



UNITED NATIONS
Office on Drugs and Crime

Consultation workshop

*'A legal framework for combatting child sex
tourism'*

20 -21 February 2012

Hai Phong, Viet Nam



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Project Childhood (Protection Pillar)



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Presentation structure

1. Project Childhood (Protection Pillar)
2. Key Activities
3. Regional Findings
4. Working with Government counterparts

Project Childhood

A \$7.5 million Australian AID (AusAID)-funded initiative to combat the sexual exploitation of children - mainly in the travel and tourism sectors - in the Greater Mekong sub-region.

4 year program
(2010-2014)

Funded by the
Australian Government



Key Priority Countries:

- Cambodia
- Lao PDR
- Thailand
- Vietnam



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Project Childhood Pillars and Partner

Protection Pillar



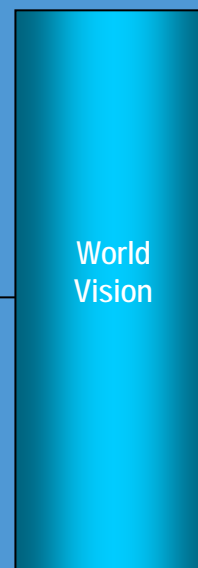
1 (UNODC)

Technical
assistance and
capacity
building

2 (INTERPOL) –

Operational
activity

Prevention Pillar





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Protection Pillar Aim and 4 Objectives

Aim

To strengthen and enhance the capacity of law enforcement officials in **identifying, arresting** and **prosecuting** travelling child sex offenders in order to combat child sex tourism.

Objective 1 (Training)

Between 2010 – 2014 (**WHEN**), work with police officers (**WHO**) located in police units identified in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam (**WHERE**) and provide technical assistance (**WHAT**) through training activities (**HOW**) that will enhance their capacity to effectively identify, arrest and prosecute travelling child sex offenders (**WHY**)



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Protection Pillar Objectives

Objective 2 (Legislation)

Between 2010 – 2014 (**WHEN**), work with police, prosecutors and judges (**WHO**) in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam (**WHERE**) and provide technical assistance (**WHAT**) through activities related to strengthening legislative frameworks, in order to ensure that domestic legislative frameworks meet international standards for prosecuting offences related to sexual abuse of children by travelling sex offenders (**WHY**)

Protection Pillar Objectives

Objective 3 (Specialist working group)

By 2013 (**WHEN**), establish an INTERPOL Specialists Group on Crimes against Children sub group (**WHAT**) in Southeast Asia Region (**WHERE**) which will be a working group consisting of the ASEAN countries dedicated to preventing the abuse of children (**WHY**) through sharing of evidence, best practice, community and law enforcement strategies (**HOW**)

Protection Pillar Objectives

Objective 4 (Operational teams)

By 2014 (**WHEN**) strengthen or establish operational teams in police units (**WHO**) identified in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam (**WHERE**) that focus on investigating sexual abuse
of children committed by travelling child sex offenders



Pre-implementation: Key activities in 2011

1. Situation analysis of child sex tourism
2. A desk study of police responses to child sex tourism
3. A review of the legal framework relating to child sex tourism
4. An assessment of training delivered to police officers (Phase 1: Cambodia & Thailand) (Phase 2: Lao PDR & Viet Nam)
5. Project Implementation design document



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Definition of Child Sex Tourism

The sexual exploitation of children by a person or persons who travel from their home district, home geographical region, or home country in order to have sexual contact with children. Child sex tourists can be domestic travellers or they can be international tourists. Child Sex Tourism often involves the use of accommodation, transportation and other tourism-related services that facilitate contact with children and enable the perpetrator to remain fairly inconspicuous in the surrounding population and environment”

ECPAT

(End Child Prostitution Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Exploitation)



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Regional Findings

Offenders:

- 1) Domestic and regional tourists
 - 2) Westerners
-

Facilitators:

Small hotels, guest houses, casinos, transport services (e.g. tuk-tuk drivers)

Victims (Highest risk):

- 1) Street and working children
 - 2) Children without appropriate family care
-

Staffing:

High staff turnover jeopardizes sustainability of trainings

Data:

A limited research specific to child sex tourism

Trends:

Increased use of Internet-related technologies by offenders.



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Regional Findings

Concepts: Child sex tourism is generally misunderstood

Government: The project idea was welcomed by all government counterparts

Legal mechanisms: None specific to child sex tourism though existing legislation can be applied and strengthened

Law Enforcement: Investigations tend to be Reactive not Proactive
Overall coordination mechanism required for managing cases

Justice: Few prosecutions take place (mainly Westerners)



Implementation: Key activities in 2012

1. Design a training curriculum/module with a focus on travelling child sex offenders
2. Work towards strengthening the legal framework relating to child sex tourism
3. Support law enforcement officials with the necessary equipment for investigations and prosecutions
4. Set up a Project Childhood Coordination Committee



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Sustainability

Key Drivers

- Government Ownership
- Alignment with national development strategies, institutions, procedures



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Today's workshop

Legal framework: Child Sex Tourism

Discussion paper

- National perspectives on child sex tourism law and policy in Viet Nam
- International instruments and laws applicable to child sex tourism
- Legislative gaps
- Regional coordination and cooperation agreements between the 4 project countries



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Thank You.