



# CPA NEWSLETTER

Child Protection Alliance  
The Gambia



*Protecting Children, Promoting Collaboration, Preventing Child Abuse*

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## Top Stories

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## CPA Attends ECPAT General Assembly in Thailand

As a result of CPA's focus on the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC), The Gambia was invited to participate in ECPAT's General Assembly for the first time. ECPAT (which stands for End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes) is an international organisation working against CSEC by monitoring the implementation of the 1996 Stockholm Agreement. Effective September 2002, CPA has been endorsed as the official representative of ECPAT in The Gambia.

Jalamang Camara, National Coordinator, represented CPA at the General Assembly, which was held from the 4th to 7th September, 2002 in Bangkok, Thailand. It was opened by the Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, who applauded the efforts of ECPAT members worldwide in combatting CSEC. He emphasised that to

end CSEC, all sectors of society must be involved, especially the young people who are most vulnerable.

The presentations and sessions focused on the main types of CSEC, which are child prostitution, child pornography and child sex tourism. In upcoming months, CPA will be integrating the findings and recommendations of the ECPAT Assembly and Yokohama Conference in the planning of its activities.

There was also a focus on the internet and its role in child pornography and other types of CSEC. Nobody is controlling young people as far as the internet is concerned, said Mr. Camara. We need to increase our supervision to make sure children are not exposed to or able to access pornographic materials.

The General Assembly emphasized the need to involve the private sector, especially in efforts to combat child sex

tourism. This includes hotels, restaurants, tour providers and others working in the tourism industry.

Another focus was to increase the participation of young people in all activities affecting their lives. The fact that young people themselves become involved can make CSEC a bigger priority for those in government, said Mr. Camara.

Increasing youth participation also reduces the vulnerability of children by making them aware of the risk of being abused or exploited.

Many NGOs from all over the world attended the Assembly, providing valuable contacts for CPA's work against the commercial sexual exploitation of children. By collaborating and networking with organisations working in other countries and regions, we can build upon the activities of CPA to prevent CSEC.

## CPA Receives Grant from American Embassy

The 31st July 2002 marked another milestone in the development of the Child Protection Alliance. At a ceremony held at the American Embassy with 30 organisations attending, Jalamang Camara, National Coordinator, officially signed on behalf of CPA for a grant of US\$18500. The money is part of the Embassy's Human Rights and Development Fund, and represents the single biggest donation received in the history of the CPA.

The grant will fund several aspects of CPA's work, but will specifically be used in three main areas. First, it will fund the refurbishing of CPA's office with desks and chairs, filing cabinets, two computers, a printer and two telephones. It will also provide funding for the Annual Membership Workshop to be held in December or January. Finally, it will support the development of CPA activities up-country by conducting training workshops

with member groups and young people.

The CPA wish to express their gratitude to the Ambassador for selecting the CPA as one of the recipients of funding. Particular thanks goes to Wendy Brewster Maroon, who has been a friend to the Alliance since attending the first Membership meeting in November 2001.

