How we tackle the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Japan

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Our Advocacy Activities Revisited: Outline

- Promotion of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC): since 1993
  ⇒ Formation of a pressure group for ratification by the Japanese Government of the Convention of the Rights of the Child

- Campaign Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) and Trafficking: since 1996

- Campaign to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers: since 1998
  ⇒ Three symposia involving world experts on the subject, such as Mme. Graça Machel and Mr. Olara Otunnu.
Our Advocacy Activities Revisited
What we have done on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: in detail

- Six public events, including symposia, seminars, and children’s events, with thousands of people in attendance (’97,’98,’00,’03,’04)

- Five Stockholm follow-up meetings inviting the members of the Diet (’97-’01)

- Three signature-collection campaigns advocating that the Japanese Government to establish laws against commercial and sexual exploitation of children and trafficking (’98,’00,’03)

- 30,000 posters, 600,000 leaflets distributed (’96 -’99)

- A public service announcement video featuring our Goodwill Ambassador shown at the two Tokyo International Airports (’98,’04)
...continued

- The Goodwill Ambassador’s field visits and her reports in the media (’98,’01,’04)

- Dialogue with the Japanese travel industry (since ’96)

- Partnership with the Internet industry on the protection of children in cyberspace (since ’04)
WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED

• Passage of a law called “Act on Punishment for Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking in Children for Sexual Purposes and on Protection and Care of Children” (’99)

• Opening of the 2nd World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (Yokohama, ’02)

• Revision of the Act on Punishment for Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking in Children for Sexual Purposes and on Protection and Care of Children (’04)

• Revision of Child Welfare Law (’05)
Ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention of the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (’05) *

*In 2004, the Japanese Government also ratified another optional protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

Launching of the Code Project, together with 85 travel and tourism enterprises, which cover some 90% of the tourists from Japan (’05)

Revision of the Criminal Procedure Law to punish all forms of human trafficking (’05)
WHAT NEXT? = ON-GOING PROJECTS

- Implementation of the “Code” project: Actions to be undertaken by participating companies include:
  - Introduction of “Anti-CSEC” clauses in company policies and contracts
  - Training of company employees
  - Development of communication tools (e.g., pamphlets, leaflets) with anti-CSEC messages

- Exploration of the possible introduction in the Internet industry of a Code of Conduct in Cyberspace

- Further promotion of public awareness on the commercial sexual exploitation of children and Trafficking, in preparation for the 3rd World Congress