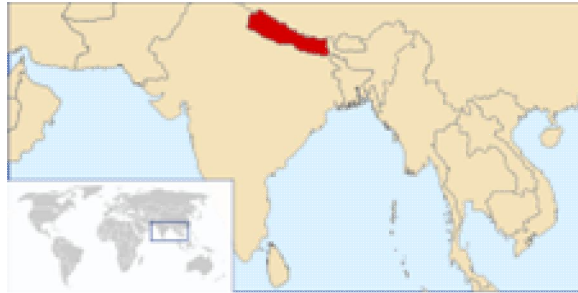


## REGIONAL REPORT – NEPAL – AUGUST 2009



### Project Management Update from Nepal

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### **Priority on Peace and Reconciliation with impetus on tourism projects in Nepal**



Finance Minister Mr. Surendra Pandey on July 13<sup>th</sup> Monday unveiled the budget for the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal of USD 3.57 billion for the fiscal year 2009/10. A little more than half is allocated for development and the rest for general expenditure. The proposed expenditure is higher by 33.87 per cent than the revised estimates of the current fiscal year. It is a challenge for the incumbent government to implement the proposed programs as the past has been riddled with high political instability. No government has survived more than two years since 1991, either through internal collapse or parliamentary dissolution.

Earlier this month, a team from the World Bank concluded a periodic review of the Emergency Peace Support Project. During the visit, the team held discussions with senior

Government of Nepal officials, high ranking leaders of the UCPN-Maoist, development partners supporting the peace process, and representatives of Nepali civil society.

At these meetings the World Bank reiterated its commitment to continue supporting Nepal's peace process through the Emergency Peace Support Project. The Bank will also continue to support peace-building through the development programs it finances in Nepal.



Also this week, a meeting of the UN Security Council meeting is reported to be approving of the extension of the United Nations Mission to Nepal (UNMIN) that monitors and reports about the ongoing peace process of Nepal. Media reports in Kathmandu confirm that UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is proposing the UNMIN's extension in Nepal to the Security Council.

Nepal government had recently requested the UN to extend the UNMIN's stay in Nepal for six more months since the peace process has not yet reached a logical end. It has spent 156 million dollars to assist in Nepal's peace process so far.

Furthermore, with a view to help heal the scars left by the decade long insurgency, the UN Peace Fund for Nepal (UNPFN) has also provided a financial assistance of \$2 million dollars to run a project in the country.

The "Peace through Justice" project aims at using the transitional justice mechanisms to encourage reconciliation. The project will run initially for 12 months.

According to a press statement issued by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Nepal, a systematic approach to dealing with the past can help societies heal and work their way back to normalcy. "Establishing the facts of the conflict, acknowledging the losses suffered by the victims and providing a platform for justice help end impunity and aid to reconciliation," the statement added.



It will also support the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction to set up various bodies including the Commission on Inquiry on Disappearances.

According to the statement, its focus will also be on documenting human rights and international humanitarian law violations committed



during the conflict.

“As has shown by the past experience, the goals of strengthening democracy and peace are more likely to be achieved with active consultation and participation of victims’ groups, civil society and the general public,” read the statement.

In addition, to make Nepal Tourism Year (NTY) 2011 a grand success and foster wider economic growth, the government has planned a ‘one-district, one destination’ identification program.

Speaking about tourism promotion and plans for NTY 2011, Tourism and Civil Aviation Minister Sharad Singh Bhandari has said that the government is coming up with tourism development programs and preparations will be made to attract a million tourists in NTY 2011.

He added that for the promotion of NTY 2011, the government will focus on infrastructure development and promotion of particular places as tourism is the only sector which generates mass benefit.



The government is also investing in the aviation sector, improving the regional airports, and enhancing the performance of the national carrier supported by more airlines and destinations.

Contributed by

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