

Project Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, 4th May, 2012

Support to Participatory Constitution Building in Nepal, Sanepa

Present:

Chair: Robert Piper, Resident Representative

Sr. Beneficiary: Manohar Bhattarai, General Secretary, CA Secretariat

Neera Timsina, President, NGO Federation

Project Manager: Rohan Edrisinha, International Project Manager, SPCBN

Project Assurance: Kalpana Sarkar, Programme Officer, Governance Unit/ UNDP

Others Present: Shoko Noda, Country Director, UNDP

Krishna Khanal, National Advisor to SPCBN-UNDP

Martin Stuerzinger, Senior Advisor for Peace Building, Swiss Embassy

Bandana Risal, Senior Programme Specialist, Governance Unit, UNDP

Charlotte Duncan, Leader, Governance Team, DFID

Asbjorn Lovbraek, Counsellor, Norwegian Embassy

Bishnu Adhikari, Governance Advisor, ESP/DFID

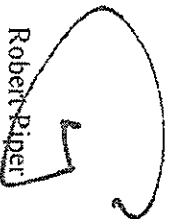
- Mr. Piper opened the meeting by reminding those present that the meeting was a special ad hoc meeting to determine whether the project should continue until 31 December 2012 and if it were to continue, to approve a work plan till the end of the year.
- Prof Krishna Khanal made a brief presentation on recent political developments. He stated that progress had been made on the contentious issues of constitution making. He pointed out the challenges in meeting the deadline as the schedule was very tight with a minimum of 20 days needed, once a draft was prepared, for the adoption of the constitution.
- Mr. Manohar Bhattarai said that the latest political developments made him hopeful that a new constitution would be adopted on time. He said that CA Secretariat was well prepared with a team of drafters could produce a draft within ten days of a political consensus being reached. A discussion on the current political situation with reference to constitution making followed.

- Ms. Charlotte Duncan suggested that a strategic risk management analysis be prepared given the criticisms the international community had received in recent months for its alleged promotion of ethnic federalism as these allegations could pose a challenge for the project and for development partners. It was agreed that such an analysis would be useful and Prof Khanal was requested to take the lead in preparing it.
- Mr. Rohan Edrisinha presented a proposed work plan from June to December. He stated that the plan was based on several assumptions- a) that Constitution making work would continue beyond May 27; b) that there will be no public consultation/ engagement before May 27; c) that there was a need to continue to focus on challenges of transition and implementation; d) that national elections will take place in 2013. Mr Edrisinha stated that the project would continue to focus on the issues of state restructuring and inclusion, which were central to the new Constitution and where there was a need for more deliberation and preparation.
- Ms. Duncan said that it would be useful to receive a detailed financial statement that would give a clearer picture of expenditure so far and the monies remaining.
- The proposed work plan for July to December 2012: Mr Asbjorn Lovbraek raised a query on two actions of the work plan: Action 2.2 ad 2.3 and asked if it is useful for the project to commence work on an area that would obviously continue beyond 2012. Mr Edrisinha responded by stating that given the importance of establishing as early as possible the second tier of governance at the provincial level, there should not be a vacuum. He said that what was envisaged was assistance to prepare roadmaps and other preparatory initiatives to ensure swift and effective implementation of the Constitution.
- Ms Shoko Noda said that there was not much time to prepare for state restructuring and that the momentum should not be lost.
- The work plan was approved.

Summary of the decisions:

The PEB

- Endorsed the new work plan to the end of December, subject to resources being raised.
- Requested a detailed financial statement.
- Requested a strategic risk management analysis with specific reference to development partners and their perceived roles.



Robert Ripert

Resident Representative