

## INGO DISCUSSION GROUP – HO CHI MINH CITY

### CHILD RIGHT'S WORKING GROUP

MEETING 15<sup>th</sup> July 2008 @ 9:00AM

AT THE OFFICES OF SAIGON CHILDREN'S CHARITY

#### Minutes of the meeting

##### Present:

Dana Doan	LIN Foundation
Margrit Schlosser	Terre des Hommes Lausanne
Nguyen Thi Duy Huong	Terre des Hommes Lausanne
Paul Finnis	Saigon Children's Charity (Chair)
Kirsten Theuns	Education Fort Development
Tran Cong Binh	UNICEF
Mr. Tran Minh Hai	HCWF Tuong Lai Project
Mme Trieu Thi Anh Nguyet	HCWF SPI Project
Mme Minh Phuoc	Independent consultant

- 1 **INTRODUCTIONS** - as there were one or two new members we held a quick round of introductions.
- 2 Paul Finnis welcomed everybody and opened the meeting. Minutes from the last meeting were discussed and agreed. Core agenda items for this meeting are highlighted in bold in these minutes.
- 3 It was agreed that the meeting place would circulate to the offices of each organisation. Margrit from TdH kindly agreed to host the next meeting which was later agreed to be on 30<sup>th</sup> September.
- 4 **Finalising the Terms of Reference.** Further discussion was had about the ToR but no major changes were made, It was agreed that Paul would have these translated and circulated before the next meeting so that those whose first language was Vietnamese could read and comment at the next meeting.

Some discussion was had around the number of organisations present and how widely the group should seek members. It was felt that this was a start and we are happy to have representatives from groups and

individuals interested in this area and all members were encouraged to publicise the group widely to help promote attendance.

Once the ToR have been agreed these will go to the ngo resource centre where they will be received and approved by the steering committee before being logged online. PACCOM have already had information about the group and all necessary formal documentation.

All ingos present were happy with the content but were keen to encourage our local ngo partners to add their thoughts and ensure that these ToR reflected their hopes and comments too.

## **5 Continue discussions and agree what the focus will be for the group in 2008 and 2009.**

In addition to topics discussed at the last meeting it was agreed that 'education' might be too broad as a topic and we should consider concentrating each year on a particular topic within the broader subject area.

Adoption was discussed but considered to be sensitive and therefore not to have this as a focus but could be an interesting and useful discussion item. Dana offered to invite someone to speak at the next meeting.

## **6 Child protection – developing a common approach**

Discussion was led by Margrit. We discussed whether the main group should do it or if this should be a sub group. Since numbers are low and involves everyone it was agreed it should be the main group.

We are looking for a set of 'guiding principles' that we can all share. These can be used as a central document that we also share with all partners to encourage them to participate and adopt policies of their own.

**Action Point.** Everyone who has such a policy to circulate to the other members (if they exist). PF to check with Hanoi if there is anything similar there.

It was felt that it might be best to identify someone to do the work on our behalf (such as Minh Phuoc) although this approach might need some financing.

There is a child friendly pilot project being run by District 4 which UNICEF is cooperating with them on.

There is also a National Child Protection Policy although this is currently in Vietnamese only. This work is continuing and expected to be finished by the end of the year and roll out later although this may take some time.

There is a legal and Child Welfare system and this has recently moved under MOLISA's guidance.

The bureau for Child Protection is piloting "community based" Child Protection.

SC Sweden and SCUUK both have Child Protection policies but this is aimed at prevention rather than policy and education change.

There all led to the fact that there seem to be lots of guidelines out at the moment but more important perhaps is how to make people aware of them.

There also continue to be many obvious signs of child rights violations in areas such as education, working children and street children. So whatever we develop they should be 'ACTION' focussed and not just more words. SC Sweden used the media to really good effect and that may be a route for us to consider too. **Action Point** – to ensure that SC Sweden are invited to future meetings and encouraged to come.

The fact that a Legal Aid Centre exists was raised. This is managed under the Ministry of Home Affairs and is used to provide advocacy etc. They also do outreach work. **Action Point** - it was agreed that it would be interesting to hear more about their work and how to contact them.

Further discussions on how to promote a common standard involved the suggestion we hold a dissemination workshop that would include representatives from all bodies and including such as the police and the media. This could be done in cooperation perhaps Mme Thanh in her new role.

## **7 CRC Complementary report – 4<sup>th</sup> Draft**

There is a workshop on this in Hanoi in October to fully discuss the report and the government report before it is finally submitted. Since this is now in the 4<sup>th</sup> draft it is difficult really for us to add more.

Comments were received from Dana and from Margrit which would be passed on and included:

- 1) Ombudsmen – could (or should) be an association rather than an individual
- 2) Legal issues
- 3) Adoption
- 4) Promote the duty of ngos to register themselves

**8 Any other business**

There were really only two topics – a reminder about translating the document and circulating before next meeting and encouraging new members to join: suggestions included:

Margrit contacting Mme Thanhhand the coffee shop  
Nguyet contacting the Legal Aid Centre  
Youth Social Work Centre

**Next meeting – to be at Terre des Hommes on 30<sup>th</sup> September**

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Discussions to include:

Adoption  
Action Guidelines  
Education – what are the key issues  
Child Protection  
Matrix – sharing information between members on key activities