

Projects Implemented by Outreach Unit, CPA from 2008-2012

- **Power Sharing and the 13th Amendment-Inter University Debate /Donor USAID/DAI-OTI
Project Duration (03/06/2008-05/15/2008)**

The Inter University Debate Series successfully carried out from 2005-2010 gave CPA a rare and worthwhile opportunity to work closely with the University system of Sri Lanka and a chance for continued collaboration with leading academics and policy makers, as well as meaningful influence on syllabi formulation, with resulting ripple effects.

This project involved interaction with Lecturers and university students, intellectuals and the interested public, and encouraged the participation of young academics, who are the future decision makers, in open debate in the selected subject areas. The objectives are to provide a forum for discussion on possible alternatives leading to a sustainable peace in Sri Lanka.

In 2006 The debate series drew the participation of students of *Sociology, Political Science, Economics and Mass Communications*.

CPA believes that this is an important step in ensuring that future policy makers of Sri Lanka are sensitized to values of democracy, human rights and tolerance of diversity. In 2007 a debate series was held on *Democracy and Good Governance*. The next series, held in 2008 was on the subject of *Power Sharing and the 13th Amendment*

- **Devolution and the 13th amendment –The Provincial Council Perspective /USAID-OTI/DAI,
(03/06/2008-15/05/2008)**

Outreach Unit worked on two parallel programmes on the theme of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, Provincial Councils and Devolution of Power, during the period March-May 2008. This programme was supported by Development Alternatives Inc through USAID. A preliminary round of One Day Regional Meetings was held at each of the Provincial Council auditoriums with the attendance of the Chairman, Chief Ministers, Provincial Ministers, Chief Secretaries and when possible of the Governor, with the purpose of outlining the concept of this programme, garnering support and participation of Provincial Council officials, and clarifying logistics for the proposed residential workshops. Participant suggestions were gathered on the areas to be addressed at the planned workshops. This was followed by a series of in depth Three Day Regional Workshops on Strengthening the Provincial Council Process.

The residential workshops collected and documented suggestions and experiences, success stories and challenges faced by participant Provincial Council personnel which would contribute to a final set of recommendations towards Provincial Council Reform.

The final report based on a set of recommendations reached at these workshops were published and presented to all concerned at the [National Conference](#)¹ on Provincial Councils held at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference hall (BMICH) on the 28th May 2008.

- **Workshop on Local Governance for Representatives of Urban Council Kinniya-, People in Need**
Outreach Unit provided training on behalf of People in Need(PIN) in partnership with German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) for participants from Kinnya Pradeshya Sabha and Urban Council.
- **A Publication on Devolution within the Unitary State/ Donor Friedrich Naumann Stiftung(FNF) (Duration 01/08/2010-30/11/2010) Power Devolution in the Eastern Province/ Study of the Eastern provincial Council, 2009-2010**

From late 2009 to mid 2010 With the support of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF), a Comprehensive study was carried out on the thirteenth amendment and power devolution in Sri Lanka, with special reference to the experience of the newly elected Eastern Provincial Council. This study analysed, with quantitative & qualitative illustrations, the legal and the constitutional implications of the thirteenth amendment and its effect as seen in the case of the Eastern provincial council. In addition the study also presented opinions and perspectives on the functioning of the provincial council gathered first-hand among the general public as well as from newly elected provincial councillors and officials in the Eastern provincial council. This study effectively summarises the unique challenges and complexities of developing and restructuring the eastern provincial council system within a post - war setting.

150 Government officers working under the Provincial Public Service Commission were interviewed and 72 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) (24 per District) were carried out by the Outreach Team for this particular programme. Additionally 30 Provincial Councillors including members of the Board of Ministers, out of 36 provincial councillors of EPC and key officers of the EPC including Secretaries of the ministries, were consulted. A trilingual publication was launched in two parts on 21st September 2010

Part I, titled Devolution within the Unitary State: A Constitutional Assessment of the Thirteenth Amendment - a legal and constitutional assessment of the structural framework of the Thirteenth Amendment and its animating practices through a focus on the concrete experience of the Eastern Provincial Council. It is a textual consideration of the applicable laws and constitutional provisions, and their judicial and administrative interpretation over time, as well as a political appraisal of practices and patterns of behaviour of the relevant institutional actors. This analysis constitutes the basis for certain recommendations for changes in the statutory

¹ <http://federalidea.com/focus/archives/462>

framework and administrative practice so as to enhance devolution within the parameters of the Thirteenth Amendment.

Part II of the study, entitled Assessment of a Newly Elected Council at Work: A Top Line Survey, is an examination using a combination of survey methods, of perceptions and attitudes to the structures and practices of devolution on the part of elected and administrative officials of the Eastern Provincial Council, and the general public of the Eastern Province Respondents were asked questions on democracy, function of the newly elected provincial council, reconciliation and the post war situation in addition to questions on provincial councils, land issues and minorities. The survey was conducted in the districts of Ampara, Batticaloa and Trincomalee .

On 21st September 2010 the launch of the publication: Devolution in the Eastern Province: Implementation of the Thirteenth Amendment & Public Perceptions,2008-2010 was held at Chaaya Blue hotel in Trincomalee. Participants included Civil Society and political party representatives , Religious and political leaders, staff of INGOs operating in the Eastern Province, Provincial Councilors including some of Ministers of the Council and academics. The event presented specific lectures under various themes. Mr.Rohan Edrisinha delivered a speech titled “A critique on the 13th Amendment to the constitution. “ while Mr.Thamil Maran spoken on “the 13th Amendment and the PC system” and SG Punchihewa discussed how power was concentrated. A number of short speeches were given by Hon.Navaratnarajah and Hon.Ariyawathie Galappaththi, Minister of Agriculture and Deputy Council Chairman of the EPC, respectively. Dr.P.Saravanamuttu, ED CPA and Mrs.Sagarika Delgoda, Country representative of FNSt, too gave speeches at the event.

- **Rural Education Assistant Programme, Donor Sahaya Foundation (USA)**
(Duration 05/09/2009-2012)

The Rural Education Assistant programme was funded by Sahaya Foundation USA, towards assisting in the provision of equitable access to education for some of the poorest children of Sri Lanka, the children of Estate workers in plantation sectors. Administered by its local partner the Centre for Policy Alternatives this programme provides small scale scholarships taking in to account students performance in the face of very difficult circumstances.

A number of schools which had been involved with CPA in the previous inter community exchange programme 2006/7 were selected. The Scholarship recipient nominated by the principal and Advanced level teachers on the specific subjects currently followed by students, in each school, were interviewed following which representatives of CPA visited their homes, researched their family back ground, and further assessed their suitability. This programme comprised two phases and continued to 2011.

- **Facilitating Effective Statute Making in Provincial Councils Duration (31/12/2010-01/05/2010)**

CPA worked towards facilitating effective Statute formulation in the Provincial Councils of Sri Lanka in a programme carried out in the latter half of 2010. After extensive background research was carried out using data sourced from Provincial Council Statutes around the island, a number of workshops were held in selected areas, to analysis the current statute formation process within each PC. This was done collaboratively with the feedback of PC members and officials and other relevant stakeholders.

Due to the lack of necessary legislation for freedom of information etc in Sri Lanka, reaching certain PC members and officials, and getting the necessary info and data and feedback, was quite difficult and challenging at times.

Nevertheless for the most part, once the benefits of this exercise was explained to them, the participants were very motivated towards the main aim of facilitating the creation of necessary Statutes for the Provincial Councils in the subject areas coming under their purview.

Feedback, and findings from this island wide series of meetings went towards the production of a most comprehensive, in-depth and detailed study carried out on the subject of statute formation within PCs to date . This analysis is unique in that it includes the opinions, thoughts, and feedback received from PC members and officials. The programme broadly aimed to contribute towards the strengthening of the PC system and devolution of democratic power within Sri Lanka

- **The Role of the Media in Local Governance/ Donor the Asia Foundation Duration (01/06/2009-31/04/2009)**

Outreach-CPA was commissioned by the Asia Foundation (TAF) to conduct a study program to assess the Role of Media in Local Governance, which programme was implemented with local Authorities and the participation of Provincial journalists islandwide. This consisted of 3 actions– a Literature review, an island wide provincial workshop series with Local Authority representatives including the Chairman/Deputy Chairman & Secretaries of LAs, Provincial Journalists and CBO leaders, and an interview series with relevant key responsible officers. The main 6 workshops were conducted in selected provinces and over 192 provincial journalists participated. The Outcome of the programme was a set of recommendations and observations regarding problems and challenges Local authorities face resulting from the lack of an effective relationship with media. Importantly Local Authorities personnel understood that sustaining good communication with Provincial Journalists was required for their work to be effectively presented to the general public.

- **Trilingual publication on Power Sharing and Good Governance Donor Berghof Foundation for Conflict Studies (Sri Lanka office) (Duration 01/06/2008-31/July/2008)**
- **2010 Sama Vimarshia & Samadana Nookku Publications (Peace Monitor-Sinhala & Tamil Languages)** Core Funding used

Since 2002 CPA has published a trilingual periodical titled Peace Monitor with the aims of facilitating reconciliation, monitoring the human rights situation, and studying the dialogue relating to the APRC process, devolution among others. Outreach Unit published the latest Sinhala and Tamil issues of this series, covering the main two National Elections namely the Presidential and General elections, titled The 26th January 2010 Presidential Elections and the Future of Sri Lanka.

3500 copies from both languages were printed and dispatched among CPA's main contact list including public libraries of Sri Lanka, selected religious institutions, higher education institutions, libraries including all national universities, academics, social activists, and interested individuals. A link to the E version was uploaded and emailed to more than 8000 on our contact list including numbers of diaspora and election monitors who worked under CMEV. Numerous references were made in National media eg Ravaya, to items extracted from this publication.

- **Marginalized Communities in Sri Lanka's Periphery-A Study Donor Netherlands Embassy (01/12/2010-31/05/2011)**

2010- 2011 The objective of this project is to conduct a field study for the purpose of raising awareness on the problems and concerns of marginalized/vulnerable communities/groups to be then communicated through a newspaper article series appearing in the mainstream media.

As part of this project, which was implemented with the Minority Rights Group, CPA conducted research into the living conditions and human rights situation of selected minority groups from diverse regions of the country.

Resulting content fed into a series of articles on thematic issues affecting minorities. The aim of this segment of the programme of 13 articles in leading local newspapers. From 22nd July to end of December 2011 the Outreach team visited eight different areas including Jaffna and Panama and met many of marginalized / vulnerable groups including Telegu speaking peoples, Traditional Pottery Communities, Kaffir peoples, Rubber Tapping Labourors and street children.

13 articles were subsequently published in mainstream Sinhala weekend newspapers (Sunday Divaina & Lankadeepa). It was the first time that a series of articles on issues regarding vulnerable /marginalized communities in Sri Lanka was published in these newspapers. These two newspapers reach a combined audience of more than 8 million readers island -wide.

Translation of the articles was also initiated to further disseminate this research to CPA's on line contacts through a website PeoplesRights.lk.

- **Awareness Building on Good Governance Donor World Vision Lanka(Guarantee)Limited Duration 01/05/2011- 31/10/2011/** This is a consultative services agreement

During 2011 CPA worked in partnership with World Vision, to build awareness on the importance of good governance, among Grama Niladari's . Other participants included principals of secondary schools, Elected Representative of Local Authorities, Divisional Secretariat officers and other officials in a number of local authorities across the island. The CPA Outreach team visited areas as diverse as Monaragala, Hambantota, Nuwara Eliya, and Badulla among other locations, to facilitate this series of workshops with Grama Niladaris and with Divisional Secretariat officers. Topics covered at sessions included the role of Good Governance in Rural Development in Sri Lanka, functions of the GN, the legal aspects of GN service, problems faced by GN in their work, and ways of obtaining support from the Government.

Resource persons speaking at the workshops included Mr S.G. Punchiwewa, Attorney at Law and Human Rights activist, and Lionel Guruge Co ordinator of Outreach Unit.

- **Promoting Language Rights of Minorities -Phase One Duration 1/7/2011-30/04/2012**

The failure to enforce provisions of the Official Languages Act and language provisions of the Constitution of Sri Lanka has led to injustice and discrimination of Tamil speaking peoples and is at the core of the grievances that make up the ethnic conflict. Post war, these instances of injustice continue as for example with administrative procedures being carried out in Sinhala only in areas designated as bilingual, and people having to receive and sign police complaints, legal and administrative documents in a language they do not understand, and public notices being only in one language. CPA initiated a programme to address violations of Language Rights in Sri Lanka, by creating awareness of language issues, and promoting the rights of people to transact with the State in their own language, lodging almost two dozen complaints with the Official Languages Commission and the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, respectively, as well as two FR cases which led to a number of positive changes in the relevant areas.

Initiated in July 2011, this project broadly aims to secure fundamental rights of minorities with focus on language rights in Sri Lanka. Recognizing that the attention of civil society actors is inadequate in this area, the project aims at increasing awareness and discussion of such issues as the lack of official documentation, lack of translations of institutional display such as name boards and the absence of Public Interest Litigations to form recognized precedent on language rights.

In its initial stages information was gathered on the language problems faced by communities living in the bilingual DS areas visited, in their routine dealings with government institutions, transport services and the police stations etc. The project then assisted to set up a number of broad based bilingual community groups mandated to lobby with government institutions to promote and protect the language rights of minorities (“Language Societies”). Other activities were to create public debate and awareness through such means as media meetings, trilingual newsletters and a booklet on Language Rights.

Another significant output of the programme was the filing of 2 Fundamental Rights cases with the Supreme Court and the lodging of no less than 20 complaints each with the Official Languages Commission & Human Rights Commission respectively on diverse matters ranging from pharmaceutical labels to Railway Station public notices. A number of significant successes are on record resulting from these complaints, including the assurance given by the Railways Department that bilingual notices will be arranged forthwith, and commitment by a number of Local Authorities to ensure that street signs are included in both languages. A number of Police Stations also agreed that facility will be made for complaints to be submitted in the Tamil Language. The Police Station which gave that undertaking are Batticalo, Vavuniya, Thincomalee, Ampara and Mannar.

Other notable milestones include 3 awareness workshops held for Journalists from 5 districts, a Public Seminar held marking Human Rights day with the participation of Ministers, the Deputy Commissioner of Languages, MPs, Academics, members of the public, journalists and other stakeholders, 2 issues (2300 copies) of the bi monthly newsletter being printed and oversubscribed, and the distribution of 2000 copies of the booklet “Language and Humanity” in Tamil and Sinhala. Some Social Activists and the Local Journalists came out with the suggestion that a hand book should be developed from this basic document and for that it has to be enriched with the contents of internationally recognized institutional documents.

- **Promoting Language Rights of Minorities – Phase Two 1/6/2012-30/04/2013**

Following on the success of the initial phase of this project, phase two expands its reach over a wider geographical area, with the aim of setting up another 60 Language Societies further building the capacity of their leaders, of promoting more awareness among government officials as well as among provincial journalists and the private sector in these areas. More cases are planned for submission to the OLC , HRC and the Supreme Court in the event of glaring and repeat issues.

The project will also add to the existing literature on Language Rights, commission articles in mainstream press to spread awareness on this subject, monitor the situation in this regard on a regular basis and also ultimately co-ordinate a meaningful and positive contribution towards the Ten Year National Action Plan for a Trilingual Sri Lanka by 2020, in line with the relevant provisions of the Constitution of Sri Lanka, the Official Languages Commission and the recently issued LLRC recommendations.

To date some achievements include the establishment of 200 language societies on the ground, the building of capacity of their office bearers to recognize and address regional issues of language rights, to strengthen communication networks with the private and state sector and with journalists towards initiating change on the ground and promoting awareness respectively, and to bring the more intractable cases to the attention of CPA in order to initiate the seeking of legal recourse.

As a result of more than 40 submissions to the Official Languages Commission, the Human Rights Commission and the Supreme Court, a number of negotiations have commenced resulting in:

- A Central Bank directive to ensure language equality in the printing of Currency notes
- A Ministry of Health circular making it mandatory for all pharmaceuticals to carry instructions in all three languages from January 2013
- Police Stations in Bilingual areas of the North and East will henceforth recruit three (3) officers per station capable of taking down police complaints in Tamil, as agreed by the Police Legal Department representative. 100 such bilingual officers are currently in training.
- Tamil Language copies of the Land Circular will be issued within the next 3 months, as promised by the Land Ministry and Languages Ministry jointly in response to CPA's submission that these official documents were not available in translation

Research is currently underway to formulate cases for submission regarding 1) The Education Ministry regarding School Signboards Island wide, the 2) Consumer Affairs Authority on the subject of labeling and documentation in products and services and 3) State and Private sector financial institutions regarding the provision of Contract forms in all three languages.

- **Citizen Dialogue on the LLRC – 1/8/2012- 31/12/2012 Multiple Donors**

Firmly believing that civil society has an important and constructive contribution to make to the conflict transformation process in Sri Lanka, the Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA) is working to promote a democratic dialogue at community level on the contents and recommendations of the LLRC report (and the resulting Action Plan) and to channel resulting opinion into a national discourse on implementing the LLRC, while increasing overall awareness of the LLRC report, among the public at large.

As part of this programme initiated by CPA, concise reader friendly resource materials on LLRC were prepared for wider dissemination in Sinhala and Tamil to various segments of society. These include the ***Guidebook on the LLRC Report***, which translates and simplifies the original report, and the Saama Vimarshi (Peace Monitor) publication on the LLRC. CPA also directly translated the Chapter on Recommendations as well as the Action Plan, which latter has to date, not been officially translated.

In order to reach out to the public at large CPA is working with district level CSOs; 48 trainers from an equal number of district organisations were trained to conduct awareness sessions on LLRC in their respective districts within the current quarter. A thousand such sessions are targeted which will reach at least 30,000 individuals.

Dialogue at the local level will feed into an action oriented comprehensive report on implementing the recommendations of LLRC which will be shared with key actors at the national level at the end of the two months.

The project also proposes to conduct interviews with a number of the witnesses who went before the LLRC hearings, to compose their feedback and expectations on implementing the recommendations. A report will be issued on this research.

Finally this project also plans to conduct district level dialogues in an identified 15 districts to formulate proposals for national dialogues, in which case trainers input and participation will be expected.

Outreach Unit Publications 2008- 2012

- **Dr Devanesnan Nessim: Tamil Language Rights in Sri Lanka (English, Sinhala and Tamil versions)**
- **S.G.Punchihewa: Language and Humanity (English, Sinhala and Tamil versions)**
- **S.G. Punchihewa: Good Governance(Sinhala and Tamil versions)**
- **M.Gajanayake: A Study of Marginalized Societies in Sri Lanka (English, Sinhala and Tamil versions)**
- **Vibhasha Newsletter Issues 1-4 (English, Sinhala and Tamil versions)**
- **Facilitating Effective Statute formulation in Provincial Councils in Sri Lanka (English, Sinhala and Tamil versions)**

- **Study of the Eastern Provincial Council (English, Sinhala and Tamil versions)**
- **Devolution in the Eastern Province Implementation of the 13th Amendment and Public Perceptions 2008-2010**
- **Strengthening the Provincial Council System –Thematic Report on Workshop Deliberations**
- **Booklets on Local Governance -Local Governance; Regional Government & Roles and Responsibilities of their Representatives; Local Government Institutions; Regional Governance, Aims, Origin and Procedures; Local Governance and your right to information**
- **Guidebook to the LLRC – Tamil and Sinhala versions. Find E Copies at the below links:**

LLRC Guidebook Sinhala

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/102731297/Handbook-on-the-Lessons-Learnt-and-Reconciliation-Commission-LLRC-in-Sinhala>

LLRC Guidebook Tamil

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/104147918/Handbook-on-the-Lessons-Learnt-and-Reconciliation-Commission-LLRC-in-Tamil>

- **Sama Vimarshi**, the longest running periodical publication analyzing the Peace Process, Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation, in Sri Lanka . Find the latest issue here;

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/104509894/Saama-Vimarshi-September-2012>

All above publications are available in Electronic versions, please enquire from publications@cpalanka.org or lionel@cpalanka.org

Summary of Projects Implemented by Outreach Unit, CPA , 2005-2012

- **Awareness Raising on Federalism 2005-6**
- **Documentary on the Ethnic Conflict 2006**
- **Inter Community Student Exchange Series 2006**
- **Inter University Debate Series 2006-7**
- **Transparent Accountable Local Governance Programme 2007**
- **Power Sharing and the 13th Amendment-Inter University Debate /Donor USAID/DAI-OTI Project Duration (03/06/2008-05/15/2008)**
- **Devolution and the 13th amendment –The Provincial Council Perspective /USAID-OTI/DAI, (03/06/2008-15/05/2008)**

- Workshop on Local Governance for Representatives of Urban Council Kinniya-, People in Need (PIN)
- **A Publication on Devolution within the Unitary State/** Donor Friedrich Naumann Stiftung(FNF) (Duration 01/08/2010-30/11/2010) Power Devolution in the Eastern Province/ Study of the Eastern provincial Council, 2009-2010
- Rural Education Assistance Programme, Donor Sahaya Foundation (USA) (Duration 05/09/2009-2012)
- **Facilitating Effective Statute Making in Provincial Councils** Duration (31/12/2010-01/05/2010)
- **The Role of the Media in Local Governance/** Donor the Asia Foundation Duration (01/06/2009-31/04/2009)
- Trilingual publication on **Power Sharing and Good Governance** Donor Berghof Foundation for Conflict Studies (Sri Lanka office) (Duration 01/06/2008-31/July/2008)
- **2010 Sama Vimarshia** & Samadana Nokku Publications (Peace Monitor-Sinhala & Tamil Languages)
- **Marginalized Communities in Sri Lanka's Periphery-A Study** Donor Netherlands Embassy (01/12/2010-31/05/2011)
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- Promoting **Language Rights of Minorities** –Phase One Duration 1/7/2011- 30/04/2012
- Promoting **Language Rights of Minorities** – Phase Two 1/6/2012-15/04/2013
- **Citizen Dialogue on the LLRC** – Multiple Donors 1/8/2012- 31/12/2012