

The Code Quarterly

International Newsletter No.21, July - September 2009

Contributions:

1. The Tourism Child-Protection Code of Conduct, Secretariat Coordinator Dr. Camelia Tepelus
2. ECPAT International, Giorgio Berardi
3. ECPAT USA, Amaya Renobales
4. ECPAT UK, Alice Macek
5. Save the Children Denmark, Vernon Jones
6. ECPAT Luxembourg, Hannah Bristow
7. Other news: Peru, Ghana



Former Us President Bill Clinton, ECPAT International Director Carmen Madriñan and The Body Shop CEO Sophie Gasperment at the Clinton Global Initiative meeting in NY, Sept. 24-28. Sales of a new Body Shop *Soft Hands Kind Hearts Hand Cream*, will benefit ECPAT affiliates and ECPAT International.



Marilyn Carlson Nelson, Chairperson of Carlson Companies, Inc., shared the Carlson experience in engaging against trafficking and child sex tourism in her intervention at the Clinton Global Initiative, in New York, on September 24, 2009. Ms. Carlson Nelson highlighted the role of the private sector in preventing child sex tourism in the context of a panel on human trafficking moderated by New York Times columnist Nicolas Kristof. Marilyn Carlson Nelson talked specifically about the Code of Conduct steps as practical tools facilitating the protection of children's rights by the travel and tourism private sector.



Calendar of events September - December 2009

Date	Place	Main organizer, Event, Participation
Sept 23-25	Mexico	ECPAT USA training events in Riviera Maya and Tulum
Sept 14-18	Colombia	Fundacion Renacer trainings in Bogota and Cartagena
Oct 8-9	Carlsbad, CA	The Global Forum on Human Trafficking hosted by the Not For Sale Campaign
October 14	New York	Stop the Traffik, UN.GIFT
October 19-20	Brussels	EU Ministerial Conference "Towards Global EU Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings", Swedish EU Presidency, IOM
October 21	New York	World Childhood Foundation and UNOPS "2009 Childhood Anniversary Symposium: Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children – 10 years in the field"
November 9 (pm)	London	The Tourism Child-Protection Code of Conduct (thecode.org) Transition Board of Directors meeting (to be confirmed)

**INPUTS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF THIS NEWSLETTER ARE WELCOME BEFORE
December 18, 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

Dr. Camelia Tepelus, September 29, 2009

• Follow-up on implementing the decisions from the EGM on June 5, 2009

The revised EGM 2009 Statutes of the Code international organization entered into force on September 1, 2009. Important new aspects foreseen by the revised Statutes concern:

- introduction of membership fees: Euro 50, 300, 800, for companies small, medium and large. The logistical and timing details of the fee system will be finalized by the Transition Board of Directors before the end of October.
- Initiation of formal agreements to be signed with the Local Code Representatives – a draft document has been created and will be finalized before the end of October. A testing of the agreement was carried out in Mexico, where it was signed by the Secretariat with the Riviera Maya Hotel Association, which will take over the monitoring tasks carried out by ECPAT USA in the Riviera Maya. In the pipe-line is the agreement with Fundacion Renacer, Colombia.

• Trainings on the Child-Protection Code for the staff of Fundacion Renacer project against child sex tourism in Colombia

At the invitation of Fundacion Renacer (ECPAT affiliate) Colombia, between 14-18 September 2009 the Code Secretariat Coordinator Dr. Camelia Tepelus carried out trainings on the procedures of implementation of the Code and on working with the tourism private sector in preventing child sex tourism.



Photo 1: Fundacion Renacer staff in Cartagena attending the training on the Child Protection Code on 17 September 2009.
Photos 2 and 3: Awareness raising posters at the Bogota airport.



The trainings took place both in Bogota and in Cartagena, in relation to a two-year project recently initiated by Fundacion Renacer with the financial support of CIDA. Several meetings took place in Bogota with UNICEF, the applicant hotel El Campin and other interested hotels that were explained about the context and implementation of the Code of Conduct. The project against child sex tourism will take place in Cartagena, which is a top tourism destination not only in Colombia, but also for the countries in the region.

The project will be building upon a new law against child sex tourism that was passed in Colombia in July 2009. The projects count on the support of the Corporacion de Turismo de Cartagena, Corporacion Nacional de Turismo and of UNICEF Colombia.

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- **Clinton Global Initiative in NYC features panels on building human capital with participation of Marilyn Carlson Nelson, Chair of the Board of Carlson Companies**



Marilyn Carlson Nelson, Chairperson of Carlson Companies, Inc., participated in a panel discussion on 'Building Human Capital' at the Clinton Global Initiative, in New York, on September 24, 2009. About 1,200 participants including heads of state, business leaders, humanitarians and celebrities attended the fifth annual Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) meeting. She, highlighted the role of the private sector in preventing child sex tourism in the context of a panel on human trafficking moderated by New York Times columnist Nicolas Kristof. Marilyn Carlson Nelson talked specifically about the Code of Conduct steps as practical tools facilitating the travel and tourism sector to protect children's rights.



Co-panelists were: Queen Rania Al Abdullah of Jordan, US Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis, Andrew Liveris, Chairman and CEO of Dow Chemical, Carlos Slim Helu, Chairman, Carlos Slim Foundation, Marilyn Nelson, Chairman Carlson Co. (Clinton Global Initiative Annual Meeting, Thursday, Sept. 24, 2009, in New York. (AP Photo/Stephen Chernin).

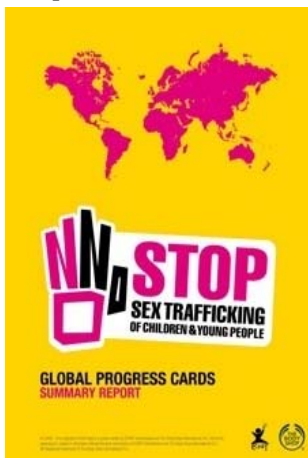
Photo: Marilyn Carlson Nelson, Chairperson of Carlson Companies.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/nphotos/Clinton-Global-Initiative-Marilyn-Carlson-Nelson/ss/events/us/092209clintonglobal/im:/090924/ids_photos_ts/r1646988626.jpg/#photoViewer=/090924/ids_photos_ts/r1646988626.jpg

- **At the Clinton Global Initiative The Body Shop Unveils Latest Action to Stop Child Sex Trafficking in collaboration with ECPAT International**

NEW YORK, Sept. 24 /PRNewswire/ -- The CEO of The Body Shop International, Sophie Gasperment, unveiled an innovative new approach to addressing the global issue of child sex trafficking, at the fifth Clinton Global Initiative Annual Meeting in New York.

At the CGI, Ms. Gasperment presented an innovative 'Progress Card System' which paints a global picture of how the world's governments are taking action and assesses their progress in their efforts to tackle child sex trafficking in more than 40 countries worldwide. The Body Shop has been invited to participate at the CGI in recognition of its 'Stop Sex Trafficking of



Children and Young People' campaign which launched across the world in August in partnership with ECPAT International (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes). The Body Shop and ECPAT International believe the launch of these ground-breaking cards will dramatically accelerate progress to end child sex trafficking over the course of the next three years.

Carmen Madriñan, Executive Director of ECPAT International added, "The first findings from the Progress Card project reveal a truly challenging situation. By reaching out to the public with this information, we aim to elicit broad interest in child protection and enable wide public participation and support to accelerate change in partnership with the private sector, civil society and with government in the lead."

Key Progress Card findings for 2009:

Only 10% of countries reviewed have special police units established across the country to investigate child trafficking cases with appropriate specialized training;

60% of the assistance and care services offered to children in countries reviewed are not comprehensive or specialized for child victims of trafficking;
1 in 3 countries do not have help lines to provide specialized assistance to vulnerable children or child victims of trafficking;

1 in 3 countries do not have specialized shelters to accommodate child victims of trafficking;

Only 2% of nations are reported to offer comprehensive and specialized counselling services to specifically address the particular needs of child victims of trafficking for sexual purposes, whilst 29% do not offer any type of services to accompany the psychological healing of child victims.

To learn more about and to support the Stop Sex Trafficking of Children and Young People campaign visit <http://www.thebodyshop.com/stop>

The Body Shop is raising funds through sales of a new Soft Hands Kind Hearts Hand Cream, all proceeds of which go to ECPAT affiliates and ECPAT International.

2. ECPAT International

Giorgio Berardi, October 12, 2009 and pattayapeople.com

- **Code signing by Centara Hotels in Pattaya**

A workshop and Code Signing Ceremony were conducted on 13th October at the Mirage Grand Ballroom in the Centara Grand Mirage Beach Resort Pattaya.



ECPAT International, represented by Mr. Giorgio Berardi - Programme Officer for Combating Child Sex Tourism (CST) and Kuoni Travel Holding Ltd., represented by Mr. Matthias Leisinger - Head of Corporate Responsibility held the workshop for senior and top management from hoteliers, travel agents and governors in Pattaya. It brought participants to extend and exchange knowledge among groups regarding the elimination of child prostitution, child pornography, the trafficking of children for sexual purposes and provide security from all forms of commercial sexual exploitation.

Source: <http://www.pattayapeople.com/default.asp?Folder=16&IdArticle=19522>

- **France's Accor Group tops new Tomorrow's Value Rating, but hospitality industry as a whole lags on responsibility**

Source: http://money.cnn.com/2009/10/02/news/companies/good_citizen_hotels.fortune/index.htm?postversion=2009100217, By Maha Atal, contributor, October 2, 2009

NEW YORK (Fortune) – On the surface, the largest hotel firms should be standard bearers for corporate citizenship. After all, they make their money introducing guests to new cultures and pristine landscapes, so they have an interest in preserving the environment and supporting the local community. They spend billions each day on heating and water, and as the ubiquitous notes in hotel bathrooms urging us to save our towels can attest, they are acutely aware of the need to conserve these resources and reduce that cost. Like all consumer brands, they know the reputational risks of entanglement in labor or human rights abuse.

And yet, despite these synergies, hotels are among the least responsible businesses around. That's the harsh conclusion of a report for London-based sustainability consultancy Two Tomorrows in their ranking of hospitality giants, the first in a series of industry-specific studies called Tomorrow's Value Rating.

Just how dismal were the results? The best hotelier in the world according to the rankings was France's Accor Group, which scored just 55 on a scale of 100. The worst, Best Western, scored a 6. And no firm scored over 70 on any section of the survey. (Sections included "Strategy," "Engagement," and "Innovation and Leadership.")

Unlike indices from Dow Jones or Innovest, which measure a company's performance against general social or environmental goals, Two Tomorrows senior consultant Thomas Krick says, "We wanted to focus on sustainability management – to what degree [the hotels] seek to improve sustainability in order to maximize business opportunities." So the focus is on process rather than outcome.

Two Tomorrows surveyed the 10 largest hotel chains (by the number of guests they can hold) about the strategic overlap between sustainability efforts and core business, the role of top executives in developing and implementing sustainability policies, and the impact of stakeholder engagement in core business decisions.

Companies got scoring boosts by using sustainability initiatives to drive innovation, by tracking sustainability issues from the boardroom to the individual hotels, by partnering with local organizations to achieve their goals, and by benchmarking their achievements alongside financial performance in annual reports. Meanwhile, generous giveaways from corporate foundations to social and environmental causes earned no points at all. Not only because, as Krick says, "philanthropy has been mainstreamed in the world's largest companies," but also because it doesn't depend on strategic C-suite decisions.

Despite hospitality's overall poor performance, there are a few standout programs. "If you think of the positive impacts that a hotel can have," says Krick, "the main one is that they can contribute to the local economy and environment."

No. 1 Accor Group operates 4,000 hotels in 90 countries, ranging from the luxury brand Sofitel to the bargain chain Motel 6. In Accor hotels, guest recreational activities include educational segments on local biodiversity and public health issues. Accor also partners with local firms on supplies. That's in sharp contrast to most hotel chains, says Krick, "who fill a gift shop in the Middle East with toy camels made in China." Meanwhile, Marriott, which placed No. 3 on the Tomorrow's Value Rating, plans to have its golf courses double as wildlife reserves.

If Accor and Marriott lead the pack on strategy, InterContinental Hotels Group excels in governance, earning it the No. 2 spot in the rating. "With IHG, you can follow responsibility from each site right up to the CEO," Krick says. Alone among companies in the report, the British company monitors practices at both its franchised hotels and wholly owned ones through an online network called GreenEngage. Not only does that allow executives to check up on hotel managers across all properties – and managers to share best sustainability practices – it also makes it possible for activists and local stakeholders to hold the firm accountable.

Public disclosure is crucial, says Krick, because "hotels are not that prominent as investment vehicles, and therefore haven't faced the kind of scrutiny in the sustainability space that other industries, like oil and gas firms, have endured." Transparency on the subject is rare in hospitality: Only three of the companies surveyed publish a social responsibility report. That may be because no one has required it. Krick notes that eight of the 10 largest hotel firms are American, and that all eight lag behind European Accor and IHG on the Tomorrow's Value Rating. "These things – labor, environment – are more regulated in Europe," Krick says, "and the firms will be subject to scrutiny by European nonprofits and consumers than U.S. companies don't have."

That creates an opportunity for Two Tomorrows, which hopes to sell their reports along with advice about strategic sustainability management to companies looking to get ahead. To that end, says Krick, by this time next year, he'll have U.S.-centric surveys on five industries: hotels, utilities, energy, food and beverages, and telecommunications.

The top 10 hospitality companies, as ranked by Tomorrow's Value Rating, are (*italics added*):

- **Accor – member of the Child-Protection Code of Conduct**
- **InterContinental Hotels Group,**
- **Marriot,**
- **Global Hyatt,**
- **Choice,**
- **Carlson - member of the Child-Protection Code of Conduct,**
- **Hilton,**
- **Wyndham,**
- **Starwood, and**
- **Best Western.**

For more on the rankings and Two Tomorrows, please visit www.twotomorrows.com.

3. ECPAT USA project “Protect Children in Tourism” in Mexico

Amaya Renobales, September 29, 2009



ECPAT USA “Prevention of Child Sex Tourism Day” in Riviera Maya, Mexico

Within the International Week of Tourism, on September 24, 2009 the Riviera Maya Hotel Association (RMHA) and ECPAT USA developed a whole day for the prevention of child sex tourism with different activities, with inputs from experts Camelia Tepelus, Executive Secretariat of the Code and Carol Smolenski, ECPAT USA’s Executive Director.

The first activity was a breakfast meeting with hotel members of the RMHA to make a presentation of the Code of Conduct and invite them to sign. Palladium Resort and Delphinus, which have been very successful in the implementation of the Code, made a presentation of their campaigns, training materials and experience on the Code of Conduct. At the end of the presentation, the RMHA, ECPAT USA and the Code presented recognition diplomas to those enterprises who are being very committed in the implementation of the Code in the region, which are: Palace Hotels, Oasis Hotels, Barceló Hotels, Radisson Hotel, Enchanting Group Hotels, Nueva Vida de Ramiro Hotel, Delphinus, Palladium Resort and Hotel Vista del Mar.



Photo 1: Hotel and tourism company representatives distinguished for their work in implementing the Code of Conduct in Cancun and Riviera Maya: Palace Hotels, Oasis Hotels, Barceló Hotels, Radisson Hotel, Enchanting Group Hotels, Nueva Vida de Ramiro Hotel, Delphinus, Palladium Resort and Hotel Vista del Mar. Photo 2: Rebeca Garcia Casaprima, presenting the Gran Palladium program of protection of children and implementation of the Code of Conduct.

The second activity was a meeting with the local authorities in which the President of the Municipality of Solidaridad (capital city of the Riviera Maya), Quintana Roo DIF, National DIF and UNICEF Mexico participated along with ECPAT USA, The Code and the RMHA. In this event well attended by the local press, the poster of the campaign and the training and promotion materials for authorities against sexual exploitation of children in tourism were presented. The RMHA also signed the first agreement as Local Representative of the Code (according to the new statutes of the Code June 2009), allowing RMHA to promote, assess and monitor the local private sector interested in the Code implementation in the future.



Photo 3: Miguel Canseco presenting the Delphinus program of protection of children, implementation of the Code of Conduct and campaign with the football team Atlante. Photo 4 and 5: meeting with the local authorities: President of the Municipality of Solidaridad Quintana Roo, DIF, National DIF and UNICEF Mexico participated along with ECPAT USA, The Code and the RMHA, who signed the agreement as Local Code Representative. Photo 3: Miguel Canseco presenting the Delphinus program of protection of children, implementation of the Code of Conduct and campaign with the football team Atlante.

The third activity was a visit to the Tulum municipality, where Vista del Mar hotel hosted a meeting with the President of the Tulum Hotel Association and members of the local community of Akumal. The RMHA, ECPAT USA and Palladium resort made a presentation of the code and invite them to join the movement against sexual exploitation of children in tourism. Camelia Tepelus and Carol Smolenski's words were very inspiring for the local community, who showed a lot of interest on the issue and willingness to cooperate.



Photo 6: Manuel Paredes Mendoza, RMHA representative, engaging with representatives of the local community in Akumal, Municipality of Tulum. Photo 4 and 5: meeting with the local authorities: President of the Municipality of Solidaridad Quintana Roo, DIF, National DIF and UNICEF Mexico participated along with ECPAT USA, The Code and the RMHA, who signed the agreement as Local Code Representative. ECPAT USA project team in Cancún Amaya Renobales, Project Director and Gilberto Esponda, Project Assistant, with Carol Smolenski, Executive Director, in Akumal.

4. ECPAT UK

Alice Macek, Information Officer, September 14, 2009



ECPAT UK and ATBA - The Travel Association - have joined forces to develop and implement an online training course for travel and tourism professionals to protect children travelling with UK travel companies and children in holiday destinations. The e-learning course 'Every Child, Everywhere – Child Protection Training in the Travel Industry' has been created for ABTA members, but will also be available to travel and tourism students.

The course covers issues of sexual exploitation of children in tourism destinations, and also raises awareness of the general issue of child protection in the travel industry. ECPAT UK launched a successful online training course on child trafficking in 2008 and has delivered a pilot course on child protection in the travel industry with First Choice in 2005, with the backing of the Travel Foundation.

This course is being piloted with travel industry professionals and students/academics and will be launched at the ABTA Convention in Barcelona in October 2009 and the World Travel Mart in London in November 2009. For further information, please contact info@ecpat.org.uk

4. Save the Children Denmark

September 3, 2009, Vernon Jones



Save the Children Denmark Launches New Report: Sex Offenders without Borders

Save the Children Denmark has facilitated the implementation of child protection projects in Cambodia, Myanmar and Thailand with the intention of further improving the protection of children from sexual abuse and exploitation in relation to travel and tourism. The projects have been funded by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and are using a community based child protection model to prevent children being sexually exploited. The project partners are Save the Children in Cambodia and Myanmar with the ECPAT Foundation in Thailand. The projects are progressing well and we hope to give a more comprehensive report on the completion of a review next year. The projects are now coming to the end of their first year of implementation.

The funding from the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs also facilitated a field investigation by Save the Children Denmark where we were able to fund a field investigation by an experienced journalist in Cambodia, Myanmar and Thailand. This investigation took place

during the summer of 2008 and the report documenting the findings of this field investigation was officially launched in August 2009.

The purpose of the investigation was to gain more insight into the modus operandi of travelling sex offenders who sexually exploit children in Thailand, Cambodia and Burma; with particular emphasis being placed on the activities of Danish travelling sex offenders. The information gathered in the report will also be used to inform Save the Children Denmark's work to combat the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism.

The results of this study indicate that an unknown number of travelling sex offenders continue to travel abroad in an attempt to contact and sexually exploit children. The evidence from this investigation suggests that the offenders use their economic and social power to groom children and their disadvantaged caretakers who for many different reasons are not able to act as protective adults. The sexual exploitation of children continues to be a problem in the countries investigated despite extensive information campaigns and some preventative child protection measures being put in place.

According to the observations made during this investigation the sexual exploitation of children appears to be less visible in Thailand and Cambodia, than it once was. This appears to be as a direct result of the information campaigns that have alerted travellers, Ngo's and governments to the problem. This appears to have forced the sexual exploitation of children go 'underground' and has led to the involvement of more 'third party exploiters' who are now frequently used by travelling sex offenders in order to avoid direct contact with children in public. In addition, the new technologies (internet, mobile telephones etc.) appear to be more frequently used to facilitate contact between children, third party exploiters and the travelling sex offenders, before and during the period of travel.

Save the Children Denmark hopes that the information within this report will contribute to the knowledge base that will help protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation in relation to travel and tourism. Vernon Jones, Project Coordinator, vj@redbarnet.dk

5. ECPAT Luxembourg

Hannah Bristow, October 1, 2009

ECPAT Luxembourg was proud to launch its third campaign against child sex tourism (CST) on **18th June 2009**. The campaign against child sex tourism constituted one component of a wider campaign against the commercial sexual exploitation of children which also targeted the prevention of child pornography and child prostitution.

The first objective of this campaign is to make potential "consumers" or "clients" aware of their responsibility for the whole chain of events leading up to a child or adolescent being a victim of prostitution or pornography. The second objective of the campaign is to promote legislation which exists in Luxembourg to suppress the commercial sexual exploitation of children and to punish offenders.



The communication tools developed for the campaign include posters, flyers, postcards, TV and radio spots and web banners. Committed partners of the campaign include **Accor Luxembourg**, **LuxairGroup** and **Lux-Airport**.

Accor Luxembourg displayed the campaign posters in their hotels in Luxembourg for the month following the campaign launch and continues to have the postcards on display for clients. **Luxair** continues to distribute the campaign flyers (with luggage tickets) at its check-in desks as well as to air the TV spot on all its charter flights with in-flight entertainment, particularly to destinations in North Africa. **Lux-Airport** also distributes the flyers at the information desk in the airport. TV spots via our website www.ecpat.lu

The campaign was developed by **BETC EURO RSCG** in partnership with **Partizan**, at the request of Air France. The campaign is also being run in France by **ECPAT France** and **Air France**."

6. Other news: Peru, Ghana

- **Campaign Against Human Trafficking in Peru's Sex Tourism Industry**

Source: <http://www.ethicaltraveler.org/peru-stop-child-sex-trafficking>

Internationally, UNICEF estimates that 1.2 million children are trafficked around the world each year, and 1.8 million children (mostly girls) are forced to sell their bodies. Peru has not been spared from this abhorrent form of slavery.

The country's fascinating cultural heritage and Incan legacy are being eclipsed by a more sinister attraction. Peru has become a source for modern day slaves, with young women and children being trafficked and sold into the commercial sex trade. These victims are brought from remote areas to tourist destinations - including Lima, Cusco and Iquitos - for the purpose of commercial sex exploitation. Others are trafficked to Western Europe, Japan and the United States for the same purpose. One such child - a young girl named Veronica - was recently found dead in a Lima hotel room after being strangled by a sexual predator.

In 2006, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child reported that there are 500,000 child victims of sexual exploitation and violence in the country. Because 60 percent of Peru's youth live in poverty, children are especially vulnerable. Tourism to Peru is booming, and continues to increase at a rate of 10 percent annually. This is fueling the demand for children in the sex trade - and because corruption is rife in Peruvian society, it has been allowed to flourish. Perpetrators are not punished, and victims are given no protection, legal or otherwise. Although aware of the existence of child sex tourism and human trafficking, the Peruvian government has not taken effective action on either. "The Government of Peru does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking," states a report released in June 2008 by the US State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, "particularly in the areas of investigating and prosecuting trafficking acts, fighting trafficking-related corruption, and improving victim protection."

Join us in telling the government of Peru that we are aware of this reprehensible situation. Please modify (if you wish), sign, and send us a copy of the attached action campaign letter. We will mail these to the appropriate authorities, letting them know how we feel about a shameful practice that reflects poorly on all travelers. Ethical Traveler's campaign against child sex trafficking in Peru is being waged in association with Global Exchange, Not For Sale-Peru, Generacion, and Peruvian Net Against Child Pornography. Please visit their links below for more information.

- **Tourism practitioners discuss sex tourism in Ghana**

Source: <http://www.businessghana.com/portal/news/index.php?op=getNews&id=113447>

Participants at an International Tourism conference on Friday condemned tourists who exploit children sexually, pointing out that the act had legal implications. Mr Abdul Razak Yakubu, Programmes Coordinator of Enslavement Prevention Alliance, West Africa (EPAWA) a non-governmental organisation (NGO) that advocates against sex tourism, stressed that in every country sexual exploitation of children by adults was against the law. He urged tourism practitioners to adopt a code of conduct on sex tourism and make efforts to educate tourists who patronised their service about the dangers of sex tourism. "Tourism services can facilitate child sex tourism and such acts undermines sustainable tourism development," he said.

Mr Yakubu suggested that hotel and restaurant operators should provide brochures and warning signals at their various places of operations to inform potential sex tourists of the dangers associated such acts. He said child sex tourism could lead to the lost of cultural identity or dependency of tourists' money, adding that those traits also promoted lost of self esteem among the affected people.

Mr Modou Tala Jobe, Marketing and Communications Officer of Gambian Tourism Authority, who shared experiences of the situation of the Gambia, said there existed a tourism code of conduct in the country and those who violated it were punished. He said the tourism code of conduct involved all hospitality facilities displaying warning messages on their premises to deter would-be sex tourists from indulging in the act. Mr Jobe urged stakeholders in the Ghanaian sector to adopt such measures to limit the rate of child sex tourism in the country.

Mr Jacob Oti-Awere, Head of Wildlife Division of Game and Wildlife, urged participants to address the issue of child sex tourism at the community level to enable the people understand and fight against such practices.

THANK YOU!

INPUTS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF THIS NEWSLETTER ARE WELCOME BY

Friday, December 18, 2009