



South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children

SAARC Apex Body

SAIEVAC Newsletter

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SAIEVAC Technical Consultation Recommends strengthening commitment and accountability of South Asian Governments and relevant actors to end harmful practices

Organized and showcased by SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat (South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children) and hosted by the National Commission for Women and Children, Royal Government of Bhutan with support from the South Asia Co-ordinating Group on Action against Violence against Children (SACG), and funding from SAARC Development Fund (SDF), the Regional Technical Consultation for Eliminating Harmful Practices affecting Children based on Tradition, Culture, Religion and Superstition held in Thimphu, Bhutan was a success and called South Asian Governments and relevant actors to end harmful practices.



This 3rd Technical Consultation of SAIEVAC provided an excellent and timely opportunity to engage and address many critical dimensions of the harmful practices, which was identified as an urgent need by the 3rd Governing Board Meeting of the South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children (SAIEVAC). The consultation contributed to further strengthen SAARC's commitment to children as outlined in the Convention of Regional Arrangements for the Promotion of Child Welfare in South Asia (2002) and in the 2004 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and Children and further contribute to obligations outlined within the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (Article 24(3) and 18), and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) (Article 2, 5 and 16), and General Comment No. 13 (2011) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on "The right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence" not only highlighted this right but also the roles and responsibilities of duty-bearers related to children's best interests. Countries shared research work, pilot programmes and case studies of work addressing the harmonization of legal, social and cultural norms that have already begun to show concrete results for children.

A highlight of the Technical Consultation was the momentum that SAIEVAC gave to the Children's Participation, whereby child Governing Board members and child representatives from South Asia participated and presented approaches and recommendations for their protection from harmful practices affecting their wellbeing.

Violence against children takes place in many different forms and often includes harmful practices deeply embedded in day-to-day community life which are perceived as accepted cultural, religious or social norms. Despite legislation which discourages use, such harmful practices, which very often target young women and girls, are rarely perceived as harmful but in reality result in death, disability, compromised health and psychological trauma for many children around the world. Increasingly gaining the attention of the wider global community, harmful practices may be either traditional or newly emerging but in general usually have cultural, social or religious underpinnings. While all violations of children's rights can legitimately be described as "harmful practices", those based upon tradition, culture, religion or superstition are especially challenging as they are perpetrated or actively condoned by parents or influential leaders within the community and often enjoy continued support from the state and the wider community.

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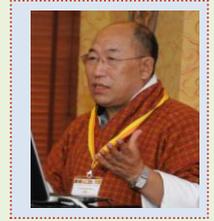
EDITORIAL TEAM

Dr. Rinchen Chophel, Director General
Editor-in-Chief

Mr. Nim Karma Sherpa, Editor

Mr. Rajan Burlakoti, Co-Editor

Message from the Editor-in-Chief



Dear Readers,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all to read our new SAIEVAC Newsletter. As you know, this is our Inaugural Issue and we have deliberately made it look a bit like an annual report, wherein the articles are all tied up to SAIEVAC's major events and activities during the past one year. This has two benefits as you know. This can be a good reference point for you and other readers to have a quick update with our activities. Secondly, it can also serve like an annual report to our national governments of member states, National mechanisms, donors, partners and other well wishers.

In future, it will also be our endeavour to make the newsletter a bit entertaining as well, with short human interest stories from our partners in the field in the respective countries. We are also looking forward to involve our children to be part of this newsletter to make it attuned to our principles of enhancing child participation.

Through this very first issue, I would like to therefore request all our partners and colleagues in the field to please send in your stories, news and articles to publish in SAIEVAC Newsletter. We hope to make this an annual publication. If resources and time permit, we will subsequently make it a bi-annual publication in the near future.

Lastly, I would like to encourage our children, both boys and girls, to please participate by sending in your views and opinions that you would like us to publish. We are there for you and we are 'In Solidarity with the Children of SAARC' !

Happy Reading !



Dr.Rinchen Chopel
Director General

The United Nation's Study on Violence against Children urging States to prohibit all forms of violence against children, the mandate and support of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children (SRS-VaC) was reaffirmed through a video message sent by the UNSRSG-VaC herself from the United Nations HQ in New York. She urged families, communities, traditional and religious leaders and children themselves to take an active part in social change and in implementation efforts.

Around 105 delegates attended the Consultation, which included SAIEVAC Governing Board Members, Child GB and Observers, Coordinators, NACG Representatives and Representatives from the SAARC Secretariat, SDF, SAARCLAW, SACG and the UNSRSG-VaC.

Recommendations of SAIEVAC's 3rd Technical Consultation

After deliberating extensively, the consultation on the different agenda items tabled for its consideration, which included technical discussion papers, Children's Report as well as reports on the thematic areas from the 8 Member States recommended that:

1. Recognizing the urgent need to address and support abandonment of harmful practices that affect children, calls for increased commitment of all the key stakeholders including the political machinery of the SAARC Member States to reinforce effective implementation strategies of policies and plans based on key recommendations highlighted in the SRS-VaC's report (2012);
2. The SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat (SRS) review the country presentations made and identify key challenges and proposed recommendations so as to ensure adequate follow up;
3. Appropriate and innovative approaches be adopted to strengthen national mechanisms which includes the NACGs and Children's Forums to reinforce their capacity to institute service provision in relation to prevention, protection, response and recovery;
4. The on-going research work being undertaken by the SRS on Prohibition to Eliminate Corporal Punishment take into consideration the information presented by the Member States in their country reports, the technical paper and recommendations generated during discussion, in order to update the existing information. (delete this last statement: used by SRS for different materials/publications);
5. Documentation of regional positive caring practices for children which can build on/contribute towards addressing harmful practices and social norms including inter-generational dimensions be taken up as a priority in collaboration with the Children's Forum, SACG and NACG agencies;
6. The review and reform of legislation pertaining to harmful practices as well as overall VaC needs to be addressed through dedicated efforts and urgently in order to ensure that domestic legislation relevant to children's protection from all forms of violence articulated via statutory, customary or religious laws fully conforms with human rights standards;
7. Taking note of the ongoing efforts in strengthening child participation in all SAIEVAC activities, and taking due consideration of the outcome of the Preparatory Meeting of the Child Governing Board Members and Observers, the SRS work towards the institutionalization of the National and Regional Children's (word Participation taken out) Forums;
8. Taking note of the ongoing efforts to refine the Regional Action Plan for Ending Child Marriage endorsed in the Regional Girl Child Review Meeting held in December 2012, the recommendations from the Technical Discussion paper and the country reports be reviewed and appropriately incorporated in the RAP;

9. There is an urgent need to improve/generate information and evidence on VaC including harmful practices affecting children - further building on both the SRS-VaC and Plan's "Protecting Children from Harmful Practices in Plural Legal Systems" (2012) and the International NGO Council on Violence Against Children's, "Violating Children's Rights: Harmful practices based on tradition, culture, religion or superstition (2012) – in order to create a repository of resources, materials and information/data to support Member States / service providers / child rights actors in securing children's right to protection from all forms of violence in South Asia;
10. Based on issues of the rights of children with disability reflected in all the presentations, the SRS in partnership with interested agencies of the SACG to explore the possibility of structuring the theme of the next SAIEVAC Consultation on 'Rights and Responses for Children with Disabilities';
11. To further reinforce the movement for children globally, and noting the encouraging initiatives in other regions such as the Children's Unit in the Council of Baltic Sea States and ASEAN, the SRS with support of the UNSRSG/SACG explore appropriate institutional linkages/collaboration with other similar Regional entities; and
12. The SRS take forward the current draft of the 'Desk Review of the Faith-based Initiatives' by circulating to the Member States for any inputs/feedback and finalizing it after incorporating the comments so received. ☐

SAIEVAC's 4th Governing Board Meeting

Co-incident with the conclusion of the 3rd Technical Consultation on Eliminating Harmful Practices affecting Children based on Tradition, Culture, Religion and Superstition, SAIEVAC conducted its 4th Governing Board Meeting from 28th to 29th September in Thimphu, Bhutan. The meeting looked at the recommendations made by the 3rd Governing Board Meeting held in Colombo, Sri Lanka including its outcomes or achievements made so far.



The GBM after intense and elaborate deliberations on the different agenda items adopted the following recommendations.

1. The meeting while endorsing the report on the Follow up Actions of the 3rd Governing Board, made the following Recommendations that;
 - 1.1 The documentation prepared for the GB Meetings be organized in a much more reader/user friendly manner;

- 1.2 Taking into consideration the structure and Rules of Procedure for the Governing Board, and giving due cognizance to the submission made by the SRS on the current status of the CSO GB membership selection, it was endorsed that the status of the 2 CSO Observers will remain unchanged;
- 1.3 Considering the initial draft of the logos, the Board after extensive deliberations including significant contributions from the 2 Child Members endorses that the SRS will :
 - a) Involve the SAIEVAC national mechanisms to develop ideas/drafts for a SAIEVAC logo by involving different groups including children to create a wider social mobilization and awareness on SAIEVAC;
 - b) Based on the ideas presented by the different Board Members move ahead to put together the next set of drafts and circulate to the GB Members for their additional inputs and guidance;
 - c) Consider the possibility of instituting a logo competition among children in the Member States with a small incentive prize through the national mechanisms.
- 1.4 On the issue of the status of the SAIEVAC Goodwill Advisor, the Board after carefully considering the various dimensions and implications associated with the position in general and the position of Ms. Jahanara Wattoo in particular, endorsed that the SRS will further consult with SAIEVAC national mechanism Pakistan to arrive at a clear position/decision and accordingly inform the GB Members.
2. The Board while endorsing the recommendations of the 3rd Technical Consultation on 'Eliminating Harmful Practices Affecting Children based Tradition, Culture, Religion and Superstition', directed the SRS to:
 - 2.1 Ensure that adequate focus is brought on corporal punishment in work settings in the Regional Campaign on Corporal Punishment;
 - 2.2 Finalize the theme of the proposed technical consultation by maintaining harmony with the Convention on the Rights of People with Disability and to also make the theme more focused to achieve better outcome;
3. On the issue of the National and Regional Child Participation Forums, the Board taking cognizance of the importance as well as the challenges of setting up such mechanisms, directed the SRS to ensure that dedicated efforts are made to accelerate the process with the support of the national mechanisms;
4. Considering the updated ToR of the Governing Board, the 4th GBM endorsed the ToR after making amendments to 4.1, 4.2, 5.7 and 6.7.
5. The Meeting noted with appreciation the development and finalization of the Child Participation Standards and Principles and the different guidelines and; endorsed the documents to be used in the driving the Child Participation activities within the SAIEVAC mechanisms both at the Regional and National levels;

6. The Board taking due consideration of the draft Child Labour Strategy tabled by the SRS and noting that the draft was prepared with the involvement of different stakeholders, directs the SRS to submit the draft to the Government of India for their guidance, feedback and consideration. The SRS is also directed to ensure that the progress of the finalization of the Strategy is reported to the GB in subsequent meetings.
7. Reviewing the draft Regional Action Plan (RAP) for Ending Child Marriage and taking into consideration the discussions held around it while considering the Follow Up Actions of the 3rd GB Meeting, the Board endorsed the proposal for SRS to move forward with the finalization of the RAP. However the SRS will ensure that the Final Draft of the RAP is tabled to the 5th GB for its approval or in the event the 5th GB is delayed to get endorsement through circulation after seeking due clearance of the Chairperson;
8. Considering the draft Concept of the SAIEVAC Academy and the proposal for moving forward, the Board after taking note of the different aspects of the Academy, including the title itself, endorses that SRS move forward the process to firm up the Academy including the Brainstorming Meeting. However the Board also directs the SRS to keep the Board informed through subsequent Meetings on the progress of the Academy;
9. The Board after taking into consideration the submission made by the SRS endorses the proposal to move forward in strategizing and holding the Parliamentary Caucus Meeting as approved by the 3rd GBM;
10. The Board noting the submissions made under Any Other Issues agenda, endorsed that:
 - 10.1 The SRS take additional measures to further reinforce the institutionalization `process for the NACGs and to also work towards holding the 3rd NACG Conference at an appropriate time;
 - 10.2 The SRS take whatever steps essential to facilitate the Child Helplines;
 - 10.3 The different Member States will make continued efforts to observe the International Day of the Girl Child on October 11 every year meaningfully; and that the SRS will also place a message from the Chairperson and GB commemorating the Day on the SAIEVAC Website
 - 10.4 The SRS will continue to forge ahead with the Missing Child Alert Project activities as approved during the 3rd GBM. ▫

9th SAARCLAW Chief Justices Conference and 12th SAARCLAW Conference

The 9th SAARC Chief Justices' Conference and the 12th SAARCLAW Conference held in Thimphu, Bhutan represents an innovative partnership established between SAARCLAW and the South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC) and a landmark learning event held at the end of May and hosted by the Royal Court of Justice and the SAARCLAW Bhutan Chapter with support from the South Asia Coordination Group (SACG). This year's conference, "Child Protection and Constitutionalism – Securing the Future", was attended by Chief Justices, members of national judiciaries and law students from across South Asia and brought more than 250 participant's together with members of SAIEVAC's extensive partner network, including international experts, regional staff and partners and children themselves, to explore and further address continued challenges and close existing gaps related to realizing children's rights and protecting the children of South Asia. ▫

SAIEVAC Organized its 3rd NACG Meeting

South Asia Initiative To End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC) organized its 3rd National Action and Coordinating Group Against Violence Against Children (NACG) Meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 18-19 December 2013.

The events were hosted by the Ministry of Child Development and Women's Empowerment, Government of Sri Lanka (SAIEVAC National Mechanism, Sri Lanka). The 3rd NACG is expected to be attended by around 40 participants which includes the National Coordinators, the Chair and Co-Chairs of the NACG and relevant SACG agencies.

Following the 2nd NACG Consultation in Malé, Maldives, the SRS undertook series of follow up activities both at the Regional and National levels. Right after this meeting, the NACGs of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Pakistan had follow up meetings, including face to face meetings with NACG Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, India NACG Working Group and discussions over telephone and emails with other NACGs. The preparations for the 3rd Technical Consultation and the 4th Governing Board Meeting also provided excellent opportunities for National Level preparations supported by Plan, SAVE, ECPAT and WVI involving the NACGs. Moreover, the 4th Governing Board Meeting also held extended discussion on the nomination and the institutional processes for the participation of the CSO Board Representatives, taking into consideration the current status of representation as Observers. The SRS tabled this for information to the 3rd NACG Consultation.

The SRS has also initiated the process of involving the NACGs in the different SAIEVAC Project activities including the Missing Child Alerts Trilateral Project.

The coordination between the SAIEVAC Government Mechanisms and the NACGs have significantly improved since the 1st NACG Meeting and the level of comfort and confidence has greatly enhanced the representation of the Member States in SAIEVAC Regional events. However with increased interaction in national and regional level activities, the institutional arrangements within the NACGs and the inter-relation of the NGO/CSOs and the UN/INGO partners within the framework has come up for further discussions. The representation of Networks (one example) on the NACGs while providing for greater involvement of partners, does pose challenges in terms of actual convergence of support based on specific agency roles and responsibilities for taking the NACG/SAIEVAC agenda forward.

Therefore as this important VaC/SAIEVAC mechanism moved forward, the need for creating a better understanding on some of these issues jointly were noted. Towards this end, the SRS made efforts to link with each Member State to ensure that there was adequate preparation for the 3rd NACG meeting that included the follow up actions to the 2nd NACG Meeting. ▣

Video on Ending Corporal Punishment Released

A video documentary on the SAIEVAC's Regional Campaign against Corporal Punishment of Children, based on the 12th SAIEVAC-SARCLAW Conference held in Thimphu, Bhutan in May 2013 has been released. The video highlights the human rights imperative to end corporal punishment as well as the launching of the Regional Campaign against Corporal Punishment of Children. It outlines the key messages for ending all corporal punishment of children together with the key outcomes of the 12th SARCLAW Conference particularly the challenges, strategies and recommendations to fulfill legal gaps. The documentary highlights the priority actions on enacting or amending the legislation which explicitly prohibits corporal punishment of children in all settings, building capacity of concerned actors on positive parenting, teaching, caring and the implementing legal reforms, and raising awareness around harmful consequences of corporal punishment on children and the society. ▣

SAIEVAC Organized Orientation Programme on Positive Discipline and Legal Reform

An Orientation on Positive Discipline and Legal Reform' for the SAIEVAC national mechanisms was held on 20-21 December, 2013 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The SAIEVAC Coordinators and the Chairs, Co-Chairs and the Representatives of the National Action and Coordinating Group against Violence against Children from the SAIEVAC member states had participated in the orientation. The program was hosted by the National Child Protection Authority of Sri Lanka.

The orientation was aimed at:

- Strengthening the understanding around legal reform and factors involved towards achieving explicit legal prohibition as a support base for the ongoing campaign against corporal punishment in South Asia region, and
- Sensitizing on the approach towards positive discipline in everyday parenting and teaching

The sessions were designed and facilitated by Mr. Laxman Belbase from Save the Children together with Prof. Babu Mathew from National Law University, New Delhi, Dr. Rinchen Chopel (Director General of SAIEVAC) and Mr. Rajan Burlakoti (Campaign Coordinator at SAIEVAC). The orientation explained why prohibition of corporal punishment is a key element in effective rights-based national child protection systems. The information on the key follow up issues of the UN Global Study on Violence against Children were also presented. Country specific exercises were carried out to assess the extent to which national child protection systems in the region have included prohibition of corporal punishment and to identify what is needed in countries which have not achieved this. The progresses from the SAIEVAC's regional campaign against corporal punishment of children in South Asia were also shared to apply the regional knowledge in devising national strategies for law reform. Discussions were held on developing national strategies for law reform in countries while providing individual consultations for representatives from each country. Certain issues related to working with government and parliament for ensuring the inclusion of prohibition of corporal punishment in legislation for child protection were also highlighted.

The orientation also introduced Positive Discipline and its pillars, framework and building Blocks. The process of child development were also covered to help the participants understand how children think and feel. An exercise was carried out to understand the meaning and dimensions of "temperament" through the comparison of parent's and children's temperaments. Lastly, certain measures on problem solving and responding with positive discipline were also discussed. ▣



CALL FOR STORIES & ARTICLES

National Mechanisms, NACGs and Children are requested to contribute news, articles and human interest stories related to SAIEVAC focus areas.

Follow-up Meeting of The Trilateral Convention of Stakeholders on Missing Child Alert System

A Follow-up Meeting of the Trilateral Convention of Stakeholders on Missing Child Alert System was jointly organized by SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat (SRS) and Plan Asia Regional Office, hosted by the National Commission for Women and Children, SAIEVAC Mechanism in Bhutan from 23-25 September 2013.



The Missing Child Alert project initiated by Plan International led to the Tri-lateral Convention of Stakeholders jointly organized by SAIEVAC and Plan International in February 2013. Wide range of stakeholders such as senior representatives of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Ministry of Telecommunications, the National Informatics Centre of Govt. of India, the SAARC Law, SAIEVAC, UNICEF, IOM, INGOS, Civil Society organizations and organizations of survivors from Bangladesh, India and Nepal participated. The convention concluded with three key recommendations:

- To form a high level Regional Technical Advisory Group (TAG);
- To select decentralized model of technology for an alert system, which will be built upon all existing systems; and
- To invest in convergence and cooperation within key Ministries at national and regional level.

Following this, a series of activities will be undertaken by SAIEVAC and Plan international to realize the recommendations made by the Tri-lateral Convention. In view of the many opportunities presented by this initiative, it is found vital to form a high level Regional Technical Advisory Group (TAG) having representations from three Governments and relevant expert agencies.

Among other objectives, this regional level follow-up meeting of the Tri-lateral Convention aims to expedite the process of the formation of TAG. The meeting will also offer an opportunity to develop a road map of MCA activities. ▣

SAIEVAC Signs MOU with SAARCLAW

On 24th October 2013, SAARCLAW and SAIEVAC have signed a MOU to mutually help the Member States to strive towards the goal of Ending Violence Against Children based on the outcome/recommendations of the SAARCLAW SAIEVAC Conference on Child Protection and Constitutionalism, the directives/guidance so contained in the Thimphu Declaration of the 9th SAARC Chief Justices Conference, as well as any other joint decisions so taken within the life span of this MoU. ▣

SAIEVAC to help National Mechanisms and NACGs to draw up an Advocacy and Communication Strategy /plan in support of the Thematic Priorities

SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat with funding support from SAARC Development Fund (SDF) will bring together partners, in particular from the NACGs and national mechanisms, including development communications and media professionals to develop country specific advocacy and communication plans to address key priority issues/problems that require strategic advocacy and communications interventions.

The overall objective is to provide a unified Advocacy and Communication Strategy to address country specific priority VaC issues/problems. Specifically, the meeting is intended to bring together key and responsible people from partner agencies (NACGs, SACGs, INGOS, CSOs, media, development communication practitioners) in order to:

- Share and disseminate knowledge and information on the advocacy and communication approaches with special reference to the 5 thematic priorities of SAIEVAC, meant to end violence against children in the SAARC region;
- Introduce the Regional Advocacy and Communications Strategy of SAIEVAC in an effort to agree and adopt the overall strategy to guide respective countries and national level mechanisms to plan and prepare specific country level activities, using the regional strategy as the main guide;
- Develop specific issue-focused country level Advocacy and Communications strategy/plans to implement;
- To develop a consultancy at the national level to undertake formative studies to understand the behavioural gaps (knowledge, attitude, behavior and practices-opportunities, abilities and motivations etc. of key target participants to further improve the focus of advocacy and communication at the country level. ▣

2014- The Year AheadSome Key Activities

SAIEVAC in collaboration with our partners (National Mechanisms, SACGs, NACGs) looks forward to focus its plan of action in the following areas.

1. Advocacy and Communication planning Workshop to prepare country-specific plans to address priority VaC problems/issues identified by respective member countries;
2. 4th Technical Consultation on the on the theme of 'Rights and Responses for Children with Disabilities';
3. SDF-SAIEVAC Monitoring/Review Workshops at Sub-national levels;
4. Follow up Review Meeting of SAARCLAW Declaration;
5. Review of Legal status of Corporal Punishment and other forms of violence against children;
6. Parliamentary Caucus focusing on prohibition of Corporal Punishment;
7. National Children's Consultations in all 8 countries;
8. Regional Children's Consultation;
9. Launching of campaigns against Corporal Punishment in all SAARC Countries. ▣

SAIEVAC Activities/Events in 2013

S.No.	Name of Activity/ Event	Venue / Country	Dates
1	Regional Workshop on Advocacy & Communication and Documentation of Good Practices	Male, Maldives	16 -21 January 2013
2	Trilateral Convention of Stakeholders on Missing Child Alert System	Bangkok, Thailand	26 -28 February 2013
3	Trilateral Planning Meeting for SAEIVAC-SAARCLAW Conference on Child Protection.	Thimphu, Bhutan	03 -04 April 2013
4	2 nd Regional Consultation of Regional National Action and Coordinating Group against Violence against Children (NACG)	Male, Maldives	7 -9 April 2013
5	5 th Meeting of Regional Task Force to implement the SAARC Conventions relating to Trafficking in Women and Children and Promotion of Child Welfare in South Asia	Paro, Bhutan	11 -12 April 2013
6	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Affairs, Government of Nepal and SAEIVAC on the Establishment of the Regional Secretariat	Kathmandu, Nepal	14 May 2013
7	9 th SAARC Chief Justices' Conference and 12 th SAARC LAW Conference Child Protection and Constitutionalism	Thimphu, Bhutan	24 – 26 May 2013
8	2 nd SAARC Regional Workshop on Child Labour	New Delhi, India	29 -31 May 2013
9	UNCRC and ILO Child Labour Conventions: Towards Greater Coherence in Reporting and Action	Turin, Italy	18-21 June 2013
10	3 rd International Child Friendly Cities Conference	Kathmandu, Nepal	27-29 June 2013
11	Follow-Up Meeting Of The Trilateral Convention On Missing Child Alert System	Paro, Bhutan	23 -25 September 2013
12	Regional Technical Consultation on Eliminating Harmful Practices Affecting Children Based on Tradition, Culture, Religion and Superstition	Thimphu, Bhutan	26 -27 September 2013
13	4 th SAEIVAC Governing Board Meeting	Thimphu, Bhutan	28 -29 September 2013
14	SAIEVAC-SACG Co-ordination Meeting	New Delhi, India	11-12 December 2013
15	3 rd Regional Consultation of The National Action and Coordinating Group Against Violence Against Children (NACG)	Colombo, Sri Lanka	18-19 December 2013
16	Orientation on Positive Discipline And Legal Reform	Colombo, Sri Lanka	20-21 December 2013
17	Regional Campaign against Corporal Punishment of Children	Ongoing Activity in the SAARC Region	2013 yearly activity



In Solidarity with the Children of SAARC !

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Please send your comments and stories to :

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About SAIEVAC

The South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC) is a regional inter-governmental body including representatives from civil society and children with a vision that all children, girls and boys, throughout South Asia enjoy their right to an environment free from all forms of violence, abuse, exploitation, neglect and discrimination. SAIEVAC was formally granted the status of SAARC Apex Body for Children during the 17th SAARC Summit in Maldives in November 2011. It is the first ever regional body to represent the cause of South Asian Children at the highest level of SAARC.

SAIEVAC's Vision

- All children, girls and boys, throughout South Asia enjoy their right to an environment free from all forms of violence, abuse, exploitation, neglect and discrimination.

SAIEVAC's Aims

- To ensure the realization of children's rights as stated in the UNCRC and its Optional Protocols ;
- To prevent and respond to all forms of neglect, abuse, exploitation and violence against children in all settings;
- To promote the adoption, implementation, and monitoring of integrated national strategies with adequate budgets and resource allocation to prevent and protect children from violence and ensure response;
- To reinforce regional cooperation to end violence against children in South Asia.