

Local Initiatives for Corruption Control

Regional Conference, Pokhara, April 25-26, 2005

Pokhara Resolution

The two-day Regional Conference on *Local Initiatives for Corruption Control* organized jointly by the Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA) and the National Vigilance Centre (NVC) and supported by USAID/Nepal and ARD, Inc Rule of Law Project was held in Pokhara on April 25-26, 2005. The Conference was held in the beautiful city of Pokhara which lies in the center of the Western Development Region. Five discussion papers were presented by and on behalf of the organizing agencies, i.e., central and local level government offices and civil society, in various sessions. All papers were fully discussed. Participants asked questions which were answered, and they also put forward several suggestions which were taken into consideration. In addition, two more informal sessions were held with the chiefs of local and regional level government offices during the conference to discuss how to provide delivery of public service promptly, efficiently and effectively in the changing circumstances.

The two-day conference was attended by the following individuals:

- CIAA Commissioner Hon. Basudev Lamichhane
- Zonal Administrator Mr. Kumar Bahadur Karki, Gandaki Zone Administration Office
- CIAA Secretary Mr. Revati Raj Kafle
- NVC Chief Officer Mr. Bal Krishna Prasai
- Director General Mr. Krishna Hari Baskota, Department of Customs
- Deputy Regional Administrator Mr. Bodh Raj Adhikari
- Deputy Inspector General of Police Western Region, Regional Directors
- Regional and district level officers' chiefs
- Chief District Officer of Kaski
- Regional and district level offices' chiefs
- Other senior government officers from CIAA, NVC and Department of Revenue Investigation
- Civil society representatives including
 - Pro Public
 - Transparency International
 - ReMAC
 - CeLRRd
 - Mechi-Mahakali Media Society

At the end of the two-day conference, the participants adopted the Pokhara Resolution which follows.

We, all participants, have agreed to declare the Pokhara Resolution with regard to combating corruption and establishing good governance in this region.

- 1) The chiefs of all government offices hereby agree to faithfully enforce the Directives issued to make public services provided by the

government more effective and also immediately improve service delivery systems that may seem simple but directly benefit people at large.

2) It is agreed to develop the following three government offices of *Kaski* District as model offices in terms of service delivery and start the process of reform accordingly.

- District Development Committee Office, Pokhara, *Kaski*
- District Police Office, Pokhara, *Kaski*
- Internal Revenue Office, Pokhara, *Kaski*

3) In addition to publishing regular reports on corruption and anti-corruption articles, we journalists have agreed to encourage and promote the best anti-corruption office and employee who has performed the most excellent job.

4) The principle and concept of 'technical auditing' shall be adopted and practiced in all development and construction projects.

5) Necessary actions shall be initiated to make a curriculum on corruption control and integrity system for schools and universities.

6) Measures shall be initiated to make the tax-paying and tax-collection system more flexible and prevent revenue leakage by 'under billing.'

7) Cooperation shall be undertaken to enforce the Code of Conduct issued by the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) in order to maintain discipline in the area of commerce and industry.

8) The people from government agencies hereby promise to be more open, participatory, reform-minded, transparent, honest and accountable in coming days.

9) It is agreed to impart information concerning corruption prevention and control between all anti-corruption agencies for effective actions.

10) It is agreed to support and express solidarity for any anti-corruption movement that is jointly initiated by government agencies, civil society and exemplary personalities.

Thanks.