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Robert E. Maher, Jr.,

Assistant Chief, Environmental Enforcement Section, Environment and Natural Resources Division.

[FR Doc. 06-3519 Filed 4-12-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410-15-M

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Office of the Secretary

Notice of Intent To Fund the Foundation for Peace and Democracy (FUNPADEM)

AGENCY: Bureau of International Labor Affairs, U.S. Department of Labor.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to award up to a total of \$7 million to the Foundation for Peace and Democracy (FUNPADEM) to implement a program to support government, worker, and employer initiatives to strengthen compliance with national labor laws in Central America and the Dominican Republic (Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic).

SUMMARY: The free trade agreement between the United States and the CAFTA-DR countries establishes a commitment to effectively enforce domestic labor laws. This project will assist CAFTA-DR countries to develop and implement measures to improve compliance with their national labor laws. The project will build on work currently being carried out by FUNPADEM under the existing cooperative agreement number E-9-K-3-0097 with the Department of Labor, which was awarded through a competitive process in 2003 (SGA 03-20, Vol. 68, No. 139 of the **Federal Register** on July 21, 2003). Utilizing FUNPADEM eliminates unnecessary costs, project duplication, and inconsistencies that would occur with a new implementer. The new funds will allow FUNPADEM to develop new

activities and to extend activities currently under way at the national level to additional geographic regions within each country. The activities that FUNPADEM will extend and develop include:

- Develop and implement inspection and mediation case management systems;
- Improve inspection procedures and training for labor inspectors;
- Implement public awareness campaigns and training for workers and employers about labor laws and standards;
- Strengthen mediation centers and training for labor mediators; and
- Provide equipment such as computers and vehicles.

In addition, a specific gender component will be developed and incorporated into the work described above. The component will focus on reducing discrimination against women and sexual harassment in the maquila sector through public awareness, training for workers and employers, and the development or strengthening of gender offices within the Ministries of Labor.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT Lisa Harvey, Harvey.Lisa@dol.gov, (202) 693-4750, U.S. Department of Labor, Office of the Assistant Secretary, 200 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20210.

Dated: April 5, 2006.

Lisa Harvey,

Grant Officer.

[FR Doc. E6-5514 Filed 4-12-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-28-P

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Office of the Secretary

Request for Information Concerning Labor Rights in Malaysia and Its Laws Governing Exploitative Child Labor

AGENCIES: Office of the Secretary, United States Department of Labor; Office of the United States Trade Representative and Department of State.

ACTION: Request for comments from the public.

SUMMARY: This notice is a request for comments from the public to assist the Secretary of Labor, the United States Trade Representative, and the Secretary of State in preparing reports regarding labor rights in Malaysia and describing the extent to which it has in effect laws governing exploitative child labor. The Trade Act of 2002 requires reports on these issues and others when the President intends to use trade

promotion authority procedures in connection with legislation approving and implementing a trade agreement. The President assigned the functions of preparing reports regarding labor rights and the existence of laws governing exploitative child labor to the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the United States Trade Representative. The Secretary of Labor further assigned these functions to the Secretary of State and the United States Trade Representative, to be carried out by the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of State and the United States Trade Representative.

DATES: Public comments must be received no later than 5 p.m. May 30, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Persons submitting comments are strongly advised to make such submissions by electronic mail to the following address: FRFTAMalaysia@dol.gov. Submissions by facsimile may be sent to: Howard R. Dobson, Office of International Economic Affairs, Bureau of International Labor Affairs, U.S. Department of Labor, at (202) 693-4851.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For procedural questions regarding the submissions, please contact Howard R. Dobson, Office of International Economic Affairs, Bureau of International Labor Affairs, U.S. Department of Labor, at (202) 693-4871, facsimile (202) 693-4851. These are not toll-free numbers. Substantive questions concerning the labor rights report and/or the report on Malaysia's laws governing exploitative child labor should be addressed to Gregory K. Schoepfle, Acting Director, Office of International Economic Affairs, Bureau of International Labor Affairs, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210, telephone (202) 693-4887, facsimile (202) 693-4851.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background Information

On March 8, 2006, in accordance with section 2104(a)(1) of the Trade Act of 2002, the United States Trade Representative (USTR) notified the Congress of the President's intent to enter into free trade negotiations with Malaysia. The notification letters to the Senate and the House of Representatives can be found on the USTR Web site at: http://www.ustr.gov/assets/Document_Library/Letters_to_Congress/2006/asset_upload_file337_9180.pdf.

On March 22, 2006, USTR announced its intention to hold a public hearing on May 3, 2006, for the interagency Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) to

receive written comments and oral testimony from the public to assist USTR in formulating positions and proposals with respect to all aspects of the negotiations (71 FR, 14558) (March 22, 2006). USTR intends to launch the negotiations in June, 2006.

The Trade Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-210) (the Trade Act) sets forth special procedures (Trade Promotion Authority) for approval and implementation of Agreements subject to meeting conditions and requirements in Division B of the Trade Act, "Bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority." Section 2102(a)-(c) of the Trade Act includes negotiating objectives and a listing of priorities for the President to promote in order to "address and maintain United States competitiveness in the global economy" in pursuing future trade agreements. The President assigned several of the functions in section 2102(c) to the Secretary of Labor. (E.O. 13277). These include the functions set forth in section 2102(c)(8), which requires that the President "in connection with any trade negotiations entered into under this Act, submit to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate a meaningful labor rights report of the country, or countries, with respect to which the President is negotiating," and the function in section 2102(c)(9), which requires that the President "with respect to any trade agreement which the President seeks to implement under trade authorities procedures, submit to the Congress a report describing the extent to which the country or countries that are parties to the agreement have in effect laws governing exploitative child labor."

II. Information Sought

Interested parties are invited to submit written information as specified below to be taken into account in drafting the required reports. Materials submitted are expected to be confined to the specific topics of the reports. In particular, agencies are seeking written submissions on the following topics:

1. Labor laws of Malaysia, including laws governing exploitative child labor, and that country's implementation and enforcement of its labor laws and regulations;
2. The situation in Malaysia with respect to core labor standards;
3. Steps taken by Malaysia to comply with International Labor Organization Convention No. 182 on the worst forms of child labor; and
4. The nature and extent, if any, of exploitative child labor in Malaysia.

Section 2113(6) of the Trade Act defines "core labor standards" as:

- (A) The right of association;
- (B) The right to organize and bargain collectively;
- (C) A prohibition on the use of any form of forced or compulsory labor;
- (D) A minimum age for the employment of children; and
- (E) Acceptable conditions of work with respect to minimum wages, hours of work, and occupational safety and health.

III. Requirements for Submissions

This document is a request for facts or opinions submitted in response to a general solicitation of comments from the public. To ensure prompt and full consideration of submissions, it is strongly recommended that interested persons submit comments by electronic mail to the following e-mail address: FRFTAMalaysia@dol.gov. Persons making submissions by e-mail are expected to use the following subject line: "Malaysia: Labor Rights and Child Labor Reports." Documents must be submitted in WordPerfect, MSWord, or text (.TXT) format. Supporting documentation submitted as spreadsheets is acceptable in Quattro Pro or Excel format. Persons who make submissions by e-mail need not provide separate cover letters; information that might appear in a cover letter is expected to be included in the submission itself. Similarly, to the extent possible, any attachments to the submission are expected to be included in the same file as the submission itself, and not as separate files. Written comments will be placed in a file open to public inspection at the Department of Labor, Room S-5317, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210, and in the USTR Reading Room in Room 3 of the annex of the Office of the USTR, 1724 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508. An appointment to review the file at the Department of Labor may be made by contacting Howard R. Dobson at (202) 693-4871. An appointment to review the file at USTR may be made by calling (202) 395-6186. The USTR Reading Room is generally open to the public from 10 a.m.-12 noon and 1 p.m.-4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Appointments must be scheduled at least 48 hours in advance.

Signed at Washington, DC this 7th day of April 2006.

James Carter,

Deputy Under Secretary for International Labor Affairs.

[FR Doc. E6-5515 Filed 4-12-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-28-P

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment and Training Administration

[TA-W-56,431]

Kennedy Die Castings, Inc., Currently Known as Thermalcast LLC, Including On-Site Leased Workers From Excel Staffing, Worcester, MA; Amended Certification Regarding Eligibility To Apply for Worker Adjustment Assistance and Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance

In accordance with section 223 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2273), and section 246 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2813), as amended, the Department of Labor issued a Certification of Eligibility To Apply for Worker Adjustment Assistance and Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance on February 23, 2005, applicable to all workers of Kennedy Die Castings, Inc., Worcester, Massachusetts, including on-site leased workers from Excel Staffing. The notice was published in the **Federal Register** on March 9, 2005 (70 FR 11704).

At the request of a petitioner, the Department reviewed the certification for workers of the subject firm. The workers produced aluminum and zinc die cast components.

New information provided to the Department by a company official shows that in December 2004, Kennedy Die Castings, Inc., Worcester, Massachusetts, was purchased by Thermalcast LLC, and continued the production of aluminum and zinc die cast components. Therefore, the Department is amending the certification to reflect the new ownership.

The intent of the certification is to include all workers of the firm adversely affected by increased imports of aluminum and zinc die cast components.

The amended notice applicable to TA-W-56,431 is hereby issued as follows:

"All workers of Kennedy Die Castings, Inc., currently known as Thermalcast LLC, Worcester, Massachusetts, including on-site leased workers from Excel Staffing, who became totally or partially separated from employment on or after January 3, 2004, through February 23, 2007, are eligible to apply for adjustment assistance under Section 223 of the Trade Act of 1974, and are also eligible to apply for alternative trade adjustment assistance under Section 246 of the Trade Act of 1974."