

PRESS RELEASE

UNICEF, GUYANA

2 November 2004

UNICEF's Deputy Executive Director, Ms. Karin Sham Poo, last Friday, signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) as they hosted the Eleventh Meeting of the Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD) in Georgetown, Guyana on the 28 - 29 October 2004.



**Ms. Karin Sham Poo, Deputy Executive Director, UNICEF and
CARICOM Deputy Secretary General, Ambassador Lolita Applewaite,
sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the two bodies.**

The Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD) promotes human and social development including efficient and affordable health services; the development of education and training facilities from elementary to tertiary and technical training. The COHSOD also coordinates policies and programmes to improve the living and working conditions of nationals; promotes the development of youth and women in the community as well as the development of culture and sports.

At the Meeting of Caribbean Education Ministers, Ms. Sham Poo also delivered a presentation to the gathering on Natural Disasters: Education Response in Emergency Situations which called for a review of the present curriculum to include life skills based education; building codes to be enforced for the construction/ reconstruction of safe schools and awareness to be raised among the donor community on the importance of education in emergencies.

While in Guyana Ms. Sham Poo paid a courtesy call on His Excellency President Bharat Jagdeo, and had several meetings with Ministers of the Government, including the Honourable Ministers of Foreign Affairs; Culture, Youth and Sport; Education and Labour, Human Services and Social Security.

Ms. Sham Poo also met members of the local media at a Press Conference hosted by UNICEF Guyana Office on Friday, October 29th at the UNICEF Office.

The visiting team also included UNICEF Barbados Representative, Ms. Jean Gough, Regional Advisor on Adolescent Development and Gender Equality, Ms. Christine Norton and Education Officer, UNICEF New York, Ms. Pillar Aguilar.