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ANNUAL WORKSHOP ON LAW AND SOCIAL ACTION

Venue : Convention Centre, Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi
6th – 9th July 2001

INTRODUCTION

This workshop was part of the national workshop series held by PLD for its partners every year. The previous year workshop held in April 2000 on – ‘Role of Law in Development’, explored strategies of transforming the substance, structures and practice of law to make it responsive and accessible to the disadvantaged and the poor. This workshop on – ‘Law and Social Action’, sought to examine and reflect on the methods and processes of using law for social justice.

Madhu Mehra opened the workshop by welcoming all the PLD partners, resource persons and other participants working with law on common issues.

She clarified that the purpose of the workshop is not to focus on the issues we work, but rather to examine and share the methods and processes that we adopt while using law for advancing social justice. This was a forum to share our work methods & values. She welcomed Owe Anderson, SIDA, who has provided valuable support to PLD from its very inception.

Owe Anderson, Counsellor, Development Co-operation, SIDA, was invited to join in the welcome address. He mentioned that an important component in the development of Sweden has been the presence of a very strong legal system and recognition of the rule of law. He informed that the Swedish government has decided to extend support to development organisations, moving away from the position taken in 1998 and was strongly advocating the principle of universality of rights and the rights of the child. He welcomed all the participants and wished the workshop success.

Thereafter Madhu presented the workshop agenda and the participants introduced themselves, mentioning the organisation and issues that they were involved with.