Child Safe Tourism – the new approach to combatting child sexual exploitation in travel and tourism

Seminar on Transnational cooperation and corporate social responsibility: an enabler for protection of children from sexual exploitation in travel and tourism

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Project Childhood – Prevention Pillar
Who are we

• AusAID initiative, Project Childhood
• Working against child sexual exploitation in travel and tourism
• Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam
• Prevention (World Vision) and Protection (UNODC/INTERPOL)
Situational context
Rapid tourism growth

• Cambodia – over 2.5m IVAs from Jan-Sept 2012; 15% increase
• Laos – over 2.4m IVAs from Jan-Sept 2012; 12% increase
• Thailand – over 22m in 2012; almost 16% increase
• Vietnam – over 6m IVAs from Jan-Nov 2012; 11.4% increase
Children on the street
Children in exploitation
Children are easily accessible
Working with communities
Findings from the field

- Limited understanding about ‘sexual abuse’ (penetrative rape only)
- Limited understanding about who is an offender (strangers and outsiders, foreigners)
- Overemphasis on girls’ virginity / insufficient protection of boys
Educative tools and messages – children and young people

• You have a right to be safe
• You have a right to say NO to a person who touches you inappropriately or threatens safety
• It’s important to TELL trusted adults about such situations
Educative tools and messages – parents and carers

- Be well-informed
- Build an open & trusting relationship with your children
- Teach your children protective strategies
- Be aware and know who to contact for help
Educative tools and messages – community representatives

- Raise awareness and stimulate open dialogue
- Implement prevention strategies, incl making schools/child care facilities safer
- Be aware and take action if a child is at risk
National Child Helplines

• Strengthen capacity
• Support integration into child protection systems
• Encourage sustainability of service provision
Working with the Tourism Industry
Child Safe Tourism
Take action against abuse
Findings from our market research

- Sex industry (20.5%)
- Tour guide (25.5%)
- Street performing (38%)
- In hotel or restaurant (48.5%)
- Collecting rubbish (33.7%)
- Begging (81.2%)
- Selling souvenirs (85%)
- None (6.9%)
Findings from our market research

• 19.5% felt they had enough information to protect children
• 48.2% said that prior to departure, they had not received or accessed any information on how to protect children in the region
• 84.8% wanted more information on the issue
Small actions, big changes. The choices you make can impact children’s lives.

Children rely on adults to keep them safe from abuse. No matter where we are, we carry this responsibility with us. As travellers, we have the potential to help or harm the communities we visit. Be a child safe traveller.
Child Safe Tourism Campaign

Help protect our children –
Be a Child Safe Traveller

If you see a child you believe is at risk of abuse, please call 1191 or 1362.
To learn more about what you can do to help protect children while travelling abroad, visit www.childsafetourism.org.

www.childsafetourism.org
Child Safe Tourism is tourism which;

1. Recognises its potential role in and impact on child exploitation
2. Takes responsibility to minimise harmful impact, direct or indirect, on vulnerable children
3. Takes an active role in strengthening and maintaining a safe environment for all children
Tourism Sector Training

• Links between child exploitation and tourism
• Child safe tourism practices and standards
• Helping businesses understand what their travelling client want
Working with Government Partners

- Ministries of Social Affairs and Tourism
- Collaboration in Tourism Sector Training
- Partners of child safe tourism campaign
- Vietnam – Inter-Ministerial Work Plan on child safe tourism
Emerging best practices
Role of the Media;

• Promotion of child safe tourism
• Discussions & conversations
• Further information
Ethical traveller: Giving money to street kids

In Travel Tips | 11 January 2012 | By Lori Robertson
Tourists and the child exploitation industry

Published: 27/09/2011 at 02:24 AM
Newspaper section: News

Travellers and expats in Thailand know the scene of child poverty well. A six-year-old girl, sitting neatly on a mat, painted in bright red lipstick, with a woman sitting nearby, begging for money. A 12-year-old boy, selling chewing gum at 11pm in an adult entertainment area: he impresses you with his cheeky smile and English gift of the gab.

In sticky moments like these you want to help, as feelings of pity and awkwardness tell you that something isn't right. You might end up handing over some coins. Whatever you do, you are left with an uncomfortable feeling that you have not really made any difference to help the life of this unfortunate child. Now add another dimension to the thought — what if the next person they approach wants something in return for their 50 baht?
Volunteer Travel and Child Protection - Let's demand that we do better

<< back to all blogs

11 Jun 2012
By: Sallie Grayson

RT @WTM_London: Find out how travel bloggers can help to change a destinations reputation in the latest #WTM2012 blog http://t.co/5datq4QZ

@WTM_LONDON for the latest from Twitter
Company standards
Corporate Child Protection Charter

Companies in Thailand are leading the way in combating child sexual exploitation by way of signing the CEOP Corporate Child Protection Charter. This initiative led by CEOP and the British Chamber of Commerce Thailand (BCCT) aims to raise awareness of child exploitation issues and to encourage all sectors of society to work to safeguard children.

In signing this important Charter, companies are stating their commitment to the principle of making every child matter, everywhere.

Our pledge

Our pledge to children and young people who are suffering, or at risk of suffering abuse or neglect is that we will:
British Airways
Standard Charter Bank Thailand
European Safety Concepts
Mackenzie Smith Law
Jones Lang LaSalle
Manpower
Sutlet Group
Intrepid Travel

responsible travel

Intrepid is committed to travelling in a way that is respectful of local people, their culture, local economies and the environment. With your participation we can help conserve the areas we visit and bring positive benefits to our host communities.

The Intrepid Foundation

Find out how travellers are making a difference and how you can help.

www.theintrepidfoundation.org

contact us

Please contact us directly if you have any further queries.

Contact us...
Proactive pro-child business
Koto, Hanoi

Find the best restaurant in town.

61 Pho Van Mieu, Hanoi, Vietnam
+84 4 747 0337

Ranked #10 of 380 restaurants in Hanoi
4.5 out of 5 based on 384 Reviews

Good for: Families with children, Large groups, Local cuisine

Dining options: Breakfast/Brunch, Lunch, Dinner, Reservations, Delivery, Late Night, Dessert

Hotels travelers are raving about...

Hanoi Elegance Diamond Hotel
4.5 out of 5 based on 856 Reviews
Hanoi, Vietnam

Essence Hanoi Hotel
4.5 out of 5 based on 224 Reviews
Hanoi, Vietnam

Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi
4.5 out of 5 based on 1,319 Reviews
Hanoi, Vietnam

All hotels in Hanoi (436)
Friends Restaurant

House 215, Street 13, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
(+855) 12 802 072

Ranked #1 of 313 restaurants in Phnom Penh

486 Reviews

Price range: $5 - $10

Good for: Families with children, Large groups, Doing business, Local cuisine, Special occasions, Entertaining clients

Dining options: Breakfast/Brunch, Lunch, Dinner, Reservations, Takeout, Late Night, Dessert

Update restaurant details
Romdeng
74 Street 174, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
092-219-565

Ranked #2 of 313 restaurants in Phnom Penh

Cuisines: Asian

Good for: Families with children, Romance, Large groups, Doing business, Local cuisine, Special occasions, Entertaining clients

Dining options: Breakfast/Brunch, Lunch, Dinner, Reservations, Late Night, Dessert

Update restaurant details

84 visitor photos

Hotels travelers are raving about...

Hotel Nine
Phnom Penh, Cambodia
123 Reviews

Eureka Villas Phnom Penh
Phnom Penh, Cambodia
149 Reviews

The Kabiki
Phnom Penh, Cambodia
195 Reviews

All hotels in Phnom Penh (171)
Makphet Restaurant: Restaurant Reviews

Sethathirat Rd | Chanthabouly District, Vientiane 01000, Laos
021 260587  Website

Ranked #1 of 130 restaurants in Vientiane
5 stars 130 Reviews

Price range: $5 - $10

Good for: Families with children, Romance, Local cuisine, Special occasions, Entertaining clients, Dining on a budget

Dining options: Breakfast/Brunch, Lunch, Dinner, Reservations, Late Night, Dessert

Update restaurant details

41 visitor photos

steamed chilli and pork  shop inside restaurant  Pre service - make sure you book!

Hotels travelers are raving about...

Vayakorn Inn 44 Reviews
Phasouk Residence 18 Reviews
Ansara Hotel 65 Reviews

Vientiane (63)
If the tourism Industry is the largest sector in the world?

These efforts are too small and isolated.
What else do we need?
Responsible Tourism Agenda to include child safe tourism
Responsible Tourism is tourism ‘that creates better places for people to live in, and better places to visit’.

Responsible Tourism Development Fund
More awareness and information for the tourism sector and travellers
More ethical choices for travellers
More safeguards for children
Promoting child safe tourism innovations in the private sector
Child Safe Survey - snapshot

- 65% purchased goods that benefited local community
- 30% toured through a slum or other marginalised community
- Child Protection policy for a business would positively influence purchasing decision (51%, 31%, 12%)
- 50% received no information about child abuse or exploitation in tourism
Thank you