Workshop on

# 18 Months after the Nepal's Earthquakes

## *Practical Disaster Justice in the Recovery Work*

**Tuesday, Dec 6, 2016 | 09:00-13:30**

**Conference Hall, ICT Building, Institute of Engineering, Pulchowk, Lalitpur**

## Background

The devastating earthquakes that struck Nepal in 2015 are the latest in the history of disasters taking away human lives, destroying physical infrastructures, altering cultures, challenging institutions, and devastating hope and ambitions of people. Fourteen of the Nepal's 75 districts were affected, at different degrees, by the two major earthquakes on the 26th of April and the 12th of May 2015. These earthquakes, as well as hundreds of aftershocks that followed, killed nearly 9,000 people, injured more than 22,000, and destroyed or damaged over half a million houses, as well as many historic monuments and public infrastructure. Post disaster needs assessment (PDNA) estimated that the total value of disaster effects (damages and losses) caused by the earthquakes was NPR 706 billion or its equivalent of US$ 7 billion, approximately one third of Nepal's gross domestic product.Following the disaster, responses have come from the local communities, government, NGOs, business, and donors, but the efficiency and effectiveness of responses from different groups and organisations vary. Questions are raised about the government responses in terms of the speed of response, capacity of raising and mobilizing resources effectively, and accountability of leadership to the affected communities. Donors' contributions have been welcomed, but their scope and ability of work are limited to small communities nearby urban centres and in distribution of relief materials or rebuilding of small infrastructure. In the context of disasters having disproportionate impacts to different social groups, and that these groups have differential capacity to respond, it is critical to recognise disaster justice imperatives of Nepal's disasters at the practical level.

With a highly differentiated demographic composition of society, disasters, in Nepal, have particularly affected the poor, women and marginalized groups. The impact was severe because Nepal was ill-prepared for the calamity of such scale, and because it struck the country at a time of drafting a new constitution following the decade long civil war.

Over the past 18 months period, the Government of Nepal and a wide range of disaster recovery stakeholders have undertaken a range of measures to respond to the disaster including Immediate Response to Victims; Relief and Rehabilitation; Cremation Cost and Assistance to the Family of Victims; Temporary Shelters; and Reconstruction Measures, Plans and Activities. In order to expedite the recovery and reconstruction process, the GoN constitutionally formulated a special body known as Nepal Reconstruction Authority (NRA) with a tenure provision of five year to develop sustainable infrastructure and complete the reconstruction work damaged by the earthquakes 2015 on timely manner to hand in the victims of the quakes contextualizing the concerns of social justice. The NRA seems to be working actively to achieve its mission yet the voices and

grievances of affected people are echoing ubiquitously. Still 20% of the earthquake victims from 11 districts outside of Kathmandu have not received the first installment of NPR 50000. The primary reason behind it is that the victims do not have land ownership certificates and there has not been local elected body of governance since 2002 to address this problem effectively, efficiently and legitimately. Not a single family has received the second installment of NPR 150000 and the third installment of NPR 100000 yet. The quakes victims of the Kathmandu Valley are still on the waiting list.

The prolonged delays in the distribution of the earthquake victims' support grants solicit important questions such as the causes and consequences of the delays and the path forward to address practical disaster justice issues for making the support providing system more effective and legitimate for present and future operations. This knowledge-sharing event is organized with a goal to share updates and explore more effective partnership among the Nepal disaster recovery actors and to promote conceptual innovations for disaster justice, practical insights, and policy lessons, and for cooperation among the government, research community, development partners, and disaster recovery agencies.

## Objectives

The main objective of the event is to hold a reflective and interactive dialogue on the current state of disaster recovery, with a focus on practical disaster justice in terms of inclusion, responsiveness and equity in the delivery of recovery services. This event will also help to

a) Understand how key actors are responding to disaster recovery works in Nepal
b) Exchange insights and ideas among a wide range of Nepal recovery stakeholders and contribute to build effective partnerships between SIAS, UNSW, IOE and other national and international stakeholders
c) Highlight and promote the importance of incorporating gender and practical justice considerations in disaster recovery and management
d) Identify knowledge gap in policy and research arenas to conduct cutting-edge critical research on practical disaster justice for meeting the gaps.

## Participants

The event will have about a total of 40 participants representing various stakeholders such as earthquakes 2015 victims and champions, representatives from NRA, universities, academic and research institutes, NGOs/INGOs and postgraduate students carrying out applied research in the fields of disaster and crisis management for disaster recovery and reconstruction.

## Tentative Programme

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| 09:00 | Registration and tea | |
| 09:30 | Welcome, background and objectives | Prof Dr Triratna Bajracharya<br>Dean- Institute of Engineering |
| 10:00 | Presentation I<br>Overview of recovery works: policies, | Mr. Ram Prasad Thapaliya<br>Spokesperson - National Reconstruction |

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| | institutions, programs, activities, and achievements | Authority |
| 10:15 | Presentation II | Mr. Bal Krishna Deuja<br>Representative of disaster affected community network |
| 10:30 | Presentation III<br>Building earthquake resilience through community based approach | Mr Ajay Dixit<br>Institute for Social and Environmental Transition (ISET-Nepal) |
| 10:45 | Presentation IV<br>Research efforts and contributions in recovery process | Dr Krishna Kumar Shrestha<br>University of New South Wales |
| 11:00 | Collective question answer | Moderator: DrChandra Pandey |
| 11:30 | Tea break | |
| 11:45 | Critical Panel Discussion, Panelists--<br>(i) Dr Bharat Pokharel<br>(ii) Dr Bhim Adhikari (TBC)<br>(iii) Prof Dr Eileen Baldry<br>(iv) Mr Krishna Gyawali<br>(v) Mr Prafulla Man Singh Pradhan<br>(vi) Prof Dr Prem Nath Maskey<br>(vii) Prof Dr Roshan Man Bajracharya | Moderator: Dr Hemant Ojha |
| 12:45 | Conclusion and vote of thanks | Dr Netra Timsina<br>Chairperson – Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies |
| 13:00 | Lunch | |

**Participation by Invitation only.*