

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2008

## **Press Release**

### **Nepal Donor Consultation Meeting 2008**

#### **Ministry of Local Development and Signatory Donor's Joint Statement**

#### **on the occasion of signing**

#### **the Statement of Intent on Sector Wide Approach (SWAp) for Development of Rural Transport Sector in Nepal**

Today, at the Nepal Donor Consultation Meeting 2008, led by the Government of Nepal, seven major donors<sup>1</sup> involved in development of the rural transport sector in Nepal signed a Statement of Intent to adopt a Sector Wide Approach (SWAp).

The people inhabiting the inaccessible and isolated areas of Nepal know how important improving access to markets and social services is so as to escape from absolute poverty and enhance their quality of life. Consequently, they have been consistently demanding rural roads as their first priority. The efforts in Rural Transport sector have remained segregated to date resulting in duplication in the process and approach of planning and implementation of rural roads in Nepal. So, a harmonized and uniform approach has been sought by all actors working in the sector that would make the whole process of rural transport development simple and effective and also supplement the Paris Declaration 2004. The signing today of this Statement of Intent shows the donors commitment to this process.

Led by the Government of Nepal, Ministry of Local Development in consultation with the Ministry of Finance, the SWAp principles of participation are as follows:

- a) The MoLD in consultation with Ministry of Finance (MoF) will lead and the undersigning donors will participate in the SWAp process.
- b) Participation does not indicate future commitment.
- c) The SWAp to be adopted will be defined by the MoLD with donor support. It does not imply the use of particular funding methods.
- d) The SWAp process will take place over three years with the aim of formally entering into the SWAp in 2011.
- e) The signatories agree to participate in a MoLD working group to prepare the roadmap, milestones and activities to support SWAp development.
- f) During preparation, signatories agree to harmonise approaches in the rural transport sub-sector wherever possible.
- g) Participants in SWAp agree to adopt labour based, environment friendly and participatory approach to the extent feasible.
- h) MoF will coordinate the process if and when needed, to ensure harmonization of donor activities in the concerned sector/sub-sector.

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<sup>1</sup> Asian Development Bank (ADB), Department for International Development (DFID), German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), World Bank (WB), World Food Programme (WFP).