



ECPAT International Statement  
For immediate release

**ECPAT International**  
END CHILD PROSTITUTION  
CHILD PORNOGRAPHY &  
TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN  
FOR SEXUAL PURPOSES

**ECPAT and RS join efforts to protect children against sexual exploitation**

4 February 2009

**Bangkok, Thailand** - The leading Thai entertainment company RS is calling on fans of its artists and actors to help end sexual exploitation and violence against children in Thailand.

Together with ECPAT International, the global network of organisations working to end child prostitution, child pornography and the trafficking of children for sexual purposes, RS today unveiled the launch of an innovative new partnership that aims to both raise funding and awareness to protect children in Thailand from sexual exploitation.

'Many children in Thailand are vulnerable to sexual exploitation and violence, and this issue is not well understood by the Thai public,' said Carmen Madrinan, Executive Director of ECPAT International, 'Together with RS and the musical artists here today, we can send the message to the public that society will not tolerate any form of harm and exploitation of children. The media here today can play an important role in helping to raise awareness on this issue.'

Through the partnership, RS will donate a portion of their CD and VCD sales throughout 2009 to four organisations working to promote and realize the rights of children in Thailand: ECPAT International, CARE, and Plan.

ECPAT will use funds received from RS to support its work to prevent and protect children against sexual exploitation by providing services to child victims, building the capacity of child welfare professionals, empowering vulnerable children and youth, advocating and lobbying for government action, and conducting research on the issue to share evidence for more responsive action. Through their contribution, RS artists will help raise awareness on children's rights issues amongst the Thai public.

Several cities in Thailand suffer from the impacts of sexual exploitation of children in tourism, notably Bangkok, Pattaya, Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai and Phuket. Children are made available through a variety of different means and settings including sex establishments, private residences and approached directly in the street by tourists seeking sexual contact. While media may focus on foreign offenders, evidence shows that Asian exploiters, including Thai nationals, are also responsible for the sexual exploitation and violence that children experience in the country. Thailand is also a location where child pornography is produced and distributed, with almost 5000 child abuse websites traced to Thailand. For more information about the status of the sexual exploitation of children in Thailand, see [http://www.ecpat.net/A4A\\_2005/PDF/EAP/Global\\_Monitoring\\_Report-THAILAND\\_THA.pdf](http://www.ecpat.net/A4A_2005/PDF/EAP/Global_Monitoring_Report-THAILAND_THA.pdf).

**For further information:**

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**Q & A:**

*Please tell us about ECPAT's work:*

ECPAT International is a global network of organisations and individuals working together for the elimination of child prostitution, child pornography and the trafficking of children for sexual purposes. The ECPAT network does this by empowering vulnerable children and youth, providing services to child victims, building the capacity of child welfare professionals, advocating and lobbying for government action, conducting research on the issue and carrying out awareness raising campaigns



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to promote social action,. The ECPAT International network has 81 member groups in 73 countries around the world. For more information, see [www.ecpat.net](http://www.ecpat.net)

*What does ECPAT think about the RS Gives Back Project?*

The involvement and support of RS and its artists in promoting the message that sexual exploitation and violence against children in Thailand and everywhere is unacceptable, is a valuable contribution. It shows that all sectors of society can be active in promoting the protection of children and we hope that this example will stimulate others in the private sector to also join in extending public social responsibility for protection of children'