

**Initiating Dialogue on Post-Disaster Reconstruction**  
**First Monthly Forum**  
**Nepal Post Disaster Reconstruction Experience: Current Status and Lessons Learnt**

**EVENT REPORT**

Kathmandu, 29 June 2017– South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE) with support from The Asia Foundation (TAF) organised a monthly forum titled ‘Nepal Post Disaster Reconstruction Experience: Current Status and Lessons Learnt’ today.

Making his presentation on the topic, prominent planner of Nepal, Dr Jagadish Chandra Pokharel, former Vice Chairman of the National Planning Commission said that there were many institutional causes for the low progress in reconstruction including too much time wasted on institutionalising National Reconstruction Authority. He further emphasised that different policy concepts should be clear and there should be no misunderstanding between the issues like “compensation” versus “relief” or “right” versus “privilege”.

Making his remarks as the Chief Guest of the programme, Prof Dr Gobinda Raj Pokharel, CEO of the National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) said that there has been satisfactory progress regarding the reconstruction activities as more than 960,000 houses are in the process of being rebuilt. He further said that this process has taken pace lately after the local level elections as NRA is trying to decentralise and let the local level take the initiative. He reiterated that government is committed to the reconstruction drive and will fulfil its duty to the optimum level possible.

Similarly Mr Surya Narayan Shrestha, Deputy Executive Director, National Society for Earthquake Technology-Nepal (NSET) said that the disaster has provided us an opportunity to make “Golden Nepal” but for this we need to identify good practices to follow for building back better. And at the same time there is a need to convince people that reconstruction is a difficult and a painful process. He further said that comparing to Gujarat and Pakistan, we seem to be on the right track.

Mr. Surya Bhakta Sangachhe, Former Director General of Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC) and a discussant at the programme emphasised on supporting the local level elected body as well as build up their capacity.

Another discussant at the programme Mr Kishore Thapa, Expert Advisor of the Steering committee at the NRA expressed that the actual reconstruction aimed at creating resilient community not only constructing damaged houses.

He also pointed out short supply of skilled labourers as one of major reasons for the delay in reconstruction activities.

Making his closing remarks as the Chair of the programme, Dr Posh Raj Pandey, Executive Chairman, SAWTEE said that this programme is expected to initiate discussion on the reconstruction initiative taken by the government and measures taken to correct the drawbacks in the initiative.

The event saw participation of almost 30 participants from various organizations, research institutions, experts, activists and development partners