

Regional programs – recipient perspective

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Our network is dynamic



- Not just because of vibrant programs (Resource)
- But also dynamic participation (Recipient)
- Sri Lanka is a strong recipient center

We have been rich

- By the **number** of participants
- By the participants' **interaction** and **contributions**
- By the **impact** we create

Numbers are achieved by

- **Partnerships** with other institutions and making joint invitations
 - Even when full sponsorship is available
- **Selling** the programs outright to other institutions and get them to invite
 - Especially when we have to raise funds

Numbers are obtained and higher participation created by

- Always identifying the most **appropriate institutes** and pursue them for partnerships
- Most of the times get all the **relevant** organizations to participate (even when **indirectly** relevant)
- Get **academics** to participate
- Opening it to **NGOs** and **civil society** too get involve

Practices for ensuring numbers

- Send invitations using **multiple channels**
- **Following up** with the authorities with reminders
- Requesting **nominations from the institutions**
- Reminding the **nominees personally**
(especially addressing their concerns about odd times)

Practices for ensuring contribution

- While the invitations are addressed to the institutions we also pick up individuals
- Prompt participants to question and comment giving them options such as
 - questions asked by themselves
 - by writing down to ask by the coordinator

Impact is created by

- Having a local adaptation session just after the video conference to consolidate the learning and see how best they could be applied to the country
- Discussing implementation issues and see how those could be addressed
- Documenting and publishing the proceedings and outcome in professional forums and newspapers

Challenges

- When funding has to be raised sufficient notice has to be given to the institutions
 - Sometimes time is not enough for the approval process
- When times are early morning or late in the evening there are complications
 - Participants have their own problem
 - Institutions have hard time in confirming nominations

Challenges

- The timing sometime would coincide with national holidays
 - Participants have personal obligations
 - Institutions find difficult to get nominations
- The contents/PowerPoint presentations come at the last moment and therefore it may be difficult to convince people to participate

Challenges

- Even the expert speakers lack presentation skills in Video conferencing
- Language ability/pronunciation issues of some speakers are questionable
- As the slides get the priority the audience doesn't see the speaker except at the beginning and end

What we have found lately

- Our relationship with donors had not been that close in the past
- We need to get more parliamentarians and policy makers
- Other than banking industry there had been very few programs to attract private sector industries

This is how we do it

- Also how we intend to change
- But we like to learn from the rest

Expectations for future

- There will be a calendar of events at the beginning of the year
(Resource centers)
- There will be higher contributions from other participating countries too, so that we can learn from each other
(Recipient centers)