

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN

Safer Walks To School

(NAPSA)—Child safety advocates hope a new program will be an important step toward keeping children around the world safe as they walk to school.

PHOTOVOICE: Children's Perspectives on Road Traffic Safety gives kids the chance to photograph and write about dangers they see or encounter as they walk to school, helping them to learn about road traffic safety and how to be safer pedestrians.

For 12-year-old Sun Hongzhe—who, like many children in China, spends a lot of time walking near busy roads—it wasn't difficult to find a potential danger that he could photograph for inclusion in the PHOTOVOICE project.

"I found there was a breach on the isolation barriers between vehicular road and nonmotor vehicle lanes," Sun explained, describing a space between where the cars could easily come through and hit people who were walking.

Sun took the photograph to document the hazard and wrote about the unsafe corner as part of PHOTOVOICE, the first child safety photojournalism project of the Safe Kids Walk This Way program. The initiative, sponsored by FedEx, includes photos from more than 1,600 children in seven countries.

"By chronicling their environments, identifying risk factors and



Camera Ready—Children are using pictures to document safety hazards on their walk to school.

distinguishing between safe and unsafe pedestrian behaviors, PHOTOVOICE is helping the kids to become safer pedestrians," said Mitch Stoller, president and chief executive officer of Safe Kids Worldwide, the global safety organization celebrating 20 years of preventing accidental injury to children.

Selected photos, each accompanied by a written description from the child photographer, will be on display in seven cities—São Paulo, Toronto, Beijing, Mumbai, Seoul, Manila, and Washington, D.C.—to celebrate International Walk To School Month.

For more information about PHOTOVOICE and to view the online exhibition, visit safekids.org/walk.