



Regional High-level Meeting on Rainwater Harvesting Radisson Hotel, Lazimpat, Kathmandu, Nepal May 27 – 29, 2009

Background

The Government of Nepal, through the Minister of Physical Planning and Works, will host a Regional High-level Meeting on Rain Water Harvesting from May 27-29, 2009.

The Meeting is in follow-up to a similar meeting in Kandy, Sri Lanka in September 2006 held by the Government of Sri Lanka with Ministerial participation from India, Pakistan, Bhutan, Maldives, Bangladesh and Nepal.

Objective

The overall objective of the Meeting is to benefit from sharing knowledge, expertise and experiences among each country in the region. Field experiences and research results on technical, social, ecological and economic aspects of RWH will be shared and the potential of using rain water for drinking, ground water recharge and for other domestic applications will further explored. Current policies and guidelines adopted in the regional countries will also be reviewed for their effectiveness.

Language

English only.

Participants

Participants will be senior staff of Departments and projects dealing with Water Supply and Sanitation, Control of Diarrheal Diseases and Water Quality.

Hotel reservations

We have not provided information on hotels at this stage, as there are is such a wide range of hotels available at the end of May. Any hotel in the Thamel area will be suitable and will be quite reasonably priced.

The workshop will be held at the

Radisson Hotel

Lazimpat, Kathmandu

Tel No: 977-1-4411818

Radisson Hotel is a five-star hotel, suitable for senior participants to the High-level Meeting.

Climate:

The Kathmandu valley at an altitude of 1310 m (4296ft) has a mild climate with the temperature ranging from 17 °C to 28 °C during pre-monsoon summer. In general light clothing will be adequate. In case you plan to visit the hills around Kathmandu, it is advisable to bring a thin sweater or buy a shawl, as one can feel a little cold during evening and morning.

Visa

All foreigners with the exception of Indians need Visa to enter Nepal. Indians traveling by air to Nepal need some kind of identification such as passport or Voters identity Card. At present SAARC nationals can get free visa for two months. If Nepal does not have an embassy or consular offices in your country, it is possible to get the two months Nepalese visa at the entry point i.e. Kathmandu Airport.

Visa are issued for 15, 30 and 60 days. A single entry tourist visa can be obtained by paying US \$30 for 60 days. A multiple entry visa valid for 60 days cost US \$80. Nationals of all countries do not require visa to visit Nepal for 3 days. In all other cases, visa is required.

Situation of country:

The security situation in Kathmandu and elsewhere in Nepal has improved since the formation of an interim government on 1 April 2007. Even then, following elections and the establishment of a constitutional assembly, there are regular expressions of political debate that spill over into the streets and may cause localized strikes or road closure.

Nepali people are very friendly and polite, especially when they recognize you as a foreigner. However, normal precautions need to be taken when moving around in busy areas.

Note that regular loadshedding can make the roads rather dark after sunset. After 20.00 – 20.30 Kathmandu is becoming quiet and it is advisable to return to your hotel.

Currency and rate of exchange

The monetary unit is the Nepali Rupee (NPR). The current exchange rate is around Nepali Rupee 81 to US\$1.00 (subject to change).

Time:

Nepalese time is 5 Hours 45 minutes ahead of GMT.