

Support to Participatory Constitution Building in Nepal (SPCBN)
Award ID: 00049635

Minutes of the Project Board Meeting

Present

Executive: Anne-Isabelle Degryse-Blateau, Country Director, UNDP
Sr. Beneficiary: Manohar Bhattarai, Acting Secretary General,
Parliamentary/CA Secretariat
Dr. Netra Timsina, Chair of Nepal NGO Federation, Civil Society
Representative
Sr. Supplier: Guy Banim, Head, Peace Building and Recovery Unit, UNDP
Project Assurance: Mr. Nick Leader, Governance Advisor, DFID
Kalpana Sarkar, Programme Officer, UNDP
Project Manager: Larry Taman, International Project Manager, SPCBN

Other presence:

Sakuntala Kadirgamar, Sr. Constitution Building Advisor
Keith Lisle, Senior Consultant for Civil Society Initiative
Alankar Khanal, Project Assistant

Date: 13 July, 2009

Agenda Items:

- Introduction
- Review and discussion on second quarter (April-June 2009) progress report
- Review and discussion on third quarter (July- September 2009) workplan
- Endorsement of CCD three month workplan
- Review of revised Human Resource and Procurement plan
- Endorsement of revised Annual workplan for 2009 and 2010 for the allocation of additional fund USD 278,940 received from Austrian Embassy
- Looking forward
- AOB

Discussion and Conclusion

The Project Board Meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Ms. Anne-Isabelle Degryse-Blateau, Country Director, UNDP. She opened the meeting by welcoming all participants. The presentation on the 6 months Progress Report for 2009 was made by Mr. Larry Taman, Project Manager and is attached as Annex I.

Decisions

1. The meeting reviewed and endorsed the progress made by the project during the 2nd quarter in assisting the Government in the area of Constitution Building.

The major highlights are following:

- **Funding Proposal:** assisted the CA Secretariat in submitting to the Nepal Peace Trust Fund a successful application for funds to support the CA's community outreach. The funds released by the NPTF enabled the first direct contact between members and their constituents in the constitution building process
- **Premises:** completed refurbishment of the fourth floor of the CCD. This will provide an additional meeting room for 150 persons with the capacity to provide simultaneous interpretation in 7 languages plus English. It will also provide hot desking for national and international partners working at the CCD, as well as a larger library. This will improve the capacity of the CCD to support dialogue
- **Technical Assistance - Seminars:** delivered 22 seminars on key constitution themes including federalism, restructuring the state, the role of the judiciary, civil military relations and ensuring the right to food sovereignty. This assistance substantially enhanced the capacity to members and their committees to prepare their concept papers. It also built understanding in civil society
- **Technical Assistance – Individual Members and CA Committees:** provided technical assistance to the Constitutional Committee of the CA through a 'Comparative Study on 11 Constitutional Issues' at the formal request of its Chair, Madhav Kumar Nepal. Maintained regular liaison with CA Committees through meetings with their chairs and members. Engaged the CA Capacity Development Committee which is responsible for organizing support for the CA. Delivered numerous individual consultations to CCD users. This work substantially enhanced the capacity of the CA to prepare its concept papers.
- **Skills Training – Computers and English:** registered 110 CA members for basic computer training and 90 CA members for English language training. Of them, 56 CA members underwent the training beginning in April. This program responded to a direct requests, frequently repeated. It will enable members to communicate more effectively through the internet, to conduct their own research, and to better understand constitutional documentation and discussion in English.
- **Skill Training – Conciliation and Negotiation:** designed new trainings for CA members on conciliation and negotiation skills. The training will start on July 8 and will enhance the skill of members to minimize conflict and find agreement the process of negotiating the constitution
- **Democratic Dialogues:** organized 15 consortiums totaling approximately 75 NGOs that conducted 1488 democratic dialogues in 847 VDCs across the country. 58,241 people mostly from marginalized communities participated in these dialogues. This work enhanced the awareness of the public and enabled submissions to the CA, some of which were presented to the Speaker at the CCD
- **Discussion Programme:** broadcast on Kantipur television, 65 FM stations and Radio Nepal 13 episodes of "Sajha Sawal", a discussion programme on constitutional issues;
- **Drama Series:** launched on April 17th the new season of Katha Mitho Sarango, a drama series on constitution building and citizenship with a special promotional programme, recapping the 2008 series. 28 episodes of the drama series were broadcast on over 100 FM stations and Radio Nepal.
- **Publication-Booklet series:** released in 8 languages a three booklet series on constitutional themes; the subjects include "Human Rights in the Constitution", "Local

Self Governance" and "Federal System". Seven more booklets will be released in July. The booklets are written in an accessible manner for ordinary users. This work is vital in establishing a basic knowledge set for CA members and others. It will allow members and others to work in their own languages, and is available in audio format for those who do not read.

Discussion and recommendations:

*DFID, as the donor representative requested that the project prepares a table indicating the **results** achieved so far **against the approved annual results** to allow for clear assessment of progress against targets (using the logframe)*

The board members discussed and recommended the project to further strengthen technical support to the CA, as outlined below:

Technical support:

The Committee on State Restructuring has not completed its concept paper. Contested issues include the federal state is to be restructured (on ethnic or geographic lines or a combination of the 2), how many states are to be created, when do the full numbers of all states have to be determined (at the time the Constitutions is drafted or can they be added / fused over time) and by whom.

The project will identify ways in which technical support particularly on the implementation of Federal states could be brought to the Committee to assist in the resolution of these issues.

Coordination for CA second round of outreach

The project organize coordination meetings to reduce overlap between the various actors engaged in community outreach and maximize community outreach during second round of CA outreach.

The project has already prepared wit IDEA a summary of the key lessons learned form the first CA community outreach for the CA secretariat.

This could serve as a starting point to engage further with the Secretariat to look at ways to organize and support the second round of consultations to make it more effective, especially considering the probable very short time allocated for that due to delays in the preparation of the concept papers by the various technical committees.

2. The third Quarter Work Plan for 2009 was extensively reviewed by the Board and approved.
3. The board reviewed and approved the CCD three month workplan proposed within the project three month workplan. The detailed plan for CCD will be discussed in the CCD steering group meeting, which has been scheduled for 17 July 2009.
4. The Board also reviewed and approved the revised Human Resources and revised Procurement Plans for 2009.
5. The Board endorsed the Annual workplan for 2009 and 2010 which were revised to incorporate the allocation of and additional USD 278,940 received from the Austrian Embassy

6. 2009 Budget :

After a thorough review and assessment of the actual needs of the project, the revised budget stands at USD 7,824,917 for 2009. (as per total original budget) is not required,

The Budget has been amended accordingly.

7. Looking forward:

Whom to engage with: The CA is resistant to international advisers and experiences being imposed.

However, the project should identify a group of strategic actors who would be receptive to information that they could use strategically and who could become champions for this intervention. This group include receptive CA members, committee chairs, key advisers to the political parties, the lawyers and experts that the parties / committees, CA rely on and through this intervention the information will filter into the political discourse.

Concept paper on transition:

Discussions on a transitional strategy for implementing the new Constitution should be initiated with Government and CA secretariat.

A concept note should be prepared by SPCBN team and shared with heads of mission for further discussion at highest political levels .

2010 and beyond:

1. The project should start identifying the possible outlines of a new programme which would follow the adoption of the Constitution and would focus on support to the implementation of the Constitution.
2. the project should start working with the CCD working group to develop a strategy to ensure the perenity of the CCD
3. the project should prepare a resource mobilization strategy to address the current funding gap fro 2010. this should be presented at eh next Board meeting in drft to allow the donors to incorporate this in teir 2010 budgets.

The Chair thanked the Project for its presentation and the Board members for their participation and constructive feedback.

Signed:



Anne-Isabelle Degryse-Blateau
Executive
Country Director/UNDP