

NSET celebrating 16th Anniversary!

June 18, 2009

Bhookampa Pravidhi Rashtriya Samaj - Nepal (भूकम्प प्रविधि राष्ट्रिय समाज-नेपाल) or the **National Society for Earthquake Technology - Nepal (NSET)** is today in festive mood to celebrate its 16th Anniversary. A special program has been set to mark this very occasion. This day is highly received by NSET affiliates to renew their spirit, vigor and commitments towards achieving NSET vision, mission and Goals to ensure earthquake safe communities.

Amid a gracious presence of invitees among from NSET's partners, well wishers and community people, there will be a formal **RECEPTION PROGRAM** at NSET premises during 1400 - 1730 hrs., and we will be releasing NSET decade book '**Safer Society and Annual Report 2008**' along with June issue of **NSET Newsletter**. After the reception hours, NSET in-house team along with their family members will continue the program with fun and entertainment.

NSET was founded by a meeting of professionals on June 18, 1993 with the vision "Earthquake Safe Communities in Nepal by 2020". The meeting, convened by Amod Mani Dixit and Mahesh Nakarmi, was attended by around 15 professionals from the Ministry of Housing and Physical Planning and its departments, seismologists, university professors, civil engineers and journalists. Since then, the day of 18th June has been commemorated as NSET Day. NSET was registered at the District Administration Office, Kathmandu on April 28, 1994 and at the Social Welfare Council on August 10, 1998. Today, NSET is Nepal's foremost institution working on earthquake risk management. Its seismic risk reduction activities are now being carried out in various parts of the world.

NSET has so far developed and implemented several innovative initiatives and processes. Nepal began observing Earthquake Safety Day in January 1999 and the ownership of this program is shared by government, academic and private sector institutions as well as the communities. The School Earthquake Safety Program (SESP) was started in 1997 and is still being implemented. Similarly, the innovative methodology of earthquake damage risk assessment and action planning risk management was first completed in Kathmandu Valley and is being replicated in several municipalities. Other initiatives taken up by NSET are Earthquake Mobile Clinics, Vulnerability Tours, training of masons and petty contractors in earthquake-resistant construction, development of methodologies for seismic vulnerability assessment of health institutions and enhancing emergency response capacities of formal institutions and informal community groups. Many of these initiatives have been endorsed by reputed universities and research institutes in Nepal, India, Japan, and the United States of America and by the United Nations. Some of the approaches have been replicated in other countries: in India after the Gujarat Earthquake (2001), Iran after the Bam Earthquake of 1999, India after the Kashmir Earthquake of 2005 and in countries affected by the Tsunami of 2004. NSET activities constitute a broad spectrum ranging from technological innovations & academic as well as policy level interventions to upgrading disaster awareness among school-children, house-wives, & commoner people and promoting capacity building of construction activists at grass-root level. NSET endeavors are hence well-set, well-addressed and sustained.