

**Public Affairs Centre/
Transparency International Nepal**

**Right to information training for NGOs
from Nepal and Bangladesh, 18 – 21
March 2007, Kathmandu (Nepal)**

Group Exercises

Group Exercise 1: SWOT Analysis of draft right to information legislation

Group 1 – Nepal

Strengths	Weaknesses
Application procedure is good	Immunity for function with good intention is a weakness
Appeal provisions and procedure	Time frame for regulation must be specified
Definition of public institutions	Vague definition of provision which regulates the denial of information (It should be specified)
	The rate should be fined as per the nature and type of information (manipulation can be higher)
	Types if documents should be specified. The term is too vague
	Information officer is overpowered and a separate mechanism should be in place, if he/she is absent
	Private institutions are outside the domain of law

Opportunities	Threats
Good start to build “New Nepal”	Political pressure
NGO`s, GO`s and Stake holders will benefit	Difficult to implement
	Misuse of information
	Government’s willingness and commitment

Group 2 – Bangladesh

Strengths	Weaknesses
Law Commission at least prepared a draft law, a sign of government and political will	Preamble stating the objective of this law should be inserted
It includes private bodies	The time period for enforcing the Act should be mentioned
Based on international instruments	The law should override the existing inconsistency in legislation
It has got penalty provisions in case of any denial to provide information	Definition of information should be broadened for ensuring the right to information of the people
It includes private bodies dealing with public money and serving public interest	The people, professional bodies, etc. were not consulted properly regarding this Act
Fee asked for providing information is quite justified	Act does not provide protection to the whistle blower
	Does not cover all public bodies
	Too many exemptions
	The investigator has not been properly defined
	Means of communicating information have not been stated properly
	Capacity building has not been mentioned

Opportunities	Threats
Ensures accountability and transparency	Culture of secrecy
Human rights enhanced	Bureaucrats
People will have the opportunity to make informed choices, which leads to people emancipation	People are not aware
Initiating the process of democracy	The process is top-down approach

Group Exercise 2: Advocacy on right to information

Group 1 – Bangladesh

Strategy for right to information campaign:

1. Identify the problem
2. Develop goals and objectives
3. Select target group
4. Formulate the message
5. Dissemination of message through different channels (both print and electronic media)

Tools:

1. Meetings
2. Dialogue
3. Seminars
4. Workshops
5. Round table conference
6. Press conference/ release
7. Rally/ human chain
8. Publish posters, leaflets, stickers, etc.
9. Litigation

Support (will be expected from):

1. Like-minded organisations
2. Mass (people)
3. Alliance group
4. Donor
5. Professional group

Opposition (will be expected from):

1. Politicians
2. Bureaucrats
3. Private sector
4. Multinationals
5. Vested interest groups

Local resources:

1. Expertise from the supporters
2. Record system (IT)
3. E-Resources from the partners

Group 2 – Nepal

Advocacy Strategy:

1. Collaborative approach
2. Consultation with line agencies and stakeholders
3. United effort
4. Network establishment
5. Equal responsibility
6. Active participation
7. Delegation of work
8. Maximum utilization of local resources

Tools:

1. Media advocacy: Print (press release, news coverage, IEC materials, etc.);
Electronic (Audio, visual, cassette, website, e-mail, internet polling)
2. Demonstration, rally, street drama, cultural program, public hearing
3. Sensitisation training and orientation programs for politicians and others
4. Workshops, interactions, focus group discussion
5. Lobbying in parliament

Support (expected from):

1. NGOs
2. INGOs
3. CBOs
4. Professional associations
5. Human rights organisations
6. Civil society
7. Trade unions
8. General public

Opposition (except from):

1. Ruling party
2. Bureaucrats
3. Politicians
4. Private sectors
5. Anti-RTI elements (those who do not want to be transparent and accountable)

Local resources:

1. Financial resources
2. Human resources

Group Exercise 3:

The way forward – Action plans

Group 1 – Bangladesh

Action plan for Bangladesh

Activity:

1. Forming Alliance
2. Reviewing the existing laws with relevance to right to information
3. Preparing IEC Materials
4. Starting advocacy through consultations as well as through using the media both print and electronic/ local and national
5. Raising funds for implementing the action plan

Target:

1. Creating an enabling environment for raising demand for right to information
2. Making supply side sensitive and responsive
3. Collecting all materials on right to information

Time Frame:

1. Forming Alliance: one month
2. Reviewing laws: ongoing activity
3. IEC materials: three months
4. Advocacy: ongoing activity
5. Raising funds: ongoing activity

Group 2 – Nepal

Advocacy Action plan for right to information in Nepal

When	Who	What	Result
April	RTI braining participate	Establishing of network	Network established Network partners finalised
May	All the members of network	Consultative meeting on Draft RTI Act and for further advocacy activities	Draft amendment with recommendation and further advocacy activities finalised
June	RTI network members	Series of meetings	Draft of RTI Act finalised
July	Media	Media advocacy through audio and print media	Press release of final draft of RTI Act Information dissemination through media
August	NGOs, RTI network members	Awareness raising activities (workshop, training, media, advocacy, IEC)	Level of awareness of general public raised
September	All RTI network members	Workshop for parliamentarians Lobbying in Parliament	Parliamentarians, politicians aware on RTI Final draft of RTI brought in Parliament