

with respect to all aspects of the negotiations (67 FR 63954) (Oct. 16, 2002). The first round of the U.S.-Morocco FTA negotiations took place January 20–24 in Washington, DC, and a second round took place in Geneva, Switzerland March 24–28. A third round is scheduled for June, with negotiations expected to be completed by the end of 2003. An agreement resulting from these negotiations will be subject to trade promotion authority procedures. 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.

DATES: Public comments should be received no later than 5 p.m. June 5, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Persons submitting comments are strongly advised to make such submissions by electronic mail to the following address: FRFTAMorocco@dol.gov. Submissions by facsimile may be sent to: Betsy White at the Office of International Economic Affairs, Bureau of International Labor Affairs (202) 693–4851.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For procedural questions regarding the submissions, please contact Betsy White, Office of International Economic Affairs, Bureau of International Labor Affairs, at (202) 693–4919, facsimile (202) 693–4851. These are not toll-free numbers. Substantive questions concerning the labor rights report and/or the report on Morocco's laws governing exploitative child labor should be addressed to Jorge Perez-Lopez, Office of International Economic Affairs, Bureau of International Labor Affairs, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210, telephone (202) 693–4883.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

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 the Act. Division B of the Trade Act, entitled the Bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority Act of 2002. 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 19 U.S.C. 3802(a)–(c). The President delegated several of the functions in section 3802(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.” The notification letters to the Congress regarding the President's intent to enter into trade negotiations with Morocco be found on the USTR Web site at <http://www.ustr.gov/releases/2002/2002-10-01-morocco-house.PDF> and <http://www.ustr.gov/releases/2002/2002-10-01-morocco-senate.PDF>.

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 should be confined to the specific topics of the reports. In particular, agencies are seeking written submissions on the following topics:

1. Morocco's labor laws, including laws governing exploitative child labor, and Morocco's implementation and enforcement of such laws and regulations;
2. The situation in Morocco with respect to core labor standards;
3. Steps taken by Morocco to comply with International Labor Organization Convention 182 on the worst forms of child labor; and
4. The nature and extent, if any, of exploitative child labor in Morocco.

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, we strongly recommend that interested persons submit comments by electronic mail to the following e-mail address: FRFTAMorocco@dol.gov. Persons making submissions by e-mail should use the following subject line: “Morocco: Labor Rights and Child Labor Reports.” Documents should 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 should not provide separate cover letters; information that might appear in a cover letter should be included in the submission itself. Similarly, to the extent possible, any attachments to the submission should 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 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 Betsy White at (202) 693–4919. 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 1–4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Appointments must be scheduled at least 48 hours in advance.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 16th of April 2003.

Thomas B. Moorhead,

Deputy Under Secretary for International Affairs.

[FR Doc. 03–9796 Filed 4–18–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510–28–P

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Office of the Secretary

**Bureau of International Labor Affairs;
Request for Information Concerning
Labor Rights in Costa Rica, El
Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and
Nicaragua and Their Laws Governing
Exploitative Child Labor**

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

ACTION: Request for public comments.

SUMMARY: This notice is a request for public comments to assist the Secretary of Labor, the United States Trade Representative, and the Secretary of State in preparing reports regarding labor rights in the five member countries of the Central American Economic Integrations System (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua) and describing the extent to which they have 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. On October 1, 2002, 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 trade negotiations with these five countries of Central America. The interagency Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) invited the public to provide written comments and/or oral testimony at a public hearing conducted on November 19, 2002 to assist USTR in formulating positions and proposals with respect to all aspects of the negotiations (67 FR 63187) (Oct. 10, 2002). The first round of the U.S.—Central America FTA negotiations took place January 27–31 in Costa Rica, a the second round took place February 24–28 in Cincinnati, Ohio, and a third round took place March 31–April 4 in El Salvador. A fourth round is scheduled for May 12th in Guatemala, and negotiations are expected to be completed by the end of 2003. Any agreement resulting from these negotiations will be subject to trade promotion authority procedures. 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.

DATES: Public comments should be received no later than 5 p.m. June 5, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Persons submitting comments are strongly advised to make such submissions by electronic mail to the following address: FRFTACAF@dol.gov. Submissions by facsimile may be sent to: Betsy White at the Office of International Economic

Affairs, Bureau of International Labor Affairs (202) 693–4851.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For procedural questions regarding the submissions, please contact Betsy White, Office of International Economic Affairs, Bureau of International Labor Affairs, at (202) 693–4919, facsimile (202) 693–4851. These are not toll-free numbers. Substantive questions concerning the labor rights report and/or the report on Central America's laws governing exploitative child labor should be addressed to Jorge Perez-Lopez, Office of International Economic Affairs, Bureau of International Labor Affairs, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210, telephone (202) 693–4883.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Background**

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 the Act. Division B of the Trade Act, entitled the Bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority Act of 2002. 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. 19 U.S.C. 3802(a)–(c). The President delegated several of the functions in section 3802(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.” The notification letters to the Congress regarding the President's intent to enter into trade negotiations with Central America can be found on the USTR Web site at <http://www.ustr.gov/releases/2002/2002-10-01-centralamerica-house.PDF> and <http://www.ustr.gov/>

[releases/2002/2002-10-01-centralamerica-senate.PDF](http://www.ustr.gov/releases/2002/2002-10-01-centralamerica-senate.PDF).

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 should be confined to the specific topics of the reports. In particular, agencies are seeking written submissions on the following topics:

1. Labor laws, including laws governing exploitative child labor, of the five Central American countries that are participating in the negotiations and each country's implementation and enforcement of its labor laws and regulations;
 2. The situation in these five countries of Central America with respect to core labor standards;
 3. Steps taken by the five countries to comply with International Labor Organization Convention 182 on the worst forms of child labor; and
 4. The nature and extent, if any, of exploitative child labor in each of these five countries of Central America.
- 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, we strongly recommend that interested persons submit comments by electronic mail to the following e-mail address: FRFTACAF@dol.gov. Persons making submissions by e-mail should use the following subject line: “Central America: Labor Rights and Child Labor Reports.” Documents should 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 should not provide separate cover letters; information that might appear in a cover letter should be included in the submission itself. Similarly, to the extent possible, any attachments to the submission should 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 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 Betsy White at (202) 693-4919. 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 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Appointments must be scheduled at least 48 hours in advance.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 16th of April 2003.

Thomas B. Moorhead,

Deputy Under Secretary for International Affairs.

[FR Doc. 03-9797 Filed 4-18-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-28-P

NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINISTRATION

Notice of Meeting

Time and Date: 10 a.m., Thursday, April 24, 2003.

Place: Board Room, 7th Floor, Room 7047, 1775 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-3428.

Status: Open.

Matters to be Considered:

1. Quarterly Insurance Fund Report.
2. Request from a Federal Credit Union to Expand its Community Charter.
3. Requests from two (2) Federal Credit Unions to Convert to Community Charters.
4. Final Rule: Part 741 of NCUA's Rules and Regulations, Overseas Branching by Federally Insured Credit Unions.
5. Final Rule: Part 740 of NCUA's Rules and Regulations, Advertising.
6. Final Rule: Section 701.19 of NCUA's Rules and Regulations, Retirement Benefits for Federal Credit Union Employees.

For Further Information Contact: Becky Baker, Secretary of the Board, Telephone: 703-518-6304.

Becky Baker,

Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 03-9927 Filed 4-17-03; 12:49 pm]

BILLING CODE 7535-01-M

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Notice of Intent To Seek Approval To Extend and Revise a Current Information Collection

AGENCY: National Science Foundation.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The National Science Foundation (NSF) is announcing plans to request renewal of this collection. In accordance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13), we are providing opportunity for public comment on this action. After obtaining and considering public comment, NSF will prepare the submission requesting that OMB approve clearance of this collection for no longer than 3 years.

DATES: Written comments on this notice must be received by June 20, 2003 to be assured of consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR

COMMENTS: Contact Teresa R. Pierce, Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 295, Arlington, Virginia 22230; telephone (703) 292-7555; or send email to tpierce@nsf.gov. You also may obtain a copy of the data collection instrument and instructions from Ms. Pierce.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title of Collection: Academic Research and Development Survey Expenditures at Universities and Colleges, FY 2003 through FY 2006; OMB Control Number 3145-0100.

Comments are invited on (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Proposed Renewal Project: Separately budgeted current fund expenditures on research and development in the sciences and engineering performed by universities and colleges and federally funded research and development centers—A web survey, the Survey of Scientific and Engineering Expenditures at Universities and Colleges, originated in fiscal year (FY) 1954 and has been conducted annually since FY 1972. The

survey is the academic expenditure component of the NSF statistical program that seeks to provide a "central clearinghouse for the collection, interpretation, and analysis of data on the availability of, and the current and projected need for, scientific and technical resources in the United States, and to provide a source of information for policy formulation by other agencies of the Federal government," as mandated in the National Science Foundation Act of 1950.

Use of the Information: The proposed project will continue the current survey cycle for three to five years. The Academic R&D Survey will be a census of the full population of an expected 646 institutions (610 universities or colleges plus 36 federally funded research and development centers—FFRDCs) for academic years 2003 through FY 2006. These institutions account for over 95 percent of the Nation's academic R&D funds. The survey has provided continuity of statistics on R&D expenditures by source of funds and by science & engineering (S&E) field, with separate data requested on current fund expenditures for research equipment by S&E field. Further breakdowns are collected on passed through funds to subrecipients and received as a subrecipient. Additional measures on current fund expenditures for separately budgeted research and development by field of science and engineering are requested as being part of the core survey on select Federal Government agency sources. Data are published in NSF's annual publication series Academic Science and Engineering R&D Expenditures and are available electronically on the World Wide Web.

The survey is a fully automated web data collection effort and is handled primarily by the administrators at the Institutional Research Offices. To minimize burden, institutions are provided with an abundance of guidance and help menus on the web, in addition to printing and responding via paper copy if necessary. Each record is pre-loaded with the institutions 2 previous year's data and a complete program for editing and trend checking. Response to this voluntary survey in FY 2001 was 95.4 percent. Burden estimates are as follows:¹

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¹ Average burden hours for institutions responding to burden item.