

IBN DISPATCH

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Monthly Newsletter

Donors Pledge \$4.4 billion for Quake Recovery



KATHMANDU: The donor community's pledge of \$4.4 billion in the June 25 Donor Summit has given a much needed boost to Nepal's post-earthquake recovery efforts. Development partners invited at the 'International Conference on Nepal's Reconstruction-2015' held in Kathmandu, made the commitment, which will comprise of grant as well as soft loan. The commitments also include technical assistance, consultancy service and goods necessary for reconstructions. The one-day event brought together around 250 representatives, including senior ministers, from 53 countries and donor agencies, around the world. The overwhelming response from the donor community for post-quake recovery has brought enthusiasm to Nepal government, which has been struggling with scarcity of fund to implement rebuilding works. Responding to concerns from donors about utilization of fund, Nepali officials have expressed commitment to maintain zero tolerance to any kind of corruption and irregularities in implementation process. The Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) prepared by National Planning Commission (NPC), apex policy-making body of the government, estimates that \$6.7 billion will be required to carry out reconstructions works. The government had expected to secure pledges as much as \$3 billion from the donors. The donor community has stressed on the necessity to exercise transparency and enhance capacity in order to properly manage resources to ensure better implementation of rebuilding plans envisioned in PDNA. Most of the donors' supports will focus on reconstructions of damaged infrastructures, public buildings,



- 0 Three Gorges team visits West Seti site.....
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- 0 Dangote and GMR deposited relief amount to PM fund

Dangote, GMR Support for Earthquake Victims

KATHMANDU: The Dangote Group, Nigeria's largest business conglomerate, donated Rs 100 million to the Prime Minister Disaster Relief Fund on June 17. The assistance, which is meant for relief and rehabilitation of earth-quake victims in Nepal, was provided through Dangote Foundation—a Corporate Social Responsibility arm of Dangote Group. The company is establishing a cement factory in Makawanpur district with planned

investment worth US\$ 550 million. The plant will have the capacity to produce 6,000 tons of cement per day. Zouera Youssoufou, Managing Director of the Foundation handed over the cheque to the Right Honorable Prime Minister Sushil Koirala. DVG Edwin, Executive Director of the company, was also present on the occasion. The Dangote top officials also interacted with IBN officials during their visit to Nepal. During the talk at IBN, Dangote

had expressed commitment to begin construction of the plant by the end of October, 2015.

Similarly, GMR Ltd, the developer of 900-MW Upper Karnali Hydropower Project, also contributed Rs 30 million to the Fund the same day. R.V. Sheshan, Vice-chairman of GMR Energy Hydro handed over the cheque to Prime Minister Koirala.



IBN Organizes India Trip for Journalists

KATHMANDU: Office of the Investment Board Nepal (IBN) organized a study trip to infrastructure journalists to India from April 24 to 27 (Baishakh 11-14). The visit, which was conducted in collaboration with GMR ITD—a developer of 900-MW Upper Karnali Hydropower Project, was aimed at providing an opportunity to infrastructure reporters to observe infrastructure projects in India including those developed by the company itself. A total of 15 journalists representing Nepal's influential media houses along with representatives from IBN and GMR participated in the four-day tour.

During the trip, GMR arranged visits to its vocational training center in New Delhi and various other projects developed by GMR.

The team was, however compelled to cancel the proposed visit to Tehri Dam in Uttarakhand due to the devastating earthquake in Nepal on April 25. Those participating in the tour were Baburam Khadka from Karobar business daily, Bhim Gautam from Rajdhani Daily, Bikash Thapa from The Annapurna Post Krishna Acharya from Kantipur, Laxman Biyogi from Nagarik, Ramesh Kumar from Himal, Rudra Pangi from Republica, Rupak D Sharma from The Himalayan

Times, Sachen Gautam from Nayapatika, Saroj Kafle from Bizmandu.com, Sitaram Bilashi from Gorkhapatra, Badri Gautam from Nepali Television, Ganesh Kanchan Bharati, president of the federation of Nepalese Journalists ,FNJ in Surkhet, Naman Kumar Shahi, FNJ President in Dailekh and Ram Kunwar, FNJ President in Achham. Rita Regmi, Section Office at IBN, Prabhakar Ghimire, a Consultant at IBN and Buddha Maharjan, a GMR representative. A brief interaction between GMR senior officials and journalists was also organized on the occasion.



Evaluation Panel Seeks Experts' Input

Study for Chemical fertilizer plant



KATHMANDU: A committee, Infrastructure Service Nepal Ltd formed to select a consulting firm submitted their proposals. The evaluation committee is headed by IBN CEO Radhesh Pant with members from the Ministry of Agricultural Development, National Agriculture Research Council, Agriculture Inputs Corporation (AIC) and Office of the Prime Minister. The committee is responsible to evaluate the proposals and select a consultant to carry out the study.

A meeting of the evaluation committee in this regard was held at IBN on 21 May (Jeth 7). The IBN Office had issued the Request for Proposal (RFP) notice to the short-listed firms on February 09. In response to the IBN's call, three firms, Jacobs Consultancy in association with Taylor-DeJongh and Eversheds, United Kingdom, Projects and Development India Limited, India in association with PSA Consultants for Nepal and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd., India (iDeck) in JV with IAT and Feedback firms for the purpose. The notice was circulated through national newspapers, social media and foreign diplomatic missions based in Nepal in order to expand the accessibility for all potential bidders. The deadline for the submission of the EOI documents was 30 calendar days from the issue date. Association of TATA Consulting Engineers Limited, India and SILT Engineers and Consultant Pvt. Ltd., Nepal, Jacobs Consultancy in association with Taylor-DeJongh and Eversheds, United Kingdom, Saipem S.p.A, Italy, Projects and Development India Limited, India in association with PSA Consultants for Nepal, Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd., India (iDeck) in JV with IAT and Feedback firms for the purpose. The notice

Three Gorges Team Visits West Seti Site



KATHMANDU: A high-level technical team from China's Three Gorges International Corporation, a developer of the proposed West Seti Hydropower Project, visited the project districts to interact with local government agencies and initiate the planned preparation works for the project implementation. Representatives from Office of the Investment Board Nepal (IBN) and Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) accompanied the seven-member Chinese team from June 7- 13 (Jeth 24-30) during the visit. The team conducted interactions with local officials of the Department of Roads and Local Administration to discuss how to improve the 11-km stretch of access road in Doti district. Improvement of Lamikhal- Talara section of the access road is necessary to ease transport of equipment and goods to the project's dam site and intake area. Similarly, the team is also planning to fix locations to set up camps for the project staffs. The team is also assessing the post-earthquake situation in the project districts.

Two Chinese technical teams have already visited the project districts twice in the last six months. The 750-MW West-Seti project covers four districts- Dadeldhura, Doti, Baitadi and Bajhang—of Far-Western Region. The 17th meeting of Investment Board held on April 13, 2015 had decided to approve Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to the company allowed the latter to carry out necessary geological study before the onset of monsoon.

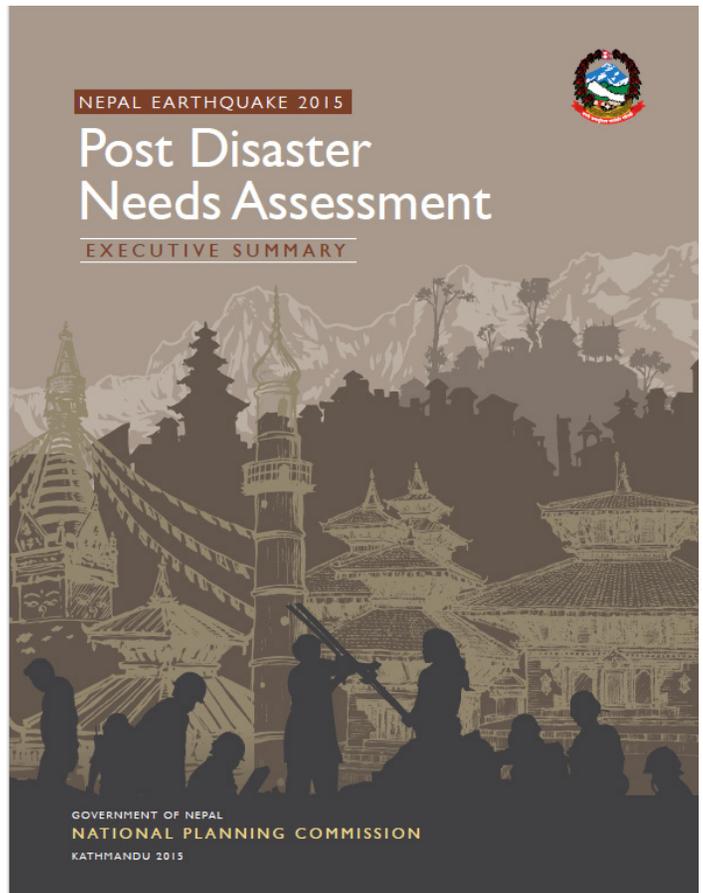


Ordinance on Reconstruction Authority

KATHMANDU: The Right Honorable President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav endorsed the 'Ordinance on Authority for Reconstruction of Structures Damaged by Earthquake' on June 22. A cabinet meeting recommended the ordinance for the President's endorsement after the ruling political parties agreed to constitute a high level Reconstruction Authority.

The authority will be headed by the Prime Minister, and includes four senior ministers. The Chief Secretary and vice-chairman of the National Planning Commission will be ex-officio members of the body. The government can nominate other three members as experts and appoint Chief Executive Officer at the body. The authority will be responsible to undertake the reconstruction work and forge coordination with concerned ministries and other government agencies. The high-power entity holds sweeping authority to formulate necessary regulations governing land acquisition, demolition of buildings and fixation of compensation, among others.

The government has already finalized the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA)- a comprehensive report to rebuilt the country in the aftermath of devastation from the huge earthquake of April 25. The PDNA details impacts of the quake in social and economic sectors. The report will be submitted to donor agencies after completion. The PDNA has estimated the total value of disaster to be worth US\$7 billion.



donors pledge.....

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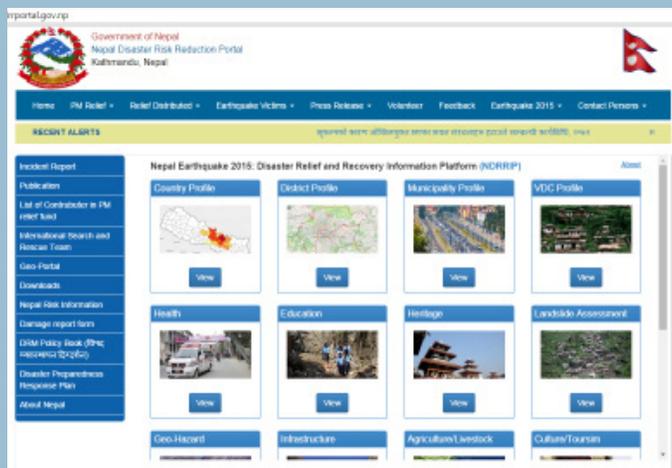
heritage sites, agriculture, health, human resources development, and resettlement, among others.

According to the government estimates, the huge earthquake has inflicted a loss of Rs 51 billion in the Gross Domestic Product of the country. Damages made by the quake in infrastructure, production and social sectors has been estimated to be around Rs 700 billion.

Total Commitments			
Country	Commitment	Country	Commitment
India	\$1 billion	Australia	\$16 million
China	\$500 million	South Korea	\$10 million
Japan	\$260 million	Pakistan	\$10 million
USA	\$130 million	Austria	\$1.2 million
Norway	\$30 million	Asian Development Bank	\$600 million
UK	\$110 million	World Bank	\$600 million
Canada	\$60 million	EU	100 million euro
Switzerland	\$25 million		

IBN Extends Technical Support for Relief Data Integration

KATHMANDU: Office of the Investment Board, under the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers (OPMCM), provided a technical support to different ministries to integrate the data of relief materials during the recent earthquake. The IBN established a tracking system to keep track of the relief materials coming in from international community, including private sector organizations and development agencies. Under the government system, relief materials were deposited with



Nepal Army, Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), Ministry of Urban Development (MUD), Ministry of Commerce and Supplies (MoCS) and customs points. The government set up a transparent system under which the relief materials were distributed through concerned Chief District Officers (CDOs) of the 14 affected districts. The IBN developed a portal drportal.gov.np under the Disaster Rescue and Relief section at the MoHA to store data of the relief materials. IBN mobilized around 70 volunteers from different Non-governmental Organizations to collect data for the portal. The volunteers were stationed at District Administration Offices (DAO) of the affected districts since May 3- May 31 (Baishakh 18-Jeth 17). Dayitwo, Ayon, Leapfrog and Associates contributed to feeding data into the portal. April 25 earthquake had badly affected Lamjung, Gorkha, Dhading, Nuwakot, Makawanpur, Lalitpur, Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Kavrepalanchok, Sindhupalchok, Ramechhap, Sindhuli, Dolakha and Solukhumbu districts.

Affected Districts



IBN Bids Farewell to Bhandari, Welcomes Dhungel

KATHMANDU: IBN organized a farewell program for Joint-Secretary Kshatra Bahadur Bhandari, who retired on May 29 after completing 32 years in public service. Bhandari was transferred to IBN from the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers some three months back. Speaking on the occasion, the outgoing Joint-Secretary thanked IBN officials and consultants for their cooperation. Radhesh Pant,



IBN CEO with Former Joint Secretary Kshatra Bahadur Bhandari



Under Secretary Sanjay Dhungel

CEO of IBN, also appreciated the cooperation from Bhandari during his stint at IBN stating that IBN can utilize his experience and expertise in the days to come. Similarly, IBN welcomed incoming Under-secretary Sanjay Dhungel recently. Dhungel, a senior divisional engineer, has experience of over two decades in policy-making and implementation of hydropower and other infrastructure projects.



On the Focus



On the way to West Seti Hydropower site.



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