

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS CENTRE  
RIGHT TO INFORMATION SEMINAR  
FOR PAKISTANI AND SRI LANKAN NGO  
ACTIVISTS  
11 - 14 March 2007, Colombo (Sri Lanka)**

**Venue information/ Contact details:**

The seminar will be held at Pegasus Reef Hotel which is located 24 km south of the Bandaranaike International Airport on the northern outskirts of Colombo

**Contact details of the hotel:**

Pegasus Reef,  
P.O. Box 2,  
Hendala Wattala,  
Sri Lanka.

**Telephone:** +94 – 11 – 2930205-9

**Facsimile:** +94 – 11 – 2930254

**E-mail:** [pegasus@pegasusreefhotel.com](mailto:pegasus@pegasusreefhotel.com)

**Web:** <http://www.pegasusreefhotel.com>

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## Seminar Schedule:

### Day 1 – Sunday 11 March 2007

13:00 – 18:00	<b><i>Participants arrive / registration</i></b>
18:30 – 20:00	<b><i>Session 1 – Welcome &amp; introduction</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Short round of introduction of participants</li><li>• Introduction of the participating organisations</li><li>• Introduction of project and goals of the seminar</li></ul>
20:30	<b><i>Dinner</i></b>

<b>Day 2 –</b>	<b>Monday 12 March 2007</b>
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9:00 – 10:00	<p><b><i>Session 2 – The right to information as a human right</i></b></p> <p><b><u>Topics covered</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The international human rights system – an overview</li> <li>• The role of the right to information in the international human rights system</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Resource person</u></b> Sabine Benzing-Balzer (Public Affairs Centre)</p>
10:00 – 10:30	<b><i>Comments and questions</i></b>
10:30 – 10:45	<b><i>REFRESHMENT BREAK</i></b>
10:45 – 12:30	<p><b><i>Session 3 – The right to information as a tool for good governance and against corruption</i></b></p> <p><b><u>Topics covered</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The right to information as a tool for good governance and against corruption – an introduction</li> <li>• Video presentation – Case Study</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Resource persons</u></b> J. C. Weliamuna (Transparency International Sri Lanka)</p>
12:30 – 13:00	<b><i>Comments and questions</i></b>
13:00 – 14:00	<b><i>LUNCH BREAK</i></b>

14:00 – 15:30	<p><b><i>Session 4 – The ideal right to information law</i></b></p> <p><b><u>Topics covered</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key elements of an effective right to information law</li> <li>• Best practice examples and model laws</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Resource person</u></b></p> <p>Cecelia Burgman (Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative)</p>
15:30 – 15:45	<b><i>REFRESHMENT BREAK</i></b>
15:45 – 17:30	<b><i>Groupwork: SWOT Analysis of the laws or draft laws in Pakistan and Sri Lanka</i></b>

## Day 3 - Tuesday 13 March 2007

9:00 – 9:15	<i>Participants review of day 2</i>
9:15 – 10:15	<p><b>Session 5 – Advocacy for the right to information</b></p> <p><b><u>Topics covered</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Methodology – The art of advocacy</li> <li>• Some tips for effective advocacy</li> <li>• Doing advocacy for the right to information</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Resource person</u></b> Cyril W. Vas (Public Affairs Centre)</p>
10:15 – 10:45	<i>Comments and Questions</i>
10:45 – 11:00	<b>REFRESHMENT BREAK</b>
11:00 – 12:00	<i>Group work on advocacy</i>
12:00 – 13:00	<i>Group presentations and discussion</i>
13:00 – 14:00	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>
14:00 – 15:00	<p><b>Session 6 – Strategic litigation on right to information</b></p> <p><b><u>Topics covered</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic litigation – an introduction</li> <li>• Doing strategic litigation in the field of right to information/ case studies</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Resource person</u></b> Sabine Benzing-Balzer (Public Affairs Centre)</p>
15:00 – 15:30	<i>Comments and questions</i>

15:30 – 15:45	<b><i>REFRESHMENT BREAK</i></b>
15:45 – 17:30	<b><i>Group work and presentations on strategic litigation</i></b>

## Day 4 – Wednesday 14 March 2007

9:00 – 9:30	<i>Participants review of day 3</i>
9:30 – 11:00	<p><b><i>Session 7 – The way forward in Sri Lanka and Pakistan</i></b></p> <p><b><u>Topics covered</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some strategic thinking on right to information initiatives in Sri Lanka and Pakistan</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Resource person</u></b></p> <p>Cyril W. Vas (Public Affairs Centre)</p>
11:00 – 11:15	<b><i>REFRESHMENT BREAK</i></b>
11:15 – 13:00	<b><i>Feedback and evaluation</i></b>
13:00 – 14:00	<b><i>LUNCH BREAK</i></b>
From 14:00	<b><i>Participants depart</i></b>