ABOUT TİSK

- TİSK was established in 1962 on the basis of voluntary membership and it is the sole umbrella organization representing employers in the field of industrial relations.

- Under the umbrella of TİSK, there are 23 employer organisations from various industrial sectors and about 9,600 affiliated enterprises which altogether have approximately 1.2 million employees.
Representative Function of TÎSK

As a “social partner” at national level, TÎSK represents employers at more than 40 national platforms and in such international organisations as the;

- International Labour Organisation (ILO),
- The Confederation of European Business (BUSINESSEUROPE),
- Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD (BIAC),
- International Organisation of Employers (IOE),
- Union of Mediterranean Confederation of Enterprises (UMCE),
- Union of Black Sea and Caspian Confederation of Enterprises (UBCCE).
TİSK’s Activities on Child Labour

- TİSK has, for the last 16 years starting from 1993, carried out comprehensive activities in relation to working children.

- In the period 1993-1994, TİSK launched the project “Training of Managers on Child Labour” in the context of the İPEC Programme.

- In the big cities like Ankara, İstanbul, Bursa, Adana seminars for managers of large scale companies that are members of TİSK affiliated employer associations were organized.

- A survey carried out to identify the status and the number of children, under the age of 18, employed at workplaces affiliated with employer associations which are the members of TİSK.

- Results of the survey conducted in 12 sectors covering 485 enterprises revealed no child labour.
TİSK’s Activities on SME’s

Since child labour were not observed in large scale enterprises, TİSK shifted the focus of its activities starting from 1995 onto SMEs and industrial sites dominated by SMEs. TİSK has carried out many activities to raise the awareness of employers and improve the working conditions of working children in the small scale metal sector that is considered to be the most risky sector for working children.

Dialogue was established with the management of these industrial sites. Problems were discussed together. While SME employers were not TİSK’s members, TİSK’s identity and position as employers’ national representative institution facilitated acceptance by SME employers.

During this period, through action programmes targeting five industrial sites in İstanbul, awareness of 520 employers in small scale enterprises was raised through seminars, workshops and surveys conducted.
Establishment of TİSK Child Labour Bureau

- Between 1998-1999 in the framework of IPEC Project, TİSK established a Child Labour Bureau (CLB) in the Pendik Industrial Site of Istanbul.

- The strategy was to monitor the well-being of children through various indicators, including their health status, vocational training opportunities and working conditions.

“CLB” has been engaged in the following activities:
- Provision of Health Services.
- Provision of Health Education.
- Provision of Guidance and Consultancy Services.
- Provision of Parental Education.
- Awareness Raising for the Employers and Teachers of Working Children.
TİSK Child Labour Bureau

- Food and Clothing Aid to Children and to their Families.
- Establishment of Working Children’s Club.

- In all the activities above, a multi-sectoral intervention strategy with the cooperation of various institutions has been adopted.
CLB’s Sustainability is Maintained and Disseminated

- TİSK Pendik CLB has maintained sustainability after IPEC financial support phased out in 2002.

- The Confederation launched its second branch of its Child Labour Bureau at MoNE Kartal Vocational Training Center on 3 May 2007 with the support of Kartal District Governorate and Kartal VTC.

- Along with projects launched by TİSK, over 10,000 working children have been given health examinations together with necessary medical support and referrals. Also, more than 100 families have been trained on the characteristics of teenage years and family relationships.
TÎSK
Child Labour Bureaus

With its CLB’s (established at locations where children can be easily reached), TÎSK aims at referring working children at school ages fully to education; ensuring enrollment to Vocational Training Centers (under the Vocational Training Law no.3308) of working children above compulsory schooling ages and in order to improve their working conditions by providing training and counselling services.
TİSK-IPEC Project in Adana

As it is recommended in the “Time Bound National Policy and Programme Framework”, which was launched to implement the ILO Conventions No.138 and 182 and to prevent the worst forms of child labour, TİSK in addition to the activities underway in Istanbul, has cooperated with Trade Unions and extended its field of activity.

TİSK initiated a new project called “Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labour in Adana” with the collaboration of Confederation of Turkish Trade Unions (TÜRK-İŞ). (Between the dates 12.12.2005-30.3.2007)

Within the framework of this project “TİSK and TÜRK-İŞ Social Support Center for Working Children” was introduced into service by the Governor of Adana, the Presidents of TİSK and TÜRK-İŞ and the ILO Representative of Turkey on 23 May 2006.

The importance of this project is that the country’s most powerful employer and worker organizations, TİSK and TÜRK-İŞ, are jointly implementing this Action Programme and hence contributing to the efforts on social dialogue.
TIŞK- IPEC Project in Adana
Outcomes of the Project - 1

The Project work in Adana province covered 3 sectors; street work, urban informal economy-furniture sector and seasonal commercial agriculture, which were associated with WFCL in Turkey.

Under the project, 360 children and 78 family members were registered to the Center, given training and medical examination. These were:

- Children working in streets: **160 children (110 males and 50 females) and 28 families**;

- Children working in furniture sector: **100 male child workers and 25 families**;

- Children in commercial agriculture: **100 children (63 males and 37 females) and 25 families**.
CHILDREN WORKING IN STREETS

- In total, **160** children (110 males-68.8% and 50 females-31.2%) were identified, in cooperation with the Adana Association of Street Children, as working in streets and doing such works as waste paper collection, shoe shining, weighing by-passers with their scales, carrying things and selling small items such as gum, paper tissues, etc. Following training activities at the center, **150** of these children fully stopped working in streets while others continued street works after school hours.

- **16 of working children**, registered to the center, **started school for the first time in 2006**. Among them, there were children at ages 10, 11 and 12 who met school for the first time only after their parents were convinced.

- There were also 3 working girls kept out of school by their families. The Center covered their school expenses and they started school again.
CHILDREN WORKING IN FURNITURE SECTOR

- There were 100 children identified as working in furniture workshops in two districts (Seyhan, Yüreğir) with the help of Adana Chamber of Furniture Producers. Family members of 25 of these children were registered to the Center and provided health and training services.

- Two children working in this sector were referred to primary schools for the upcoming school year after convincing their parents.

- 14 children working in this sector also registered to the Center were referred to primary schools.
CHILDREN IN COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE

- Under the project, 100 children (37 of whom were girls) working in commercial agriculture in Adana and parents of 25 of these children were registered to the Center.

- Besides medical examinations and health support, these children and parents were given training in such issues as child labour, child rights and personal and environmental hygiene.

- 35 children were referred to 1st grade in primary schools while 54 others re-started schooling at higher grades.
As a result of “education support” extended by the Project, 131 children (94 males and 37 females) were removed from their work. Further, 150 children (102 males and 48 females) were either removed from potentially risky works or their employment in such works was prevented.

As to non-educative (health-guidance) services, 31 children (24 males and 7 females) were removed from their work. 33 children (18 males and 15 females) were either removed from potentially risky works or their employment in such works was prevented.
TİSK-IPEC Project in Adana

This Project involved comprehensive and systematic efforts to raise the awareness of working children, their families, the general public, employers, teachers, national policymakers and planners in order to obtain the required support for the programme implementation.

Activities ranged from raising children’s awareness of workplace hazards to encouraging policymakers to analyze the implications of economic and social policies on child labour.

The Project has achieved its targets.

Although the project was finalized in the beginning of 2007, the activities continue through financing by TİSK.
Child Labour in Turkey

Various organizations in our country have been very sensitive about the issue of child labour and have been active since 1992 when the IPEC programme started in Turkey. Results of all these activities and as a result of the extension of compulsory education to 8 years, we have observed a significant decline in the number of children engaged in economic activities.

TİSK has also been in close cooperation with UNDP in Turkey on the promotion of “Global Compact” which foresees the elimination of child labour as well.
Messages on Child Labour

Having been actively involved in the struggle against child labour in Turkey from the outset, TISK’s views and messages are as follows:

► Child labour is not a political issue. Governments should handle the problem in a bipartisan way.

► There should not be too much legislation about child labour. ILO standards provide the necessary tools and should be rigorously implemented in each member country and must be followed up by the relevant inspection authorities.

► All parties’ awareness should be raised before the laws are implemented effectively.

► Countries should make use of international experiences, but rather than copying the practices, should adapt them to their own needs.

► Compulsory basic education should be extended at least up to the minimum legal age of work.
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