

WES-Net India Core Group Meeting with IRC, Netherlands

1130 - 1245 hrs, 23 June 2005
UNICEF, Lodi Estate, New Delhi 110003

Present:

WES-Net:

1. Preeti Soni (PS), UNDP
2. D.K. Manavalan (DKM), AFPRO
3. A J James (AJJ), Pragmatix
4. Arumugam Kalimuthu (AK), Plan International
5. Tejinder Kaur (TK), Pragmatix

IRC: Joep Verhagen (JV)

Meeting started with a follow up from the last meeting held on 07 June 2005 while waiting for JV. The action points drafted by AJJ, PS and TK during the last meeting were circulated and discussed. AJJ did a round table on who could make what contributions to WES-Net activities. Following are the main points:

1. **AFPRO** : DKM offered to support a Research Associate who would collect information and pass it on the Content Manager. Apart from this AFPRO would also make certain financial contribution to the running of WES-Net India, directly to Pragmatix.

Action : DKM to send a confirmation of this to TK.

2. **Plan International** : AK said he would check with Plan International to see whether they could support hiring someone to do some part of identified WES-Net India functions and bear all the related expenses (e.g. salary and other overheads). He also mentioned that Plan might have problem with seating space for the person, therefore AJJ offered to provide space in the Pragmatix office.

Action: AK to send a confirmation to TK by the end of June.

3. **WES-Net Structure** : Following the consultant's presentation and recommendations for "Development of Institutional Options for WES-Net India" on 02 June the Core Group had discussed and decided to go with the option of a hybrid model of WES-Net, with a society and a set of host institutions carrying out the executive functions. It was also discussed that WES-Net should seek legal advice about being registered as a Society.

Action: DKM to contact a legal adviser and help getting the FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act) and inform TK about the same.

4. **Further Funding for WES-Net**: The Core Group discussed this point and decided that other organizations (eg WVI, SDC, WaterAid, Oxfam etc) should also be contacted for supporting WES-Net activities. There should be a strategic approach to contacting each organization with members of Core Team providing contact persons' name who could be

approached for this. Apart from this, AJJ would be meeting with IRC next month in Delft and would discuss and explore possibilities of further funding by IRC.

5. After JV joined the Group he explained the IRC's structure broadly. It has three sections:
- Knowledge Development and Advocacy (KDA) Section
 - Information & Communication (INCO) Section
 - Resource Centre Development (RCD) Section – working in in 20 countries, including India, where they are supporting 3 Resource Centre (Gujarat, Uttaranchal and Kerala).

He made the following main points: IRC

- Have already agreed to support development of the WES-Net website and is interested in supporting more such initiatives ;
- Would be able to share their expertise in knowledge management;
- Would also be able to provide support through expertise for a national level resource centre, though it would have to be discussed further with IRC
- Would be easier for them to support specific activities within WES-Net, e.g., workshops and conferences.

JV specified that IRC would need a formal request to the headquarters for support.

Action: AJJ to write to IRC formally, and discuss it when he visits IRC 4 – 9 July 2005.