

Support to Participatory Constitution Building in Nepal Project

Project Executive Board Meeting

Wednesday, 13 February 2013

Present

Chair: Robert Piper, Resident Representative

Sr. Beneficiaries: Sharmila Karki, President, NGO Federation
Manohar Bhattarai, General Secretary, CA/LP

Project Manager: Rohan Edrisinha

Project Assurance: Kalpana Sarkar, Programme Analyst, Governance Unit, UNDP

Others Present: Ms. Camilla Rossaak, Minister Counselor, Embassy of Norway
Bhola Dahal, Embassy of Norway
Charlotte Duncan, Team leader, Governance DFID
Martin Stuerzinger, Sr. Advisor for Peace Building, Embassy of Switzerland
Shoko Noda, Country Director, UNDP
Jorn Sorensen, Deputy Country Director, UNDP
Krishna Khanal, Senior National Advisor to SPCBN-UNDP
Yam Nath Sharma, Team leader, Governance unit, UNDP
Bandana Risal, Senior Programme Specialist, UNDP
Raj Bahadur Shrestha, National Deputy Project Manager, SPCBN

Mr. Piper welcomed the board members and thanked them for attending the meeting that was called earlier than previously decided. He informed them that this was his last meeting and that Ms. Shoko Noda would chair PEB meetings in the future.

Prof Khanal made a brief presentation on the political situation in the country. The proposal that the sitting Chief Justice should serve as Prime Minister and head of an "election government" was discussed. The possibilities of such a proposal ending the political stalemate, its dangers, likelihood of success and the possible dates of an election were discussed by the members.

Ms. Duncan raised the issue of what an early election, possibly in June, would mean for the project and its activities. When Mr. Edrisinha suggested that in such a situation, the project would reduce its civic education activities and focus on its other work, some members thought that the project could play a pro-active role to seek to ensure that constitutional issues were dealt with in an informed and constructive manner during the campaign. After some discussion on the pros and cons of the two approaches, the project was asked to prepare for two courses

of action: 1) a low key approach and 2) a pro-active approach so that the project could decide swiftly on the better course of action if an early election campaign commenced.

Mr. Edrisinha tabled the progress report on the project's activities from 15 December to 10 February 2013. Mr. Dahal suggested that the progress report should cover achievement against the planned activities which he did not find it in the folder. Ms. Kalpana Sarkar from UNDP explained that this was normally done but was not done this time due to the early project board meeting and the shorter than usual reporting period.

Mr. Edrisinha then presented the work plan for March to June 2013. He described the proposed activities of the project under four main themes- i) Initiatives on the crisis of extra-constitutionalism-the way forward; ii) consolidating the gains of the Constituent Assembly; iii) promoting an informed debate on constitutional issues and iv) capacity building initiatives with the media. He said that a revised risk log was distributed in keeping with a previous decision of the board. A discussion followed. Mr. Dahal and Ms Rossaak requested that a more detailed work plan be provided in the future as they wanted to avoid duplication of work by some of their other partners. Ms Duncan asked whether the proposed three publications might raise controversy for the project and the donors. Mr. Edrisinha assured the board that the publications would be scholarly in character, include a range of opinions, have the appropriate disclaimers and the project logo and as such would not pose any problems.

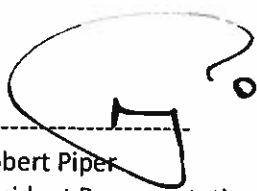
Mr. Jorn Sorensen described the budget status of the project. He stated that the project was in a healthy condition because the funding gap had decreased from 492,000 USD to 371,311 USD for the whole year.

At the end of the meeting, Mr. Manohar Bhattarai expressed his appreciation for the leadership given to the project by Mr. Piper and wished Mr. Piper well in his new responsibilities. Ms Karki associated herself with the sentiments expressed by Mr. Bhattarai.

Mr. Piper thanked the board members for their cooperation and adjourned the meeting.

Summary of Decisions

- The second quarter plan from March to June, 2013 was approved.
- The project will regularly update the risk log.
- The project will develop election campaign strategy options by next Project board meeting.
 - Low-key approach
 - More pro-active approach.
- The project will present a more detailed and clear work plan linked to expected result from the next PEB meeting.



Robert Piper
Resident Representative