

## Nepal: Relief Project for Aiding Survivors of Earthquake in Central Nepal –Completion of the First Phase and Start of the Second-

2016.05.10 Tue 14:03/Emergency Relief

The main quake (M7.8) on April 25th and the afterquake on May 12th (M7.3) hit central Nepal and caused death to more than 9000 people.

Following the field research in May, BHN offered recovery assistance to nine community FM radio stations in Sindhupalchowk and five other districts from June.

It was initially planned to be completed by October, however, we had to suspend the project due to political disturbance in Nepal that brought scarcity of gasoline and necessary goods.

Finding necessary resources and equipment in the free market, we resumed construction of radio station buildings in December in cooperation with the local partner, Asia-Pacific office of AMARC (The World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters.) We handed over repaired and/or rebuilt studios and radio station buildings as well as delivered broadcasting equipment on December 25th, so that we could finally complete the project with two months' delay.

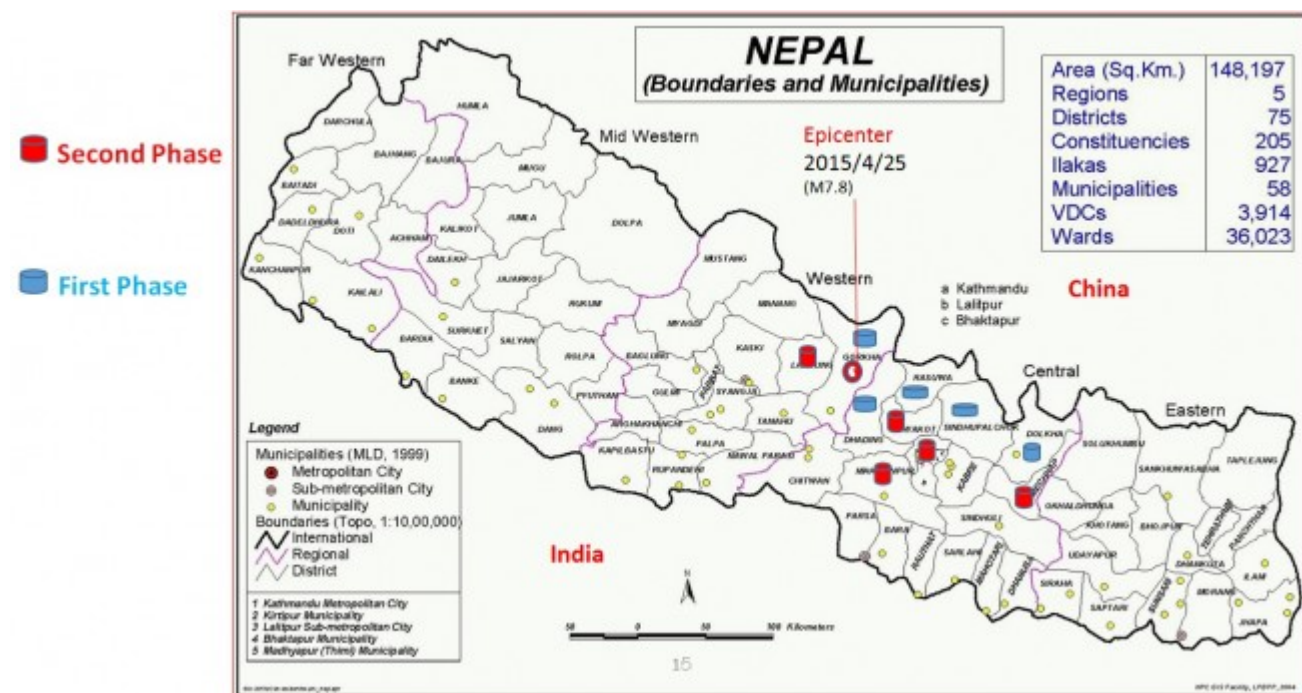
### <1st phase support activities>

District	FM Radio	Equipment	Building Construction	Building Renovation	Studio Renovation
Sindhupalchowk	Radio Sindhu	○	○		○
	Sunkoshi FM	○			
Dhading	Radio Dhading	○	○		
Rasuwa	Radio Langtang				○
	Radio Rasuwa	○			○
Gorkha	Radio Gorkha	○		○	○
	Barpak FM	○			
Dolakha	Radio Sailung	○		○	
	Hamro FM	○			



Furthermore, we have begun the second phase of the project, spanning 100 days from February 18th to

May 24th. Eight target radio stations are located in five districts near the epicenter, which were not accessible last year. We will support studio repair works and deliver equipment as we did in the first phase.



Project Manager Kenichi Terauchi

## Myanmar Karen: Training of “Solar Power System Advisers”

2016.05.17 Tue 10:51/Development Support



In the three-year project, BHN has installed solar power generation systems and radio telephone sets (upon request) in Kayin (Karen) state, Myanmar, in three hospitals, eight high schools, one town hall and seven villages without doctors.

The government of Kayin state has also installed solar power systems into many households in remote areas. However, the government staffs responsible for these areas do not have enough knowledge about solar power electricity and its generation system so as to be able to give proper advice to villagers.

To solve this situation, upon request from the state government, BHN conducted trainings for the government staffs both in class and in field. After the training and following examinations, BHN awarded “Solar Power System Adviser” title to 19 qualified government staffs.

In the graduation ceremony in January, more than 100 government directors and staffs participated to celebrate the award recipients. These staffs are now going around the remote areas wearing the blue shirts with “Solar System Adviser” printed on the back.



By Hirofumi Aizawa – Project Manager



The village of Kaw Tar Ho (KTH) is located in the Eastern part of the State of Kayin (Karen) ,about one-hour drive from the State capital, Hpa An, with 175 households (about 1500 villagers). As KTH village has suffered from armed clashes several times, many of the villagers are returnees from refugee camps or IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons).

Mainly due to lack of irrigation system, the villagers can harvest rice crops only once a year, whereas, in most other areas of Myanmar, rice is commonly produced twice a year. Thus the water shortage has been an obstacle for the villagers in getting more money through multiple cropping as well as in improving their daily lives.

Their well is shallow and dry up easily in dry seasons. Until a few years ago, they used to pump water up from the deep well in the village of Shwe In Don (SID) located about 700 m away from KTH village and then stream the water using water conduit, however, the fuel cost for running the water pump was too expensive for them to continue paying. Therefore, they couldn't help but carrying water buckets on their shoulders from nearby villages and rivers since seven or eight years ago.

BHN was about to close the works for the 2016 fiscal year by the end of March, when it decided to install solar powered pump for the well in the village of SID so as to enable water supply without the need of fuel for running the pump. The water pipes connecting to the two villages had been abandoned for some time but the villagers volunteered to repair them.

In early June, the water pump started again to supply water for the two villages. The villagers applauded



as they watched the water tank filled up very quickly, and later, the villagers were so thankful that their representatives visited our office in Hpa An and handed an appreciation letter to BHN.



By Hirofumi Aizawa – Project Manager

Myanmar Delta Area: Community Loud Speaker System Management Workshop and Disaster Training  
Course held in Bogale and Pyapon

2016.08.08 Mon 13:47/Development Support



In the first phase project started last September, community loud speaker system installation began in March this year and was completed before water festival in April.

After each installation, we have been providing villagers knowledge and skills by holding workshops on system operation and management in order to enable the system to be used properly and sustainably. This time, 57 people from 22 villages in Bogale and 62 people from 22 villages in Pyapon participated. Not only teaching techniques and knowhow, but we also encouraged participants to exchange their thoughts. Furthermore, in addition to emphasizing the significance of the system, we explained how to use the system in ordinary and emergency situations, together with its maintenance and management. We also introduced practical examples of disaster warning wireless systems in Japan.

Besides, we cooperated with SEEDS Asia (a Japanese NGO) on disaster training. Parking a disaster training vehicle at the site, they explained about mechanisms of natural disaster such as cyclone, storm surge and flood and evacuation procedure using miniature models. All participants answered “Yes” in a questionnaire that asked them if the training was meaningful and useful on their daily life.



As a new content of the project, we prepared hazard maps and put on bulletin boards in 12 villages. In the hazard maps, evacuation routes are shown and highest water level of the last cyclone is marked on its pillar. In a briefing session after installation, villagers were pleased finding their homes on a map.

From now on, we will monitor the community loud speaker system every other year to assure that they are properly taken care of. Also, we keep telling about hazard maps to develop better understanding.



Project officer Eiichi Watanabe





Soon after the independence of Burma in 1948, the people of “Karen” was one of the first ethnical groups that revolted against the central Burmese government to achieve independence (then after, broader autonomy) in their areas. More than 60 years of appalling civil battle continued, but at last, KNU (Karen National Union) signed the ceasefire agreement with the Myanmar government along with the other 7 ethnical armed groups (EAGs) by the end of last year.

To contribute to the progress toward permanent peace by making people in the KNU areas to realize the value of peace, BHN started a project to install solar electric systems into 1,370 households in the areas of the state of Kayin (Karen).

The EAG areas definitely lack all kinds of infrastructures including paved roads. Since Myanmar is now in the middle of rainy season, the access to the villages is possible only by boat and on foot. BHN engineers are conducting research visits to remote villages, walking in mud from time to time and staying in villagers’ houses every night.

Actual installation works are expected to start from the end of October (depending on the weather circumstances). Now the procurement of materials and the preparation of standard work arrangements are under way.



By Hirofumi Aizawa – Project Manager





In Myanmar, access to national grid services is still limited to around 30% of the total population and the electric service is frequently interrupted by black-outs even in the big cities. In the State of Kayin(=Karen), the electrification ratio is still under 10%, one of the lowest figures in Myanmar.

In order to improve such a situation, especially in the public facilities, BHN has been installing solar power systems to eight high schools, three hospitals, one village well and other public places since 2013.

The State Government of Kayin is also actively distributing solar systems to private houses in the rural areas, however, they just give equipment without necessary information for installation, usage and maintenance. At the same time, the State staff do not have sufficient knowledge to teach villagers on the proper use of solar systems they have distributed. Such a situation caused too many severe damages and troubles with the solar systems.

For the purpose of nurturing the State staff in charge, BHN conducted educational courses in 2014-2015. The curriculum was designed to enable them to guide villagers on the proper use of solar systems, as well as on ways how to repair simple defects.



In 2016, BHN started an advanced course to train them on two tiers or levels: Solar System Adviser course (Tier-1) and Training on Trainers course (Tier-2). Once the students pass the examination for Tier-1, they will be awarded the title of “Solar Power System Adviser” from the State Government. On Tier-2, students are basically chosen from the Solar Power System Advisers of the preceding year expected to play the role of training future Solar Power Advisers.

By running these courses even after BHN has left, the State Government will have a sustainable system for fostering future Solar Advisers.

By Hirofumi Aizawa, Project Manager





The earthquake that occurred in Nepal on 25th April 2015 victimized nearly 9,000 people and injured another 22,000. The number of damaged houses reached one million. Following the first phase support activities which started immediately after the earthquake on 18th June 2015 until 25th December 2015, BHN started the second phase support for FM radio stations on 18th February 2016 and successfully completed the support activities on 24th May 2016 as planned.

#### **Assistance to FM Radio Stations on Remote and Mountainous Areas**

In the second phase, BHN provided broadcasting equipment and rebuilt hut for eight FM radio relay stations in five districts around the epicenter.

Out of these eight stations, six stations outside Kathmandu were those which had been excluded from target areas in the first phase because of the difficulty to access the sites: they were located in remote mountainous areas, thus prone to road closure and highly risky to landslides in rainy seasons.

Kairan FM station is located in a highland region at 2800m above sea level so that the local government's support could not reach this area. For this FM station, we set up UPS batteries upon their request. Since the site is in a remote area, it took us more than ten hours to arrive. After setting up the UPS, the Kairan FM station chief told us happily that they can respond to local people's consultation requests, which are increasing in number after the earthquake, since the batteries enable them to continue broadcasting even during power outage, which sometime lasts as many as 14 hours a day.



In the Palung FM station three hours from Kathmandu, we supported the rebuilding of the collapsed station hut. This station hut was on the summit of a mountain 2750m high and it took us about 30 minutes to climb up a steep and rocky road from the foot of the mountain, so manpower was the only way to carry the materials. In the opening ceremony held on 22nd May, not only the FM station staff, but also local parliamentarians, local government managers and local residents attended. This reminded us that the role of the FM station to the area was very significant.

#### <2nd phase support activities>

District	FM Radio Station	Equipment	Relay Station Reconstruction
Ramechhap	Kairan	X	
	Likhu	X	
	Hazurko	X	
Nuwakot	Nuwakot	X	
Makuwanpur	Palung		X
Lamjung	Marsyangdi	X	
Kathmandu	Newa	X	
	Mero	X	

#### Support for introducing new services

BHN introduced the case of a Day Care Center in the city of Patan to the members of the FM stations as an example of possible future local service (Table 2). The Day Care center was established with the cooperation of professors of Japanese universities and it is voluntarily run by the local women's association

in Patan City. Palung and Sindhu FM stations showed strong interests in the introduction of a similar Day Care Center in order to enhance the role of the FM station as a community center, and local municipalities also expressed their intention to support the FM stations. They are more positive than expected and we are planning to consider ways for supporting them in the future.

FM Station name	FM station's comment	Municipality's comment
Palung	willing to introduce	ready to help introduce
Sindhu	willing to introduce	ready to form a committee
Newa	interested	(no chance to ask for comments)



### **Support needs to continue**

Although the FM stations operated by NGOs in Nepal are financially in a tough situation already, this earthquake made the situation more difficult. Even now after more than one year, some FM stations damaged by the earthquake do not have the prospects of getting repaired yet. For example, at the Hazurko FM station, the staff has continued broadcasting from the station house that has been cracked even though they knew it is dangerous. As another example, the Newa FM station installed a temporary antenna and has been using it since, because they cannot repair the damaged antenna due to lack of budget. These cases clearly indicate they need continued assistance.

Project Officer, Hiromichi Suzuki





The second semester of the 18th BHN Human Development Program was held in Tokyo from June 1 to 24, 2016. Each of the following nine Asian countries sent one participant: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam. The group comprised of five engineers and four non-engineers, with seven males and two females. They were promising persons engaging in ICT related ministries or telecommunication service firms.

**Programs focused on topics of high interest in Asia**

This course intensively aims at fostering leaders in the ICT field in Asian countries with balanced thinking ability and global sense (cosmopolitan way of thinking).

In the first half of the training as the HIDA's\* orientation program, the participants learned Japanese culture and the basic knowledge necessary for staying in Japan. In the second half, they completed BHN Training Course focusing on ICT-related topics considered to be highly interesting to Asian countries.

**\*HIDA: The Overseas Human Resource and Industry Development Association**

In the lectures and study visits, we adopted topics covering a wide range of fields and special topics related



to “disaster risk reduction, medical care and agriculture by utilizing ICT” and “future perspective of society based on the rapid development of ICT from the aspect of technology and business.” The participants highly evaluated the lectures which we believe to have satisfied their interests.

Through the study visits, the participants visited and had hands-on training at research institutes, manufacturing sites of Japanese companies and agricultural laboratory of Japanese university which are fully equipped with cutting edge technologies.

In the weekend homestay, the trainees received dedicated reception with warm hospitality from host families and it made these two days the most heartfelt and memorable moment during their stay in Japan.





[See all pictures](#)

<http://www.bhn.or.jp/official/archives/fcat/jinzai>

### **Commencement Ceremony**

In addition to the lecturers, host families, cooperating company employees and guests representing the embassies including the Cambodian Ambassador attended the Commencement Ceremony who delivered congratulatory addresses. And also, the guests kindly watched the presentation of completion certificates handed to the participants.

Project Manager, Kazuhisa Konoma