



The Nepal Peace Trust Fund (NPTF) is a joint undertaking of the Government of Nepal and a group of donors. It was created to support critical peace activities and to foster the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA) and other peace-related agreements. The Fund was established in January 2007 and has so far managed about NPR 23.5 billion in support to 70 projects, of which 60 have been completed and 10 are underway. The fund has about 50 per cent contribution from the Government of Nepal and 50 per cent from the donor group as of 16 November 2015. NPTF Strategy (2014-2017) provides it the mandate to support four different peace-related clusters: Social dimension/CAPs, Transitional Justice and reconciliation, access to security and the political dimension.



RT Hon. Prime minister, K.P. Oli (left), and Mr. Ishwori Prasad Paudyal, Secretary of MoPR, at the Rehabilitation Centre at B.P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences, Dharan during the inauguration of the building that was built with NPTF support. (Full story page 7)

## Board Approves Transitional Justice Program Document

The 18<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting of the NPTF held at the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (MoPR) on 18 March approved the program document for Transitional Justice (TJ) and Reconciliation opening up the possibility of developing projects for establishing sustainable peace.

The meeting was chaired by the Hon. Minister of Peace and Reconstruction Mr. Ek Nath Dhakal and was attended by the Hon. State Minister of Finance Mr. Damodar Bhandari and the Hon. State Minister for Peace and Reconstruction Mr. Deep Narayan Sah.

EU Ambassador and Donor Chair H.E. Ms. Rensje Teerink represented the donors at the meeting.

Hon. Minister Dhakal welcomed the participants to the meeting and said that NPTF was a unique mechanism of the Government of Nepal and donors that was set up to support critical peace initiatives following the comprehensive Peace Accord signed in November 2006.

He touched upon the achievements of the NPTF such as the

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*Hon. Ek Nath Dhakal, Minister for Peace and Reconstruction, Hon. Damodar Bhandari, State Minister for Finance (Left) and Mr. Ishwori Prasad Paudyal, Secretary of MoPR (right) during NPTF Board Meeting at Singha Durbar.*

cantonment management; reintegration of ex-Maoist combatants; relief and livelihood promotion of conflict-affected people and reconstruction of damaged infrastructure. He noted that the NPTF had significantly contributed to both Constituent Assembly elections.

The Minister proposed two key areas of intervention. Firstly, he stated that peace, stability and social harmony are timeless goals and critical enablers for poverty eradication and sustainable development, and inequalities of power, voice, opportunity and wealth are the perennial sources of conflict. Thereafter he proposed that development planning should be focused on ensuring peace sensitive development from the central to local levels.

He also proposed establishing an institute of peace studies and research possibly in collaboration with universities to hand over all resources and documents after the end of NPTF projects.

The minister also added that in the process of peace building Nepal had learned very important lessons that have been documented in different institutions and these experiences and lessons could be of use for a global audience. This, he said, provided reason for developing the institute as a center of excellence.

Secretary of the MoPR, Mr. Ishwori Prasad Paudyal, informed the meeting on progress made by the NPTF towards implementing projects that are critical for concluding the peace process. He said that NPTF first and second phases had supported 65 projects and that the Peace Fund Secretariat (PFS) had already reviewed concept notes for 13 projects to be implemented under NPTF-III (2014-2017).



*Mr. Sanjaya Kumar Khanal, Executive Director, NPTF making a presentation at the Board Meeting. EU Ambassador and DG Chair H.E. Rensje Teerink also seen in picture.*

Mr. Paudyal added that the ministry would focus on implementing projects to complement the transitional justice process by supporting land reforms – for example – which is also included in the CPA.

Earlier, NPTF Executive Director Mr. Sanjaya Kumar Khanal had made a presentation on the TJ program stating that the document is guided by the CPA, NPTF III Strategy and analysis of existing legal and institutional landscape, learning from previous initiatives, and inputs from key stakeholders.

Mr. Khanal also spoke about the consultative process that was carried out over the past 8 months for preparing the program document and explained the major intervention areas.

The Executive Director of the NPTF had briefed the meeting on the status of NPTF III pipeline projects and funds. He said that all but four projects from NPTF I & II had been closed as of 15 March 2016 and presented to the Board a fund requirement of NPR 1,818 million for pipeline projects against the available balance of NPR 1,713 million.

The Ambassador of the EU Ms. Rensje Teerink said that the approval of the program document has opened way for developing projects to support victim-centric processes and suggested that the project approval process be expedited. She added that it would be ideal if the project documents were approved before mid-April to allow enough time for project implementation.

The Ambassador also expressed concern over the delay of some on-going projects and suggested that the NPTF should consider closing down non-performing projects, and to make refunds to donors who have discontinued support to the Fund.

Representatives from the Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist), Rashtriya Prajatantra Party Nepal and Federal Socialist Forum Nepal, and the senior officials from Ministry of Home Affairs, MoPR and officials from PFS and European Union Technical Assistance (EUTA) had attended the meeting.

## Technical Committee Approves Projects

The 41<sup>st</sup> Technical Committee meeting of the NPTF held on 5 January discussed and approved the “Operation of Rehabilitation Centre at B. P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences (BPKIHS), Dharan” project.

Dr. Surya Raj Niraula from the BPKIHS made a presentation on key aspects of proposed project whose goal is “to improve the quality of life of Conflict Affected People with Disabilities (CAPwDs) to support overall well-being of people affected by the conflict in Nepal”. The project will carry out outreach programs for identifying and referring hard-to-reach service seekers to the Rehabilitation Centre.

The project will cover 16 districts of the Eastern Region and provide services to about 2000 CAPwDs (1100 from Eastern Region and 1000 from other parts of country). The project has a budget of NPR 99,661,761.

The NPTF signed the implementation contract with BPKIHS on 7 January. The signatories to the contract are the Executive Director NPTF Mr. Mukunda Prasad Paudyal and Mr. Tul Bahadur Shrestha, Registrar, B. P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences, Dharan.

Similarly, the 42<sup>nd</sup> Technical Committee meeting on 11 March discussed three projects: Strengthening Local Peace Committee (LPC) for Local Peace Promotion prepared by the MoPR, Enhancing Access to Justice for CAPs proposed by the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs (MoLJPA), and Institutional and Organizational Support to PFS for the PFS.

The IAs made brief presentations on the project goal, purpose and outputs with tentative budgets, and coverage areas.

Mr. Durga Prasad Bhurtel, Under Secretary of MoPR made a presentation on the LPC project. He said that the previous LPC project had ended while the number of LPCs had increased (District-75, Municipal-136 and VDC level-2717) compared to the earlier numbers (Municipal 55 and VDC-2519). He said LPCs can be instrumental in addressing new peace-conflict issues at the local level. The project aims to cover 35 conflict-affected districts based on a review report of January 2015. The proposed project had a budget of NPR 146 million.

Similarly, Ms. Aruna Joshi, Section Officer at MoLJPA, made a presentation on the project seeking to enhance access to justice to the Conflict Affected Persons (CAPs), women, girls and marginalized, persons with disabilities, indigent people, etc. She said that the project will be implemented in 10 districts: Achham, Doti, Rolpa, Dang, Arghakhanchi, Palpa, Morang, Bhojpur, Siraha and Dhanusha. The project aims to conduct the research and assess the effectiveness of existing legal

aid services and support the dissemination of information on these activities. The proposed budget for the project is NPR 52.02 million.



Likewise, Mr. Bed

Raj Phuyel, Under Secretary/ Monitoring and Evaluation Officer at PFS, made a brief presentation on a project intended to support PFS operations. He said that the project was crucial for enabling the PFS to function effectively and manage projects being implemented by various agencies after the TA support would be phased out. He said the PFS did not have a separate budget for its operations.

The meeting approved two projects: Enhancing Access to Justice for CAPs from MoLJPA, and Institutional and organizational support to PFS from PFS. It was also decided to forward Strengthening Local Peace Committee for local peace promotion prepared by the MoPR to the NPTF Board.

Mr. Ishwori Prasad Paudyal, Secretary of MoPR, chaired the Technical Committee meetings. He thanked all members and participants for their participation. Representatives from MoPR, the Implementing Agencies making the proposals, Donor Group Coordinator, and officials from the PFS and EUTA participated in the meeting.

*Mr. Mukunda Prasad Paudyal, Executive Director, NPTF and Mr. Tul Bahadur Shrestha, Registrar, B.P. Koirala Institute of Health and Sciences with the PFS team after signing the project agreement.*

## No-cost extensions

The 41<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Technical Committee granted no cost extensions to six projects:

- ‘Strengthening the Capacity and Mechanism of relevant State Institutions to Implement Human Rights Plans and Policies in Nepal’ being implemented by the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers (OPMCM),
- ‘Strengthening Local Peace Committees: Peace from the Bottom Up’ by the MoPR,
- ‘Conflict Transformation and Peace Building through Constitution Making’ by the MoPR,
- ‘Physical Rehabilitation Services for the Conflict Affected Disabled People in Nepal’ by the National Disabled Fund (NDF),
- ‘Promoting Women’s Participation of Peace building Process and Economic Opportunities’ by the Ministry of Defense (MoD), and



- Nepal Police Projects “Police Units Reconstruction Phase III”, “Effective service delivery and Improve Capabilities of the Police Phase I” and “Capacity Enhancement of Nepal Police to Contribute to Peace Process Effectively”.



*Mr. Ishwori Prasad Paudyal, Secretary of MoPR, chairing the Technical Committee meeting at PFS.*

- NAP 1325 and 1820: Promoting ownership for women’s empowerment and recovery from MoPR,
- All weather access roads and bridges from Department of Roads (DoR), and
- Reconstruction of Police Units-Phase II and Capacity enhancement of Nepal police to contribute peace process effectively from Nepal Police.

The Technical Committee did not approve a request for a no-cost extension for the Peace Promotion through Radio II being implemented by Radio Nepal.

## Sectoral Cluster Meetings

Two meetings of the Sectoral Cluster were held on 11 and 26 February at the PFS.

The first meeting reviewed and approved two projects documents Strengthening LPCs for local Peace Promotion by MoPR, and Enhancing Access to Justice of the MoLJPA.

Mr. Durga Prasad Bhurtel, Under Secretary, MoPR, explained the rationale for the project. He said that the existing project had ended while the number and activities of LPCs had been expanding (District-75, Municipal-136 and VDC level-2717) compared to the earlier numbers (Municipal 55 and VDC level 2519).

He added that the LPCs have played and should continue to play a vital role in the peace process, as they could be instrumental in addressing new local conflicts/disputes resulting from the changed context. He also said the LPCs had the potential to fill the vacuum

in local governance in the absence of elected local bodies.

The Peace Mechanism Coordination Division of the MoPR plans to implement the project in collaboration with the Tribhuvan University. The project aims to cover all LPCs in 75 districts and focus activities in 35 districts with high concentration of CAPs. The project’s proposed duration was March 2016 to 15 July 2017, and the budget requested was NPR 146,666,500.

Similarly, Ms. Aruna Joshi, Section Officer MoLJPA made a presentation on the proposed project that sought to enhance access to justice to the CAPs, women, girls and marginalized, persons with disabilities, and indigent people. The project is to be implemented in 10 districts: Achham, Doti, Rolpa, Dang, Arghakhanchi, Palpa, Morang, Bhojpur, Siraha and Dhanusha and provide legal aid services, among others. The proposed budget was NPR 49,660,000 and the timeframe February 2016 – July 2017.

The meeting decided to recommend both the projects to the Technical Committee after they had incorporated the comments.

The Sectoral Cluster meeting held on 26 February reviewed two projects – one for Setting up of Orthopedics and Rehabilitation Center to Support CAPwD in the Mid-Western Region proposed by the Bheri Zonal Hospital, and another on Institutional and Organizational Support to PFS.

Ms. Durga Laxmi Shrestha, Chief Hospital Nursing Administrator from the Bheri Zonal Hospital presented a proposal seeking to establish a rehabilitation center at the Bheri Zonal Hospital, Nepalgunj to provide services to Conflict Affected People with Disabilities (CAPwDs) of Mid-and Far-Western Development Regions. The project plans to work with the Dang Sub-regional Hospital and Seti Zonal Hospital to realize four outputs: i) establishment of rehabilitation center, ii) delivery of rehabilitative health services, iii) social mobilization and outreach, and iv) knowledge management. The project planned to cover all 24 districts of the mid- and far-western regions and had a budget of NPR 100,000,000.

Similarly, Mr. Bed Raj Phuyel, Under Secretary and Monitoring and Evaluation Officer at the PFS had presented the PFS project. He explained that the proposed project intended to strengthen the NPTF/PFS system and enhance capacities of Implementing Agencies to implement approved projects effectively and thus ulti-

mately contribute towards the implementation of the CPA and subsequent peace agreements. The four outputs of the projects are i) Enhanced program management system, ii) Effective monitoring and evaluation system, iii) Enhanced visibility of NPTF through effective communication and information management, and iv) Improved working system of PFS through installing efficient equipment, machineries and facilities.

The meeting decided to discuss the Bheri Zonal Hospital's project at the Sectoral Cluster Meeting after comments from the discussions had been incorporated. The meeting also decided to recommend the PFS project to the Technical Committee.

## Core Cluster Meetings

The Core Cluster of the NPTF met on 8 January and 3 February to discuss concept notes on the following seven projects.

- Improving the Overall Situation of Conflict Affected Women and Girls (CAW&G) proposed by the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare (MoWCSW)
- Mainstreaming Peace Sensitive Development Approach in National Planning and Programming Process by MoPR,
- Setting up of Orthopedics and Rehabilitation Center at Mid-western Development Region by Bheri Zonal Hospital,
- Resolving Land Dispute for Sustainable Peace in Nepal by Ministry of Land Reform and Management (MoLRM),
- Strengthening the Parliament Secretariat in supporting the Parliament in Post-Constitution Peace Building Process in Nepal by Parliament Secretariat,
- Mainstreaming Peace Sensitive Development Approach in National Planning and Programming Process by MoPR/NPC/MoFALD, and
- Rehabilitation Centre Support to Conflict Affected Persons with Disability proposed by the Rapti Sub-regional Hospital.

These meetings (28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>) decided to consider the projects for approval by the higher-level decision mak-



Core Cluster meeting at PFS.

ing bodies after they had incorporated different comments and concerns of the meetings.

## Joint Monitoring Visit

A team led by NPTF Acting Executive Director Mr. Buddha Bahadur Gurung visited several NPTF funded project sites in Kavrepalanchowk District on 16-17 February. The team included H.E. Rensje Teerink, EU Ambassador and Donor Chair, Bed Raj Phuyel, Under Secretary (PFS), Ms. Garcia Alcubilla Diana (EU), Ms. Maria Elena Barron (USAID), Ms. Amanda CatsBaril (USAID), Mr. Yagya Bikram Shahi, Donor Group Coordinator, and Mr. Arvind Kumar Rimal, EUTA. This visit was organised to monitor the outcomes/impact of projects carried out by the MoD, MoPR and Nepal Police in the district.

The team visited a women's barrack that had begun operations some months prior to the visit. The building has capacity to accommodate 60 women army personnel at one time and the facility is mainly used for the training of women in the forces, and personnel assigned for UN Peace Keeping Missions. The team also interacted with women police personnel. The monitoring team made the following recommendations:

- NAP Training on UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) 1325 & 1820 should be provided to all armed personnel, and
- Rooms of the barrack should be furnished as soon as possible under the leadership of the Ministry of Defense.

The main purpose of the project was to promote participation of women in the armed forces by creating a women-friendly environment within Nepal Army, and to also provide livelihood opportunities to widows and families of army personnel and others who had lost their lives or had been affected by the armed conflict.

The project has been able to create a women-friendly environment at the training center where the beneficiaries have easy access to the facilities. The construction of the women's barrack has also created sense of security among women living there.

Women-friendly barracks can be instrumental in encouraging women and girls to join the Nepal Army



Joint Monitoring team interacting with local people and police personnel at Area Police office Mangaltar, Kavrepalanchok.

and the trainings on UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 can help in enhancing the knowledge of army personnel on human rights and gender issues.

The monitoring team had also visited the Area Police Office, Mangaltar and interacted with police personnel and members of the local communities and recommended that:

- The Nepal Police should make arrangements for the maintenance and repair of the police units, and
- Also allocate a budget for building a mess at this police unit.

The NPTF had supported the reconstruction of police units for assisting policing, enhancing effective public security, contributing to the improvement in living conditions of the police personnel; safe storage of equipment, arms, ammunitions and machineries, and for ensuring police presence at the local level.

On the second day, the team visited the Local Peace Committee (LPC), Kavrepalanchowk, and interacted with its members. Recommendations the team provided include:

- The LPCs should prioritize decisions related to CAPs and the MoPR should take necessary steps for resolving issues related to 331 pending applications at the District Administration Office.
- Advanced training should be provided to LPC members as trainings on dialogue, meditation, reconciliation and conflict management provided in the past had been instrumental for resolving several disputes.
- The LPC members should also be trained on monitoring NPTF projects at the local level.

*Monitoring team with police personnel and local people at the Korobari Police Unit, Jhapa.*



## Financial Monitoring Visit

The finance team led by Mr. Tomnath Upreti, Financial Management Officer/Under Secretary and Nanda Kishor Sharma, Team Leader/PFM Expert visited three police units being constructed in Jhapa District under Police Unit Reconstruction Project Phase 1. They also visited the Community Based Rehabilitation Centre, Biratnagar, an NGO contracted by National Disabled Fund to implement "Physical Rehabilitation Services for Conflict Affected Disabled

People in Nepal" from 15 to 18 February 2016. During the visit they briefed the implementing agencies on the need for timely completion of activities and compliance with the project document. They also held a discussion with individuals who were responsible for improving on matters identified during monitoring.

## NPTF Retreat

The PFS organized a three-days retreat to discuss its work plan and priorities under NPTF III on 9-11 January in Pokhara.

The Executive Director of PFS, Mr. Mukunda Prasad Paudyal led the discussions where he stressed the importance of the contribution of all staff during NPTF III.



*Mr. Ishwori Prasad Paudyal, Secretary of MoPR, along with Mr. Mukunda Prasad Paudyal, Executive Director, NPTF (left) and Mr. Nanda Kishor Sharma, Team Leader/PFM expert, EUTA during the PFS retreat.*

The Secretary of MoPR Mr. Ishwori Prasad Paudyal also attended the retreat, as did all members of the EUTA who had supported the presentations and planning of their PFS counterparts. Mr. Paudyal participated in the planning sessions making queries, and providing guidance as required.

Mr. Buddha Bahadur Gurung, Programme Management Officer of PFS, led the presentations and discussions on pipeline projects and project development, and Mr. Bed Raj Phuyel, monitoring and evaluation officer and communication contact point, led the discussions on communication planning and the planned M&E activities.

Similarly, the PFM Team led by Mr. Tomnath Upreti, Finance Officer at PFS presented a review of its past work and an outline of activities till July 2017, including the need to deal with financial closure of remaining NPTF III Projects and to refund outgoing owners.

At the retreat PFS decided to increase interventions in communication, M&E and to speed up project develop-

ment. It was also decided to fill an accounting position at EUTA that had remained vacant for some time.

The EUTA team facilitated all the sessions that were attended by 30 persons including both the GoN and EUTA staffs.

### **Interaction with Implementing Agencies (IAs)**

The PFS organized an interaction with IAs of NPTF I & II projects on 16 March to discuss closure and the submission of financial reports in prescribed formats.

Opening the interaction, Mr. Sanjaya Kumar Khanal, Executive Director of PFS, welcomed the participants and briefed them on the agenda, and also asked all the IAs to return all unspent funds of outgoing donors to the PFS as soon as possible.

NPTF officials Mr. Bed Raj Phuyel, M&E, and Tomnath Upreti, finance made brief presentations on the status of the NPTF I and II projects and it was decided that all projects that did not have no-cost extensions should be closed by March 2016, with reports on both physical and financial progress and the project completion report. The meeting also asked the implementing agencies to submit financial reports certified by District Treasury Controller's Office (DTCO) by 25 March 2016. It was also agreed that the IAs would provide fund balances for different donor sources, settle all auditing issues and refund remaining balances to the PFS by the end of March.

Representatives from DoR, NDF, Nepal Police, MoLJPA, MoD, Non Formal Education Centre (NFEC), Ministry of Home Affairs, National Women Commission, Nepal Television, Radio Nepal, Election Commission Nepal, MoPR and PFS officials and EU-TA staffs attended the meeting.

### **Workshop on Physical and Financial progress reporting Formats**

The PFS organized a day-long workshop to orient all IAs (including new ones) about the NPTF reporting requirements, and formats being used for physical and financial reporting and issues related to reporting.

Mr. Sanjaya Kumar Khanal, Executive Director of NPTF welcomed the participants and sought their active participation in the sessions. He also explained the importance for the IAs to report on time to ensure timely decisions by the PFS.

Mr. Tomnath Upreti, Financial Management Officer of PFS briefed the participants about reporting issues, and reporting formats, and closure procedures and exercises.

Likewise, Mr. Bed Raj Phuyel, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer of PFS explained the narrative reporting requirement and formats, physical progress reporting/project completion report, and exercises.

Altogether 45 representatives from MoPR, Nepal Police, NDF, NTV, Radio Nepal, OPMCM, Central Child Welfare Board, BPKIHS, NFEC, DUDBC, MoLJPA, MoD, and PFS participated in the workshop. EUTA experts facilitated the sessions.

### **Rehabilitation Centre at BPKIHS begins services**

Rt. Hon. Prime Minister K.P. Oli Inaugurated the Rehabilitation Centre at the B.P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences, Dharan on 13 February 2016. The Rehabilitation Centre is fully functioning and started to provide services to the CAPs. This building was built with the NPTF support for improving the quality of life of CAPs with disabilities through rehabilitation and development of their abilities for better integration in their communities. Recently, NPTF also approved another project to the BPKIHS titled 'Operation of Rehabilitation Centre at BPKIHS', which is intended to provide services to the CAPs with a budget of NPR 71.7 million approximately.

The Prime Minister and other guests at the inauguration also visited the newly-built units at the Rehabilitation Centre. Hon. State Minister for Peace and Reconstruction Deep Narayan Shah, Secretary of MoPR, Mr. Ishwori Prasad Paudel and Vice Chancellor of the BPKIHS Mr. Bal Bhadra Prasad Das were also present at the inauguration.

### **Interaction in Tehrathum on accessing rehabilitation services at BPKIHS**

A team led by Acting Executive Director NPTF Mr. Buddha Bahadur Gurung interacted with CAPs in Tehrathum District on 14 February. The team included PFS officials and EU-TA staff, officials from the BPKIHS and members of the LPC.

The interaction was organized to disseminate information on Rehabilitation Centre at the BPKIHS and services that were available to CAPS, and to also request



participants to facilitate access of beneficiaries to the services. Some questions raised by the participants at the interaction were related to:

- a. Eligibility for getting free services
- b. Process for accessing services
- c. Identifying the CAPwDs
- d. For how long the services would be available, and
- e. If there were specific programs for women, children and IDPs.

The Project Coordinator Dr. Guru Khanal, BPKIHS, responded to the questions and suggestions and said that all CAPwDs would receive free services from the Rehabilitation Center, in addition to support for transportation and accommodation allowances during treatment, including support for one attendant. The center is expected to provide services to 46 CAPwD from Tehrathum District.

Acting Executive Director of NPTF and other PFS officials also responded to the queries raised during the interaction.

The visiting team also held a meeting at the LPC office to discuss ways to inform people in remote areas about the services that were available. About 50 participants including district level government officials and representatives of local civil society organizations participated in the interactions.

### Interaction Program with the Study Group

A team from Rotary Peace Center at Chulalongkorn University, Thailand visited PFS on 13 March and interacted with officials. The group comprised of 26 officials working in the field of development, management, conflict and peace, gender, human rights, good governance, media, etc. The group was on a week-long study visit to Nepal and included nationals from Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Ghana, India, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea, Nepal, Thailand, The Philippines, The United States of America and Uruguay.

The purpose of the visit was to study the NPTF's activities and progress on the peacebuilding initiatives. Mr.



*Executive Director of NPTF, Answering Queries of visitors from Chulalongkorn University, Thailand.*

Sanjaya Kumar Khanal, the Executive Director of NPTF welcomed the group and briefed them about the objectives of the Fund, the NPTF process and the progress made so far. Mr. Buddha Bahadur Gurung, Programme Management Officer of the NPTF made a short presentation on the functional modality, project approval process and key issues related to the programs and projects under NPTF funding.

The presentation was followed by a question and answer session. The Executive Director, Mr. Nanda Kishor Sharma, EUTA team Leader/PFM Expert, Mr. Bed Raj Phuyel, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer and Mr. Gurung responded to the questions. The group members also shared their experiences and information on the peacebuilding initiatives especially about funding mechanisms in other parts of the world. Tomnath Upreti, Financial Management Officer of NPTF also attended the meeting.

The group thanked the Executive Director and the NPTF for organizing the interaction and for responding to the questions. Mr. Khanal, in return, thanked all visitors and for sharing information and experiences on other peacebuilding efforts.

### New Executive Director in NPTF

Mr. Sanjaya Kumar Khanal, Joint Secretary of MoPR assumed his responsibility as Executive Director of NPTF on 22 February 2016. Mr. Khanal was with the National Planning Commission prior to his promotion transfer to the MoPR.

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