

Northern Forum

Date : 11th September 2009

Time : 8.30 am - 10.00am

Place of Meeting : Caritas - SEDEC Auditorium , 133 Kynsey Road , Colombo 8

Chair : Mr. Jeevan Thiagarajah, Executive Director- CHA



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The Agenda is as follows:

Contextualising our work in the North.

1. 8.30 – 9.00am **Situational Analysis of North by Ms. S. Sooriyakumary, President, Oferr Ceylon**
2. 9.00 – 9.30am **Revisiting Past Working Practices by Mr. Raga Alphonsus, Head of Programme Support Unit, Zoa Refugee Care- Netherlands**
3. 9.30- 10.00am **Need for Development Sensitivity, CHA Peace Unit**
4. **AOB/ Announcements**

Development Sensitive Immersion Programmes

Conflict is an inherent part of development and social change, which has the potential for both constructive and destructive outcomes. Years of experience and research around the world have shown that humanitarian and other aid interventions can have a positive impact on conflict. In particular, aid contributions can:

1. Strengthen mechanisms and resources for managing or resolving differences; and
2. Help to address factors that are causing tension within a given community (i.e. tension which could lead to, or is already resulting in, violence).

However, such initiatives can also produce negative outcomes, especially where intervening actors fail to take sufficient consideration of the context, such as the deep-seated, pre-existing cleavages within societies. Consequently, such initiatives may actually exacerbate inter- or intra-group tensions, and negatively impact on the existing conflict dynamics.

In order to facilitate this CHA proposes **Development Sensitive Immersion Programmes** for intervening organizations in the Northern and Eastern regions of Sri Lanka. The agenda of the September 11 meeting serves as an introduction to the options which can be offered in this regard. Therefore we invite organizations working in the Northern and Eastern region who wish to sharpen their orientation to achieve a substantially higher standard of professionalism and greater outcomes in the field of humanitarian and development assistance to join us.

Please contact Sonali on Tel no; 2506855 / 2598413 or peacepa1@cha.lk to discuss customized programmes.

Please feel free to forward your Comments and suggestions for discussion topics for the Northern Forum to me by e-mail or telephone

Thanks
Ravi Thambar
Liaison Coordinator