



## 4<sup>th</sup> World Day Against Child Labor

12 June 2005

*Theme - A Load Too Heavy:  
Children in Mining and Quarrying*

### PHILIPPINE EVENTS

ACTIVITY	DETAILS
<p>1. <b>Video showing of ILO/ Unicef documentary on child miners at the ILO Booth for the 2005 National Conference of Employers</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <i>“Burden of Gold,”</i> a 15:57-minute ILO-IPEC/ Unicef video documentary on the plight of child miners in Camarines Norte (<i>a TBP project area</i>), was shown at the ILO booth that was set up in connection with the 2005 National Conference of Employers on 17-18 May 2005 at the Manila Hotel.</li> <li>❖ To drumbeat the celebration of the 4<sup>th</sup> World Day Against Child Labor (WDACL), flyers on child labor in mining and quarrying, as well as planned activities for the event were distributed to the public at the ILO booth.</li> <li>❖ A highlight of the Conference was the signing of an Agreement between ECOP and ILO on the execution of an Action Program by ECOP, with ILO-IPEC support, to protect working children and to combat and eliminate child labor.</li> </ul>
<p>2. <b>Briefing on the World Day Against Child Labor (WDACL) for the Philippine delegation to the 2005 ILC</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ This briefing session was conducted on 23 May 2005 at the ILO-SRO Auditorium for the Philippine delegation to the 2005 International Labour Conference (ILC) in Geneva. The group was briefed specifically on the inclusion of the WDACL “Call to Action” as a side event of the 2005 ILC.</li> <li>❖ The Philippine delegation consisted of the heads and senior officials of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP), Federation of Free Workers (FFW) and Employers’ Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP).</li> </ul>

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<p><b>3. Signing of a “Call to Action” for presentation to the ILO DG in Geneva</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ ILO’s tripartite constituents and social partners signed a “Call to Action,” committing themselves to eliminating child labor in small-scale mining and quarrying in a “time-bound” manner by 2015.</li> <li>❖ The signatories included DOLE Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas; Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Michael Defensor; and Mr. Democrito Mendoza and Atty. Rene Soriano, Presidents of TUCP and ECOP, respectively.</li> <li>❖ At a special side event of the 2005 ILC, the Philippines joined 11 other country delegations that presented their respective signed accords to ILO Director General Juan Somavia on 10 June 2005 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Conduct of “National Forum on Child Labor and Mining in the Philippines”</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Held on 2 June 2005 at the ILO-SRO Auditorium, the Forum participants consisted of relevant government agencies, workers organizations, employers groups and the social partners in the National Program Against Child Labor (NPACL), particularly the members of the National Child Labor Committee (NCLC), and the ILO Convention 182 National Monitoring Team.</li> <li>❖ Among the Forum highlights were the presentation by DENR of the overview of the mining sector in the Philippines; findings of an in-depth study on children in mining in Camarines Norte, specifically the results of a medical mission for child workers in the mining area; and actions taken by a non-government organization and the local government of Camarines Norte to address the problem of child labor in the Province.</li> <li>❖ The Acting U.S. Labor Attaché to the Philippines gave a message of solidarity and support to the 4<sup>th</sup> WDACL.</li> <li>❖ A “Call to Action Against Child Labor in Mining and Quarrying” was also signed by the Forum participants.</li> </ul>

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<p><b>5. Conduct of Employers’ “Round Table Discussion on Child Labor in Mining”</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ This activity was spearheaded by ECOP, in collaboration with the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP) on 10 June 2005.</li> <li>❖ The objectives of the discussion were to foster employers’ awareness of child labor issues in the mining and quarrying sector, and to reiterate the employers’ commitment to the elimination of the worst forms of child labor in the country. A significant number of CEOs of mining firms and other private companies attended the roundtable discussion.</li> <li>❖ The ILO-IPEC video documentary on child miners in Camarines Norte was shown after the opening ceremonies.</li> <li>❖ The ECOP Director-General discussed the salient provisions of Republic Act No. 9231 (<i>the new Anti-Child Labor Law</i>), and its implementing rules and regulations.</li> <li>❖ ILO-IPEC presented the global and national problem of child labor in mines and quarries, and how ILO is responding to this challenge.</li> <li>❖ A major mining company (Philex Mining Corporation) shared its best practices in addressing the problem of child labor in mines.</li> <li>❖ For its part, ECOP presented its programs on child labor, as part of its ongoing Action Program under the IPEC TBP-support project, and in connection with ECOP’s corporate social responsibility program.</li> <li>❖ A “Call to Action,” which urged the withdrawal of children from mines and quarries, was signed by the heads and senior officials of the leading mining companies and other relevant organizations that participated in the roundtable discussion. The joint statement was published in a national newspaper on 13 June 2005.</li> </ul>

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<p><b><u>PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES</u></b>  <b>6. Davao City</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ In collaboration with the Archbishop Mabutias Media Center, the Regional Committee on Working Children (RCWC) in Region XI (Davao) organized a three-day radio program focusing on current child labor issues.</li> <li>❖ Aired over Station DXGN-FM from 8 to 10 June 2005, the program featured interviews with various social partners, including World Vision (representing ABK-Education Initiative).</li> <li>❖ The radio program also highlighted planned action and interventions to combat child labor in Davao (<i>a TBP project area</i>), particularly in the mining industry.</li> </ul>
<p><b>7. Daet, Camarines Norte</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The Provincial Government of Camarines Norte observed the 4<sup>th</sup> WDACL with various activities.</li> <li>❖ On 9 June 2005 and with working children present, local government officials and community leaders conducted a dialogue to discuss issues affecting the working conditions and safety of children in mines and quarries.</li> <li>❖ Some child miners also shared their personal experiences and urged authorities to provide them access to education and other social services.</li> <li>❖ The dialogue was concluded with the signing of a “Call to Action” by the stakeholders. Essentially, the signed accord called on all sectors to draw up a focused and effective action to progressively eliminate child labor in mines and quarries.</li> <li>❖ On 10 June 2005, there was a motorcade along the major streets of Daet, Camarines Norte, followed by the showing of video documentaries on children in mining, a cultural show, and gift-giving to working children.</li> </ul>

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<p><b>8. Marilao, Bulacan</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Led by the Municipal Government of Marilao, a town-wide parade was held in the morning of 10 June 2005 to commemorate the 4<sup>th</sup> World Day Against Child Labor in Bulacan (<i>another TBP project area</i>). This was participated in by former child miners, parents, and local government officials.</li> <li>❖ In the afternoon, the Municipal Council for the Protection of Children (MCPC), in cooperation with the 16 Barangay Councils, staged a program at a shopping mall, effectively generating more public awareness on the problem of child labor.</li> <li>❖ The program was highlighted by solidarity messages from the Provincial Governor, Municipal Mayor and officials from government and other stakeholders.</li> <li>❖ The MCPC also used the occasion to present to the public the Municipal Code for the Protection of Children, which was recently enacted by the Marilao Municipal Council.</li> <li>❖ The program was concluded by the signing of a covenant among the stakeholders to ensure the education of children, and the strengthening of the MCPC and its barangay councils.</li> </ul>
<p><b>9. Mt. Diwata, Moncayo, Compostela Valley</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ On 12 June 2005, the Federation of Free Workers (FFW) spearheaded the celebration of the 4<sup>th</sup> WDACL in Mt. Diwata (<i>this is another TBP project area, which is located at a very remote part of Davao Province in the Mindanao Region of the Philippines</i>). The celebration was aimed to raise the awareness of the community on the present situation of child miners in Mt. Diwata in Davao.</li> <li>❖ In the morning, a symposium (Community Consultative Assembly) was conducted, participated in by children and their parents. After the inspirational message of the Moncayo Mayor, various stakeholders shared their programs and plans for the mining community, specifically the withdrawal of children from mines.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The occasion was also used to generate the commitment of the various stakeholders, including the employers and workers of mining firms in the area, through the signing of a joint statement, to pursue collective action to address child labor in this mining area.</li> <li>❖ The afternoon program featured games and children's activities, aside from poster-making and slogan-writing contests.</li> </ul>
<p><b>10. Cebu City</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The Regional Committee on Child Labor (RCLC) in Region VII (Cebu) held meetings with the Catholic Church to discuss child labor issues. This resulted in the inclusion of child labor issues in the Sunday homily of the Catholic Church in Cebu on 12 June 2005.</li> <li>❖ On 12 June 2005, the Visayan Forum Foundation, Inc. launched the "1 Million Signature Campaign" to push for the enactment of the "Batas Kasambahay," a legislative proposal already filed in the Philippine Senate, which aims to institutionalize protection for the domestic work sector, for the benefit of both adult and child domestic workers.</li> <li>❖ Radio and television interviews with social partners were organized starting on 6 June 2005, which culminated on 12 June 2005.</li> </ul>
<p><b>11. Media Campaign (Print, Radio and Television)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Press releases, fact sheets and relevant IEC materials on child labor in mining and quarrying, and WDACL activities were disseminated to all major national dailies (Manila-based), tabloids, radio and television stations, and foreign news agencies. Major broadsheets in Manila, as well as provincial newspapers (particularly in Cebu City), published articles on child labor, and the observance of the 4<sup>th</sup> WDACL.</li> <li>❖ Two morning TV ("<i>Magandang Umaga Pilipinas</i>," ABS-CBN; and "<i>Unang Hirit</i>," GMA) featured the 4<sup>th</sup> WDACL, aside from various facts and figures on child labor in the Philippines.</li> <li>❖ Video clips from the ILO-IPEC/Unicef documentary on child miners in Camarines Norte ("<i>Burden of Gold</i>") were used by DCOMM-Geneva as video support to press releases for CNN and BBC.</li> </ul>