

ANNEX –8
Minutes of Steering Committee Meeting
and Public Hearing

THE DEVELOPMENT STUDY ON ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION OF PHEWA LAKE IN POKHARA, NEPAL

Minutes of First Steering Committee Meeting

The First Steering Committee Meeting for the Development Study on Environmental Conservation of Phewa Lake was held in **Kathmandu** on **October 09, 2001**. Following persons attended the meeting:

Steering Committee Members:

Mr. Kaladhar Sharma	-	Acting Secretary, Ministry of Population and Environment
Mr. Janak Raj Joshi	-	Joint Secretary, Ministry of Population and Environment
Mr. Surya Sharan Regmi	-	Joint Secretary, Ministry of Local Development
Mr. Shree Nath Baral	-	Vice Chairman, District Development Committee, Kaski
Mr. Krishna Thapa	-	Mayor, Pokhara Sub-metropolis
Mr. Tetsuo YABE	-	Deputy Resident Representative, JICA Nepal Office

Steering Committee Meeting Observers:

Ms. Haruko KAMEI	-	Assistant Resident Representative, JICA Nepal Office
Mr. Masahiro TAJIMA	-	Technical Advisor, JICA Nepal Office
Mr. Yuji AOKI	-	Technical Advisor, JICA Nepal Office
Mr. Sourab Bickram Rana	-	Assistant Program Officer, JICA Nepal Office
Mr. Deepak Bahadur Singh	-	Study Director, SILT Consultants (P.) Ltd.
Dr. Purushottam Shrestha	-	Team Leader/Environmental Specialist, SILT Consultants (P.) Ltd.

The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Kaladhar Sharma, the Acting Secretary, MOPE, who initiated the meeting with his welcome address. The introduction of the Study was presented by Mr. Sourab Bickram Rana, the Assistant Program Officer, JICA Nepal Office. Inception Report was presented jointly by Mr. Masahiro TAJIMA, the Technical Advisor for the Study, and Mr. D.B. Singh, the Study Director, SILT.

Welcome address by Mr. K. Sharma:

- Phewa Lake is an important asset of Pokhara as well as Nepal.
- Pollution of the Lake is one of the major problems.
- There has not been any concrete effort to conserve Phewa Lake in the past.
- Phewa Lake is for all of us, and we must be sincerely committed for its conservation. The initiative taken by JICA through implementing this Study is very appreciable and we express our thanks.
- Haphazard development activities, such as Seti canal, unplanned development at Lakeside etc. has caused pollution to the Lake.
- As JICA has taken initiative, we are now optimistic that the Lake will be saved.

Then after, Mr. Masahiro TAJIMA, the Technical Advisor for the Study and Mr. D.B. Singh, the Study Director presented the framework of Study and key issues for discussion by the Steering Committee, among others, to guide the Study team for comprehensively carrying out the Study.

Floor Discussion was held after presentation of the Study. The record of comments and suggestions made during the Floor Discussion are as follows:

1. Mr. Shree Nath Baral, Vice Chairman, District Development Committee, Kaski

- Integrated Study for conservation of Phewa Lake, initiated by JICA is very appreciable.

- Sedimentation and continued shrinkage of Lake area is one of the major problem.
- There are many unique touristic sites around Phewa Lake, which should also be incorporated for promotion in the Study.
- The Lake area has been heavily encroached after burst of dam in 1974. Thus, the acquisition of original Lake area is one of the principal requisite.
- It is also important to clearly define the institution that is the owner and responsible for conservation of the Lake.
- The provision of environmental education and community empowerment program envisaged by the Study is very much appreciable.

2. Mr. Krishna Thapa, Mayor, Pokhara Sub-metropolis

- Numbers of Reports on Phewa Lake has been prepared, including Action Plan for environmental conservation of Phewa Lake by IUCN, but none has been implemented.
- During every political movement, encroachment of the Lake has occurred.
- Baidam-Pame road is one the major cause of sediment load in the Lake, as it was constructed in the existing alignment despite cautioned by environmentalists. After 1998, a Trust for undertaking conservation activities of Phewa Lake has been established with 11 institutions as its member, with NRs. 50,000 as membership fee. PSMC has been contributing NRs. 100,000 every year in the Trust.
- Check dams and alternative washing locations are needed.
- Lessons learned from past studies should also be incorporated in the Study.
- We all now hope that after this Study, some real activities on conservation of Phewa Lake will take place.

3. Mr. Tetsuo YABE, Deputy Resident Representative, JICA Nepal Office

- Community Empowerment Program is included in this Study, which has to be implemented by some Nepali NGO truly working in the area. This will include many activities such as environmental education, which will be aimed for conservation of the Lake.
- The first objective of the Study is to convince the Grant Aid, and next will be community empowerment program.

4. Ms. Haruko KAMEI, Assistant Resident Representative, JICA Nepal Office

- JICA is not committed for land acquisition.
- This Study is meant to analyze in an integrated way the necessary measures towards conservation of Phewa Lake. However, it does not mean that Japanese side is going to do what it will recommend.

5. Mr. Janak Raj Joshi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Population and Environment

Mr. Joshi summarized the outcome of the meeting with his concluding remarks. It included following

- This Study is primarily focused on environmental conservation of the Phewa Lake, and has its own scope of work within which it's subject areas should be limited.
- The provision of gravity type of sewerage system with tunnel arrangement should be justified by the Study.
- The comments on the Study by the Steering Committee can also be sent in writing to SILT or MOPE.

Mr. Joshi, concluded the meeting by thanking all for actively participating and positively contributing in the meeting.

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Second Steering Committee Meeting

The Second Steering Committee Meeting for the Environmental Conservation Study of Phewa Lake was held in Kathmandu on Dec. 13, 2001. Following persons attended the meeting:

Steering Committee Members:

Dr. Mukti Narayan Shrestha	-	Chairman Steering Committee; Secretary, MOPE
Mr. Suman Sharma	-	Chemist, MOPE
Mr. Surya Sharan Regmi	-	Joint Secretary, Ministry of Local Development
Mr. Jamuna K. Tamrakar	-	Deputy Director General, Department of Forest
Mr. Punya Pd. Poudel	-	Chairman, District Development Committee, Kaski
Mr. Krishna Thapa	-	Mayor, Pokhara Sub-metropolis
Mr. Tetsuo YABE	-	Deputy Resident Representative, JICA Nepal Office
Mr. Gehendra Gurung	-	Project Director, Annapurna Conservation Area Project, Pokhara
Mr. Sundar Kumar Shrestha	-	President, Regional Hotel Association of Nepal, Pokhara

Steering Committee Meeting Observers:

Ms. Haruko KAMEI	-	Assistant Resident Representative, JICA Nepal Office
Mr. Masahiro TAJIMA	-	Technical Advisor, JICA Nepal Office
Mr. Yuji AOKI	-	Technical Advisor, JICA Nepal Office
Mr. Sourab Bickram Rana	-	Assistant Programme Officer, JICA Nepal Office
Mr. Deepak Bahadur Singh	-	Study Director, SILT Consultants (P.) Ltd.
Dr. Purushottam Shrestha	-	Team Leader/Environmental Specialist, SILT

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Mukti Narayan Shrestha, Secretary Ministry of Population and Environment (MOPE). Mr. Suman Sharma, MOPE delivered welcome address to the participants of the meeting. He stated following:

- This is a crucial meeting because the field findings will be discussed, and inputs can be incorporated in the Draft Report.
- This is a comprehensive plan for the development and conservation of Phewa Lake.
- In the past also studies were made but they were more focused on watershed conservation, soil erosion, sedimentation etc. The present Study has taken into consideration water pollution, sanitation, environmental education and community empowerment in addition to the above. Thus, this Study is integrated and very important for the conservation of Phewa Lake.

Dr. P. Shrestha, Team Leader, SILT presented the progress report of the Study and Mr. D.B. Singh, Study Director, SILT gave a brief presentation on the Report.

Floor Discussion was held after the presentation of the Study report. Record of comments and suggestions made during the discussion are given below.

1. Mr. Punya Prasad Poudel, Chairman, District Development Committee, Kaski

- The most important concerns for Phewa Lake are:
 - How to purify the Lake water?
 - How to make its life longer (control sedimentation)?

- DDC had proposed and requested to dredge the sediment from the Lake. Nearly 2500 ropanis of land, formed by the sediment is now cultivated. This land is not yet registered. After dredging this sediment, the area of the Lake will increase.
- Restricting the inflow of polluted water of streams and urban drains into the Lake is very important.
- It would have been better if, Second Tourism Infrastructure Development Project had diverted the storm-water drain away from the Lake.
- It is a good idea to include NGOs in the Conservation Committee.

2. Mr. Gehendra Gurung, Director, Annapurna Conservation Area Project.

- Suggested this Study is of conservation nature and not preservation. This is because in preservation the entity is kept as it is and in conservation it is protected as well as used.
- If the flow of Phirke Khola is diverted and discharged beyond the Lake, then water for irrigation and hydropower may not be available during dry season.
- It is better to reform the existing Conservation Committee and include members from stakeholders.

3. Mr. J.K.Tamrakar, Deputy Director General, Department of Forest., MOFSC, HMGN

- More Information on proposed Conservation Center is requested and how to operate the Center should be clear.
- The Plan proposes to beautify the Lakeshore area, but the forest around the Lake is Community forest, therefore, how can they be linked should also be addressed in the Study.
- The best technology for water purification needs to be applied. As for the manpower, they can be trained in the foreign countries.

4. Mr. Surya Saran Regmi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Local Development.

- What is the diameter and length of the proposed tunnel for the proposed sewerage system?
- Give more emphasis on Local Self Governance Act for the purpose of establishment of an umbrella institution for conservation of Phewa Lake.

5. Mr. Tetsuo Yabe, Deputy Resident Representative, JICA Nepal Office

- Ministry of Local Development, HMGN requested for a treatment plant as a Grant Aid.
- The comparison of different options has been done based on qualitative analysis. Selection of alternative will now need quantitative analysis.
- Information on quantitative analysis is lacking in the report therefore, requested to provide such information.
- This Study should justify various statements like it O&M is high or low etc. and present with evidence.
- Opinion of the community is important for the selection of the tunnel alternative.
- Grant aid by Japanese Government is not yet decided.

6. Mr. Sunder Kumar Shrestha, President, Hotel Association of Nepal, Pokhara Chapter.

- People in Pokhara should know regarding any project before its implementation, from where the money is coming from and transparency during implementation should be maintained.
- DDC has done a good job by demarcating the Lake area.
- Information on land acquisition for tunnel construction is important.

- Interaction with local community and especially with Lakeside people is of paramount importance.
- Any Project or Plan is difficult to implement until effective implementation with political commitment is achieved.

**7. Concluding Remarks by Dr. Mukti Narayan Shrestha,
Chairman, Steering Committee and Secretary, Ministry of Population and Environment.**

- Phewa Lake is a very important site with a great attraction but have several environmental problems.
- Many initiatives were taken in the past to address this issue, but still needs to address the urban issue and tourism.
- Fish Culture Programme in the Phewa Lake with the Grant Aid of Japan, should be continued and should be done without incurring environment problem to the Lake.
- Issues raised by DDC Chairman are important one.
- Watershed Management is also necessary.
- If Phirke Khola is polluted it should be diverted, but it will affect the water reserve of the Lake. This is necessary to be analysed.
- We can charge the tourists for the benefit of conservation. But its legal and fund operation aspect has also to be reviewed.
- Considering the existing multiple ownership of the Lake, a single Conservation Committee may be a good solution.
 - Conservation Plan should consider not only the Lake, but also the urban area and the activities in it, which affects the Lake. Some control mechanism through regulation to prevent the Lake pollution is therefore necessary, especially for tourism related enterprises.
 - Social, environmental and ecological aspects are to be considered in preparing the Conservation Master Plan.
 - Creating a buffer zone around the Lake is a good idea.

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Third Steering Committee Meeting

The Third Steering Committee Meeting for the Development Study on Environmental Conservation of Phewa Lake was held in Kathmandu on February 21, 2002. Following persons attended the meeting:

Steering Committee Members:

Dr. Mukti Narayan Shrestha	-	Chairman Steering Committee; Secretary, MOPE
Mr. Narendra Pokhrel	-	Sr. Divisional Chemist, MOPE
Mr. Surya Sharan Regmi	-	Joint Secretary, Ministry of Local Development
Mr. Jamuna K. Tamrakar	-	Deputy Director General, Department of Forest
Mr. Punya Pd. Poudel	-	Chairman, District Development Committee, Kaski
Mr. Krishna Thapa	-	Mayor, Pokhara Sub-metropolis
Mr. Tetsuo YABE	-	Deputy Resident Representative, JICA Nepal Office
Mr. Hari Pd. Gurung	-	President, Regional Hotel Association of Nepal, Pokhara

Steering Committee Meeting Observers:

Ms. Haruko KAMEI	-	Assistant Resident Representative, JICA Nepal Office
Mr. Masahiro TAJIMA	-	Technical Advisor, JICA Nepal Office
Mr. Yuji AOKI	-	Technical Advisor, JICA Nepal Office
Mr. Sourab Bickram Rana	-	Assistant Programme Officer, JICA Nepal Office
Mr. Deepak Bahadur Singh	-	Study Director, SILT Consultants (P.) Ltd.
Dr. Purushottam Shrestha	-	Team Leader/Environmental Specialist, SILT

The meeting was Chaired by Dr. Mukti Narayan Shrestha, the Chairman of Steering committee and Secretary, MOPE, who initiated the meeting with his welcome address. The background and objective of the Study was presented by Mr. Narendra Pokhrel, Senior Divisional Chemist, MOPE.

Mr. Pokhrel stated followings:

- It is a known fact that tourist visit Pokhara also to visit Phewa Lake
- The water of the Lake is highly polluted
- Very high rate of sedimentation of the Lake is taking place
- At this rate of water quality pollution/degradation and sedimentation of the Lake, it will soon become a 'Dead Lake'.
- The Lake will no longer be fit for recreational activities and its aesthetic value will be finished.
- Tourist will no longer desire to visit Phewa Lake, resulting in to negative impact on local tourism industry and livelihood of people dependent on it.
- In the above context, this Development Study on Environmental Conservation of Phewa Lake has been prepared.

Then after, Mr. D.B. Singh, the Study Director presented the progress on Study, findings reached so far by the Study and key issues for discussion by the Steering Committee, among others, to guide the Study team for finalizing the Study Report.

Floor Discussion was held after presentation of the findings of the Study. The record of comments and suggestions made during the Floor Discussion are as follows:

1. Mr. Punya Prasad Poudel, Chairman, Kaski District Development Committee

- The Study has covered all the areas contributing towards environmental conservation of Phewa Lake in an integrated manner.
- Sustainable and long-term solution of gravity type of Diversion Sewerage System with tunnel collecting wastewater and sewage from Hallan Chowk to Phushre Khola is acceptable. However, all the technical aspects should be carefully examined before reaching solution, particularly keeping in mind the geological formation of Pokhara Valley. Design for tunnel, thus, should be carried out very carefully.
- In addition to water pollution, Sedimentation of Phewa Lake is also an important issue to be soon addressed to lengthen the life of the Lake. It will be worth even if we can lengthen the life of the Lake by 100 years more.
- Community Empowerment and Environmental Education is also an important issue for conservation of the Lake.
- Village roads are important factors contributing towards achieving effective rural-urban partnership, raising the living standard of people with their enhanced access to various social services, and avail them income generation opportunities.
- JICA assisted Community Development Forestry Watershed Conservation Project V in some of the VDCs of Kaski district till recent past has contributed immensely towards minimizing soil erosion and landslides. Such program should be replicated and continued in other VDCs of Phewa Lake watershed.
- He advised that a pilot scale micro watershed management program might be an area to be explored by the Study.
- The idea of proposed Phewa Lake Conservation Center is good for dissemination of information and tourism promotion of Phewa Lake area.
- DDC Kaski has stopped registration of land at Delta of Harpan Khola in Phewa Lake. This area should be effectively utilized, such as area for wetland biodiversity as suggested by the Study.
- An all party meeting may be necessary to decide on ownership/responsibility of Phewa Lake for undertaking activities geared towards its conservation.
- DDC is committed towards environmental conservation of Phewa Lake.

2. Mr. Jamuna Krishna Tamrakar, Deputy Director General of Department of Forest

- There has been a lot of work done by JICA and Care Nepal in watershed management within the Study Area. Due to this, rate of deforestation has sharply declined.
- Information on past efforts and lessons learned from them should be incorporated in the Study
- True commitment from all quarters for doing something good for Phewa Lake is very essential.

3. Mr. Surya Shankar Regmi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Local Development

- What are 'point source' and 'nonpoint source' of pollution ?
- How to raise money or identify Donor Agency to finance the proposed project by the Study ?
- The Study has suggested coordination required among the stakeholders. The stakeholders should be identified.

4. Mr. Krishna Thapa, Mayor, Pokhara Sub-metropolitan Corporation

- Till date, 17 Reports on Phewa Lake has been prepared, including Action Plan for environmental conservation of Phewa Lake by IUCN.
- Civil society has therefore doubt if this is only another similar Report not to be implemented.
- There is a lack of single institution, both legally and administratively, responsible for Phewa Lake, or under whose jurisdiction the Lake falls.
- How much land is needed to be acquired around Phewa Lake should be estimated accurately.

- Local authorities should update and maintain their system so that facilities handed over to them are operated in a sustainable way.
- Sedimentation is a very big problem of Phewa Lake.
- Lack of proper Solid Waste Management is also a problem contributing pollution in the Lake.
- Recreational parks, picnic spots etc. as suggested by the Action Plan prepared by IUCN needs to be developed around Phewa Lake to attract more numbers of tourist.
- Community based organizations have contributed immensely for conservation of Phewa Lake, though at a small scale. This has been found to be very effective.
- Existing Phewa Trust has also carried out some activities on Lake Conservation

The Mayor repeated once again regarding doubt of general civil society on repeated studies being carried out on Phewa Lake environment conservation, and none of them being implemented.

5. Mr. Hari Prasad Gurung, President, Regional Hotel Association Nepal, Pokhara

- The principle stakeholders related with Phewa Lake are hotels, restaurants, lodges, residents etc. at around the Lake
- The mechanized intervention for treatment and purification of water discharging into Lake will not be a sustainable and feasible solution in long-term as Pokhara observes heavy down pour (rainfall) and the PEIP constructed storm-water drain will carry concentrated load, which the sophisticated machines may not be able to handle for long.
- There should not be mistakes carried out without analyzing all the pros and cons with long-term future vision, so as to avoid repenting later, such as in the case of Seti canal outlet in Phewa Lake, which has since been identified as one of the major source of pollution and sedimentation in the Lake
- Buffer strip area should be carefully identified as it involves land acquisition at a highly commercial area, thus inviting social conflict.
- The people of Lakeside area (Urban area) are more responsible for conservation of the Lake as they take benefit out of it, and not the people from rural watershed area.
- Rural -Urban partnership can be achieved with increase in tourism industry. For this, tourism related institutions can be coordinated and mobilized. But, they should see benefit as encouraging factor.
- The institution, DDC- Kaski or PSMC, whoever lead the conservation activities of the Lake should be clearly identified with legal provision.
- Hotels and restaurants are using 150 number of pumps for pumping water from Phewa Lake for their household use. This is because of lack of required amount of drinking water supply in Pokhara City. Thus, this Study should also consider this issue.

The Mayor, PSMC informed that recently a decision has been made to connect a pipe with Seti canal and supply water at Lakeside area. After this, the problem of lack of water will be solved to a certain extent.

6. Mr. Tetsuo YABE, Deputy Resident Representative, JICA Nepal Office

- The proposed floating type Lake Water Purifier though operates on solar power, it will not be dependent on solar battery as the equipment will operate only during day time. In this context, the solar battery need not be replaced after four years, that is the designed life of the battery. Thus, the operation and maintenance cost estimated by the Study needs to be revised accordingly.
- Sedimentation of the Lake is one of the important issues for conservation of the Lake. However, due to security situation in the country, JICA Nepal had to limit the study area. In

addition, to avoid sedimentation which is a natural phenomena needs huge budget. In this context, the sediment management program is avoided by the Study.

- MOLD had requested for the Grant Aid, which included mechanical equipments for treating the sewage of natural streams and urban drains. Similarly, it included floating lake water purifier. However, the Study has shown gravity type of diversion sewerage system with tunnel as viable alternative to the proposed Grant Aid equipments. How does the Ministry consider it, and what is its view regarding the best suitable system?

To this, MOLD and MOPE responded that whichever system recommended by the Study, that is based on evaluation of cost effectiveness, technically feasible, sustainable and effective will be taken-up by HMG/N.

7. Dr. Mukti Narayan Shrestha, Secretary, Ministry of Population and Environment

Mr. Chairman summarized the outcome of the meeting with his concluding remarks. It included following

- Stop urban sewage and household wastewater draining into the Lake.
- Stakeholders for environmental conservation of Phewa Lake are identified by the Study. Community should represent the institution set up for undertaking and coordinating all the Lake conservation activities, and should be supported by legal mandate. The committee should be led by DDC, Kaski or PSMC. This also needs to be timely finalized, as if the program under the Study goes for implementation, a well set and transparent institution will be needed to manage the money appropriately.
- Securing land around Phewa Lakeshore as per the by-laws should be first priority. Coordination among the responsible agencies, DDC, PSMC and Land Revenue Office has to be maintained for this.
- The Study has mentioned both curative and preventive measures. Naturally, preventive measure in time should be given preference over curative measure.
- DDC Chairman, Kaski also gave emphasis on community mobilization and empowerment, which indeed is one of the important issue.
- More than 200 fisherman families depend for their livelihood on Phewa Lake. Thus, social aspect should also be given emphasis.
- Drinking water is indeed a problem of Pokhara, and it is also contributing for environmental degradation of Lake water. Thus, this aspect should also be mentioned in the Study Master Plan, as some thing needs to be done in this aspect as well.
- The Study is a interdisciplinary and multi-sectoral one, thus has been carried out with integrated and coordinated approach.
- The Proposal on central and local level coordination is important.
- Practical, feasible, and sustainable technology that can be maintained by local level skill should be given priority.
- All must work hard to lengthen the life of the Phewa Lake.
- Doing small thing at right time can save a lot, as it is said that 'stitch nine saves time'.

Mr. Chairman, closed the meeting by thanking all for actively participating and positively contributing in the meeting.

Minutes of Public Hearing Held in Pokhara on December 25, 2001

The Public Hearing as a part of Phewa Lake Conservation Study was organized on December 25, 2001 in Kaski District Development Committee Hall, Pokhara. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Punya Prasad Poudel, Chairman, Kaski DDC.

57 stakeholders from both the Urban and Rural areas also participated in the meeting. (list of attendance is attached).

Proceeding of the Meeting

The Chairman of the Meeting, Mr. Punya Pd. Poudel, in his welcome address expressed the following:

- Phewa Lake has its importance at the national level.
- The Lake is very much needed for the development of tourism in Nepal.
- Sedimentation is slowly decreasing its area. About 2500 Ropani i.e. about 125 ha. of such land is now being cultivated (20 ropani = 1 hectare).
- The public hearing is appropriate and will help to prepare the Study Report.



Mr. Narendra Pokhrel, Sr. Divisional Chemist, MOPE

Mr. Pokharel highlighted the following:

- Phewa is always linked with Pokhara.
- The Lake should be conserved for the use of future generation.
- If nothing is done now, it will be like the polluted Bagmati river of Kathmandu.
- All the stakeholders have to work together to keep the Phewa Lake clean.
- JICA may cooperate in the conservation activities if everybody work together.
- The public hearing has been organized to brief the stakeholders regarding the Study and receive comments and response from them.



Mr. Sourab Bickram Rana, Program Officer, JICA Nepal Office

- JICA was approached for the conservation of Phewa Lake by HMGN according to the request of Kaski District Development Committee.
- It is necessary to have a study before launching any project. Thus the undergoing Study is being conducted to assess the various aspects of Phewa Lake conservation.
- The meeting is expected to help in refining the output of the Study.

Experts from the Consultants Study Team then presented the Study and findings so far.

After the presentation, the participants actively contributed with comments and suggestions, as is recorded in the following paragraphs.

Mr. Ramesh Bahadur Bhattarai, President, Phewa Environment Conservation Committee-Bhattarai Group.

- One of the major reasons of the Lake pollution in addition to those as identified by the Consultant is washing of clothes and bathing in the Lake. This practice has now been stopped by the hoteliers but is still practiced by the common people. Use of detergent in the Lake should be prohibited.



- Fish rearing in cage is another reason of the Lake pollution (including visual pollution). The existing Government owned Fishery Development Center should be relocated in Rupa Lake.
- Use of modern treatment plant to clean the inflow into the Lake may be good in the beginning but will definitely create problem in operation and maintenance period. Reed bed treatment system is also not practical. Construction of diversion sewerage system with tunnel to divert Phirke Khola is therefore a better alternative to save the Lake from pollution.
- Projects usually are not bad in contents, however, the way and method of its implementation makes it good or bad.
- There is a need to construct roads in the rural watershed area, but the increase of the population in the settlements that will follow the construction of road has to be controlled to prevent further pollution of the Lake.
- Phewa Lake is now divided into three parts due to sedimentation. It will be a good idea to dredge the silt and rejoin these three parts together.
- To protect Phewa from sedimentation it is better to divert the Harpan Khola towards the southern small separated Lake to trap the silt there.
- Most of the tourism traders in the Lakeside area are from outside the urban area. It is therefore, necessary to develop the feeling of ownership of the Lake in them.
- Almost all the land on sedimentation deposit is owned by the city dwellers.
- It is necessary to levy some service charge in the range of Rs. 200 to the tourists for the conservation of the Lake.

Mr. Chudamani Pahari, Chairman, Ward No. 6, Pokhara Sub-metropolis.

- The main issue of the Lake is pollution and sedimentation.
- It is better to divert Phirke Khola to Phusre Khola rather than the use of treatment machines (including floating type), as skilled manpower and future maintenance will be a problem.
- The urban area has only 20 per cent of the total perimeter of the Lakeshore. VDCs therefore, have bigger role in the pollution. All the 6 VDCs in the watershed area of the Lake must give their commitment for the conservation of the Lake.
- Detergent is a source of pollution; therefore washing activity needs to be done at the down stream below the dam site. Pokhara Environment Improvement Project has a plan to construct such a washing platform.
- Fish farming does not pollute the lake water; on the contrary it helps in cleaning the water.
- Dredging the sediments will increase the area of the Lake.
- It is a good idea to have fish farming in Harpan Khola before it flows into the Lake.



Mr. Bhakta Bahadur Gurung, Chairman, Bhadaure-Tamagi VDC.

- The VDC is in the uppermost part of Phewa watershed, and to contribute to the conservation effort it is advisable to quantify the pollution from the VDC.
- Pollution and siltation in Phewa can be checked provided the livestock keeping in Panchase area is properly managed. Control of open grazing of livestock is essential to control soil erosion.
- Change of the traditional cereals farming to tea cultivation will increase income as well as control soil erosion.
- VDCs have been invited for the first time to discuss any such issue. VDCs should be involved like this right from the planning stage of Projects.



- Benefit from the Lake is now being enjoyed by the Sub-metropolis only; VDCs do not get any benefit. Will some portion of the fund generated from the proposed Tourism Tax be diverted to the VDCs also?

Mr. Jhapat Bahadur Thapa, Chairman, Sarangkot VDC.

- It is estimated that about 12 sq.km. of the watershed lie in Sarangkot VDC.
- The VDC is very much concerned regarding the pollution of the Lake.
- Sarangkot VDC is contributing to the tourism development of Pokhara, although it is not getting any support for it.
- People of Sarangkot need training in various aspects of tourism. Pokhara Sub-metropolis is not providing any assistance in this regard.
- Proposals of the Consultant for tourism development are commendable.
- Municipal area is polluting the Lake using the storm-water drain for also discharging household waste water.
- The promotion of biogas can also help to check pollution. Increase in subsidy for it by the Agriculture Development Bank will help in the management of the livestock wastes.
- Sophisticated machinery will be a daydream. It will give headache in operation and maintenance period. Even if construction cost becomes expensive, diversion of Phirke through sewerage system is a sustainable solution.
- River training and forestation at watershed areas is necessary for the conservation of the Lake.
- Hotels and restaurants are still being constructed in the Lakeside area of the Sub-metropolis, whereas the VDC got an order to prohibit such constructions.
- It is to be noted that for the first time VDCs have been asked for suggestions for the conservation of the Lake.



Mr. Mahendra Kumar Shrestha, Member, Pardi-Baidam Cleaning Committee and Pokhara Hoteliers Association.

- The Consultant is advised to prepare a project that will not bring any side effects.

Mr. Ramesh Karmacharya, General Secretary, FNCCI, Pokhara

- Phewa is one of the over studied lakes. More than 28 reports have already been prepared since 1978. Let the present report also be not an additional report without being implemented.
- There is a need for a Phewa Lake Conservation Committee with sufficient powerful legal mandate like in Chitwan National Park.
- Harpan, Phirke Kholas and Seti Canal contribute 70 per cent of the water in the Lake. The biggest polluter in the form of sedimentation depositor is however, Harpan Khola.
- The concept of buffer zone around the Lake is commendable.

Mr. Maheswar Dhakal, Department of Watershed Protection and Soil Conservation, Pokhara.

- The biggest contributor to the soil erosion is openly grazing Livestock and it is more pronounced in the monsoon.
- Project proposal should be practical and not over ambitious.
- Prevention is the best way of pollution control, and is missing in the presentation.
- Domestic tourism development should also be given due importance.
- Most of the tributaries into the Lake are from the VDCs. These VDCs therefore should be included into the area of conservation activities.
- Give proper attention to non-timber forest, forestation and also to medicinal herbal farming.

- Use the experiences from the Department of Soil Conservation and Watershed Management/JICA Project in Chapakot and Pumdi-Bhumdi VDC.
- Educational and awareness program is a must for the change in the traditional farming practice. But such program to the adults, students and children should be different.
- Environmental issues should be considered in the infrastructure development programs in the rural areas.

Mr. Kali Bahadur Adhikari, Member, Nepal Tourism Board.



- It has been observed that Lake water stinks most often in the morning, indicating the nighttime septage discharge by the hoteliers. The toilets they use are not scientific. Hoteliers therefore, should construct hygienic toilets.
- Everybody will welcome the diversion of Seti Canal and Phirke.
- Establishment of Conservation Fund through conservation fee levied to the tourists may divert them to other destinations. One should not forget that tourism is a competitive industry and tax or fee every now then can be a source of harassment. Many countries are waving even visa fee to attract more tourists. Collection of fund for conservation purpose indirectly through the stakeholders (landowners and tourism traders) can be a good solution.
- All the components in the Project should be sustainable in character and manageable by the available local expertise. Use of mechanization is totally unacceptable. Diversion sewerage system will be better alternative.
- Occasional opening of the Phewa Dam gates also causes soil erosion.
- There is wholehearted support for the conservation project from the stakeholders' side and are ready for necessary initiative also.

Mr. Bhesh Parajuli, Chairman, Chapakot VDC.

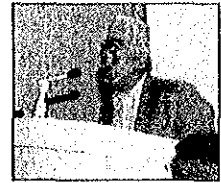


- Presence of the Land Revenue and Land Survey officer was necessary in the meeting to get an answer on how land formed by the sedimentation was registered.
- There has been an understanding among the VDCs of the watershed area to work together for the conservation of the Lake and this message has been submitted to the District Development Committee, Kaski.
- Harpan Khola is a sorrow for the rural area also. Unless and until Harpan is not trained, no good result can be expected. Check dams in the river at intervals may help in erosion control and deposited sand or gravel can be a source of income for the VDCs.
- Watershed management program executed in the past has contributed to 70 per cent prevention in soil erosion.
- Occasional opening of the Phewa Dam gates also contributes to the soil erosion.
- The Lake is polluted by the urban area and not by the rural areas. Pokhara sub-metropolis and the Hoteliers should take appropriate actions.

Mr. Bishnu Prasad Baral, Chairman, Sirjana Vikash Kendra.

- Diversion sewerage system is recommended instead of mechanized version. But the question is, whether the drains being constructed by PEIP can also be diverted to this.
- There is a need for a strong political commitment before the formation of Conservation Committee is decided. Projects cannot be successful without political commitment.
- Many constructions in the Lakeside and Pardi are illegal, which proves the necessity for political commitment.

Mr. Tek Bahadur Gurung, Chairman, Pumdil-Bhumdi VDC



- The domestic tourists come during the summer time when the water level in the Lake is very low. As the Lake water is diverted to generate power, David Fall becomes dry adding frustration to the visitors. It is therefore, necessary to supply water to David Fall by stopping the generation of hydropower, or the power should be generated only in the night.

Mr. Gauri Shankar Timila, District Forest Officer

- Community forest groups who manage large area of forest, are also the stakeholders. They should be included in the Environmental Education Program, but there is no Community Forest Program in the proposal.
- Environment friendly road needs to be constructed in the rural areas.
- Alternative fuel is necessary in the rural area, as fuel wood is mostly used by the people.

Mr. Kishan Singh Gurung, Engineer, Pokhara Valley Town Development Committee, Pokhara



Participation in the meeting

- Pokhara Town Development Committee also proposed diversion of Phirke while preparing a plan for Pardi area. And the experiences in the construction of check dams to control sedimentation have also shown diversion of Phirke to be the best option.
- Reed bed and other options are also not recommended, as it is not possible to acquire even a very small piece of land in the highly commercial area of Lakeside.
- Buffer zone around the Lake is very essential.
- Those who are working for the conservation of the Lake should be the members of the Conservation Committee (PLECC). They should not be selected only because of their status.

Mr. Padam Bahadur KC, Chief, Tourism Office, Pokhara



- Water pollution of the Lake depends on the urban area's activities. Pollution control measures therefore, should be taken by the urban area.
- Sedimentation in the Lake is the outcome of the soil erosion in the watershed area. The six VDCs are to be involved in controlling the soil erosion. If there is no control in soil erosion, there will be no conservation of the Lake.
- The farming practice in the VDCs has to be changed. Alternative cash crop farming like tea, coffee or fruits can be encouraged.
- Tourism should get due priority in the VDCs. There is a need to develop village tourism, sight seeing spots and trail around the Lake to increase the length of stay of tourists.
- The length of stay is less because the tourists do not have more sites to visit and spend more money. Cut-throat rate in the tourism trade is also the reason of small spending by the tourists.
- There is a need for a single committee for all tourism products instead of having separate committees for every product.
- Tourists can be charged for conservation purpose.
- Phewa Lake should be addressed with a long term perspective plan.
- Let us not talk about high-tech solution. Diversion sewerage system is the best solution for the pollution control of the Lake.

Mr. Jyotendra Gurung, Project In-charge, PEIP.

- Environment Education Unit in the Sub-metropolis is already functioning to increase public awareness for environment protection.
- Check dams should be constructed in the VDCs to control sedimentation in the Lake. This aspect has not been dealt in the presentation.
- The major problem is sedimentation rather than pollution.
- Public awareness can help minimize pollution but not sedimentation.



Ms. Kopila Jalari, Chair person, Mothers' Group, Phyaure.

- Jalaris are not treated properly, are usually hated and are excluded from development activities for conservation.
- Soils erosion is acute when the Phewa Dam gates are opened.
- Jalaris clean the Lake and remove the water hyacinth at their capacity, but get skin disease when entered into Lake water.
- DDC do not take care of this community.



Mr. Sundar Shrestha, President, HAN; Pokhara Chapter

- The amount of fund available for the conservation work is not yet known.
- Let us plan the best way possible and not compromise for the cost.
- The experts should have independent view and be neutral. Whereas the politicians should give their commitment to such plans. The Mayor and DDC Chairman have to implement it.
- The polluters of the Lake in the Lakeside area should be identified and punished accordingly. There is no actions taken so far to such polluters.
- Land price is increasing due to the promotion of tourism. Those who are benefiting from the Lake should also contribute for its conservation.
- Any purification system for the Lake should match the capacity and condition of the country. Diversion sewerage drain of Phirke is therefore an appropriate solution.



Mr. Ram Chandra, President, Phewa Fisherman Association

- The existing dam is also a cause of erosion. When its gates are opened and water gushes out, it disturbs the soil in the Lake shore and thus causes the erosion in the vicinity of the Lake.
- In spite of other pollution in the Lake, the saddest part of pollution is the sedimentation.



Mr. Vidhya Bimal Baral, President, Pokhara Hoteliers Association

- Control of sedimentation and pollution should be planned as a single integrated package in the project.
- 50 per cent of the hotels depend on the water of Seti canal as the supply from the municipal water supply system is not adequate. The canal is therefore essential.
- As for the pollution of the canal water, awareness program is recommended in wards number one to seven of the Sub-metropolis.

Mr. Ganesh Bhattarai, Owner-Boomarang Restaurant; Member, Phewa Environment Conservation Committee- Bhattarai Group

- There is a lack of environmental awareness among the general public.
- Despite the fact that tourism traders in the Lakeside area are aware of the environmental consequences, they are still contributing to the pollution of the Lake.
- The local institutions and offices are not working properly to control such misdeeds. Stern action should be taken against the polluters.
- The existing Conservation Committee is also not active.
- Inadequate municipal water supply has forced the people to use water from the Lake and the Canal.
- Ministry of Agriculture should encourage the people in the VDCs for horticulture. It will minimize soil erosion.
- The sewage is better to be diverted through sewerage system and discharged into Phusre.
- Long term vision is necessary and the recommendations of the Study should be implemented.

Mr. Buddhi Bahadur Neupane, Phewa Boat Operators Association

- Sedimentation is a big problem for the Lake.
- DDC and the Sub-metropolis should help in controlling the pollution of the Lake.



Mr. Krishna Bahadur Thapa, Mayor, Pokhara Sub-Metropolis (PSMC)

- Phewa Lake has been misused by all political parties after the 2046 BS (1990).
- Phewa Trust was established in Kartik 27, 2054 BS (1998). It is working with the interest from already collected fund of Rs.750,000 kept in a bank.
- IUCN prepared an action plan for the conservation of Phewa Lake which was approved by HMGN, and some of the recommendations were implemented.
- As a part of conservation of the Lake, 82 Environmental Conservation Tole Committees have already been established in the Sub-metropolis.
- Before the construction of the 39 km. of storm-water drainage in the Sub-metropolis, the Community gave their written commitment that no body will drain the septage and sewage into the storm-water drains. But in reality it did not happen.
- Support and cooperation of every body is required and not punishment and penalty.
- The proposals of the Consultant should be implemented as soon as possible.
- Land for the buffer zone should be acquired by the government, for which Rs.120 mill. is required.
- Diversion of Phirke by construction of sewerage system is better and sustainable alternative.
- Proposal for the Conservation Committee with representation from VDCs as its members is also good. The Committee must work by mobilizing the people. The Committee must be formed with sufficient authority.



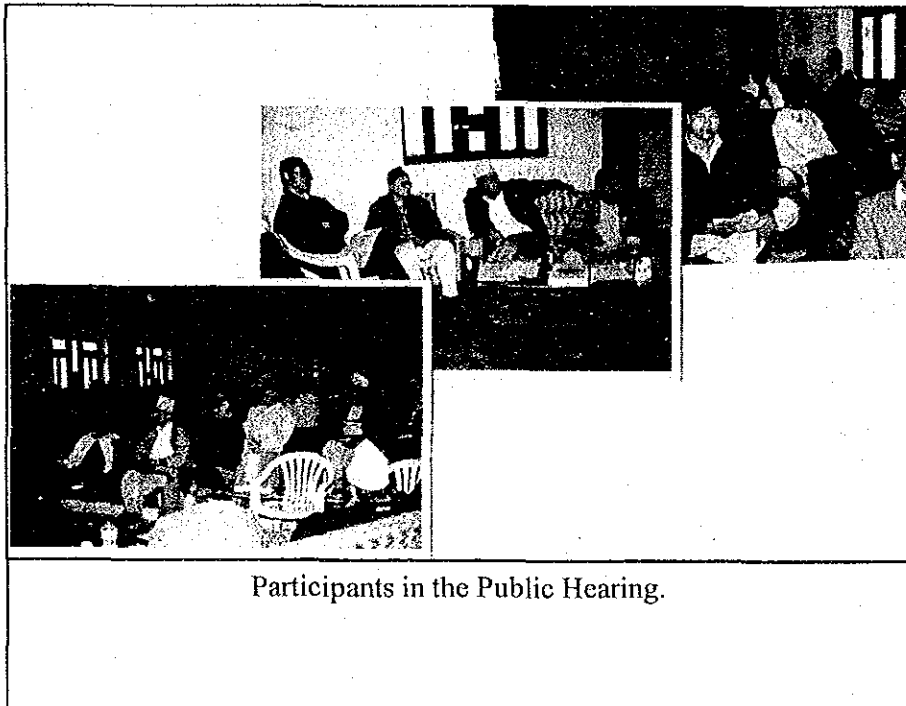
Mr. Punya Prasad Poudel, Chairman, District Development Committee,

concluded the meeting with following remarks and suggestions:

- The aspiration and wish of the people (stakeholders) did not match or coincide with the project proposal of DDC, as it has requested to the government and JICA for a mechanized version to control the pollution in the Lake. Based on the interaction in the meeting, there is no ground to disagree with the wish of the people. Diversion of Phirke through gravity sewerage system will therefore, be the accepted alternative.



- Tourism trade organizations like HAN, TAAN, NATA and others must come forward to cooperate with the conservation effort, as they are getting good profit from the Lake. Similarly, they should commit not to discharge their waste into the recently constructed storm-water drain.
- Service charges and tax to the tourists is levied in foreign countries also, so can also be applied in Nepal. The Conservation Committee (PLECC) will collect such tax and the tourism sector need to agree with it.
- If it is beneficial to turn the land created by the sedimentation deposit to a wetland, it is good to proceed with it. Dredging of the sedimentation in that case can be avoided.
- Community road, picnic spots are good idea and it is necessary to support fishermen and other depending upon the Lake for their livelihood.
- It is not advisable to ask the farmers to change their traditional farming without providing them some alternatives.
- Promotion of bio-gas can be included in the Project.
- DDC's Chairman can be the chairman of the Conservation Committee, similar to the arrangement made in the Kathmandu Valley Town Development Committee. The number of members however, can be increased if necessary.
- A government officer of first class level can be the Member Secretary of the Committee.
- The government should provide annual budgetary allocation to the Committee.
- VDCs should also give their commitment and it is clear they have it.



Participants in the Public Hearing.

**फेवाताल वातावरण संरक्षण तथा व्यवस्थापन अध्ययन कार्यको
सरोकारवाला समूहको छलफल कार्यक्रममा उपस्थिति**

स्थान: फेवाताल डेपु मन्डारवाटार बिल्डिंग (बैठाम)

मिति: १०/०७/२०५८

क्र.सं	नाम	संस्था	ठेगाना	फोन नं	हस्ताक्षर
१	नेरुन्डु पौडेल	जनसंस्था तथा वातावरण मन्त्रालय	सिंहवला	२५२२६०, ८, ३	नेरुन्डु पौडेल
२	सौरव राणा	जाइका नेपाल	सिप्रेस्वर	२६११९९	सौरव राणा
३	किसान गुब्बा	नगर विकास समिति	चौमरा	९०२७७	किसान गुब्बा
४	पराग कामेश्वर	शहरी विकास तथा अति-विश्राम प. क्षेत्री. पौडेल	पाद्री	२००००	पराग कामेश्वर
५	महेन्द्र देवकोटा	जि.भू.सं.को.को.सं.	रत्नचोक	२०२१२/१९८०	महेन्द्र देवकोटा
६	रमेश कर्णिकार	पौडका संस्था	गोदापार	२०२६४	रमेश कर्णिकार
७	पुष्प बस्नेत	क.सं.सं.	जी.वी.डी	२०३४५	पुष्प बस्नेत
८	महेन्द्र गुरुङ	अ.कं.सं. अ.	चौमरा	२११०२	महेन्द्र गुरुङ
९	गंगा बस्नेत	जि.इ.चि.को.सं.	"	२१०७५	गंगा बस्नेत
१०	स्वर्णिमा पौडेल	महेला विकास समिति	छिद्रपालरी	२५२०६	स्वर्णिमा पौडेल
११	मिना देवी पौडेल	"	"	"	मिना देवी
१२	यमना पौडेल	"	"	"	यमना
१३	स्वर्णिमा कुमारी (गैरी)	"	"	"	स्वर्णिमा कुमारी
१४	शिशुदेव बस्नेत	जि.वि.सं.	चौमरा	३१३७५	शिशुदेव बस्नेत
१५	बालदेव पौडेल	२११	पाद्री	२१३२०, २७०३३	बालदेव पौडेल
१६	दासावर दाहाल	२११	"	२१६८०	दासावर दाहाल
१७	विष्णु पौडेल	पापुवा पर्यटन प्रयोजना समिति	पापुवा	२००१	विष्णु पौडेल
१८	निधा विमल बस्नेत	पापुवा डेवलपमेन्ट समिति	पापुवा	२६०३१	निधा विमल बस्नेत
१९	सुशान्ति पौडेल	पौडका संस्था - ६	पापुवा - ६	२०५३३	सुशान्ति पौडेल
२०	अमर पौडेल	पापुवा	सरोकारवाला समिति	-	अमर पौडेल
२१	देव शर्मा	अमर पौडेल	पापुवा	-	देव शर्मा
२२	केशव शर्मा	"	पापुवा	२५५२६	केशव शर्मा
२३	कुशी शर्मा	अमर पौडेल	पापुवा	२१५३५	कुशी शर्मा
२४	गोपाल शर्मा	सरोकारवाला समिति	अमर पौडेल, पापुवा	२४२७९	गोपाल शर्मा
२५	शिव शर्मा	जि.वि.सं.	पापुवा - ४	२२२१०	शिव शर्मा

क्र.सं	नाम	संस्था	ठेगाना	फोन नं	हस्ताक्षर
25	हेमलक्ष्मी चौधरी	प्रान्तीय प्राथमिक	पोरवा	22544	[Signature]
26	गुण्य चौधरी	पोरवा एल.ए.डी.डी	पोरवा	22922	[Signature]
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43	मन्मथ अशफुर	ने.प. नोड	पोरवा	22584	[Signature]
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45	इ. ज्योतिष अशफुर	पो.का. सु. शा.	पोरवा	20259	[Signature]
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