



# Panel Discussion on School Earthquake Safety

15:00-17:00 HRS. | TUESDAY, 17 MARCH 2015  
SENDAI CIVIC AUDITORIUM MEETING ROOM 3

## NSET Invites You to be Part of a Discussion on Making Schools Disaster Resilient

"We don't build our school buildings ourselves.  
Why should we children die from weakness which other create?"  
- Sony Maharjan, Student, Nepal



**What a safe school should mean?** How much emphasis on school infrastructures, preparedness plan, disaster curricula and awareness, capacity building and community?

**Making schools disaster resilient: what are the lessons of two decade long efforts?**

**What seismic retrofitting technologies work for developing countries?** What should be the safety level- immediate occupancy or accept life safety? Retrofitting cost: what percentage of new constructions is logical to invest?

**Reaching beyond schools:** Resilient community through community schools. But how to measure the reach?



Government of Nepal  
Ministry of Education  
Department of Education



**USAID**  
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Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance  
(USAID/OFDA)



**NSET**

National Society for Earthquake  
Technology-Nepal (NSET)

## About the Session:

Schools in developing countries are vulnerable to numerous natural hazards, the most prominent being earthquakes, landslides, flood and soil erosion. This vulnerability is due to a chronic weakness in school building construction as well as a lack school disaster risk management system. A low level awareness among teachers, students, parents and other stakeholders is the root cause of these vulnerable conditions.

Many countries have put the school disaster safety issues in high priority. Nepal has made great strides in developing concepts and methodologies on School Earthquake

Safety by combining physical vulnerability reducing and enhancing school disaster risk management planning. Such efforts of structural, non-structural, and functional vulnerability reduction have, either comprehensively or at least in one of the three components, been successfully implemented in about 500 public schools in Nepal.

This session aims to discuss the issues of School Safety and mutually learn from the similar programs/initiatives in the developing countries.

## Expected Outcomes:

- Shared understanding on comprehensive multi hazard disaster safety
- Consensus on major issues and challenges
- Identified priority areas for next step
- Prepared and circulated consolidated post Sendai note by NSET

## Expected Audience:

- Officials from government authorities related to education
- Professionals and practitioners from civil society organizations, non government organizations, and professional societies
- Bilateral agencies, UN organizations and International financing institutions supporting education sector
- Researchers from academic and research institutions
- Organizations, I/NGOs, CBOs and other agencies supporting education sector

## Panelists:

- Mr. Jhapper Singh Vishokarma, Senior Divisional Engineer, Department of Education, Nepal
- Mr. Iwan Gunawan, World Bank, Indonesia
- Mr. Hari Kumar, Geo Hazards International
- Mr. Nick Ireland, Save the Children
- Professor Kimiro Meguro, The University of Tokyo

## Session Moderator:

Dr. Ramesh Guragain, Deputy Executive Director, National Society for Earthquake Technology-Nepal (NSET)

## Acknowledgements:

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