

BACKGROUND PAPER

THIRD MEETING OF THE ASIA PACIFIC FORUM OF NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS

7th to 9th SEPTEMBER 1998, JAKARTA

**ITEM: ORGANISATIONAL ISSUES
VIDEO PROPOSAL TO COMMEMORATE THE 50th
ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF
HUMAN RIGHTS**

BACKGROUND

In the Concluding Statement of the Second Asia Pacific Regional Workshop of National Human Rights Institutions, held in New Delhi in September 1997, Forum members requested the Secretariat to develop a proposal for a video program addressing the promotion of human rights in the region, with particular emphasis on the issue of universality. The Secretariat was asked to submit the video proposal for consideration by Forum members with a view to finalising the project in 1998.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this paper is to present to Forum members a proposal for the development of a documentary video focusing on Forum member institutions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Forum members consider and approve the human rights video proposal.
2. Forum members request that the Secretariat seek donor funding for this project.

VIDEO PROPOSAL TO COMMEMORATE THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

BACKGROUND

Since its establishment, the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (the Forum) has emphasised the importance of promoting the work of national human rights commissions.

At the Second Asia Pacific Regional Workshop of National Human Rights Institutions, Forum members gave special emphasis to the wide dissemination of information about human rights and the role of national institutions. In the New Delhi Concluding Statement, Forum members requested the Secretariat to develop a proposal for a video program addressing the promotion of human rights in the region, with particular emphasis on the issue of universality. The Secretariat was requested to submit the proposal for consideration by Forum members with a view to finalising the project in 1998.

PROPOSAL

It is proposed that the Forum develop a 30 to 40 minute documentary style video of broadcast quality that will focus on the work of regional human rights commissions and the different types of human rights issues that confront each institution. It may also be possible to include common issues of regional concern (for example, combating child sexual exploitation). The video will be available in various broadcast formats.

The video will be educative in its approach. The primary objective of this project is to raise regional and international public awareness of the importance of universal human rights standards and their interrelationship with economic and social development. The video will highlight how national institutions in the region work towards implementing international human rights standards at a national level. It is envisaged that national commissions could illustrate how this is done through their education and promotion programs and their roles in monitoring human rights observance and complaint resolution. The video will also examine regional cooperation amongst national institutions and other human rights partners in the development of practical strategies and programs that aim to address complex human rights issues.

This project has two phases. The first is already underway with the commissioning of a film crew with experience in producing human rights videos to film the proceedings of the Third Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions. This footage will provide useful background and archival material on regional cooperation amongst national human rights institutions. It will also provide an

opportunity for member institutions to meet the film crew and discuss ideas for the proposed video production.

The second phase will be the planning, research, interviewing and filming of Forum member activities in their respective States. Forum member institutions will work with the Secretariat and film crew to determine the issues of priority to be addressed in the video and the development of a shooting schedule in their country. The Secretariat will be responsible for ensuring that all member institutions are regularly updated on the status of the proposed production.

An estimated budget figure for this project is USD 75,000. This includes travel costs for two to three film crew to approximately five regional countries, research, pre-production, post-production and management costs. The Secretariat will be responsible for seeking donor funds, consulting with member institutions, and the direction and management of the video production. The time frame for completion of this project will be six to nine months.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Forum members:

1. consider and approve the human rights video proposal.
2. request that the Secretariat seek donor funding for this project.
3. request that the Secretariat work with individual Forum members to determine issues of priority to be addressed in the video and the development of a shooting schedule.