International Conference on Nepal’s Reconstruction

November 27-29, 2020 | Kathmandu, Nepal

Government of Nepal
National Reconstruction Authority
1. Introduction

The National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) is organizing an international conference on 27-29 November 2020 to share experiences and learning from the 2015 Gorkha Earthquake. Interested professionals from all over the world are invited to participate in the conference, for which NRA will issue a public invitation.

2. Background

Nepal suffered two high magnitude earthquakes on 25 April and 12 May 2015 that took the lives of 8,970 people and injured over 22,302. Out of 77 districts 32 were affected. A post-disaster needs assessment (PDNA), assessed economic losses to be USD 7.6 billion. Thereafter, the Government of Nepal elaborated the Reconstruction Act (2015), which provided for the establishment of the NRA. Based on the PDNA, the NRA elaborated a Post Disaster Recovery Framework (PDRF) and is overseeing the implementation of its recovery and reconstruction programmes. These include the reconstruction of private housing and public buildings, infrastructure and recovery of livelihood opportunities. NRA coordinates with other government agencies, international development partners, INGOs, civil society organizations, local governments, private sector actors and volunteers in the reconstruction and recovery process.
3. Purpose/Objectives

The main purpose of the conference is to share experience and learning about the recovery and reconstruction of damaged housing and physical/social infrastructure, as well as the restoration of livelihoods and social services, among experts, academics and practitioners from all over the world. The specific objectives are:

- To share Nepal's experiences in emergency response, reconstruction and recovery;
- To learn from global experiences and good practices in earthquake risk reduction and management processes;
- To jointly develop key recommendations for disaster risk prevention, preparedness and management, and develop consensus on the needs, possibilities, and means of disaster risk management for the future.
- The newly created National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) will collaborate in the organization of the conference, specifically, to address issues related to rescue and relief operations.

4. Event Calendar

The ICNR-2020 will be organized in November 2020 after a series of preparatory events that provide inputs, build up to and support the conference. The events are identified and will be organized as follows:

- Thematic Workshops: November 2019 – January 2020
- National Symposium: 22 – 24 April 2020 (with 5th Gorkha Earthquake Memorial Day on 24 April)
- International Conference: 27 – 29 November 2020

5. Themes

This conference is designed to address the following thematic areas of recovery and reconstruction:

1. Private Housing
2. Cultural Heritage
3. Social and Public Infrastructure (Health, Education and Public Building)
4. Livelihoods and Economic Recovery
5. Rescue and Relief Operations
6. Governance, Institutional Arrangements, and Financing

A series of thematic workshops, aligned to the above reconstruction areas, were held between November 2019 and January 2020, from which the outputs – dominantly as working documents and academic papers and articles – will be channeled to the National Symposium in April 2020, and the ICNR in November 2020.
6. Governing Structure

A governing structure has been placed for managing all events related to the conference. The structure consists of a Steering Committee, Organizing Committee and Conference Secretariat.

6.1. Steering Committee

The existing NRA Steering Committee, chaired by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, works as the ICNR 2020 Steering Committee. The Advisory Council, Development Assistance Coordination and Facilitation Committee (DACFC) members, and representatives of academia, the private sector and civil society, may also be called upon to join as and when required.

6.2. Organizing Committee

The Organizing Committee provides executive functions and priorities for the conference and symposium. The committee is responsible to establish and oversee specific thematic working groups and taskforces; to arrange the discussion and information sharing sessions; to receive expert inputs on the different topics. It will oversee the organizing of necessary logistical, procurement, resource and participant management; communications, and ensure public relations and visibility. This committee is chaired by the NRA’s Chief Executive Officer with members representing government, donor organizations, civil society and the private sector.

6.3. Conference Secretariat

The Conference Secretariat is responsible for the organizational and administrative arrangements for the conference and symposium. The secretariat will support the design of programme and business sessions, requisition of research papers, provide timely documentary support and assist with logistical arrangements. It will, on a day to day basis, coordinate with the Editorial Boards for peer review and finalisation of the papers. It is coordinated by an Executive Committee Member of NRA.

6.4. Editorial Boards

Two Editorial Boards are formed for the acquisition, review and approval of scientific and institutional papers. One board will look after the scientific papers for editing, finalizing and selecting for presenting in the conference. The other board will look after the institutional and organizational reports and/or papers. Both boards are coordinated by the Conference Secretariat.
7. Source of Papers

There are two routes for preparing of papers; scientific and institutional. The secretariat will announce the ‘Call for Papers’ publicly to enable all interested authors to have the opportunity to contribute their work.

7.1. Scientific Paper Route

Those who are engaged in earthquake recovery and reconstruction thematic areas and want to contribute scientific papers can apply to contribute to and participate in the events. The Conference Secretariat will call for submission of papers and will provide guidelines and criteria for papers. The relevant Editorial Board will review the abstracts submitted and select the papers for the national symposium and international conference.

7.2. Institutional/Organizational Route

“Institutions or agencies involved in the recovery and reconstruction process of the Gorkha Earthquake,” nationally and internationally, are requested to prepare their institutional/organizational position paper capturing progress and achievements along with their learning and experiences. The Conference Secretariat has made a standard template available through NRA’s website for preparing institutional/organizational documents.

8. National Symposium

The National Symposium on Nepal’s Reconstruction (NSNR-2020) will be organized on 22-24 April 2020 with the purpose of sharing learning and experience with a national-level audience. A series of preparatory workshops in all six thematic areas were organized during November 2019-January 2020 to sensitize the stakeholders and professionals for this symposium. Contributors as paper writers and scholars are in the process of being identified. Selected papers will be presented in the National Symposium along with some key speeches, panel discussions and side events. On 24 April 2020 (12 Baisak, 2077) the 5th Memorial Day of the Gorkha Earthquake will also be observed. Based on the outputs from the National Symposium, selected papers will be refined further and presented in the International Conference.
9. International Conference

The International Conference will be held on 27-29 November 2020. It will be the forum in which Nepal shares its knowledge and experience, as well as learning from and interacting with the world. The programme will be disseminated immediately after the national symposium. The International Conference will be structured to include plenary sessions, panel discussions, breakout and thematic sessions, specific focus group discussions, a ‘stakeholder marketplace’, along with other side events and information sharing and dissemination activities.

10. Symposium and Conference Participants

Participants for the National Symposium will be dominantly from national level institutions and organizations, including representatives from international organizations working in Nepal. The intended participants will include researchers, academics, technical specialists, practitioners, leaders of international humanitarian and development organizations, government officials, donors and development partner representatives, civil society and private sector representative, operating in Nepal, regionally and globally.

For the International Conference, and in addition, NRA will also invite international dignitaries and concerned Ministers of bi- and multilateral agencies. Chief Executive Officers of the Earthquake Reconstruction Authorities of various countries will be also invited, as well as the Head of State of an earthquake-affected country to deliver the keynote address.
11. Documentation and publications

All proceedings and documents will be collected, compiled and published as a conference report. Similarly, selected papers will be documented and published as a conference document. Selected papers will be submitted for publication in relevant national and international journals.

A ‘Commitment Paper’ will be produced in the concluding session of the National Symposium, and a Declaration will be presented in the concluding session of the International Conference.

12. Logistical and Financial Arrangements

All logistics will be managed by the NRA. Financial arrangements will be made by the Government of Nepal through the NRA, and with additional support from interested International Donors and Development Partners.

13. Contacts

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