INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ILO)
International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC)

ILO - IPEC Briefing Note
World Tourism Organization – Task Force on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children
Berlin 13 March 2004

INTRODUCTION

Throughout its standards-related work, the ILO has dealt with the issue of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) in relation to forced labour and as one of the worst forms of child labour. The commercial sexual exploitation of children is a serious human rights violation. The ILO stands for firm prosecution of CSEC offenders and firmly supports state- or civil society-sponsored institutions to prevent CSEC in Tourism, withdraw children from exploitation and restore their prospects of becoming responsible and productive citizens.

Since 1999, the ILO’s work against trafficking and CSEC has been reinforced by the adoption of the ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (No. 182). This declares CSEC to be unacceptable in all countries regardless of their level of development, and calls for it to be eliminated without further delay. It confirms that CSEC is a practice similar to slavery, and belongs in the same category as forced labour.

The ILO views the result of CSEC in Tourism as an assault on human dignity and a denial of a person’s opportunity both to make the most of her/his resources and to contribute to the economic development of her or his nation. The type of exploitation suffered by victims of CSE is the antithesis of “full, productive and freely chosen employment”. This is even more the case for children, where immediate exploitation is aggravated by a denial of the child’s right to development that severely limits her/his potential to become a productive adult. A child under the ILO Convention No. 182 is a person under the age of 18 years.

*The following provides a brief update on ILO IPEC activities against CSEC and Tourism. More information on individual projects and activities can be obtained through contacting the ILO IPEC (details at the end of the Brief).*
MEXICO
IPEC organized two meetings in 2003 with hotels and travel agencies (reports available upon request). 2004; project with ACCOR. Training session for tourism industry workers will be implemented in DF, Acapulco, Tijuana and Guadalajara. The first training sessions take place in March 2004 in DF. (Docs in Spanish)
The main results of the meetings IPEC had with the private sector last year were:
1. Raising awareness for professionals from the tourist industry about the phenomenon and its implications.
2. Commitment to take part in distributing awareness raising and information materials on this problem. IPEC/ILO is already developing awareness raising materials and having the support from the tourist industry is very important to get the message to general public.
3. Commitment from hotel owners to train their personnel. As a result of this, we have already programmed a training session for ACCOR’s human resource personnel, using a manual by Child Wise as a basis, tested by ACCOR in the Philippines, but enhanced and adapted for application in Mexico by IPEC Mexico, STPS and Fundacion Infantia. Training will be carried out during March and this manual will be tested to be later implemented in hotels in Mexico City, Acapulco, Guadalajara and Tijuana.
4. The following information is contained in the manual: human rights, rights of boys, girls and adolescents and responsible and sustainable tourism; commercial sexual exploitation of children: phenomenon, causes and consequences, victims, exploiters; commercial sexual exploitation in Mexico: situation in the country and actions taken; guidelines and statements from the tourist industry - what the tourist industry can do to support prevention of the phenomenon.
5. In the section on rights of children, participants are introduced to the knowledge of international legal protection instruments, including ILO covenants.

COSTA RICA
General Developments
- Approval of Law on sexual exploitation of children in 1999
- Existence of Specialized Office for Investigation of Sex Crimes at the Public Ministry and effective investigation of sex tourists take place and various cases have been sanctioned with prison sentences. Training of judicial investigators by FBI, Spanish police and others.
- The Public Ministry is carrying out police training (general police) and they inform about the national law to what seem to be sex tourists.
- The Ethical Code and awareness raising material is being disseminated widely in the tourist sector (hotel owners, administrators, receptionists)
- A Manual for Persons working in the Tourist sector on prevention of CSEC was produced by the Association of Tour Operators and the Ministry of Justice
- An Ethical Code was signed by the Association of Airport Taxi drivers for the prevention of CSEC
- The WTO organization carried out a Regional Latin American Consultation of Sex Tourism in May 2003.

IPEC Interventions
- Study on the private tourist sector’s knowledge on CSEC and interest in participating in the elimination of sex tourism
- 18 workshops with 220 persons from the tourist sector (hotels, rent a car; travel agencies) on prevention of CSEC and the law (these workshops are being carried out these days)
- 21 police training workshops of all police in Limon region (526 police officers) where sex tourism is common (these workshops are being carried out these days)
- Awareness raising materials

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**
The tourist sector has gradually been involved in interventions against CSEC at the same time it was promoting sustainable tourism. Other initiatives,

- On 28 May 2003, the National Council on Childhood and the National Association of Hotels and Restaurants (ASONAHORES), launched a code of conduct for the hotel sector to contribute to the elimination of the CSEC in the DR. This initiative is a major commitment of the hotel sector to promote "clean" tourism in the country. The code was distributed to the staff of all ASONAHORES affiliates.

- Implementation by the National Commission against CSEC (with strong participation of the Ministry of Labour) of a module produced by the WTO to strengthen the capacities of the tourist sector, which has been adapted to the Dominican context. The training has already been given in 3 tourist areas, namely Boca Chica, Bayahibe and Puerto Plata. As a result, 120 professionals of 10 hotels have been trained. These professionals will train their own staff. Awareness raising campaigns for tourists on illegality of buying sex from children. Unit for police investigation of sex crimes established. Network of consuls created and trained for dissemination of information among tourists about illegality of using children for sex exploitation. - Awareness raising materials (banner in main road from the airport to Santo Domingo; TV-spots, others)

**NICARAGUA**
**General developments**

- National Plan on Elimination of CSEC includes elimination of sex tourism

**IPEC Interventions**
Prevention and elimination of sex tourism is at the core of the ILO/IPEC project “Contribution to the Elimination of Commercial sexual exploitation of children in Central America, Panamá and Dominican Republic”. The project intends to prevent the following types of CSEC (1. Exploitation of children for paid sexual relationships; 2. Child pornography, and 3. Use of children in sex shows) and these modalities: a. National “demand”/exploiters; b. Sex tourism; c. Trafficking of children for sex purposes and d. Dissemination of child pornography on the internet.

- In March 2004 a national public seminar on prevention of sex tourism will be carried out.

**MERCOSUR TRIANGLE (BRAZIL, ARGENTINA AND PARAGUAY)**

**Achievements with IPEC support**
62 hotels have signed in Foz do Iguazú (Brazil) a special agreement to adjust their conduct related to C 182, particularly CSEC - initiative taken by the Labour Public Prosecutor Ministry and Local Committee. This agreement was presented to hotels on October 10th 2003;

The workers organizations of hotel employees in Foz do Iguazú also published 1,000 booklets to support the training of tourism operators in the prevention of CSEC;

ITAIPU Binacional (Hidroeletric Brazil/Paraguay Company) will launch a kind of "stamp" for companies of tourism sector that protect children against CSE on May 18th - national day to combat child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation in Brazil;
250 policemen from the municipal guards were trained in preventing children from sex tourism in Foz do Iguaçu - February 2004. This special force was created to orient the tourists and are working at the airport, bus station, parks and touristic points.

Consultants of the Reference Centers are visiting each hotel of Foz do Iguaçu in order to organize special workshop on prevention of CSEC for the attendants and other employees.

Training for students of tourism on a local University provided by the Reference Center - from March to June 2004.

REGIONAL
ILO IPEC participated in the World Tourism Organization’s Latin American Consultation to combat sex tourism held in May 2003.

ASIA

PHILIPPINES.
IPEC Project with the Trade Union in the hotel and tourism sector, NUHWRAIN.
IPEC project on trafficking and tourism has often been cited as a good practice example, and was presented in the October 2000 Asian Regional meeting on child trafficking. (Manila) It was funded with Japanese trade union (RENGO) funds. (Nuhwraith Paper annexed)

CAMBODIA (New Activity)
In the Mekong project (ILO IPEC Project to Combat Trafficking in Children, (TICW) ) work on tourism and CSEC will be one of the new priorities of the Cambodia country component, with attention focused on Siem Reap (where the Angkor Wat is located). This area is a fast growing tourist destination and there are strong possibilities of enlisting employer engagement. The ACCOR Hotel Group representatives in Thailand presented their partnership agreement with ECPAT during IPEC project staff meeting early March. They are interested in working with IPEC TICW in Cambodia and sent their representative to the NSOE last week in Phnom Penh.

THAILAND
Good practice example from the Mekong project in Thailand, which rather than seeing tourism as a negative influence, demonstrates how tourism can be a positive force against trafficking. The AP implemented by a Thai NGO called the Mirror Arts Group is considered a good practice in opening up new economic opportunities for hill tribe women and children vulnerable to trafficking. The AP promoted eco-tourism as an income generating activity in these as alternatives to blind migration.

INDIA
Andhra Pradesh with the Iranian Hotel Association where they passed a resolution stating that they will not tolerate any child labour on their premises. They are the largest hotel sector in Hyderabad.

AFRICA
GHANA
IPEC has supported the Ghana NO Coalition on the Rights of the Child, The Ministry of Manpower and Employment and the Ministry of Tourism to develop a policy (still in draft form). Follow-up activities should be contracted to Ministry of Tourism, which has been very keen on combating child labour in the sector and played a key role in the policy development.

The Tourism Development Board has a Code of Practice for the hospitality industry, which is presently being reviewed to incorporate child labour issues. Two Districts; Caspe Coast and Elimina, with very high tourism activities have also produced bylaws to protect children in the area.

REGIONAL
IPEC participated in the "Regional Consultation for Africa on the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Tourism" held in Dakar by the Word Tourism Organization (WTO, cosponsored by the Government of Senegal with funding from the European Union) September the 30th, 2003.

The ILO-IPEC is grateful to DFID, USDOL and RENGO (Japanese TU) for providing funds for the activities to combat CSEC in the Tourism Industry.

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