

**Anti-Corruption Conference**  
**On**  
**‘Local Initiatives for Corruption Control’**

**Biratnagar, February 19-20, 2005**

**Biratnagar Declaration**

The two-day Regional Conference on ‘Local Initiatives for Corruption Control’ organized by the Commissions for Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA) with the support of USAID/Nepal and ARD, Inc. Rule of Law Project, was successfully concluded on February 20. Seven working papers were presented at the conference of which five were presented by government officials from CIAA, Judicial Council, National Vigilance Centre (NVC), Revenue Investigation Department and Eastern Regional Administration Office. The other two papers were presented by Pro-Public and ReMAC Nepal, both civil society organizations.

In the presence of CIAA Commissioner Mr. Lalit Bahadur Limbu, CIAA Secretary Mr. Bharat Bahadur Thapa, CIAA Deputy Attorney General Mr. Chet Nath Ghimire and Judicial Council Secretary Mr. Kashi Raj Dahal, more than one hundred participants actively participated in the two-day conference. Among the active participants were the Regional Administrator, Chief District Officers from Morang, Sunsari, Dhankutta, Sirha and Saptari, Regional Chiefs and District Chiefs of various government offices, members from civil society, professional organizations, local intellectuals and media persons. At the end of the conference, the participants unanimously adopted the “Biratnagar Declaration” which set forth the following 13 points.

1. It is agreed that the local level government public relations offices under the leadership of the Eastern Regional Administrator must develop a suitable mechanism to increase public participation, transparency and accountability in their respective activities.
2. It is assured that any corruption complains registered in Regional Administration Office (RAD) or District Administration Office (DAO) and any matter forwarded to RAD or DAO by the CIAA shall be normally investigated within three months and shall be reported to CIAA.

3. It is agreed that anti-corruption government agencies shall work with legally established civil society organizations and media groups of the same nature for promoting a strong anti-corruption movement in the country.
4. Civil society may honor civil servants who are friendly and dedicated to the service of common people. The local administration shall assist and encourage efforts made by civil society in this regard.
5. It is the moral obligation of the business community to strictly follow the code of conduct duly adopted by the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry.
6. Every possible assistance and support shall be given by the business community to any reasonable government action based on law for controlling revenue leakage.
7. Each public office holder must comply with his/her legal duty to submit financial disclosure statement on time.
8. It is agreed that necessary initiatives shall be taken to incorporate the message of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in the educational curriculum.
9. Civil society organizations working to eliminate corruption from the society agree to network and to form forums and coalitions.
10. Non-governmental organizations agree to adopt and practice transparency and accountability in all of their financial transactions.
11. Civil society organizations working for anti-corruption at the grassroots level should be supported and encouraged to implement their programs and the government sector should support and encourage civil society in implementing their programs.
12. It is recommended that anti-corruption conferences should be organized regularly in different parts of the country. There should be cooperation and coordination among all concerned government agencies and civil society organizations in this regard.

13. The Regional Administration Office and the chiefs of all government offices of this region agree to work on the following guidelines:

- To be committed to controlling corruption.
- To increase transparency in activities and services provided by regional/local government offices.
- To develop procedures for discussing every month the status of corruption in regional/local government offices.
- Government office employees must study and keep complete information about the Rules and Regulations of their respective official activities.
- To take precautionary measures and timely action to prevent corruption in government offices.
- To maintain impartiality in official work.
- To take legal action against any employee found guilty of corruption.
- To monitor subordinate offices regularly so as to bring timely improvement in the law enforcement process.
- To develop a system of dialogue and interaction between stakeholders in the fight against corruption.
- Any complain of corruption which has been filed before the Regional Administrator and CDOs must be investigated properly and a progress report should be submitted to CIAA every month.
- To take notice of any report of corruption published in national or local newspapers and to investigate the matter according to existing laws.