

ICC-INDIA ORGANIZES THE FIRST TRAINING OF TRAINERS PROGRAMME ON ICC

The ICC-India campaign organized its first Training of Trainers (TOT) programme on the International Criminal Court (ICC) and India in Mumbai on 8-10 June 2007. Since its inception in the year 2000, the ICC-India Campaign has conducted over 46 workshops spread across 19 states in India, building awareness about the principles embodied in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and advocating use of these principles in domestic laws.

The TOT programme was different from the hitherto organized ICC workshops. Unlike the workshops which concentrated on imparting basic information on ICC, the objective of the TOT was to equip participants with more in depth information, tools and skills necessary to conduct short trainings on the ICC and India in their own constituencies, as well as to incorporate the issue into their organizational activities. The TOT was aimed at expanding the reach of ICC-India's information dissemination activities by building the capacities of potential trainers on the ICC.

A total of 31 participants from 13 states participated in the TOT. The group consisted of lawyers, academics and activists, with previous experience on using law for advancing human rights in India. The four member resource team for the TOT included **Dr. Ahmed Ziauddin**, the Convenor of Asian Network for the International Criminal Court (ANICC), and faculty of law, Catholic University of Brussels; **Dr. Usha Ramanathan**, Program Director, International Environmental Law Centre and independent law researcher; **Adv. Vrinda Grover**, an advocate and human rights activist based in Delhi and who has written extensively on the anti-Sikh attacks in Delhi in 1984; and **Adv. Saumya Uma**, a human rights lawyer based in Mumbai and the coordinator of ICC-Campaign in India. The team was a combination of resource persons who have worked extensively on the ICC at national, regional and international levels. The training was a mélange of lectures on the ICC, information on tools and techniques in training, and capacity building in training skills. The training was interactive in its design, in that it made good use of group activities, case studies, individual and group presentations, discussions and quiz competition. Each participant was provided with training tools, consisting of 13 powerpoint presentations on aspects of the ICC, a 250-paged information kit with a compilation of articles on ICC by international and Indian authors and a workbook.

The training had five main themes, viz., (1) Impunity & Accountability, (2) Jurisdictional Aspects, (3) Crimes against Humanity, (4) ICC as a standard for domestic law reform, and (5) Recent Developments in Indian Criminal Law. Theme 1 introduced the participants to the concepts of impunity and accountability, with a focus on individual criminal responsibility, state accountability, command and superior responsibility. This formed the foundation for Theme 2, which dealt with jurisdictional aspects related to the ICC, including complementarity, non-retroactivity and inherent jurisdiction. Theme 3 had a focused presentation and discussion on crimes against humanity, including international, regional and Indian contexts where the concept could be applied. The fourth theme examined the potential for using the ICC as a standard for domestic law reform, with a particular reference to Communal Violence Bill, Sexual Assault Bill, police reforms and witness protection. The last theme discussed recent developments in Indian criminal law, pertaining to anti-terrorism laws,

preventive detention laws, ordinary and extraordinary laws, speedy trials, and the relevance of ICC in this context

The participants felt that the TOT was useful in broadening their knowledge and building their capacities to organize and conduct short trainings on the ICC and its relevance to India. As a logical corollary to the TOT, some participants have taken initiative in contributing articles on the ICC to regional newspapers, while others are in the process of organizing smaller workshops within their respective states. Thus the TOT has not only expanded the resource pool spread across 13 states, but has also strengthened the support base of the campaign.