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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Jakarta administration and main stakeholders hold dialogue on Future Actions to Eliminate Child Labour in Jakarta**

JAKARTA (Joint Press Release): With a total population of more than 10 million people, Jakarta Special Province has a large informal sector to meet the needs of its residents—ranging from consumptive goods, parking services and transportation to a variety of entertainment services, such as massage. The unregulated nature of the informal sector as well as its size in Jakarta have opened the door for involvement of children, not only from Jakarta but also migrants from other provinces.

Studies and direct observation by NGOs in Jakarta suggest that a variety of types of child labour are found in Jakarta, including some of the worst forms of child labour. These worst forms include children involved in drug trafficking and children trafficked or involved in prostitution. Studies have also found that thousands of children are working as domestic workers or working on the street, which often involves forced labour and other abuses of fundamental rights at work.

To strengthen efforts to tackle child labour, the International Labour Organization (ILO), in collaboration with the Jakarta Provincial Government and JARAK, a national NGO working for the elimination of child labour, is conducting a dialogue on "Developing Future Actions to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Jakarta Special Province" from, 13 – 16 February, at Lembah Hijau Hotel, Puncak, Jawa Barat.

A previous workshop held in Jakarta in September 2006 already mapped the problems related to the elimination of child labour in Jakarta. These problems include : lack of commitment from stakeholders, high urbanization, lack of coordinaton among related departments, no child labour mainstraining into regional action plans, lack of supporting budget, and the need for qualified training and education. The dialogue taking place this week aims to find solutions to these problems in order to intensify efforts to eliminate child labour in Jakarta.

Jakarta Province, in fact, has a strong basis to enhance its efforts to combat child labour in general, and the worst forms of child labour in particular. Regional Regulation of Jakarta Province No. 6 year 2004 on Child Labour Affairs reiterates the national regulation on minimum age for admission to work and the prohibition and need for urgent action to eliminate the worst forms of child labour.

Therefore, the dialogue aims to build commitment and to reach a common understanding among all parties concerned with combating child labour, particularly its worst forms. It also aims to develop future actions by identifying priorities and steps to tackle this problem effectively. It is expected that participants will design concrete, applicable actions to develop and strengthen institutions and action plans concerned with elimination of child labour.

“Child labour is a complex problem in Jakarta, and cannot be tackled without the involvement and commitment of all parties concerned. To enforce the regulation effectively, further steps need to be taken such as to develop an officially recognised structure that can help coordinate the efforts and to work out a provincial plan of action to guide concerted action programs in combating worst forms of child labour in Jakarta Province,” said Peter Rademaker, the ILO’s Deputy Director in Indonesia.

Some provinces such as West Java, East Java, and North Sumatra have established committees and developed action plans, and such initiatives have proven effective in enhancing efforts to combat child labour and especially the worst forms on child labour in their region.

The dialogue will be attended by around 50 invitees from government departments, trade unions, employers’ organizations, academia, NGOs, and other relevant parties.