

# A Glance of Coordination Meeting Facts and Statistics

November 24, 2018

**How to cite:** CCSN (2018), *A glance of coordination meeting: facts and statistics*. [You may link here if you downloaded this document from website. In that case, include access date]

## About the Report

This report is generated from qualitative analysis of CSOs and/or NGOs/INGOs coordination meetings in Hakha. The data is solely based on an interview with 10 participants who has attended coordination meetings. The interviews were conducted from October 4 to 15, 2018.

Each interview participants were asked the following three questions:

1. Are there any changes on the relationship and mindset among organizations as the result of coordination meeting?
2. What are the benefits of coordination meeting for the development of your organization?
3. Give recommendation for further improvement of coordination meeting.

## Coordination Meeting Facilitates Trust Building and Engagement

Using text-mining qualitative approach, we carefully studied how interviewees rated the coordination meeting and we identified that only 1 out of ten interviewees rated coordination meeting as “neutral” and none of them rated it as “negative”. The rest 9 participants rated it as “positive”. This clearly suggests that there are many advantages of coordination meeting.

### Friendship, Trust, and Widened Network

First, coordination meeting not only brings us together, but also allows us to share information about each organization’s activities and works. It brings us together, and let us know each other better, which consequently results in friendship and trust while, at the sometimes, widening our network that often turns friendship into cooperation.

### Exchange of Information and Communication Become Easier

Secondly, having lists of CSOs and NGOs/INGOs in Hakha is itself an important step for delivering services for many of us. This is one of the success story of coordination meeting. Since we know where and how to get contact and information, it makes communication much more easier. It also helps organization easily choose potential participants for workshop, for more instance.

### A Journey Together Makes Us Stronger

Thirdly, coordination meeting also help us to identify mutual interests and objectives. The benefits of this is that organization are more committed when they learn from people with the same interest. One participant puts that “*we are more encouraged to do our work when we heard about the work of other organization who shares the same interest with us.*”

### Learning through Sharing

Finally, coordination meeting facilitate learning as well. We found out that coordination meeting is an excellent opportunity to learn from each other, that in turn, enhance our knowledge and do something different with it. The more we share, the more we learn from each other. For this reason, some interviewees suggest that we need to move beyond simply sharing and exchanging of information. Read more about his in the following.

## Things to Improve: Our Experience Teach Us To Ensure Local Decision-Making

Let us move on to things we can do to improve coordination meeting further. Although coordination meeting has been positively rated with its potential impacts on both professional and organizational development, there are a few reasons to improve it further. Making sure that the meeting room is clean enough and setting up proper lighting of the room is one among many other recommendations.

### **Decision should be made locally**

The first one is that many of Hakha-based NGOs/IGNOs don't have the authority to make decision. We engaged and actively participated in the meeting, and involved in discussion. However, we haven't able to do much for Chin since we have no authority to make decision. It is suggested that putting more decision-making authority at the hand of local actors would boost the speed of our journey toward our goals.

### **Beyond Meeting, Doing Something with Information**

Although it is very helpful to share and exchange information, it would be of little advantage if we haven't do nothing with the information we shared and issues we discussed. So, it is time to go beyond simply sharing information. It is important that we are able to come together for collective actions with the information we have.

### **Better Arrangement and Information Sharing Tool**

Although some interviewees asked for better arrangement of coordination meeting, it is not very clear how we would arrange it for better. However, it is suggested that having an implementation team or committee who will work on things such as meeting arrangement, note-taking and sharing would be extremely helpful. It is also possible to print every meeting minute and pass it to every meeting participant.

### **Make It More Inclusive**

First, more participants at the meeting would possibly mean that we have more information to share and get. The meeting could be more productive if more CSOs, NGOs/IGNOs leaders attend the meeting. Secondly, it sounds plausible that hearing diverse voice from different sectors can make the meeting more vibrant and productive. It will also widen our network and create more opportunity to learn from people with different professional background. So, it is highly recommended people such as religious leaders and public official should also be invited to the meeting.

### **An In-depth Knowledge**

Information sharing has been of a great benefit from making communication easier to getting information we need at the right time and at the right place. However, it is still possible to go beyond this. First, issue-based discussion provide each participant an in-depth knowledge about local issues. The issues can be varied but "*should include political issues as well,*" said one interviewee, adding that "*organization who work on certain issue may able to facilitate relevant issue-based discussion better.*"

### **Collaboration Out of Coordination Meeting**

There are still some other way to improve coordination meeting a part from above recommendations. For instance, the amount of information we share about each organization's activities can be enlarged and make it more comprehensive. We can also share about the difficulties that each organization faces, and identify potential partner to tackle it. In this way, we can expand the value of each one's professional skills for common good. It is not unreasonable to say that if nothing like collective action or collaboration comes out of coordination meeting, we would possibly have to reconsider our objective.

