

REPORT ON
“NATIONAL WORKSHOP FOR NORTH EAST
WOMEN’S NETWORK”

From 1st-3rd of June, 2009

In Shillong



Organized by

Indraprastha Public Affairs Centre (IPAC),

New Delhi.

Engage where you can, confront you must

Introduction-:

Lobby workshop for North East Women Network started on 1st of June till 3rd of June. It was a 3 days workshop conducted in Shillong at Hotel Pinewood, organized by IRDSO and NE WOMEN’S NETWORK facilitated by IPAC New Delhi and Entrée Netherlands supported by Cordaid Netherlands. Govert Van Oord of Entrée was the chief facilitator supported by Narender Kumar and Babloo Loingtombam as co-facilitators.

There were total 16 people participated in the lobby workshop. All were from different states like Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram.

The introduction part was very unique as Govert asked the participants to list what they expect from the workshop and also what they could give to the group. The introduction further taken to a new level using a novel way of having the participants opens up in the very first session. Govert, Chief facilitator asked the participants to showcase their skills in an exercise called ***“Hello, can I have a minute?”*** where 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 3 days, Govert presented his thoughts through diverse presentations ranging from **Basics of Lobby to Networking** and then also putting his thoughts into the **Relation between Civil society and Security Sector**. In one of the session Babloo also acquainted the participants about **Human Rights Reporting & Women Human Rights Defenders**. Mr. Narender Co-facilitated one of the sessions and gave a brief foreword about IPAC and the kind of work IPAC embarks upon.

In the concluding session some very unique and innovative techniques were suggested by the participants to create a much wider network, like Bondita suggested creating a Google network linking each other, bypassing the physical barriers in disseminating. As promised by her, this network has already been created and is fully functional. Noni suggested creating a state-level network of NGO’s with a strategy in the long term which can later be used to form a regional network of a NE wide women’s network. Babloo promised to play a role with his existing network but warranted other states apart from Manipur to form a women’s network. A much wider network can be established in two or three years with the participation of states (seven sisters) on the model of Manipur.

Pledging was also a significant part of concluding session. All the participants were asked to make bilateral agreements through pledging. Total of 21 pledged were made between participants, and by the time of finalization of this report, some of them as promised, have already started working together.

All the participants were also to give an overview on the workshop and give some suggestions on how one can proceed further with this. All the participants thanked IPAC and Entrée for taking such initiatives. They all felt stronger after learning the real lobbying techniques because till now they all were doing lobbying in their own ways. Govert thanked everybody, on the behalf of Cordaid.

Mr. Narender in his concluding remarks said that organizer’s happiness and satisfaction lies in the happiness of the participants. He finally, gave the assurance to the group that SDS-IPAC would be always ready for lending support to all the organizations that were present in the workshop and even others who are willing to work on the issue of Women and Governance at any stage of their work.

Report put together by: Faiza Abbasi and Harneet Kaur with support from participants.