



THE COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IN EAST AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Developments, progress, challenges and recommended strategies for civil society

November 2014





THE COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IN EAST AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Developments, progress, challenges and recommended strategies for civil society

November, 2014

Copyright © ECPAT International

This publication has been produced with the financial assistance of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), The Oak Foundation and Irish Aid. The views expressed herein are solely those of ECPAT International. The support from these donors does not constitute endorsement of the opinions expressed.

Disclaimer

This report does not set out to be a comprehensive study. The information presented in the report was collected from a number of open source materials and documents available to the public. While care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information presented, the latter may not be exact and ECPAT International makes no representation or warranty that the report is free of error or omission. Readers should further be aware that laws cited may have been amended or repealed since the time of writing. The information is sometimes linked to external sites over which ECPAT International has no control and for which ECPAT International assumes no responsibility.

ECPAT International
328/1 Phayathai Road
Ratchathewi, Bangkok 10400
Thailand
Tel: +66 2 215 3388
Fax: +66 2 215 8272
Email: info@ecpat.net
Website: www.ecpat.net

THE COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IN EAST AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Developments, Progress, Challenges and Recommended Strategies for Civil Society

November 2014



TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD	i
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	ii
ACRONYMS	iii
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	iv
INTRODUCTION	1
SECTION 1. CONTEXT AND INTERSECTING VULNERABILITIES	4
Poverty and inequality	5
Migration	6
Low levels of education and related vulnerabilities	6
Armed conflicts, natural disasters and displacement	7
Growth of consumerism and tourism	8
Urban elites and demand	9
Violence against women and children and their low status	9
Harmful traditional practices	10
Other factors	10
SECTION 2. CSEC MANIFESTATIONS AND EMERGING TRENDS IN EAST AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA	11
CSEC Trends	12
Prostitution of children	14
Trafficking of children for sexual exploitation	16
Child abuse materials and sexual exploitation of children online	18
Sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism	20
Early marriage and its links to child sexual exploitation	25

SECTION 3. ADDRESSING CSEC IN EAST AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA: PROGRESS, GAPS AND CHALLENGES	28
NATIONAL PLANS OF ACTION	29
COORDINATION AND COOPERATION	31
Coordination and cooperation at national and local levels	31
Regional coordination, initiatives and forums	35
PREVENTION	44
Awareness-raising, education and training	44
Access blocking, codes of conduct and other initiatives involving the private sector	46
Support mechanisms for children at risk of sexual exploitation and other vulnerability reduction strategies	47
THE LEGAL CONTEXT	51
Ratification of international legal instruments	51
Regional instruments and human rights mechanisms	51
COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL LEGAL STANDARDS	54
Child prostitution	54
Child pornography and child sexual exploitation online	54
Child trafficking for sexual purposes	54
Extraterritorial Legislation	56
Sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism	57
Law enforcement training and child-friendly justice for CSEC survivors	57
SUPPORT SERVICES	59
CHILD AND YOUTH PARTICIPATION	67
 SECTION 4. CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD	 72
 ENDNOTES	 74

FOREWORD

Over the past decade, evidence has emerged worldwide suggesting that the sexual exploitation of children is becoming more pervasive and increasingly complex. Unprecedented developments in information and communication technologies (ICTs) along with the erosion of social norms and sexual mores met with global trends that transcend national contours like poverty and the major growth in travel and tourism, all put an increasing number of children at risk of becoming victims to the various manifestations of sexual exploitation.

The sense of outrage and relentless efforts spearheaded over the years by ECPAT member organisations in collaboration with other stakeholders have undoubtedly led to progress on many fronts. Through its civil society network active in almost 80 countries and longstanding partnerships with a myriad of child protection agencies, ECPAT seeks to revitalise actions to end the commercial sexual exploitation of children in every region of the world.

The Strategic Framework that the ECPAT International Assembly sets forth every three years for the organisation is intended to guide in the achievement of this goal. The review and planning process that defines this Framework is meant to identify strategies and interventions needed to address the evolving and multi-faceted forms of child sexual exploitation. This Regional Overview on the Sexual Exploitation of Children in East and South-East Asia was compiled as part of the process to determine the Framework for 2015-2018.

In addition to mapping and examining the key socio-economic factors impacting the protection of children and the emerging trends related to child sexual exploitation in East and South-East Asia, the Overview assesses the status of actions taken against this crime within individual countries in the region. It also proposes recommendations for strengthening child protection systems and responds to the prevention, protection and recovery needs of child victims and vulnerable children. The document was validated during the ECPAT Regional Consultation in Taipei, Taiwan (25-27th August, 2014), which led to the identification of regional priorities and strategies for enhancing political will and actions in East and South-East Asia.

The development and validation of the Overview was facilitated by Ahmad Sofian, Regional Representative to the ECPAT International Board of Trustees, ECPAT member organizations, officials of regional mechanisms and entities and child rights experts. We are indebted for their generous technical inputs, collaboration and commitment in fighting the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

The year 2014 marks the 25th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. ECPAT presents this Overview with a reminder to all duty bearers of child rights in East and South-East Asia that according to the Convention every child – regardless of background, ethnic origin, gender or location – has the right to live free from sexual exploitation. Protecting children from this intolerable crime is everyone's responsibility and can only be realised with the commitment and support from all key stakeholders and sectors.



Dorothy Rozga
Executive Director
ECPAT International

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Considerable review, consultation and planning went into the development of this Regional Overview that merits recognition and appreciation.

The Overview draws on the ECPAT's Country Monitoring Reports on CSEC in each member country in the region and relied on the substantive inputs from ECPAT member groups, partner organisations, child rights experts and the Secretariat staff.

We would like to especially acknowledge the contribution of the following individuals and organisations:

Ahmad Sofian, East Asia Regional Representative to the ECPAT International Board of Trustees and Coordinator for ECPAT Indonesia, for leading the reviews, consultations and validation among the ECPAT Network in East and South East Asia.

Representatives of ECPAT Member organisations who participated in the validation of the Regional Overview during the Regional Consultation:

Sokoeun Kong, ECPAT Cambodia; Ketsanee Chantrakul, ECPAT Foundation Thailand; Keiko Saito and Kazuna Kanajiri, ECPAT Japan (Japan and Kansai); Narae Choi, Hyeonsook Lee and Young Hee Lee, ECPAT Korea; Enkhtuya Darjaa and Unurtsetseg Tsedev, ECPAT Mongolia; Dolores Alforte, ECPAT Philippines; Ingrid Liao, Li-Feng Lee, Yi-Ling Chen, Claire Chen, Ying-Chun Ting and Jerry Chen, ECPAT Taiwan; CEFACOM (Vietnam); and Theo Noten, ECPAT Netherlands.

Partner organisations and experts:

Charles Chao-Cheng LI, Deputy Director General of the Department of NGO International Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Taiwan; Seila Samleang, Director of APLE Cambodia (Actions pour l'Enfants Cambodia); Margaret Akullo, Programme Coordinator, UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC); Annette Lyth, Regional Project Manager, UN Action for Cooperation against Trafficking in Persons (UN-ACT); Naga Sayee Malathy Panganamamula, Executive Director Protect and Save the Children (Malaysia); Ahmad Taufan Damanik, Vice Chair of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Women and Children and Indonesia's Representative for Children's Rights to the ACWC, Indonesia; and Professor Bernard Kao, Vice Chair of the Board of ECPAT Taiwan.

ECPAT Secretariat staff:

Special appreciation to the Programme team for their substantive inputs in compiling the Overview. The Overview was written by Alessia Altamura and edited by Alison Raphael. The Overview was designed by Manida Naebklang. Overall project supervision was provided Junita Upadhyay, Deputy Executive Director for Programmes.

ACRONYMS

ACWC	Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Women and Children
APAC/FCACP	Asia-Pacific Financial Coalition against Child Pornography
APLE	Cambodian NGO working on CSEC
ASEAN	Association of South-East Asian Nations
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
CEOP	Child Exploitation and Online Protection
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
COMMIT	Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking
CSEC	Commercial sexual exploitation of children
EIYAC	ECPAT International Child and Youth Advisory Committee
GMS	Greater Mekong Sub-region
IASC	Inter-agency Steering Committee
ICMEC	International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children
ICTs	Information and communication technologies
ILO	International Labor Organisation
INHOPE	International Association of Internet Hotlines
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
LDP	Lao People's Democratic Republic
MYF	Mekong Youth Forum
MoU	Memorandum of understanding
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NPA	National Plan of Action
SOMTC	Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (ASEAN)
SPA(s)	Sub-Regional Plan(s) of Action
SRSO-VAC	Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Violence against Children
UNESCO	United Nations Organisation for Education, Science and Culture
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNIAP/UN-ACT	UN Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking / UN Action for Cooperation against Trafficking in Persons
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNWTO	United Nations World Tourism Organisation
VAC	Violence against Children
VAW	Violence against Women

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The East and South-East Asia region comprises six States in East Asia and 11 countries in South-East Asia, encompassing one-third of the global population. The commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) has grave implications for the region. Despite the absence of firm data quantifying its dimensions and scope, the emergence of new global trends provides strong indications that its magnitude is expanding as a result of multiple interconnected factors.

Globalisation and unregulated economic growth have resulted in growing economic disparities that have a negative impact on the well-being of many children in the region: nearly half a billion people are living on less than \$2 a day, particularly in rural areas. A UNICEF study of child poverty in six ASEAN countries and Vanuatu found that more than 30 of 93 million children were unable to go to school or access basic health care, safe drinking water, a sanitary toilet or adequate nutrition.

Poverty and inequality – in conjunction with rapid expansion in Internet use, increased migration, low levels of primary school completion, discrimination and violence against women, the exponential growth of tourism flows and the frequency of natural disasters, conflicts and violence – put greater numbers of children at risk for sexual exploitation. Deeply concerned about rising trends in CSEC, the ECPAT Secretariat convened a Regional Consultation on 25-27 August, 2014, with a view toward refining organisational strategies for addressing CSEC. This Overview reflects preliminary research undertaken for the Consultation as well as contributions and feedback from experts and other participants.

Specific Manifestations

Prostitution of Children: In the absence of regional data, studies in several countries found that tens of thousands of children under 18 are being used in prostitution. The victims are mainly girls between

the ages of 14 and 17, but also include both boys and younger girls. Organised child prostitution rings exist in some countries; in others parents prostitute their own children. Child prostitution has become less visible, with children being confined in houses and delivered directly to the exploiter's hotel or home, facilitated by the use of cell phones and the Internet. Peer pressure, consumerism and increased sexualisation of children in the media lead teenagers in some countries to indulge in sexual activities for income to maintain a fashionable lifestyle and access luxury products. Demand for sex with children in the region comes from both foreigners and nationals, including migrant workers.

Child sex trafficking: The precise number of trafficking victims is unknown, but East and South-East Asia is considered to be a region of origin, transit and destination for human trafficking, including child sex trafficking. According to a 2012 report by the UN Organisation on Drugs and Crime, during the period 2007-2010, children accounted for about 40% of all trafficking victims in South and South-East Asia and the Pacific, a larger percentage than found in other regions. Typically children are trafficked from less developed to more developed countries in the region for use in child prostitution.

Information and communication technologies: Use of cell phones and Internet access has exploded across the region, but despite the positives, the improper use of ICTs also plays a major role in facilitating the production, distribution and storage of illicit images of children. In addition to peer-to-peer networks and hidden services, these images are now being used as 'currency' by paedophiles. There is also evidence that organised criminal networks operating in the region and individual intermediaries now sell exploitative materials 'on demand' for those willing to pay to watch child abuse.

Child sex tourism: The region experienced a 6% growth in tourism arrivals in 2013, but along with sightseers these arrivals included large numbers of sexual predators, some who arrive with intent and others who take advantage of opportunities brought

to their attention by intermediaries such as taxi drivers or hotel employees. Offenders are attracted to the region due to the persistently poor socio-economic conditions that plague large sections of the population, especially in South-East Asia, rendering children vulnerable.

Addressing CSEC in the Region

The present review found that most nations in the region have neither developed nor implemented National Plans of Action (NPAs) specifically addressing all forms of commercial sexual exploitation. However, most countries have anti-trafficking NPAs, and many include actions against some element of CSEC in broader plans and policies tied to child protection. The gaps identified in the Overview are often due to lack of political will or lack of human and financial resources to develop and implement NPAs.

Close interaction and cooperation between government and non-government sectors is necessary to effectively plan, implement and evaluate measures to combat CSEC, as is effective cooperation with regional and international organisations. However, in East and South-East Asia there is a serious lack of coordination even among government agencies responsible for child protection. None of the countries reviewed appear to have formal structures for child welfare services at the village or community level, although a few are establishing local child protection committees, usually with external support.

The Association of Southeastern Asian Nations (ASEAN) has demonstrated special interest in advancing the rights of women and children; in 1993 the ten ASEAN member states adopted a Plan of Action that highlights trafficking in children and child prostitution as priority issues. Since then ASEAN has taken further steps to consolidate its

commitments, including two 2013 conferences addressing cyber-pornography and prostitution and a regional campaign against child sex tourism. Another positive initiative is the 'Asia-Pacific Financial Coalition against Child Pornography,' which was launched in 2009 and involves credit card and Internet firms, NGOs, law enforcement and others, in collaboration with the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children.

Way Forward

Many opportunities and strategies for ECPAT to increase the visibility and impact of its work against CSEC in East and South-East Asia were identified at the Consultation, including:

- Advocating for ratification of international legal instruments relevant for combating CSEC, monitoring compliance and ensuring that CSEC is on the agenda of ASEAN's Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children;
- Promoting a multi-partner regional effort to end child pornography and online sexual exploitation of children;
- Expanding the knowledge base on aspects of CSEC such as prostitution of boys and travelling sex offenders;
- Raising awareness about new tactics being used to involve children in sexual exploitation;
- Enhancing access to child-friendly justice and services for child victims of sexual exploitation;
- Increasing the ability of ECPAT groups to support child and youth participation and supporting peer-to-peer education; giving voice to victims and taking their opinions into consideration.



INTRODUCTION

Among the various abuses and violations that children suffer, it is indisputable that the commercial sexual exploitation of girls and boys remains a serious global problem with grave implications for the East and South-East Asia Region. The absence of a reliable base-line – combined with the illegal and clandestine nature of this crime and the limited capacity of survivors, their families and communities to report victimisation, for fear of stigmatisation and lack of protection – makes it impossible to assess the true scope of this extreme form of violence against children. Thus proving that the scale of commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) is increasing continues to be a challenge. But the emergence of new global trends clearly provides strong indications that its magnitude is expanding as a result of multiple interconnected factors.

Since ECPAT was established nearly two and a half decades ago, the world has indeed undergone unprecedented changes of indisputable historic significance. Globalisation and unregulated economic growth have resulted in growing economic disparities that have a negative impact on the well-being of many children in East and South-East Asia. This, in conjunction with the continued expansion of the use of the Internet, increased migration, exponential growth of tourism flows, natural disasters, conflicts and violence, have all contributed to put more children at risk of sexual exploitation than was previously the case. In a context dominated by rapid economic, social and cultural changes, the ways in which children are now sexually exploited have also undergone transformations, reaching a level of complexity never seen before and making prevention and counteractions particularly difficult.

Despite significant preventive, protective and even punitive measures recently adopted by governments and civil society organisations committed to addressing the CSEC in East and South-East Asia, ECPAT remains seriously concerned over the increasing exposure of children and youth to sexual exploitation in the region, and is therefore spearheading renewed efforts to revitalise and

expand coordinated and holistic actions to end this scourge.

After conducting a preliminary literature review of the different forms of CSEC and an in-depth, evidence-based analysis of progress, challenges and key priorities for the region, the ECPAT Secretariat (in collaboration with Ahmad Sofian, Regional Representative for East and South-East Asia to the ECPAT International Board of Trustees, and the host organisation, ECPAT Taiwan) convened a three-day Regional Consultation on 25-27 August, 2014, bringing together senior management of ECPAT member organisations in East and South-East Asia, selected ECPAT Europe member organisations, the Vice Chair of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Women and Children (ACWC), representatives from UN agencies, international organisations and universities.¹ This consultative process with network members and experts has provided valuable input for the refinement of ECPAT's strategy for East and South-East Asia for the next three years, to ensure that it better serves its overall mission by anticipating and responding to new learning as well as changing dynamics and shifts in the environment.

Capturing observations, contributions and feedback from experts and participants in the Regional Consultation, the present overview maps and examines the key socio-economic factors impacting on the protection of children and the continuing manifestations and emerging trends related to CSEC in East and South-East Asia. It assesses the status of action against this violation in countries in the region, while also identifying the necessary prevention, protection and recovery needs of child victims. Based on a child rights programming approach, the regional strategy outlined below envisions that ECPAT integrates into a coherent programme design its five thematic priority areas: prostitution of children, trafficking of children, online sexual exploitation of children and pornography, sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism and early marriage. In addition to strengthening and

deepening its core programmatic strategies (namely, campaigning and lobbying, legal and institutional reforms, evidence building, capacity development, technical support and programmatic interventions), ECPAT's programme will introduce new approaches to better respond to emerging challenges, and to maximise the impact, reach and influence of its work to put a stop to CSEC in the region. By implementing this programme and intensifying actions on several fronts, ECPAT expects to accelerate progress towards the ambitious, yet achievable, goal of ending one of the worst crimes committed against children.

ECPAT International wishes to thank all the experts who took part in the Regional Consultation in Taipei for their significant contribution and commitment against CSEC and for providing special advice and guidance for enhancing ECPAT's work in East and South-East Asia. It also wishes to acknowledge the invaluable support and inputs provided throughout this process by all ECPAT member groups and partner organisations in the region.



SECTION 1. CONTEXT AND INTERSECTING VULNERABILITIES

The existence of a complex matrix of combined and interrelated factors makes children vulnerable and shapes the forces and circumstances that allow them to be commercially sexually exploited. These factors are grounded in the political and socio-economic context in which the child lives and develops. In East and South-East Asia, as in other regions, several structural facilitators underpin violations of children's rights, influencing their extent and nature.

Poverty and inequality

The East and South East-Asia region is a large geographical area comprising six states in Eastern Asia (the People's Republic of China, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Mongolia and Taiwan) and 11 countries in South-Eastern Asia, ten of which are part of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).² With more than 1.6 billion people in Eastern Asia³ and over 600 million people in South-Eastern Asia⁴, the region encompasses one-third of the world's population. When the Pacific is included, the region also contains over one-quarter of the world's children – around 580 million children in total.⁵

The region is characterised by significant diversity in peoples, cultures, environments, economies, political systems and potential. According to the World Bank, East Asia⁶ remains the fastest-growing region in the world, despite a slowdown from the average growth rate of 8.0 percent between 2009 and 2013.⁷ The proportion of people living in poverty has steadily declined. Today it is estimated that less than 10% of the region's population lives on \$1.25 a day. However, much more work needs to be done to build shared prosperity, because close to half a billion people still live on \$2 per day.⁸ Disparities vary considerably across countries; for example, in ASEAN countries 27% of the Thai population lives on \$2 a day, while 66% suffer this extreme poverty in the Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR).⁹

The main causes for growing disparities is assumed to be associated with unregulated economic growth that places a low priority on income distribution; administrative decentralisation without proper structures; disproportionate resource allocation between rural and urban areas; inadequate capacity to deliver services and unregulated privatisation of services and industries. In countries like the Philippines and Indonesia, where populations are spread over thousands of scattered islands, logistics pose an additional complication for the provision of basic social services.

The prevalence and impact of economic deprivation on the wellbeing of children living in the region has been highlighted by several research reports. For example, a UNICEF study analysing multidimensional child poverty in six ASEAN countries found that more than 30 of 93 million children were unable to go to school or access basic health care, safe drinking water, a sanitary toilet or adequate nutrition. Deprivation was found to be more acute among certain segments of the population, representing critical equity challenges. The most notable dimensions of inequity included disparities between: rural and urban areas, provinces or sub-national regions, different ethnic groups, small and large households and between households headed by well-educated or poorly educated adults.¹⁰

As this data clearly shows, the vulnerability that accompanies economic poverty among a wide sector of the regions' population is compounded by the presence and tolerance of inequality and marginalisation based on age, gender, class, ethnicity and legal status. These factors combine in harmful ways to push entire social groups to the margins of society and the economy, leaving them with inadequate economic assets, limited opportunities, low social status and, generally, an inability to generate the resources necessary to satisfy their basic needs. In such circumstances, families are put under severe strain and experience increasing instability, which erodes their capacity to

act as the frontline of protection for their children. At the same time, shifts in the economy have weakened the social structures that ordinarily work as a safety net to meet basic needs – such as public health, education and other services – pushing them further and further beyond the reach of those most in need.

While the root causes behind the growing phenomenon of sexual exploitation of children are diverse, there is no question that as more and more families perch precariously on the social and economic margins of society, their children's vulnerability to all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation is exacerbated.

Migration

Throughout the region, the rapid growth of urban centres has left substantial rural populations disconnected from their national economies. An unintended result of development policies that neglect rural areas has been uncontrolled rural-urban migration and consistent cross-border migration flows, including undocumented migration. South-East Asia is experiencing movement of people both between ASEAN countries and beyond, to meet labour demand in East Asia, the Middle East, Europe and the United States.¹¹

The migration of millions of adults has an impact on their dependants, particularly children who are usually left behind in their home country, but sometimes migrate with their parents. Despite a lack of analytical studies and evidence-based/empirical research on the migration routes and mobility patterns of children and on their common experiences, existing literature shows that hundreds of thousands of children are migrating within the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) and beyond in East and South-East Asia, either alone or with their families.¹² According to a 2008 study conducted by UNICEF and other agencies, those who migrate

with their parents or on their own are the most vulnerable and the most seriously affected, even though they constitute a smaller group than those left behind.¹³ Migrant children in the region are reported to suffer from a host of inequalities. They are not in a position to claim their rights, being largely invisible in their host country. They are often faced with lack of access to education, hospitals or other decent medical care, as well as poor working environment with no occupational safety and health standards. They also lack awareness of their rights and how to access legal aid, and suffer from inadequate follow-up while in detention as well as upon repatriation to their country of origin.¹⁴ Across countries in the region, migrant children have been found to be particularly vulnerable to trafficking and sexual exploitation. For example, in Thailand many of the sex trafficking victims identified are migrant children from neighbouring countries.¹⁵

Low levels of education and related vulnerabilities

According to UNESCO, East Asia (including South-East Asia) and the Pacific have experienced mixed progress towards ensuring education for all in the last decade. While many countries in the region have relatively high primary enrolment rates, some are registering increasing numbers of children not enrolled in schooling. For example, the out-of-school figure for the Philippines fell by an average of nearly 23,000 per year from 1999 to 2004, but by only 16,000 annually from 2004 to 2008. In contrast, progress has recently accelerated in some countries, including the Lao PDR. Prospects for entry, progression and completion of primary school are closely linked to household circumstances. Children who are poor, from rural or ethnic or linguistic minorities face a higher risk of dropping out. The region has also registered a 25% increase in total secondary school enrolment since 1999, with almost 164 million enrolled in 2008. However, 13 million adolescents were still outside the education system that year.

Gender parity has been achieved at the primary level in a majority of countries and more girls are now enrolled in secondary education, although nine countries still need to achieve gender parity in secondary education.¹⁶

Children are expected to take on adult responsibilities at a young age; many of those who drop out of school may end up engaging in economic activities such as fishing, mining or forestry, or can be entrapped in forced labour where they are exposed to physical violence and sexual abuse.

No reliable estimates have been made of child labour, including its worst forms, related specifically to East and South-East Asia. However, available data indicate that prevalence of this practice in the region ranges from 5.4% in Indonesia to 32.4% in the Lao PDR. Children are often employed as domestic workers within families, charged with tasks such as cleaning, cooking and looking after children. Often these domestic workers live with their employees, rendering them particularly vulnerable to a range of abuses.¹⁷ A study published in 2007 found that a number of Filipino child domestic workers reported that some employers who also owned bars and brothels forced them into prostitution.¹⁸ Since these activities are outside the realm of legal jurisdiction, all such violence and exploitation goes un-noticed and under- or un-reported.

Low levels of education increase children's vulnerability to different types of abuses and violations and often results in children living and working on the streets. Several studies have attempted to estimate the prevalence of this phenomenon in the region. In the Philippines, it was estimated that they comprise 1-to-3% of the child and youth population of major cities, while in Vietnam they numbered about 13,000 in 2007. Children living and working on the streets are often exposed to abuse and sexual exploitation.¹⁹ In Cambodia, a report found that 80% of street children interviewed were involved in prostitution.²⁰ The Philippines Department of Social Welfare and

Development suggests that of 200,000 children living on the streets of Manila, at least 10% are victims of trafficking.²¹

Armed conflicts, natural disasters and displacement

Of all regions in the world, East Asia²² and the Pacific has the second highest number of fragile or conflict-affected states.²³ Indonesia has had conflicts in Aceh; Myanmar continues to struggle with ethnic rebels vying for autonomy; the Philippines continues to be in conflict with Moro Islamic rebels and southern Thailand continues to face Muslim separatist movements.

In all these conflicts children and women become the first victims of displacement and, in the process, of exploitation through labour and sexual abuse.

Human Rights Watch has issued several country-specific and thematic reports highlighting atrocities and abuses committed by all sides on the general population, including children.²⁴ Non-state entities also recruit children into their fighting forces, opening ample opportunities for physical and sexual exploitation. There are known to be child soldiers in all ethnic militia in Myanmar²⁵ such as the Wa state army, Democratic Karen Buddhist Army, Karen National Union and Kachin Independence Organisation, as well as among the Moro Islamic Freedom Fighters in the Philippines.²⁶

Despite the renewal of peace talks between the government of Myanmar and various rebel groups in 2011, a low level of armed conflict between the government and these ethnic militias continues, resulting in displacement of many rural families in Southeast and Northern Myanmar. The children recruited into their ranks are abused and exploited physically and sexually. Children from families who fled to the refugee camps in border areas

in neighbouring Thailand also continue to suffer from violence and sexual exploitation, including recruitment into the militia. An example of this is the thousands of Rohingya refugees fleeing from prosecution and violence in Myanmar. The media has reported on refugee camps run by traffickers who hold Rohingya, including children, for ransom and then sell or traffic them to Malaysia and other locations.²⁷ Although the civilian government inaugurated in Yangon in 2010 has offered unconditional negotiations for peaceful settlement of the ethnic disputes, a long-term solution has yet to be found.

East Asia and the Pacific is also the most disaster-stricken region in the world, sustaining 61% of global losses from disasters in the past 20 years.²⁸ Natural disasters have further increased the vulnerability of thousands of children to trafficking and sexual exploitation. In Indonesia, affected by several major natural disasters (including the 2004 tsunami and high magnitude earthquakes in 2005, 2006 and 2009) women and children were found to be increasingly vulnerable to sex trafficking in the post-disaster period.²⁹ In Myanmar many women, including young teenagers, were trafficked to different cities and neighbouring countries in the aftermath of Cyclone Nargis, which occurred in 2008.³⁰ Concern has also been expressed about an increase in child trafficking in 2013, after Typhoon Haiyan devastated portions the Philippines.³¹

Growth of consumerism and tourism

The recent explosion in visual media and advertising for luxury apparel puts tremendous pressure on teens and young people. Children sometimes engage in sexual activities to earn money enabling them to acquire fashionable dresses and accessories (see sub-section on “prostitution of children”). A detailed study on the broad impact of media on sexual vulnerability of children is not available, but

according to an International Labour Organisation (ILO) study conducted in Vietnam, 50% of children in Hanoi and 84% of children in South Vietnam interviewed reported having offered sexual favours for money.³² A similar situation in other cities in East and South-East Asian countries cannot be ruled out.

This tremendous growth in consumerism and materialism needs serious investigation from a child protection perspective. The aggressive marketing of mobile multimedia hardware loaded with ‘free software’ aimed at children appears to be generating unimaginable harm to children, which is yet to be fully understood.

Sharing of pictures and messages, and live streaming of video clips and live shows, can be accomplished anywhere with the click of a button using a smart phone or other mobile device that can generate a ‘WiFi hot spot’ (see “Child pornography and sexual exploitation through ICTs”).

Countries in East and South-East Asia are also known globally for their tourism and hospitality industry boasting many historical and UNESCO heritage sites in addition to popular beach and mountain resorts. According to data provided by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), South-East Asia has experienced a significant growth in tourism arrivals in recent years (see sub-section on “sexual exploitation of children in tourism”).³³ This development, especially the increase in unregulated tourism, has often been accompanied by a growing demand for sex services from tourists and travellers. Furthermore, the tourism sector provides a wide range of employment opportunities, especially to semi-skilled populations. Apparently many of these demands, especially in the private sector, for unskilled labour, are met through illegal trafficking of people within the country and across borders. The victims of this illegal human trafficking include women and children, who are the most vulnerable to sexual exploitation.

Urban elites and demand

As the standard of living improves among urban families, they increasingly demand domestic labour, which is met through migration of rural families or migrants from neighbouring countries. Similarly, business districts in urban centres, economic zones, fishing, mining and business in border towns also attract low-skilled and unskilled labourers to jobs spurned by the urban population. Areas with such business also attract entertainment establishments such as bars, video parlours, and Karaoke rooms, most of which are frequented by migrant labourers as a means of entertainment or releasing tension. Gambling and prostitution involving underage children are known to be rife in such locations. All countries have employment laws and regulations as well as licensing for businesses; nevertheless, according to observations by various civil society groups, enforcement of legal mechanisms appears to be weak or inadequate, providing opportunities for shrewd individuals to exploit and take advantage of migrants. This phenomenon has been documented in Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia as well as in the Philippines.

Violence against women and children and their low status

Across most countries in East and South-East Asia, children are taught early in life about the importance of relationships and obligations within the family and society. As children mature, they develop a moral obligation and primary loyalty to the family. They are expected to contribute to the family economy in whatever way the parents see fit and to put the family's interests before their own. In return for contributing to the family economy and fulfilling social expectations, children receive acceptance and a sense of belonging in their family and community. However, in such contexts the power divide between

the adult and the child is extreme, which can make a child vulnerable to different types of violence, including sexual exploitation.

A systematic review of research on child maltreatment in the region carried out by UNICEF in 2012 found high rates of various forms of child abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation across East Asia and the Pacific. Violence against children takes place in various settings, including the family, schools, institutions and the community³⁴ and its seriousness and pervasiveness is further exacerbated by the silence and social tolerance that prevail across the region.

The 2012 review found that between 14% and 30% of the region's boys and girls reported having experienced forced sex, and for many young people their first experiences of sexual intercourse was forced. The study also suggests that one in 10 children experienced physical abuse, with prevalence rates rising as high as 30.3%.³⁵

In a society where women are still discriminated against, girl children have lower status compared to boy children and are therefore more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. In many countries in the region, girls are socialised to a sense of inferiority and they do not fully develop the notion of having a choice or an opinion. Furthermore, in countries where girls have particularly low social status, they are taught to never question male authority and are seen as commodities.

Girls who lack self-esteem and experience in making choices or contradicting males have difficulty rejecting sexual advances, particularly when the man is older. Furthermore, since they are not empowered to recognise their rights, they are less likely to be able to recognise that they are being abused or exploited, and thus unable to develop strategies to protect themselves.

As a result of this lower status, violence against women and girls is widespread in various forms across East and South-East Asia. Domestic violence, including marital rape, is one of the most common but under-reported forms of violence in the ASEAN region. One of the long-lasting health consequences of this crime is the increase in transmission of the HIV virus within intimate partner relationships. In Thailand, 38.7 percent of new infections in 2007 were women infected by their husband, whereas men infected by their wives constituted 9.6 percent. In Cambodia, two-thirds of all new infections in 2009 were among women considered “low risk”; that is, married women not engaged in sex work.³⁶

Harmful traditional practices

A number of traditional practices that are harmful to children and highly gender-discriminatory continue to be practiced throughout East and South-East Asia, often increasing girls’ vulnerability to sexual abuse and exploitation either directly or indirectly. Son preference, forced marriages, including child marriage, mail-order brides and bride kidnapping are all a reality in the region.³⁷

Child marriage is a common, if underreported, issue in South-East Asia, where between 10-24 per cent of women aged 20-24 years old are married by the time they reach 18.³⁸ As in other regions of the world, early marriages are associated with domestic and sexual violence, abandonment, widowhood and divorce, and perpetuate the poverty/gender-based violence cycle.

Early marriage requires critical attention because it is one of the prevalent forms through which children are sold and trafficked. Child marriage, based on offering a young bride in exchange for dowry money or in-kind payments, should be regarded as a form of commercial sexual abuse and exploitation, as well

as one of the main gateways to commercial sexual abuse and exploitation (see “Child marriage” for more details).

In a number of countries in East and South East Asia (such as China and Vietnam³⁹), son preference places the female child at a disadvantage from birth and often results in sex-selective abortions. Evidence and studies suggest that the preference for male babies and the subsequent paucity of marriageable females may generate increased demand for sex with women and children, while also contributing to sex- and bride- trafficking. A study on this issue published in 2011 mentioned interviews with girls abducted in their early teens and forced to have sex with several men in order to initiate them into prostitution.⁴⁰ Reports of women and girls being systematically trafficked for forced marriages from Cambodia, Laos, Mongolia, Myanmar, North Korea and Vietnam to mainland China⁴¹ have multiplied in recent years, exposing the magnitude of human trafficking arising from the practice of mail-order brides.

Other factors

In addition to the above-mentioned socio-economic factors, poor legal and regulatory frameworks, weak law enforcement, corruption, under-resourced social welfare services, limited capacity of service providers and the lack of recognition of or respect for children’s fundamental rights have adversely impacted the lives of millions of children in the region. Combined with a number of additional individual factors (desire for adventure, lack of citizenship and/or personal documentation, etc.) and family factors (family breakdown, domestic violence, substance abuse, etc.), all these powerful elements significantly obstruct the ability to uphold the right of children to protection from sexual exploitation in East and South-East Asia.⁴²



SECTION 2. CSEC MANIFESTATIONS AND EMERGING TRENDS IN EAST AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Large numbers of children in East and South-East Asia continue to be pushed into commercial sexual exploitation, despite much-heightened awareness of the problem and engagement by governments, international organisations and other stakeholders in recent years in better understanding its dynamics and identifying effective responses.

While no child is exempt from the risk of sexual abuse and exploitation, some groups of children are more vulnerable than others. These include, inter alia, children from ethnic minorities; born to undocumented-migrant parents; children living and working on the streets; child labourers; children who experience violence, abuse and neglect; children who migrate and those who are separated from their families; and children from places affected by natural disasters and conflicts.

No population-based probability data exists in the region to determine the prevalence and incidence of CSEC. Due to the illicit, hidden and sensitive nature of this practice, data on all forms of CSEC are lacking, which means there is no official baseline on which to conduct a comparative assessment of the nature and trends relating to this violation. When figures are available, they frequently fail to disaggregate between gender, age or ethnic group. Official data are often overly conservative and underestimate the scale of CSEC. Despite these limitations, several smaller studies have been conducted to gain a better understanding of the number of children who are sexually exploited, the conditions of that exploitation and the latest trends. For example, a rapid assessment study of 272 children in CSE in Jakarta, Lampung, Lombok, Batam, Bandung, Bali and Pontianak (Indonesia) found that children between the ages of 12 and 18 were victims of all forms of commercial sexual exploitation.⁴⁴ Another recent study on CSEC in Vietnam found that an increasing number of children are being sexually exploited through commercial transactions, including prostitution, sex trafficking, sexual exploitation in tourism and pornography.⁴⁵

CSEC Trends

Although both qualitative and quantitative analyses remain inadequate, the overview of the different manifestations of CSEC outlined below provides a picture of the phenomenon in East and South-East Asia and identifies some recurring and emerging trends:

- Whilst it remains unclear whether the problem is increasing or decreasing, the region continues to be affected by all manifestations of CSEC, with well-established links between trafficking in children for sexual purposes, prostitution of children, child sexual exploitation in tourism, child pornography and, in some cases, child marriage.
- The sexual exploitation of boys through prostitution and other forms of CSEC is taking place in the region, but has yet to be fully acknowledged and effectively addressed.
- As a result of peer pressure, consumerism and increased sexualisation of children in the media, in a number of countries (such as Japan, Taiwan, Thailand and South Korea) an alarming number of adolescents are engaging in transactional sex or “compensated dating” to maintain a fashionable lifestyle and access products that they could not otherwise afford. Dating is arranged mostly through the Internet and mobile phones.
- Evidence has emerged that in some countries in the region the commercial sex sector is changing: prostitution of children has become less visible and the locations where it takes place have diversified. Although street-based and brothel-based prostitution remain common, sex services are now increasingly provided in other, legitimate, establishments, such as karaoke bars, massage parlours, nightclubs and beer gardens. Furthermore, children may be confined at one site and delivered directly to the exploiter’s hotel or apartment upon request.

- Child sex trafficking in East and South-East Asia continues to occur mainly intra-regionally and domestically, although research indicates that the trafficking of children from the region is also increasingly directed outside the Asian continent. The Internet, particularly social networking sites and other platforms and tools such as chat rooms and dating websites, are more and more used by traffickers to recruit child victims of trafficking, control their movements, and market and sell their services.
- Although the demand for sex with children in East and South-East Asia comes from both nationals and foreigners, including migrant workers, the importance of local demand has received little attention.
- In many countries of the region, increasing access to and use of the Internet and new information and communication technologies (ICTs) by children and youth has been accompanied by a growth in the scope and extent of opportunities to sexually abuse and exploit them and to produce and circulate child abuse materials. The limited research available indicates that children in the region face a number of risks in their online interactions, including grooming or solicitation for the purpose of online and offline sexual exploitation, “sexting” (i.e. self-generated inappropriate materials) and “sex-extortion”, and intentional and unintentional exposure to mainstream and child pornography. Furthermore, there is evidence that organised criminal networks operating in Asia, as well as individual intermediaries, are offering the sexual exploitation of children ‘on demand’ for people who are willing to pay to watch such child abuse online, sometimes with the direct involvement of the victims’ families.
- Evidence suggests that some children may be involved in the sexual exploitation of their peers. For example, there are reports of children soliciting other children for sex, often through the Internet and other ICTs. Likewise, in some countries it was noted that child victims of sex trafficking are at risk of becoming traffickers themselves.
- East and South-East Asia continues to be affected by a significant problem of sexual exploitation of children in tourism. In South-East Asia, along with traditional destinations such as Thailand and the Philippines, new destinations have emerged in the last decade, particularly Cambodia and, to a lesser extent, Vietnam. There is also a risk that other countries, such as Laos and Myanmar, could be increasingly targeted by travelling sex offenders in conjunction with the development of tourism in these countries. With regard to countries of origin of child sex tourists, contrary to a widely held view that most travelling sex offenders in the region are Western males, recent studies have shown that *domestic and regional travellers and tourists* are by far the biggest group of perpetrators in East and South-East Asia. Asian travellers include *inter alia* men from China, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan. In particular, due to impending regionalisation, travelling sex offenders from within the region have easier access when crossing borders, leaving children exposed to sexual exploitation⁴⁶.
- Besides sexual exploitation of children in mass tourism establishments (such as hotels, restaurants, bars, markets and tourist destinations), there has been an increase in sexual exploitation of children within so-called ‘responsible tourism’ or ‘cultural tourism’ enterprises (see “orphanage tourism”, “home-stays” below). Access to children is also reportedly taking place through institutions such as schools and churches.
- In some countries recent research has shown that travelling sex offenders are moving away from major cities to more remote locations where awareness about sexual abuse and exploitation is lower and a traditional ‘culture of silence’ can contribute to victims and their families not speaking out. Furthermore, the Internet has increasingly facilitated the sexual exploitation of children in tourism in the region. Travelling

child-sex offenders are now able to anonymously gain access to networks that provide information on local children and the services available at destinations. They can also groom children online before reaching their destination and sexually exploiting them.

- In some countries, traditional practices such as temporary marriages and the dowry system are contributing to the sexual exploitation of children through child marriages. Furthermore, brokered marriages have been found to be associated with trafficking for subsequent exploitation in prostitution in several countries. As noted in other regions of the world, girls who marry early may resort to prostitution as a means of survival when they are abandoned by their husbands or divorced (as they usually lack the education and skills required to enter the labour market).

Prostitution of children

Although no reliable information is available on the number of children exploited through prostitution in East and South-East Asia, estimates indicate that this form of CSEC is particularly widespread throughout the region, fuelled in part by human trafficking.

A study published by John Hopkins University in 2007 estimated the number of children exploited in the commercial sex industry in the Philippines at between 60,000 and 75,000.⁴⁷ Research in 2007 on sexual exploitation of children in tourism found that the number of individuals in prostitution in Cambodia ranged from 40,000 to 100,000 (30-35% of whom UNICEF estimated were children).⁴⁸ In Thailand, the government, university researchers and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) estimated that there were as many as 60,000 children involved in prostitution in 2007.⁴⁹

No accurate profile of children involved in prostitution in the region has been developed either,

but available literature suggests that this form of sexual exploitation mainly affects girls between the ages of 14 and 17 (though some children enter prostitution at a younger age). In 2006 a survey conducted by the Pusan Metropolitan Police Agency in South Korea found that the majority of teenagers interviewed were between 15 and 16 years of age when they were first sexually exploited.⁵⁰ Likewise, data from research in Indonesia showed that 53% of prostituted children surveyed were 16 years old.⁵¹

Despite being less common and highly under-reported, often due to stigma against homosexuality, prostitution of boys is clearly taking place in many countries in the region.

For example, In Taiwan, NGOs reported in 2008 an increase in the number of boys involved in prostitution, primarily discovered during police investigations of online social networking sites suspected of operating as prostitution rings.⁵² In Cambodia, one report found that 80% of interviewed street children involved in street-based exploitation were male.⁵³ In Japan there is evidence that some local Japanese men or foreigners recruit boys for gay clubs where they are sexually exploited.⁵⁴

The sexual exploitation of children can be highly organised, as evidenced by the various local and international organised child prostitution rings identified in countries such as Cambodia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. In addition, in some countries parents exploit their own children through prostitution. In the Philippines, for example, some parents were found to solicit clients to have sex with their children in order to pay for their education⁵⁵ or in exchange for remuneration; this occasionally involved solicitation and sexual exploitation through the Internet (see sub-section on “child pornography”). There are also reports of children soliciting other children for sex, a phenomenon which in countries such as Indonesia has been found to be on the increase in conjunction with the rise in the use of mobile phones and the Internet to market sex services,⁵⁶ as noted in the Introduction.

In some countries of the region evidence suggests that the commercial sex sector is changing. In addition to conventional prostitution practiced on the streets and in traditional brothels located in red-light districts, new forms of child prostitution are emerging.

In Cambodia, for example, the multiple police crackdown operations carried out especially in Svay Pak (Phnom Penh) forced pimps to operate their activities underground in other areas/cities of the country. Youngsters have been moved to other parts of Phnom Penh, to Siem Reap (home of the Angkor temples, where tourism has exploded), or to the seaside in Preah Sihanouk. To a certain extent, child prostitution has become less visible than in the past, with children being confined in houses and delivered directly to the exploiter's hotel upon request. Although the street remains a main location for recruiting and exploiting children, sex services are now provided in karaoke bars, massage parlours, nightclubs, and beer gardens. In Thailand, where many children involved in sexual exploitation are victims of trafficking, prostitution, once known to occur in highly visible establishments, has become increasingly clandestine, occurring in massage parlours, bars, karaoke lounges, hotels, and private residences.⁵⁷

The use of new ICTs has also had an impact on how prostitution of children is organised. In Japan, for example, sex services are now increasingly provided through the use of new ICTs. So called terekura (telephone clubs) or deai-kei (match-making websites) offer services ranging from telephone sex to having actual sexual contact.

According to a government survey one-quarter of school-going children are involved in this phenomenon. Advertisements intended for buyers are apparently distributed openly and found in nondescript items like tissue boxes, flyers, coupons, books, sports newspapers sold in the public transport system, and in magazines sold in

convenience stores. Another setting in which child prostitution - once known to occur in highly visible establishments- take place in dating-service cafes, where men choose from among the female clientele and try to secure dates with them. It is reported that the system has led to many instances of prostitution involving minors.⁵⁸

Connected to *terekura* and *deai-kei* is the practice of *enjo kosai*, or "compensated dating", i.e. the exchange of gifts or money for sex, usually involving girls or younger women and men who are several years older. Known also as transactional sex, *enjo kosai* appears to be an opportunistic activity engaged in by children who need food, shelter, drugs or other goods.

As a result of peer pressure, consumerism and increased sexualisation of children in the media, teenagers in several countries of the region have been known to indulge in sexual activities for income to maintain a fashionable lifestyle and access products that they cannot otherwise afford. In South Korea, this new form of prostitution is reportedly practiced at an alarming rate, with dating arranged mostly through the Internet.⁵⁹

According to a government study, the reasons for the high rates of online sex transactions included easy accessibility, anonymity and less fear of being caught by the police. Childhood experience of sexual violence, poverty, lack of support from family and pressure from schools were found to be some of the contributing factors to the phenomenon of compensated dating, along with increased desire to acquire luxury items. In Japan, where *enjo kosai* was first identified, some estimates have put the number of school-aged girls involved in this practice at about 13%. Whilst there does not appear to be any recent research on the motivations of children victimised by *enjo kosai* in Japan, interviews featured in media articles on the topic suggest that young people are motivated by a desire for money, for attention and out of curiosity.

“Compensated dating” also takes place in other countries in East and South-East Asia, including Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand.⁶⁰ Public opinion tends to blame the adolescents engaging in this behaviour, based on the wrong assumption that they ‘choose’ to prostitute themselves (this form of CSEC is improperly called “voluntary prostitution”). This misunderstanding is reinforced by the fact that, very often, the adolescents involved in this practice do not see themselves as victims, as they feel they are ‘voluntarily’ providing sex services in exchange for remuneration. As a result, the role of the perpetrator, who takes advantage of their psychological vulnerabilities during an important developmental stage of their life, is usually neglected and minimised.⁶¹ This wrong perception is further aggravated by the fact that in some countries existing legislation fails to adequately protect children in prostitution after the age of sexual consent (see “Legal Context”).

The demand for sex with children in countries in East and South-East Asia comes from both nationals and foreigners, including migrant workers (see sub-section on “sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism”). In Japan, the clientele ranges from rich, educated Japanese and foreign businessmen entertaining clients to white-collar workers in corporations and college students.⁶² In the Philippines, data show that nine out of 10 “customers” of children in prostitution are Filipinos, although local law enforcement authorities claim that 10-15% of sexual crimes against children in the Philippines are committed by foreigners.⁶³ In Cambodia, while most child sex offenders are local Khmers, a significant population of foreign child sex exploiters is likewise implicated (some estimates suggest that this may be so in one of every four cases).⁶⁴

In most of the region, domestic demand seems to benefit from a degree of social tolerance, due to contributing factors such as local attitudes toward women and lack of confidence in authorities to act upon the issue. Addressing these underlying social issues is imperative to

increase community protection of children from sexual exploitation.

Equally important would be to enhance efforts to prevent the prostitution of boys and “compensated dating” and assist those who are already engaging in this practice, including by sensitising and training various stakeholders to reduce their stigmatisation and providing support services that are tailored to meet their unique needs.

Trafficking of children for sexual exploitation

Child sex trafficking is one of the most prevalent manifestations of CSEC in East and South-East Asia. The challenge of identifying children who are trafficked through open borders to elude check posts, under-reporting of the crime, lack of reliable and standardised data-collection systems and the illegal nature of the trade, make it problematic to quantify how many children are affected and how trends evolve. However, estimates released by NGOs and other agencies, though not always reliable, suggest that internal and cross-border sex trafficking is a large-scale phenomenon involving hundreds of thousands of children and youth across the region. For example, according to UNICEF and the Ministry of Justice of Vietnam, 400,000 women and children are thought to have been trafficked overseas since 1990.⁶⁵ Data from the International Labour Organisation released in 2003 indicate that an estimated 100,000 women and children are trafficked each year in Indonesia.⁶⁶ Estimates range widely, underlining the need to sharpen existing assessment tools.

Whilst the precise number of trafficking victims remains unknown, East and South-East Asia has been identified as a region of origin, transit and destination for human trafficking, including child sex trafficking. South-East Asia in particular has long been recognised as a significant source of trafficked children. According to the report

on trafficking in persons published by the UN Organisation on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in 2012, during the period 2007-2010, children accounted for about 40% of all trafficking victims in South and East Asia and the Pacific, a higher average than in other regions.

The region is geographically very diverse, as reflected in the age profiles of the victims detected. Whilst in Japan and Mongolia the presence of minors among identified victims was below 10%, countries in South-East Asia consistently reported the proportion of children to be above 15-20%. Information provided by the Lao People's Democratic Republic indicates that most victims identified in the country were children. Confirming data from 2009, the majority of victims detected in countries of the Mekong River basin were minors.⁶⁷

Most child trafficking in the region is known to be intra-regional — usually from less developed countries to more developed. In the Greater Mekong Sub-region, Thailand is known as a major destination for sex trafficking victims. According to the 2014 Report on Trafficking in Persons by the U.S. Department of State, women and girls trafficked to Thai cities for sexual exploitation come from Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam, as well as from ethnic minority groups living in northern Thailand.⁶⁸ In Vietnam, many women and girls are sold to brothels on the borders of Cambodia, China and Laos, and some are subsequently sent to third countries, including Malaysia and Thailand.⁶⁹ Although less information is available regarding child trafficking in East Asia, there is evidence that trafficking of children generally follows the same routes used to traffic men and women. In East Asia, these routes include: North Korea to China, South Korea and Taiwan to Japan and from Thailand and the Philippines to Japan and South Korea.⁷⁰ Another consistent pattern concerns children and girls trafficked from South-East Asia (especially Cambodia, Laos, Mongolia, Myanmar, North Korea and Vietnam) to China for forced marriage and sexual exploitation.⁷¹ Despite being mainly intra-regional, research indicates that the trafficking of children from East and South-

East Asia is increasingly directed outside the Asian region, including such routes as: from South Korea to the United States; from Indonesia to Austria, Australia, Brunei, Germany, Kuwait, the Netherlands and Saudi Arabia; from the Philippines to Costa Rica, New Zealand, the United States and Northern Mariana Islands; and from Thailand to Germany, South Africa and Switzerland.⁷²

Domestic child sex trafficking is ubiquitous across the region. Research published by UNICEF in 2009 indicates that in some countries, such as the Philippines and China, internal trafficking is more of a problem than its cross-border form. In the Philippines, children are mainly trafficked from the rural regions of Visayas and Mindanao to urban areas such as Cebu City, Manila and Quezon City. Trafficking occurs in every province in China, with most victims trafficked to the provinces of Guangdong, Shanxi, Fujian, Henan, Sichuan, Guangxi, and Jiangsu. Although the magnitude of cross-border trafficking in Vietnam is unknown, significant instances of internal trafficking have been noted. The main centres for prostitution — Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Quang Ninh, Hue, Da Nang, Khanh Hoa, Ba Ria- Vung Tau, Hai Phong and Da Lat — are cited as the major domestic destinations of trafficking victims.⁷³

Children are trafficked using similar methods across the region. They are commonly recruited or introduced to work by an acquaintance, deceived by an acquaintance or relative, taken by use of force, abduction or kidnapping or taken with the consent of parents or guardians, usually secured through a payment or benefit to the adult. Brokered marriage is also used to lure girls into sexual exploitation. Among the most common methods is the promise of better economic opportunities.

This occurs against a backdrop of children's responsibility to generate income for the family. The growing use of social networking sites, chat rooms, e-mail and voiceover Internet protocols is also having an impact on trafficking in the region.⁷⁴

UNICEF research on CSEC in Vietnam in 2011 found that technology is used to help control victims of trafficking and make financial transactions, as well as to make primary contact with children and groom girls for sexual exploitation. Traffickers become online ‘friends’ with the girls, in some cases even paying for their internet access. They then arrange offline meetings, often taking them shopping in a big city, and later trafficking them across the Chinese border.⁷⁵

Children are trafficked for many purposes in East and South-East Asia, of which prostitution is just one. In addition to sexual exploitation, there is demand for children for bonded and exploitative labour (such as domestic service, factory work, agriculture, fishing, construction), forced marriage, adoption, begging and conscription into military/rebel forces.⁷⁶ While girls are trafficked mainly for commercial sexual exploitation, boys are trafficked mostly for other forms of labour exploitation.⁷⁷

The profiles of traffickers reveal a prevailing pattern in East and South-East Asia, which differs in accordance with the purpose and process of the trafficking. Those in organised networks are able to produce and buy fake documents, collaborate with law enforcement officials, avoid immigration requirements, pose as members of the child’s family and use sophisticated means and personal connections to transport victims on fraudulent documents by land, sea and air routes. Such levels of organisation tend to predominate in cross-border trafficking, given the many legal impediments such movement encounters. However, at least in the Greater Mekong Sub-region, trafficking often takes place through loosely knit networks of criminal entrepreneurs or individuals, as opposed to large-scale, highly organised crime. With regard to the gender of offenders, the 2012 UNODC report on trafficking in persons indicates that the proportion of females convicted of trafficking in persons in South and East Asia and the Pacific is higher than that in other regions. In Thailand, for example, 26% of those convicted for human trafficking between 2006 and 2009 were women.⁷⁸ It has also been observed

that victims of trafficking are at risk of becoming traffickers themselves. In Vietnam, for example, research found that some victims returned to their communities to deceive and entice other children to join them.⁷⁹

Although most countries in East and South-East Asia have developed or amended laws and policies according to international standards (see “Legal Context”), law enforcement has generally been weak, whether due to shortfalls in legal and policy provisions, insufficient resources, limited capacities, poor coordination, lack of leadership and ownership or inadequate recognition of or respect for children’s fundamental rights.

Similarly, prevention efforts have not always taken into account the full range of relevant factors that render children vulnerable to trafficking. The recovery, return and reintegration process has also revealed a host of challenges, including the non-identification or misidentification of child victims, their exposure to numerous forms of secondary victimisation, the lack of bilateral standard operating procedures for safe repatriation and the inadequacy of available support services.⁸⁰

Child abuse materials and sexual exploitation of children online

The East and South-East Asian region has experienced an impressive expansion in accessibility and use of ICTs. According to a recent report, the Internet penetration rate in South-East Asia has increased steadily since 2000, reaching about 32% of the population in 2013, equivalent to about 200 million users in a total population of 620 million.⁸¹ Across Asia and the Pacific, mobile-cellular subscriptions have also grown exponentially during the last 10 years, with the most rapid growth taking place in North and Central Asia (especially China). However, large disparities in mobile-cellular penetration remain between countries, some of

which (e.g., North Korea and Myanmar) still have few subscribers.⁸²

While contributing to the empowerment of previously marginalised and poor people through an increase in people-to-people connectivity and facilitating the exchange of knowledge, the improper use of ICTs is also playing a major role in facilitating the production, distribution and storage of illicit images of children .

Although no official data is available on the prevalence and extent of child pornography, nor has comprehensive research been conducted on the involvement of children in the production of abusive materials, the dangers that young people face by engaging in improper online interactions and the impact that such exposure has on their health and wellbeing are becoming apparent. Worldwide, including East and South-East Asia, the Internet has become a powerful vehicle for increasing opportunities to produce and circulate child abuse materials. In Japan, for example, national police data for 2009 indicated a rise in the volume of child abuse materials in the form of still images and videos, while more recently INHOPE's statistics for 2012 placed Japan fourth among top countries hosting websites with child abuse images.⁸³ According to the Virtual Global Taskforce, the Philippines is among the top ten countries for the production of online child pornography.⁸⁴

Research suggests that in addition to non-commercial distribution of child abuse materials, which increasingly involves the use of peer-to-peer networks and hidden services, exploitation materials are now being used as currency by paedophiles to access online groups, with value ascribed to the 'novelty' of the images. Moreover, there is evidence that both organised criminal networks operating in Asia and individual intermediaries are offering the sexual exploitation of children 'on demand' for people willing to pay to watch such child abuse.

Sometimes also known as pay-per-view or bespoke material, perpetrators take orders for and can produce videos or images that conform to a customer's specific requests regarding age, race, sex and appearance of the victim. Customers may also specify customised physical settings, plot elements or sexual acts. Some require that the child pay homage to them, for example by saying or displaying a certain name during the course of the abuse. In one recent case, a perpetrator from an EU Member State contacted providers of child sexual abuse material in a South-East Asian country. Using chat services and a webcam, the perpetrator issued instructions regarding the particular type of abuse he wanted to watch, paying as little as US\$25-30 for each 30 minute session of abuse. During the investigation of the case, it was discovered that many of the women from the particular village where the abuse took place were involved in the crimes.⁸⁵ This form of child exploitation extends as far back as 2005 when UNICEF Philippines published a report describing 'cybersex joints,' establishments that employ men, women and children to perform live sexual acts over webcam. Many of these 'joints' were reportedly operated by Australian expatriates.⁸⁶

Platforms and channels such as chat rooms, dating websites, mobiles phones with Internet access and peer-to-peer networks allow child sex abusers to more easily contact and solicit boys and girls, especially those most vulnerable, such as children not well supervised by guardians or who are particularly defenceless due to feelings of inadequacy. The practice of grooming children for subsequent online and offline sexual exploitation has been identified in several countries in the East and South-East Asia region, including Cambodia, Japan, the Philippines⁸⁷ South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.⁸⁸

*The South Korean Government has noted that around 85% of underage prostitution originates in chat rooms, concluding that increased Internet access by young people has made South Korean children increasingly susceptible to grooming for sexual purposes.*⁸⁹

There is evidence that children in East and South-East Asia are engaging in 'sexting', a form of self-generated sexually explicit content, which is generally defined as the exchange of sexual messages or images that involves the creating, sharing and forwarding of sexually suggestive nude or nearly nude images through mobile phones and/or the internet.⁹⁰ Children who actively engage in collecting and sharing sexually explicit images of themselves include school children, Internet users and children who are dangerously exploring digital technology. Often they are curious but lack the cognitive ability or behavioural self-management skills to resist sharing sexually explicit images.⁹¹ Although research on the topic is still limited, news articles and available literature suggest that self-produced sexually explicit content is becoming an issue of concern in a number of countries, including China and Thailand.⁹²

It has been reported that images produced in the context of "sexting" are used to blackmail the senders, either to obtain money, force the young person to produce more pornographic materials or even oblige them to engage in sexual contact with the blackmailer himself or a third person. This emerging practice is called "sextortion".⁹³

In Vietnam, research found that children engaging in "sexting" were enticed and forced to participate in 'body show' and 'chat sex' with known and unknown viewers on the internet. Some of them received payment for their involvement while the images taken were later sold to third parties, with or without the child's knowledge.⁹⁴

Intentional and unintentional exposure of children to pornographic materials and violent imagery on the Internet is another issue of growing concern in the region. World Vision Cambodia research on gender-based violence and pornography in 2005 noted a connection between the rape of prepubescent girls by boys and the increasing access of young Cambodian people to pornography

in a context of limited sex education.⁹⁵ A survey on the use of Internet pornography by Taiwanese adolescents revealed that 71% of respondents had been exposed to this material, the majority being male from more urbanised areas who intentionally looked for it.⁹⁶ Research by UNICEF in 2011 on CSEC in Vietnam found that viewing pornography was used by perpetrators to teach children how to perform their sexual services or as a stimulator during sexual activities.⁹⁷

Although the region is experiencing various forms of sexual exploitation of children connected with the illicit use of ICTs, knowledge of the risks children encounter in their online interactions and responses to this manifestation of CSEC remains generally inadequate. Besides the need for legal reform to ensure that legislation keeps pace with technological innovation, countries in the region should consider developing tools and measures to improve the identification of children involved in online sexual exploitation. Significant challenges also exist in achieving effective international cooperation regarding online investigations and electronic evidence in criminal matters. Furthermore, public awareness about online child safety and the creation of reporting mechanisms to investigate and curb child pornography sites are measures that have only begun to be adopted and must be further expanded. In this framework, private sector involvement should also be enhanced through varying degrees of self-regulation, including by Internet service providers and the creation of financial coalitions to block the profits of on-line exploiters.

Sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism

The countries of East and South-East Asia have become major tourist destinations; many have seen sharp increases in tourism arrivals in recent years (e.g. Cambodia, Myanmar and Vietnam). According to UNWTO, Asia and the Pacific recorded the fastest

growth across all regions in 2013, with a 6% increase in international arrivals. Among Asian sub-regions, South-East Asia registered the highest increase, with 11% more arrivals, largely due to continued strong intraregional demand.⁹⁸

Regrettably, economic growth arising from tourism has not always translated into better opportunities for children and, in fact, there is strong evidence that, on the contrary, at times it contributes to structures that undermine child protection. Children in the region have been increasingly sexually exploited by local and foreign tourists (as well as migrants and temporary workers), who make use of facilities developed for tourism to obtain access to children. Offenders are attracted to the region due to the persistently poor socio-economic conditions that plague large sections of the population and render children vulnerable. The global financial crisis has further increased children's vulnerability as aid budgets have decreased. As a result, technological advances have combined with weak government interventions – including law enforcement and social services – corruption, lack of political will and technological advances, to fuel this criminal activity.⁹⁹

While the actual scope of the phenomenon remains unknown, the sexual exploitation of children in tourism remains prevalent throughout East and South-East Asia. Contrary to a widely held view that most travelling sex offenders in the region are Western males, recent studies show that domestic and regional travellers and tourists are by far the biggest group of perpetrators in East and South-East Asia.

*ECPAT International's Global Monitoring Reports on CSEC and other research confirms that men from the more developed countries in the region (especially Australia, China, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan) continue to travel to poorer countries in South-East Asia to engage in sexual activities with children.*¹⁰⁰

In Cambodia, it has been noted that it is mostly Asians who seek sex from minors, whether they be Cambodians, rich Chinese or South-Korean. However, Westerners are simply more visible than Asians in this context. Unlike men from outside the region, Asian men reportedly use more discrete means to seek their child victims and thus remain undetected. This factor appears to contribute to some degree of social tolerance in Cambodia. With regard to the gender of travelling sex offenders, literature shows that most are males, although cases of women have been recently observed. In the Philippines, for example, a limited number of female tourists are also known to have purchased sexual services from children.

The perceived desirability of having sex with a virgin is a contributing factor to demand for sexual services from children in the region. Asian businessmen from China, Japan, Taiwan, and increasingly South Korea and Vietnam, comprise the majority of sexual exploiters who seek virgins – a demand highly prevalent in countries of destination such as Thailand, Cambodia¹⁰¹ and the Philippines¹⁰².

Thailand and the Philippines are traditional destinations for sexual exploitation of children in tourism, but other South-East Asian countries have emerged as prime targets for travelling sex offenders during the last decade. Together with Cambodia, which is currently one of the major destinations for travelling sex offenders in the Mekong sub-region,¹⁰³ Vietnam has seen an increase in the presence of child sex tourists as a result of enhanced efforts to combat the issue in Thailand and Cambodia.¹⁰⁴ It is feared that this manifestation of CSEC will grow further as the nation makes advances in attracting tourists (see box below for more details on Vietnam).¹⁰⁵ Due to the rise in tourism in Laos and efforts by neighbouring countries to crack down on sexual exploitation of local children by foreign offenders, in 2009 Lao government officials and NGOs estimated that sexual exploitation of children in tourism was likely to grow in the

country.¹⁰⁶ Substantiating this finding, the latest U.S. Department of State report on trafficking in persons highlights that some Vietnamese and Chinese women and girls, as well as girls and boys from Laos, are subjected to sex trafficking in Laos, usually in close proximity to borders, casinos and Special Economic Zones, or in the country's larger cities, reportedly to meet the demand of Asian tourists and migrant workers.¹⁰⁷ Likewise, in Myanmar outside observers and government authorities have both expressed concern over a possible increase in child sex tourism as overall tourism in the country increases.¹⁰⁸ In an effort to curb the problem, in 2014 the Government of Myanmar reported preventing six foreign nationals (three British, one Canadian, one American, and one German) from entering the country as a result of information about prior criminal activities.¹⁰⁹ Travelling sex offenders have also been identified in other countries in the region. In Indonesia, child sexual exploitation in tourism is prevalent in the Riau Islands bordering Singapore, and Bali is reported to be a destination for Indonesian child sex tourists.¹¹⁰ In Mongolia, anecdotal reports continue to indicate that South Korean and Japanese tourists engage in paid sex with children in the country.¹¹¹

Sexual exploitation of children in tourism in Vietnam

Recent UNICEF research on CSEC in Vietnam has shed light on sexual exploitation of children in tourism in the country, providing comprehensive information on the victims, perpetrators, and locations most affected by the phenomenon. Based on interviews with 37 child victims of sexual exploitation in prostitution and internal sex trafficking, the study found that 76% of these children reported that they had received foreign "customers". Children exploited by foreign nationals are both girls and boys and include

those already gravitating around the sex industry as well as children living in especially difficult circumstances, such as street children, orphans and migrants.

Perpetrators reportedly come from Australia, China, Europe, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, the UK and the United States, and are mostly males. Different methods are used by sex offenders to approach child victims. Short-term tourists appear to access them via middle-men (including taxi drivers and karaoke bar owners) or by befriending children (usually boys) who sell items in popular tourist locations. Expatriates, meanwhile, usually prefer to build a relationship with local children and to 'groom' them before their first sexual encounter. Although sexual exploitation of children in tourism was commonly reported in large cities, the study found evidence that these crimes were emerging in new locations, including remote and mountainous areas.¹¹²

Evidence collated from identified cases and reports from the region show that travelling child sex offenders target children that are working on the streets or in various informal business establishments in tourism destinations. In addition, they may otherwise gain unsupervised access to vulnerable children by working in schools or orphanages. Access to vulnerable girls and boys for the purpose of sexual exploitation can occur not only in mass tourism establishments (such as hotels, restaurants, bars, markets and tourist leisure precincts), but, as noted earlier, also through so-called 'responsible tourism' or 'cultural tourism' enterprises. For instance, "orphanage tourism", where travellers are allowed to visit and interact with children in institutional care, can leave children vulnerable to exploitation. So too can various forms of "home-stays" where unknown adults who are accommodated within local homes frequently have unsupervised contact with local children.¹¹³

According to information collected by APLE (a Cambodian NGO dedicated to combating the sexual abuse and exploitation of children), access to children through institutions such as schools, orphanages, shelters and churches has increased since 2013 as a result of the lack of child protection standards within such institutions.¹¹⁴

Vulnerability of school children to sexual exploitation by foreign perpetrators in Thailand

Recent cases involving the arrest of foreign teachers for sexual abuse of children while working in Thailand highlight the vulnerability of school children to sexual exploitation resulting from the absence of mechanisms to protect children in educational institutions.

Foreigners who visit Thailand with the intention of sexually exploiting children take advantage of the Thai policy of visa on arrival. They can easily find employment in language schools or informal Thai schools where all that is required is being a native speaker and having a degree of any kind. In 2006 and 2007 a series of high-profile arrests of foreign teachers occurred in Bangkok, including John Mark Karr, a suspect in the murder of Jon Benet Ramsey in the USA. Karr had recently been hired to teach at an international school in Bangkok. The following year, two more arrests of foreign teachers for child pornography prompted announcements that police may begin conducting background checks on foreign teachers; however it appears that no further action was taken in this regard.

Changes have been recently observed in a number of countries in relation to locations and the way that sexual exploitation by travelling child sex offenders is organised. In Vietnam,¹¹⁵ the Philippines¹¹⁶ and Cambodia, for example, perpetrators are moving away from major cities to more remote

locations where awareness about sexual abuse and exploitation is lower and a traditional 'culture of silence' can contribute to victims and their families not speaking.¹¹⁷ In Cambodia, following increased brothel busts, children are more and more exploited in other legitimate establishments (such as massage parlours and cafés), or are delivered directly by traffickers to small hotels and private apartments. In Thailand, organised crime appears to be less involved in the arrangement of sexual exploitation in tourism, except in the case of very young children. However, the interface point for this phenomenon seems to be shifting from brothels to the streets. Children are also often delivered directly to provide sex services to an adult based on a pre-arrangement made between the adult and an intermediary controlling the child.¹¹⁸ In Vietnam, some foreign child sex offenders were found to operate in organised networks, while others engaged in sex with children on an opportunistic basis.¹¹⁹ Likewise, in the Philippines there have been reports of special Filipino sex tours offered by several travel companies in the US. However, many travelling sex offenders do not use the services offered by travel agencies, instead gathering information about contacts and locations inside the country from the Internet or pornographic magazines.

Evidence indicates that Internet use has increasingly facilitated the sexual exploitation of children in tourism in the region. Travelling child-sex offenders are now able to anonymously gain access to networks that provide information on local children and the services available at destinations. They can also groom children online before reaching their destination and sexually exploiting them. A number of cases have been prosecuted in East and South-East Asia in which the Internet was a key factor. In 2008, Japanese authorities arrested a Japanese man for arranging child sex tours for Japanese tourists to Cambodia. He allegedly managed a specialised website allowing offenders to select children prior to their arrival in Cambodia. In 2011, a New Zealand man was the first in that country to be convicted for organising a tour with underage boys in Thailand, advertising over the Internet.¹²⁰ Data collected by

APLE show that one- fourth of the victims they assisted in the last decade reported that they had first met their offenders online.¹²¹

The sexual exploitation of children by travelling offenders in East and South-East Asia continues to be inextricably linked to other forms of commercial sexual exploitation. Apart from fuelling the trafficking of children, it contributes to the expansion of the child pornography industry as some child sex tourists continue to record or photograph child victims during abusive acts, sometimes sharing such materials with child sex abuser networks as well as using them to blackmail and coerce children into further sexual exploitative situations.¹²² Research in Thailand revealed that out of 16 cases of arrests of foreign perpetrators that occurred in 2009, the presence of mostly self-produced child pornography and digital recording equipment was mentioned in the majority of reports. In the Philippines, foreign nationals from sending sex tourist countries such as Australia, Japan, the UK and the US reportedly operate in the country with the assistance of Filipino nationals who procure local children for the purpose of child pornography. In Cambodia, APLE's data indicate that 14% of the foreign offenders in the cases they assisted involved possession and/or production of child pornography. The organisation estimates that on average each offender possessed about 500 pictures.¹²³ The involvement of child sex tourists in the production of child abuse materials has also been noted in Vietnam.¹²⁴

Surveying tourist perceptions of child sexual exploitation in tourism in South-East Asia

A recent online survey conducted with over 300 international travellers to Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam sheds light on the different types of interactions tourists have with children in these countries and their perceptions of 'child-safe tourism' in general. A significant number of survey participants (20.5%) claimed that they had seen children

or youth working in the sex industry. Many reported taking very pro-active steps to assist children in need (in many cases making reports to police and more commonly to staff at specific NGOs or charities).

However, in relation to overall child sexual exploitation survey participants frequently reported that they had felt they did not have enough information about the situation, were not equipped to assist or that their reports went unheard. Tourist perceptions of child sexual exploitation in tourism seemed to be limited to a rather stereotypical image of an older, white Western man acting in a predatory fashion, and therefore did not fully reflect the actual, more nuanced, situation.¹²

Although East and South-East Asia remains one of the most affected regions when it comes to the sexual exploitation of children in tourism, the prevention and counteraction of this manifestation of CSEC is hindered by a number of obstacles. The prosecution of travelling sex offenders in both countries of origin and destination remains weak due to such factors as: inadequate legal framework, difficulties in applying extraterritorial legislation (in sending countries), lack of international and regional cooperation among law enforcement agencies, corruption of law enforcement officials or ambiguous attitudes of personnel from embassies (located in destination countries), limited capacities to investigate the crime and lack of human and financial resources. Efforts to reduce the demand for sex with children by travelling sex offenders through prevention remain insufficient, as does involvement by the private sector in initiatives aimed at promoting responsible and child-safe tourism.

Early marriage and its links to child sexual exploitation

Although laws against child marriage exist in many countries in East and South-East Asia, the practice of child marriage persists, particularly in rural communities. The prevalence of child marriage in

East Asia and Pacific is 18%, with 9.2 million women aged 20-24 married as children in 2010.¹²⁶ According to data collected by UNICEF, the proportion of children married prior to reaching age 18 varies from 4% in Mongolia to 23% in Cambodia.¹²⁷ Based on 'Demographic and Health Survey' data, the percentage of married children under age 15 ranges from 1.3% in Cambodia to 16% in Timor-Leste.¹²⁸

Table 1. Minimum age for marriage in South-East Asian countries

Country	Male	Female
Brunei	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 years for those not bound by religious law. May need parental consent to register marriage of those under 18. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as male. <p>**N.B: this is based on 1990 legislation but as of May 1, 2014, the sultan adopted Sharia Law and it is unclear how this will affect these ages. (http://www.parhlo.com/brunei-adopts-sharia-law-despite-international-criticism/)</p>
Cambodia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under 16: Not allowed to marry 16 to 18: If the woman is 18 or older and parent(s) consent 18 and Above: Consent of parent(s) not required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under 16: Not allowed to marry 16 to 18: If the man is 18 or older and parent(s) consent 18 and above: Consent of parent(s) not required
Indonesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19 and above only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16 and above only
Laos PDR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18 and above Article 9 states: In special cases, this limit may be lowered to less than 18 years of age but not less than 15 years of age 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18 and above Article 9 states: In special cases, this limit may be lowered to less than 18 years of age but not less than 15 years of age
Malaysia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under 18: Not allowed to marry 18 to 21: Parent(s) must consent to marriage 21 or older: Consent of parent(s) not required <p>** Does not apply to Muslims (male or female) under Islamic Law</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under 16: Not allowed to marry 16 to 18: The Chief Minister must consent to marriage 18 to 21: Parent(s) must consent to marriage 21 or older: Consent of parent(s) not required
Myanmar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No minimum age for boys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Below 14: Intercourse prohibited, even with child/ parent's consent 14 to 20: Parent(s) must consent to the marriage 20 and above: Consent of parent(s) not required

Country	Male	Female
Philippines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Below 18: Not allowed to marry • 18 10 21: If not emancipated by previous marriage, parent(s) must consent in writing • 21 and above: Consent of parent(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as males <p>** Does not apply to Muslims (male or female) under Islamic Law OR if couple has lived together 5 years or more</p>
Singapore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Below 18: Special Marriage License may be issued with parental consent and completion of a marriage preparation program • 18 to 21: Parent(s) must consent to the marriage • 21 and above: Consent of parent(s) not required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as males
Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 to 17: Parent(s) must consent and only if there was sexual abuse • 17 and older: Consent of parent(s) not required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as males
Vietnam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 years and above only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 years and above only

Child marriage must be recognised as both a factor increasing vulnerability to CSEC and a form of CSEC itself. When a child marriage is settled between two families, the economic transaction that takes place establishes full control over the life of the child, for a price.

Commercial sexual exploitation of children, defined as using a child for sexual purposes in exchange for goods or payment in cash or in-kind, occurs when a child is forced into marriage in exchange for a dowry and is obliged to enter a sexual relationship with another individual. In parallel to being a facet of CSEC in itself, child marriage also creates the conditions that expose children to other forms of CSEC. By displacing children from their families of origin, child marriage makes them vulnerable to various types of abuse and exploitation, including of a commercial sexual nature.¹²⁹

There is very limited literature on child marriage as a form of sexual exploitation or as a facilitator of CSEC in East and South-East Asia. However, available research indicates that child marriage may be associated with CSEC and trafficking in a number of ways. For example, some evidence suggests that temporary marriages, also known as *muta* marriages, are on the increase in Indonesia, particularly with Saudi Arabian men.¹³⁰ According to several scholars and child protection agencies, short-term marriages serve as loopholes for prostitution and human trafficking, and as a religiously legitimate way for married men to have affairs, often with much younger women and girls. In a typical case of non-permanent marriage, poor families effectively sell their daughters to wealthy visiting foreign men in order to obtain the dowry (a form of “sexual exploitation of children in tourism”). At the end of their visits, the men simply abandon

their brides, who become unmarriageable once they have lost their virginity.¹³¹

Another customary practice providing fertile ground for child sexual exploitation is the dowry system. In a number of countries, the financial incentives for child marriage provide impoverished families with the opportunity to generate income through dowries or other payments in exchange for the young bride; in turn the groom obtains sexual access to the girl without incurring any sanction. As mentioned above, when marriages involve the child's family members contracting the exchange of a child as a sexual partner for financial or in-kind consideration, child marriage amounts to a form of CSEC. Dowry payment is one of the main motivations behind early marriages and child trafficking in some countries in East Asia. In China, for example, the increase in the cost of dowries, coupled with the one-child policy, which has led to a shortage of marriageable women, has made it more affordable for men to buy a wife from a trafficker than to pay a traditional dowry. It was reported, for example, that Chinese construction workers and labourers unable to afford dowries for local wives pay brokers to fetch girls from Myanmar's families; traffickers, aware of local customs, masquerade as marriage brokers and promise a dowry to the family.¹³² The market for "child brides" in China often covers sexual exploitation, as testified by the many cases of girls from neighbouring countries lured into marriages with Chinese men – only to be subsequently sold into prostitution.¹³³

In other countries in the region, child marriage also opens a primary door to child trafficking. In China, brokered marriages involving girls were found to be associated with trafficking for subsequent exploitation in prostitution in Japan, Malaysia,

Mongolia¹³⁴ and Taiwan,¹³⁵ the trafficked girls come primarily from less- developed countries in the region.¹³⁶ Additionally, there are accounts of Australian men sexually abusing Indonesian girls between 14 and 15 years of age under the guise of polygamous marriage.¹³⁷

Child marriage is a violation of child rights that has lifelong consequences for girls. Child brides are often forced into early sexual activity and therefore early childbearing. Because their bodies are not yet fully developed, these young adolescents are at risk of suffering life threatening or debilitating conditions as a result of childbirth, including obstetric fistulas, haemorrhaging or even death. Also, girls are more vulnerable to contracting life-threatening diseases, as they are often given away in marriage to much older men who have an elevated chance of being HIV positive or having other sexually transmitted infections contracted during prior sexual experiences.

Child marriage leaves girls uneducated and in poor health, and deprives them of valuable and necessary skills required to enter the labour market. This means that in cases where they are abandoned (which happens frequently), they are left in extreme poverty, thus increasing the risk that they will be forced to enter the commercial sex trade to survive. In Indonesia, the practice of girls being forced into prostitution following failed marriages entered into between 10 and 14 years of age has been widely reported and documented.¹³⁸ Research on sex trafficking in Cambodia found that some minors surveyed were divorced prior to their entry into the sex industry, due to early marriage practices in rural areas.¹³⁹



SECTION 3. ADDRESSING CSEC IN EAST AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA: PROGRESS, GAPS AND CHALLENGES

NATIONAL PLANS OF ACTION¹⁴⁰

National Plans of Action (NPAs), which governments that adopted the Stockholm Agenda have committed to develop, are the first tangible indication of a country's commitment to ending the sexual exploitation of children. NPAs are multidisciplinary documents intended to provide a working plan to augment action against CSEC at all levels of society. More specifically, NPAs ensure that all aspects of child exploitation and abuse are addressed through concrete strategies, programmes and activities; outline specific actions a country will take and who will be responsible for them; establish a timeframe and provide indicators to monitor progress; and give information on the allocation of resources and cost estimates.¹⁴¹

Although countries in East and South-East Asia adopted the *Stockholm Agenda for Action* and reiterated their commitment to combat CSEC by signing the *Rio Declaration and Call to Action*, the present review found that, with few exceptions, most nations in the region have neither developed nor implemented specific NPAs against all forms of commercial sexual exploitation. A mapping exercise of the policies and strategies adopted to date reveals:

- **NPAs against CSEC.** Only Mongolia and the Philippines appear to have current NPAs to address the many manifestations of CSEC. Mongolia's NPA was approved in 2005 and is known as the 'National Plan of Action on Trafficking and Protection of Children and Women from Commercial Sexual Exploitation'. Implementation covers the period 2006-2014. In the Philippines, the 'Framework for Action on Sexual Abuse and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children' is connected to the country's *National Strategic Framework for Plan Development for Children* covering 2000-2025, which represents an example of good
- **NPAs against trafficking in persons or in women and children.** Most countries in the region have adopted NPAs to address trafficking in persons or in women and children. Positively, Indonesia has a current NPA tackling both trafficking in persons and sexual exploitation of children. Vietnam and South Korea have NPAs against trafficking in women and children while Cambodia, China, Japan, Laos, Myanmar, Philippines and Thailand have current NPAs against trafficking in persons that include specific measures to reduce child trafficking for sexual purposes. It must be recalled that in the six Mekong countries (Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam), the development of anti-trafficking NPAs is in line with their commitment under the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT; see "Coordination and cooperation at regional and global level" for more details). But some countries (Malaysia and Singapore) appear to have NPAs against trafficking in human beings that do not feature tailored interventions for children. Taiwan does not have a current NPA against trafficking; however, under the 2009 *Human Trafficking Prevention and Control Law*, all relevant government sectors have to submit their plans and budget for activities against human trafficking, including child sex trafficking.
- **General NPAs or other strategies/programmes on children.** An increasing number of countries are integrating measures targeting at-risk and/or sexually exploited children into other, broader policy frameworks, such as general national plans on children. This is the case for China, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, although the scope and type of actions against CSEC (or its specific manifestations) vary across countries.

- **NPAs against specific forms of CSEC.** Some countries have adopted NPAs or programmes to reduce the incidence of specific manifestations of CSEC. To address the sexual exploitation of children in tourism, Cambodia adopted a *Strategic Plan (2007-2009) on the promotion of child safe tourism to prevent trafficking in children and women for labour and sexual exploitation in the tourism industry*. However, there is no information regarding updates to this Plan since 2009. Thailand has also made efforts to develop a specific NPA to address sexual exploitation of children in tourism since 2006 but, at the time of this review, it appears that this has not yet been achieved. With regard to prostitution of children, the *Vietnamese National Programmes of Action against Prostitution 2011-2015* place emphasis on supporting activities for women and children involved in this form of sexual exploitation to ensure access to social services in their communities.

Areas of concern:

Although much effort has gone into developing NPAs, several constraints continue to hinder the implementation and effectiveness of existing policy frameworks to address CSEC in the region, namely:

- While strong emphasis has been placed on child trafficking for sexual purposes, some of the emerging and evolving aspects of CSEC (especially sexual exploitation through ICTs and by local and international travelling sex offenders, as well as the prostitution of boys and compensated dating) are not addressed in most current NPAs.
- Implementation of current NPAs has encountered several obstacles including:
 - Lack of financial, technical and human resources and limited coordination among agencies responsible for realisation of the plan;

- Lack of budget allocations, minimum standards, benchmarks, timeframe and indicators of success;
 - Inclusion of too many activities and consequent lack of strategic focus;
 - Lack of information regarding the existence of the NPAs, especially at the local level;
 - Absence of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms;
 - Lack of political will to prioritise implementation of the plans and lack of understanding of the issue of CSEC;
 - Limited involvement of independent experts, civil society organisations and children, including those who are vulnerable or subjected to CSEC, in the design, implementation and evaluation of the NPA.
- In countries with more than one NPA addressing CSEC issues, there are issues of overlap in terms of target groups and types of activities, diluting responsibilities for overall implementation and resulting in less than optimal use of resources.

Priority areas and potential strategies:

Priority area: Adoption/Revision/Implementation of National Plans that mainstream CSEC

The gaps identified in the current policy framework to address CSEC show that ECPAT groups in the region should continue to directly or indirectly engage to support the development and implementation of NPAs through their local activities and programmes and monitor follow-up to ensure that implementation is treated as an integral part of national agendas.

Potential strategies:

- Lobbying for NPAs is one of the key advocacy strategies adopted by ECPAT over the years to enhance child protection from sexual exploitation. Considering that CSEC has evolved and that NPAs dealing with this specific violation reflect different approaches to child protection issues, ECPAT's International Secretariat should consider developing an advocacy strategy for the network detailing, *inter alia*, concrete actions that groups can promote at national and regional levels to ensure that CSEC is integrated and mainstreamed into existing NPAs. The strategy should highlight the comprehensive elements and components that an effective policy framework must capture to ensure an appropriate response to this children's rights violation.
- Based on this strategy, and using information contained in ECPAT country monitoring reports on CSEC as a starting point, ECPAT International's Secretariat, in collaboration with ECPAT groups, might consider conducting an in-depth study on NPAs on children and young people in countries in the region to assess their comprehensiveness in relation to CSEC. Due attention should be paid to the position of key regional players including regional institutions and initiatives (ASEAN, COMMIT, Bali Process, etc.), ministries, UNICEF, ILO and other UN agencies and NGOs in relation to the types of NPAs they support (e.g. NPA on human trafficking, NPA on children's issues, NPA on worst forms of child labour, etc.) and the rationale for their position. Based on the findings of the study, ECPAT could formulate its advocacy call and strategy for NPAs in the region, identifying potential partners and the steps to be taken to promote the adoption, revision and implementation of National Plans that mainstream CSEC.

COORDINATION AND COOPERATION¹⁴²

Coordination and cooperation are crucial for an efficient and effective fight against CSEC. In accordance with the Stockholm Declaration, close interaction and cooperation between government and non-government sectors is necessary to effectively plan, implement and evaluate measures to combat CSEC. At the international level, effective cooperation is required between countries and regional and international organisations to ensure that a concerted and coordinated approach is taken toward eliminating CSEC.

Coordination and cooperation at national and local levels

As in other regions of the world, in East and South-East Asia the international child protection sector and government agencies have increasingly recognised the importance of adopting a 'systems approach' to prevent and respond to child maltreatment, including CSEC. This has led to a shift in investment from issue-specific interventions to strengthening national child protection systems across the region. Acknowledging the relevance of this shift, UNICEF, in partnership with ECPAT International, ILO, Plan International, Save the Children and World Vision, is now working to strengthen child protection systems across the East Asia and Pacific (EAP) region through law, policy and programme efforts at national and local levels. As part of this work, a review of the child protection systems in 14 countries in the East Asia and Pacific region was conducted last year which provides in-depth analysis of the main progress achieved in this area, while also shedding light on major areas of concern that require further action.¹⁴³

Child Protection Systems Survey in Thailand

As part of its efforts to enhance child protection systems, ECPAT International has published, on behalf of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, a 'Child Protection Systems Survey' report in Pattaya, Thailand. The survey provides recommendations for addressing the situation of vulnerable children more appropriately, including increased attention for street children and victims of CSEC. Proposed strategies include the strengthening of common provincial policies and plans, data systems on children, improving child care services through capacity building and monitoring systems and strengthening coordination among key stakeholders.¹⁴⁴

The survey's findings were also presented during a workshop facilitated by ECPAT International on strengthening child protection systems for the provinces of Nonthaburi, Chonburi, Samutsakorn and Kanchanaburi. The workshop was attended by 120 representatives from the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, the Children and Youth Department, government agencies, local NGOs and the Provincial Subcommittee.¹⁴⁵

According to the UNICEF-led review, in most countries reviewed, the national ministry for social welfare is the lead agency responsible for child protection (for example, the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs in Vietnam and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Myanmar). The mandate and internal structure of these ministries varies considerably, but generally, child protection falls under a specialised children's unit or division within the social welfare department (Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam). Even in countries with a specialised children's department, responsibility for the welfare of children and families tends to be scattered across a number of disconnected divisions, commissions and departments. In Cambodia, for example, child protection cuts across

several departments within the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (such as Social Welfare, Child Welfare, Youth Rehabilitation and Anti-Human Trafficking and Reintegration of Victims).¹⁴⁶

Lead agencies do not always have primary responsibility for all aspects of child protection or the protection of children in all circumstances. For example, in Cambodia and Indonesia, responsibility for child protection is split between the ministry responsible for women's and children's affairs and the ministry responsible for social welfare, with uncoordinated or unarticulated mandates. In addition to the lead child protection agency, several ministries in all countries contribute to the child protection system, in particular, the ministries of health, education, justice, interior/home affairs and labour. To promote collaboration and coordination, most countries have established some form of national coordinating committee responsible for planning and policy development for children in general or child protection more specifically. These are typically high-level bodies with representatives from all agencies involved in child protection, including ministries of social welfare, education, health, labour, justice, police, judiciary, labour and finance. In Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar and Thailand, this committee structure is replicated at the regional, provincial and/or district levels.¹⁴⁷

In addition to children's rights or child protection coordination committees, most countries have seen a proliferation of thematic committees or task forces on specific issues, including CSEC (for example, the Sub-Committee on Sexual Abuse and Commercial Sexual Exploitation under the Council for the Welfare of Children in the Philippines). A review of ECPAT's Country Monitoring Reports on CSEC suggests that most of the coordination mechanisms established in the region have focused on human trafficking, with some attention devoted specifically to children. In Cambodia, Child Safe Tourism Commissions exist at national, provincial and municipal levels and they appear to be functioning satisfactorily. Some coordinating bodies have also been set

up to address child pornography and promote online safety. In the Philippines, the Inter-Agency Council against Child Pornography, chaired by the Department of Social Welfare and Development, contributes to the protection of children through coordination, implementation and oversight of the *Anti-Child Pornography Act*, and includes NGO representatives. Similar initiatives can also be found in Japan, Singapore and Taiwan.

At the sub-national level, where child support services are provided to children in need, structures and mandates for child protection vary considerably across the region.

As a general rule, UNICEF's research on child protection systems found that the farther from a city or provincial capital one moves, the less likely it is that these structures will be government agencies or institutions. In particular, government social welfare services rarely extend beyond the district level in most countries.

None of the countries reviewed appear to have formal structures for child welfare services at the village or community level. To address this gap, several countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Myanmar and Timor-Leste) established 'community child protection committees' or 'child protection networks' at the village or community level, often with the support of UNICEF, Save the Children, World Vision or Plan International. The composition of these committees varies from country-to-country, but they tend to include local government officials, police, teachers, health workers, chiefs or community elders, community-based or faith-based organisation staff, parents and children. Most of the committees have a general mandate to promote children's rights, monitor the situation of children in their communities and refer cases to district authorities. Some have been given (or have assumed) authority to respond to incidences of child maltreatment,¹⁴⁸ including CSEC. In Indonesia, for example, community watch committees were established by Save the Children in every hamlet

in East Java province to monitor the brokers and traffickers, map the migration flow of girls and raise awareness about trafficking.¹⁴⁹ Similarly, community-based child protection mechanisms set up by Plan in the Philippines and Cambodia have an explicit focus on child trafficking.¹⁵⁰

In terms of child protection service delivery, countries in the region have made some progress in establishing specialised institutions and structures for responding to child violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation, particularly in terms of medical and legal services. Efforts were also made to improve coordination for reporting, referral and assistance of cases, including CSEC and trafficking incidents. This often involves the adoption of agreements among agencies concerned, the introduction of case management processes and efforts to establish national referral systems. In Thailand, for instance, the Royal Thai Government initiated seven domestic Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) on *Common Guidelines of Practices for Agencies Concerned with Cases of Human Trafficking*, covering 75 provinces. The MoU guidelines address the full cycle of multi-disciplinary case management including prevention, protection, prosecution, repatriation and reintegration. In the Philippines, the government has developed *Guidelines on a Referral System for the Recovery and Reintegration of Trafficked Persons* to provide guidance to service providers mandated to effectively deliver a full range of assistance and protection to trafficked persons, including children¹⁵¹ (for more details see sub-section on "Support services"). In Indonesia, a number of provinces signed inter-provincial MoUs in 2011 that included guidelines for cooperating in the provision of care to trafficking victims located outside of their home provinces.¹⁵²

Areas of concern:

- As noted by the UNICEF review, vertical and horizontal coordination among ministries, government divisions, commissions, departments and other agencies involved in child protection is reportedly limited. This diffusion of responsibility

for policy-making, budget allocation and service implementation across ministries continues to cause unnecessary confusion and, at times, paralysis of the child protection system.

- Role confusion is often combined with overlapping responsibilities. This increases the risk that no agency or organisation will take responsibility for a case, therefore making it impossible to hold actors accountable for failure to fulfil their duties.
- The effective functioning of child protection systems is also hampered by: insufficient staff and budgeting for child protection; staff lacking appropriate training or expertise to carry out functions effectively, given their many administrative responsibilities and their lack of familiarity with child protection matters; and absence of a clear definition of the roles and competencies of all existing child protection authorities.
- While community-based committees have helped increase the availability of child protection services and have the potential to be effective (because they are closest to children and their families), a number of challenges affect their functioning, including: capacity to sustain and replicate the mechanisms beyond the initial donor-supported communities; lack of specialist input and professional assessments from social workers; limited interest by members in child protection issues and/or competing priorities; sporadic participation in and functioning of the committees.
- Cooperation between government actors and civil society organisations relevant to the rights of the child remains limited, especially in countries with little tradition of civil society activity (such as Laos, Malaysia and Vietnam). Although it is widely recognised that without civil society organisations many children would receive no services at all, sometimes non-government agencies are perceived as duplicating the work of others, making it difficult for government to

bring cohesiveness to the nascent national child protection system.

- Despite increased efforts to improve coordination for reporting and referral of cases of CSEC and trafficking incidents, coordination for victim return across districts and provinces remains difficult. The division of responsibility for dealing with victims is often not clearly defined; sending and receiving areas have different opinions as to who is responsible for the process.

Priority areas and potential strategies:

Priority area: Strengthening child protection systems for children vulnerable or subjected to CSE

As noted above, ECPAT International fully acknowledges the importance of strengthening child protection systems in the EAP region by conducting a survey in Pattaya, Thailand, and collaborating with UNICEF and other agencies on a project specifically looking at this aspect. ECPAT International, ILO, Plan International, Save the Children, UNICEF and World Vision are all part of the Inter-agency Steering Committee - IASC, a subcommittee of the East Asia and Pacific Child Protection Working Group. These efforts are commendable but must be expanded beyond the Secretariat. The main objective for ECPAT will be to ensure that child protection systems currently being set up in the region really benefit children affected or exposed to sexual exploitation and are able to respond to their unique needs.

Potential strategies:

- Recognising that within the network the concept of child protection systems is still new, ECPAT International Secretariat should consider developing resource materials on building effective child protection systems, highlighting the specific measures that such systems must have in place at different levels to ensure an appropriate response to prevent and combat CSEC. This should ideally be done with support from the IASC. Training on the topic for groups in the region should then be organised (for

example, as part of regional network exchange meetings).

- Besides ensuring adequate follow-up to the Child Protection Systems Survey in Thailand (through the ECPAT Foundation), ECPAT should consider translating this resource material into English to make it accessible to the network. Based on this experience and on the manual, ECPAT might expand this pilot research project to two or three additional countries in the region. The research will look at how current child protection systems are benefiting children vulnerable and subjected to CSE in their countries, providing recommendations for specific measures at the national and local levels.

Regional coordination, initiatives and forums

Governments in East and South-East Asia have spearheaded consistent efforts to improve regional coordination and cooperation against transnational crimes, especially human trafficking and certain manifestations of CSEC – such as sexual exploitation of children by travelling sex offenders. This is evidenced by the several joint initiatives and forums that have been promoted over the years through the initiative of regional organisations and other actors (especially UN agencies).

One of the regional mechanisms that has been particularly active in this sphere is ASEAN, an organisation of 10 South-East Asian countries¹⁵³ created in 1967 with the aims, *inter alia*, of accelerating economic growth and social progress; promoting the rule of law, peace and stability within the region; and developing cooperation between member states on matters in the economic, social, cultural, technical, scientific and administrative fields.

Since the 1990s, ASEAN has developed a special interest in the advancing the rights of women

and children, including their right to protection from trafficking and sexual exploitation. In 1993, ASEAN member states adopted the Plan of Action for Children in which the issue of trafficking in children and child prostitution was highlighted as a child protection priority.

The Plan provides a framework for regional cooperation for the survival, protection and development of children through, among other things: collaborative research, documentation and programmes on trafficking of children and the formulation and recommendation of regional policies and programmes.¹⁵⁴ The *Declaration on the Commitments for Children in ASEAN* adopted in 2001 reaffirms ASEAN's commitment to promoting child rights. It guarantees that ASEAN is committed to creating opportunities for children to express their views, advocate for their rights and participate in development. It also calls on governments to protect children from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect, trafficking and exploitation at home, in school and in their communities.¹⁵⁵

In 2004 ASEAN made a tremendous leap in terms of enhancing its anti-trafficking policies and regional cooperation in criminal matters by adopting the *ASEAN Declaration against Trafficking in Persons Particularly Women and Children* and the *Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance*. The 2004 Declaration was the first ASEAN instrument adopted specifically to address the issue of trafficking in women and children in South-East Asia. In 2007, the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transactional Crime (SOMTC) established a regional network, in the form of a Working Group on Trafficking in Persons, and endorsed the 2007-2009 Work Plan to Implement the ASEAN Declaration. This Work Plan contained key measures to provide a regional dimension to the fight against trafficking in persons (e.g.: reform of national frameworks; development of an ASEAN-wide training curricula on trafficking in persons for front-line law enforcers; and development of quality standards, procedures and protocols for (1) rapid and accurate identification of victims of trafficking, (2) protection and support of victims of trafficking

and (3) protection and support of trafficking victims involved in the criminal justice process).¹⁵⁶

The Working Group on Trafficking in Persons is in charge of monitoring implementation of the Work Plan. ASEAN also launched its first anti-trafficking programme, *Asian Regional Cooperation to Prevent People Trafficking* (2003-2006), which was implemented by the Australian government and ratified by other nations. The project focused on criminal justice responses to trafficking in partner countries. Following its success, this initiative was extended to 2011 as the *Asia Regional Trafficking in Persons Project* (ARTIP)¹⁵⁷ and is now known as the *Australia-Asia Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons*. As part ARTIP, in 2007 the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) endorsed the “ASEAN practitioner guidelines on criminal justice responses to trafficking in persons”, which provides detailed recommendations for international legal/judicial cooperation with regard to cases of trafficking in persons.¹⁵⁸ Of relevance specifically to child trafficking are the *ASEAN Guidelines for the Protection of the Rights of*

Trafficked Children adopted by the ASEAN Ministers for Social Welfare and Development in December 2007 (see subsection on “Support services” for more details).

In recent years ASEAN has further enhanced its anti-trafficking efforts, as evidenced by current work on drafts of an *ASEAN Convention on Trafficking in Persons* and a *Regional Plan of Action on Combating Trafficking in Persons*. In 2013 senior ASEAN officials charged with addressing transnational crime also reaffirmed their commitment to cooperate in order to respond effectively to this threat. At the 13th ASEAN SOMTC, held in Vietnam in June 2013, officials considered and endorsed the *SOMTC Work Programme 2013-2015*. The Work Programme includes policy guidelines and activities on the eight areas of transnational crime, including trafficking in persons and cybercrime, and was adopted at the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime held in Laos in September 2013. In view of the increasing scope and complexity of the cybercrime threat, it was also decided to establish a Working Group on Cybercrime.

ASEAN against cyber pornography and cyber prostitution

As part of the ASEAN Strategic Framework and Plan of Action for Social Welfare, Family and Children 2011-2015, two conferences were organised to discuss the online sexual exploitation of children. The first Conference, ‘Working Toward a Cyber Pornography and Cyber Prostitution-Free South-East Asia’, was held in Manila, Philippines, on 18-22 June 2012, with the aim of understanding the dynamics and intensifying the public’s knowledge of cyber-pornography and cyber-prostitution, as well as enhancing the competencies of service providers on psychosocial interventions for women and children through capacity building programmes.

The 2nd ASEAN Conference on this topic, held in the Philippines on 22-26 April 2013, was intended to: facilitate information-sharing on coordination and protection mechanisms against cyber pornography and cyber prostitution; determine effective, preventive and responsive strategies; and identify good practices and formulate a regional agenda to address these issues.¹⁵⁹ The Conference was attended by 10 ASEAN countries and included representatives from law enforcement, national and international NGOs (including ECPAT), the technology and communications industry and social welfare workers.

The event concluded with a set of recommendations on how to strengthen child protection from cyber pornography and cyber prostitution, including:

- 1) Review national legislation to define, prohibit and criminalise, in accordance with existing international human rights standards, all acts of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents, particularly cyber pornography and cyber prostitution;

- 2) Promote ASEAN cooperation in the areas of extra-territorial jurisdiction and mutual legal assistance, to facilitate effective prosecution of perpetrators of all acts of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents and appropriate sanctions for these extraditable offences;
- 3) Strengthen telecommunication regulations to cover both non-commercial and commercial sectors, and to standardise data retention policies for service providers; and
- 4) Develop a clear code of conduct and referral system, or inter-agency coordination mechanism, for monitoring, reporting and handling cases and victims of cyber-pornography and cyber-prostitution in ASEAN Member States.¹⁶⁰

In addition to combating human and child trafficking, ASEAN has been identified internationally as a leader in the field of preventing sexual exploitation of children in tourism, as a result of its outstanding and innovative regional efforts. In 2002 the *ASEAN Tourism Agreement* was adopted, reaffirming States' adherence to the UNWTO Global Code of Ethics for Tourism and committing to taking stern measures to prevent tourism related abuse and exploitation of people, particularly women and children.¹⁶¹ At the initiative of Child Wise (the ECPAT group in Australia), the ASEAN Regional Taskforce to Prevent Child Sex Tourism was established with support from AusAID, the Australian government's overseas aid programme. The Regional Taskforce meets annually to share critical and emerging information pertaining to the issue of the sexual exploitation of children in ASEAN tourism destinations. Its members are drawn primarily from the tourism and law enforcement communities in all 10 ASEAN countries. Taskforce members are joined by high-level officials from a range of other government ministries, international and non-government organisations, academics and the private sector. The Taskforce is committed to exploring trends, analysing new modus operandi, reviewing past efforts and, importantly, exploring new opportunities for detection, apprehension, policy development and prevention.¹⁶²

In 2005 a key step in the fight against child sex tourism was the launch of ASEAN's 'Regional

Education Campaign', which had been identified as a priority by the Regional Taskforce. The 'Combating Child Sex Tourism in South-East Asia' campaign was jointly carried out among ASEAN governments under the coordination of Child Wise, and was singled out as an example of good international practice. Designed to mobilise responsible travellers and local citizens to report suspected cases of sexual exploitation in tourism using dedicated hotline numbers, deter potential child-sex offenders and create a culture of intolerance toward the sexual exploitation of children, the campaign has contributed to strengthening collaboration among ASEAN tourism destination and source countries in combating this phenomenon, and has successfully raised community awareness and action by widely distributing awareness-raising materials across the ASEAN region. As a follow-up to this initiative, a multi-year programme called *The South East Asian Plan – A Sustainable Regional Response to Preventing the Sexual Exploitation of Children in Tourism Destinations (2009-2013)* was also developed. Combining the efforts of multiple key stakeholders at the regional, national and local levels, both from public and private sectors, as well as vulnerable communities, including children and youth, the Five-Year Plan offers a more holistic and comprehensive approach to child sexual exploitation, while strengthening vital protections for children vulnerable to exploitation in tourism destinations throughout the region.¹⁶³

Collaboration between the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children and the UN Secretary General on Violence against Children

ASEAN recently set up specific bodies to work directly on child rights, namely the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) and the ASEAN Children's Forum (see "Legal context" and "Child and youth participation" for more details). The ACWC has demonstrated deep concern about violence against children. With support from UN Women and UNICEF, in January 2012, ACWC convened a Consultative Meeting with the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Violence against Children (SRSG-VAC) and CEDAW Committee experts on violence against women and children. Meeting in Manila, the Philippines, the Consultation concluded with a joint commitment to collaboration to better counteract violence against women and children through a number of activities, including:

- a. "Compiling, documenting and disseminating good practices and studies on the implementation of legislations, programmes, services and strategies to address all forms of VAW and VAC in the region;
- b. Conducting regional studies of legal frameworks and response strategies towards the elimination of VAW and VAC in ASEAN Member States;
- c. Promoting advocacy and policy development for the prevention and elimination of all forms of VAW and VAC;
- d. Promoting, in collaboration with relevant government agencies, the availability and quality of data collection and analysis concerning VAW and VAC in ASEAN Member States;
- e. Launching a regional public campaign to eliminate all forms of VAW and VAC in collaboration with the relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies, civil society, religious and local leaders, private sector and other stakeholders;
- f. Developing minimum standards of delivery of services to the victims and survivors as well as perpetrators of VAW and VAC;
- g. Strengthening the capacity of service providers in ASEAN Member States to prevent and address all forms of VAW and VAC; and
- h. Promoting dialogues with other relevant government agencies, civil society and other stakeholders aiming at improving awareness of all forms of VAW and VAC in various sectors."¹⁶⁴

ECPAT International contributed actively to the UN violence study, including in the EAP region, and has also established fruitful collaboration with the SRSG-VAC. More recently, ECPAT International has begun to build a partnership with the ACWC, in part by participating in events and activities organised by this agency. The systematic involvement of ECPAT at ACWC-organised events/processes would be advantageous, as it would offer a channel for members in the region to contribute their expertise on CSEC for broader efforts against violence – continuing ECPAT's involvement and support to the UN VAC study – while also providing an opportunity to enhance partnership with the ACWC. In addition, it would offer ECPAT avenues for furthering its strategic goals and objectives in partnership with other actors in the region; particularly objectives related to the World Congress III follow-up in addressing CSEC in the region.

At the sub-regional level, an important initiative is the ‘Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking’ (COMMIT) launched by countries in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam) through the signing of an MoU in 2004. Based on this agreement, governments committed to a response to human trafficking that meets international standards, highlighting the need for multi-lateral, bilateral, and government-NGO cooperation to fight human trafficking. The COMMIT Process is governed by the six national COMMIT Taskforces, each comprised of government officials from the ministries most relevant to the fight against human trafficking – including police, justice, social welfare, and women’s affairs. The Taskforces make all major decisions regarding anti-trafficking programming and policy in their countries, as reflected in annual COMMIT work plans. Two representatives from each of the six COMMIT Taskforces convene at least twice a year to set priorities and hold discussions on urgent issues in the region. Activities under the sub-regional Plans of Action (SPAs) are being implemented in each country and at a multi-country level where needed (both bilateral and multilateral). Implementation is typically undertaken through partnership among relevant government departments and non-government entities, whether UN agencies or NGOs, to coordinate efforts, combine resources, and reduce redundancies.

A wide range of multi-sectoral partners contribute to the COMMIT Process, including UN agencies, NGOs, inter-governmental organisations, donors and academia. UNACT, the UN Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking (previously known as UNIAP), serves as the Secretariat to the COMMIT Process, and as such is mandated to provide technical, financial, monitoring, reporting, and logistical support to activities under COMMIT. The inter-agency collaboration fostered around the first COMMIT SPA (2005-2007) has continued through the SPA II (2008-2010) and into the SPA III (2011-2013), with implementing agencies contributing their unique technical expertise to helping the governments to advance toward meeting the

targets and progress indicators built into COMMIT’s monitoring and evaluation framework.¹⁶⁵

Many activities conducted as part of COMMIT are relevant for combating CSEC. For example, under this initiative, there is a focus on engaging the tourism sector in addressing human trafficking. In Cambodia, a ‘Child-Safe Tourism’ campaign to prevent trafficking in the tourism industry was implemented,¹⁶⁶ while in Thailand a regional seminar on “Protecting Children from Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation in Tourism” was held in 2007, resulting in the adoption by participants of a Letter of Intent to reinforce collaboration among the six countries to work towards introducing such measures as: a regional registry of child sex offenders, a regional child-safe campaign by airlines and establishing a child-sensitive regional hotline. Similarly, several regional meetings were organised to address trafficking; however, a focus on child trafficking is generally lacking within the COMMIT process, and ECPAT is well placed to address this. COMMIT also includes a component of building capacities among civil society groups to address trafficking in the sub-region, which could benefit the ECPAT network, especially national coalitions, in enhancing institutional capacities and impact-oriented programming and advocacy against child trafficking.

Another initiative involving countries in the region is the ‘Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime’ (Bali Process). Initiated in 2002, the Bali Process has effectively raised regional awareness of the consequences of people smuggling, trafficking in persons and related transnational crime, and developed and implemented strategies and practical cooperation in response. More than 45 members, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the UNODC, as well as a number of observer countries and international agencies, participate in this voluntary forum. The main focus is human trafficking, and some activities included in the Bali Process framework are

geared specifically towards children. For example, the Regional Support Office based in Thailand is promoting a number of projects covering key migration issues, one of which, implemented by UNHCR, aims to map and analyse the protection and treatment of unaccompanied and separated children who move irregularly into and/or within Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. The project is led by Mahidol University, Thailand, and is conducted in partnership with ECPAT International and researchers from universities in the three countries involved.¹⁶⁷ One of the key outcomes is expected to be the development of ASEAN Guidelines or Standard Operating Procedures relevant to protecting this vulnerable group of children (which includes child refugees, independent child migrants and trafficked children).¹⁶⁸

In addition to participating in these regional and sub-regional mechanisms, governments in East and South-East Asia have made efforts to enhance bilateral and multilateral cooperation, particularly to prevent and respond to human trafficking, improve protection of trafficking victims and hold perpetrators accountable.

Under the auspices of the COMMIT Initiative, several MoUs on cooperation for combating human trafficking and protecting victims have been concluded among countries in the Sub-Mekong region (for example, Thailand has MoUs with Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar; Vietnam has MoUs with Cambodia, Laos and China; the latter also has an agreement with Cambodia covering human trafficking, drug trafficking, antiterrorism and personnel training).¹⁶⁹ Some efforts to strengthen implementation of these MoUs have been promoted in recent years. Beginning in 2009, Thailand and Myanmar enhanced their joint efforts by holding quarterly Case Management meetings between Myanmar's Department of Social Welfare and Thailand's Department of Social Development. Myanmar social workers, along with several civil society representatives, conducted visits to Thai shelters to support Myanmar victims and assist with interpretation. Agreements against human

trafficking have also been adopted by other countries in the EAP region. Mongolia, for instance, has anti-trafficking agreements with China, Macau and Switzerland,¹⁷⁰ while Taiwan has a MoU against human trafficking and smuggling with Indonesia.¹⁷¹ In 2006, Japan reached an agreement with Thailand to establish the Japan-Thailand Joint Task Force on Counter Trafficking. The Task Force aims to strengthen cooperation between the two countries on prevention, law enforcement and protection of victims.¹⁷²

Several additional examples of bilateral, regional and international law enforcement cooperation against other CSEC crimes (often involving sectors beyond police and justice systems) can also be cited. Cambodia has gradually established intense collaboration with law enforcement agencies from Western countries (such as US Immigration and Customs Enforcement), especially with a view to counteracting child sexual exploitation in tourism and child pornography.¹⁷³ In Thailand, in addition to bilateral initiatives, a working group (the Foreign Anti-Narcotic and Crime Community) was formed by police liaison officers to carry out advocacy aimed at promoting more proactive and effective pursuit of perpetrators of child sexual exploitation in tourism by the Thai government.¹⁷⁴ As part of its participation in the Group of Eight (G8), Japan is providing funds for the new, improved International Child Sexual Exploitation Database (launched by Interpol in March 2009) and is part of the G8 'Wanted Child Sex Offender' website, which pulls together information from G8 members and includes photographs of people wanted on charges of child sexual abuse who may have crossed borders.

A good example of multi-stakeholder cooperation against CSEC involving law enforcement and other actors from different countries is the Advisory Panel for the exchange of information and expertise. The Panel was established in 2008 by the UK's Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre in order to strengthen cooperation between the UK, Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam, particularly to prevent the exploitation of children in the region

by British and other foreign nationals. Each panel is made up of multi-agency representatives from law enforcement, government agencies, NGOs, UN agencies and British Embassy officials and is ultimately intended to deliver a holistic approach that targets offenders and protects victims by: sharing expertise and cultural understanding, carrying out joint education and awareness campaigns and informing in-country capacity-building initiatives.¹⁷⁵

*Another initiative involving law enforcement and other stakeholders is the Asia-Pacific Financial Coalition against Child Pornography (APAC-FCACP) launched in 2009 at the initiative of the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children (ICMEC). Comprised of leading credit card companies, electronic payment networks, Internet companies, NGOs, industry associations and law enforcement, the APAC-FCACP is currently taking a region-wide approach and building country-specific networks in a few target countries.*¹⁷⁶

Several joint initiatives and projects have been implemented by UN agencies, international organisations and NGOs to ensure better cooperation and collaboration against CSEC. For example, under a 2010 initiative entitled 'Project Childhood', the Australian government, through AusAID, launched a four-year programme targeting child sexual exploitation in tourism in South-East Asia. Prevention and protection are primary components of the project, led by an NGO and UNODC, respectively. Under its prevention pillar, Project Childhood is carrying out surveys in Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam to better understand ICT use among children in these countries and lobby for suitable interventions against online exploitation. The protection component is intended to increase the number of successful investigations, apprehensions and prosecutions of travelling child sex offenders through capacity-building programmes across the region, enhanced intelligence-sharing and technical and operational assistance to local law enforcement agencies. With the allocation of £7.5 million Australian dollars from 2010-2014, Project

Childhood represents one of the largest investments by a single government to address the protection of children from travelling sex offenders.¹⁷⁷

A number of multi-country projects have been conducted by Asia ACTs, a regional campaign to fight child trafficking in South-East Asia with members in Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar (based in Thailand), the Philippines and Vietnam. Among its numerous activities, Asia ACTs contributed to the development of the *ASEAN Guidelines for the Protection of the Rights of Trafficked Children* and recently conducted a study examining the experiences of social service providers and child trafficking survivors in accessing justice in Cambodia, the Philippines and Thailand.¹⁷⁸

ECPAT International is also part of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Child Protection, comprised of UN agencies and international NGOs in the region working on child rights and child protection issues (including UNICEF, ILO, UNODC, OHCHR, UNESCO, ECPAT International, Plan International, Terre Des Hommes and World Vision). This group meets regularly and organises joint research and advocacy initiatives, such as the Regional Mapping of Child Protection Systems Research mentioned earlier. It also supported organisation of the Regional Consultation on the UN Study, the World Congress III Preparatory Meeting for EAP and the subsequent follow-up processes for implementation of the recommendations of the UN Study on Violence against Children.

Areas of concern:

- Regional collaboration has a tendency to focus on soft mechanisms of cooperation, such as intelligence sharing and, while this helps to call attention to the issue, it must be accompanied by hard measures, commitments to concrete legal and policy action, to eradicate CSEC.
- Some initiatives aimed at addressing human trafficking through enhanced cross-border cooperation and collaboration (such as the Bali

Process and the COMMIT initiative) have little focus on vulnerable children or child victims of this crime.

- Implementation of the various memoranda of understanding on cooperation for combating human and child trafficking and protecting victims has been erratic, mainly due to insufficient training of law enforcement officials and their unfamiliarity with the law.
- The majority of regional associations and initiatives centre on the topic of trafficking, deprioritising other forms of CSEC (especially child pornography and its linkages to prostitution of children).
- Despite efforts to improve bilateral, multilateral and international cooperation, law enforcement continues to face difficulties in communicating with counterparts, victim identification, cross-border prosecution and repatriation of trafficked victims. This is due, among other things, to differences in legal, political and cultural traditions; political sensitivities; and human rights concerns.
- In ASEAN Member States an inter-agency coordination mechanism for monitoring, reporting and handling cases of CSEC, including online sexual exploitation of children, is urgently needed.
- The sharing of experiences and lessons learned from work on CSEC within the region remains weak at all levels (including among ECPAT groups).

Priority areas and potential strategies:

Over the years, ECPAT's International Secretariat, Board members and representatives from ECPAT groups have established collaboration with a number of regional and sub-regional organisations and mechanisms active in the EAP region. This has taken place through participation in forums, events

and joint projects/programmes. While ECPAT is recognised as a specialist and key player on issues pertaining to CSEC, advocacy work conducted to date at the regional and sub-regional levels appears to be fragmented, uncoordinated and inconsistent. Engagement with key institutions such as ASEAN has been pursued but not strategically, particularly in the last few years. As this initial mapping clearly shows, opportunities exist for advocacy at various levels and on a number of issues (e.g., ASEAN's current work on cyber-prostitution and cyber-pornography, collaboration with UN Secretary General on Violence against Children and ACWC on UN VAC study follow up, COMMIT, etc.). There is a need to take advantage of such opportunities to advance the CSEC agenda by enhancing collaboration with key regional institutions and mechanisms. At the same time, more efforts should be dedicated to building and strengthening effective partnerships with the private sector and among ECPAT groups from within and outside the region.

Priority area 1: Promoting a regional effort to end child pornography and online sexual exploitation of children

Potential strategies:

- ECPAT should organise a regional approach to addressing child pornography and online protection of children and facilitate development of new partnerships with ICT companies that could take on more frontline work on protecting children in the virtual world (see also recommended strategies under the section on "prevention").¹⁷⁹

Priority area 2: Fostering inter-country cooperation among NGOs and joint advocacy for enhanced prevention, coordination and prosecution of sexual exploitation in tourism and child trafficking for sexual purposes, and to ensure victims' rights to effective remedies

Potential strategies:

- Several regional-level programmes address child sex tourism and trafficking in children, in the areas of prevention, protection and prosecution. However, impunity prevails and victims remain invisible; even those who support prosecution are often left without recourse after the termination of legal procedures. Most regional programmes on prosecution focus on training of law enforcers. There is a need to significantly engage civil society groups so that civil society organisations (CSOs) are able to demand more accountability from law enforcers and governments, as well as to advocate for victims' right to remedies instead of serving only as witnesses for prosecution.¹⁸⁰ In this framework, the following strategies could be developed: a) ECPAT could lobby for enhanced regional law enforcement cooperation and responses against the sexual exploitation of children in tourism (e.g. mutual legal assistance, extraditions, revocation of passports, notifications to destination countries when sex offenders travel, deportations of sex offenders, liaison officers based at embassies of sending countries, etc.); b) ECPAT could use the findings and recommendations of its current 'Access to Justice for CSEC Victims Research Project' to advocate with regional institutions (ASEAN, UNACT, Bali Process, etc.) for the rights of children who are victims of trafficking for sexual purposes¹⁸¹ (see also recommended strategies under the sections on the "legal framework" and "support services").
- Collaboration between member organisations in East and South East Asia should be expanded through joint projects focusing on specific areas of concern identified by the groups. Activities to be conducted might include, *inter alia*, research (see also "Potential strategies" identified under other key areas of work), training and identification and collection and exchange of good practices. In this framework, development cooperation projects coordinated by ECPAT groups such as Child Wise (Australia) or member organisations from Europe (ECPAT Netherlands,

ECPAT France and ECPAT Luxembourg) should also be increased;¹⁸²

- In addition to joint programmes, there is a need to organise annual Regional Network Consultations involving all ECPAT groups from East and South-East Asia. These meetings facilitate and promote the sharing of experiences and can be used to build capacity of ECPAT groups on key CSEC areas relevant to regional priorities identified by members (e.g., training on child protection systems, mainstreaming CSEC into NPAs, etc.).

Priority area 3: Promoting concrete actions for the prevention of CSEC in the ASEAN community

Potential strategies:

- ECPAT has already taken a step forward in analysing the situation of unaccompanied and separated children in South-East Asia through its current initiative with Mahidol University, which feeds into the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking, and Related Transnational Crime. ECPAT is also part of an informal network of agencies in the region that are promoting the rights of "children on the move," together with Save the Children and Terre des Hommes. Considering the link between increasingly risky migration flows in the region and the rise of CSEC, ECPAT should consider developing an approach that will elevate the discussions on children on the move and CSEC from the research level to policy platforms, targeting ASEAN and national governments.¹⁸³
- ECPAT is also concerned about the vulnerability of children to sexual abuse and exploitation during natural and man-made calamities and subsequent humanitarian responses. A network of civil society groups led by OXFAM is currently organising efforts to assist ASEAN in implementing the 'ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response' by 2015. Various advocacy groups – children, people with disabilities, women, and others – are integrating their inputs into the process. ECPAT

could consider working with Save the Children to facilitate the inclusion of CSEC prevention and response components into this initiative.¹⁸⁴

PREVENTION¹⁸⁵

The effective prevention of CSEC requires multi-faceted strategies and policies that simultaneously address the different elements of the problem. These strategies should target both vulnerable children and those who engage in sexual activities with children, while also addressing the root causes of CSEC such as poverty and lack of education. Long term prevention strategies include improving the status of children who are most vulnerable to CSEC by implementing policies to reduce poverty and social inequality and improving access to education, health and social services. Effective short to medium term strategies include awareness raising campaigns and education and training initiatives for the general public, vulnerable groups and government officials. The resources, expertise and influence of the private sector, particularly the tourism and IT industries, should also be engaged in prevention measures, in particular in awareness raising activities. Furthermore, information, education and outreach programmes should be directed at those engaging in the commercial sexual exploitation of children (e.g. exploiters of children forced into prostitution) to promote changes in social norms and behaviour and reduce the demand for child victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

Awareness-Raising, Education and Training

As in other regions of the world, a proliferation of sensitisation, training and educational activities have been held across East and South-East Asian

countries. Initiatives implemented to date target different population groups (including, *inter alia*, vulnerable and exploited children, parents, caregivers, educators, government officials, communities, religious leaders, the general public, policy makers, media, etc.) and have taken multiple forms, from national public campaigns and community-level awareness seminars and street theatre to production/dissemination of information and other materials (t-shirts, posters, comic strips for children, handbooks, etc.); work with media (e.g. radio and television announcements); and capacity-building workshops. A review of current efforts promoted in this specific sub-area of prevention suggests that:

- While very few initiatives were implemented to sensitise the public and other actors on CSEC in general, consistent awareness-raising efforts undertaken across the region addressed human trafficking, although these were geared mainly towards adult victims with little or no focus on children. Some exceptions include, for example, the ECPAT-Body Shop “Stop Sex Trafficking in Children and young people” campaign, which contributed to increasing consciousness of the problem in 10 countries in East and South-East Asia. Additionally, Vietnam appears to carry out extensive awareness-raising campaigns on the issue of child trafficking, including for the purposes of exploitation in prostitution, and as part of an ongoing campaign to combat child sex trafficking, Taiwanese authorities reportedly display public service announcements in cinemas, on television and in online chat rooms.
- An increasing number of awareness-raising activities are being undertaken to sensitise and educate children and young people, teachers, parents and other actors on child safety online and potential risks faced by children in cyberspace. Examples were identified in several countries in the region, including China, Japan, the Philippines and South Korea.
- To prevent the use of the Internet to market sex services and reduce the *enjo-kosai* or

- transactional sex, some countries have begun to raise awareness and educate youth on the use of dating sites for the purpose of soliciting prostitution. In Japan, law enforcement organised the distribution of leaflets in junior high schools throughout the country regarding the dangers of using online dating sites and offered lectures on this subject to students, as well as to parents, legal guardians, teachers and other school personnel. In Taiwan, to counteract Internet dating the Child Welfare Bureau has subsidised NGOs to implement education campaigns in online chat rooms, reminding users that the act of posting sexual offers online is an offense punishable by law. Similar initiatives were also identified in Singapore and South Korea.
- While several examples exist of programmes to educate school students on human rights, children’s rights, child protection issues, cyber safety, etc., countries in East and South-East Asia have not generally acknowledged the importance of institutionalising education on these issues, including on the right of children and adolescents to be protected from sexual exploitation, in school curricula. Some exceptions, however, were noted. Taiwan, for example, has incorporated education on human trafficking into the school curriculum. In Mongolia, CSEC issues are just beginning to be included within the general human rights curriculum provided to secondary school students. In South Korea, educational materials addressing CSEC are integrated within the school curriculum, and the government has initiated measures to encourage sex education in schools and prevent sexual abuse, including prostitution of children. Sex education is also mandatory in Japan and Singapore. In Malaysia the personal safety education related to the prevention of child sexual abuse is included in the school curriculum from 1st standard to 4th standard, related to safe and unsafe touching and self-protection; however, some teachers do not conduct this session as they may lack the necessary skills.¹⁸⁶
 - An important initiative to raise awareness on child sexual abuse and exploitation by travelling sex offenders is the Regional Education campaign on ‘Combating Child-sex Tourism in South-East Asia’ mentioned above, carried out by ASEAN governments under the coordination of Child Wise (ECPAT Australia). This programme involves both the tourism industry and tourism authorities in each of the participating countries. The campaign made extensive use of classic tools, such as stickers, posters and banners. Using the slogan “Don’t turn away. Turn them in,” along with eye-catching materials in highly visible colours, the campaign aimed primarily to empower tourists and local communities to report cases of child-sex tourism to the relevant authorities.
 - Other initiatives have sought to address the demand for sex with children from both travelling and local sex offenders across the region. In Cambodia, the Ministry of Tourism collaborated with NGOs to produce trainings, billboards and flyers aimed at reducing the demand for commercial sex acts and sexual exploitation of children in tourism, though these efforts were targeted at foreign offenders rather than the local population (which is the main source of demand for commercial sex with children).¹⁸⁷ The Chinese government is reported to have conducted awareness-raising programs at schools to reduce the demand for commercial sex.¹⁸⁸ A surveillance network on sexual exploitation of children in tourism was developed in Thailand by training business operators in high-risk areas to identify and report cases to the police.¹⁸⁹ In Vietnam the government conducted a media campaign against prostitution, targeting potential consumers of commercial sex acts.¹⁹⁰ Japan’s Cabinet Office continued to distribute posters, leaflets and passport inserts nationwide containing warnings to potential consumers of sexual services.¹⁹¹ Finally, South Korean authorities continued to post warnings for travelling sex offenders at airports and railroad stations and on the websites of South Korean embassies.¹⁹²

- A number of training workshops to increase knowledge and skills on issues surrounding the commercial exploitation of children have been held, mainly targeting government officials (police officers, judges, social workers and other professionals working with child survivors), local communities, and the private sector (see below section on “legal framework” for more details on capacity building on CSEC). Several initiatives focused on preventing sexual exploitation in travel and tourism. For example, the ASEAN-Child Wise Regional Education campaign on ‘Combating Child-sex Tourism in South-East Asia’ also included a capacity-building component that engaged relevant private sector actors in a series of training programmes for tourism authorities and tourism industry representatives. As part of Project Childhood, training on child-safe tourism for Ministries of Tourism and businesses (including hotels and guesthouses, tour operators and travel agencies, as well as parents, teachers and community leaders) is being delivered in the four countries involved (Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam). Between January 2004 and June 2008, more than 7,500 Taiwanese tour guides and 8,600 tour leaders also received training on child sexual exploitation in tourism and human trafficking.

Access blocking, codes of conduct and other initiatives involving the private sector

- Since sexual exploitation through ICTs is increasingly affecting children in East and South-East Asia, governments, in collaboration with the private sector and civil society organisations (including ECPAT groups), have begun to take steps to counteract and prevent the use of children for the production of child sexual abuse materials and put a stop to their involvement in other online interactions that could harm them. Specialised hotlines to report incidents of this kind, affiliated with the International Association of Internet Hotlines (INHOPE), were established in Japan, South Korea and Taiwan. A reporting hotline also exists in Thailand. Some countries have taken steps to introduce filtering systems to block access to websites containing child abuse materials. While in some cases there is a legal obligation to block access to illegal content defined by the national laws (China, Indonesia, Myanmar, Singapore, South Korea and Vietnam), in other countries this is discretionary and is often the result of industry-led initiatives. For example, in Thailand, the Ministry of ICT blocks obscene content or content disparaging royalty, but does not have a uniform mechanism to apply across all Internet service providers (ISPs). In Japan ISPs were asked to voluntarily block the TOR network to tackle online crimes, but not necessarily focused on crimes against children. In some countries, other self-regulatory initiatives have been promoted to counteract the spread of child pornography.

The financial coalition to counteract child pornography in Singapore

In January 2007 the Association of Banks in Singapore (ABS) announced the creation of a financial coalition against child pornography, involving its nine member banks. The coalition aims to support the global effort to identify commercial sources of child abuse images and prevent funds supporting their dissemination.

As part of this endeavour, the ABS manages a telephone hotline to facilitate sharing of information from banks and members of the public through the reporting of suspected child pornography websites.

- Helplines or hotlines to which incidents of sexual exploitation committed by travelling sex offenders can be reported exist in several countries (including Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam.)¹⁹³ To strengthen prevention of child sexual exploitation in tourism, the business sector, in collaboration with NGOs (such as

ECPAT) and often with government agencies, has engaged in corporate social responsibility initiatives. In this framework, consistent efforts have been made to adopt the *Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism*. According to information featured on The Code organisation's website, this key industry-driven tool has been signed by numerous tourism companies active in several countries in East and South-East Asia, including Cambodia, Japan, Mongolia, Myanmar and Thailand. Training and other activities to promote Code implementation have been organised across the region. In Cambodia, for example, since 2009 the Local Code Representative (ECPAT Cambodia), has provided training to 122 tourism companies (and 169 staff members) with the aim of encouraging them to establish ethical policies to protect children from sexual exploitation in travel and tourism and report possible cases to authorities. Among various achievements, this work has led the Sofitel Phnom Penh Phodeethra to become the first hotel in the country to sign the Code.¹⁹⁴ Within and beyond the Code, there has been increasing acknowledgement in the region that an effective strategy to prevent sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism should actively involve and engage the informal tourism sector; that is, small traders, service providers and intermediaries, ranging from taxi drivers and tour guides to staff at guest houses, restaurants, bars and other vendors. There are several examples of partnerships with the informal tourism sector. The NGO Friends International continues to run a programme called "ChildSafe Network," which started in 2005 in Cambodia, and later expanded to Thailand, Laos and Indonesia. By eliciting the help of taxi, *tuk-tuk* and motorcycle taxi drivers, tour leaders and tour guides, guesthouses and restaurants, ChildSafe creates a network of key people who receive ongoing training in child protection and support awareness raising activities on child sexual exploitation in tourism. These persons are able to identify children at risk and suspicious behaviours of tourists so that appropriate action can be taken.¹⁹⁵

ECPAT Netherlands' multi-country project to enhance protection of children from sexual exploitation in tourism

As part of a multi-country project coordinated by ECPAT Netherlands and implemented between July 2011 and September 2013, 57 training sessions on child sexual exploitation in tourism and the Code were held in Cambodia, the Philippines and Thailand. More than 1,700 trainees benefited from this capacity-building work (tourism business, community, students, youth, police, government, NGOs and others). Another important goal of the project was to adapt the internationally produced information materials for The Code to local needs and culture.

More than 122,000 Code brochures and leaflets on child sexual exploitation in tourism were produced and distributed across the three countries. The Philippines and Cambodia also showed a billboard and a video on a large commercial screen in town centres. Monitoring visits in the countries showed that: "overall, the seminars and information materials of all ECPAT partners were received very positively, contributing to the professional image of their organisations. The impact on industry differed from country to country, but in general the reception of the message has become much more positive. General impacts were visible in the growing support of national and local governments and the good reception by communities and youth groups."¹⁹⁶

Support mechanisms for children at risk of sexual exploitation and other vulnerability reduction strategies

Various long-term prevention strategies were adopted to reduce the likelihood that vulnerable children will become involved in commercial sexual exploitation, including:

- *Victim empowerment programmes* to assist at-risk children and communities, as well as support survivors, by providing vocational and life skills, formal and non-formal education and employment. In Thailand, for example, the government has continued cooperative arrangements with NGOs and local industries (especially the hotel industry) to encourage youth (particularly girls) to find employment outside the sex industry and other exploitative lines of work. Vocational training programmes aimed at high school students also received funding. In Cambodia, as part of the “Children are the bamboo shoots” project, Child Wise is empowering remote communities to reduce the vulnerability of children to abuse, exploitation, trafficking and unsafe migration, including by assisting families to generate sustainable income and supporting vulnerable children to regularly attend school.¹⁹⁷
- *Outreach programmes* to identify vulnerable children in key locations and the creation of community-based committees to monitor, report and follow up on child rights violations, including child trafficking and CSEC (see section on “Coordination and cooperation” at national and local level for more details).
- Several countries have developed *social protection schemes* designed to bring families out of poverty, protect them in times of family or economic crisis and ensure that children’s basic needs are covered. For example, in Timor-Leste, recognising that poverty causes family tension and violence, the ‘Bolsa da Mae’ (Mothers’ Purse) scheme provides a financial allowance to families. In Vietnam financial support, loans, scholarships and other material support are available for a range of children and families at risk of tension and violence, including families caring for children in special circumstances.¹⁹⁸ The Mongolian government has certain social welfare schemes aimed at alleviating poverty

among children, such as a modest monthly allowance for all children under 18, a one-time payment upon the birth of a baby and annual welfare payments to mothers with more than five children.

- Some countries have made efforts to promote universal birth registration and citizenship as a means of prevention. In Mongolia, since 2006 the government has been issuing free birth certificates, while in Thailand, where statelessness increases children’s vulnerability to trafficking and sexual exploitation, UNICEF supported a Legal Assistance Centre, managed by Payap University, to help stateless residents in the North of the country to acquire Thai nationality or other legal status.¹⁹⁹

Areas of concern

Despite these prevention initiatives, a number of shortcomings and constraints were identified:

- Generally speaking, countries in East and South-East Asia have invested very limited resources into CSEC prevention; most programmes are delivered by civil society organisations, UN agencies and other actors.
- Measures to protect vulnerable groups and address root causes, such as poverty, underdevelopment, social tolerance, unsafe migration and discrimination against girls, remain inadequate.
- Many prevention programmes, including awareness-raising campaigns, are project-based and therefore lack long-term sustainability.
- Information on CSEC is not systematically delivered in schools (through the integration of education on these issues in primary and secondary school curricula) and does not reach vulnerable children in at-risk locations (streets, institutions, villages and communities, brothel areas, refugee camps, etc.).

- Private sector involvement remains insufficient, especially to prevent and counteract the sexual exploitation of children through ICTs and by travelling sex offenders. In this framework, there is an urgent need for the industry to collaborate with NGOs, tourism and other government departments to ensure the adoption, implementation and monitoring of self-regulatory tools such as The Code. Furthermore, initiatives to promote safer use of the Internet, with the involvement of ISPs, mobile phone companies, cyber cafés, etc., must be intensified.
- Research shows a general lack of initiatives to prevent and counteract the demand for sex with children, especially by locals, and training on CSEC issues is still insufficient.
- Although some efforts to expand the knowledge base on CSEC have been undertaken in recent years, qualitative research on its new and evolving forms has yet to be conducted. There is a need for updated studies to provide a stronger evidence base for CSEC prevention programmes.
- Lack of awareness of mechanisms for reporting suspected cases of sexual exploitation, including those who travel with the intent of engaging in child sexual exploitation, is widespread.
- Comprehensive evaluation on the impact and effectiveness of CSEC prevention activities has not taken place, nor has comprehensive quantitative assessment of peoples' knowledge, attitudes and practices relating to CSEC. Furthermore, raising awareness or increasing knowledge does not always lead to modified behaviour or practices.
- Prevention strategies rarely incorporate the views of children, or successfully empower them to engage meaningfully in prevention activities and decision-making processes.

Priority areas and potential strategies:

Numerous areas demand urgent action and constitute potential areas where ECPAT groups – in collaboration with governments, other NGOs,

the private sector, children and young people and other actors – could engage to reduce the likelihood that CSEC will occur. Potential strategies to address existing gaps and enhance prevention include:

Priority area 1: Expanding the knowledge base, awareness and capacities to address boys' prostitution and compensated dating

Strategies:

- Based on the manual currently being developed by ECPAT International on how to produce reliable and verifiable research on CSEC, the ECPAT Secretariat could deliver specialised training to support capacity building within the network in the areas of data collection, analysis and dissemination. Regional Network Resource Exchange meetings could be used for this purpose.
- After receiving training, ECPAT groups, with support from the Secretariat and in collaboration with academic institutions and other stakeholders, would conduct innovative, action-oriented research on emerging aspects of CSEC that have not yet been thoroughly investigated. As noted by participants at the Regional Consultation in Taipei, two areas requiring urgent research are prostitution of boys and self-engagement of children in prostitution (i.e. “compensated dating”). The research on boys' prostitution should be aimed at identifying who, when, how and why the phenomenon exists, in order to devise solutions. The study should be consultative and include victims' perspectives and recommendations. The research on self-engagement of children in prostitution should seek to assess the extent and characteristics of the phenomenon, placing particular emphasis on vulnerability factors (e.g., consumerism, sexualisation and inter-related issues) and solutions to address this specific form of CSEC.²⁰⁰
- Based on findings from the two research reports mentioned above, ECPAT should develop strategies for capacity building, awareness-

raising and evidence-based advocacy targeting relevant stakeholders (e.g. police, prosecutors, judges, social workers, journalists, medical professionals) so that they are made aware of these two phenomena and the need to shift their perspectives and eliminate negative and discriminatory attitudes towards children involved in these practices;²⁰¹

- ECPAT should also document, collect and exchange good practices in preventing boys' prostitution and "compensated dating".²⁰²

Priority area 2: Expanding the knowledge base on travelling sex offenders and preventing sexual exploitation of children in tourism by increasing awareness and supporting the implementation of self-regulatory tools

Potential strategies:

- ECPAT should conduct comprehensive research on travelling child sex offenders in the region to gain insight into their profile, the (changes in) the methodology they use to approach and exploit children, traditional and emerging countries of origin and destination, actions undertaken to date to address the problem and recommended strategies for increased efforts against this form of CSEC.²⁰³
- Building on the results of this research, ECPAT should strengthen public education and build awareness in both sending countries (such as China, Japan and South Korea) and countries of destination to achieve specific behavioural change in child sex offenders. Public campaigns should include giving the public insight into the number of child victims in destination countries, describe the impact that sexual exploitation by travelling sex offenders has on children's lives and highlight that this is a crime that will not go unpunished. Campaigns should target not only the general public, but also government representatives and embassy staff of the sending countries to change their sometimes ambiguous

attitude towards investigations and prosecutions against their nationals suspected of having abused children abroad. Airline companies could be involved in implementing the campaign, while the tourism and travel industry should be made aware of the negative impact that sexual exploitation of children can have on their businesses.²⁰⁴

Priority area 3: Preventing trafficking of children for sexual purposes by highlighting new tactics used to recruit children into sexual exploitation

Potential strategies:

- ECPAT should compile a briefing paper on trafficking in children for sexual purposes in East and South-East Asia based on information from ECPAT network members, research, media reports and other sources (including this overview) to examine and highlight the latest trends in trafficking, with a particular emphasis on new methods for recruiting children (e.g., use of ICTs) and links with other forms of CSEC. The briefing paper should be disseminated and used to influence advocacy and programming at both national and regional levels.

Priority area 4: Enhancing the efficacy of cooperation with the private sector against CSEC

Potential strategies:

- In collaboration with groups that have extensive experience working with relevant industries, the Secretariat should develop a guidance document on civil society and private sector partnerships strategies and deliver related training sessions to ECPAT groups in the region.
- Based on this, groups will advance corporate social responsibility initiatives on protection of children from sexual exploitation in cooperation with the information and communication industry, the travel and tourism sectors and the financial and banking sectors. This could

include expanding hotlines and helplines (in collaboration with Child Helpline International), promoting the adoption and implementation of the Child Protection Code and establishing national financial coalitions.

THE LEGAL CONTEXT

Ratification of international legal instruments

All ASEAN States, as well as China, Japan, Mongolia and South Korea, have ratified the *Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)*,²⁰⁵ and all except Singapore – but including China, Japan and South Korea – have ratified the *Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (OPSC)*.²⁰⁶ The *UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children*, supplementing the *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Trafficking Protocol)*, was ratified by all South-East and East Asian States except Brunei. Japan, Singapore and South Korea signed, but have not yet ratified, the *Trafficking Protocol*;²⁰⁷ Thailand ratified it in 2013. Thailand is also the only ASEAN country that has ratified the *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure*.²⁰⁸

Regional instruments and human rights mechanisms

ASEAN has adopted a number of regional instruments and mechanisms, especially in relation to counteracting human trafficking. The *ASEAN Declaration Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children* was adopted in 2004, committing Member States to undertake concerted efforts to effectively address the regional problem of trafficking in persons, particularly women and children by, *inter alia*, establishing a regional focal

network, distinguishing victims from perpetrators and taking steps to strengthen regional and international cooperation to prevent and combat trafficking in persons. Declarations are not binding on any of the signatories, but they can be used as guidelines on a particular issue. Regrettably, despite the granting of wider protection for women and children, the focus of this Declaration in combating trafficking still relies heavily on immigration measures. Even though it urges Member States to distinguish victims from perpetrators and to undertake actions to respect and safeguard victims' human rights, the focus is still on the repatriation of victims to their countries of origin. The Declaration is silent in relation to prevention measures required to prevent victims from being re-trafficked once they have been repatriated. However, ASEAN is also developing a Convention against human trafficking and a regional plan of action to counteract this crime.²⁰⁹

In 2010, ASEAN took significant steps to protect children's rights by establishing the 'ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children' (ACWC). This is an intergovernmental commission comprised of 20 representatives, two from each of the ASEAN 10 Member States. The ACWC is tasked with upholding rights contained in the *Convention on the Elimination of Violence against Women (CEDAW)* and the CRC, which all 10 ASEAN Member States have ratified. The ACWC is mandated, among other things, to:

1. Promote the implementation of international and ASEAN instruments on the rights of women and children;
2. Advocate on behalf of women and children, especially the most vulnerable and marginalised, and encourage ASEAN Member States to improve their situation;
3. Promote public awareness and education on the rights of women and children in the ASEAN, including through promoting research on the situation and well-being of women and children;

4. Assist, upon request by ASEAN Member States, in fulfilling state obligations in terms of international human rights reporting on women and child rights;
5. Encourage ASEAN Member States to collect and analyse sex disaggregated data, and undertake periodic reviews of national legislation, policies, and practices related to the rights of women and children;
6. Facilitate the sharing of experiences and good practices between ASEAN Member States in order to improve implementation of CEDAW and CRC; and
7. Support the participation of ASEAN women and children in dialogue and consultation processes in the ASEAN related to the promotion and protection of their rights. The ACWC does not have a specific mandate to receive and investigate complaints of human rights violations.²¹⁰

The ACWC work plan for 2012-2016 includes plans for a study on VAC led by Myanmar, in conjunction with several partners, and a review of existing practices on the treatment and management of child victims of trafficking, led by Lao PDR, in conjunction with Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC), UNODC, ILO, IOM, UNICEF, World Vision, Asia ACT, Women Caucus, and CRC Asia; both of which were scheduled to be completed in 2013. Apart from trafficking, other manifestations of CSEC are not addressed in the work plan, and although access to justice for women victims of trafficking is incorporated into the work plan, there is no reference to children.

The ACWC played a key role in the drafting of a new *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Elimination of Violence Against Children in ASEAN* (the Declaration on VAW and VAC), which was adopted at the 23rd ASEAN Summit on 9 October 2013. The Declaration, which again is not legally binding, contains key measures, such

as building adequately resourced national welfare systems, protection and recovery of victims and promotion of legislation on violence against children. The Declaration further promotes strengthening of national legislation, prosecution of perpetrators and the protection of victims, which includes access to justice, as well as the provision of recovery and reintegration services. The Declaration on VAW and VAC incorporated several recommendations from civil society, including from the South-East Asia Women's Caucus on ASEAN, such as the recognition of various forms of violence, inclusion of gender responsive planning and budget and removal from the final declaration of "balancing between rights and responsibilities" as a qualifier to promoting and protecting human rights.²¹¹ Nevertheless, the Declaration has been criticised by the Women's Caucus and by Amnesty International²¹², among others, for qualifying the duty "to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and children in ASEAN" with "bearing in mind the different historical, political, socio-cultural, religious, legal and economic backgrounds in the region," because this dilutes the international human rights standards contained in CEDAW.

As part of the Declaration on VAW and VAC, the ASEAN Member States resolve to:

"...strengthen the existing national mechanisms, with the assistance, where necessary, of the ACWC and other related stakeholders, in implementing, monitoring and reporting the implementation of the Concluding Observations and Recommendations of CEDAW, CRC and other Treaty Bodies as well as the accepted recommendations under the Universal Periodic Review Process of the United Nations Human Rights Council related to the elimination of all forms of violence against women and violence against children."

This represents an encouraging commitment to ensuring implementation of the CRC; civil society in

the region will play an important role in supporting this process.

Civil society involvement in the ACWC's work

The ACWC held an inter-sectoral consultation with other relevant ASEAN bodies and a dialogue session with civil society organisations in February 2014 to explore the potential contribution of civil society to implementing the *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Elimination of Violence Against Children in ASEAN*.²¹³ The ECPAT Secretariat participated in this consultation meeting and has since submitted a draft of the ASEAN CSEC Overview to the ASEAN Secretariat and ACWC for their expert feedback.

Priority areas and potential strategies:

Ratifying international legal instruments that provide strong protection of children from sexual exploitation is a duty that all States in East and South-East Asia need to fulfil as a matter of priority. At the same time, keeping countries accountable for their commitments towards children is one of the main responsibilities borne by civil society organisations like ECPAT. ASEAN's ACWC could potentially be instrumental in creating a regional policy and legal environment that will facilitate better responses and solutions to CSEC. ECPAT should therefore take advantage of this new human rights mechanism to try to advance the CSEC agenda in the region.

Priority area 1: *Enhancing the legal framework and increasing states' accountability by advocating for ratification of international legal instruments relevant for combating CSEC*

Potential strategies:

- ECPAT does not have a presence in Singapore, which is the only ASEAN State not to have ratified the OPSC; or in Brunei, which is the only ASEAN State apart from Singapore not to have ratified the Trafficking Protocol. Therefore, ECPAT should

join regional or national advocacy initiatives aimed at promoting the ratification of these treaties in these countries.

- Ratification of the *CRC Optional Protocol on a Communications Procedure (OP3)* directly impacts on governments' fulfilment of their obligations to the CRC and its first two Optional Protocols, including the OPSC. As a torch bearer of the OPSC therefore, ECPAT's involvement in campaigning for the understanding and ratification of this OP among governments in the region is critical. One concrete action in this area that needs immediate attention is the production of information materials on the relevance of this optional protocol in finding solutions to CSEC and ensuring that children's voices are heard.²¹⁴

Priority area 2: *Monitoring the implementation of commitments*

Potential strategies:

- ECPAT member organisations in the ASEAN should include observations and recommendations related to the implementation of the *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Elimination of Violence Against Children in ASEAN* and the *Declaration Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children* in their alternative reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and their Universal Periodic Review submissions, to urge ASEAN states to increase efforts to implement these Declarations.

Priority area 3: *Integrating CSEC into the agenda of the ASEAN Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children*

Potential strategies:

- ECPAT member organisations should explore ways to partner with the ACWC to implement the *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and Elimination of Violence Against Children in ASEAN* as it relates to CSEC. More

specifically, they might consider contributing to the implementation of specific components of the ACWC's work-plan for 2012-2016, such as project (3.a): "review legislation, national plans/ programmes other national mechanisms relating to the prevention, protection, prosecution, rehabilitation, recovery and reintegration of VAC" and project (9): "Review existing practices on treatment/management of victims of trafficking". ECPAT should provide expert advice and support in integrating a CSEC focus in all policies, projects and actions that ACWC is expected to manage.²¹⁵

COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL LEGAL STANDARDS

Over the last decade, several countries in East and South-East Asia have conducted legal reform processes to strengthen the protection of children from sexual exploitation and align their domestic legislation with relevant international legal instruments. Nevertheless, as the analysis below clearly shows, several loopholes in national legal frameworks against CSEC remain, and greater efforts are needed to ensure full harmonisation with standards set forth in international treaties.

Child Prostitution

OPSC Article 2(b) defines child prostitution as: *"...the use of a child in sexual activities for remuneration or any other form of consideration."* All East and South-East Asian states appear to have adopted specific legislation to address child prostitution, except Indonesia, Malaysia and Mongolia. However, only Cambodia,²¹⁶ Japan,²¹⁷ the Philippines,²¹⁸ South Korea²¹⁹ and Taiwan²²⁰ utilise a definition of child prostitution that is fully compliant with Article 2 of the OPSC.

The OPSC requires all State Parties to ensure that their legislation criminalises the offering, obtaining, procuring or providing of a child for child prostitution, or the attempt of the same (Article 3.1(b)). However, legislation in China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, South Korea and Vietnam does not punish all these acts.

Regrettably, only two countries in the ASEAN region (Cambodia²²¹ and South Korea²²²) have adopted provisions explicitly exempting children from punishment for prostitution-related offences; thus children involved in this form of sexual exploitation are not recognised as victims in need of support services. In some countries (Brunei,²²³ China,²²⁴ Hong Kong²²⁵ and Singapore²²⁶) some or all provisions related to child prostitution and child sexual abuse refer only to girls, leaving boys unprotected.

Child pornography and child sexual exploitation online

Child pornography is defined in Article 2(c) of the OPSC as:

"...any representation, by whatever means, of a child engaged in real or simulated explicit sexual activities or any representation of the sexual parts of a child for primarily sexual purposes."

Only a few states (the Philippines,²²⁷ Hong Kong,²²⁸ Japan,²²⁹ South Korea²³⁰ and Taiwan²³¹) have adopted a definition of child pornography in full compliance with the OPSC definition.

The Philippines' Anti-Child Pornography Act, Section 3, defines child pornography as: "any representation, whether visual, audio or written or a combination thereof, by electronic, magnetic, optical or any other means of a child engaged or involved in real or simulated sexual activities."²³²

The definition contained in the Cambodian Law on the Suppression of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation is only partially compliant, as it does not include representations of the sexual parts of a child for primarily sexual purposes. Also, it is unclear whether virtual child pornographic images are covered. In addition, the law does not cover child pornography materials that are only audio materials. Article 40 of the Cambodian *Law on the Suppression of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation* states: "Child pornography in this law shall mean a visible material such as a photograph or videotape, including a material in electronic form, depicting a minor's naked figure which excites or stimulates sexual desire."²³³

Brunei,²³⁴ China,²³⁵ Malaysia,²³⁶ Myanmar,²³⁷ Singapore²³⁸ and Thailand²³⁹ still use "obscenity laws" to prosecute cases of child pornography. As a result, none of these states has an adequate definition of child pornography in their legislation.

The terms "obscene" or "indecent" materials, referred to in provisions of the criminal codes mentioned above, are very broad and subject to various interpretations by law enforcement officials and, as a result, may result in inadequate sentencing for violators.

OPSC Articles 3.1 and 3.2 require each State Party to ensure that the following activities, or attempt at such activities, are fully covered under its criminal or penal law:

Producing, distributing, disseminating, importing, exporting, offering, selling, or possessing child pornography for the purposes of:

- a) *Sexual exploitation of the child;*
- b) *Transfer of organs of the child for profit;*
- c) *Engagement of the child in forced labour.*

Only Cambodia,²⁴⁰ Hong Kong,²⁴¹ Japan,²⁴² the Philippines,²⁴³ South Korea²⁴⁴ and Taiwan²⁴⁵ have specific legislation against child pornography that prohibits all of the acts required by the OPSC.

The Philippines *Anti-Child Pornography Act* goes beyond the protection standards set forth in Article 3 of the OPSC by criminalising knowingly accessing child pornography through the use of ICTs.²⁴⁶ It also expressly criminalises virtual child pornography. Article 40(2) of this Law states that the definition of child pornography covers "computer-generated, digitally or manually crafted images or graphics of a person who is represented or who is made to appear to be a child."²⁴⁷ Hong Kong's *Prevention of Child Pornography Ordinance* (2003), Section 2, also prohibits virtual child pornography.

It is important to highlight that no ASEAN member state has adopted legal provisions that specifically criminalise mere possession of child pornography. However, laws addressing child pornography in Hong Kong²⁴⁸, South Korea²⁴⁹ and Taiwan²⁵⁰ do prohibit possession of child pornography.

Regarding the sexual exploitation of children online, the Philippines,²⁵¹ Singapore,²⁵² and South Korea are the only three East and South-East Asian states to prohibit the online solicitation of children for sexual purposes (child grooming). South Korea adopted the *Act on the Punishment of Grooming* in 2008 and later amended its Protection of Juveniles from Sexual Exploitation law to include punishment of Internet grooming.²⁵³

Mere possession of child pornography, virtual child pornography, knowingly accessing child pornography through computer systems and online grooming of children are all criminalised under the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual

Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention). This Convention should be considered by states as model legislation in the area of child pornography and sexual exploitation of children online when reforming national legislation.

Child trafficking for sexual purposes

Article 3(a) of the Trafficking Protocol defines trafficking of children as:

“...the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons for the purpose of exploitation.”

Hong Kong,²⁵⁴ Taiwan²⁵⁵ and all ASEAN member states except Vietnam have separate legislation specific to child trafficking and have adopted legal provisions that include a comprehensive definition of child trafficking, consistent with the *Trafficking Protocol*. However, China and Mongolia do not have a definition of trafficking, while definitions in Japan²⁵⁶ and South Korea²⁵⁷ are not in line with the *Trafficking Protocol*.

These countries also expressly mention in their trafficking legislation that the consent of the child victim of trafficking should be irrelevant. This is not the case in East Asian nations, except Hong Kong²⁵⁸ and Taiwan.²⁵⁹ Only Cambodia has a legal definition of child trafficking, which stipulates that the recruitment of children for the purpose of exploitation is not considered to be an offence unless it is done using means of deception, force or coercion.²⁶⁰

Extraterritorial Legislation

Extraterritorial legislation addressing CSEC offences is in place in all ASEAN member states with the exception of Mongolia and the Philippines.

The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommends that double criminality should not be a prerequisite for conviction under extraterritorial legislation even though this requirement is not set out in the OPSC. Double criminality means that the offence must be prohibited in both the home country of the perpetrator and in the jurisdiction where the offence took place. In countries where the criminal or penal code requires double criminality, a national can travel to another country with a less child-friendly legal framework to engage in child sexual exploitation without any consequence. The perpetrator can rely on the defence that the child sexual exploitation that would be a crime in his/her own country was not illegal in the jurisdiction where it took place. Regrettably, Indonesia²⁶¹ and Vietnam²⁶² still apply the double criminality principle.

Sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism

Hong Kong,²⁶³ Singapore²⁶⁴ and Taiwan²⁶⁵ are the only states in the East and South-East Asian region that have adopted specific provisions punishing acts related to sexual exploitation of children in tourism.

Aunder Section 376D of the Singapore Penal Code, which stipulates that: “Any person who (a) makes or organises any travel arrangements for or on behalf of any other person with the intention of facilitating the commission by that other person of an offence under section 376C [pertaining to commercial sex with a minor outside of Singapore], whether or not such an offence is actually committed by that other person; (b) transports any other person to a place outside Singapore with the intention of facilitating the commission by that other person of an offence under section 376C, whether or not such an offence is actually committed by that other person; or (c) prints, publishes or distributes any information that is intended to promote conduct that would constitute an offence

under section 376C, or to assist any other person to engage in such conduct, shall be guilty of an offence.” These offences are punishable by 10 years imprisonment or a fine, or both.²⁶⁶

Priority area: Enhancing the legal framework against child pornography and sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism and supporting increased law enforcement

Potential strategies:

- ECPAT should support the harmonisation of national legal frameworks on child pornography in compliance with the OPSC’s provisions. ECPAT should develop model legislation adapted to the regional context and should encourage governments to adopt this model law;²⁶⁷
- ECPAT should also develop a reference guide covering the legal framework in cases of sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism, paying attention to legislation in each country, for East Asia and South-East Asia;²⁶⁸
- ECPAT groups should lobby for increased prosecution and severe punishment of travelling sex offenders, as well as for increased access to compensation for child victims of this crime.²⁶⁹

Law enforcement training and child-friendly justice for CSEC survivors²⁷⁰

Some countries in East and South-East Asia have made progress in ensuring that the rights of children are respected and their best interests upheld and protected within justice systems, especially through the establishment of dedicated structures for children and specialised training for law enforcement.

Specialised police units to deal with children’s cases have been set up across the region, at least

in major urban centres. Though most deal with child protection issues or sexual crimes in general, some police units specifically address CSEC crimes or human trafficking. For example, in Cambodia, an Anti-Human Trafficking and Juvenile Protection Department was established to investigate cases of trafficking. A Special Police Unit to deal with human trafficking incidents also exists in Thailand; the Unit can carry out work relating to the suppression of CSEC crimes such as child pornography and child prostitution. The Royal Malaysia Police²⁷¹ and the Ministry of Home Affairs of Myanmar²⁷² also operate specialised divisions dedicated to anti-human trafficking law enforcement activities. The Singapore Police Force currently has specialised units, including the Serious Sexual Crime Branch, where officers are trained to investigate particular sex crimes and to appropriately conduct interviews for victims of CSEC.²⁷³ Indonesia does not have special law enforcement units to deal with cases of CSEC, but several protection units within the national police are in place to assist both children and women who have been victims of crime, including trafficking. These units are generally managed by female police officers²⁷⁴ who have received training based on guidelines for women and children’s desks and on techniques for interviewing child victims and witnesses.²⁷⁵ Although there are juvenile and cybercrime units, Japan does not have protection units specifically for CSEC. In South Korea, the government has introduced child-friendly procedures through a dedicated team of prosecutors and police officers who received specialised training.²⁷⁶ Vietnam does not have a centralised child protection unit to address crimes against children, including CSEC crimes. Rather, in some regions, a few police officers have been trained to deal with such crimes.

Most countries in the region have made progress in training justice sector officials (police, prosecutors, judges/magistrates, probation officers) on child protection. In particular, they have developed training for the police on child-sensitive investigative and referral procedures for police specialists; and in some countries this has been incorporated into

the police academy training (Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam).²⁷⁷ Across the region, topics such as human trafficking, child trafficking, CSEC issues and child victim identification are included in capacity-building activities for law enforcement and other actors. This specialised training often takes place in the framework of regional initiatives and projects, such as the COMMIT Process, the Bali Process and the above-mentioned Project Childhood.

Across countries in the region, as is common in most legal systems, child victims testifying in criminal proceedings must appear in the regular criminal court (unless the accused is also a child).

To reduce the risk of further victimisation of child victims and witnesses during the judicial process, some countries have made the court environment more child-sensitive and have adopted child-friendly procedures.

In Mongolia, the General Office for Law Enforcement has psychologists and social workers within its agencies and uses their services when conducting police interviews and investigations, and during court proceedings, to ensure that children's best interest is a priority.²⁷⁸ Rules are in place in the Philippines designed to facilitate the testimony of child witnesses, including child victims and witnesses of crimes.²⁷⁹ In Singapore, investigative services and police interview victims and investigate cases simultaneously, to avoid re-traumatisation of a child.²⁸⁰ Cambodia, Indonesia and the Philippines have included the adoption of child-friendly measures in relation to access to justice in their national adaptation of the *ASEAN Guidelines for the Protection of the Rights of Trafficked Children* (see "Support services"). Additionally, in South Korea, the government facilitates child-sensitive measures during trials by allowing child victims under 16 to give video testimony. The use of screens and video equipment when interviewing the child has also been reported in Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.²⁸¹ In Taiwan, child-sensitive procedures and mechanisms allow social workers to accompany child victims of

trafficking while giving evidence; prohibit forcing a child to testify more than once; and provide for a telecommunication system to protect the victims from facing the fear of reprisal and retaliation from perpetrators.²⁸²

Japan has a child-friendly court system that takes into consideration a child's individuality during questioning and the state of mind of the child victim. Depending on the case and circumstances surrounding the child victim, a female police officer may be assigned as the investigator in charge or female police personnel may attend the interviews.²⁸³ Those officially involved in investigations and trials are instructed to consider the rights and characteristics of the child and take care not to harm his/her reputation or dignity. Japan has established specific procedures aimed at protecting the rights of children as witnesses. In cases where a child victim is asked to testify, if the child does not feel comfortable testifying in court, the examination may be conducted privately, outside the court. Arrangements are made to make it easier for the child, such as using facilities located near the child's residence. When victims testify: family members of the victim or a psychological counsellor may accompany them; a partition may be used so that the victim cannot be seen by the defendant or courtroom spectators; or the examination may be conducted via video link.

Areas of concern:

- The reach of specialised justice sector training remains quite limited and has tended to be *ad hoc* and dependent on external donor funding. Often, designated children's police and magistrates/judges do not have the necessary skills or training for their position. The frequent rotation of officers is considered a challenge to building and retaining expertise.
- Police child protection units are often understaffed and not present across the whole national territory.

- The frequent lack of free legal aid and protection programmes for child witnesses leaves them vulnerable to threats and intimidation from perpetrators and discourages the filing of complaints and appearance in court.
- As a result of limited capacity building and other challenges, child-friendly procedures are not systematically utilised and children subjected to sexual exploitation and trafficking remain unidentified or misidentified, which may lead to their criminalisation.

Priority area: Enhancing access to child-friendly justice for child victims of sexual exploitation

Potential strategies:

- Access to justice is important for all children, but child victims of sexual exploitation are at the sharp edge of vulnerability, and have an immediate and urgent need for an effective remedy. It is imperative that states in East and South-East Asia incorporate key provisions related to the rights of child victims of sexual exploitation as enshrined in the CRC and the OPSC into their national legal frameworks. This means ensuring that child protection frameworks include the right to recovery and reintegration services, amending criminal procedure rules to include child-friendly provisions and providing mechanisms for children to claim compensation.
- To promote access to justice for child victims of sexual exploitation, ECPAT is conducting research on this issue. Given its relevance, ECPAT groups in East and South-East Asia should consider contributing to this important research effort. Furthermore, considering that as part of this project ECPAT will develop a “CSEC Victims’ Bill of Rights”, which will detail all rights child victims are entitled to, groups in the region should advocate for the implementation of all the provisions under this Bill so that access to compensation and child-friendly justice for child

victims of sexual exploitation in the region can be improved.

SUPPORT SERVICES²⁸⁴

Child sexual exploitation has far-reaching emotional and physical implications that can permanently affect both the development and wellbeing of a child. This highlights the need for support services that help with the recovery and reintegration of CSEC survivors. Such strategies should contain both immediate and long-term policies for child-specific support, to enhance child protection and wellbeing. Immediate support services should include medical and psychological care and the provision of adequate shelter and legal assistance. Long-term assistance for child victims could include a return to the family or community when possible, reintegration into the education system and concrete plans for reintegration into communities and education systems and assistance with identifying income-generating opportunities.

Across countries in East and South-East Asia, child victims of sexual exploitation may have access to a range of support services, including shelter, counselling, legal and medical assistance, economic recovery through education and vocational training, creation of livelihood opportunities, and support for family and/or community reintegration.

Most countries have government-run residential care facilities for children in need of protection, including shelters, reception homes, temporary care facilities, drop-in centres, long-term residential care facilities and recovery centres. Though they may also be supported or run by the government, a variety of NGO, community-based and faith-based organisations operate such institutions. Reports published by UNICEF indicate the significant and

potentially increasing role of institutional care across East Asia, particularly in Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.²⁸⁵ The majority of existing facilities in the region cater to different categories of children in need and are therefore not specialised to meet the unique support needs of CSEC victims. With the exception of Thailand (where there are three shelters for long-term stay specifically for trafficked children - one for girls and two for boys) and Taiwan (where there are shelters specifically for CSEC victims), there appear to be no facilities specifically for sexually exploited children. Some countries have shelters for victims of trafficking (Australia, China, Laos, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Vietnam), but they often accommodate adults (especially women) and children together.

Cambodia's government-run social services include temporary shelters for victims of CSEC²⁸⁶ while in Mongolia, the government encourages NGOs to take an active role in providing shelter and services to CSEC victims.²⁸⁷ South Korea has a variety of shelters that provide support to child survivors of sexual exploitation; such as national youth shelters, help centres for victims of sex-trafficking and youth counselling centres.²⁸⁸ Most South Korean facilities are run by NGOs either partially or fully funded by the government.²⁸⁹ In Thailand, in addition to the three shelters for trafficked children, eight long-term shelters were established by the Bureau of Anti-Trafficking in Women and Children to provide welfare protection and occupational development to both Thai and foreign victims of trafficking.²⁹⁰ The Indonesian government has not established specific centres for child victims of sexual exploitation. Instead, it operates 41 Integrated Service Centres that provide services to victims of violence, including trafficking victims.²⁹¹ Japan's 'child guidance centres' are equipped with temporary shelter facilities prepared to provide advice for urgent situations at night and during holidays. Vietnam has appropriate facilities for recovery located near the borders with China and Cambodia. The government of Laos relies almost entirely on NGOs and international organisations to provide or fund victim services,²⁹²

while Malaysia's government provides minimal basic services to those staying in its shelters; NGOs – with no financial support from the government – provide most recovery and counselling services.²⁹³ The government of Myanmar has put forth modest efforts to provide temporary shelter, but its overall victim protection efforts are inadequate.²⁹⁴

NGOs and governments in the region have been given services to support the recovery and reintegration of child victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation. The Philippines offers both immediate and long-term services to victims of CSEC. Immediate assistance includes medical and psychological care, along with temporary shelter and legal assistance, whereas long-term service includes reintegration into schools and families and financial assistance. In Singapore, cases of child abuse are investigated by a specific unit while safe housing and trauma counselling are provided for the victim(s).²⁹⁵ The South Korean government supports victims of overseas prostitution who return to South Korea by providing protection and self-reliance training networks,²⁹⁶ and may allow foreign victims of sexual trafficking who face adversity in their country of origin to apply for work in Korea.²⁹⁷ Taiwan's support services for children include medical and psychological care and the provision of shelter and legal assistance. Long-term plans include reintegration into school, return to family and financial assistance. In Thailand, all foreign victims of trafficking (including child victims) may be allowed to stay temporarily for medical, recovery or legal reasons.²⁹⁸ Indonesia's centres provide temporary shelter as well as medical, psychological, social, legal and recreational services.²⁹⁹ Services are provided by specialists who often work in cooperation with outside experts and private volunteers to help child victims recover from any psychological damage they have suffered. Staffs at child guidance centres and juvenile support centres within Japan receive training on how to help children who have been abused or suffered psychologically or physically.³⁰⁰ Apart from shelter, services provided by the government to victims of trafficking include financial support for travel,

counselling and medical assistance.³⁰¹ In addition, the new national plan against trafficking, adopted in 2009, provides for counselling and psychological services for child victims of trafficking “as necessary”, including specialised psychological services. In Vietnam, a number of psychological and physical recovery centres have been built to support sexually abused children in major cities. Counselling centres were established in several provinces to provide child victims with legal and psychological guidance and to help with reintegration. Children who have been trafficked are reportedly entitled to medical treatment (including counselling), rehabilitation and other support, including vocational training and jobs in line with their ages. In China, it is unclear whether potential trafficking victims are referred to shelters or whether they are punished for acts committed as a direct result of being trafficked.³⁰² Laos provides only short-term assistance (medical care, counselling services and vocational training) for some victims, and relies heavily on donor support for these efforts.³⁰³

NGOs and governments in the region offer several different services to support the recovery and reintegration of child victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation. Only limited information is available on the quality of care in government and civil society institutions, or on the extent to which they are appropriately regulated, monitored and inspected. However, several countries have developed minimum standards for their residential care facilities (Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Timor-Leste and Vietnam).³⁰⁴ The Cambodian government has developed two sets of Minimum Standards on Alternative Care (on residential care and pagoda-based care, and on family-based care and group home care) aimed at protecting the rights and ensuring long-term physical, mental and moral development of orphans and other vulnerable children, including child survivors of sexual exploitation. The Mongolian government adopted standards on the quality of services and the qualifications of the staff within the centres in January 2009.

ECPAT International Child-Safe Organisations Project

As many shelters and services are provided and managed by civil society organisations, ECPAT International, in collaboration with ECPAT UK and UNICEF Thailand, has developed an innovative Child Safe Organisations (CSO) Framework and Training Toolkit that promotes child protection policies to prevent sexual abuse and exploitation of children at facilities for children. The toolkit is currently being used to train grassroots organisations working with and for children in Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam, in collaboration with three ECPAT member organisations (ECPAT Foundation, PKPA and CEFACOM).

An evaluation of this initiative recently conducted by ECPAT International highlights some innovative examples of good practice (e.g., involvement of children improves the quality, effectiveness and validity of the policy; collaboration with relevant local agencies can contribute to a more effective referral network), but also highlights important gaps and makes recommendations for improvement. Among the recommendations are: clearer guidance needs to be given to on-going participatory monitoring, evaluation and review of policies and procedures; greater attention needs to be paid to the different implications for the various types of organisations or agencies that may be using the CSO Toolkit as well as to the role of volunteers, interns and the impact of visitors and media requests on local organisations).³⁰⁵

A few countries (including Indonesia, Mongolia, Thailand and Vietnam) have set up social services coordination centres to act as a central point for reporting and referral. For example, Thailand established Children’s Reception Homes, which are meant to assist and refer women and children in need of assistance to services and to serve as information

centres. The Homes also provide social welfare services, community outreach and occupational training and conduct awareness activities in schools. Vietnam has begun to establish social work or counselling centres in some provinces, and some Indonesian states are piloting model Social Welfare Service Centres (Puspekessos) as a focal point at the sub-district level. In Mongolia, Save the Children supported the establishment of five Community-based Child Protection Units, staffed by social workers and teachers, and handed them over to the National Authority for Children.³⁰⁶

Several countries also established multidisciplinary teams or 'one-stop crisis centres' to promote a more integrated response to child victims of violence, abuse and exploitation. For example, Thailand's multidisciplinary teams (consisting of a social welfare officer, police officer, teacher, health professional and a prosecutor) and Malaysia's Child Protection Teams (involving a social welfare officer, police officer and health professional) were established to promote a better-coordinated response to child protection cases. Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand established hospital-based one-stop crisis centres that offer coordinated medical, legal and counselling services for child and adult victims of violence.³⁰⁷

Comprehensive and specialised assistance for CSEC survivors in the Philippines

The Child Protection Unit of the Philippine General Hospital is tasked with providing care for sexually abused and exploited children. The procedure starts with a child-sensitive forensic interview followed by a physical examination by the doctor who is a child protection specialist. Afterwards, a child psychiatrist screens the child for possible mental health issues resulting from abusive sexual experience and a social worker conducts home visits to continue the risk assessment. The care continuum includes counselling, art therapy or psychotherapy,

educational assistance, livelihood inputs and residential care. The CSPC is reportedly now drafting a unified 'Protocol on Case Management' that would apply to all stakeholders.

Though generally not tailored to meet the special support needs of CSEC victims, hotlines and helplines to report cases of child rights violations and provide referral and assistance have been established across the region. Some countries have general anti-trafficking hotlines run either by the government or NGOs where children can also receive assistance (e.g., Cambodia, Mongolia, Myanmar and the Philippines). In Thailand, both the government and NGOs operate 24-hour free hotlines, which accept reports related to human trafficking, including child sex trafficking. Cambodia's government-run social services also include a 24-hour hotline to inform the public where children can receive assistance and be referred to appropriate support services.³⁰⁸ The government operates two 24-hour hotlines, which receive reports on child abuse, conduct site visits, and provide other services that support local community networks to prevent child abuse and treat victims of child abuse.³⁰⁹

With regard to child victims of trafficking, research conducted by UNICEF and the second edition of ECPAT's *Country Monitoring Reports* indicate that, despite several persisting challenges, significant achievements have occurred in recent years, including a sharp rise in political will to assist child victims. As noted above, governments across the region are increasingly undertaking initiatives to develop national, bilateral and regional policies, standards and practices that take into account the special needs of child victims.

Work has been conducted to strengthen justice and social welfare structures – institutions, mechanisms, capacities and structures – to protect children during and after the identification process. Recovery and

reintegration services were also improved in some countries, and training on quality service delivery to child victims of trafficking and other violations has been conducted for a range of social welfare institutions and other actors responsible for child protection (teachers, health professionals, counsellors, social workers, etc.).³¹⁰

Several countries have developed guidelines for the identification of victims of trafficking or for working with trafficked persons (e.g. Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam). The Cambodian government developed and implemented the 'Policy and Minimum Standards for Protection of the Rights of Victim of Human Trafficking' (which includes child victims of sexual exploitation). Key areas included in the Policy are: concept, model and principles of protection of the rights of victims of human trafficking and responsibilities of competent ministries and institutions for protecting the rights of victims.

ASEAN Guidelines for the Protection of the Rights of Trafficked Children

A major achievement in the sphere of child trafficking was the adoption of the ASEAN Guidelines for the Protection of the Rights of Trafficked Children, endorsed in 2007 by ASEAN Ministers for Social Welfare and Development. The Guidelines establish minimum standards for the treatment of trafficked children from the moment of victim identification up to their full recovery and social integration. Anchored on a number of international legal instruments related to trafficking and CSEC, the document illustrates minimum standards to be applied in eight different key areas, namely: Detection and Identification of the Child; Initial Contact; System of Referral, Coordination, Collaboration and Cooperation; Interim Care

and Protection; Social Case Management of Trafficked Children; Access to Justice; Care and Protection for Social Welfare Service Providers; and Capacity Building.

Based on this instrument, Cambodia, Indonesia and the Philippines have developed national guidelines for the protection of trafficked children and are currently working to ensure their implementation. Other countries should adopt similar guidelines following the same criteria, and the principles should be applied in practice to ensure better protection for trafficked children.³¹¹

Areas of concern:

- As stressed throughout the text, one of the main challenges in all countries in the region is the lack of specialised assistance for child survivors of sexual exploitation. Particularly serious is the absence of support services for boys involved in sexual exploitation and for children exploited in pornography, including in the online environment.
- While one-stop crisis centres promote a more integrated approach to responding to child victims of violence, including sexual exploitation, they tend to focus primarily on immediate, crisis-based intervention and often have limited scope to support children and families after they are discharged from the hospital.
- Mechanisms for monitoring and ensuring the enforcement of minimum standards of care remain generally weak.
- Reporting helplines/hotlines are not staffed with personnel adequately trained to handle cases of CSEC. Moreover, they are often inaccessible to children due to language barriers and limited awareness of their existence.

- Although a major strategic shift has taken place in the approach to child protection in recent years (see section above on ‘Coordination and cooperation at national and local levels’), research indicates that structural reforms that would favour a more holistic, integrated approach to child welfare and protection have yet to be implemented. As a result, support services tend to be fragmented and fail to address the source(s) of vulnerability.
- Even in the more developed countries, the human and financial resources are rarely available to establish tailored care plans and manage the recovery of victims.
- While civil society organisations and international NGOs fill many of the service gaps in such countries as Cambodia, Indonesia and Timor-Leste, the proliferation of NGOs is unregulated, with little regard for either government policy or standards, especially in the area of residential care.
- Many of the region’s official social welfare agencies are not designed, or are unable, to deliver services to communities. Services and staff are generally based in urban centres, and social workers lack the time, resources and transport to conduct outreach services in rural communities or to follow up with families.
- In many countries in the region, the profession of social work is new, or just beginning to be developed. Furthermore, there is a severe lack of staffing and capacity at all levels, including social welfare staff trained on child protection issues and CSEC. The generalised lack of dedicated child protection staff is reportedly compounded by a lack of understanding of child protection and related legislation among other technical officials who have a role in implementing the laws. This includes police, judges, lawyers, teachers, health workers, staff at children’s institutions or residential homes and detention centres, as well as those responsible for developing and delivering social welfare programmes and services.
- Another challenge related to human resource distribution is the frequency of rotation of social welfare staff.
- With regard to child victims of trafficking, the main challenges in the area of recovery, return and reintegration include: the general lack of child-friendly screening criteria and standardised forms to identify child victims, resulting in children being misidentified as undocumented migrants, asylum seekers, unaccompanied minors or juvenile offenders and thus being exposed to numerous forms of secondary victimisation (including through detention, legal sanctions, prosecution and deportation); weak social welfare systems for effective prevention, reception and reintegration; assistance provided only on the condition that collaboration with law enforcement is provided; risks of re-trafficking due to lack of long-term assistance and effective follow up; repatriation of children even when this is not in their “best interest”; risk of stigmatisation of child survivors, due to insufficient protection of the child’s right to privacy in the criminal justice process, by the media or during the process of family tracing and repatriation.

Priority areas and potential strategies:

Whilst recognising that the delivery of efficient, high-quality support services to child victims of sexual exploitation in East and South-East Asia would require several interventions at different levels, ECPAT groups in the region have identified the following areas and strategies as being of priority for the next three years:

Priority area 1: *Improve identification and coordinated assistance and protection of child victims of trafficking*

The detection of a presumed child victim of trafficking is the first step toward referral for assistance and protection with the final objective of reintegration and stabilisation. If this first step goes wrong or does not take place, child victims of

trafficking risk remaining in the abusive situation and continue suffering from this human rights violation. They cannot access the assistance and protection to which they are legally entitled, and there is also a risk that they will be re-trafficked. Hence, proper detection and identification are essential. The establishment of cooperation mechanisms amongst the various actors, including civil society actors, capacity building or strengthening and training are also key to improving the identification of trafficked persons as well as their assistance and protection.

Potential strategies:

- Considering that many child victims of trafficking in East and South-East Asia are being misidentified and being exposed to numerous forms of secondary victimisation, ECPAT should continue to advocate for the enforcement of national laws and existing guidelines for identifying child victims of trafficking for sexual purposes;³¹²
- ECPAT should also advocate for and support the adoption of child-centred evidentiary procedures and general protocols for detection, identification and assessment for the return, recovery and reintegration stages and throughout social welfare and justice proceedings. Such procedures and protocols should ensure practical cooperation among national social welfare and justice institutions charged with combating child trafficking, a lead agency should be designated to develop, coordinate and implement policy with all stakeholders, including civil society. To support this process, ECPAT might also consider delivering multi-stakeholder training to build the capacity of relevant stakeholders (social workers, law enforcement and other professionals coming into contact with children), focusing on child-friendly procedures during investigation and prosecution, identification, recovery, reintegration and safe return of child survivors. Existing training materials developed by other member groups (e.g. in Europe) could be adapted for this purpose.
- ECPAT should lobby with ASEAN to include special protection provisions related to girls who are trafficked for sexual purposes in their *Regional Guidelines for Trafficked Women and Girls*, currently under development.³¹³

Priority area 2: Improving identification and assistance for child victims of online sexual exploitation

As in other regions of the world, the identification of children that are sexually exploited through the use of new ICTs poses a serious challenge in East and South-East Asia. To identify, rescue and protect these child victims, while also providing specialised support, requires not only increased efforts by law enforcement but also meaningful engagement by other stakeholders responsible for child protection, including community members.

Potential strategies:

- ECPAT groups should advocate with local and national law enforcement agencies to adopt an approach focused on identifying victims. Considering that centralised means for reporting, or “hotlines”, are an important and increasingly common and flexible means for law enforcement to generate investigative leads, ECPAT should also advocate for increased evidence-gathering and identification through these types of tools;³¹⁴
- To improve the identification of children vulnerable or subjected to sexual exploitation through ICT, ECPAT might consider supporting the creation of community-based victims’ identification mechanisms, involving all relevant actors (local government officials, police, teachers, health workers, chiefs or community elders, community-based or faith-based organisation staff, Internet cafés, parents and children). A protocol to formalise this collaboration and identify concrete steps that must be taken to improve identification and ensure specialised assistance of vulnerable

children and child victims of online sexual exploitation should be developed to support the implementation of such mechanisms.³¹⁵

Priority area 3: Building child-safe organisations

Potential strategy:

- Considering that services in East and South-East Asia are mainly provided by NGOs, and that access to children for the purpose of sexual abuse and exploitation sometimes takes place through these institutions, ECPAT International should consider extending its Child Safe Organisations Project to other countries where ECPAT has members. In countries where CSO training was already delivered, follow-up work based on the evaluation should be conducted.
- Priority area 4: Promoting awareness of and supporting implementation of the UN Guidelines on the Alternative Care of Children as well as adoption and implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines for the Protection of the Rights of Trafficked Children

Potential strategy:

- As care institutions proliferate in the region and provide the backbone of services for children in need of care and protection, remaining gaps related to availability, access and quality should be addressed. The *Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children*, unanimously adopted by the UN in 2009, have become an important tool for decision makers and service providers in the child care sector to address the special vulnerabilities of children deprived of their families, including those vulnerable or subjected to sexual exploitation. Considering that they provide core policy and programme benchmarks, the Secretariat should join other organisations (such as UNICEF, Save the Children and SOS Village) in advocating for their implementation. Based on existing resource materials developed by various agencies, the Secretariat should

disseminate and promote the guidelines within member organisations in East and South-East Asia. As a follow up, groups should advocate with governments and all those who work directly or indirectly with children in care to make them aware of the guidelines and engage for their implementation. Furthermore, ECPAT groups should encourage and support governments in the region to adopt the *ASEAN Guidelines for the Protection of the Rights of Trafficked Children*, ensuring their adaptation to national contexts and effective implementation.

Priority Area 5: Reaching out to victims with online services

- The Internet also offers a vast untapped potential for implementing online recovery programmes for CSEC victims, with the potential for substantially enhancing service outreach and lowering costs. The Internet can be effectively used for therapeutic purposes. Web-based therapies could provide affordable and anonymous means to treat CSEC victims. Such services could be supported by (mobile) phone or in-person contact with a therapist-couch who could extend additional support on an occasional basis;³¹⁶
- ECPAT could commission an evaluation of Childline programmes underway in the region. The findings could provide the foundation for enhancing such services to include CSEC-related issues and to work as parallel systems for reporting abuse perpetrated through the Internet confidentially to trained counsellors. Referral systems already linked to Childline schemes could be strengthened and attuned to the needs of CSEC rehabilitative services. The scope of child helplines could be broadened to provide assistance to adults as well. Parents or other adults could report cases or concerns tied to improper sexual behaviours toward children and seek assistance to prevent offences.

Priority Area 6: *Enhancing CSEC victims' access to justice, including quality care services*

Potential strategies:

- As part of its ongoing 'Access to Justice' research project ECPAT International could develop a "CSEC Victims' Bill of Rights" detailing all rights to which child victims are entitled, including recovery and reintegration services. As noted above (see section on "legal framework"), given the relevance of this document, ECPAT groups in East and South-East Asia should consider advocating for the implementation of all the provisions under this Bill, to enhance the provision of quality support services tailored to meet the special protection needs of child victims of sexual exploitation in the region.

CHILD AND YOUTH PARTICIPATION³¹⁷

Children and young people in many countries of East and South-East Asia still face a challenge when trying to make their voices heard; mainly due to cultural barriers. According to traditional views, children are perceived to be devoid of their own thoughts, ideas, knowledge and experience. The education system often reinforces these stereotypes, emphasising discipline and the subordination of children over free expression, creativity and individuality. In addition, in many settings the local media frequently portrays young people, especially those who are activists for social change, as troublemakers.

Nevertheless, considerable progress across the region has been made in this regard, and is likely to continue.³¹⁸ The importance of ensuring meaningful child and youth participation has been recognised by ASEAN member states through a number of commitments and policies. One of the most relevant and recent is the *Hanoi Declaration on the Enhancement of Welfare and Development of ASEAN Women and Children* adopted in 2011, which

created a venue for children's voice to be heard through the ASEAN Children's Forum (ACF). The Forum serves as ASEAN's official venue for children from member states to express views about issues affecting their lives, to cooperate and work together towards regional development and to advocate for children's rights in the region. The ACF is comprised of children nominated by ASEAN member states. The outcomes of the ACF are presented by the child delegates to the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development and are also expected to be shared with other sectoral bodies, such as ASEAN's Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children. The ACF takes place every two years; the first meeting took place in 2010 in the Philippines, the second in 2012 in Singapore³¹⁹ and the third in Thailand in January 2014.

The East Asia and Pacific Children's Forum in preparation for World Congress III

Children and young people from the EAP region participated in the East Asia and Pacific Children's Forum and Regional Preparatory Consultation to the World Congress III, held in Bangkok in August 2008. The events enabled children to have in-depth discussions about CSEC and its adverse impact on children. They also allowed participants to share good practices and lessons learned in promoting children's participation against CSEC at the local level and to put forth recommendations to policymakers to escalate actions against CSEC.

An important sub-regional initiative was the Mekong Youth Forum (MYF - originally known as Mekong Children's Forum). Launched in 2004 by Save the Children and World Vision, in collaboration with other agencies, the forum brings children's voices into the policy dialogue. Young people from the six Mekong countries – Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam

– come together to discuss their experiences of migration and human trafficking. They presented recommendations to their governments on how to combat trafficking of young people, make migration safer and improve engagement of young people in the issues surrounding migration and counter-trafficking policy-making and implementation. Some of the children involved in the process were survivors of commercial sexual exploitation. The MYF convened in 2004, 2007 and 2010. National forums also took place, exploring such issues as: participation of young people and accountability to young people by policy-makers; victim protection; and access to quality education and prevention methods at community and family levels, supported by governments and civil society.

The Third MYF, held in Bangkok in October 2010, concluded with a number of recommendations that were also presented at the “Review on Progress of World Congress III against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents,” organised by ECPAT International in October 2010. The youth recommendations contributed to the COMMIT framework through the engagement of NGOs involved in the regional organising committee. The COMMIT Senior Officials Meeting in January 2010 concluded with an explicit recommendation that “full support should be provided for the continuation of the Mekong Youth Forum and National Youth Forums to be included in the 2010 COMMIT work plans.” Following this recommendation, COMMIT’s sub-regional Plan of Action 2011-2013 stated that consultations should be held with persons affected by human trafficking, including victims of trafficking, vulnerable populations, children and youth to gain insights and inputs on national actions against human trafficking.³²⁰

At the national level forums are being provided in several parts of East and South-East Asia to allow youth to exchange experiences and ideas and enhance their participation in the process of social and economic advancement. In this context,

youth councils or forums have been established to encourage participation of young people in a number of countries. In Malaysia, for example, youth participation is encouraged in youth councils from the national level to those at the state level and those dealing with specific issues or certain segments of society.³²¹ In South Korea, in addition to a Presidential Youth Congress (which engages adolescents in forming, implementing, and reviewing youth-related policies) a Youth Participation Committee and juvenile steering committees were created at the local level. Similar bodies also exist in other countries across the region.

At the initiative of NGOs, efforts to ensure the involvement of children and youth in policy-making and monitoring national efforts to uphold children’s rights – including the right to be protected from sexual exploitation – are also underway. In Indonesia, for example, children’s perspectives were included in the formulation of Indonesia’s *Law on the Eradication of the Criminal Act of Trafficking in Persons*. In Mongolia, vulnerable children provided inputs in the NPA evaluation to combat CSEC, while the Thai government engaged children and youth in the development of its *National Strategic Plan to Prevent and Eliminate Violence against Children*. Children and youth also contributed to alternative monitoring reports on the CRC and the OPSC in a number of countries, such as Indonesia and South Korea. Thai children and youth participating in ECPAT’s YPP (see below) engaged in the drafting process of the country’s alternative report on the OPSC and a Thai Youth Representative also attended the Pre-session Working Group of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva in October 2011, calling for more participation by children at risk of, or victims of, sexual exploitation in actions to stop this scourge.³²²

Children and youth across the region were involved in several projects and programmes relevant to combating CSEC, especially as a result of ECPAT groups’ commitments. However, examples of

government-led initiatives against this children's rights violation are rare. In Taiwan, for example, the Youth Act Together in Taiwan was established in 2010 by the ECPAT group in the country and conducted several awareness-raising activities, including helping inform youth about the commercial sexual exploitation of children by means of telling stories about children's rights and screening films in schools. In the Philippines, ECPAT Philippines and other child rights NGOs such as Asia ACTs involved children and youth in the development of the *Guidelines for the Protection of the Rights of Trafficked Children* mentioned above; they have also placed emphasis on involving children in CSEC prevention through awareness-raising activities and the creation of community-based "vigilance committees" to safeguard children against trafficking and sexual exploitation. ECPAT Philippines also supports the local youth groups 'Teatro Divino' and 'Sali Ka Bata', which involve 15-20 children and youth aged 11-25, including survivors of sexual exploitation. Participants receive training as peer leaders and learn how to utilise child-friendly theatre advocacy to raise awareness on CSEC and persuade adults in communities to take action against it.³²³ Since 2013 the work of these drama groups has focused on Internet safety issues, including a 15-minute performance presented in Quezon City.³²⁴ TACTEEN NAEIL, the ECPAT-affiliate in Korea, supports a youth club that conducts peer-to-peer education activities and campaigns on sex culture, sexual rights and violence prevention, including sexual exploitation. Young people use music video clips for their campaigns against violence against children.³²⁵

In collaboration with ECPAT groups and other partners, children and youth from Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam have been involved in ECPAT's Youth Partnership Project (YPP) for Child Survivors of Commercial Sexual Exploitation. Implemented between 2009 and 2011, YPP was a unique programme that engaged the most at-risk and marginalised groups of children through training and leadership development

to become advocates for their own rights.

YPP also seeks to build institutional mechanisms to ensure that child and youth participation has a meaningful impact and becomes a sustainable part of the policymaking process. Child and youth participation initiatives such as the YPP have potent benefits in the realms of prevention, protection and recovery. Involving victims of CSEC in prevention and protection efforts ensures that measures take into account the unique concerns and experiences of children impacted by the issues in question. This involvement also serves as part of the recovery of participants by developing their leadership skills, self-confidence and sense of empowerment. In Chang Rai in northern Thailand, the ECPAT Foundation is currently supporting the follow-up phase of the YPP, involving 48 Peer Supporters, including 12 survivors and 20 children at risk of CSEC from 11 institutions (two schools and nine children's shelters). In 2013 one of the YPP Youth Motivators received the 'Outstanding Women Award' in Thailand. ECPAT Foundation also began in 2014 to conduct an Art Camp that provides opportunities for children and youth in the YPP to learn about creative ways to raise awareness of CSEC and address discrimination, as well as to use art as a form of therapy for survivors of sexual exploitation and a tool to empower the most vulnerable children to improve their lives and influence change.³²⁶

ECPAT International involves children and youth in its governance through the Child and Youth Advisory Committee (EICYAC). In 2011-2014, the East Asia and Pacific region was represented by the Youth Project Coordinator of ECPAT Child ALERT's youth participation movement "Don't Sweep it Under the Rug" (New Zealand). Through EICYAC, ECPAT International has begun a fruitful collaboration with the World Youth Foundation, a NGO based in Melaka, Malaysia, which was launched in 1994 with the aim to promote research, development and documentation of youth programmes beneficial to youths worldwide.³²⁷ As part of this collaboration,

the Regional Youth Representative to the Board participated in the International Conference on Trafficking in Women and Children, organised by the World Youth Foundation on 3-7 September 2014 in Melaka, Malaysia, and presented ECPAT member groups' experience with peer-education for children and youth as a comprehensive component of actions against human trafficking. The conference concluded with a Youth Declaration to Counteract Trafficking in Children and Women and Youth Action Plan, which calls on stakeholders to end human trafficking. The region's Youth Representative to the ECPAT Board also attended the multi-stakeholder meeting "Engaging Youth as Agents of Change" held on 21st-23rd June 2014 in Melaka, Malaysia. Organised by the World Youth Foundation in collaboration with other NGOs and ministries, the meeting provided an important opportunity for the various stakeholders from 15 countries in Asia, Africa and Europe to raise and address pertinent issues related to violence against women, child and youth participation and its challenges. During this event, the Youth Representative to the ECPAT Board made a presentation on "Sexual exploitation against girls: the role of young survivors in counteracting gender-based violence", as well as facilitating group discussions and assisting in preparation of the meeting's final recommendations.

Areas of concern:

Although children and young people in the region are increasingly being involved by governments, INGOs and NGOs, challenges remain in terms of meaningfully engaging them in efforts to prevent commercial sexual exploitation (and related child protection issues) across the region. Common gaps include:

- Ongoing lack of awareness among policy-makers on participatory methodologies and best practices for working with children. Furthermore, many countries lack a national policy and legal framework that encourages the institutionalisation of children's participation.

- Despite efforts promoted to date, mechanisms that support young peoples' representation and participation in national and local governance, school governance and family decision-making are insufficient. More financial resources and efforts are also needed to ensure their meaningful involvement in the design, implementation and monitoring of legal tools and policies that address issues affecting their lives.
- Current forms of participation are often adult-led, token or event-oriented more than integrated into lifestyles and social systems. More often than not, only selected groups of more educated children and young people have the opportunity to participate and express themselves. The result is that children that are marginalised and isolated (such as victims of CSEC, street children, children from ethnic minorities and the poorest communities) have no access to dialogues with policy makers and thus no channel to influence development agendas and policies that directly affect children and their protection from sexual exploitation.
- Many girls and boys remain unaware of their rights in relation to key protection issues such as sexual abuse, exploitation, trafficking and the dangers associated with migration. Children and adolescents also lack child-friendly information about national plans, policies and programmes that affect them, how to protect themselves and where to seek assistance.
- Training to empower children and youth and ensure their substantive participation in actions to address CSEC (in the field of prevention, protection, and recovery/reintegration) is still lacking.
- For ECPAT International the priority is to promote the voices of CSEC victims; to this end a new child and youth participation strategy has been developed to promote meaningful participation of CSEC victims, with a focus on "Access to Justice" and effective remedies.

Priority areas and potential strategies:

Governments and other actors working on behalf of children must recognise that children are citizens with the right to be protected from all forms of sexual exploitation and to participate in decisions that affect their lives. Children must be involved in decision-making processes in a meaningful manner and should be assisted in contributing to the prevention of CSEC and monitoring of government work, acting as watchdogs over those who claim to work in their interest.

*Priority area 1: Increasing the ability of ECPAT groups to support Child Youth Participation and supporting peer-to-peer education**Potential strategies:*

- ECPAT should enhance the capacity of its member organisations to work with children at risk and child victims of sexual exploitation. In this connection, it must be recalled that ECPAT International is implementing a new child and youth participation strategy whose aim is to ensure that the voices of CSEC survivors are reflected in policy, legislation, programmes and practice at the local, national, regional and international levels. The strategy focuses *inter alia* on providing skills and strengthening the capacities of ECPAT member organisations to promote participation by CSEC victims in decision-making bodies and advocating for their right to access justice (access to criminal justice, access to recovery and reintegration and access to just and timely compensation).
- ECPAT should raise awareness among child victims on issues related to CSEC and facilitate their participation as peer educators.
- ECPAT should promote intensive peer education on the issue of CSEC with the active participation of children, including CSEC survivors.

*Priority area 2: Giving voice to victims and taking their opinions into consideration**Potential strategies:*

- ECPAT should enhance the capacities of child victims and vulnerable children to voice their concerns, including within current governance structures.
- ECPAT should provide support to children and youth to ensure: systematic engagement with relevant human rights mechanisms, participation in policy discussions at all levels (including those organised and led by governments and international organisations) and the design and implementation of youth-led advocacy activities.
- As part of ECPAT International’s “Access to Justice” research project, ECPAT will develop a strategy to incorporate participation of CSEC victims throughout the research project, to ensure that their views and recommendations related to child-friendly criminal justice procedures and recovery and reintegration services are included throughout the research.
- ECPAT’s International Secretariat should develop and distribute a manual on conducting youth-led research to enhance the skills and capacities of young people to analyse CSEC issues and make suggestions for combating this violation of child rights. As a follow up, children and youth, with support from member organisations in the region, should design and lead studies on emerging forms of CSEC, particularly boys’ prostitution and “compensated dating” (see also recommended strategies under the “prevention” section).



SECTION 4. CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

For more than 20 years, ECPAT member organisations in East and South-East Asia have engaged to address all these complex challenges. It is worth remembering that the start of ECPAT as a movement at the beginning of the 1990s took place in East Asia, where sexual exploitation of children in tourism was rampant. The ECPAT network currently comprises 12 groups in 11 countries in the region. Some groups (such as those in Japan, Korea and Taiwan) have successfully worked to promote prevention and protection of children from sexual exploitation through technologies. Other groups (in Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam) have been particularly active in addressing child sex trafficking. While most of the EAP member groups work nation-wide, opportunities for multi-country programmes have been explored, especially by Child Wise Australia, which works across South-East Asia to prevent child sex tourism and promote Child Safe. ECPAT membership in the region has a solid reputation; the network is seen as the technical expert on CSEC and has established fruitful partnerships with diverse stakeholders, including: a) government agencies; b) multi-stakeholder networks active at local, national and regional levels (e.g. Asia ACTs, the CEOP's International Child Protection Network, etc.); c) the private sector; d) regional mechanisms and UN agencies (ASEAN, COMMIT, Bali Process, UNICEF, UNIAP, etc.); and e) the media.

Although ECPAT's network in East and South-East Asia, as in other regions of the world, faces many challenges (financial constraints and limited capacities, problems in demonstrating impact, limited work with the private sector and with children and youth), the analysis presented here

demonstrates that members, in collaboration with new and traditional partners, can play a leading role in advancing child protection from sexual exploitation in the region, particularly by adopting a holistic approach covering such areas as prevention, policy and legal framework, coordination and cooperation, recovery and reintegration, and child and youth participation. ECPAT groups and the Secretariat can take advantage of numerous opportunities to enhance the organisation's impact, profile and visibility in the region. The recommended priority areas and potential strategies with key stakeholders presented above could be seen as a menu that provides a very wide range of possibilities for ECPAT. However, as ECPAT moves forward in finalising its programme strategy for East and South-East Asia, it will be necessary to narrow down and focus on selected priorities within the coming three years based on urgency, relevance/scale, and capacities, and in line with the needs identified by other network members. At the same time, it will be necessary for ECPAT to consolidate and implement a well-designed advocacy strategy involving enhanced collaboration and partnerships with key entities such as ASEAN and ACWC. As increasingly required by donors and policy-makers, ECPAT should also ensure that its advocacy work in the region is based on sound research and aligned with global targets for the next three years.³²⁸ Equally important, ECPAT should continue to offer leadership among agencies that foster child participation, by encouraging the expansion of fora bringing young people together to exchange views and experiences and providing a platform for including children's efforts in a broader governance framework committed to children's protection and full development.

ENDNOTES

1 See Annex 1 of the agenda of the Regional Consultation and Annex 2 for full list of participants.
 2 East Timor has officially applied for membership in ASEAN but has not yet joined this regional organisation.
 3 World Population Statistics (2014). *Population of Asia 2014*. 14 March 2014. Accessed 17 October 2014 from: <http://www.worldpopulationstatistics.com/population-of-asia-2014/>
 4 Latitudes.nu. (2012). *Introduction to South-East Asia: 11 Countries, 620 million people!* 3 March 2012. Accessed 17 October 2014 from: <http://latitudes.nu/introduction-to-southeast-asia-11-countries-593-million-people/>
 5 UNICEF, *East Asia and Pacific*. Available at: <http://www.unicef.org/eapro/about.html>
 6 Data provided by the World Bank also covers ASEAN countries and the Pacific.
 7 The World Bank (2014), *East Asian Economies Expected to Grow at a Stable Pace in 2014*. 7 April 2014. Accessed 17 October 2014 from: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2014/04/07/east-asian-economies-expected-to-grow-at-a-stable-pace-in-2014>
 8 The World Bank, *East Asia and Pacific*. Available at: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/region/eap>. EAP includes some of the fastest-growing economies in the world as well as ten of the least-developed countries – six in the Pacific and four in East Asia.
 9 The World Bank. World DataBank. Available at: <http://databank.worldbank.org>
 10 Minujin, A. (2011). *Child Poverty in East Asia and the Pacific: Deprivations and Disparities. A Study of Seven Countries*. UNICEF East Asia and Pacific. Accessed 13 January 2014 from: http://www.unicef.org/eapro/Child_Poverty_in_EAP_Regional_Report.pdf
 11 Situation review of Children in ASEAN, EAPRO-UNICEF, Bangkok 2007.
 12 West, A. (2008). *Children on the Move in South-East Asia: Why child protection systems are needed*. Save the Children. Available at: <http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se/sites/default/files/documents/3762.pdf>
 13 UNICEF et al. (2008). *Situation Report on International Migration in East and South-East Asia*. Available at: http://www.unescapsdd.org/files/documents/PUB_Sit-Report-East-and-SE-Asia.pdf
 14 Terre des Hommes (2012). *Fact sheet: Children on the move in South East Asia*. The Netherlands. Available at: <http://destination-unknown.org/wp-content/uploads/DU-fact-sheets-South-East-Asia.pdf>
 15 United States Department of State. *2013 Trafficking in Persons Report - Thailand*, 19 June 2013. Accessed 3 September 2014 from: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/51c2f3824d.html>
 16 UNESCO. *Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2011 -- Regional overview: East Asia and the Pacific*. Available at: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0019/001917/191719e.pdf>
 17 United Nations Children's Fund (2012). *Child Maltreatment: Prevalence, Incidence and Consequences in the East Asia and Pacific Region: A Systematic Review of Research*. Strengthening Child Protection Systems Series: No. 1. UNICEF EAPRO, Bangkok.
 18 ECPAT International (2011). *Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Philippines*. Accessed 13 January 2014 from: http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/index_A4A.asp
 19 United Nations Children's Fund (2012). *Child Maltreatment: Prevalence, Incidence and Consequences in the East Asia and Pacific Region: A Systematic Review of Research*. Strengthening Child Protection Systems Series: No. 1. UNICEF EAPRO, Bangkok.
 20 ECPAT International (2011). *Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Cambodia*. Accessed 13 January 2014 from: http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/index_A4A.asp
 21 ECPAT International (2011). *Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Philippines*. Accessed 13 January 2014 from: http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/index_A4A.asp
 22 East Asia also includes South-East Asia.
 23 The World Bank. *East Asia and Pacific*. Available at: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/region/eap>
 24 Human Rights Watch. Publications. Available at: <http://www.hrw.org/publications/reports?topic=All®ion=All>
 25 Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers (2008). *Child Soldiers: Global Report*. Accessed 15 October 2014 from: <file:///C:/Users/researchassociate/Downloads/2008globalreport1245411.pdf>
 26 UN Office of the SRSF for Children and Armed Conflict. (2012). *SRSF Zerrougui welcomes progress in the Mindanao peace process and reminds all parties that children should be at the centre of the peace talks*. 23 October 2012. Accessed 17 October 2014 from: <http://reliefweb.int/report/philippines/srsf-zerrougui-welcomes-progress-mindanao-peace-process-and-reminds-all-parties>
 27 Time Magazine. *Tourists Enjoy Thai Beaches Unaware of Trafficking Camps Just a Boat Ride Away*, 7 January 2014. Accessed 6 August 2014 from: <http://world.time.com/2014/01/07/thailand-asked-to-end-rohingya-trafficking/>
 28 The World Bank. *East Asia and Pacific*. Available at: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/region/eap>
 29 ECPAT International (2011). *Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Indonesia*. Accessed 13 January 2014 from: http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/index_A4A.asp
 30 The Irrawady. *Human Traffickers Exploit Nargis Aftermath*, 3 May 2010. Accessed 13 January 2014 from: <http://www.global-sisterhood-network.org/content/view/2444/76/>
 31 New.com.au. *Plan International warns of child trafficking in Philippines after Typhoon Haiyan*, 11 January 2014. Accessed 15 October 2014 from: <http://www.news.com.au/world/plan-international-warns-of-child-trafficking-in-philippines-after-typhoon-haiyan/story-fndir2ev-1226799832094>

- 32 Duong, Le Bach. *Viet Nam: Children in Prostitution in Hanoi, Haiphong, Ho Chi Minh City and Can Tho: A rapid assessment*. International Labour Organisation (ILO)-International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC). Bangkok. International Labour Office. July 2002.
- 33 UNWTO (2013). *International tourism to continue robust growth in 2013*. Accessed 14 January 2014 from: <http://media.unwto.org/press-release/2013-01-28/international-tourism-continue-robust-growth-2013>
- 34 UNICEF (2007). *Situation Review of Children in ASEAN*. Available at: http://www.unicef.org/eapro/Asean_book.pdf
- 35 United Nations Children's Fund (2012). *Child Maltreatment: Prevalence, Incidence and Consequences in the East Asia and Pacific Region: A Systematic Review of Research*. Strengthening Child Protection Systems Series: No. 1. UNICEF EAPRO, Bangkok.
- 36 UN Women. *Issue briefs on Women's Human Rights in the ASEAN Region*. Accessed 15 October 2014 from <http://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/focus-areas/cedaw-human-rights/resource-documents>
- 37 UN Women. *Issue briefs on Women's Human Rights in the ASEAN Region*. Accessed 15 October 2014 from <http://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/focus-areas/cedaw-human-rights/resource-documents>
- 38 Plan International (2013). *South-East Asia's big dilemma: what to do about child marriage?*. Accessed 15 October 2014 from <http://www.plan.org.au/News/2013/08/20/Child-Marriage-in-Southeast-Asia.aspx>
- 39 Plan International (2013). *South-East Asia's big dilemma: what to do about child marriage?*. Accessed 15 October 2014 from <http://www.plan.org.au/News/2013/08/20/Child-Marriage-in-Southeast-Asia.aspx>
- 40 Hvistenfahl, M. *Unnatural Selection: Choosing Boys Over Girls, and the Consequences of a World Full of Men*. Barnes&Nobles. New York. 2012
- 41 See related country descriptions contained in the U.S. Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report 2014*. Available at: <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2014/index.htm>
- 42 UNICEF EAPRO (2009). *Child Trafficking in East and South-East Asia: Reversing the Trend*. Accessed 14 January 2014 from: http://www.unicef.org/eapro/Unicef_EA_SEA_Trafficking_Report_Aug_2009_low_res.pdf
- 43 This section is based on the analysis of ECPAT International's 2011 *Global monitoring status of action against commercial sexual exploitation of children* related to countries in East and South-East Asia. Available at: <http://www.ecpat.net/resources#category-country-monitoring-reports>
- 44 United Nations Children's Fund (2012). *Child Maltreatment: Prevalence, Incidence and Consequences in the East Asia and Pacific Region: A Systematic Review of Research*. Strengthening Child Protection Systems Series: No. 1. UNICEF EAPRO, Bangkok.
- 45 UNICEF Vietnam (2011). *An Analysis of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Selected Provinces and Cities of Vietnam*. Accessed 14 January 2014 from: http://www.unicef.org/vietnam/bao_cao_CSEC_tiang_anh_04-12.pdf
- 46 Herman, Steve. *Child Sexual Exploitation to Worsen in SE Asia*, 2 October 2014. Accessed 29 October 2014 from: <http://www.voanews.com/content/child-sexual-exploitation-to-worsen-in-se-asia/2469769.html>.
- 47 ECPAT International (2011). *Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Philippines*. Accessed 13 January 2014 from: http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/index_A4A.asp
- 48 ECPAT International (2011). *Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Cambodia*. Accessed 3 January 2014 from: http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/index_A4A.asp
- 49 ECPAT International (2011). *Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Thailand*. Accessed 13 January 2014 from: http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/index_A4A.asp
- 50 ECPAT International (2011). *Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: South Korea*. Accessed 13 January 2014 from: http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/index_A4A.asp
- 51 United Nations Children's Fund (2012). *Child Maltreatment: Prevalence, Incidence and Consequences in the East Asia and Pacific Region: A Systematic Review of Research*. Strengthening Child Protection Systems Series: No. 1. UNICEF EAPRO, Bangkok.
- 52 ECPAT International (2011). *Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Taiwan Korea*. Accessed 13 January 2014 from: http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/index_A4A.asp
- 53 ECPAT International (2011). *Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Cambodia*. Accessed 13 January 2014 from: http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/index_A4A.asp
- 54 ECPAT International (2011). *Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Japan*. Accessed 13 January 2014 from: http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/index_A4A.asp
- 55 Cebu Daily News. *Stemming the tide of prostitution*, 4 August 2014. Accessed 15 October 2014 from: <http://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/38483/stemming-the-tide-of-prostitution>
- 56 News.com.au. *Child pimps who prostitute out other children on the rise in Indonesia*, 30 October 2013. Accessed 15 October 2014 from: <http://www.news.com.au/world/child-pimps-who-prostitute-out-other-children-on-the-rise-in-indonesia/story-fndir2ev-1226750047677>
- 57 U.S. Department of State (2014). *Trafficking in Persons Report 2014: Thailand*. Available at: <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/countries/2014/226832.htm>
- 58 ECPAT International (2011). *Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Japan*. Accessed 13 January 2014 from: http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/index_A4A.asp

- 59 ECPAT International (2011). *Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: South Korea*. Accessed 13 January 2014 from: http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/index_A4A.asp
- 60 See ECPAT International's *Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children* related to these countries. Available at: <http://ecpat.net/resources#category-country-monitoring-reports>
- 61 McCoy, A. (n.d.). *Blaming children for their own exploitation: the situation in East Asia*. ECPAT International. Available at: http://www.make-it-safe.net/esp/pdf/Blaming_Children.pdf
- 62 ECPAT International (2011). *Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Japan*. Accessed on 13 January 2014 from: http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/index_A4A.asp
- 63 ECPAT International (2011). *Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Philippines*. Accessed 13 January 2014 from: http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/index_A4A.asp
- 64 ECPAT International (2011). *Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Cambodia*. Accessed 13 January 2014 from: http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/index_A4A.asp
- 65 ECPAT International (2011). *Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Vietnam*. Accessed 13 January 2014 from: http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/index_A4A.asp
- 66 ECPAT International (2011). *Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Indonesia*. Accessed 13 January 2014 from: http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/index_A4A.asp
- 67 UNODC (2012). *Global report on trafficking in persons*. Available at: http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/Trafficking_in_Persons_2012_web.pdf
- 68 U.S. Department of State (2014). *Trafficking in Persons Report 2014: Thailand*. Available at: <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/countries/2014/226832.htm>
- 69 U.S. Department of State (2014). *Trafficking in Persons Report 2014: Vietnam*. Available at: <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/countries/2014/226848.htm>
- 70 Joudo Larsen, J. (2011). *The trafficking of children in the Asia–Pacific. Trends & Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice no. 415*. Australian Institute of Criminology. Australian Government. Accessed on 15 January 2014 from: <http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/current%20series/tandi/401-420/tandi415.html>
- 71 U.S. Department of State (2014). *Trafficking in Persons Report 2014: China*. Available at: <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/countries/2014/226700.htm>
- 72 Joudo Larsen, J. (2011). *The trafficking of children in the Asia–Pacific. Trends & Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice no. 415*. Australian Institute of Criminology. Australian Government. Accessed on 15 January 2014 from: <http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/current%20series/tandi/401-420/tandi415.html>
- 73 UNICEF EAPRO (2009). *Child Trafficking in East and South-East Asia: Reversing the Trend*. Accessed 14 January 2014 from: http://www.unicef.org/eapro/Unicef_EA_SEA_Trafficking_Report_Aug_2009_low_res.pdf
- 74 Joudo Larsen, J. (2011). *The trafficking of children in the Asia–Pacific. Trends & Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice no. 415*. Australian Institute of Criminology. Australian Government. Accessed on 15 January 2014 from: <http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/current%20series/tandi/401-420/tandi415.html>
- 75 UNICEF Vietnam (2011). *An analysis of the commercial sexual exploitation of children in selected provinces and cities of Vietnam*. Accessed 15 September 2014 from: http://www.unicef.org/vietnam/bao_cao_CSEC_tiang_anh_04-12.pdf
- 76 Joudo Larsen, J. (2011). *The trafficking of children in the Asia–Pacific. Trends & Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice no. 415*. Australian Institute of Criminology. Australian Government. Accessed on 15 January 2014 from: <http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/current%20series/tandi/401-420/tandi415.html>
- 77 UNICEF EAPRO (2009). *Child Trafficking in East and South-East Asia: Reversing the Trend*. Accessed 14 January 2014 from: http://www.unicef.org/eapro/Unicef_EA_SEA_Trafficking_Report_Aug_2009_low_res.pdf
- 78 UNODC (2012). *Global report on trafficking in persons*. Available at: http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/Trafficking_in_Persons_2012_web.pdf
- 79 UNICEF Vietnam (2011). *An analysis of the commercial sexual exploitation of children in selected provinces and cities of Vietnam*. Accessed 15 September 2014 from: http://www.unicef.org/vietnam/bao_cao_CSEC_tiang_anh_04-12.pdf
- 80 UNICEF EAPRO (2009). *Child Trafficking in East and South-East Asia: Reversing the Trend*. Accessed 14 January 2014 from: http://www.unicef.org/eapro/Unicef_EA_SEA_Trafficking_Report_Aug_2009_low_res.pdf
- 81 Purnell, N. *South-East Asia set for e-commerce boom*. WSJ.D, 10 July 2014. Accessed 15 October 2014 from: <http://blogs.wsj.com/digits/2014/07/10/southeast-asia-e-commerce-set-to-boom/>
- 82 UNESCAP (2013). *Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific 2012*. Accessed 11 November 2014 from: <http://www.unescap.org/stat/data/syb2013/H.1-ICT.asp>
- 83 European Cybercrime Centre (2013). *Work Package 2. Strategic Assessment of Commercial Child Exploitation Online*. Accessed 16 January 2014 from: https://www.europol.europa.eu/sites/default/files/efc_strategic_assessment_-_public_version.pdf
- 84 Vargas, A. *Online child pornography a 'cottage industry' in the Philippines*. Manila Times, 17 January 2014. Accessed 16 January 2014 from: <http://www.manilatimes.net/online-child-pornography-a-cottage-industry-in-the-philippines/68689/>
- 85 UNODC (2014). *Study on the Effects of New Information Technologies on the Abuse and Exploitation of Children*. Available at: http://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPJ_Sessions/CCPJ_23/E-CN15-2014-CRP1_E.pdf

- 86 ECPAT International (2012). *Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Australia*. Accessed 13 January 2014 from: http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/index_A4A.asp
- 87 See ECPAT International's *Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children* related to these countries.
- 88 UNICEF Vietnam (2011). *An analysis of the commercial sexual exploitation of children in selected provinces and cities of Vietnam*. Accessed 15 September 2014 from: http://www.unicef.org/vietnam/bao_cao_CSEC_tiang_anh_04-12.pdf
- 89 ECPAT International (2011). *Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: South Korea*. Accessed 13 January 2014 from: http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/index_A4A.asp
- 90 ECPAT International (2012). *Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Australia*. Accessed 13 January 2014 from: http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/index_A4A.asp
- 91 UNICEF Vietnam (2011). *An analysis of the commercial sexual exploitation of children in selected provinces and cities of Vietnam*. Accessed 15 September 2014 from: http://www.unicef.org/vietnam/bao_cao_CSEC_tiang_anh_04-12.pdf
- 92 Pattaya People (n.d.). *Stop that Sexting now*. Accessed 15 October 2014 from: <http://www.pattayapeople.com/computer-section/Stop-that-Sexting-now!>. Weird Asia News. *China cracks sexting*, 27 August 2009. Accessed 15 October 2014 from: <http://www.weirdasianews.com/2009/08/27/china-cracks-sexting/>.
- 93 INTERPOL. (2014). *INTERPOL-coordinated operation strikes back at 'sextortion' networks*. Accessed 15 September 2014 from: <http://www.interpol.int/News-and-media/News/2014/N2014-075>
- 94 UNICEF Vietnam (2011). *An analysis of the commercial sexual exploitation of children in selected provinces and cities of Vietnam*. Accessed 15 September 2014 from: http://www.unicef.org/vietnam/bao_cao_CSEC_tiang_anh_04-12.pdf
- 95 World Vision Cambodia (2006). *As if they were watching MY body: Pornography and the development of attitudes towards sex and sexual behavior among Cambodian Youth*. Accessed 16 January 2014 from: http://crin.org/docs/wv_watching_my_body.pdf
- 96 A. Chen, M. Leung, C. Chen, and S. Yang (2013). *Exposure to Internet Pornography among Taiwanese Adolescents*. *Social Behavior and Personality: An International Journal*.41(1). Pages 157-164. Summary available at: <http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/sbp/sbp/2013/00000041/00000001/art00015>
- 97 UNICEF Vietnam (2011). *An analysis of the commercial sexual exploitation of children in selected provinces and cities of Vietnam*. Accessed 15 September 2014 from: http://www.unicef.org/vietnam/bao_cao_CSEC_tiang_anh_04-12.pdf
- 98 UNWTO (2014). *Tourism Highlights*. Accessed 15 September 2014 from: http://dtxtq4w60xqpw.cloudfront.net/sites/all/files/pdf/unwto_highlights14_en.pdf
- 99 Child Wise (2009). *Mind the Gaps: A Comparative Analysis of ASEAN Legal Responses to Child-Sex Tourism*. Available at: <http://www.defenceforchildren.nl/images/13/1215.pdf>
- 100 Child Wise (2009). *Mind the Gaps: A Comparative Analysis of ASEAN Legal Responses to Child-Sex Tourism*. Available at: <http://www.defenceforchildren.nl/images/13/1215.pdf>
- 101 ECPAT International (2011). *Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Cambodia*. Accessed 13 January 2014 from: http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/index_A4A.asp
- 102 ECPAT International (2011). *Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Philippines*. Accessed 13 January 2014 from: http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/index_A4A.asp
- 103 ECPAT International (2011). *Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Cambodia*. Accessed on 13 January 2014 from: http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/index_A4A.asp
- 104 ECPAT International (2011). *Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Vietnam*. Accessed 13 January 2014 from: http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/index_A4A.asp
- 105 Asia One News. *Vietnam joins war on child sex tourism*, 24 February 2012. Accessed 13 January 2014 from: <http://news.asiaone.com/News/AsiaOne+News/Asia/Story/A1Story20120224-329923.html>
- 106 U.S. Department of State (2009). *Trafficking in Persons Report 2009: Laos*. Accessed 13 January 2014 from: <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2009/123137.htm>
- 107 U.S. Department of State (2014). *Trafficking in Persons Report 2014: Laos*. Accessed 15 September 2014 from: <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/countries/2014/226758.htm>
- 108 U.S. Department of State (2013). *Trafficking in Persons Report 2013: Burma*. Accessed 13 January 2014 from: <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/countries/2013/215412.htm>
- 109 U.S. Department of State (2014). *Trafficking in Persons Report 2014: Burma*. Accessed 15 September 2014 from: <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/countries/2014/226691.htm>
- 110 U.S. Department of State (2014). *Trafficking in Persons Report 2014: Indonesia*. Accessed 13 September 2014 from: <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/countries/2014/226741.htm>
- 111 U.S. Department of State (2014). *Trafficking in Persons Report 2014: Mongolia*. Accessed 15 September 2014 from: <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/countries/2014/226780.htm>
- 112 UNICEF Vietnam (2011). *An analysis of the commercial sexual exploitation of children in selected provinces and cities of Vietnam*. Accessed 15 September 2014 from: http://www.unicef.org/vietnam/bao_cao_CSEC_tiang_anh_04-12.pdf

- 113 World Vision Australia (2012). *Child Safe Tourism: The Tourist Perspective*. Accessed 13 January 2014 from: <http://www.defenceforchildren.nl/images/13/2075.pdf>
- 114 Presentation given by Seila Samleang, Director of APLE, at the ECPAT East & South-East Asia Regional Consultation against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, 25-27 August 2014, Taipei, Taiwan.
- 115 UNICEF Vietnam (2011). *An analysis of the commercial sexual exploitation of children in selected provinces and cities of Vietnam*. Accessed 15 September 2014 from: http://www.unicef.org/vietnam/bao_cao_CSEC_tiang_anh_04-12.pdf
- 116 Presentation given by Seila Samleang, Director of APLE, at the ECPAT East & South-East Asia Regional Consultation against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, 25-27 August 2014, Taipei, Taiwan.
- 117 APLE (2014). *Investigating Travelling Child Sex Offenders: An Analysis of the Trends and Challenges in the Field of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation in Cambodia*. Accessed 15 October 2014 from: <http://www.aplecambodia.org/images/Analytical%20Report%20on%20Investigating%20Traveling%20Child%20Sex%20Offenders%20Web%20Version.pdf>
- 118 Presentation given by Seila Samleang, Director of APLE, at the ECPAT East & South-East Asia Regional Consultation against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, 25-27 August 2014, Taipei, Taiwan.
- 119 UNICEF Vietnam (2011). *An analysis of the commercial sexual exploitation of children in selected provinces and cities of Vietnam*. Accessed 15 September 2014 from: http://www.unicef.org/vietnam/bao_cao_CSEC_tiang_anh_04-12.pdf
- 120 UNODC (2013). *Transnational Organized Crime in East Asia and the Pacific: A Threat Assessment*. Accessed 20 January 2014 from: http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Studies/TOCTA_EAP_web.pdf
- 121 Presentation given by Seila Samleang, Director of APLE, at the ECPAT East & South-East Asia Regional Consultation against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, 25-27 August 2014, Taipei, Taiwan.
- 122 Frederick, J. *Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Boys in South Asia, A Review of Research Findings, Legislation, Policy and Programme Responses*. UNICEF *Innocenti Working Papers*, 2010, p.21. Accessed 21 March 2011 from: http://www-prod.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/iwp_2010_02.pdf
- 123 Presentation given by Seila Samleang, Director of APLE, at the ECPAT East & South-East Asia Regional Consultation against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, 25-27 August 2014, Taipei, Taiwan.
- 124 See ECPAT International's Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children for Thailand, Philippines, Cambodia and Vietnam
- 125 World Vision Australia (2012). *Child Safe Tourism: The Tourist Perspective*. Accessed 13 January 2014 from: <http://www.defenceforchildren.nl/images/13/2075.pdf>
- 126 UNFPA Asia and Pacific. *Child marriage*. Accessed 16 January 2014 from: <http://asiapacific.unfpa.org/public/pid/14891>
- 127 UNICEF (2012). *International Day to End Child Marriage*. Accessed 16 January 2014 from: http://www.unicef.org/rosa/child_marriage_factsheet_eap_FINAL.pdf
- 128 United Nations Children's Fund (2012). *Child Maltreatment: Prevalence, Incidence and Consequences in the East Asia and Pacific Region: A Systematic Review of Research*. Strengthening Child Protection Systems Series: No. 1. UNICEF EAPRO, Bangkok.
- 129 ECPAT International (2013). *Preventing and Eliminating Child, Early and Forced Marriage: Challenges, Achievements, Best Practices and Implementation Gaps*. Submission to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Right, 14 December 2013.
- 130 P.K. Abdul Ghafour. *Temporary marriages with Indonesian women on rise*. *Arab News*, 18 April 2009. Accessed 1 July 2014 from: <http://www.arabnews.com/node/323345>
- 131 P.K. Abdul Ghafour. *Temporary marriages with Indonesian women on rise*. *Arab News*, 18 April 2009. Accessed 1 July 2014 from: <http://www.arabnews.com/node/323345>
- 132 Asma Masood. *The Economics of Human Trafficking*. *Foreign Policy Journal*, 6 July 2009. Accessed 15 October 2014 from: <http://www.foreignpolicyjournal.com/2013/07/06/the-economics-of-human-trafficking/>
- 133 UNICEF Vietnam (2011). *An analysis of the commercial sexual exploitation of children in selected provinces and cities of Vietnam*. Accessed 15 September 2014 from: http://www.unicef.org/vietnam/bao_cao_CSEC_tiang_anh_04-12.pdf
- 134 ECPAT International (2011). *Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Mongolia*. Accessed 13 January 2014 from: http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/index_A4A.asp
- 135 See U.S. Department of State, *Trafficking in persons report 2014* related to Philippines, Vietnam, China, Thailand, etc.
- 136 See U.S. Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report 2014* related to these countries.
- 137 ECPAT International. (2011). *Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Australia*. Accessed on 13 January 2014 from: http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/index_A4A.asp
- 138 ECPAT International. (2011). *Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Indonesia*. Accessed 13 January 2014 from: http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/index_A4A.asp
- 139 PACT Cambodia. (2004). *Preventing Trafficking of Women A Study of Origin and Vulnerability Factors for Trafficking Victims and Direct Sex Workers in Four Cambodian Cities*. Accessed 13 January 2014 from: http://www.pactcambodia.org/Publications/WORTH_Education/Preventing_Trafficking_of_Women.pdf
- 140 This sub-section is based mainly on the analysis of: ECPAT International. (2011). *Global monitoring status of action against commercial sexual exploitation of children: East Asia and Pacific*. Accessible from: http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/index_A4A.asp

- 141 ECPAT International. (2009). *Guide for National Planning: To Prevent, Stop and Redress Violations of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children*. Accessed 15 October 2014 from: http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/NPA_GUIDE_Layout.pdf
- 142 This sub-section is based mainly on the analysis of: ECPAT International (2011). *Global monitoring status of action against commercial sexual exploitation of children: East Asia and Pacific*. Accessible from: http://www.ecpat.net/EI/index_A4A.asp.
- 143 Child Frontiers. (2014). *National Child Protection Systems in the East Asia and Pacific Region: A review and analysis of mappings and assessment*. Accessed 15 September 2014 from: http://www.unicef.org/eapro/Child_Protection_Systems_Mapping.pdf
- 144 Information contained in ECPAT International's e-bulletin of 5 February 2013.
- 145 Information contained in ECPAT International's e-bulletin of 27 August 2013.
- 146 Child Frontiers. (2014). *National Child Protection Systems in the East Asia and Pacific Region: A review and analysis of mappings and assessment*. Accessed 15 September 2014 from: http://www.unicef.org/eapro/Child_Protection_Systems_Mapping.pdf
- 147 Child Frontiers. (2014). *National Child Protection Systems in the East Asia and Pacific Region: A review and analysis of mappings and assessment*. Accessed 15 September 2014 from: http://www.unicef.org/eapro/Child_Protection_Systems_Mapping.pdf
- 148 Child Frontiers. (2014). *National Child Protection Systems in the East Asia and Pacific Region: A review and analysis of mappings and assessment*. Accessed 15 September 2014 from: http://www.unicef.org/eapro/Child_Protection_Systems_Mapping.pdf
- 149 Community Child Protection Exchange. (2013). *5 Short Case Studies*. Accessed 15 November 2014 from: <http://childprotectionforum.org/2013/08/5-short-case-studies/>
- 150 Plan Asia Regional Office (2012). *Lessons for protection: a comparative analysis of child protection mechanisms supported by Plan in Asia*. Accessed 20 January 2014 from: <http://childprotectionforum.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2013/03/Plan-ARO-CBCPM-Comparative-Analysis-Summary-Report.pdf>
- 151 Department of Social Welfare and Development of the Philippines and the International Labour Association. (2009). *Referral System for the Recovery and Reintegration of Trafficked Persons*. Accessed 15 November 2014 from: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-manila/documents/publication/wcms_125278.pdf
- 152 U.S. Department of State. *2013 Trafficking in Persons Report: Indonesia*. Accessed 20 January 2014 from: <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/countries/2013/215482.htm>
- 153 ASEAN Member States are: Brunei Darussalam, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.
- 154 R. Yusran. (2011). *Trafficking in Women and Children and an Observation to ASEAN Counter-Trafficking Efforts*. Accessed 20 January 2014 from: <http://cil.nus.edu.sg/wp/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/ASLI-8th-Conference-ASEAN-and-Trafficking-in-Women-and-Children-RY-pdf.pdf>
- 155 Child Rights Coalition Asia. *ASEAN and Child Rights*. Accessed 20 January 2014 from: <http://www.childrightscoalitionasia.org/child-rights-issues/asean-and-child-rights/>
- 156 ECPAT International. (2011). *Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Indonesia*. Accessed 13 January 2014 from: http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/index_A4A.asp
- 157 Joy Ngozi Ezeilo. Report submitted by the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children. Accessed 13 January 2014 from: <http://www.ohchr.org/en/Issues/Trafficking/Pages/annual.aspx>
- 158 ECPAT International. (2011). *Global Monitoring Report: Indonesia, 2nd edition*. Accessed on November 25, 2013 from: http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/Pdf/A4A_II/A4A_V2_EAP_INDONESIA.pdf.
- 159 Manila Bulletin. (2013). *Bohol to host ASEAN conference*. Accessed 13 January 2014 from: <http://ph.news.yahoo.com/bohol-host-asean-conference-164427219.html>
- 160 Datin Paduka Intan Kassim (Brunei commissioner for Women to ACWC). (2013). *Presentation for Regional Consultation on the Right to an Effective Remedy for Trafficked Persons 27 September 2013*. Bangkok, Thailand. Accessed 16 October 2014 from: www.ohchr.org
- 161 Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. (2002). *ASEAN TOURISM AGREEMENT*. Accessed 16 October 2014 from: <http://www.mofa.go.jp/region/asia-paci/asean/pmv0211/tourism.html>
- 162 Child Wise Tourism. (2007). *2007 ASEAN Child-Sex Tourism Review An Outcome of the Annual Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Taskforce to Combat the Sexual Exploitation of Children in Tourism Destinations*. Accessed 20 January 2014 from: <http://dtxqtq4w60xqpw.cloudfront.net/sites/all/files/docpdf/australia2007aseancstreview.pdf>
- 163 ECPAT International. (2011). *Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Philippines*. Accessed 13 January 2014 from: http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/index_A4A.asp
- 164 ACWC et al. (2012). *Joint Statement of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) and the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Violence against Children, Manila, the Philippines, 17 January 2012*. Accessed on 13 January 2014 from: <http://srsrg.violenceagainstchildren.org/sites/default/files/documents/docs/Joint%20Statement%20of%20the%20ASEAN%20Commission%20on%20the%20Promotion%20and%20Protection%20of%20the%20Rights%20of%20Women%20and%20Children.pdf>
- 165 UNIAP. (n.d.). *COMMIT: The Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative Against Trafficking*. Accessed 16 October 2014 from: <http://www.no-trafficking.org/commit.html>

- 166 UNIAIP. (n.d.) *Counter-Trafficking Action Being Taken in Cambodia*. http://www.no-trafficking.org/cambodia_action.html
- 167 Regional Support Office Bali Process. (2012) *RSO Newsletter Edition One October - 2012*. Accessed 20 January 2014 from: <http://www.baliprocess.net/files/RSO/Oct%202012.pdf>
- 168 Information contained in ECPAT e-bulletin.
- 169 UNIAIP. (n.d.). *Key Regional Laws and Agreements*. Accessed 16 October 2014 from: http://www.no-trafficking.org/resources_laws_regional.html For the MoU between China and Cambodia, see ECPAT International (2011). *Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Cambodia*. Accessed 13 January 2014 from: http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/index_A4A.asp
- 170 ECPAT International (2011). *Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Mongolia*. Accessed 13 January 2014 from: http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/index_A4A.asp
- 171 U.S. Department of State. *2013 Trafficking in Persons Report: Indonesia*. Accessed 20 January 2014 from: <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/countries/2013/215482.htm>
- 172 ECPAT International (2011). *Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Thailand*. Accessed 13 January 2014 from: http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/index_A4A.asp
- 173 ECPAT International (2011). *Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Cambodia*. Accessed 13 January 2014 from: http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/index_A4A.asp
- 174 ECPAT International (2011). *Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Thailand*. Accessed 13 January 2014 from: http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/index_A4A.asp
- 175 CEOP Command. (n.d.). *Cambodia Advisory Panel*. Accessed 16 October 2014 from: <http://ceop.police.uk/icpn/Cambodia/Advisory-Panel/>
- 176 ICMEC. (2014). *Global Efforts to Expand the Financial Coalition*. Accessed 16 October 2014 from: http://www.icmec.org/missingkids/servlet/PageServlet?LanguageCountry=en_X1&PageId=4355
- 177 ECPAT International. (2011). *Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Australia*. Accessed 13 January 2014 from: http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/index_A4A.asp
- 178 Asia Against Child Trafficking. (2014). *Trafficked Children's Access to Justice*. Accessed October 16 2014. <http://www.asiaacts.org/featured-article/trafficked-childrens-access-to-justic>
- 179 E. Silan. (2013). *Proposed ECPAT Advocacy Framework for Southeast and East Asia. 2013-2016*. (Draft from March 2013) Unpublished Document.
- 180 E. Silan. (2013). *Proposed ECPAT Advocacy Framework for Southeast and East Asia. 2013-2016*. Unpublished document/draft from March 2013.
- 181 ECPAT International. (2014). *Priorities and strategies against commercial sexual exploitation of children in East and South-East Asia*. Draft outcome document of the Regional Consultation on Actions to Stop CSEC in East and South-East Asia, 25-27 August 2014. Taipei, Taiwan.
- 182 ECPAT International. (2013). *Panorama of the ECPAT Membership in the East Asia and Pacific*. Unpublished document from February 2013.
- 183 E. Silan. (2013). *Proposed ECPAT Advocacy Framework for Southeast and East Asia. 2013-2016*. Unpublished document/draft from March 2013.
- 184 E. Silan. (2013). *Proposed ECPAT Advocacy Framework for Southeast and East Asia. 2013-2016*. Unpublished document/draft from March 2013.
- 185 This sub-section is based mainly on the analysis of: ECPAT International. (2011). *Global monitoring status of action against commercial sexual exploitation of children*. (related to countries in East Asia and Pacific). Accessed 16 October 2014 from: <http://www.ecpat.net/resources>
- 186 Information provided by Nagasayee Malathy, Executive Director of *Protect and Save The Children* (an NGO based in Selangor, Malaysia).
- 187 U.S. Department of State. (2014). *Trafficking in persons report 2014: Cambodia*. Accessed 6 September 2014 from: <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/countries/2014/226693.htm>
- 188 U.S. Department of State. (2014). *Trafficking in persons report 2014: China*. Accessed 16 September 2014 from: <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/countries/2014/226700.htm>
- 189 U.S. Department of State (2014), *Trafficking in persons report 2014: Thailand*. Accessed 16 September 2014 from: <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/countries/2014/226832.htm>
- 190 U.S. Department of State (2014), *Trafficking in persons report 2014: Vietnam*. Accessed 16 September 2014 from: <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/countries/2014/226848.htm>
- 191 U.S. Department of State (2014), *Trafficking in persons report 2014: Japan*. Accessed 16 September 2014 from: <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/countries/2014/226748.htm>
- 192 U.S. Department of State (2014), *Trafficking in persons report 2014: Republic of Korea*. Accessed 16 September 2014 from: <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/countries/2014/226754.htm>

- 193 Child Safe Tourism. (2012). *If you see or suspect child abuse while travelling, report it immediately*. Accessed 16 October 2014
from: <http://childsafetourism.org/actions/report-abuse/>
- 194 THECODE.ORG. (2012). *ECPAT Cambodia Conducts Child Protection and Code Training for Tourism Professionals*. Accessed on
October 16 2014 from: <http://www.thecode.org/ecpat-cambodia-conducts-child-protection-and-code-training-for-tourism-professionals/>
- 195 ChildSafe Network. (2007). *Welcome to the ChildSafe Network*. See <http://www.childsafe-international.org/>
- 196 ECPAT Netherlands. (2013). *Protection of children against sexual exploitation in tourism: Capacity building and awareness
raising activities in Thailand, Cambodia, Philippines, Gambia and Dominican Republic*. Accessed October 16 2014 from: <http://www.defenceforchildren.nl/images/13/2817.pdf>
- 197 CHILD WISE. (n.d.). *Empowering remote communities in Cambodia to reduce the vulnerability of children to abuse, exploitation,
trafficking and unsafe migration*. Accessed 16 October 2014 from: [http://childwise.blob.core.windows.net/assets/uploads/
files/Bamboo%20Shoot%20\(Chicken%20Raising\)-1.pdf](http://childwise.blob.core.windows.net/assets/uploads/files/Bamboo%20Shoot%20(Chicken%20Raising)-1.pdf)
- 198 Child Frontiers. (2014). *National Child Protection Systems in the East Asia and Pacific Region: A review and analysis of mappings
and assessment*. Accessed 16 October 2014 from: http://www.unicef.org/eapro/Child_Protection_Systems_Mapping.pdf
- 199 UNICEF EAPRO (2009). *Child Trafficking in East and South-East Asia: Reversing the Trend*. Accessed 14 January 2014 from:
http://www.unicef.org/eapro/Unicef_EA_SEA_Trafficking_Report_Aug_2009_low_res.pdf
- 200 ECPAT International. (2014). *Priorities and strategies against commercial sexual exploitation of children in East and South-East
Asia*. Draft outcome document of the Regional Consultation on Actions to Stop CSEC in East and South-East Asia, 25-27 August
2014. Taipei, Taiwan.
- 201 ECPAT International. (2014). *Priorities and strategies against commercial sexual exploitation of children in East and South-East
Asia*. Draft outcome document of the Regional Consultation on Actions to Stop CSEC in East and South-East Asia, 25-27 August
2014. Taipei, Taiwan.
- 202 ECPAT International. (2014). *Priorities and strategies against commercial sexual exploitation of children in East and South-East
Asia*. Draft outcome document of the Regional Consultation on Actions to Stop CSEC in East and South-East Asia, 25-27 August
2014. Taipei, Taiwan.
- 203 ECPAT International. (2014). *Priorities and strategies against commercial sexual exploitation of children in East and South-East
Asia*. Draft outcome document of the Regional Consultation on Actions to Stop CSEC in East and South-East Asia, 25-27 August
2014. Taipei, Taiwan.
- 204 ECPAT International. (2014). *Priorities and strategies against commercial sexual exploitation of children in East and South-East
Asia*. Draft outcome document of the Regional Consultation on Actions to Stop CSEC in East and South-East Asia, 25-27 August
2014. Taipei, Taiwan.
- 205 United Nations. *Chapter IV 11. Convention on the Rights of the Child*. Accessed on 16 October 2014 from: [https://treaties.
un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=IV-11&chapter=4&lang=en](https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=IV-11&chapter=4&lang=en)
- 206 United Nations. *Chapter IV 11.c. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children,
Child Prostitution and Child Pornography*. Accessed on 16 October 2014 from: [https://treaties.un.org/pages/viewdetails.
aspx?src=ind&mtdsg_no=iv-11-c&chapter=4&lang=en](https://treaties.un.org/pages/viewdetails.aspx?src=ind&mtdsg_no=iv-11-c&chapter=4&lang=en)
- 207 United Nations. *Chapter XVIII 12.a. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking Persons, Especially Women and
Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*. Accessed on 16 October 2014
from: https://treaties.un.org/pages/viewdetails.aspx?src=ind&mtdsg_no=xviii-12-a&chapter=18&lang=en
- 208 United Nations. *Chapter IV 11.d. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on communications
procedure*. Accessed on 16 October 2014 from: [https://treaties.un.org/pages/viewdetails.aspx?src=treaty&mtdsg_no=iv-11-
d&chapter=4&lang=en](https://treaties.un.org/pages/viewdetails.aspx?src=treaty&mtdsg_no=iv-11-d&chapter=4&lang=en)
- 209 Trafficking Monitor. (2013). *ASEAN experts meet in Manila to draft anti-human trafficking pact*. Accessed 16 October 2014 from:
<http://trafficking-monitor.blogspot.it/2013/04/asean-experts-meet-in-manila-to-draft.html>
<http://humanrightsinasean.info/asean-commission-rights-women-and-children/about.html>
- 210 South-East Asian Women's Caucus on ASEAN. (2014). *A look at ASEAN Declaration on Violence Against Women and Violence
Against Children*. Accessed 16 October 2014 from: [http://womenscaucusonasean.wordpress.com/2014/02/05/a-look-at-
asean-declaration-on-violence-against-women-and-violence-against-children/](http://womenscaucusonasean.wordpress.com/2014/02/05/a-look-at-asean-declaration-on-violence-against-women-and-violence-against-children/)
- 211 Amnesty International. (2014). *Amnesty International's Briefing to the ACWC on the draft ASEAN Declaration on Violence
Against Women and Violence Against Children*. Accessed 16 October 2014 from: [http://www.amnesty.org/es/library/asset/
IOR64/001/2013/en/bb68d82a-eade-4cc6-a10f-f1d896e2e40d/ior640012013en.pdf](http://www.amnesty.org/es/library/asset/IOR64/001/2013/en/bb68d82a-eade-4cc6-a10f-f1d896e2e40d/ior640012013en.pdf)
- 212 ASEAN. (2013). *ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children maps out plan
of action*. Accessed October 16 2014 from: [http://www.asean.org/news/asean-secretariat-news/item/asean-commission-on-
the-promotion-and-protection-of-the-rights-of-women-and-children-maps-out-plan-of-action](http://www.asean.org/news/asean-secretariat-news/item/asean-commission-on-the-promotion-and-protection-of-the-rights-of-women-and-children-maps-out-plan-of-action)
- 213 E. Silan. (2013). *Proposed ECPAT Advocacy Framework for Southeast and East Asia. 2013-2016*. Unpublished document/draft
from March 2013.

- 215 E. Silan. (2013). *Proposed ECPAT Advocacy Framework for Southeast and East Asia, 2013-2016*. Unpublished document/draft from March 2013.
- 216 Royal Kram. (2008). *LAW on Suppression of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation*. Article 30. Accessed 17 March 2014 from: http://www.notrafficking.org/content/Laws_Agreement/cambodia%20new%20law%20on%20trafficking%20&%20sexual%20exploitation%20-%20english.pdf
- 217 Harvard School on Public Health. (1999). *Act on Punishment of Activities Relating to Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and the Protection of Children*. (Act No.52 of May 26, 1999). Accessed 17 March 2014 from: <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/population/trafficking/japan.traf.04.pdf>
- 218 University of Minnesota. (2009). *Republic Act No. 9775/ Anti-Child Pornography Act, 2009.*, Article 3. Accessed 17 March 2014 from: <http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/research/Philippines/RA%209775%20-%20Anti-Child%20Pornography%20Act%20of%202009.pdf>
- 219 ECPAT. (2012). *Global Monitoring – Report on the Status of action against commercial sexual exploitation of children: South Korea, 2012*. Accessed on 18 March 2014 from: http://ecpat.net/sites/default/files/a4a_v2_eap_skorea.pdf
- 220 Centers for Disease Control. (2005). *Taiwan Child and Youth Sexual Transaction Prevention Act*. Accessed 17 March 2014 from: www.cdc.gov.tw/downloadfile.aspx?fid=CAE908BF6AB14336
- 221 Royal Kram. (2008). *LAW on Suppression of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation*. Article 24. Accessed 17 March 2014 from: http://www.notrafficking.org/content/Laws_Agreement/cambodia%20new%20law%20on%20trafficking%20&%20sexual%20exploitation%20-%20english.pdf
- 222 ECPAT. (2012). *Global Monitoring – Report on the Status of action against commercial sexual exploitation of children: South Korea*. p.23. Accessed 18 March 2014 from: http://ecpat.net/sites/default/files/a4a_v2_eap_skorea.pdf
- 223 Laws of Brunei. (1984). *Women and Girls Protection Act, 21 of 1972, amended by S 20/93*. Accessed 17 March 2014 from: <http://www.niew.gov.my/contents/PDF/acts%20&%20regulations/Brunai/Women%20and%20girls%20protection%20act.pdf>
- 224 National People's Congress. (1997). *Criminal Law of the People's Republic of China*. Accessed 17 March 2014 from: <http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/ce/cgvienna/eng/dbtyw/jdwt/crimelaw/t209043.htm>
- 225 The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of The People's Republic of China. (1997). *Crimes Ordinance*. Accessed 6 October 2014 from: [http://www.legislation.gov.hk/blis_pdf.nsf/6799165D2FEE3FA94825755E0033E532/46A02C9D714527F1482575EE004C2BC1/\\$FILE/CAP_200_e_b5.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.hk/blis_pdf.nsf/6799165D2FEE3FA94825755E0033E532/46A02C9D714527F1482575EE004C2BC1/$FILE/CAP_200_e_b5.pdf)
- 226 AGC Singapore. (2014). *Children and Young Persons Act*. Chapter 38, 2001. Accessed 17 March 2014 from: <http://statutes.agc.gov.sg/aol/search/display/view.w3p?page=0;query=DocId%3A911aba78-1d05-4341-96b7-ee334d4a06f0%20%20Status%3Ainforce%20Depth%3A0;rec=0>
- 227 Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress. (2009). *Republic Act No. 9775/ Anti-Child Pornography Act*. Section 3. Accessed 20 March 2014 from: <http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/research/Philippines/RA%209775%20-%20Anti-Child%20Pornography%20Act%20of%202009.pdf>
- 228 Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. (2003). *Prevention of Child Pornography ordinance*. Accessed 16 October 2014 from: <http://www.gld.gov.hk/egazette/pdf/20030729/es12003072931.pdf>
- 229 Harvard School of Public Health. (1999). *Act on Punishment of Activities Relating to Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and the Protection of Children*. (Act No.52 of May 26, 1999). Accessed 17 March 2014 from: <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/population/trafficking/japan.traf.04.pdf>
- 230 ECPAT. (2012). *Global Monitoring – Report on the Status of action against commercial sexual exploitation of children: South Korea*. p.20. Accessed 18 March 2014 from: http://ecpat.net/sites/default/files/a4a_v2_eap_skorea.pdf
- 231 Centers for Disease Control. (2005). *Taiwan Child and Youth Sexual Transaction Prevention Act*. Accessed 17 March 2014 from: www.cdc.gov.tw/downloadfile.aspx?fid=CAE908BF6AB14336
- 232 Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines. (2009). *Republic Act No. 9775/ Anti-Child Pornography Act*. Accessed 17 March 2014 from: <http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/research/Philippines/RA%209775%20-%20Anti-Child%20Pornography%20Act%20of%202009.pdf>
- 233 Royal Kram. (2008). *LAW on Suppression of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation, Article 24*: http://www.no-trafficking.org/content/Laws_Agreement/cambodia%20new%20law%20on%20trafficking%20&%20sexual%20exploitation%20-%20english.pdf
- 234 Laws of Brunei (2001). *Penal Code, 2001*. Article 292. Accessed 20 March 2014 from: https://www.unodc.org/tldb/pdf/Brunei_Penal_Code_1951_Full_text.pdf
- 235 Permanent Mission of The People's Republic of China to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Vienna. (1997). *Criminal Law of the People's Republic of China*. Article 367,1997. Accessed 17 March 2014 from: <http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/ce/cgvienna/eng/dbtyw/jdwt/crimelaw/t209043.htm>
- 236 Laws of Malaysia. *Penal Code, Act 574*. Articles 292 and 293. Accessed 20 March 2013 from: <http://www.agc.gov.my/Akta/Vol.%2012/Act%20574.pdf>
- 237 Online Burma/Myanmar Library. (1861). *Myanmar Penal Code*. Article 292. Accessed 20 March 2014 from: http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs6/MYANMAR_PENAL_CODE-corr.1.pdf

- 238 AGC Singapore. (1998). *Singapore Undesirable Publications Act*. Section 11. Accessed March 2014 from: <http://statutes.agc.gov.sg/aol/search/display/view.w3p;page=0;query=DocId%3A%22260443c8-a729-40e2-ac3a-a4fe673d71bb%22%20Status%3Apublished%20Depth%3A0;rec=0>
- 239 ThailandOnline.Com. (1956). *Thailand Criminal Code*. B.E. 2499 Section 287. Accessed 20 March 2014 from: <http://www.thailandlawonline.com/laws-in-thailand/thailand-criminal-law-text-translation>
- 240 Royal Kram. (2008). LAW on Suppression of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation. Accessed 17 March 2014 from: http://www.nottrafficking.org/content/Laws_Agreement/cambodia%20new%20law%20on%20trafficking%20&%20sexual%20exploitation%20-%20english.pdf
- 241 Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. (2003). *Prevention of Child Pornography ordinance*. Section 2. Accessed October 16 2014 from: <http://www.gld.gov.hk/egazette/pdf/20030729/es12003072931.pdf>
- 242 Harvard School of Public Health. (1999). *Act on Punishment of Activities Relating to Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and the Protection of Children*. Act No.52 of May 26, 1999. Accessed on 17 March 2014 from: <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/population/trafficking/japan.traf.04.pdf>
- 243 Senate and House of Representative of the Philippines in Congress. (2009). *Republic Act No. 9775/ Anti-Child Pornography Act*. Accessed 17 March 2014 from: <http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/research/Philippines/RA%209775%20-%20Anti-Child%20Pornography%20Act%20of%202009.pdf>
- 244 ECPAT. (2012). *Global Monitoring - Report on the Status of action against commercial sexual exploitation of children: South Korea*. p.21. Accessed 18 March 2014 from: http://ecpat.net/sites/default/files/a4a_v2_eap_skorea.pdf
- 245 Centers for Disease Control. (2005). *Taiwan Child and Youth Sexual Transaction Prevention Act*. Article 28. Accessed 17 March 2014 from: www.cdc.gov.tw/downloadfile.aspx?fid=CAE908BF6AB14336
- 246 Senate and House of Representative of the Philippines in Congress. (2009). *Republic Act No. 9775/ Anti-Child Pornography Act*. Accessed 20 March 2014 from: <http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/research/Philippines/RA%209775%20-%20Anti-Child%20Pornography%20Act%20of%202009.pdf>
- 247 Senate and House of Representative of the Philippines in Congress. (2009). *Republic Act No. 9775/ Anti-Child Pornography Act*. Accessed 20 March 2014 from: <http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/research/Philippines/RA%209775%20-%20Anti-Child%20Pornography%20Act%20of%202009.pdf>
- 248 Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of The People's Republic of China. (2003). *Prevention of Child Pornography Ordinance*. Section 3. Accessed 16 October 2014 from: <http://www.gld.gov.hk/egazette/pdf/20030729/es12003072931.pdf>
- 249 ECPAT. (2012). *Global Monitoring – Report on the Status of action against commercial sexual exploitation of children - South Korea*. Accessed 18 March 2014 from: http://ecpat.net/sites/default/files/a4a_v2_eap_skorea.pdf
- 250 Centers for Disease Control. (2005). *Taiwan Child and Youth Sexual Transaction Prevention Act*. Article 28. Accessed 17 March 2014 from: www.cdc.gov.tw/downloadfile.aspx?fid=CAE908BF6AB14336
- 251 University of Minnesota. (2009). *Republic Act No. 9775/ Anti-Child Pornography Act*. Accessed 20 March 2014 from: <http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/research/Philippines/RA%209775%20-%20Anti-Child%20Pornography%20Act%20of%202009.pdf>
- 252 AGC Singapore. (2001). *Children and Young Persons Act*. Chapter 38. Accessed 17 March 2014 from: <http://statutes.agc.gov.sg/aol/search/display/view.w3p;page=0;query=DocId%3A911aba78-1d05-4341-96b7-ee334d4a06f0%20%20Status%3Ainforce%20Depth%3A0;rec=0>
- 253 ECPAT. (2012). *Global Monitoring – Report on the Status of action against commercial sexual exploitation of children: South Korea*. p.21. Accessed 18 March 2014 from: http://ecpat.net/sites/default/files/a4a_v2_eap_skorea.pdf
- 254 *Crimes Ordinance*. Sections 129 & 130. Accessed 16 October 2014 from: [http://www.legislation.gov.hk/blis_pdf.nsf/6799165D2FEE3FA94825755E0033E532/46A02C9D714527F1482575EE004C2BC1/\\$FILE/CAP_200_e_b5.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.hk/blis_pdf.nsf/6799165D2FEE3FA94825755E0033E532/46A02C9D714527F1482575EE004C2BC1/$FILE/CAP_200_e_b5.pdf)
- 255 The Protection Project. (2009). *Taiwan Human Trafficking Prevention and Control Act*. Accessed 17 March 2014 from: <http://www.protectionproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/TAIWAN.pdf>
- 256 Immigration Bureau of Japan. (1951). *Japan Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act*. Article @ (vii). Accessed 17 March 2014 from: <http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/english/newimmiact/pdf/RefugeeRecognitionAct01.pdf> and Harvard School of Public Health. (1999). *Act on Punishment of Activities Relating to Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and The Protection of Children* (Act No.52 of May 26, 1999). Article 8. Accessed 17 March 2014 from: <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/population/trafficking/japan.traf.04.pdf>
- 257 ECPAT. (2012). *Global Monitoring – Report on the Status of action against commercial sexual exploitation of children: South Korea*. p.24. Accessed 18 March 2014 from: http://ecpat.net/sites/default/files/a4a_v2_eap_skorea.pdf
- 258 Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of The People's Republic of China. *Crimes Ordinance*. Sections 129 & 130. Accessed 16 October 2014 from: [http://www.legislation.gov.hk/blis_pdf.nsf/6799165D2FEE3FA94825755E0033E532/46A02C9D714527F1482575EE004C2BC1/\\$FILE/CAP_200_e_b5.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.hk/blis_pdf.nsf/6799165D2FEE3FA94825755E0033E532/46A02C9D714527F1482575EE004C2BC1/$FILE/CAP_200_e_b5.pdf)
- 259 The Protection Project. (2009). *Taiwan Human Trafficking Prevention and Control Act*. Accessed 17 March 2014 from: <http://www.protectionproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/TAIWAN.pdf>

260 Royal Kram. (2008). *LAW on the Suppression of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation*. Article 24. Accessed on 17 March 2014 from: http://www.notrafficking.org/content/Laws_Agreement/cambodia%20new%20law%20on%20trafficking%20&%20sexual%20exploitation%20-%20english.pdf

261 Asian Human Rights Commission. (1999). *Penal Code of Indonesia*. Article 5. Accessed 17 March 2014 from: <http://www.humanrights.asia/countries/indonesia/laws/legislation/PenalCode.pdf>

262 World Intellectual Property Organisation. (1999). *Vietnam Criminal Code*. Article 6. Accessed 17 March 2014 from: http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/text.jsp?file_id=184118

263 Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of The People's Republic of China. (1997). *Crimes Ordinance*. Section 153Q (1). Accessed 16 October 2014 at: [http://www.legislation.gov.hk/blis_pdf.nsf/6799165D2FEE3FA94825755E0033E532/46A02C9D714527F1482575EE004C2BC1/\\$FILE/CAP_200_e_b5.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.hk/blis_pdf.nsf/6799165D2FEE3FA94825755E0033E532/46A02C9D714527F1482575EE004C2BC1/$FILE/CAP_200_e_b5.pdf)

264 The Protection Project. (2007). *Singapore Penal Code as amended 2007*. Section 376C. Accessed 17 March 2014 from: http://www.protectionproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/Singapore_TIP-provisions.pdf

265 Tourism Bureau, M.O.T.C. Republic of China (Taiwan). *Taiwan Statute for the Development of Tourism*. Article 53. Accessed 18 March 2014 from: http://admin.taiwan.net.tw/law/law_d_en.aspx?no=9&d=8

265 The Protection Project. (2007). *Singapore Penal Code as amended 2007*. Section 376C. Accessed 17 March 2014 from: http://www.protectionproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/Singapore_TIP-provisions.pdf

267 ECPAT International. (2014). *Priorities and strategies against commercial sexual exploitation of children in East and South-East Asia*. Draft outcome document of the Regional Consultation on Actions to Stop CSEC in East and South-East Asia. 25-27 August 2014. Taipei, Taiwan.

268 ECPAT International. (2014). *Priorities and strategies against commercial sexual exploitation of children in East and South-East Asia*. Draft outcome document of the Regional Consultation on Actions to Stop CSEC in East and South-East Asia. 25-27 August 2014. Taipei, Taiwan.

269 ECPAT International. (2014). *Priorities and strategies against commercial sexual exploitation of children in East and South-East Asia*. Draft outcome document of the Regional Consultation on Actions to Stop CSEC in East and South-East Asia. 25-27 August 2014. Taipei, Taiwan.

270 This sub-section is based mainly on the analysis of ECPAT International. (2011). *Global monitoring status of action against commercial sexual exploitation of children East Asia and Pacific*. Accessed 16 October 2014 from: http://resources.ecpat.net/El/index_A4A.asp.

271 U.S. Department of State. (2014). *Trafficking in Persons Report*. Accessed September 11 2014 from: <http://www.state.gov/documents/organisation/226847.pdf>

272 U.S. Department of State. (2014). *Trafficking in Persons Report*. Accessed September 11 2014 from: <http://www.state.gov/documents/organisation/226847.pdf>

273 Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan. (2008). *MCYS Speech No: 67/2008*. From: World Congress III against the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents. Rio de Janeiro. 27 November 2008. Accessed 4 May 2010 from: http://app.mcys.gov.sg/WEB/corp_speech_story.asp?szMod=corp&szSubMod=speech&qid=5862

274 International Organisation for Migration (IOM). (2007). *ASEAN and Trafficking in Persons: Using Data as a Tool to Combat Trafficking in Persons*. Accessed 17 March 2010 from: http://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/site/myjahiasite/shared/shared/mainsite/Indonesia|50 Indonesia|51published_docs/books/lowres%20asean%20report-complete.pdf

275 UNICEF EAPRO (2009). *Child Trafficking in East and South-East Asia: Reversing the Trend*. Accessed 17 March 2010 from: http://www.unicef.gr/pdfs/Unicef_Trafficking_Report_Aug09.pdf

276 Government of the Republic of South Korea. (2008). *The Consolidated 3rd and 4th Periodic Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child 2008 by the Government of the Republic of Korea*. Accessed from: http://www.ecoi.net/file_upload/1930_1303249657_crc-c-kor-3-4-1.pdf

277 Child Frontiers. (2014). *National Child Protection Systems in the East Asia and Pacific Region: A review and analysis of mappings*. Accessed on 16 October 2014 from: http://www.unicef.org/eapro/Child_Protection_Systems_Mapping.pdf

278 United Nations Office in Geneva. (2010). *Children's Committee of Mongolia under Convention and Protocols on Child Involvement in Armed Conflict and Sexual Exploitation*. Accessed on March 2010 from: [http://unogch/80256EDD006B9C2E/\(httpNewsByYear_en\)/1CBE67EA1D64C7B0C12576AA00381F7COpenDocument](http://unogch/80256EDD006B9C2E/(httpNewsByYear_en)/1CBE67EA1D64C7B0C12576AA00381F7COpenDocument)

279 Rule on Examination of a Child Witness. Taken from the Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act [Republic Act No. 7610]. The Supreme Court of the Philippines. Accessed 17 October 2014 from: <http://www.chanrobles.com/childwitnessexamination.htm#.VECb1PmUemB>

280 Government of Singapore. (n.d.). *Singapore's 2nd and 3rd Periodic Report to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child*. Accessed on May 2, 2010 from: www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/CRC.C.SGP.3.doc

281 Child Frontiers. (2014). *National Child Protection Systems in the East Asia and Pacific Region: A review and analysis of mappings*. Accessed on 16 October 2014 from: http://www.unicef.org/eapro/Child_Protection_Systems_Mapping.pdf

- 282 Government of Taiwan. (2009). *Human Trafficking Prevention and Control Act*. Art. 25. Accessed 26 January 2011 from: http://www.immigration.gov.tw/immigration/FileSystem/Acts_Regulations/980723%20Human_Trafficking_Prevention_Act_Final.pdf.
- 283 Committee on the Rights of the Child. (2008). *Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 12, paragraph 1, of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography*. Accessed 16 February 2010 from: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/AdvanceVersions/CRC.C.OPSC.JPN.1.doc>
- 284 See generally ECPAT International. (2011). *Global monitoring status of action against commercial sexual exploitation of children*. Accessed 16 October 2014 from: <http://www.ecpat.net/resources>
- 285 Child Frontiers. (2014). *National Child Protection Systems in the East Asia and Pacific Region: A review and analysis of mappings*. Accessed on 16 October 2014 from: http://www.unicef.org/eapro/Child_Protection_Systems_Mapping.pdf
- 286 Royal Government of Cambodia. (n.d.). *2nd and 3rd Report on the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Cambodia 2000- 2007*. Accessed 19 March 2010 from: http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/AdvanceVersions/CRC-C-KHM-2_en.doc
- 287 United Nations Office in Geneva. (2010). *Children's Committee of Mongolia under Convention and Protocols on Child Involvement in Armed Conflict and Sexual Exploitation*. Accessed on March 2010 from: [http://unogch/80256EDD006B9C2E/\(httpNewsByYear_en\)/1CBE67EA1D64C7B0C12576AA00381F7COpenDocument](http://unogch/80256EDD006B9C2E/(httpNewsByYear_en)/1CBE67EA1D64C7B0C12576AA00381F7COpenDocument)
- 288 Government of the Republic of South Korea. (2008). *The Consolidated 3rd and 4th Periodic Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child 2008 by the Government of the Republic of Korea*. Accessed from: http://www.ecoi.net/file_upload/1930_1303249657_crc-c-kor-3-4-1.pdf
- 289 U.S. Department of State. (2009). *Trafficking in Persons Report*. Accessed 15 June 2011 from: <http://gvnet.com/humantrafficking/SouthKorea-2.htm>
- 290 Information from leaflet prepared by Thailand's Bureau of Anti-Trafficking in Women and Children. Ministry of Social Development and Human Security and distributed at events organised by the Ministry in 2010 to promote the 2008 Anti-Trafficking Act.
- 291 US Department of State (2009). *Trafficking in Persons Report*. Accessed 7 May 2010 from: <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2009/>.
- 292 U.S. State Department (2014). *Trafficking in Persons Report, 2014*. Accessed 11 September 2014 from: <http://www.state.gov/documents/organisation/226847.pdf>
- 293 U.S. State Department (2014). *Trafficking in Persons Report, 2014*. Accessed 11 September 2014 from: <http://www.state.gov/documents/organisation/226847.pdf>.
- 294 U.S. State Department (2014). *Trafficking in Persons Report, 2014*. Accessed 11 September 2014 from: <http://www.state.gov/documents/organisation/226847.pdf>.
- 295 Singapore Ministry of Communication Development, Youth and Sports. *Policy on Protection and Welfare of Children*. Accessed 7 July 2011 from: <http://app1.mcsys.gov.sg/Policies/StrongandStableFamilies/NurturingProtectingtheYoung/ChildProtectionWelfare/PolicyonProtectionWelfareofChildren.aspx>
- 296 Government of the Republic of Korea. (2008). *The Consolidated 3rd and 4th Periodic Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child*. Available at: http://www.ecoi.net/file_upload/1930_1303249657_crc-c-kor-3-4-1.pdf
- 297 U.S. State Department. (2009). *Trafficking in Persons Report, 2009*. Accessed 15 June 2011 from: <http://gvnet.com/humantrafficking/SouthKorea-2.htm>
- 298 The Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act B.E 2551 (2008), Article 37.
- 299 IOM. *Recovery Centres for Victims of Trafficking*. Accessed 17 March 2010 from: [http://www.iom.or.id/infokit/eng/CTU%20Shelter%20Brochure%203July06\(lo\).pdf](http://www.iom.or.id/infokit/eng/CTU%20Shelter%20Brochure%203July06(lo).pdf).
- 300 Committee on the Rights of the Child, (2008), *Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 12, paragraph 1, of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography: Initial reports of States parties due in 2007: Japan*. Accessed 16 February 2010 from: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/AdvanceVersions/CRC.C.OPSC.JPN.1.doc>.
- 301 Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (2008). *The Recent Actions Japan has taken to Combat TIP (Trafficking in Persons)*. Accessed 8 February 2010 from: http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/i_crime/people/action0508.html.
- 302 U.S. State Department, (2014). *Trafficking in Persons Report, 2014*. Accessed 11 September, 2014 from: <http://www.state.gov/documents/organisation/226845.pdf>
- 303 U.S. State Department. (2014). *Trafficking in Persons Report, 2014*. Accessed 11 September 2014 from: <http://www.state.gov/documents/organisation/226847.pdf>
- 304 U.S. State Department. (2014). *Trafficking in Persons Report, 2014*. Accessed 11 September 2014 from: <http://www.state.gov/documents/organisation/226847.pdf>. Note that according to information provided by Nagasayee Malathy, Executive Director of "Protect and Save The Children", an NGO based in Selangor, Malaysia, in Malaysia the minimum standards of care are related to the specificities of the space for the centre and are very basic.

- 305 ECPAT International. (2013). *Deterrence management to keep children safe from sexual exploitation*. (Journal series No. 6). Accessed 15 July 2013 from: http://www.ecpat.net/EI/Publications/Journals/ECPAT%20Journal_april_2013.pdf
- 306 Childfrontiers. (2013). *National Child Protection Systems in the East Asia and Pacific Region. A review and analysis of mappings and assessments*. Accessed 20 January 2014 from: http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se/sites/default/files/documents/eap_cp_system_mapping_review_final1.pdf
- 307 Childfrontiers. (2013). *National Child Protection Systems in the East Asia and Pacific Region. A review and analysis of mappings and assessments*. Accessed 20 January 2014 from: http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se/sites/default/files/documents/eap_cp_system_mapping_review_final1.pdf
- 308 Royal Government of Cambodia. (n.d.). *2nd and 3rd Report on the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Cambodia 2000- 2007*. Accessed 19 March 2010 from: http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/AdvanceVersions/CRC-C-KHM-2_en.doc
- 309 Government of the Republic of Korea. (2008). *The Consolidated 3rd and 4th Periodic Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child*. Accessed 19 March 2010 from: http://www.ecoi.net/file_upload/1930_1303249657_crc-c-kor-3-4-1.pdf
- 310 UNICEF EAPRO. (2009). *Child Trafficking in East and South-East Asia: Reversing the Trend*. Accessed 14 January 2014 from: http://www.unicef.org/eapro/Unicef_EA_SEA_Trafficking_Report_Aug_2009_low_res.pdf
- 311 Asia ACTs. (2013). *ASEAN Guidelines for the Protection of the Rights of Trafficked Children*. Accessed 14 January. 2014 from: <http://www.asiaacts.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/ASEAN-GUIDELINES-2013-FINAL.pdf>
- 312 ECPAT International. (2014). *Priorities and strategies against commercial sexual exploitation of children in East and South-East Asia*. Draft outcome document of the Regional Consultation on Actions to Stop CSEC in East and South-East Asia, 25-27 August 2014, Taipei, Taiwan.
- 313 ECPAT International. (2014). *Priorities and strategies against commercial sexual exploitation of children in East and South-East Asia*. Draft outcome document of the Regional Consultation on Actions to Stop CSEC in East and South-East Asia, 25-27 August 2014, Taipei, Taiwan.
- 314 ECPAT International. (2014). *Priorities and strategies against commercial sexual exploitation of children in East and South-East Asia*. Draft outcome document of the Regional Consultation on Actions to Stop CSEC in East and South-East Asia, 25-27 August 2014, Taipei, Taiwan.
- 315 ECPAT International. (2014). *Priorities and strategies against commercial sexual exploitation of children in East and South-East Asia*. Draft outcome document of the Regional Consultation on Actions to Stop CSEC in East and South-East Asia, 25-27 August 2014, Taipei, Taiwan.
- 316 Franz Humer from the Global Health Coalition. (2012). *Summary and Strategy for the Future, International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children*. p. 11.
- 317 This sub-section is based mainly on the analysis of ECPAT International's *Global monitoring status of action against commercial sexual exploitation of children* related to countries in East Asia and Pacific published in 2011 and available at: http://www.ecpat.net/EI/index_A4A.asp.
- 318 United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and United Nations Programme on Youth. (2011). *Regional Overview: The State of Youth in Asia and the Pacific*. One of a series of Fact Sheets developed under the coordination of UNPY to support the International Year of Youth. Accessed 27 January 2014 from: <http://social.un.org/youthyear/docs/ESCAPFinal5.pdf>
- 319 See ASEAN Children's Forum. Accessed 17 October 2014 from: <http://www.aseanchildrensforum.org/>
- 320 Save the Children. (n.d.). *Children's participation: Mekong Youth Forum and COMMIT*. Accessed 27 January 2014 from: <http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se/sites/default/files/documents/6747.pdf>
- 321 United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and United Nations Programme on Youth. (2011). *Regional Overview: The State of Youth in Asia and the Pacific*. One of a series of Fact Sheets developed under the coordination of UNPY to support the International Year of Youth. Accessed 27 January 2014. from: <http://social.un.org/youthyear/docs/ESCAPFinal5.pdf> See ASEAN Children's Forum. Accessed 17 October 2014 from: <http://www.aseanchildrensforum.org/>
- 322 ECPAT International. (9 December 2011). *Electronic bulletin*.
- 323 ECPAT Philippines. *Children and Youth Empowerment Program*. Accessed 17 October 2014 from: <http://www.ecpatphilippines.org/children-and-youth-empowerment-program>
- 324 Information provided by ECPAT Philippines during an assessment mission that took place on 23-25 April 2014.
- 325 ECPAT Korea. (2014). Presentation by Hyeonsook Lee at the ECPAT East & South-East Asia Regional Consultation against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, 25-27 August 2014, Taipei, Taiwan.
- 326 ECPAT Thailand. (2014). Presentation by Ketsanee Chantrakul, Project Coordinator of ECPAT Foundation at the ECPAT East & South-East Asia Regional Consultation against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, 25-27 August 2014, Taipei, Taiwan.
- 327 The World Youth Foundation. *Who We Are*. Accessed 17 October 2014 from: <http://www.wyf.org.my/index.php/about/who-we-are>
- 328 E. Silan. (2013). *Proposed ECPAT Advocacy Framework for Southeast and East Asia. 2013-2016*. (Draft from March 2013) Unpublished Document.



ECPAT International

328/1 Phayathai Road, Ratchathewi, Bangkok, 10400 , THAILAND

Tel: +662 215 3388, +662 611 0972, Fax: +662 215 8272

Email: info@ecpat.net | Website: www.ecpat.net