MINUTES OF MEETING

A review of progress on the Budhi Ganga Hydropower Project (BHP), was conducted by the delegation mission of Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) on 11th September 2014 in the meeting hall of Water and Energy Commission Secretariat in Singh Durbar, Kathmandu, Nepal.

The Members of the Nepalese team were as follows:

1. Dr. Sanjay Sharma, Director General, Department of Electricity Development
2. Mr. Nabin Raj Singh, Project Manager, Budhi Ganga Hydro Power Project
3. Mr. Sandip Kumar Dev, Senior Division Engineer (Electrical)
4. Mr. Sunil Piya, Senior Division Engineer (Mechanical)
5. Mr. Gopi Prasad Sah, Senior Division Engineer (Hydropower)
6. Mr. Purusottam Sharma, Account Officer

The SFD representatives were:

1. Chief Eng. Abdullah M. Al-Shoaibi, Group Coordinator, Technical Department
2. Eng. Saud A. Alshammari, Technical Department

The SFD delegation paid courtesy call to Hon. Mrs. Radha Kumari Gyawali, Minister for Energy and Mr. Rajendra Kishore Kshatri, Secretary, Ministry of Energy, where they discussed the bilateral cooperation between SFD and Nepal.

Dr. Sharma, Head of the Nepalese team welcomed the SFD delegation. Chief Eng. Abdullah M. Al-Shoaibi, Head of SFD delegation thanked the Nepalese team for the reception and arrangement made for the visit and commented on the good atmosphere of cooperation between Nepal and the Saudi Fund. He also indicated the importance of hydropower and its benefits for the people of Nepal. Mr. Nabin Raj Singh, Project Manager of Budhi Ganga Hydropower Project, briefly presented the overview and progress of the project.

Discussions also took place about the preparatory activities taken for implementing the BHP, use of contracts for works and services, reimbursement procedures where SFD advice the BHP management to seek help from BIP on this regard, covenants, remedies of the fund, and others. The major discussions held were as follows:

(i) The consulting service part for Detail Engineering Design and Environmental Impact Assessment is covered under Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED). Hence, there is no need to take concurrence form
SFD for the above mentioned activities. The BHP requested SFD to assist and coordinate with KFAED for above concurrence. Regarding short listing of consulting firms for Detail Engineering Design, the concurrence on Expression of Interest Document was obtained from KFAED to shortlist only six top ranked consulting firms. The EOI was floated accordingly. However, SFD delegates expressed their suggestion to shortlist eight top ranked consulting firms for more competitive bids as far as the instruction to firms mentions that 6-8 firms will be shortlisted. This issue is proposed to discuss with KFAED.

(ii) The SFD delegates mentioned that BHP needs to submit quarterly progress report to SFD.

(iii) The Nepalese team suggested the formation of a tripartite committee consisting of BHP, SFD and KFAED to expedite approvals.

The Nepalese team expressed their appreciation for the fruitful discussion and thanked the SFD for the generous cooperation.

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For and on behalf of Government of Nepal

(Dr. Sanjay Sharma)
Director General
Department of Electricity Department

For and on behalf of Saudi Fund for Development

(Chief Eng. Abdullah M. Al-Shoaibi)
Group Coordinator
Saudi Fund for Development