



Citizens' Campaign for Right to Information (CCRI)

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CCRI has Established RTI Centre

PRESS RELEASE

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Citizens' Campaign for Right to Information (CCRI) has established a first RTI Center in the Country. The Centre was formally launched on 21 August, 2012 amid a grand function organized at the premises of National Information Commission (NIC), where the Centre is stationed. The Centre is managed and operated by CCRI in collaboration with NIC which came into operation from April 2012.

An assessment on the implementation of Right to Information Act 2007 was also made in the event. Chief Secretary Mr. Lilamani Poudel was the chief guest of the inaugural ceremony of RTI Centre, which has been established with the financial support from enabling State Program (ESP).

The program was attended by 135 participants from the various sectors such as senior government staffs, senior lawyers and advocates, top personalities of media sectors, media persons, human right activities, civil society representatives among others.

The main aim of establishing the RTI Centre is to provide necessary services to the people regarding the right to information and address their queries as well as assistance to them to know about the procedures to obtain the information they need.

At the beginning of the program, Chief Secretary Mr. Poudel inaugurated the Center by broadcasting the RTI Centre promo prepared by CCRI which was applauded by all participants in the program. Welcoming the participants, Secretary at NIC Mr. Shreeram Panta spoke about the latest situation of implementation of RTI. Mr. Panta also drew the attention of government about the problems faced by NIC to implement the RTI ACT 2007.

CCRI Executive Director, Mr Tanka Aryal highlighted the objectives and functions of RTI Center. Elaborating the objectives of establishing the RTI Center, MR. Aryal said center has been established to provide services to the people who are willing to acquire information from different public agencies. He said that RTI Center will address to the queries of the people and assist the people in different ways who want to use RTI tool to get information from public agencies. Toll Free Phone Number 1660-01-70000, type RTI Centre and SMS to 4555 and email rticentrenepal@gmail.com are major means communication along with post box, web forum, direct visit of centre, fax services.

In the program, CCRI Chairman Tara Nath Dahal spoke about the implementation of RTI Act 2007 and problems faced to implement the RTI Act. Mr. Dahal said that government has not paid sufficient attention to implementation of RTI. He also highlighted the achievements made so far in the field of RTI such as Vat bill scandal, Supreme Court's verdict which ensured student's access to answer sheet.

Guest from the different sectors also gave speeches about the RTI Center and implementation status of RTI Act in the last five years. Secretary at Ministry of Information and Communication Mr. Surya Prasad Silwal, Pro-public, Director, Mr. Kedar Khadka, Chairman of Federation of Nepalese Journalist Mr. Shiva Gaunle, Commissioner of NIC Ms. Sabita Bhandari Baral, Chief of Administrative Court Mr. Kashi Raj Dahal, Former Chief Commissioner of NIC Mr. Binaya Kasjoo and representatives from DFID Ms. Charlotte Duncon Spoke about the various aspects of RTI.

Chief Guest of the program, Mr. Lila Mani Poudel said that government is ready to make the government offices RTI friendly and said he is favor of imparting the maximum information to public. He said that government is ready to promote RTI and requested to bring any proposal about the classification and information stating that government does not have any intention of concealing the information.

Finally, the concluding remark was given by the acting chief Commissioner of NIC Mr. Shree Acharaya. He mentioned that the RTI Centre will provide its service to all the people who contact the Centre in order to seek the necessary services. He also stated the situation of RTI in Nepal. He mentioned that only about 207 cases were filed in NIC and among them 60% of those has been settled. He finally stated that NIC will always work in order to protect and promote citizen's RTI. He finally stated that NIC will always work in order to protect and promote citizen's RTI. As RTI Centre has been reestablished to implement the RTI Act 2007, RTI Centre has envisioned accomplishing the following objectives:

- Contributing for the effective implementation of RI Act 2007
- Imparting information about the RTI and its utility
- *Providing* services and suggestions to the people facing difficulties to acquire the information
- Providing necessary support to increase the use of RTI
- Playing an active role to maintain an accountable and transparent

Having an understanding that to meet the spirits of international and national laws on Freedom of Expression and Right to Information a united voice and efforts are required, we would like to appeal both national and international community to work and expand their practices to meet it.

For Further details, please contact:

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