

Local Activism against Corruption
Regional Seminar, Nepalgunj
(25th-26th August, 2005)

Nepalgunj Declaration

The two days Regional Conference with the theme “Local Activism against Corruption” held in the trade center of the Mid-western Development Region, Nepalgunj concluded successfully. The seminar was organized by CIAA and NVC with the support of ARD, Inc. Rule of Law Project and USAID/Nepal.

The seminar was inaugurated on 24th August, 2005 by Hon. Justice Ram Kumar Shah, Chief Justice of Nepalgunj Appellate Court and Hon. Surya Nath Upadhyay chaired the function.

The Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority was represented by Hon. Surya Nath Upadhyay, Acting Secretary Mr. Revati Raj Kafle, Joint Secretary Mr. Ratna Kaji Bajracharya and Joint Government Attorney Mr. Surya Prasad Koirala. Likewise Chief Officer Mr. Bal Krishna Prasai, Joint Secretary Mr. Shiva Prasad Parajuli from National Vigilance Center, Deputy Attorney General Mr. Dron Raj Regmi from The Office of the Attorney General of Nepal, Director General of Department of Customs Mr. Krishna Hari Baskota, Joint Secretary Mr. Kedar Paudel from Ministry of Law and Justice, Banke Chief District Officer Mr. Binod Kumar Adhikari from Zonal District Administration Office, Regional Chief of Police, the Banke Regional Chiefs and Government Officers representing various Government Agencies, Chief of Party Mr. Frederick G. Yeager and Anti-Corruption Specialist Mr. Mihir Kumar Thakur from ARD, Inc. Rule of Law Project, USAID/Nepal, Vice-Chairman of Transparency International/Nepal Mr. Ramesh Nath Dhungel, Director Mr. Kedar Khadka of Pro Public (Good Governance Project), Mr. Bishnu Subedi from ReMAC Nepal, Chairperson Ms. Sangita Niroula of SWATI Nepal, Chairperson Ms. Tika Dhakal Subedi of COACT Nepal, Officials from Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI), students from various high-schools of Nepalgunj, members representing the civil-societies from Nepalgunj, the business community of Nepalgunj, journalists and people from different walks of lives. There was altogether 8 working papers presented from The Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority, National Vigilance Center, Ministry of Law and Justice, Department of Customs, Revenue Investigation Department, Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI), SWATI Nepal and COACT Nepal; followed by extensive interaction deliberations among the participants.

The participants who are present in this seminar have unanimously agreed to work and make a contribution to the society against corruption. For this, it was agreed generally, that in the forth coming days various activities will be done; hence Nepalgunj Declaration has been adopted.

- 1 *Government local level office and public offices based in Banke is to focus on the elements of good governance: - follow the law, transparency; answerable, impartial, people's participation, independence etc. will be stressed in order to be more service oriented. For this, the service will be uncomplicated, easy and accessible to all and the Local Government Offices to ensure that there is no delay, corruption and discrepancies. It was also emphasized that the Offices to be alert, conscious, receptive and strictly follow the Code of Conduct.*
- 2 *The working paper presented in the conference regarding the modification measures adopted in the Department of Customs is appreciable and as per the opinions expressed by different participants, the several suggestions for curbing corruption has to be implemented*

in all the offices, by making amendment in the administration, working style and upgrading of the physical attributes; the progress report has to be submitted to concerned departments, ministries, the Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority and to National Vigilance Center.

- 3 The meeting of the office heads which is held every month at the District Administration Office regarding the issue of corruption and complains against it has to be dealt subsequently and reached to a conclusion. For this, a mechanism has to be developed and firmly followed with continuity.*
- 4 The cases of corruption complain filed in District Administration Office has to be dealt within 3 months and come to a conclusion with concerned authority notified.*
- 5 Concerned authority to take immediate action for any unauthorized, speculative publications about corruption issues in the National or any of the daily newspaper.*
- 6 It is the morale duty of a conscious citizen to submit the property valuation form within the mentioned timeframe.*
- 7 The principal and concept of technical auditing shall be adopted and practiced in all development and construction projects.*
- 8 The anti-corruption agencies: Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority, National Vigilance Center, various public offices, Non- Governmental Offices, private sector, civil society along with journalists to support and work in harmony in order to encourage the activities against corruption.*
- 9 The civil society and the National Vigilance Center can honor people's friendly and dedicated government employees for their committed and outstanding work.*
- 10 Cooperation shall be undertaken to enforce the Code of Conduct issued by the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI).*
- 11 If any lawful action is being taken against any individual or organization in case of revenue leakage, there will not be any obstacles or hindrance for prevention or minimization of revenue leakage.*
- 12 Measures and effort shall be initiated to make the tax-paying and tax-collecting system more flexible and lucid and prevent revenue leakage by under-billing.*
- 13 The imperative objective of United Nations Convention against Corruption is to be included in the school curriculum. For this purpose, letter of request to be forwarded to the concerned authority.*
- 14 The non-governmental organizations working for the common cause anti-corruption will be brought under one umbrella.*
- 15 The emphasis will be on focusing on the transparency and accountability regarding all their financial transactions of the non-governmental organizations.*
- 16 The institutions and organizations working for anti-corruption in the grassroots level should be encouraged and supported fully to implement their programs.*
- 17 It is agreed to impart factual and accurate information in order to update the general public concerning corruption cases and prevention measures for corruption.*
- 18 The concern authorities to be notified immediately if in case of any corruption activities likely to take place.*

25th – 26th August, 2005
Nepalgunj, Banke