

REPORT ON
SIXTEENTH SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

**THEME: “CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY &
CHILDREN- INITIATIVES”**

November 23, 2007

Socially Responsible Business Development Network (SRBDN)

PO Box 3459, Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: +977-1-5530313, Fax: +977-1-5520131

srbdnepal@yahoogroups.com

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

On behalf of Socially Responsible Business Development Network (SRBDN) we would like to thank the presenters Mr. Dhirendra Lamsal, National Program Manager, International Child Resource Institute- Nepal and Mr. Prachet Shrestha, Environment Camps for Conservation Awareness (ECCA) for taking out their time to present and share their thoughts on CSR for Children. We would also like to thank ECCA for hosting the sixteenth SRBDN forum in their building.

Our thanks goes to all the participants who attended the sixteenth forum on Socially Responsible Business Development Network, who took time to participate, discuss and share their views and ideas.

Table Of Contents

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	1
ACRONYMS.....	3
1. RATIONALE BEHIND THE MEETING.....	4
2. OBJECTIVE OF THE SIXTEENTH FORUM.....	4
3. PROCEEDINGS OF THE PROGRAM.....	5
3.1 PROGRAMME OVERVIEW	5
3.2. PRESENTATION ON CSR AND CHILDREN - INITIATIVES	5
<i>By Mr Dhirendra Lamsal –National Program Manager, International Child Resource Institute – Nepal (ICRI-Nepal).....</i>	<i>5</i>
3.3. PRESENTATION ON CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY & CHILDREN - INITIATIVES.....	7
<i>By Mr. Prachet Shrestha – Chairman, Environment Camps for Conservation Awareness (ECCA)</i>	<i>7</i>
4. WRAP UP.....	9
5. ANNEXURE	11
5.1 PROGRAM SCHEDULE	11
5.2 LIST OF PARTICIPANTS.....	12

ACRONYMS

AAN	ActionAid Nepal
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
ECCA	Environment camps for conservation awareness
ICRI	International child Resource Institute
INGO	International Non Government Organization
LO	Lotus Opportunities
NCPD	Network for children, prisoner and dependents
NGO	Non Government Organization
SRBDN	Socially Responsible Business Development Network

1. RATIONALE BEHIND THE MEETING

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is part of an international drive towards transparency and accountability of business activities and a way of monitoring how business perform against environment, ethics and society. SRBDN is a platform to share information, knowledge and experience on CSR. The rationale behind the meeting was to have a well functioning knowledge and information-sharing network on CSR.

Objective of SRBDN

- Facilitate sharing information, experiences and ideas on Corporate Social Responsibility in Nepal.
- Facilitate identification of common interests and development of joint efforts and create synergy among facilitators, providers and donors.
- Awareness raising
- Cooperation between large organization and SME.
- Integrating CSR in education

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE SIXTEENTH FORUM

The objective of the sixteenth forum on SRBDN was as follows:

- To share the knowledge and information on CSR for Children.
- To share the initiatives of organizations CSR for children.

3. PROCEEDINGS OF THE PROGRAM

3.1 Programme Overview

The Sixteenth Socially Responsible Business Development Network forum took place at ECCA, Wise House, Jwagal - Kupondole on November 23, 2007. The theme for the forum was **“Corporate Social Responsibility and Children – Initiatives”**.

Ms Reema Shrestha, Coordinator of SRBDN commenced the forum welcoming all the participants and thanked ECCA for their support in organizing the forum and providing the venue and other logistic arrangement.

3.2. Presentation on CSR and Children - Initiatives

By Mr Dhirendra Lamsal –National Program Manager, International Child Resource Institute – Nepal (ICRI-Nepal)

Mr. Dhirendra Lamsal started his presentation with the brief overview on global scenario of children. He informed that among the world population of 6.6 billion, 27% of the population covers the children below 15 years. According to BBC News story: 6000 children die daily due to polluted water and food sanitation. Whereas in India, there are 13 million children working as child labour and 500 children die in road accident each day globally.

ICRI Nepal is non-governmental, non-profit making humanitarian organization established in 1981 based in USA. ICRI established its office in Nepal in year 2004, however ICRI had been supporting children of imprisoned parents since 2001. Major service delivery activities of ICRI highlighted by Mr Lamsal are as follows:

- Child care need Assessment studies
- Child care program development
- Child care administration and oversight
- Resource development & fund allocation
- Program evaluation and modification studies

- CSR policy formulation
- Legislative planning support
- Facility Development
- Strategic Planning

Network for Children, Prisoners & dependent (NCPD) is one of the part of ICRI that is looking after 350 orphans of aged from 0-6 years. NCPD's activities comprised of the followings:

- Criminal justice administration
- Legal & paralegal services
- Policy advocacy
- Family reintegration
- Support to released prisoners
- Vocational training
- Children, Homes and transit/shelter
- Children's health, education and skill training
- Creative skill program
- Counseling and psycho-social support
- Research initiatives
- Rehabilitation
- IEC/resource material production

Mr Lamsal informed that ICRI is planning to construct family village for orphans at Thecho and have target to provide lodging for 100 children.

According to him, there are many ways on creating awareness on CSR without direct cost allocation, which include:

- Recognize the value of CSR as integral part of the business by every business organization.
- Raise the awareness through various approaches such as writing short messages in business advertisement, hoarding board, stationary, pamphlet, brochures etc

- Train business employee on how to provide the best environment for children at home, impart knowledge and skill to prevent child injuries.
- Impart knowledge/skill on first aid delivery at offices on emergency

Lastly he concluded that all the organization including social organization/civil society, business organization, government and media has to be equally responsible and take an initiation creating awareness on CSR in Nepal.

Discussion:

Mr Krishna Karki wanted to know about how many orphan are ICRI currently looking after?

On such Mr Lamsal answered that currently they are looking after 670 orphans and as a long-term plan they are planning to build family village at Thecho to give deprived children a family environment.

Ms Helga Duhou put forward the question that being ICRI more focused into children project, do they have identified any specific child labour laws?

On such Mr Lamsal answered that they do not have made such specific criteria but they follow the Nepal labor law.

3.3. Presentation on Corporate Social Responsibility & Children - Initiatives

By Mr. Prachet Shrestha – Chairman, Environment Camps for Conservation Awareness (ECCA)

Mr. Prachet Shrestha of ECCA started his presentation with an overview on establishment of ECCA. ECCA was established in the year 1987 as non-governmental organization and want to be known as Model Professional Volunteer Organization dedicated towards the natural resource management. He shared that with an aim to reduce the overhead expenses, they are currently running the organization situated at Jwagal sharing with eight other organizations.

According to Mr Shrestha, within the period of its establishment, ECCA has been able to achieve many more of national and international awards.

He informed that currently ECCA is involved in many major projects, which include:

1. Conservation education, Social mobilization and community development
2. School Environment Improvement program
3. Promotion of alternate energy:
 - a. Improved Cook Stove (ICS) promotion program
 - b. Installation of solar photo voltaic (PV) water pumping system
 - c. Light For All “Solar Tuki” campaign
4. International Volunteer Work Camp
5. Kathmandu Participatory River Monitoring Project
6. Biodiversity Conservation Initiatives through grass roots participatory

Lastly he shared one of his experiences when he visited a school at Kaleshor three months back. There he found the lack of proper toilet for the students, which directly hampered in presence of school students specially girl students. Then with the initiation of ECCA, they build toilets for the students. From that the day all the students showed their 100% attendance, which was one of the activities of CSR through ECCA.

Discussion:

One of the participants from ICRI raised a question on how they mobilize the volunteers of ECCA.

On such Mr Prachet Shrestha said that they train the youth volunteers by giving them necessary trainings strengthen their capacity and depending upon the need of community, they send their expertise to respective areas.

Another participant put forward the question that as ECCA is working on development of school environment, if somehow the school management does not comply with the standard mentioned by ECCA, then how do they convince them?

Mr. Shrestha answered that on such situation they organize meetings with teachers and principal and if necessary they even take them to others school to show the differences and then they get convince to imply as according to the standard.

Helga Duhuo of SNV Nepal asked that is ECCA a self-sustainable organization or run through the financial support of donor organization?

On such Prachet Shrestha said that ECCA is self-sustained and they do generate some earnings from the building situated at Bhaktapur. And also informed that they work on partnership basis with private as well as community based organization.

4. WRAP UP

Towards the end, Ms. Reema Shrestha, coordinator of the forum wrapped up the forum. She praised both the presenters for their knowledge and sharing it with all the participants and thanked all the participants for their involvement.

She informed that in year 2004, Lotus Opportunities in partnership with Action Aid Nepal initiated the SRBDN Forum with the aim to create awareness on Corporate Social Responsibility in Nepal. She said that small initiation can lead to something bigger, that was how SRBDN Forum was started and shared that the aim of SRBDN have been achieve to certain extend as most of the organizations are aware of CSR and also SRBDN. It has been three years time line that Lotus Opportunities have been continuously backstopping SRBDN and but from January 2008 that role will be taken over by ECCA. Ms Reema Shrestha, coordinator of SRBDN thanked Mr Prachet Shrestha, Chairman of ECCA Nepal for taking this initiative forward. Having said that she requested Mr Neeraj Nepali, Executive of Lotus Opportunities to speak few words on SRBDN.

Few words By Mr Neeraj Nepali: Executive Director of Lotus Opportunities

Mr. Nepali informed the participants that initially CSR was very new concept and it was really difficult to acquaint the terminology CSR among people. In October 2004 Lotus Opportunities and ActionAid Nepal in partnership initiated SRBDN forum, a multi stakeholder bimonthly

forum whose main aim was to create awareness on CSR in Nepalese business as well as development sector. He said that in last three years this aim has somewhat fulfilled as many organizations have been aware on CSR but the forum has to rise above the awareness level. In last three years SRBDN has achieved a lot it has acted as a resource center sharing information on CSR to organizations/individuals, it has also published various publications on CSR. SRBDN has represented itself in various programs and forums and have also created awareness in the field of academic through guest lectures in colleges. SRBDN has also helped creating professionals in the field of CSR.

Lotus Opportunities have been backstopping the forum for last three years and is happy that ECCA is taking this role forward of backstopping SRBDN. He thanked the working committee members who actively supported the forum and always gave feedback and suggestion to forum, he also acknowledge ActionAid Nepal and the team especially Dr. Shibesh Chandra Regmi, Ms. Shizu Upadhya and Mr. Navin Subedi who believed in CSR and initiated the forum. He also thanked ECCA for taking this initiative forward and Ms Reema Shrestha, coordinator of SRBDN forum for her tremendous effort in making the SRBDN forum success till date. He requested all the participants to share ideas, experiences on CSR and develop joint program with SRBDN on CSR front.

Lastly he informed that Lotus Opportunities even though it will not be backstopping SRBDN from January 2008 it will also provide its input from the back side and personally Mr. Nepali will always support and give feedback to SRBDN.

5. ANNEXURE

5.1 Program Schedule

Sixteenth SRBDN Forum Tentative Program Schedule

Date: November 23 2007

Venue: ECCA, Wise-use House, Jwagal, Kupondole

Theme: CSR and Children – Initiatives

2:15 - 2:30	Registration
2:30 - 2:40	Welcome Address
2:35 – 3:00	ICRI/Nepal initiative for children by Mr. Dharendra Lamsal, National Program Manager, International Child Resource Institute – Nepal 25 minutes
3:0 – 3:20	Discussion Round 20minutes
3:20 – 3:40	CSR Initiative of the fashion store “LIFE” by Mr. Rahul Lohia, LIFE 20 minutes
3:40 – 4:00	Discussion Round 20minutes
4:00 - 4:20	Environment Camps for conservation awareness (ECCA) Initiative to CSR an overview by Mr Prachet Shrestha, ECCA 20 minutes
4.20 – 4.30	Discussion and wrap up 10 minutes

5.2 List of Participants

S. No	I.	F. Name	L Name	Organization
1	Ms,	Helga	Duhuo	SNV Nepal
2	Mr.	Neeraj	Nepali	Lotus Opportunities Pvt Ltd
3	Mr.	K.J	Pantha	UCEP Nepal
4	Mr.	Dhirendra	Lamsal	ICRI Nepal
5	Mr.	M. P	Chhetri	ICRI Nepal
6	Mr.	Shanker	Timalsina	ICRI Nepal
7	Mr.	Prabesh	Aryal	ICRI Nepal
8	Ms.	Dibyashree	Khadka	FTG Nepal
9	Mr.	Kiran		NCO Nepal
10	Mr.	Balkrishna	Dangol	Bal Mandir
11	Ms.	Shanta	Bista	NCO Nepal
12	Mr.	Prachet	Shrestha	ECCA Nepal
13	Mr.	Satya Narayan	Chaudhary	ECCA Nepal
14	Mr.	Barun	Karki	Ajhar Nepal
15	Mr.	Avimanyu	Kumar	Dabur Nepal
16	Mr.	Krishna	Karki	Lotus Opportunities Pvt Ltd
17	Mr.	Ishwori	Gautam	Lotus Opportunities Pvt Ltd