

**Briefing Report to the Rt. Honourable Prime Minister Mr. Madhav K Nepal:
APSS and GTZ Nepal Cooperation for Youth and Student
Participation in Constitution Writing Process
(2008 – 2010)**

Background to the Briefing Report: The then country's political situation and election of Constituent Assembly

A. International expert consultation on key issues of federalism and the new Constitution (without grant contract):

1. With **Prof. Dr. Hans Illy** (Consultant in local government and decentralization) from Germany:
(Interaction on "Experiences of German federal structure")
2. With **Prof. Cristiana Murray**, constitutional expert from South Africa:
(Interaction on "Constitution making experiences in South Africa")
3. With **Prof. Dr. Siegfried Broß** Judge of Federal Constitutional Court, Germany:
(Interaction on "Experiences of German federal constitutional court")
4. With **Mr. Wolfgang Schmitt**, Director General of German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) former MP of the Green Party, Germany):
(Discussion on federal governance structure and German experiences)
5. With **Prof. Dr. Michael Keating**, Head of Political and Social Sciences, European University Institute, Italy:
(Interaction on federalism and ethnic conflict/ethnic point of view)

B. Major activities under APSS/GTZ Federalism Support I (with grant contract):

1. Formation of National Youth Coordination Committee for Constitution Building (NYCC):

The National Youth Coordination Committee for Constitution Building (NYCC) was formed in the charitable coordination of the Association of Political Science Students (APSS).

The NYCC was intended to work as the national level youth coordination consortium which would bring all major youth and student organizations, young Constituent Assembly members and other youth initiatives in a common single table to facilitate the constitution building process involving massive youths. The Committee had been

envisioned to facilitate the CA and key constitution drafters in incorporating youth aspirations and youth related issues for country's change and reform through the new constitution. The Committee was clearly committed to promote youth rights and youth voices in the new constitutions through Constituent Assembly. The NYCC made influence the CA members to the promotion of youth rights and roles in the new constitution for building 'New Nepal'. (Please see the attached of report of NYCC formation)

2. Consultative dialogue with 100 youth and student in 5 regional location (Solukhumbu, Ilam, Dolakha, Dhanusa, Pokhara, Nepalgunj):

These consultative dialogues solely reflected summary findings of the regional grassroots and Kathmandu based consultations with additional inputs from already done youth consultations by some stakeholders. The consultations were held following a discussion paper. Three Resource Persons in the related field were consulted to prepare the discussion paper. The two day regional youth consultations separately in Ilam, Janakpur, Dolakha, Pokhara and Nepalgunj had pre-discussion on the same discussion paper. For every location the discussion paper was the same. First day of the participant youths discussed on the discussion paper individually and group wise, and classified the key common issues which they would like to discuss. And the second day they themselves opined their views on what they had classified, in written format individually. The key points reported were processed and presented in a statistical way. Finally the key points were analyzed in objectively-focused way.

3. National Youth Conference for National Youth Manifesto (150 youth and student)

The three-day conference held in Dhulikhel was a follow-up action of the youth's regional consultative dialogue. In the regional dialogue meetings, youth's outlined their issues out of the current political debate and tried to find their role and representation in different levels of the state. They also identified the underpinning issues and the problems they have experienced on their own. In the same dialogue sessions, the youths also figured out their areas of participation and their roles to be performed for state restructuring and the forthcoming constituting making process. The most important outcome of that Conference was that a National Youth Manifesto was agreed by the 150 youth delegates from different parts of the country. The next outcome of the conference was a document that consists of the contents for the constitution, acts, rules, regulations, and bylaws.

C. National Youth Symposium on Youth Participation in Constitution Writing Process organized by APSS/GTZ Federalism Support Programme II (without grant contract):

D. Major activities under APSS/GTZ Federalism Support Programme II (with grant contract):

In all workshops all together 664 youth-students were able to get benefitted and discuss on the lead constitutional issues. They were all fed up with Draft concept paper submitted to the

Constitutional Committee by various CA thematic committees, concept papers on the related issues of various civil society organizations and various federal constitutions i.e Germany, India, Switzerland, USA, and South Africa etc. They were able to study the draft youth policy of Youth Ministry, youth employment action plan of National Planning Commission, Labour Act and action plan of Labour Ministry, various youth reports and documents prepared and published by different youth organizations and concerned stakeholders including National Youth Manifesto-2008 agreed by some 150 youth delegates of the National Youth Conference organized by the APSS.

1. Educative and awareness workshop with key groups of students in Jhapa, Solukhumbu, Siraha, Parsa, Dang and Palpa.

- 1.1. The potential youths and students of 18 districts and 29 colleges, having good political background and academic qualification, and good public relation and leadership position in the college and district have been indentified for the purpose of two important activities of the project (please see below for activity detail). This has been able to do in coordination with APSS District Chapters and with help of APSS cross-party members' network across the country.
- 1.2. Total 204 youth-students of 18 districts and 20 colleges got oriented on the key constitutional issues that are relevantly important for Nepal's ongoing constitution drafting process and framing the new political set up issues particularly the federalism and state-restructure issues. These trained participants are ready to effectively show their concern positively with CA members and responsible authorities towards writing the new constitution of having their interest, and they are able to suggest and recommend important points of interests of general people and rest of college youths for necessary editing/changing/modifying the first-draft of the new constitution.

2. Advocacy and consultation with CA members in Jhapa, Solukhumbu, Siraha, Parsa, Dang and Palpa

- 2.1 Total 300 youth-students were able to get the opportunity to confer with the members of the Constituent Assembly on their own locations. They expressed their concern on the key constitutional issues and ask for the CA members response towards drafting the new Constitution youth-friendly and with full of democratic principles and values. They raised the issues of lacking constructive issues inside and outside the Constituent Assembly, issues of federalism and state-restructure, inclusion, human rights and new model of administration. The locally-organised workshops within this project was able to create an environment for grassroots college youths and other youth members organised such workshops and interaction, gave them issues and contents for lobbying with the CA members, and made those colleges think federalism issues while in their college classrooms.

3. Advocacy & interaction on youth issues among key students groups, Members of Constituent Assembly and National Youth Coordination Committee (NYCC) in Kathmandu valley

3.1 160 Kathmandu-based youth and student leaders and activists are conferred each other in separate four workshops and were able to identify the common youth and student issues viable to constitutional adoption, to examine the current debate of federalism with the view to the effective implementation of the new Constitution and maintaining political stability in the new federal structure.