

Minutes of Third Stakeholder Meeting in Damauli

Upgrading Feasibility Study of Upper Seti Storage Hydroelectric Project

Third Stakeholders Meeting

Time: 1.30 PM
Date : May 4, 2007; Baishakh, 21, 2064
Venue: Shree Shukla Lower Secondary School, Kahu Shivapur, Tanahu
Organized by: Nepal Electricity Authority with the Assistance of Japan International Cooperation Agency
Master of Ceremony: Mr. Satish Devkota, NEA

The stakeholder meeting was chaired by **Mr Krishna Prashad Joshi**, Head Master, *Shree Shukla Lower Secondary School, Kahu Shivapur, Tanahu*. Other guests who took chair in the dias were:

1. Mr. Bishnu Bahadur Singh, Head, Project Development Department NEA
2. Mr. Rishikesh Sharma, Head, Managing Director Secretariat, NEA
3. Mr. Amar Bahadur Bishwakarma, Chairman, Shree Shukla Lower Secondary School Management Committee
4. Mr. Shree Jung Thapa, Social Worker, Beltar
5. Mr. Yoshimasamasa Ishii, Team Leader, JICA Study Team
6. Dr. Masaki, Member Environment Advisory council, JICA
7. Mr. Usuii, JICA, Thailand
8. Ms. Tokuda, JICA, Nepal
9. Mr. Saurav Rana, JICA, Nepal
10. Mrs. Lili Maya Thapa, President, Lali Guras Aama Samuha, Kahu Shivapur

Mr. Bishnu Bahadur Singh, Head, Project Development Department, NEA, welcomed the participants of the stakeholder meeting. He reiterated his thanks to the participating people that they have come from far of places despite the scorching heat of the summer.



Highlighting on the power situation in Nepal, he explained the types of electricity projects which are currently operational in Nepal. Nearly 99% of the electricity demand is sourced from the Run off the River Hydroelectric Projects. Power generation from such projects, he explained, varies depending upon the quantity of water in the river. As a result, such projects generate energy to their installed capacity during rainy season and as the water drops in the dry and summer season, only a fraction of the installed capacity could be generated. It is because of this;

NEA is forced to cut power to its consumers in the dry and summer season.

The proposed project, he explained, being a reservoir project, could generate energy even during the dry season from the stored water in the reservoir and help NEA to supply energy to its consumer even during the dry season. It is for this reason NEA has undertaken the feasibility study of the project. JICA has helped us in the upgrading feasibility study of the

project and to identify the optimum plan for the project development. A congratulate the JICA team for undertaking the study team in specified time frame.

Hydropower projects could generate various types of environmental impacts. Many of them could be beneficial, while some could be adverse also. The JICA study team has studied the natural and social environmental impacts of the project. They have also come up with measures to mitigate the adverse impacts and enhance the positive impacts.

To day we are gathered here to share the findings of the JICA study team and get your concern and input on the study made by the JICA team. The highlights of the project and related natural and social environmental impacts and conceived mitigation measures and enhancement measures are given in the brochure, which is in your hand. The brochure also includes the answers of the frequently asked questions, which were shorted out from the questions raised during the first and second stakeholder meeting at Damauli and Kathmandu.

I once again welcome you all in this august gathering and humbly request you to put your concerns and suggestions to the study team. Your honest input will make the study and the project sound for smooth implementation and operation. We welcome your suggestions to make the study and project a success.

Dr. Toran Sharma, on behalf of the JICA study team presented the findings of the study. He explained the project background and various studies undertaken by the JICA study team to identify the optimum project plan. He further elaborated the salient features of the identified optimum project plan. Project layout features were explained in the layout maps and in the photographs of the project area particularly of the reservoir, and project facility sites, the dam and powerhouse locations.

The perceived natural and social impacts of the project were explained by Dr. Sharma with the help of the enlarged photographs of the project areas. For each of the identified impacts, he elaborated the nature of the impact, and proposed mitigation measures to avoid, and minimize the impacts. He detailed the policy of resettlement planning and the framework of resettlement planning and explained the proposed entitlement matrix for the affected persons/families/ and communities. The proposed Social Action Plan framework is explained at greater length for the rehabilitation of the affected people and communities.

After the presentation of Dr. Sharma, the forum was open for the questions, concerns, and suggestions from the stakeholders.

Mr. Sakti Lal Thapa – Ex-Chairman, Tanahu District Development Committee

We are happy that, Government of Japan through JICA is undertaking the project study work. We are rich in hydropower, but we are not able to utilize our resource. You have come to our house to organize the stakeholder meeting. We have a feeling that we are the real owner of the project and have a right to decide on the project. The southern part of Tanahu is remote and the people are poor. You have said that the project will provide job opportunity to the local people. We



believe that your words will be translated into practice during project implementation. We have limited skill, and the project has to utilize our skills during project construction and operation. We suggest that small civil works be contracted out to the local people than the outsiders.

Mr. Yam Bahadur Ale Magar, Pokhari Bhanjyang Ward No. 1

Nepal is a country rich in water resource. This area is also rich in many other biodiversity resources. The project should establish the rights of the people as per the provisions of ILO international agreement. The project should be renamed as Kanuh after the name of the Dam location in local Magar dialect. The project should give special consideration to the watershed management in the upstream and downstream area. The spoil disposal site should be developed as playground after the project construction. To maximize the employment of local people in the project, skill training programs should be launched at least six month before the project construction. The project should facilitate electricity transmission in the affected VDCs and the Tanahu district. Considerations on the development of ropeway tourism development, and a historical museum should be undertaken by the project.

Mrs Bishnu Maya Achami – Representative
Aama Samuha (Mother Group)

We express our thanks to the JICA study team for explaining us about the project and its impacts. We request JICA to built a office structure for the Aama Samuha. As the project will affect our forest and grass land, alternatives to this effect has to be considered, because, we will be directly impacted by the loss. We women of the area are illiterate, we hope that the project will provide us skill training for the livelihood.



Mr. Ramesh Podel – Kahu Shivapur Ward No 7

The hydropower projects implemented in Nepal have in one or the other way cheated Nepali People. We are rich in hydropower, but we are paying high electricity tariff. I propose the project should give share to the local people and then only they will get the benefit of the project. I propose that the share should be allocated to project affected people, Project affected area people and the project affected district people. I think, the required money could be generated from the local people and we should not depend upon the donors or other private parties for project development.

M. Indra Bahadur Ale Magar – Kotdurbar, Ward No 6

The compensation fixation committee should also include representatives of affected people. We could not agree with the representation of the affected VDC chairman in the Compensation Fixation Committee. The skill training should not be conducted in the district headquarters, such trainings should be conducted at village level so that many people could take benefit of the training. For the development projects, you said that further discussions will be arranged, but when and how? We want to know how much of the electricity revenue

of the project comes to the district? Since we are the project affected district, we want that preference of electrification be given to this district first by the project. All able people of the project affected area should get jobs as to their skills, jobs should not be given to outsiders in the pretext that local people do not have skills. We are happy that the project is coming in this area. We are ready to help the project in the way we could do.

Mr. Upendra Ghimire – Jamune VDC

We expect that the project construction will benefit us. We are lucky that the project is coming here. Since 50% of the directly project affected area is forest, what is the alternative mitigation measures for the loss of our forest resource, we need further explanation as our livelihood is directly linked with the forest resources and its products. You said the resettlement will be done as per the Government Law. What do you mean by law? Our experience is that compensation as per law is very minimum. We know that the land valuation of Land Revenue Office is very low. We should get compensation at the replacement cost.

Dr Toran Sharma, on behalf of the JICA study team, replied to the different queries of the stakeholders. He further detailed on the model of the skill training prior to the project, and conceived mechanism of incorporating local people in the project related jobs. Each of the items of the Social Action Plan framework including watershed management, agriculture development, women development, rural electrification, Health sanitation and education programs is explained in detail and how these programs will be implemented after discussions with the affected people and communities in the project cycle.

He explained the government of Nepal act provisions for resettlement and land acquisition. The procedures of land acquisition, formation of Compensation Fixation Committee, and the representation of local affected people in the committee proposed by the study team is detailed. He explained that the resettlement policy is to compensate on the land and property at the replacement cost and the valuation of Land Revenue Office will not be basis for compensation payments.

With regard to the loss of forest resources, Dr. Sharma explained that they will be compensated at a ratio of 1:25 plantation following the government policy, however, participation in the afforestation and conservation of planted trees from the local area is of utmost importance to regenerate the lost resources.

Mr. Rishikesh Sharma – Head, Managing Director Secretariat, NEA

Mr. Sharma thanked everybody present in the stakeholder meeting for the patience and active participation. He explained that the project belongs to local people and their active cooperation could only make the project a success. Renewed cooperation from the participants and the local people will be there in future also for the project implementation and operation. Thank you.

Mr. Krishna Prashad Joshi - Chairperson of the Stakeholder Meeting

I am happy that the stakeholder meeting is



conducted in our place. The project is our and if all of us cooperate, I am confident, the project will be implemented. It will not only benefit us but will also benefit the nation as a whole. I wish all success to the project. I want to thank the JICA Study team for their work. I now declare that the stakeholder meeting is adjourned. Thank you.

Upgrading Feasibility Study of Upper Seti Storage Hydroelectric Project

Third Stakeholders Meeting

Time: 10.30 AM
Date : May 5, 2007; Baishakh, 22, 2064
Venue: Shree Deep Joyti Primary School, Rising Ranipokhari, Tanahu
Organized by: Nepal Electricity Authority with the Assistance of Japan International Cooperation Agency
Master of Ceremony: Mr. Satish Devkota, NEA

The stakeholder meeting was chaired by **Mr Doola Raj Shrestha**, *Chairperson, Shree Deep Joyti Primary School*. Other guests who took chair in the dais were:

11. Dr. Masaki, Member Environment Advisory council, JICA
12. Mr. Usui, JICA, Thailand
13. Ms. Tokuda, JICA, Nepal
14. Mr. Saurav Rana, JICA, Nepal
15. Mr. Yoshimasa Ishii, Team Leader, JICA Study Team
16. Mr. Shiva Chandra Jha – Head, Environmental and Social Studies Department, NEA
17. Mr. Bishnu Bahadur Singh, Head, Project Development Department NEA
18. Mr. Rishikesh Sharma, Head, Managing Director Secretariat, NEA
19. Mrs. Ishowri Pandey – Head Master, Shree Deep Joyti Primary School
20. Mr. Ram Chandra Gaire – Chairperson, Road Development Committee
21. Mr. Bhakti Prashad Gaire – Ex Ward Chairperson.

Mr. Shiva Chandra Jha - Head, Environmental and Social Studies Department, NEA

First of all I would like to welcome you in this stakeholder meeting. I am thankful to all of you who despite their work have come from long distances to participate in the meeting.

We have conducted public hearing meeting during the first EIA process. This is the third stakeholder meeting during the upgrading feasibility study. The objective of this stakeholder meeting is to discuss on the issues raised by the common people with regard to the project, project related impacts, and mitigation measures. To incorporate the concerns and issues of the local people, we have come to your place for this stakeholder meeting as suggested by you in the second stakeholder meeting. Let us now sit down together and discuss the issues that you think are most important. Let us identify the problems and also identify the solutions to resolve the issues. If we could do this I will consider the meeting was a success and we could take the right decision for project implementation and operation.

Dr. Toran Sharma, on behalf of the JICA study team presented the findings of the study. He explained the project background and various studies undertaken by the JICA study team to identify the optimum project plan. He further elaborated the salient features of the identified optimum project plan. Project layout features were explained in the layout maps and in the photographs of the project area particularly of the reservoir, and project facility sites, the dam and powerhouse locations.

The perceived natural and social impacts of the project were explained by Dr. Sharma with the help of the enlarged photographs of the project areas. For each of the identified impacts, he elaborated the nature of the impact, and proposed mitigation measures to avoid, and minimize the impacts. He detailed the policy of resettlement planning and the framework of resettlement planning and explained the proposed entitlement matrix for the affected persons/families/ and communities. The proposed Social Action Plan framework is explained at greater length for the rehabilitation of the affected people and communities.

After the presentation of Dr. Sharma, the forum was open for the questions, concerns, and suggestions from the stakeholders.

Mr. Budhi Ram Lamsal – Bhimad Ward No. 1, Chairman, Seti River Embankment Action Committee.

River Site is cutting the river banks every year. How high will be the water level at Bhimad area ? What are the measures taken by the project for the control of river cutting?

Mr. Biswa Prakash Sharma – Rising Patan, Rising Ranipokhari

The project should not affect the agricultural land. The affected land and property should be given adequate compensation. The road from Bhimad to Rising Patan should be upgraded. The project should provide job as per the skill of the people. Programs for health and education should be launched. A road should connect Bhimad – Damauli along Seti river. The cremation grounds should be built. A program for watershed management be implemented. All affected bridges should be built on the project cost.

Mr. Parashu Ram Gaire – Risng Patan

The playground used by our children at the bank of Seti River will be under the reservoir. We would want alternative for the playground to our children.

Mr. Kul Bahadur Rana – Wantan Khola, Rising Rani Pokhari Ward No 9

The reservoir effect on land and property is higher in the Rising Rani Pokhari. The entire settlement of Wantan Khola will be submerged. How compensation will be given to the affected people? Where these displaced people will be relocated. Will the compensated money be sufficient for land purchase and house construction? Will the project inundate the settlement of Tutuwa or not ?

Mr. Ram Saran Sharma Gaire, - Bhimad Ward No. 9

There are active landslides along Seti River and also along the tributary streams. How these landslides will be controlled? If there is no land erosion control, we will lose most of our property by the reservoir inundation and by the landslides of the tributary streams. What are the mitigation options for land slide control?

Mr. Bal Krishna Gaire, - Majkot

What will be the compensation to the affected land of the non-titleholders? Will they be compensated?



Mr. Ram Nath Subedi – Rising Ranipokhari, Rising Patan Ward No. 9

I first thank JICA study team for coming to our houses for collection of suggestions. All affected land with legal holdings and without legal holdings should be compensated. We have used this land for our livelihood. The government should give us legal title of the land that we are utilizing for our livelihood.

I would request that the project should build a road along the bank of the proposed reservoir area.

Mrs. Sarada Gaire, - Majhkot, Ward No 9

I wish the project a success. There are women in our village who have completed their diploma and degree courses. They should also be given job opportunities in the project according to their skill. Job should not be only for male members of the society. Even women are capable; job opportunities should also be given to the women.

Mr. Bishnu Bahadur Thapa – Rising Ranipokhari, Rising Patan

There are many educated people in our villages. They should be given job opportunities in the construction works. We are far from the construction place, Damauli. If we get job we could take room in Damauli and work. We should not be left out from the project related jobs.

You said the lost land and property will be compensated. That is good, but is that money sufficient to buy land and construct house in other place? This should also be considered while evaluating the loss of land and property.

Mr. Ram Prashad Poudel – Rising Ranipokhari Ward No. 9

The reservoir will affect most of land and property and the infrastructures that connect us with the opposite bank of Seti River. Our children could not go to school once the suspension bridges are affected. What options and alternatives the project study team has visualized to mitigate such effects?

When the land is lost, how the farmer will make their living? Even the community forests are also affected how that will be compensated?

Mr. Bhoj Raj Gaire – Rising Ranipokhari, Rising Patan Ward No 9

The Buduwa Phat will be affected by the reservoir, what is compensation mechanism? The affected people should get compensation directly; there should be no intermediary like VDC and DDC.

Village community has given land of Seti to the Schools, which is being utilized by the school as playground. This land has no legal title, what will happen to these land's compensation?

We will be very happy, if a motorable road along Seti to Damauli is constructed by the project.

Mr. Raju Khanal – Male Bagar, Bhimad.

The Bhimad Bazar is currently under threat by the river cutting. We have constructed embankment structures annually. Now the project is coming, will this work be taken up by the project from this year?

People have stopped fertilizing the land close to Seti Bank with the assumption that this land will be under reservoir. The productivity of the land has declined. Now the project need to decide whether this project is coming or not?

Mr. Dharma Raj Khanal – Chhang Patan Ward No. 8

The River Seti is a wild river. It has been eroding its bank and will continue to do so. The land that will be submerged in the reservoir will be gone for ever. The project should consider conserving the remaining land above reservoir for protection against erosion and landslides.

Mrs. Ishowri Pandey – Head Master, Shree Deep Joyti Primary School

The educated women should be give jobs by the project as per their skills. The uneducated women should be considered by skill training by the project.

Mr. Ram Bahadur Lama – Majkot

The Malebagar will be affected or not ? How will the compensation given?



Mr. Tul Bahadur Thapa – Rising Ranipokhari, Rising Patan

The project should give special consideration to the agricultural field of the Geruwatar, Kundaletar and Bandarkuna. These lands belong to the Magar Communities, who are poor.

Mr. Tej Bahadur Thapa – Paltang, Rising Ranipokhari, Ward No. 7

Will the project affects the Rising Patan – Chautari village Road or not? The project is expected to affect the community forest, what will be the compensation? Seti river has eroded my land. I have the land certificate will I get compensation?

Rajendra Prashad Gaire – Rising, Rising Ranipokhari Ward No 9

The alternative of the Dablang playground should be considered? The affected people should get free electricity? What is the strategy to protect the Buduwa Phat?

Mr. Bal Krishna Ghimire – Member FECOFUN (Jamune VDC)

The project should conceive a long term environmental management plan to protect and conserve its environmental resources. Recently one more Community forest has been registered at Jamune VDC, which will be affected by the project. The name of the Community forest is Umachok Community Forest, Jamune VDC 5

Dr Toran Sharma, on behalf of the JICA study team, replied to the different queries of the stakeholders. He further detailed on the model of the skill training prior to the project, and conceived mechanism of incorporating local people in the project related jobs. Each of the items of the Social Action Plan framework including watershed management, agriculture development, women development, rural electrification, Health sanitation and education programs is explained in detail and how these programs will be implemented after discussions with the affected people and communities in the project cycle.

He explained the government of Nepal act provisions for resettlement and land acquisition. The procedures of land acquisition, formation of Compensation Fixation Committee, and the representation of local affected people in the committee proposed by the study team is detailed. He explained that the resettlement policy is to compensate on the land and property at the replacement cost and the valuation of Land Revenue Office will not be basis for compensation payments. He reiterated that the resettlement policy even includes the non-titleholders for compensation to the lost assets



With regard to the loss of forest resources, Dr. Sharma explained that they will be compensated at a ratio of 1:25 plantation following the government policy, however, participation in the afforestation and conservation of planted trees from the local area is of utmost importance to regenerate the lost resources. A special package of compensation for the community forest equal to five year production loss is proposed.

He explained the plans for reservoir shore line erosion protection conceived by the project. He explained the affected areas by the reservoir once again in the enlarged photographs to satisfy the query of the people and make them understand which part of the land will actually be affected by the reservoir.

Mr. Bishnu Bahadur Singh, Head, Project Development Department NEA

Mr Singh, presented vote of thanks to the participating people. He expressed his happiness for the active participation in the stakeholder meeting by the local people. He emphasized the

need of the Reservoir type project to stabilize the power system of Nepal. To initiate the project, he requested local people to pressurize the government for fast decision. He reiterated that the NEA will do all that is possible to minimize the impacts of the project on the natural and social environment. He requested to send their comments suggestion on the project even in future, and NEA will welcome these suggestions to make the project environmentally sound and feasible. Thank you.

Mr. Doola Raj Dhakal – Chairperson of the Stakeholder Meeting and Chairperson, Shree Deep Joyti Primary School.

We thank the organizers for keeping this stakeholder meeting in our school. We, local could understand the project and put our quarry and concern to the concerned authority. We want the project to come to our area. Our school is poor and has no resources; we hope that the project will help us build the school infrastructure. With this I adjourned the meeting. Thank you.

Upgrading Feasibility Study of Upper Seti Storage Hydroelectric Project

Third Stakeholders Meeting

Time:	10.30 AM
Date :	May 5, 2007; Baishakh, 23, 2064
Venue:	Santosh Hotel, Damauli, Tanahu
Organized by:	Nepal Electricity Authority with the Assistance of Japan International Cooperation Agency
Master of Ceremony:	Mr. Satish Devkota, NEA

The stakeholder meeting was chaired by **Mr Bishnu Prashad Dhakal**, Local Development Officer, Tanahu. Other guests who took chair in the dais were:

22. Mr. Kashi Nath Marashini – Chief district Officer, Tanahu
23. Mr. Bhoj Raj Regmi – General Manager, Nepal Electricity Authority
24. Dr. Masaki, Member Environment Advisory council, JICA
25. Mr. Pravin Aryal – Under Secretary, Ministry of Water Resource
26. Mr. Ram Chandra Pokhrel – Social worker, Tanahu

Mr. Bhoj Raj Regmi – General Manager, Nepal Electricity Authority, in his opening address, welcomed all the representatives of political parties, government offices, NGOs and Journalists of Damauli in the stakeholder meeting. We have come again to present our findings and discuss with you on the proposed Upper Seti Hydroelectric Project. I am happy that Mr Bishnu Prashad Dhakal, as always have cooperated with us and have taken the seat of chairman on this august gathering. You all know, JICA study team is conducting the upgrading feasibility study of the project. The study is of the international standard. Before the involvement of JICA, NEA has conducted the feasibility study of the project. Present study is based on the NEA study and has added many aspects not covered by NEA study before. As per the JICA guideline, three stakeholders meeting is required during the study period. We have already accomplished two such stakeholders meeting at Damauli and Kathmandu and this is the third stakeholder meeting. This time we have divided the stakeholder meeting into two groups at local level targeting local level affected people and

communities at the project affected sites. We have completed such meetings at Beltar and Rising Patan. These meetings were attended by a large number of local people. This meeting here is targeted for the district level agencies. We have planned for a similar stakeholder meeting at Kathmandu targeting the central level agencies and people on 10th of May.

To attend this meeting representatives of JICA have come from Japan, Thailand, and Kathmandu. I welcome them. The JICA study team member will present the findings of the study.

Let me tell you that this project will be the highest dam project in Nepal after Kulekhani Project. With the implementation of the project, certainly there will be some adverse impacts, but we have given maximum effort to avoid these impacts wherever possible. Unavoidable impacts will be mitigated through adequate measures which will be presented very shortly by the study team.

We are in dire need of reservoir type project to stabilize our distribution system. As you know all the impacts of the projects are not negative. There are a host of positive impacts of the project. You must have read in newspaper that with the Kulekhani and Kaligandaki projects, local people have benefited by the fish caging programs. The project also has boosted local tourism.

I agree that few people will be displaced by the hydropower projects. Our experience shows that the displaced people could be resettled through pragmatic and effective resettlement management.

I welcome your comments and suggestions to make the project environmentally sound and socially acceptable. Once this is agreeable to you, we will have to arrange project finance to initiate project construction. Within one and half months JICA study team will complete their final report on the upgrading feasibility study. Based on this report we will take next step for the project decision, which I think will be done by the end of this fiscal year.

I request all of you to give your comments and suggestions to improve the project planning from the environmental and social perspective. Once again I thank all of you and hope you will actively participate in this stakeholder meeting.

Mr. Yoshimasa Ishii, Team Leader, JICA Study Team presented the finding of the upgrading feasibility study. His presentation was divided into four topics as under:

1. Background & Outlines of Study
2. Findings
 - 2.1 Power Demand & Supply
 - 2.2 Characteristics of Project Site
 - 2.3 Contents of Study
3. Conclusions and Recommendations
4. Time-line of the Project

On behalf of the JICA Study Team, **Dr. Toran Sharma** presented the Natural Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures and Framework of Resettlement Plan and Social Action Plan.

After presentation of the JICA Study team, the floor was open for the stakeholders' comments and suggestions on various environmental and social issues of the project.

Mr. Nil Bahadur Thapa – Vice President, Nepali Congress, Tanahu

The project should not be stopped simply because of its impacts. However, project's impacts should be avoided and minimized. There are peoples who live on the natural resources such fish, wild vegetables, and other agro forestry products. How they will be impacted? Project mitigation should also consider them.

Compensation to the affected land will be given, but is that money sufficient to buy same amount of land? This also needs to be considered while deciding the land and property compensation. Land prices are not same throughout the project affected area. How this compensation evaluation will be done?

The project affects the suspension bridges foot trails and roads. These are the lifeline of the people. These infrastructures should be given maximum consideration and people should not be obstructed by the project.

How is this skill training will be given? This needs further elaboration. What has project thought about the people who live by selling grass and firewood in the project area?

Mr. Ramesh Sigdel – Representative Nepal Communist Party Maoist, Tanahu

Bhimad Bazar will be affected by the Project or not? How the embankment will be constructed to protect the risk areas.

What will happen if the dam collapses? How many settlements and population will be affected? How far the downstream effects will be realized?

Who will be compensated for the affected grass land, grazing land, and community forest areas?

What do you mean by grant compensation to the displaced people/community?

The project affected VDCs need unconditional rural electrification program

Mr. Ramchandra Upadyaya – Representative CPNUML, Tanahu

The EIA study need further detail studies. The project affected areas require further expansion covering VDCs upstream of reservoir. Locals are extracting gravels, boulders and sand from upstream areas of Bhimad. Alternatives to these activities should also be considered.

Mr. Chandra Mani Adhikari - District Health Office

Public health issues need further studies. Projects like this in Nepal are found to be associated with STD, HIV/AIDS and various communicable diseases. Extensive programs to mitigate these effects have to be considered.

Mr. Yek Bahadur Rana – Tanahu District Secretary, CPNUML, Tanahu

Sedimentation at the rate of 6500 tons/year/km² is potential to fill the reservoir. In the second stakeholder meeting the estimated project cost was less, why now it has gone high?. There are Bote communities in the area, what types of resettlement efforts will be made, if the Bote communities are displaced by the project?

Girl trafficking issues have been highlighted, even male trafficking is also a potential and need consideration by the project.

In the downstream areas, despite siren warning, if there is a loss of life, what are the provisions thought by the project?

Usually, in the development projects, the local people are not given job opportunities in the project in the pretext that they have no technical skills. To avoid such incidents, technical skill training to the local people should be given at least six months before the start of project construction works.



The project affected people should be given time bound loan on lower interest rate to rehabilitate them from the project effects.

Is this project is to be implemented by NEA and JAICA? This needs to be clarified.

What is the maximum and minimum flow of Seti River? What is the unit cost of electricity? How many workers will be involved in the project construction works on a daily basis during construction period?

Mr. Jaya Ram Bista – Hatchery Development Center Pokhara

The aquatic life study in the EIA is just a bird's eye study. Monitoring works on the fishery to understand their behaviors and ecology should be continued even after EIA study for better understanding of the Seti River Aquatic life. Is it possible to go for cage culture in Seti River as in Kulekhani and Kali Gandaki? This will be beneficial to the affected Bote community, if any.

Mr. Ramesh Poudel – Kahu Shivapur

Is water resource is the income earning source of Nepal? If it is, why it is only the property of NEA? We have to pay NRs 7.50 per unit to NEA, why we could not get share on our resources. Public share should be opened for investment in such projects and Nepali people should be given opportunity for investment. Certain percentage of the investment should be given to the local people.

Mr. Kedar Sigdel – District Assistant Secretary, CPNUML, Tanahu

What is the revenue share of the district from the project? After the implementation of the project, Tanahu should be given uninterrupted electricity and the entire district should be electrified.

Mrs Saraswati Adhikari – NGO Network, Tanahu

We are happy that the project is coming. The women are the group who are most impacted by the project, may it be adverse impact or positive impact. But I found very few women in this gathering. Women also have the right to yes or no on the project matter as they occupy 50% of the society. The women should also be given job opportunities in the project and it should not be limited to high up people and male members only.

Mr. Moti Kumar Shrestha – Representative Nepali Congress

I have heard that some of the people have launched a campaign to stop the project. We are dead against this approach. The project has to be implemented here in Tanahu.

Mr. Ram Chandra Pokhrel – Ex Chairman, District Development Committee

Is this project going to be implemented or it is feasibility study only? There are number of foot trails connecting southern Tanahu with Damauli through Seti Gorge, which I think will be under the reservoir, if the project is implemented. What are the alternatives to these trails and tracks? I know there will be compensation, but people have to suffer, if they have to measure longer distances.

This part of the Seti gorge is diverse in biological terms. As elaborated by the study, there are few endangered species. The project should identify an alternative habitat for these creatures. The long distant migrant fishes, as pointed out by the study, are there in the Seti river. Have we placed gates for fish migration in the dam? If not what are the alternatives to protect them and their habitats?

I agree to the point raised by one of the colleague that there should be public share in the project.

Only because of the environmental and social impacts, the project should not be stopped. It should be implemented in the place identified by the feasibility study. However, to protect our impacted resources, we all must cooperate and identify an alternative arrangements.

Finally, I request NEA and JICA study team to plan the project in such a way that there are no contractual problems and cost appreciation as in other projects in Nepal during implementation. Let us make it a unique project which could be implemented and operated as per the costs estimates, without any labor and social problems.

Dr. Toran Sharma, on behalf of the JICA study team, addressed the issues and concerns raised by the members of stakeholder meeting. He elaborated the plan for habitat conservation and fish stocking provisions for the maintenance of the fish diversity of the long distant migrant fishes. The project affected infrastructures such as foot trails and suspension bridges will be installed in the close by area in the project cost as a part of social action plan. To facilitate maximum job opportunities to the affected people and local people, project required skill training will be provided before the construction works in the project area. He further elaborated the provisions of resettlement policy and resettlement framework, social action plan framework and watershed management programs to minimize the project impacts on social and physical environment. To minimize the risks of community health during

construction, health and sanitation programs provisions were elaborated by dr. Sharma, targeting the affected areas.

Mr. Shiva Chandra Jha - Head, Environmental and Social Studies Department, NEA

I would like to thank you all for giving your precious time. I also thank you for raising various issues and concerns on the project. This will help us design and plan the project incorporating your concerns and issues.

I also extend my thanks to JICA study team for making sincere effort for the study and for the preparation of standard project feasibility report. I expect that government of Nepal will take decision on the project in near future. Then we will start detailed design and study of the project. We want your cooperation in future. I would once again thank the participant members. Thank you.

Mr. Bishnu Dhakal – Chairperson of the Stakeholder Meeting and Local Development Officer, Tanahu.

This study made by JICA study team is still in primary phase, which after completion will be submitted to the government of Nepal. If the project is found to be environmentally, socially, and financially good, the government of Nepal will take decision for further study and implementation. We have heard that Government of Japan, Asian Development Bank and many other donors are interested in taking up the project. With the implementation of the project, we expect that the current load shedding situation will be over. Hence I request all political parties to show their commitment for the project implementation. The compensation of the losses and resettlement and rehabilitation of the people will be executed as per the legal provisions of the government of Nepal. The compensation fixation committee will decide upon the compensation of land and property after rigorous discussions with the locals, political party representatives and subject matter specialists. To days gathering gives me a feeling that the project will be a success. The District Development committee extends its thanks to every body concerned. With these words, I declare the meeting as adjourned. Thank you.



Reply to Comments and Issue Raised by Stakeholders
at Third Stakeholder Meeting in Beltar, Rising Patan, Damauli

**Reply to Comments and Issues Raised by Stakeholders at Third Local
Stakeholder Meeting in Beltar, Rising Patan, Damauli
on May 4-6, 2007**

S. N	Issue raised	Suggestions, Feedback, Comments and Questions raised by the Participants	Comments and Responses from Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA)
1	Decision for implementation of the Project	<p>1) The decision whether or not the Project will be implemented should be made as soon as possible.</p> <p>2) After the Upgrading Feasibility Study, will JICA implement the Project?</p>	<p>1) After the Upgrading Feasibility Study supported by JICA, the government of Nepal will make a final decision for the Project.</p> <p>2) JICA is responsible for providing technical assistance to the Upgrading Feasibility Study alone. The government of Nepal will seek further assistance for the Project from donor agencies including the government of Japan.</p>
2	Maximum benefit of the Project given to local people	<p>1) Since the project site is located in Tanahu District, the first priority should be given to local people in Tanahu.</p> <p>2) Some portion from NEA royalty should be handed over to Tanahu District.</p>	<p>1) Various types of Social Action Programs proposed by the Upgrading Feasibility Study will be implemented to rehabilitate and enhance the affected communities in affected VDCs/municipality of Tanahu District.</p> <p>2) The hydropower policy requires that the licensee of a hydropower project pays royalty to the Government of Nepal through Ministry of Water Resources, 50 percent of which is deposited in the government's revenue account while the remaining 50 percent is made available to the district and development region mentioned below. This revenue will be distributed as per the rule 211 and schedule 26 of Local Self Governance Rule 2056 and first amendment 061. 38% of the royalty is distributed to the DDCs of affected development region as per the decision made by the officers of committee or the</p>

			committee of DDC Chairman, and remaining 12% of the royalty is directly given to the DDC where the powerhouse is located. This budget can be used for development programs of the concerned district.
3	Compensation and resettlement	<p>1) Adequate and timely compensation should be given to the affected persons.</p> <p>2) The representatives from the affected persons need to be member of Compensation Fixation Committee.</p> <p>3) Affected persons should be compensated at replacement cost for all losses and damaged assets.</p> <p>4) Land without legal holding paper should also be compensated.</p> <p>5) Compensation should be paid to affected persons not through VDC.</p>	<p>1) The framework of Resettlement Plan (RP) was formulated under the Upgrading Feasibility Study. Based on this, the detailed RP will be prepared and consulted with affected persons and communities in advance of the implementation of the project.</p> <p>2) As per the Land Acquisition Act, a Compensation Fixation Committee (CFC) will be formed. Although this Act does not consider the representatives of affected persons as a member of CFC, NEA will recommend that they should be included in CFC in accordance with the previous practices of Kaligandaki A HEP and Middle Marsyangdi HEP.</p> <p>3) The compensation cost will be decided by CFC considering the market price to ensure improvement of the standard of living among the affected people, or at least restoring them to pre-project levels.</p> <p>4) Land without legal holdings will be compensated as per the prevailing practices.</p> <p>5) Compensation will be directly provided to affected persons.</p>
4	Employment opportunities	<p>1) Local people, both men and women should be employed by the Project. If skilled labors are not available in the areas, the skill</p>	<p>1) Wherever possible local people will be employed on the basis of skill and qualification during the construction period. Skill</p>

		<p>training should be provided to them by the Project.</p> <p>2) How many workers will be involved in the project construction works on a daily basis?</p>	<p>Enhancement and Employment Program will be carried out for local interested and eligible people from affected families and communities. Training will be provided to them focusing on enhancement of skills required for the project employment.</p> <p>2) The number of workers is expected to be around 2500 to 3000 in the peak period. However, such information will be only available and disseminated during the detailed design study.</p>
5	Electrification	1) Electricity facility should be given to affected people and local people in Tanahu District.	1) Regarding electrification in Tanahu District, the royalty earned from the Project can be utilized by District Development Committee. Only project affected areas can be electrified by the Project during the construction.
6	Road construction	1) Motorable roads should be built from Bhimad, Rising Patan to dam site, and Damauli.	1) With regard to the upgrade of affected stretches of road, further examination will be undertaken from technical and financial aspects in coordination with District Development Committee and the concerned VDCs during the detailed design study phase. In the project facility sites, the access road will be constructed and upgraded. Except for them, the construction of new roads outside the affected areas is out of the scope of the Project.
7	Suspension bridges	1) For inundated suspension bridges, the alternatives need to be arranged.	1) Submerged suspension bridges will be rerouted and replaced under the Social Action Plan.

8	Erosion and landslide	1) Some mitigation measures for the possible hazardous areas including Bhimad Bazaar should be provided by the Project.	1) The special protection measures against erosion will be taken for the cliff of Bhimad Bazaar. For other areas, wherever needed, the mitigation measures such as Community-based Watershed Management and plantation along the risk zones of reservoir areas will be carried out to protect them from erosion or land slides.
9	Community forests	1) The affected community forest and grazing lands need to be properly compensated. 2) Newly registered community forest in Jamune VDC needs to be compensated.	1) The forestry compensation will be provided based on the prevailing forest guideline, i.e., replacement of trees at 1:25. In addition, the fuel wood volumes and grazing lands for the affected community forests will be compensated. 2) During the detailed design study, the affected community forests will be finally delineated for compensation.
10	Fisheries	1) Mitigation measures for fisheries should be undertaken by incorporating the good practices from other hydropower projects such as Kaligandaki A and Kulekhani.	1) Similar hydropower projects' experiences have been reviewed and suitable mitigation measures have been incorporated in the Upgrading Feasibility Study. Fish hatchery development and/or expansion of existing facilities and stocking of fingerlings in the upstream and downstream zones will be undertaken as mitigation measures.
11	Assist for women in affected VDCs	1) Job opportunities, skill training and awareness raising program for avoiding girl trafficking should be given to the local women in affected VDCs.	1) Under the Social Action Plan, women development program including skill training and various awareness activities will be provided to women in affected VDCs/municipality.
12	Health program	1) More focus should be given to health education including prevention of communicable	1) Community/Public Health and Education Enhancement Program will be carried out as part of Social

		diseases.	Action Plan. It focuses on the improvement of public health, sanitation, water supply and health and education institutions/facilities. Various public awareness and health education will be also included.
13	Design of dam	<p>1) Is there a possibility that a dam will collapse?</p> <p>2) Is there a possibility that the reservoir areas will be filled with sediments?</p>	<p>1) To make the dam safe and stable, flood discharges, sedimentation in the reservoir, earthquake motions for the dam design were studied and estimated, and those were incorporated into the dam design in the Upgrading Feasibility Study. The dam design will be continued more detailed at the detailed design stage.</p> <p>2) Based on the estimate on sedimentation volume in the reservoir, sediment flushing is proposed through sediment flushing facilities installed in the dam, to avoid the reservoir from being filled with sediments. Thus, there is no possibility that the reservoir areas will be filled with sediments.</p>

Advance Notification of Third Stakeholders Meeting in Damauli

माथिल्लो सेतीका लागि छलफल

तनहुँ (नेस)। वर्षासा रहेको माथिल्लो सेती (दमौली) जलामययुक्त जलविद्युत आयोजना सञ्चालनका लागि बाटो खुलेको छ। आयोजनाको स्तरबद्ध (अपग्रेडिड) सम्भाव्यता अध्ययन गरेको नेपाल विद्युत प्राधिकरण वातावरण तथा सामाजिक अध्ययन विभाग, प्राविधि सेवा र जाइका अध्ययन टोलीले सरोकारवालासँग आहतबार दमौलीमा भएको अन्तरिम बैठक (तेस्रो बैठक) मा आयोजना तनहुँका लागि उपलब्धमूलक र फाइदाजनक भएको जनाउँदै चाँडै नै सञ्चालन गर्न सुझाव दिए। सरोकारवालाहरूको सुझावले आयोजना सञ्चालनको बाटो खुलेकोमा नेपाल विद्युत प्राधिकरण इन्जिनियर सेवाका महाप्रबन्धक भोजराज रेग्मी, जाइका अध्ययन टोलीका इसी परामर्श दातृ संस्थाका प्रमुख डा. तोरण शर्मा, नेपाल विद्युत प्राधिकरण इन्जिनियर सेवाका निर्देशक शिवचन्द्र झा, जलस्रोत मन्त्रालयका प्रवीण अधिकारीले खुसी व्यक्त गर्दै सरोकारवालाबाट निरन्तर सहयोगको अपेक्षा गरे। कार्यक्रममा जिविस तनहुँका पूर्वसभापति रामचन्द्र पोखरेलले आयोजना जिल्लावासीको ठूलो स्वर्णिम अवसर भएको र आयोजना रोकिन नहुनेमा जोड दिनुभएको थियो। यस्तै धारणा नेपाली कांग्रेस, नेका (प्र), नेकपा (एमाले), नेकपा (माओवादी), जनमोर्चा नेपालका स्थानीय नेता बुद्धिजीवीहरूको थियो। आयोजनाका प्राविधिकहरूले नेपालले विगत केही सालदेखि ऊर्जाको सङ्कट खेपिरहेको र यो समस्या आउँदा वर्षहरूको सुख्खायाममा विद्यमान देखिएकाले माथिल्लो सेतीको महत्त्व बढ्दैन पुगेको धारणा राखे। माथिल्लो सेती १ सय २५ मेघावाट क्षमता रहेको प्राधिकरणले जनाएको छ। यो आयोजना कुलेखानी एक आयोजनाभन्दा करिब दुई गुणा ठूलो हुनेछ। ऊर्जा संकटको समस्या समाधान गर्ने र गरिबी निवारण गर्ने प्रयत्नलाई मूर्त रूप दिन नेपाल सरकारका दशौं पञ्चवर्षीय योजना (२०५९-२०६४) मा देशको प्रचुर जलस्रोत उपयोग गर्ने उद्देश्यले जलविद्युत योजनाहरूको निर्माण गर्न प्रस्ताव गरेको छ। माथिल्लो सेतीको निर्माणमा २४ अर्ब खर्च हुने प्राधिकरणले जनाएको छ।

8-2 Public notice published in the local newspaper “Nepal Samachar Patra” 7th May 2007 (Nepali).

Meeting held for Upper Seti

Tanahun (NS). The Upper Seti (Damauli) Storage Hydroelectric Project has paved its way for implementation.

Upgrading feasibility study team, comprising of Environment and Social Studies Department, NEA and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) on the third stakeholder meeting in Damauli suggested that the project implementation is beneficial to the Tanahu District

Bhoj Raj Regmi, Managing Director of Engineering Department of NEA, Ishi, Team Leader of JICA study team, Dr. Toran Sharma, consultant to JICA, Shiva Chandra Jha, head of the Environment and Social Studies Department NEA, and Pravin Aryal, representative of Ministry of Water Resources, expressed happiness that the project is potential for implementation and requested continuous support from the stakeholders in future. Mr. Ram Chandra Pokhrel, Ex-DDC chairman of Tanahu lamented that the project is a golden opportunity for the people of Tanahu district and stressed that the project should be continued. Similar opinions were expressed by the representatives of Nepali Congress, Nepali Congress (D), Nepal Communist Party (UML), Nepal Communist Party (Maoist), Jana Morcha Nepal, and other district intellectuals.

Project engineers, highlighting on the ongoing load shedding, expressed that the project has a special significance and importance in the demand and supply management of electricity power, particularly in the dry season in future.

The NEA, stated that the project will be of 128 MW installed capacity. The project is twice the capacity of Kulekhani project. In order to solve the problem of power shortage permanently and to support the poverty reduction efforts in Nepal, the Government of Nepal has proposed the various hydropower projects by using its abundant water resources in its Tenth Plan (2002-2007). The project estimated cost, according to NEA, is NRs. 24 Arab.

**-Nepal Samachar Patra
2064-01-24**