



Media Consultancy Nepal

Disaster Watch - Nepal

A newsletter on disaster updates

Editorial Team

Chief Editor: Deepak Acharya
Assistants: Bhaskar Aryal
Santosh Joshi
Media Consultancy Nepal
Email: media_con@wlink.com.np
P.O. Box. 75
Bharatpur, Chitwan, Nepal

Issue-82, Dec 16, 2007

Bali conference concludes, agreement on a Bali roadmap

The Bali conference has ended on a high note, with agreement on a Bali roadmap after lengthy and at times difficult negotiations. Nearly 200 nations agreed at U.N.-led talks in Bali on Saturday to launch negotiations on a new pact to fight global warming after a reversal by the United States allowed a breakthrough. Washington said the agreement marked a new chapter in climate diplomacy after six years of disputes with major allies since President George W. Bush pulled out of the Kyoto Protocol, the main existing plan for combating warming.

"This is the defining moment for me and my mandate as secretary-general," U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said after making a return trip to Bali to implore delegates to overcome deadlock after the talks ran a day into overtime.

The Bali meeting approved a "roadmap" for two years of talks to adopt a new treaty to succeed Kyoto beyond 2012, widening it to the United States and developing nations such as China and India. Under the deal, a successor pact will be agreed at a meeting in Copenhagen in late 2009.

The deal after two weeks of talks came when the United States dramatically dropped opposition to a proposal by the main developing-nation bloc, the G77, for rich nations to do more to help the developing world fight rising greenhouse emissions. Indonesian Environment Minister Rachmat Witoelar, the host of the talks, banged down the gavel on the deal to rapturous applause from weary delegates. "All three things I wanted have come out of these talks -- launch, agenda, end date," Yvo de Boer, head of the U.N. Climate Change Secretariat, told reporters.

The accord marks a step towards slowing global warming that the U.N. climate panel says is caused by human activities led by burning fossil fuels that produce carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas.

Scientists say rising temperatures could cause seas to rise sharply, glaciers to melt, storms and droughts to become more intense and mass migration of climate refugees.

Closing the meeting, COP President Rachmat Witoelar said the decisions in Bali have launched a new process for reaching agreement by 2009. He labeled the meeting as a "breakthrough" where delegates demonstrated leadership to create a sustainable future, and identified the Bali roadmap as a tribute to delegates' solidarity to tackling climate change, the "defining challenge of the century."

The Bali Roadmap

The "Bali roadmap" refers to a decision by COP 13 and a series of COP/MOP 3 decisions that are designed to give direction and shape to a two-year negotiating process to finalize a post-2012 regime by COP 15 and COP/MOP 5 in December 2009. In the words of COP President Witoelar, the roadmap has "several tracks and numerous milestones."

Under the Convention, the COP launched "a comprehensive process to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention through long-term

Loss of lives this monsoon

Baglung	29
Banke	28
Gulmi	19
Rautahat	12
Bajura	11
Bardia	10
Sindhuli	10
Darchula	9
Ramechhap	9
Sindhuli	10
Baitadi	8
Dang	8
Pyuthan	7
Salyan	7
Mahottari	7
Siraha	7
Kailali	6
Kaski	6
Makwanpur	6
Achham	6
Udayapur	5
Jajarkot	5
Kalikot	5
Arghakhachi	5
Saptari	5
Jumla	4
Surkhet	4
Jhapa	4
Chitwan	4
Morang	4
Sunsari	4
Nawalparasi	3
Rukum	3
Dhanusha	3
Khotang	2
Bhojpur	2
Panchthar	2
Sarlahi	2
Parsa	2
Palpa	2
Bara	2
Dhading	2
Rupendehi	2

Bajhang	1
Tanahun	1
Sindhupalchowk	1
Lalitpur	1
Dadeldhura	1
Kavre	1
Mustang	1
Myagdi	1

(As of 30th October, 2007)

Major Displacements

Saptari	10000 family
Siraha	6000 family
Mahottari	3700 family
Bardiya	2500 family
Dhanusha	2050 family
Parsa	2000 family
Rupendehi	2000 family
Sunsari	1000 family
Banke	750 family

Total displacement: 48000 family

Total affected population:

Around 4 lakh 72 thousand (as of 30th October, 2007)

Sources : NRCS, Media reports/MCN

Disaster Related Reports

[Situation Repot NRCS, 10th Sep](#)

[NRCS Bulletin 21st Aug, 2007](#)

[WHO SITREP \(5-19th Aug,2007\)](#)

[OCHA Situation Report,13th Aug](#)

[WHO SITREP \(4-12 Aug,2007\)](#)

[Sink or Swim \(Oxfam Int\)](#)

[DM Report \(MCN\) 2006](#)

[NRCS Bulletin 29th July, 2007](#)

[Baglung Landslides Report, 2007](#)

[Flood scenario of Saptari,2007](#)

[Report on relief, Mahottari,2007](#)

[Delhi Declaration,Nov, 2007](#)

[We Know What We Need : Nov.](#)

Snapshots



Workshop on climate change organised by Co-Action Nepal in Lamjung on 8th December.

cooperative action, now, up to and beyond 2012, in order to adopt a decision at COP 15." To achieve this, the COP decided to establish an Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action that will complete its work in 2009, and will hold its first session no later than April 2008.

Under the Protocol, the Ad Hoc Working Group (AWG) on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol, established by COP/MOP 1 in 2005, will continue its work with the aim of making recommendations to COP/MOP 5 on Annex I further commitments. As well, a decision was taken on a preparatory process for the second review of the Protocol under Article 9, scheduled to take place at COP/MOP 4.

"U.S. HUMBLLED"

Reversing previous opposition, the US joined the consensus after all other parties expressed support for the draft text on long-term cooperative action under the Convention. "The U.S. has been humbled by the overwhelming message by developing countries that they are ready to be engaged with the problem, and it's been humiliated by the world community. I've never seen such a flip-flop in an environmental treaty context ever," said Bill Hare of Greenpeace.

The European Union, which dropped earlier objections to the draft text, was pleased with the deal. "It was exactly what we wanted. We are indeed very pleased," said Humberto Rosa, head of the European Union delegation.

German Environment Minister Sigmar Gabriel was cautiously optimistic. "Bali has laid the foundations ...it was hard work and exhausting. But the real work starts now," he said in Bali. But a leading Indian environmentalist was disappointed. "At the end of the day, we got an extremely weak agreement," said Sunita Narain, head of the Centre for Science and the Environment in New Delhi. "It's obvious the U.S. is not learning to be alive to world opinion."

Agreement by 2009 would give governments time to ratify the pact and give certainty to markets and investors wanting to switch to cleaner energy technologies, such as wind turbines and solar panels.

Kyoto binds all industrial countries except the United States to cut emissions of greenhouse gases between 2008 and 2012. Developing nations are exempt and the new negotiations will seek to bind all countries to emission curbs from 2013.
(Posted on 16th December,2007)

Snowfall claimed two lives in Bajura

Two person, including a minor, died in Bajura district due to the snowfall induced circumstances. Continuing snowfall of three days had taken a heavy toll in Martadi, district headquarter of Bajura and it's neighboring areas.

The deceased were identified as Utsav Karki, seven months child of Sappata VDC-3 and 50 years old Sarpalal Karki from Larlare lake of Martadi. Karki died on 12th December while he was heading towards his home carrying salt.

Snowfall has crippled normal life of Bichhya, Sappata, Rugin, Jugot VDCs of district. School has been closed indefinitely.

(Posted on 16th December,2007)

Climate Change issue soars on international mountain day

This year's International Mountain Day was celebrated here on December 10 with

Our Words

Disaster Watch Newsletter is now going to change its pattern. Along with the end of monsoon, daily updates will not be available but new updates will be posted regularly. Disaster Watch Newsletter would be made more interactive henceforth.

We will start regular columns and invite guest, viewers to have their say on different disaster issues. Suggestions and feedbacks would be heartedly appreciated .

Climate Change Corner

[Climate Change, Bali conference and Nepal](#)

[Climate Change and Disaster risk](#)

[Climate Change & Conservation](#)

[Effects of Climate Change on the Ocean](#)

[Linking Climate Change, Forestry and Biodiversity](#)

[Climate Change Presentation from Co-Action Nepal](#)

[Information Paper on Climate Change](#)

Asia Watch

AFGHANISTAN: Avalanche kills 13 in northeast

(IRIN)

Thirteen people were killed by an avalanche in northeastern Afghanistan on 11 December and a further three are almost certainly also dead, according to the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA).

"Based on information provided by the chief of police in Baharak District (in Badakhshan Province) the bodies of five people have been recovered today and three more people are still under the snow. We fear they are dead," Humayun Paikar from ANDMA told IRIN from Kabul on 12 December.

"Yesterday eight bodies were recovered, so the total likely number of deaths is 16. Four people have been injured and 15

the aim of making people aware about the impact of glaciers melting due to global warming and about preventive measures to minimize the threat.

Issuing a press statement the Gorkha Tourism travel agency stated that the day is an opportunity to spread awareness about the importance of mountain life and highlight the opportunities along with constraints in mountain development. Climate change has directly affected the mountains of our country, the statement said.

Speaking at a function organized to mark the day, Ang Chiring Sherpa, president of Nepal Mountaineering Association, said increased concentration of green house gases in the atmosphere due to both industrialization and other human activity is among the major causes of the threat of mountain glaciers melting. However, the government has neglected such a pertinent issue, Sherpa said.

Similarly, Sushil Bista, president of Himalayan Expeditions, urged the government to take initiative to help prevent climate change. "If the current rate of glacial melting goes on, there will probably be no fresh water storage left in the country after some years," he said.

Various stakeholders including the World Wildlife Fund, the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development and Nepal Travel Media Association are celebrating this year's International Mountain Day with the theme "Facing Change: Climate Change in Mountain Areas".

(Posted on 12th December, 2007)

Snowfall hampers life in Manang and Langtang

Unexpected heavy snowfall since early Tuesday has begun to hamper normal life at district headquarters Chame of Manang district. The district headquarters situated in the lower reaches received snowfall a day after it snowed in upper Manang. According to locals, the area is blanketed with nearly 1.5 feet of snow following four hours of snowfall Tuesday morning.

Normal life in Chame has been affected by the unexpectedly early snowfall. Transport along the under-construction Chame-Besisahar road has been brought to a complete halt by the snow. Normally, people in Manang descend to lower areas early in October every year to escape the freezing cold. This year's early snowfall in and around Chame has compelled most locals to remain confined within their homes. Only a few families shifted to lower terrain in late October.

Meanwhile, the district has already been suffering from a shortage of foodstuff since the last two weeks. Karsang Gurung, a local resident, said it normally took two weeks for the snowdrifts to dry out. With local routes snowed under, locals are expected to suffer shortages, the more so since transport mules are also snowbound.

According to the Food Corporation office in Manang, over 2,200 quintals of rice is imported into the district every year. The district can only cultivate buckwheat, potato and a few varieties of bean. Meanwhile, locals have vented their anger at local authorities and contractors for not completing the road. "All the problems are due to the incomplete road that is now obstructed by snow," said a local, Chiring Dorje, "It's clearly short-sightedness on the part of those responsible."

Locals said that the problems have resulted since the taskforce involved in building the road did not find an alternative route to headquarters.

Similarly, the Langtang area in Rasuwa district has also started to receive snowfall since Monday night. Every means of transport has been snowed in and

were rescued alive on 11 December," Paikar said.

Last year flash floods and avalanches killed about 400 people, destroyed about 5,000 houses and affected over 45,000 families between December 2006 and May 2007, according to ANDMA statistics.

Afghanistan is prone to various natural disasters. Earthquakes are frequent in the northern parts of the country and often trigger devastating landslides. Flooding and mudslides are common, particularly in the spring when the snow starts melting. Extreme winter conditions and avalanches are also a recurrent feature in mountainous areas that make up about 63 percent of the country, according to The Environment Times, a UN Environment Programme (UNEP) publication.

Supported by

act:onaid

daily activity hugely affected. The area has received nearly half a foot of snow and it was still snowing till Tuesday evening.

(Posted on 12th December, 2007)

Nepal asks for Japan's help to prevent glacial melt, floods

Windsor Genova

Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala has proposed the creation by Japan of a glacial research institute in the country. The institute will conduct research on how to prevent glaciers in the Himalayas from melting and causing disastrous floods and water shortage in the world's highest region.

The Asahi Shimbun on December 6, quoted the Nepalese prime minister as saying in a Nov. 22 interview with the Japanese newspaper that Japan should set up the proposed institute because it has abundant experts, equipment and data to conduct the anti-global warming study.

The newspaper also quoted him as saying that Japanese organizations have long been researching the glaciers in Himalayas, where the world's highest mountain, Mount Everest, is located. Koirala wanted scientists from both Japan and Nepal to work together in coming up with precautions against floods and other disasters caused by the melting of the glaciers.

A study by the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development and the United Nations and Environment Program released in Katmandu and Bangkok, Thailand during the World Environment Day on June 5 warned that global warming is melting glaciers and causing glacial lakes in the Himalayas. The study called for mitigation measures to avert disaster.

(Posted on 10th December, 2007)

Previous Issues

Issue 1 (July 26, 2007)	Issue 11 (Aug 5, 2007)	Issue 21 (Aug 15, 2007)
Issue 2 (July 27, 2007)	Issue 12 (Aug 6, 2007)	Issue 22 (Aug 16, 2007)
Issue 3 (July 28, 2007)	Issue 13 (Aug 7, 2007)	Issue 23 (Aug 17, 2007)
Issue 4 (July 29, 2007)	Issue 14 (Aug 8, 2007)	Issue 24 (Aug 18, 2007)
Issue 5 (July 30, 2007)	Issue 15 (Aug 9, 2007)	Issue 25 (Aug 19, 2007)
Issue 6 (July 31, 2007)	Issue 16 (Aug 10, 2007)	Issue 26 (Aug 20, 2007)
Issue 7 (Aug 1, 2007)	Issue 17 (Aug 11, 2007)	Issue 27 (Aug 21, 2007)
Issue 8 (Aug 2, 2007)	Issue 18 (Aug 12, 2007)	Issue 28 (Aug 22, 2007)
Issue 9 (Aug 3, 2007)	Issue 19 (Aug 13, 2007)	
Issue 10 (Aug 4, 2007)	Issue 20 (Aug 14, 2007)	

Issue 29 (Aug 23 2007)

Issue 30 (Aug 24 2007)

Recent Issues

Issue 31 (Aug 25 2007) Issue 41 (Sep 4 2007) Issue 51 (Sep 15,2007)
Issue 32 (Aug 26 2007) Issue 42 (Sep 5,2007) Issue 52 (Sep 16,2007)
Issue 33 (Aug 27 2007) Issue 43 (Sep 6,2007) Issue 53 (Sep 17,2007)
Issue 34 (Aug 28 2007) Issue 44 (Sep 7,2007) Issue 54 (Sep 18,2007)
Issue 35 (Aug 29 2007) Issue 45 (Sep 8,2007) Issue 55 (Sep 20,2007)
Issue 36 (Aug 30 2007) Issue 46 (Sep 9,2007) Issue 56 (Sep 21,2007)
Issue 37 (Aug 31 2007) Issue 47 (Sep 10,2007) Issue 57 (Sep 22,2007)
Issue 38 (Sep 1 2007) Issue 48 (Sep 11,2007) Issue 58 (Sep 23,2007)
Issue 39 (Sep 2 2007) Issue 49 (Sep 12,2007) Issue 59 (Sep 24,2007)
Issue 40 (Sep 3 2007) Issue 50 (Sep 14,2007) Issue 60 (Sep 25,2007)
Issue 61 (Sep 26,2007)
Issue 62 (Sep 27,2007)
Issue 63 (Sep 28,2007)
Issue 64 (Sep 30,2007)
Issue 65 (Oct 3,2007)
Issue 66 (Oct 4,2007)
Issue 67 (Oct 5,2007)
Issue 68 (Oct 6,2007)
Issue 69 (Oct 7,2007)
Issue 70 (Oct 10,2007)
Issue 71 (Oct 12,2007)
Issue 72 (Oct 13,2007)
Issue 73 (Oct 16,2007)
Issue 74 (Oct 18,2007)
Issue 75 (Oct 30,2007)
Issue 76 (Nov 5,2007)
Issue 77 (Nov 9,2007)
Issue 78 (Nov 15,2007)
Issue 79 (Nov 30,2007)
Issue 80 (Dec 10,2007)
Issue 81 (Dec 13,2007)

For regular update, please visit our website www.nepaldisaster.org

Copyright © 2007 Media Consultancy Nepal. All rights reserved.