

Mr. Pravakar Bickram Rana
Project Manager
ECIBON Project

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Dear Pravakar,

Thank you for the courtesies extended to me during my recent visit to your offices & for the Launch event. Please also convey my thanks to President Rajbhandari, Mr Binayak, Mr Shrestha (FCNSIN), Bimal & all the others who were kind enough to share their experiences & expectations from the project.

All the programmes were executed in a satisfactory manner and we are confident that the project will be executed as per terms of contract.

I would like to share with ECC a few of my observations. Hopefully, appropriate measures will be taken to streamline the project programme.

1) We (including my colleagues from the EC Delegation, Nepal) were disappointed that the European partners participated in neither the formal Launch Event nor the 2-day workshop. EC grants are meant for enhancing EU - Nepal economic relationships. The programme stipulation of having European & Asian partners is lost when both sides are not adequately represented at all important project events.

2) We are alarmed that the Swedish Chamber has withdrawn their partnership at this late stage. It is also curious that they found it necessary to inform us directly, without even sending you a copy of the mail. It was I who passed on the mail to you. Please keep us posted on the corrective measures taken in the matter

3) We are keen to know your decision on the choice of trainers, especially the European experts. This issue gains greater importance in view of the language limitations between the parties, as well as the fact that almost all the IBOs are very small entities, with limited exposure to global business practices. They also appeared to be very conscious of their pivotal role in the project and may not easily accept a less than satisfactory training programme.

4) We are impressed by the significant participation of the local partner (FCNSIN). This includes the presence of their members in the 15 IBO list. Mr Parajouli, asst project manager (on deputation from FCNSIN) appeared to have fairly satisfactory levels of prior experience & project competencies. The project can only benefit from his services & we look forward to his continued involvement. The Swedish partner withdrawal has made it more important that FCNSIN feel a increased sense of project ownership. We are sure that your design of an Advisory Committee will also improve project effectiveness.

5) We are concerned about the inclusion of the sentence "*In the event of failure to reach an amicably agreement, the dispute may be common agreement of the parties*

be submitted to the conciliation of the European Commission if it is not the contracting authority" in the MOU which the EEC co-signed with the participating IBOs. This is factually incorrect. Also, ECC cannot introduce such a clause, without the prior consent of the EC (it would have been rejected by the EC). I had brought it to the notice of Mr Rajbhandari, and it is hoped that it does not escalate into a contentious issue at a later date.

6) Please ensure that project documentation is adhered to meticulously, as it is a very important EC requirement.

Please keep us posted about the project progress. Wishing ECIBON best of luck.

With Best Regards

Nishikant

Nishikant HATÉ

Advisor

European Union

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From: EEC-NEPAL [<mailto:info@eec-nepal.org.np>]

Sent: Monday, January 28, 2008 11:45 AM

To: Annabel Fogden; Tine Bork; Anna Högberg; fnccsin@info.com.np

Cc: Dibya Mani Rajbhandari; office@ncec.com.np; HATE Nishikant (RELEX-NEW-DELHI)

Subject: IBO Networking Meeting

Dear Partners:

This is to inform you that the project held IBOs network meeting on 16 and 17 January 2008. Mr. Nishikant Hate from European Commission (New Delhi) attended the program. We signed MoUs with 15 Direct beneficiaries representing all 5 development regions of Nepal. The advisory committee of the project was also formed on 17 January. Please find attached herewith all the necessary information

for your records. We also so far have not heard from Sweden and Denmark regarding the the activities they were supposed to undertake the next one being on "Chamber management". I would appreciate your responce at the earliest. I also once again request Denmark and Sweden to send their invoices for the expences incurred during the kick off meeting in London.

Thanking you for your kind consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Pravakar Bickram Rana
Project Manager
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