



CECI-Nepal's NEWSLETTER

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Message from the country representative

Dear Friends,

It is our pleasure to publish the third issue of the CECI Nepal Newsletter. This issue presents a glimpse into our new and running projects, activities and major achievements.

CECI projects support livelihoods development, governance, social inclusion and capacity building of partner organizations and community-based organizations (CBOs).

A consortium involving CECI recently began a new Skill Development Project (SDP) funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Nepal government. The consortium is led by World University Service of Canada (WUSC) and the other members are Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCA) and Industrial Enterprise Development Institute (IEDI). The project provides technical assis-

tance to the Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT) and the Ministry of Education (MoE).

The Program for Accountability in Nepal (PRAN), which promotes engagement for better governance and improved transparency and accountability in Nepal is on-going. This program raises awareness amongst local people about their rights and enhances the capacity of civil society and government actors to promote social accountability.

CECI mobilizes Canadian and Australian Volunteers to support development initiatives in Nepal. These Volunteers are placed in non-government organizations (NGOs), CBOs and Government agencies with an aim to support technical and managerial enhancement. The focus of the

Volunteer Programs is livelihoods, business promotion, environment, education, health, gender equality and social inclusion and institutional development.

The pages that follow give glimpses of our work in various sectors and showcase our contributions to the development of rural populations.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our partners in government, donors, civil society and other agencies for their continued support. We also look forward to receiving your comments and suggestions for improving this newsletter.

Lastly, I would like to thank Ms. Mallika Bhattarai who has worked hard to bring out this newsletter.

Keshava Koirala
Country Representative
CECI Nepal

New ADB project signed



CECI Nepal Country Representative Keshava Koirala and SDP Project Director Diwat Kumar Shrestha signing the agreement

A consortium of World University of Canada (WUSC) (Consortium lead), CECI, Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCA), and Industrial Enterprise Development Institute (IEDI) Nepal has been awarded the Asian Development Bank and the Nepal Government funded Skill Development Project (SDP) to provide Technical Consulting Support to the project implementation.

The project will provide technical assistance to the Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT) and the Ministry of Education (MoE) and is executed by the Ministry of Education (MOE) through the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Sector Development Unit (TSDU) and implemented by a Project Implementation Unit (PIU) under the Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT).

This five-year SDP project will support the Government of Nepal to implement key aspects of the TVET Policy 2012. It will help the government to initiate strategic sector reforms that aim to improve overall sector management and performance, improve quality and relevance of public training, and increase private sector engagement in training delivery and job placement. Each intervention has been designed to increase the efficiency and result-orientation of the TVET system, making it more market-driven.

The impact of the project will be increased employability of the Nepalese workforce. Its outcome will be the establishment of a market-responsive and social and gender-inclusive TVET system.

Celebration of International Women's Day and CECI Annual General Meeting



CECI staff and volunteer

This year CECI combined the celebration for International Women's Day and the Annual General Meeting of volunteer and staff. The event took place on Friday, February 28th at Hattiban Resort. The aim of the event was to present CECI employees and Uniterra and Australian Volunteers for International Development (AVID/VIDA) volunteers with the chance to interact while allocating sometime for the discussion and recognition of the staff and volunteers' work in gender related issues in Nepal.

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) initiatives have played an important role in the development and implementation of programs at CECI and its partner organizations. During the meeting, the staff and volunteers presented their GESI related work and contributions to the attendees. Sagun Bista, the senior program officer of Uniterra, gave a presentation on CECI's GESI works. Uniterra volunteers, Anne Drew, Vanessa Humphries, and Dr. Surya Laxmi Bajracharya gave their own presentations regarding GESI related observations and initiatives shaped through interactions with CECI partner organizations.

The event also allocated time for interactions and team building activities, organized by both volunteers and CECI staff. Various team building exercises were conducted, including the very competitive and popular "Musical



Uniterra Senior Program Officer Sagun Bista presenting GESI prospective



Uniterra International volunteer Vanessa sharing her observation in GESI sector



Uniterra International volunteer Ann and national volunteer Dr. Surya presenting GESI role in Dairy sector



Playing musical brick adaptation of the classical “Musical Chair”



Breaking the mud-pot

Bricks” (a creative and innovative adaptation of the classical “Musical Chairs”). The event also included a nature walk through the very scenic and serene woods up to a nearby monastery.

The event was successfully concluded with an exchange of cultural foods. All attendees were able to enjoy delicious homemade Nepali, Canadian and Australian dishes provided by volunteers and staff and were given the opportunity to learn about the significance of these dishes to each country.



Breaking the mud-pot



Culture food exchange



CECI support staff



Enjoying morning tea

2nd Review and Sharing Meetings/Workshop kicked off



Workshop participants



PRAN Coordinator Keith Leslie addressing at the workshop

CECI/PRAN organized three final review and sharing meetings in December 2013 for 74 sub-grantee CSOs under PRAN programs for both Multi Donor Trust Fund (MDTF)/Public Financial Management (PFM) and State and Peace Building Fund (SPBF)/Public Service Delivery (PSD). The participants included principal social accountability practitioners, mentors, and PRAN component partners.

end of the projects all of the deliverables are achieved successfully. The meetings reviewed progress to date, assessed emerging results, lessons and experiences, and planned for the remaining project period.



Baburam Sahani responding to comments on his presentation

PRAN/CECI awarded the sub-grants under PRAN’s Action Learning Grants. 31 sub-grant CSOs under SPBF/PSD began their project activities in May 2013 and 30 CSOs (small) and 3 CSOs (large) under MDTF/PFM started their program in June 2013, while additional ten small grant CSOs under MDTF/PFM started their project from September 1 2013.

The review meetings for 40 CSOs under MDTF/PFM were held from 14 to 16 December and 18 to 20 December 2013 at Yala Maya Kendra in Patan and the review meeting for 31 CSOs under SPBF/PSD was held from 28 to 30 December 2013 at the World Trade Centre in Tripureshwore.



Manju Ghimire is awarded as person of the day

The main objective of holding the review and sharing meetings was to ensure that by the

Each session was chaired and facilitated by a principal social accountability practitioner in rotational basis. At the end of each day, a “person of the day” title was awarded to a social accountability practitioner who demonstrated constructive and active participation and strong analytical skills in the discussions.

Highlights/Outcomes of Review and Sharing Meetings:

- * Best practices shared
- * Identified gaps and weaknesses and brainstormed for possible actions to overcome them
- * Developed a plan and strategy for incomplete and remaining activities
- * Identified challenges for completing the activities in the remaining period and developed strategies to overcome them

Thirty-one CSOs successfully completed a PRAN/CECI project



Thirty-one civil society organizations (CSOs) who were practicing Social Accountability tools under State and Peace Building Fund (SPBF)/Public Service Delivery (PSD) completed their projects/mandate on December 2013.

The Program for Accountability in Nepal PRAN/CECI awarded ten large grants and 21 small sub grants to CSOs under SBPF/PSD and they started their projects from May or June 2013.

PRAN is a World Bank pro-

gram which aims to make government more responsive, accountable and transparent in their service delivery through enhancing the knowledge and skills of civil society organizations (CSOs), media and government agencies.

31 CSOs worked in 36 districts covering all five development regions. The social accountability tools practiced by them included the Community Score Card (CSC), Citizen Report Card (CRC), Right to Information (RTI), Citizen Complain Structure/

Grievance Redresses Mechanism, Civic Education, and Tracking Public Services to Dalit/Women/public audit.

Common problems in PSD include lack of transparency, frequent transfers of government officials, low capacity of citizens to demand their entitlements and a weak monitoring system. In light of the challenges in public service delivery, the results achieved by the CSOs have the potential to bring about positive change in the public service delivery at local levels in the long-term.

CSOs	District	Grants
Sustainable Community Development Centre (SCDC)	Agrhakhanchi	SG
Sahara Nepal	Bajang	SG
Nepal Chetana Kendra (NCK)	Arghakhanchi	SG
Women Welfare Association (WWA)	Palpa	SG
Gramin Samudayik Sanshta (GSS)	Mugu	SG
Women Empowerment Support Team (WEST)	Dhankuta	SG
Birat Community Learning Center (BCLC)	Jhapa	SG
Geruwa Rural Awareness Association (GRAA)	Bardia	SG
Nepal Women Entrepreneurs Association (NWEA)	Taplejung	SG
Fulbari Intigreted Rural Development Organization (FIRDO)	Pyuthan	SG
Environment and Child Development Council (ECDC)	Rautahat	SG
Centre for Human Rights and Access to Justice (ED-JUS)	Kailali	SG
Rural Environment Awareness Development Society Nepal (READS)	Bara	SG
Jana Sewa Samaj Nepal (JSSN)	Khotang	SG
Rajmarga samudayik Sanchar Kendra (RSSK)	Dhading	SG
Aama Milan Kendra (AMK)	Kaski	SG
Baal Sewa samaj Nepal (BSSN)	Khotang	SG
Kanali Network for Integrated Development (KNFID)	Kalikot	SG
Alliance for Idol Mission-Nepal (AIM)	Sunsari	SG
Integrated Development Resource Centre (INDERC)	Kapilvastu	SG
Batabaran Tatha Manab Samsadhan Bikas Samaj (SOURCE) Nepal	Doti	SG
Jan Jagaran Youth Club (JJYC)	Bara	LG
Himalayan Conservation and Development Association (HCDA)	Humla	LG
Vijay Development Resource Centre (VDRC)	Nawalparasi	LG
Deepjyoti Youth Club (DYC)	Baglung	LG
Madhesh Human Rights Home (MAHURI-Home)	Kapilvastu	LG
Media Advocacy Group (MAG)	Kathmandu	LG
Human Rights Protection and Legal Service Center (HRPLSC)	Rukum	LG
Dalit Alliance for Natural Resources (DANAR)	Kathmandu	LG
Janaki Women Awareness Society (JWAS)	Dhanusha	LG
Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO)	Kathmandu	LG

Dalit Women of Kailash VDC received their grant for the first time

The Dalits are the most discriminated group in Nepal, and the women from the Dalit group face the most discrimination in resource allocation and power sharing. The VDC, DDC and municipalities have allocated 10 percent of their budget toward improving the conditions of women and 15 percent for Dalit and other marginalized communities. Dalit women are eligible to apply for both budget allocations, but when it comes to accessing the budget they are often sidelined. The representation of the Dalit group in the Kailash VDC is low, so the VDC council decides to allocate the Dalit funds to schools and other infrastructures such as road, irrigation and health justifying the expenses by saying that these investments also help the Dalit group. Dalit women also do not have access to the budget allocated for women as powerful women groups claim and use the budget.

The situation is starting to change with the support from Federation of Dalit Organization (FEDO), one of the PRAN sub grantees in Bajhang. Dalit women of Kailash VDC in Bajhang district are organized and have formed a VDC level pressure group for demanding the proper distribution of budget allocation. They are now receiving the appropriate funds that are allocated to them.



Members of Pressure groups of Kailash discussing to access fund at VDC

FEDO informed 400 Dalit and other women of Kailash VDC on government policy, plan and programs, and on VDC and municipality level budget allocation. FEDO also explained how the groups can advocate for access to these budgets and local resources. Now they understand how the resources of the VDC are allocated and how they can benefit from it. With continued monitoring and pressure, the money allocated for Dalit has finally been deposited into their accounts, which they have planned to invest in women empowerment and orientation programs.

Mrs. Chanda Okheda chairperson of the Kailash VDC pressure group said *this is the first time we attempted for budget release from VDC and we succeeded and we will continue this effort in the future.*

Improved quality of health services in Harinagara

Harinagara VDC is situated in the northern part of the Sunsari district. This VDC has only one Public Health Centre (PHC), which provides health services to eight to nine surrounding VDCs. The PHC is overloaded, lacking the necessary resources, without even refrigeration to keep medicine from going bad. This has hindered PHC's ability to provide TT, DPT, Polio vaccination on a daily basis. The staff at the PHC released a notice to service users that they should visit the PHC for vaccination only on the days that they collect vaccines from the center hospital. Community people struggled with this schedule and many times they had to visit district hospitals for minor problems.

Alliance for Idol Mission (AIM) Nepal, one of the PRAN sub grantee CSOs, practicing Public Service Delivery (PSD) tools in Sunsari, organized an interface meeting with PHC staff, health management committee and service users on Community Score Cards. This sensitized individuals to the

need of intact service from government sector and on their right to demand for basic health services. During the meeting, service users pressured the health management committee to provide a much needed refrigerator to PHC so that the stock of vaccine and other lab instrument could be maintained properly and provide service daily. After continuous demand, the DPHO provided refrigerator before the repeat score card.

Now the locals in Harinagara and surrounding VDCs can visit PHC daily for vaccination. Communities succeeded in educating PHC of their responsibility through Community Score Card.



Refrigerator with vaccines

CECI manages Canadian and Australian Volunteers for International Development (AVID) volunteers in Nepal. Over the past 26 years, around 400 volunteers have served in Nepal. The main focus of the volunteer program is to build the capacity of partner organizations through the transfer of skills and knowledge. Nine Canadian and fourteen Australian Volunteers for International Development are in country working with different partner organizations.

Volunteers provide technical and management support to local organizations benefiting general public

Four Uniterra Leave for Change volunteers successfully completed mandates

Four Leave for Change volunteers arrived in November 2013 and have successfully completed their four-week mandates.



Alexandra was a Training Advisor at the Professional Development and Research Centre (PDRC). She developed training strategies and curriculum for the PDRC resource center, including developing five training modules (introduction to computers, using MS Word, exploring the internet, learn to type and leadership skills) and trained the staff on module

creation, institutional outreach, using social media effectively, focus group methodology and facilitation with youth.

Jenny Au worked as Business Development Services Advisor at Fair Trade Group Nepal. She reviewed the current business development status of FTG and created a business development planning document, identifying areas and services that can lead to revenue creation (branding opportunities, workshops, membership,



building knowledge for member and non-members and new initiatives).

Tamiza Abji was an Organizational Development Advisor at CECI. She reviewed and made suggestions on CECI Nepal personnel policy, CECI Nepal Harassment Policy, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion policy, operational guideline of CECI Nepal and conducted a workshop for CECI Nepal policy group members.



Farewell to three long-term and one intern Uniterra volunteers

In the past four-months, three Uniterra long-term volunteers and one Uniterra intern completed their mandates and returned to Canada.



Manna Sainju was volunteering in Nepal since October 2011 and supported CECI projects. She worked with the Sahakarya project, which was implemented in five districts of the Mid-Western region and PRAN projects im-

plemented in 46 districts of Nepal. Manna had compiled a best practice report, translated success stories, contributed in documentation information and assisted in analyzing reports from local partners.



Blair Henry worked with the Professional Development and Research Centre (PDRC) since 25 February 2013 and supported organizational development



Farewell lunch

through strategic planning, capacity building and documentation.

Luzianne Reid worked with the Federation of community Forest Users Nepal (FECOFUN), Dolakha and supported developing website, documentation and report writing.



Uniterra supports the small-scale dairy sector in Nepal through building the capacity of local organizations.

By Vanessa Humphries, Uniterra Volunteer

As Documentation Advisor for the Uniterra program, I evaluated Uniterra's program supporting the small-scale dairy sector in Nepal. Documenting lessons learned and best practices, I had the opportunity to learn a lot about Nepal's dairy sector and the benefits of Uniterra programs. Below are few highlights from the evaluation report.

The Uniterra program has supported the small-scale dairy sector through partnering with three District Milk Producer Cooperative Unions (DMPCUs): the Lalitpur DMPCU, the Makwanpur DMPCU and the Rupandehi DMPCU. Through these partnerships, Uniterra has reach to 115 primary milk cooperatives.

Since 2009, Uniterra Volunteers have directly benefited 5,633 beneficiaries (47 percent women),

“Before Uniterra training, our cooperative used a manual financial management system. There were many problems: It took us a long time to generate financial reports, there was a lack of trust from farmers that the accounting was done correctly, and there was a chance of human error. Since receiving training on new accounting software, we purchased a computer to do the transactions for us. It now only takes us one-hour that which used to take us one-day.”



Makwanpur Milk Chilling

Janajagriti Nagar
MPCS member,

“Before the training, we used whatever grass/feed was available, even if it was old or stale. We did not realize the benefits of feeding animals more than one type of grass. After the training we planted improved variety of nutritious grasses, and are mixing feed for a more balanced diet.”

-Manakamana MPCS member, Makwanpur DMPCU



MPCS farmer, Lalitpur

including small-scale farmers and milk cooperative members through:

Running over 74 trainings on animal health management, livestock nutrition and improving milk quality, training 3,073 participants (47 percent women).

Holding 73 trainings focused on building capacity in institutional development, account management, cooperative education, business plan development and livestock insurance, attended by 811 participants (43 percent women).

Supporting numerous exposure visits, bringing groups of cooperative members to a new district or dairy-farming region to demonstrate different and new farming practices.

Promoting gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) by running 25 GESI-specific trainings and activities including creating GESI Action Plans, leadership development, seminars and GESI-awareness, reaching 779 beneficiaries (61 percent women).

Lessons learned from the Uniterra's five-years support in dairy sector:

Survey-visits are necessary for trainers to understand the local context. It is important for trainers to have time to survey the field in order to appropriate information on local conditions, tailor context-specific training and build credibility among farmers.

Participatory and demonstrative trainings are most effective; particularly ones that include group discussions.

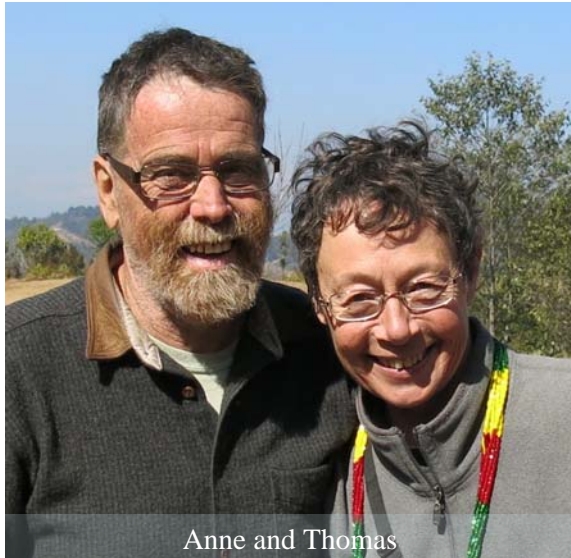
Include many participants from one cooperative or village in the same training, rather than individual representatives from each cooperative or group. This leads to encourage one another to implement new practices.

The hardware component can be just as important as the training. If you are teaching techniques that require new resources, consider options to provide the resources for the new technologies; otherwise, farmers may not be able to implement the new techniques.

Coherent messaging across trainings and trainers is important. Beneficiaries will be more inclined to enact change if there is a coherent approach and key messaging across trainings.

Encourage national and international trainers to work together. This allows for international trainers to better navigate the cultural landscape, as well creates the opportunity for the transfer of knowledge.

Canadian Couple Volunteering in Dairy Sector

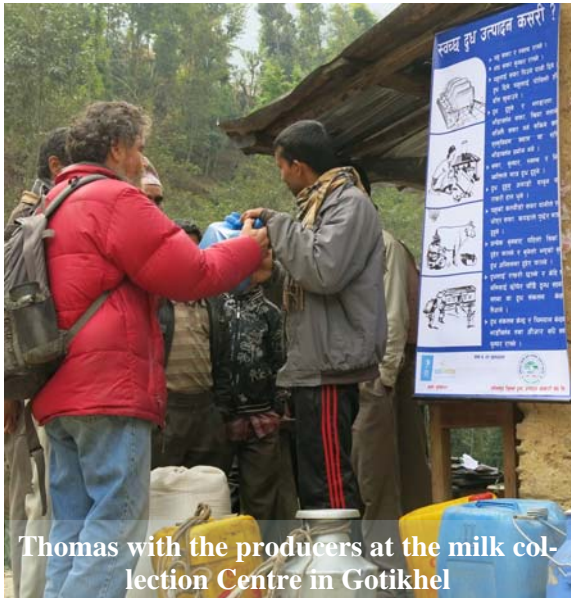


Anne and Thomas

Thomas Drew and Anne Drew came to Nepal in September 2013, to volunteer with the Lalitpur District Milk Producers Cooperative Union (LDMPCU), as Milk Quality Advisor and Animal Health Advisor. Anne is a veterinarian with 20 years experience in practice, and both have over 35 years experience keeping dairy goats and producing milk, yogurt and cheese. They both have international experiences in value adding to milk working in Malawi, Laos, Haiti and in Nigeria as Animal Health Advisor.

What they said....

The LDMPCU comprises of 45 active dairy cooperatives in the hill villages of the Lalitpur District. After our arrival we spent our first few months reviewing documents produced by previous volunteers, met with the District Livestock Services Office and the Central Veterinary Laboratory, and made a few field trips to the hill villages, to acquaint ourselves with local milk production, challenges, and opportunities for intervention. We produced presentations and a 64-page booklet: *More Milk from Healthy Animals and Improving Milk Quality*, and produced a poster on *Clean Milk Production*. We also sourced a video on *Hygienic Milk Production* out of Kenya, revised the script, and had all the materials translated into Nepali.



Thomas with the producers at the milk collection Centre in Gotikhel

With the assistance of the LDMPCU and two national volunteers: Santosh Pandey and Dr. Surya Laxmi Bajracharya, we conducted seven two-day training sessions. Feeding dairy animals, improved animal housing, and reproduction were some of the topics covered. We implemented an approach of improving animal welfare, biosecurity, and preserving human health and trained 250 farmers which were conducted at 22 milk collection centers. We also visited several schools and trained nearly 400 students about personal hygiene and animal health.



Anne helping to filter milk



Thomas with the students at the training workshop in Shankhu



Women participants at Gotikhel

Working in the hill villages presented numerous challenges, however rewards were tremendous, in terms of the numbers of people reached, personal satisfaction, and feedback from participants. At every session we were treated to various forms of entertainment and shared delicious meals with the participants. We were received into village homes and were privileged to observe the rituals of village life. Throughout our visits, we were impressed with the hard work and integrated farming system that provides a living for the hill families.

In our last month we focused on connecting with other groups, particularly animal health workers. We had a meeting with Village Animal Health Workers, and trainings with government licensed Livestock Technicians. In cooperation with DLSSO, one session on Improving Milk Quality was held for 30 private milk shop owners.

Our sincere thanks go out to all who have made our efforts possible: CECI-Uniterra in Canada and Nepal, the LDMPCU executive and members, and particularly our training team.

Derai derai dhanyabad !!!



Australian Volunteers for International Development

Australian volunteers through the Australian Volunteers for International Development Program have been serving in Nepal since 1999. CECI has been managing the program through a sub-contract with Austraining International for the past fifteen years. The program is funded by the Australian Government and implemented through Austraining International. From October 2013 to March 2014, ten new Australian volunteers have come to Nepal for one-year assignments. They have mandates in different government and non-government organizations.

Jane Nichols

Rainwater Harvesting Development Officer

Jane is a volunteer at the Ministry of Urban Development, Department of Water Supply and Sewerage (DWSS), Rainwater Harvesting and Appropriate Technology Development Section (RWHATDS). Jane will work on an alternative Rain Water Harvesting System for high altitude areas with water scarcity.



Madeleine Beart

Knowledge Management Officer, NSET-Nepal

Madeleine Beart has been working as the Knowledge Management Officer with the National Society for Earthquake Technology – Nepal (NSET) since October 2013. NSET works to reduce the im-



pact of future earthquakes and raise awareness regarding earthquake disaster reduction. The volunteer will improve the knowledge management strategy within NSET, analysing information needs within various departments and assisting in the development of a knowledge management strategy training for staff.

Gerard Ryan works as the Social Work Support Officer with the Nepal School of Social Work (NSSW) to improve the quality of education available in the field of social work in Nepal since October 2013. The AYAD will use his



knowledge in the area of social work to work with local teachers to ensure that social work education reflects modern best practice.

From December 1, 2013, **Robert Cirillo** has been working as the Water Quality Control Officer within the Drinking Water Quality Improvement and Monitoring Section (DWQIMS) of the Department of Water Supply and



Sewerage (DWSS) which works to provide an improved quality of water to the people of Nepal. The volunteer will work with staff to improve the section's capacity in strategic program planning, supporting the development of a Water Quality and Improvement Strategic Plan. These objectives will strengthen the DWQIMS to provide programs that will improve access to sustainable drinking water and sanitation services in Nepal.

Six Australian Volunteers for International Development arrived

A group six AVID volunteers arrived in Nepal on March 24, 2014. They have just begun work with their host organizations after having gone through the In-Country Orientation Program. As part of the In-Country Orientation, CECI organized a Host Organization workshop at Hotel Himalaya on March 31, 2014 and introduced the volunteers to their

Supervisors and Counterparts. The First Secretary for Development Cooperation of the Embassy of Australia – Ms. Sarah Boddington and The Program Manager of the Embassy of Australia – Mrs. Sunita Gurung were also present at the Host Organization workshop.

Zakir Rahmani,

Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor at Department of Education (DoE), Ministry of Education, Government of Nepal



Sarah Korver

Urban Health Officer at Nepal Tuberculosis Center



Shadie Tofigh,

Maternal and Child Health Officer at Family Planning Association of Nepal (FPAN)



Elsbeth Stops

Project Monitoring and Evaluation Officer at Rato Bangala Foundation (RBF)

Hayley Forbes

Nutrition Officer at Nepali Technical Assistance Group (NTAG)



Lucienne Bamford

Communications Officer Public Health Concern Trust - Nepal (Phect-Nepal)



Australian Volunteers for International Development Regional Workshop held in Thailand

CECI is subcontracted by Austraining International (AI) to provide in country management services for the Australian Volunteers for International Development (AVID) Program in Nepal. During the year, AI brings together representatives from In-Country Management Teams for workshops and staff training.

This year the Regional Workshop was held in Pattaya, Thailand, from 23 February until 1 March 2014. Hari Bastola, CECI In-Country Manager, attended the workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to deliver a region-

al, needs-based workshop, which provides targeted capacity building for offshore staff, improvements to program delivery, and strengthens key working relationships.

AI regional Directors from South Asia, Africa and South East Asia, Adelaide based AI staff and In-Country Managers from Ghana, Mongolia, Laos, Vietnam, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Kenya, Maldives Thailand, Indonesia and Cambodia were present in the workshop.

Multi Stakeholder Forestry Project in Mid and Far West Districts

The MSFP, implemented by a consortium of IDS Nepal (Consortium Lead), CECI, Himawanti Nepal and Ashmita Nepal, is operational in five districts of the Mid and Far-Western Development Regions: Dailekh, Jajarkot, Kalikot, Achham and Bajhang. The project began in March 2013 for two years. The project's main objectives are strengthening User Groups in forest management and poverty reduction through promotion of forest based enterprises.

The project aims to support 2,500 community members in enterprise development and to establish market linkages for their products. The major commodities identified for promotion are allo, bee keeping, chiuri, bamboo, am-riso and herbs. Selected entrepreneurs will be provided with technical training and tools/materials to establish micro enterprises. These entrepreneurs will be linked with major processors and traders for sustainable marketing of their products.



International Volunteer Day was on 5 December 2013, a day that celebrated the contributions of international volunteers through talks, music and dance. CECI joined the event held at Yalamaya Kendra and showcased the Canadian and Australian volunteer for International Development programs.

The event was attended by numerous volunteer organizations, including the United Nations Volunteers (UNV), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Korea International Cooperation Agency (KICA), American Peace Corps, Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) and the National Development Volunteer Service (NDVS).

After the day-long event, CECI held its own program to celebrate the contributions of the Unitertra and Australian Volunteers for International Development.



Julia and Gerard introducing Australian culture

Hari Bastola, Team Leader for Unitertra program and In-Country Manager for AVID program gave a welcome speech and brief note on how CECI started volunteer program in Nepal and achievements till now.

Canadian and Australian volunteers made presentations about their experience and learnings in Nepal and how they are supporting development sectors. They also gave an introduction to some aspects of the Australian and Canadian culture.



Canadian volunteers introducing Canadian culture



Australian volunteer

Canadian volunteer

Missions/visits

Grainie Ryder

Gráinne Ryder, Field Placement Coordinator for the International Development and Master of Development Practice program at the University of Waterloo, a Canadian partner of the Uniterra Program, visited Nepal from 15 to 22 January 2014 to observe the placements of five student Interns with Uniterra partners. During her meetings with partners Ms. Grainne held discussions on the nature of assignments, contributions made by the interns to the organizations and how these placements could add value to the work of the partners while enriching the skills and knowledge of the students on various aspects of international development.

Michael Emblem

Michael Emblem, Asia Regional Director of Uniterra Volunteer Cooperation Program, paid a monitoring visit to Nepal in January 2014. Michael observed the activities of Makwanpur District Milk Producers Union and some of its primary milk cooperative members in the district and discussed the work of Uniterra volunteers in the dairy sector. He also held meetings with partners and volunteers in Kathmandu and Lalitpur Districts to get an overview of their programs and the role of volunteers in strengthening partners' capacity to deliver effective programs in the field. He worked with Uniterra country team to review the annual plan and budget for the fiscal year 2014-2015 within the context of preparing for the next phase of Uniterra program.

Dilip Chinnakonda

Dilip Chinnakonda, Asia Regional Coordinator, visited Nepal during the first week of February. The purpose of his visit was to discuss the planning of the new Asian Development Bank funded Skill Development Project (SDP), monitor and update on-going projects and explore further opportunities for program development. During his time here he visited several partner and donor organizations including World Bank, Ministry of Education (MoE), Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare (MOWCSW) and held important meetings with Keith Leslie from World Bank and government secretaries.



Centre for International Studies and Cooperation
(CECI) Nepal

135 Naya Basti Marg

G. P.O. Box 2959

Baluwatar, Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: +977 1 4414430/4426791

Email: ceci@ceci.org.np

www.ceci.ca/nepal