



MoPR celebrates Peace Day

The Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (MoPR) led the celebrations of Peace Day on 21 September and organized a program at its premises to mark the occasion. The slogan for this year's celebration was 'Peace and Development is our Right'.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Federal Affairs and Local Development Prakash Man Singh was the chief guest at the gathering that included the Minister of Peace and Reconstruction Naraha-

ri Acharya, government officials, civil society and the members of the public.

Addressing the gathering the Deputy Prime Minister Singh said both political understanding and socioeconomic transformations were important for ensuring lasting peace. This he said was the government's approach to peace building.

The chief secretary of the Government of Nepal Lila Mani Paudyal, secretaries, former ministers/secretaries of the MoPR, and officials of the

Mr. Khum Raj Punjali, Secretary MoPR addressing the Peace Day event at MoPR.



MoPR/NPTF and representatives of civil society, media and general public also attended the meeting.

During the event Mr. Singh said political understanding plays a vital role in establishing peace in the country. He further stated that political understanding and socio economic transformation is essential for stability of peace.

The Minister for Peace and Reconstruction Mr. Acharya spoke about the successful interventions that had contributed towards peace building, and one of the signs of that, he said, was the decreasing violence and desire among people to resolve differences through dialogue.

The officiating Secretary at the MoPR Khum Raj Punjali informed the audience about the progress of the ministry and its departments in terms of peace building, reconstruction and efforts at compensating those who had suffered during the conflict.

Jamie McGoldrick, the UN Resident Coordinator, who also participated in the event spoke about the importance of peace for sustainable development. The UN slogan for the World Peace Day was ‘The Right of Peoples to Peace’.

A member of civil society, former Speaker of Parliament Daman Nath Dhungana spoke about the need for involving people from all groups and regions in the peace process.

An accompanying 21-page write-up prepared by the ministry details the activities undertaken by the ministry, including the NPTF, and other projects that were carried out by the ministry since its establishment.

The document records the government’s involvement in peace building including the early initiatives for the setting up of a secretariat to facilitate peace talks. It also provides a record of the peace negotiations held by the government with various

groups since June 2007. Copies of a video documenting the 2013 election was also distributed to the participants of the meeting.

The MoPR also felicitated five Local Peace Committees of Udaypur, Lalitpur, Parbat, Rolpa and Kailali for their efforts in peace building. It also awarded Subash K. Shrestha, engineer, as the best employee for the year 2070/71.

New NPTF Director

Mukunda Prasad Paudyal Joint secretary, Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (MoPR) assumed office as Director of NPTF from 22 September.



Mr. Mukunda Prasad Paudyal, Director, NPTF.

Prior to this he was with the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers. Mr. Paudyal succeeds Sadhuram Sapkota who has been transferred to the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation.

GIZ Technical Assistance Ends

The five-year technical assistance to the NPTF from the German development agency GIZ came to an



Minister Narahari Acharya addressing a program marking the end of technical assistance provided by GIZ to NPTF.

end in September 2014. The handover ceremony was organised on 23 September in the presence of the Minister of Peace and Reconstruction Narahari Acharya. Also present were the secretary at MoPR, chair of the donor group supporting NPTF, directors and officials of MoPR and NPTF and representatives from various Implementing Agencies.

At the meeting Minister Acharya thanked GIZ for the support and said this should not be the end of German support as there were many areas in Nepal that could benefit from continued assistance.

Similarly, Secretary Punjali recalled the contributions of GIZ assistance to the peace process and said he believed that donors would continue their support to address to some still unfinished tasks.

Mr. Roland Steurer, Country Director of GIZ, who has also served as Programme Manager for the NPTF technical support, thanked all project

staff for their contributions. He also thanked the Government of Nepal for the opportunity to be involved in supporting the peace process.

Under the technical assistance to the NPTF, GIZ had supported the project management cycle, monitoring and evaluation and in the establishment and strengthening of the Technical Cooperation Pool for capacity development of MoPR/NPTF.

This Technical Assistance component is to be continued by the European Union.

Farewell at PFS

The PFS organized a farewell for GIZ TA staff on 29 September at the NPTF premises. Outgoing staff of GIZ spoke about the beginnings of the technical support from a small office in Singhadurbar and how the process of supporting projects had evolved from one-page project documents to elaborate systems and procedures for seeking and



GIZ technical assistance team with PFS officials during a farewell at PFS.

implementing projects with NPTF support. Outgoing GIZ staff shared their experiences with NPTF/PFS for five years and provided insights that could help NPTF attain its goals in the coming years. One word of advice the outgoing staffs had was that the government could achieve its peace building aims more effectively if there was continued, strong government leadership of the NPTF/PFS.

NPTF Director Mukunda Prasad Paudyal chaired this farewell meeting and thanked GIZ staffs for their contribution to PFS operations. He said the right combination of the TA team and government officials would best help the NPTF to function effectively as a unique peace building support facility for addressing the challenges that still remain.

GESI Sensitive Capacity Development Plan

The PFS has formulated a Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) sensitive capacity development plan to support the capacity building efforts at MoPR.

The plan includes an assessment of GESI, the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats identified at the individual, organizational and institutional level at MoPR; sensitivity gaps observed in knowledge, attitude and practices of officials and the inadequacy of GESI-friendly physical infrastructures and work environment. The report also points to the lack of strategic and institutional mandates, like GESI policy and operational guidelines for institutionalizing GESI mainstreaming.

The document has identified capacity needs for addressing the gaps and has incorporated them in the CD plan. It identifies GESI sensitization of all MoPR officials as a first step, and includes a capacity development framework for the medium and longer-terms.

The GESI strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) of the MoPR have been assessed thoroughly by adopting three different approaches, including a questionnaire survey of 30 section officers and under-secretaries, in depth interviews of higher level officials and a GESI

SWOT assessment workshop that included all MoPR officials. GESI Advisor Dr. Munni Sharma at NPTF provided the technical assistance throughout the plan formulation.

The implementation of CD Plan is expected to inculcate gender sensitivity and assist in the institutionalization of gender mainstreaming in its operations.

REVIEWS AND EVALUATIONS

Evaluation of NGA Pilot Initiatives

The Development Consultancy Centre has submitted the final evaluation report on external monitoring of activities carried out under the non-governmental agencies (NGAs) pilot initiative under the “Peace Fund for NGAs”. The evaluation is based on desk reviews of documents, discussions with the GIZ team and NGAs officials (responsible for projects implementation) and field visits.

Seven NGAs had implemented projects in different parts of the country from December 2013 under the pilot initiative. The program was administered by GIZ. GIZ, USAID, and the governments of Switzerland and Denmark supported the NGA pilot initiative. The projects focused on awareness creation, community mobilization and advocacy for local peace building.

The NGA pilot initiative supported the following projects: “Gender Mainstreaming of Local Peace Building Programme”, “Promotion of National Action Plan and Livelihood Enhancement of Poor Vulnerable Women and Girls”, “Empowering people with essential resources”, “Building peace through community development”, “Support for capacity building of the local dialogue facilitators and organizations”, and “establishment and sustainability of dialogue centers for peace building”. The NGAs that had implemented the projects were Antenna foundation Nepal, Backward Society Education, Equal Access Nepal, Forum for Awareness and Youth Activity Nepal, Forum for

Protection of Public Interests, Media Initiative for Rights Equity and Social Transformation and Rural Reconstruction Nepal. The final evaluation report can be downloaded from the NPTF website.

Review of NAP (SCRs 1325& 1820) projects

The NPTF had allocated a total of NRs.844.536 million as an umbrella grant for various government agencies to implement activities under the National Action Plan (NAP) on Implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs) 1325 and 1820. Since 2012 the NPTF has funded 10 projects supporting NAP implementation.

The NPTF/PFS has received the final review report of NAP projects it has been supporting. A team of three experts carried out the review during April-June 2014. The objective of the review was to assess the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, prospective impact and sustainability of NAP projects and contribute towards improving implementation. The review was also expected to contribute to a better understanding of the extent of NAP implementation at the national and local levels, strengthen learning, decision-making and accountability, and feed into the strategy formulation process of the NPTF.

The review is a product of review of relevant documents and feedback and views gathered from interactions (interviews and focus group discussions) with key stakeholders in Kathmandu, and field visits in Dang and Saptari districts. It included consultations with key stakeholders involved in implementing NAP projects at both the management level and in the districts where the activities were being implemented.

The NAP projects that were supported by the NPTF are: “Partnership on Women Empowerment and Representation”(Ministry of Women Children and Social Welfare), “Improved Access of Women, Girls and Conflict Affected Persons to Justice”(Ministry of Law, Justice, Constituent Assembly and Parliamentary Affairs), “Prevention, Protection and

Recovery Program”(Ministry of Home Affairs), “Enhancing Capacity of conflict affected Women and Girls for Employment and Enterprise Development”(Ministry of Industry), “Sensitizing Local Bodies and Local Socio-political Leaders on NAP on UNSCRs 1325 & 1820”(Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development), “Capacity Enhancement of Nepal Police to Contribute to the Peace Process Effectively”(Nepal Police), “Promoting Women’s Participation in Peace Building Process and Economic Opportunities”(Ministry of Defence), “Empowering Conflict Affected Women and Girls through Functional Literacy and Livelihood Skills” (Non-Formal Education Centre), and Promoting Equal Participation of Women in Decision Making Positions and Peace Building Process (National Women Commission). Final Report can be downloaded from the NPTF website.

Review of NPTF projects

An inspection/evaluation mission from Embassy of Finland visited PFS 17 September. Laxmi Datt Kalauni, Undersecretary, PFS briefed the team on NPTF projects and process of approving new projects. Similarly, the finance team at NPTF briefed the team about the status of PFS funds.

The three member led by Kaisa Ylpekkala also visited some NPTF supported projects sites in

Nuwakot district. The team visited projects being carried out by the Nepal Police and also one on non-formal education carried out by the District Education Office. Officials from the PFS and the EU/TA accompanied the team in the field visits.

The team visited the District Police Office, Nuwakot, Area Police Office, Kharanitar (newly constructed building), District Education Office, Nuwakot, community learning centers in Kharanitar and Bidur. The skills trainings to conflict affected women were provided at these community centres.

Review of CAPs support

The NPTF is undertaking a review of support to Conflicted Affected Persons (CAPs) under different clusters from NPTF and other development partners. This is being done as preparation for the NPTF to enter into a new strategy period where it is planning to take a program based approach. The review is expected to help ascertain and summarize past and present support to CAPs and assess support that will be required. This information will contribute towards formulating a broad NPTF program document for CAP support that will serve as a framework for projects to be formulated in the coming days. This information is also expected to contribute to assessing gaps in the support and

An evaluation team from Finland interacting with PFS officials.



point towards areas that require additional support. Scott Wilson (SW Nepal) has been identified to carry out the work.

This review will be undertaken in a parallel process with joint field missions to look at the UNPFN and NPTF supported projects. One monitoring trip to Bara, Parsa and Chitwan districts has already been completed. Another monitoring trip is being planned for the first week of November. The review will also include a number of focus group meetings related to different CAP target groups, and also include a stakeholder conference on CAPs.

INTERNAL MEETINGS

Extended task force meeting held

A meeting of the Joint Government/Donor Extended Task Force was held on 11 September. It was a part of the process of developing the NPTF strategy. The meeting discussed on draft Strategy Paper following a brief presentation by Thomas Thomsen, Team Leader /EUTA. The presentation covered key changes in strategy compared to old project document. The new draft was prepared after incorporating comments received on an earlier draft from various donors.

At the meeting Thomsen facilitated the discussions on each section of the strategy paper and highlighted the differences in formulation and process as compared to the existing NPTF modalities. He briefed the meeting on the mandate, programme approach, timeline, log-frame, financial projection, and organizational set up.

The new draft also attempts to simplify the programme approval processes and has options on how TC pool procedures could be managed.

The meeting also discussed the Joint Financing Arrangement (JFA) and Peace Fund Operation Regulations (PFOR). These documents would be finalized after the approval of the strategy paper.



Orientation of LPC secretaries

The MoPR had organized a three-day orientation involving newly appointed office secretaries of all 75 Local Peace Committees in two groups. First orientation was organized on 17-19 September and second on 22-24 September at the MoPR. The main objective of the orientation was to familiarize the new staff on the LPC TOR, programs and other relevant areas of their assignment including MoPR mandate, policies and programs.

LPC secretaries from different parts of the country during an orientation session at MoPR.



IMPLEMENTATION AGENCY ACTIVITIES

Mid-term Impact Assessment of the NTV Peace Programme

Nepal Television (NTV) has conducted a midterm impact assessment of the Peace Programme funded by NPTF. The Centre for Economic Development and Administration (CEDA) carried out the assessment that is an activity under the "Peace Building for Reconciliation, Coexistence and Socioeconomic Reconstruction through Tele-

Ms. Laxmi Kumari Basnet, Joint Secretary MoPR, addressing the LPC secretaries during the orientation.

vision Campaign project".The objective of the assessment was to assess the impacts of peace related programs on NTV. The study suggests that there has been a 20.93 percent increase in the perception of the general people (compared to the Baseline Survey result) that NTV peace programs have a positive impact on reconciliation and co-existence.

(Source: NTV)

Training on NAP

The National Women Commission (NWC) organized a training program on the UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 and the National Action Plan (NAP) for government officials on 28

September. The training held in Chitwan was a part of the implementation of the "Promoting Equal Participation of Women in Decision Making Position and Peace Building Process" project that began implementation on 16 July 2014. The project aims to ensure increased participation of women and girls as decision makers in state institutions, political parties and peace building processes.

There were 42 participants from Makawanpur, Chitwan, Dhading, Gorkha and Nawalparasi districts, including District Coordination Committee representatives, LPC members and representatives from political parties.

(Source: National Women Commission)

Peace Fund Secretariat

Babar Mahal, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Email: info@nptf.gov.np

Phone: +977 1 4223993 Fax +977 1 4228261

Web: www.nptf.gov.np