

## **ECIBON PROJECT**

### **Official Launching Program Proceedings:**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Thursday 17, 2008</b>
18:00	Commencement of Program
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome address by FNCSIN President, Mr. Jung Bahadur Shrestha</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Presentation on Project by EEC-Nepal Secretary General, Mr. Binayak Shah</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Address by Ambassador from current presiding Member State of the EU</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Address by Mr. Eduardo Lechuga - Jaimenez, Acting Head of Delegation, Delegation of the EC to Nepal</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Address by Mr. Giap Dang, Economic and Trade Advisor Delegation of the European Commission to Nepal</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Address by Mr. Nishikant HATE, Advisor, Delegation of the EC to India, Bhutan and Nepal</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vote of Thanks by EEC-Nepal President, Mr. Dibya Mani Rajbhandari</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cocktail Dinner</li></ul>

**Venue:** Hotel de l' Annapurna (Durbar Marg)

### **Project Launching Function**

On January 17, EEC-Nepal with the presence of European Commission's Advisor for India, Bhutan and Nepal Mr. Nishikant Hate, Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry's President Chandi Raj Dhakal, the apex body of Nepalese business sector, concerned business community and stakeholders, Mr. Giap Dang, advisor of EC in Nepal and other related stakeholders, launched the first ever private sector capacity building ECIBON project.

President of FNCCI Mr. Chandi Raj Dhakal launching the project appreciated the efforts of EEC-Nepal in materializing the private sector related capacity building project. Mr. Dhakal opined that in a changed competitive market at home and at the global level, this project which is funded by European Union would turn out effective and productive for the benefits of the small and medium enterprises.

He said that the EU's support in the areas of trade and enhancing the competitive strengths of the Nepalese business enterprises should go up as Nepal is already a member of WTO.

He hoped that all related entrepreneurs would reap benefits from the project in this competitive era.

Mr. Giap Dang, Economic and Trade Advisor, Delegation of the European Commission to Nepal mentioned on EC's aid to Nepal in trade capacity building targeting at the private sector. He said that EC has been giving aid to Nepal to build her capacity in economic front and it will increase in the days to come as well. However, peace and stability really matter for increased aid and better output, Dang opined.

Mr. Dibya Mani Rajbhandari, President of EEC-Nepal at the project launching function said that the project is here to enhance the capacity of Nepalese intermediary business organizations (IBOs) in a changed globalized competitive business environment under the Asia-Invest Program targeting at the Nepali private sector which is funded by the European Union.

The main objectives of the project is to make local Nepali SMEs and European Intermediary counterparts better equipped to facilitate between Europe and Asia as per the mandated objective of Asia Invest program of European Union, said Mr. Rajbhandari.

He mentioned that the target group of the project is 15 Nepalese business IBOs whose capacity needs to be strengthened through training, information dissemination and developing network as per the set objectives of the ECIBON project. There are also 80 indirect beneficiaries who will be benefited from the project as well as according to project implementer.

Informing about the project launching function at a two-day beneficiaries' meeting held here in Kathmandu with a view to establish IBO-Network, determine the way of cooperation within Nepalese intermediary network, sign cooperation agreement with local chambers for effectively operating the project, Mr. Dibya Mani Rajbhandari, mentioned that the project is here to facilitate and boost Nepalese IBOs. He said that we do carry out various programs such as training and seminars to enhance the capacity of IBOs to make them competitive in their business. We need to do effectively use European Commission's aid through enhancing our capacity for advancing our business operations, said Mr. Rajbhandari.

At the first IBOs meeting and also at the project launching function in Kathmandu, Mr. Binayak Shah, Secretary General of EEC-Nepal presented on ECIBON project and its detail activities during the project period. Mr. Shah said that EEC-Nepal, FNCSIN, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Southern Sweden (CCISS-Sweden), London Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Danish Federation of Small and Medium sized Enterprises, Denmark are the implementing partners.

He said that the duration of the project is 30 months. The project conducts seminar cum workshop activities such as doing business with EU and particularly with Great Britain, chamber management and administration, arrange and carry out match-making activities and events, and prepare and participate in trade fairs and exhibitions, international documents and payments, and regional policy in economy and infrastructure, WTO / EU quality standards and social issues including marketing issues. All these activities are aimed at enhancing the capacity of Nepalese IBOs, he stressed.

At the same function, Mr. Jung Bahadur Shrestha, President of FNCSIN also expressed the hope that the project would be crucial in boosting the capacity of SMEs in the days to come as the role of SMEs in national economy is crucial.

On behalf of the participants, Ms. Sulochana Rajbhandari also expressed happiness for effective training programs conducted by EEC-Nepal. She hoped that the program would be quite productive in the days to come to all IBOs for building their capacity to be competitive at the local and international market.