

Regional Forum of Ministers of Social Development from South Asia

Second Ministerial Meeting 5 – 6 March 2008, New Delhi, India

Transparency, Right to Information and Social Development

Co-organizers: Ministry of Human Resource Development (GOI), Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO, Indian Council of Social Sciences Research (ICSSR), UNESCO Delhi Office – UNESCO Headquarters – SHS

DRAFT WORKING AGENDA 14/02/2008

Day 1: 5 March 2008

9.00 – 9.15: Official Opening

Parting remarks from outgoing Chair
Passing over of Chair
Welcome address by H.E. Mr. Arjun Singh, Minister of Human Resource Development

9.15 – 11.15: Ministerial Session: The Regional Forum of Ministers of Social Development and the Social Science Research - Policy Linkage: a UNESCO – MOST initiative

- Opening statement by Mr Pierre Sané, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences
- General Presentation by Mr Gonzalo Abad-Ortiz, Senior Advisor
- Presentation by H.E. Mr Skweyiya's, Minister of Social Development of South Africa, and President of the Management of Social Transformation - MOST Programme
 - Background paper: “From Research to Policy to Action” – MOST
- Presentation by Prof. André Béteille, Chairperson of the Indian Council of Social Sciences Research (ICSSR) – To be confirmed
 - Background paper: “The Social Sciences in India and the Research Policy linkage” (ICSSR)

Discussion

11.15 – 11.30: tea/coffee break

11.30 – 1.00: Ministerial Session: Transparency, Right to Information and Social Development - Country Presentations (10 mn each)

- India (Chair) – Dr. Syeda Saiyidain Hameed, Member, Planning Commission (Convenience to be confirmed)
- Afghanistan
- Bangladesh
- Bhutan
- Maldives
- Nepal
- Pakistan
- Sri Lanka
- Observer: Brunei Darussalam on a proposed Regional Forum of Ministers of Social Development from South East Asia

1.00 – 2.30: Lunch break

2.30 – 4.00: Open Session: From Research to Policy: Itinerary of an Indian Piece of Legislation, the Right to Information Act (RTI 2005)

- Presentations by the Panelists -
 - 3 Background papers/presentations: from the panelists –
 - 1) Ms. Aruna Roy, Magasasay Award Winner and Right to Information Activist
 - 2) Mr. Wajahat Habibullah, Chief Information Commissioner
 - 3) Prof. Shekhar Singh, Director, Samay Centre for Equity Studies, New Delhi

Discussion

4.00: tea/coffee break

4.15 – 5.45: Open Session: From Research to Policy: Itinerary of an Indian Piece of Legislation, the Right to Information Act (RTI 2005)

Discussion (continuation)

7.00: Welcome reception and official dinner

Day 2: 6 March 2008

8.00-11.00: Field Visit: The Bhagidari Experience

Visit to Projects initiated by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi under citizenship-Government partnership by the Munirka Vihar Welfare Association, New Delhi

11.00 – 1.00: Ministerial Session: Regional Forum of Ministers of Social Development from South Asia: The Way Forward

- Horizontal Cooperation: Identification of Practical Projects
- The New Delhi Declaration
- Third Ministerial Meeting: Topic and Place?

1.00 – 2.30: lunch break

2.30 – 3.45: Ministerial Session: Regional Forum of Ministers of Social Development from South Asia: The Way Forward

- Horizontal Cooperation: Identification of Practical Projects
- The New Delhi Declaration
- Third Ministerial Meeting: Topic and Place?

3.45 – 4.00: Tea/coffee break

4.00: Closing session:

- Signing of the New Delhi Declaration and Closing Remarks by the Chair
- Words of Thanks

4.30: Press conference

5.00: Departure