

REPORT

**NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON TIME-BOUND MEASURES
TO COMBAT CHILD LABOUR AND ITS WORST FORMS
IN VIETNAM –
HANOI, 18th SEPTEMBER 2006
FUNDED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN**

I. Background

Following the Sub-regional workshop on Implementation of the ILO Declaration on Fundamental principles and rights at the workplace organized in Jakarta - Indonesia in July 2006, the ILO Office in Vietnam with funding from the Government of Japan, and in cooperation with MoLISA, organized a National Workshop on Time-Bound Measures to Combat Child Labour and Its Worst Forms in Vietnam. The objectives of the workshop are:

- Introduction of ILO Global Report on Child labour
- Introduction of Time-Bound Programme of the ILO in Southeast Asian countries; and
- Review of policies and actions of the Government regarding elimination of the worst forms of child labour

The one day workshop was chaired by Mr. Nguyen Dai DONG, Director of the Department of Labour and Employment - MoLISA and participated 40 participants (*see annex 3- list of participants*)

II. Proceedings of the Workshop

1. Opening speeches:

- Opening speech by MoLISA:

The opening speech underlined the concern of the Government of Vietnam in implementing programmes, policies, legislation and international conventions to prevent and combat child labour; mentioned the objectives, significance and content of the workshop. The speech also expressed gratitude towards the Government of Japan and the ILO for the support in organizing this Workshop and for the overall support over the past years.

- Keynote speech by representative of the Government of Japan (attached)
- Keynote speech by the Director of the ILO Office in Vietnam (attached)

2. Reports

2.1. Introduction of the ILO Global Report on Child labour:

**Presenter: Ms. Nguyen Thi Mai OANH - National Programme Manager
ILO-IPEC Vietnam**

This Global report is a part of the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work 2006. This Global report for the first time has given us a vivid global picture of child labour. In 2004, 218 million children fell victim to child labour, in which, 126 million children worked in hazardous conditions. The proportion of girls and boys involved in child labour and working in hazardous conditions are equal in the age group of 5-11 years, but boys account for higher percentage in older age groups.

However, child labour has decreased worldwide by 11% over the past 4 years; whereas, that of children working in heavy and hazardous jobs has reduced by 26%. The proportion of children in age group of 5-14 years working in the hazardous environment has dropped dramatically by 33%. The overall picture has shown that child labour has decreased; the more hazardous their jobs are and the more vulnerable they are, the more rapidly the number has declined.

Latin America and Caribbean have made the fastest progress - child labour in these regions has diminished by 2/3 for the past 4 years, with the current rate of 5%. Sub-Saharan region in African has achieved the lowest progress. In this region, the rates of population growth, HIV/AIDS infection and child labour are still alarming.

Another positive trend mentioned in the report is related to the ILO Standards. There are many encouraging results in terms of ratification of ILO conventions in many countries in the world. While ratification of the Convention No.138 and No.182 are only the initial steps, there are many follow-up actions to eliminate child labour.

Strong political commitments, manifested in consistent and coherent policies on poverty elimination, basic education and human rights, is the key for every country to achieve progress in combating child labour both in the past and present. Economic growth alone cannot eradicate child labour even though it is essential. Sorting out policies is also very important. Policies empowering the poor are the backbone of efforts to fight against child labour. The report has given examples in East Asian countries including China and an example of Brazil to illustrate that besides poverty alleviation, universalization of education is a prerequisite for all countries to reach the turning point in combating child labour.

The report recaps historical experiences of pioneer industrial countries so as to demonstrate what will be effective in combating to child labour.

The report evaluates efforts of promoting the largest technical assistance programme of the ILO - International Program of Eliminating Child Labour (IPEC)- and mainstreaming child labour into Decent Work Agenda. IPEC is one of the international leading programmes to eliminate child labour and is the most massive ILO program. Since 2002, IPEC has reached to 5 million children. IPEC has made breakthrough in advocacy, awareness raising about the worst forms of child labour, child labour monitoring, building academic “culture” through knowledge management and mainstreaming child labour into Decent Work Agenda.

In contrast to such considerable achievements, the report also underlined major challenges. Labour in agriculture and housework are not addressed adequately in combating child labour at national and international level. Moreover, it is essential to formulate political strategies to canvass stakeholders to fight against child labour and make the full use of available networks. The report concludes that a more expansive national system of ownerships supported by workers’ and employers’ organizations and a

global movement can create an favorable environment, in which technical tools and frameworks will be brought into full play and actions combating child labour will be more effective.

Part 3 presents challenges that the global movement of combating child labour is coping with: how to mainstream effectively child labour into development framework and global humanity activities. One of the concerns is how to identify child labour issues in Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and its poverty reduction strategies. Even though child labour is not a well-defined target, it's necessary to take action against child labour to achieve Millennium Development Goals, especially education goals. The report also focuses on this issue at the national level.

The report also presents a plan of action based on an approach of 3 pillars as mentioned in Report 2002 but in a more concentrative way with clearer objectives. This part suggests that the ILO and member countries will eliminate worst forms of child labour by 2016, and member countries will carry out time-bound measure programmes by the end of 2008. To achieve these goals in 4 year's time, the ILO will make further efforts to devise comprehensive and coherent plans to eradicate child labour. A suggested plan of action is based on 3 pillars: support for national legislation on child labour, especially through mainstreaming child labour into development framework and national policies, promote global movement on child labour elimination, promote integration of child labour into the ILO's priorities and Decent Work Agenda.

2.2. Introduction of the national policies and action programs on prevention of child labour and the worst forms of child labour in Viet Nam.

Presenter: Mr. Le Quang Trung – Deputy Director of the Department of Labour and Employment- Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs.

The 1st part on Vietnamese legislation related to child labour and adolescent workers includes following issues:

- Age: According to Article 6 of Labour Code, an employee is at least 15 years old, has ability to work and signs labour contract. Article 6 specifies that a junior worker is at least 18 years old. Therefore, we can define that the age of a junior worker is from 15 to 18 years old.

Age of apprenticeship: Under Article 22 of the Labour Code, an apprentice must be at least 13 years old, except some jobs listed in MOLISA's regulations and be healthy enough to do the job.

- Conditions of employing children and junior workers:

Article 121 of the Labour Code stipulates: Employer can only hire junior workers in such jobs that are suitable with their health, to ensure physical, mental and personality development. Employer is responsible for taking care of their junior workers in terms of: salary, health and study. It is forbidden to employ junior workers in heavy, hazardous

jobs or working with toxics, working places detrimental to their dignity, according to the list of prohibited occupations issued by MOLISA.

Article 120 of Labour Code stipulates: it is illegal to employ workers under the age of 15, except some jobs listed in MOLISA's regulations. The occupations that children under 15 years old can do are:

1. Acting: Dancing, singing, circus performance, stage arts (drama, traditional opera, puppet show etc.)
2. Traditional professions: decorating ceramics, lacquer painting, sawing shellfish.
3. Traditional handicraft: embroidery, cabinet making
4. Talented athletes: swimming, racing, table-tennis, badminton, handball, pool, soccer, shuttlecock, chess, martial arts etc.

Employers allowed to employ children for jobs as regulated must ensure the following conditions:

1. Children employed must be at least 12 years old. Children who participate in performances must be at least 8 years old. In case employers have to employ children under 8 to perform, they must ask for permission from Ministry of Culture and Information.
2. Children must be strong enough to work and be certified by a district health centre or clinic.
3. There must be commitment and acceptance letter from parents or guardian.
4. There must be personal profile certified by local authority.
5. Working environment does not harm children's physical and mental health, not exceed standardised sanitary according to regulations by the Ministry of Health.
6. Working time does not exceed 4 hours per day or 24 hours per week; do not ask children to work extra hours or night shift.
7. Guarantee time for compulsory education.
8. There must be labour contract. The content of the contract must be in accordance with regulations on labour contract.

Employment or apprenticeship of children under 15 due to job requirements must be agreed and supervised by parents or guardians. (Article 120);

Workplaces using children and teenagers as workers are required to have a monitoring book which keeps record of workers' names, dates of birth, work in process, results of medical checkups and must be submitted at inspector's request (paragraph 1 Article 119); Registration at Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs on employment of children under 15 is required (in accordance with registration form); Be responsible for safety and health of children during work.

Labour exploitation of children and teenagers is prohibited (Paragraph 2 Article 119)

Asking children and teenagers to take over hazardous and dangerous work or work in environment, which is detrimental to human dignity, as listed by Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA) is prohibited. (Article 121)

Inter-Ministerial Circular no. 09/TT-LB dated August 13, 1995 by MOLISA specifying 13 working conditions and 81 occupations that do not allow junior employment.

Circular no. 21/2004/TTLT-BL§TBXH-BHYT dated December, 09, 2004 lists workplaces and occupations that does not allow employment of children under 18 in order to prevent prostitution:

- **Employment contract:** For jobs and works which allow employment of children under 15, labour contract must be concluded in written form by father, mother or legitimate guardian.
- **Time of work and rest:** Time of work must not exceed 7 hours per day or 42 hours per week (Paragraph 1 Article 122);
- **Administrative fine for violations:**
 - Fine from 1,000,000 VND to 5,000,000 VND for organization or individual who:
 - Do not have a record book of regular check-up, abuse junior labour as regulated in Article 119 in the Labour Code
 - Forcing children and teenage workers to work over 7 hours per day or 24 hours per week;
 - Fine from 5,000,000 VND to 10,000,000 for organization and individual who:
 - Forcing children and teenage workers to take over hazardous and dangerous work and work in the environment, which is detrimental to human dignity as listed by MOLISA.

Part two: National Programme on Prevention of Children working in Hazardous and Dangerous conditions with the main contents as follows:

- Related legal documents:
 - Decision no. 19/2004/QD-TTg dated December 02, 2004 by the Prime Minister on ratification of the National Programme on Prevention of Children working in hazardous, heavy and dangerous conditions.
 - Decision no. 10/QD-DSGDTE dated January, 12, 2005 by Minister, Chairperson of Committee for Population, Family and Children (CPFC) on ratification of 4 projects implementing Decision 19/2004/N§-CP dated February, 12, 2004 by the Prime Minister.
- The goal of projects:
 - Overall goal: Raise awareness and promote activities on child protection; prevent, gradually decrease and, by 2010, basically eliminate the number of children in hazardous and dangerous work, create favourable conditions to protect, take care and educate them, guarantee all-rounded development and a better life for children.

- Specific objectives: Prevention and solution to children in hazardous and dangerous work so that by 2010, this number will reduce by 90%
- Coverage: the programme will be carried out nationwide, with the focus on targeted areas.
- Targeted groups: children in general, particularly children working in hazardous and dangerous jobs and high-risk children for instance children living with families of special difficulties. Other targeted groups are their parents, relatives and employers.
- Schedule of implementation: 2004-2010
- Activities: Besides advocacy, mobilization and building management capacity, the project has the following activities:

Activities for Solution 1: Formulate and finalize legislation and policies, promote socialization in protection of children from heavy, dangerous and hazardous occupations.

Activities for Solution 2: Promote quantity and quality of assistance services for children working in hazardous and dangerous conditions through building intervention models at local level and setting up assistance network in communities.

Activities for Solution 3: enhance inspection, monitoring and evaluation of implementation by conducting researches and designing new monitoring models

Institutional responsibilities:

- Responsibility of CPFC, MOLISA and related agencies: formulating and implementing annual plans, co-ordinating programme activities, giving instructions, inspecting, monitoring activities, consolidating information and making report. Taking lead, giving guidance on formulation and implementation of projects as stipulated in Paragraph 4 Article 1 of Decision no. 19/2004/QĐ-TTg. MOLISA is responsible for formulation and implementation of the project Prevention of Children working in hazardous and dangerous conditions.
- Responsibilities of provincial and municipal People's Committees: formulating and implementing annual activities in accordance with local socio-economic development plans of the same period and regularly review and report as regulated.

In order to implement Decision no. 19/2004/QĐ-TTg mentioned above, MOLISA has issued Official Correspondence No. 1034/LĐTBXH-LĐVL dated March 30, 2006 which requests Departments of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs to implement activities as followed:

Firstly, collaborate with CPFC to conduct surveys and evaluation in situation of children in working in hazardous and dangerous conditions in respective provinces, and build models of prevention of children working in hazardous and dangerous work, with the focus on moving children out of hazardous and dangerous jobs; build models for treatment and functional rehabilitation for children suffering from occupational accidents and diseases; models of community integration education combined with vocational training for school-leavers; models to assist and counsel parents to change jobs to raise income.

Secondly, collaborate with CPFC and related agencies to build an action plan to implement Decision no. 19/2004/Q§-TTg mentioned above with the title ‘ Prevention of Children working in hazardous and dangerous conditions in 2004-2010’. This plan will be ratified by provincial and municipal People’s Committees.

Thirdly, enhance inspection and monitoring of activities regarding children working in hazardous and dangerous conditions.

Part three: situation of children working in hazardous and dangerous conditions. The main content of part 3 is as follows:

So far, Vietnam has not conducted any national survey on child labour. However, analysis of child labour circumstance could base on results of following surveys:

- Vietnam living standards survey 1992-1993, 1997-1998 and 2002-2003:

According to these surveys’ results, children start participating in economic activities since the early age, proportion of working children decreased in all age groups and for both sexes, from 41.1% during 1992-1993 to 29.3% during 1997-1998 and to 18% during 2002-2003. Specifically:

Table 1: Proportion of children participating in economic activities according to sex (%)

Sex	1992- 1993	1997 - 1998	2002- 2003
Male	40.0	29.0	17.2
Female	42.3	29.6	18.8
Average	41.1	29.3	18.0

There are more working children in rural areas, and rural children start working earlier than urban children:

Table 2: Proportion of children participating in economic activities according to rural and urban area (%)

Area	1992- 1993	1997 - 1998	2002- 2003
Rural	45,2	33,1	20,40
Urban	21,3	8,80	7,30
Average	41,1	29,3	18,0

Survey in 2005 by MOLISA about children working as house maids, fishermen, miners and drug traffickers in 6 provinces: Thai Nguyen, Ninh Binh, Thanh Hoa, Thua Thien Hue, Ho Chi Minh City and Long An. The results is as follows:

- There’s no child labour in State-owned enterprises, foreign-invested enterprises and joint venture enterprises. There’s only child labour in family business where labour legislation doesn’t cover.
- Children often work long hours as housemaids, work at night as street vendors, take heavy work which might affect children’s physical and intellectual development (such as brick layer, worker in brick kiln and construction material site, etc).

- Causes of child labour: poverty, low awareness among the parents, and other reasons originated from children themselves.

2.3 Introduction of Time-Bound Programmes and sharing of experience:

Presenter: Ms Panudda Boonpala – Senior Child Labour Specialist - ILO Sub-regional Office.

- Characteristics of Time-bound Programmes:

By setting time frames to end the worst forms of child labour by 2016 we are also building a strong foundation for the long-term elimination of all forms of child labour.

Time-bound programme emphasises the country ownership, with broad based participation and a strong and comprehensive coordination mechanism. Planning for time bound programmes is based on solid data collection and analysis.

- Elements of Time-bound Programmes:

Time-bound Programme consists of policy and interventions, which have direct impacts on preventing child labour, protecting all children within legal working age from of hazardous and dangerous jobs and withdrawal of children from hazardous work. Prevention includes efforts to improve children's access to education, to persuade children to study and raise awareness about child labour consequences. Measures of protecting children from hazardous and dangerous work include implementing relevant legislation and working environment improvement.

Effective interventions require strong capacity of central and local authorities. Capacity building is necessary for planning, implementing plans as well as creating mechanism to prevent worst forms of child labour. It is also essential to have direct intervention to assist working children as well as their families and communities. To be effective, time-bound programmes directly assist high-risk children, working children, their families and communities. This intervention should reflect children's needs, i.e. taking into account factors such as ages, gender, ethnic and social class.

Capacity building (for government authorities, employers, employees, NGOs and community) in taking direct action in order to identify and withdraw children from the situation of worst forms of labour and provide them with relevant options.

Direct action include:

- + Mechanisms to withdraw children out of worst forms of child labour
- + Provide educational and vocational training services for these children
- + Provide opportunities to raise income for families that have children involved in worst forms of labour
- + Raise awareness for society on prevention worst forms of child labour
- + Establish monitoring mechanism of child labour and provide children with counseling and healthcare services

- The design and planning of time bound measures include:
- + analysis of child labour at national level (basic situation analysis and survey)
- + identifying priority groups of children in WFCL and those at risk
- + formulating national strategies and national action plans

- Countries implementing time-bound programmes:

El Salvador, Nepal and the Republic of Tanzania were the first 3 countries to carry out the time-bound programme. Today many countries are implementing time bound measures to combat WFCL, including the Republic of Dominica, Costa Rica, the Philippines, Bangladesh, Brazil, Ecuador, Indonesia, Pakistan, Senegal, South Africa, Turkey, Mongolia, Cambodia. The experience drawn out from the formulation and implementation in these countries has contributed to planning of the time-bound programme, highlighting the importance of integrating this programme in other programmes on education development, poverty alleviation, and macro-economic policies.

3. Group discussion:

3.1 The group work discussed 7 following topics:

- Topic 1: Is it the right time for Vietnam to have a time-bound programme to prevent and eliminate the worst forms of child labour?
- Topic 2: Which the worst forms of child labour should be prioritized for action?
- Topic 3: What are the steps for implementation of the programme?
- Topic 4: Elements of key activities of the programme
- Topic 5: Agencies in charge of the implementation.
- Topic 6: Budgets and Resources
- Topic 7: Tentative schedule for the time-bound programme

3.2 Discussion outcomes of the 2 groups:

Group 1:

- **Topic 1: Is it the right time for Vietnam to have a time-bound programme to prevent and eliminate the worst forms of child labour?**

Answer: Yes, Vietnam should have such programme because of following reasons:

- + Delivering on International commitments (International Convention on the Rights of the Child; Convention No. 138 and No. 182 of the ILO);
- + Implementing the Law on the Protection, Care and Education for Children;
- + Implementing the Decision No. 19/2004/QĐ-TTg dated February 12th 2004 by the Prime Minister on the ratification of the Programme on the Prevention and Tackle of street children, sexually exploited children, and children working in hazardous and dangerous conditions 2004-2010;

- + Implementing the Action Programme for Children 2001-2010;
- + Satisfying the requirements for international integration;

It needs to integrate: it is required a specific and clear integration plan with the participation of the concerned agencies; it needs to define clear functions and responsibilities between the agencies. Through, the Decision No. 19/2004/QD-TTg has regulated the functions and responsibilities of each concerned agency, which is involved in the implementation of the Decision, actually, it is not very specific.

Topic 2: Which forms of hazardous/dangerous forms of child labour should be prioritized for action?

- + Children working in mining areas (coal, gold, chrome, etc.)
- + Children involving in drug trafficking

Topic 3: What are the steps for implementation of the programme?

- + Carrying out a survey on Child labour;
- + Holding consultation workshops with concerned agencies and experts to collect ideas;
- + Developing the programme (with ideas collected from concerned agencies from central to local levels; and submit to the Government for approval)

Topic 4: Implementing agencies

- + All agencies as assigned and structured to implement the National Programme under the Decision No. 19/2004/QD-TTg dated February 12th 2004 by the Prime Minister

Topic 5: Budget

- + State budget
- + Financial support from international organizations and individuals
- + Contribution of the communities

Topic 6: Tentative schedule

- + 2007 -2016

Group 2:

- **Topic 1: Is it the right time for Vietnam to have a time-bound programme to prevent and abolish the worst forms of child labour?**

Answer: Yes, Vietnam should have such programme because of following reasons:

- + Delivering on International commitments
- + Decent Work Agenda
- + Existing legal documents
- + Reality: it has been pointed out that child labour is still existing

Relation between time-bound programme with other programmes: socio-economic development programmes; national programme on job creation; national programme on OSH; national programme on poverty reduction etc.

Topic 2: Which forms of hazardous/dangerous forms of child labour should be prioritized for action?

- + Children working in mining areas (coal, gold, chrome, etc.)
- + Construction materials production
- + Garbage collection
- + Exploiting lumber
- + Working with chemicals

Topic 3: What are the steps for implementation of the programme?

- + Carrying out survey on Child labour (2007-2008)
- + Building model and measures (1 year)
- + Evaluation of model - draw lessons learned (1 year)
- + Evaluation of integration of the programme into other national programmes
- + Building national action plan
- + Submission to the Government for approval
- + Implementation

Topic 4: Elements of key activities of the programme?

- + Awareness raising for communities
- +Capacity building and direct assistance
- +Finalizing policies
- +Building mechanisms of mainstreaming
- + Improve the effectiveness of international programmes
- + Monitoring mechanism

Topic 5: Implementing agencies:

- +MOLISA
- +CPFC
- +Women Union
- +Youth League
- +Ministry of Education and Training
- +Ministry of Public Security
- +People's Committees at all levels

Topic 6: Budget and resources?

- + State budget
- + International organizations
- + NGOs
- + Contribution of the society

Topic 7: Tentative schedule?

- + 2007 -2010

I. Conclusion of the Workshop:

- a. Presentations at the Workshop have shown that child labour has reduced considerably in the past 4 years, manifesting efforts of the ILO, other international organizations and countries all around the world. In Vietnam, there hasn't been a national survey on child labour, however, through Vietnam living standards survey, we can see that child labour has reduced in the past years. Vietnamese legislation on this issue is in line with international conventions that Vietnam has ratified.
- b. Regarding time-bound programme of the ILO: Vietnam has been implementing Decision 19/2004/QD-TTg dated 12 February, 2004 on Programme on the Programme on the Prevention and Tackle of street children, sexually exploited children, and children working in hazardous and dangerous conditions 2004-2010; which specifies objectives and actions (finalizing legislation; direct interventions; monitoring and evaluation etc.); tentative schedule of implementation and responsibilities of related agencies. This programme is basically in line with the time-bound programme of the ILO. However, this is an area that Vietnam still lack of experience and budget and need technical and financial support from international organizations.
- c. Results of the workshop and discussion groups will play an important role in studying, formulating and implementing programmes in Vietnam.

Annex: 1

Speech of Mr. Kamae

ILO National Workshop on Child Labour
Sep.18 2006, Hanoi

Mr. Nguen Dai Dong, Director, Department of Labour and Employment, Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, Ms. Rose Mary Grave, Director of ILO Hanoi Office, workers' and employers' representative, of central and provinces, and all the distinguished guests, xin chao cac ban, toi rat vui mung, duoc tham gia hoi thao nay.

I am very pleased to have this ILO National Workshop on Time Bound Measures for the Elimination of Child Labour here in Hanoi. Since the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work was adopted in 1998, the Government of Japan has been supporting it through the sub-regional seminars and related activities as one of the activities of ILO-Japan Programme. The topics of the seminar are selected each year according to the trends and needs of the Asia and Pacific as well as the ILO Decent Work Policy.

This year, the theme of 'Elimination of Child Labour' is selected in relation to the ILO 2nd global report released in May. However, what can we do to make further progress toward the goal in our Asia? As you know, there are lots of projects in ILO-IPEC or other programmes ongoing in this region: in Vietnam, we have the colleague here, the United States, the United Kingdom, Netherlands, of course, the Government of Japan is funding 'Prevention of Trafficking in Women and Children at Community Level through UN Trust Fund for Human Security'. Now it is time to review and integrate all the projects including Time Bound Programme because our region has its potential power to combat child labour by the measure.

Therefore, ILO-Japan Programme hosted a sub-regional seminar in Jakarta in July to review ongoing Time Bound Programmes of Asia. Vietnam has been selected as the model country of its follow-up workshop expecting the further progress of the Elimination of Child Labour through the Time Bound Programme.

We appreciate the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs for the continuous effort to eliminate Child Labour: amendment of legislation and its enforcement, implementation of national action programmes, and so on.

Child Labour is, however, still found both in cities and rural areas in spite of all these efforts. I have been to Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Hue, Danang and Hoi An with my family and found there were a lot to be desired to eliminate Child Labour. Now we are entering into a new stage. Legislation and its proper enforcement are very important steps but not a perfect approach under the big portion of informal economy and self-employment of Vietnam.

For further progress and better solution, all the stakeholders are working together: MOLISA and its tripartite partners at central and provincial level, related ministries, NGOs, international organizations and communities. It is because the Child Labour in informal economy and self-employment may be beyond the existing legal framework, and be closely related to agriculture and education as well as children's economic circumstances such as family and community.

Government of Japan, as a friend and a closest economic partner, surely supports your activities for the elimination of Child Labour in informal economy through ILO-Japan Programme such as Occupational Safety and Health in Agriculture and Employment Expansion of Women in Vietnam.

Through this workshop, I hope all the participants today will understand and cooperate together for the Time Bound Programme as one of the most effective measures to our goal. Cam on nhieu.

Speech of Ms. Greve

Mr. Nguyen Dai Dong, Director, Dept of Employment and Labour Policies, MOLISA
Mr. Kenichi Kamae, Dept. Director, International Affairs Dept. Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
Mr. Chris Watson, US dept. of Labour
International guests, distinguished participants

- In May this year, the ILO published its second Global Report on child labour with the arresting and thought-provoking title: “The end of child labour: Within reach”. While the report estimated that, in 2004, while 218 million children were still trapped in child labour and while 126 million of them were to be found in hazardous work, it also noted that these figures represented an 11 per cent decrease in child labourers globally over the past four years and an astonishing 26 per cent decrease of those engaged in hazardous work. For children aged from 5 to 14 years, the decline was even steeper – at 33 per cent. The global picture that has emerged is of a world in which child labour is declining and that the more harmful the work and the more vulnerable the children involved – the faster the decline.
- More importantly, from the policy perspective, the report pointed to the existence of a strong global political commitment to end child labour and the resultant adoption of coherent and wide-ranging policies as one of the main reason for this decline. It argued that a package of policies in the areas of poverty reduction, basic education and human rights was central to the progress made by countries in combating child labour. It noted, in particular, that policy choices mattered and that those that opened gateways of opportunity for poor people were crucial to efforts aimed at eliminating child labour. However, many challenges still remained and neither the global community nor individual countries could consider the battle already won.
- The Government of Viet Nam continues to be vigilant against child labour in all its forms and has put into place a number of specific policies and programmes for the prevention and elimination of child labour and trafficking and the country has ratified both C138 on Minimum Age and C182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour. Strategies for the protection of children are also written into national policy documents such as the SEDP and child labour issues inform the work of the Government in relation to the implementation of the MDGs and the localized Viet Nam Development Goals. Other programmes and strategies contribute indirectly by addressing causes and symptoms of child labour. Notable among these is the Educational for All programme which is directed at the universalization of primary and lower secondary education, and the various components of the hunger eradication and poverty reduction programme.
- These efforts are supported by a number of international actors, the ILO among them and the ILO/IPEC programme has been active in Viet Nam since 2000, delivering technical cooperation programmes and building partnerships with the ILO’s tripartite constituents, and with educational and training institutions, mass organizations, communities and parents in addressing the causes and consequences of child labour.

- Over the past 6 years the ILO has been able to contribute to the solid progress made in preventing and eliminating child labour. In particular,
 - We have helped to gather new information and data about the situation of working children and the sectors in which they work - data that is very relevant to policy development, public advocacy and programme interventions;
 - We have supported the review and analysis of laws and policies with respect to child labour; and have
 - Undertaken pilot interventions based on direct action that offer practical lessons for scaling up;
 - And, since we helped set up the first child labour unit in MOLISA in 2000, we have supported capacity building among a growing range of partners for the organization of preventative action – for example by enlisting the cooperation of teachers, parents and community leaders in this task.

- This workshop represents a next step in the partnership between the ILO and the Government and the social partners in addressing child labour in Viet Nam. Its main purpose is to introduce the concept of time bound measures in the fight against child labour, illustrating its usefulness by reference to the experiences of some of Viet Nam's neighbours in South East Asia and that of other countries in the region. We hope that a thorough understanding of time bound measures and how they work to facilitate the fight against the worst forms of child labour might inspire our partners in Viet Nam to consider similar measures here and to identify key steps for their design and implementation.

- The workshop also provides us with an opportunity to introduce the findings of the global report which are both informative and thought-provoking and which set out the challenges which we continue to face in this field. It will also facilitate a review of action taken by Viet Nam on this issue over the past few years and of the opportunities and challenges that the country's Nam's fast paced economic and social growth present.

- The ILO Office in Viet Nam is very grateful to the Government of Japan for its support of this workshop and of the many other activities that we have benefited from under the ILO/Japan programme. I would also like to express our gratitude to the Department of Employment and Labour of MOLISA which has collaborated with us in organizing this workshop and which has been a partner in our work in this crucial area over a number of years.

- Finally may I also thank you all for your presence and for your contributions to our deliberations. The issue of child labour is an important one and combating it requires the effort and the commitment of all the segments of Government and society that you represent.

- May I wish you every success with the workshop.

RMG, Hanoi, 18 September

Annex 2

Agenda
National Workshop on Time Bound Measures in Viet Nam
Funded by the Government of Japan

Venue: Room 111, Building A – **Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs**
No. 12 Ngo Quyen street, Hanoi.

Time	Activity	Responsible person
08:00 - 08:30	Registration	
08:30 – 09:00	Opening	- MOLISA - Government of Japan - Director of ILO Office in Vietnam
09:00 – 09:30	Introduction of the ILO Global Report on child labour,	ILO
09:30 – 09:45	Questions and Answers on the Global Report	Participants & ILO
09:45 – 10:00	Coffee break	
10:00 – 10:45	National policy and Actions to combat child labour and its worst forms in Vietnam (including all programmes/activities which initiated by the Government, as well as international organizations/NGOs within the countries)	MOLISA
10:45 – 11:45	Introduction of the Time-Bound measures in South East Asia, and experience from other countries in the region	ILO
11:45 – 13:30	Lunch break	
13:30 – 15:00	Group work – Priorities for a Time-Bound measures in Vietnam; and Key steps for the design and implementation of the Time-Bound measures in Vietnam	Participants
15:00 – 15:15	Coffee break	
15:15 – 16:15	Presentation of group work	Respective group
16:15 – 17:00	Conclusion and Closing	MOLISA and ILO

List of participants

STT	Name	Position	Organisation
I	Resident Participants		
1.	Nguyễn Sĩ Sảng	Director	Department of Labour & Employment, MOLISA
2.	L ^a Quang Trung	Deputy Director	Department of Labour & Employment, MOLISA
3.	Nguyễn Thế Hải Văn	Deputy Director	Department of Labour & Employment, MOLISA
4.	Trần Thế Trung	Expert	Department of Labour & Employment, MOLISA
5.	Trần Thế Lợi	Expert	Department of Labour & Employment, MOLISA
6.	L ^a Kim Dung	Deputy Director	Department of International Relations, MOLISA
7.	Phạm Ngọc Tiên	Deputy Director	Department of Social Protection, MOLISA
8.	Nguyễn Thế Oanh	Senior Expert	Department for Legal Issues
9.	Bùi Văn Tái	Senior Expert	General Department of Vocational Training, MOLISA
10.	Trần Thế Liễu	Expert	Department of Planning and Finance, MOLISA
11.	L ^u Thế Hiền	Expert	Department for Social Evil Protection, MOLISA
12.	Thích Bích Hiệp	Official	Vietnam VCCI
13.	L ^a Thi Kim Dung	Expert	Ministry of Education and Training
14.	L ^a Thu Huệ	Senior Expert	Vietnam Committee for Population, Family and Children
15.	Nguyễn Xuân Thiốt	Director	Department of Children, Vietnam Committee for Population, Family and Children
16.	Şç Thế Hằng	Expert	Department for Education and Communication, Vietnam Committee for Population, Family and Children
17.	Khóc Tiên Hắc	Expert	Vietnam General Confederation of Labour

18.	§Æng H--ng Giang	Expert	Vietnam Women's Union
19.	TrĐnh V"n Soan	Deputy Director	Vietnam Father Land Frond
20.	VĐ ThĐ H¶i YÕn	Deputy Head Unit	Public Expenditure Unit, Ministry of Finance
II	Non-Resident participants		
21.	TrÇn Hieu Li ^a m	Deputy Head of Labour Unit	DOLISA of Ho Chi Minh city
22.	Cao V"n Thu	Deputy Director	Long An province DOLISA
23.	Ph ¹ m V"n N ^a m	Vice-Chair	Long An province Committee for Population, Family and Children
24.	NguyÕn Thi NÕn	Head Unit	Labour and Wage Unit, Thanh Ho, province DOLISA
25.	§ç Quang Vinh	Chair	Thanh Ho, province Committee for Population, Family and Children
26.	NguyÕn Thnh Long	Head	Labour Unit, Th,i Nguy ^a n province DOLISA
27.	§ç Thi TuyÕt	Vice-Chair	Th,i Nguy ^a n province Committee for Population, Family and Children
28.	Houng Xu [©] n M ¹ nh	Expert	Hu Nam province DOLISA
29.	§uo ThĐ Lii	Expert	Hu Nam Committee for Population, Family and Children
III	ILO		
30.	Ms. RoseMarie Greve	Director	ILO Office in ViÕt Nam
31.	Ms. Panudda Boonpala	Senior Child Labour Specialist	ILO Sub-Regional Office of Bangkok, Thailand
32.	Ms. Mizuho Iso	Programme Officer	ILO/Japan Programme, Sub-Regional Office of Bangkok, Thailand

33.	Mr. Kenichi Kamae	Deputy Director	International Division, Ministry of Labour and Health Welfare of Japan
34.	Mr. Tomoyuki Okada	First Secretary	Japanese Embassy in ViÖt Nam
35	Mr Christopher Watson	Office of International Organisation	US Department of Labour
36.	Mr. Daniel Langenkamp	Second Secretary for Economic Affairs	US Embassy in ViÖt Nam
37.	Ms. NguyÖn ThĐ Mai Oanh	NPM	IPEC ViÖt Nam
38.	Ms. NguyÖn ThĐ Kim Thanh	Admin Secretary	IPEC ViÖt Nam
39	Mr NguyÖn V"n §uo	NPC	IPEC/ TICW ViÖt Nam
40	Ms Valerie Breda	Associated Expert	Programme Unit, ILO Office in Vietnam