

## Sustainability

### ILO Workshop on Child Labour in Indonesia”



To help meet the International Goal for Elimination of Child Labour by 2016, the ILO Indonesia organized a meeting to encourage public–private–local community partnerships and raise awareness in Indonesia. Participants from different backgrounds discussed and shared their views and experiences.

After ratifying Child Labour ILO Conventions (no. 138 and no.182), the Indonesian Government adopted its National Action Plan for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor and since then ILO actively provides technical supports to Indonesia to implement the National Action Plan. Despite good efforts, a total of 1.7 million children were found engaging in child labour in Indonesia in 2009.

Ms. Zotter of the US Embassy in Jakarta recalled a long history on fighting against child labour since Bill Clinton administration back in 1992. She also said that since Barak Obama became president, many more Americans now take an interest in Indonesia. She said that child labour in plantations will be the next focus for the child labour program of the US government in Indonesia, as well as in other parts of Asia. Mudji Handojo, Acting Director General for Labour Inspection Development from The Ministry of

Manpower and Transmigration, argued that child labour is not due to poverty alone but also due to cultural influences and lack of awareness of parents on the importance of education. All participants agreed that initiatives to tackle the child labour problem, requires the support from all stakeholders : government institutions, the business community; trade unions; universities and local NGOs. All agreed that CSR programs could help reduce child labour.

APINDO chairman Sofjan Wanadi confirmed the responsibility of employers to closely monitor that no child labour is involved in the supply chain. In addition to the employers, NGOs are strategic partners to effectively combat child labour. "APINDO will ensure continuous collaboration with the government, the ILO, the trade unions and NGOs and will encourage employers to put more priority on child labour programs in their CSR programs, as part of their social responsibilities", Sofjan said. EuroCham Chairman, Jakob Sorensen, saw this meeting as a good opportunity to look at various CSR activities that have been going on with European companies. While European companies in Indonesia do not employ children and are involved in Corporate Social Responsibility on various social issues, he agreed that the child labour problem should be higher on the CSR agenda. He emphasized that NGOs should have programs with clear impact and transparency and accountability and encouraged the government to ensure for investment in infrastructures for creating new jobs for the community and improving the lives of the people. This could also contribute to reducing child labour. Elmar Bouma, the director of INA, added that it is part of the sustainability policy of many companies in Europe to make sure that their suppliers and other business partners around the world do not employ children. To tackle the child labour issue, many employers are putting much emphasis on education in CSR programs. There is however most probably scope for more co-operation with NGOs in addressing the various causes of child labour.

NGOs appreciated the opportunity to talk about their works. Yayasan Kesejahteraan Anak Indonesia (YKAI) shared information on their activities in providing rehabilitation and reintegration of child victims of trafficking. Rumpun Gema Perempuan (RGP), Mitra Imadei and Bangun Mitra Sejahtera (BMS) Sejati, – shared their programs on tackling child domestic workers (CDW) in Jakarta, and how to provide services for the CDWs particularly on education and health services as well as legal assistance. Yayasan Sekolah Rakyat Indonesi (YSRI), Yayasan Pelita Ilmu (YPI) and Rumah Kita (ERKA), shared their programs on tackling street children in Jakarta, showing among others good practices on education, family empowerment, and teachers professional development. These NGOs face various challenges on delivering the services such as lack of motivation of the street children, financial resources and parents support on education.

The Body Shop highlighted programs and experiences on how The Body Shop as a cosmetics company can support to combat child trafficking issues at the international as well as at national level. Main objectives of the program are to advocate policies and legislation to tackle trafficking, awareness raising, and providing rehabilitation for victims. Furthermore, the program for raising funds through products of body shop to fund anti-child trafficking programs in which all profits go to ECPAT, Body Shop's NGO partner, for programs to help victims, advocacy to government and education. The Body Shop adopts an integrated campaign strategy in its program covering raising public awareness activities, store display and communications; leaflets, volunteering at NGOs, web-based Digital Media, bringing celebrities to the store, etc. In communicating their program with their customers, the strategy is not to force customers to buy the product but instead explain child trafficking issues to customers. The Body Shop

therefore trains their staff on the issues of trafficking so that they can communicate their support to combat the issue to the customers.

### **Follow-up**

This good start deserves further follow-up and actions. Some examples on follow ups were given and could be further developed.

It would be useful to facilitate coordination between the private sector, government, and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). ILO and business associations could play a useful role in this. This co-ordination could be started by a meeting to bring companies and NGOs together to discuss various specific issues and explore possibilities for more co-ordinated co-operation. A special website could also help to bring NGOs and companies together.