



Report to ECPAT International board, October 2007

Youth Board Member, ECPAT International Child and Youth Advisory Committee

EICYAC Annual meeting: Kathmandu, July 23rd - 27th

EICYAC members from North America, Eastern and Western Europe, Africa, South and East Asia and the youth board member met for four days in Kathmandu to report back on activities and discuss future projects. The meeting was also attended by the Executive Director, Deputy Director, Care and Protection Officer and Child and Youth Participation officer. The main reason for hosting the meeting in Nepal was to provide an opportunity for EICYAC to meet with and learn from the Youth Partnership Project. EICYAC visited the Maiti Nepal Shelter, and also a school in which an outreach program is being carried out. This was a very enriching experience for all EICYAC members, and EICYAC is very grateful to ECPAT international for giving us the opportunity to meet with the Youth Partnership Project.

All EICYAC members developed pledge sheets in which they outlined planned projects and they committed to EICYAC work over the next 12 months. The report from the annual meeting will be finalized shortly.

Outcomes of Annual Meeting / Ongoing EICYAC activities:

- EICYAC is currently involved in the last section of an online advocacy course, in which we are forming an EICYAC advocacy strategy.
- Part of our upcoming advocacy work will be to comment on the draft General Comment on Article 12 in the CRC, by the Committee on the Convention of the Rights of the Child.
- Two other strategies that are being developed in the coming months are a Networking strategy, and a Strategy for sharing and exchanging information, which are two of EICYAC's main goals.
- Our new website Eicyac.org - is up and running; but is still being updated

and worked on by EICYAC and secretariat staff. Additional information and more links will be added.

- Finalizing Child and Youth database. The deadline has been extended since it has proved a bit challenging in some regions: all groups have not come back with information.
- There are plans to review the selection and election process for the new EICYAC and form a strategy on how to meaningfully involve 2nd / 3rd runner ups, as well as the whole network of youth in the region.
- An EICYAC guidebook will be developed for newcomers in EICYAC, and next EICYAC, and we are currently working on finding best solutions for archiving EICYAC information.
- All EICYAC members will carry out micro projects in the year 2007/2008.
- Preparations for World Congress III - distribution of letter regarding Consultation tool (see more in the last section of this report)

Regional Work and Events:

Youth Board Member

The youth board member is coordinating the advocacy course and in forming the advocacy strategy as well as developing the network strategy for EICYAC. In the last months, she has attended two international events; A human rights leadership course hosted by UNESCO Chair & Institute of Comparative Human Rights, University of Connecticut; and Oxfam International Youth Partnership.

Eastern Europe

- Youth training was held in Belgrade with youth from 10 East European countries participating. This was followed up with a meeting held in Prague 2006, and at the meeting, a regional action plan was developed, and significant input was gathered regarding youth participation and the 3rd World Congress. The idea of micro projects was shared, and several participants showed an interest.
- A Serbian micro project is being developed: Translating ECPAT brochure "Questions and Answers about CSEC" and making a child friendly version of this.

- Regional event 19th of November – youth from 10 East Europe and CIS countries agreed to celebrate (day against abuse of children) with joint activities.
- E bulletin – youth from East Europe and CIS started contributing to E bulletin.
- Eastern European will be attending the OSCE Conference "Combating sexual exploitation of children" on the 18th and 19th of October. A speech has been prepared, created by eastern European youth.

Western Europe

- The Western European representative has besides working on the Child and Youth database and other ongoing EICYAC activities, started working on an introduction / guide to EICYAC. She is also currently starting to work with Lonely Planet on inserts with information on how to report Child sex tourism.
- Participated as observer in the Youth meeting in Serbia
- Together with the Eastern European representative, Participate in the OSCE conference on "Combating sexual exploitation of children" on the 18th and 19th of October.

Africa

- The African Representative, attended the Conference on Child Sexual Abuse, organized by ANPPCAN (African Network for the Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect). It was the first ever International conference to be held in Africa on Child Sexual Abuse, and it was attended by professionals, civil society as well as the local government.
- Micro Project is under development: To produce a booklet: 'Youth and the Media': African Youth experience. This booklet will educate/inform children and youth on how to go about forming an advocacy group; how to best use their resources; and best practices from other successful youth advocacy groups.

North America

The North American Representative is currently working for the Federal Committee against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth, where she will write a project proposal for a four phase project including research with service providers and experiential persons, a conceptualizing stage, implementation of several projects and

evaluation. She is also working on developing a micro project proposal.

Role of EICYAC in planning for Child and Youth Participation at the World Congress III

Objective: EICYAC should work to ensure that a strong child and youth voice is heard, and influences the whole congress process. Child and Youth participation should be meaningful, safe, ethical and beneficial to all participants.

When children and youth are given the attention of global INGO's and governments, it is our role to make sure they are fully informed and prepared – and aware of the potential, opportunities, but also challenges that come with participating in a congress, and the strategic possibilities. For any youth to be able to prepare a message, at any stage of the process, they must realize the scope and impact of a congress.

First step must be to clearly define the role of EICYAC:

What can / should we realistically do /not do?

How do we work with the board, secretariat and ECPAT groups?

In general, the role of EICYAC should be to provide channels/ forum/ platforms for youth to influence the congress at all stages. Youth should not only have a say regarding youth participation, but the overall themes. EICYAC should furthermore strive to make sure that there is a substantial youth participation component at the congress.

1. (Await official announcement from government?) - Start working right now.
2. Contact youth participants from 1st and 2nd congress to create reference groups, some of which might want to take a more active role. Find out what has been good / could have been done better at earlier congresses.
3. Contact and engage former EICYAC members and those who are runner up to EICYAC in the regions.
4. Look at the many resources about child participation at international events, to draw from experience.
5. Look at ongoing global, regional and national youth activities, that would make it easier to mobilize (This relates to developing "Networking strategy")

6. Link closer with YPP in preparing for the congress. YPP are already planning for active participation at this event.
7. Each EICYAC member to take a responsibility for their region: assisting youth groups, answering queries, encourage input etc.
8. Consultation tool:
 - Each EICYAC member input to the consultation tool,
 - Encourage youth input from the network, (Child and Youth friendly letter has already been sent out)
 - Monitor youth input to this site: If little activity, inquire whether more child friendly instructions or explanations are needed. Discuss how to reach youth groups without access to internet: How can they input?
 - Questions have been raised relating to the difficulty of using the Consultation tool which needs to be addressed.
9. At regional meetings: Gather input from youth! Maximize useful avenue - A session for gathering input on world Congress III can be integrated in all meetings.
10. Follow up on the declarations the youth made at the first and second congress. Which promises have been kept and what remains?
11. Advocacy messages – start thinking about what are the common themes.