

Support to Participatory Constitution Building in Nepal Project
Project Executive Board Meeting

23 September 2013

Present

Chair: Shoko Noda, Country Director, UNDP

Beneficiaries: Thakur Prasad Baral, Secretary, Parliament/Constituent Assembly

Project Manager: Rohan Edrisinha, SPCBN/UNDP

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

Others Present: Asbjorn Lovbraek, Counselor, Embassy of Norway

Charlotte Duncan, Team leader, Governance and Service delivery team
DFID

Martin Stuerzinger, Sr. Advisor for Peace Building, Embassy of Switzerland

Jan Moller Hansen, Deputy Ambassador, Embassy of Denmark

Jaydeep Biswas, Senior Governance Advisor, DFID

Bishnu Adhikari, Governance Advisor, DFID

Prof. Krishna Khanal, Senior National Advisor, SPCBN/UNDP

Jorn Sorensen, Deputy Country Director, UNDP

Yam Nath Sharma, Assistant Country Director, UNDP

Agenda

1. Constitution building update
2. Progress update (July to September, 2013)
3. Programme of work (October to December, 2013)
4. Tentative Work Plan 2014
5. Future of the project
6. Project review
7. AOB

Discussion

Ms. Noda welcomed the board members including the two members who were attending their first meeting- Jan Moller Hansen and Jaydeep Biswas. This was followed by a political update by Prof. Krishna Khanal who stated that there remained a good chance that the elections for a new Constituent Assembly would indeed take place on 19 November 2013. A discussion on the likely scenarios during the election campaign, the parties' stands on the issue of federalism and the post election scenarios for constitution making followed.

It was agreed that the project needed to be flexible in the next few months. The campaign could create opportunities for an informed debate on constitutional issues but also there was a danger that the issues could be politicized in the run up to the election in which case the project would have to focus more on research and desk work and curtail its civic education programmes in the field.

Mr. Edrisinha then made a presentation that was divided into three parts. The first was a report on the activities of the project from July to September 2013. The second highlighted the work plan that the project would focus on from July to December 2013, and the third part consisted of a tentative work plan for 2014. He focused in particular on the publications that the project would work on for the rest of the year and the lessons learned initiative that included three workshops with key stakeholders and a concluding conference with international experts scheduled for January 2014. He stated that the work plan for 2014 included provision for additional new staff to deal with the increased work load of the project once a new constituent assembly resumes work on constitution making.

Ms Noda commended the project for its work despite the constraints it faced due to the downsizing of staff. Messrs. Lovbraek and Sturzinger expressed appreciation for the programme of work completed and for plans for the rest of the year. Mr. Hansen commended the programme of work and encouraged the project to consider carefully the issues of language and translation with respect to its publications. Ms Duncan urged the project to be careful about its civic education initiatives closer to the election and also with regard to the dissemination of the publications. A discussion on the proposed activities of the project followed during which Messrs Edrisinha and Khanal responded to various questions posed by members of the Board. Mr. Baral responded to several questions about the likely timelines for the resumption of parliamentary activities following the elections.

Mr Edrisinha presented a brief budget update. He said that UNDP had committed additional funds to meet the shortfall in funds for the remainder of this year. He also spoke about the status of the project review. He said that given the short time period involved after a search, the identification of a suitable international consultant was being finalized to lead the review team and that she would visit Kathmandu in the last week of October.

The board decided to extend the project up to 31 December 2014 in principle and the tentative work plan for the period subject to possible revisions at the project board meeting in December 2013.

Finally, Ms. Noda thanked the board members and adjourned the meeting.

Decisions

The Board

1. approved the third quarter progress report;
2. approved the proposed work plan for the rest of 2013;
3. approved the extension of the project from January to December 2014.
4. Agreed with the tentative work plan for 2014 that would be reviewed at the December board meeting.
5. Agreed that the project should share the draft findings of the project review team by mid November and the final report would be discussed at the December board meeting.



Shoko Noda
Country Director, UNDP

Date: