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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