

**MINUTES OF THE 15<sup>TH</sup> MEETING  
OF NEPAL-INDIA JOINT TEAM OF EXPERTS  
ON SAPTA KOSI HIGH DAM MULTIPURPOSE PROJECT AND  
SUN KOSI STORAGE –CUM-DIVERSION SCHEME  
HELD ON 25-26 JULY, 2017 IN KATHMANDU**

The 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Joint Team of Experts (JTE) between Nepal and India was held on 25-26 July, 2017 in Kathmandu. The Nepali Team was led by Mr. Nabin Raj Singh, Director General, Department of Electricity Development, Government of Nepal (GoN) and the Indian Team was led by Mr. Pradeep Kumar, Member (River Management), Central Water Commission (CWC), Government of India (GoI). The composition of the Nepali and Indian Delegation is at **Annex-I**.

At the outset, Mr. Nabin Raj Singh, Team Leader, Nepal welcomed the participants. He expressed concern over relatively slower progress in preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Sapta Kosi Sun Kosi project by Joint Project Office, SKSKI, Biratnagar, Nepal. He also expressed hope that this meeting will help in resolving the outstanding issues and pave the way for expediting the preparation of DPR, which is so crucial to take the project forward.

Mr. Pradeep Kumar, Team Leader JTE - India, expressed his sincere thanks to the Nepali Team Leader and his team for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to the Indian delegation, and also for the excellent arrangements made for the meeting. He expressed hope that the meeting would prove to be a milestone towards early completion of mandate of the Joint Project Office Sapta Kosi Sun Kosi Investigation (JPO-SKSKI).

Thereafter, the agenda of the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of JTE was proposed and adopted (**Annex-II**). Subsequently, the agenda items were taken up for detailed discussion.

**15.1 Follow up action on decisions taken on various items of 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of JTE and review of progress made till date:**

The key issues of 14<sup>th</sup> JTE, and the subsequent actions taken thereon, were reviewed during the meeting, which was taken note of by JTE. Subsequently, the progress of various field works and studies was presented. Comprehensive review of the various activities, the bottlenecks and way forward, were discussed during the meeting.

- a. The JTE noted with concern that very minimal progress has been achieved in the balance drilling activities for Sapta Kosi Dam axis, spillway and power house areas. It was brought to the notice that drilling works; out of 1875 m in 8 holes, 90 m in one hole at Powerhouse site has been completed by M/s Arihant Drilling Pvt. Ltd, India, out of 348 m in 4 holes, 94 m in one hole has been completed by M/s Arihant Drilling Pvt. Ltd, India, out of 930 m in 10 holes, 180.5 m in 3 holes has been completed by NEA, out of 150 m in 5 holes, 12 m in one hole has been completed by M/s Indian Geological Services, India. However, due to public resistance in execution of the work, the contract was terminated on the request of M/s Indian Geological Services, India. It was also informed that the specified drilling targets for Kamla Dam and Uttarayani Barrage have been completed. .

- b. Environment Impact Assessment / Environment Management Plan (EIA/ EMP) is identified as critical activity which have to be completed without further delay. JPO reported that letter for award of work for EIA/ EMP studies for Nepalese territory was issued to JV of M/s. Fulbright and NESS in February, 2015. However, the firm didn't sign the contract within the stipulated time frame. JPO informed that since the agreement could not be signed, fresh process for appointing another Agency has been initiated.
- c. JPO was instructed to prepare a separate volume of detailed Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) plan in addition to EIA/EMP study.

Regarding EIA/ EMP studies on Indian side, JPO informed and JTE noted with satisfaction that the ToR have been revalidated by Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Govt. of India, in November, 2015.

Project Manager (India), JPO SKSKI brought to the notice of the JTE that while revalidating the ToR, MoEF&CC has suggested that there is a need for elaboration regarding modalities of EIA studies. The JTE discussed and agreed to the following:

- (i) JPO-SKSKI shall carry out the EIA study of Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sun Kosi Storage-cum-Diversion Scheme for the project components falling in respective territories of India and Nepal separately as per the prevailing and relevant Acts, rules and regulations of the respective country.
- (ii) The reports submitted by the Consultant at various stages to the JPO may be discussed among the Technical Expert Group (TEG) to be formed by the respective Team Leaders as and when required for the purpose. The reports will be shared with both the sides.

- d. Design flood studies

It was informed by JPO that National Institute of Hydrology (NIH), Roorkee, India, has prepared the GIS layers for Design Flood study and submitted the Report. JTE directed the JPO that its comments on the Report should be sent to NIH by 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2017.

- e. GLOF study

JTE noted with concern that the studies are pending with CWC after award of the work in October 2015. It was informed that some critical data is to be provided by Hydrological unit of CWC, without which much progress cannot be made in the matter. JTE requested Team Leader JTE-India to take urgent action in the matter, so that the studies can be completed within 3 months.

- f. Power Potential Studies





JPO informed that some clarifications/comments on Preliminary Power Potential Studies have been sent to CEA. A meeting with CEA and JPO should be organized preferably at New Delhi by 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2017 to addresses these clarifications/comments.

g. Power system and Power Evacuation studies

The JTE was informed that the scope of work for Power Systems and power evacuation studies was finalized during meeting of Officials of NEA, DoED and CEA in February, 2016. During the meeting, it was also decided that within 45 days, NEA would submit the technical and financial proposal to take up the first phase of the studies. However, the JTE noted with concern that the same is still awaited. JTE requested Team Leader JTE-Nepal to take up the matter with NEA, so that the studies can be initiated at the earliest, and thus can be completed by September, 2018.

h. Bilateral Project Investigation Allowance to Nepalese personnel in JPO (BPIA-NP)

Project Manager (Nepal) informed that he has submitted a detailed proposal regarding increase of Bilateral Project Investigation Allowance (BPIA-NP) being paid to Nepalese officials deputed at JPO to Project Manager (India), with a copy to Member Secretary, JTE India, in January, 2017. The response is still awaited.

**15.2 Efforts made for reinitiating of drilling activities at power house, spillway, dam axis of Sapta Kosi High Dam**

- a. It was informed by JPO that the drilling work is not being allowed by local people, and whenever the contractor(s) initiates work, their drilling equipments have been vandalized, leading to stopping of work. Indian side requested the Team Leader JTE – Nepal for intervention by Govt. of Nepal and local administration to facilitate early resumption of the drilling. Team Leader JTE Nepal agreed to take up the matter and facilitate such support. JTE emphasized on holding comprehensive public consultations by JPO in the proposed project areas, especially the dam and power house sites.. JTE advised the JPO to formulate a plan for such interactions i.e. number of such interactions, number of persons to be covered, transportation cost, boarding/lodging cost etc. and send it to Team Leader – India.

The agreement with NEA, which has been entrusted for the work of drilling of Dam Axis area, has expired since 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2017, and the request for extension of time has not been communicated by NEA so far. Team Leader JTE Nepal assured that this matter will be taken up with NEA. Team Leader, JTE India emphasized that NEA should start drilling work on dam axis of Sapta Kosi after time extension. Team Leader India has requested that Govt of Nepal should provide full support and security to complete this activity on time.

**15.3 Need for Extension of JPO tenure**

JPO informed that due to various reasons such as resistance by the local people, the progress on the project has not been as planned. The new work plan of 30 months for completing the remaining work was presented. JTE agreed in principle to recommend



extension of time of 30 months effective from 1st March, 2017. However, the progress of the activities would be closely monitored and reviewed by JTE every six months. It was also agreed that drilling/drifted and EIA studies being two most important activities, the progress of these activities need to be ensured. It was further decided that JTE would make a detailed review within one year from the date of extension and in case the progress is not satisfactory/as planned, it will decide further course of action.

Further, the Team Leaders may form sub group, if necessary, to review progress on quarterly basis and suggest corrective action.

Keeping in view of the above time extension, JTE directed JPO to prepare and submit a note for extension along with the revised cost estimate for the revision to CE(YBO), CWC for continuation of JPO-SKSKI for 30 months i.e. from 1st March 2017 to 31st August 2019.

#### **15.4 Award of pending works**

- a. EIA studies – already addressed in para 15.1 b as above.
- b. Balance drilling / drifting works – already addressed in para 15.1 a as above.
- c. Design Flood Studies – already addressed in para 15.1 c as above.
- d. Flood Benefit Studies –
  - JTE directed JPO to take urgent action to obtain formal concurrence of Team Leader, JTE-Nepal.
- e. Power potential and power system and power evacuation studies: already addressed in para 15.1 e and 15.1 f as above.
- f. Public Opinion Survey: Team Leader JTE-Nepal emphasized on the criticality of taking up of Public opinion survey to be conducted in the proposed Sapta Kosi project area, to educate/ inform the people about the project benefits. In addition, appropriate audio/visual media plans may be prepared to create awareness among the local people.
- g. Irrigation studies and command area survey in Nepalese territory:
  - Team leader, JTE-India accorded approval to award the work to M/s N.K Buildcon on recommendation of TEC in Sep 2016 subject to ratification by JTE in its next meeting.
  - Approval of Team Leader, JTE-Nepal for award of the said work to M/s N.K Buildcon was conveyed in Sep 2016 subject to ratification by JTE in next meeting.
  - JTE ratified the decision of both the Team Leaders.
  - While according approval of work to M/s N.K Buildcon, Team Leader, JTE-Nepal expressed reservation "to deploy a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) comprising team



of experts of related discipline from Govt. of Nepal for the close monitoring of field activities as well as assurance of quality reports, and JPO-SKSKI has to bear all the incurred cost for the TAG members." The Report from the Consultant will be forwarded by JPO to Team Leader Nepal for necessary approval/comments from Department of Irrigation within 45 days of receipt.

JPO may take action for granting suitable extension of time to the Consultant, however, ensuring that there are no additional financial implications. Accordingly, the time of completion of the work of the Consultant may also be extended. It was brought to the notice of JTE that the consultant M/s. N.K. Buildcon is also facing difficulty in acquiring data regarding water requirement of the existing projects from irrigation stabilization point of view. JPO will provide the list of required data to Department of Irrigation through Team Leader Nepal for early supply of data to the Consultant through JPO.

#### **15.5 Review/regularization of Bilateral Project Investigation Allowance (BPIA-NP) for Nepalese personnel deputed at JPO-SKSKI**

Project Manager (Nepal) submitted that in the 3rd JTE meeting, it has been recommended that BPIA-NP would be paid as exactly 50% of Compensatory Allowance (CA) being paid to Indian officials deputed at JPO-SKSKI, and, accordingly, it was being paid to Nepali officials till July 2009. However, while CA was revised in August 2009 with effect from 2005 the rate for Nepal officials has not been revised to date. JTE noted the concern and it was advised that JPO should prepare a detailed proposal along with views of the Government of Nepal, precedents in any similar project in Nepal and also financial implications. The proposal may be forwarded to Team Leader India for further consideration. This should be expedited by JPO.

#### **15.6 Review of House Rent allowance and per diem allowance (DA) of Nepali and Indian personnel posted at JPO SKSKI:**

The JTE has also apprised that the House Rent Allowance (HRA) of Nepali and Indian personnel posted in JPO, has remained frozen in absolute terms since 2004, i.e., the HRA being disbursed now is same as in 2004. Therefore, JTE directed JPO to prepare a proposal for the reasonable increase of HRA/leasing of houses with financial ceiling, and send to the Team Leaders for further consideration. The proposal will be sent within fifteen days.

JPO apprised the JTE that the per diem allowance of JPO staff has remained pegged to the Dollar-Rupee conversion rate of July, 2004, i.e., 1 Dollar = 45.85 IRs. However, with increase in conversion rate, the effective per diem allowance has reduced substantially. It was proposed to link to the current rate of conversion. JTE agreed to the proposal and directed JPO to send proposal to Team Leader India for further necessary action.

#### **15.7 Empowerment of JPO-SKSKI:**

JPO highlighted that the delegation of financial powers to the JPO Officers has not been updated since its inception. The JTE advised JPO to prepare proposal with necessary



delegation to make the working of JPO efficient. The proposal should be sent to both the Team Leaders for further necessary action by 14th August, 2017.

**15.8 Updation/ upgradation of hardware/software of seismological stations:**

JPO informed that many of the Seismic stations for Saptakoshi and Sun Koshi projects have become defunct, and there is urgent need for replacement of the same. It was however clarified by JPO that a visit was made by CWPRS in February, 2015 and it has submitted its report. The report contains specific recommendations regarding R&M of the existing seismic stations. The JTE directed JPO to take appropriate action as per report of CWPRS.

**15.9 Any other item with the permission of the Chair:**

**a. Audit:**

JTE noted with concern that the JPO SKSKI has been audited only once in its 13 years of existence and hence annual audit reports have not been sent to the Nepali side since 2010. It was informed by JPO that the last internal audit was held in February, 2011 for the period August 2004 to March 2010. JTE desired that steps be taken by JPO to get the internal audit as well as statutory and CAG audit of JPO be done up to financial year 2016-17. The audit reports should be shared with the Team Leaders.

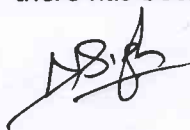
**b. Increase in rent of building hired for JPO-SKSKI office**

JPO informed that the current office building is leaking and there is some damage also. JTE advised that structural safety of the building may be obtained from the concerned government authority.

The building (having 3.5 floors, total floor area of 5956 sq. feet) of Shri Komal Prasad Sharma (owner) was hired for JPO-SKSKI office in Sep, 2004, initially for a period of 30 months (duration of JPO-SKSKI) at a monthly rate of NRs. 40,000/-. The said rent was to remain fixed during the period of lease. As the tenure of JPO-SKSKI was increased from time to time, the building was kept occupied by JPO-SKSKI on the same monthly rent fixed initially (NRs. 40,000/-).

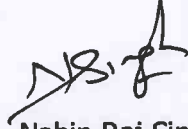
JTE in its 13th JTE meeting held at Kathmandu on 23-24 Dec, 2012 approved to revise the monthly rent of building from NRs. 40,000/- to NRs. 48,000/- with effective from January, 2013 onwards.

Recently, a letter dated 04.05.2017 was received from the owner requesting an increase in monthly rent from current NRs. 48,000/- to NRs. 75,000/-. In response, a letter dated 23.05.2017 was sent to the owner intimating that that his request was unreasonable and he was required to send a reasonable request for increase for consideration by the competent authority. The owner replied vide his letter dated 09.07.2017 and requested to increase the rent from NRs. 48,000/- to NRs. 60,000/-, which seems to be reasonable and justified keeping in view the fact that there has been no increase in the rent from Jan 2013.



The JTE approved the monthly rent to be increased to NRs. 60,000/- from Aug 2017. Necessary lease agreement may be signed with the owner.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the JTE is to be held in February, 2018. The meeting was held in cordial atmosphere.



(Sh. Nabin Raj Singh)  
Team Leader of JTE Nepal



(Sh. Pradeep Kumar)  
Team Leader of JTE India

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS FROM NEPALI SIDE**

<b>Mr. Nabin Raj Singh,</b> Director General, Department of Electricity Development	<b>Team Leader</b>
<b>Mr. Chiranjewee Chatut</b> Joint Secretary, Ministry of Energy	<b>Member</b>
<b>Mr. Dharma Raj Kuikel</b> Joint secretary, Ministry of Energy	<b>Member</b>
<b>Mr. Saroj Pandit</b> Deputy Director General, Department of Irrigation	<b>Member</b>
<b>Mr. Sandip Kumar Dev</b> DDG, Department of Electricity Development	<b>Member</b>
<b>Mr. Ram Gopal Kharbuja</b> DDG, Department of Hydrology and Meteorology	<b>Member</b>
<b>Mr. Sanjay Dhungel</b> Deputy Director General, Department of Electricity Development	<b>Member</b>
<b>Mr. Ram Prasad Subedi</b> Under Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	<b>Member</b>
<b>Mr. Sagar Raj Gautam</b> Senior Divisional Engineer, Ministry of Energy	<b>Member</b>
<b>Mr. Bishnu Prasad Awasthi</b> Under Secretary, Ministry of Energy	<b>Member</b>
<b>Mr. Basndev Timilsina</b> Department of water Induced Disaster Management	<b>Member</b>
<b>Mr. Pradip Kumar Sah</b> Senior Engineer, JPO-SKSKI, Biratnagar	<b>Invitee</b>
<b>Mr. Subarna Khanal</b> S.D.E., Department of Electricity Development	<b>Invitee</b>
<b>Mr. Hari Bahadur Khatri</b> Engineer, Department of Electricity Development	<b>Invitee</b>
<b>Mr. Birendra Pandit</b> Engineer, JPO-SKSKI, Biratnagar	<b>Invitee</b>
<b>Mr. Jeebachh Mandal</b> Project Manager (N), JPO-SKSKI, Biratnagar	<b>Member Secretary, JTE-Nepal</b>






**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF INDIAN SIDE**

<b>Mr. Pradeep Kumar,</b> Member (RM), Central Water Commission	<b>Team Leader</b>
<b>Mr. Jagmohan Gupta</b> JS& FA MOWR, RD&GR	<b>Member</b>
<b>Mr. J. Chandrashekhar Iyer</b> Commissioner (FM), MOWR, RD&GR	<b>Member</b>
<b>Mr. A.S. Goel</b> Chief Engineer, YBO, Central Water Commission	<b>Member Secretary</b>
<b>Mr. N. Ram Prasad</b> Counsellor(Commerce) Embassy of India, Kathmandu	<b>Member</b>
<b>Mr. D.K. Tiwary</b> Project Manager (I), JPO-SKSKI, Biratnagar	<b>Invitee</b>
<b>Mr. U.S. Yadav</b> Sr. Engineer(I/c), JPO-SKSKI, Biratnagar	<b>Invitee</b>
<b>Mr. Vishal Anand</b> Assistant Engineer, JPO-SKSKI, Biratnagar	<b>Invitee</b>



**AGENDA FOR 15<sup>TH</sup> JTE MEETING OF SAPTA KOSI SUN KOSI INVESTIGATION  
PROJECT HELD ON 25<sup>TH</sup>-26<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2017 AT KATHMANDU (NEPAL)**

- 15.1 Follow up action on decisions taken on various items of 14th meeting of JTE.
- 15.2 Review of progress of field works and various studies related to Sapta Koshi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sun Kosi Storage cum Diversion Scheme.
- 15.3 Efforts made for Reinitiating of drilling activities at powerhouse, spillway and dam axis of Sapta Kosi High Dam.
- 15.4 Need for extension of JPO-SKSKI tenure.
- 15.5 Award of Pending Works / Studies for:
  - a. EIA Study
  - b. Balance Drilling / Drifting works
  - c. Design Flood Studies
  - d. Flood Benefit Studies
  - e. Power Potential and Power System and Power Evacuation Studies
  - f. Public Opinion Survey
  - g. Irrigation Studies and Command Area Survey in Nepalese Territory.
- 15.6 Review/Regularization of Bilateral Project Investigation Allowance (BPIA-NP) for Nepalese Personnel deputed at JPO-SKSKI
- 15.7 Review of House Rent Allowance (HRA) and Per Diem Allowance (DA) of Nepali and Indian Personnel posted at JPO-SKSKI
- 15.8 Empowerment of JPO-SKSKI.
- 15.9 Updation/ upgradation of hardware/software of seismological stations
- 15.10 Any other item with permission of the Chair.

