

PROGRAM REPORT

Dissemination of National Water Plan Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Awareness Program

Organization of the Program:

A one day program on Dissemination of National Water Plan (NWP) – Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Awareness program was jointly organized by Water and Energy Commission Secretariat (WECS) and Jalsrot Vikas Sanstha (JVS), Nepal/ Nepal Water Partnership on 22nd December 2006 in Kathmandu. The program was attended by more than 100 participants. The attendants were State Minister for Water Resources, Vice Chairman of National Planning Commission, Member of National Planning Commission (Water Resources), Chairman of Natural Resources Committee of Parliament, Secretary of Ministry for Water Resources, Executive Secretary for Water & Energy Commission Secretary, Members of Parliament, National Water Resources Experts, related Govt. Ministries and Departments, I/NGOs and Media Personnel.

The program session was chaired by Dr. Jadish C. Pokhrel, Vice Chairman - National Planning Commission. The main objective of the program was Awareness Creation in the field of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). The list of participants is appended in Annex 1.

The program had following agenda to cover:

Program:

22nd December 2006, Friday		
Time		
02:30 -3:00 PM	Arrival of Guests	Tea/Coffee
	Arrival of the Chief Guest	Hon'ble Mr. Gyanendra B. Karki - Minister of State for Water Resources
	Guest of Honor	Dr. Jagadish C. Pokharel -Vice Chairman, NPC
3:00 -3:10	Welcome Speech	Mr. Bhubaneswor Pd. Daibagya - Secretary General, JVS/NWP
3:10 - 3:15	Address	Mr. Tika Dutta Niraula - Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources
3:15 – 3:20	Address	Mr. Ram Krishna Tiwari - Executive Secretary, Water and Energy Commission Secretary
3:20 – 3:25	Address	Mr. Prakash Jwala - Chairman, Natural Resources Committee
3:25 – 3:30	Address	Er. Rama Kanta Gauro-Member, NPC
3:30 – 3:35	Address	Dr. Jagadish C. Pokharel -Vice Chairman, NPC
3:35 - 4:00	Presentation "National Water Plan"	Dr. UN Parajuli/Mr. Sanjay Dhungel, WECS
4:00 – 4:20	Orientation and Discussant "Operationalization of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)"	Er. Iswer Raj Onta - Vice Chairman, JVS/NWP
4:20 – 4:50	Floor Open (Experience Sharing)	
4:50 – 5:00	Remarks by the Chief Guest	Hon'ble Mr. Gyanendra B. Karki – Minister of State for Water Resources
5:00– 5:10	Conclusion and Vote of Thanks	Mr. Suresh R. Uprety, Executive Director, WECS
5:10 - onwards	Cocktail Dinner	
	Conduction of Program	Mr. Naveen M. Joshi, DWIDP

Brief Account of Proceedings:**Welcome Address by Mr. Bhubaneswor Pd. Daibagya, Secretary General JVS/NWP:**

Welcoming the participants Mr. Daibagya showed his happiness in collaborating for the dissemination program of National Water Plan (NWP) with WECS. He stated that as we are approaching to the end of 2006, whether the targets set for the 2007 in the Plan can be attained, is also a big question. To reflect the ground realities and changed political scenario of the

country: whether short-term, mid-term, long-term plans and similarly the targets set for 2007, 2017, and 2027, have to be revisited, modified and amended, experts participating the program have to guide to make to plan to attain the targets within the time limit to be specified. Plan document, which he felt should be workable and working document and not otherwise, Mr. Daibagya further expressed his happiness and thanked the Global Water Partnership, a Stockholm based international organization, for funding the program. This program is also one of the Awareness Creation Programs to the different sector/stakeholders of water users. He further acknowledged that such program should be taken to the length and breadth of the country. At the end of his speech, he hoped to collaborate with WECS in such works in future too.

Address by Mr. Ram Krishna Tiwari, Executive Secretary, WECS:

In his address Mr. Tiwari said that the NWP is prepared with an effort right from identifying the issues in 1996, preparing the Water Resources Strategy as approved by the then Government in 2002. National water sector goal defined as "Living conditions of Nepali people are significantly improved in a sustainable manner". To attain this goal, Water Resources Strategy (WRS) output is expected to contribute to the attainment of this goal through short (5 year), medium (10 year) and long (10 year) – term. To achieve these purposes, the WRS has defined 10 strategic outputs, which is categorized under security, use and mechanism aspects. Further he stated that NWP is prepared based on IWRM and River Basin Management is required to be implemented by 2027. The short term (2002-07) program is almost completed.

Address by Dr. Champak Pokhrel, former Member of National Planning Commission:

Dr. Pokhrel who had also worked as the economist in the preparation of National Water Plan, stated that NWP has been prepared in holistic perspective both in natural state and in balancing the competitive demands on it, e.g. domestic, agriculture, hydropower, industrial, cultural and environment. Main thrust of this plan is poverty reduction. The total estimated expenditure for the plan is NRs. 1219 billion, that is, to be spent in 25 years (2002-27). The expenditure projected for the Tenth Plan period is NRs. 113 billion, which is approximately 23 billion. Similarly, the total projected expenditure for the last 5 year (2022-27) is at rate of NRs. 66 billion. Projected expenditure is within the general trend established in the development of Water Resources and further, Dr. Pokhrel stressed that Plan should be optimistic as well as unless effort in expenditure is carried, the development works also could not be performed.

Mr. Rama Kant Gauro, Member, National Planning Commission (Water Resources):

In his address Mr. Gauro stressed the following three points in the development of Water Resources:

- Water Resources development should be taken in integrated manner so as to fulfill the optimum utilization of water for the benefit of all stakeholders in the particular basin with a view to achieve efficiency, equity and environmental considerations.
- Problem of silt has been felled in the water resources development. This problem is still more effective in hydropower while reducing the expected output from the project as well as costing more maintenance cost.
- Energy is the main talk of the town. Despite the demand in the energy, we had felled the spill of energy during the night and monsoon. Mr. Gauro requested the participants for

the comment if any regarding the use of the spilled energy at the minimal cost whether it will be for domestic purpose or the export one.

Address by Mr. Surya Nath Upadhyay, Former Secretary of Ministry of Water Resource:

Mr. Upadhyay, in his address said that NWP is prepared as per Water Resources Strategy and covers all the water sectors. He felt that the major concern of the plan is implementation, as Nepal is experienced in preparing plans such as Irrigation Master Plan, Agriculture Perspective Plan etc. Further, he assumes that a plan carries a lot challenges as it is always followed by risks. He further said that commitment from all the sectors is the most needed for the implementation of the plan and also the commitment for the fund is equally important. The main thrust required is to establish WECS with autonomous identity. Then only co-ordination with Ministry of Physical Planning and Works, Ministry of Agriculture as well other related agencies would be effective. The plan has stressed as per the present need to implement the water resources development in a basin approach. Capacity enhancing as well as utilization part is the main factor in the institutional mechanism. As WECS is required to convert into WEC, as an autonomous organization, commitment right from the political level to all concerned group/agency is quite essential. Further, existence of such organization becomes very important as WEC could monitor the performance of the existing treaties. He is also of the opinion that experts in such organization would benefit country while bringing confidence among personalities in the policy level and the interpretation from the experts stationed in WEC will definitely benefit rather than becoming victim.

Address by Mr. Prakash Jwala, Chairman, Natural Resources Committee:

Mr. Jwala stressed for the implementation as per the proposed plan. Everybody agrees that the development of Water Resources will tune to the economic development of the country. Lot of policies and plans has been prepared in the past but the implementation side is lacking. There is definitely need for updating the report as per the time period. In regards to Electric Energy, the development is minimal. As far as the development in energy sector is concerned, we should encourage the private sector and get return at the earliest possible. Seriousness is necessary. Nepal Electricity Authority is still with same organization. This is the time that everybody should think for the development and operation of small hydropower projects to fulfill the national demand at present context. Ultimately, everybody should discourage misutilizing the resources of the country.

Presentation by Mr. Sanjay Dhungel, SDE, WECS,

Mr. Dhungel elaborately presented the National Water Plan (NWP) including the progress made so far in Tenth Plan. His presentation is appended in Annex II.

Orientation and Discussant by Mr. Iswer Raj Onta, Vice Chairman - JVS/NWP

Mr. Onta as a Water Resources Advisor during the preparation of NWP spoke that the program was conducted with the partnership between WECS and JVS/Nepal Water Partnership. Mr. Onta argues there is confusion among the Water Resources Expert and Water Resources sector. Each and every Nepalese citizen should know the right use of water resources. Awareness program is essential for this purpose. Actually speaking everything is written or printed in the NWP and WRS documents. For this purpose, commitment from all sectors is necessary. To the contrary, it

is running as usual business. There is need to enter into WRS and NWP. The major doctrines of NWP are integration, coordination, decentralization, popular participation and implementation of water related programs within the framework of good governance, equitable distribution and sustainable development. Further, mechanism is the key tool as no plan could succeed till the appropriate mechanism to handle it will be available.

The most important thing is enhancing capability in this sector is Data Management. The proposed Meta-Data Centre to be established in WECS should be given priority. Similarly, the appropriate Institutions as well as the Legal framework addressing for the operationalization of the NWP is equally important. Integrated Water Resources Policy, which is at the draft stage should be disseminated to the stakeholders and bring in the real form. The concerned authorities should be active as well as serious.

As far as the development in Water Resources sector is concerned, it should be transmitted to the people and implement according to the plan. As an example, NWP has stressed for the development of Groundwater for the irrigation purpose so as to maximize the irrigable area. To the contrary, the major or 90% of the Government investment in irrigation sector is still for surface irrigation. Similarly, the development works in hydropower sector has not envisaged as per the plan exception of Chamelia. Lastly, Mr. Onta stressed that such dissemination program should be performed in several places for the awareness.

After the Remarks from Mr. Onta the Chairperson of the session Dr. Pokhrel opened the floor for discussion. The discussions are recorded as follows:

Mr. Thir Bahadur JC, Ministry of Home Affairs, describes the plan is too optimistic. Ministry of Home Affairs as a lead agency for the management of disaster, it is not possible to manage relief in all the five regions within 2007. The ministry had requested for construction of ware house for storing the relief materials, which could not realize till date.

Mr. Ram Prasad Mehta, Acting President, Federation of Water Users, spoke that the program is not bad in the sense for the dissemination. His concern is not finalizing the required policy and regulations till date. He further questioned for the amendment and harmonization of the related policy and acts.

Dr. Madan Shrestha, Director General, DHM, said about importance of the data center. We are still moving ahead as business as usual as DHM could not provide NRs. 20.00 per day for the data collectors. Further, Nepal is rich in fresh water. According to the plan, the establishment of Himalayan Climate Change Centre is required to be established by 2007, which could not be performed without the support from the Government. Thus, the commitment is required to come from the political level too.

Mr. Anand Pokhrel, Member of Parliament, said that water is connected with the daily life of the people. Agreement with India in cases of Kosi, Gandak and Mahakali is also connected with water. He asked the position paper in regards to these agreements. Further, he said the problem arising in bordering area within Nepal due to the construction of embankments in India. His intention is that such matters should be looked after by the plan too. Moreover, he stressed that

mega projects like Tamakosi in power sector is urgently needed in additions to the small projects. His concern in irrigation sector is due to non-functioning of the irrigation projects constructed in Dolakha district. Finally, his request is for involving the stakeholders in planning of the proposed Three Year Plan to be effective from the coming fiscal year.

Mr. Santa Bahadur Pun, Water Resources Expert, said that NWP has given more priority for groundwater irrigation rather than surface. Further, APP has also stressed for the same with electric run pumps. His deep concern is the cost of the electric tariff in Nepal, which is very high compared to India. He said that the efforts in surface irrigation also should be continued in view of the India diverting water while constructing the diversion structures in Small or Medium River so as to benefit in respect to Prior Use too. Finally the Sapta Kosi High Dam also needs to be looked after the other accruable benefit rather than the Navigation from Chatara to Khursela. The study carrying in Sapta Kosi should also be reviewed in terms of the River Linking Project planned in India. As far as resolving the load shedding is concerned, Nepal Electricity Authority should look after the medium or big power projects rather than projects like Chamelia, Kulekhani III, which could be participated/constructed by the private entrepreneurs.

Mr. Rajendra Prasad Ghimire, SDE, DOLIDAR, has the deep concern over the role of the DOLIDAR as it is not addressed in the NWP. As per the Local Infrastructure Policy 2004, DOLIDAR is the designated agency to look after for the area less than 1000 people in case of water supply and area irrigation less than 25 ha in hill as well as 200 ha in Terai.

Mr. Rajendra Aryal, Federation of Water Supply and Sanitation, said though it is mentioned that the reach of the water supply is 80%, it does not look in real terms. NWP is based on IWRM, but the NWP has not prioritized Water Supply like in Water Resources Act. Water Resources Act and Local Governance Act need to be harmonized. He felt deep concern over the non availability of subsidy in electric energy cost in Water Supply.

Mr. Sanjay Adhikari, WaterAID, said the prepared plan seems sum total of the individual plan prepared by the different sectors of water resources. Main important task is to coordinate all the water resources sectors and keeping the linkage.

Dr. Jagadish Chandra Pokhrel, Vice Chairman, National Planning Commission as well as the Chairperson of the session in his remarks thanked the organizers and said that the NWP is a fine in itself but we should be ready for the improvement in the present changed context. As far as the Institutional arrangement of WECS is concerned, it has to be carried out looking the possibility of the effectiveness in the sense whether it will have separate identity or autonomous, under the Ministry of Water Resources or National Planning Commission.

Remarks by the Chief Guest Hon'ble Mr. Gyanendra Bahadur Karki, Minister for State, Water Resources:

In his remarks Hon'ble Minister Mr. Karki expressed that the National Water Plan has tried to enter deep into the requirement of Nepalese that the plan is prepared with the suggestions as well as the opinion of the Nepalese people. Further, he stressed that development in Water Resources would change the scenario of Nepalese people.

Conclusion:

On Closing of the program, Mr. Suresh Raj Upreti, Executive Director, WECS thanked the dignitaries, Water Resources Experts, stakeholders, correspondents and all the participants of the program for providing valuable comments as well as sparing the valuable time.

The program was conducted by **Mr. Naveen Mangal Joshi**, SDE, Department of Water Induced Disaster Prevention.