UNESCO Office in Kathmandu and OHCHR-Nepal jointly present the film

I am Nepali: Hear My Voice

on the right to information.

The film aims to raise awareness about the right to information and highlights the need for government at all levels to improve access to information and knowledge for all Nepalese people, especially during the period of democratic transition.

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International law and Nepal’s obligations:
Nepal acceded to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in 1990, and so has the legal obligation to protect and promote the right to seek, receive and impart information.

National law and Nepal’s obligations:
The Comprehensive Peace Agreement of 21 November 2006 committed both sides to respect people’s right to be informed. The Interim Constitution promulgated on 15 January 2007, guarantees the right to information as a fundamental right.

Ian Martin
Personal Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General in Nepal

“Nepal is now on the verge of transition as a country, as a society. And for the first time, those decisions are to be made by the people of Nepal as a whole through a free and fair election to a Constituent Assembly, where the future of the country is to be decided. It is crucial for the process that everybody in Nepal is able to participate in full knowledge of the nature of the process and of the implications of the decision that they are taking and that requires the maximum flow of information.”

For more information or to receive a copy of the film, please contact:

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The right to seek, receive and impart information is a fundamental human right. Access to information affects every aspect of life in Nepal. Information is essential:

- for the widespread participation of all people in Nepal during the peace process, especially the Constituent Assembly election;
- to involve all Nepalese people in developing new policies and implementing social and economic development;
- to address the historical legacy of discrimination on the basis of caste, ethnicity, gender and geography which has contributed to a lack of access to information and awareness for many Nepalese people; and
- to ensure transparency and accountability in government at all levels.

“Yes, we have radio and we listen to the news. But the news is in Nepali language. I understand little Nepali. What I understand, I understand, what I don’t understand I don’t.”
Man from Madhesi community, Banke

“I heard about the computer training on the radio. I also heard that they teach how to do email and internet. I want to do an advanced computer course after this training.”
Girl with polio, Community Media Center Lumbini, Rupandehi

“Here we have no development. We’ve heard of the Constituent Assembly, but we don’t know what it is. We want to know more of what this means”
Man from Gaine community, Kaski

Any newspapers that come to our village are kept by the village intellectuals. They are afraid to share the information in case the villagers become aware and start asking question about other matters. Everything is with the rich people. The poor people have no means of knowing anything”
Madhesi woman, Banke

“I am always looking forward to a radio programme called “Kisan Bolchha” (Farmer Speaks). For the market, production is not everything. The main thing is you should get the right price for your production. I get the information about the prices via community radio.”
Local farmer, Palpa

“Nothing comes here, no radio, no newspapers. No one has a radio in the camp”
Ex-bonded Labourer, Bardiya