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## MINUTES

*“Reducing Climate Change-induced Risks and Vulnerabilities from Glacial Lake Outburst Floods in the Punakha-Wangdi and Chamkhar Valleys”*

### **DGM-UNDP/GEF Project Board Meeting**

**Date:** July 23, 2008

**Location:** Tala Hydro Power Authority (THPA) Conference Hall, Ministry of Economic Affairs’ Compound, Thimphu

#### **Introductory Remarks**

The Director General (DG), Department of Geology and Mines (DGM), welcomed the Project Board (PB) members and also apologized for the short notice for the meeting.

The Chairperson of Project Board, Dasho Sonam Tshering, Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs, welcomed the PB members and informed the board that this is the first PB meeting for DGM-UNDP/GEF Project on *“Reducing Climate Change-induced Risks and Vulnerabilities from Glacial Lake Outburst Floods in the Punakha-Wangdi and Chamkhar Valleys.”* The Chairperson highlighted the implication of GLOF hazards not only to communities and existing infrastructure, but also to the upcoming major hydro power development activities in order to meet the government’s target of generating 10,000 MW of electricity by 2020.

The Project Manager presented and introduced the members for Project Board (PB) and Technical Support and Advisory Team (TSAT). The project manager also introduced the Project Management team to the board and presented the Terms of References (ToRs) for the Project Director and Project Managers from DGM, Disaster Management Division (DMD), and Department of Energy (DoE). Prior to the presentation of the implementation issues of the project, the Project Manager informed the board that the total budget allocated for the Thorthormi Lake mitigation work including co-financing from WWF and Austria is approximately USD 2.7 million. The Project Manager then presented various implementation issues and proposals to the project board.

#### **Discussions on project implementation issues**

**Transportation:** On the issue of transportation of equipments, tools and ration to the site, the project management presented three options to the project board. These included, using horse/yak through dzongkhag; horse/yak on contract basis; and hiring of chopper. On contracting out the transportation, the board members suggested that the contract should be given directly to the locals and not through middle men. Members also voiced that the management should opt for the best mode of transportation depending on the type of loads and at the same time bear in mind that the local communities are the ones that are benefited. The Gasa Dzongkhag representative informed the board that it will be rather difficult to arrange horse/yak at the rate of Nu. 150/load, or Nu. 300 per horse/yak, which is the existing government rate. The Chairperson of PB suggested that the project management should hold a meeting with communities in the concerned dzongkhag to discuss on the rates. On hiring chopper members suggested it is important that the project management plan this within the allocated budget and if at all, chopper is required, the

management should: prepare details on ware house arrangements and transportation to Punakha; conduct proper dialogue with agencies; and prepare details of logistics and carry out trial flights.

**Communication:** The board members strongly suggested that communication facilities is of critical importance and therefore, the project management should make every effort to ensure that adequate communication arrangements are in place and with proper redundancy for backup.

**Labor Recruitment:** Since only around 20 laborers will be required during the engineering and safety plan study in 2008, recruitment will be done at the site. However, for the mitigation work, labor recruitment will be done through advertisement in the media.

**Project Accountant:** The project management submitted that the issue relating to project accountant is still not resolved and that the DGM has been following up with the Royal Civil Service Commission (RCSC). In the mean time, before an accountant is finalized, either through appointment from the RCSC or on contract basis, the accountant who looks after DGM accounts will handle the project accounts.

**Labor Payment:** The board members agreed to the management's proposal that labor payment for the engineering and safety plan will be made by a committee formed among the multi-disciplinary team comprising of the Project Manager, Team Leader and the engineer. During the mitigation phase, however, the labor payment will be made by a committee comprising of the Project Director/Project Manager, Project Accountant, Team Leader and a local leader as representative from Gasa Dzongkhag.

**Insurance for field personnel:** The Group Personnel Accident (GPA) Insurance of Royal Insurance Corporation of Bhutan, proposed by the project management needs to be worked out in detail. The project management will also review the labor act and distribute the findings to the PB for necessary endorsement.

**Emergency Arrangements:** The project management informed the board that an approximate budget of USD 34,500 is available as contingency budget. The board members suggested that the project management should prepare an emergency evacuation scheme and circulate to board members. Members also suggested that small oxygen cylinders should be procured and taken to the field for emergency.

**Food for work:** The project management presented to the board that WWF has provided a budget of USD 30,000/- towards meeting cost for ration for the 2009-2010 field work. However, for the remaining year of the mitigation work budget is not yet finalized. The management proposed that the budget for purchase of ration roughly amounting to USD 60,000 may be arranged, either from the co-financing contribution, or through re-appropriation of budget. The PB Chairman mentioned that justification to provide food on top of DSA/Wages should be furnished. Members pointed out that since food on top of DSA/Wages were provided during the previous mitigation work of Raphstreng Tso, it is appropriate that the same should be provided this time too.

**Daily Subsistence Allowance(DSA)/Wages:** The project management submitted to the board that the management is still waiting for the note sheet approval for DSA and labor wages from Ministry of Finance (MoF) which was submitted to the MoF on May 12, 2008

**Essential items entitlement:** The project management also presented to the project board that similar to the earlier mitigation of Raphstreng Tso, essentials items such as sleeping bag, trekking

boot, mattress, gum boot, jacket, etc. will be provided to the RGoB officials involved in the field work at Lunana. For the workers, essential gears such as rain coat, gum boot, and working hand gloves will be provided by the project. The budgets for procurement of such gears have been already incorporated in the project.

**Early Warning System:** The Project Board formally handed over the EWS installation component to the Department of Energy. The board members stressed that DoE should develop a comprehensive early warning system by combining budget from this project with budget available with DoE and Puna Tsang Chhu project. Members also noted that the installation of a comprehensive EWS should not be constrained by budget. Finally, the members suggested that the EWS concept note should be revised incorporating budget and work plan and submit it to the members for endorsement and final approval by the project board chairman.

In conclusion, the board members strongly recommended that working in such a harsh and unforgiving environment like Lunana will pose tremendous challenges and that the project management should not compromise on the safety measures.

### **Key decisions**

- Project management to conduct a meeting with communities in concerned Dzongkhag(s) to discuss on horse/yak rates for transportation and work out in details the best mode of transportation
- The project board recommended the Project management to make necessary arrangement for setting up reliable communication system for the mitigation project. The existing DoE communication will be shared with the project
- Labor recruitment in 2008 will be done at site; for the mitigation phase, labor recruitment will be done through advertisement in the media
- The project management will follow up with the RCSC on the issue of Project accountant; present DGM accountant will handle project accounts, until the issue is resolved
- In 2008, labor payment will be made by committee comprising of the Project Manager, Team Leader, and the Civil Engineer; during the mitigation phase, labor payment will be jointly made by the Project Director/Project Manager, Project accountant, Team Leader, and a local leader as representative from Gasa Dzongkhag
- The project management will prepare details on insurance mechanism, including review of Labour Act 2007, for the field personnel who will be involved in the mitigation work and share with the PB for endorsement
- The Project management will prepare a detailed emergency evacuation scheme and distribute to the PB
- The PB endorsed to provide ration to the field personnel for the entire mitigation phase and the justification being that food for work was entertained during the previous mitigation of Raphstreng Tso
- The early warning system component has been handed over to the DoE by the PB; budget from this project combined with DoE and Punatsang Chhu Hydro Power Project budget to develop a comprehensive technical early warning system
- DoE to revise the EWS Concept note, incorporate budget and work plan and submit it for member endorsement and approval by the chairman

### **Attachments**

1. List of Participants
2. Meeting Agenda

## Attachment 1

### List of Participants

Sl. No.	Name	Designation/Agency	Tel No.	Email
1	Dasho Sonam Tshering (Chairperson)	Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs		
2	Dorji Wangda	Director General, DGM	322879	gsbmti@druknet.bt
3	Karma Rabten	UNDP	17114108	karma.rapten@undp.org
4	Christian Mazal	Resident Coordinator, ACO	324495	thimphu@ada.gv.ac
5	Dasho Dawala	Dzongdag, Punakha Dzongkhag	17602930	
6	Dasho Karma Weezir	Dzongdag, Gasa Dzongkhag	17627437	
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8	Tshering Penjor	GNH Commission	77234777	tsheringp@ghnc.gov.bt
9	Karchung Tshering	Chief Planning Officer, MoHCA	17660121	
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12	Karma Tenzin	WWF	17618889	ktenzin@wwfbhutan.org.bt
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14	Karma D. Tshering	Program Officer, DMD, MoHCA	17731008	karmadt@mohca.gov.bt
15	Karma Chopel	Head, HMSD, DoE	17600203	hmsd@druknet.bt
16	Dowchu Dukpa	Project Manager, DGM	17629487	<a href="mailto:dawchu@gmail.com">dawchu@gmail.com</a>
17	Chado Rinchen	Head Quarter Store Incharge, DGM		
17	N.K. Giri	Civil Engineer, Multi-disciplinary team, DoR	17621820	
18	Karma Toeb	Team Leader, Multi-disciplinary team, DGM	17602050	
19	Phuntsho Norbu	Engineering Geologist, Multi-disciplinary team, DGM	17741683	
20	Tashi Tshering	Geophysicist, Multi-disciplinary team, DGM	17629262	
21	Lobzang Gyenden	Geologist, Multi-disciplinary team, DGM		

## Attachment 2

### **Agenda for the Project Board Meeting** **“Reducing Climate Change- Induced risks and vulnerabilities** **from glacial lake outbursts flood in the Punakha-Wangdue and Chamkhar valleys”**

Venue:       THPA Conference Hall, Ministry of Economic Affairs' Compound  
Date:         July 23, 2008

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| 1 | 0930        | Arrival of participants  |
| 2 | 0930-0940   | Welcome address by Mr. Dorji Wangda, Director General, DGM   |
| 3 | 0925 - 0935 | Address by Dasho Sonam Tshering, Secretary, MoEA (Chairperson)   |
| 4 | 0935 - 1005 | Presentation on DGM-UNDP/GEF Project issues by Mr. Dowchu Dukpa, Project Manager, DGM-UNDP/GEF Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• AWP 2008</li><li>• Multi-disciplinary team member</li><li>• Transportation, communication, labor recruitment, food for work, etc</li><li>• Project Board Members &amp; TSAT members</li><li>• Project accountant and Project management assistant</li><li>• Labour Payment &amp; insurance for field personnel</li><li>• DSA/wages approval, essential entitlements (sleeping bag, jacket, gum boot, trekking boot, etc.)</li><li>• ToR from DoE for the early warning system</li></ul> |
| 5 | 1005 - 1100 | Discussions  |
| 6 | 1100        | Tea/snacks   |