



# Peace in the midst of conflict !

## Editorial

For the last 9 years, Nepal is in a state of turmoil created by the conflict between the state and revolutionaries. Life of ordinary citizen has become insecure and uncertain. People are leaving the country in search of peace and livelihood. The state machinery is almost dysfunctional for the last two years. Poor people are loosing hope and aspirations. The two extreme groups have jeopardised the life of ordinary people endangered. However, both the groups do not know that they themselves are in endangered of their own existence if the present tension continues for long. History shows that people will always win. It may take time; only hope, courage and trust will make it possible.

In the midst of conflicting situation, ICA Nepal was established to serve for the poor community in support of their fight against poverty, deprivedness and backwardness. Since its inception ICA Nepal has launched several programmes to enable the deprived community of poverty and helplessness. Thousands of people have shared and contributed as a strong partner to achieve 'human factor in development'.

In a country where almost half of its revenue is spent on arms and ammunition, where majority of ordinary people earn less than a dollar per day, the cost of war is always very painful and troublesome to the common people. To increase the cost of internal war, government is forced to curb the development budget allocated for the poor people. The ultimate losers will be the poor people. People have to pay price of war directly or indirectly.



The fifth city movement started by ICA in the early 60s is still relevant to our context. The role of ICA is even increasing in a country like Nepal where people are losing their hope for future. Born and grown in the midst of the conflict, ICA Nepal is moving ahead as a symbol of hope for deprived and downtrodden community.

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## Public Courses

For the last few months ICA Nepal organised a series of training courses on Participatory Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Trainers Training and Facilitation Skills, Proposal Writing and Fundraising, Gender and Development and Participatory Rural Appraisal. More than

250 participants have attended these training in the last 6 months. The participants belonged to various organisations. Many of them were University students as well. In June and July 2004, eight other trainings are planned. The trainings are open to anybody who are interested.



## In-house Courses

International Trachoma Initiative/Nepal Trachoma requested ICA Nepal to conduct training on 'Gender and Development' for their staff working throughout the country. It was organised in three different places which was participated by about 90 staff. Similarly, ICA Nepal facilitated training courses on environmental planning and management for government staff in Eastern Nepal. The course was conducted jointly by the trainers of SchEMS and ICA Nepal and was organised by SEAM-N, a project funded by Finland Government.

## Training Package Development

ICA Nepal's staff participated in a three day programme on curriculum development on 'Conflict Management and Peace Building' organized by Training Institute for Technical Instruction (TITI). TITI is national level training institute affiliated to the His Majesty's Government and supported by Swiss Development Cooperation. Similarly, ICA staff also contributed in preparing curriculum for 'Need assessment for community development' for TITI. The curriculum prepared by the team is now in operation through regular training courses organised by TITI.

ICA Nepal's staff also contributed in the preparation of the 125 page long 'Training Manual on HIV/AIDS for Local Level Planning and Orientation' for National Centre for AIDS and STD Control/Policy Project/USAID. The manual includes following aspects:

- Fundamentals of HIV/

### AIDS

- Role of Local Authority in HIV/AIDS
- Major documents on HIV/AIDS
- Planning Process in HIV/AIDS
- Facilitation Skills for Facilitators.

### Participants Opinion!

I am fortunate to join various training at different time conducted by ICA Nepal. I participated trainers' training course, facilitation skills, project proposal writing and fundraising and participatory planning, monitoring and evaluation. I got motivated by joining these courses. ICA's training are participatory, result-oriented, productive and timely.

Although I had done Master level education, I felt I had been lacking knowledge and skills required for community development activities. Thanks to ICA, which enabled me to learn much about such important subjects and taking me to the responsible and senior position at JICA project in West Nepal.

*Gopal Gurung, JICA Nepal*

## Empowering community in Jumla

ICA Nepal along with KIRDC organised a two-week long training for staff and local people in Jumla in April 2004. The course was participated by 22 people. Jumla is one of the poorest districts of the country which is still not connected to the road network. This is the first time ICA has applied Technology of Participation in this remote and most disadvantaged district.

## Planning Workshop

ICA Nepal's facilitators facilitated planning programme on District HIV/AIDS Planning in Bhaktapur district from May 17 – 20. The plan is expected to be implemented by the district for a period of 5 years. The District Development Committee of Bhaktapur in cooperation with National Centre for AIDS and STD Control Policy Project/USAID hosted the programme. Policy Project/USAID is planning to carry out similar activities in other districts as well.

### Participants Opinion!

Dear ICA Facilitators,

First of all, I would like to extend heartfelt congratulation for the successful completion of the "HIV/AIDS Orientation and District AIDS Planning." Your team is really the functioning team. I got new methods, tools and clarity about my concept related to these topics. We do appreciate your hard working spirit, professionalism, the participatory approach, the experience you shared and the motivation you created among the participants.

- *Kiran Paudel, Program Coordinator, HIV/AIDS Harm Reduction Program Siddhi Memorial Foundation, Bhaktapur, Nepal*

## Rural Access Programme

Rural Access Programme (RAP) of DFID hired ICA Nepal to carry out a research work in Bhojpur district. The team studied the availability of labour force during the implementation of the road project. For the similar programme for RAP/DFID in far western district Doti, Mrs. Sabita Paudel, Director/Research led the team. The report is expected to be finalised by the end of May 2004. Mr. Dipak Timsina and Mrs. Sabita Paudel facilitated training for research workers in Bhojpur and Doti respectively.

## Human Development

### Learning Centre Activities

- With the financial assistance of Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Washi Art group, and Tokyo Union Church (TUC), Japan, and active contribution of ICA Japan, ICA Nepal established 'Women and Children Learning Centre' and undertaking a series of community development activities from the centre.
- Washi Art Group members are also visiting the center in the coming July and will also conduct training on paper work. Individuals interested in paper work may contact ICA Nepal for the participation in this training. Washi Art group has provided 10 beautiful art work to ICA Nepal which will be demonstrated in its main office and in Changu Narayan Learning Centre.
- The programme "Empowering Women and Children through Training and Education in Changu Narayan Village Development Committee, Bhaktapur district, was continued with the support of TUC Japan in 2003 also. Under





*Starting the initial work for drinking water construction. A reservoir will be constructed in this intake point.*

this project various training courses and adult literacy classes were organised.

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan has provided support for the centre and the community for a period of 11 months. With this support, we will be managing drinking water facility to the centre and the community, buying furniture and training equipment, A series of training will also be organised through this support. Some trainers will come from ICA Japan and will conduct training on leadership skills to income generation activities.
- In August 2004, a management committee will be formed to operate and manage the centre. The 5 membered committee will be represented by all the four community groups and ICA itself. It is expected that the centre will be able to generate its expense itself. The centre is moving towards its sustainability.

## Human Development

### EC Meets the Community

On May 15, executive committee of the ICA Nepal visited the learning centre and organised one-day interaction programme with the community. Local people from all the three VDCs namely, Changu Narayan, Chaling and Nagarkot were present in the interaction programme. Mr. Deepak Raj Chapa, Chairperson of ICA Nepal responded to various queries regarding future development and the community works through ICA Nepal in the area.

### Planning for Future

A five-day programme in two phases on May 18-20 and May 29-30, 2004 was organised in the Learning Centre in Changu Narayan to develop strategic plan of the local area development. 30 representatives from the three VDCs participated in this programme. Mr. Hemant Pokhrel and Durga Adhikari facilitated the programme. The participants emphasised on the sustainable management of the learning centre through the joint effort of all concerned communities.

### DDC support to ICA Nepal

Bhaktapur District Development Committee provided a small grant support to ICA Nepal to conduct a training on HIV/AIDS, reproductive health, gender and development issues. Participants from Chaling, Nagarkot and Changu Narayan will be participating in this programme which will be conducted in the first week of June.

### Health Camp in Bhaktapur

On May 22, a daylong health camp on female reproductive health was conducted in the learning centre. Altogether 150 local women came for the check-up. The programme was jointly organised with Bhaktapur Cancer Hospital and Nepal Cancer Relief Society, Bhaktapur Branch. In the inaugural programme, Mr. Hemant Pokhrel, Director, ICA Nepal and Mr. Dhan B. Shrestha, Chairman of Bhaktapur Hospital Development Board and Dr. Aarati Shah highlighted the importance of regular check-up to avoid cancer.



## Community Development Activities in Far West

In late 2002, ICA Nepal launched a new project entitled "Building Civil Society through Facilitative Participatory Planning and Community Development Activities in Two Districts (Dadeldhura and Doti) of Far Western Region of Nepal" with the financial assistance of Katholische Zentralstelle für Entwicklungshilfe e.V./MISEREOR, Germany for the period of 2003 to 2005. These districts are one of the least developed districts of the country. A series of community development activities such as adult literacy, training, low-cost toilet construction, FSA/microfinance etc. are undertaken in the area. Local task forces take the responsibility of implementing of the strategic plan developed by themselves. ICA Nepal facilitate them enabling to carry on their own development activities.



## Human Development Project in Dev Daha

ICA Nepal through its own effort has carried out a number of development activities in Devdaha. For the last three years, local facilitators are working in the village as social mobilisers. Started with FSA, the group is generating its resources locally to carry out development work. Local VDC has provided a plot of land to construct a learning centre. ICA Nepal is planning to construct office cum learning centre by mid 2005.

### Improving life in difficult time!

Thagi Ram Kami of Dadeldhura now knows much about sanitation. He now uses his own toilet constructed in his own home. This is quite uncommon in his village. Like Thagi Ram's family many other families have established low-cost toilet. Dal B. Sunar of Mastamandu VDC, Dambar B. Malla of Ganeshpur and Suna Dhali of Manilek VDCs feel themselves different by having improved cookstoves established in their house. Gore Damai, Ishwari Devi Luhar and Maina Devi BK have joined adult literacy classes. They are glad to be the part of hundred of people who are receiving adult literacy classes. Students of many schools such as Janata Secondary School and Ganesh Secondary School are able to learn more about conserving environment. Since some of them have joined eco-clubs established by ICA. They share their learning with their fellow students.

In this difficult time of conflict and turmoil, many people in some VDCs of Dadeldhura and Doti are participating in a series of community development activities aiming to improve their living condition. Thanks to Katholische Zentralstelle für Entwicklungshilfe e.V./MISEREOR, Germany for realising the difficult task of community empowerment in conflict prone area.

## Human development work in Lubhu Cluster

ICA Nepal is planning to carry out human development activities in Gundu, Sirutar and Dadhikot VDCs of Bhaktapur district and Lamatar, Lubhu, Godamchaur and Tikathali of Lalitpur district. The seven VDCs make one cluster and an office will be established in Lubhu VDC. With a total population of

about 50 thousand, ICA Nepal will cover about 20 000 population. Experience of human development activities in Changu cluster and other areas will be applied in this area. Before starting the work, a detail survey will be carried out in June and July 2004.

## Financial Service Association in Nepal

ICA Nepal first introduced Financial Services Association (FSAs) in Nepal about 3 years ago. Since then, this is implemented in five districts. For the last two years, it is also introduced in Devdaha Village Development Committee in West Nepal. It is a village of about 20 000 population. So far 11 different FSAs with more than 300 members have been established. Similarly in Jhapa, Dadeldhura and Doti districts FSAs are becoming popu-



lar among ICA Nepal's projects. About 500 people have joined them.

There are several stories about gaining benefits through these groups. The members have received certain amount to increase agricultural productivity for establishing small shops in the village. Many members have used the loan for cattle raising, chicken rearing etc. By using the interest of the group saving, local people in Devdaha constructed road for easy passage to the village market they started through the group few months ago. Local people named the road as 'FSA Pragati Path', meaning 'FSA Development Road'.

### Improving life in difficult time!

Sri Kumari Kunwar of Devdaha became very happy as she was able to install carpet weaving machine in her own house. Despite her several years of effort she was unable to do it and was compelled to spend her free time in other activities. She became member of the FSA established in her village and within a short time she was able to get a loan of Rs. 22 000 which she spent to install the waving machine. Now Mrs. Kunwar uses most of her free time in weaving carpet. She is repaying the loan regularly since she is getting benefits from her work. Many other women in the village have emulated her success by starting other sorts of income-generating activities.



### *HIV/AIDS Awareness Activities in Gundu VDC*

ICA Nepal took part as partner NGO in the mobile service to the community people for Gundu VDC organised by District Administration, Bhaktapur District on May 23, 2004. ICA Nepal organised film show and exhibition on HIV/AIDS jointly with the District Health Office of the His Majesty's Government. More than 1500 people came to the mobile service and majority of them enquired about the work undertaken by ICA Nepal in some VDCs of Bhaktapur district. In similar mobile service in Parbat, ICA Nepal took part as an active partner for community development. Mr. Maheshwar Shrestha, Chief of District Health Office, Bhaktapur and Durga Adhikari from ICA Nepal highlighted the importance of awareness activities on HIV/AIDS.

## Decentralised Transformative Approaches to HIV/AIDS

Realising the severity of the problem, ICA Nepal started working in the field of HIV/AIDS since 2001. In 2002 - 2003, ICA Nepal coordinated a year long programme on 'Decentralised Transformative Approaches to HIV/AIDS' with the support of UNDP and Nepal Centre for AIDS and STD Control of the Majesty's Government of Nepal. Through this programme, district level leadership was developed and mobilised to create a deep community-led transformation. The project helped in developing a pool of national facilitator and leaders. A series of transformation leadership seminars were or-

ganised and 'practice of commitment' were implemented at the local level. Participatory strategic planning were prepared for 2 districts, a media campaign was also carried out.

UNDP New York's Robertson Work and International Facilitator from Canada Janet Sanders played motivating role in carrying out all the activities at the district level. The programme was carried out in three phases. The follow up of the project is expected to be carried out in June, 2004.



### Celebrating World AIDS Day

ICA Nepal actively participated in the national level procession and exhibition on HIV/AIDS organised by the National Centre for AIDS and STD Control. People working with ICA at the village level also joined the programme. Similar activities

were also carried out in ICA Nepal's project area. The main aim of this programme was to create self-awareness about the notion of HIV/AIDS.

### Activities in Parbat

On the occasion of World AIDS Day, ICA Nepal's branch office in Parbat along with the support of District Development Committee organised a duet song competition in Shankar Pokhari VDC. The one day long programme was participated by more than 5 thousand people. Organised in the open ground, more than 35 groups participated in the competition in which HIV/AIDS was the main theme.

Realising the severity of the problem in Parbat district, ICA Nepal also opened a small counseling centre in Kusma. Local people particularly mobile people are requested to visit the centre for counseling.

In order to make the local level body aware about the problem, ICA Nepal organised one day long interaction programme for the DDC members and staff. Mr.

Yuba Raj Paudel, District Coordinator and Mr. Tatwa P. Timsina highlighted the importance of the role of DDC and District AIDS Coordination Committee in controlling AIDS in the district.

### District HIV/AIDS Plan in Bhaktapur, Morang and Sunsari Districts

HIV/AIDS is one of the main killers in Nepal. It is said that about 61 thousands people in Nepal have symptoms of HIV/AIDS and there are 30 new HIV/AIDS affected persons daily. Every year about 3 thousands people in Nepal die of HIV/AIDS. It is said that within five years it will be the number one killer in Nepal. Realising the severity of the problem, ICA Nepal has given emphasis on contributing in the field of HIV/AIDS minimisation. Through its dynamic tools on planning and training, ICA Nepal is launching training, planning and workshop facilitation. The district plans are implemented by



the concerned organisations particularly District AIDS Coordination Committee/District Development Committee. However, it is an agreed understanding of all the concerned organisations. It aims to strengthen the role of DACC in implementing HIV/AIDS activities at the district level.

ICA Nepal's facilitators are working closely with UNDP, USAID, NCASC and District AIDS Coordination Committees to realise the millennium development goal of reversing HIV.

### **Strengthening DACC through leadership development and planning!**

I am glad that NCASC/Policy Project/ICA Nepal is focusing on strengthening District AIDS Coordination Committee through leadership development training, management and District HIV/AIDS planning. I am fortunate to participate one of the District HIV/AIDS Planning workshops facilitated by ICA Nepal's facilitators. Having worked in the DDC for several years, I had never been to such programme which was so participatory and result-oriented. In the planning workshop, each and every person could contribute. I am quite confident that the planning process popularised by ICA which is based on the Technology of Participation designed by itself and tested globally by the global facilitators team of ICA worldwide is equally applicable to our context at the district level. Started in Nepal by UNDP through international consultant Janet Sanders and UNDP's Robertson Work and ICA Nepal team is now getting popularity in Nepal.

I was fortunate to join trainer training in 2002-2003 and now am glad to support through DDC to realise this method in making district HIV/AIDS plan. Now, the district has got its own periodic plan on HIV/AIDS. All the line agencies and concerned NGOs/INGOs, individuals, families have reflected their voices in this plan. I hope this will enable us to move ahead in a coordinated way in reversing the increasing rate of HIV/AIDS in the district. The DACC has now clear 'road map' and for me this is the right way of strengthening DACC.

As the commitment made by DACC members in the workshop, the meeting of the DACC was organised and decision was made on establishing the secretariat and implementing the plan in an effective way. Thanks to Policy Project and NCASC for taking this initiative!

*M. R. Bista, Programme Officer,  
District Development Committee, Bhaktapur district.*

## Literacy Programme

Education is one of the major sectors that ICA Nepal is emphasising right from its inception. For the last 7 years, ICA Nepal conducted dozens of literacy classes ranging from 6 to 9 months in various parts of the country. At present, it is operating 22 literacy classes in four districts namely Dadeldhura, Doti, Bhaktapur and Rupandehi. In each class there are about 25 – 30 participants mostly women. Through the literacy classes, the participants will learn not only about how to read and write but leadership skills and income generating activities as well.

ICA Nepal has also introduced REFLECT method to enhance literacy among the community in some VDCs of Parbat district.

## MoE selected ICA Nepal as Partner NGO

ICA Nepal has been selected as one of the partner NGOs by the Ministry of Education (MoE) to implement 'community school support programme' in some parts of the country. In light of this the ministry organised a training in Biratnagar from May 10 – 15, 2004. Mrs. Sarala Sharma and Ms. Uma Thapa participated this training. ICA Nepal is assisting the ministry to implement the programme effectively. 'We want to introduce participatory tools and techniques to school education system', says Ms. Thapa.

## Environmental Conservation Education

ICA Nepal's team on environment and sustainable development worked with School of Environmental Management and Sustainable Development (SchEMS) to conduct training course on environmental management and also prepared training manual on Initial Environmental Examination. Two separate manuals on environmental conservation education were prepared for King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation and Worldwide Fund for Nature. Based on the manuals, the team also organised a series of training courses for the staff and teachers affiliated to these organisations.

## Teaching new and innovative learning skills to students

Bikas Neupane, a trainer on special learning conducted training on 'learning skills for school students' for about 2 months. Students from the Bal Bhakta Primary School participated in the programme. The school was established with the joint effort of local VDC and ICA Nepal. For the last five years, ICA is supporting this school by introducing innovative learning skill, providing learning materials, managing furniture and paying salary partially to the teachers. Because of this learning environment local people are encouraged to send their children to the school.

## Formation of Eco-club

ICA Nepal formed eco-clubs in 6 different schools in Dadeldhura and Doti Districts. The members of the club also participated environmental conservation education training. The eco-club is expected to popularise environmental conservation in the area particularly to improve school environment.

### Civil Society

# Empowering Nepalese Civil Society through Civil Society Index

*A joint programme of ICA Nepal and CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation*

ICA since its inception has given emphasis on strengthening civil society globally. This led ICA to be one of the active members of CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation. ICA Nepal with the technical input of CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation has been carrying out an action research on 'Civil Society Index of Nepal'. CIVICUS has defined civil society as "the arena, between family, government, and market where people voluntarily associate to advance common interests. Civil Society Index (CSI) is an action-research project that assesses the state of civil society in countries around the world, with a view to creating a knowledge base and an impetus for civil society enhancement initiatives.

It also actively involves and disseminates its findings to a broad range of stakeholders including governments, media, donors, academics and the public at large.

A primary goal of the participatory CSI approach is to empower stakeholders through the promotion of dialogue, collective learning and network-building. It helps in:

- assisting civil society in identifying and addressing its strengths, weaknesses and priorities for action.
- developing an increased understanding of the civil society arena,
- providing information about civil society's contribution to broader social change,
- generating an indigenous civil society action agenda,
- increasing capacity, ownership and readiness to carry out specific interventions by indigenous civil society actors.

The Index is designed to assess four different dimensions of civil society: (1) the structure of civil society, (2) the external environment in which civil society exists and functions, (3) the values held and advocated in the civil society arena, and (4) the impact of activities pursued by civil society actors. In order to obtain a picture of the overall state of civil society, the project assesses and scores (on a scale of 0 to 3) the four identified dimensions of civil society. Each dimension is, in turn, made up of several sub-dimensions.

**Structure:** (1) Breadth of citizen participation, (2) Depth of citizen participation, (3) Diversity within civil society, (4) Level of organisation, (5) Inter-relations, (6) Resources

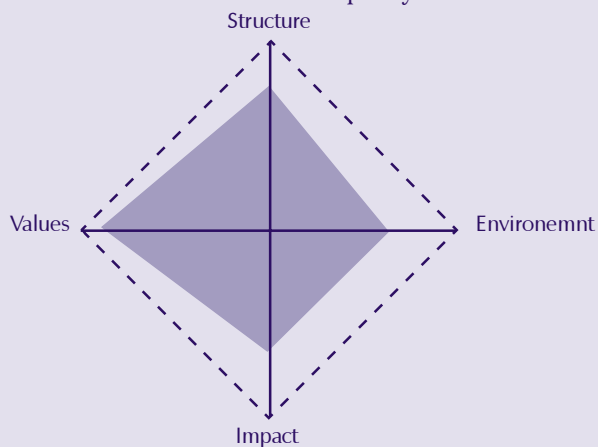
**Environment:** (1) Political context, (2) Basic freedoms & rights, (3) Socio-economic context, (4) Socio-cultural context, (5) Legal environment, (6) State-civil society relations, (7) Private sector-civil society relations

**Values:** (1) Democracy, (2) Transparency, (3) Tolerance, (4) Non-violence, (5) Gender equity, (6) Poverty eradication, (7) Environmental protection

**Impact:** (1) Influencing public policy (2) Holding state and private corporations accountable, (3) Responding to social interests, (4) Empowering citizens, (5) Meeting societal needs.

The results of the scoring exercise can be represented graphically in the form of a diamond. The scoring exercise is undertaken by a 'jury' of informed citizens. Each indicator, sub-dimension and dimension scores from 0 (most negative) to 3 (most positive). For each indicator, four universal qualitative scenarios have been developed to provide substantive meaning to these categories. Scoring is based on the available secondary information and the data gathered through primary research.

In each country, the work is carried out by a 3-membered coordinating team with the guidance of National Advisory Group. Two staff from ICA Nepal joined the training course organised by CIVICUS in Johannesburg, South Africa last year. In order to realise this project, ICA Nepal is still looking for funding support. We would appreciate support for this work. For details, you can contact Mr. Deepak Raj Chapa, Coordinator and Hemant Pokhrel or Sabita Paudel Participatory Researchers.



## EC Meeting in Brussels

In March 2004, ICA I Executive Meeting took place in Brussels, Belgium. All the members except ICA South American representative participated the week long meeting. The meeting reviewed the yearlong activities of ICAs and also discussed on forthcoming Global Conference to be held in Guatemala. The meeting also discussed the possibility of shifting the operation part of the secretariat to other parts. The matter will be discussed in detail in the Board Meeting scheduled in August 22 – 23, 2004 in Guatemala.

## Global Forum 2003 in Mexico City

Mr. Tatwa P. Timsina participated '5th Global Forum on Re-inventing Government: Innovation and Quality in the Government of the 21st Century' organised by United Nations and the Government of Mexico from November 3 to 7, 2003 in Mexico City. Inaugurated by the Mexican president, the conference was attended by about 10 000 people from most of the countries. Ms. Janet Sanders, International Consultant for UNDP and Mr. Tatwa P. Timsina jointly presented a paper on 'Innovation in Decentralised Governance and Human Development: Decentralised Transformative Leadership Approaches to HIV/AIDS in Nepal'. Mr. Robertson Work of Decentralised Governance Unit, UNDP New York coordinated the HIV/AIDS theme group in the Global Forum.

## Asian Facilitators Conference in Malaysia

Mrs. Sheela Wagle and Tatwa P. Timsina participated Asian Facilitators' Forum in Kuala Lumpur. About 100 facilitators attended the programme coming from 16 Asian and the Pacific countries. The next conference will be organised in Singapore. For details, you may contact directly to the organizers or ICA Nepal.

After the conference, a one day Continental meeting was organised. ICAs from the region including ICA Nepal discussed about the regional issues and possibility of collaboration in future.

## Training Programme in Pune

A team of 11 people from ICA Nepal participated a training course in Pune organised by ICA India. The one week long training programme also included one-day field visit. The training course entitled 'The Art of Facilitation Training Programme' conducted from March 22 to 26, 2004 was participated by 27 people. Apart from Nepal, there were participants from Bangladesh and India. In the course ToP Focused Conversation Method, Workshop Method, Participatory Strategic Planning and approaches to community development were discussed. John Hutchinson from Australia, Judy Gilles from USA, Tatwa P. Timsina from Nepal and Shankar Jadhav and Bhimrao Tupe from India took part as facilitators. Similar courses will also be organised by ICA Pune regularly. Those who are interested may directly contact ICA India or ICA Nepal for detail information. After the training programme, ICA Nepal team visited south India for about 2 weeks and enquired about local level development and NGO movement in the area.

## Participation in CIVICUS: World Assembly in Botswana

Hemant Pokhrel, Director/Project of ICA Nepal participated the World Assembly in Gabarone, Botswana held from March 21 to 24, 2004. Mr. Pokhrel also had meeting with representatives from several other national ICAs including Mr. Richard Alton from ICA USA. He also participated in the meeting organised by the CSI group and shared about Nepal's response to implement the project.

## Sheela Wagle in Sweden

ICA Nepal's board member Mrs. Sheela Wagle participated 9 day long training courses on 'Managing Future Search and Facilitating the whole system in the Room' and 'learning exchange' held in Stockholm, Sweden from May 10 - 18, 2004. While being in Sweden she also visited some local NGOs and shared about ICA Nepal and possibility of collaboration in future. The Future Search members from some part of the world will be coming to Nepal by the end of Nov. 2004 to share future search methods and experiences. ICA Nepal will be organising training in this method. For details you can contact Sheela Wagle of ICA Nepal.

## Conflict Transformation in Programme Work

A one day interaction programme on 'conflict transformation in programme work' was organised by MISEREOR on March 7, 2004 in Kathmandu. Ms. Corinna Broeckmann, Miseroer and Dr. Gunter E. Thie, Consultant for Misereor shared their views on 'peacework, crisis prevention and conflict transformation in the development cooperation of Misereor'. Representatives from the Misereor supported NGOs were present in the programme. Ms. Broeckmann also discussed about 'Misereor Nepal Programme'. ICA Nepal's Sabita Paudel and Durga Adhikari shared different approaches that ICA Nepal is undertaking in this difficult time. The programme provided a forum to share common concerns.



## ICAI Conference in Guatemala

ICA International is hosting an International conference on 'Weaving A New Society: Connecting the Local Village with the Global Village' in Antigua, Guatemala from August 15 to 21, 2004. The co-sponsors of the programme are CIVICUS, UNDP and Inter-American Foundation.

The conference has identified seven threads to meet the challenges. They are:

- Holistic lifelong learning
- logo of the brochure

### Process and Techniques of participation

- Community Youth Development
- Building Social Change
- Sustainable Economic Development
- Global HIV/AIDS Challenge
- Building a vitalised social fabric.

**Conference cost:** *Registration* – US \$ 380. Before May 30 - US \$ 330. It includes opening dinner, lunches, coffee breaks and materials. For detail info you may contact ICA Nepal or directly to ICA I or ICA Guatemala.

## NGO Support

ICA Nepal supports some of the local NGOs to carry out their activities actively in the community. ICA contributed some voluntary work to carry out facilitation and training for stakeholders and staff of Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Centre (KIRDRC) in Jumla. ICA will be implementing other training courses in future along with KIRDRC, a local NGO working to uplift the living condition of people in Jumla. In Devdaha, it supported a local youth club to carry out environmental sanitation activities by providing orientation and equipment for waste collection. ICA Nepal is carrying out some development activities in partnership with these two organisations.

## ICA Supports Teachers' Forum

After a series of training on environmental conservation education for school teachers in Sauraha, Chitwan organised by KMTNC, the participants established 'Environment Conservation Teachers Forum' to continue the work in the area. The forum is represented by all the 42 schools. An ad-hoc committee, headed by Mr. Manbodh Mahato is established to coordinate the work. The Forum has prepared one year action plan. ICA Nepal has also committed to work jointly with the team to realise the vision in the area.



## National Network of HIV/AIDS Facilitators

Among the various outputs under 10-month long leadership development programme of NCASC/UNDP/ICA, establishment of the National Network of HIV/AIDS Facilitators is one of the major ones. 23 facilitators united to form their own network with the support of ICA Nepal. The Network has five-member executive committee and Janet Sanders from Canada as the international advisor. Mrs. Janet Sanders played an active role in training and establishing the network. The Network's secretariat is now in ICA Nepal's premises. The Network aims to conduct training and public awareness campaign on HIV/AIDS. Mrs. Melina Acharya is in charge of office work. ICA Nepal has been supporting the network in its initial stage of establishment.

*ICA Nepal's board member and trainer Mrs. Dewaka Shrestha demonstrating noodle making equipment.*

## ICA Support Fund

ICA Nepal along with its well wishers has established ICA Support Fund. The objective of this fund is to generate funding locally for humanitarian support and also to carry out model micro projects. The fund will be managed by a team belonging to ICA and outsiders. The allocation of the fund will be done by the management committee and it will be independent to ICA Nepal. Specific amount as committed will be donated to the support fund in a monthly basis. The support will be provided each month or in two months which will be decided by the management committee. It is agreed that the managerial activities will be carried out by ICA Nepal. The cost will be borne by ICA Nepal.

The individuals or the organisations which will receive the support should provide a brief one page report. If it is not possible, ICA will prepare itself. Publicity of the support will be done through ICA Nepal's newsletter. NGO Support Unit of ICA Nepal is now merged to ICA Support Fund. So, the support to weak and needy NGO will be done through this fund. Anybody who is interested to support ICA through this fund may donate in person or directly through:

**Account No: Standard Chartered Bank, Kathmandu, Nepal,  
Account no. 18-0063789-01, ICA, Nepal. Swift Code:  
SCBLNPKA.**

## Empowering Conflict Victim and Deprived Women and children in Urban Area

By mobilising its own resources ICA Nepal started 'leadership development and income generation programme' for conflict victim and deprived women and children migrated from rural area. Started in April 2004, through this programme, leadership and income generation activities are organised. Training classes on sewing, knitting, weaving etc. are organised for women. A financial service association has also been established with some



revolving fund managed by ICA Nepal through which the women can get loan on nominal interest to lunch income generation activities in the urban area. The children will be enabled to go to school. Thousands of women and children are fled from their home since they could not cope with the conflict. ICA aims to empower this community through training and facilitation. The initial work of this programme is managed through the 'ICA Support Fund' provided by its members.

## Regional Project

The three ICAs i.e., ICA Nepal, ICA India and ICA Bangladesh have agreed to launch a joint programme in the north part of India and Bangladesh and south-east of Nepal. The programme contains issues such as community empowerment, HIV/AIDS, literacy, income generation with the focus on FSA and environmental improvement. The work may be carried out by applying approaches such as separate model area selection, group formation, working through local NGOs, sharing the experiences of each other and expanding the work once it is proved effective.

The concept is still in its early stage. We are jointly approaching the donors to get support for this work.

## Sub-continental meeting in Pune

In Pune, ICA Nepal, India and Bangladesh also participated in the sub-continental meeting to discuss various local issues and to explore the possibility of future collaboration. During the meeting, they also explored local blocks and ways to overcome them. The group explored common vision such as demonstrating sustainable community development, promoting exchange and networking, capacity building, expanding and strengthening ICA activities and developing strong financial base. The group identified challenges such as inadequate focus on financial planning, conflicting social norms, ineffective communication and coordination with the stakeholders and partners, inappropriate planning and ineffective implementation, insufficient skill etc.

All the three countries including Nepal prepared their annual plan based on the continental vision and challenges. ICA Nepal has planned that it will focus some work in the Learning Centre in Changu, implement lit-

eracy education at 22 sites, organise public and in-house training etc. Thanks to effective facilitation for John Hutchinson and his effort to unite the sub continent first time.

## Individual Support

Richard Alton from ICA USA is long time support for ICA Nepal. He had played an active role in establishing ICA in Nepal. Recently he donated some support to carry out activities on HIV/AIDS related activities in Nepal. ICA Nepal is planning to present its work to the HIV theme group in ICA I Global Conference in Antigua, Guatemala in August 2004. Thanks to Richard Alton for his generous support to us.

## Steve Morris and Vijaya Batra in Nepal

Two well known trainer/motivator Steve Morris (from Singapore) and Vijay Batra (India) were in Nepal to conduct training on 'Glorious Living' and 'You are born to win' respectively. ICA Nepal staff participated their training.

## New ICAN EC

ICA Nepal convened its general assembly on 28th April, 2004. Majority of the active members were present in the meeting. Apart from discussing about annual activities, budget and future programmes, the assembly also selected a 9-membered executive committee for 2 years chaired by Mr. Deepak Raj Chapa. Mr. Narayan Pradhan, Tatwa P. Timsina and Jangam Khadka are vice-chairman, secretary and treasurer respectively. The members are Mrs. Sheela Wagle, Mrs. Dewaka Shrestha, Mr. Madan R. Bista, Mr. Juju Raj Tuladhar and Mr. Durga Adhikari.

The new Chairperson Mr. Deepak Raj Chapa is affiliated to ICA Nepal for the last 5 years. He has about 35 years of work experience. Started his career as a forester, he later changed his role in the community development. He worked several years for USAID and FAO projects as senior level consultant. Mr. Chapa is also a national level trainer/facilitator and at present is also contributing UNDP, BNMT, IUCN etc. as a consultant.

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# Now the people have realised and began to understand the essence of development

## *Deepak Raj Chapa*

Mr. Chapa is the new Chairperson of ICA Nepal. Before joining ICA Nepal as the Chairman, he headed Empowerment Centre. Mr. Chapa has experience of about 35 years in the field of community development and training. We had interviewed Mr. Chapa to know more about him and his opinion regarding development and other issues. The excerpt is here.

### ***What was the reason behind changing career from forestry to community development?***

I worked as forester for about 10 years as a government employee. I was more technocrat and used to work in isolation. Later I realised that I must do something for the people for which I must change myself from technocrat to pro-public, pro-growth and pro-poor person. Then, I resigned from the government job and started working as a community development worker.

### ***How do you see Nepal's development in the last 35 years?***

We have seen ups and down in the development history of Nepal. Development was perceived as a concrete thing rather than qualitative change. Development was considered an outsiders job. Development was related to road, drinking water, health facilities only. Now the people have realised and began to understand the essence of development. Now there has been a shift in thinking that development of the poor lies in the upliftment of people.

### ***How did you become interest to ICA?***

I had participated in one of the training courses organised by ICA Nepal about 5 years ago. I was very impressed by this organisation because it was led by young people. I also came to know that ICA is working globally promoting participatory development. This

made me closer to ICA since I was always advocating for participatory development. I spent almost 75 percent of my professional life preaching about the need of participation for community development.

### ***What is your opinion regarding ICA's role in the changing context?***

ICA should now also focus on policy advocacy in favour of poor people not just only on participatory training. It should establish network with different districts of Nepal. It should also work in strengthening democratic organisation in the country so that the local bodies and political parties could enhance their capacity towards democracy.

### ***What is your vision for ICA in the coming two years?***

I would like to see ICA a well-established organisation 2 years from now. If we work hard, ICA can become a leading institution in participatory approaches of development. In two years I want to see work such as Civil Society Index, human development project etc. running in an effective way. Realising the severity of the problem, I also feel that ICA should focus on strengthening District AIDS Coordination Committee through leadership training, management and HIV/AIDS planning.

# The relationship and trust between the community and the ICA is most important

## *Naomi Sato*

Naomi Sato, Project Coordinator, ICA Japan is at present coordinating the task of community development activities in Changu Narayan. She will be here for 3 months and work along ICA Nepal staff. Ms. Sato is affiliated to ICA Japan for 3 years. Before coming to

Nepal, she was in Kenya for 7 months to work on behalf of ICA Japan in a JICA funded project. She has also worked in Cote d'Ivoire and Vietnam in the projects supported by the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, Japan and MOFA respectively. While in Nepal, apart from coordinating the work, the Changu Narayan project, she will also explore the possibility of future project in Nepal.



### ***Why are you attracted towards community development work?***

I am very much excited to the community development work because of the richness of community's knowledge and experience. Local people become fully involved in any development work once they know about the issues. Through training, they become clear about their need, problem and vision for future. I believe that once they are encouraged they can even change their customs if needed. This makes me very much absorbed in the community development works. Moreover, I am also learning from the community.

### ***What are the differences between Japan and Nepal regarding community development works?***

Japan and Nepal though have friendship for many years, both have their own uniqueness. In Nepal I have found eagerness to move ahead. We had also passed the same hurdles that Nepal has to do now. But, I feel that they are temporary. The most wealth remains within the people and in this regard Nepal is quite rich. In Nepal I found higher need of training to the community while in Japan, business demands more training. Private companies in Japan are demanding more training.

### ***What about your experience in Nepal as compared to other nations that you have worked before?***

Although I am in Nepal just for a month, my knowledge about Nepal is very little. But, I found Nepal a place of religious and spiritual hub. The living style and culture are also different here than other countries. Regarding developmental works, poor people are struggling everywhere, which I also found in Nepal.

### ***What is your opinion regarding community development in Nepal?***

I think that the relationship and trust between the community and the ICA staff (trainer) is most important. Because of its historical role in participatory development, ICA can play an active role in community development. ICA has produced so many tools and techniques which can directly be applied in the community development globally, may it be in Japan or in Nepal.

Since Nepal has a big population of rural community, development is essential in such areas where the people are poor in big number. This will be possible only through large scale community development works in which ICA can play a major role.

## Materials on sale!

ICA Nepal has published a number of posters on environment and other issues and has been widely used in awareness programme. Similarly, ICA Nepal has produced videos about its programmes and activities and on participatory NGO selection method. We have also published a number of books and manuals on training and development activities such as Proposal Writing and Fundraising Manual, Trainers Training Manual, Research Report on Micro Credit, Manual on Co-operative Building etc. Other books such as 'Prince and Merchant' published by ICA International or other ICAs can be had from ICA Nepal. For, bulk copies, order should be made at least two weeks before. Nelson Stover's poem book entitled 'The Rocks Sang Om!' is on stock. It can be ordered from ICA Nepal.

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The second meeting of the new committee reviewed the year long activities of ICA Nepal and recommended few changes. In line with the constitution, the chairman will serve as Executive Chairman and there will be three directors to coordinate three main department of ICA Nepal. Mr. Hemant Pokhrel and Mrs. Sabita Paudel were nominated as Director for Project and Research respectively. However for training, until there is new person, the work will be coordinated by the General Secretary of the Board. The meeting also requested Mr. Juju Raj Tuladhar, Mrs. Sheela Wagle and Durga Adhikari to contribute more in the field of environment, training and human development department respectively.

## upcoming

1. Training Course on Appreciative Inquiry (AI)	June 7-9
2. Training Course on Conflict Management	June 10 - 12
3. Participatory Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation	June 13 - 17
4. Training Course on Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)	June 18-22
5. Training on Time and Stress Management	June 26 - 27
6. Training on Gender & Development	June 28 - 30
7. Training of Trainers on Training and Facilitation Skills	
– Training of Trainers   July 16 - 20	
– Facilitation Skills     July 22 – 26	
8. Training Course on Project Proposal Writing & Fundraising	August 1-3

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### ICA Nepal

Min Bhavan, P. O. Box: 20771

Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: 977-1-44 72 532/20 43 024

Fax: 977-1- 4481 280

Email: [ica@icanep.wlink.com.np](mailto:ica@icanep.wlink.com.np)

Homepage: [www.icaworld.org/nepal/index.html](http://www.icaworld.org/nepal/index.html)

*For Worldwide Contact:*

### ICA International

Rue Amedee Lynen, 8

BE-1210 Brussels

Belgium

Email: [icai@linkline.be](mailto:icai@linkline.be)