

# A Brief Report of Training/Workshop on Investigative Journalism Against Corruption

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Organized by



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## 1. RATIONALE

Corruption has been regarded as one of the crime that indulges the white collared sector of the society. Corruption is also regarded as one of the formidable hurdles in most of the developing nations that hinder all development works. Most of the developing countries face high level of corruption, misappropriation of funds, irregularities and low level of transparency as well as accountability and indifference towards the sense of responsibility. It was also observed that in many of these developing countries, corruption is so rampant that the very foundation of which a free civil society is built has become increasingly unstable. The democracy in many of these countries is also in jeopardizing state as the respective governments were unable to establish rule of law in the larger society. As a result of such malpractices the social justice has deteriorated further bringing violent armed conflicts in many of those countries. The common poor, marginalized citizens are the prime victims of such rampant corruption.

The available records show that the incidents of corruption cases in Nepal are in increasing trends especially after the restoration of multi-party democratic system. The traditional beliefs and practices blended with slow-paced development efforts along with paternalistic and hierarchical social structure were accounted as part of the reasons in the increase of corruption before 1990. The loosening of control and discipline mechanism in a democratic set-up, coupled with ambivalent traditional values on corruption, weakly enforced sanctions and high increase in opportunities are some of the major reasons that have attributed the growth in corruption since 1990 onwards.

Though the political forces, the government, civil society and even the private sector have realized the issue of corruption in recent times; the anti-corruption movement, however, has not been able to gain the desired momentum. The absence of a multi-disciplinary approach is combating corruption and lacks of public awareness are responsible for the movement not getting transpired and streamlined.

## 2. ReMAC Nepal

Research and Media Center against Corruption (ReMAC) is a civil society watchdog against corruption in Nepal. ReMAC was promoted by a like-minded team of anti-corruption journalists but it also involves different expertise ranging from researcher and lawyers in achieving its broader mission. Combating corruption through research and media is the prime technical approach whilst promoting good governance is the general strategy of ReMAC.

The overall vision of ReMAC is to see a corruption free Nepalese society wherein public institutions serve people accountably, transparently and adequately. ReMAC aspires to generate strong public opinion against corruption in Nepal. Another key feature for ReMAC is to become the lead and pioneering institution in putting the public offices under the public scrutiny along with the establishment of rule of law with institutionalization of democracy in the country. Revealing corruption issues being one of the major issues, ReMAC also plan to establish a resource center to provide institutional support for working journalists and other independent researcher who are heavily involved in anti-corruption movement.

Presently, ReMAC has approximately 50 members, most of them being journalists working in the good governance and anti-corruption sector in print and electronic media including newspaper, magazines, radio, television, and internet websites.

Within a short timeframe of its inception, ReMAC has succeeded in collaborating and creating a working relationship with national and international governmental and non-governmental organizations, particularly with the Commission for Investigating Abuse of Authority (CIAA), the constitutional anti-graft body; the National Vigilance Center (NVC), and Transparency International - Nepal chapter (TIN). Enabling journalists report investigative news in corruption issues is one of the key areas ReMAC is currently indulged in. Sharing of information and impartation of knowledge and skills to the journalists and researchers by organizing various workshops and training is also one of the regular programs under ReMAC.

### **3. OBJECTIVE OF THE WORKSHOP**

Recently, ReMAC organized a eight-day long (2 - 9 September 2005) training cum workshop on 'Investigative Journalism against Corruption' at Hotel Park Village, Budhanilkantha. The workshop was financially supported by ARD Inc, Rule of Law Project, USAID Nepal. Altogether 29 journalists participated the workshop where various researchers, experts, senior journalists and government officials were invited as resource person to share their experiences and various dimension of anti-corruption movements.

In line with the workshop title, the main objective of the workshop was to provide necessary inputs on various aspects of the investigative journalism against corruption movement to the participants. During the workshop the participants were also enriched with the following topics:

- Concepts, definition and theories related to corruption.
- Exposure to different tools and techniques that is in use to measure the corruption.
- Anti-corruption prosecution bodies in Nepal and the prosecution system.
- Anti-corruption strategy, achievement and challenges faced by the CIAA.
- UN Convention against corruption and the responsibility of the member country.
- The process and importance of investigation.
- Anti-corruption strategy from different perspectives; government, journalists, civil society and donors.
- Role and responsibilities of civil society and media in anti-corruption movement.
- Basic concept, norms, principle, ethic, knowledge and skills required for investigative journalism.
- Issues and challenges in reporting corruption cases.

### **4. PROCEEDINGS OF THE WORKSHOP**

To deal with the different aspects of the investigative journalism against corruption, the session plan for the workshop was divided into three parts for each day. Considering the time availability of the participants as well as the resource persons, the workshop session was carried out for half-day only by starting the session at early morning to mid-day (7.30 - 13.30 hours).

## 4.1 Proceedings and sessions for Day - I

### 4.2 Opening Ceremony

Mr. Sanjeev Pokharel, Acting Chairperson of ReMAC delivered his welcome speech by welcoming all the representatives and participants to the workshop. Corruption being the major hurdle in good governance, journalists has collectively started anti-corruption movement to fight with the social evil. He also informed that the investigative journalism is one of the strong tools to strengthen the anti-corruption movement. Investigative journalism being new phenomenon in the Nepalese context there are very limited number of women journalists in this sector.

Mr. Frederic Yeager, Chief of Party of ARD, Inc. Rule of Law Project expressed his satisfaction to support the workshop as it is directed to a noble cause as media and journalists are important part of democracy and they have to play the role of a watchdog against the abuse of power and corruption. The major role of the investigative journalism is to find facts and not the rumors. Journalists being more accountable and loyal to the public should always follow the principle, guidance, norms, values and ethic of a good journalism. He wished that the workshop will be success in delivering a new dimension toward the investigative journalism in Nepal.

Mr. Von Millard, Senior Democracy and Governance Advisor, USAID/Nepal in his opening speech delivered the message by saying that to perfect in investigative journalism one should always be careful that their ego and arrogance should not overcome to them. People will be watching each and every movement that you make as they do not like that somebody is tracking down their wrong doings and they will always try to pull you down. By citing one investigative journalism case from US, he informed that it demands a lot of time and the responsible journalists have strong patience in achieving their target.

Mr. Bishnu Nisthuri, Chairperson of Federation of Nepalese Journalists (FNJ) in his speech highlighted the importance of investigative journalism by saying that as a result of the democracy the journalism in the country has reached to certain maturity. Due to the continuous and undaunted movement of the Nepalese media and journalists, public debate has started on anti-corruption movement. Further to strengthen the movement in a collective and systematic approach ReMAC has been established. There are still certain grey areas in the country where the media people do not have easy access to investigate the cases of corruptions. He also cited the need of investigative journalism expansion to the rural areas (outside KTM valley) for making the anti-corruption movement more effective.

Mr. Bal Krishna Prasai, Chief of the National Vigilance Center (NVC), addressing to the workshop participants informed on the importance of investigative journalism. Given to inadequate transparency in the Nepalese bureaucratic system, there still remains certain barrier to administer the investigative journalism in many public sectors. NVC has been created to administer preventive measurers in anti-corruption movement by the government as the CIAA deals with the curative aspects.

Mr. Surya Nath Upadhaya, Chief Commissioner, CIAA and chief guest of the program in this opening speech recalled back the bitter experiences that have observed between the CIAA and journalists as they acted like competitors during the initial phase of CIAA establishment. He also acknowledged the positive role initiated by journalists in bringing maturity to the CIAA. Indicating to the importance of investigative journalism, Mr. Upadhaya also cited the risks and necessary

process that has to go along while conducting proper investigation. In spite of its certain limitations, CIAA is always open to the journalists and they should work together to strengthen the anti-corruption movement.

Mr. Mihir Thakur, Anti-Corruption Program Coordinator, ARD Inc. delivering his vote of thanks, expressed that ARD is very happy to support ReMAC in organizing the workshop. It is a one step in achieving the citizen's right to have a clean and accountable government and he hoped that the outcomes of the workshop will certainly contribute to this mission. He also informed that ARD is also supporting to organize similar workshop in future at Nepalgunj.

### **4.3 Concepts, definition, theories and principles of corruption**

Dr. Narayan Manandhar presented the different dimensions and aspects of corruption as there are so many facets of the corruption, i. e., gift, crime, nepotism and favoritism, daijo, bribe, crime and so on. He explained on the various definitions that have been cited by different organization along with the 'Bundle of Corruption' that has been counted by the UN under its global action against corruption.

Corruption which is also commonly pronounced as 'Bribe' could be judged by different dimensions and angles and its intensity. Dr. Manandhar also explained on the Kaufmann's concept and principle on corruption. There is always some open question regarding the power and wealth, whether it is power follows to wealth or vice versa. Measurement of corruption level has also been very much complex as many of the indicator developed by different agencies required intensive econometrics analysis.

### **4.4 Anti-corruption Laws and Flaws and Anti-corruption bodies in Nepal**

Mr. Mahadev Prasad Yadav entered into his subject by stating the historical perspective on corruption as this has remained with human society since a much longer time. He cited some of the remedies prescribed by Pluto to mitigate the corruption in the society. Family and greed being the counter face or the root cause of the corruption, Pluto did pronounce that the leaders and ministers should remain unmarried. At the same time he did also suggested that the state should take the responsibility of all children's upbringing.

To check and balance the corruption cases in the country, the government of Nepal has initiated different legal provisions. The first Anti-corruption Act was promulgated in 2009 BS. Till this date the act has been amended three times in 2013, 2017 and 2059. Further to strengthen the movement Anti-Abuse Authority Bylaws was introduced in the national constitution 2034. The bylaws have provided immunity to three sectors; the army, Special court and commission. Corruption has been defined as the act of taking and giving bribes, misappropriation of public assets, malpractices and abuse of authorities.

Mr. Yadav also indicated on some of the loopholes of the bylaws for being ineffective. The provision laid in the bylaws for filing corruption cases against official requires the acceptance of corruption charge by the official who are charged for such corruption.

Mr. Yadav strongly recommended having strong educational component in the moral values and norms that will lead to the reduction of corruption cases.

## **5. Proceeding and Sessions of Day - II**

### **5.1 Anti-corruption Prosecution procedures**

Mr. Yuva Raj Subedi provided the insight on and about the anti-corruption step wise prosecution procedures from the part of Government Attorney.

For the last three and half year all together 524 cases of corruptions have been filed in the Special Court. Out of the total filed cases decision were granted to 299 cases and there are still 225 cases on pending. Eighty six percent of the cases that have been decided by the Special Court has been verified and charged under corruption affairs.

Due to some specific provision made in the constitution, many of the cases that have been proved by the Special Court could be further filed at the 'Punarabeden Court' and again to 'Supreme Court'. Mr. Subedi also indicated that such practices have been observed at very level as most of the cases (99 %) were filed at higher level. Mr. Subedi also wondered by saying that whether we can label those officials as corrupt as they have been found guilty by the Special Court or not? As they still have the provision for filing their cases at upper courts?

Mr. Subedi cited many special corruption cases and briefed on an about the various steps and evidences that requires for the prosecution process.

### **5.2 Anti-corruption Investigation: CIAA Perspective**

Mr. Chet Nath Ghimire representative of CIAA described the organizational structure of CIAA along with the role, function and linkages between different government entities that have been directly related to anti-corruption affairs. The six member commissioner committee is headed by one Chief Commissioner for a period of six years and they have to take unanimous decisions for filing any cases for corruption.

Mr. Ghimire also produced and cited some special cases that have been successfully undertaken by the CIAA. He also stressed on the need for grooming more staff for CIAA to strengthen its organizational capacity to initiate effectively the anti-corruption movement. Media being one of the close partner entity of the movement they should develop strong collaboration by having frequent interaction.

### **5.3 UN Convention against Corruption and the Role of the Government**

Mr. Kedar Poudel, Joint Secretary MoLJ&PA recited the various international conventions that have been promulgated to minimize the risks of corruption. Nepal being one of the UN member countries has rectified many of those UN conventions.

Given to the current government system, Nepal still needs to formulate various anti-corruption policy and strategy. He also cited to various overlapping laws and articles of the existing ones and proposal being made to amend those laws in line with the UN Convention.

## **6. Proceeding and Sessions of Day - III**

### **6.1 Types of Corruption in Nepalese Context**

Mr. Prakash Wasti described 'corruption' as the white collar crime and political sector being the greener pasture for the wrong doing. He did classify and explained on and about 18 types of corruption in the country as a whole. Under the political influences many types of corruptions are

being initiated in the government, business, industries and projects. This covers a range of malpractices starting from awarding employment opportunity and posting of the official to larger scale of projects and contracts. Money laundering, scholarships, training, bank credit, medicinal expenses, export-import, passports even fund raising through basket system are some of the forms of corruption.

Mr. Wasti concluded his presentation by saying that though there are ample provisions and laws on anti-corruption in the country but they have not implemented properly. The role and responsibilities of the media and civil society should be directed to pressurize the government for a smooth implementation of the laws.

## **6.2 Anti-corruption Investigation; Principle and Process**

Dr. Govinda Thapa, AIGP sketched the principle and process on the investigation of organized crimes as he firmly proved that organized crimes are one of the prime sectors in larger corruption cases. He stated the organized crime being a type of parallel government with having top down and bottom up linkages. Organized crimes are run by well organized group or houses receiving different support and immunity from government and quasi-government bodies.

To investigate the organized crimes, primarily three things comes handy, the first intelligence that could be both in overt and covert forms. The second being the evidence-the lead or trail to reach to the depth and it is always very illusive. The third comes in the form of instrumental that consist the use of scientific tools and techniques.

False certificate, passports, drug and girl trafficking, smuggling of gold and rear animals (dead body parts and live) are few examples of organized crimes in Nepal. Dr. Thapa also cited the murder case of Mirja Dilsahabeg as a part of such organized crime in the country and cautioned on and about the risks and challenges that possess in investigating such crimes.

## **6.3 Major Areas of Corruption in Nepal**

Mr. Narayan Raj Tiwari, former secretary in HMG-N pointed out few major areas of corruption in the government sector. He defined the transaction of money in an illegal form being one of the prime motives of economic corruption. Most of the time money is involved in such corruption and in physical construction works; cost and time overrun along with variation order are used to cover such illegal wrong doings.

Mr. Tiwari has served the nation for a long period under his capacity of Secretary to MoF, MoFSC and MoL&TM cited few examples of corruptions that he experienced during his tenure time period. He also requested to the media sector to be very sensitive towards the government officials as there are many good officials in the public sector with clean image and they should not be judged by putting all together in the same basket.

# **7. Proceeding and Sessions of Day - IV**

## **7.1 Anti-corruption Strategies: Journalistic Perspective**

Mr. Ram Krishna Regmi, a senior journalist Defining the anti-corruption aspect within the broader world of literature is gaining its ground as many new schools of thoughts are emerging in the arena. Initiated the plenary discussion by raising a question 'Can information fight Corruption? The present global debates are focused in answering this question and majority of the people involved in anti-corruption movement firmly believes that dissemination of information is the only strong tool to fight against the corruption. They also argue that state should not interfere media in publishing

anti-corruption materials, but rather support the media to inform the mass populace on and about the wrong doings. Media itself can not stop or fight the corruption on its own, but it could provide information to the mass people and concerned authorities all about the wrong doings.

The role and responsibilities of media should be of a watchdog to maintain the National Integrity System (NIS) which enables the state to function properly. NIS system has been adapted to separate the source of power and at the present situation all the legislative, executive and judiciary power have been centralized. Media should not only highlight the corruption cases, they should also write on the NIS part. Mr. Regmi closed his presentation by providing good suggestion to the participants that as a media person they should also apply self-censorship while developing articles on corruption cases by analyzing the existing laws and developing a calendar on various topics.

## **7.2 Anti-corruption Strategy: Government Perspective**

Mr. Bal Krishna Prasai, Chief of NVC outlined the various anti-corruption acts and strategies that has been formulated and implemented by the HMG-N. Public sector being the major government entities that have been authorized in handling the power and resources are also regarded the main arena for its abuse. Thus, HMG-N has more concentrated its anti-corruption movement on the public sector.

CIAA has been delegated to deal more with the curative part of the corruption agenda, where as NVC is created to deal with more to the preventive part. Time and again, NVC is also asked to carry out certain specific assignments by the government that does not falls directly under its jurisdictions. Technical auditing on various infrastructure projects could be a good example of such assignments. Provided to certain degree of limitation to NVC, Mr. Prasai did also agreed on some pertaining issues and drawbacks in observing the effectiveness of anti-corruption movement in the country as a whole.

## **7.3 Role of Civil Society in Investigating and Exposing Corruption**

Mr. Kedar Khadka, shared his organizational experiences on the anti-corruption movement. The study carried out to observe the people's perception on corruption by the Media Service International (MSI) shows that more than 98% of the interviewed individual Nepalese citizen firmly believes the existence of corruption in the country. He also presented some of the key findings of the MSI study and the intervention made by the Pro Public in raising public awareness on anti-corruption movement.

Pro Public has recently implemented a anti-corruption project in 10 pilot districts of Nepal with a financial support of NRs. 12, 64, 28, 195.00 from ESP/DFID. To promote the anti-corruption movement, Pro Public has designed various public awareness activities along with the sensitizing the government officials at the district. The presentation was followed with a plenary discussion on the part of sustainability of donor driven intervention in anti-corruption movement.

# **8. Proceeding and Sessions of Day - V**

## **8.1 Investigative Journalism: Its Norms and Parameter**

Ms. Ritu Sarin, Investigative Bureau Chief of Indian Express entered to her presentation by explaining all about the investigative journalism. She explained that investigative journalism could be very nicely termed for such research articles 'in essence, good, in-depth report that does not have any boundaries and deadlines.'

Ms. Sarin further explained the basic elements, ethics and principles of investigative journalism citing various successful examples from India where she has been heavily involved to accomplish the mission. She also outlined in detail all the steps and measures that are handy in dealing with the investigation of a particular case. Collection of ample evidences with facts and figures along with its verification is a must in investigative journalism.

Self-motivation and self-discipline along with accountability and maintaining ethics are some of core value and principles of the investigative journalism. Dealing with sources and maintaining confidentiality should be also counted the basic principle of investigative journalism.

## **8.2 A Case Study of Investigative Journalism**

Mr. Shiva 'Gaule', news coordinator of Himal magazine presented a visual show on one of his successful story, case on 'The Qualification of a Doctor'. The true case was reported on Himal magazine few years back, citing the wrong doing of a false surgeon Surya Rana Shastri who did carried out an operation on a patient for grafting thumb finger.

After the visualized presentation of film, a plenary discussion was initiated where Mr. 'Gaule' explained further the various aspects related to the case.

Based on his experience and knowledge Mr. 'Gaule' also explained the stepwise process in investigative journalism, he has adapted to resolve various malpractices and corruption cases in the country.

## **8.3 Role of Civil Society in Combating Corruption**

Mr. Ashis Thapa, executive director of Transparency International-Nepal, shared the experience in dealing with the anti-corruption movement in the South Asia Region and transparency International activity .

Thapa has presented A survey report that has been carried out in 2004 in and around various South Asian Countries has revealed that corruption is common agenda in all the country. The political parties are identified as one of the major actor to escalate and influence the corruption. Parliament being the focal part to initiate the good governance system in a country has been challenged with various obstacles. The opposition party is always more vocal to raise the corruption charges. Disruption in parliament is a common feature in all countries. Criminal background of the parliament members and high election costs has been also the major issues of debate in all countries.

TIN has documented and analyzed the major indicators of good governance in Nepal since 2001 onwards.

# **9. Proceeding and Session of Day - VI**

## **9.1 Role of Media in Anti-Corruption Drive**

The role of media within the anti-corruption drive should always remain as a provider of 'tonic' that is very much vital in maintaining a healthy and prosperous society. Mr. Regmi further explained that corruption being a disease that feeds on social norms and values and cripples the whole social structure needs a greater degree of support from the media. Media should make the necessary measures to caution and sensitize the society to take necessary measures to stop the malpractices; otherwise the whole NIS system will collapse.

Mr. Regmi further elaborated that the sensitizing process to a society is a lengthy process as each and every individual citizen needs to be sensitized to uproot the corruption. In doing so the dynamic process of the society also demands considerable adaptation and changes in strategy and programs of the media.

Mass media is one of the strong and effective tools to sensitize the mass populace. Leaking the message through mass media does not have any competitors and no other media can compensate it.

Investigative journalists should be able to present the leaking in a proper manner. Before leaking the message, media people should validate and reexamine the source by making references to available knowledge. Another important function of the media people should be the analyst. He/she should be able to draw ample public opinion giving a more intellectual flavor and sound background. The third part always counts on creating pressure groups for advocacy and lobbying. Mr. Regmi also suggested to the participants to be more professional in analyzing the message before leaking it in mass media as he has noted this section being relatively weak in Nepalese media.

## **9.2 The Investigative Journalism and its Trail**

Ms. Ritu Sarin explained further the investigative journalism by mentioning the different kind of sources that could click the ideas and possible sources of leakages. Once the sources were identified how a investigative media person could trail to different other sources within the vicinity. She also explained on and about the differences between paper trail and people trail, and how these two could complement each other in investigative journalism.

She also cautioned on the difficult part the investigative journalists have to face while carrying out their jobs. Field work being one of the vital components in investigative journalism, media people should be ready to maintain hard and difficult life styles. She provided important tips to carry out the investigative journalism.

## **9.3 Panel Discussion**

A panel discussion was initiated to facilitate the discussion on some open question where as the panelist Mr. Regmi and Ms. Sarin clarified to the quarries raised by the participants on various issues of investigative journalism. Some of the question raised during the panel discussion was:

- Difficult to quote the sources in certain cases. Use open or secondary sources.
- Access to the government documents. It needs more sensitizing.
- Arrogance of government officials also needs more sensitizing and interaction.
- Lack of network of journalists. Try to join media organization or form one. ReMAC should include all sorts of journalists (radio, newspaper, TV, etc). FNJ may not be in a position to handle the IJ in anti-corruption wing within its organizational set-up and ReMAC should initiate to pave the road.
- Indifferent attitude of the people toward bribes. Needs more sensitization programs.
- Difficulties in visualizing the source in electronic media (TV). Possible but needs more resources, equipments and manpower.
- Censorship on news in government media (Radio Nepal), Follow the government norms.

- Invested interests of publishers in publishing investigative reports. Understanding between the editor and reporters to maintain the body and soul of the article.
- Right background of IJ on thematic subject. Study and experiences make perfection.
- Official/formal quota reservation on media for corruption cases. Needs understanding.
- No specific policy of HMG-N for release of information. They need more support from the media. Try to contact the spoke-person with right authority.
- Inappropriate selection of sources. Try to contact more people to snatch the news in an aggressive manner and do not relay to few sources only.
- Indirect threat through friends and relatives. Original paper is the key card you should hold in sensitive cases.
- Attraction of reward for withholding news from publication. Do not fall on such pitfalls and dialogue with all concerned (publisher, chief editor and reporters).

## 10. Proceeding and Sessions of Day - VII

### 10.1 Investigative Journalism in Anti-Corruption: Issues and Challenges

Mr. Rajendra Dahal, a Senior Journalist shared his experiences on investigative journalism primarily focusing on the big water projects of the country. He recalled back on the decision of editors during the Panchayat era where they did agreed not to publish any news on petty corruptions that were regarded as grease money and being a permanent phenomenon in the public sector. He outlined some of the major corruption cases where he has been heavily involved in the past and how he dealt with the topic along with source, people and paper trail.

He also sketched the possible difficulties and threats he has encountered during his investigative journalism career. Some of the big projects like Melamchi, Bhote Koshi, Sapta Koshi. Arun Makalu and Marsyangdi were cited as good examples of corporate corruption.

### 10.2 Anti-Corruption Strategy: Donors Perspective

Dr. Narayan Manandhar started his second part of presentation by recapitalizing the previous section of his presentation where he initiated the discussion on the conceptual part of the corruption.

In his presentation Dr. Manandhar stressed more on the correlation aspects of good governance and corruption on a global phenomenon. Many graphs that have been analyzed on the background of good governance and corruption has indicated that the escalation in corruption cases are very much influential in many of the so called third world countries with having stable democratic and good governance practices.

To stimulate further on the topic of corruption and its root causes, the Dr. Manandhar asked the participants to list down the most prominent causes of corruption. Poverty, absence of political commitment, inadequate public awareness, greed of the public servants, and maintenance of social status along with enforcement of law were identified as some of the major root causes of corruption.

Further to improve the capacity of the journalists, Dr. Manandhar emphasized that they should have fair and updated information on the IJ knowledge. He surfed to some of the important e-net

sites and recommended that IJ should take enough time to visit these sites to upgrade their knowledge on the IJ.

## 11. Proceeding and Session of Day - VIII

### 11.1 Round Table Discussion on Investigative Journalism

Mr. Ram Krishna Regmi and Ms. Ritu Sarin initiated the round table discussion forum by asking the participants to identify six major problems related to three different aspects of investigative journalism that needs further attentions to strengthen the overall IJ movement. The participants were divided into three sub-groups and asked to identify at least six major burning issues/problems related to three IJ areas along with its possible solutions. The outcomes of the sub-group exercise were presented in the plenary session and collective consents were sought on it.

Sub-Groups	Major Issues and problems	Possible solutions
A	<p><b><u>Good Governance</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy framework for media</li> <li>• Access to information</li> <li>• Guarantee of security</li> <li>• Motivational incentives</li> <li>• Dedication and commitment toward profession</li> <li>• Understanding the concept of good governance</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Solutions</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion with stakeholders</li> <li>• Advocacy</li> <li>• Sense of Security</li> <li>• In-house and external security</li> <li>• Capacity building</li> <li>• Advocacy and awareness raising</li> </ul>
B	<p><b><u>Writing on Corruption</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequate resources/incentives</li> <li>• Inadequate positive feedback</li> <li>• Risk factor</li> <li>• Organizational support</li> <li>• Inadequate information (lack of reading)</li> <li>• Right to information</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Solutions</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New area</li> <li>• Networking</li> <li>• Research and reading</li> <li>• Career development</li> <li>• Contribution to good governance</li> <li>• Public opinion</li> </ul>
C	<p><b><u>Training Need</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem centered exercise</li> <li>• Update information on new trends</li> <li>• International and National Laws and Flaws</li> <li>• Networking with different stakeholders</li> <li>• On-the-job training (Fellowship &amp; internship)</li> <li>• Research methodology</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Solutions</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilities for action research</li> <li>• Training and facilities</li> <li>• Resource center</li> <li>• ReMAC</li> <li>• Scholarship</li> <li>• Resource Center</li> </ul>

### 11.2 Introduction of ReMAC

Messers Kamal Pokharel and Rabindra Bhattarai, General Members of ReMAC Nepal, in brief introduced the ReMAC's VMGO to the plenary floor. REMAC is primarily promoted by media person involved in anti-corruption and good governance issues. Researchers and lawyers as social engineers have also joined in hand with ReMAC to promote the fight against social evils.

Reporting and investigating on corruption and good governance issues is the major working areas of ReMAC. Research, follow up and monitoring of the corruption cases and initiation of common

interaction on the issue of corruption and information dissemination also falls as one of the prime working areas of ReMAC. Coalition with different media network along with documentation of IJ documents also falls under the priority activities of ReMAC.

### **11.3 Informal Discussion with Chief Commissioner of CIAA**

An open and informal plenary discussion session was initiated between Mr. Surya Nath Upadhyay, the Chief Commissioner of CIAA and the participants. Many participants raised different quarries related to the interest of mass people and CIAA.

Responding to the various quarries, Mr. Upadhyay asked the participants as being the media person they should take optimum responsibility and accountability in handling the information on corruption cases. They should not flow any false and incomplete information to the mass people as Nepalese society is too vulnerable and fragile and it may bring total disaster on the national integrity. Though, the issues of corruption and good governance has a close relation, they are two different subjects and being separate topics, they should be addressed differently. Inadequate resources and skills along with less exposure and experience on the part of anti-corruption have been observed as some of the major hindrances in implementing the anti-corruption movement in the country in an effective manner.

Mr. Upadhaya also informed that he will initiate the necessary process to appoint a spoke person at CIAA to establish a good communication with the media. In recent times the relationship and collaboration between the media and CIAA have been observed very satisfactory. They should continue to support each other by bringing more positive attitude in coming days. Given under the present difficult circumstances and the limitation of its own, there are certain things that does not falls under the direct jurisdictions of CIAA. The media is very much familiar with it and they should not put pressure on it. It is also not necessary to investigate all the cases filed for corruption as CIAA has its own norms to move those files for detail investigation.

While dealing with the 'right to information' part, we should not forget to the 'right to privacy' part of any individual and respect it. It is also very difficult to demarcate the boundary between transparency and non-transparency. Mr. Upadhaya concluded the plenary session by saying that the workshop was quite fruitful in achieving its goal and has added new insights on the part of investigative journalism. The workshop has also provided a common platform to discuss openly many things between the media and CIAA, and it should be regarded one step ahead in the collaboration between the two partner entities.

### **11.4 Closing Ceremony**

The closing ceremony of the workshop was organized in a very simplistic and informal manner, where representing the participants, Mr. Rajendra Raj Timilsina expressed his feeling by saying that the workshop is very enlightening and it has been very successful. It has provided various inputs on investigative journalism and we are ready to carry out some serious research works.

Mr. Frederic Yeager, Chief of Party of ARD Inc. Rule of Law Project extended his congratulation to the participants for the successful completion of the workshop. He also expressed his best wishes for them and further added that with the new learning and insights the media people will be able to work in a better way to bring tremendous positive changes in their society.

Mr. Sanjeev Pokharel, Acting Chairperson of ReMAC cited a small antidote on his closing remarks and requested to all participants that they should not take any hard feelings, and should not take it personally but it should be taken on professionally. Media persons are not supposed to fight but they should rather notes.

Closing of the workshop was observed with the certificate and CD distribution to the participants by Chief Commissioner Mr. Upadhayay.

Annex - A

**Training/Workshop on Investigative Journalism against Corruption**  
**Organized by ReMAC Nepal (Research and Media center Against Corruption)**  
**Supported by ARD Inc. Rule of Law Project, USAID/Nepal**  
**2-8 September, 2005, Katmandu**  
**Tentative Program Schedule**

Time	Date/Topics/schedule	Resource Person(s)
<b>Day One – Friday, Bhadra 17, 2062 (02 September 2005)</b>		
7:00	Arrival at ReMAC Nepal office	
7:15	Departure from ReMAC	
7:45-8:15	Tea and Registration	
8:15-9:30	Inaugural Session Welcome, Shed light and Objective of Program-ReMAC Nepal Frederic Yearger, ARD Von Millard, USAID Bishnu Nisthuri, FNJ Bal K. Prasai, NVC S.N. Upadhaya, CIAA Closing and Vote of Thanks by Mihir Thakur, ARD, Inc,	
9:30-9:50	Tea & Breakfast	
9:50-11:35	<b>Conceptualizing Corruption and Anti-Corruption</b> Dimensions of Corruption: Concepts, Definition, Theories of Origin; Corruption Measurements: Tools and Techniques, Impact of Corruption in Nepal: Causes and Consequences	Dr. Narayan Manandhar
11:35-11:40	Break	
11:40-1:30	Ant-corruption Laws and Flaws, Anti-corruption Bodies in Nepal: Strengths and Weaknesses	Mr. Mahadev P. Yadav
1:30	Lunch	
<b>Day Two – Saturday, Bhadra 18, 2062 (03 September 2005)</b>		
7:25-7:50	Tea & Breakfast	
7:50-9:50	Anti-Corruption Prosecution: The Government Attorney (Cont.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charging Decisions # Case Examples</li> <li>• Procurement # Construction</li> <li>• Disproportionate Property # Bank Frauds</li> <li>• Service Delivery Points # Embezzlement</li> </ul> Charging Decisions: Who and What Will are charged?	Mr. Yuva Raj Subedi
9:50-10:00	Break	
10:00-11:55	Anti-Corruption Investigation: CIAA Perspective, Types of Corruption : Anti-Corruption Strategy, Achievement and Challenges	Mr. Chet Nath Ghimire
11:55-12:00	Break	
12:00-1:30	UN Convention Against Corruption, Nepalese responsibility and Needed changes	Mr. Kedar Poudel
1.30	Lunch	
<b>Day Three – Sunday, Bhadra 19, 2062 (04 September 2005)</b>		
7:25-7:50	Tea & Breakfast	

7:50-9:45	Anti-Corruption Prosecution: The CIAA Government Attorney Perspective and Approach in Tracking Cash Generation Schemes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of Financial Evidence</li> <li>• Methods of Proofs</li> <li>• Other Types of Financial Evidence</li> <li>• The Financial Investigation Revenue Cash Bribe, Payoff, Kickback Scheme and Case Examples</li> </ul>	Mr. Prakash Wasti
9:45-9:50	Break	
9:50-11:40	Anti-Corruption Investigation : An Anti-Corruption Investigator's Process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offenses</li> <li>• An Introduction to Basic Investigation</li> <li>• General Principles in Overt Investigations</li> <li>• General Principles in Covert Investigations</li> <li>• A Realistic Plan of Action</li> <li>• Witness Problems</li> <li>• Follow the leads: follow the money : How money is laundered</li> </ul>	Dr. Gobinda Thapa
11:40-11:50	Break	
11:50-1:30	Major Areas of Corruption in Nepal: Development Expenditure, Revenue Collection and Policy Corruption etc.	Mr. Narayan Raj Tiwari
1:30	Lunch	
<b>Day Four – Monday, Bhadra 20, 2062 (05 September 2005)</b>		
7:25-7:50	Tea & Breakfast	
7:50-9:45	Anti-corruption Strategies: Journalistic Perspective	Ram K. Regmi, Journalist
09:45-09:50	Break	
9:50-11:45	Anti-corruption Strategy: Government Perspective	Mr. Bal K. Prasai,
11:45-11:50	Break	
12:05-1:30	Role of the Civil Society : Investigating and Exposing Corruption	Mr. Kedar Khadka
1:30	Lunch	
<b>Day Five – Tuesday, Bhadra 21, 2062 (06 September 2005)</b>		
7:25-7:50	Tea & Breakfast	
7:50-10:30	Investigative Journalism: Norms and Parameter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic elements of Investigative Journalism</li> <li>• Ethics of Investigative Journalism</li> <li>• Dealing with Confidences</li> <li>• Caution in Criticism</li> <li>• Avoiding Political Program</li> <li>• Principle: A person is Innocent Until Proven Guilty</li> <li>• Right to information and Freedom of Information</li> </ul>	Ritu Sarin, Investigative Bureau Chief, Indian Express
10:30-10:35	Break	
10:35-12:00	A Case Study on Investigative Journalism: Investigation and Reporting	Mr. Shiv Gaule
12:00-12:05	Break	
12:05-1:30	Role of the Civil Society : Combating Corruption	Mr. Ashish Thapa/TI Nepal
1:30	Lunch	
<b>Day Six – Wednesday, Bhadra 22, 2062 (07 September 2005)</b>		
7:25-7:50	Tea & Breakfast	
7:50-9:50	Role of Media in Anti-Corruption Drive	Ram K. Regmi, Journalist
9:50-10:00	Break	
10:00-1:30	Anti-Corruption Investigation: A Journalist's Approach (Cont.) Working from the Outside in	Ms. Ritu Sarin, Investigative Bureau Chief, Indian Express and

	The Investigative Trail Theory or Premise: Focusing an Investigation Electronic Trails                      Field Work Key Skills                                      Useful Tips Organize    Write Fact Check    Libel Check <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The People Trail                      # The Paper Trail</li> <li>• Investigating Corruption                      # Investigating Conflicts</li> </ul> Ethical Concerns	Ram Krishna Regmi
11:50-12:00	Break	
1:30	Lunch	
<b>Day Seven – Thursday, Bhadra 23, 2062 (08 September 2005)</b>		
7:25-7:50	Tea & Breakfast	
7:50-9:50	<b>Investigative Journalism : Anti Corruption Perspective</b> Investigative Journalism: a perspective: Problems the Journalist Faces, Journalistic Practices in Anti-Corruption, Case Reporting: How the stories developed, a Personal Perspective. A case history	Mr. Rajendra Dahal
9:50-10:00	Break	
10:00-11:30	Anti-Corruption Strategy: Donors Perspective, Anti Corruption Tool Kits and Web Sites	Dr. Narayan Manandhar
11:30-11:35	Break	
11:35-1:30	<b>Issues and Challenges in Corruption Reporting</b> Corruption issues, Developing techniques, Challenges on corruption reporting in the context of present situation	Rajendra Dahal
1:30	Lunch	
<b>Day Eight – Friday, Bhadra 24, 2062 (09 September 2005)</b>		
2:00-2:20	Hi-Tea	
2:20-4:20	<b>Corruption and Media: Round Table Discussion by the Participants</b> Questions and Answers: Where Does Investigative Journalism goes in Nepal? Sharing Experience of Indian and Nepali media on corruption issues. How can we help with Transparency? Press Issues vs. Government Issues	Mr. Ram Krishna Regmi and Ms. Ritu Sarin
4:20-4:30	Break	
4:30-5:30	Informal Discussion with Chief Commissioner of CIAA	Mr. SN Upadhaya
5:30-5:35	Break	
5:35-6:35	Closing Ceremony Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rajendra Timilsina from the participants</li> <li>• Frederic G Yeager, Chief of Party, ARD, Inc. ROL</li> <li>• Certificate and CD Distribution,</li> <li>• Vote of Thanks by Sanjeev Pokharel of ReMAC Nepal</li> </ul>	
6:35	Refreshment and Dinner	

Every session are divided in two parts for presentation and interaction.

## Participants List

*Training/Workshop on Investigative Journalism Against Corruption  
Organized by ReMAC Nepal and Supported by USAID/Nepal, ARD, Inc. Rule of Law Project  
2-9 September, 2005, Kathmandu*

S.No.	Name of Participants	Institutions	Tel:Res/Off/Cell
1.	Ananta Raj Luintel	The Himalayan Times	6633165, 4770504
2.	Bimal Gautam	Katnipur Television	98510-73626
3.	Bishnu Subedi	Annapurna Post	98510-95966
4.	P.B. Pokhrel	Nepal Samacharpatra	98510-95456
5.	Bal K. Basnet	Kantipur Daily	4480100/6634623
6.	Yam Birahi	Rajdhani Dainik	4498080/4218071
7.	Sushil Aryal	Channel Nepal	2021016/9841297729
8.	Parkash Acharya	Gorkhapatra	4244429/4280999
9.	Sarala Baiju	Freelencer	
10.	Prakash Silwal	Himalayan Times	4470367/4478177
11.	Gobinda Chimoriya	Radio Nepal	4243569/4480340
12.	Rajan P. Kuikel	Image Metro Television	4331141/4356118
13.	Rajendra R. Timilsena	Nepal Television	98510-92151
14.	Somnath Lamichhane	Rastriya Samachar Samiti	4262550/4811671
15.	Leeladhar Upadhyay	The Rising Nepal	4222279/4220700
16.	Bhoj Raj Bhat	Nepal Weekly	98510 87675
17.	Saroj Dahal	Nepal FM	98510 85185
18.	Basanta Rai	Pro Public	4268681/
19.	Baburam Dhakal	Freelancer	98510 81281/4497789
20.	Uttam Niraula	Metro FM	4441246/9841223902
21.	Gagan Bista	Dristy Weekly	4244645/98510 10210
22.	T.N. Ghimire	KSL/ReMAC Nepal	4425213/9841212074
23.	Keshav Adhikari	Nepal 1 TV	4418880/
24.	Gobinda Khadka	Communication Corner	5551716/9851023792
25.	Rabindra Banstola	President, FNJ, Kaski	061 532599
26.	Mahendra Thapa	Journalist/TI Member	071 541446
27.	Kalpana Khanal (F)	Kantipur city college	9841293110
28.	Kamal Pokhrel	Training Support/ReMAC	98510-20045
29.	Krishna Bhandari	GG Radio Program/ReMAC	98510-94955