

2. Interaction and sharing program on " Asia Pacific NGO Forum on Beijing +10"

Minister for women children and social welfare Ms. Ashta Laxmi Shakya has insisted the need of change of existing government policies related to women for bringing women in national mainstream. Speaking on the occasion of the Interaction and sharing program on " Asia Pacific NGO Forum on Beijing +10" jointly organized by Sancharika Samuha and IMPACS on 16th August 2004 in Lalitpur, Minister Shakya said that both government and non-government organizations are the completing fraction of one another. She informed the gathering that preparation of the report on all the 12 critical areas of concerned under BPFA has already been completed and she would now put all her sincere efforts in passing the report.

The interaction program was organized for reviewing and evaluating the implementation of the BPFA and also to discuss the future course of action in this regard. The program shared about the **Beijing + 10 processes** at regional level i.e. the *Asia Pacific Forum by NGOs for Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality to Commemorate the 1995 Beijing Conference* held on 1 - 3 July 2004 in Bangkok. As there was a need to review the BPFA implementation, its gaps and the future course of action, NGOs in this aspect made their contribution to identify the implementation gaps and problems and emerging issues. The main output was the "Purple Book" containing the conclusions and consensus of the women's movement on how much women's life conditions and social status have changed ten years since Beijing, or thirty years since the International Year of Women. Therefore this NGO Conference was important in order to provide substantive inputs for the *Asia Pacific High Level Intergovernmental Meeting* organized by the UN *Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific* (ESCAP) scheduled for 6-9 September 2004 in Bangkok.

In the program, Joint Secretary, Ministry for women children and social welfare Mr. Shayam Sunder Sharma highlighted the role of his ministry in implementing the BPFA commitments right from its inception and repeated the pledge on the behalf of his ministry to continue the same in days to come as well.

President of Sancharika Samuha who was also one of the representatives participating the conference shared about the discussions that were held on the 12 critical area of concern under BPFA. Speaking on the occasion she said that since the support of media is considered to be very effective in advocating and pressurizing the authority in fulfilling its commitment in implementing BPFA, therefore Sancharika Samuha as a forum of women journalists feels its responsibility in giving utmost priority in this area.

Ms. Indira Rana, member National Human Rights Commission speaking informed about the type of discrimination she is facing in her office even been being a member. Narrating her plight she said that she is not even informed about the meetings and other happenings and decisions taken in the commission. She raising her doubt on the function of other department said, " If this is the situation in my department then I don't know what is happening in others?"

Similarly Indira Chapagain, executive member of Nepal disabled women Association who too participated in the *Asia Pacific Forum by NGOs for Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality to Commemorate the 1995 Beijing Conference* held on 1 - 3 July 2004 in Bangkok sharing her experience said " Though we were six disabled persons from different nations who participated in the conference but there was no time allotted to us to speak. It was only after our special request that we were allotted five min time for placing our view". She also said that if given chance, disabled women too could come into national mainstream and provide their contribution.

Sharing the *Asia Pacific Forum by NGOs for Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality to Commemorate the 1995 Beijing Conference* held on 1 - 3 July 2004 in Bangkok, Nirmala Sharma secretary Sancharika Samuha informed about the different strategies that were discussed in the conference on minimizing the arte of domestic violence against women.

The program also informed about the forthcoming Asia Pacific High Level Inter Governmental Meeting organized by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific scheduled for 6th to 9th October 2004 in Bangkok.