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*Annual Report of FOHRID
Fiscal Year- 2006-07*



FOHRID HUMAN मानव अधिकार तथा प्रजातान्त्रिक मञ्च
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Message from FOHRID

FOHRID Human Rights and Democratic Forum was established in 2001. It is a non-government, non-profit making, non-political, independent, public interest organization. It has been registered in the District Administration Office, Kathmandu with Regd. No 185/058-059. It is affiliated to Social Welfare Council, Government of Nepal on 9 November 2003 (BS 2060/5/25) with the affiliation no. 15269 and it has been working in close association with national and international non-governmental organizations. Economists, political scientists, advocate, senior human rights defenders, anthropologists, researchers, development experts are involved in this organization.

Office of FOHRID was established in June 2002. Contribution of the members and membership fee collection was the source of financing in the beginning. By this time, FOHRID has won the trust of various donor agencies and received funding in some specific projects. The organization needs more funding to work in the areas and issues complying with the FOHRID mission and vision. FOHRID has made the strategy to develop concepts in the sectors of its concern and implement them by mobilizing local resources as well as with the assistance from donor agencies.

We are hopeful for getting financial and other assistance and constructive feedbacks in our campaign from various organizations and institutions.

Thanking you.

Nutan Thapaliya
Chairperson

(Ex-UN Committee Member on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights)

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**Plan of FOHRID Human Rights and Democratic Forum
for the next five years (16 July 2004 to 15 July 2009)**

S. No.	Sectors	Overall aims	Working area/ issue	Methodology
1	Human Rights (HR)	Promotion and Protection of HR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combating impunity for strengthening rule of law • Advocacy on transitional justice and retroactive justice for conflict victims and TRC • HR Education for students and grassroot level people • Campaign for application and implementation of IHL Geneva Convention (Common Article-3) • Research on application/implementation status of six core conventions, special focus on ICCPR and ICESCR • Preparation and submission of Shadow Report / Alternative Report to UN Treaty Bodies • Training on HR reporting and publication of HR Reporting Manuel for Reporting six core conventions • To provide assistance to the victims of insurgency, such as single women, orphans • Advocacy on open and community prisoner • Publication and dissemination of information regarding the Shadow Report, Concluding Comment and State Report of Six Core Conventions as well as monitoring of their implementation at domestic level, • Information dissemination and implementation of the commitments of Nepal government in the UN Forum and international conference. • Advocacy and Initiative for empowerment and protection of vulnerable groups by the right based approach in development and knowledge based approach in the upliftment of the under privileged people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research / study • Publication / dissemination • Workshop / training • Advocacy / education • Interaction / focus group discussion • Networking • Fact finding / monitoring • Task force formation at National level • Legal service
2	Democracy	To strengthen democratic process and culture through institutional capacity building at all levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To sensitize people on the issue of constituent assembly and inclusive democracy • Launching programmes for reformation and restructuring of mainstream political parties which are the lifeline of inclusive democracy and strengthening of democratic norms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research / study • Publication / dissemination • Interaction / focus group discussion • Lobbying • Training, seminar, conference

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voters education and election observation • Anti-corruption campaign • Advocacy for good governance 	
3	Conflict	To establish culture of peace and conflict management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formation of public opinion in favour of constituent assembly • Peace campaign and research on conflict issues of Nepal • Training programme for capacity building in local level for conflict management and peace building • To organize conference for on the issue of conflict management at the international, regional (South Asia) and national level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conference • Research / study • Publication / dissemination • Training • Focus group discussion • Networking • Task force formation at national and regional level
4	Institutional / capacity building of FOHRID	To enhance institutional infrastructure and capacity building of FOHRID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human resource development • To prepare volunteer group • To send representatives from FOHRID to receive trainings on institutional management, human rights, democracy, conflict and peace at the international and regional level • To purchase or construct a house for official use of FOHRID within 5 years • To set up a human rights library in Katmandu • To purchase necessary official equipment, e.g., PC and laptop computers, photocopy machine, digital camera, vehicle etc. for FOHRID 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund raising • Scholarship & Grant from donors • Institutional and individual contribution • Contribution from FOHRID members • Savings from the projects run by FOHRID

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1. Genesis:

Numbers of NGOs are working in Nepal but there are some burning issues still remaining to be addressed and intervened. Information dissemination and implementation side of the commitments of Government of Nepal in the UN and other international and regional forums is still at large. Right based approach and knowledge based approach to empower the under privileged and deprived people is necessary. For instance, Nepal has entered into WTO but the general public are still unaware of its implications. Senior human rights defender Mr. Nutan Thapaliya, who has furnished invaluable guidance to this organization, pointed out the need of an organization to work for the people with praxis approach. FOHRID Human Rights and Democratic Forum aims to address the burning issues of human rights, democracy, peace and conflict management.

Nepal faced significant political instability few years after the restoration of democracy in 1990. King abducted power in 2001, taking advantage of the same; however, people's movement - 2006 succeeded to foil the King's lust for power. At the present transitory period, rights activists have to be sensitive while working in the issues of rights of the people.

2. FOHRID Mission:

FOHRID, as a dynamic organization, aims to materialize democratic process and culture through protection, promotion and respect of human rights by planning and implementing advocacy, education, conflict resolution, networking, collaboration and capacity building activities according to its faith, commitment and vision.

3. FOHRID Modality:

FOHRID has developed a modality over the years of its activities and experiences in grass root and local level. It conducts study, research, organizes seminar, workshop, interaction, public hearing and symposium to accumulate knowledge and professional skills for future action and intervention. Plan of intervention or action are mainly implementation work at primary stakeholder or grass root level of beneficiaries, which are meant to organize the target groups for their own needs. This is the modality of FOHRID: RESEARCH–ACTION–ORGANIZATION model.

4. Organizational Structure:

- i) General Assembly (total no. 36)
- ii) Executive Body (total no. 7)
- iii) Advisory Council (total no. 3)
- iv) Executive Director (total no. 1)
- v) Human Rights Section (total no. 6)
- vi) Women Rights Section (total no. 2)
- vii) Democracy Section (total no. 3)
- viii) Peace & Conflict Management Section (total no. 2)
- ix) Account & Administration Section (total no. 2)

5. Decision Making Procedures:

- (a) According to Article 6, Sub Article (Cha) of FOHRID Statute, General Assembly formulates policy and work plan, amends the Statute, appoints Auditor, passes Audit Report and the Annual Budget. The General Assembly is held every year.
- (b) Meeting of full Executive Body is held every three months for the formation and monitoring of programmes, evaluation of expenditure, distribution of responsibility etc. Quorum for the meeting is 51%.

6. Financial Management:

(a) Financial resources:

Financial resources of FOHRID are as follows:

- (i) Membership fees, (ii) Monthly Levy from Executive body, (iii) Membership renewal fees, (iv) Grants and aids, (v) Publication sale, (vi) Other miscellaneous resources.

(b) Financial System:

Bank account of FOHRID is run under the provision in the FOHRID Statute. Chairperson, General Secretary, Treasurer and Programme Coordinator / Director sign the cheque. All financial decisions are made by Finance Committee. Finance Committee is chaired by Treasurer and Chairperson, General Secretary and Programme Coordinator / Director are members. It is obligatory to submit decision of the Finance Committee in the Executive Committee meeting that sits every three months; and the decision of the Executive Committee is submitted to the General Assembly.

(c) Accounting System:

All the capital and liabilities of FOHRID are kept under double entry book keeping system of accounts. Weekly and monthly trial balance of income and expenditure are prepaid and approved by the Finance Committee.

(d) Auditing / Transparency:

General Assembly of FOHRID appoints registered auditor for the period of one fiscal year. Accounts is audited and report is submitted to the District Administration Office, Social Welfare Council and other relevant authorities. Necessary tax, if applicable, is paid according to the advice of the auditor.

7. Membership Criteria

Any Nepali citizen who has crossed 18 years of age, who agrees to the objectives of FOHRID and who is not sentenced for morally degrading criminal activities can obtain FOHRID membership following due process. Types of membership provided by FOHRID are: (a) Ordinary members, (b) Life members, (c) Honorary members, (d) Associate members.

8. Major issues of concern / objectives of FOHRID:

- Protection, promotion and respect of human rights according to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights-1948 and other relevant international instruments,
- To strengthen democratic process and culture through institutional capacity building at all levels,
- To take initiative to end impunity for protection and promotion of human rights and strengthening rule of law.
- To initiate campaign for the ratification and implementation of Rome Statute 1998 of ICC at the domestic level.
- To initiate campaign for immediate signature and ratification of other UN Conventions and Optional Protocols by Nepal.
- To take initiative for poverty alleviation through conducting constructive activities for community development by identifying, managing and mobilizing natural resources.
- To establish culture of peace and conflict management.
- To enhance institutional infrastructure and capacity building of FOHRID.

9. Principal achievements in the past three years:

- a) Development of an organization with knowledge and skills as well as the development of a membership representing the resources and work on democracy and human rights related humanitarian concerns.
- b) An identity of a national level non-governmental organization.
- c) An advocate for democracy, peace and human rights with focus on diversity, fundamental rights and freedom.
- d) Development of quality in work.
- e) Linkage with national and international organizations and resources.

10. Field(s) of activity:

Principal thematic approaches of the organization are:

- Co-ordination, facilitation and networking
- Knowledge center
- Representation, advocacy and policy debate
- Documentation, translation, publication, dissemination
- Promotion of professional standards

FOHRID has become a service provider in the non-profit sector. The benefits of its activities are directed at:

- a) People in need regardless of ethnic, gender, political or religious backgrounds;
- b) Promotion of dialogue for inclusive democracy and non-violent conflict resolution;

- c) Provision of empowerment and assistance through community based participatory approach in the protection and promotion of inclusive democracy, peace and human rights;
- d) Provision of durable solutions for those affected by conflict; and
- e) Promotion of the principle of service and professionalism in the non-profit sector.

Programmes of FOHRID

11. Current Activities of FOHRID

Vision of FOHRID Human Rights and Democratic Forum is to be active in protection, promotion, respect and understanding of human rights and to remain active for the conflict resolution and peace building. Likewise, the activities of FOHRID are centralized to ensure a peaceful democratic society through the strengthening of democratic system. We have planned to fix our priorities in two areas – firstly, enhancement of institutional infrastructure and capacity building; and secondly, fund raising for the preparation and implementation of small-to-large-scale projects complying with FOHRID vision. FOHRID has focused on the issues of human rights, democracy, peace and stability, community development, capacity building of organization and institutional infrastructure development activities. Activities of FOHRID conducted by utilizing various resources can be summed up as follows:

11. 1. Human Rights Sector:

FOHRID has been conducting following programmes in the human rights sector in this fiscal year:

A. Ending unlawful killings and impunity project

FOHRID Human Rights and Democratic Forum has recently commenced a campaign entitled Joint initiative for ending unlawful killings and impunity in Nepal. This initiative has been funded through the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) managed by the European Commission. The first phase of this campaign will run for two years from January 2006 to December 2007.

FOHRID will implement the campaign and be responsible for overall coordination and management but all stakeholders will share ownership of the campaign. Involvement of various individuals and institutions will contribute to accomplish this common campaign effectively. This campaign aims to ensure an impunity free society by creating synergy to the people's initiative to combat unlawful killings prevalent in the country stressing an impunity free society as the right of all Nepalese people.

Overall objective

1. To end unlawful killing and impunity for strengthening the rule of law and promotion and protection of human rights.

Specific objectives

1. To develop public interest campaign to draw attention of the target groups to end impunity in the security forces for improving rule of law;
2. To initiate debate on draft legislation recommendation for the end of impunity;
3. To create pressure against Maoists to respect human rights;
4. To initiate discussion for establishment of a task force at the national level to combat impunity;
5. To initiate advocacy for improved respect of human rights.

Activities

1. Campaign and advocacy
 - 1.1 Public hearing and mass demonstration
 - 1.2 Focus group discussion
 - 1.3 Interaction / round table discussion
2. Draft legislation against impunity
3. Prosecute public interest litigation cases on the issue of impunity
4. Study on impunity
5. Task force formation for combating impunity
6. Formation of long term strategy action plan to combat impunity

B. Initiative to combating torture and impunity project:

The campaign on *Joint initiative to combat against Torture and Impunity in Nepal* has been funded by European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) of European Union. FOHRID Human Rights and Democratic Forum, as the implementing organization, will be responsible for coordination and

management of this initiative. However, it will be implemented as a common campaign of the stakeholders. During the implementation process, ownership of this campaign will be with all the stakeholders. This campaign will run for two years from January 2007 to December 2008.

This joint initiative aims to attain the following objectives:

Overall objectives:

1. To combat against torture and impunity for the protection and promotion of human rights, rule of law and democracy.
2. Protection, promotion and respect of human rights according to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – 1948 and other relevant international instruments.
3. To take initiative to end impunity for protection and promotion of rule of law.
4. To initiate campaign for the ratification and implementation of Rome Statute 1998 of ICC at the domestic level.
5. To initiate campaign for immediate signature and ratification of other UN Conventions and Optional Protocols by Nepal.
6. To establish culture of peace and conflict management.
7. To strengthen democratic process and culture through institutional capacity building at all levels.
8. To enhance institutional infrastructure and capacity building of FOHRID.

Specific objectives:

1. To build a public interest campaign against torture and impunity for improvement of the state of rule of law, democracy and human rights culture.
2. To initiate public advocacy on the need of improving Nepalese criminal justice system to check torture and impunity.
3. To sensitize target groups on the importance of Rome Statute 1998 and Optional Protocol of CAT 2002 and to create a pressure on government for signing, ratifying and implementing them.
4. To prepare a Resource Book on the Rome Statute and ICC in order to impart the fundamentals of the instruments to the target groups.
5. To draft legislation / recommendation relating to the rights and compensation for the victims of torture based on the UN Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power 1985 and CAT.

C. Human rights education programme:

This programme has been initiated targeting students of higher secondary and secondary levels and general public. More than five hundred students and grass root level people have participated in one-day Human Rights Education Programmes in this fiscal year. Essay writing competition on the topic of "Child rights is human rights" was held among the secondary level students at Sijuwa Secondary School and Govindapur Secondary School of Morang district. Appreciation letters and cash prize were distributed to 26 students who participated the programme.

Activities of human rights education programme are held on various occasions. Object of the programme is awareness creation among students, grass root level people for promotion and protection of human rights. The programme is being conducted in Kathmandu valley and other districts outside capital. Participants have been made aware of the fundamental norms and values of human rights.

D. Monitoring human rights violations and weekly feature:

FOHRID was involved in monitoring of the incidents of human rights violation from both the State and non-State actors. FOHRID team actively monitored the confrontation between the political parties and the government during the Jana Andolan II, the democratic movement of April 2006. FOHRID office was opened during hours of strike and curfew to coordinate rescue operation and communication. Atrocities of the security forces in the peaceful protest rallies participated by the representatives from all walks of life were protested. Press statements were released and advocacy, lobbying, networking were carried out whenever required. Side by side, we have been disseminating weekly features, compilation of incidents of serious human rights violations, prepared through media monitoring to the audience at the national and international level. FOHRID will be conscious to monitor any possible incidents of human rights violation by either side at the present time of cease fire between the State and non-State actors.

E. Implementation of International Humanitarian Law (Geneva Convention) Common Article-3 in Nepal under internal armed conflict:

Interaction, talk programmes and lobbying among the stakeholders are conducted for the implementation of International Humanitarian Law (IHL). In this course, first phase programme has already been completed amongst senior security officers and government representatives. ICRC Nepal contributed technical support (resource person and materials) and German Development Service-DED Nepal extended financial support for the programme. This is being conducted as regular programme by utilizing internal resources of FOHRID.

Objects:

- To create public awareness for respect and implementation of IHL, Common Article-3
- To draw the attention of the parties at conflict for implementation of IHL
- To determine strategies for advocacy to implement IHL for the follow-up stage

F. Regular study, documentation and advocacy for application and Implementation of Six Core Convention:

FOHRID has been conducting study with updates on the implementation of Six Core Conventions (International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women; Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination; Convention on the Rights of Child; Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment) by utilizing internal resources. But the comprehensive study of State policy, programme and practice, and subtle analysis is still remaining due to lack of enough fund. Under this programme, FOHRID has focused **Active Campaign for application of ICCPR and ICESCR**. Main object of the programme is to initiate public dialogue on the implementation of ICCPR and ICESCR. FOHRID and ENJUS are jointly conducting this programme.

Active lobbying was conducted with stakeholders in this fiscal year for application and implementation of Six Core Convention. An agreement has been reached for the formation of ICCPR and ICESCR National Convention Implementation Monitoring Working Group (NCIMWG). It is felt that more intensive discussion between the stakeholders is necessary to materialize this agreement. More precise study on the implementation status of ICCPR and ICESCR is also required.

A national level round table discussion was conducted this year jointly by Amnesty International Nepal and FOHRID. The programme focused guarantee of rights enshrined in the ICESCR.

G. Human rights and issue based sensitisation programmes:

Issue based sensitisation programmes were conducted from the human rights perspective in this fiscal year on rights of marginalized community on peace and development, inclusive democracy and rights of vulnerable groups, role of people for strengthening democracy and inclusive democracy, constituent assembly and people's political participation, combating impunity, reform in Nepal Army, impact of globalisation and vulnerability. These programmes are being conducted at regular discussion forum at FOHRID office and other venues outside.

This programme has remained integral part of FOHRID activities from the beginning. FOHRID has been undertaking effective measures to create public opinion formation and sensitisation programmes against the incidents of human rights violation.

H. Initiative focusing minority and group rights:

This initiative is being implemented together in 5 countries in South Asia namely Nepal, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka jointly by different organizations. The programme is funded by National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and is being implemented in South Asia by International Centre for Ethnic Studies (ICES), Sri Lanka. Major aim of this programme is "Building a culture of human rights in South Asia by enhancing the protection and promotion of minority and group rights."

The initiative has following two immediate objectives:

- 1) To promote research and provide information on the situation of minorities in South Asia
- 2) Consolidate national and regional networks aimed at promoting and protecting minority rights.

Under this initiative, FOHRID, in collaboration with other regional partners, accomplished updating "Advisory Services Directory" and prepared a "Draft Charter on Minority and Group Rights in South Asia".

11. 2 Democracy strengthening programme:

FOHRID has prioritised three major areas under this programme. First priority of FOHRID is the reform and restructuring of political parties including voters awareness campaign. Secondly, combating corruption and advocacy for transparency and accountability in the Ministries, government agencies and political parties. Thirdly, campaign to minimize crisis in governance and to promote good governance.

A. Campaign for constituent assembly:

For strengthening democratic process, FOHRID has prioritised issue of people's participation in the process of constituent assembly in this campaign. Rural Self-Reliance Development Centre (RSDC) and FOHRID jointly conducted "Initiative for people's participation and ownership in the Constituent assembly", a project funded by ESP/DFID. We produced Advocacy Guidebook for CA Activities and leaflets under this project. Likewise, activities such as TOT, sensitising people at the local level were conducted at Palpa, Makwanpur and Dhanusha districts.

We have felt that we must render high priority to sensitise people on constituent assembly. Discussions and sensitisation programmes are being conducted among stakeholders on the concept, methodology and procedures of constituent assembly. Main focus of this campaign is to advocate constituent assembly at the highest level and to create awareness in the people and to sensitise them in favour of inclusive State through a new democratic process.

B. Programme on reform and restructuring of political parties for the institutional development of inclusive democracy:

FOHRID has been conducting democracy strengthening programme to assist democratic practice and to promote democratic culture. The issue of institutionalisation of inclusive democracy has become a big challenge in the present Nepalese context. Capacity building of the democratic institutions is required for the success of democracy. We have initiated campaign for reform and restructuring of political parties, which is necessary for the institutional development of inclusive democracy. In this connection, FOHRID has commenced campaign on "Reform and Restructuring of Political Parties for the Institutional Development of inclusive Democracy". FOHRID has prioritized democracy strengthening programme and is working out necessary plans for the future in this regard.

C. Anti corruption campaign:

FOHRID has been carrying out anti-corruption campaign for the institutional development of inclusive democracy. FOHRID conducted gathering, seminar, interaction, symposium and discussion programmes to attain this object. It is felt that effective implementation of strategy to wipe out obstacles in eliminating corruption is necessary. Achievements of the popular democratic movement of 1990 were shadowed by the Maoist insurgency. Regressive radical rightist and radical leftist fronts attacked democratic norms and values. Corruption led towards inefficiency of the political parties, increasing political criminalization, impunity, crisis in governance, lack of good governance, transparency and accountability, political frustration and indifference. Traditional State mechanism gave way to the marginalization of a significant number of people. Current political conflict has dismantled the nation because the central State mechanism could not run according to the inclusive democratic system.

In this backdrop, FOHRID has launched programmes on strengthening democracy. Despite its concern to corruption, this programme is a component of democracy strengthening campaign. It is hoped that this programme will assist in formulating strategy for good governance as well as to initiate public debate to create pressure against major stakeholders of democratic process.

11. 3 Culture of peace and conflict management

A. Activities on peace and conflict management

Lobbying was conducted with the stakeholders for peace and conflict management. FOHRID submitted memoranda on several occasions to the government to succeed the peace process, to settle Maoist insurgency and ensure inclusive democracy for a lasting peace in the country. FOHRID has expressed solidarity and participated actively to the programmes aimed at conflict management organized by the members of civil society. FOHRID is actively monitoring the implementation status of the peace accord, code of conduct and other agreements reached between the Nepal government and the CPN-Maoist.

11. 4 Initiative for conflict affected people

FOHRID has initiated special programmes targeting the conflict affected people. A national level workshop was held on "Access to justice and sustainable livelihood for conflict victims" was held in Kathmandu on 24 May 2006 with financial support from Action Aid. Similarly, another project entitled "Advocacy for social, economic and legal justice for victims of conflict is being implemented with funding from the same agency. Major objectives of this project are given below:

Long term objectives

1. To make efforts to include full fledged social, economic and legal justice for the victims of conflict in the mandate of the TRC.
2. To create public opinion through advocacy to place in priority the issue of justice for the victims during the transitional phase.
3. To initiate debate on the international experiences of TRC and create pressure to establish it for transitional justice.

Immediate project objectives:

- 1) To conduct workshop involving the conflict victims at the local level to identify their issues and raise voice for their resolution.
- 2) To conduct advocacy for pressure against government to address immediately the needs regarding livelihood, justice, rehabilitation, compensation and redress of the conflict victims.
- 3) To enable conflict victims to take benefits from the relief programs to be initiated by the government.
- 4) To raise the issues of conflict victims from local to central level.

11.5 Initiative for vulnerable groups

A. Regional Initiative for the rights to sustainable livelihood and the enabling of social and political participation

The Regional Initiative on the Right to Sustainable Livelihood and political Participation in South Asia is a collaboration of seven regional partners from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka and is convened by the Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies. The partners include Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group (MCRG), Peoples Watch (PWIW) Maduri, Centre for Alternatives (CA)-Dhaka, SEHD-Dhaka, FOHRID and RSDC –Nepal and SAP-PK-Pakistan.

The Principle objective of the programme is to enable actors, agents, participants and potential beneficiaries to set the stage for people to live a life of self worth and dignity constructed on the foundation of the SAARC Social Charter. The right to sustainable livelihood which enables and broadens social and political participation and enlarges the political society/societies in South Asia is the key focus.

The regional interventions are in the following areas:

- 1. Stock taking and resource mobilisation**
 - 1.1. Policy Review with Critique and Dissemination:
 - 1.2. Mapping
- 2. Transfer of customized knowledge for civic Action**
 - 2.1. National adoption & toolbox:
 - 2.2. Planning of workshops at National level:
 - 2.3. Dissemination of SAARC Social Charter:
 - 2.4. Intervention Document to lobbying for the implementation of SAARC Social Charter:
 - 2.5. Small Grant
 - 2.6. Skill sharing workshop
- 3. Empowerment & support for Vulnerability protection**
 - 3.1. Continuity of CPN:
 - 3.2. Continuation of National Protection Working Group (NPWG):
 - 3.3. National dialogue / National people's conference on Sustainable

11.6 Intensive Campaign in the form of National Protection Working Group (NPWG)

A. Commencement of the Campaign and its objectives:

FOHRID Human Rights and Democratic Forum, Rural Self-Reliance Development Centre (RSDC) and Nepal South Asian Center (NESAC) have jointly commenced a national campaign to form NPWG since October 2004. This campaign has been commenced in line with the initiative for the "Rights to Sustainable Livelihood and the Enabling of Social and Political Participation of the Vulnerable Groups and Marginalized Communities" being implemented by these three organizations in Nepal.

National Protection Working Group (NPWG) is a concept for intensive and nationwide campaign. This will function as a network of the individuals and the institutions working with non-political interest. Representatives of the communities, organizations, human rights defenders, social development, social service, government line agencies, media persons, lawyers, professionals have been accommodated in this network.

Major objectives for the commencement of the NPWG are as follows:

- I. To ensure participation of the marginalized community in the process of constituent assembly and pro-poor governance; and to monitor the application of the code of conduct reached between the Nepal Government and the Maoists for the peace negotiation and possibility of any human rights violations during this period.
- II. To create pressure to SAARC to work on regional interest and welfare of people in the countries of South Asia; and conduct lobbying and advocacy for effective implementation of the SAARC Social Charter in this region.
- III. To integrate efforts and campaign for the establishment of the right to sustainable livelihood and social and political participation of the vulnerable groups and marginalized communities in Nepal.
- IV. To create pressure and recommend the government to prepare effective policy and programme for the upliftment and development of the vulnerable groups and marginalized communities for protection and promotion of their right to sustainable livelihood and the enabling of social and political participation.
- V. To play effective role for the institutional development of multiparty democracy and peaceful resolution of the ongoing armed conflict in the country.

NPWG accommodates representatives from the central and local level. FOHRID in Morang and RSDC in Banke and Rupandehi districts have formed Community Protection Network (CPN) at community level. District level networks have been formed in those districts. In this way, the network is expected to receive wide involvement from the grass root, district and national level. Following table shows number of involvement of stakeholders in each of the districts:

Table 1
Involvement of stakeholders in CPN

District	No. of Participants		Total
	Male	Female	
Morang	130	109	239
Banke	74	77	151
Rupandehi	113	28	141
Total			531

District level:

Structure of District Level Protection Working Group (DLPWG) has been finalized in Banke, Rupandehi and Morang districts. Representatives from following sectors of the society are included in the DLPWG:

- Organizations of dalit, women and ethnic communities,
- Line agencies,
- District level NGOs,
- Bar Association and Advocates,
- Reporters of local media / individual experts,
- Professional organizations, trade unions, labour organizations,
- Community Protection Network (CPN).

Number of involvement of the stakeholders for setting up of the DLPWG is given below:

Table 2

Involvement of stakeholders in DLPWG

District	No. of Representatives		Total
	Male	Female	
Morang	20	16	36
Banke	16	7	23
Rupandehi	25	11	36
Total			95

Central level:

Table 3

Categorical representation of involvement in the intensive networking of NPWG

Sl. No.	Category	Number
1	Institutional representation	261
2	Individual social activists	82
3	Women representatives	94
4	Male representation	259
Total		696

B. Secretariat:

The Secretariat of the networking is stationed at the office of the FOHRID Human Rights and Democratic Forum. Enabling State Programme (ESP) provided small grant as Secretariat support and website development from 21 April 2005 to 31 December 2005.

C. Development of toolbox and resource materials:

Training toolbox and resource materials have been prepared on the issues of intervention by NPWG. "Training / Participant Pack for the promotion of social and political rights" has been prepared for this. Mapping and compilation of the provisions in the international human rights laws for the right to sustainable livelihood have been accomplished for the purpose of training toolbox design

D. Training for CPN Members:

Training from the rights based approach has been concluded with the CPN members. The objective of this training was to empower the local CPN members by creating awareness on social and political rights and right to sustainable livelihood. First training was entitled "Training programme on promotion of rights to social and political participation with CPN members" Second training was on "Training on social analysis, mobilization and livelihood opportunity development. Detail of the participation of the CPN trainings is given below:

Table 4

Participation of stakeholders in CPN Training

District	No. of Participants		Total
	Male	Female	
Morang	130	109	239
Banke	74	77	151
Rupandehi	113	28	141
Total			531

E. Conference:

A national level people's conference was organized on "Sustainable Livelihood and People's Access to Natural Resources" from 24-25 June 2005. Altogether 25 organizations, including NESAC, FOHRID and RSDC as funding and non-funding contributors, were involved in organizing the conference. Though this was not an activity under NPWG, it was a campaign based process for it. In fact, expansion of NPWG was its significant outcome.

F. Policy dialogue and discussion programme:

Policy dialogue and discussion programme is one of the major components of this campaign. A policy dialogue was held on "Increasing urban poverty and the impact of conflict. Discussion on "Advocacy for rights to sustainable livelihood and Social and Political Participation" was held for the CPN members in Rupandehi and Banke districts. Similarly, discussion programmes were held among stakeholders in Morang, Banke and Rupandehi districts on networking of NPWG. Another discussion programme on "Promotion of rights to sustainable livelihood" was held in Morang district.

11.7 Campaign of FOHRID on WTO and globalization

Nepal is an agricultural country and almost 80% percent people live in rural area and 93% are dependent on agricultural sector for their livelihood. Impact of globalisation on agriculture, livelihood of the people and viewing it from human rights perspective is important when liberalization is dominant. In this context FOHRID has already translated into Nepali "Planting the Rights Seed: A human rights perspective on agriculture trade and the WTO" for dissemination of customized knowledge. Furthermore, no one has raised the issue of agriculture trade and the WTO from the human rights perspective in Nepal. So, this publication is expected to create public awareness and will assist communities, non-government and professional organizations for advocacy and lobbying to promote livelihood and human rights in Nepal. It may help to build up and promote rural sector by creating pressure for the formation of people centered policies and strengthening private sectors at domestic level.

Main objective of FOHRID in the issue of WTO and globalisation is to be watchful on the economic and trade agreements at the international or regional, multilateral or bilateral levels and to minimize the negative effects of such agreements on the lives of marginalized and vulnerable communities in Nepal. FOHRID aims to safeguard the benefit of the agro-based economy and the small scale farmers of Nepal from the negative impact of liberalization, globalisation, open market and the agreement on agriculture through the transformation of customized knowledge, information and skill. This programme has been effective to disseminate knowledge to the local people to minimize the risk of WTO. Networks for campaign in this issue has been established in 35 districts of the country under the banner of Community Protection Network (CPN) and National Protection Working Group (NPWG). FOHRID has been conducting study, research on the issue of sustainable livelihood and social and political participation of the vulnerable community and carrying out training programmes for their empowerment. It has been involved in the regional projects on this issue with other NGOs having similar objectives.

Though membership to the WTO opens door of opportunities to Nepal, limited foreign agents, multinational companies, profit makers, feudal capitalists and political leaders have been taking advantage of this. There is no visible benefit from the WTO to the small scale farmers who are backbone of Nepalese economy. In fact, small scale farmers, labourers, low paid workers and general public have to bear a heavy burden from this. Hence, the campaign to create awareness in the stakeholders about negative impact of the WTO and its policies regarding agriculture has become integral programme of FOHRID. Likewise, FOHRID has prioritised pressure to the government from people's level to formulate clear programme to market agricultural products in the international level and to implement it for the benefit of the farmers.

Under this programme, FOHRID conducts advocacy, discussion, interaction, seminar, workshop, publication and dissemination for the mobilization and transfer of customized knowledge considering the issue of sustainable livelihood, human rights and basic needs of the people in the developing countries.

11.8 Publication and dissemination

FOHRID has been publishing "FOHRID Human Rights Monitor" in the quarterly basis. Besides, following publications have been published so far:

- Translation of "Planting the Rights Seed: A human rights perspective on agriculture trade and the WTO" in Nepali.
- Leaflet on "Constituent assembly: An introduction" in collaboration with RSDC.
- "Advocacy Guidebook cum training manual on constituent assembly" in collaboration with RSDC.
- Workshop report on "Access to justice and sustainable livelihood for conflict victims".
- Interaction report on economic, social and cultural rights for the right to life.
- Workshop report on implementation status of NHRC's recommendations and impunity.
- Leaflet containing brief introduction of Rome Statute 1998 of ICC and Optional Protocol 2002 of CAT.

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The publication and programme reports were widely disseminated to the stakeholders. Maximum dissemination was conducted via electronic medium. Outcomes / recommendations of the above programmes have been disseminated to the stakeholders. Capacity building of FOHRID, enhancement of working relationship and idea exchange by dissemination of information were achieved through this programme.

We have initiated publication of FOHRID Human Rights Monitor to keep track with the current state of human rights in the country. We will try our best for the continuation of the campaign. It is felt that we have not been able to accommodate all our objectives in this publication. Accordingly, FOHRID has planned to commence publication of Peace Wave and Democracy Journal in the future.

11.9 Study and research

Besides, several working papers, discussion papers and seminar, FOHRID has successfully accomplished following two important study and research works in this year:

- i. Policy review with critique on sustainable livelihood and social & political participate of the vulnerable groups in Nepal.
- ii. Internal armed conflict and abducted democracy in Nepal: concerns over violation of IHL.

Ongoing study:

Intensive study has been commenced this year on the following issues:

- ⇒ Writing of resource book on ICC
- ⇒ Translation and publication of the international instruments against impunity including Rome Statute,
- ⇒ Preparation for publication of a Minority Rights Charter prepared by experts working in the South Asia for the right of minority community.

12. Working relationship

FOHRID has already established working relationship with the Delegation of European Commission in Nepal, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Six Treaty Bodies of the UN, OHCHR Nepal, ICJ, National Human Rights Commission Nepal, Amnesty International, Grassroots International, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy Minneapolis USA, 3D-Trade, Human Rights and Equitable Economy, Geneva, Enabling State Programme Nepal, CARE Nepal, Action Aid Nepal, Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies (CHA) Sri Lanka, International Centre for Ethnic Studies, Sri Lanka and other national, regional and international organizations in the fields complying with FOHRID vision.

13. Grants and Donor

S.no.	Project / Programme	Duration	Funding	Grant amount
1	Ending Unlawful Killings & Impunity	January 2006- December 2007	European Union	Euro 45025.00
2*	Regional initiative for the Rights to sustainable livelihood and the enabling of social and political participation	January-December 2006	Consortium of Humanitarian Agency (CHA) & NESAC	Euro 15,879.31
3	Planting the Rights seed: A Human rights perspective on agriculture trade and the WTO	October 2005- September 2006	Grassroots International	US\$ 1500.00
4	Intensive Networking in the form of National Protection Working Group (NPWG)	21 April - 31 December 2005	Enabling State programme Nepal	NRs. 90,000.00
5	Initiative to combat against torture and impunity	January 2007 - December 2008	European Union	Euro 55,522.30
6**	Initiative for people's participation and ownership in the constituent assembly	15 December 2006 - 14 May 2007	ESP/DFID	NRs. 1,338,000
7	Building a culture of human rights in South Asia	October 2006 - July 2007	International Centre for Ethnic Studies	US\$ 2750
8	Advocacy on Social, economic and legal justice for victims of conflict	July 2007 - February 2008	Action Aid Nepal	NRs. 391,400
9	Workshop on Livelihood and justice for victims of conflict	8 November 2006 - 15 December 2007	Action Aid Nepal	NRs. 77,500

Note: *Programmes being conducted at the regional level. The funding agency is NOVIB and Sri Lanka based CHA has funded three partner organizations namely FOHRID, RSDC and NESAC in Nepal. FOHRID has been using approximately one third of the total fund allocated for Nepal.

**This programme was jointly implemented by Rural Self-Reliance Development Centre (RSDC) and FOHRID Human Rights and Democratic Forum.

14. Internship scheme:

Since 2006, FOHRID has initiated internship scheme for the national, international students. Interested students studying in the +2, Bachelors level or Master's level can be provided internship opportunity for 1 to 6 months. Two foreign students have already completed their 3 months internship from FOHRID. Likewise, Ms. Masako Yokoyama, a Masters level student of Colombia University, New York is currently receiving internship at your organization. Similarly, Mr. Kanchan Kharel, a young human rights activist has joined FOHRID for internship in the sponsorship of Human Rights Home.

Mr. Babu Soren, who comes from minority Satar community and is working as a community level activist of FOHRID in Morang district, has been arranged internship at HURFON.

15. Office infrastructure and employees

Office of FOHRID is situated at 196/14, Radhe Marga, Dillibazar, Kathmandu. Currently, there are 17 officials and staff members in FOHRID. Ten of them are working in full time basis in different areas; four are working in the part time basis and three are volunteers. There is small resource center, enough infrastructure, equipment and space in the office to work for the above team.

Finally, we believe – work leads to self respect and honesty, self respect and honesty lead to more work and enthusiasm. We must not forget that all works are not for earning money only, but they are for the welfare of the whole society and respect towards human dignity.

16. Contact address:

For further information regarding above programmes and information, please contact:

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