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PRAN's Announcements

PRAN, together with the Government of Nepal, successfully organized a Multi– stakeholder Knowledge Forum on 10 and 11 September. The Forum brought together over hundred participants to engage, discuss and present their views on issues related to social accountability on citizen engagement.

We are also pleased to showcase a video based on the progress and achievements of PRAN that was shared at the Forum opening.

Highlighting the Role of Civic Engagement through the Multi-stakeholder Forum

September 10 and 11 saw over hundred representatives from civil society organizations (CSOs), government agencies and development partners gather in Kathmandu to promote citizen engagement for social accountability in Nepal.

Organized by the Program for Accountability in Nepal (PRAN) together with the Government of Nepal, the objective of the **Multi-stakeholder Knowledge Forum: Promoting Citizen Engagement in Nepal** was to further enhance its mission on accountability. The World Bank and its development partners have been supporting the Program for Accountability in Nepal (PRAN) for the last four years to promote and implement social accountability (SA) initiatives through practical training, action learning and networking.

The Forum reflected lessons that have been learnt together and the experiences gathered so far. Speaking at the event, World Bank Nepal Country Director Johannes Zutt said: *"Nepal has achieved considerable progress in recent years, despite a challenging environment. In particular, Nepal is gradually strengthening its institutions and introducing greater openness and transparency. Recently, the Government of Nepal has focused on embedding social accountability mechanisms within government operations to ensure the effective and inclusive delivery of services to citizens, especially in the more remote districts and at the local level."*

Johannes Zutt, World Bank Nepal Country Director speaking at the Forum

The Forum discussed on various topics of Social Accountability starting from the first panel **Opening the Civic Space in Nepal** moderated by Dr. Govinda Pokharel, Vice-Chair of National Planning Commission (NPC).

Other panels to follow on the day were - The PRAN Experience: Results in Promoting SA in Service Delivery *(contd...)*

Highlighting the Role of Civic Engagement through Multi-stakeholder Forum *(Contd...)*

and PFM moderated by Mr. Keshava Koirala, Country Representative of Center for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI); Experience Institutionalizing SA in Local Government moderated by Ms. Bimala Paudyal Rai, Member of the National Planning Commission (NPC) and Constructive Engagement between CSOs and Accountability Institutions moderated by Mr. Bigyan B. Pradhan, Sr. Operations Officer at World Bank Nepal.

"PRAN has been influential in uplifting the lives of the marginalized and vulnerable and it can have a really impactful role in the future as well. It is good to see that the World Bank, alongside its projects on infrastructure, hasn't forgotten about social accountability," said Mr. Madhu Kumar Marasini, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance. He added: "*As a result of different initiatives aimed at promoting social accountability, often supported by international organizations and local CSOs, the Government is in the process of recognizing that sustainable improvements in governance require systemic changes and collaboration from all the stakeholders.*"

On the second day, two panel discussions took place - Linking Local Government and Local Service Delivery in Nepal moderated Dr. Hiramani Ghimire, Executive Director of SAWTEE and Innovations in Social Accountability moderated by Mr. Bibhusan Bista, CEO of Young Innovations.

A presentation on Local Service Delivery by Charles Undeland, Sr. Governance Specialist at the World Bank impressed the participants. The presentation outlined the details of Nepal's local governance structure as well as the scopes and challenges of local bodies in improving the local service delivery throughout the country.

The event came to a close with remarks from Takuya Kamata, World Bank Nepal's Country Manager, who spoke about the role of civic engagement with relevant examples from China and Mongolia.

The event also included a social accountability "Knowledge Fair", highlighting results from existing social accountability initiatives in Nepal.

Dr. Chandra Mani Adhikari, Member of the National Planning Commission (NPC), also highlighted the importance of social accountability and the government's commitment to improving the social accountability.

http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2014/09/10/multi-stakeholder-knowledge-forum-highlights-the-role-of-civic-engagement-for-social-accountability

Social Accountability Matters: PRAN Video Available Online

PRAN has recently produced a video with voices of people at the local level who have benefitted from the program. It shows how, through the use of various social accountability tools, PRAN has been working to make the citizens aware about their local VDC budgets and individual entitlements to improve Public Financial Management (PFM).

The video also shows that only when the socially marginalized and the vulnerable sections of the community get their rightful voice, are they able to demand for better public service delivery.

Filmed in Kapilvastu district and screened at the Multi–stakeholder forum, the six minute video shows that change can be brought forward through local level interventions in remote villages and districts of Nepal.

You can access the video online through this link:

http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/video/2014/09/17/social-accountability-matters

Social Accountability Matters

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