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Latest Efforts of Royal Thai Government to Protect Children's Rights and Eradicate Child Labor

During the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children (USGASS) held on 8-10 May 2002, Thailand adopted the principles according to the "World Fit for Children" document as part of the country's own national policy. Subsequently, the Cabinet resolution of 1 October 2003 made the policy into a national agenda and created a national commission, headed by Dr. Saisuree Chutikul, a renowned advocator on children and women's rights. The commission then drafted a "national plan for children", which by October 2005, the proposed plan would be presented to the Cabinet for approval.

The draft national plan includes immediate and long term measures to eradicate child labor. The immediate measures include directing the Ministry of Labor to develop its database system on child laborers, especially during the summer season, as well as amending and strengthening laws, rules, regulations, and enforcement procedures to better address the social service needs of child laborers, and the children and family members of laborers. The long term measures include welfare protection for those in the manufacturing, service, and agricultural industries, both those inside the formal industrial systems and those outside. Also, the national plans on women and children, as well as that on the worst forms of child labor, would be strictly adhered to, the latter according to Thailand's commitment as a party to the International Labor Organization's Convention Number 182.

In addition to all these, the draft national plan would include policy to eradicate discrimination against children in all forms, as well as a national strategy to educate and further the development of children. The national strategy would focus on creating a suitable environment for children, training persons working with children, and promoting research on the topic of child education.
