

A Preliminary Report of Workshops on Investigative Journalism against Corruption



(Pokhara – June 27-30, 2006)



(Godawari, Lalitpur – July 3-6, 2006)

1. Background: The concept of training on investigative journalism for the working journalist to generate an anti-corruption culture and to identify areas of corruption and individuals and/or entities involved in corruption has been generated for several reasons. First, there is the perception that, with the current level of investigative journalism in Nepal,

journalists (including the TV and radio media) were not focused enough on the problem, and when they were focused did not have the tools, or set of skills, necessary to “dig” into the issues as they should. Their efforts resulted in incomplete stories, very often reportage which was biased, or reporting which was based on conjecture and/or assumptions which were not fact based. The perception has grown that much of this problem is due to a lack of training in the areas of investigation, and a minimal knowledge of the mechanisms of corrupt practices, and how to reveal these mechanisms, and people, responsible for the corruption. To appropriately inform the public through the media, and to enhance the ability of journalists to attack the national problem of corruption, this training was proposed by the CIAA and few media groups.

2. Workshop Organizers & Participants: The two workshops on investigative journalism against corruption successfully completed at Pokhara and Godawari, Lalitpur with the financial and technical support of USAID/ARD, Inc. Rule of Law Project. The workshops were organized by Mechi Mahakali Media Society (MMMS) and Nepal Institute for Professional Journalism and Communication Studies (NIPJCS) respectively. Both organizers selected participating journalists for each workshop separately. The Pokhara workshop was organized on June 27-30, 2006 which was attended by 33 journalists, mostly from western and far western region of Nepal. The Godawari workshop was organized back to back after Pokhara workshop, on third to sixth July and 24 journalists, mostly from eastern Nepal participated in the program. The participation of women journalists in both workshops was significant. The number of women journalists in Godawari workshop was one third of the total participants.

3. Agenda & Resource Persons: The agenda and resource persons (instructors) of both workshops were almost the same. The agenda was developed on the basis of report and recommendations made by ARD international consultant Michael Genelin. Research and Media Center against Corruption (ReMAC) organized the workshop in the first week of September 2005 on the basis of that agenda . The ReMAC workshop was for seven half days (8 am to 1 pm) everyday and 28 journalists, mostly from Kathmandu attended the program instructed by more than 15 instructors including one women journalist from India.

After reviewing ReMAC workshop, conducting needs assessment and consulting selected resource persons, ARD sub contractor Training and Development Center (T&D) finalized four days agenda for the workshop which was unanimously accepted by both organizers as well as by ARDROL. The workshop agenda was basically divided into three major headings, namely, investigative journalism, anti-corruption and reporting, with practical sessions based on case study in corruption stories. Six Nepali instructors having good knowledge and experience in respective areas were selected for the two workshops. One foreign expert from Romanian Center for Investigative Journalism participated in both workshops and actively shared his own experience and international practices.

The Pokhara workshop was attended by the CIAA Commissioner Mr. Beda Prasad Shiwakoti in the last concluding sessions and interacted with the participating journalists on corruption issues. At Godawari workshop CIAA Chief Commissioner Mr. Surya Nath Upadhyay participated in the concluding ceremony as the chief guest and distributed training certificate to the participants and also spoke in the program. The other guest at the concluding ceremony of Godawari program was the President of Nepal Federation of Journalists Association (NFJA) Mr. Bishnu Nisthuri.

4. Workshop Modality: The training workshop was intended for working journalists and therefore, the techniques of adult education was mostly applied. The experts from T&D as training facilitator coordinated both instructors and participants and managed time of each session as per the schedules. Of the total 19 sessions of the training in four days, the participants were given separate time to ask questions or to share experience in each session. The T&D provided all kind of support to the participants and instructors whenever required.

5. Achievements of workshops: No specialized agenda was ever designed nor any training on anti-corruption was given to Nepali journalists who were in actual need to get theoretical and practical knowledge about certain principles and techniques of investigative reporting. The ARDROL, with consultation with the stake holders, has designed an agenda on investigative journalism against corruption and implemented it in three work shops and provided trainings to nearly 100 journalists from various newspapers and from different part of the country. The achievements of the work shop lies on the fact that participants have gained some knowledge and skills useful and important for them in investigative reporting on corruption. It really depends upon their enhancement in reporting skills. After all, it is anticipated that participants must have gained or enhanced knowledge on basic concept of investigative journalism , obstacles of investigative journalism in Nepal, tools and techniques of investigative journalism, investigative reporting against corruption – its overall effect and impact on investigative agency like CIAA, art and skills of investigative reporting and reporting process. The real success of such program can be judged on the basis of reports that the participating journalists will prepare and publish according to their commitments made at the end of program through individual goal settings.

6. Follow Up Work Shops: The first ReMAC work shop did not plan follow up programs, there was no follow up work shop. But the follow up program has been included under these two work shops in order to evaluate efficiency and effectiveness of such programs that aims at enhancing skill of journalists in reporting corruption stories at national and local level. At the end of each workshop, participants were asked to submit a topic in which s/he would make and publish investigative reporting. Accordingly, all participants have submitted a topic for investigative reporting. ARD international consultant **Paul Radu** in his trip report has also suggested that ARD would ask the participants to submit investigative projects proposals and Nepali resource persons could assess the projects and decide which ones should be sponsored by ARD. This is really a good idea to be considered for fellowship programs to participating journalists. At present, the two media organizers (MMMS & NIPJCS) with T&D and ARD have decided to do following matters before and after the follow up work shop:

(a) Organizers (MMMS & NIPJCS) shall contact each participant every week and ask him/her about the plan and progress as per proposed goal setting(See Attachment A)

(b) The participant who completes reporting as per the goal setting shall be eligible for follow up work shops.

(c) Fellowship may be given to those participants who are found sincere and dedicated to his/her agenda/goal setting.

(d) The follow up work shop shall be organized after one month but before three months of the date of workshop.

(e) The follow up workshop shall not need any resource persons. The work shop will be an opportunity for presenting a report published in a newspaper and a proposal for fellowship. The resource persons shall be involved in making decisions on fellowship proposals.

(f) On the basis of follow up work shop and fellowship proposals from participants, new training agenda shall be developed as per the needs and expectations.

Attachment A

Goal -Setting by the Participants

Godawari Workshop

S N	Name	Organization	Mailing Address	Goal Setting
1.	Sanjog Luitel	Loktantra Enews, Biratnagar	Biratnagar-4, Near District forest office, Morang luitel.sanjog@gmail.com yoursanjog@yahoo.com 9842024344, 021- 527292	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform public about the irregularities of consumer committees • Inform public about the corruption that is being practiced in the land mapping section of municipality • Inform public about the problems of NGO employees
2.	Somnath Suseli		Ilam Fnj.ilam@hotmail.com 027-520280, 520833	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform public about illegal import of low quality fertilizers from Indian boarder & its negative impact on soil & environment • Investigate why green tea

				<p>leaves are cheaper in the factory while Indians pay high, process & sell them at higher price in the international market.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate corruption in the distribution of old age and widows' allowance
3.	Bhim Ghimire		<p>Biratnagar, Morang ghimire.bhim@gmail.com 9842023824, 021-435529 –R Bhim_brt@hotmail.com</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On Biratnagar Jute Mill: closing or functioning? On the problem of land field site in Biratnagar On missing Passport
4.	Kiran Dhakal		<p>Panchthar, FNJ, Phidim gautamlaxmi@gmail.com 024-520488</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate irregularities of DDC & VDC budget and make them public Investigate closure causes of Panchthar tea plantation & factory (half dozens) On irregularities in district drinking water committee
5.	Bikram Luitel	Nepal Samacharpatra	<p>Biratnagar, Morang bikrambrt2002@hotmail.com 021-538305/ 9852021924</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On corruption in primary education On corruption in Morang jail On corruption by the chief & accountants in the eastern police office
6.	Nabina Kharel		<p>Damak, Jhapa 023-581318 kharelnabina@yahoo.com</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On refugees & local employment On irregularities on the boarder zones On Quack Doctor
7.	Tikaram 'Neti' Nepal		<p>Garamani-2, Jhapa 023-582866/ 542672/ 581318 tikaramneti@yahoo.com</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On illegal wood transportation & chopping down of forest Make tax system clear On female exploitation in foreign employment
8.	Anuja Angbuhang		<p>Dhankuta 026-520916 / 01-4248850</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate & publicize irregularities of passport & citizenship distribution in CDO office Investigate & publicize irregularities in road

				<p>construction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate irregularities at Land Revenue office
9.	Pratima Rai	Women's Era Magazine, Dharan	Dharan-12/16 Chhimeki Line. pratimabrai@yahoo.com 025-522081, 9842025323	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate HIV/AIDS infection among housewives Investigate why young female have attraction towards drugs Investigate why the nos. of street children is increasing
10.	Bimala Thumkhewa		Kathmandu bimalanp@hotmail.com 9841323484/ 9841274442	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform public about the female violence on the ground of religion Investigate human rights status Investigate how ethnic groups could make language & cultural aspects simple
11.	Shyam Hari Adhikari	FNJ, Sindhuli	Kamala-9, Sindhuli 047-520163, 520243	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate irregularities at the guest house construction On ADPSP On Thami women situation in Sindhuli
12.	Raj Kumar Karki	FNJ, Sindhuli	Sindhuli 047-520163, 520365	Has not set
13.	Bala Rai	Annapurna Post Daily	Solukhumbu Bala_thulu@yahoo.com 9841293793	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate causes of low participation by female in print increasing causes of female prostitutes at night in KTM. Investigate corruption at Melamchi Drinking Project
14.	Bedraj Poudel		Inaruwa, Sunsari pbedraj@hotmail.com pbedraj@gmail.com 9842022900	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the causes of drug shortage at the hospitals and publicize it On irregularities in land purchased by army for residence On payment for accumulated leave of police
15.	Bishwanath Acharya		Okhaldhunga bishwanathjee@yahoo.com 9841492396	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform public about unequal distribution of plan by DDC Inform public about the monopoly of Araniko transportation Inform public about chopping down the forest in Kalika

16.	Shekhar Regmi		Biratnagar, Moran ghimtimesbrt@wlink.com.np 9842020546, 522042	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make irregularities in water sources public • On the misuse of VDC fund • Inform public about smuggling on the boarder areas
17.	Kishor Kumar Poudel		Dhankuta Poudel k2@yahoo.com 026-521055, 9841416363	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make misbehave of traffic police public • Inform public about chopping down of community forest • Make irregularities of health sector public
18.	Sharad Raj Subedi		Biratnagar gop@mos.com.np 9842023502	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On corruption in the distribution of old people allowance • Investigate evasion of state revenue from the traders • On sex trade at the cabin restaurant with the involvement of police
19.	Mamta Nepali		Kathmandu Mamata-782003@yahoo.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate the budget for Dalit used by Govt agencies • Investigate scholarship made available for Dalit students • Investigate corruption in NGOs
20.	Kamal Pariyar		Kathmandu Kamal bihin@yahoo.com 9841476027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • investigate corruption in the distribution of Dalit Scholarship by the Govt & make it public • investigate corruption of the budget allocated for Samaj Bikash Hostel • On NGO corruption in the name of media development
21.	Shambhu Jha	Radio Nepal	Rajbiraj 9852820076/ 031-440076 Shambhujal@yahoo.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make corruption in VDC grant public for further development • On corruption in scholarship for students' well-being • On misuse of donation given by donors for school building construction
22.	Ajay Kumar Jha	Radio Nepal	Janakpur 041-525362 Ajaykumarjhal@yahoo.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigative reporting on poor condition of Janakpur Railway Line

			oo.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On irregularities of tobacco purchase by Janakpur Cigarette Factory • Investigate & report on the poor condition of Dhalkewar road.
23.	Bina Sunuwar		Kathmandu 2021639 Bina_sunar@hotmail.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On corruption in community forest development • On corruption among Dalit Communities • On Corruption in Health Sector
24	Alisha Adhikari		Kathmandu 4353904 Alishasharma60@hotmail.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On irregularities of road construction and maintenance • On corruption of Pashupati Development Fund • On corruption of medicine purchase & sale

Pokhara Workshop

SN	Name	Address	Goals: Investigation
1.	Ganesh Oli	Shova-3, Rukum 9857830240	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On corruption in Deurali Youth Club • On corruption in Dang DDC • On Corruption in Rapti Bridge
2.	Baidya Nath Jha	Rajbiraj-6, Saptari 9852822526	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in Forestry Office • On corruption in DDC
3.	Ganesh Lamsal	Biratnagar, Morang 021-535326	Not set
4.	J.N. Sagar	Goltakuri-7, Dang 082-521508	Not set
5.	Surya Prakash Kandel	Bharatpur-6, Chitwan 9845048969	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On corruption in Ma.Chhe. Pra. Ta Kendra • On corruption at BP cancer Hospital • On corruption in district administration
6.	Khem Bhandari	Mahendranagar, Kanchanpur 9858750235	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On corruption in forestry • On corruption in district administration
7.	Dipin Rai	Birtamod, Jhapa 023-541052	Not set
8.	Pratap Shrestha	Birgunj-14, Rajbiraj 051-525122	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On corruption in the road office • On corruption in the revenue • On corruption in

			municipality
9.	Bhojraj Bhattra	Kalai-7, Bara 9845040470	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in revenue collection • On corruption in the local bodies • On corruption in NGO
10.	Harinarayan Gautam	Baglung 9857620204 068-520316	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On corruption in the construction development in the district • On irregularities on food supply to the police
11.	Dharendra Dangi	Jugar- 2, Rolpa 082-560084	
12.	Binod Kumar Thapa	Achham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good governance in journalism around Achham
13.	Gopindra Budha Magar	Nepalgunj, Banke 9848023642	Not set
14.	Srijana Acharya	Nepalgunj, Banke 9848023516	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On corruption in the community forestry • On policy corruption in the local bodies
15.	Dhir Bahadur Shahi	Surkhet 083-522253	Not set
16	Tila Bhandari	Surkhet 083-523075	Not set
17	Ramkrishna Bohara	Baglung	Not set
18	Durga Bhandari	Pokhara 061-523101	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On corruption & irregularities in the boarding school • On the slow process of judiciary bodies
19	Binu Pokhrel	Jhapa 9846045107	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On corruption control at the dance restaurant • On the mixture in food stuff
20	Laxmi Raj Paudel	Pokhara 9836027779	Not set
21	Man Bahadur Saud	Jogbuda, Dadeldhura 096-4240496	Not set
22	Tribhuwan Poudel	Pokhara 9836026803	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the payment to police by the dance restaurant
23	Ram Gurung	Pokhara 9846046450	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On irregularities at the tender of disposals
24	Karuna Joshi	Dhangadhi, Kailali 091-525552	Not set
25	Kalpana Shrestha	Dodhara, Kanchanpur 099-529222	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the involvement in girl trafficking in Dodhara Kanchanpur
26	Yamkala Pandey	Kanchanpur 099-525432	Not set

27	Dipendra Shrestha	Pokhara 061-532877	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising awareness against corruption • On illegal money distribution by Royal Govt. through Municipality
28	Vishwa Bandhu Bhandari	Damauli, Tanahu 065-560907	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On irregularities & corruption in DDC Education & forestry
29	Punya Poudel	Pokhara	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On irregularities in Pokhara municipality • On misuse of revenue in telecommunication
30	Bhawana Joshi	Kalimati, Achham	Not set
31	Harish Bhatt	Mahendranagar, Kanachanpur 099-524204	Not set
32	Kalpana Dhakal	Gorakha	Not set
33	Kishor Kumar Karki	Dharan 025-531298	Not set

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