

Presentation by Session Chair 3: Dr. Shankar Sharma, Former Vice Chairman/NPC

The presentation was skipped since both the Chair and Co-Chair were not available for the presentation. Following summary of the papers presented were compiled by the Rapportuers.

The first Speaker of this session was **Mr. Kishore Thapa**, Secretary/Water Energy Commission (WECs), GoN and delivered the lecture on *Housing Development: New Opportunity for Consulting Firms in Nepal*. Mr. Thapa emphasized that given the commitment of the government targeting for the double digit economic growth is materialized, the housing sector will face enormous boom in the urban areas of the country and should be further expanded to other major cities of the country and at the same time target the lower income group of the society. On the other hand housing demand, he stressed that the government should create environment for providing fiscal incentives for enhancing the growth of the sector since it will lead to increased revenue for the government, good profit for developers and investors, employment for workers and professionals, and decent and affordable dwelling to buyers.

The second Speaker was Mr. Suresh Pradhan who represented **Mr. Tulasi Sitaula**, Director General/Dept. of Roads (DoR), GoN. The paper was titled “ *Infrastructure Development in Nepal: Opportunities and Challenges for Engineers*”. In his paper, Mr. Sitaula highlighted the progress made by the country in road transport sector in the last two decades which made it possible to link all district headquarters. In recent years road construction is extensively used as opportunity for creating employment in the rural areas and thus contributing towards poverty. He also stressed the facts that have constrained the development of basic infrastructure including the funds, Haphazard and non engineered construction, low quality control. He is of the opinion that enhancing the sustainability of the road network development would be the responsibility of the consulting and construction industry. The enormous scope envisaged by the government requires immediate Capacity building of Nepalese consulting Industry.

The third paper was presented by **Mr. Kamal Pande**, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Physical Planning and Works, GON and dealt on “ Challenges and Opportunities in Upscaling Infrastructure in Nepal”. Mr Pande indicated in his paper that there is a gradual shift of the process of encouraging private sector in upscaling the provision of infrastructure which in itself a big challenge. He said that the strength of the private sector to cope with the current challenges in infrastructure development and management requires to be recognized as a major contributor to development impetus. He highlighted on the Strategic Plan of the construction industry and the priority for drafting of “Consulting Industry Act” with its role of a patron. He further said, “The joint work of the Government and Private Sector for the common cause of the building nation will bring remarkable changes in quality of the Industry and in delivery of effective and efficient infrastructure services”.

The last Speaker of the session was **Mr. Bhim Upadhyaya**, Deputy Director General /

Dept. of Local Infrastructure Development & Agricultural Roads (DoLIDAR), GoN. The paper highlighted on the subject “***Rural Infrastructure Development - Prospect and Status of Consultancy Business in Nepal***”. In the paper Mr. Upadyaya emphasized the commitment of the country to take into fast development path. This demand for fast growth is also the indicator for demand for enhancing capability of domestic experts and opportunity for multinational companies for direct investment in Nepal. He highlighted the prospective investment will create environment for boom in the domestic as well as international engineering consultancy business in Nepal. The business will expand to new fields as railroad, highways, hydro & renewable energy, cable car, industrial engineering and so on.

All four paper presenters are highly appreciated for their vision and impetus given to the Conference.