

## Report: FOIP Field Trip to India - March/April 2009: Objectives

Aims of Trip: To learn from the experience of Indian NGO's and RTI (Right to Information) activists, to share experiences and practical matters from the South African perspective and to set up Networks between South Africa and India in terms of Freedom of Information.

### 1. Learn about the Right to Information Movement in India:

- How do organizations and activists mobilize people with little resources to access their Right to Information?
- Do people living in poverty use the law themselves or do organizations use the law on their behalf?
- Training: how do organizations/individuals provide training?
- Advocacy: What are the key issues?
- Are there any models that could be used in South Africa?

### 2. Learn about how the National Coalition of People for the Right to Information (NCPRI) Operates.

- Is NCPRI funded? By who? How many staff work for NCPRI?
- How many coordinators?
- Does the NCPRI produce Shadow Reports? Is it possible to receive a copy?
- How long has the NCPRI been established?
- How did the NCPRI evolve?
- What does the Network do?

### 3. Share knowledge of the PAIA Movement in South Africa and set up Networks for SAHA and South Africa with India.

- Distribute leaflets detailing the work done by SAHA
- Present experiences from SAHA
- Explain PAIA movement in South Africa: which NGOs are involved, the work they do and the role they play.
- Explain SAHA's role in South Africa's PAIA movement
- Share practical matters concerning PAIA in South Africa including discussion on the fact that South Africa has no independent Information Commissioner
- Share aims of the PAIA Civil Society Network
- Meet as many people working in RTI as possible
- Meet representatives from NGOs, individual activists, journalists, government officers and information commissioners.

### 4. Information Commissioner

- Find out how the Information Commissioner works in India
- What role does the IC play?
- Are IC's effective in getting records released? Over-riding refusals?

### 5. Write Reports to bring back to South Africa



India Field Trip Report 2009 by Charlotte Young, South African History Archive

- What lessons can South Africa learn from India?
- Models that could be used by PAIA Civil Society Network
- Film experience on "RTI on wheels"
- Interview experts about their experiences with RTI.

