

UNDP, GoN sign US\$ 1.3 m National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) to Climate Change

News of the Month

The Government of Nepal (GoN) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on behalf of donors signed a US\$ 1.3m (Rs. 105 million) project for the preparation and implementation of the **National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA)** to climate change. The project is funded by **DFID** (US\$ 875,000), **Government of Denmark** (US\$200,000) and **UNDP/Global Environment Facility/Least Developed Country Fund** (US\$ 250,000) to help the Government take leadership on harmonised donor approach to address climate change issues in Nepal.

One of the main objectives of this project is to enable the Government of Nepal to respond strategically to the challenges and opportunities posed by climate change through preparing the *National Adaptation Programme of Action*— a strategic framework of action for climate change in Nepal. The



Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology, Mr. Purushottam Ghimire and UNDP Deputy Resident Representative for Programme Mr. Ghulam M. Isaczai exchanging signed project documents

project will also support to develop and maintain climate change knowledge and learning for Nepal as well as to coordinate and facilitate the range of processes and actors that are planned or needed on climate change.

Based on the analysis of climate change impacts on various sectors, the key climate change adaptation priorities will be identified, including capacity development needs at the individual and institutional levels for harmonized

donor support. The Government of Nepal (GON) has nominated the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology (MoEST) as the Designated National Authority (DNA) for the effective implementation of climate change policies. Nepal has to prepare the NAPA document as per the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) standard to access various adaptation fund for least developed countries.

Review of the UNDP Country Programme Action Plan to support the Peace Process

With a newly elected Government now in place, and a new Council of Ministers appointed, UNDP Country Office Nepal is reviewing its Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP) to develop a revised strategy to support the peace process.

A mission from the UNDP Bureau of Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) is planned for February 2009 and an advance team composed of Chetan Kumar, Senior Conflict Prevention Advisor and Yasumitsu Doken, Regional Specialist, participated

in a series of meetings with Government officials and key partners in November. During the meeting, the CPAP priorities were reviewed with Secretaries of the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction, Ministry of Local Development, Ministry of Industry, partner UN agencies and donors.

This review will form the basis for a comprehensive planning mission by BCPR in February 2009.

Development for Peace

UNDP, UNCDF, Nepal Rastra Bank sign US\$ 3 m project

The Nepal Rastra Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) signed a US\$ 3 million project—**Enhancing Access to Financial Services**. This five year project, implemented by the Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) throughout Nepal will;

- increase access to financial services to additional 330,000 poor people especially living in remote areas yet to be brought under the ambit of microfinance services,
- Open up microfinance service delivery units in at least 10 remote districts through Financial Service Providers/Micro Finance Institutions
- Link at least 10,000 savings and credit groups promoted by UNDP and/or GOs/NGOs programme with Financial Service Providers/Micro Finance Institutions.

The new project will increase the use of formal financial services (credit, savings and micro-insurance) from profitable financial institutions (Banks, Microfinance Institutions) by urban micro, small and medium enterprises and urban and rural low income households.

Nepal to serve as model for Youth Environment Corps (YEC)

A mission from UNDP HQs was undertaken for the preliminary design of the *Youth Environment Corps (YEC)* in Nepal.

The Corps is expected to work with and through existing entities, both Governmental and non-Governmental on providing employment opportunities to the youths on environment initiatives. The youth groups will be engaged in environment conservation and restoration projects, as well as in community environment activities. Most importantly, this initiation incorporates activities such as providing small business and vocational trainings to conflict affected unemployed youths, poor and marginalised section.

UNDP has introduced the concept to the Government by sharing the best practices and relevant experiences from around the world in order to assist the country to design and to assist in securing initial financing to get the YEC started.

US\$ 1.5 m for Quick Impact for Peace Support Initiative Programme from Norway

The Royal Norwegian Embassy and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed an additional amount of US\$ 1.5 million for the **Quick Impact for Peace Support Initiative (QIPSI)** in 11 eastern Terai and 9 mid and far western districts of Nepal, under the UNDP supported Programme implemented by the Ministry of Local Development (MLD).

This contribution will support the Ministry of Local Development (MLD) to provide immediate peace dividend to the most disadvantaged communities in an additional 200 VDCs in these 20 districts.

With this additional funding of US\$ 1.5m, the Programme is expected to support the implementation of basic community livelihood and micro-infrastructure projects such as drinking water and micro-irrigation projects, construction of culverts and bridges, repair and maintenance of rural roads, schools, health posts, community halls and also river protection.

Partnership

Mainstreaming Water and Sanitation into National Development Strategies

Institutional fragmentation and limited sector coordination, financial constraints, inadequate capacity in local authorities, weak monitoring systems, inadequate attention to water resource management and socially excluded communities lacking consumer voice are the main challenges for addressing *Water and Sanitation* issues in Nepal, says a recent study conducted by a mission from UN headquarters.

In order to enhance the Millennium Development Goals achievement and support mainstreaming of Water and Sanitation into the national development strategies, UNDP globally has initiated a specific programme to complement its water governance strategy, known as Governance Advocacy and Leadership (GOAL)-Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programme.

The mission has outlined some possible partnership between UNDP and UNICEF as the latter already has resources and a team of specialists on water and sanitation issues.

News From the Field

Rice husk stove: locally affordable technological gift to a village

The thumping of hammer can be heard from a distance in the relatively calm Gamariya village of Bara. Local manufacturers are busy producing the rice husk stoves—the latest demand in the village. This has become a very lucrative business for the manufacturers. A person can earn from Rs. 300-500 per stove.

The NGO, Nature and Human Development Centre (NHDC), with financial support (US\$ 6,671) from **UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme** has introduced the rice husk stoves in the Purainiya village where firewood is scarce as there is no forest nearby. “The village is an ideal site for the stove introduction as there are 4 rice mills, which provide plenty of rice husk as raw material for the stoves”, says Mr Raj Kumar Singh.

The introduction of the new technology was not an easy job; the local metal workshop had first to be taught to design the model as it was not their regular job. Finally, Sunder Furniture Industry also had to agree to produce 230 stoves and provide training to potential local manufacturers. People were skeptical as to whether the technology would work or not.

The first batch of 71 stoves was distributed free of cost to *Dalit* communities of Purainiya village. The response was encouraging because 5 kgs of rice husk lasted for 2-7 days, depending upon the family size.

“Just put rice husk around the outer layer of the stove, light a piece of paper, throw it in the mouth of the stove, and the stove burns efficiently with red and blue flames”, said Mrs Panabhatiya Devi Devi. She was also happy that the stove produces very less smoke in the house.

In the second lot, 117 heavier stoves were successfully distributed to the Muslim community in Gamariya.

The next challenge was to make the technology affordable to local poor communities. Heavier stoves meant more money. One stove costs from Rs. 1000- Rs. 1500 depending upon the quality iron used.

Shanti Devi, a consumer says, “The sudden demand of rice husk in the village also increased the price of rice husk. 5 kgs of rice husk, which earlier cost Rs. 2 has gone up to Rs. 20 but this is still cheaper for us, as we had to spend Rs. 150 per week to purchase firewood for cooking”. The good thing is we can also use chopped straws of paddy and wheat as fuel in the rice husk stove.



Partnership, Staff News

Strategic Communication and Media Skills training

A week-long training was organised by Intermedia Communications Training for UNDP senior managers, team leaders, programme officers, project advisors and managers (24-28 November).

The trainers coached this array of UNDP staff on strategic communication techniques and media skills, ranging from preparing key messages, crafting communication action plans to pitching stories to the media. During the training, participants practised answering tough questions on camera to enhance their communication skills, remaining mindful of what they say and their body language.



Camera interview practice session

Applying Human Rights Based Approach to Justice

A workshop on 'Applying Human Rights-Based Approach to Justice', was organised by UNDP Enhancing Access to Justice Project, Regional Center in Bangkok and Global Human Rights Strengthening Programme.

In Nepal, delayed justice and backlogged cases have mostly affected the poorest section of the society depriving them of their basic human rights to have access to justice. The lengthy and expensive process has discouraged many to go to the courts. Hence, the workshop was organised in order to inform, train and provide a platform for debate to find alternative solutions for qualitative justice. Suggestions were put forward and action plan was drafted for informal and speedy delivery of justice by the participants.

The conference was largely participated by the Supreme Court Judges, police, academics and representatives of the Ministry of Law, Justice and Constituent Assembly Affairs, Nepal Law Commission, Nepal Bar Association, the National Human Rights Commission, the National Women's Commission, Judicial Council, Civil Society and Members of Paralegal Committees.

Farewell



The Staff Association organised a farewell for Mr. Ghulam M. Isaczi, who left Nepal upon completion of his term as the Deputy Resident Representative for Programme.

He has taken up his new assignment as the Chief for Programme Development and Operations Group at United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Headquarters in Bonn. We wish him all the best for his future!

Partnership and Exchange of Information

The HIV Team from **UNDP Myanmar** visited Nepal for a week, to learn about the best practices and activities being carried out in the area of HIV/AIDS by UNDP Nepal. The team also took the opportunity to visit some successful HIV/AIDS Programmes being implemented by the NGOs and Community Based Organisations (CBOs) through Government, donors and UNDP.

The **Aus Aid** team, one of the cost sharing donors (over US\$ 560,00) for UNDP Micro-enterprise Development Programme visited Parbat district to observe the ongoing activities and also to look into further scope for partnership. During the visit, the team observed forest based, agro based and handicraft based enterprises and also took the opportunity to directly talk with the rural entrepreneurs.

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