Risk of online sexual exploitation in Philippines

CEBU, Philippines, 15 December 2008 In a poor shanty in the Central Philippines city of Cebu, a tiny internet café offers broadband connectivity with the outside world. In a place that lacks running water, the opportunities presented by the existence of the internet are boundless.

But along with these opportunities are the inherent risks posed by the net. A growing number of youths in the Philippines are being drawn into a dangerous world of sexual exploitation by foreigners they meet online.

Recognising the harm being inflicted on so many teenagers, UNICEF is supporting initiatives around the Philippines to deal with the problem. A number of internet cafés have agreed to remove their private booths after one of these initiatives put pressure on them to do so. UNICEF is also promoting a charter which lays down a code of conduct for internet cafés to follow to make them safer for children.

To read the full story, visit: http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/philippines_46852.html