

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



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CHILD WISE TOURISM

*Preventing the sexual exploitation
of children in tourism destinations*

Photo from the Berlin WTO Task
Force presentation of ChildWise
(ECPAT Australia) campaign in
ASEAN countries

Calendar of events March - June 2006

Date	Place	Main organizer	Event, Participation
8-12 March	Berlin, ITB	ECPAT Germany	Code of Conduct info point, daily presentations from Brazil, Romania, Bulgaria, Kenya, Switzerland
10 March	Berlin	WTO	WTO Task Force Meeting
10 March	Berlin	ECPAT Germany meeting with representative of French Tourism Ministry	ECPAT groups
11 March	Berlin	CC ExCom	Code AGM, all CC stakeholders
3-4 April	Washington DC	Shared Hope, ECPAT USA, Polaris Project	US mid-term review on the commercial sexual exploitation of children in America (child sex tourism panel), by invitation
21-22 April	Minneapolis	University of Minnesota Human Rights Program	United Front for Children: Global Efforts to Combat Sexual Trafficking of Children in Travel and Tourism
28 April (to be confirmed)	Ciudad de Guatemala	UNICEF Guatemala	National Forum «Prevention of Sexual Exploitation of Children in Tourism»
11 May	Zurich	ExCom	ExCom
7-8 June	Brussels	EU	Training «EU funding for transnational projects within the EU»

INPUTS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF THIS NEWSLETTER ARE WELCOME BY

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

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www.thecode.org

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1. ECPAT Switzerland

Karolina Frischkopf, 21 March, 2006

On the national level, ECPAT Switzerland is doing fundraising to finance the Code promotion, sensitizing and implementation during 2006 and the setting up of a Code of Conduct hotline. Together with the „The Research Institute for Leisure and Tourism (FIF)“ of the university of Berne and different experts, ECPAT Switzerland is elaborating a national strategy on how to implement the Code of Conduct best. The final national strategy is expected during the next weeks and will serve as basis for the 2006 action plan. In addition, the creation of a new political body has been decided which will take the strategic lead of the Code promotion and implementation in Switzerland. The members of the so called „national Code of Conduct Steering body“ will represent different social and political interest groups in order to emphasize the importance of the prevention of and the fight against commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism for the society as a whole. The first meeting of this strategic CC Steering body should take place not later than in autumn 2006. The preparation of the setting up of the CC-hotline is planned to take place during spring and summer in order to be ready after the summer holiday season for people returning from vacation having information to report.

On the international level, ECPAT Switzerland elaborated a standard procedure for the signature and implementation of the Code of Conduct internationally on the basis of the mandate from the Executive Committee in January 2006. The standard procedure contains 6 documents: an Information sheet, an Application form, an Action Plan, an Agreement Form, a Standard Report Form and a Short Standard Report Form. During the AGM in Berlin the standard procedure has been presented, discussed and adopted. From summer 2006 on, the standard procedure will start to be implemented.

Also during the AGM, ECPAT Switzerland could present the possibility of getting a project funded by the Swiss government concerning the elaboration of a concept regarding questions on how to implement the standard procedure best, the future structure needed for the Code of Conduct, the long term funding feasible for the Code of Conduct, the strengthening of the destination work and the standardization of the training modules in the sending and destination countries. The elaboration of such an ambitious concept would be done by an international expert group facilitated by ECPAT Switzerland. After the positive decision of the AGM to go forward for such a project, ECPAT Switzerland prepares now the project application.

2. CODE SECRETARIAT

Camelia Tepelus, 23 March, 2006

Secretariat Activity

In the interval January-March 2006, the activity of the Code Secretariat has been focused on the preparation of the Code AGM at ITB in Berlin. The main events during this period were:

- January 13-14, 2006 - a joint meeting of the Code StCom and ExCom took place in New York, with the guest participation from GTZ. The outcome of the meeting was the elaboration of a proposal for a standard procedure for the Code implementation, to be discussed at the AGM in Berlin. On Jan. 14, the Code ExCom and Secretariat met at UNICEF with representatives of the UNICEF NY Hq.- Child Protection Gopalan Balagopal, Stella Schuhmacher and Andrea Rossi, to advance the discussions on the role of UNICEF in the

Code StCom, and to invite a UNICEF representative to attend the Code AGM in Berlin.

- January 30-31, 2006 – a training on the monitoring of the implementation of the Code of Conduct was carried out by the Code Secretariat in Cancun, in the framework of the ECPAT USA “Protect Children in Tourism Project”. Over 20 volunteers of the local NGO Cadenas Humanas attended the training, which was convened by the ECPAT USA new Project Director based in Cancun, Amaya Renobales.
- March 10, 2006 – the Code Secretariat made a presentation of the developments of the Code at the WTO Task Force for the Protection of Children at ITB, and participated in the ECPAT Europe meeting with a representative of the French Ministry of Tourism.
- March 11, 2006 – the Code 2006 AGM was hosted by the Brazil Embassy in Berlin. The AGM was well attended by ECPAT and industry representatives, approved the activity of the ExCom during the last year and gave green light to pursue the development of an international operational strategy.

Information from other events

• Italy

7 members of the Italian Association of Tour Operators (ASTOI) have signed the Code of Conduct at the Tourism Fair BIT held in Milano, on 18-21 February. The news signatories are: Hotelplan, Kuoni, Settemari, Swantours, Mappamondo, CTS, Valtur. With the two existing signatories, KEL12 and Viaggi del Ventaglio, the count of ASTOI members having signed the code is now up to 9.

The Code signing was attended by ECPAT Italy President Marco Scarpati and Paola Viero from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Italian Cooperation), a long term supporter and funding body for the Code of Conduct implementation by Italian companies in the Dominican Republic.

(Note: extracted from the message of ASTOI consultant Giulia Carbone, Feb. 20, 2006)



Paola Viero (Italian Cooperation), Marco Scarpati (ECPAT Italy), and representatives of the Italian tourism industry members of ASTOI

• Japan

Following the Code launch in Japan in March 2005, UNICEF and ECPAT/STOP worked with the major Japanese companies to develop awareness raising information and training materials. A dedicated Code of Conduct website was produced in Japanese

(<http://www.unicef.or.jp/code-p/index.htm>)

A second introductory training session to the member companies was organized as a ‘training of trainers’ on the tools UNICEF developed with ECPAT/Stop-Japan. With this occasion a media conference was also held, where JTB, JAL-Pack and other companies presented progress they've made including launching of their new tour pamphlets with the Code project logo (see attached).

(Note: extracted from the message of Hiro Nakai, Japan Committee for UNICEF, Feb. 8, 2006)



3. ECPAT Sweden

Helena Karlén, March 29, 2006

Campaign on Child Sex Tourism

During 2006 ECPAT Sweden is focusing exclusively on Child Sex Tourism. We are putting pressure on the Swedish Minister of Tourism, Mrs Ulrica Messing, to take responsibility for the CST issue, and to actively support the initiative presented by the French Tourism Minister to other EU tourism ministers on 20 October 2005 regarding joint EU-action against CST.

ECPAT Sweden is also planning a public campaign aiming at reaching out to Swedish travellers with information on CST from a demand-side perspective, and with information on what travellers can do about it.

Material will be produced during the campaign and distributed to travellers and the travel industry. A fact sheet, a leaflet, a sticker and an advertisement for travel magazines have already been produced.

Lobbying the Swedish Minister of Tourism

Continuous efforts have been made during the period to follow-up on the initiative from the French Tourism Minister mentioned above. The aim has been to get information on what the Swedish position is on the initiative and to lobby the Swedish Minister to support it. Based on an ECPAT initiative, two parliamentary questions were put to the Minister of Tourism by two members of Parliament on March 20th and 21st on this issue. The Minister of Tourism will present her responses on March 29th and April 4th.

Sweden will be holding elections for the Parliament in September this year and as an attempt to put political pressure on all parliamentarians, ECPAT Sweden held a 3 day-training course on child sex tourism for 30 young people in the end of March. As a result these 30 young people are currently contacting all parliamentarians by telephone with questions on CST, on what their political party is doing on the issue now and what they plan to do after the elections in September. The results will be presented in media by ECPAT Sweden before the elections.

Participation at a meeting in Berlin with the adviser to the French Minister of Tourism

In connection with participation in the 18th World Tourism Organization Task Force meeting and the Annual General Meeting of the international Code of Conduct Association, ECPAT Sweden took part in a meeting held on March 10 with Mr Philippe Kaspi, adviser to the French Minister of Tourism, together with representatives of other European ECPAT groups. Discussions were held on possible ECPAT actions to support the desired process of other EU governments joining the important French proposal. All meetings were held in Berlin.

Monitoring of the work of the Scandinavian signatories of the Code of Conduct in Sri Lanka

In the middle of January, ECPAT Sweden visited Sri Lanka to follow up on the Scandinavian tour operators that are implementing the Code of Conduct in that country. Meetings were also held with the Ministry of Tourism. (For the report please contact helena.klingvall@ecpat.se)

ECPAT Sweden also visited the PEACE/ECPAT Sri Lanka office and accompanied PEACE staff to 3 of their programs financed by money donated by Swedish donors after the Tsunami catastrophe.

Extended cooperation with Resfeber.se

Resfeber.se, a web-based travel bureau and signatory of the Code of Conduct since 2003, is also the owner of the company Lastminute.com in Sweden. The Code of Conduct will as a consequence also be signed by Lastminute.com and training of their staff will be conducted later this spring.

Training will also be conducted for the staff of Resfeber in Oslo, Norway and Copenhagen, Denmark. These trainings sessions will be held by ECPAT in Norway and Denmark.

4. Respect Austria

Astrid Winkler, March 15, 2006

The Code of Conduct signed by over 20 companies and associations and endorsed by the Minister for Tourism and Wildlife in Kenya



Hon. Morris Dzoro, Minister for Tourism and Wildlife and Lucy Karume, Chair person of the KAHC signing Code declarations



Signing ceremony, from left to the right: Mary Njuguna, ECPIK; the District Commissioner of Mombasa; Hon. Minister Dzoro; a hotelier who is signing the declaration.

On February 3 2006, the Kenyan Association of Hotel Keepers and Caterers (KAHC) organized, together with respect and ECPIK, a first signing round for those signatories who have attended one of the UNICEF sponsored trainings in 2005.

Hon. Minister, Morris Dzoro, emphasised in his keynote-address that signing would just be the first step – the implementation of the 6 criteria would be the ‘core’ of this Code. He further reiterated that signing the Code would be completely in line with Kenya’s tourism politics of repositioning Kenya as a quality destination.

Apart from the hotels 3 key-associations also signed the Code: the KAHC, MCTA (Mombassa Coast Tourism Association), KATO (Kenya Association of Tour Operators) and Hotel and Restaurant Authority

Chairman, Mr. Harunani who committed himself to make sure that having adhered to the Code of Conduct would become mandatory in the near future for being licensed as a hotel or restaurant.

After the signing an 'ad-hoc' training session was being organized by the HRM-managers of the North Coast on 11 February for HRM (Human Resource Managers) from the North Coast which was attended by 12 HR-Managers. The real work comes after the signing – hotels still asking for support in how to approach the CSEC issue as part of staff trainings, and how to handle cases.



Some of the guests and signatories after the signing ceremony.



Victor Arani, former HRM and training manager, is assisting in making managers in hotels familiar with the new issue.

In January the monitoring process was also introduced and started.

Project partners undertake 'spot checks' in hotels (a procedure which will also be introduced by the International Code of Conduct Steering Committee soon).

But apart from checking, they are also interested in offering support and assistance regarding where to display material and how to start staff training.

Austria: Two Austrian offenders arrested

Since January 2006 two Austrian sex offenders have been arrested. One offender, 68 years, has been caught in Vietnam. He is accused of having abused and exploited several children (boys) in Vietnam and also European states. When Vietnamese police caught him, he was living together with a teenage boy.

The other offender is also over 60 years. He travelled to Romania for many years for taking pornographic photos from underage children and also abusing them. Locals in Romania facilitated and arranged the children for him; consent of the children's families was achieved through money and presents.

Both offenders are from the same region in the western part of Austria. They are on remand in and waiting for their trial. The arresting of the two Austrian offenders is a success of the Austrian police – department for capital crimes, sexual offences and Interpol – which has guided the investigations together with police from Romania and Vietnam.

5. ECPAT USA

Amaya Renobales, March 29, 2006

"Protect Children in Tourism" Training of Trainers in Cancún, Mexico

On February 21 2006, the Cancún Hotels Association held their first training of Trainers on the Code of Conduct implementation. Recovered from the Wilma Hurricane and showing a great interest in this project, the companies Oasis, Xcaret, Palace, Blue Bay,

Royal Resorts, Omni, Crown Paradise and Radisson have sent 34 representatives to the training.

The event was financed by ECPAT USA, whose Executive Director, Carol Smolenski participated at the training. Rosa Martha Brown, from Infancia Foundation, and Amaya Renobales, the ECPAT USA “Protect Children in Tourism” Project Director, made three different presentations and exercises with the participants in order to explain about children sexual exploitation, the international and national legal frame and the six different commitments of the Code of Conduct.

Cristina Alcayaga, President of the local NGO Cadenas Humanas, presented the volunteers who are taking charge of the monitoring of the implementation of the Code of Conduct and explained their role to the hotels. Claudia Vera, from the local Police also participated to explain their response in case of a hotel denunciation, and a psychologist, Lourdes Morales González, from the Family State Department (DIF) also showed what to do in case of a nervous breakdown of a victim.

The participants were very enthusiastic about working together with local authorities and NGOs, and showed readiness to start with the commitment signed. The audience had the chance to exchange different ideas, concerns and possible solutions about children sexual exploitation, law enforcement and the role of the tourist entrepreneurial sector in the phenomena. They clarified lots of questions about the implementation and made suggestions about improving the application of the Code of Conduct and adding other allies in the future.

The internal trainings of hotels will start in April, with ECPAT and Cadenas Humanas support and monitoring.



Rosa Martha Brown of Fundacion Infancia speaking at the tourism industry training in Cancún



Cristina Alcayaga of the local NGO Cadenas Humanas which will monitor the Code implementation and representatives of the tourism industry of Cancún



ECPAT USA Cancún based Amaya Renobales and police representative Claudia Vera speaking at the tourism training

6. UNICEF TACRO, Panama



Clara Sommarin, Child Protection Officer, UNICEF Americas & Caribbean Regional Office, March 10, 2006

After the regional training of trainers workshop that UNICEF TACRO organized in September 2005 in Panama, the different countries (El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Guatemala) are doing advocacy efforts for the subscription to the Code of Conduct and commitment on behalf of the public and private tourism sector to the fight against CSE. National trainings have been organized on the prevention of CSE in the tourism industry and these efforts will continue during this year. The process has been a bit slower in Belize and Panama but efforts will be reinitiated in 2006 to advocate for the Code of Conduct etc.

In November 2005, UNICEF TACRO organized another regional training this time for police from Central America on how to investigate and prosecute crimes of commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking of children. Eight policemen from eight countries in Central America (Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama), who have not been trained before, were trained. In total around 70 people participated in the workshop. The police selected belonged to different police corps such as National Police, Investigative Police, Tourism Police and Migration police. After the workshop, a network was established among the police officers and in some countries similar trainings have been held at national level.

The development of a regional communication campaign was initiated last year and an initial concept proposal was presented in August to the Consejo Centroamericano de Turismo. In October, it was presented for the second time to the Consejo Centroamericano de Turismo, and various perspectives from different countries were discussed. In 2006 UNICEF reinitiated negotiations in the countries concerned and at regional level.

(Note: this information was intended as an input of UNICEF TACRO for presentation in the context of the WTO Task Force; the delay in reception caused by technical difficulties prevented its presentation in Berlin by the Code Secretariat)

7. ECPAT Spain

Raquel Gonzalez, 14 February, 2006

In February ECPAT Spain met Sol Meliá, and the process to pursue the Code adoption continues to develop. In the following weeks, Sol Melia will develop together with ECPAT Spain an action plan for 2006. For the time being the aim is to schedule the Code signature for the end of March, provided an agreement can be reached on the commitments, materials that need to be elaborated and dates for the training workshops.

(Note: input extracted from the message to the Code Secretariat, Feb 14, 2006).

THANK YOU!

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