

REPORT ON
“REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON PROFESSIONAL
LOBBY AND ADVOCACY”

From 8th- 11th June, 2009

NEPAL



Organized by

Indraprastha Public Affairs Centre (IPAC), New Delhi
&
Informal Sector Service Center (INSEC), Nepal

Introduction-:

Regional workshop on Professional Lobby and Advocacy was held in Nepal from 8th-11th June 2009. It was a 4 days workshop conducted at Hotel Paradize, Kathmandu organized by IPAC and INSEC, facilitated by Entrée Netherlands and supported by Cordaid Netherlands. Govert Van Oord of Entrée was the chief facilitator supported by Narender Kumar as co-facilitator.

The main objective of this workshop was to create a common understanding about professional lobby and advocacy among the Non-government organisation who work with or without the support of the public sector and some how effect the decision making process. The participant organisations were from south region of Asia, which includes Pakistan, Nepal, and India. The sessions were quite understandable and supported by group activities.

The workshop started with a keynote address from Mr. Subodh Pyakurel, Chairperson, INSEC. Govert took over the stage after this and expressed gratitude to every one and felt honored at being a guest in Nepal; Govert introduced the general frame of the

exercise. He streamlined the effort as starting from realities, exchange of ideas, instruments learning from other's mistakes and going back with an action plan

The introduction session was quite interesting. Govert asked the participants to introduce each other's organisation as the lobby organisation, as listening, is a very important skill to activate lobby plan. The introduction was further taken to a new level using a novel way of having the participant's opens up in the very first session. Govert, asked the participants to display their skills in an exercise called ***"Hello, can I have a minute?"*** In this exercise, each participant was given two minutes to imagine a situation where he/she pretends to run into a lobby target and tries to attract his/her attention in such a way that he/she gets interested in her issue or gives an appointment for further discussions.

Spanning 4 days, Govert presented his thoughts through diverse presentations ranging from **Lobby: Engaging with Public Sector** and then putting his thoughts into the **ROLE OF a LOBBYIST: How to position ourselves as Advocate or Lobbyist**. In one of the session, Govert also acquainted the participants about the **Four steps in policy adoption by the public decision makers** and also about **The great challenge for a lobbyist**. Mr. Narender Co-facilitated two sessions, one in which he explained participants about the process of **Decision making in Public Sector** and later gave a brief foreword about IPAC and the kind of work IPAC embarks upon. Further to know each organization in a better way Mr. Narender conducted a very appealing group work in which he asked representatives from each organization to write down the needs of their organization and also why these needs are difficult to realize.

All the participants were also asked to give an overview on the workshop and give some suggestions on how one can proceed further with this. All the participants thanked IPAC, INSEC and Entrée for taking such initiatives.

In the concluding session, some unique and innovative techniques were suggested by the participants such as to create a much wider network, as Astha from IPAC suggested creating a Google network linking each other, bypassing the physical barriers in disseminating. NCDHR participants wished to work on joint action plan on common agenda with IPAC and INSEC. INSEC representatives thanked Govert and Narender for updating them about the lobby techniques. All of them wished to continue this network and pledged to update each other about the latest happenings of their respective regions

On the 4th and last day all the participants along with the facilitators were invited to INSEC office in Kalanki, Kathmandu. They showed different departments of their office ranging from HR Documentation and Dissemination Department, HR Education Department, HR Monitoring and Advocacy Department, Peace and Democracy Department to Management Department. Subsequently their was a formal introduction of participants to their staff members. Subodh Raj Pyakurel,, the honorable Chairperson of INSEC gave a brief Foreword about his organization and the kind of work they disseminate. After this Bijaya Raj Gautam took over the stage presented a very beautiful presentation highlighting the history of INSEC.

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