

PRESS RELEASE

The International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, through its SouthAsia Enterprise Development Facility (SEDF) and in partnership with UK's Department for International Development (DfID), has agreed to provide an advisory services assistance equivalent to US\$ 7.5 million (approximately NRs. 539.0 million) to the Government of Nepal for the advisory services to the Nepal-Investment Climate Reform Program (NICRP).

The services shall be used in implementing mainly the three components – regulatory reforms, special economic zones (SEZ) and public private dialogue (PPD) under the Nepal-Investment Climate Reform Program (NICRP). It is hoped that the services extended under this assistance will bring improvement in investment climate in Nepal through the implementation of legal, regulatory, institutional, procedural, results oriented public-private dialogue process and private sector investment including in Special Economic Zones. The reforms undertaken through regulatory reforms component are expected to result in 25 percent reduction of administrative burden in intervened areas, special economic zones (SEZ) component is expected to create 4 thousand new jobs, and public private dialogue (PPD) component is expected to result in improved understanding of the private sector role, support to investment climate reforms and collaboration of the stakeholders at all levels and sectors resulting in 200 reform recommendations from PPD to be adopted and 50 of them implemented by the Government of Nepal by the end of 2012. Ministry of Industry (MoI) is the key counterpart for IFC for the overall program. The duration of the advisory services will be 2010-2012.

The agreement was signed by Mr. Lal Shanker Ghimire, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Mr. Rajeev Gopal, Resident Representative, IFC on behalf of the Government of Nepal and IFC, respectively.

The Government of Nepal has expressed its sincere appreciation to the International Finance Corporation and the DfID for this assistance and also for their keen interest and continued support in the socio-economic development of Nepal.

Ministry of Finance
Singhadurbar,
Kathmandu, Nepal

May 12, 2010 Wednesday

बैशाख २९, २०६७ बुधबार