

**REGIONAL COOPERATION NEWSLETTER**  
**South Asia March 2010**

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**Sri Lanka- New Member of ICSW**

National Peace Council of Sri Lanka has become "A" category National Member Organisation of the International Council on Social Welfare representing Sri Lanka.

The National Peace Council is an independent and non partisan organisation that works towards a negotiated political solution to the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka. It has a vision of a peaceful and prosperous Sri Lanka in which the freedom, human rights and democratic rights of all the communities are respected. The policy of the National Peace Council is determined by its Governing Council of 20 members who are drawn from diverse walks of life and belong to all the main ethnic and religious communities in the country.

Chief executive officer of NPC is Dr. Jehan Perera. Address of National Peace Council is

12/14 Purana Vihara Road

Colombo 6

Tel: +94 2818344, 2854127, 2819064

Tel/Fax: +94 2819064

E Mail: [npc@sltnet.lk](mailto:npc@sltnet.lk)

Internet: [www.peace-srilanka.org](http://www.peace-srilanka.org)

### **New National President of ICSW, India**

Sri. A S SHENOY, editor SA Regional Cooperation News letter and Vice President ICSW Kerala State Branch was elected as National President of Indian ICSW in its general body meeting held at Ahmadabad, India on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2010 for a term of 4 years.



**Sri. A S SHENOY National President addressing ICSW MEMBERS**

### **Consultative Workshop on "Social Development in Maldives and Role of NGO's"**

ICSW International South Asia Regional Working Group in association with Hodedhdhoo Association for Development (HAD), Maldives organised a one day seminar on Social Development in Maldives and Role of NGO's on Saturday, November 21, 2009 at STELCO, Male

33 young and active representatives from various NGOs of Maldives participated in this seminar.



The opening ceremony was followed by four technical sessions- Role of Civil Society in Social Development in Maldives, Involvement of NGOs in National Building, ICSW Activities and Social Networking, Group discussion on the Role of NGOs in Social Development and Networking and ended with a concluding session.

The workshop was inaugurated by Mr. Ahmed Fayaz Hassan, Minister of State for Health and Family. The Minister made a presentation on Social Development Policies in Maldives.



### **TECHNICAL SESSIONS**

**Role of Civil Society in Social Development in Maldives** was presented by Fathumath Afiya, founder of Care Society

In her PowerPoint presentation she gave an introduction to the role of NGOs in social development in Maldives. She mentioned the different types of organisations which represent civil society. She outlined the active areas that NGOs work in the Maldives. She rates the issue of sustainability and put forth the challenges.

**Session – 2 - Involvement of NGO's in National Building** was presented by Jadulla Jameel Board Member of Transparency, Maldives

He presented the development targets for the next 5 year starting 2008 outlined in the manifesto of the Maldivian Democratic party- alliance as follows:

- 1) Affordable and quality health care for all
- 2) National transport system
- 3) Affordable housing
- 4) Affordable living cost and
- 5) Prevention of narcotics abuse and trafficking

### **Session – 3 - ICSW Activities and Social networking**

*Dr. Mary Venus Joseph* described the International Council on Social Welfare and the regional councils. South Asia is one of ICSW's nine regions. Mr. A.S. Shenoy, Editor, ICSW SA Newsletter outlined the membership in the International Council and contributions to the ICSW South Asia Newsletter.



### **Session – 4 – Group Discussion**

In the post lunch session there was discussion on the need for networking among the NGOs in Maldives. The participants were divided into two groups. Dr. Mary Joseph, Mr. A.S. Shenoy, Ms. Fathumath Afiya and Mr. Jadulla Jameel moderated the two groups.



The participants had an active discussion. The suggestions put forward by the participants during the group discussions were:

#### **Role of NGOs in Maldives**

- The NGOs need to participate in social development. They need to work hard and develop volunteerism in the nation and produce great leaders.
- The sharing of resources among the NGOs could help the nation produce better outcomes.
- NGOs should be given more opportunities in development projects.
- Develop a monitoring and evaluation framework for NGOs to make them accountable.
- Hosting a NGO Fair where all NGO's can jointly host an event to inform civil society what the NGOs can do for social development in Maldives.
- Corporate sectors to be made aware of how NGOs can support them in the CSR projects.

#### **Funding for NGOs**

- Improve ways of more funding for NGOs.
- More efforts on fundraising especially each organisation raising funds on their own.
- Find new ways of fundraising rather depend on the government

#### **Support from the Government**

- Appropriate Bill to be passed by the Government.
- Identify areas where NGOs require assistance from the government.
- Pressurise the parliament to enact a policy for sanctioning funds for office space and other facilities required by NGOs.

### **Network**

- Need for a network which can help NGOs share resources to implement better projects for better development.
- Increasing awareness could be much easier if NGOs work as a team and work for it.
- Conduct a needs assessment regarding networking and building a common platforms.
- Create a network of NGOs to acquire legal status and work on coordination and collaboration.
- Refer to experiences and status of existing networks.
- Provide a vision and mission for the network.
- Plan how to achieve the vision and mission

### **Need for a Capacity Building Workshop for NGOs**

- Conduct a workshop to identify problems in terms of effective delivery of programmes.
- Build target objectives and strategies and policy and fundamental principles to make the group strong and sustainable.
- Form a strong governing body and a general assembly elected by the members.
- Identify the key stakeholders and potential social figures and institutes.
- Plan to reach out to potential donors through standardisation of NGO governance and skill development programmes such as
  - a. NGO management
  - b. Financial management
  - c. Communication and PR skills
  - d. Resource mobilisation
  - e. Monitoring and implementation
  - f. Human resource management
  - g. Executive management skills
  - h. Project management and advocacy and lobbying

### **Website for the NGOs**

- Create a small easily manageable online forum for the NGOs.
- Communication to take place through a website or blog whereby discussions, ideas, information and resources can be shared by all the NGOs.

### **Outcome**

- The participants decided to form a Task Force consisting of 10 NGOs leading to Maldives taking membership of ICSW with HAD as lead NGO

### **Concluding session**

The workshop concluded with a Vote of thanks by HAD and Dr. Mary Joseph.

## **South Asian News**

### **Asian Development Bank Assistance to India**

Asian Development Bank under an agreement signed in December 2009 with the Government of India has sanctioned two loans for a total assistance of US \$850 million over three years for funding India's infrastructure projects and development for the Khadhi industry.

ADM will provide a US \$700million loan to India Infrastructure Finance Co Ltd and another US \$150 million to Khadhi and Village Industries Commission for implementing a comprehensive plan for revitalising the Khadhi sector through a series of policy, legal and institutional frame works.

### **Fellowship to Afghan Farm Students**

India has taken two initiatives to help assist the rebuilding efforts in Afghanistan. Since agriculture is key to Afghanistan's development, India has offered 100 fellowships every year over next five years for its agricultural students to undertake Masters and PhD programmes in Indian universities.

### **Summit Level Talks between India and Bhutan**

In a summit level talks held in New Delhi in December 2009, between India and Bhutan, four MOU'S for hydel projects that would ease power shortage considerably in Eastern India and earn revenue for Bhutan were signed. India agreed to fund nearly a quarter of Bhutan's Tenth plan with an outlay of Rs.14,800 Crores. The two sides exchanged notes on the SAARC summit scheduled in Bhutan in 2010, with India promising to make it a success. Another MOU signed was to set up a Super Specialty Hospital, providing drugs, expanding air services, promoting e governance, e literacy, cooperating in search and rescues, providing technical health to the National Environment Secretariat of Bhutan and aiding in the setting up of a Bhutanese National Transmission Grid.

### **US Aid to Pakistan**

US Government has proposed US \$3.2 billion assistance to Pakistan noting that Pakistan is a key country in the war against extremism. This aid is to improve stability and to provide the military tools needed to wage and effective counter terrorist campaigns.

### **Peace Process in Sri Lanka**

Sri Lanka has initiated a process of good democratic e governance efforts. The election of a new president was conducted and Mr. Mahindra Rajapaksa was elected as new President in Sri Lanka for a second term. The new President has assured protection for those working for the betterment of the country. He has promised to create and environment for all citizens to live together with equal rights and with dignity, to remove bureaucratic hurdles on the path of economic development and to eliminate corruption.



**INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL**  
**ON SOCIAL WELFARE**  
*A World Organisation Promoting Social Development*

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Newsletter Editor: **A. S. Shenoy**: President ICSW Kerala Branch India  
Indian Council on Social Welfare  
Sangeeth, Chittoor Road, Kochi -682 018, Kerala, India  
shenoyas2006@yahoo.com  
+91 484 4023436

Regional President: **BA Charles Jayasinghe**  
Email: cmcbandara@sltnet.lk  
Tel: +94 (25) 223514

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