

New York, 26 February – 9 March 2007

**PANEL II**

Submitted by

Amaryllis T. Torres  
National Commission on the  
Role of Filipino Women  
Philippines

\* The views expressed in this paper are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the United Nations.

1. My task this afternoon is to share with you some of the initiatives that have been taken by the Philippine government to address issues of discrimination and violence against girl-children engaged in child labour. In this presentation, I will first describe the national framework and mandates for Gender Mainstreaming and for safeguarding children's rights. Following this overview, a short situationer on Child Labour will be provided. Finally, I will describe a project I implemented as part of the preparatory activities for the implementation of ILO-IPEC's Philippine Time-Bound Programme, a significant component of the Philippines' National Programme against Child Labour (2000- 2004).

2. The (Republic Act No. 7192) provided one of the earliest legislative frameworks (1991) for the "integration of women as full and equal partners of men in development and nation-building." It specifies that a substantial portion of funds received through official development assistance (or ODA) be set aside by government for women-specific activities. It also directs government organizations "to review and revise all their regulations, circulars, issuances and procedures to remove gender bias therein." In 1995, coinciding with the Fourth World Conference on Women, the (PPGD) was adopted by the Philippine Government. As a companion document to the Philippine Medium-Term Development Plans, the PPGD provides directions for the mainstreaming of gender interests in all facets of development undertaking. Through Executive Order No. 273, former Pres. Fidel Ramos instructed all government agencies to incorporate GAD concerns in their respective planning,

neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation, and other conditions prejudicial to their development” (Philippine Constitution, Article XV, Section 3). Following this, a number of important

survey revealed that there were twice as many more boys than girls in agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing but more than half of child workers in service occupations were girls.

9. A majority of the working children were at least 10 years of age, with median ages of 14-15 years, although 7% of the girls and 6% of the boys were between the ages of 5 to 9. The most common reasons given by the children for their labour participation were economic in nature: to help in their family farme ei5b

Non-Formal Education of the Department of Education, trade unions, non-government organizations, and ILO-IPEC. One of their decisions was to undertake several in-depth studies on child labor, including the conduct of six cursory assessments on what had been identified in 1994 as among the worst forms of child labor in the country (Mantee & Cruz 2002) and Rapid Assessments on Girl-Child Labor (ILS-DOLE 2002). Thus, researches were completed on the situation of girl-child workers in the following worst forms of child labour: agriculture (particularly in sugar plantations), child prostitution, deep-sea fishing, domestic work, mining, and pyrotechnics. These special studies served as the bases for designing ILO-IPEC's Philippine Time-Bound Program, "an integrated, sector and area-based, multi-pronged, knowledge-based response implemented by a broad range of social partners," and linked to both the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan and the NPACL (Mantee & Cruz 2002:54).

16. The Strategic Policy Framework of the ILO for 2002 – 20005 explicitly refers to the fundamental role of gender as a crosscutting concern in achieving decent work for all. Its mainstreaming strategy is an integrated approach in addressing gender issues, based on equal rights and partnership between men and women, boys and girls. (PROG/EVAL Guidelines, January 1995: 3-4, in Jensen 2001). Consistent with the strategic concern of ILO for gender mainstreaming in child labour, the \_\_\_\_\_ was initiated in November 2002, five months before the Philippine Time-Bound Programme (TBP) was scheduled to commence in February 2003, in order to be able to influence the processes of effectively integrating gender concerns in all of IPEC's forthcoming activities (Torres 2004).

17. The Gender Assessment Project had three main components:

Gender analysis of documents (particularly situation analyses and rapid assessments) pertaining to each of the six priority sectors of hazardous forms of child labor in the Philippines, in order to identify the nature and patterns of gender inequalities that exist in these sectors;

Inventory of the capacity of IPEC-TBP staff and partners to address gender inequalities in efforts to remove boys and girls from the worst forms of child labor; and

Development of training and informational materials, as well as the conduct of workshops and training sessions, for ILO and IPEC staff and their partners, on key concepts, strategies and processes to address gender inequalities in the worst forms of child labor.

18. Research Framework. In this project, the causes, patterns and consequences of child labour were scrutinized in terms of gender factors that are identified in the culture, family (or household), market, and the state. Factors in the micro-setting that have been examined in previous researches include the children's own psyche, family and community reln tTD0.00. (18.)Tj/TT8 1 Tf1.25

19. Gender Assessment. This framework was applied to identify and analyze the gender dimensions in the 6 worst forms of child labour. (A summary of the gender analysis results are reproduced in Table 1 at the end of this re

23. Written and oral evaluations were carried out after every workshop. The results were generally favorable. According to the partners, the workshops had improved their knowledge and skills on gender analysis and on how to mainstream gender in child labour programmes and projects. Many were overwhelmed by “the immense work to be done by different agencies or groups” towards this goal. In terms of gender awareness, they realized the importance of gender equality in both personal and professional lives. They were concerned with the need to modify and redefine our values in order to mainstream gender equality in daily life (Torres 2004).

24. The Time-Bound Programmes that were implemented in the past two years have addressed the concerns of working girl-children in various ways (ILO-IPEC 2005). Baseline surveys were conducted in the priority sectors, which led to the identification of children at-risk. Educational assistance for their entry or retention into formal education was provided to many of these children. A study on child trafficking was completed jointly with UNICEF, which led to the adoption of a vulnerability assessment model for determining the risk to trafficking of specific sectors of children, including the predominantly female group of child domestic workers (CDWs)child rkerrW5tq n a

8

1

As partners in development,  
We service providers  
Now united  
And working together  
Towards victory,  
Will commit to and declare:  
End the worst forms of child labour!

Domestic Services	Agriculture (Sugar)	Mining & Quarrying
-------------------	------------------------	--------------------

Gender constructs favor girls as CDWs  
Girls are trained by their mothers for  
domestic work  
Parents allow daughters to work as  
CDWs because it is seen as the



Agriculture (Fishing)	Pyrotechnics	Prostitution
-----------------------	--------------	--------------

Gender constructs favor boys as fishers

Men usually work as fishers while women get employment as DWs in Cebu or Manila  
There are more males than females in the fisherfolk households  
Operators perceive that boys are easier to deal with than adults and will be



2002. Torres, Amaryllis T.