

Report of Representation

Phase IV of ITP

Cambodia, May 05-14, 2011

Om Prakash Arya participated in the International Training Programme (ITP) on 'Decentralisation and Good Governance With Gender Perspective' in the year 2010-11. ITP is offered by the International Centre for Local Democracy (ICLD) commissioned by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA).

ITP consists of 5 phases. Phase I included conceptualization of the change project and the assignment of a mentor, Phase II consist of a four weeks training in Sweden, phase III is the implementation of change project with the support of mentors, phase IV is a regional seminar in one of the participating countries and the phase V is the completion of the change project and assessment. During August 28-September 26, 2010, Om participated in the phase II in Sweden and during May 05-12, 2011, participated in phase IV in Cambodia.

In Cambodia, for the benefit of the participants from five Asian countries, a workshop on 'Democratic Local Governance in Asia: Reforms and Innovations in Local Democracy' was also piggybacked with phase IV workshop on May 13-14, 2011.

Background

ICLD works to promote local democracy in SIDA's prioritised countries especially with low and middle income by running ITPs. This programmes aim at contributing to ongoing reform process in the countries of Asia: Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia and Vietnam.



The main objective and rationale of the ITP on the mentioned theme is to contribute to the ongoing and new reforms and change processes in the selected countries. After completing the programme, the participants are expected to have acquired the following:

- Improved knowledge about the importance and advantage of a gender perspective in decentralisation and good governance to achieve socioeconomic development.
- Improved knowledge about how to implement decentralisation and good governance reform processes with a gender perspective.
- Improved knowledge about experiences, methods and tools for organisational change in general, and for decentralisation and good governance reform processes with a gender perspective, in particular.

A workshop (coorganised by East West Centre) on democratic local governance in Asia was organised in which several prominent figures presented the context on the issues related to reforms and innovations in local democracy. The purpose of the workshop was to examine emerging trends, issues and innovations in local governance reform and change process

Participation

More than 27 participants from the above-mentioned countries those were part of ITP phase 2 in Sweden were present. The workshop was participated by all ITP participants and several other eminent personalities from Sweden, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Britain etc.

Proceedings

Before the ITP phase 4, all participants were implementing the activities of the Change Project planned for the period between phase 1 & 4. Its purpose was to evaluate the progress of the change projects. The final phase 5 will continue till June 2012 and will end by submitting the final report to ICLD by the participants.



The phase 4 of the training programme included the lectures and visits to the relevant institutions of democracy in Cambodia and visit to an area where US Agency for International Development project on reducing gender violence was implemented by Gender and Development for Cambodia (GAD C). This phase also included the

presentation on the activities under the change project completed by the participants during phase 3 of the training programme.

The two day post ITP workshop witnessed eight context presentations by eminent personalities on different subjects related to local democracy followed by discussion and presentation of country perspectives from India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Indonesia, Cambodia etc.



Highlights

- The event provided an opportunity to build a close network with the organisations of five Asian countries and other big shots from academia and practitioners from the development worlds. This also proved to be an opportunity to get learning emerged from merging the academic and practical knowledge and thus it will further add value to the governance work of CUTS, when utilised.
- Lot of ideas generated for forming a close network and a concept note was submitted to ICLD for further action regarding a collaborative work in the countries.