

Interaction between Public Service Providers and Media held

Kathmandu, July 7-

Institute of Human Rights Communication Nepal (IHRICON) has organized an interactive program between 'Public Service Providers and Media Coalition' at Kathmandu on July 7, 2017. The interaction program especially focused on the role of media to bring out the problematic issues related to education, health, agriculture, and disaster management from the local level, and the practice of good governance from the public service providers in the problem solving process of local people in Bhaktapur and Lalitpur.



Photo: Khadak Bahadur Aslami (Magar), IHRICON

Honorable Chairperson of Administrative Court Mr. KashirajDahal, and Honorable Chief Commissioner of Information Commission Mr. Krishna HariBaskota were the Resource Persons in the program.

'We are in transitional phase in order to implement the new Act and legal provisions those have been about to finalize and implement in the local level' Mr. Dahal addressed to the media people, government officials and newly elected representatives from Bhaktapur and Lalitpur, 'constituency of the local administration offices and hierarchy of the officials and elected representatives, right and responsibilities of them will be finalized very shortly so that all confusion of transitional phase will be resolved.'

Mr. Dahal responded to several queries made by administrators and people representatives in the program.

Similarly, Mr. Baskotamade his power-point presentation on RTI and the concept of Open Government Partnership (OGP). 'All the decisions made by the authority for the general people

must be treated as the concept of OGP. There should be fifty-fifty stakes from the authority and public sectors while making the policies like Acts' elaborated by him.

'OGP will help to strengthen the relationship between state and its citizen' Mr. Baskota justified his concept. He brought several examples in order to exercise the RTI with its due process of written application quoting the legal provisions.

Addressing to the program as closing remarks, Mr. Prem Raj Ojha, Civil Society Director for Civil Society Mutual Accountability Project (CS: MAP) highlighted the need for cooperation between government service providers and media for the enhancement of good governance. To make government responsible and transparent on its services by increasing people's participation in the problem solving process in different settings and environment is the major effort of the project, mentioned him.



Photo: Khadak Bahadur Aslami (Magar), IHRICON

Interaction program was divided into two thematic aspects as governmental provisions in the local offices and Right to Information. The first session was facilitated by Dahal and second by Baskota. Both of them took two hours of time each for elaborating their respective themes.

In the beginning of the program, Mr. Kapil Kafle, Executive Director gave his opening remarks to welcome all the invitees and highlighted the objectives of the program. He emphasized the role of mass media in strengthening local government institutions. He said that outstanding characteristics of mass media should include immediacy of news, consistency and continuity of information, ability to interpret issues and creating public sphere. According to him, mainstream news media at national level, regional media and local media at the grassroots level can provide public space for negating issues relating to local government institutions. He urged with media personals that they should interpret and investigate issues about which people need more than the basic facts. Media can contribute for making of a social space where people can make their voice heard, senior journalist Kafle added.

With the presence of more than 40 participants, about 30 journalists representing from different national, regional and local media houses, and 10 administrators and people representatives participated to the program. Government offices like District Coordination Committee, District Education Office, District Agriculture Office, and the newly-elected people's representatives from both Bhaktapur and Lalitpur districts shared their views, suggestions and recommendations in the interaction program.