

Brief Report on NPWG and CPN Participatory Reflection Review Meeting (PRRM)

The process of formation of NPWG has already commenced. This is taking place in the central level and in Morang, Banke and Rupandehi districts levels. One intensive campaign in connection with the process of formation of the NPWG has been recently concluded. A National Conference on Sustainable Livelihood and People's Access to Natural Resources was held from 24-25 June 2005 as a joint collaboration of 25 organizations including FOHRID, NESAC and RSDC. The conference focused on the people's rights and access to land, water and forest and State policies regarding these issues.

Formation of NPWG is being forwarded as a campaign. Intensive networking at the highest level is also prioritized in this connection. FOHRID has already started initiative to design and host a website for the networking under NPWG.

Current issues to be prioritized by NPWG: Stakeholders of NPWG have opined that this Network should focus itself in the political issues. Nepal is going through political embargo and the political activities are obstructed. Hence, we have felt that our activities should be concentrated towards strengthening of democracy. This has been aptly addressed in the conclusion of the Conference, "Participants of the Conference had strongly demanded initiation of a campaign for initiation of a movement to resolve the problem and controversy in the distribution of natural resources and to develop a new political system for ensuring access of minorities, dalit, women, ethnic communities, nationalities and the poor. The root cause of every controversy is the unequal distribution of the natural resources. All these problems can be solved if we can launch an integrated movement for democratization of the society and inclusive democratic system in the State. The issues of development, poverty, social justice, inclusive democratic system, good governance etc should be viewed and discussed from the right based approach.

Community Protections Network (CPN):

CPNs have already been formed by RSDC in Banke and Rupandehi districts and FOHRID in Morang district. CPN is working as a part of NPWG at the local level. Various one-day training programmes have been conducted for the CPNs on the "Rights to sustainable livelihood and social & political participation." Likewise, Participatory Reflection Review Meeting (PRRM) of the CPN has also been conducted.

CPN Participatory Reflection Review Meeting (PRRM):

PRRM, among the CPN members, was held on 26 June 2005. The findings of the PRRM are as follows:

1. Changes & outcome through CPN activities:

Morang:

- CPN has assumed a form of common platform for the people at the local level. Community people have got opportunity to understand the political and social issues such as development, State policies, human rights, poverty, local problems through regular discussions.
- CPN has succeeded to enrol children of 40 Musahar families in Sijuya VDC in Morang district.
- It has worked to create political awareness in the backward communities. It has motivated people to be active giving up the habit of wasting time. It has made the unemployed to use their time for meaningful purpose.
- Mutual trust, cooperation and tolerance have been increased in the society after commencement of the CPN.

Rupandehi:

- CPN has been formed by involving representatives from local community. It has been developed as an intensive structure to fight for people's rights. It has initiated debate in favour of human rights and democracy.
- CPN has also created a wave to increase social and political participation of the people for their sustainable livelihood.
- It has also started to address the issues of the common people like irrigation, transport, education at the local level.

Banke:

- Social and political awareness of the people has increased significantly in the localities of Banke district where CPN has

commenced working. CPN has contributed to create awareness for ban of gambling and drinking alcohol.

- CPN efforts have compelled the local authority to provide electricity in the local areas. CPN is popular in the local level as it has accommodated representatives from all sectors of the community.
- CPN has created awareness in the local level to convince the people that they need to be united to get their rightful benefits from the State and that peoples united efforts can make a difference in the society. CPN has initiated discussions at the people's level on the issues of sustainable livelihood, social and political participation and inclusive democracy.
- Many organizations have postponed or withdrawn their programmes at the local level due to ongoing Maoist insurgency but the CPN is successful to continue its activities in the conflict affected areas as it is more concerned to the problems of the people.

2. Learning and experiences of CPN members:

Learning and experiences of the CPN members were almost similar in all the three districts. These can be listed as follows:

- Social transformation can be introduced through the strength of unity and awareness and a united movement is necessary for this. Political empowerment is necessary for social transformation.
- CPN provided opportunity to learn about State policies, human rights, political participation, local resources with special focus on the provisions of the national policies and international human rights laws that enable people to claim their rights.
- The campaigns initiated at the people's level can only bring transformation at the local level.
- People can arrange their social and political work plan only after full utilization of their right to self-determination.
- Political process of the State should be based on the popular will and the people should themselves be active from their level to attain this.
- People should determine the ruling system for them from their own level.

3. Common local problems identified by the CPN members:

Common problems identified by CPN members in all the three districts are inequality in the ownership of land, lack of political awareness, lack of physical infrastructure (health post, educational institutions, drinking water, transportation, electricity, irrigation), problem of the landless, deprivation from the right to political participation, citizenship, unemployment, trafficking, domestic violence, early marriage etc.

4. Opportunity and Change:

At present, CPN is an effective means for organizing and motivating the community. People from all levels have expressed interest and extended cooperation to the campaign of the CPN. This is massive, intensive, wide and flexible. Therefore, it is able to accommodate all the stakeholders. In this sense it is an opportunity.

State is being aggressive against the democratic forces and supporters after the Royal takeover of February 1st. Democratic process is being constricted. Democratic rights are being snatched. State can oppress the people's organizations such as CPN as it advocates in favour of political dynamism and inclusive democracy.

5. Issues of CPN for the future:

First priority should be given to strengthening of democracy. Reinstatement of democracy should be stressed. All the stakeholders should be cautious to the fact that the present government may ban political campaigns and movements. CPN should focus its activities at the local level focusing inclusive democracy and political participation as people's right.

6. Agenda for district conference:

CPNs working in Morang, Banke and Rupandehi districts have decided to hold separate district level conferences to strengthen their campaign. But decision has not been made as to what issues it should focus on. PRRM has decided that the CPN groups in each district will hold collective meeting within October 2005 to determine issues for the district level conference.

List of CPN – PRRM participants:

S.N.	Name	Organization	Address
1	Mr. Shesh Narayan Bhandari	CPN	Rupandehi
2	Mr. Ram Prasad Maurya	CPN	Rupandehi
3	Mr. Jayaram Pal	CPN	Rupandehi
4	Mr. Jitendra Yadav	CPN	Rupandehi
5	Mr. Mahesh Lodh	CPN	Rupandehi
6	Mr. Ram Abadh Sahani	CPN	Rupandehi
7	Mr. Dev Narayan Tajpuriya	CPN	Morang
8	Mr. Kanhaiya Lal Rajbanshi	CPN	Morang
9	Mr. Bholah Ram Maskar	CPN	Banke
10	Mr. Jaya Prakash Barma	CPN	Banke
11	Mr. Bijaya Malla	CPN	Banke
12	Mr. Narendra Roka Magar	CPN	Banke
13	Mr. Bipat Nau	CPN	Banke
14	Ms. Ekmaya B.K.	CPN	Banke
15	Ms. Rukmani Sanjel	CPN	Banke
16	Ms. Nira Chand	CPN	Banke
17	Mr. Hansa Narayan Tajpuriya	CPN	Morang
18	Mr. Shankar Pd. Tajpuriya	CPN	Morang
19	Mr. Noon Lal Majhi	CPN	Morang
20	Mr. Babu Soren	CPN	Morang
21	Mr. Badri Prasad Bhattarai	CPN	Morang
22	Mr. Sher Singh Rajbansi	CPN	Morang
23	Mr. Ganga Prasad Sedhai	CPN	Morang
24	Mr. Nanda Kr. Siwakoti	CPN	Morang
25	Mr. Jagadish Parajuli	NESAC	Kathmandu
26	Mr. Tulasi Bahadur Karki	FOHRID	Kathmandu
27	Ms. Sunita Roka	NESAC	Kathmandu
28	Mr. Shanti Ram Upreti	RSDC	Kathmandu
29	Mr. Birendra Pd. Thapaliya	FOHRID	Kathmandu
30	Mr. Raj Kumar Siwakoti	FOHRID	Kathmandu