

## World Business Jury Panel commends Nepal Micro-enterprise Development Programme

News of the Month

The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), The Prince of Wales International Business Leaders Forum (IBLF) and the United Nations Development Programme announced the 2008 World Business and Development Awards (WBDA) amidst a ceremony held in New York on 24 September as part of the High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) convened by the



Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the General Assembly.

The International Judging Panel, greatly impressed by Nepal's *Micro-enterprise Development Programme (MEDEP)* decided that the programme should be listed as one of the highly commended applications even if it was not among the 10 winners.

Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah of Jordan- "The World Business and Development Awards (WBDA) showcase creative initiatives by corporations, large and small, who apply their core business expertise to world-wide efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)."

Out of the 104 entries from 44 countries, ten private sector initiatives around the world were honoured on the occasion for their outstanding contribution in establishing linkages between core business practices and the MDGs.

*MEDEP*, initiated by the Government in 1998 with technical and financial support from UNDP, DFID, NZAID and AusAID, has supported the development of over 30,000 micro-entrepreneurs (68% women, 20% Dalits and 67% Youth) and created about 40,000 sustainable jobs essentially targeting the poor and excluded groups in 31 districts. The overall sustainability success rate has been around 95% of all the enterprises established between 1998 to August 2008.

### Medical waste management under Public- Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement

The haphazard disposal of medical waste can have serious public health consequences. Efforts to systematize the disposal of medical waste have been tried in Kathmandu with little success. Earlier this year, UNDP *Public Private Partnership for Urban Environment (PPPUE)* Programme undertook a research on medical waste management in Bharatpur, a fast growing medical city with the growth of hospitals and other health care establishments.

The study recommended the incineration of citywide medical waste in the existing incinerator of the B.P. Koirala Memorial Cancer Hospital in Bharatpur as a short-term measure with a private operator taking charge of the operation under the PPP arrangement. There is an ongoing dialogue amongst the stakeholders for implementation of this arrangement.

As a follow-up to the study, *PPPUE* at the same time is also involved in the dissemination and public awareness raising on medical waste management.

A workshop was organised on Medical Waste Management in Bharatpur Municipality to disseminate the findings of the study to the representatives of Bharatpur Municipality, Narayangarh Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the BP Koirala Memorial Cancer Hospital and the general public. Several orientations in medical waste management have also been planned for representatives of various political parties at the local level, hospital managers and potential private investors.

## Development for Peace

### Who is to be held accountable for Koshi floods disaster ?

One of the latest edition of the UNDP 'Participation in Peace' project's radio discussion programme *Sajha Sawal* (Common Questions) was recorded by the BBC World Service Trust in Sunsari at an Internally Displaced People's (IDP) camp for victims of the Koshi floods which have left more than 50,000 people homeless in Nepal, and affected millions in the neighbouring Indian state of Bihar.

The programme asked if the government was doing enough to help people, why the flood happened and whether the river should be left to find its own course or be forced back between original embankments.

The guest was Vijaya Gachhedar, Minister for Physical Planning and Works who has been assigned by the government to lead the response to the crisis. Minister Gachhedar is also a Constituent Assembly member for Sunsari district.



There were around 120 participants including people from the IDP camps. Local officials in charge of the relief effort in Sunsari were also present. People were asked to recount their experiences when the flood first occurred and questions were raised about whether the government response was adequate. There was a high degree of frustration among the audience. People were adamant that they wanted to return home, regardless of the cost of

fixing the embankment, and in spite of the risk that catastrophic flooding could happen again if the river is not allowed to find its own course. They wanted to know when the East – West highway would be repaired so that people could travel again.

The discussion centred on whether both the Nepali and Indian Governments were guilty of failing to take basic measures to protect the lives of certain groups.

### Minister inaugurates bio-gas plant in Budhanilkantha School

The Honourable Minister for Environment, Science and Technology, Ganesh Shah inaugurated the Biogas Plant in Budhanilkantha Higher Secondary School.

The event was jointly organised by Women's Environment Preservation Committee (WEPCO) and Budhanilkantha Higher Secondary School supported by the UNDP *Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme*.

Around 400-450 kgs of kitchen waste is produced daily in the school where 1200 students and 150 teachers and staff reside. The kitchen consumes 9 LP gas cylinders every day.

With the construction of the 50m<sup>3</sup> biogas, the school is able to save the cost of one LP Gas cylinder (Rs 1250/day), manage the kitchen waste at source and to produce 5.5Kg of slurry (manure). The total cost of the biogas plant is Rs. 370,000 of which 40% (Rs 148,000) has

been supported by the UNDP *GEF Small Grants Programme* through WEPCO in the form of a grant. By saving one LP Gas cylinder to cook food i.e. saving Rs. 1250 every day will allow the cost of the biogas plant to recover in less than 10 months.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Shah expressed the need to develop such plants in other institutions as well to curtail the energy need and reduce the municipal waste in the country.

## Conservation for Livelihood

### Conservation in Thakurdwara bufferzone, Bardia National Park

An electric fencing scheme funded by the *Western Terai Landscape Complex Project (WTLCP)* in the Bardia National Park (BNP) buffer zone seeks to balance conservation of wildlife and biodiversity while providing livelihood support for poor communities living in the periphery of forests.

This ten kilometers long electric fencing has been constructed to keep out rampaging wild elephants from invading villages and farmland of locals living in the BNP buffer zone. The fence construction began in June 2007 and was completed in three months at a total cost Rs.107,500. The project was undertaken by the BNP office, and the local communities participate in the upkeep of the electric fencing through a buffer zone management committee consisting of 15 sub-committees.

Ram Antar Tharu, chairperson of the Surya Patuwa management sub-committee says, "earlier elephants caused massive damages each year to crops and houses in the village. But now it has been controlled with the help of WTLCP." The challenge still lies due to irregular supply of electricity that makes the electric fence useless at night when it is needed the most to chase-off hungry elephants."

"The population of wild elephants has dramatically increased in the last few years," said Shyam Kumar Sah, assistant Warden of the BNP. In 1992, about ten wild elephants were present in and around the BNP. In the last count in 2006, there were about 80 wild elephants.

During the time when there was no electricity supply and the fencing didn't work, the villagers chased off animals by



Electric fencing in Thakurdwara, Bardia National Park



A house destroyed by wild elephants

using firecrackers, drums and screaming, often putting their lives at risk. However with the support of WTLCP, a *machan* (watch tower) was constructed and the villagers take turns to guard the village. Additionally, WTLCP has facilitated the creation of a wildlife relief fund that aims to provide some compensation for those whose property or persons are affected by wild animal attacks.

Besides the fencing scheme designed to protect human farmland and settlements from wild animals, WTLCP also runs other activities to enhance

livelihood opportunities for the locals. This includes the plantation of mentha and lemon grass (plants not consumed by the elephants) which are used to produce essential oils. The Project assists locals involved in such production with efforts to market their products.

The WTLCP project is a multi donor programme funded by the UNDP Global Environment Facility/ Small Grants Programme, SNV, Li-Bird, World Wildlife Fund, Biodiversity International and the Nepal Agricultural Research Council.

### 220 project field staff receive training on Basic Security and Risk Management

A total of 220 UNDP project field staff received training on Basic Security and Risk Management between August - September 2008 in all five development regions of the country (Biratnagar, Hetauda, Pokhara, Nepalgunj and Dhangadi).

The 2008 training also included topics such as Strategic Communications, Result Based Management and Monitoring and Evaluation for Results.

The objective of the training was to provide the staff with basic security and risk management skills- to ensure they can work safely and effectively in the field, to orient the field staff on communicating effectively to the public and their stakeholders on what UNDP projects do, reporting success stories from the field and enhancing the capacity to monitor the field programmes effectively. The training sessions were interactive, participants



Participants taking part in a practical exercise on resource transfer

worked in groups to understand and identify security risk issues, manage crisis situations in the local context, convey their message more clearly and in a concise manner, understand the corporate requirements for Result

Based Management and effective monitoring in the field. Similar training for remaining staff is scheduled for January 2009 in Kathmandu.

(For more information on the training, pls. contact [suneel.lama@undp.org](mailto:suneel.lama@undp.org))

#### Farewell

Anita Etholen (Finland), a United Nations Volunteer (UNV), working as an



Environment Specialist in the UNDP Nepal Energy and Environment Unit is leaving upon completion of her assignment. Anita joined UNDP Nepal in October 2006.

We wish her all the best in her future endeavours !

#### Welcome



Mr. Larry Taman has joined UNDP- *Support to Participatory Constitution Building in Nepal (SPCBN)* as an International Project Manager.

A senior specialist in rule of law with over 30 years experience in law teaching, legal practice, legal policy and legislation, institutional reform, capacity building and program evaluation, he has worked in developing, transitioning and post-conflict countries such as Indonesia, Albania, Turkey, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia and China. He was also a Deputy Minister of Justice in Ontario, Canada.

**UNDP Nepal wishes a very happy Vijaya Dashami to all staff, subscribers and readers of the Newsletter !**

**United Nations Development Programme, Nepal, Communications Unit**  
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