FIJI

Commemoration of the World day Against Child Labour 2004

1. Committee on Elimination of Child Labour
   ILO Suva formed a broad based committee on the elimination of child labour to observe the World Day Against Child Labour as well as to develop a programme to address child labour issues in Fiji and other Pacific Island countries. This Committee consists of ILO, four government Ministries (Labour, Women, Education and Information), employers' and workers' organisations, Fiji Police Force, UNICEF and media organisations. There were several meetings to prepare the Programme of the day who focused more on child labour in general, with particular focus on its worst form, since there is no evidence of domestic child labour in Pacific Island countries.

2. Development of Booklet
   An informative booklet (enclosed) has been developed taking contributions from the organisations representing the above committee. The booklets provided information on the definition of child labour, ILO Conventions 138 and 182, legal provisions of Fiji, child rights - UNICEF, views of Fiji Police Force, views of youth (2 - our dreams), perspectives of media organisations. The cover page of the booklet represent multi racialism which is the composition of population of Pacific Island countries. This booklet is being widely distributed.

3. Programme of the Day
   The observance of the day started with the hoisting of the flag denoting World Day Against Child Labour - using the Child Labour Day monogram. The Minister of Women, Social Welfare and Poverty Alleviation was the keynote speaker. The meeting was presided over by the Youth Prime Minister (a young lady who was identified as Youth Prime Minister by the Ministry of Youth in organising an event called Youth Parliament as a learning programme for youths). The speakers were the Director of ILO, representatives of employers' and workers' organisations, two students, Fiji Police Force and representative of media organisations. A drama was staged to promote the theme 'Prevention of Child Labour is the Moral and Social Responsibility of All'.

4. Media Coverage
   The media organisations have been covering child labour for almost a week. ILO Director, along with the representatives of government, employers' and workers' organisations were invited to the TV programme called 'Close Up'. This is a very popular programme with very wide coverage highlighting national and international issues. We have been receiving very positive feedback on this programme. There were talks on radios, and coverage in the dailies.

   The ILO and government representatives have been invited by radio on a 'Talk Back show' which would take place soon. ILO Director has been interviewed by several newspapers which will appear in subsequent days.

   These are in short the day's programme. The committee will continue to meet to develop long term programme to address child labour issues in Fiji.