Minutes of Meeting

A review of progress on the Budhi Ganga Hydropower Project (BHP), was held between the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) mission and Budhi Ganga Hydropower Project, Department of Electricity Development (DoED) on 19 February 2015, at Kathmandu, Nepal. The SFD mission was led by Chief Engineer Abdullah M. Al-Shoaibi, Regional Manager and the Nepalese team was led by Mr. Dinesh Kumar Ghimire, Director General, DoED.

SFD mission members were as follows:
1. Chief Eng. Abdullah M. Al-Shoaibi, Regional Manager, Operations Department
2. Mr. Saeed A. Almshalkhi, Loan Officer, Operations Department
3. Eng. Saud A. Alshammar, Project Manager, Operations Department

The members of the Nepalese team were as follows:
1. Mr. Dinesh Kumar Ghimire, Director General, DoED
2. Mr. Pravin Raj Aryal, Deputy Director General, DoED
3. Mr. Subarn Lal Shrestha, Deputy Director General, DoED
4. Mr. Nabin Raj Singh, Superintending Engineer, DoED
5. Mr. Sandip Kumar Dev, Superintending Engineer, DoED
6. Mr. Raju Maharjan, Senior Divisional Engineer, Ministry of Energy
7. Mr. Sanjeeb Baral, Project Manager, Budhi Ganga Hydropower Project
8. Mr. Kishan Kumar Basel, Account Officer, Budhi Ganga Hydropower Project

The SFD delegation paid courtesy call to Hon. Mrs. Radha Kumari Gyawali, Minister for Energy, Mr. Keshav Dhoy Adhikari, Acting Secretary, Ministry of Energy, and Mr. Dinesh Kumar Ghimire, Director General, Department of Electricity Development on 18 February 2015, discussed the bilateral cooperation between SFD and Government of Nepal and also about the status of Budhi Ganga Hydropower Project.

Mr. Dinesh Kumar Ghimire, Head of the Nepalese team welcomed the SFD delegation to the review meeting of BHP at Project office meeting hall on 19 February 2015. 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 Government of Nepal and the Saudi Fund. Mr. Sanjeeb Baral, Project Manager of Budhi Ganga Hydropower Project, briefly presented the overview, progress and key issues of the project.

Both the SFD delegation and Nepalese team members agreed to expedite the project and complete the project on time. SFD mission urges its commitment for full cooperation and for the quick approval process required for the project.
Head of SFD delegation Eng. Alshoaibi highlighted the importance of land acquisition in the project and stressed to complete the land acquisition before awarding the contract of main construction works. However, the preparatory works shall be proceed for early execution of the activities.

The preconstruction activities, such as access road to powerhouse and dam site, office building and bridge, are very important for main construction activities of the project and for further progress in the future. As the volume of these works are small, it was agreed to combine access road and bridge in one package and building and camp site in other package with total two packages only. The Nepalese team proposed that these two packages will be implemented through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) processes.

With regards to the consultancy services for detailed engineering design and environmental study, BHP informed the mission that the proposals have been submitted to the project on 12 December 2014 and the technical evaluation of the four bidders has been completed and sent to Kuwait Fund by 12 January 2015, BHP is awaiting the concurrence from Kuwait Fund. It worth mention that the validity of bids is expired by 4 April 2015 and extended to 12 April 2015. It is expected to finalize the award the contract before April 2015.

In order to finalize the awarding of the contract of consulting services within the bid validity period, the approval of Kuwait Fund for the technical evaluation report shall be processed as soon as possible to enable the project to open the financial proposal and complete the overall evaluation.

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

The mission express their appreciation to the Energy Ministry, DoED and BHP for their cooperation and assistance and hospitality extended to the members of the mission.

For and on behalf of Government of Nepal

(Dinesh Kumar Ghimire)
Director General
Department of Electricity Development
20 February 2015

For and on behalf of Saudi Fund for Development

(Chief Eng. Abdullah M. Al-Shoaibi)
Regional Manager, Operations Department
Saudi Fund for Development