U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of International Labor Affairs
Reports on Child Labor and Forced Labor

“Is Fair Trade Compatible with Freer Markets?”
Presentation at the Institute for International Economic Policy
Elliott School of International Affairs
George Washington University
March 5, 2010
The Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB) leads the U.S. Department of Labor’s efforts to ensure that workers around the world are treated fairly and are able to share in the benefits of the global economy.

ILAB’s mission is to use all available international channels to improve working conditions, raise living standards, protect workers’ ability to exercise their rights, and address the workplace exploitation of children and other vulnerable populations.
Overview of Presentation

- Key Terms
- Background on OCFT Congressionally-Mandated Reports
- 2009 Reports on Child Labor and Forced Labor
  - Mandates and Purpose
  - Methodology, Results and Limitations
  - Next Steps
Key Terms: Child Labor

ILO Convention 138, Minimum Age of Work
- No less than the age of completion of compulsory schooling, and, in any case, not less than 15 (14 in LDCs)
- 13 to 15 years of age in light work (12-14 in LDCs)

ILO Convention 182, Worst Forms of Child Labor (under 18)
- Slavery, sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage, serfdom, forced or compulsory labor, forced child soldiers;
- Prostitution and pornography;
- Illicit activities, in particular drug production and trafficking;
- Work which harms the health, safety or morals of children.
Key Terms: Forced Labor & Forced or Indentured Child Labor

ILO Convention 29, Forced Labor

All work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily.

Forced or Indentured Child Labor (Executive Order 13126)

All work or service (1) exacted from any person under the age of 18 under the menace of any penalty for its nonperformance and for which the worker does not offer himself voluntarily; or (2) performed by any person under the age of 18 pursuant to a contract the enforcement of which is accomplished by process or penalties.
• Demonstrate that abuses of fundamental human rights still persist in the 21st century.

• Shine a spotlight on situations of labor abuse that all countries share, including the United States.

• Raise awareness and stimulate action to combat problems.
“By the Sweat and Toil of Children” Series

- The Use of Child Labor in U.S. Manufactured and Mined Imports (1994)
- Consumer Labels and Child Labor (1998)
- An Economic Consideration of Child Labor (2000)
“Advancing the Campaign Against Child Labor” Series

- Efforts at the Country Level (2002)
- Addressing the Worst Forms of Child Labor (2002)

List of Products Produced by Forced or Indentured Child Labor ("EO List")

Directives
- Executive Order 13126 of 1999

Mandates
- Develop and maintain a list of products produced by forced or indentured child labor

Contents
- Initial determination proposing to update the EO List with 29 products from 21 countries.
Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor ("TDA Report")

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<th>Legislation</th>
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<td>Trade and Development Act of 2000</td>
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<td>Produce the Department of Labor’s annual <em>Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor</em></td>
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<td>Report on the efforts of 141 U.S. trade beneficiary countries and territories to implement their international commitments to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. Covers prevalence and nature of child labor, as well as laws and government policies.</td>
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United States Department of Labor
Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking
List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor ("TVPRA List")

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'S LIST OF GOODS PRODUCED BY CHILD LABOR OR FORCED LABOR

The United States Department of Labor
Bureau of International Labor Affairs
Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking

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<td>Develop a list of goods from countries that ILAB has reason to believe are produced by child labor or forced labor</td>
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<td>Initial List of 122 goods from 58 countries.</td>
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TVPRA Standard Set of Practices

• Legislation requires DOL to “work with persons who are involved in the production of goods on [the List] ... to create a standard set of practices that will reduce the likelihood that such persons will produce goods using [child labor or forced labor]”

Farm Bill “Consultative Group to Eliminate the use of Child Labor or Forced Labor in Imported Agricultural Goods”
  – Chaired by USDA
  – 13 members have been named
  – Recommendations due to Secretary of Agriculture by June 18, 2010
Next Steps: TVPRA List

- **Center for Reflection, Education, and Action (CREA) Project**
  - Developing a framework/set of criteria for evaluating good business practices in the area of child and forced labor eradication;
  - Conducting background research on current practices in use;
  - Producing a compendium of good practices, to enable dissemination and replication;
  - Facilitating meetings and consultations to ensure multi-stakeholder input into the compendium; and
  - Building the capacity of DOL staff in the area of good business practices.

- **Contact Ruth Rosenbaum at: (860) 527-0455**
Farm Bill of 2008

Farm Bill “Consultative Group to Eliminate the use of Child Labor or Forced Labor in Imported Agricultural Goods”

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Questions