



ASIA PACIFIC FORUM
ADVANCING HUMAN RIGHTS IN OUR REGION

SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER NETWORK MEETING

Monday 24 September 2007

BACKGROUND NOTE

The Senior Executive Officers Network (SEO) was established in 2002. It provides an opportunity for the senior management of national human rights institutions (NHRIs) in the Asia Pacific to develop professional excellence, to share information and expertise (organisational policies, management practices, staff development strategies) and to communicate with each other about the APFs regional projects (staff exchanges, investigations training, annual meetings and workshops, and participation in United Nations and other international meetings).

Each member institution of the APF is requested to nominate its most senior executive officer to represent it on the SEO Network. A register of SEO representatives is available at www.asiapacificforum.net/services/networks/seo

To assist the development of this network the APF has over the past 5 years scheduled meetings for senior executives within the framework of the APF annual meetings. It also established an APF website extranet for SEOs to access and exchange information and documents. The annual meetings and extranet is, to date, the extent of SEO activities.

However there is concern amongst senior executives that the SEO Network has lost some of its direction and that the structures established to assist it, such as the meetings and the extranet, are either not required or not meeting the needs of the senior executive officers.

The next SEO Network meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday 24th September 2007 under the auspices of the 12th Annual Meeting of the APF.

It is proposed that this meeting could provide a valuable opportunity for senior executive officers to hold a discussion to assess the value and purpose of SEO meetings and to identify if and how the network can best be realised. The APF has engaged a consultant, Ms Coleen MacKinnon, to assist the SEO meeting to facilitate discussions.

The meeting's agenda is attached.



Hosted by the

**Human Rights and Equal
Opportunity Commission**
www.humanrights.gov.au



SEO NETWORK MEETING: MONDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2007

SEO Members only

Venue: Bridge Room 2, Level 1, Four Points by Sheraton

- 10:00 – 1:00 **SEO Network's Strategic Direction**
- The purpose of this session is to discuss the purpose and strategic direction of SEO meetings.
Questions for discussion include:
- Is the SEO network required?
 - If so, what is its purpose and strategic direction?
 - Are there processes that exist or could be developed to achieve its purpose and direction?
- This session will be facilitated by Ms Colleen MacKinnon*
- 11:00 **Working morning tea**
Served in meeting room
- 1:00 – 2:00 **Lunch**
Corn Exchange Restaurant, Ground Floor
- 2:00 – 2:15 **Strategic Direction cont'd.**
- Final agreement on strategic purpose of SEO meetings
- 2:15 – 3:00 **Joint Project Activities**
- SEO network to discuss possibilities for joint projects and coordination on APF or ACJ projects.
- 3:00 **Working afternoon tea**
Served in meeting room
- 3:00 -3: 45 **Human Rights Education**
- Presentation by Shri Ravi Kamal Bhargava, Secretary General, NHRC India*
- Discussion
- 3:45 – 4:30 **Joint session with NGOs**
- Dialogue with NGO representatives
- 4.30 **Close**