

event REPORT

Awareness Raising Workshop for Newly Elected Local Authority Leaders in Jaffna & Killinochchi 4th-5th Nov 2011



Jaffna Nov 2011
P Sanjeewan, Chairman of Point Pedro PS, Sri Lanka's youngest PS Chairman, with another of the youngest PS members.

Scoping Visit

Prior to this from 9th-10th Oct, the GACP team made a scoping visit to Jaffna district to meet stakeholders for the proposed raising workshop on Local Governance for the Local Authority Leaders of Jaffna and Killinochchi districts. The objective of this visit was discuss matters with the local support organization which is facilitating the event in Jaffna, Cinthani Koodam (Thinkers Circle) and to observe the functioning of Local Authorities which started work with newly elected political representatives for both districts. Sriyanie Wijesundara and Manjula Gajanayake represented CPA while Vimal Fernando, and Sampath Pushpakumara represented the Movement for Free and Fair Elections (MFFE). The group also met some Civil Society Organizations and Religious Leaders in the area and an important outcome was collaboration between southern CSOs with those operating in the North and consensus on working together towards Human Rights and Good Governance.

Governance and Anti Corruption Programme of CPA recently organized an Awareness Raising Workshop for Newly Elected Local Authority Leaders in Jaffna and Killinochchi. This event is one of a 45 series of similar themed event held under the Affiliated Network for Social Accountability (ANSA) supported Programme on Improving Transparency and Accountability through Participatory Budgeting in Pradeshiya Sabhas in Sri Lanka. This particular workshop was most notable in that while awareness raising was custom tailored based on requests made by the newly elected LA leaders of these two areas of the post conflict North, this was the first time that such an event had been held in the North, following the re establishment of the Local Authorities in that region; also noteworthy was that it was presented through the joint collaboration of three civil society organisations namely CPA, and the umbrella organisations Cinthani Koodam ("Thinkers Circle") and Movement for Free and Fair Elections (MFFE) who co ordinate large networks of regional CSOs.

Among the participants attending this 2 day workshop were 19 each of Jaffna (16) and Killinochchi (3) Local Authority chairmen and opposition leaders, representatives from many of the networked civil society organisations involved and a number of other local stakeholders. Thus all the local authorities except the Jaffna MC were present in one forum.



Jaffna, Nov 2011
Right to left-Mr. S. Rangarajah, Former Chief Secretary, North Eastern Province, and Former Secretary to the Hon. Governor of the Northern Province, Prof. S.K. Sittrampalam, University of Jaffna, Dr. P. Saravanamuttu and Sudarshana Gunawardene Attorney-At-Law, Executive Director, Rights Now.. Commissioner Jaffna MC Mr Saravanabhava was also on the resource panel.

Workshop sessions included explanation of the roles and responsibilities of LG

-pto-



Sudaroli, Nov 5th
DAN TV Nov 5th Main News

“There were a number of instances where labourers and others stormed the buildings and said, “you are cheating us, this is our money, this is how the money should be spent, we are going to monitor because this is our money.” They push and push and finally force governments to account for the right to information. Now that is an example of where you have pressure from the local government.”-

an excerpt from Dr Saravanamuttu's speech describing the Indian experience

Workshop

Resources Distributed:

***554/5-1989 April 17th Monday Rules Related to LGAs (218 in all)**

***Role & Responsibility of Public Servants, Taxpayers and Local Authorities**

*** Pradeshya Sabha Act No 15/ 1987 (Tamil Language)**

***Urban Council Ordinance (English Language)**

authorities and representatives, clarification of the Budget process in Local Authorities, emphasis of the importance of promoting peoples participation in Local Authorities and effective resource utilization in the development process , a presentation on “*Local Government as a Progressive Partner of the Development Process*” and an outline of the Electoral Process in Sri Lanka

As requested at the onset by stakeholders attending, the main themes underlying the workshop series were the sharing of Best Practices from other LAs, access to information and resources useful to participants, and practical guidance on the application of laws related to Local Authority Institutions and day to day running of same. Just one example of the practical outcomes of the workshop, which were received very enthusiastically by the participants ,is the Tamil Language Pradeshya Sabha act No 15/ 1987 and Urban Council Ordinance, which could not be recovered from sources anywhere in SriLanka and were not even available at the Publication Bureau, but was obtained from a private source and printed and disseminated to all attendees.

*Jaffna, Nov 2011
Local Authority Leaders from Jaffna and Killinochchi Districts*



Q&A

Some of the interesting questions from the Open Discussion Rounds included

- *What is the nature of Jana Sabhas (Peoples Councils), how will the local Government system be effected by their establishment?*
- *In Delft and Kayts areas in the last election canvassing was not allowed, will this happen in the next election too, and how can your organisations help us safeguard our rights to campaign?*
- *Referring to the plan to reduce 3 seats in the Jaffna District , how can this happen? What are the given justifications ?*

Finally participants kindly requested that a similar workshop be conducted tailor made for Pradeshya Sabhas and their officials.

**for more details contact
the Governance and
Anti Corruption
Programme
+94-113-030461-2**

*Sriyanie Wijesundera Co ordinator,
GACP speaking to attendees*

