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PRESS RELEASE

Nepalese CSOs are Categorized in "Evolving" with 4.4 score

GoGo Foundation in association with the Management System International (MSI) with support from USAID launched a regional CSO Sustainability Index (CSO-SI) on 11 February 2016. The first of its kind, has been published in the South/East Asian countries Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

In this report, it has shown that the sustainability of Nepalese CSO as "evolving" phase. Having the characteristics of the sustainability as enhanced, evolving and impeded, Nepal's CSOs are evolving with a score of 4.4. It suggests the CSOs are not generally harassed by the government, but they do face several bureaucratic difficulties with registration; they seek foreign aid owing to lack of domestic resources; they generally lack fair elections for executive committees, rely on staffs hired on part-time or

project basis; they often find unable to influence legislation substantially, however, offer a wide range of goods and services. Despite this, the government has recognized the contributions of CSOs in strengthening democracy and providing services. Regularly media cover the CSO activities well. However, the media often present their news national CSOs as urban-based and out of touch with local communities. The report has pointed out the lack of internal democracy, transparency and accountability among the CSOs.

The relationship between civil society organization and government is characterized by both confrontation and cooperation, and on the part of government, by ambivalence towards civil society that ranges from distrust to recognition of its utility in the context of service delivery. To draw these characteristics of Nepalese CSOs, the measuring standard in the report has been - legal environment, organizational capacity, financial viability, advocacy, service provision, infrastructure and public image of the CSOs.

At the program, GoGo Foundation President Kedar Khadka shed light on the CSO-SI Nepal report and shared Nepal report findings. On the occasion, Director of Democracy and Governance Office at USAID, Maria Barron, said it was good that Nepal's CSOs' condition was evolving. However, more vibrant role of CSO was essential to ensure good governance and bolster democratic values.



Chief Guest Rt. Honorable Kalyan Shrestha, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Nepal



presenting CSO-SI Report



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At the same program, Chief Justice of Nepal Kalyan Shrestha conferred the GoGo Foundation Award 2015 with Commendation Letter along with a purse of Rs 11,111 and GoGo Foundation Shield to Prof Dr Bhagawan Koirala. Dr Koirala was honored with the award in recognition of his outstanding contribution in building good governance, especially in medical institutes with financial transparency, reform measures to improve hospital service deliveries. Addressing the program, Chief Justice Shrestha said that only positive thoughts could lead us to positive action that deserve respect and reward.

Similarly, Chief Commissioner of the National Information Commission, Krishnahari Baskota said that the CSOs in Nepal need to devote to national cause. He complained that many CSOs have not good track record in Nepal. Former Chief Commissioner at the Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA), Suryanath Upadhyay said that it is high time we Nepalese to develop thoughts for good work and good governance.

GoGo Foundation President Khadka said that the sustainability of CSOs in Nepal was evolving and was helpful to contribute towards maintaining good governance in the country but there were still rooms to do a lot to make CSOs fully sustainable in Nepal.



Rt. Honorable Chief Justice Kalyan Shrestha handing over GoGo Foundation Award-2015 to Prof Dr Bhagawan Koirala

CSO-SI Report at a Glance:

The Civil Society Sustainability Index (CSO-SI) is the global independent initiatives of the USAID in association with the Management System International (MSI), USA to measure the strengths and overall viability of the CSO sectors in more than 60 countries of the Eastern Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa, Middle East and North Africa. The reports are produced and disseminated annually in the respective countries.

In 2014, USAID/MSI has also initiated to produce similar report of the seven countries from South/East Asian namely Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand. So, for the first time in Asia Region USAID/MSI in association with the GoGo Foundation as the "host partner organization" for Nepal has produced 2014 CSO-SI as an inaugural report.

The CSO-SI reports are prepared through the panel discussions among CSO practitioners and experts to assess and score in the sector on given scales in seven interrelated dimensions i.e. (1) legal environment; (2) organizational capacity; (3) financial viability; (4) advocacy; (5) service provision; (6) infrastructure; and (7) public image. In addition to this exercise, the host partner organization has also conducted in-depth context analysis of the civil society initiatives in Nepal.

An editorial committee of technical and regional experts are involved to review each country panel's findings. Based on their final scores, the CSO sector of each country has been grouped within one of three sustainability categories: (1) Sustainability Enhanced; (2) Sustainability Evolving; and (3) Sustainability Impeded.

So, this year's CSO-SI report covered 7 countries of the South/East Asia and overall Nepal has been ranked 5th position with 4.4 score out of 7 score. The scores are given 1-3 for sustainable enhance category, 3.1-5 for sustainability evolving categories and 5.1-7 for sustainability impeded categories. Thus, first time Nepal has been scored under the sustainability evolving categories with 4.4 score. In this region Philippines and Bangladesh have been ranked first and second respectively whereas Thailand and Sri



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Lanka have been ranked as 6th and 7th position respectively. The overall country ranks along with the respective dimensions are as follows:

CSO-SI scored Countries	Rank with overall CSO-SI scores	Overall Dimension-wise Rank						
		Legal Environment	Organizational Capacity	Financial Viability	Advocacy	Service Provision	Infrastructure	Public image
Philippines	1 (3.3)	1	2	2	1	1	1	2
Bangladesh	2 (3.5)	2	1	1	2	2	2	1
Indonesia	3 (4.1)	5	4	3	3	3	4	4
Cambodia	4 (4.2)	4	3	5	5	4	3	3
Nepal	5 (4.4)	3	6	4	4	5	5	5
Thailand	6 (4.8)	7	4	6	6	7	6	6
Sri Lanka	7 (5.0)	6	6	7	7	6	7	7

In overall dimension Nepal has secured fifth position among seven countries with 4.4 score and categorized under the sustainability evolving (3.1-5 score) categories.

However, out of 7 dimensions Nepalese CSO's "**organization capacity**", "**service provision**", "**infrastructure**" and "**public images**" have been scored low. The country-wise overall CSO-SI scores and country-wise CSO-SI dimension's score of the 2014 report are as follows:

Country	Overall CSO Sustainability Index	Country-wise CSO-SI Score for 2014						
		Legal Environment	Organizational Capacity	Financial Viability	Advocacy	Service Provision	Infrastructure	Public image
Bangladesh	3.5	4.0	3.2	4.0	3.2	3.1	3.5	3.4
Cambodia	4.2	4.1	3.8	4.9	4.4	4.1	4.2	4.0
Indonesia	4.1	4.3	3.8	4.5	3.6	3.9	4.3	4.3
Nepal	4.4	4.0	4.5	4.8	4.0	4.3	4.6	4.7
Philippines	3.3	3.2	3.4	4.2	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.4
Sri Lanka	5.0	5.1	4.8	5.4	5.2	4.6	4.9	5.2
Thailand	4.8	5.1	4.0	5.1	4.9	4.4	4.8	5.0
Average	4.2	4.3	3.9	4.7	4.0	3.9	4.2	4.3

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Kedar Khadka
President
GoGo Foundation