



TAIWAN FOUNDATION
for DEMOCRACY

財團臺灣民主基金會
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Press Release

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ECPAT International Received 2012 Asia Democracy and Human Rights Award

Taiwan Foundation for Democracy held the annual award ceremony of Asian Democracy and Human Rights Award this morning on December 10th at Far East Plaza Hotel Taipei; and the laureate of this year's award goes to the Thailand-based ECPAT International. 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.

President Ma Ying-jeou was invited to offer the award sculpture to Ms. Maureen Crombie, Chairwoman of ECPAT International; and the Legislative Yuan Speaker Wang Jin-pyng, also the Chairman of Taiwan Foundation for Democracy, provided the award grant of 100,000 US Dollars to Ms. Crombie, validating the remarkable performance of ECPAT International.

President Ma addressed that during the process of democratization, Taiwan has suffered incident of 228 and white terror cases. However, the administration still admitted their mistakes, redressed the grievance and made rehabilitation work in humility. For "Historical mistakes can be forgiven, but the lessons of history should not be forgotten," President Ma said. Also, in 1966, United Nations has established the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in order to improve human rights globally, and Taiwan's Legislative Yuan has put these two covenants into practices as the common laws.

Later on, Speaker Wang Jin-Pyng, the Chairman of Taiwan Foundation for Democracy, also stated that since the establishment of Asia Democracy and Human Rights Award in 2006, through open nominations and two stages of reviewing process, each year TFD has awarded individuals or organizations that have demonstrated long-term commitment and outstanding leadership in advancing democracy or human rights through peaceful means. ECPAT International was chosen as the winner of the 2012 Asia Democracy and Human Rights Award. Taiwan Foundation for Democracy is delighted to honor ECPAT International in recognition of their efforts in ending Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children.

Ms. Maureen Combie, Chairwoman of ECPAT International expressed that her humility to accept this year's Award on behalf of ECPAT because it shows the fact that achievements of this organization has actually been highly recognized. Ever since ECPAT International was founded, their vision has been the 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.

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