

**COP Partners' Ongoing Project Summary**  
(based on ITU Secretary General's call for action 2009)

Name of the Partner Organization: ECPAT International

*Area 1: Create public awareness on the issues related to protecting children in cyberspace and to share policies, best practices, tools and resources*

Name of the program related to Area 1 :  
Combating child exploitation in cyberspace

Website : [www.ecpat.net](http://www.ecpat.net)

Short summary (please list any relevant partners):

ECPAT International is a global network engaged in the fight against commercial sexual exploitation of children. Many of the network of organizations that ECPAT brings together globally focuses on protecting children in the online environment and has taken up various initiatives that are shaping up the work in their respective regions. For example, in Latin America, ECPAT partnered with other agencies such as Save the Children, Chicos.net and Google to involve children and youth in creating videos that raise awareness and understanding on online interactions and safety issues. The videos were created by youth working under close guidance and guideline created by the organizers. The videos were submitted as part of a competition and posted on youtube. The youth showed remarkable creativity and enthusiasm in creating the videos and were able to express their opinions and concerns not only with other peers but with adults as well.

An online training course for educators and NGOs were also run (in Spanish) in this region with very positive attendance and feedback from the participants. It is expected to be made available outside of the Latin American region in the coming periods.

ECPAT Network regularly participates in the annual Safer Internet Day and the member groups organizes events, workshops, media launches to create public awareness in their respective countries. In 2010 also ECPAT participated in the SID and posted blog on the official website of the SID while encouraging the members to actively engage with children and youth in their local jurisdictions. More information about the work done in this regard can be found on the SID official website: [www.saferinternet.org](http://www.saferinternet.org)

ECPAT International has launched innovative campaigns such as the Make-IT-Safe campaign under which special projects had been developed for working with cybercafés in some African and Asian countries. Specially trained youth ambassadors led the campaign targeting the café owners and explaining to them the vulnerabilities and risks that can exist in such locations if proper measures are not taken. The campaign has produced a lot of resource materials such as leaflets, posters, T-shirts and Caps and has developed an identity of its own. In Thailand similar project has been launched targeting the café owners and the schools in the north of Thailand. Radio spots and other media forms had been used to target the local population to disseminate more information related to the campaign.

ECPAT network in CIS region and in parts of Africa has also conducted training of school children and teachers to orient them on the risks related to Cyberspace and had conducted special consultations with youth to incorporate the suggestions in the learning tools.

ECPAT continues to produce publications highlighting the need to protect children online such as the report on “Violation against children in Cyberspace” that was produced as a contribution to the UN commissioned report on Violence against children. The publication has been translated in multiple languages and has been widely distributed.

ECPAT has also been the key mover and organizer behind the World Congress against sexual exploitation of children which took place in Brazil in 2008 and in the process has published several thematic papers touching on the psycho-social impact of child sexual abuse images and also one on law enforcement response to combat such crimes. ECPAT continues to work globally to create awareness among public on the issue of sexual exploitation of children in the online environment through its network members in 80 countries and links with all stakeholders such as government representatives, law enforcement, private sector , media and other non government and International agencies.

Additional information if any :

*Area 2: Assist countries in developing a national approach to protecting children online*

Name of the program related to Area 2 :  
Country reports by ECPAT International

Website : [www.ecpat.net](http://www.ecpat.net)

Short summary :

As a core mandate of the work that ECPAT does, country reports analyzing the situation of state of protection of children in all the countries that ECPAT has membership, is produced by ECPAT International (link provided below). The work does not only revolve around the cyberspace issues but all manifestations of commercial sexual exploitation of children such as child prostitution, child trafficking and child sex tourism. Reports include legal analysis of child pornography laws and case studies that impact the protection of children in the online environment. The detailed framework for such work has been laid by the Declaration of the Agenda for Action that was adopted by 122 countries present during the First World congress against sexual exploitation of children in Stockholm in 1996. The reports produced by ECPAT International are extensively used by the states while reporting back to the CRC.

ECPAT International Secretariat is constantly asked for advice on technical matters and is invited as a specialized resource to present in International seminars and events to provide key recommendations and guiding directions.

ECPAT presented in the cybercrime conference organized by ITU in Hyderabad in 2009 as the only child protection agency and the presentations and subsequent discussions allowed the protection of children to be included in the outcome document of the conference , flagging the urgency and need to include it in the discussions of combating cybercrimes.

ECPAT also presented as panelist at the Council of Europe conference on Cybercrime “ Octopus Interface Conference 2010” whereby issues related to the protection of children from sexual exploitation was presented. Specific attention was drawn at the increasing occurrence of the real time sexual exploitation of children using webcams from developing countries where investigation is often difficult because of the non static nature of the content and usage of online financial services that does not capture the transfer of payment

for purchasing sexually exploitative materials.

ECPAT is a member of the Financial Coalition against child pornography in Asia Pacific region and contributes with information and shares best practices and also helps in the expansion of the work of the coalition in different countries.

Additional information if any :

*Area 3: Identify risks and vulnerabilities to children in cyberspace*

Name of the program related to the Area 3 :  
ECPAT activities

Website : [www.ecpat.net](http://www.ecpat.net)

Short summary :

The specific connections that the various ECPAT member groups establish at the ground level , particularly working closely with the community in different countries around the world helps ECPAT to understand the issues affecting children in a very different way. The type of vulnerabilities, gender factors, cultural context (such as early marriage, issue of HIV AIDS in Africa) or economic conditions vary from one country to another and types of risks also vary considerably. A research paper was published by ECPAT International touching on 6 countries (3 as sender and 3 as destination) that dealt with the factors and issues linking development of ICTs and child sexual tourism and how the cyberspace is offering more avenues for traveling offenders. The publication can be found on the ECPAT website at: [www.ecpat.net/EI/Publications/Journals/ECPAT%20Journal\\_Mar2010\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.ecpat.net/EI/Publications/Journals/ECPAT%20Journal_Mar2010_FINAL.pdf)

Working with marginalized community and victims of commercial sexual exploitation of children in countries around the world (all continents) allow the work of ECPAT to be guided with knowledge from the field as well as keep abreast with the development that is happening in such countries in relation to cyberspace. Consultation with children and their peers, parents, educators and practitioners allow better understanding of the risks related to children online. The fact that Mobile phone plays a big role in the life of the child is often recognized when interviews are conducted with children and in forums that allow them to voice their opinion openly with the caregivers and guardians. This affinity for modern ways of communications using social networks (even through the mobile phones) has been found uniformly across the globe (with the exceptions of some very poor countries where children and youth are yet to get their hands on to such devices).

Additional information if any :

*Area 5: Promote capacity building to contribute to and strengthen the global response in protecting children*

Name of the program related to Area 5 :  
Dynamic Coalition on Child Online Safety at the Internet Governance forum

Website :

Short summary :

ECPAT is the chair of the dynamic coalition on Child Online safety at the IGF and has been engaging in this platform since the inception of the WSIS. Currently ECPAT facilitates the session of the dynamic coalition on Child online safety at the IGF and also plays a key role in

lobbying for child protection at the International advocacy forum. By raising key questions, presenting state of affairs of the protection of children in different countries where ECPAT works and by suitably linking with other relevant agencies to share expertise and learn from others, the efforts to create an enabling environment for children in cyberspace is constantly strengthened. ECPAT also organizes other panels and workshops at the IGF that focus on the same issue but looking at pragmatic approaches of combating such challenges and offers recommendations in that regard.

A proposal for a workshop to look at the development of specific indicators in monitoring the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Protecting children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse has been made for the upcoming workshop in Vilnius, 2010 and it is hoped that that workshop will enable to propel discussions and actions in that regard.

ECPAT International also contributed papers and participated in the forum conducted by the Oxford Internet Institute where the issues of protection of children in the online environment and the freedom of speech and expression was discussed. The paper can be found on the OII website.

ECPAT actively supports its network members who run Internet reporting Hotlines for dealing with child abuse images on the Internet and other forms of sexual exploitation online. ECPAT has been working with GSMA to develop a tool kit for assisting with the establishment of new hotlines. A hotline training workshop will be conducted in May in Taiwan along with an open forum bringing relevant agencies such as private sector (IT industry, financial institutes) law enforcement and civil society members together to brainstorm key challenges that hinder progress in that direction.