis of proposals of statutory changes undertaken at the Annual General Meeting on March 14, 2009 in Berlin, on June 5 an Extraordinary General Meeting took place in Madrid, generously hosted by Meliá Hotels. The EGM reached agreement on a revised statute of the organization, approving the following resolutions:

1. Activity and financial statements of 2008 approved and ExCom released from responsibility.
2. A revised Statutes document was approved for the Code international organisation, based on the presented draft, with several further amendments, notably:
 - Consolidation of the StCom and ExCom bodies into a single body to be called Board of Directors, to be elected at the AGM 2010 (ExCom Motion).
 - Redefinition of membership and fees proposal for tourism industry members (50/300/800Euro), etc.

The Code Chair Giorgio Berardi/ ECPAT International and StCom member Jim Power/SKÅL International will coordinate the final editing of the document, starting from the reference document provided by the AGM-appointed working groups, and revising it in light of the approved ExCom Motions A, B and C and additional inputs as specified in the EGM Minutes.

The revised EGM 2009 Statutes should enter into force on September 1, 2009.

Information from the Secretariat to members on the new Statutes will be distributed and made available on the website, together with request to re-confirm membership, so that a clear evidence of membership be available for realistic budgeting of income expected from membership fees in 2010.

3. Name of the organisation was decided to remain formally *"The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism"*, with the colloquial short-name as the tourism *"Child-Protection Code"* to be used instead of TheCode.org, when referring to the Code of Conduct as a child protection tool in tourism.
4. Copyrights registration – with regards to copyrights and name registration as informed by ECPAT Sweden ('The ECPAT Code of Conduct...'), legal expertise will be requested to assess the international implications of the Swedish name registration and the need for further action (ECPAT Sweden to provide copies of the copyright application documents).

• US Department of Homeland Security Training on Forced Labor, Child Sex Tourism and Trafficking, Manila, June 22-25, 2009

At the invitation of the US Department of Homeland Security, the Code Secretariat Coordinator delivered a presentation on the Tourism Child-Protection Code in Manila, The Philippines. Afrooz Kaviani Johnson of ChildWise Australia has also delivered a presentation of the ASEAN project on travelling sex offenders in the region. The conference audience was composed of US Immigration and Customs Enforcement foreign attachés posted in Asia and the Middle East, and several government officials from the region.

2. Kuoni Holding and Equations (India)



Information provided by ECPAT International, Giorgio Berardi

Workshops on child protection organized by Kuoni Travel Holding Ltd.

From 25th to 26th May 2009 at Sun and Sand Hotel and Majorda Beach Resort, Goa and 28th May at Casino Hotel, Cochin, Kerala

In May 2009, for the first time a series of workshops has taken place in India at Goa and Kerala, facilitated and organized by Kuoni Group in close collaboration with Equations of India. In total, 145 representatives of the tourism industry, NGOs and governmental institutions participated in the three workshops. The expertise of the panel speakers as well as the active contribution of the participants contributed largely to the lively discussions and the success of the workshop. The workshops are only a starting point in the action against child sex tourism. The hotel partners of Kuoni are encouraged to continue implementing preventive measures against sexual exploitation of children within the tourism industry.

Aims of the Workshop were:

- To sensitize the partners in India on the issues of increasing child sex tourism.
- To raise awareness and exchange knowledge amongst partners on the fight against the sexual abuse of children in tourism.
- To describe and discuss prevention measures for hotels for protection of children from sexual exploitation.
- Encourage Kuoni Partners to become signatory companies to "the Code"
- To encourage tourism industry to work together with Civil Society organisations and law enforcing agencies to combat child-sex tourism.

Participants & Panel

There were 65 participants from tourism industry from North and South Goa and 80 participants from tourism industry from all tourism destinations in Kerala. The participants were from diverse group comprising of GMs and senior managers from various departments such as accounting, front office, security, human resources, sales & marketing, housekeeping and administration. Furthermore, we had members from the Travel and Tourism Association of Goa, tour guides and SITA, the Kuoni destination management agency in India, attending.

The workshops were facilitated by a representative from Kuoni Group headquarters in Zurich. Speaker on the panel included representatives from the NGOs Equations and Child Rights Goa as well as a representative from M-Travel Switzerland. There was also the deputy director of Department of Tourism Goa and the dept. Superintendent of Goa Police Department speaking to the participants. Additionally, we had the Assistant Commissioner of Police speaking to participants in Cochin.

The introductory session of the workshop focuses on explaining and sharing of Kuoni's Corporate Social Responsibility. Kuoni is taking action by sensitizing its customers on the ethical requirements in Kuoni's contractual terms. Through Kuoni's contracts, hotel partners commit to respect its "ethical requirement which state among other social and environmental issues that:

- No child prostitution will be allowed or tolerated at the supplier's facilities
- Any suspicious behavior from guests will be reported to the relevant local authorities

During the introduction, a case study on child sex tourism which was aired in the Swiss media was shown. The Swiss television journalist tested the reaction of hotel staff in Thailand with hidden cameras, when the journalist asked for a child or brought a child into the hotel lobby with him.

The second session of the workshop was to explain the issue of child sex tourism & The Code of conduct for protection of children from sexual exploitation in travel and tourism. There is a growing risk of children in the form of child abuse, child trafficking, child prostitution, child pornography and child sex tourism all these increase the vulnerability to drugs, crimes, HIV/AIDS. Children get alienated from communities and families due to increase in these forms of child exploitation. The tourism industry and services get misused for sexual exploitation of children. Child sex tourism also often grows along with the increase of

tourism activities in a destination. The presentation also highlighted the prominent sites, areas and various forms of accommodation where children are exploited.

In this session, also information about the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism was given. The Code serves as a tourism industry tool to protect children. Six criteria which need to be adopted for signing the Code as a tourism business:

- Establishment of an ethical policy regarding commercial sexual exploitation of children
- Training of employees
- Introduction of a clause in contracts with service providers/suppliers stating a common repudiation of commercial sexual exploitation of children
- Provision of information to travellers by means of brochures, home pages, etc
- Information provision on the Code of Conduct and the company's policy in this regard to "local key persons" at the destinations
- Annual reporting on the level of implementation of the Code of Conduct for the protection of children from sexual exploitation in travel and tourism.

As part of this session, legal issues and case studies were discussed. The implementation of Goa Children's Act was explained and the Child Friendly Tourism Code for Goa presented to the participants. Although numerous cases have come to be known in India, only three travelling sex offenders have been actually convicted. In the third session, we had lively discussions about the issue, including statements from various departments. Some of the issues discussed are stated below ('response from the participants').

In our final session after lunch, we elaborated the role of the tourism industry. The representative from the NGO and Kuoni highlighted the unique position of the tourism industry to inform and raise awareness among the target groups and proactively becoming part of the prevention system against child sex tourism. In group work, all participants developed practical measures for child protection that can be implemented within the hotel operations.

Response from the participants

- Some participants acknowledge that child sex tourism is an issue in Goa and Kerala and might become a more severe issue if no action is taken.
- The representatives shared that they have come across few cases of child sexual abuse but not in their hotel and in most cases they did not know how to react to it.
- The participants also shared that few guest have enquired to bring children to the hotels, but these hotels were very careful of not doing the same. In most of the cases, they have known of children being abused in the beach areas. One of the representatives from Kovalam, Kerala mentioned that child sex tourism is very common and very much happening in Kovalam.
- The tour guides also shared their experience in tackling the guest without losing their clients.
- Some participants stressed the fact that constraint action of government, police, NGOs and the private sector is necessary to combat sexual exploitation of children.
- The workshop is seen as a starting point – many participants confirm that concrete prevention measures have to be implemented within hotel operations.

Ideas for way ahead

This is a good first initiative which Kuoni has taken together with Equations and its partner hotels. It is important and essential that we all work together to take this initiative forward. Kuoni expects its hotel partners to implement clear and concrete prevention measures against child sex tourism within the hotel operations. Furthermore, Kuoni encourages its hotel partners to become a signatory of the Code (www.thecode.org). To continue action against child sex tourism, similar awareness meeting with all the stakeholders including tourism industry, tourism department officials, judiciary, law enforcement officials, child protection agencies and departments and Civil Society Organizations could be organised. Child sex tourism can be prevented if we all work together in a coordinated, collaborated and in cooperated matter.

For further information:

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

3. ECPAT International

Marco Sotelo, Regional Associate for the Americas, June 27, 2009

Report on the training course organized by the Regional Task Force for the Americas on the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism, convened and hosted by the Ministry of Tourism of Ecuador, June 16-19, 2009



**Grupo de acción regional
de las Américas**

Protejamos a las niñas y niños de la explotación en viajes y turismo.

A Regional Course for Training of Trainers, was organized by the Regional Task Force against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism on June 16-19, 2009. The Technical Secretariat for the Task Force is currently in the hands of the Ecuadorian government, specifically the Ministry of Tourism, who is in charge of the organization and preparation of the regional course, attended by representatives of the Tourism Authorities, civil society, and the private sector from the invited countries. The purpose of the course was to provide clear informative tools concerning the problem of Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents in Travel and Tourism and how to fight it, by standardizing criteria and concepts among the countries of the region.

ECPAT International has been invited to participate in the course to facilitate the following parts of the program: The Code of Conduct and the role of private businesses, as well as international successful experiences, all presented by Marco Sotelo, the Regional Associate for the Americas.

Several aspects related to the Code possible expansion in South America have generated more intensive discussions, including:

- a) The payment for the training and follow-up services from the local partner, which can be an ECPAT group or not.
- b) How small companies and small hostels or the non-formal sector can assume The Code. This corresponds to the "new strategy" of The Code, but is not covered in the toolkit. It was explained that The Code is flexible and it is possible to do a sort of adaptation of its clauses depending on the type of company. It was also explained that not necessarily all the clauses of The Code apply to any company.
- c) Application of the clause about the contract with suppliers: the question of the participants was about the degree/level of evidence needed to terminate the contracts. In other words, if there is a supplier that has been involved in acts of sexual exploitation, what kind of support is needed by the signatory of the Code in order to terminate the contract? It is enough a police complaint, a journalistic complaint or the mere suspicion?
- d) The issue of the "fees" for membership of The Code was not discussed.
- e) The role of the local partner of The Code was another controversial aspect: It was explained that historically ECPAT groups had taken this role, but they do not have to be necessarily. Any other organization with experience and knowledge necessary on CSEC and CST could play this role of "local partner". However, doubts emerged about who choose the Organization, if it may have to be a group of organizations, if it can be done by consultants, etc. It was noted that the company must have confidence in the local organization, that no matter if they are many or only one which have recognition of work in the subject.



Marco Sotelo, presentation on the prevention of child sex tourism and the Code of Conduct

The fact that this course has trained future "trainers" who will support the implementation of The Code could be an obstacle in the fact that countries and companies try to identify NGOs as "local partners". However, trainers are clear that their role is to promote the advantages of The Code and not necessarily to assist in its implementation. In all cases, they realized that the "classic outline" of The Code requires a local organization to give sustainability to the process.

Following the training course, an internal meeting of the Regional Action Group against CSEC in Tourism also took place. The meeting aimed to review progress of countries in preventing and combating the CSEC associated with travel and tourism.

- A) The countries, mainly tourism authorities described the activities they are doing in their respective countries for the prevention and combat of CSEC associated with travel and tourism.
- B) In Colombia and Peru it is being planned the development of an on-line course in order to enable all tourism companies on the issues regarding CST and The Code. The On-Line Course issues a certificate automatically. It is thought that this course would accomplish the Clause 2 of the Code which affirms the need to train all staff of the company and thus could meet the training needs of any company.
- C) In the case of Colombia, it has been established a Code of conduct established by law, which provides some of the clauses of "The Code", but also other completely different. What the Ministry of Tourism considers to do in Colombia is to implement this mandatory code, but at the same time promote actively "The Code" as a tool with international recognition. The obligatory code would have a national recognition, but companies that will subscribe "The Code" will have an international profile. For effects of planning how these implementations will be done, in Bogota and Cartagena, it is had thought to organize work meetings with the Private Sector and the Government in the month of September of this year, for which they have requested advice to ECPAT.
- D) A further update in Colombia is that Parliament has just approved the law that defines the User-Client of CSEC, which is a very important step forward in the law of this country. Only there is absent the ratification of the President of the Republic.
- E) ECPAT International is committed to providing advice about the process of re-alignment of the Code of Conduct which was signed in Peru (which stayed only in as a mere signature of good will). This "Peruvian Code" needs to be adapted to the international "The Code" and the Peruvian companies need to know and follow the corresponding procedure before the Secretariat in New York. For this, we could count on the support of the NGO CHS-Alternativo which is working with us as part of the future "Red" in Peru and has also participated in the Regional Course, so we would have a good support of a local partner to implement The Code.

Several final conclusions may be drawn from this event: the Code as an institution should clarify the controversial and contentious issues identified by the participants; it is urgent and necessary to plan a training process of ECPAT groups in Latin America about The Code and its implementation in order to have "local partners" in the countries of the region; ECPAT International should continue to advise and monitor the Tourism Authorities of Latin America regarding their role as promoters of The Code.

4. ECPAT Austria

Astrid Winkler, July 6, 2009

Respect, in cooperation with ECPAT Austria, is organizing a 2-day international Train-of-Trainer Meeting on the topic of prevention of sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism, from 9-11 July 2009 in Vienna. This meeting is convened in the framework of the project "Offenders Beware" which is coordinated by ECPAT Germany in cooperation with 4 other ECPAT partners and supported by the European Commission and other national donors like in Austria the Federal Ministry for Economy, Family and Youth and the Austrian Development Cooperation.

The ToT is focusing on sharing experiences, capacity building and presenting new tools in the field of training delivered to and in cooperation with the tourism sector. The highlight of the meeting will be the presentation of the new E-Learning tool which was developed under the auspices of ECPAT Germany.

Project consortium partners are: ECPAT Germany (Project coordinator); ECPAT Netherlands; ECPAT Italy; Tartu Child Support Center, Estonia; Respect, Austria, in cooperation with ECPAT Austria. Furthermore, five south partner countries are involved in the project.

Astrid Winkler, Project coordinator "Offenders Beware" for Austria (winkler@ecpat.at)



5. ACIM/ ECPAT España

Debora D'Alleva, June 30, 2009



Updates from ACIM Ecpat Spain on the Code implementation and protection of children from sex tourism

ACIM - Ecpat Spain participated this year to both the meetings of the Code AGM. The first one held in Berlin in March 2009 and the last one held in Madrid at the beginning of June as an Extraordinary meeting to discuss, revise and approve the Proposed Revised Statutes of TheCode organization, process that was already started during the AGM of Berlin.

Ecpat Spain participated actively to these meetings with two members, Debora D'Alleva and the Vice President Ana Sebastian, proposing Madrid as the possible venue for the second reunion thanks to the collaboration of Solmelià Hotels&Resorts, one of the three Spanish signatory companies. During this important meeting Ecpat Spain had the possibility to get in touch again with Accor Group who facilitate us the new contact in Accor Spain that might sign and implement the Code in Spain within 2010.

During the two months and half that separated the 2 meetings of the Code Organization, ACIM – Ecpat Spain went on being pro-active in its action of training in schools, master and university of tourism about the issue of fighting and preventing child sex tourism. In this contest Debora D'Alleva, as the official of the program against commercial sexual exploitation of children in ACIM Ecpat Spain, organized and led on the 27th of April a training session about “Tourism and Children Rights: the Code of Conduct for the protection of children from the sexual exploitation in Travel and Tourism” in the Tourism University of Girona (the second city of Catalonia Community after Barcelona). This training day was shaped and structured according to the Publication of Ecpat: **“Protecting Children from Sexual Exploitation in Tourism: An ECPAT Training Resource Kit”**.

The training session was welcomed by everyone (teacher and almost 50 students) and was hold in high esteem as an adding value to the formal education that these students receive in the field of tourism. The aim of ACIM- Ecpat Spain is to be able to spread this training session to more than one Catalanian university in the next months just to train and sensitize the future professionals that will enter the tourist sector about the necessity of protecting children from sexual tourism.

At the same time ACIM - Ecpat Spain redacted a collaboration agreement with the lawyer representing of the Spanish Society of Ecotourism based in Madrid which is at a final phase of approval and that will regard a common action of sensitization of the private sector of ecotourism about the issue of protecting children from sex tourism.

**“Derechos de los Niños y Turismo:
el Código de Conducta para la protección
de los niños contra la explotación sexual
en la industria de los viajes y el turismo”**

ACIM-ECPAT España
Associació Catalana para la Infància
Maltratada
Àrea de acció contra la explotació sexual
comercial infantil

Slide from the training held at the University of
Girona, April 27, 2009.

6. Fair Trade in Tourism, South Africa

Sarah van Mill, July 2, 2009



During the month of June, South Africa successfully hosted the 2009 FIFA Confederations Cup™. Nearly half a million fans were in attendance over the two week period. The event provided a good “sneak-peak” of what the country could expect next June when the country hosts the FIFA World Cup™ and confirmed the need for South Africa to take concrete steps to protect its children.

In order to better understand the potential threats associated with mega events such as the FIFA World Cup™, specifically those to children, 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.

Recognising the threats that a mega event like the World Cup can have on children, South Africa is taking a number of steps to protect its children against CSEC/SECT. Children are particularly at risk because of:

- Increased demand for child labour associated with souvenir selling, busking, domestic work in accommodation establishments and accelerated informal trading during the event;
- Increased risks to street children, particularly in host cities;
- Increased demand for sex work including CSEC;
- Risks associated with school closures: many South African children who will be “unattended” during the event will likely flock to Fan Parks where an estimated 20 million fans are expected. Alcohol sales and lack of night transport are risks to children;
- A spike in human trafficking associated with flexible border control intended to make it easy for tourists to enter and exit South Africa during the event. South African children are at risk of being trafficked within or out of South Africa, whereas children from the southern African region are at risk of being trafficked in/via South Africa, which is an internationally recognised trafficking “hot spot”.

As one way of addressing these concerns, South African stakeholders, led by Fair Trade in Tourism South Africa (FTTSA) in collaboration with UNICEF, have agreed to pilot The Code during the run-up to the 2010 FIFA World Cup™. This will include a workshop in late 2009 to target +/- 20 key companies, with the ultimate goal of getting 10 companies to fully commit to The Code pilot project in South Africa. Then, in late 2009/early 2010, the pilot partners will be trained and case studies will be completed to analyse their implementation. The first signatories of The Code will be announced in May 2010, subsequent to which The Code will be marketed to the wider industry. June-July 2010 will see public awareness raising during the FIFA World Cup™, after which The Code will be rolled out to the wider industry.

South Africa's wider preparation for combating CSEC/SECT associated with 2010 will include a media campaign stressing the associated risks for children and the need to make protecting children “everyone's business”. Training materials will be provided to law enforcement, volunteers, immigration officials and the hospitality and tourism sector and a 24-hour call centre will be expanded/set up to manage reporting of exploitative behaviour as well as to provide assistance to victims of exploitation. The campaign will also work to empower children at risk so they know their rights and know how/where to report criminal or coercive behaviour. Ultimately, 2010 provides a major opportunity to raise awareness around CSEC/SECT and to stress that the risks to children are real and must be addressed.

7. Child Wise (ECPAT) Australia

Anneka Farrington and Afroz Kaviani Johnson, June 30, 2009

Travelling Child-Sex Offenders in South East Asia:
A Regional Review - 2007/2008

New Child Wise publications releases:

Travelling Child-Sex Offenders in South East Asia: A Regional Review - 2007/2008 represents the third edition of this unique compendium of information relating to the complex and dynamic phenomenon of the sexual exploitation of children in tourism destinations throughout South East Asia. This report comprises a regional overview of the CST situation in South East Asia along with national reports from all ten countries in the region. Beyond this, it offers details of what lies ahead for the region with a brief insight into the South East Asian Plan, a proposed multi-year initiative that will offer a more holistic and comprehensive approach to CST. The report also offers an update on the successful ASEAN Regional Education Campaign and, a brief summary of the key findings from a situational analysis of hotline reporting numbers in the region.

A copy of the report can be requested by emailing

office@childwise.net or is downloadable from the Child Wise website www.childwise.net



Mind the Gaps: A Comparative Analysis of ASEAN Legal Responses to Child-Sex Tourism.

Mind the Gaps is the outcome of research into the laws of South East Asia relating to child-sex tourism. *Mind the Gaps* examines all ten Member States of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) – Brunei Darussalam, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. This research was requested by Australian government partners to assist national action and enable regional comparisons to enhance the legal response to this abhorrent crime. As the first such comparative report, *Mind the Gaps* will be useful for a range of stakeholders, including governments, law enforcers, international agencies, NGOs, and academics.

Key Findings

- ASEAN Member States have ratified a number of relevant international treaties to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation. However, some significant gaps remain.
- ASEAN Member States are party to a number of international and regional instruments that enhance the policy and legal framework to protect children from child-sex tourism.
- The Philippines is currently the only ASEAN Member State that expressly mentions sex tourism in its legislation. However, the national laws of all ASEAN Member States cover the major categories of sex offences against children – albeit to varying degrees. In the absence of laws expressly criminalising child-sex tourism, laws relating to sex offences against children are relevant and must be strengthened and enforced.
- To improve the legal response to child-sex tourism, ASEAN Member States should ensure national laws: fully align with relevant international instruments; criminalise all forms of child sexual exploitation and abuse; criminalise sexual exploitation through new technologies; provide a consistent definition of a child; criminalise acts that assist or facilitate child-sex tourism; criminalise attempts and preparation to commit child child-sex offences; strengthen bilateral and regional cooperation to ensure successful prosecution; provide proportionate sentencing and appropriate sanctions; protect children and other witnesses throughout all stages of investigations and legal proceedings; and provide services and long-term support to child victims.



Please contact us with any questions about this publication (Afroz Kaviani Johnson, afroz@childwise.net). We also welcome correspondence from readers to correct or update any information contained in *Mind the Gaps*.

8. ECPAT USA

Carol Smolenski, Executive Director ECPAT USA



Mexican and Belizean tourism businesses co-sponsor 5K Run for Children's Rights Organized by ECPAT-USA

Almost 150 people came to Roosevelt Island in New York City on a beautiful day in May for the ECPAT-USA 5K Run for Children's Rights. The event was planned by talented ECPAT-USA interns and volunteers as a fun family-friendly event. The runners went once around Roosevelt Island, with fabulous views, a fresh sea breeze and high spirits.



Corporate sponsors donated prizes and giveaways: In the U.S.: The Body Shop, Priority Films (producer of the film "Holly") and Wyltan Books (publisher of the "Fun on Foot" Books). In Belize: Chaa Creek Inland Expeditions, Splash Dive Shop and Vega Inn and Gardens. In Mexico: Barcelo Hotels and Resorts, Delphinus Dolphin parks, Grand Palladium Resorts and Spa, Hotel Nueva Vida de Ramiro Ecolodge, and Vista Del Mar Hotel. More than \$5,000 was raised from our donors, runners and sponsors. Just as important, we brought the message of child protection to a wide range of people. No one who learns that children are being exploited in the sex industry every day can remain silent.

9. Belize Tourism Industry Association

Maria Vega, July 6 2009



A highlight was the participation with numerous agencies in an all day in-depth focus on CSEC in Belize on April 23. This was on invitation of the ILO on the occasion of their Sub-regional project on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children coming to an end on April 30, 2009. The Belize Tourism Industry Association and ECPAT USA were featured as organizations that have played a key role or given their support in some way during the life of the project in Belize. The event was attended by the BTIA president, Dionne Miranda and The Code trainer, Maria Vega. In a half-hour presentation, BTIA spoke on the ECPAT funded project, "The Code of Conduct for the protection of children from sexual exploitation in travel and tourism". The Radisson Fort George Hotel and Marina also donated a training video for this event.



D. Miranda – President BTIA, S. Acosta - Consultant ILO, M. Vega – Trainer BTIA, N. Zuniga - Project Officer ILO/IPEC, D. Yorke – Executive Director NOPCAN April 23, 2009

BTIA and the in-country "The Code" monitoring agency, NOPCAN, also met briefly to discuss updates and coordinate activities. On June 17, 2009 BTIA received from NOPCAN, the summary list of signatories contacted and their indicated needs. This now enables BTIA to direct its training and outreach efforts effectively. Members of the Belize Tourism Industry Association

were pleased to support ECPAT USA in their awareness activity, NY 5K Marathon by donating services from Chaa Creek Lodge, Splash Dive Belize and VEGA INN.

At BTIA's bi-annual general membership meeting held May 27th, one hundred and twenty-five application forms were distributed inviting signatories to The Code of Conduct. These are currently being followed up.

On June 12, 2009 BTIA's The Code trainer was interviewed by UNICEF reporter, Jamie Mondics for that agency's newsletter, *AIDS Link*, which will feature CSEC in its upcoming issue.

THANK YOU!

**INPUTS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF THIS NEWSLETTER ARE WELCOME BY
Friday, September 25, 2009**