

Stockholm Congress Regional Meeting: Asia and Pacific

Participants decided to divide into four sub-regional groups: West Asia/Middle East; South Asia; South-East Asia and Mekong countries; Pacific.

Summary of major points from the region:

Prevention

1. Priority focus needs to be given to:
 - strengthening and supporting the family;
 - special emphasis on the girl child and gender issues;
 - empowerment of the community;
 - action for improved support and protection for vulnerable, marginalized groups (ie migrant workers, indigenous groups, illegal aliens);
 - reinforcement of cultural and spiritual values.
2. Increased efforts to raise awareness through educational networks, institutions and especially at the grassroots level regarding:
 - CSEC;
 - the CRC;
 - national laws and policies which protect women and children.
3. Promotion of increased action through existing regional bodies and/or new mechanisms for inter-country collaboration to address:
 - data collection and monitoring systems;
 - efficient information sharing systems;
 - improved border control;
 - synchronization of legal procedures;
 - establishing and monitoring goals.
4. Advocacy for increased prioritization of support for social development in conjunction with economic development from international and regional aid organizations and regional bodies.
5. Increased attention to and understanding of other forms of sexual exploitation and abuse of children, including child labour in the informal sector, which may lead to and promote CSEC.

Intervention

1. Promote action on national and regional levels to strengthen the capacity, awareness and conduct of police/law enforcement personnel.
2. Establish regional and international mechanisms for prosecution and extradition of sex abusers.
3. Increase child/youth participation in raising awareness, planning, intervention activities and monitoring.
4. Widely disseminate the Manila Declaration on the CRC and the Media.

5. Mobilize cooperation and funding support for efforts to address the problem of CSEC through: the private sector; business groups; ODA, ADB, World Bank.

Proposed regional forums beyond Stockholm

1. Support Mekong Law Centre's proposal for a regional conference on the trafficking of women and children in February 1997;
2. Regional youth congress on CSEC;
3. A regional meeting of governments, UN bodies, international organizations and NGOs to develop five-year goals and plans.