

# Newsletter on DMSP/FU (DWIDP) from JICA Nepal

A follow-up program of the Disaster Mitigation Support Program Project (DMSP)

Department of Water Induced Disaster Prevention (DWIDP) of  
Ministry of Water Resources

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At the time when news is coming from Japan that it was again hit by a severe typhoon (Typhoon No. 21), this year's monsoon season ended on Sept. 23 here in Nepal. This year, it was rather irregular and the rainfall was small. The monsoon, which started on July 10 a little earlier than usual years, was rather weak



An autumn scene in the rural area of Nepal  
(Katmandu valley)

this year and the rainfall was said to be about 80% of annual rainfall during the monsoon season, except for a severe rain that affected part of eastern and central regions of Nepal in early July. As a result of this rain, a large flood occurred in the Terai Region and damage was caused (In Janakapur and Raju village) in eastern Nepal, the rainfall was twice as much as the total rainfall in July in usual years). On the other hand, the rainfall in western Nepal is rather small and people are worrying about its effect on agricultural products. The rainfall in Mustang is reported to be quite smaller than that of usual years. The rainfall in the Katmandu valley is also quite small to the level it has never experienced, and the rainfall in August was 252 mm, 24 mm lower than that of ordinary years.

The Mugling-Narayanghat Road, a major artery linking Katmandu valley and India, which was severely damaged by a sediment-related disaster last year, now passed out of danger without inflicting devastating damage, although small-scale damage is still occurring.

As to the social security aspect, in response to the tragic killing of 12 Nepalese hostages by an Iraqi extremist group on Aug. 31, infuriated students and citizens started a strong protest on that night, storming through the streets and setting fire to tires on the road. The protest escalated on Sept. 1, resulting in an assault on not only Islamic temples, residences of Islamic aliens, and offices that send out migrant workers like the victims, but also newspaper companies, TV stations, and Indian-owned businesses which are not related to the tragedy in any sense. Even the Egyptian Embassy located in front of the DWIDP was mobbed. In reaction, the Government imposed a curfew for five days. The curfew being lifted, the country has now returned to its normal state.

Soon, a beautiful autumn season with a clear sky will come to Nepal. The majestic Himalayan Mountains will become visible even from the streets of Katmandu. Rice plants are shining gold in terraced paddy fields, waiting for the harvest season to come. Equally important to the people of Nepal is the soon-to-come festival season, such as "Dasain" and "Tihar". No one can miss these celebrations in this country. With the inauguration of flight service of Austrian Airlines to Nepal, this is also the season when visitors and trekkers from Europe, mainly Germans, will increase.



People prayed for peace with a candle in their hands on the  
Global Peace Day

It has been long since Nepal lost its social tranquility. People here sincerely wish for peaceful days to come and keep praying for it. We, technical experts from Japan, also hope that natural disasters in Nepal as well the number of people suffering from those disasters will decrease as early as possible. With this determination, we will continue to make efforts for the promotion of the DMSP/FU activities. We appreciate your continuous support!

### **A liaison meeting on the restoration of the Mugling-Narayanghat Road**

On Sept. 20 (Mon.), a liaison meeting was held to discuss the restoration of the Mugling-Narayanghat Road that sustained severe damage due to a sediment-related disaster last year. Those attended the meeting, held at the meeting room of the director general of the DWIDP, were Director General Maleku and Deputy Director General Regmi of the Department of Roads (DOR); Director Shrestha of the Work Office at the



A liaison meeting on the restoration of the Mugling-Narayanghat Road attended by related organizations

restoration site; Joshi of the World Bank in charge of road affairs; Director General Regmee and Deputy Director General Sharma of the DWIDP; and Yuji MORIYAMA and Yoshinaga SUMI, both long-term technical experts sent from JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency).

First, Moriyama briefed on the present status of ongoing coordination between concerned organizations. He also explained the details of rough estimation of cost that would be necessary for the disaster restoration measures, which had been calculated on the JICA expert side and had already been submitted to the related organizations. (The estimated cost, approximately 2.5 billion yen, will be used as the construction cost of urgent river basin works, landslide prevention works, and road improvement works).

Next, the DWIDP and the DOR gave an explanation on the progress of efforts and future plans at their departments.

Hearing the development, the World Bank showed a positive view on the application of a new loan, saying that the bank usually moves on a project as a three-year program, and that they like to know the overall plan of the intended project as early as possible.

Allocated with 300 million rupees from the national budget to use for disaster prevention measures in a three-year period, the DWIDP is striving to establish a project office and to commence disaster prevention works at the earliest time.

The DOR is currently executing urgent restoration work at the damaged road, allowing one lane for use by traffic. It is also preparing a next working plan so that full-scale restoration work can be initiated at five locations in need of such work. The DOR also added that it is envisioning the introduction of full two-lane service to this road in the future.

It was agreed that both the DOR and the DWIDP as the execution entities and the World Bank would continue to exchange information and keep cooperation hereafter.

## Major events & topics

### Mr. Mathema, former Nepalese Ambassador to Japan, appeared on a TV talk show.



Mr. Mathema, former Nepalese Ambassador to Japan, presented his view on TV

On the night of Sept. 1 when the entire Katmandu was thrown into an uproar and a curfew was imposed, Mathema, former Nepalese Ambassador to Japan, appeared on a talk show at the Nepal Television, which was the only TV station that could air on that night when broadcastings from other TV stations were all disrupted because of an assault by rioters. On the talk show, Mathema, who will provide advice on our DPTC/FU project, expressed his view to that grieving incident. It was broadcasted in Nepali. According to my friend who can understand Nepali, the former ambassador referred to the incident cogently and emotively, and urged Nepalese people to recover their normal solemnity and to respond to it calmly.

## Follow-up activities under way

### A working plan towards the establishment of a disaster restoration system in regional areas was discussed.



Director Baidya of Division Office No. 4 conferring with Y. SUMI, a long-term expert from JICA

On Sept. 22 (Wed.), a meeting on the working plan towards the establishment of a disaster restoration system in regional areas was held at the Division Office No. 4 in Bhaktapur which will become a model office when the system is instituted. Attended the meeting were, from the DWIDP side, Director Sthapit of the DWIDP; Y. SUMI, JICA expert; Y. MORIYAMA, JICA expert and observer; and from the Division Office No. 4, Director Baidya of the Division Office, who is a predecessor of Director Sthapit at the DWIDP and has experience in disaster restoration; Dutta, an Engineer; and one operation supervisor.

Main topics covered were this year's work plan and arrangement of schedule. The results of this meeting are as shown below:

#### 1. Working team at the Division Office No. 4

Four staff members at this office, headed by Director Baidya, will work for the task.

- Tejananda Baidya (S.D.E.)
- Chandra Bhushan Dutta (Engineer)
- Deepak Narayan Biswakarma (O.S)
- Krishna Prasad Newpane (O.S)

#### 2. Members of the Regional Disaster Survey Committee (RDSC)

Basically, members of the RDSC shall be limited to those concerned with the district at which a model work site is located.

#### 3. The budget will be two million rupees on the HMG (His Majesty Government of Nepal) side and a little

over one million rupee on the JICA side.

4. For the implementation of the working plan, the DWIDP will offer cooperation based on its past experience. As to this fiscal year, the DWIDP and JICA will primarily take on the task for one year as a model.
5. The two-year plan of the project will be deliberated based on the above arrangements.

(Prepared by Y. SUMI, JICA expert)

### Disaster report

Disaster occurrence has been reported as shown in the table.

Disaster type (1.1 ~ 9. 22)	No. of disasters	The killed and missing (man)	The injured (man)	Houses of total collapse (No.)	Houses of half collapse (No.)
Flood	70	121	0	111	253
Sediment-related disaster	17	29	7	3	18
Total	87	150	7	114	271

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