*Committee: United Nations Economic and Social Commission for the Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)*

*Country: Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal*

**Topic One: The Role of Infrastructure in the Development of South East Asia**

Due to Nepal’s geographical region, its infrastructure is mostly hap-hazard. This is due to the multiple natural disasters that the country is hit with annually. The most recent earthquake, the Gorkha earthquake of 2015, left Nepal with over 10 billion dollars of damage (Campbell 2015). While multiple organizations, including the UNDP, have been working to help rebuild Nepal after over 500 000 buildings were destroyed (UNDP Supports Recovery After Earthquake in Nepal 2015). The reason for this happening is due to the prevalence of non-engineered construction: over 90% of buildings in Nepal have hazardous infrastructure (National Strategy for Disaster Risk in Nepal 2008). As a result of this, Nepal is looking for long-term solutions in fixing the country’s infrastructure. The country is taking an approach by educating students and workers of Disaster Risk Management as well as proposing the 14th paper that will have clear guidelines regarding the topics of climate change and DRM while using Nepal’s Sustainable Development Goals as guidelines (Mainstreaming DRR in Development Plan 2016). Educating the citizens of Nepal on the issues of Disaster Risk Management is a long-term solution that will help to develop the country’s infrastructure.

Nepal’s road network has been rapidly increasing throughout the past decade but lack of road regulation is harming further development (Maleku 2016). This has led to an increase in pollution, increase in accidents, and consistent violation of existing rules and regulations (Maleku 2016). Nepal is looking to increase road density from 0.44 km to 5 km by 2030 but needs external resources and foreign investments to make it possible (Sustainable Development Goals Preliminary Report 2016).

**Topic Two: Future of Food**

70% of Nepal’s citizens currently rely on the country’s agricultural sector as a source of income, as it accounts for over a third of its GDP (Raza 2015). Currently, the agricultural system does not produce enough food to feed its population of 27 million (Kiarago 2016). This is due to labour shortage, technological barriers, and soil degradation (Thapa 2016). Nepal has a set list of SDGs, one of them being to increase the growth of the agricultural sector by 5-10% by 2030, another being to reduce the percent of malnourished women and children from 11.3% to under 1% by 2030 (Sustainable Development Goals Preliminary Report 2016).

Nepal has a considerably small carbon footprint, only releasing about 0.1 metric tonnes per capita in 2014 (Sustainable Development Goals Preliminary Report 2016). However, the agriculture industry contributes to about 14% of the world’s entire greenhouse gas emissions, according to the IPCC (Thapa 2016). Due to this, Nepal has been slowly trying to integrate climate-smart agriculture, or CSA, into its farms (Raza 2015). Climate-smart agriculture is focused on sustainably increasing crop productivity and reducing greenhouse gas emissions (Kiarago 2016).

**Topic Three: Labour Migration and Illegal Trafficking in the Asia-Pacific**

Over 2 million citizens—15% being women—of Nepal work abroad and contribute to about 22.4% of the country’s GDP (Statistics on Labour Migration within the Asia-Pacific Region 2015). In 2013, remittance inflows generated 5 billion dollars for Nepal (Labour Migration in Nepal 2013). The Foreign Employment Policy of 2012 protects the safety of Nepali workers in other countries, but it is mainly used to protect the rights of female workers (Labour Migration for Employment 2014). However, this is not stopping other countries from exploiting these workers. In Malaysia, 9 Nepali workers died every week for the past year due to poor working conditions and long hours (Awale 2016). Because of this, Nepal is looking to ensure a safer match between jobs in demand in countries of destination, and those of the Nepali immigrants. This will include regular assessments of occupations in demand, as well as revised training curricula. The capacity of skills training centers needs to be increased so that migrants find higher-paying jobs while discouraging the migration of unskilled migrant workers (Labour Migration for Employment 2014).

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