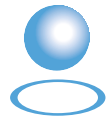


Second World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Japan's Efforts



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Photos provided by: ECPAT, UNICEF, Japan Committee for UNICEF,
Yokohama City, Orion Press, JAL Photo Service

Produced in August 2001



The commercial sexual exploitation of children constitutes a form of coercion and violence against children, and amounts to forced labour and a contemporary form of slavery.

Excerpt from the Declaration of the First World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

Child peering through a bamboo fence (Bangladesh)

The commercial sexual exploitation of children is a grave violation of the human rights and dignity of the children who bear our future. The World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children was held in 1996 in Stockholm, Sweden. At the congress, a Declaration and Agenda for Action were adopted, which presented concrete measures to be taken for eradication of the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

Five years have passed since this congress and international community has been tackling this problem. However, further steps are necessary to eradicate the commercial sexual exploitation of children. To provide impetus toward finding solutions to this problem, the Japanese government will host the Second World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children from 17 to 20 December 2001, in Yokohama, in cooperation with UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), and two international NGOs, namely, ECPAT International, and the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

A program for youth and children participating in this world congress will be held from December 13 to 16 in Kawasaki City.



Youth participating in the First World Congress



What is the commercial sexual exploitation of children ?

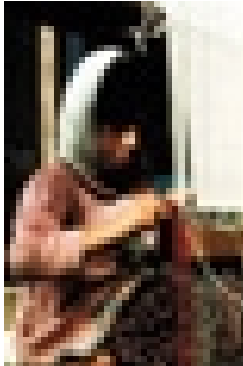
In the “Declaration” of the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, commercial sexual exploitation of children is defined in the following way:

“It comprises sexual abuse by the adult and remuneration in cash or kind to the child or a third person or persons.”

The sexual exploitation of children takes many forms, but the most common forms are child prostitution, child pornography and sale /trafficking of children for the purpose of the preceding.

Child Prostitution

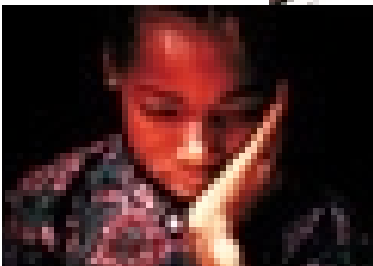
There are no accurate statistics of the number of children who fall victim to commercial sexual exploitation. An international NGO, ECPAT International, however, estimates that the number of children forced into the sex industry in Asia alone is more than 1 million. There are many factors behind children being forced into the sex industry. Among them we see children being sold to brothels by their families to cover debts, as well as children who are sexually abused by the lord of the household in which they are employed for housework and who then escape only to end up involved in child prostitution. There are also cases in which street children (children living and working on the streets) in developing countries have no choice but be involved in child prostitution for their livelihood. Those children who leave their homes or lose their sense of belonging because of various problems in their family, such as sexual abuse, are exposed to the dangers of commercial sexual exploitation. There are also regions where tourists seeking child prostitution pose a grave problem.



Young girl weaving at a loom (Iran)

Child Pornography

Not only does child pornography involve sexual abuse of children during production, but it also presents the possible danger of exacerbating the inclination toward pedophilia (making children the object of ones sexual desires). In recent years, new technologies have made the production of child pornography much easier. We are now faced with the problem that the child pornography can be immediately distributed across borders via the Internet.



Children helping their parents at a garbage dump (The Philippines)



A young girl and boy (East Timor)

The Sale and Trafficking of Children for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation

Some children are subject to sale or trafficking for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation such as prostitution or production of child pornography. Transborder sale/trafficking of persons, especially women and children, often involves organized criminal groups and poses a serious threat to the international society. While there exist no accurate statistics of the number of trafficked children, it is an undeniable fact that many children have been trafficked from poor farming regions to nearby countries or developed countries and subjected to commercial sexual exploitation such as prostitution and production of child pornography. It is the responsibility of the international community to both put an end to this kind of trafficking in children, as well as to help return them to their own countries.

Trafficking

Child Trafficking

Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime defines trafficking in person as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion..., for the purpose of exploitation which includes sexual exploitation and forced labor and oblige State Parties to criminalize such activities. The Protocol also provides for the protection of victims of trafficking.





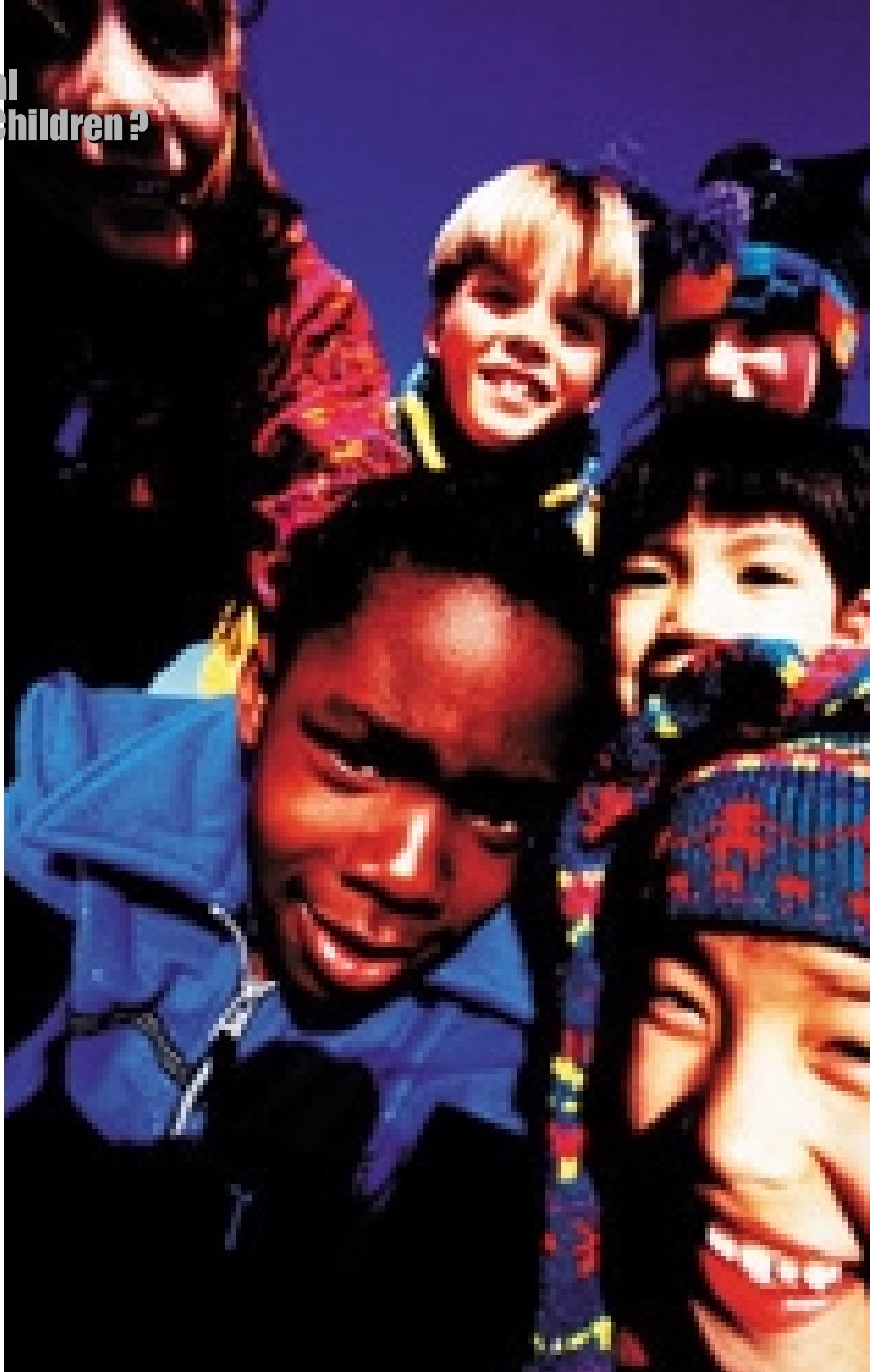
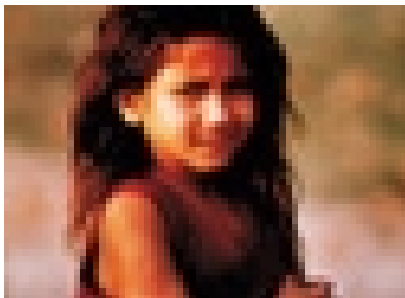
What is the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children?

The Effects on Child Victims of Sexual Exploitation

Children who are victims of sexual exploitation and who have been sold or trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation are separated from their families, have their freedom restricted, and no longer have adequate educational or health facilities available to them. Those who have been forced into labor or have been victims of violence or sexual abuse receive both physical as well as psychological injury and trauma. HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, social stigmatization for having been involved in the sex industry, illness and lack of education are some of the factors that make social reintegration difficult. These and other factors often have serious consequences that are both physically and psychologically life threatening. It is imperative that we support activities for the protection of child victims to sexual exploitation, and prevent the recurrence of such exploitation by facilitating their mental and physical recovery and reintegration into society.



Mother with HIV/AIDS holding her daughter who has contracted HIV/AIDS (Thailand)



Young girls carrying water from a watering area (Myanmar)

Causes of the commercial sexual exploitation of children

There is a range of complex contributing factors behind the causes of the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

Poverty and Inequitable Socio- Economic Structures

Poverty and inequitable socio-economic structures are two of the greatest causes of forced child labour and the sale of children. Working children and those who have been bought or sold are very vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation.

Family Dysfunction

Family is an important place for the protection of children. Sexual abuse and other domestic problems, however, can alienate children and leads to involvement in prostitution.

Lack of Education

Education is extremely important for prevention of the commercial sexual exploitation of children. There are many children in the world, however, who cannot complete basic education.

Growing Consumerism and Materialism

Attitudes in favor of consumerism tend to diffuse ignorance of the violation of children's rights by commercial sexual exploitation, and this can lead to an attitude regarding children as "sexual commodities."

Globalization and the IT Revolution

The globalization that has accompanied an increase in the movement of people and advances in information technology is a cause in the rise in child prostitution at travel destinations, transborder sale and trafficking in children, and the production of child pornography and its distribution via the Internet.

The Activities of Criminal Organizations

Criminal organizations have become involved in the commercial sexual exploitation of children for purposes of economic profit.

Some Men's Irresponsible Sexual Behavior

The demand for sexual pleasure derived from children is causing an increase in the sexual exploitation of children in the forms of child prostitution and child pornography.

Gender Discrimination

Discriminatory practices and traditions toward children, and especially young girls, lead to the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

Armed Conflict

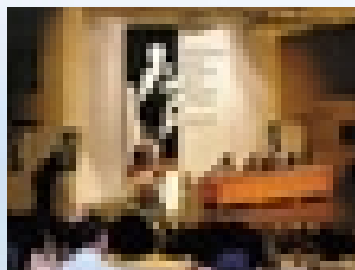
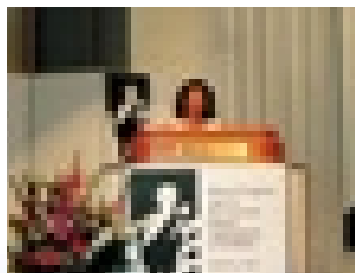
International and civil warfare lead to economic and social destruction, as well as to the spread of violence toward those in socially weak positions, and most notably children. It promotes further commercial sexual exploitation of children and hampers efforts to prevent such exploitation.



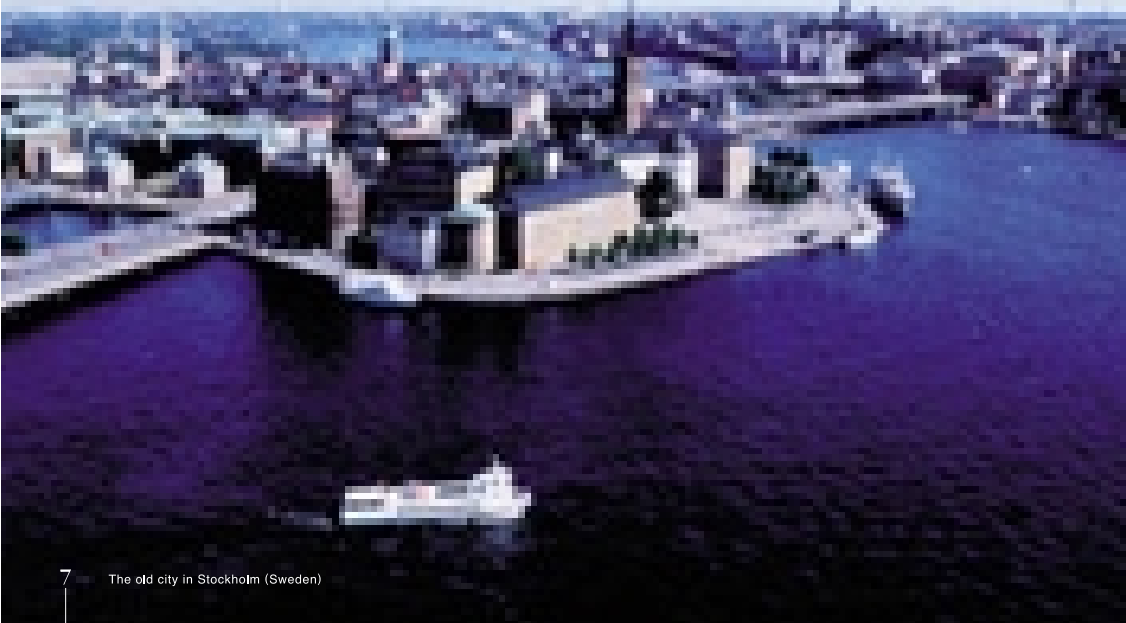
The First World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Measures Taken by International Community

Overview of the first World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

The first World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children was held from 27 to 31 August 1996 in Stockholm, Sweden, hosted by the Swedish government, in cooperation with UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), ECPAT, and the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Approximately 700 government representatives from 122 countries including Japan, and more than 1300 people from approximately 20 international organizations, NGOs, the tourism industry, the mass media etc. from approximately 130 countries participated in the Congress, and contributed to raising the international awareness of the problem of commercial sexual exploitation of children. A "Declaration" and "Agenda for Action" were adopted at this World Congress. The "Agenda for Action" calls for cooperative action from all States, all sectors of society, and regional and international organizations for the eradication of commercial sexual exploitation of children, the protection and recovery of children, their reintegration into society and the family, and the enhancement of their participation in activities related to preventing and eliminating the commercial sexual exploitation of children. There is also a call in the Agenda for Action that all countries have a national plan of action against commercial sexual exploitation developed by the year 2000. According to follow-up surveys of the World Congress undertaken by ECPAT as of 10 August 2000, 33 countries and 1 region have developed their national plan of action, and 26 countries are in the process of doing so (Note: this includes general plans for the protection of children which includes measures against commercial sexual exploitation). The Japanese government developed its national plan of action in February 2001.

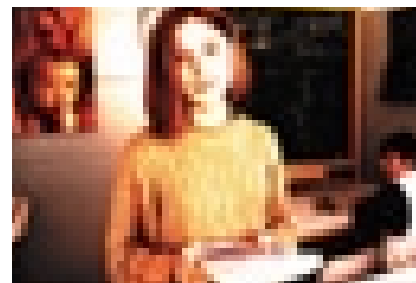


The First World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (Her Majesty Queen Sylvia of Sweden (above))



Progress made since the First World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

Since 1996, various measures in policy and legislation have been taken such as raising the age of children who should be protected from sexual exploitation and the introduction of provisions which penalize offences committed abroad. Additionally, since 1996, a variety of international legal instruments related to the commercial sexual exploitation of children have been adopted or are in negotiation.



Young boy and girl studying in a moving classroom at a hospital (Yugoslavia)

Countries and regions that have completed or will complete national plans of action

Source: Looking Back, Thinking Forward (ECPAT International Publications) as of August 2000

- Countries and regions that have developed national plan of action
- Countries and regions preparing national plan of action



Related Conventions Adopted since 1996 or in Negotiation

Convention on Cyber-Crime

The Council of Europe has been deliberating over measures to fight against computer-related crimes since February 1997. They worked vigorously to reach consensus on the text and the final draft was approved by its committee on Crime Problems. This final draft of the convention emphasizes the need for international cooperation in criminalizing and suppressing activities related to child pornography over the Internet.

Convention Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (ILO No. 182)

On 17 June 1999, the International Labour Organization (ILO) adopted this convention at the 87th International Labour Conference, which stipulates that the use of children for the purposes of prostitution and pornography is one of the "worst forms of child labour," and the Parties are required to take immediate and effective measures toward the elimination of such acts.

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography

Articles 34 and 35 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (ratified by Japan on 22 April 1994) stipulate that States Parties undertake to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, and that States Parties shall take all appropriate national, bilateral, and multilateral measures to prevent the abduction of, the sale of or traffic in children. The Optional Protocol to this Convention, which was adopted at the 54th session of the U.N. General Assembly on 25 May 2000, criminalizes acts related to sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and prescribes the protection of the rights of child victims during the criminal justice process, prevention of such acts, and the promotion of international cooperation in order to protect children from such acts.

Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

This Protocol, adopted on 15 November 2000 at the 55th U.N. General Assembly, prescribes measures to be taken by State Parties to prevent the trafficking of persons including children, to penalize offenders and protect the child victims, and to promote international cooperation and cooperation between governments and NGOs.



Japan's Action Plan against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

The Law for Punishing Acts Related to Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and for Protection of Children took effect on 1 November 1999. This law defines a child as a person under the age of 18 and prescribes the punishment of the acts related to the child prostitution, child pornography and trade in children for such purposes. Such activities will be penalized regardless of whether or not a complaint has been lodged by the victim. This law also provides for the penalization of Japanese nationals who are involved in child prostitution and the production of child pornography abroad. Japan is actively promoting enforcement of this law. In February 2001, Japan completed Japan's Action Plan against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in which measures are laid out for the prevention of the commercial sexual exploitation of children, the effective enforcement of related laws, and the recovery of child victims. The Japanese government is also lending its support through providing financial contributions to such organizations as UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), the U.N. Trust Fund for Contemporary Forms of Slavery, the U.N. Center for International Crime Prevention, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), to promote projects for the eradication of the commercial sexual exploitation of children abroad. Japan is also supporting NGOs working to protect child victims of commercial sexual exploitation in developing countries (support for job training and health facilities, etc.) through grant assistance for grassroots projects and subsidies to NGO projects.



Girls talking on a bench (Yugoslavia)

Aid for the Spread of Basic Education for Girls

It has been confirmed by the Agenda for Action that basic education, which is the basis for ensuring a brighter and happier future, is effective in preventing commercial sexual exploitation of children. Japan has contributed to girls education program by UNICEF in Bhutan, Myanmar, Cambodia, Mauritania, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Vietnam, Senegal, Laos, Gambia, Afghanistan, and Kenya, to raise the school enrollment rate as well as improve the quality of education.

Support for the Participation of Young People

Japan provided grant assistance for grassroots projects to the ECPAT International Conference for Young People held in Manila in May 2000. Approximately 150 young people from the ages of 14 to late twenties from 29 countries participated in this conference and organized regional workshops and panel exhibitions to introduce the present state of the commercial sexual exploitation of children and measures being taken against it. In this conference, the participation of children/youth in finding solution to these problems was appealed by activities such as "Art workshop" which expresses the importance of the rights of children through an original drama played by children.



Young people participating in the ECPAT International Conference for Young People



The Second World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

Since the First World Congress in 1996, the international community and governments have been working toward eradication of the commercial sexual exploitation of children, but the world is not yet free from these kinds of grave violation of the rights of the children. The Second World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children will further strengthen efforts by the international community through discussions on good practices and lessons learned and evaluation of the progress in implementing the Declaration and Agenda for Action adopted in 1996 at the World Congress attended by governments, international organizations, NGOs, and other concerned organizations and individuals. The Second World Congress will be held in Yokohama from 17 to 20 December 2001 by the Japanese government, in cooperation with UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), ECPAT International, and the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The main themes of this Congress will be "child pornography," "prevention, protection, and recovery of children from sexual exploitation," "trafficking in children," "role and involvement of the private sector," "legislation and law enforcement," and "profile of the sex exploiter."



Pacifico Yokohama Conference Center

Second World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

Dates: December 17 (Mon.) ~ 20 (Th.), 2001

Location: Yokohama / Pacifico Yokohama Conference Center

ECPAT

End Child Prostitution Child Pornography & Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes

An NGO established in 1990 and working for the eradication of child prostitution by tourists in Asia. In 1996, ECPAT extended their scope of activity to the whole world and the problems of the trafficking of children for the purpose of sexual exploitation and child pornography. They accordingly changed their name from the original (End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism) to its present form. In the same year ECPAT became a co-organizer of the First World Congress.

For more information about ECPAT, please visit their homepage.

<http://www.ecpat.net>

NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child

The NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Headquartered in Geneva, the group is an NGO network working to protect and promote the rights of the child. They cosponsored the first World Congress with ECPAT.

For more information about NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child, please visit their homepage.

<http://www.focalpointngo.org>

UNICEF

United Nations Children's Fund

UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) was established in 1946 in a resolution of the first session of the General Assembly of the United Nations to provide emergency relief to children in areas devastated by war. UNICEF implements programs for health and education of children as an agency for the children in developing countries or disaster areas.

For more information about UNICEF, please visit their homepage.

<http://www.unicef.org>

Information on the Second World Congress is available on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (<http://www.mofa.go.jp>) homepage. Related information from the co-organizers ECPAT International, NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF, and Japan Committee for UNICEF (<http://www.unicef.or.jp>) can also be accessed.

The children who appear in the photographs in this pamphlet have no relation to the contents within.