

CEPPS
Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening



CEPPS Quarterly Report: April 1, 2011 to June 30, 2011

NEPAL: Strengthening Political Parties, Electoral and Legislative Processes
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This cover memorandum accompanies the detailed reports submitted by the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES) and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) of the Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening (CEPPS) to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for the “Nepal: Strengthening Political Parties, Electoral and Legislative Processes” program:

I. POLITICAL CONTEXT AND CHALLENGES

Nepal is undergoing a critical and historic period of political transition. The completion of the Constituent Assembly (CA) elections in April 2008 marked the beginning of the country’s course in drafting a new constitution and solidifying peace after a decade-long civil war. Major political stakeholders anticipate that the drafting process will lay out a new federal government structure more representative than the current centralized system.

However, the country’s political environment has become increasingly unstable and the constitution drafting process has been slow. The poor performance of political parties and the lack of consensus within parliament have fed the loss of public confidence in multi-party politics. Nepalis have characterized parties as being disconnected from citizen concerns outside of Kathmandu, unable to deliver on electoral campaign promises, and beset with corruption and opaque internal processes. In the CA, which acts as an interim parliament, negotiations of political arrangements have been difficult both in the aftermath of a socially and politically destabilizing civil war. In addition, nearly a third of all members are new to elected office and lack the knowledge, skills and resources to fulfill their mandates. Civic engagement within the political process is uneven, and the culture of monitoring and holding political leaders accountable is underdeveloped.

With the adoption of a new constitution by the CA, elections will be held in the near future to choose representatives to a successor legislature and new sub-national governance structures.

The legitimacy of such institutions will be critical in managing tensions associated with diverse ethnicities, castes, and political groupings in Nepali society. This underscores the importance of an electoral process that is publicly viewed as credible and that involves the meaningful participation of voters and citizens. Effective public participation in these processes will be critical in determining the legitimacy of the new constitution, the government that is formed in its wake, and the future of country's political stability.

The CEPPS partners have identified the following challenges, organized by program component that will be addressed through this program:

Promote and Strengthen Broader Political Processes

- Organizational weaknesses and the poor governance record of Nepali political parties have led to a loss of public confidence in a multiparty system of democracy.
- Political parties lack internal democratic practices that encourage local party branches and members, including women youth and marginalized groups, to participate in the development of positions on policy issues.
- Political parties lack organized and transparent resource mobilization, and have difficulties in membership recruitment and retention.
- Political parties lack the institutional ability to formulate policy solutions and engage constituents and non-governmental stakeholders in public policy discussions.
- Organizational weaknesses have contributed to the parties' poor electoral preparation and performance. The lack of understanding of citizen concerns and priorities have resulted in party platforms and campaign strategies that were neither relevant nor compelling.
- In preparing for previous elections, candidate selection processes were not transparent, and candidates were not fully aware of their respective parties' policy positions.
- Political parties lack the capacity to plan and organize effective electoral campaigns, and are short on technical and practical resources to conduct campaigns in a competitive political environment.
- There is an underdeveloped culture within civil society and the media of monitoring the activities of political parties.

Strengthen Institutions Involved in Electoral Processes, Either as Actors or Participants

- While the CA election of 2008 was praised a credible electoral process and well managed by the ECN, as expected in the first post-conflict election in a country with as many challenges as Nepal, there were shortcomings and irregularities in the electoral process (voter registration process, limitations of the voter education program, lack of a clear election disputes resolution mechanism).
- In an ongoing spirit of collaboration and transparency, in the post-election period, the ECN undertook a series of post-election evaluations with stakeholders at a national and local level. During the coming years, it will be crucial to maintain the ECN's credibility and build on its institutional capacity to remain a strong pillar in Nepal's ongoing march from war to peace and from a monarchy to a Federal Democratic Republic.
- Although the 2008 general elections were mostly free of violence and administered without widespread problems, shortcomings in Nepal's election process persist, including: problems with the voter list and registration process; interference from some election and government officials; abuse of state resources for campaign purposes; and an inadequate process to resolve election complaints.
- Given the performance of civil society during previous elections, domestic monitoring groups and the media could play a stronger role in observing the elections and fostering greater transparency and fairness in the electoral process.

Improve the democratic functioning of the Constituent Assembly (CA)/Parliament

- Previous parliaments and the current Constituent Assembly have not been effective in their outreach and representation functions.
- There is a shortage of CA members that with the technical expertise to draft and review proposed legislation.
- With the promulgation of the new constitution and the anticipated shift to a federal system of government, it is likely that many newly elected members will have little or no experience in serving as elected representatives.
- Key bodies within parliament institutions are understaffed and under-resourced. The Parliament Secretariat lacks adequate technical knowledge and material resources to effectively support the legislative process.
- The CA/Parliament conducts few committee hearings and does not have a formalized public consultation process. Little interaction exists between members of the CA/Parliament and their constituents, and this lack of interface breeds gaps in government responsiveness to citizen needs, citizen inclusion in public policy development and the accountability of officials and their use of public resources.
- There is little public information on the latest developments in the constitutional development process and the work of the legislature.

II. OBJECTIVES

The program aims to strengthen political parties, electoral and legislative processes in Nepal. To this end, IFES and NDI would be working to achieve the following specific objectives:

IFES

- Ensure that Nepal develops a body of legislation on the electoral process that is comprehensive, coherent and consistent; which conforms to international standards and suits the socio-economic context and new political realities of Nepal.
- Improve the capacity of the ECN to manage future elections and consolidate its mandate and performance through the provision of high level technical assistance in the legal, management and technical aspects of elections and long-term professional development capacity building
- Expand and improve the delivery of voter education by working with the ECN and selected non-governmental organizations to plan, develop, and implement effective voter education programs, with a focus on capacity building, in order to enhance the electorate's understanding of democratic practices and rights, and increase participation in the electoral process.
- Closely monitor, analyze and report on the overall electoral process with a focus on the Election Commission's internal activities and external interaction with other electoral stakeholders.
- Provide a facility that can address unforeseen windows of opportunity that may arise in Nepal's unpredictable post-conflict political and electoral environment, in order to achieve immediate beneficial results in line with the program objectives.

NDI

- Promote and strengthen democratic political processes through political party development assistance.
 - Sub-Objective 1.A: Improve democratic political party organizational structures and operations
 - Sub-Objective 1.B: Enhance the electoral competitiveness of political parties
- Strengthen the capacity of citizen oversight of the electoral process.
 - Sub-Objective 2.A: Enhance the capacity of civil society to monitor elections
 - Sub-Objective 2.B: Strengthen the capacity of media to report on the electoral process

- Support the institutional strengthening of the Constituent Assembly/ Parliament and improve its capacity to address constituent needs.
Sub-Objective 3.A: Strengthen the legislative drafting capacity of the legislature
Sub-Objective 3.B: Increase communication between representatives and their constituents

III. ACTIVITIES

A. Promote and strengthen democratic political processes through political party development assistance

Effective Political Party Organizing and Outreach

NDI conducted the first of two national week-long training-of-trainers (ToTs) in Kathmandu for 54 political party trainers. The curriculum focused on building the internal capacity of party training units, and was based on the findings of the party baseline assessments. The party training units are in charge of developing and delivering trainings to party members on the national, regional and district levels.

The Inter Party Women’s Alliance, with technical and logistical support from NDI, continued its expansion of district sub-committees to six more districts. These district committees, comprised of district-level women leaders and activists, have proven instrumental in lobbying for support and funding for women’s initiatives at the local level and have provided women with the opportunity to participate in national political debates.

Cross Party Consensus Building

NDI organized a two-day residential workshop for 16 Inter Party Alliance (IPA) political party representatives on the issue of Nepal’s future form of government. The workshop was highly collaborative with participants aiming to reach consensus on the form of government to be adopted for Nepal under the new constitution.

Building the Investigative Skills of Journalists to Monitor and Report on Party Activities

Internews conducted a series of journalism trainings across Nepal for more than 45 participants. Participants were able to meet with government officials and began understanding the need for a more proactive role as watchdog journalists.

B. Strengthen Institutions Involved in Electoral Processes, Either as Actors or Participants

Technical Assistance to the ECN in the Legal, Management and Technical Aspects of Elections

During this reporting period, IFES has continued to provide technical and capacity building support to the ECN and other stakeholders in the finalization of concept papers on political party law, electoral management body, electoral dispute resolution, campaign regulation and election dispute resolution. IFES’ two programs for electoral law reform, one funded under CEPPS III and the other funded by the Norwegian government, continue to collaborate closely to maximize coordinated technical inputs and public review opportunities.

Strengthen ECN's Electoral Management Capacity

During this quarter, IFES continued to play a pivotal role in the implementation of Phase 2 of the voter registration program, providing significant technical and capacity building support on a daily basis. In addition to IFES' strategic input, IFES support has been crucial for the operational effectiveness of the voter registration process, particularly in light of the ECN's policy change to allow eligible voters to register at any registration location.

Throughout the reporting period, the ECN continued its voter registration methodology for Phase 2, based on each district setting its own timetable for progressively covering VDCs in the district. Registration places continued to stay open for a limited time in each VDC, according to the estimated number of voters. The ECN continued training at the VDC and registration place level through this quarter, using the training materials (enumeration handbook, registration handbook, trainers' guide, registration video) developed by IFES during the previous reporting period. Staff are being trained progressively as the registration process moves from VDC to VDC. The ECN is unable to provide data on the total number of staff trained using the IFES materials, as 27 of the 75 districts have so far not provided any of the required information to their headquarters. The remainder have provided partial information.

Capacity Building

IFES continue to provides organizational capacity building support on specific initiatives and through ongoing interactions with ECN staff. In addition, the work of IFES national training consultant, based full-time in the ECN, continues to be instrumental in demonstrating good practices in training development and management processes to often inexperienced ECN secretariat managers. Through collaborative work, collection and archiving of materials and daily professional interactions, the training capacity of individuals in the ECN has been increased, and the ECN is developing a more systematic approach to planning and implementing a cascade training program. The national training consultant continues to maintain an excellent training relationship with the ECN training team and is highly valued by the training team and senior ECN management.

Expand and Improve Delivery of Voter Education

During this quarter, IFES continued to play a pivotal role in the implementation of Phase 2 of the voter registration program, providing significant technical and capacity building support on a daily basis. In addition to IFES' strategic input, IFES support has been crucial for the operational effectiveness of the voter registration process, particularly in light of the ECN's policy change to allow eligible voters to register at any registration location.

A key focus of IFES' support this reporting period has been to work with the ECN to develop and produce a number of voter education products, including a 30 second radio PSA to highlight the ECN's change in policy to enable eligible citizens to register anywhere; the production of 30,000 voter registration voter education calendars; and the development of a voter registration A5 leaflet and A3 Q&A brochure.

C. Support the Institutional Strengthening of the Constituent Assembly/Parliament and Improve its Capacity to Address Constituent Needs

Promoting Dialogue between Elected Members and Their Constituencies

The Institute organized an orientation program for representatives from nongovernmental organizations (NGO) and Constituent Assembly (CA) members. NDI, with logistics support from its local partner, Pro Public, conducted the first round of community dialogue and round

table discussions in ten districts. Furthermore, the Institute organized a seminar for the Next Generation Parliamentarians Group and organized a constituency outreach event in Lalitpur district.

Supporting Greater Public Awareness and Engagement in the Work of Parliament

TAF continued to support the Nepal Constitution Foundation (NCF) and a broad coalition of interest groups - Dalit, Madheshi, women, youth, and *Janajati* - to conduct legislative audits. Six relevant bills were audited to study their compliance with international standards, legal and statutory coherence, and most importantly, whether or not the bills were inclusive towards marginalized groups. TAF also worked with its three local partners to conduct a second round of youth- and women-focused town hall meetings to discuss specific legislative agendas in 45 municipalities across Nepal.

IV. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE INDICATORS

Foreign Assistance Indicators	IFES	NDI	Quarter Total	FY11 Total
Number of individuals who received USG-assisted political party training.	N/A	315	315	
Number of domestic election observers trained with USG assistance.	N/A	0	0	
Number of laws or amendments to ensure credible elections drafted with USG technical assistance	0	N/A	0	
Number of USG-assisted public sessions held regarding proposed changes to the country's legal framework	1	N/A	1	
Number of local CSOs strengthened that promote electoral reform and/or improvements in the electoral system.	2	N/A	2	
Number of electoral administration procedures and systems strengthened with USG assistance.	1	N/A	1	
Number of electoral officials trained with USG assistance	27,419	N/A	27,419	
Number of national legislators and national legislative staff attending USG sponsored training or educational events.	N/A	68	68	
Number of public forums resulting from USG assistance in which national legislators and members of the public interact.	N/A	12	12 ¹	

V. EVALUATION

Success Stories

Due to IFES having been able to provide significant financial support to the voter registration and electoral legal reform process over the last two quarters and IFES' staff having worked extremely closely with ECN counterparts, the added value of IFES' involvement continues to be clearly demonstrated. As a result, IFES has continued to establish and maintain some excellent relationships and allies within the ECN and has significantly increased the trust of the ECN, with staff members becoming far more receptive to IFES' technical and capacity-building support. IFES will continue to build on this in the next quarter.

¹ NDI organized a total of 11 forums while TAF organized 1 for the reporting period of April to June 2011.

The content and presentation of TAF's weekly radio program, *Hamro Kanoon*, which offers weekly parliamentary updates and provides information on legislation before the CA, has received overwhelming praise from the public as indicated in the letters of appreciation to our partner FM stations. As testimony to the program's effectiveness and popularity, four radio stations - Radio *Bandipur*, *Samagra* FM, *Nepaliko* Radio, Radio *Sarathi* - have voluntarily begun airing the radio shows. Additionally numerous listener-groups have formed in the districts, which also indicates the utility and receptiveness of the program. For example, in Dang district four listeners club have been formed - *Chetansil Srota*, *Manch-Lalmatia*, *Pariwartan Srota*, *Manch-Sishaniya*, *Nawa Jagaran Srota Manch-Satbaria*, and Radio Highway *Jharna Manch-Kusum*. These groups discuss the content, format, and presentation modules of the radio program; their feedback is then fed back into the design of future radio shows.

Building on the good relationship NDI shares with political parties in Nepal, the Inter Party Alliance (IPA) was formed in early 2011, as an inter-party dialogue mechanism to address contentious issues by enhancing coordination and cooperation among political parties. A huge step forward in this endeavor was the participation of the Unified Communist Party of Nepal – Maoist (UCPN-M) who had in the past displayed reluctance to participate in programs organized by international organizations in general. The presence and active participation of the largest party in the Constituent Assembly (CA) signals a positive step forward in strengthening dialogue among political parties. The IPA comprises members who are forerunners in their respective parties and are accustomed to positions of leadership and decision making. The nine major political parties comprising the IPA have signed a Terms of Reference (ToR) to work on enhancing communication, trust building and consensus on cross-cutting party issues.

Lessons Learned

IFES has serious concerns about the lack of capacity in ECN's IT division to manage the voter registration database as effective management of data will be pivotal to the success of the new voter register. The ECN has finally recognized this as a problem (IFES and UNDP have been raising this before the voter registration program began) and the ECN has requested that UNDP bring in an international consultant to help address this. This lack of strategic and operational planning and foresight highlights the need for the ECN to receive further strategic and operational planning capacity building support. IFES will liaise with the UNDP ESP to initiate this later in the year.

In the initial program proposal, a two-day annual moderator training was envisioned for four waves of town hall meetings. However, with the activity underway, there was realization that a single training session per year is not sufficient to equip the town hall moderators, particularly on the content of the bills to be discussed. TAF has thus decided to conduct a moderator training session prior to each wave of town hall meetings for this year.

Suggestions/recommendations forwarded by programs on review of legislative bills can only be incorporated if the draft bill is being discussed in the Legislative Committee or has just been tabled in the Parliament. Thus, continual follow-up of the parliament procedures is vital to ensure that the bills selected and reviewed are well-timed.

Challenges

Whilst the ECN should be recommended for taking measures during the reporting period to improve the voter registration process and make it easier for eligible citizens to register, it should be noted that the ECN continues to demonstrate little ability to forward plan and again is launching into a revised voter registration methodology with little to no preparation. IFES also has serious concerns about the lack of capacity in ECN's IT division to manage the voter

registration database as effective management of data will be pivotal to the success of the new voter register.

Nepal is heading into a period of critical gas shortages which, in addition to the ongoing load-shedding power cuts, may soon affect Internews' ability to even run generators to provide power for the training facilities we are using in Kathmandu and plan to use elsewhere. If the gas shortages become much more severe, Internews may have to consider altering the current schedule if there's not enough electricity to be had for computers and other training necessities.

Given the Federation of Nepali Journalists' continuing silence concerning its role or participation in this project, Internews' Investigative Journalism Advisor, Michael McAuliffe, advised them in late April the decision to have Antenna Foundation take over FNJ's responsibilities for hiring course coordinators and choosing course participants for at least the first two courses. As a result of FNJ's decreased involvement, Internews was communicating with the Nepal Press Institute for possible partnership. Nepal Press Institute's training facilities for the courses in Biratnagar and Nepalgunj have been confirmed and negotiations are being completing to book NPI and have them provide course coordinators in those two locations and in Pokhara.

Analysis of Program Impact

IFES technical assistance, capacity building and material support has continued to be crucial for the operational effectiveness of phase 2 of the voter registration process, particularly in light of the ECN's policy change on 6 June to allow eligible voters to attend a registration center anywhere in Nepal.

In addition to IFES' support of the voter registration process, IFES continued its ongoing programmatic work in other areas. Good progress has been made with the electoral legal reform process with IFES providing technical and capacity building support to the ECN and other stakeholders in the development of the draft political party law and the sections of the electoral law on election management body (EMB), voting and counting, campaign regulation and electoral offences.

Citizen participation in the legislative process is essential to building a strong and vibrant democracy. The collective effort of the CEPPS Partners has strengthened interaction between political parties, civil societies, elected officials and citizens. The first round of NDI's community dialogues and round table discussions in ten districts across Nepal initiated the process of bringing parliamentarians closer to their constituents. These dialogues paved the way for constituents to interact with and hold their elected representatives more accountable and provided a much needed forum to highlight key community issues with the active involvement of the local citizenry. In addition, the Next Generation Parliamentarians Group (NGPG), a forum of first-term parliamentarians, has created the political space for multi-party dialogue and enhanced the skills of first-term CA members. Similarly, the IPA continues to serve as a coordinating body on cross-party issues and is a key point of contact between political parties. Party leaders continue to seek advice from the Institute, demonstrating NDI's ability to provide information and assistance to the ongoing political transition. In addition the Institute serves as a source of information on political parties and processes to many in the international community.

The Asia Foundation was successful in increasing the awareness of the general public in the legislative process through its weekly radio programs and in producing multiple channels of communication between the legislators and the constituents through its social audits and town hall meetings. For example, the discussions from the town hall meetings in 45 locations, attended by 2540 youth and women, led to specific recommendations that have been handed

over to members of legislative committee, who, after citing the timeliness of the activity, have made public commitments to engage these recommendations during their debates in the Parliament.

Internews conducted a number of journalism trainings with the overall reaction by participants being highly favorable and positive. Post-workshop surveys have shown improved knowledge among journalists on a wide range of issues: how to confront threats and intimidation; how to defend against and fight violations of media rights; how to track the positions of political parties and obtain information on their fundraising and spending behavior; improved understanding of proper ethical relationships between journalists and politicians; and understanding and desire to utilize the Right to Information Act as a tool for investigative journalism and to promote accountability and transparency in the Nepal's evolving political development.

VI. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Promote and strengthen democratic political processes through political party development assistance

- NDI will conduct a series of individual political party workshops and consultations from July 17 till August 5 on a variety of reform and priority areas for political parties.
- NDI will organize two regional ToTs – Phase I. These are a follow up to the national ToT-Phase I. The regional ToT will take place in the following regions: Central Tarai (Janakpur); and Western Region (Kaski). All the modules of national ToT-Phase I will be replicated at the regional level, and will be led by master party trainers and supported by local/national experts.
- NDI will support IPWA expansion and formation of two district committees and the organization of capacity-building training for the newly elected women members.
- Internews will hold five additional journalism trainings across Nepal.

Strengthen Institutions Involved in Electoral Processes, Either as Actors or Participants

During the next reporting period IFES will finalize draft sections of the election law not dependent on constitutional agreements, work with the ECN to develop a capacity-building strategy for the ECN and begin implementation of priority areas such as project management and financial planning, work with the ECN BRIDGE team to develop and implement a three-day *Introduction to Election Management* and Pre-Election Activities BRIDGE training program for new District Election Officers, Continue to provide technical, capacity building and material support to the ECN's voter education campaign for final stages of Phase 2 of the ECN's voter registration program and support ECN voter education activities for any special initiatives implemented by the ECN to register all remaining potential voters.

Support the Institutional Strengthening of the Constituent Assembly/Parliament and Improve its Capacity to Address Constituent Needs

- NDI will organize a workshop on Committee Hearings for Committee Chairs, Members and Secretaries in order to discuss the purpose, functions and effectiveness of committees and as well as the value of committee hearings.

- NDI will continue to work with NGPG core members to create an opportunity for the young/first term members of the parliament to interact and find ways to formalize and strengthen NGPG by organizing seminars/workshops on the topics related to the national interests.
- TAF will coordinate closely with the Secretary General to initiate strategic implementation of the Five-Year Library Improvement Plan, based on the recommendations provided by the research consultant and the funds allocated under CEPPS.
- TAF will operate in accordance to the work plan created by Writing Workshop to upgrade the Legislative Parliament's media center in the coming quarter. Coordinating with the Parliament Secretariat, it will initiate strategic involvement in providing technical and material assistance as identified by the research consultant and the funds allocated under CEPPS.
- TAF will continue to work closely with NCF and the interest group in identifying and auditing relevant legislation in the coming quarter. Furthermore, TAF will coordinate with New Spotlight Pvt. Ltd. to ensure a proper dissemination of the findings/recommendations of the interest group audits through the print media.

International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)
Quarterly Report
April – June 2011

I. SUMMARY

This reporting period continued to be characterized by political impasse and uncertainty relating to ongoing wrangling over the constitution drafting process, and failure to reach agreement on key outstanding issues of the peace process. Tensions rising between political parties, a growing lack of confidence in Prime Minister Khanal and the increasingly fractious internal dynamics within all the major political parties, served to exacerbate political uncertainty during the quarter. The Constituent Assembly (CA) was unable to meet the 28 May deadline for promulgation of the Constitution, and at last minute the CA extended its terms for a further three months. As part of a five point agreement, the current Prime Minister is required to step down for a unity government, the peace process and constitution drafting should be completed within the timeframe and the Nepal army will be developed as an inclusive institution.

IFES technical assistance, capacity building and material support has continued to be crucial for the operational effectiveness of phase 2 of the voter registration process, particularly in light of the ECN's policy change on 6 June to allow eligible voters to attend a registration center anywhere in Nepal. IFES immediately moved to support the ECN with the implementation of this amended policy through the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support with the development of new voter education materials in the form of a revised 30 second PSA produced in 17 languages and the development of print materials designed to highlight and promote the change to the general public to maximize participation in the registration process. IFES also supported the production of 30,000 voter registration calendars for key stakeholders and an additional 40,000 voter registration promotional bags. Through the provision of funding, administrative support and technical assistance with the development of the training materials, IFES also supported the training of 75 district computer operators in the operation of district-based servers for the processing of voter registration data. Finally, with the main phase of the voter registration process set to finish mid July, IFES is working with the ECN on how best to support the continuous voter registration process. As part of this, IFES will support the ECN's voter education efforts through the implementation of a sub-award voter education program, designed to target marginalized and less likely to register sectors of the population. Four proposals have been finalized and submitted to USAID with the finalization of the fifth underway.

In addition to IFES' support of the voter registration process, IFES continued its ongoing programmatic work in other areas. Good progress has been made with the electoral legal reform process with IFES providing technical and capacity building support to the ECN and other stakeholders in the development of the draft political party law and the sections of the electoral law on election management body (EMB), voting and counting, campaign regulation and electoral offences. During the reporting period IFES funded an ECN national workshop to review and discuss the draft political party law.

Working with the ECN BRIDGE (Building Resources in Democracy Governance and Elections) team, IFES has supported a number of *Elections* BRIDGE activities this quarter, including the development and implementation of a *Political Parties* BRIDGE three-day training for 18 political party representatives and a ten-day *Train-the-Facilitators* BRIDGE program, with the aim of increasing the number of accredited female BRIDGE facilitators in Nepal. IFES has also continued to take a lead role in facilitating *Democracy and Governance* BRIDGE in Nepal, which has been supported by funding from the Australian Election Commission and in-country funding from the World Bank. Following Nepal's selection as one of the pilot countries for the

D&G BRIDGE program, a customization workshop was held in Kathmandu with the international and national facilitation team to prepare the materials for the pilot workshop which was subsequently implemented in the far west of Nepal. Based on the success of the pilot, the World Bank and the Australian Election Commission plan to roll-out the program to further districts in Nepal.

II. BACKGROUND

Political Update

This reporting period continued to be characterized by political impasse and uncertainty relating to ongoing wrangling over the constitution drafting process, and failure to reach agreement on key outstanding issues of the peace process. Tensions rising between political parties, the increasingly fractious internal dynamics within all the major political parties, and a growing lack of confidence in Prime Minister Khanal, all served to exacerbate political uncertainty during the quarter. Prime Minister Khanal faced increasing criticism from within his own party and coalition partners as well as parties outside the coalition. This erosion of confidence in the Prime Minister culminated in a requirement for his resignation in a five point agreement related to the extension of the CA.

The peace process came to a critical juncture on 28 May, 2011, the deadline for promulgation of the new Constitution. After months of delay due to lack of political consensus and failure to agree on some of the most crucial issues, such as form of government, the electoral system and delineation of federal provinces, the CA was ultimately unable to provide a draft of the Constitution by the deadline. At last minute, the CA determined to extend its term for a period of three months to 28 August, 2011. A five point deal was agreed, based on 1) Completion of the fundamentals of the peace process within three months; 2) Preparation of the first draft of the Constitution within three months; 3) Implementation of past agreements with the Madhesi Morcha by developing the Nepali Army as an inclusive institution; 4) Extension of the tenure of the CA for three months; and 5) Resignation of Prime Minister Khanal to pave the way for a national consensus government.

In the run up to the 28 May deadline, Bandhs continued in the second half of May, with Kathmandu being shut down on 22, 23 and 27 May. A group of western ambassadors wrote to Bandh organisers criticizing the intimidatory and potentially violent nature of their actions to prevent all Nepalis from attending their employment. DFID indicated that it may cut funding to organisations that institute bandhs and the US indicated that bandh organisers may face visa restrictions.

Following the three-month extension, discussions on the Constitution continue. The taskforce of the subcommittee of the Constitutional Committee charged with sorting out the remaining differences has reportedly made some progress on three key issues. Some key issues that remain in dispute include: whether the current structure of districts will continue within provinces; distribution of powers between central provincial and local levels; and political priorities for minorities and ethnic communities.

Progress has been slow on implementing the five point agreement that was the basis for the three month CA extension in May. The Prime Minister Jhalanath Khanal is still in office, and shows no sign of leaving until the unlikely event of agreement on a successor occurs. There has been little tangible progress on the peace process: the UCPN-M is becoming increasingly fractured, largely as a result of leader Pushpa Kamal Dahal's compromise in May on the related issues of the integration of Maoist combatants, the disarming of Maoist leaders' bodyguards and the parallel running of the constitutional drafting and the peace process. However, in spite of intra

and inter party disagreements, there is a general understanding amongst the political parties that there is no alternative other than to make progress on integration and rehabilitation of former Maoist combatants (critical unresolved aspects of the peace process) within the current extension period of the CA.

In terms of political developments relating to the work of the ECN, following the transfer of Secretary Gautam on 15 May, a new Secretary has been appointed, Mr. Kishor Thapa. Mr. Thapa, whose previous post was as Secretary in the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation, is one of the most highly regarded civil servants in Nepal and should be a great asset to the ECN.

The ECN's decision on 6 June to amend its voter registration methodology to enable eligible citizens to register at any registration location, not just those within the district where the voter is to be registered to vote, was welcomed by political party leaders. On 14 June, the ECN met with political party leaders to explain the new voter registration initiative and subsequent press coverage on the meeting was very positive, including strong supporting statements for the ECN and the voter registration process from senior leaders, including Prachanda, the leader of UCPN-M (Unified Communist Party – Nepal) who attended the meeting.

Finally, following successful negotiations between the ECN and Limbu leaders, obstruction of the voter registration process in Limbu areas has largely ceased. At the end of the reporting period the agitation from Madesh groups, who have disrupted the voter registration process in the Terai from the outset, has largely subsided.

Program Objectives

Under the Consortium of Elections and Political Strengthening (CEPPS III), IFES activities will support one of the three principal objectives as detailed by USAID: 2) Strengthen Institutions Involved in Electoral Processes, Either as Actors or Participants and sub-objectives:

- A) Strengthen democratic legal framework
- B) Strengthen the ECN's electoral management capacity and
- C) Expand and improve delivery of voter education

In support of the above, IFES will achieve the following objectives:

- To ensure that Nepal develops a body of legislation on the electoral process that is comprehensive, coherent and consistent; which conforms to international standards and suits the socio-economic context and new political realities of Nepal.
- To improve the capacity of the ECN to manage future elections and consolidate its mandate and performance through the provision of high level technical assistance in the legal, management and technical aspects of elections and long-term professional development capacity building.
- To expand and improve the delivery of voter education by working with the ECN and selected non-governmental organizations to plan, develop, and implement effective voter education programs, with a focus on capacity building, in order to enhance the electorate's understanding of democratic practices and rights, and increase participation in the electoral process.
- To closely monitor, analyze and report on the overall electoral process with a focus on the Election Commission's internal activities and external interaction with other electoral stakeholders.

- To provide a facility that can address unforeseen windows of opportunity that may arise in Nepal's unpredictable post-conflict political and electoral environment, in order to achieve immediate beneficial results in line with the program objectives.

III. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

1. Strengthening Democratic Legal Framework

Activity 1.1 – Technical Assistance

Summary: During this reporting period, IFES has continued to provide technical and capacity building support to the ECN and other stakeholders in the finalization of concept papers on political party law, electoral management body, electoral dispute resolution, campaign regulation and election dispute resolution.

IFES' two programs for electoral law reform, one funded under CEPPS III and the other funded by the Norwegian government, continue to collaborate closely to maximize coordinated technical inputs and public review opportunities. IFES has continued to engage a highly regarded Nepali legal drafter, Kailash Prasad Subedi, to work under Norwegian funding with IFES' Norwegian-funded consultant, Kare Vollan, in advising the ECN, stakeholders and the electoral law drafting subcommittee on the concept papers and drafts of the political party law and electoral laws. The IFES Country Director has also continued to provide advice to the ECN on electoral legal reform issues.

During the current reporting period IFES CEPPS III program funded an ECN national workshop on 28 April in Kathmandu for 21 stakeholders (representatives from political parties and civil society organizations) to review and discuss the draft political party law. Based on inputs from the workshop and a very productive meetings held with the Acting Chief Election Commissioner and the Legal Joint Secretary during the week of 23-28 May, where it was agreed to simplify and edit the draft political party law (except for the section on internal party democracy which will be expanded), IFES funded national legal drafter, Kailash Subedi, revised the draft law. The revised draft is now with Kare Vollan for review, before being sent to the ECN Commissioners.

IFES Country Director and Kare Vollan met with NDI to discuss areas of synergy and cooperation on the development of the political party law. Discussions included possible NDI support through the NDI supported Inter Party Alliance for political party workshops on the draft political party law. Any follow up with this is more likely to happen once a revised draft of the political party law is publicly available.

Good progress is being made on drafting sections of the electoral law that are not dependent on constitutional process not yet determined. The IFES-funded legal consultant to the ECN has completed drafts of the election law sections on campaign regulation, EMB and election offences and these have been reviewed by the IFES Country Director. Revised EMB and campaign regulation sections are currently being reviewed by the ECN. With regard to campaign regulation, three contentious issues remain to be finalised: regulation of third party activities in support of parties; donations to independent candidates; and whether to allow US style Political Action Committees. At the end of the reporting period, corrupt practices/electoral offences and the voting and counting sections had been translated into English and were being reviewed by the IFES Country Director.

Results: Ongoing day-to-day technical advice to the ECN in the development of the draft political party law and sections of the electoral law. Stakeholder consultation on the draft political party law and revised draft completed. Initial drafts completed of the election laws sections on campaign regulation, EMB, election offences, corrupt practices/electoral offences and voting and counting.

Activity 1.2 – Capacity Building

Summary: IFES has used day-to-day discussions with ECN staff and meetings with political party and civil society stakeholders to provide information on international examples of good practice in electoral legal frameworks. In addition, on 9-10 May, a five member delegation from the ECN, including the Legal Joint Secretary, attended a workshop hosted at and facilitated by IFES in Washington DC. During the workshop, leading experts met with the delegation to discuss electoral topics, including sessions relating to electoral legal reform, voter education for minority groups, campaign finance regulations and electoral systems. Ongoing discussions with IFES, both in Nepal and in Washington DC, have continued to significantly increase knowledge of international good practice. There have been no meetings of the ECN's legal drafting subcommittee during this reporting period.

Results: Increased knowledge of the ECN's legal department, civil society and political party stakeholders of international good practices in legal frameworks for political parties and electoral management bodies.

2. Strengthening Electoral Management Capacity of the ECN

Activity 2.1 – Technical Assistance

Summary: During this quarter, IFES continued to play a pivotal role in the implementation of Phase 2 of the voter registration program, providing significant technical and capacity building support on a daily basis. In addition to IFES' strategic input, IFES support has been crucial for the operational effectiveness of the voter registration process, particularly in light of the ECN's policy change to allow eligible voters to register at any registration location.

Throughout the reporting period, the ECN continued its voter registration methodology for Phase 2, based on each district setting its own timetable for progressively covering VDCs in the district. Registration places continued to stay open for a limited time in each VDC, according to the estimated number of voters. The ECN continued training at the VDC and registration place level through this quarter, using the training materials (enumeration handbook, registration handbook, trainers' guide, registration video) developed by IFES during the previous reporting period. Staff are being trained progressively as the registration process moves from VDC to VDC. The ECN is unable to provide data on the total number of staff trained using the IFES materials, as 27 of the 75 districts have so far not provided any of the required information to their headquarters. The remainder have provided partial information.

By the end of the reporting period voter registration was complete in 41 districts and according to the latest figures available from the ECN, 7,700,119 people had registered. The ECN continues to be confident that over 10 million voters will have registered during the initial registration process which is due to now be completed by mid July 2011. The ECN's estimate of 11,037,525² voters registering in the initial registration process represents 63% of those on the voters list for the 2008 CA election. Based on 2001 census projections there are an estimated 14.5 million Nepalis eligible to register.

² The revised figure of 11,037,525 is based on a review of 2001 census projections conducted by IFES in 2010 and official and unofficial estimates that approximately 3,100,000 eligible citizens are currently outside the country.

In recognition of the fact that there are still millions of people to register, the ECN has made a number of policy changes, the most significant of which, issued in a decision on 6 June, amended the ECN's voter registration methodology. From now on voters can register at any registration location, not just those within the district where the voter is to be registered to vote. Additional registration locations, mainly in municipalities and mainly in the Kathmandu valley will be open for periods of between one week and one month through to mid July 2011. This period will coincide with the end of the financial year and the need to expend current budget allocations by then.

IFES was immediately able to move to support the ECN with the implementation of this amended policy, specifically through the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support with the development of new voter education materials in the form of a revised 30 second radio PSA produced in 17 languages and the development of print materials designed to highlight and promote the change to the general public to maximize participation in the registration process. For more details of this voter education support, please see Section 3. Expanding and Improving the Delivery of Voter Education.

Whilst the ECN should be recommended for taking measures during the reporting period to improve the voter registration process and make it easier for eligible citizens to register (as highlighted by the Carter Center's preliminary findings and recommendations on the voter registration process, presented to ECN on June 17), it should be noted that the ECN continues to demonstrate little ability to forward plan and again is launching into a revised voter registration methodology with little to no preparation. Furthermore, IFES and UNDP ESP continue to have serious concerns about the lack of planning for managing the voter registration database and lack of capacity in ECN's IT division to manage the voter registration database. Effective management of data will be pivotal to the success of the new voter register. This lack of strategic and operational planning and foresight again highlights the need for the ECN to receive further strategic and operational planning capacity building support. IFES will liaise with the UNDP ESP to initiate this later in the year.

In addition to this voter education support, IFES' national training advisor worked with the ECN IT department to develop training materials and plans for the training of 75 district computer operators in the operation of district-based servers for the processing of voter registration data. IFES funded the training for 75 computer operators (one operator per district) which took place in 4 locations, Biratnagar, Dhulikel, Pokhara and Nepalgunj on 12-14 June. IFES provided administrative and financial support through the provision of one staff member from its accounting contractor at each location. Feedback was very positive from the ECN and IFES' national training advisor, who attended the training in Biratnagar for monitoring purposes.

Finally, the five minute edited version of the training video prepared in the last reporting period, was approved by the ECN and has been uploaded onto the ECN website.

Results: Provision of ongoing high-level technical guidance and assistance with the voter registration process and associated training plans and materials and voter education products. Support of the ECN's change of policy to register eligible citizens anywhere through the provision of revised voter education materials. Support of the development and implementation of a Computer Operator Training program for 75 computer operators. Five minute training video finalized and uploaded onto the ECN website.

Activity 2.2 – Capacity Building

a) *Implementing a Program of Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) Training*

Summary: As part of IFES' ongoing support of the ECN's BRIDGE program, IFES continues to take the lead coordination role working with the Commission and its BRIDGE partners, UNDP and International IDEA, to plan for and implement BRIDGE activities in support of the Commission's ongoing work.

During this reporting period, IFES worked with the ECN to develop the curriculum and materials for *Political Parties BRIDGE*. The training, which took place in Dhulikel from 19-21 April, 2011, was held for 18 political party representatives (10 male and 8 female) from 8 of the major political parties. The training was delivered by a team of experienced national BRIDGE facilitators, together with Katie Ryan, the IFES Nepal Deputy Country Director. It aimed to provide political parties with an understanding of election management bodies (EMBs) and electoral processes, as well as further developing the relationship between political parties and the ECN. The three-day program covered topics such as the electoral cycle; the role and different types of EMB; contestant principles; political party law and party registration; electoral fraud, complaints and offences and campaign funding and accountability. Feedback from the political party representatives was extremely positive, with requests for a similar training for senior political party members. The training proved highly effective, with the pre and post-test evaluation showing a significant increase in the knowledge of the issues covered. (Agenda for the *Political Parties BRIDGE* program available upon request).

Later in the reporting period, IFES prepared for, and began implementation of a ten-day *Train-the-Facilitator* program which commenced on 27 June and ran to 8 July. This intensive ten-day training program is an integral part of the *Elections BRIDGE* course and aims to semi-accredit a core group of 20 people from Nepal and the region as BRIDGE facilitators, with a specific focus on increasing the number of female BRIDGE facilitators (16 of the 20 participants are female). The program was led by Sibongile Zimemo, a highly experienced BRIDGE trainer from South Africa, with the support of Katie Ryan, Deputy Country Director of IFES Nepal and a team of fully accredited Nepali facilitators. Participants were drawn from civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, election commissions, and relevant government bodies. IFES is delighted that there were five self-funded international participants, coming from the Election Commissions of the Maldives, Philippines and Thailand, as well as from IFES Cambodia, bringing a rich electoral and cultural perspective to the training. In terms of the national participants, five were from the ECN; two were from the Nepal Civil Service Staff College; three were from UNDP and IFES (IFES' national training advisor, the UNDP funded gender advisor and the UNDP funded manager of the new ECN Electoral Education and Information Centre); and five were from Nepali NGOs. (Ten-day agenda for the training program available upon request).

Finally, in terms of *Elections BRIDGE*, a planning meeting was held with UNDP in June to discuss the *Gender and Elections BRIDGE* planned for later this year in November. The training, which will take place in four regions, will provide an opportunity for some of the semi-accredited facilitators who achieved semi-accredited status during the *Training of Facilitators* program to become fully accredited by a BRIDGE training consultant who will be in Nepal in November. The UNDP gender advisor and IFES' training advisor will work with the ECN and the BRIDGE focal point to develop this program and will draw on the materials developed for the *Gender and Elections BRIDGE* organized by IFES in 2010.

In addition to IFES' ongoing work with *Elections' BRIDGE*, IFES has continued to take a lead role in coordinating with World Bank, Danida/HUGOU and International IDEA to introduce a pilot to Nepal of the recently developed *Democracy and Governance (D&G) BRIDGE* program. Following Nepal's selection as one of the pilot countries for the D&G BRIDGE program, from 9-13 May, 2011, a team of five international facilitators came to Nepal to work with a team of five national semi-accredited D&G BRIDGE facilitators and Katie Ryan, the Deputy Country Director, to customize the D&G BRIDGE dialogue program to the Nepali context. Following the customization workshop and preparation of materials, the program was implemented in Doti, a district in the far west of Nepal, from 6-12 June, 2011. Twenty stakeholders from political parties, civil society, government officials and media attended the workshop, which was delivered by the national facilitation team and the IFES Nepal Deputy Country Director, with support and mentoring by a team of international D&G BRIDGE facilitators. The workshop was extremely well received and resulted in full accreditation of the facilitation team and the identification and development of draft action plans by the participants to address issues relating to domestic violence, financial accountability of the District Development Committee and accountability relating to the delivery of health services in the district. Based on the success of the program in Doti, the World Bank has decided to provide support for the further development of the ideas stemming from the Doti workshop and to continue with the roll-out of the program to further districts. In addition, the D&G BRIDGE team, with funding from AusAID, is preparing a strategy for further support to the D&G BRIDGE Nepal program.

Results: Three-day curriculum and materials prepared for a *Political Parties BRIDGE* program, resulting in training of 18 political party representatives on a range of electoral issues. Materials prepared for and implementation underway of a ten-day women focused *Train the Facilitator BRIDGE* program, for 20 participants, five of whom are from countries in the region. Highly successful pilot D&G program implemented in the Doti district for 20 participants, resulting in the full accreditation of four national facilitators and Katie Ryan, the IFES Nepal Deputy Country Director.

b) Organizational Capacity Building

Summary: IFES' Country and Deputy Country Director continue to provide organizational capacity building support on specific initiatives and through ongoing interactions with ECN staff. In addition, the work of IFES national training consultant, based full-time in the ECN, continues to be instrumental in demonstrating good practices in training development and management processes to often inexperienced ECN secretariat managers. Through collaborative work, collection and archiving of materials and daily professional interactions, the training capacity of individuals in the ECN has been increased, and the ECN is developing a more systematic approach to planning and implementing a cascade training program. The national training consultant continues to maintain an excellent training relationship with the ECN training team and is highly valued by the training team and senior ECN management.

As has been highlighted in other sections of this report, IFES has provided capacity building support with the development of the Computer Operator Training program as well as capacity building support with the ongoing development of voter education materials for the voter registration process. IFES has also worked with the BRIDGE team on the development and implementation of the *Political Parties BRIDGE* program and a ten day *Training of Facilitators* program. In all of these areas the ECN has been receptive to this capacity-building support and IFES is continuing to see improvements in working practices and outputs in these areas. IFES will continue to work with UNDP in 2011 to draft an organizational capacity building program, which will include topics such as project and budget management, project proposal writing, negotiation, operational planning etc.

In addition, as was highlighted in section III, activity 1.2, page 5, in May, following a one-week UNDP program at Instituto Federal Electoral (IFE) in Mexico, a five member ECN delegation comprising the leader of the delegation, Commissioner Gurung; Joint Secretary Madhu Regmi; Under Secretary, Tulasi Gautam; Section Officer, Bisaksen Dhakal; and Computer Officer, Suman Ghimire, visited IFES DC for a two-day workshop on 9-10 May. IFES brought together leading experts to hold sessions on campaign finance regulation, voter education (with emphasis on minority groups), electoral law reform and electoral systems. The delegation found the workshop highly informative and welcomed the chance to learn from and share experience with electoral experts, as well as meet with senior members of IFES staff and discuss areas of future cooperation. (Delegation trip report available upon request).

Finally, following the issuance of an RFQ in the last reporting period, Blitz Media carried out a survey of 236 ECN stakeholders to be used by IFES for monitoring and evaluation purposes and to assist the ECN to identify stakeholders perception of the strengths and weaknesses in electoral management and the electoral framework in Nepal. Significant issues from the data include widespread satisfaction with the ECN (82%), though attitudes are less positive towards the ECN's political independence, honesty/integrity and use of technology.

Results: More professional approaches to developing training programs and materials. Two-day workshop organized by and held in IFES DC for a five-member ECN delegation led by Commissioner Gurung. Study trip report produced and key learnings from the workshop shared within the ECN. Survey of 236 ECN stakeholders completed and information being used for monitoring and evaluation purposes.

3. Expanding and Improving the Delivery of Voter Education

Activity 3.1 Capacity Building Support to the ECN on the Design, Implementation and Evaluation of Voter Education Campaign

Summary: The IFES team has maintained an excellent working relationship with the ECN voter education team and provided ongoing and daily capacity building support. A key focus of IFES' support this reporting period has been to work with the ECN to develop and produce a number of voter education products, including a 30 second radio PSA to highlight the ECN's change in policy to enable eligible citizens to register anywhere; the production of 30,000 voter registration voter education calendars; and the development of a voter registration A5 leaflet and A3 Q&A brochure.

Although excellent and productive working relationships have been established and improvements made in the ECN's voter education work, the ECN continues using government bureaucratic language and messaging styles in draft public information materials. Although IFES has been able to facilitate some improvements, due to the last minute nature of the ECN's requests for new materials, IFES has been limited in its ability to fully address this issue. Bringing about a change in mindset within the ECN to use more motivational, user friendly language in public information materials will take time and will continue to be a priority area for IFES to work on with the Commission.

As a result of IFES' ongoing work to promote the issue of gender inclusion in voter education materials, a positive development to highlight is the ECN's receptiveness to the issue of gender inclusion in the visuals used for the ECN voter education calendar. Gender balance was achieved in depicting roughly equal numbers of women and men in positions of authority in the voter registration process, as opposed to the ECN's previous tendency to show men in positions of authority. IFES will continue to strongly promote the issue of inclusion and representation of marginalized groups in the ECN's public information work.

Finally, in support of the voter registration program, IFES funded a further 3 voter education district stakeholder interactions for 184 participants this reporting period, bringing the total of voter education interactions held to a total of 49 for 3,076 participants. These multi-stakeholder events involving political parties, media, CSOs and government officials have proved to be an effective way to build stakeholder support for the voter registration program at the district level to train stakeholders in voter registration processes and to encourage participants to use their networks to promote voter education messages. Key voter registration materials were distributed at the workshops, such as the enumeration handbook and voter education materials in an IFES funded voter education bag.

Results: Ongoing provision by IFES staff of voter education capacity building support and excellent working relationship maintained with the ECN voter education team. Specific capacity building support provided for the development of a 30 second radio PSA to promote the ECN's new policy decision to allow citizens to register anywhere; the development and production of a voter education calendar; and the development of a voter registration A5 leaflet and A3 Q&A brochure. Increasing recognition within the ECN of the importance of gender inclusion in its public information materials as reflected in the new ECN calendar where women are equally depicted in positions of authority. A further 3 voter education district stakeholder interactions held for 184 participants, bringing the total of voter education interactions held to 49 for 3,076 participants.

Activity 3.2 Material and Broadcasting Support for Voter Education Campaigns

Summary: During this quarter, IFES continued to work with the ECN on its voter education activities developed during the previous reporting period and also responded to a number of unforeseen requests from the ECN to support the development of new voter education materials.

In terms of voter education activities instigated in the previous reporting period, in April, IFES undertook monitoring of the broadcast of the 30 second generic radio PSA, which, funded by IFES, was being broadcast by Communication Corner, Nepal FM and Image FM through their affiliate radio stations from 27 March for a four week period. This monitoring revealed that Communication Corner and Nepal FM were not broadcasting in accordance with the agreed schedule during the first four week contract. Following negotiations, both radio networks agreed to a compensatory package of free spots for non compliance with the original agreed schedule, which was completed the first week of June. IFES' monitoring during this time period showed a very high compliance with the broadcasting schedules agreed. Image FM recommenced broadcasting for a four week period from 16 May.

The decision to focus on radio broadcasting as a key source of voter education at the local level was supported by the findings of the Carter Center, UNDP, IFES and ECN monitoring teams who visited voter registration centers around the country throughout April and May. During these visits it was confirmed by citizens and voter registration staff that FM radio PSAs have become the prime source of information about the VR process as opposed to the registration enumerators who were the prime source for phase 1 of voter registration.

At the end of May, the ECN requested that IFES provide assistance to produce and broadcast a new series of radio and TV PSAs, beginning 5 June, informing the public about the new ECN policies for voter registration through to mid July. Support was requested for a general TV PSA, a specific TV PSA for the Kathmandu valley, a general radio PSA in 17 languages to be broadcast country wide, and 2 specific radio PSAs to be broadcast only in the Kathmandu Valley in the relevant languages. Due to the fact that the ECN had not yet finalized its new policies or begun devising the approved content of the PSAs and the contracting lead times, IFES responded that it was impossible to meet this request by 5 June. Following further

discussions with the ECN, it was agreed that IFES would support national radio PSAs using the existing contracts for production and network broadcasting and that ECN would attempt to handle the other PSAs by themselves.

A formal request letter from the ECN was not received until 14 June, asking for assistance with production and broadcast of a new radio PSA, focusing on the messages: register from 16, 'register anywhere' and bring your citizenship certificate. Text of the PSA was received from the ECN on 20 June. Communication Corner assisted the ECN with the development of the radio PSA and the production of the PSA in 17 languages. The PSA will be broadcast for 28 days for maximum effectiveness, with broadcasting of the Nepali version beginning on national FM stations on 25 June and broadcasting in local language versions on local FM stations commencing early in the next reporting period. The ECN is producing/funding more specific FM messages for the municipalities which are opening additional voter registration facilities through to mid July.

To supplement this broadcasting, on 24 June IFES received a request letter from the ECN to extend the broadcasting of the radio PSA to Kantipur FM, given its popularity in the Kathmandu municipalities where the ECN is currently concentrating its efforts. Checking against AC Nielsen data shows that Kantipur has by far the largest audience share during news breaks. IFES is negotiating with Kantipur for a discounted rate for broadcasting and anticipates contracting Kantipur FM to begin broadcasting early in the next reporting period.

With regard to voter education print materials, on 1 April the ECN requested that IFES support the development and production of a voter registration/voter education calendar. IFES worked with the ECN voter education team to develop the calendar using informative photographs taken of the Commission's current voter registration program. Following a competitive tendering process, IFES selected a printer to print 30,000 calendars which were delivered to the ECN at the end of May for distribution to key ECN stakeholders (government officials, political parties, media etc.) at the national and district level. The ECN is delighted with the product. Copies of the calendar are available on request.

Following the great success of the 48,000 voter registration/voter education bags that IFES produced in the last reporting period for distribution at the district level voter stakeholder interactions, on 10 May the ECN advised that it required an additional 40,000 voter education bags for distribution to regions on 28 May. Three previous suppliers were contacted, but due to the fact that none could supply the bag to the same specification by the ECN deadline, IFES selected two suppliers who could supply 20,000 each, using a different process on higher quality fabric. The bags were delivered in installments to the ECN end of May/early June and were distributed to the regions and districts by the ECN voter registration monitoring teams.

Finally, on 22 June, IFES received a request letter from ECN for the printing of 1,000,000 single color A5 leaflets and 50,000 full color A4 size gatefold voter registration Q&A brochures. These are essentially updates of the materials ECN had printed for first phase of voter registration in 2010, but modified to highlight the ECN change of policy to allow all eligible citizens to register at any voter registration location. Following the issuance of an RFQ for the publications, a printer has been selected to print the leaflet, however, selection for the brochure has had to be delayed due to a change in specifications from the ECN.

Initial content for the brochure provided by the ECN was far too wordy to fit the publication format requested. IFES suggested to the ECN that either the brochure size be doubled to A3 or the text significantly reduced. ECN advised it intended to retain all the text, so at the end of June an amended specification was sent to all bidders requesting a fresh bid by 1 July. IFES has also

sought bids from graphic designers to assist ECN with the design and layout of the brochure. Content for the leaflet will be finalized by ECN early in the next reporting period.

IFES' national project coordinator, Suraj Sigdel, continued to take forward IFES' sub-award voter education program, designed to target marginalized and less likely to register sectors of the population, specifically, Badi women, Kamaiya (freed bonded laborers), Raute, Terai dalits, persons with disabilities, youth and women. Audits of all 14 short listed organizations for the voter education sub awards were completed and IFES worked with the first tranche of 6 organizations whose applications for sub awards have been cleared, to re-work proposals and reduce budgets. Considerable input was required from IFES in this regard. Due to lack of clarity of the ECN's policy for voter registration beyond June/July 2011, refinement of the proposals was delayed until there was greater clarity as to how the sub award voter education program could support the ECN's voter registration program from July 2011 onwards. As a result of this delay, the sub awards will not be in place to support the main phase of the voter registration program, but with agreement of the ECN, will instead be used to target these marginalized groups during the continuous voter registration phase. Pending approval from USAID, it is anticipated that voter education work through the sub award recipients will begin August 2011.

Request letters and proposals for four voter education sub awards (two focusing on Dalit communities, one on women and one on Kamaiya) were sent to USAID Nepal on 30 June. Work is currently underway to revise the proposal submitted by the selected organization targeting youth – Youth initiative – due to an insufficiently rigorous proposal and budget. It is anticipated that the finalized proposal will be submitted early in the next reporting period. Unfortunately, the sixth proposal selected, focusing on disability working with the National Federation of the Disabled Nepal, has been further investigated and IFES decided not to proceed due to governance issues recently raised in grants from other donors. IFES is exploring how to include work with the disabled as a cross cutting issue in all sub awards. Targeting the Raute, a minority nomadic ethnic group, is still an issue: the ECN sees them as a small but high priority (good publicity) target, but the only relevant CSO is too weak to fund. IFES is exploring possibilities of contracting Raute individuals for specific services in encouraging the Raute community to register.

Finally, IFES facilitated ECN/Chemonics contacts regarding opportunities for the ECN to use Chemonics radio programs on 12 FM stations in the Terai to publicize voter registration. The Acting Chief Election Commissioner, Neel Uprety, recorded questions and answers for the program and IFES provided Chemonics with a summary of the voter registration process and information on the ECN's decision to register eligible citizens anywhere to be used during the programs. Chemonics will disseminate the recording for broadcast to the FM stations early in the next reporting period.

Results: Nationwide broadcasting continued of 30 second generic radio PSA and confirmation from monitoring teams that use of radio PSAs have become the prime source of information on the VR process. IFES supported the development and production of a new 30 second radio PSA in 17 languages, focusing on informing the public of the ECN's new policy to register citizens anywhere. Development and printing of 30,000 voter registration voter education calendars which have been widely distributed to ECN stakeholders at national and local level. Production of a further 40,000 voter registration voter education bags for distribution and promotion of the voter registration process at the district level. RFQs issued for the production of 1,000,000 single color A5 leaflets and 50,000 full color A3 size gatefold voter registration Q&A brochures. Four sub award proposals designed to target marginalized groups submitted to USAID and the finalization of the fifth proposal targeting youth underway. Facilitation of ECN/Chemonics contacts to produce a voter registration program on 12 FM stations and development of background materials for the programs.

4. Monitor, Analyze and Report on the Overall Electoral Process

Activity 4.1 – Ongoing Analysis and Reporting on the Evolving Electoral Environment

Summary: IFES continued monitoring, analyzing and reporting on the progression of electoral related developments with regard to the Constituent Assembly and ECN activities. Regular reports on program activity and analysis of the political and electoral environment were provided verbally and in writing to U.S. Embassy officials, USAID and other relevant stakeholders, with a particular focus on the voter registration process. Presentations and briefings were made by the IFES Country Director to the Carter Center, the US Embassy Peace Partners meeting, as well as briefings for USAID and State Department in Washington DC.

Results: U.S. Embassy and USAID staff and other relevant stakeholders were kept abreast of electoral developments through regular briefings. Regular updates and briefings to relevant international stakeholders on the voter registration process.

Activity 4.2 – Provision of News Clipping Service

Summary: IFES Nepal continued to deliver its daily news clipping service throughout the reporting period. This service is a compilation of online news reports that are relevant to the evolving political and electoral situation in Nepal. News reports are taken from the major news outlets in Nepal, such as the *Kathmandu Post* and the *Himalayan Times* as well as other reputable online sources of news and analysis on Nepali politics.

Results: Daily news clippings service provided to interested subscribers, serving to keep all domestic and international electoral stakeholders well-informed on developments in the political and electoral environment in Nepal.

5. Provision for unforeseen windows of opportunity

Nothing to report this reporting period.

6. General Management

Since mid January 2011, IFES has been liaising with the Social Welfare Council (SWC) on the requirement for the renewal of IFES' general agreement with the Social Welfare Council, which expires on 29 June, 2011. This agreement is a requirement for international NGOs to be able to operate in Nepal, and a prerequisite for IFES to have a memorandum of understanding with the ECN. In June, 2011 the Social Welfare finally advised that it requires an external audit of all of IFES' local expenditures between June 2006 and July 2010 and commenced forming an evaluation team to review IFES' programs. This is currently underway and taking a considerable amount of IFES staff time. Since 27 June, 2011, a five person evaluation team appointed by the Social Welfare Council has been evaluating IFES' programmatic work since 2006.

IV. RESULTS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During the reporting period the IFES Nepal program has achieved the following major results:

1. Strengthening Democratic Legal Framework

Technical Assistance

- Ongoing day-to-day technical advice to the ECN in the development of the draft political party law and sections of the electoral law.
- Holding of stakeholder consultation on the draft political party law and revised draft completed.
- Initial drafts completed of the election laws sections on campaign regulation, EMB, election offences, corrupt practices/electoral offences and voting and counting.

Organizational Capacity Building

- Increased knowledge of the ECN's legal department, civil society and political party stakeholders of international good practices in legal frameworks for political parties and electoral management bodies.

2. Strengthening Electoral Management Capacity of the ECN

Technical Assistance

- Provision of ongoing high-level technical guidance and assistance with the voter registration process and associated training plans and materials and voter education products.
- Support of the ECN's change of policy to register eligible citizens anywhere through the provision of revised voter education materials.
- Support of the development and implementation of a Computer Operator Training program for 75 computer operators.
- Five minute training video finalized and uploaded onto the ECN website.

Organizational Capacity Building

- Three-day curriculum and materials prepared for a *Political Parties* BRIDGE program, resulting in training of 18 political party representatives on a range of electoral issues.
- Materials prepared for and implementation underway of a ten-day women focused *Train the Facilitator* BRIDGE program, for 20 participants, five of whom are from countries in the region.
- Highly successful pilot D&G program implemented in the Doti district for 20 participants, resulting in the full accreditation of four national facilitators and Katie Ryan, the IFES Nepal Deputy Country Director.
- More professional approaches to developing training programs and materials.
- Two-day workshop organized by and held in IFES DC for a five-member ECN delegation led by Commissioner Gurung. Study trip report produced and key learnings from the workshop shared within the ECN.
- Survey of 236 ECN stakeholders completed and information being used for monitoring and evaluation purposes.

3. Expanding and Improving the Delivery of Voter Education

- Ongoing provision by IFES staff of voter education capacity building support and excellent working relationship maintained with the ECN voter education team.
- Development of a voter registration A5 leaflet and A3 Q&A brochure and RFQs issued for the production of 1,000,000 single color A5 leaflets and 50,000 full color A3 size gatefold voter registration Q&A brochures.
- Increasing recognition within the ECN of the importance of gender inclusion in its public information materials as reflected in the new ECN calendar where women are equally depicted in positions of authority.

- A further 3 voter education district stakeholder interactions held for 184 participants, bringing the total of voter education interactions held to 49 for 3,076 participants.
- Nationwide broadcasting continued of 30 second generic radio PSA and confirmation from monitoring teams that use of radio PSAs have become the prime source of information on the VR process.
- IFES supported the development and production of a new 30 second radio PSA in 17 languages, focusing on informing the public of the ECN's new policy to register citizens anywhere.
- Development and printing of 30,000 voter registration voter education calendars which have been widely distributed to ECN stakeholders at national and local level.
- Production of a further 40,000 voter registration voter education bags for distribution and promotion of the voter registration process at the district level.
- Four sub award proposals designed to target marginalized groups submitted to USAID and the finalization of the fifth proposal targeting youth underway.
- Facilitation of ECN/Chemonics contacts to produce a voter registration program on 12 FM stations and development of background materials for the programs.

4. Monitor, Analyze and Report on the Overall Electoral Process

- U.S. Embassy and USAID staff and other relevant stakeholders were kept abreast of electoral developments through regular briefings.
- Regular updates and briefings to relevant international stakeholders on the voter registration process.
- Daily news clippings service provided to interested subscribers, serving to keep all domestic and international electoral stakeholders well-informed on developments in the political and electoral environment in Nepal.

V. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

For the next quarter IFES will focus on the following activities:

1. Strengthening Democratic Legal Framework

- Finalize the draft political party law
- Finalize draft sections of the election law not dependent on constitutional agreements.

2. Strengthening Electoral Management Capacity of the ECN

- Provide technical and capacity building support to the ECN for the implementation of the continuous voter registration program.
- With UNDP ESP work with the ECN to develop a capacity-building strategy for the ECN and begin implementation of priority areas such as project management and financial planning.
- Continue to work with the ECN to improve the professionalism of training for its staff, particularly with regard to curriculum and training material development.
- Work with the ECN BRIDGE team to develop and implement a three-day *Introduction to Election Management* and Pre-Election Activities BRIDGE training program for new District Election Officers.
- Work with the ECN BRIDGE team to develop and implement a three-day BRIDGE training program for media representatives.
- Work with the ECN BRIDGE team to develop and implement a *Gender and Elections* module to be conducted in four regional locations.

- Continue to work with the ECN to develop and implement a six-month tutorial program for core ECN staff using tailored BRIDGE methodology and materials.
- Work with the Nepal BRIDGE partners (World Bank, DanidaHUGOU and International IDEA) and the international facilitation team to develop and begin implementation of a Democracy and Governance BRIDGE strategy in Nepal, including follow-up on the Doti Democracy and Governance BRIDGE program and support of the World Bank funded roll out to other districts.
- Continue to work with the ECN to ensure gender inclusion is taken into account in programmatic activities and the implementation of the recommendations from the gender mapping assessment.
- Assist the ECN with the re-development of an attractive, informative and user-friendly ECN official website, including information on the current voter registration with photo program.
- With UNDP ESP, support the ECN training needs for voter registration data integrations verification and management.

3. Expanding and Improving the Delivery of Voter Education

- Continue to provide technical, capacity building and material support to the ECN's voter education campaign for final stages of Phase 2 of the ECN's voter registration program, including the development and production of voter registration flyers, question and answer leaflets and a radio PSA to promote the ECN's change in policy to allow citizens who are eligible to register to register anywhere.
- Work with the ECN to develop and implement a voter education strategy and materials to support continuous voter registration.
- Support ECN voter education activities for any special initiatives implemented by the ECN to register all remaining potential voters.
- Pending approval from USAID, begin implementation of sub-awards with five local civil society organizations to facilitate the delivery of voter education campaigns for marginalized and less likely to register sectors of the population for the ongoing continuous voter registration process.

4. Monitoring, Analyzing and Reporting on the Electoral Process

- Ongoing analysis provided to the U.S. Embassy, USAID and other stakeholders on the emerging electoral environment and identification of key issues.

VI. EVALUATION/CONCLUSIONS

- IFES continues to provide invaluable strategic and operational support to the work of the ECN. The support has been particularly important for the operational effectiveness of the voter registration process, as well as the electoral legal reform process, and has included a blend of technical assistance, the development and production of voter education materials training and stakeholder workshops as highlighted throughout this report.
- Due to IFES having been able to provide significant financial support to the voter registration and electoral legal reform process over the last two quarters and IFES' staff having worked extremely closely with ECN counterparts, the added value of IFES' involvement continues to be clearly demonstrated. As a result, IFES has continued to establish and maintain some excellent relationships and allies within the ECN and has significantly increased the trust of the ECN, with staff members becoming far more receptive to IFES' technical and capacity-building support. IFES will continue to build on this in the next quarter.

- Whilst the ECN should be recommended for taking measures during the reporting period to improve the voter registration process and make it easier for eligible citizens to register, it should be noted that the ECN continues to demonstrate little ability to forward plan and again is launching into a revised voter registration methodology with little to no preparation. IFES also has serious concerns about the lack of capacity in ECN's IT division to manage the voter registration database as effective management of data will be pivotal to the success of the new voter register. The ECN has finally recognized this as a problem (IFES and UNDP have been raising this before the voter registration program began) and the ECN has requested that UNDP bring in an international consultant to help address this. This lack of strategic and operational planning and foresight highlights the need for the ECN to receive further strategic and operational planning capacity building support. IFES will liaise with the UNDP ESP to initiate this later in the year.

Positive progress has been made with the recruitment of additional IFES staff. A highly experienced national Monitoring and Evaluation expert, formerly working for GTZ, has been selected and started work at IFES and a national public information consultant with extensive media experience will join early in the next reporting period. Interviews have taken place for a national Deputy Country Director to replace the departing Deputy Country Director, Katie Ryan. An extremely strong field of candidates have been interviewed and the selected candidate will begin in August.

National Democratic Institute (NDI)
Quarterly Report
April – June 2011

I. SUMMARY

On May 29, political party leaders in Nepal struck a last-minute deal to extend the life of the Constituent Assembly (CA). The agreement followed days of negotiations between the political parties resulting in a five-point pact on the peace process and extension of the term of the CA, thus averting a constitutional crisis. The CA now has three additional months to prepare a first draft of the new constitution, integrate the remaining Maoists combatants and reach a consensus on Nepal's future form of government. At the heart of the continuing stalemate is when and how to integrate former Maoist combatants into the Nepal Army.

This quarter, the National Democratic Institute ("NDI" or the "Institute"), along with subgrant partners Internews (IN) and The Asia Foundation (TAF), continued its program to strengthen democratic political processes in Nepal entitled "*Strengthening Political Parties, Electoral and Legislative Processes (SPELP)*." The program seeks to promote political party development, strengthen capacity for citizen oversight of the electoral process and support the institutional strengthening of the Constituent Assembly/Parliament and improve its capacity to address constituent needs.

NDI conducted a week-long multiparty training of trainers for political parties and completed the first round of community dialogues and round table discussions in ten districts. TAF completed its second round of town hall meetings in 45 municipalities across the country, and Internews held investigative journalism trainings in three locations across Nepal.

Next quarter, NDI will organize two regional training-of-trainer (ToT) workshops and will conduct follow-up meetings of the community dialogues and round table discussions in 10 districts. TAF will continue to work closely with marginalized interest groups to identify and audit relevant legislation, while Internews will hold five additional journalism trainings across Nepal.

II. BACKGROUND

On May 29, under a five-point pact between the Unified Communist Party of Nepal-Maoists (UCPN-M), the Nepali Congress (NC) and the Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML), the tenure of the CA was extended by another three months. The coalition government under Prime Minister Jhulanath Khanal initially sought to amend the interim constitution and extend the life of the CA by one year. However, the government faced intense opposition from the NC as well as the Madheshi parties, who asked for the Prime Minister's resignation before they agreed to vote for the extension. In addition, the NC also demanded that the Maoists hand over the People's Liberation Army (PLA) arms to the government. After intense discussions, the parties came to an agreement in the form of a five-point pact in the early hours of May 29 to extend the CA's tenure for three additional months. Following the extension, Prime Minister Jhulanath Khanal convened a meeting of top party leaders to discuss possible compromise on the number of PLA combatants to be integrated in the Nepal security forces, the modality of integration, the norms of entry, rank harmonization and rehabilitation packages. However, the parties failed to reach consensus and missed an important preliminary deadline in the newly extended timeline.

On June 5, the Maoists formally began the process of sending PLA combatants previously deployed for the security of Maoist leaders back to their cantonments. The move will end a dual

security system previously in place, with Maoist leaders agreeing to replace PLA men with police personnel for their security details. The hardline faction of the party, led by UCPN-M vice-chairman Mohan Baidya, pressured UCPN-M Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal not to accept the “humiliating” terms of integration that would “obliterate” the PLA. The rift between Dahal and Baidya is such that both leaders have called for separate meetings of loyal party cadres. Four Maoist leaders led by Baidya refused to send their PLA security detachment back to their cantonments.

On June 14, the Peace and Reconstruction Ministry and the UN Mine Action Team (UNMAT) organized an event in which Prime Minister Khanal and Army Chief Chhatra Man Singh detonated the last mines placed by the army. Nepal officially declared itself landmine free.

Workers at Surya Nepal held 42 company managers captive at its garment factory in Biratnagar to prevent authorities from implementing a pay-cut. The protest was triggered by the new industrial act, which allows employers to implement a “no work, no pay” policy. Surya Nepal reportedly deducted factory workers’ pay for going on strike earlier this year without prior notice. This incident comes less than a month after the Maoists allegedly burnt down GMR Group’s hydropower office and site camp in Dailekh district and threatened not to allow the Indian company to develop the 900 MW Upper Karnali hydropower project.

On June 17, Nepali officials began the eleventh national census, the first since the start of the civil war in 1996. The census is expected to provide useful insight on the impact of the conflict on the country’s population. On June 22, Finance Minister Bharat Mohan Adhikari presented the preliminary budget to the Legislature-Parliament. The government planned to present the fiscal year 2012 budget in mid-July.

III. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

A. Political Party Development

NDI’s political party program is based on continuing coordination and consultation between the Institute and its political party partners. This ensures that all assistance activities respond to the individual needs identified by each party and to any changes in Nepal’s political context or legal framework. This quarter, NDI conducted the first of six national and regional level training-of-trainers workshops focused on building internal party training capacity. Meanwhile the Inter Party Women’s Alliance (IPWA) continued its expansion of district committees to six more districts.

Memoranda of Cooperation Signed with Political Party Partners

NDI signed Memoranda of Cooperation (MOCs) with its nine political party partners: UCPN-M, NC, CPN-UML, Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP), Tarai Madhesh Loktantrik Party (TMLP), Madheshi Janadhikar Forum, Nepal-Democratic (MJF, N-D), Madheshi Janadhikar Forum, Nepal (MJF-N), Communist Party Nepal-Marxist Leninist (CPN-ML) and Sadbhawana Party (SP). The MOCs cover the general parameters of political party assistance for the following year of NDI party assistance and are divided into two parts: two national-level training-of-



Participants at the national political party ToT

trainers (ToTs) workshops with four replicate trainings at the regional level; and ongoing individual consultations and workshops with parties on priority and reform areas.

National Political Party Training of Trainers

From June 25 to July 2, NDI conducted the first of two national week-long ToTs in Kathmandu. The curriculum focused on building the internal capacity of party training units, and was based on the findings of the party baseline assessments. The party training units are in charge of developing and delivering trainings to party members on the national, regional and district levels. The ToT covered the following modules: public speaking; training skills; conflict resolution; roles and functions of political parties; and working with political party branches. In preparation for the ToTs, NDI assembled, reviewed and adapted relevant materials for the various modules, including the translation of power point presentations, worksheets and exercises. Trainers developed modules to allow for substantial interaction, discussion, and feedback from participants. These included frequent breakout sessions to promote small group discussions and exercises that allowed for greater interaction among participants. Of the 54 ToT participants, 16 were women. Participants represented all nine of NDI’s political party partners and were selected by their respective parties. NDI encouraged the parties to select participants with a diversity of gender, age and district representation. The modules were led by the following NDI and external experts: Senior Country Director Mark Wallem; Director for Political Parties Kenza Aqertit; Deputy Country Director Jay Nishaant; Human Resource Development Centre (HURDEC) Consultant Surya Nepal; UK Political Party Expert Roy Lakey; and NDI Bangladesh Country Director Jackie Corcoran. NDI plans to conduct one additional national level and four regional level ToTs for party training units. After the national level workshops, the master trainers will co-lead four trainings at the regional level with local experts and NDI staff. The regional ToTs are scheduled for next quarter.

I would like to thank NDI and the trainers for providing us this opportunity to work together around the same table with nine parties. -**Mohan Khadka, UCPN-Maoist**

Gender and Age Breakdown

<i>Gender</i>		<i>Age Group</i>	
<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>18-39</i>	<i>40 above</i>
38	16	15	39

The National ToT Modules and Trainers:

Date	Modules	Trainers
June 26	Public Speaking	Mark Wallem
June 27	Training and Facilitation Skills	Kenza Aqertit Jay Nishaant
June 28 – 29	Conflict Resolution	Surya Prasad Nepal
June 30	Working with Party Branches	Jackie Corcoran
July 1	Role and Function of Political Parties in a Democratic System	Roy Stanley Lakey

Inter Party Alliance (IPA) Consensus-Building Workshop

On April 12 and 13, NDI organized a two-day residential workshop for the board members of the IPA. Sixteen participants representing eight political parties attended (NDI Figure 1). The

topic of discussion was the issue of Nepal’s future form of government. Two resource persons facilitated the training: Dr. Poorna Kant Adhikari introduced consensus-building skills and tools; and Associate Professor Mr. Purna Man Shakya delivered a presentation on the pros and cons of different forms of government including parliamentary, prime ministerial and presidential. The workshop was highly collaborative with participants aiming to reach consensus on the form of government to be adopted for Nepal. Based on statements made by various participants, the workshops and the discussions resulted in narrowing down the gaps and disagreements among the different parties. IPA members expressed interest in building momentum around this issue; NDI expressed its commitment to support the parties, through the IPA, and to hold a follow up consensus-building workshop for the party leaders, if deemed necessary.

Figure 1

Party	Name	ToTal	
		Male	Female
NC	Binod Kumar Bhattarai Laxmi Rai	1	1
CPN-UML	Astha Laxmi Shyaka Parsu Meghi Gurung	1	1
MJF,N-D	Bharatendu Mallik Birendra Upadhyay	2	-
MJF-N	Arjun Thapa Krishna Dev Yadav	2	-
TMLP	Brikesh Chandra Lal Govinda Chaudhary	2	-
RPP	Bhuwan Pathak Thakur Singh Tharu	2	-
CPN-ML	Hon. Neelam KC Kapil Pokhrel	1	1
SP	Laxman Lal Karna Bishwanath Singh Rajbhanshi	1	1
Total		12	4

Following the consensus building workshop, the Institute shared with IPA participants the final summary of group discussions from the workshop.

UCPN-Maoist Nominates Two Central Committee Members to the Inter Party Alliance (IPA)

On May 18, NDI met with Hon. Pampha Bhusal, the UCPN-M liaison for NDI’s political party development program, to discuss pending issues: the party nominations to the Inter Party Alliance (IPA); the signing of a MOC and training plan; and the participation of the party in the upcoming multiparty ToT scheduled for June 25 to July 2. Hon. Bhusal provided the names of the two UCPN-M members who will represent the party in IPA, herself and Hon. Jaypuri Gharti. After reviewing the MOC and training plans, Hon. Bhusal indicated that her party would be willing to sign the latter once they received Nepali versions of the documents. She also indicated her party’s interest in participating in the upcoming ToT workshop and stated that they would send the names of participants in the near future.

NDI Women’s Programming Director Visit

On April 28, NDI’s Women’s Participation Program Director Susan Markham visited Nepal and met with 18 IPWA board members, offering suggestions on fundraising and financial management. Ms. Markham then met with three women parliamentarians and two central

committee members from NC, CPN-UML and RPP to discuss the constituent outreach services programs, the current political situation for Nepali women leaders and the challenges they face.

IPWA District Expansion and Women's Leadership Development Trainings in Six Districts

From April 2 to June 29, the IPWA, with technical and logistical support from NDI, continued its expansion of district sub-committees to six more districts (NDI Figure 2). With this, IPWA has established district sub-committees in sixty-seven districts across the country. These district committees, comprised of district-level women leaders and activists, have proven instrumental in lobbying for support and funding for women's initiatives at the local level and have provided women with the opportunity to participate in national political debates, receive information on political events, and share training programs designed for women across party lines. During inaugural events to commemorate the formation of the subcommittees, representatives from political parties, as well as Chief District Officers, Local Development Officers and District Superintendents of Police, Women Development Officers, civil society organizations, and local media participated.

Figure 2

Date	District	IPWA Board Members	No of Participants
April 2-5	Surkhet	Hon. Prativa Rana Hon. Kalyani Rijal Hon. Neelam Verma Laxmi Shah	40
May 19-22	Pyuthan	Hon. Neelam KC Hon. Basanti Jha Mamta Giri Sita Mahat	45
June 8-11	Rasuwa	Hon. Kalyani Rijal Shashi Shrestha Neena Bhetwal Subhadra Mainali	40
June 9-12	Solukhumbu	Hon. Radha Gyanwali Hon. Yasoda Subedi Hon. Janak Kumari Chalise Shanaz Rahaman Hon. Ang Dawa Sherpa	40
June 10-13	Baitadi	Hon. Neelam KC Mamta Giri Sita Mahat Sreejana Singh	40
June 23-28	Doti	Hon. Prativa Rana Hon. Kalyani Rijal Hon. Neelam Verma Laxmi Shah	40
Total			245

Constituent Assembly and Women's Leadership Development Training

The IPWA then organized a series of three-day local capacity-building workshop for more than 240 women in the six districts. The trainings aimed to strengthen the ability of women to advocate for their rights during the constitution drafting process and to help IPWA chapters get recognition in their district. They focused on the Constituent Assembly, women's leadership development, concepts on state restructuring, women's rights and federalism.

UCPN-M CA member Hon. Ang Dawa Sherpa, expressed her interest in IPWA and traveled with IPWA board members, at her own expense, from Kathmandu to her district in Solukhumbu. The IPWA Solokhumbu district sub-committee selected her as chairperson with 13 board members, just as in the national central committee. After the formation of the sub-committee, they held meetings to chart future activities for which they divided the sub-committee into two groups. One group will be responsible for coordination with the District Development Committee (DDC) to obtain funds to provide skills-building trainings to women activists, while the other group will be responsible for opening a bank account for the committee.

The district development office has recently allocated a gender budget for women. In the past, many individual political parties would request funds but it was difficult for us to give to each individual party. Since the formation of the Inter Party Women's Alliance (IPWA) it's easier for us to disburse funds to a single entity comprising different political parties.

**Tufan K.C. Acting Local
Development Officer (LDO),
Pyuthan**

Internews Journalism Trainings

Security Training

From April 18 to 20, Internews (IN), in conjunction with Hart Security, facilitated a security TOT for the Internews training team. Journalists are frequently the subjects of attacks, threats and other forms of intimidation in Nepal while carrying out their duties, hence the strong interest in having a security training module integrated into Internews' overall investigative journalism training. In a preliminary assessment of 44 journalists interviewed prior to the start of the trainings, 13 (30%) listed safety as their first priority for additional training.

The three-day Hart Security training was designed to give Antenna's lead trainers a variety of discrete security modules to select from in order to provide basic security training to journalists across Nepal. Trainers included two senior production managers from Internews' primary partner, the Antenna Foundation, two senior trainers from the Jagaran Media Centre, which trains Dalit journalists in Nepal, and trainers working with the BBC's Nepali Service and Nepal TV. The training was oriented towards heightening trainers' understanding of what makes journalists potential targets in order to help them identify threats or dangerous situations, assess the risks involved and plan and prepare accordingly. The training covered issues such as safe travel planning and situational awareness, how to safely cover riots, demonstrations, political unrest and acts of political violence, such as bombings, as well as understanding how microphones and cameras can appear as weapons to people from a distance. Participants were also trained in small arms awareness, learning the effective ranges and limitations of common weapons like handguns and assault rifles and learned how to assess and obtain effective cover from those weapons if they are exposed to live gunfire.

To maximize the sustainable benefit of the Hart training program, Internews extended outside invitations to a wide range of media trainers working with other organizations so they could adapt and include journalist safety components into their own future training projects.

Invitations to attend the security course were also extended to trainers affiliated with the Federation of Nepali Journalists and the Nepal Press Institute, but they were unfortunately unable to attend because of their involvement in the pending FNJ executive elections.

Following the completion of the security training, Internews worked with its senior trainers to integrate components of the TOT into the course methodology. (See Appendix 2 for the participant details)

Investigative Journalism Training

This quarter, IN finalized its investigative journalism curriculum and outlined a training plan that consists of four training courses (see Appendix 1: Training Course Lesson Plan). Participants were selected and asked to conduct pre-course research to obtain specific documentation from political parties, including district-level information regarding government operations and spending. The data collected provides important material which was used during the training and for generating articles.

Course One – Kathmandu

Internews conducted its first of three journalism courses for four women and eight men participants in Kathmandu between May 2 and 12. The group represented a broad cross-section of news organizations and mediums. Trainees asked numerous questions, creating an energetic and collaborative atmosphere. IN's lead trainer, Mohan Mainali, and co-trainer, Umid Bagchand, facilitated the ten-day training session. IN invited guest lecturers Taranath Dahal, former President of Federation of Nepalese Journalist, and Kunda Dixit, a renowned columnist, to present papers on Fighting Violations of Media Rights and Investigative Journalism respectively. NDI representatives attended the training sessions.

Day one began with an interviewing skills workshop, setting course expectations, reviewing the definition, techniques and philosophy of investigative journalism, threats faced by journalists and protecting against violation of media and press rights. The *second day* covered safety planning, techniques to cover riots, political unrest and bombings as well as education on weapons and their capabilities and limitations. On *day three*, introduction to the Primary Research module exposed the participants to all relevant legislation concerning political parties, the electoral process, electoral oversight, and anti-corruption investigative mechanisms. Participants were given research assignments and field time to learn firsthand how to physically obtain the information they need in investigative reports.

Day four followed on the principles taught on day three and participants were educated on how to follow a paper trail to collect information for investigative stories. Participants were split into groups and read documents they collected from the previous day and research whether there were other documents that contained the information related to the story they were researching. The Primary and Secondary Research modules required participants to interact with government and political party offices to obtain information, and in so doing, demystifying the process and establishing it as an essential journalism tool to reduce reliance on unnamed political sources.

Day five focused on computers and internet use. Participants were taught how to install and use Nepali language Unicode. Demonstrations were made on tips and tricks for conducting successful internet searches on a variety of available search engines. The training also delved

into social media journalism and detailed how to create a blog online as well as introduced existing Nepali media blog sites. The computer training module enhanced participants' internet research skills and exposed them to the wide array of resources available on the internet and in Nepal that are supporting political development, the electoral process, investigative journalism and media rights.

On day six, a Red Cross Emergency Trauma training was held to introduce participants to first aid, how to conduct primary survey assessment of an injured person, how to provide artificial ventilation and CPR, how to stop choking, treatment for shock bleeding and bandaging, signs and symptoms of concussions and back and spinal injuries as well as treating bone fractures and how to move injured patients.

Day seven featured the Right to Information module which encouraged journalists to begin using this legal regulation to promote transparency and information gathering as well as to fight for better compliance by the institutions that fall under its jurisdiction.

On day eight, participants learned about the importance of ethics and credible investigative journalism, the techniques of organizing research information, how to write a lead, body and ending of article.

A special presentation from NDI on party conduct codes and INGO political assistance was given on *day nine* to help participants better understand the process of an election and the objectives and need for reforming political parties. *The last day* participants shared in the importance of colleagues' support and how to solicit support from their colleagues at various stages of their story preparation. Media lawyer, Sathish Kharel also gave a special presentation which marked how the law can favor Nepali journalists. The training ended with a final presentation from Freedom Forum, showcasing the web portal and course participants' chat room, which are available on the Freedom Forum website. (see Appendix 3: Kathmandu Course Outline, for more information)

Course Two – Pokhara

The second Internews investigative training workshop was held at the Hotel Taj in Pokhara from June 5 to 15. The class of participants included four women and eight men working with news organizations from Pokhara and its surrounding districts.

The course content and schedule closely matched that of the first Kathmandu workshop. Participants in Pokhara heard presentations from more than a dozen guest speakers, including a representative from the local Blind Association, who discussed the difficulty in obtaining media coverage for issues related to marginalized voters, and the Nepal Police, who discussed safer ways for journalists to cover potentially dangerous stories. The computer training during this workshop needed to be more basic than in the first one, as journalists from outside Kathmandu seem to have far less awareness of the latest computer innovations available to assist them in their work. More time was spent bringing participants up to date and introducing them to programs that are now available. For example, only one of the participants had ever seen Skype.

The revised version of the Nepal Red Cross First Aid Training was somewhat better than the Kathmandu training, but unfortunately remains too general in nature for this project, so an alternative module was introduced in the Biratnagar training. Feedback from participants and trainers indicated that some of the Red Cross training addressed first aid, which was not directly relevant or applicable to situations journalists might find themselves in. Senior Trainer Mohan Mainali found a Nepali doctor Dr. Narayan Kumar with a deep personal interest in improving emergency trauma first aid training for the country's journalists. Dr. Kumar has been publicly

advocating for new medical training programs for journalists, and has written special first aid manual for Nepali journalists. Internews has tried to make arrangements to have him conduct the first aid training at the next course in order to compare it against the Red Cross Training. If his training proves superior, this may be a more cost effective alternative to the Red Cross throughout the rest of the training course run. Since the Red Cross Training was not originally budgeted for, but was included at the request of participants during the preparatory phase of the program, Internews is keen to either adjust the training so that it directly addresses journalists' needs or scrap it so that the resources can be allocated elsewhere. In addition, Internews is considering inviting a medic from Nepal's Armed Police to conduct first aid training, as their background would be much closer suited to the kinds of situations journalists encounter. The final decision on which type of first-aid training to provide will be made by the Internews Project Manager in consultation with Antenna Foundation.

Course Three – Biratnagar

The training in Biratnagar was held from June 20 to 29 and was led by Mohan Mainali. Of the 12 participants, seven were male and five were female, with two participants from marginalized communities. The Antenna Foundation is currently analyzing the feedback from the Biratnagar training and will provide findings from the training during the next quarterly report.

Date	District	Number of Participants	
		Male	Female
May 2-12	Kathmandu	9	3
June 5-15	Pokhara	7	5
June 19-28	Biratnagar	7	5
Total		23	13

NDI Presents at Internews's Training Course on Investigative Journalism

On May 11, NDI gave presentations on the role of political parties in a democratic system during Internews's training course on investigative journalism in Kathmandu. NDI elaborated on the governing, oversight, representation and electoral roles of parties, and shared an overview of the program and activities conducted by the Institute since its establishment in Nepal. This event was attended by twelve representatives from print and electronic media. Participants asked questions about Nepalese and international political party laws, as well as election and transparency issues.

The objectives of NDI's presentation included: 1) to ensure that journalists in the training understood how the media component under the NDI program support and complement the political party program; 2) to highlight the role of political parties in a democratic system; and 3) to ensure that investigative journalism training, future reports and stories link up to political party reform, activities and issues.

B. Legislative Strengthening

NDI's legislative strengthening activities are designed to enhance the technical capacity of the legislature and begin to broaden and deepen public participation in legislative processes, during and beyond the current transitional period. This quarter, the Institute organized an orientation program for representatives from nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and CA members. NDI, with logistics support from its local partner, Pro Public, conducted the first round of community dialogue and round table discussions in ten districts. Furthermore, the Institute organized a seminar for the Next Generation Parliamentarians Group and organized a constituency outreach event in Lalitpur district. TAF conducted additional interest group audits and organized 45 town hall meetings across the country.

Community Dialogue and Round Table Discussion Program

Recruitment of District Logistics Coordinators, Moderators and Assistants

Following the selection of district-level NGOs as district partners to implement community dialogue and round table discussions, NDI and Pro Public identified and recruited a district logistics coordinator, moderator and logistics assistant in each of the ten districts of Dhankuta, Siraha, Nuwakot, Bara, Syangja, Kapilvastu, Surkhet, Dailekh, Kanchanpur and Doti. These coordinators, moderators and assistants were recruited to assist with the logistics arrangements and conduct of the dialogues.

NGO Orientation

On April 20 and 21, NDI organized an orientation program in Kathmandu on the dialogue program. Representatives of the ten selected NGOs learned how to prepare for the events and enhance their skills as moderators. Simulation sessions were conducted on mock hearings, providing opportunities for the moderators to provide feedback to each other.



NGO representatives during orientation session

Orientation for Parliamentarians

On April 22, NDI, with support from Pro Public and the district logistics coordinators, moderators and logistics assistants conducted an orientation and discussion program for 23 parliamentarians from seven political parties to brief them on the community dialogue and round table program, finalize the district-specific topics for the dialogues, and confirm the timeline for the events. The group also came to a consensus on the date and topic to be addressed at each event, as well as the experts. Following the orientation, NDI made follow-up calls to all parliamentarians to inform them about logistics and travel itineraries for their respective districts. NDI made all the preparations such as booking air tickets, hiring vehicles, and reserving hotels.



Parliamentarians during orientation program



Following the orientation, NDI made follow-up calls to all parliamentarians to inform them about logistics and travel itineraries for their respective districts. NDI made all the preparations such as booking air tickets, hiring vehicles, and reserving hotels.

local partner, Pro-Public, finalized the invitations which were sent to Chief District Officers (CDO), Local Development Officers

(LDO) and local participants.

District Level Community Dialogue and Round Table Discussion Program

From May 1 until June 10, NDI and Pro Public held community dialogues throughout the country (NDI Figure 4). Thirty-nine representatives from 11 parties participated in the events, providing an opportunity for both parliamentarians and citizens to discuss key community issues and seek recommendations and solutions.

Hon. Shanta Chaudhary, Chair, Parliamentary Committee on Natural Resources and Means and Hon. Mohammadi Siddhiqui, Hon. Shiva Ram Yadav, and Hon. Radha Gyawali, members of the International Relations and Human Rights Committee, also attended the event in Kanchanpur, Dailekh, Siraha and Kapilvastu respectively. The Committee Chairs and members assured that

the issues discussed in the dialogue will be put forward in committee meetings and if needed, the committee will issue instructions to the concerned ministry to look into the recommendations put forward by the constituents.

Following the community dialogues component, round table discussions were held to discuss the suggestions put forward by citizens and technical experts. The participants included district and municipal officers, political party leaders, NGO representatives, civil activists, academics, businesspeople and others involved in various aspects of the particular issue under discussion. At the conclusion of these discussions, a monitoring and follow-up committee was formed to coordinate with parliamentarians and local stakeholders for the necessary follow-up of future activities.



Parliamentarians during Community Dialogue Program in Kanchanpur

The members of the follow-up committee included local partner NGO representative, stakeholders, political party representatives and general citizens. The community dialogue portions of the events were aired live in each district on local FM stations. The programs lasted between three to five hours, depending upon the duration of the dialogue.

Figure 4

Date	District	Parliamentarians	Issues	Participants	
				Community Dialogue	Round Table
May 1	Dhankuta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hon. Hari Raj Limbu, UCPN-M Hon. Lila Subba, NC Hon. Durga Linkha, CPN-UML 	Physical Infrastructure Development in Dhankuta: Prospects and Challenges	136	40
May 2	Surkhet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hon. Nara Bahadur Bista, UCPN-M Hon. Khadga Bdr. Basyal Sarki, NC Hon. Yam Lal Kandel, CPN-UML 	Tourism Development in Surkhet: Prospects and Challenges	119	43
May 10	Kanchanpur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hon. Tekendra Prasad Bhatta, UCPN-M Hon. Ramesh Lekhak, NC Hon. Shanta Chaudhary, Chair, Parliamentary Committee on Natural Resources and Means 	Problems of Flood, Soil Erosion and Environmental Protection	134	30
May 14	Bara	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hon. Jwala Kumari Shah, UCPN-M Hon. Sobakar Parajuli, NC 	Problems of Deforestation in Bara District: Challenges	123	59

Date	District	Parliamentarians	Issues	Participants	
				Community Dialogue	Round Table
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hon. Gopal Thakur, CPN-UML Hon. Promod Gupta, MJFN-D Hon. Jay Prakash Yadav, TMLP 	and Solutions		
May 17	Doti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hon. Khem Bam, UCPN-M Hon. Kalpana Sob, NC Hon. Harka Bahadur Singh, CPN-UML 	Prospects of Technical/Vocational Education in Doti District: Challenges and Solutions	101	40
May 17	Dailekh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hon. Bharat Kumari Sharma, UCPN-M Hon. Raj Bahadur Buda, CPN-UML Hon. Kunti Kumari Shahi, RPP-N Hon. Jagya Bahadur Shahi, NWPP Hon. Mohammadi Siddiqui, Member, Parliamentary Committee on International Relations and Human Rights 	Tourism Development in Dailekh District: Prospects and Challenges	114	30
May 18	Siraha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hon. Mahendra Paswan, UCPN-M Hon. Jaya Ghimire, CPN-UML Hon. Raj Lal Yadav, MJFN-R Hon. Biswendra Paswan, DJP Hon. Shiva Ram Yadav, Member, Parliamentary Committee on International Relations and Human Rights 	Tourism Development in Siraha District: Prospects and Challenges	156	61
May 21	Syangja	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hon. Goma Pathak, UCPN-M Hon. Mohan Prasad Pandey, NC Hon. Padma Kumari Aryal, CPN-UML 	Economic Development of Syangja: Agriculture and Water Resources	111	43
May 22	Kapilvastu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hon. Sangha Prasad Tharu, UCPN-M Hon. Deep Kumar Upadhyay, NC Hon. Shanti Devi Chamar, CPN-UML 	Tourism Development in Kapilvastu District: Prospects and Challenges	153	35

Date	District	Parliamentarians	Issues	Participants	
				Community Dialogue	Round Table
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hon. Abhishekh Pratap Sha, MJFN Hon. Dan Bahadur Kurmi, TMLP-N Hon. Ishwor Dayal Mishra, TMLP Hon. Radha Gyawali, Member, Parliamentary Committee on International Relations and Human Rights 			
June 10	Nuwakot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hon. Jagadishwor Narasingh K.C., NC Hon. Gobinda Nepali, CPN-UML 	Agriculture Production and Management and Irrigation: Prospects and Challenges	135	49
Total				1,282	430

Debriefing Session on Community Dialogue and Round Table Discussions

After the completion of the district-level events, NDI held a debriefing session with Pro Public to collect feedback on the following issues:

- Dialogue Topic
- Experts (both national and local)
- Parliamentarians' Participation and Commitment
- Moderator's Role and Effectiveness
- Local NGO's Role in Managing the overall Event
- Logistics of the event (venue, refreshments, sound system, sitting arrangements, etc.)

The debriefing session reaffirmed that the topics identified for each district were very relevant. Both the national and local experts had in-depth knowledge on their particular topics. The parliamentarians expressed their commitment to address the recommendations raised by their constituents. The program was exceptionally well organized, with Pro Public and district level NGOs providing very professional logistics support. The moderator performed well in most of the districts. However, while it customary for moderators to play a primary role, this has taken up an appreciable amount of time away from discussion. In the second phase, more emphasis will be place on the fact that moderators are facilitators, not experts, and that they are not there to interpret, explain or repeat what is said.

Constituency Services Offices (CSO)

Interaction Program on Violence against Women

On June 28, NDI, in collaboration with the Lalitpur constituency service office, organized a program on violence against women with Hon. Janak Kumari Chalise and women community leaders in Jharuwarasi, Constituency One of Lalitpur District. The program was attended by approximately 65 participants.

An expert was invited to talk about the different forms of violence against women, reasons for such violence, existing laws and the government's response to control and abolish all forms of violence against women as a signatory of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women CEDAW. The expert highlighted that the Legislature-Parliament had recently passed the bill to curtail domestic violence.



Participants during interaction program

Participants shared practical experiences on ways women have been victimized at home, in their community and in the workplace. Some of the issues raised included the following:

- Unequal distribution of wages between man and women for the same work.
- Lack of women friendly complaint centers.
- Financial constraints for women to hire legal experts, such as an advocate to fight against perpetrators of crime.
- Deeply rooted cultural practices in some communities make it difficult for change.

Hon. Janak Kumari Chalise, responding to the queries put forth by participants, said that violence against women takes place as a result of the patriarchal structure of the society as well as religious and traditional practices and beliefs. She further added that the state, political parties and women parliamentarians have collectively raised their voice to ensure women's rights and women's meaningful representation in all organs of the state.

Next Generation Parliamentarian Group (NGPG)

NDI held a series of meetings with NGPG core group members so that first-term parliamentarians could learn about the lack of progress on development issues. The presentations and interactions during these events were helpful for the law-makers to understand the strengths and the weaknesses in the process, form collective opinions about them and influence the policies and programs of the government.

This is the first seminar organized by an international organization where MPs and experts are sitting together to discuss Nepal's development issues. Most of the workshop and seminars that are organized are mainly focused on the constitution making process, federalism or state restructuring. Being a member of the Natural Resources and Means Committee at the Legislature-Parliament, this seminar has helped me understand the technicalities involved in power crisis. - Hon. Gagan Thapa, NC

NGPG Knowledge Sharing Seminar on "Power Crisis in Nepal: A Reality Check"

On June 17 and 18, NDI organized a seminar on Nepal's energy and power crisis for young or first-time members of the parliament. The event was designed primarily to strengthen the partnership developing within the group and for NDI to form stronger relationships with its members.



MPs speaking during Q&A Session

Altogether, 26 MPs from seven political parties attended the event (NDI Figure 5). Among the participants, there were two Chairs of Parliamentary Committees (Hon. Shanta Chaudhary, Natural Resource and Means and Hon. Jitendra Sonar, Development) and two Chairs from the Constituent Assembly Committees (Hon. Lokendra Bisht Magar, Restructuring State and Distribution of State Power, and Hon. Promod Gupta, Public Opinion Collection and Coordination). The seminar helped develop a wider understanding and

common vision about energy issues. Six experts (NDI Figure 6) provided a forum for dialogue on Nepal's hydropower development.

Figure 5

Political Party	No of MPs
NC	7
UCPN-M	7
CPN-UML	7
CPN-United	2
MJFN- D	1
RPP-Nepal	1
NWPP	1
ToTAL	26

Figure 6

Session	Experts
Panel Discussion: Understanding Power Crisis-Technicalities and Institution	Dr. Subarna Das Shrestha, President, Independent Power Producers' Association, Nepal (IPPAN)
	Mr. Gyanendra Lal Pradhan, Chairperson, Hydropower Energy Committee, Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI)
	Dr. Janak Lal Karmacharya, Head-Hydropower Business, Clean Energy Development Bank

Session	Experts
Panel Discussion: Understanding Power Crisis Implementation, Administration, and Economy	Damber Nepali, PhD in Hydropower Development-Promoter and Former MD, Chilime Hydropower
	Rameshwor Khanal, Former Secretary, Ministry of Finance
	Hon. Dr. Prakash Chandra Lohani, Member of Legislature-Parliament and Former Finance Minister

Interaction with Ms. Jackie Corcoran, Senior Country Director, NDI-Bangladesh

On June 29, NDI organized a meeting with young parliamentarians and NDI Bangladesh Senior Country Director Jackie Corcoran (NDI Figure 7). Ms. Corcoran shared her experiences working with the 50-50 Thursday Group (TG)³ of young parliamentarians in Bangladesh.

In her presentation she focused on the Thursday Group's vision, mission, goal, thematic areas and major activities and how these activities have benefitted young parliamentarians to develop their expertise and leadership skills. She said, "The main concept of TG was to develop a think-tank of next generation parliamentarians in the parliament and utilize their expertise for the whole parliament as well as assist their respective political parties."

"It seems very relevant to establish a forum like TG in Nepal as well. NDI can help us in this matter and, all next generation parliamentarians can stand together and proceed ahead on issues of national interests." Hon. Shobhakar Parajuli NC

"Similar forums which would be non-political and helpful in nation-building and development of our leadership skills and expertise is needed in Nepal. We are prepared to contribute our every minute for such forum if NDI comes ahead to provide technical assistance." Hon. Kunti Shah, RPP-Nepal

The interaction program explored the feasibility of such groups in Nepal. It also aimed at formally introducing the core group members of NGPG, and bringing more first-termer and young parliamentarians together within its network.

Speaking on behalf of NGPG, Core Group Members Hon. Chandrika Prasad Yadav (MJFN-R), Hon. Sita Gurung (NC) and Hon. Renu Chand (UCPN-M) provided a brief background about how the NGPG was created and its current activities.

Figure 7

S. No	Political Party	No of participants
1.	Nepali Congress	5
1.	Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML)	3
2.	United Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist (UCPN-M)	2
3.	Madheshi Janadhikar Forum Nepal (MJFN)	1
4.	Madheshi Janadhikar Forum Nepal-Democratic (MJFN-D)	1

³ 50-50 Thursday Group (TG) defines itself as, "a bi-partisan coalition of enthusiastic male and female parliament members working together to strengthen parliamentary democracy through greater understanding of public policy, parliamentary best practices, and bi-partisan leadership in action".

5.	Madheshi Janadhikar Forum Nepal-Republic (MJFN- R)	1
6.	Rastriya Prajatantra Party-Nepal (RPP-Nepal)	1
	ToTAL	14

Improving the Parliamentary Library

TAF finalized the draft of the five-year library improvement plan developed by Krishna Mani Bhandari, Chief Librarian of Tribhuwan University. The plan evaluated the current status of the Parliament Secretariat Library and suggested policies and strategies required for its improvement. TAF handed over the plan to the Secretary General of the Parliament Secretariat, who agreed to meet with Mr. Bhandari and the TAF team immediately after their current engagement with the national budget. In the planned meeting, Mr. Bhandari will present his recommendations to the Secretary General and, together with the Secretary General, develop a future course of action to implement the library plan.

Effective Committee Work

Distributing Reference Materials Related to Parliamentary Committees

The Institute sent a handbook on parliamentary human rights committees to the International Relations and Human Rights Committee of the Legislature-Parliament. This handbook was prepared by NDI as part of a series of publications intended to provide political actors, including parliamentarians, Ministry of Justice and other government officials as well as civil society leaders, with practical, comparative information on political and policy options related to select rule of law issues.

Similarly, the Institute sent a handbook on parliamentary oversight to all nine committees of the Legislature-Parliament. The handbook, which offers concrete examples of the tools used by 88 different national parliaments to oversee their governments, was published by Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

Distributing Women's Profile Book

In 2010, when the CA's first two-year mandate was drawing to a close, the Institute interviewed twenty-four women lawmakers to collect stories about their entry into politics. The women lawmakers, who came from various backgrounds, shared many common experiences, particularly in overcoming discrimination against women when they were activists and leaders in their communities. The main objective of the book has been to highlight the contributions made by women political leaders at this unique juncture in the development of democracy in Nepal. This quarter, the Institute published the final version of the book and distributed more than 600 Nepali- and English-version profile books to political leaders (581 CA members and 38 others, including the president, vice-president, prime minister, deputy prime ministers, speaker, ministers, state ministers, and the secretary general and spokesperson of the Parliament Secretariat – NDI Figure 8).

Figure 8

Name of the Political Parties	No. of CA Members	Nepali Version	English Version
CA Members			
UCPN-M	223	223	223
NC	111	111	111
CPN-UML	91	91	91
MJFN-D	28	28	28
MJFN-R	13	13	13
MJFN	11	11	11
TMLP	10	10	10
TMLP-N	9	9	9
Sadbhawana Party	9	9	9
CPN-ML	7	7	7
Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP)	7	7	7
CPN-United	5	5	5
RPP-Nepal	4	4	4
NWPP	4	4	4
Rastriya Janamorcha	4	4	4
Rastriya Janashakti Party	3	3	3
Sadbhawana Party (Anandidevi)	2	2	2
Rastriya Janamukti Party	2	2	2
Independent	2	2	2
Sanghiya Loktantrik Rastriya Manch	2	2	2
CPN-Unified,	2	2	2
Rastriya Janamukti Party	1	1	1
Samajadi Prajatantrik Janata Party	1	1	1
Nepal Janata Dal	1	1	1
Dalit Janajati Party	1	1	1
Nepal Pariwar Dal	1	1	1
Chure Bhavar Rastriya Ekata Party Nepal	1	1	1
Nepal Loktrantrik Samajbadi Dal	1	1	1
Nepa Rastriya Party	1	1	1
Women CA members profiled in NDI's "Marching Ahead" Profile book	24	120	48
ToTal	581	677	605
Others			
President	1	1	1
Vice-President	1	1	1
Prime Minister	1	1	1
Deputy Prime Ministers	3	3	3
Speaker	1	1	1
Ministers and State Ministers *	29	29	29
Legislature-Parliament Secretariat Secretary General & Spokesperson	2	2	2
Total	38	38	38
Grand Total (A+B)	619	715	643

Parliamentary Media Center

Mr. Binod Bhattarai, of The Writing Workshop, began an assessment of the Legislature Parliament media center. Based on his initial findings, Mr. Bhattarai developed a work plan, which has been approved by the Secretary General of the Parliament Secretariat. Mr. Bhattarai also developed, in consultation with technical advisors and interior designers, a detailed plan for the media center, including its interior works and electronic equipment list.

Additionally, TAF continued to work with Interface Nepal, broadcasting 13 episodes of the radio program *Hamro Kanoon* on 25 different FM radio stations, ensuring an adequate geographical coverage of all regions. The program offers weekly parliamentary updates and provides information on legislation before the CA. Four additional community FM radio stations voluntarily broadcast the program. The legislative issues introduced and discussed in the radio episodes included: Proposed Electricity Act of Nepal; TRC (Truth and Reconciliation) Bill – a follow-up program; Nepal Anti-Tobacco Act; Act against Racial Discrimination and Untouchability; National Dalit Rights Commission; Press Freedom; and Right to Information Act.

Interest Group Audits

TAF continued to support the Nepal Constitution Foundation (NCF) and a broad coalition of interest groups - Dalit, Madheshi, women, youth, and *Janajati* - to conduct legislative audits.

Six relevant bills were audited to study their compliance with international standards, legal and statutory coherence, and most importantly, whether or not the bills were inclusive towards marginalized groups. The bills audited this quarter included the Bill on Inclusion in some Public Service Agencies, Bill on National Human Rights Commission Act, Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and Untouchability (Offence & Punishment) Bill, Bill providing for Determination of Sentence in Criminal Offences and Implementation Provisions, and Disappearance (Offense & Punishment) Act.

Bills were selected according to their significance in the current legislative process and their relevance to marginalized groups:

- The Bill on Inclusion in some Public Service Agencies is considered very important because of its commitment to restructure the recruitment policy of civil servants.
- The Bill on National Human Rights Commission Act is significant as the Act sets to guarantee the independence and autonomy of the Commission. These include operational independence, broader human rights mandate, recruiting staff, guaranteeing financial and operational independence, and implementing recommendations of the NHRC.
- Nepal is a state party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which obliges the Government *inter alia* to prohibit discrimination based on descent, race, and caste. The review of the bill of Elimination of Caste-based Discrimination and Untouchability Offense Act 2066 as the draft bill targeted to fill the gaps of the current legislation to ensure effective prosecution of criminal offenses based on caste-based discrimination and compensation for the victims.
- The discussions on the social audit of the Bill on Disappearances (Offense and Punishment) Act focused on the intended rationale of criminalizing the practice of enforced disappearance, investigating past cases, prosecuting the perpetrators and providing reparation to the victims. The bill represents real progress toward justice and to provide for the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry to address the enforced disappearances.



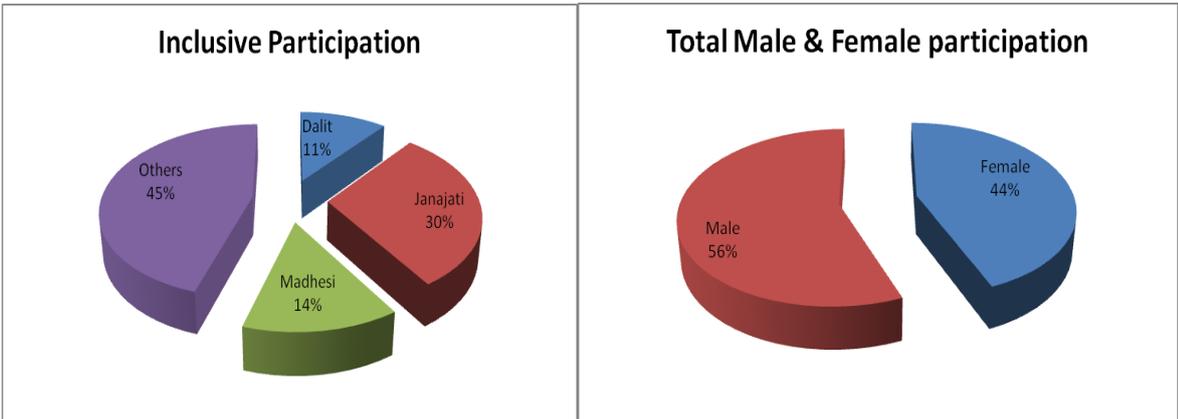
Photos from the interest group audits

Additionally, TAF contracted New Spotlight to disseminate the findings and recommendations of the aforementioned social audits through the print media: two Nepali magazines – *Shichhyak* and *Nepal*; and one English magazine – *New Spotlight*.

TAF's radio partner, Interface Nepal, and its town hall implementing partners also participated in these social audit sessions to enhance their respective activities. Additionally, Interface Nepal disseminated the information and suggestions of the audited bills through its weekly radio program, *Hamro Kanoon*.

Town Hall Consultations

TAF worked with its three local partners, Samudayak Sarathi (SS), Rural Community Development Service Council (RCDSC), and WomenAct (WA), to conduct a second round of youth- and women-focused town hall meetings to discuss specific legislative agendas in 45 municipalities across Nepal. The bills discussed in the meetings included the Bill to Curb Sexual Harassment at Workplace and Bill on Disappearances of Persons. More than 2500 citizens attended the town halls.



Town Hall Ethnic and Gender Composition

Recommendations floated in the meetings on the Bill on Disappearances of Persons included:

- Nepal must ratify the Rome Statute of International Criminal Court (1998), which would pave way for the implementation of this Act.
- Regarding compensation that is provided to the family of the disappeared, the money should be paid by the offender and not from the government’s treasury. Government fund should only be utilized if the offender is unable to pay. Additionally, the length of imprisonment for offenders must be increased.

- The Commission, as required in the bill, must be comprised of non-political persons and be free from political interference. Commission members must be inclusive and include representatives of the victims of conflict and disappearances, marginalized and vulnerable groups, and experts in the field. Members of former armed groups must be disqualified from becoming members.
- Witnesses should be neutral and unbiased. The protection of witnesses and their privacy should be ensured. Additionally, there must be a provision for punitive measure if the witness produces false and/or forged information.

Participants shared the following suggestions on the Bill to Curb Sexual Harassment at Workplace:

- The government must adopt a policy of "zero tolerance" against the perpetrator. When a case is filed it must be handed over to a competent judicial authority for investigation rather than to the manager of the organization and/or the CDO.
- Information regarding the provisions of this bill, including the punitive measures set forth in it, should be included in school curriculum, which would increase awareness on sexual harassment.
- Workplace management should mandatorily form a committee that includes male and female employees both to provide periodic orientation on issues of sexual harassment.
- The monitoring mechanism on the compliance of the bill should be strengthened.



Snapshots of the Town hall meetings

On June 24, TAF partners organized a forum at the Center for Constitutional Dialogue (CCD) where they submitted the town hall recommendations to members of the Legislative Committee of the Parliament in front of the invited public participants. Honorable Ratna Sherchan, Honorable Shobhakar Parajuli, and Honorable Ramesh Lekhak attended the submission program and publicly committed to review the draft bills in accordance with the town hall recommendations.

Furthermore, in anticipation of the next wave of town hall meetings, the three partner organizations worked with a legal consultant, Mr. Dinesh Tripathi, to identify and generate necessary documents on the Bill on Inclusion in Some Select Public Service Agencies. The next group of town halls will be held from July 15 to August 15.

C. Meetings/Consultations/Events

NDI Supports IPWA with the Organization of an Event to Celebrate their 6th Anniversary

On April 7, Institute staff attended an IPWA event in Kathmandu to honor and recognize the contributions of IPWA's founding chairperson Ms. Sahana Pradhan (CPN-UML) to women's empowerment and participation in politics. Close to 200 participants, including women parliamentarians, were in attendance. The event was originally scheduled for International Women's Day, but was postponed due to the passing away of a former prime minister. NDI was one of the organizations supporting this event.

Meeting with the Chief Whip of UCPN-M

On April 15, the Institute met with Hon. Post Bahadur Bogati, Chief Whip of UCPN-M. The Institute used this opportunity to brief the Chief Whip about NDI, the SPELP program and its parliamentary program components. The meeting specifically focused on various aspects of the upcoming activity of community dialogues and round table discussions. NDI also briefed the Chief Whip about the logistics of the program, such as selection of NGOs, district-specific issue identification, structure of the dialogues and selection of parliamentarians.

Susan Ann Markham's Interaction with MPs and CSO Coordinator

On April 28, NDI organized a meeting between visiting NDI Women's Political Participation Director Susan Markham and women parliamentarians from Dhanusha and the constituency coordinator of Lalitpur to share the experiences of the parliamentarians who have been working through the constituency offices. Hon. Surita Kumari Sah said that the constituency office had helped strengthen women's leadership by providing them an effective forum to interact with their constituents.

Meeting with UNDP re: Political Party Program Information Sharing

On May 12, NDI met with John Tannella and Monica Rijal of UNDP to share information about political party programming and to ensure that there was coordination and communication to avoid any overlap. It became clear from this meeting, however, that UNDP's supported political party steering committee objective, mandate and activities are distinct from NDI's. The former aims at enhancing collaborative leadership and initiatives among political parties at the district level in the area of peace building.

Meeting with the Carter Center (TCC) To Discuss and Share Information about Political Party Work

On May 19, NDI held a meeting with the Carter Center Deputy Country Director Sam Frantz and another researcher affiliated with the Center. The objective of the meeting was to receive an update from TCC about the focus of their current research around the country, and provide them an overview of NDI's political party program including upcoming activities over the next 12 months. TCC has been conducting research across the country about political space and looking into whether or not political parties are better able to conduct activities and recruit and organize members than they were during the years of the insurgency. The research, while still ongoing, confirms that since the CA elections in 2008, there has been a significant increase in political space, less intimidation from the Maoists, and a sense of general security and comfort with regards to the organization of activities in various regions and districts, with the exception of a few isolated incidents and reports. TCC reported that political parties do not seem to have

taken advantage of this change and are lagging behind with regard to the amount of activities, mobilization and outreach, with the exception of parties like RPP and Rastriya Janashakti Party (RJP).

Political Party Baseline Assessment Findings' Presentation to the Donors

On June 2, NDI made a presentation to various donors on the political party baseline assessment findings. The presentation took place at NDI's office and was coordinated and chaired by USAID's Democracy and Governance Director David Billings, with attendance by representatives from USAID, DANIDA HUGO, Danish Embassy, UNDP and DFID/ESP. Following the presentation, all donors present provided an overview of their programs or upcoming programs with political parties.

Presentation on the Concept of Democracy at "Youth Icon Nepal 2011"

On June 5, NDI gave a presentation on 'Concept of Democracy and Contemporary Politics' to the participants of "Youth Icon Nepal 2011", a national competition to identify a young Nepali icon. There were approximately 30 participants from different parts of Nepal, balanced in terms of gender and ethnicity, and representing different educational institutions. NDI fielded questions from the participants related to the topic.

Meeting with Hon. Dr. Prakash Chandra Lohani

On June 6, the Institute met with Hon. Dr. Prakash Chandra Lohani to discuss and brief him on the community dialogue and round table discussion program to be held in Nuwakot district. Hon. Lohani is the Parliamentary Party Leader of RJP and represents Nuwakot district and is also the former Foreign, Finance and Agriculture Minister.

NDI Meets with Nepali Congress Vice-President Ram Chandra Poudel

On June 6, NDI met NC's Vice-President Ram Chandra Poudel and a NC representative in the Inter Party Alliance, Mr. Binod Bhattarai, to discuss NC's interest in additional trainings for their party trainers. During the meeting, Mr. Poudel expressed strong interest in receiving additional technical assistance and support from NDI with regards to the organization of more training with NC members over the upcoming six months. In this regard, he stated that the NC is planning to train 60 master trainers nationwide, and extend training in all regions and districts to reach a ToTal of 200,000 members of the party. NDI explained that NC will be benefiting from a series of two national and four regional training of trainers, and that the Institute will also begin supporting individual party ToT following the completion of the first phase of the trainings.

NDI Meets with JOMPOPS Scoping Mission about Political Party Programming

On June 21, NDI met with two consultants representing the Joint Mechanism for Political Party Support (JOMPOPS), established largely by DANIDA and DFID to support political parties through capacity building and technical assistance. Both donors conducted a series of meetings with political parties and other implementers working with parties in Nepal to determine areas that other donors can either complement or alternatively collaborate on. NDI provided an overview of the Institute's programs, outlined the main findings from its party assessments, and emphasized the Institute's interest in working with other donors.

D. Monitoring and Evaluation

From late February until mid-March, the Institute conducted a comprehensive M&E baseline assessment. The objectives of the baseline assessment were to refine the program performance management and evaluation plan (PMEP), establish baseline and target indicator values and develop a framework for midterm and final evaluations. The assessment approach built on existing information and used field work to check the feasibility of data collection. The baseline assessment mapped out a rolling process for the program to arrive at a refined PMEP, indicator data collection tools and methods, and overall guidelines for NDI-Nepal to utilize these products for program monitoring and management. NDI developed data collection tools for several planned indicators under each of the parties and parliamentary program components. These tools will rely on qualitative data and analysis and focus on the program's contribution to intended results over the program period. The refined PMEP is attached with the quarterly report (Appendix 4). Also attached, please see the PMP Handbook, which is the central guide to the revised M&E system. It is the starting place for anyone who wants to use or understand the system in detail (Appendix 5).

IV. RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Objective 1: Political parties more effectively contribute to democratic processes in Nepal.

- NDI successfully completed its first national political party ToT workshop in Kathmandu for nine political parties. Fifty-four party activists representing various districts, regions, and ethnic groups benefited from practical sessions that enhanced their capacity to conduct replicate trainings for their parties at the regional and the district levels over the upcoming months.
- NDI provided an opportunity to senior leaders from nine political parties to work together, discuss and narrow their differences regarding Nepal's future form of government during a consensus-building retreat for IPA members.
- IPWA successfully expanded its district sub-committees in sixty-seven out of seventy-five districts and conducted women's development trainings to 245 women activists from all political parties.
- Internews conducted a series of journalism trainings across Nepal for more than 45 participants. Participants were able to meet with government officials and began understanding the need for a more proactive role as watchdog journalists. By the end of the course, journalists had created their own blog on the internet and many joined the Nepali Investigative Journalism Facebook site, which is an invitation-only forum for investigative journalists in Nepal.

Objective 3: The CA/Legislature Parliament more effectively fulfills its democratic functions.

- NDI-trained moderators successfully facilitated 10 single-issue community dialogues and round table discussions in districts across the country, utilizing the skills they had learned during their trainings. More than 1200 citizens and nearly 40 parliamentarians from 11 political parties attended the dialogues. After the program, these parliamentarians pledged their commitment to work closely on issues identified during the community dialogues.
- The Institute established working relationships with Legislature-Parliament Committees on International Relations and Human Rights and Natural Resources and Means by involving

the Chairs and Members in the issue-focused community dialogues and round table discussions.

- The seminar on the energy situation in Nepal provided a much needed forum for first-term parliamentarians to not only learn about the intricacies of the crisis facing the country but also to interact, build partnership, and create an environment of mutual trust and respect for each other.
- TAF conducted interest group audits on six bills and disseminated the findings and recommendations through the print media and on 25 different FM radio stations across the country. Numerous listener groups have formed in the districts, reflecting the high level of interest being generated by the show. For example, in Dang district, four listeners club have been formed. These groups discussed the content, format, and presentation modules of the radio program; their feedback will be incorporated into the design of future radio shows.
- More than 2500 people attended TAF's second round town hall meetings in 45 municipalities across the country. Over half of the participants were from marginalized communities of Nepal. TAF partners then submitted the town hall recommendations to members of the Legislative Committee of the Parliament.

V. EVALUATION

NDI successfully organized the first phase of its political party ToT program. Fifty-four participants from nine political parties, representing a wide cross section of ethnic and regional affiliations, attended the ToT workshops. General feedback from the participants indicated that the training modules were useful and helped equip participants with necessary skills and knowledge to conduct trainings at the district level. Despite ongoing gridlock in the CA and strikes called by various ethno-political groups demanding more rights and timely drafting of the constitution, NDI and its local partners successfully completed the first round of community dialogues and round table discussions in ten districts. Dialogues between elected representatives and constituents in these districts opened more space for citizens to express their need for local development.

The involvement of the chief whips or whips of the major political parties such as UCPN-M, NC and UML in the Institute's program activities proved equally positive. The chief whips or whips were more than willing to send their parliamentarians to NDI's programs. The seminar on the energy crisis in Nepal was attended by enthusiastic young or first-term parliamentarians, who were mostly nominated by the chief whips. These parliamentarians requested NDI to organize similar seminars in the future. They said these events help them to share knowledge and create an effective forum for parliamentarians to come together more constructively on important issues in the parliament. While in the past chief whips were reticent about the formation of a young parliamentary group or caucus, the Institute hopes that further events will build the parties' trust in young parliamentarians and generate future leaders seen as assets rather than threats to the party.

VI. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

- NDI will conduct a series of individual political party workshops and consultations from July 17 till August 5 on a variety of reform and priority areas for political parties.
- NDI will organize two regional ToTs. These are a follow up to the first national ToT. The regional ToT will take place in the following regions: Central Tarai (Janakpur), and Western

Region (Kaski). All the modules of national ToT-Phase I will be replicated at the regional level and will be led by master party trainers and supported by local and national experts.

- The Institute will organize a forum discussion on a relevant topic of interest to the IPA board members. The forum discussion will be led by US political party expert David Hunter.
- NDI will support IPWA expansion and formation of two district committees and the organization of capacity-building training for the newly elected women members.
- NDI will organize a workshop on Committee Hearings for Committee Chairs, Members and Secretaries in order to discuss the purpose, functions and effectiveness of committees and as well as the value of committee hearings.
- NDI will continue to work with NGPG core members to create an opportunity for the young/first term members of the parliament to interact and find ways to formalize and strengthen NGPG by organizing seminars/workshops on the topics related to the national interests.
- NDI in collaboration with Pro Public and district level NGOs will conduct follow-up meetings of the community dialogues and round table discussions in 10 districts.
- TAF will coordinate closely with the Secretary General to initiate strategic implementation of the Five-Year Library Improvement Plan, based on the recommendations provided by the research consultant and the funds allocated under CEPPS.
- TAF will operate in accordance to the work plan created by Writing Workshop to upgrade the Legislative Parliament's media center in the coming quarter. Coordinating with the Parliament Secretariat, it will initiate strategic involvement in providing technical and material assistance as identified by the research consultant and the funds allocated under CEPPS.
- TAF will continue to closely work with SS, WA, and RCDSC in conducting the next wave of town hall meetings in the coming quarter.
- TAF will continue to work closely with NCF and the interest group in identifying and auditing relevant legislation in the coming quarter. Furthermore, TAF will coordinate with New Spotlight Pvt. Ltd. to ensure a proper dissemination of the findings/recommendations of the interest group audits through the print media.
- TAF will continue to work closely with Interface Nepal in identifying the relevant legislations and provide assistance in producing and broadcasting the weekly radio show.
- TAF will continue to work closely with all its component partners to ensure close coordination between the various activities.
- Internews will hold five additional journalism trainings across Nepal.

VII. APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Training Course Lesson Plan

Appendix 2: Participant Details

Appendix 3: Kathmandu Course Outline

Appendix 4: Revised PMP

Appendix 5: PMP Handbook