

***FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC FORUM OF
NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS***



REGIONAL ISSUES

**VIDEO DOCUMENTARY ON NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS
INSTITUTIONS IN THE ASIA PACIFIC**

**7th to 9th August 2000
ROTORUA, NEW ZEALAND**

1. Background

The video documentary project has the full endorsement of the Forum's Members. It has been agreed to at both the Forum's third and fourth annual meetings.

The video will serve various purposes. It will be educational and informative to the general public and an important resource material for the human rights organisations, governments and United Nations bodies.

It will provide the general public with a rare and important insight into the rapidly developing national human rights movement occurring within Asia and the Pacific. In particular it will examine the role of national human rights institutions and their development. The video will focus on the issues, the key people, the events and the organisations that play a role in this movement through personal interviews, archival and rare footage (we took the last footage and interview of Fiji Prime Minister Mahendra Chaudhary before he was made a hostage by Mr George Speight).

In addition to the work already undertaken by the Forum and the opportunity to film all Forum members at our annual meetings and workshops, the Commissions of India, Indonesia and Fiji have agreed for the documentary to view their work to provide an in-depth focus on South and South-East Asia and the Pacific. These commissions are also established in countries that either have very large or very small populations with diverse demographics. The documentary will be inclusive in that it will seek the views of national human rights institutions, government, non-government organisations and the United Nations.

Important national and regional issues examined will include sectarian and ethnic violence, child pornography on the internet, child labour and violence against women. The documentary's video format will provide an accessible and cost-effective visual medium that can be widely disseminated to the public through film festivals, public broadcast television and through the Forum's membership network to broaden and inform the general public's knowledge of the Asia Pacific region and human rights.

2. Audience

The video is geared towards the general public within and outside the Asia Pacific region. The human rights movement and the role of national human rights institutions is an important public interest story and maximum exposure can be best obtained through public broadcast television and local film festivals occurring throughout the region. The use of broadcast quality video also means that it can be shown to any audience that has access to a video player including schools, universities, government and non-government organisations. Forum members can also use the video in undertaking educational and promotional activities within their country's education system. Copies of the video will therefore be given to each member to incorporate into its education and promotion program.

We also anticipate that this is a story of great interest to people outside the region including those in Europe, the Americas and Africa who may not be aware of the developments in the Asia Pacific. Distribution to these regions would also be pursued through public broadcast television and film festivals.

Other organisations that will receive copies for information and educative purposes include the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). These United Nations bodies are particularly interested in the role of national human rights institutions and this video will provide an important knowledge and resource tool.

It is anticipated that the video will be 50 minutes duration. Each country (India, Indonesia and Fiji) will have approximately 12 minutes each and the remaining 14 minutes will consist of material focusing on the regional and international context. The regional context will include filming and interviews of key individuals and organisations including several regional government Ministers, Amnesty International, Asian and Pacific human rights activists and NGOs during the Asia Pacific Forum's Fifth Annual Meeting in August 2000. A 'voice-over' will provide a narrative through the documentary and if sufficient funding is secured the video will be sub-titled into various regional languages.

3. Funding

The Secretariat has approached a number of donors to sponsor the documentary.

It is pleased to advise that AusAID has approved USD 24,000 for the project. The Secretariat has also approached the Japan Foundation Asia Center for USD 35,000 and the Soros Documentary Fund for USD 14,000. Both of these funding applications are pending and it is anticipated the results will be advised by early September 2000.

4. Documentary timetable

PRODUCTION			
Country	Activity	Dates of Activity	Status
1. Fiji	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Filming of Forum regional workshop on the international human rights of women Filming and interviews with Fiji Prime Minister, Fiji Human Rights Commission and non-government organisations 	5-12 May 2000	Completed
2. New Zealand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Filming of Forum's Fifth Annual Meeting Filming and interviews with OHCHR, representatives of Forum Members, international, regional and local non-government organisations, representatives of regional governments, including the New Zealand government. 	6-11 August 2000	Pending
3. Indonesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location filming of Indonesian Human Rights Commission activities, particularly in Aceh. Interviews with Indonesian President Wahid and Attorney-General, Mr Marzuki Darusman and with non-government organisations 	24-30 September 2000 (dates to be confirmed)	Pending

4. India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location filming of Indian Human Rights activities in New Delhi • Interviews with Indian Attorney-General and non-government organisations • Field visit to Tamil Nadu 	15-23 October 2000 (dates to be confirmed)	Pending
POST PRODUCTION			
5. Australia	Editing, scriptwriting, narration, production duplication, packaging and artwork	October/November 2000 (approx finish by 30/11)	Pending
6. Regional/international	Distribution of production	December	Pending

5. Project outcome

The outcome of this project will be a high quality documentary production. This audio-visual documentary will promote mutual understanding, cooperation and an enhanced understanding of the work of national human rights institutions and the Forum in the area of promoting and protecting human rights in the Asia Pacific region. It will be widely distributed throughout the region to disseminate the information as broadly as possible. It is a sustainable production because of the institutional support provided to the documentary by the Forum and it is a timely contribution towards regional human rights dialogue and cooperation during a period of heightened regional tension.