



Housing Earthquake Safety Initiative (HESI) Training Programs in Nepal

Training Workshop on Building Code Implementation 19 – 23 May 2008, Godavari Village Resort, Lalitpur, Nepal

Background

The collapse of buildings and houses is the single largest cause of human deaths and economic losses resulting from earthquakes. Effective enforcement of earthquake resistant building codes and control system can reduce the loss significantly. Although many earthquake prone countries now have building codes, there is serious challenge for effective implementation of the codes because of lack of awareness, lack of institutional mechanism for implementation and insufficient capacity of implementing authorities. Against this background, United Nations Center for Regional Development (UNCRD) has launched Housing Earthquake Safety Initiative (HESI) in 2007 in four target countries: Algeria, Indonesia, Nepal and Peru. The project aims to improve the structural safety of houses to reduce impact of earthquakes in life and livelihood of people through effective implementation of building safety regulations.

UNCRD in partnership with Ministry of Local Development (MOLD), Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC)/ Ministry of Physical Planning and Works, and National Society for Earthquake Technology –Nepal (NSET) conducted a two–day workshop in Kathmandu on 2-3 August 2007. One of the objectives of the workshop was to find country specific problems in effective implementation of the Nepal National Building Code (NBC). The workshop, attended by senior officials and engineers from Government of Nepal and municipalities all over the country, underscored the fact that capacity development of local authorities is necessary for effective implementation of the building code. A survey among the participants was conducted which showed that 91 percent of the participants were familiar with the building code before attending the workshop. The survey, however, showed that 53 percent of the attending municipalities do not have building bye-laws for implementation of building code and all of the municipalities expressed their desire to develop building control system in their municipalities.

Against this background, a training workshop on “Building Code Implementation” is being organized on 19-23 May 2008 for engineers/planners/architects from Municipalities all over the country. The workshop is organized by UNCRD in partnership with Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC)/ Ministry of Physical Planning and Works and National Society for Earthquake Technology–Nepal (NSET).

The main objective of the training program is to prepare a framework for building code implementation in each participating municipality. After the completion of the program, the participants will be able to:

- Be familiarized with various requirements of building codes, building regulations, building/planning by-laws for ensuring safe building construction and proper city development;
- Be familiarized with building control system (building permit process) to ensure the safe construction of buildings being in practice in few cities of Nepal and other countries and to help review such practices by field visits; and
- Guide/facilitate in developing general broad framework for implementation of building control system (ensuring building code compliance) suitable for large, medium, small municipalities of Nepal based on the current and potential institutional system and capacity; and suggest action plan.

The training program will be followed by a half-day National Symposium open to public on Building Codes and Control System and two programs on Training of Trainers and Masons Training.

Training modality

The training will be conducted as interactive learning training. Participants will be asked to present their framework (proposed or existing) on implementation of NBC. A sample document will be sent to the participants in advance for consistent format from all the participants. The framework will be discussed with experts' inputs during the training course and participants will also benefit from experience of other municipalities like Lalitpur and Kathmandu in building code implementation along with experience of building control system in other countries. Participants will also be provided with opportunities to visit Lalitpur municipality and observe the process there. Site visit to few construction sites is also a part of the training program. After the experience of site visit, lectures and information sharing, the participants will then discuss in groups about what needs to be addressed immediately for effective implementation of the code. In this way it can be assured that the outcome represents the real ground situation and envisages an achievable target for the municipalities. The revised action plan for each participating municipality will be the main outcome of the training.