

Workshop Program Partners and Hosts

- International NGO Training & Research Centre, U.K.
- North-South Institute, Ottawa
- Division of International Development, University of Calgary, Alberta
- The Coady International Institute, Antigonish, Nova Scotia

Funds

In addition to SAP Canada core program funds provided by CIDA Partnership Branch, and registration fees generated, funds for the workshop were also received from:

- Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development
- International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development
- International Development Research Centre
- North-South Institute

Conclusions

The workshop series was an exciting and ambitious event for SAP Canada that generated a great deal of interest across, and even outside of, the country. It was a valuable exercise that achieved our objectives of:

- expanding and engaging our constituency
- establishing new institutional partnerships in Canada and internationally
- facilitating learning on global issues affecting grassroots development in Canada and South Asia

We succeeded in initiating an exploration and debate on the topical issue of *civil society* among a diverse group of organizations. We provided 200 participants with an opportunity to: understand civil society as a theoretical concept, reflect on different cultural interpretations and experiences of civil society in South Asian countries and Canada, know more about donor policies and strategies concerning civil society, and share experiences on effective ways of working to strengthen civil society in Canada and South Asia.

Follow-Up: Resource Book on Civil Society

The papers, publications, contacts and information collected in the process of developing the workshops, and the analysis and discussion generated during the workshops represent a significant body of information on civil society. With support from the Trillium Foundation, SAP Canada will synthesize this information and produce a resource book on civil society. This book will serve to help organizations in Canada and elsewhere continue the dialogue and strengthen their partnerships and programming on civil society.

The resource book will include the basics of civil society theory, concepts, donor policies, critical analysis, approaches, case studies and guidelines for action and resources and contacts as generated by the workshop process. The resource book will:

- clarify goals, objectives, assumptions and expectations with respect to civil society
- describe and assess strategies and programs
- provide guidelines and case studies for action and collaboration