



TAIWAN FOUNDATION
for DEMOCRACY

財團法人臺灣民主基金會

November 8th, 2012

ECPAT International Wins the 2012 Asia Democracy and Human Rights Award

The Taiwan Foundation for Democracy announced today that the winner of 2012 Asia Democracy and Human Rights Award will be awarded to ECPAT International of Thailand. ECPAT International (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes) is the leading global network working to end the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC). Originated in 1991, as a campaign to stop child sex tourism in Asia, ECPAT has broadened its mandate to include the protection of children from all forms of CSEC, including child prostitution, child trafficking for sexual purposes and sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism.

In 1996, ECPAT International became an international non-governmental organization with member groups, an International Board and a Secretariat, working together with key partners in solidarity to ensure that children everywhere enjoy their fundamental rights free and secure from all forms of commercial sexual exploitation. For example, in cooperation with UNICEF and host governments, ECPAT has been the primary impetus behind the three World Congresses against CSEC held in Stockholm, Sweden (1996); Yokohama, Japan (2001); and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (2008). These congresses represented major milestones in the fight against CSEC and each concluded with a clear commitment of participating countries to uphold children's rights to be protected from commercial sexual exploitation. Meanwhile, through its Country Monitoring Reports, ECPAT International continues to call upon governments to adopt more effective measures to strengthen their child protection policies in compliance with international obligations.

Besides pushing for global conferences, ECPAT International also collaborates with UN organizations as well as international non-governmental organizations to gradually strengthen measures to protect children. On the one hand, not only has ECPAT International gained a special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC), but they had also made a significant contribution to the UN Study on Violence (2006), which looked at all types of violence against children. They are closely engaged with the UN Human Rights mechanisms as well. ECPAT International provides UN Special Rapporteurs with expertise and information on human rights issues and supports the mandates of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence against Children (SRSG). Moreover, ECPAT has also been successful in establishing partnerships with NGOs to protect children from CSEC, which can be seen in their work to stop child sex tourism through the establishment of the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism.

On the other hand, ECPAT International has been particularly successful in working with different corporations in public education and awareness building. For instance, ECPAT International and the Body Shop's global campaigns on "Stop Sex Trafficking of Children and Young People" had contributed to the total of 7 million signatures worldwide and attracted attention of government officials, including the President of Nepal and the President of the Philippines who each received campaign petitions from children and youth. The campaign received praise and recognition globally as well.

The International Secretariat of ECPAT International is now based in Bangkok, Thailand. Their vision is realization of the right of all children to live free of child prostitution, child pornography and child trafficking for sexual purposes. The ECPAT network has expanded from four groups (all in Asia) prior to the World Congress in 1996 to more than 80 groups in over 70 countries worldwide, including ECPAT Taiwan. They are all independent organizations or coalitions working against commercial sexual exploitation of children. ECPAT Taiwan, one of the founding members, combining with groups concerning issues of women and children, joined ECPAT International in 1991 and has since advocated to

promote children's basic rights and to prevent them from CSEC. Meanwhile, their tasks have grown to work on issues, such as sexual exploitation, online safety for youth and children, human trafficking, etc. Also, ECPAT Taiwan has collaborated with ECPAT International on many activities, such as seminars, the Body Shop's global campaigns on "Stop Sex Trafficking of Children and Young People", research programmes, youth workshops, and international ECPAT board meetings in Taipei, and so on.

ECPAT International was chosen after a two-stage reviewing process. The final review panel included Dr. Nisuke Ando, Director of the Kyoto Human Rights Research Institute and former Chair of the United Nations Human Rights Committee; Dr. Alex Boraine, Chairperson of International Center of Transitional Justice and former Deputy Chairperson of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of South Africa; Dr. Sima Samar, Chairperson of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission and the 2008 Asia Democracy and Human Rights Award laureate; Dr. Carolina Hernandez, Professor of Political Science at the University of the Philippines and President of Institute of Strategic and Development Studies, Inc.; Ms Asma Jahangir, Chairperson of Human Rights Commission of Pakistan and former United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief; TFD Chairman Wang Jin-Pyng, and Dr. Teh-Fu Huang, President of the TFD.

ECPAT International will formally receive the 2012 Asia Democracy and Human Rights Award at a ceremony in Shangri-La's Far Eastern Plaza Hotel Taipei on December 10th, the International Human Rights Day. The Award consists of one sculpture and a US\$100,000 grant to support ECPAT International for their ongoing works to end the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children.

Media Contact:

Email: award@tfd.org.tw

Tel: +886-2-2708-0100 #218 Ms Hung-Ya Lien

Fax: +886-2-2708-1148

For more information about the Award, please visit:

http://www.tfd.org.tw/english/HTML/ADHRA_2012_main.html