INDONESIA'S COUNTRY REPORT ON

ACTIONS AND MEASURES TO COMBAT
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IN TOURISM

PRESENTED
AT THE TASK FORCE TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL
EXPLOITATION IN TOURISM
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I. INTRODUCTION

Besides generating economic benefits in most tourist destinations, the rapid growth of tourism in Indonesia has produced negative socio-cultural impacts which become evident, in particular in the exploitation of human beings through sex tourism.

One of the most terrifying issues to combat is sex tourism, especially when applied to children. This is a very lucrative business, thus attracting more and more people to run it. Consequently, more and more children will be victimized.

It is a fact that not all people are totally aware on this issue. Series of seminars and other forms of socializations have been held by the government and related partners to raise awareness and generate the people support towards the efforts to prevent children from sexual exploitation in tourism. However, the feedback of the actions is still inadequate. We are still reluctant to take necessary action to protect our generation from sexual abuse. It has been reported that to recover the victims of sexual exploitation is very costly, and presumably, it might exceed the profit gained from this business.

The Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia recognizes the child rights and provides a principle to formulate child right-based policies in Indonesia. The Law No. 9 of 1990 on Tourism contains policy initiative that tourism development should:

- Generate economic, social and cultural benefits for the people, especially local population;
- Respect religious values, social and cultural traditions, practices and customs;
- Safeguard the cultural heritage and natural environment;
- Create direct and indirect job and business opportunity.

Accordingly, the government of Indonesia has set up conceptual manner to develop tourism sector free from any sorts of unlawful sexual activity, especially that applied to children, free from drugs and gambling. Thus, Indonesia is fully prepared and willing to further combat and eliminate SECT in Tourism Networks in collaboration with other related parties as well as international organizations.
II. CURRENT SITUATION

National Socio-economic Surveys indicate that the number of people living in poverty increased by about 13 millions between 1996-1997. This phenomenon has consequently increased the risk of children forced out of school, inability to afford basic health services, and malnutrition. These poor and low level education children have become vulnerable groups to be abused, exploited, and violated, economically and sexually.

In 1997-1998, the government of Indonesia estimated about 1.9 millions children were in labor force. In 2001, approximately 1.7 millions children of 5 to 14 years old were forced to work, and many were engaged in the work that is hazardous to their health and development such as in the commercial sex industry. The Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) indicated that the registered number of commercial sex workers (CSW) in 2000-2001 was around 70,000, where 30% were prostituted children and 3-5% were younger than 15 years old (Farid, 1999). The real number of CSW was presumably ten fold of the official number. A study carried out in 2003 by CSDS (Center for Societal Development Studies of Atmajaya Catholic University)) revealed that initial age of entry into prostitution is as young as 10-12 years old. Sex services are offered not only in government regulated establishment such as brothel complexes, but also in residential places, hotels, bars, restaurants, beauty parlors, escort services, and others (CSDS, 2003). Economic reason due to poverty has been the most frequently mentioned push factor into sex industry. Prostitution has become a survival strategy due to poverty, and sex workers contribute over 40% of the family income (CSDS, 2003). Other factors influencing the existence of sexual exploitation of children in Indonesian tourism are rural-urban migration, low level of education, drop out of school, consumerism and absence of employment opportunity, divorces resulted from early marriages, sexual abuse during childhood.

The boom of tourism industry within the country has created employment and business opportunities for the local people. This has attracted children to seek out opportunities for employment in the tourist areas. These children are obviously those who are most risky for sexual exploitation. The lucrative business of the child sex industry has contributed to increase high mobility of labor and trafficking in children for sexual purpose.

Research conducted in Bali by Christ Beddoe, Rohman, and Adria RS indicates that the sexual exploitation of children in tourism can be seen in three forms as follows:
• Prostitution of children (male and female);
• Child Victims of Pedophile (male and female victims);
• Trafficking in children for sexual purpose

The research explains that there have been 12 pedophile offenders aged between 35-70 years old operating regularly in Bali. They come from Australia, England, France, Germany, and the USA, with one German who has lived in Bali since 1973.

Although systematic and nation wide accurate data on child trafficking and sexually exploited children are currently not available, but there are reports and local studies indicating that many Indonesian girls are victims of trafficking, domestically and trans border. Some are trafficked for commercial sex industry and some for domestic workers.

III. INTRUMENTS TO COMBAT SECT (Sexual Exploitation of Children in Tourism)

There have been international instruments to combat SECT issued by international bodies, such as United Nation Organization and World Tourism Organization as follows:

• The UN Convention of the Rights of the Child 1989;
• The ILO Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor;
• The ILO Convention No. 138 concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment;
• The Stockholm Declaration 1996 and Yokohama Global Commitments 2001
• The UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Women and Children
• The Millennium Development Goals and A World Fit for Children
• Bali Process 2002 concerning Combating People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime launched by Indonesia in collaboration with Australia;
• Bali Consensus 2003 at the 6th East Asia and the Pacific Ministerial Consultation concerning the necessity of the collaborative research, comprehensive data gathering and analysis on CSEC issues;
• The WTO Statement on the Prevention of Organized Sex Tourism 1995;
At the national level, Indonesia has provided national instruments to combat sexual exploitation of children in tourism (SECT) issues, as follows:

- Law No. 9 /1990 on Tourism; (The amendment of the law is being processed)
- Law No. 23 / 2002 on Protection of Children;
- Presidential Decree No 59 / 2002 on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor;
- Presidential Decree No 87 / 2002 on National Plan of Action to Eliminate Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children;

Indonesia notices that both children and women are likely becoming victims of sexual exploitation. This concern has been taken seriously and the Law on Trafficking in Women and Children is now being prepared.

IV. NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO COMBAT SECT

The government of Indonesia has recognized all instruments to combat sexual exploitation of children in tourism. Coordination and collaboration are being strengthened among relevant institutions and social groups to work hand in hand in order to eliminate this problem. Three National Plan of Actions have already been prepared by the government to combat child workers, commercial sexual exploitation of children, and trafficking in women and children. Under the Presidential Decree, the government established National Committee on Eradication of the Worst Form of Work, National Task Force on Eradication of Trafficking in Women and Children, as well as on Eradication of SECT.

The National Plan of Action on Eradication of SECT sets out directives for implementation by government institutions, law enforcement bodies, educational institutions, and non-government organizations under five main areas of activity, namely: coordination and cooperation, prevention, protection, social reintegration, and child participation. In the area of prevention, the Plan calls for the tourism sector to conduct activities to fight against SECT in tourism in order to develop zone free from SECT at strategic destinations (Batam and Bali as pilot projects).

Following this, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MOCT) has put this campaign as an integrated program of the National Plan of Action for
Eradicating Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children as stated by the Presidential Decree number 87/2002. The activities consist of printing and disseminating stickers, displaying posters in some airports, seminars/workshops to raise awareness of the tourism stakeholders towards prevention of SECT, public advertisement through electronic and printing media, and Television Talk Shows.

In collaboration with the WTO, Indonesia hosted the WTO Regional Consultation on the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Tourism, in Bali, June 26-27, 2003. The forum which aimed at mobilizing tourism administrations and industry sector to combat practices SECT, was attended by tourism stakeholders from surrounding countries and concluded on the adoption of Bali Declaration on the Protection of Children.

In commemorating the Children National Day, July 23, 2003, the President of the Republic of Indonesia officially declared a National Campaign in Preventing Children from Sexual Exploitation in Tourism, in Jakarta. This declaration's aim was to raise the people awareness to protect children from sexual exploitation, especially in tourism networks. The campaign as an initial step to promote Bali and Batam as the pilot project for SECT free zone destinations and to develop SECT free packages.

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism and Child Wise, Australia organized TOT on Preventing Sex Abuse in Tourism Destination which held in Jakarta, 2 September 2003. The workshop whose objective was to train professionals from tourism related sectors, was attended by about 50 representatives from various government institutes, tourism associations, NGO, tourism institutes, and pers. To facilitate the participants during the TOT forum, the training module has been translated into Bahasa Indonesia and has also been distributed to tourism industries.

At the last quarter of year 2003, the MOCT in collaboration with the National Commission of Child Protection (NCCP) and Local Governments have conducted several activities such as: Television Talk Show, One Day Seminar in Preventing Children from Sexual Exploitation in Batam and Bali, One Day Seminar in Preventing Trafficking in Women and Children in Jakarta.

In collaboration with Child Wise Tourism Australia, Indonesia hosted the third Meeting of Child Wise Think Tank in Bali, 15-16 January 2004. The participants of the forum was from Srilanka, Myanmar, Cambodia, Philippine, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Australia and ASEAN Secretariat. The think tank has provided forum to share
knowledge and to find ways to combat SECT in the region. In addition, the forum adopted ASEAN Traveller’s Code (ATC) as an implementation of ASEAN Tourism Agreement.

**Live Television Talk Show**

It was conducted at TVRI (National Television) on 12 November 2003 with the topic on “Child Exploitation in Art and Tourism” and at Metro TV (national coverage) on 19 February with the topic on “Pedophile”. One of the participating viewers from Jogyakarta suggested that to eliminate SECT it is necessary to uproot poverty as the basic influencing factor of the SECT. Another participating viewer suggested that the MOCT in cooperation with related partners should develop an educational film series to be broadcasted on television in order to raise people awareness towards SECT issue.

**One Day Seminar on Preventing Children from SECT**

The first seminar was done in Batam on 8 December 2003 performing 4 speakers coming from NCCP, Local Child Protection Institution (LCPI), Representative from Local Police, and Local Government Office on Social Affairs. The second was done in Denpasar, Bali, on 22 December 2003 with 5 speakers coming from NCCP, Regional Police, Regional Government Office on Social Affairs, a Researcher, and a Psychiatrist.

In these occasions, the MOCT delivered keynote speech emphasizing the need to protect children from any form of exploitation. As well, the audience was also briefed on the concept of National Tourism Development showing that, legally, tourism sector never tolerates any form of sex tourism in Indonesia, especially applied to children. However, it is acknowledged, indeed, that sexual practices are unavoidably often happen in tourism networks as the side effect of tourism progress in the country.

The participants of both seminars were school teachers, local prominent figures, local religious figures, local tradition figures, association of tourism industry, media, tourism police (and police women), NGOs concentrating on child protection, tourism related institutions at the number of about 100 people from surrounding Batam and Denpasar.

The participants suggested that this effort should be followed up by concrete actions, otherwise there will be fruitless gain. These seminars should be continued in other regions and involving more
tourism stake holder participations. Workshops for tourism industry are also proposed in order to design strategic efforts to prevent children from sexual exploitation in tourism networks.

One Day Seminar on the Prevention of Trafficking in Women and Children

The seminar was held in Jakarta on 6 January 2004 attended by 75 participants coming from association of art and culture impresario, dancing institutions, NGOs concentrating on women empowerment, Ministry of Women Empowerment, media, and academicians. It was revealed that there are two significant problems in impresario business, one is related to dancers hijacking, and the other one related to dancer exploitation – they are not only to dance but also to perform sexual entertainment at the night clubs, mostly happened in Japan.

The seminar recommends that it is necessary to insert traditional dance extra curriculum at schools not only to educate students how to dance but also to build ethical values for the students personality development. A Dancing Expert, as one of the speaker of the seminar, said that through traditional dancing, students will learn the area of their own space (rights) and other people’s space (rights). They will also learn to appreciate the rights of others as well as to protect their own rights. Thus, they will not allow themselves to exploit other people and also they will not allow other people to exploit them.

Other Activities

Besides those mentioned above, the activities conducted in accordance to the Campaign, are displaying posters in some airports (Mataram, Bengkulu, Padang, Pontianak, Manado, Batam, and Bali), socialization of Global Code of Ethics for Tourism (the text has been translated into Indonesian), and presentation to prevent Child Sex Tourism to selected groups.

- **Socialization of Global Code of Ethics for Tourism**

These activities were held in several provincial cities: Padang (West Sumatera), Pontianak (West Kalimantan), Manado (North Sulawesi), and Batu (East Java). The participants were from local tourism offices, local tourism associations, and local board of development offices. The aims of this forum was to increase tourism professionals’ horizon concerning the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, Principle of National Tourism Development,
and Prevention of SECT in Tourism. These activities were held from September to December 2003 with 75 participants each.

- **Presentation of Child Sex Tourism**

  The objective of this activities was to raise awareness in order to prevent the children from sexual exploitation. The content of the presentation basically derived from Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, Principle of National Tourism Development, and Prevention of SECT. The presentations were held from September to December 2003 for selected groups as follows:

  - Jakarta Metropolitan Police (Tourist Police) with 30 participants, Jakarta, September 2003;
  - New Indonesian Diplomats with 60 participants (2 groups), Jakarta, October 2003;
  - Surabaya Hotel Staffs : 55 participants, Surabaya, October 2003
  - Makassar Hotel Staffs : 55 participants, in Makassar, November 2003;
  - Students of Bandung Tourism Institute : 35 participants, in Bandung, November 2003;
  - In Service Training for Lower and Middle Management of the MOCT : 30 participants, in Bogor, West Java, November 2003;
  - Job Orientation Training for Internal Staff of Human Resources Development of the MOCT : 30 participants, in Jakarta, December 2003.

V. **CONCLUSION**

Indeed, putting an end to sexual exploitation of children in tourism is a very tough assignment and needs cooperation across all sectors, including travel and tourism industries.

The initiatives taken by the ECPAT in Indonesia in collaboration with the local NGOs involved in tourism have helped bring together the tourism industry and other related sectors in the campaign to prevent child sex tourism. The government of Indonesia has taken this issue seriously and is taking appropriate measures to prevent the exploitative use of not only children but also women in prostitution, pornography, or other unlawful sexual activities.
The initiatives of combating sexual exploitation of children in tourism have to be carried out by both tourist-receiving countries and tourist-sending countries. While tourist-receiving countries may educate their people especially those who live in tourist destinations to take prevention on this abuse, tourists-sending countries may make clear to their people who are planning to travel that they have to prevent from doing the unlawful sexual activities in foreign countries. The involvement of international organizations like the WTO and the ECPAT in pushing all countries to implement responsible tourism definitely brings the success of the action taken.