

**Affiliated Network for Social Accountability in East Asia and the Pacific (ANSA EAP)
Oxfam Learning Program on Social Accountability**

Introductory email:

15 October 2009

Dear learner/learning group members:

On behalf of the project operations team of the Affiliated Network for Social Accountability in East Asia and the Pacific (ANSA EAP), and the regional office of Oxfam in East Asia, we would like to welcome you to the learning program on social accountability. This learning program aims to enhance our capacities for engaging with and exacting accountability from governments and other power holders towards improving governance and development outcomes in the region.

Specifically, we would like to focus on the following **learning objectives**:

1. Deepen our appreciation of how accountable and effective governments contribute to our programs' visions and goals;
2. Create a shared understanding of our gains and gaps in terms of enhancing poor people's capacities to engage with governments and claim their rights;
3. Establish a practical understanding of the social accountability framework and tools, and how these can be applied to enhance our program work;
4. Develop appropriate strategies or project ideas for mainstreaming social accountability in our respective programs, organizations or networks; and,
5. Draw lessons and insights from such mainstreaming process through a mentoring and coaching approach.

The program will have **three (3) phases**.

The first phase will involve **online exchanges and learning**. This initial phase will run for four (4) weeks. We've initially identified the following topics for each week:

Week 1 19-23 October	Grounding of social accountability in the country and program contexts; Overview of the social accountability framework and tools; Scanning of the social accountability environment
Week 2 26-30 October	Overview of the Public Financial Management (PFM) cycle; Social accountability tools: Participatory planning and budgeting
Week 3	Social accountability tools: Participatory expenditure tracking,

2-6 November	procurement monitoring, participatory performance monitoring, other social accountability tools
Week 4 9-13 November	Designing a social accountability strategy or program; Developing project ideas to mainstream social accountability

The second phase will involve a **face-to-face workshop** wherein we will have the chance to further deepen our understanding of how social accountability approaches can be relevant to our programs. During this workshop, we will also try to improve the project ideas or action plans for mainstreaming social accountability that we've started conceptualizing in the online phase.

The final phase will use **mentoring and coaching** approaches (both online and face-to-face) in providing technical support and facilitating reflection on implementing our social accountability initiatives.

Register in our online platform

At this point, we would like to invite you to visit our online learning platform and register as member/s. Please go to our Social Accountability 101 site: **sac101.ning.com** and click on the "Sign Up" link at the upper right corner. Fill out the form and follow the instructions for registering. It would be good if you can also upload your picture so we put a face to your postings.

Identify learning group anchors

To facilitate our exchanges online, we encourage you to form yourselves into learning groups based on your country programs or current engagements. Please assign an **anchor** for your learning group who can help facilitate discussions within the group, post your group's responses in the discussion boards, and ensure that all members participate in the exchanges.

Initial group activity

For our first online activity, may we request each learning group to post a **blog entry** in our online platform to:

- Introduce the group members
- Give brief background information on the members' programs/projects
- Reflect on the following questions:
 - How is good governance relevant to your program/work?
 - What are you doing now to ensure effective and accountable governments?