





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

6 February 2014




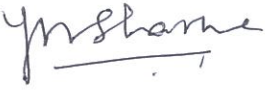


Present

Chair: Shoko Noda, Country Director, UNDP 

Beneficiaries: Manohar Bhattarai, General Secretary, Constituent Assembly 
Sharmila Karki, Chairperson, NGO Federation of Nepal 

Project Manager: Rohan Edrisinha, SPCBN/UNDP 

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

Others Present: Asbjorn Lovbraek, Counsellor, Embassy of Norway 
Bhola Dahal, Embassy of Norway
Charlotte Duncan, Senior Governance Advisor, DFID
Tania Horler, Embassy of Switzerland 
Saroj Nepal, Embassy of Denmark
Peter Allen, Embassy of the U.K. 
Dinesh Wagle, Embassy of the U.K.
Yam Nath Sharma, Senior Programme Specialist, UNDP 
Budhi Karki, SPCBN/UNDP 
Raj Bahadur Shrestha, SPCBN/UNDP 

Agenda

1. Approval of the previous PEB minutes
2. Discussion on Project Review Report and Donor Responses
3. Discussion on Revised Work Plan 2014
4. AOB

Discussion

Ms. Noda welcomed the board members to the special meeting to discuss the project review report. Ms. Noda thanked the members for their comments and observations on the review report. She then requested Mr. Edrisinha to respond to the recommendations of the report and the responses of the PEB members.

Mr. Edrisinha summarized the main recommendations of the report and the observations of the board. He then presented the responses of the project to many of the observations. He accepted the need for a new constitution to be drafted as a matter of urgency but stressed the need for striking a balance with the need for participation, inclusion and fulfilling the commitments made in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. He then presented a revised draft work plan for 2014 which took into consideration the recommendations and responses.

Mr. Bhattarai thanked the members of the board for their continuing support to the constitution making process and urged them to continue their support until the process was completed. He stated that the CA required some urgent infrastructure and technological support from the project. He provided a brief update on the work of the committee appointed to draft the CA rules of procedure. Ms. Karki highlighted the importance of working with the new members of the CA to orient them on the achievements of the first CA and some of the complex constitutional issues such as federalism and inclusion. Mr. Lovbraek and Ms. Duncan stressed the importance of engaging with the main political leaders and urged the project to develop strategies to achieve that objective. Ms. Duncan requested the project to prepare a narrative document explaining the activities and initiatives set out in the work plan. The project agreed to prepare such a document.

On the question of funding for 2014, Ms. Horler stated that the proposal from the embassy had been submitted to headquarters but it was unlikely that a firm decision would be made before April. Mr. Lovbraek and Ms. Duncan stated that they were unable to commit any funding as yet. Ms. Duncan requested the project for a financial report for 2013. Mr. Edrisinha pointed out that it was the first time that the project was functioning in the second month of a year without financial commitments from its donors and urged the donors to make their commitments as soon as possible. Mr. Lovbraek suggested that the next regular board meeting be held in mid-March, rather than later in the month.

Ms. Noda stated that the project was currently operating on funds provided by UNDP and urged the board members to try to expedite decisions on funding as early as possible so that the project could continue its work as the constitution making process gathered pace in the next few months. She thanked the members for their participation at the meeting.

Summary of Decisions

A Strategy Document on the Work Plan to be prepared and distributed to board members.
The next PEB meeting to be held in mid-March.