Earthquake Safety

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Dear Friends of NSET, Welcome to this Newsletter published and circulated by NSET. NSET Newsletters are an attempt to share with you the most recent NSET efforts on Earthquake Risk Reduction and disseminate knowledge and resources on Disaster Risk Reduction. The Newsletters are released both online and pdf format. We humbly request

FEATURE STORY: NSET MARKED 26 YEARS OF ITS JOURNEY

National Society for Earthquake Technology–Nepal (NSET) marked 26 years of its journey with a ceremony at NSET Headquarters, Bhainsepati, Lalitpur and also in Dhading, Dolakha and Surkhet districts. Interaction Programs and Photo Exhibitions along with in-house sharing session were also held to mark the occasion.



26th NSET Day

June 16, 2019 Kathmandu

Established in 1993 with its mission to enhance seismic safety of Nepali communities, NSET observes the day on June 18 every year as 'A Day to Reaffirm the Commitments to Earthquake Safety". Prominent professionals from different government agencies, partner organizations and other stakeholders joined the celebrations.



NSET

26th NSET Day

June 18, 2019 Dhading

Addressing the formal NSET Day program held in NSET Headquarters, Dr. Chandra Bahadur Shrestha, Executive Member of National Reconstruction Authority (NRA), appreciated NSET efforts in Nepal's postfor your feedback, comments and queries that would support us enhance quality of our efforts that are focused to help building community resilience.

earthquake reconstruction. Dr. Shrestha remarked, "NSET's experiences from

earthquake reconstruction works in Gujarat (India), Muzaffarabad (Pakistan) and Iran, provided key input to NRA after 2015 Gorkha Earthquake. NSET's role has been important to shaping and gearing up Nepal's reconstruction."

Addressing the program, Mr. Bamshi Kumar Acharya, Under Secretary at Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), highlighted the role played by NSET in national and international arena. "Technically, NSET is an NGO. But it has emerged as a campaign in itself in the area of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in Nepal," Mr. Acharya said.

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NSET 26th NSET Day

June 18, 2019 Dhading

Highlighting the long partnership with NSET, Mr. Mark Driver, Acting Mission Director of USAID Nepal, acknowledged the impact that NSET work has made in Nepal's school safety, earthquake risk reduction and preparedness. "NSET is working not only in Nepal, it is also implementing programs in the regional level in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and many more countries with funding support from USAID. After 2015, NSET is also involved in post-earthquake reconstruction with the support of USAID," he remarked.

Mr. Rajesh Thapa, President of SCAEF, highlighted the contribution of NSET in Nepal's Earthquake Risk Management. Mr. Thapa stated, "NSET which established to support in the implementation of National Building Code (NBC) has now emerged as one of the important stakeholders of Disaster Risk Management of the country."



26th NSET Day

June 18, 2019 Dolakha

Dr. Amod Mani Dixit, NSET General Secretary, presenting the various milestones of NSET's 25 years' history, briefed about NSET's various activities and efforts from past to present.

Mr. Surya Narayan Shrestha, Executive Director of NSET thanked guests

and participants. Mr. Shrestha remarked, "We have been able to accomplish many activities and still lot to be done. We need to be prepared for another 25 years more as there are equally challenging days ahead."

During the program, the distinguished guests also unveiled the publications published by NSET.

On the occasion, a photo exhibition was also organized at NSET office premises with the view to share experiences of reconstruction through USAID supported and NSET implemented Baliyo Ghar program. Guests and invitees from various organizations observed the exhibition.

Total 150 persons including guests representing various Government Offices, Local Governments, Security Forces, Diplomatic Missions, Bilateral/Multilateral Agencies, Donors/Partners, I\NGOs, CBOs, Professional Societies, Private Sector, Media, Local Communities and various DRR stakeholders as well as NSET Staff and Members joined the ceremony held in Kathmandu.

Formal programs were also held in three districts; Dhading, Dolakha and Surkhet where participants and stakeholders from various agencies and institutions were present. Inhouse sharing programs were held in the three districts as well on the occasion prior to formal program.

MAKING RESILIENT CITIES: TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO MUNICIPALITIES FOR BUILDING CODE IMPLEMENTATION

Findings of 'Study of Urban Development in Kathmandu Valley' shared

A Workshop on 'Study of Urban Development in Kathmandu Valley, Status of National Building Code and Building By-Laws Implementation' held in Kathmandu on March 22, 2019. The workshop, which saw the participation of around 80 stakeholders, was organized with view to share the survey findings among the stakeholders, get their feedback on the findings of the study, revise the findings in line with the feedback and make recommendations for the effective implementation of Building Code and Building By-Laws in the future.

Representatives from Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD), Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC), Kathmandu Valley Development Authority (KVDA), various professional societies, namely, Nepal Engineers' Association, Society of Nepali Architects (SONA), Nepal Engineering Council), Municipalities, INGOs and NGOs among other professionals joined the program made their contribution. carry out the survey on 'Study of Urban Development in Kathmandu Valley'. The Department of Urban **Development and Building** Construction (DUDBC) has provided guidance for carrying out the study. The study focused on existing Acts and Regulations related to By-laws and Building Code enforcement, the By-laws and Building Code compliance of constructed buildings and drawings and priority areas of interventions to enhance the bye-laws and Building Code compliance rate.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) collaborated with NSET to





There are large number of existing vulnerable buildings in the Municipalities of Nepal. In many cases, house-owners are found to adding floors above the existing vulnerable buildings, making the buildings even more vulnerable. In order to address such situation, Ghorahi Sub-Metropolitan City of Dang district in Province No. 5 has initiated the process of retrofitting of existing vulnerable buildings. Under the TSBCIN program, NSET is assisting the Sub-Metropolitan City to develop system for assessment and retrofitting of existing building.

According to the initiatives launched by Sub-Metropolitan City, if any house-owner wants to add floors to the existing buildings, the house-owner is required to conduct the detail assessment of the existing house. If the house is found not good enough for addition of floors, then house owner has to retrofit the existing portion of the house so that the entire house is earthquake-resistant.





Additionally, if any new building has been constructed non-compliant to the building code, it does not get "certificate of completion", the house-owner has to retrofit to correct and then only, they get the certificate.

MAKING RESILEINT SCHOOLS: EFFORTS ON SCHOOL SAFETY

Progress review workshop on Seismic Safety and Resilience of Schools in Nepal (SAFER)

A progress sharing workshop of Seismic Safety and Resilience of Schools in Nepal (SAFER), a project focused on improving the seismic safety and resilience of schools in Nepal was held in Kathmandu on April 24, 2019.

With the view to share the progress of the research as part of SAFER project, the workshop was organized jointly by Center for Education and Human Resource Division (CEHRD), University of Bristol, SAFER and NSET.

SAFER is a consortium program of various partners; Bristol University, University of Southampton, California Institute of Technology (CALTECH), University at Buffalo, University of Roma Tre, NSET, Tribhuvan University, Institute of Engineering, Kathmandu University (KU), Arup International Development (ARUP-ID) and Save the Children.

The Safer School Research Project has been divided into five work packages and various tasks which are scheduled to be accomplished in three years. The five work packages of School Research Project are as follows.

1. Geo-database for the Kathmandu Valley and Seismic Hazard Assessment.

- 2. Mobile App and WebApp Platform for Managing School Inspectors at a National Level.
- Laboratory Testing of Masonry and Stone Schools in Nepal. Natural Isolation and Superstructure Engineering.
- 4. Structural Vulnerability of Schools in Nepal.
- 5. Seismic Resilience of Educational Communities.

The event saw the participation of around 40 people from various organizations including academicians and researchers

associated with national and international universities, representatives of development partners, officials from Government of Nepal and Non-Governmental Organizations.



Consultation Meetings, site selection and finalization of local units for implementation of NSSP

Formally launched on May 29, 2018, the NSSP has successfully completed the inception period and is now in its implementation phase. With view to share NSSP progress to provincial government, consultation meetings with Ministry for Social Development of all three provinces have been accomplished. Likewise, in order to finalize the Municipalities and Rural Municipalities for Project implementation, series of meetings and consultations with officials of District Coordination Committee (DCC) have been accomplished. Such meetings have been held at all the four program districts. The meetings finalized the 17 local units for implementation of NSSP activities. Meanwhile, the first round of Municipality consultation meetings was also held in 5 out of 17 rural/ municipalities. Earthquake Safety Promotional Officers (ESPO) were deployed in NSSP districts and are being involved in regular coordination and information collection activities. The working area of the NSSP covers 17 local units of four districts- Bardiya of Province No. 5, Jumla and Surkhet of Karnali Province and Achham of Sudurpaschim Province. NSSP is one of the programs under DFID's "Strengthening Disaster Resilience in Nepal" that includes a total of six programs. The major objective of the NSSP is to support the implementation of the Comprehensive School Safety framework (Safer Learning Facilities, Disaster Management and Resilient Education) in four districts in the Far

and Mid-West and Support national-level capacity in the Center for Education and Human Resource Division (CEHRD) to further develop policy and guidan



MAKING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES: COMMUNITY FOCUSED DRM EFFORTS

VCA Training held at Bharatpur Metropolitan City

With a view to develop Local Disaster and Climate Resilient Plan (LDCRP) of Bharatpur Metropolitan City (BMC), Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (VCA) trainings have been conducted to local volunteers in May 2019 covering all the wards. The first round of 3-day training was held during 13-15 May, 2019, while second series of VCA training conducted during 17-19 May.

Altogether 62 Local Volunteers graduated from the training program. After 3-day training, all the local volunteers are expected to collect necessary data in their respective wards. The training program was jointly organized by BMC and NSET-TSBCIN.



LDCRP Orientations at Bharatpur Metropolitan City

A total of 24 people including elected leaders and officials of Bharatpur Metropolitan City (BMC) participated in a five-day training program on Local Disaster and Climate Resilient Plan (LDCRP) organized in BMC during 11-15, December 2018. The major focus of the training was on the planning process. The training was expected to impart skills to Disaster Risk Management Committees (DRMC) to initiate planning and implementation of DRR Preparedness and Climate Change Adaptation. The program covered basics of disaster risk reduction and preparedness at the municipal level including climate change adaptation.

ENHANCING PREPAREDNESS AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE CAPACITY

Regional Courses on Advanced Search and Rescue held

A series of regional courses on advanced search and rescue have been organized in Disaster Management Training School of Armed Police Force, Nepal at Kurintar, Chitwan, Nepal. A 13-day course on "Medical First Responder (MFR)" started on June 12, 2019 in Kurintar which was inaugurated by Home Minister Ram Bahadur Thapa "Badal". The event was followed by 8-day training course on "Collapsed Search and Rescue (CSSR)". There were total 24 participants from Government Offices and National Security Agencies of Afghanistan, Bhutan, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Nepal whereas instructors are from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal.

Addressing the inaugural session, Home Minister Thapa highlighted the importance of enhancing national response capacity in view of disaster emergencies. NSET Executive Director Surya Narayan Shrestha briefed history of PEER and its contribution in the PEER partner countries.



Inspector General of Armed Police Force Shailendra Khanal extended happiness to hosting the course in the Disaster Management Training School (APF/DMTS) where APF has developed training facilities as per the PEER standard.

The day had begun with a demonstration of the "Swift Water Rescue (Deep Diving)" by rescue squad at

Diving)" by rescue squad at APF/DMTS in Trishuli River.

Earthquake Drill conducted in NSET

NSET conducted the Earthquake Drill on 25th April 2019 coinciding with the Gorkha Earthquake took place 4 years ago. A total of 100



staff members executed according to the Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP) of NSET. NSET has framed two types of EPRP for office.

Emergency Display Case installed at NSET premises



NSET-DPER under Program for Enhancement of Emergency Response (PEER) program has been conducting Medical First Responder (MFR), and Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue (CSSR), Community Action for Disaster Response (CADRE), Swift Water Rescue (SWR), trainings. These courses are specialized for emergency medical and search and rescue targeted for different level of responders. The major tools and equipment required to perform these skills have been displayed in the display box in front of NSET building. Through the display box, DPER aims to disseminate participated the surprise drill. It was the information regarding the required tools and equipment for effect response of different situations of emergencies.

BUILD BACK BETTER: ASSISTING POST GORKHA EARTHQUAKE RECONSTRUCTION

NSET showcases photos and stories of reconstruction efforts on the 4th Anniversary of Gorkha Earthquake

A Photo Exhibition entitled "NSET Efforts on Reconstruction" was organized by NSET during April 25-30, 2019 at NSET Office premises. The Exhibition commenced on April 25, 2019, the day to commemorate 2015 Gorkha Earthquake. The aim was to share the experiences and showcase stories gathered during reconstruction activities of NSET through USAID supported Baliyo Ghar program. Groups of visitors from government offices, municipalities, media, communities, rotary, DRR practitioners, teachers, students and NSET staff observed the Exhibition and have shared their reflections, experiences and ideas. The exhibition started with informal sharing among NSET staff.

Dr. Amod Mani Dixit, General Secretary of NSET urged NRA to organize an international conference to share and showcase the learnings of Nepal's reconstruction.

Mr. Andrew Golda from USAID Nepal briefed about USAID support for Nepal's reconstruction efforts to achieve "Build Back Better".



Addressing the Closing Session, Chief Executive Officer of National Reconstruction Authority (NRA), Mr. Sushil Gyewali highlighted the achievements made in reconstruction so far. "Though delayed with some obstacles, we have been marching towards successful reconstruction which eventually would be a model for rest of the world," Mr. Gyewali stated.

At the beginning, Mr. Surya Narayan Shrestha, Executive Director of NSET highlighted the experiences of reconstruction that NSET has collected and emphasized on the objectives of organizing photo exhibition.

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Former Chancellor of Nepal Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) and Senior Artist

Mr. Kiran Manandhar shared on how fine arts could help in promoting public awareness on earthquakes and other disasters and also in enhancing culture of safety in our societies.

Senior Litterateur Mr. Shanta Das Manandhar, who is the writer of awardwinning book on earthquake education "Hajuramako Katha" (Grandma's Story), stressed on importance of civic education to tackle the disaster adversities including earthquakes.



Institutionalization of efforts, Training to Local Authorities

In the initial phase of Baliyo Ghar Program, massive awareness raising activities were conducted, whereas in due course, capacity enhancement activities like mason trainings, trainings to engineers were focused. Now, time has come to institutionalize the reconstruction efforts. As the reconstruction campaign began, in the absence of local authorities, somehow it was hindering the reconstruction activities basically in decision making and facilitating the government process. After the local bodies came to force after local elections it has been easy enough to coordinate and collaborate in making the communities resilient. But the local authorities were in seek of programs that would help in enhancing their understanding and boosting the capacity. Enhanced capacity of the local authority can play crucial role in the effective and safer reconstruction. In such scenario Baliyo Ghar program accelerated the coordination meetings and began implementing Training to Local Authorities soon after they were elected.



4 Trainings for Local Authorities and Social Activists on Disaster Risk Reduction, Building Code Implementation, Sustainable Reconstruction and Retrofit have been organized in the program areas. The two-day training package includes Roles of local authorities for sustainable reconstruction and DRR, building permit system and building code implementation followed by simulation, theories, research findings and implementation of retrofit, and retrofit on-site visit. It also includes the planning discussion for DRR measures. A separate curriculum has been developed and followed in the training.

Local authorities representing Nilkantha Municipality, Siddhalekh Rural Municipality and Galchhi Rural Municipality of Dhading participated the training conducted at Ghatbesi, Dhading. Whereas, representatives of Bhimeshwor Municipality, Tamakoshi Rural Municipality, Bigu Rural Municipality and Kalinchwok Rural Municipality of Dolakha participated the training conducted at Singati and Charikot of Dolakha. Likewise, representatives of Kakani Rural Municipality participated the training organized at Kakani, Nuwakot.

As part of the training, the participants were acquainted with the process of building permit system through simulation. Many of the municipalities in Nepal are following building permit system and implementing building code which now is mandatory for the rural municipalities as well. So to enhance the understanding level and capacitate in setting the BCI structure (Policy/system, manpower, resources, technical assistance) in rural municipalities, the demo building permit system exercise was conducted.

After the training, the local authorities have drawn-on in proceeding the enforcement of building code and building permit system in their municipalities. Also, they have shown keen interest in retrofitting the non-damaged houses and existing vulnerable houses in their areas.

The exhibition included basically 6 major themes; Resilient Communities, Happy Families, Reconstruction Heroes, Knowledge and Technology Transfer, Baliyo Ghar Program Activities among end-users; and Inclusion in Reconstruction. More than 100 photos collected from Baliyo Ghar Program areas were displayed during the Exhibition. With the support from USAID, NSET is providing technical assistance in reconstruction of Nepal through Baliyo Ghar Program.

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AWARENESS RAISING AND ADVOCACY EFFORTS

Training Workshop for Radio Journalists focused on community resilience

A Training Workshop for radio journalists held in Kathmandu during April 1-2, 2019 focusing on various dimensions of building community resilience and what and how media can contribute in the process. Total 15 participants, including journalists & program producers from 5 local radios of different provinces partnered under TSBCIN program and also NSET coordination team took part in the learning and sharing processes. Under the program, NSET is working in partnership with five local radios from various provinces with the view to support promote safer construction practices in the various urban and rural municipalities.



Intensive Discussion with Media professionals

Under Baliyo Ghar Program, NSET has been frequently holding discussions with the journalists to build better understanding among them particularly on reconstruction process, good practices of reconstruction, gaps identified and specific issues that comes across. Organizing a one-day workshop, NSET discussed the reconstruction issues with the journalists from Dhading district. The discussion was focused on the roles of mass media for resilient reconstruction and successful implementation of Retrofit. A **Media**

Workshop on Reconstruction and Retrofit was organized in Dhadingbesi.

In enhancing the knowledge on the concept, technology and viability of Retrofit among the journalists and sharing the ideas in implementing Retrofit On-the Job Training (OJT) in Dhading, the workshop became an ample platform.

During the workshop, various working journalists based in Dhading shared their experiences of reporting in the post-earthquake situation and overall reconstruction process. In the meantime, sharing their learning over the workshop, most of the participants acknowledged NSET for creating such platform to discuss about retrofit and enhancing knowledge on its technicalities. Invited as the special guest in the workshop, Mr. Rajendra KC, Chief of NRA-GMALI-Dhading urged the journalists to cover and write the reconstruction success stories and also positive aspects of reconstruction rather than just criticizing the efforts made.



RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT: USE OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY IN RESISTANCE

Out-of-plane Lateral Load Test for Stone in Mud Masonry Wall

A trial test on April 8, 2019 and two pilot tests on April 21, 2019 of stone in mud walls were carried out at the Institute of Engineering Laboratory. Of the two pilots, one was retrofitted with welded wire meshing at critical locations and GI wire meshes at remaining ones. The test was conducted under SAFER (Seismic Safety and Resilience of Schools in Nepal) project in updating and refining the SAFER inspection mobile application, study the behavior of stone masonry buildings through the lab test. The test showed significant improvement in out of plane lateral load capacity and deformability on the walls after retrofitting.



Out of plane pushover test of stone in mud wall retrofitted using wire mesh at IOE lab, Pulchowk

Training on Advanced Design conducted for Design Engineers and Structural Engineers at NSET

A nine-day intensive hands on training on (Non Linear Pushover (NLPO) and Non Linear Kinematic Analysis (NLKA) was conducted in April-May 2019 under the NSSP project.

The objective of the training was to enhance the capacity of the Design Engineers and Structural Engineers of NSET in nonlinear design of masonry building using a commercial software 3MURI which can be beneficial during the execution of the NSSP. The instructors were four professionals from ARUP International: Timurhan Timur, Associate Director ARUP; Esref Serhan TAKO, Senior Structural Engineer and Michele Malaspina, Structural Engineer. The participants of the training were twelve Civil Engineers and Structural Engineers from NSET and ESS who are involved in design works. All participants were provided with" Certificate of Completion".

Interactive seminar on applicability of Global Earthquake Hazard and Risk Models in Nepal

An interactive seminar on "Potential Applicability of Global Earthquake Hazard and Risk Models in Nepal" was held at NSET on March 22, 2019. It was jointly organized by The Global Earthquake Model (GEM) Foundation and NSET.

The seminar saw the participation of 25 people representing government, academic institutions and civil society organizations in Nepal including Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC), Institute of Engineering (IOE), Nepal Geological Society, Society of Nepalese Architects (SoNA), Department of Geology, Tribhuvan University, Nepal Government, Survey Department, Department of Mine and Geology, Kathmandu Metropolitan City, Lalitpur Metropolitan City, Build Change and NSET among others.

During the seminar, Mr. Vitor Silva, Risk Coordinator and Mr. Anirudh Rao, Risk Analyst from The Global Earthquake Model (GEM) Foundation made

the presentation on functionality, approaches, objectives and accomplishments of GEM in addition to briefing about various disaster risk and seismic evaluation models developed by it. Various participants have also put forth their views opinions and raise questions on the occasion regarding the applicability of the hazard/risk models during the seminar that was facilitated by Mr. Surya Narayan Shrestha, Executive Director of NSET.

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING AT NSET

VFL2019 Implementation Process Underway

The implementation process of Views from the Frontline (VFL) 2019 is underway in Nepal. NSET is serving as the National Coordinating Organization for implementing the VFL-2019 in Nepal. Currently, processing of the data collected from various regions and communities is being done.

Earlier on February 8, 2019, a meeting of VFL National Advisory Committee (NAC) (an apex body in decision making for the implementation of VFL 2019) had finalized 15 rural and urban municipalities as potential Risk Areas and Districts for VFL 2019 implementation based on the physiographic regions of Nepal, Urban and Rural and the HDI and the HPI Index of Nepal.

Likewise, four Partner Organizations (POs), namely, Forum for Awareness and Youth Activity (FAYA), Fulbhari Integrated Rural Development Organization (FIRDO), Friends Service Council Nepal (FSCN) and Nava Prabhat Nepal were selected through open bid process. They are supporting NSET for the implementation for the VFL-2019 implementation in their respective areas. Under the VFL-2019, the POs are to conduct community surveys and consultations as well as facilitate development and implementation of local plans in the communities.

Training for Partner Organizations (POs)

National Training for four selected Partner Organizations (POs) was conducted in Devghat, Tanahun during 12-14 March, 2019. The POs are the ones who implement the VFL 2019 in their respective areas. Forum for Awareness and Youth Activity (FAYA), Fulvari Integrated Rural Development Organization (FIRDO), Friends Service Council Nepal (FSCN) and Nava Prabhat Nepal are implementating VFL-2019.

The training was organized to train POs to conduct community surveys and consultations as well as facilitate development and implementation of local plans in the communities. Altogether 30 participants, two each from 4 POs

and the local surveyors from the selected communities participated in the training program. The concept of VFL-2019, its approach, tools and methods, which enumerators and community facilitators need to apply, were discussed during the training program.

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OTHER NSET EFFORTS

Nepal's experiences shared in Conference on Silk Road DRR and Sustainable Development held in China



International Conference on Silk Road Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development was organized in Beijing, China during May 11-12n 2019. NSET professionals attended the conference where Dr.

Basic Mental Health and Stress Management Workshop

NSET conducted one-day Workshop for the NSET staff to make them aware on mental illness and its treatment process. The workshop was conducted by Dr. Pawan Sharma from Arogin Healthcare and Research Amod Mani Dixit, General Secretary of NSET, seated in Panel of Session 6 and presented paper on "Post-Gorkha Earthquake Initiatives Towards improving Policy-Science-Technology Interface in Nepal", Dr. Ramesh Guragain, Deputy Executive Director of NSET, presented paper on "Different approaches on Earthquake Risk Assessment for effective earthquake risk reduction planning and implementation: An experience from Nepal", and Ms. Hima Shrestha. Director of EERT Division of NSET, presented paper on "Linking Science and Technology for Earthquake Risk Awareness and Reduction: Experience from Nepal". Similarly, Dr. Dixit also made presentation at the Beijing Normal University and Institute of Earthquake Forecasting, Beijing, China.

Center, Banshidhar Marga, Kathmandu. Total 44 participants joined the session.

For more information, please contact us:



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