



financed by  
Austrian  
Development Cooperation



## MINUTES

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

### DGM-UNDP/GEF 3<sup>rd</sup> Project Board Meeting

**Date:** June 1, 2009

**Location:** Conference Hall, DGM, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Thimphu

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Board Meeting for the project **"Reducing Climate Change-induced Risks and Vulnerabilities from Glacial Lake Outburst Floods in the Punakha-Wangdi and Chamkhar Valleys"** was held at the Department of Geology and Mines' (DGM) Conference Hall, Thimphu on June 1, 2009. The meeting was chaired by Dasho Sonam Tshering, Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs and was attended by the project board members and other relevant officials (list attached as annex 1).

At the onset, Mr. Yeshe Dorji, Project Director from the Department of Geology and Mines extended a warm welcome to the project board meeting. He informed the members that the 3<sup>rd</sup> board meeting was organised as per the decision of 2<sup>nd</sup> Project Board Meeting held on 16 February 2009 that a board meeting should be organized before Lunana lake mitigation team departs to the site.

Dasho Sonam Tshering, Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs, the Chairman of the board welcomed members of the board to the 3<sup>rd</sup> project board meeting. He also extended a warm welcome to the three new Dasho Dzungdas of Gasa, Punakha, Wangdi and the new Director, Department of Disaster Management (DDM) to the project board. Reflecting on the recent 29<sup>th</sup> April 2009 flood from Gothechu in Lunana and floods incidence of 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> May 2009 that affected most part of the nation, he informed the members that to ensure preparedness, there is a need to strengthen and review our functioning including manpower.

The project managers from the Department of Geology and Mines (DGM), Department of Disaster Management (DDM) and Department of Energy made presentations to the board and the following issues were discussed and approved:

Signed by: 1. Project Director: \_\_\_\_\_ 2. UNDP: \_\_\_\_\_ 3. PB Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

*Yeshe Dorji*  
8/07/09

*Karna K...*  
8/07/09

*[Signature]*  
8/7/09

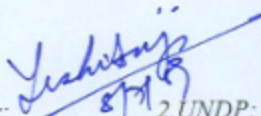


## Presentation by Department of Geology and Mines (DGM)

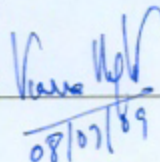
At the beginning of the presentation, the project manager updated the project board on the progress and arrangements made for the Thorthormi Lake mitigation work since the last project board meeting. This includes, among others, presentation of project work plan and issues to the Lhengye Zhungtshog (Cabinet) on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2009, recruitment of workers, communication setup, emergency evacuation arrangements and mitigation work plan. Next the following issues were submitted to the board for discussion and approval.

1. Based on the revised Group Personnel Accident (GPA) Insurance policy with special inclusion of "death due to high altitude sickness", the board endorsed the submission and approved that RGoB officials and workers engaged in the GLOF mitigation work should be insured by the project. The meeting also discussed that insurance may be extended to other government officials, who may visit Lunana in relation to the mitigation project. The board directed DGM to discuss the proposal with Royal Insurance Corporation of Bhutan (RICB).
2. The meeting also discussed on how payment for transportation and worker should be done. Members decided that payment shall be done by DGM as per the decision of the earlier project board meeting. For arrangement of horses/yaks by Gasa Dzongkhag Administration, DGM was asked to write to the dzongkhag in advance so that the transportation arrangement can be made on schedule.
3. The meeting also discussed and agreed that the food for other officials visiting Lunana in relation to the mitigation work may be provided from the project.
4. To ensure quality, the board directed that procurement of medical drugs should be done as per the Ministry of Health procurement procedures and should accord approval from the **Drug Regulatory Authority**. The project management informed the board that medical requirement for the mitigation project was prepared by the project medical doctor in consultation with the Ministry of Health. The project management, however, ensured the board that procurement of medical items will be done through proper channel after consulting with the project medical doctor.
5. The meeting also discussed that disruption of mule tracks and bridges by recent rainfall might delay deputing DGM team to Lunana for their mitigation work. The Board requested Dasho Dzongdag of Gasa to find out the latest situation and inform the project team.
6. The meeting also directed DGM to keep standby workers as some might drop out as numbers of recruited workers are young and they might have not climbed high altitude before. The meeting directed DGM that workers should move in group and stay in group at transit. The meeting further directed that DGM should maintain proper registration system for proper management and monitoring of workers.

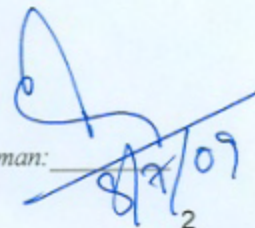
Signed by: 1 Project Director:

  
8/7/09

2. UNDP:

  
08/07/09

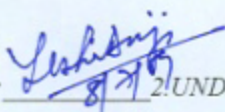
3. PB Chairman:

  
8/7/09  
2

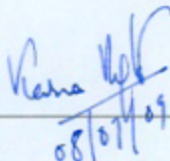


7. Based on Royal Bhutan Army (RBA) ration transportation and handling loss of 1.5% while transporting in vehicle, DGM proposed ration transportation and handling loss of at least 2.5% in case of horse/yak transportation of ration from road head to the Lunana project site. The members, however, directed DGM to ensure that proper packaging materials are used to minimize loss and that DGM should record such losses (if any) and submit it to the next project board meeting with proper justification. It was decided that at this point it was not appropriate to apply a flat loss rate and this matter will be discussed further once more information is available.
8. On the field gear provision for the mitigation members, the project management proposed fixing of life for the items since the project will not be able to provide those items every year. The board decided that the project management should prepare a list of those items along with justifiable life for those items and submit it to the next board meeting for approval.
9. DGM submitted to the board that since the transit helpers are included in approved workforce strength (370 people) for the mitigation, free ration and other field gears (such as gum boot, rain coat and blanket) may be provided to those people who will be recruited as store helpers in Damji and Laya. The board members approved the submission made by the project management. The project management also submitted that since the Damji store will have to constantly communicate with the Head Quarter in Thimphu, Nu.500 per month cell phone recharge voucher may be sanctioned to the Damji transit store incharge during the mitigation work. The board based on the submission made by the project management approved Nu.500 per month recharge voucher for Damji Store Incharge.
10. The Department of Disaster Management (DDM) informed the meeting that they have already procured two satellite phones and is willing to share with DGM during the mitigation work. The meeting decided that DGM will use DDM satellite phone and procurement of satellite phone can be made in future depending on needs.
11. DGM project management informed the meeting for the AWP 2009-2010 USD 20,000.00 was allocated to send DGM officials for training outside and USD 6000.00 to organise in-country training for DGM staff. The board directed DGM to submit detailed proposals of the training for further decision.
12. The project management presented to the board for the approval of budget for conducting religious ceremony at the site in Lunana project area. The board approved the proposal but advised DGM to keep proper records of expenses incurred for carrying out the proposed activities. The proposal to rent a store in Thanza at the rate of Nu. 1000 per month to store project working tools, equipment, camping gears, etc at the end of each phase of the mitigation work till the beginning of the next phase was also approved by the board members. However, it was agreed that the owner of rented house should be made responsible to look after the items kept in his/her rented house.

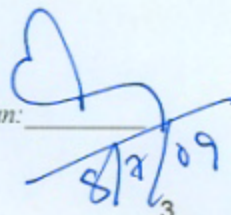
Signed by: 1. Project Director:

  
8/2/09

2. UNDP:

  
08/02/09

3. PB Chairman:

  
8/2/09

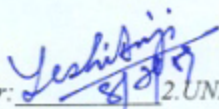


13. DGM also informed the meeting that various agencies from outside Bhutan expressed interest to film the mitigation works and downstream GLOF affected areas. The meeting, in principle, endorsed the proposal but advised the project management that required permits and approval should be sought from the relevant authorities of the RGoB .
14. The project management in reference to the last board meeting informed the board that out of approximately USD 800,000/- Austrian contribution for the Full Size Project (FSP), about USD 500,000/- is allocated for outcome 2 as per the project document. DGM agreed to ensure that the Austrian contribution for this component will be inclusively used for carrying out activities such as labour wages, insurance and ration which are directly related to outcome 2: Artificial lowering of Thorthormi Lake implemented.


**Presentation by Department of Disaster Management (DDM), Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs:**

15. Project Manager, DDM presented the status of the project component including the awareness workshops organised with in coordination with DGM and DOE for vulnerabilities communities along the Puansatgchhu basin from 19-30 April 2009. The board was also informed that the 20 community focal persons for early warning had been provided with mobile phones, sim card and vouchers for 6 months.
16. A total budget of USD 29,000 had been kept aside for initiating Emergency Operation Centres (EOC) in the 3 pilot Dzongkhags in the project. However during the discussion on the design of the EOC with the Technical Committee, they felt it would be better to utilize the money to come up with a national emergency communication master plan first. The DDM sought approval for utilizing the funds for hiring of a consultant instead of purchase of equipments for the EOCs. The board directed the DDM to come up with a detailed proposal with budget and submit the same for endorsement from the board.

Signed by: 1. Project Director:

  
8/27/09

2. UNDP:

  
08/27/09

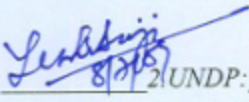
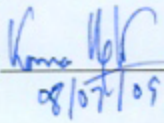
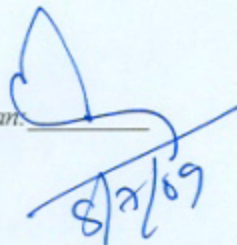
3. PB Chairman:

  
8/27/09

**Presentation by Department of Department of Energy (DoE) Ministry of Economic Affairs:**

17. Project Manager DOE presented the status of project component for the Installation of GLOF Early Warning System. DOE informed the meeting that preliminary cost estimate to establish comprehensive GLOF Early Warning System in Punatsangchhu basin is estimated about USD 1.25 millions. Since the fund allocated for the EWS component is USD 0.670966 only and there is fund gap of Nu. 0.57034 million. The chairman informed the meeting that that GLOF EWS component of the project was handed over the DOE to establish comprehensive EWS system in the basin that caters not only for communities but also for the hydropower projects downstream. DoE was directed to follow up with the Punatsangchhu Hydropower Project Authority for additional funding.
18. DoE also informed the meeting that DoE staff will be required to travel to Lunana for the field work in relation to installation of GLOF EWS and seek approval from project board for special DSA and travel allowance of DoE officials same as DGM staff while working in Lunana. The board directed DoE to seek approval from the government.
19. The DoE informed the meeting that as per the Ministry of Economic Affairs directive after the 29 April 2009 flood in Phochhu, a joint team from DGM and DOE was asked to carryout field assessment of *Tshojo glaciers*, when DGM team will be leaving to Lunana for mitigation work in June 2009. Since DOE has not plan for travel to Lunana in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2009, re-appropriation of Nu. 0.1 million from Budget code Mis.Exp-74500 to Travel-71600 was requested. The board endorsed DoE request for re-appropriation.

The meeting was concluded by Chairman thanking members of board and other participants.

Signed by: 1. Project Director:  2. UNDP:  3. PB Chairman: 

**Attachments**

1. List of participants
2. Meeting Agenda



## Annex 1

## List of Participants

Sl. No.	Name	Designation/Agency	Email
1	Dasho Sonam Tshering (Chairperson)	Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs	sting@druknet.bt
2	Bakhodir Burkhanov	Deputy RR, UNDP	bakhodir.burkhanov@undp.org
3	Yeshi Dorji	Offtg. Director General & Project Director, DGM	y_dorji@yahoo.com
4	Christian Mazal	Resident Coordinator, ACO	thimphu@ada.gv.ac
5	Namgay Wangchuk	Director, DDM, MoHCA	
6	Dasho Kinzang N. Tshering	Dzongdag, Punakha Dzongkhag	knt@druknet.bt
7	Dasho Lhundup Wangda	Dzongdag, Wangdue Dzongkhag	lhundupw@hotmail.com
8	Dasho Sonam Jigme	Dzongdag, Gasa Dzongkhag	sjigme@yahoo.com
9	Karma Raptan	Head, Env. Unit, UNDP	Karma.raptan@undp.org
10	Ramesh Chhetri	Austrian Coordination Office	thimphu@ada.gov.at
11	Karma D. Tshering	Sr. PO, DDM, MoHCA	karmadt@mohca.gov.bt
12	Sonam Deki	APO, DDM, MoHCA	sonamdeki@mohca.gov.bt
13	Dowchu Dukpa	Exe Geophysicist & Project Manager, DGM	dawchu@gmail.com
14	Chado Rinchin	Dy. Chief Survey Engineer, DGM	rinch@yahoo.com
15	Karma Toeb	Exe Geologist, DGM	karmatoeb@gmail.com
16	Phuntsho Norbu	Engineering Geologist, DGM	Phuntshonorbu9707@yahoo.com
17	Karma Dupchu	Project Manager, DoE	kdupchu@druknet.bt
18	Sangay Tenzin	AE, DoE	sangaytenzin_bht@hotmail.com
19	Karchung Tshering	DS, PPD, MoHCA	
20	Karma Tenzin	EE, DOR	Karma10zin@druknet.bt



financed by  
Austrian  
Development Cooperation



AGENDA FOR THE 3<sup>rd</sup> PROJECT BOARD MEETING

*"Reducing Climate Change-Induced Risks and Vulnerabilities from Glacial Lake Outburst Floods in the Punakha-Wangdue and Chamkhar Valleys"*

Venue : Department of Geology and Mines, Conference Hall

Date : June 1, 2009

- 
- |   |             |   |
|---|-------------|---|
| 1 | 0930-0940   | Welcome address by Mr Yeshi Dorji, Offtg. Director<br>General, DGM  |
| 2 | 0940-0950   | Address by Dasho Sonam Tshering, Secretary, MoEA<br>(Chairperson)   |
| 3 | 0950 - 1020 | Presentation on mitigation project plans and status by<br>Mr. Dowchu Dukpa, Project Manager, DGM-UNDP/GEF<br>Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Review of last PB meeting</li><li>✓ Mitigation preparation progress &amp; status</li><li>✓ Mitigation work plan</li><li>✓ Issues requiring board approval<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Site store and care taker in lunana</li><li>○ Provisions for performing religious rites at<br/>the site</li></ul></li></ul> |
| 4 | 1020-1040   | Tea Break   |
| 6 | 1040-1100   | Presentation by DDM, Ministry of Home Affairs   |
| 7 | 1100-1120   | Presentation by DoE on GLOF early warning system  |
| 8 | 1120-1220   | Discussions   |
| 9 | 1220        | Lunch   |

\*\*\*\*\*

Attachment 1

List of Participants