

# ICA Launches Social Artistry Initiatives in Nepal

After a series of preparatory and preliminary activities in the field and meeting room, a Social Artistry initiative was formally launched in Nepal on May 10, 2005. The Minister of Education and Sports Mr. Radha Krishna Mainali inaugurated the training on Social Artistry, which was organized for the first time in Nepal. In his inaugural speech, he stated that the training on Social Artistry helps in opening doors to new approaches of thinking in the human lives and society. Dr. Yogi Bikananda, renowned spiritual leader from Nepal, highlighted the importance of exploring the internal domain. He said that the training program links the West and the East.

Social Artistry is an emerging discipline in leadership development. It taps inherent human capacities for greater imagination, compassion, and resolve. The discipline integrates science and intellectual development, using multiple styles of thinking, expanding skills for contemporary leadership challenges, and applying these skills to complex social issues. UNDP has launched Social Artistry in Albania, Kenya, the Caribbean, and the Philippines. Nepal is the first country outside the UN system to witness the implementation of the program. ICA Nepal, a national NGO with global network, is coordinating this activity in Nepal.

Altogether 55 participants from various districts of Nepal and from Bangladesh participated in the training, which was organized from May 10 to 13, 2005. Ms. Janet Sanders, Faculty of the International Institute for Social Artistry (IISA), was the lead facilitator while Ms. Thea Patterson from Abbey North, Canada and Tatwa P. Timsina from ICA Nepal co-facilitated the program. The program was widely covered in print and electronic media in Nepal.

For the last six months, ICA Nepal is undertaking a number of activities on Social Artistry through training and community development in various parts of the country. It has started the initial task of developing model pilot projects in four different parts of the country representing all three ecological belts i.e., plain (terai), mountain and himalayan region. Social Artistry has been taken as an effective tool for achieving Millennium Development goals (MDGs) in these areas.

ICA Nepal is facilitating the training participants to launch Social Artistry activities in their own area. Some of the participants have also committed to contribute in four model pilot sites managed by ICA Nepal.

So far, ICA is doing on its own effort based on the learning through SA courses and other programs; it wants to make it more focused through SA. ICA has initiated some activities in Devdaha area, West Nepal. The focus is more to MDG (3) i.e., promoting gender equality and empowering women and MDG (6) i.e., combating HIV/AIDS. The activities touch other goals as well. They are eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, ensure environmental sustainability. The majority of the activities are integrated and are directly related to MDGs.

ICA Nepal wishes to promote MDG (8) -- 'developing a global partnership for development'. Since, we are also in the initial stage of implementing SA/MDG in Devdaha and other areas, we are thinking to consider the work/impact achieved so far as 'existing situation' and launch our joint effort in a very (SA/MDG) focused way.

ICA Nepal acknowledges the support of Dr. Jean Houston, Mr. Robertson Work, Ms. Janet Sanders, Ms. Thea Patterson and all the members of IISA and Graduate School for enabling us to organize the launch of the program in Nepal. We wish we will have constant support in future as well.

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