

# **Public Affairs Centre**

## **Right to Information Training for NGO activists from Sri Lanka and Pakistan**

### **Colombo, 11 - 14 March 2007**

#### **Call for Participants**

Public Affairs Centre is calling for participants for its upcoming introductory training on Right to Information - advocacy work and strategic litigation. This training will take place from 11 to 14 March 2007 in Colombo (Sri Lanka) and is designed for NGO and Civil Society activists from Sri Lanka and Pakistan working in the field of good governance, human rights or development who are interested in taking up right to information projects.

This training is part of the 19 months South Asian Right to Information Empowerment Programme funded by Hivos and implemented by Public Affairs Centre. Participating organisations will be expected to work towards the enactment of an effective right to information legislation through advocacy activities or strategic litigation. NGOs will be encouraged to link with lawyers on strategic litigation. NGOs will also be expected to participate in a follow-up workshop in order to share their experience with right to information project activities with the other participating NGOs.

#### **Objectives and Content of the Training**

The training has two objectives:

- To increase the knowledge on international and national right to information standards and procedures from selected countries and its utilisation as a tool for democracy, good governance and the fulfilment of other human rights (e.g. freedom of expression, right to education, right to health, right to food, right to development etc.).
- To strengthen the activists' skills to take up advocacy or strategic litigation projects in the field of right to information.

The training will contain an overview of the international human rights system, international and national laws on right to information, as well as advocacy and strategic litigation strategies in the field of right to information. The training

will focus on methodology and strategies for advocating towards an effective right to information law in Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

## **Methodology**

The training will combine presentations with practical work, such as small group work. Participants will be encouraged to draw on their experience.

## **Selection criteria for participants**

Participants will be selected based on the following organisational and professional criteria:

1. Participants will be selected from NGOs which intend to work on right to information.
2. NGOs will have demonstrated capacity to engage in advocacy work. NGOs are NOT required to do their own litigation work or provide legal aid to be selected for the training.
3. Participants will be staff members of their NGOs in positions which will enable them to carry through the benefits of the training.
4. Participants will have experience of working with marginalised groups (minorities, women etc.).
5. Participants will have working knowledge in English and will live in Sri Lanka or Pakistan.
6. Public Affairs Centre will aim to ensure that at least 50% of participants are women. Public Affairs Centre will also aim for a geographical balance in the selection of participants.

## **Language of the Training**

The training will be in English.

## **Costs**

Travel, accommodation and subsistence will be covered by the programme. However, participants will be required to participate in the WHOLE training to have these costs covered.

## **Deadline and mode of application**

The deadline for application is 15<sup>th</sup> of January 2007. Please note, that we will only consider applications with a duly filled in application form. We regret that we are not able to provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants. If you have not heard from us by 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2007, you should conclude that you have not been short listed for the training programme.

**Send Applications in English (preferably by e-mail) to:**

Sabine Benzing-Balzer

Project Coordinator - Right to Information Empowerment Programme

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E-mail: [sbenzingbalzer@yahoo.com](mailto:sbenzingbalzer@yahoo.com) or [pacindia@vsnl.com](mailto:pacindia@vsnl.com)

Please download the application form from the PAC website at:

<http://www.pacindia.org/>