

Press Release

Following the signing by the Government of Nepal (GoN) and five donor agencies, on 22 January 2010, of an amendment of the Joint Financing Arrangement (JFA) for the Nepal Peace Trust Fund (NPTF), the Government of Switzerland has agreed to provide a grant assistance of Swiss Franc 5 million (equivalent to about Rs. 349.85 million) to the Government of Nepal to support the Peace Process in Nepal. This assistance will be placed at the disposal of the Nepal Peace Trust Fund (NPTF) as a contribution to support activities of NPTF. The first instalment of this assistance, CHF 2,000,000 will be disbursed immediately and the second instalment of CHF 3,000,000 will be disbursed in the 2nd half of 2010.

The overall objective of NPTF, which was established in 2007, is to support the successful implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and subsequent CPA related agreements. NPTF was established with a view to channel and coordinate resources in eight areas, namely, Management of cantonments and rehabilitation of the combatants; Rehabilitation of the displaced; Election of the Constituent Assembly and other entities; Promotion and strengthening of peace and security; Rehabilitation of the conflict affected individuals and families; Mine actions; Reconstruction and maintenance of the damaged physical infrastructures in the public sector, and Peace process, implementation of the CPA and other CPA related agreements.

Mr. Lal Mani Joshi, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Finance and His Excellency Mr. Thomas Gass, Ambassador of Switzerland to Nepal and the Country Director of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), signed the agreement on behalf of the Government of Nepal and the Government of Switzerland, respectively.

The Government of Nepal has expressed its sincere appreciation to the Government of Switzerland for this assistance and continued support in the socio economic development of Nepal.

Ministry of Finance

Singhadurbar

February 1, 2010

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