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This publication is intended to show the results of the training session as far as possible to those interested in the work of national human rights commissions. Divided into two parts, this publication includes both a summary of the discussions and presentations presented during the training session as well as the training manual used by the participants to explore the issues. The CHR and FCHR hope that this publication will be a valuable reference for national human rights commissions in developing their own training courses as well as for all persons working to promote and protect the rights and functioning of national human rights commissions.

The Training Program

This training program was designed to explore the role of national human rights commissions in the promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights. The training program was attended by 12 participants from 8 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. In addition, there were a total of 12 resource people and facilitators who worked with the participants during the program. The organizers envisaged that there exists a tremendous need of a platform within the Asia-Pacific region in the area of human rights and national human rights commissions. The NHRC was designed, therefore, to provide a framework for the participants, national human rights commissions and organizations to share their experiences effectively.

Training Objectives

The goal of this training program was to provide training for the staff of HRCCs and their counterparts in order to enhance the capacity of HRCCs to promote and protect human rights. The primary objective was particularly on enhancing the capacity of HRCCs to promote and protect economic, social and cultural rights.

ESCC rights were identified because these rights emanate on underdeveloped areas in the world and are not all national commissions. It is also true that ESC rights are particularly hindered in today's environment of economic globalism. The importance of developing a practical response to guaranteeing economic, social and cultural rights has also been recognized at many levels, including the United Nations Asian Governments, the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Commissions and non-governmental organizations in the region.

The specific objectives of the training were to:

1. identify the main human rights issues and trends in the region with particular focus on the interdependency, indivisibility and universality of human rights;
2. examine and explore organizational and program strategies for the promotion and protection of economic and social and cultural rights; and
3. encourage the development of an informal network for continued information exchange.