

PRESS RELEASE

The European Union (EU) has agreed to provide a grant assistance of EUR 8.5 million (approximately Rs. 971.5 million) to the Government of Nepal for the implementation of the Project entitled: “*Support to the Electoral Cycle in Nepal*”. The agreement to this effect was signed between the Government of Nepal and the European Union (EU) and it was preceded by the signing of the Project Document between Election Commission and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Both the agreements were signed at the Ministry of Finance today.

The overall objective of the Project is to support further deepening and consolidation of Nepal's democracy, and the specific objective is to support core electoral stakeholders, principally, the Election Commission, Nepal (ECN) to secure a free, fair and credible electoral processes. The Project will aim to achieve - Strengthened capacity of the Election Commission, Nepal (ECN) to function as permanent, independent, credible and professional institution of governance, Election Cycle conducted in an effective, sustainable and credible manner, and increased democratic participation in the next cycle of elections, particularly for under-represented and disadvantaged segments of Nepali society. The Election Commission, Nepal (ECN) is the implementing agency and the duration of the Project is 48 months. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will administer the Project.

The financing agreement was signed by Mr. Madhu Kumar Marasini, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Mr. Dirk Meganck, Director, European Commission, on behalf of the Government of Nepal and the European Commission, respectively. The Project Document was signed between Mr. Maheshwor Neupane, Joint Secretary, the Election Commission, Nepal (ECN) and Ms. Shoko Noda, Country Director, UNDP.

The Government of Nepal has expressed its sincere appreciation to the European Union for this assistance and also for the keen interest and continued support in the socio-economic development of Nepal.

Ministry of Finance
Singhadurbar
Kathmandu, Nepal

November 29, 2012 Thursday

मंसिर १४, २०६९