

Nation Marks 13th EARTHQUAKE SAFETY DAY



Distinguished personalities participating in the earthquake awareness rally

Source: NSET

The 13th Earthquake Safety Day was celebrated during January 16, 2011 and around with a variety of programs nationwide, focusing on community initiative and adherence to the building code implementation.

Government of Nepal had decided in 1999 to observe this day annually in commemoration of the devastating tremor that quaked on 15th of January 1934 (i.e. 2nd Magh 1990 as per Bikram Sambat calendar) in Nepal-Bihar region. Government of Nepal, Ministry of Home Affairs works as the Coordinator of National Committee to mark the day

nationwide with array of activities. Preparatory meeting of National Committee chaired by Hon. Home Minister Mr. Bhim Bahadur Rawal had discussed and planned for this year's celebration. The meeting had then formed two sub-committees, namely Management sub-committee and Publicity sub-committee coordinated by Kathmandu Metropolitan City and Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC) respectively. As the member secretary of National Committee and also for two sub-committees, NSET worked together-with various stakeholders for all the preparation works to execute the events

exuberantly and purposefully. The main slogan for this year's celebration was;

"Earthquake Safety through Community Action, Using Knowledge, Skills and Building Code"

Under the coordination of Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), DUDBC, Kathmandu Metropolitan City, ERRRP, UNDP-Nepal, UNICEF, ActionAid, Oxfam GB Nepal, NSET, Jagadamba Steels and many other stakeholders accomplished an array of activities from national to community level to celebrate the occasion.

Rt. Honorable Prime Minister Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal inaugurated the National Meeting of 13th Earthquake Safety Day 2011 amidst a large public gathering at Basantapur Dabali, Hanuman Dhoka, Kathmandu. The meeting was preceded by a mass Earthquake Awareness Rally that walked along inner streets of Kathmandu. Speaking at the national meeting, Prime Minister Nepal stressed on the need of raising public awareness on minimizing the risk of calamities. Stating that Nepal stands 11th in the list of countries at high risk of seismic hazard, he said unplanned housing in the urban centers and construction of apartments had increased the possibilities of damages. Referring to the recent earthquakes of Haiti, Chile & others, Prime Minister Nepal said the Government was developing a law for the construction of

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High-level Symposium on Disaster Risk Reduction

A high level symposium on disaster risk reduction kicked off in Kathmandu amid a program during 14-15 February 2011. The symposium was organized by the Government of Nepal in collaboration with the United Nations and the United States government.

The high-level symposium on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) had two main objectives:

- Raise awareness among key decision-makers of Nepal's vulnerability to a catastrophic earthquake,
- Demonstrate the commitment of the government and the international agencies to disaster risk reduction, and
- Take lessons from recent disasters into policy and planning in Nepal.

The two-day meeting brought together members of the Nepal's Central Natural Disaster Response Committee (CNDRC), representatives from main political parties and parliament, senior officials from all ministries, Chief District Development officers from some districts, officials from three municipalities in Kathmandu Valley, officers from the security agencies (Nepal Army, Armed Police Force and the Nepal Police), representatives of development partners both in-country and from their headquarters, diplomatic agencies, and civil society representatives.

The symposium had the highest political representation from Nepal. Prime Minister Jhalarath Khanal inaugurated the meeting and reiterated the government's commitment to take effective Disaster Risk

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Demonstrating the Duck Cover & Hold during the National Program

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MFR and CSSR Translation Test Course in Bangladesh

Bangladesh is the first of the PEER countries to test the translated course materials of MFR and CSSR course. NSET/PEER in collaboration with Fire Service and Civil Defence conducted the MFR and CSSR Translation Test Courses in Bangla on December 12- 24, 2010 and January 25 to February 02, 2011, respectively, at Fire Service Civil Defence Training Complex, in Dhaka, Bangladesh. These translation test courses also aim to further refine and finalize the curriculum of MFR and CSSR course in Bangla. Selected senior national MFR and CSSR



Test course held in Bangladesh

Source: NSET

instructors facilitated these courses. With the experience and recommendations gained from the test course, NSET/PEER conducted 2 days finalization workshop to refine the curriculum to achieve a more effective delivery of both MFR and CSSR courses and ensure a more efficient learning for participants. There were 24 participants in MFR out of which 19 successfully completed the MFR Translation Test Course. In CSSR Translation Test Course there were 24 participants who successfully completed the course. In line with advocating PEER and sensitizing other emergency response organizations, representatives from Ansar, Scout Ranger and Bangladesh Army observed the conduct of CSSR Translation Test Course.

PEER Database Management Training in Nepal

A two-day PEER Database Management Training for Nepal was completed on February 24-25, 2011. Ten participants representing PEER partnering institutions, namely, Nepal Police, Armed Police Force and Nepal Army along with the nodal agency, Ministry of Home Affairs, participated in the training. The hands on practical exercises of the training gave the participants an opportunity to experience accessing and updating their respective institution's information and also obtain detail information of key

contact points. With the presence of partners experienced in PEER implementation in Nepal, there were extensive discussions and recommendations for the possible creation of a national disaster preparedness/ response database for Nepal

India completes series of PEER Instructor Development Courses

As agreed during the Country Planning Meeting held in New Delhi, India on February 1-2, 2010, NSET/PEER organized a series of PEER instructor development courses at Border Security Force (BSF) Institute of Disaster Response (BIDR), BSF Academy, under PEER Partial Funding Assistance Program (PFAP) arrangements. India nominated 24 best participants from the graduates of 2 MFR courses conducted during August-September, 2010. These participants were from the four paramilitary forces of India who are also PEER partnering organizations, namely, Border Security Force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Central Reserve Police Force and Central Industrial Security Force. The series of training courses included Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue (CSSR), Training for Instructors (TFI), Medical First Responder Instructors Workshop (MFRIW) and CSSR Instructor workshop (CSSRIW).

PEER Regional Planning Meeting concludes in Manila, Philippines

NSET, in collaboration with the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council/Office of Civil Defense, organized PEER Regional Planning Meeting from March 29-31, 2011, in Manila, Philippines.

The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Review highlights of accomplishments in the first two years of PEER Stage 3
- Identify what was done well in order to share and replicate those successes (PEER impact)
- Identify opportunities for improvement. Serve as forum for implementing partners (PEER countries, nodal agencies and training institutions) and PEER instructors to



Trainees in practical works during CSSR course, India

Source: NSET



Participants of the Regional Planning Meeting, Philippines

Source: NSET

share their thoughts and experiences in the conduct of the program, specifically on areas of preparation, materials, management and impact

- Plan for ways in addressing the concerns/challenges for better program implementation in future
- Share vision for enhancing emergency response capability in each country and regional collaboration

Senior officials from the nodal agencies, chiefs of partnering institutions and senior PEER instructors from the 6 beneficiary countries of PEER Objective 3 (MFR and CSSR implementation), attended the meeting. The RPM is a periodic gathering of program partners for monitoring and assessing program outcomes through sharing of country achievements, experiences in program implementation and PEER impact in the countries. Identification of challenges and recommendations was also presented by countries for better implementation. NSET, ADPC, USAID/OFDA and American Red Cross (ARC) joined the country partners in this meeting.



Brainstorming during PEER DBMT training

Source: NSET

Schools Safer Against Earthquake

Earthquake Preparedness Program in Schools of Kathmandu Valley

The program has been implemented through the funding support from UNICEF under Education in Emergency and completed in February 2011. The program was implemented jointly with the Department of Education and District Education Offices of Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur districts. The main components of the program during this period were-

Earthquake Preparedness activities in Schools**Orientation to Students and earthquake drill at schools**

Earthquake preparedness activities in 21 schools of the valley have been successfully completed. The activities include orientation to students and teachers on earthquake safety, preparation of emergency plans and conducting evacuation drills. The orientation was conducted jointly by the trained teachers, technicians from District Education Office and NSET professionals. NSET professionals assisted the teachers on conducting drills in each school. The students and teachers of all selected schools have been provided orientation on earthquake safety through the trained teachers and NSET professionals. Total of 5500 (3100 girls and 2400 boys) from

22 schools participated in orientation program.

Preparation of Emergency Evacuation Plans of School:

Emergency evacuation plans of all the selected 20 schools have been prepared. NSET provided technical assistance towards preparation and finalization of the plans.

First Aid Items at Schools:

Minimum required first aid items have been placed in 5 schools for the purpose of drill exercise. The students club has been taking responsibility of maintaining the items and will use during further drills and in case of emergency.

Permanent Signage of Emergency Evacuation Plans:

Establishment of signage of emergency evacuation plan of 5 schools has been completed.

Preparation of safe circulation and evacuation environment:

Preparation of safe circulation in some of the classrooms of 5 selected schools has been completed. The desks and benches of some of the class rooms have been rectified and rearranged so as not to present any obstacles during evacuation in emergencies.

Establishment of safety clubs and provides assistance:

Student's safety clubs in 5 selected schools have been formulated. The schools have supported the clubs for planning future activities. The clubs have been provided some facilities such as boards, chairs and tables to run the offices.

Handover of Seismic Retrofitting Technology – Daunne Devi Higher Secondary School, Makar-4, Bardaghat, Nawalparasi

On the occasion of 13th Earthquake Safety Day-2011 and under School Earthquake Safety Program (SESP) of NSET, "The newly retrofitted school



Students performing drill on earthquake preparedness Source: NSET

building and seismic retrofitting technology" of Daunne Devi Higher Secondary School Makar V.D.C., Ward No: 4, Bardaghat, Nawalparasi was handed over to the local community through School Management Committee on January 9, 2011. After the implementation of SESP, Seismic retrofitting of existing block of 9 rooms of single storey, constructed with brick in cement and RCC roof has been completed. This was the 40th school where SESP of NSET was implemented in 2010.

The total floor area of the retrofitted school building is 5540 Sq. Ft and the total cost for retrofitting is Rs. 9, 32,725.17. (Rs. 170.00 per sq ft). The financial report (incomes/expenditures) was displayed for the purpose of transparency.



School handover program

Source: NSET



Students performing drill on earthquake preparedness

Source: NSET

NSET PARTICIPATION

Mr. Surya Narayan Shrestha, Deputy Executive Director, NSET visited Maputo, Republic of Mozambique during 11- 28 March 2011 to assist GRIP/BCPR and UNDP Mozambique in resuming the Risk Assessment and Shelter Strategy Development works in Maputo that was initiated in May-June 2008 as per the agreement with UNDP/BCPR and UN Habitat under the Shelter Strategy Development Project. He further trained professionals from Maputo Municipality on Risk Assessment using RADIUS methodology and assisted in developing shelter response strategy.

NSET professional delivered a presentation on Disaster Risk Reduction in a Workshop of Municipal Executive Officers organized by Local Development Training Academy And Urban Development Training Center Pokhara during 3-4 March, 2011.

Upon request from Embassy of United States of America, NSET professional made presentation for young parliamentarians on Earthquake Risks in Nepal at the American Embassy on 7 January 2011.

NSET professionals conducted Earthquake Vulnerability Tour of old quarters of Kathmandu for the UK's Minister of State for International Development Mr. Alan Duncan and his team on 7 March, 2011.

NSET organized Basic First Aid Training/ Orientation for the staff of Center for Mental Health and Counseling - Nepal (CMC-Nepal) at the CMC -Nepal office premise, Thapathali on 21 January 2011.

Experience of EERT on Seismic Assessment and Retrofitting of Buildings

NSET is involved in earthquake vulnerability assessment of hundreds of buildings in Nepal, which include both load bearing masonry and reinforced concrete public and private buildings. Both the qualitative and quantitative methodologies of vulnerability assessment are used for different purposes of assessment. Assessment results show that masonry buildings built recently or before are mostly non-compliant to seismic consideration. Likewise, 60% of engineered RC buildings assessed so far have been found non-compliant. This vulnerability is particularly due to irregularities in planning and elevation, non uniform distribution of infill walls, disproportionate door and window openings and, above all, poor construction practice and lack of attention to seismic details. The reason behind this is the lack of knowledge in design philosophy of earthquake resistant buildings among engineers as this component is not included in the curricular of most engineering colleges. This has remained the major challenge for NSET which can be overcome by capacity building through extensive training courses.

Various study reports also reveal that more than 60% of the building stock in Nepal is liable to get damaged beyond repair resulting in high economic and human loss of the nation. This situation urged NSET to raise earthquake awareness in Nepal focusing on retrofitting vulnerable buildings. A seismic rehabilitation program was implemented to address the vulnerability of a large proportion of buildings in Nepal. It started with retrofitting of residential and school buildings. The methodology selected so far was technically and economically feasible and flexible enough to be adapted for other buildings in the region. NSET has, so far, retrofitted 11 school buildings made of masonry and



Retrofitting work in progress

Source: NSET

about 20 private & organizational buildings with the intention of extending it to the whole of Nepal in the near future.

Lessons Learnt and Way Forward

Retrofitting task however presented a specific challenge, as the number of buildings to be considered is relatively large, more than 60% of existing building stock and the number of buildings retrofitted so far is very minimal. Implementation of the retrofitting process straight by the house owners themselves is apparently difficult with the current attitude and livelihood of the region. There are many reasons behind this fact such as socio-economic, cultural and environmental etc. What is required is strategic planning and integrated effort by the concerned bodies like local Government, NGO's, INGO's and other

related organizations and stakeholders.

Challenges remain in developing methodological templates and implementing retrofitting schemes due to poor socio-economic condition of the nation. Feasible retrofitting options both for masonry and RC building structures have been implemented by NSET in recent times. More efforts are needed to develop suitable retrofit technology for existing construction technology in Nepal to improve their seismic resilience and promote the implementation of retrofitting process in the developing region like Nepal. It is necessary to come up with more generic approach for retrofit design/construction of buildings.



Retrofitting work in progress

Source: NSET



Assessing the seismic vulnerability

Source: NSET

CONFERENCE / WORKSHOPS

(October-December 2010)

Month / Year	Conference/ Workshops	Venue	Participation
March	HFA local level workshop organized by ISDR Bangkok, 7-8 March, 2011	Bangkok, Thailand	Mr. Amod Dixit
March	Workshop in Increasing Resilience to Natural Hazards at Durham University, UK, 8 March 2011	Durham University, UK	Mr. Ranjan Dhungel
March	25th Anniversary of Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC).	Bangkok, Thailand	Mr. Amod Dixit
March	Disaster Reduction Hyperbase - DRH meeting at DPRI Kyoto University, 24-25 March, 2011	Kyoto University, Japan	Mr. Amod Dixit
March	ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP) Meeting, 29-31 March, 2011	Jakarta, Indonesia	Mr. Bijay K. Upadhyay

Roundtable Dialogue on Disaster Risk Reduction in Areas of Conflict

ADRRN Roundtable Dialogue entitled “Disaster Risk Reduction in Areas of Conflict” was convened by the Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN) with the support from The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) during Feb 2-4, 2011 at Park Village Resort and Hotel, Budhanilkantha, Kathmandu, Nepal. The program was locally hosted by National Society for Earthquake Technology – Nepal (NSET), one of the founder members of ADRRN which is a regional network consisting of 34 national NGOs from 16 countries across the Asia-Pacific region.

It was the first since its founding for the ADRRN to convene a conference focused on human-induced disaster, or specifically, armed conflict.

The two and a half day meeting was attended by 14 participants from 6 different countries viz Pakistan, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Indonesia and Nepal. The agenda of the meeting included Country specific sharing of experiences in the form of presentation followed by extensive discussion on the previously proposed set of discussion points focusing on the general theme of disaster risk reduction and response in areas of conflict.

For two and a half days, the participants extensively engaged themselves in sharing



Session of ADRRN Round table dialogue Source: NSET

each others experience. The Roundtable was a platform for colleagues who came from countries in situations of armed conflict, and for some - post conflict, and, therefore, had the ground-based experience and expertise in peace and development, to share their respective views, insights and learning as well as recommendations. The meeting was divided into six different Country Specific Thematic presentations.

The participants of the meeting came up with a conclusion that the meeting was

very fruitful in sharing of experience, insights and learning from others and that such roundtable meeting needs to be scaled up engaging the donors, the government, the private sector, media and other concerned stakeholders. The ground-based insights of community leaders and NGO peace builders and development facilitators have to be raised to higher levels of policy advocacy in regional and international forums on the subject of sustainable peace and development engagement.

National Workshop: Multi-stakeholder consultation for monitoring of progress on HFA implementation at local level

The Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) monitoring and review process is intended to promote a collaborative approach to measure progress through the engagement of multiple stakeholders from government, civil society, private sector and communities. UNISDR has been facilitating a multi-tier HFA review process that is currently concentrated at the national and regional level. More than one hundred countries have been carrying out the review process at the national level since 2008. Including local governments and civil society organizations (CSOs) to bring in the local perspective in monitoring HFA progress was recommended in the Chair’s summary of the second session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2009. A third tier of HFA review process at the local level is being initiated to bring the local perspective to the national HFA review process.

In support of the widespread application of multi-stakeholder and multi-level HFA monitoring a series of five pilot countries (Armenia, Mozambique, Peru, Indonesia, Nepal) workshops were planned in partnership with the Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR) and DG ECHO. The workshop in Nepal was one of such five pilot country workshops to review progress on implementation of HFA at the local level.

The workshop was focused on enabling a structured dialogue between different state and non-state actors active in disaster risk reduction at national and local levels. Bringing together national and local level perspectives will help to establish a clear picture of progress. This can then be used to guide policy discussions, identify gaps and formulate actions that will accelerate progress of the HFA at national and local levels.

The workshop aimed to establish a clear picture of progress of the HFA at national and local levels by bringing together national and local actors working in disaster risk reduction sector with the following specific objectives:

- To initiate a multi stakeholder dialogue at the local level with local specific set



Participants attending the HFA workshop Source: NSET

of indicators that contributes to the national level dialogue and the reporting process;

- To introduce a local HFA monitoring and review framework and gather feedback on the tools and processes; and
- To reach consensus and mutual understanding among different national and local actors on the needs and priorities for disaster reduction, leading to agreed actions and collaborative approaches to accelerate implementation of the HFA.

The workshop was organized by Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA) of the Government of Nepal under the general guidance of the UNISDR Regional Office at Bangkok. Ministry of Local Development (MOLD) supported the workshop in bringing local authorities to the workshop. The National Society for Earthquake Technology – Nepal (NSET), coordinated and conducted the workshop as the local civil society partner.

Training workshop on Views from the Frontline Project VFL-2011

A two day Training Workshop on "Views from the Frontline" Project (2011) was organized during 4-5 January 2011 at Shree Meeting Hall NSET Office building, Bhainsepati, Lalitpur. The main objective of the training workshop was to introduce the process and methodology of VFL survey to the potential enumerators who will later carry out the survey. Trainees were drawn from different Participating Organization (POs) working in different parts of Nepal. There were altogether 15 participants from 8 different institutions.

The training workshop started with the opening ceremony in the auspicious presence of Mr. Rameshwar Dangal UnderSecretary Ministry of Home Affairs and Mr. Ek Narayan Sharma Section Officer from Ministry of Local Development. Mr. Amod Dixit Executive Director of NSET welcomed all the participants and distinguished guests and

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Continues 'Nation Marks 13th Earthquake' ...

earthquake-resistance structures in the country.

Home Minister Bhim Rawal from the chair said the government has introduced the natural calamity mitigation program and also established the national emergency operation centre.

On the occasion, Resident Representative of the United Nations in Nepal, Robert Piper called for coordination and cooperation among the large number of organizations working to spread public awareness on earthquake.

Home Secretary Dr Govinda Kusum, Chief Executive Officer of Kathmandu Metropolitan City Ananda Raj Pokharel, Mr Amod Mani Dixit, Executive Director, NSET and other speakers also stressed on the need for coordinated efforts in minimizing the risk of natural calamity.

Nationwide drill on Duck, Cover and Hold:

During the program, the participants including Hon. Prime Minister and other dignitaries practiced 'Duck Cover and Hold' to show commitment on earthquake preparedness following the blowing of the siren through Radio Nepal at 2:24 pm.

Prime Minister Nepal later inaugurated the Earthquake Safety Exhibition and visited the exhibition stalls.

Earlier, Earthquake Memorial Meeting was held at Earthquake Monument "Bhugol Park", New Road, Kathmandu. Home Minister Mr. Bhim Bahadur Rawal together with government officials, DRR professionals and community people had paid tributes to those deceased in the past earthquakes.

Other Key activities of 13th Earthquake Safety Day comprised of;

Earthquake Safety Exhibition:

Actually, this has remained an integral part of ESD celebration to demonstrating earthquake safer construction technologies, knowledge and skills required for earthquake safety, initiatives for earthquake risk reduction by different agencies. The 4-day exhibition this year starting from Jan 16 included the activities: Full Scale Model Demonstration of earthquake resistant components in a building, Demonstration of Shaking Table Test with 1:10 scale building models with and without



Honorable PM inaugurating the earthquake safety exhibition Source: NSET



Briefing on the fullscale model Source: NSET



Earthquake memorial meeting Source: NSET

earthquake-resistant elements showing how buildings damage during earthquakes, street drama on earthquake safety, demonstration of fire drills, first aid, search and rescue etc

Shocks and Reverberations: A Creative Journey:

This was an attempt to collaborate the efforts of Poets/Litterateurs, Artists, Media-persons and Government Officials as well as DRR professionals in enhancing Earthquake Safety in our communities. In this very first edition of this type, the organizers could accommodate only a small group of 32 personalities from different sectors and the idea was to extend & broaden the scope of work in the days to come; and help propagate Safety Messages. The journey started from NSET Office Bhainsepati where the participants were briefed on program concepts & modules. NSET Executive Director Mr. Amod Mani

Dixit highlighted on why Nepal should care about Earthquake and where we stand in terms of risks and coping capacities. Senior Poet Mr. Tulasi Diwas and Chancellor of Nepal Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) Mr. Kiran Manandhar shared their views on how Literatures and Arts can be explored best to spread the message of safety in more profound and impactful ways. The creative team then headed for a Vulnerability tour in inner core city areas of Jamal-Ason-Durbar Square with the purpose of feeling the risks from earthquake perspectives. Then the group joined to witness Shake Table Demonstration & visited Exhibition at Basantapur Dabali. All the participants were then driven to panoramic location of Nagarkot for creative works. The next day started with creative session where nine of very powerful artists including Chancellor Kiran Manandhar, Member Secretary K.K. Karmacharya and other Academicians from NAFA and also other Artists reflected their expressions artistically & produced 18



Sharing poetry & art work during the creative journey Source: NSET



Participants of the creative journey Source: NSET



Mass gathering during the National Meeting Source: NSET



Participants of National Symposium Source: NSET



Participants of National Symposium Source: NSET

momentous canvases while 15 poets/litterateurs including Senior Poets Manjul, Dr. Benju Sharma, Bimal Niva and others gathered the poetic vibes induced at their inner depth. Also media person, government officials and organizing DRR professionals chose to ponder into depth of creative environment established on the occasion. At the end on Sharing session, participants shared their creative works and reflections of the processes followed. Chief Guest Senior Poet Tulasi Diwas as the Chief personality of the occasion admired the attempts of creative works and consolidated the message that raising public awareness through various means would help narrow down the probable losses due to earthquake. This effort has been found one of the attractions added in the course of ESD celebration. Final outcomes of the process are to come in publication with the view to reach broader mass.

National Symposium on "Experiences in Disaster Risk Reduction and Response":

A national symposium on Experiences in Disaster Risk Reduction and Response took place at The United World Trade Centre, Tripureshwor, Kathmandu for two days (12-13 January 2011). It was organized jointly by NSET, Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC) Action Aid and Disaster Preparedness Network - Nepal (DPNet Nepal). The objective of the symposium was to share experiences of disaster risk reduction and response between all stakeholders mainly among policymakers, decision makers and professionals. The two day symposium was divided into 6 thematic sessions namely: Session A: Policy/ Institutionalization, Session B: Risk Assessment/

Research/Net-working, Session C: Risk Reduction, Session D: Panel Discussion on Cluster Approach Initiatives, Session E: Preparedness/ Response/ Recovery, Session F: Capacity Building/ Awareness.

18 Papers were presented in these sessions by the presenters representing different institutions. Overall the symposium was a great success participated by more than 150 participants representing the Government, Municipalities, INGOs, NGOs, Academic Institutions and Community Members. It in fact became a common platform for sharing experiences in disaster risk reduction and responses of the whole region. The symposium gave the participants the opportunity to reflect on the present achievements the shortfalls and means of improving disaster risk reduction activities in the future.

Street Drama

Continuing the practice of disseminating earthquake safety message through Street Drama, Dabali Natya Samuha performed a play entitled "Hami Banchhau" (We Survived) in Kirtipur on January 16 and in Basantapur Dabali on January 17.

Another drama group Shailee Theatre performed a play entitled "Ekadeshma" (In a Country) in Basantapur Dabali on January 18, 2011.

The overall message of both the street dramas focused on enhancing earthquake safety in communities.

Earthquake Safety Walkathon:

As a concluding event for all the official celebrations of earthquake safety day 2011, Earthquake safety walkathon was organized on 22nd January. The program was inaugurated by Mr. Ashok Nath Upreti, Director, DUDBC at Basantapur Dabali, Kathmandu with flagging off and handing over the Earthquake Safety Flag to veteran athlete Mr. Baikuntha Manandhar who then led the earthquake safety walkathon onward. Along with the prominent celebrities like Miss Nepal 2010 Ms. Sadikchya Shrestha, the renowned actor duo Mr. Madan Krishna Shrestha and Mr. Haribansha Acharya, well known singers and Senior Artists, more than 500 eager participants from government and nongovernment agencies, security institutions, community groups, youth clubs and people from different clusters of Nepali community walked the track spreading the message of earthquake safety.



Street drama on earthquake awareness Source: NSET



Street drama on earthquake awareness Source: NSET



Earthquake Safety Walkathon Source: NSET



Renowned celebrities jointly lifting the Earthquake Safety Flag Source: NSET

Continues 'High level symposium ...'

Reduction (DRR) measures. Maria Otero, U.S. Undersecretary of State, Democracy and Global Affairs and Margareta Wahlstrom, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General also attended the inaugural session. The meeting also brought together key speakers from countries that had experienced major earthquakes – Pakistan in 2005, Haiti January 2010 and Chirstchurch, New Zealand September 2010.



Hon. Prime Minister and other dignitaries at the High level symposium

Source: NSET

Continues 'NSET activities' ...



Representative from MOLD addressing the training workshop on VFL

Source: NSET

briefed on the overview of the VFL project.

The day followed with the brief overview of Views from the frontline, A Glance on VFL 2009, VFL 2011 plans and programs in Nepal. The participants were then trained on the survey methodology and procedures. On the second day a mock exercise was carried out to make the participants more clear on the survey procedures and familiarize them with the questionnaires.

Disaster Preparedness for Safer Schools in Nepal 2 (DPSS2) - Phase 2 launched

Making enabling and creative environment for the implementation of Disaster Preparedness for Safer Schools in Nepal 2 (DPSS2) project at local and national level was the main objective of this quarter February – March 2011. In order to achieve this set objective, conduction of national level program launching workshop, district level program launching workshop in Nuwakot and Bhaktapur,

selection of one new district for program implementation were the main activities conducted during this quarter. Similarly, 31st National Junior and Youth Red Cross (JYRC) Conference made commitment to disseminate and conduct some preparedness activities for disaster risk reduction in each JYRC formed school as a result of facilitating Disaster Preparedness session in the conference by the project. Preparation of DPSS 2 operation guideline, baseline tool kits were other major ongoing tasks of the project.



DPSS Center Level Program Launching Workshop

Source: NSET

ORIENTATION PROGRAMS

January 2011: An orientation program on earthquake preparedness was conducted for the staff of US Embassy, at the US Embassy Premise, Maharajgunj, Kathmandu.

February 2011: An orientation program on earthquake preparedness was conducted for the members of British Gurkhas Nepal (BGN) at BGN office, Jawalakhel, Lalitpur.

February 2011: An orientation program on earthquake preparedness was conducted for the staff of National Democratic Institute (NDI), at NDI Office Baluwatar, Kathmandu.

February 2011: Upon request from Ratnanagar municipality and with support from FNCCI Ratnanagar, NSET professionals conducted orientation program on earthquake preparedness

and performed Shake Table Demonstration at Ratnanagar Municipality, Chitwan on 26 February 2011.

March 2011: With support from Urban Development Training Center, NSET professional conducted orientation program on earthquake preparedness for the executive officers of the municipalities of Biratnagar and Pokhara.

NSET PARTICIPATION

On request from Center for Community Development Nepal (CCDN), with the main purpose to raise the awareness among the CCDN staff members, Board members and its Advisers on the disaster/earthquake risk, a 3 days training program on Disaster Preparedness was organized by NSET at the Community Earthquake Learning Center (CELC), Bhainsepati during 29-31 January 2011.. There were altogether 21 participants in the training program.

NSET professional participated and delivered presentation on Earthquake Risk Reduction Measures and Preparedness, in the Central Level Training for

Senior Officials of Armed Police Force (APF) organized at Armed Police Force premise, Halchowk, Kathmandu during 9-11 January, 2011 on the occasion of 13th Earthquake Safety Day,

NSET professional delivered presentation in an interaction program organized by ECO-Nepal at the United World Trade Center (UWTC), Tripureswor on 16 March 2011.

NSET professional attended National workshop on Disaster Preparedness Plan

organized by Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA) at the Armed Police Force (APF) Headquarters, Halchowk on 18 March 2011.

NSET professional participated in the Light Search and Rescue (LSAR) Training program organized by Armed Police Force at Kurintar on 25 March 2011 as an instructor.

NSET professional made presentation on Earthquake Risk Reduction and Preparedness at the first Pecha Kucha Night Kathmandu on 27 March 2011.

NSET collaborations

Talk of the Town

NSET and Media Help Line collaborated to produce the weekly program "TALK OF THE TOWN" focusing on promoting Earthquake Safety in Nepali communities. The half-an-hour program being broadcasted through Image Channel Television every Saturday at 8:30PM (recast every Monday at 2:30PM & also audio airing from Image News FM every Monday at 7:00PM) is well known as a complete social hard talk. The main objectives of this series of TV programs have been to raise public awareness about the risk of earthquake in Nepal among the wider range of population (urban as well as rural areas), to share the ideas, issues and knowledge about earthquake safety in Nepal among the partners and stakeholders, politicians, the government & non-government sectors and local communities, and also to support policy advocacies.

The program is basically moduled as hard talk with relevant research based



Notice on 'Talk of the Town' program published on National Newspaper

Source: NSET

comprehensive report of public concern intertwined. Altogether 11 episodes have been presented so far. The first episode of collaborative effort broadcasted on January 16, the 13th Earthquake Safety Day covered key issues of earthquake & Nepal. NSET Executive Director Mr. Amod Mani Dixit was invited as a studio guest. Various themes and issues related to earthquake safety have been covered. Living legend of Nepali literature & culture Mr. Satya Mohan Joshi in one episode talked on experiences of Great Nepal-Bihar Earthquake of 1934. From Nepal Red Cross Society, Secretary General Mr. Dev Ratna Dhakhwa and Director Mr. Pitambar Aryal on different occasions spoke on Nepal's status of preparedness and capacity building efforts. Chief of National Seismological Center Mr. Somnath Sapkota & NSET Deputy Executive Director Mr. Surya Narayan Shrestha shared their views on earthquake basics and its science. Senior Architect & Planner Mr. Yogeshwor Krishna Parajuli analyzed where we stand

in building code implementation. In the next episode, Dean of Patan Health Academy Dr. Rajesh Gangol and NSET Director Mr. Ramesh Guragain interacted on Hospital preparedness situation and concepts. Joint Secretary from Ministry of Education Mr. Janardan Nepal briefed on government plans and ongoing efforts on School Safety while Mr. Rajesh Khadka from Private and Boarding Schools' Organization, Nepal (PABSON) talked about safety considerations of private school buildings. Assistant Inspector General of Armed Police Force Mr. Koshraj Wonta shared about how APF is working to deal with Disaster situations. With the view to induce policy level advocacies, programs on different occasions approached senior political leaders and Minister for Physical Planning and Works Mr. Top Bahadur Rayamajhi, former Ministers Mr. Ram Sharan Mahat, Mr. Bhim Bahadur Rawal and Dr. Prakash Chandra Lohani participated in these programs. Not only limited within Nepali boundaries, the program hosted Mr. Bob Parker, Mayor of Christchurch City, New Zealand and Dr. Richard Sharpe, BECA, New Zealand in the studio for sharing their views & experiences on building safer settlements.

The program is now continuing and it is found to be very effective toward establishing issues of earthquake safety as also raising public awareness with broader perspectives.

Earthquake Safety Awareness Campaign

NSET and Jagadamba Steels Pvt. Ltd. have commenced a collaboration for a wider media campaign on promoting Earthquake Safety in Nepal. Under the joint initiative, series of Earthquake Resistant Construction Techniques have been massively disseminated through national broadsheet newspapers & periodicals. The concepts and ideas shared are simplified versions of construction technologies based on scientific studies and extensive experiences of NSET & many other institutions. The messages have been developed in such a way that it could be individually complete & clear as well as together comprise a set of safe construction techniques in sequence. The campaign is now undergoing and more messages are planned to be disseminated.

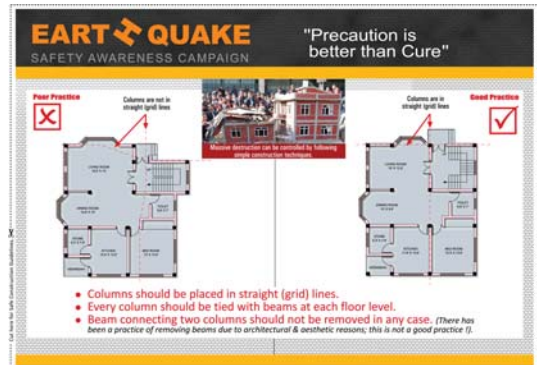
Also the collaboration is conducting television campaign with a similar purpose. Television PSAs have been produced and disseminated through different television stations.

The collaborative effort is expanding in yet another avenue, "Mobile Clinic" aimed at conducting site visits at different localities to give consultation to under-



One of the notices of Mobile Clinic published on National Newspaper

Source: NSET



One of the Earthquake Safety PSAs published on National Newspaper

Source: NSET

construction buildings' owners/ constructors. The campaign has been named as "OPERATION SAFE CONSTRUCTION". On these visits, NSET professionals at the construction sites brief on & impart safe construction knowledge & techniques to the construction workers and house owners.

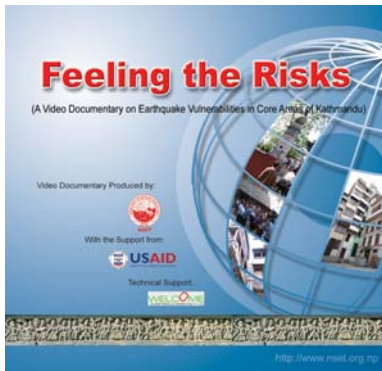
This joint initiative has been found to be an exemplary model for Public-Private Partnership (PPP).

Feeling the Risks

(A Video Documentary on Earthquake Vulnerabilities in Core Areas of Kathmandu)

National Society for Earthquake Technology-Nepal (NSET) has produced Feelings the Risks (A Video Documentary on Earthquake Vulnerabilities in Core Areas of Kathmandu) with the support from United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/ Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) and technical assistance from Welcome Advertising & Marketing Pvt. Ltd., Kathmandu, Nepal.

The vulnerability and high earthquake risk of Kathmandu valley can be felt and observed through simply walking around



a few core city areas in Kathmandu. Earthquake Vulnerability Tour that NSET is executing is hence a walking tour to such core areas to observe and feel the earthquake vulnerabilities. This short video is the visual compilation of one of such routes of vulnerability tour in Kathmandu, the route of Bhugol Park - Indra Chowk - Chokhachhen Galli - Itum Bahal where we can see the

vulnerability, increasing risks, traditional wisdom & local capacities to cope with the potential threats.

Such an attempt to witness the ground situations is believed to be a factual help to planning processes of comprehensive disaster risk management at community to national level.

WORLD FORUM

LESSONS FROM THE GREAT JAPANESE EARTHQUAKE OF 2011

The Great Japanese Earthquake of 2011 is one more crisis in a series of historic disasters that have so far defined the third millennium. The tragedy caused much damage with a death toll in the ten of thousands, but the pain could have been worse while there are lessons we must learn from this experience.

The Earthquake was so powerful it literally pushed the Honshu Island eight feet away from Asia. If not for their meticulous preparation, the Japanese People would be experiencing a far darker outcome. Strict regulation and smart building technology saved lives. The world should look to Japanese architecture as a standard and praise it as a success.

What we can learn from buildings that both survived and failed during the quake is what improvements might be made to designs. The strength of the Earthquake tested the limits of these structures, so now we can better understand where they were weakest. Recovery for Japan means their infrastructure can be improved upon while the rest of the world should realize the need for stronger infrastructure exists. Because old building were retrofitted to withstand massive seismic activity, and did, this disaster must motivate earthquake prone communities to upgrade, even if they cannot invest in all new quake resistant towns and cities.

Unfortunately, it appears most of the catastrophic damage done was caused by the resulting tsunami, though the ability



Japan-earthquake devastation

Source: NSET

to escape still standing structures certainly reduced the death toll. The Japanese People have learned their sea walls have limits, even when they are in the right places. The lesson is that sometimes we have no defense against nature. Some structures can be built to withstand tsunamis, but such building is cost prohibitive on a national scale, especially given Japan's economic troubles. Strategic planning can help save more lives in tsunami zones lacking close high ground through the use of novel tsunami resistant community centers that can be reached in minutes.

Preparedness and the calm, orderly temperament of the Japanese People served them well during the onslaught of the crisis. Unlike most other countries,

Japan was well-prepared for both a massive earthquake and tsunami, thus lives were saved. Japan is one of the best-prepared countries in the world for this kind of disaster. They've changed their building codes since the Kobe earthquake in 1995. The preparation was reflected on how orderly the citizens responded to the earthquake, and how efficiently the rescue and recovery was mobilized. The Self-Defense forces were there within twelve hours. The response of the government has been far better in release of information, quality of information, and the ability to react almost immediately. The greatest concern for Japan now is the response and the recovery of the people affected by this earthquake.

NSET prays for Japanese people

A Prayerful Silence offered at NSET to the victims of Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. NSET staff gathered in the morning of March 15, 2011, at the office premises pausing their works for a short while and expressed their deepest feelings of sympathy and support to Japanese people & prayed for them with a One- Minute-Silence! At the later part, Mr. Amod Mani Dixit, Executive Director, NSET shared some of the key issues in regard to such devastations! Many Asian people expressed their similar feelings in different parts of the world almost at the same time upon ADRRN appeal.



NSET staff praying prayerful silence

Source: NSET

'Kathmandu can learn from Christchurch's handling of quake'

Robert Parker, Mayor of Christchurch, New Zealand—who won world fame for his post-disaster performance after a devastating earthquake measuring 7.2 on the Richter scale struck the city on the early morning of September 4, 2010—was here to attend a symposium on earthquakes. He shared his experience in disaster preparedness with Pragati Shahi of the Post.

What was it like in the quake's immediate aftermath?

It was early Saturday, most people were sleeping. New Zealand gets a lot of quakes so it was not a big deal. But the tremor did not stop this time; it got more and more violent and lasted over 40 seconds, which is a very long time. An earthquake measuring 7 on the Richter scale had hit 19 miles west of the city. Soon after, people started coming out of their homes to open areas.

How did you cope with the disaster? Was there considerable damage in the central city?

The scene of devastation was terrible. The administrative state building collapsed. Older brick structures built without following codes were destroyed. People reported collapsed buildings and bridges as well as power cuts. The first thought within the first few hours was how to find out how great the shock was and how far away the epicentre was located. We gathered information and tried to get a picture of what was happening.

We knew this would happen and it did happen. The first team began to assemble 30 minutes after the shock. I went to the assembly headquarters and to the top of the council building because it was a high place. There were no lights or electricity. Thankfully, there was no fire.

One thing you need to understand is that no plan will make you prepared unless you have the ability to adapt. And, if you are not prepared to mitigate the risks of any disaster the situation will get chaotic anyway. I feel guilty for not being prepared. When the earthquake struck, I didn't have the emergency kit ready.

Infrastructure and property worth more than US\$ 10 billion were destroyed.

What was the most difficult part while dealing with the disaster? How effectively were the rescue and relief operations carried out?

The most difficult thing during the first few hours of the disaster was to get a true picture of the disaster. Management of waste water that could lead to contamination was the most urgent task to perform. Though less talked about, the physiological damage a major disaster has on your population and you is the most important to deal with. Wherever I go—Kathmandu or New Zealand or elsewhere in the world—I can tell you every sound the earthquake makes, every feeling that comes with it. The heightened tension in the communities when simple things become difficult, and how I can start from nothing were some important questions that hit me then.

However, we succeeded in providing basic facilities such as 24-hour power, water and food supply within a couple of days of the disaster. It took around two weeks to get the situation back to normal.

What are the lessons for Nepal from the Christchurch disaster?

Every individual, not just the authorities, needs to plan. The people here could think on an individual level on what would be their response to the disaster. If you don't have a plan and don't have some understanding of how to mitigate the impacts of a disaster, then you cannot limit the extent of damage it will cause. The government should be leading on this and, also, the local authority has an important role to play now in disaster risk reduction.

In my country, the earthquake happened in the middle of an election campaign and if I had not done a good job, I would not be sitting here today as the mayor of Christchurch. I would be unemployed. The great incentive is to make sure that I work hard for the welfare of my people and country.

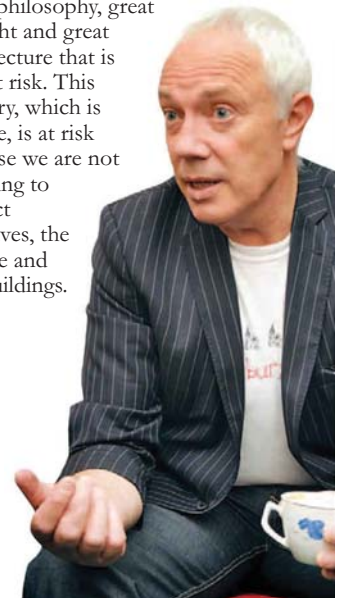
In Nepal, there are experts, knowledgeable and experienced international organisations

such as Red Cross, United Nations and other local partners coming together to work on disasters. We need to think of what we can do collectively to ensure the chances of our survival. We need to have some ideas on simple needs like food, water, health securities and access to local hospitals at the time of disaster. Local hospitals could be vital. And unless we can convince the government and unless we can prepare the local government to prepare risk reduction strategies, we cannot do anything to solve the big problem.

You have been in Kathmandu for a while? What difficulties would the authorities face should a similar disaster hit the valley?

The earthquake that struck my city originated nine kilometres below the surface and 30 km away from the central city area and the damage was absolutely immense. And if you look at the tightly packed street pattern and high-rise buildings which are being constructed without following building codes, the potential threat here is massive. There will be significant loss of lives, buildings and a large part of the city will be on the ground in rubble.

Most importantly, in this city, which has an extraordinary culture and extraordinary history, it is the source of great philosophy, great thought and great architecture that is also at risk. This country, which is unique, is at risk because we are not planning to protect ourselves, the culture and the buildings.



Excerpt from 'The Kathmandu Post' | February 18, 2011, English Daily, Nepal

NEW MEMBERS OF NSET FAMILY



Ms. Rajani Prajapati
Structural Engineer



Mr. Minesh Ratna Tamrakar
Structural Engineer

QUAKE MONITOR (International)

Year	Magnitude	Location	Remark
01/01/11	7.0	Santiago, Del Estero, Argentina	No reports of damage or casualties
18/01/11	7.2	Southwestern Pakistan	Two people died from heart attacks and 200 homes damaged (V) in Balochistan and other places
11/02/11	6.8	Offshore, Bio-Bio, Chile	Power outages in Constitucion, Curanipe and Pelluhue. Felt (VI) at Arauco and Talcahuano; (V) at Chillan, Concepcion, and other places
21/02/11	6.1	South Island of New Zealand	At least 166 people killed, 240 missing, 1,500 injured and about 100,000 buildings destroyed or damaged (VIII) in the Christchurch-Lyttelton area. Landslides and liquefaction occurred in the area
06/03/11	6.5	South Sandwich Islands Region	No reports of damage or casualties
09/03/11	6.5	Near Britian Region, Papua New Guinea	No reports of damage or casualties
10/03/11	5.4	Myanmar-China Border Region	At least 25 people killed, 250 injured, more than 6,000 buildings heavily damaged or destroyed and utilities disrupted in Yingjiang, China
11/03/11	9.0	Near the East coast of Honshu Japan	At least 13,858 people killed, 4,916 injured, and 14,175 people missing across eighteen prefectures, as well as over 125,000 buildings damaged or destroyed. The earthquake and tsunami caused extensive and severe structural damage in Japan, including heavy damage to roads and railways as well as fires in many areas, and a dam collapse.
24/03/11	6.8	Myanmar	At least 74 people killed, 111 injured, 413 buildings damaged and one bridge collapsed in eastern Myanmar. Landslides occurred in the area. One person was killed in northern Thailand. Twelve people injured, 9,496 people displaced and 9,691 houses, 136 reservoirs and 35 roads damaged in Yunnan, China. Widely felt in Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

Source: USGS

FOR TIPS ON EARTHQUAKE RISK MITIGATION TUNE IN TO...

Radio Sagarmatha (FM 102.4) at 7.30 PM, Tuesday
Radio Annapurna (FM 91.8) at 7.30 AM, Wednesday

WATCH ...

Nepal Television every Saturday 8:25 am
"Bhukampa Bishesh" section on Janachaso Program
"Talk of the Town" weekly program on Image Channel Television every Saturday 8:30pm



Think about making your home Earthquake-Resistant

Attend our House Owners Consultation Program
"Every Friday: 2-5pm"

FRIDAY FREE EARTHQUAKE CLINIC

at NSET Office

PROFILE

Mr. Adutiya Narayan Kanth

Administrative Officer

National Society for Earthquake Technology-Nepal (NSET)



Mr. Adutiya Narayan Kanth joined NSET as an Office Assistant in January 1999. He was upgraded to the position of Jr. Administrative officer in 2006 and was later promoted to the present position of Administrative Officer in 2010 with added responsibilities in the Administrative Division.

Under the supervision of the Head of Administration Division, he has administered and executed regular office activities and various programs conducted and implemented in Nepal and the region efficiently. Working at NSET, Mr. Kanth has gained considerable experience and expertise in administrative and office management. His scope of works includes providing administrative and logistic supports to various divisions or departments when and where required. Personnel Management and Procurement Management are other key areas of Administrative activities where he has made noticeable contributions. He has been associated with coordinating travel related activities like planning, documenting and dealing with diplomatic agencies and travel businesses for NSET professionals for both the domestic as well as international sectors.

Mr. Kanth has helped in configuring and managing NSET Emergency Kits namely "Earthquake Go Bag" and "Household Kit" for individuals as conceptualized and developed by NSET. He has been actively involved in assisting the Emergency Preparedness and Response Division of NSET in providing training on Light Search and Rescue as well as other emergency preparedness training to communities. His aptitude to work in team in executing the delegated authority and supervising subordinates for daily administrative work of NSET is highly commendable. He is equally good in public relations, dealing & working with people from different sectors whether it be the community or diplomatic agency or government or academia.

Mr. Kanth has actively assisted in various national and international conferences and seminars in Nepal and the region. He contributed to organize the Regional Planning Meeting (RPM) of Program for Enhancement of Emergency Response (PEER) held in March 2011 in Manila, Philippines. The program was organized by the PEER/NSET with the funding support from USAID/OFDA.

Mr. Kanth holds a Masters degree in Business Studies (MBS) from Tribhuvan University. Apart from promoting earthquake safety in the communities, he has also been involved in developing rehabilitation facilities for victims of Drugs Abuses & Alcoholism. He belongs to a young and dynamic generation with tremendous energy and enthusiasm.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON

Earthquakes and NSET's efforts towards earthquake risk reduction log on to www.nset.org.np



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