

Report on the Implementation of the Action plan of
Bhaktapur, Nepal

1. Action plan November 2000 to September 2001

Main components of Action Plan are –

- Local guide training program
- Pilot program for training stone carver
- Restructuring government department to improve environment & health

1. Preparation

1.1 Planning & organization of Action are the continuation of the Bhaktapur Development Project (BDP). These actions are follow up actions under taken by local government. Action plan corresponds to the long-term plan of the municipality to make a Bhaktapur city Cultural City.

1.2 In preparatory stage council member local community, individual were involved in the planning & organization of the Action. Later on Government Agencies such as department of archeology and Hotel Management & Tourism Training Center (HMTTC) were requested to provide necessary technical advice in stone temple renovation & to provide tourist guide training program.

Role of council member & the community was to identify the candidate trainees & where as the role of the government agencies has to provide technical manpower & technical advice. The planning section chief & heritage conservation section chief carried out co-ordination of different responsibilities.

1.3 The Response from government agencies was not encouraging & slow. Lack of management skill & the trained technical section chief the coordination of the different responsibilities; especially in tourist guide training was not satisfactory. Lack of Trainer to provide special course of tourist guide training in site was the main obstacle to conduct the training of local people. In this fiscal year this problem has to be tackled by providing incentive to trainees & to trainers.

2. Action

2.1 Action under taken by municipality in fiscal year 2000/2001 (July 2000 to June 2001) is given in table No.1.

Apart from the action mentioned in action plan the planning section identified the many similar actions to be under taken to promote Heritage Conservation & urban environment improvement as the infrastructure for tourism development.

2.2 The finding for all such actions came from municipal development budget; (Bigger chunk of the municipal development budget come from tourist service fee)

2.3 Problems & obstacles encountered are -

- Identification of suitable candidates for tour guides training.
- Involvement of Hotel management & Tourism Training Center (HMTTC)
- Preparation of course material for tour guide training program
- Over loading of the planning section chief.
- Over loading of the technical staff.

2.4 Experience of implementing the action plan -

Similar action plans were the annual program of the regular municipal development plan. Since 1985 municipality under took the follow up actions of the Bhaktapur development project, (Revitalization of the old city core area), In initial stage the performance of the municipality was not distinctively visible because of least number & small scale of the projects. This was mainly due to the lack of funds. Since 1993,

municipality decided to provide necessary services to tourists & to charge for providing the services. This municipal decision was crucial for local resource mobilization. Resource thus generated from Tourist service charge, from the tourist, who visit the City Core Area, latter on became the main source of funding the large number of conservation & urban environment improvement projects (See Table No.2). Apart from these actions in field, the public awareness, education & city-cleaning program were the major activities on which municipality is building the infrastructure for tourism development. The main motto of the heritage conservation & urban environment improvement projects is to revitalize the old city Core Area in sustainable manner, and to benefit local people from heritage conservation & tourism development.

3. Results & Evaluation

The main outcome of the action is the physical development in terms of increased number of monuments & public buildings renovated & rehabilitated as tourism infrastructure. Apart from that more & more local youths are being training in traditional trade & craft. Education level & public awareness among the citizens are also increasing (See Table No.3). Every year municipal revenue is increasing (See Table No.4). More & more jobs are created in the monument conservation & urban environment improvement projects, thus benefiting the local people.

4. Next steps

We feel that we are in right direction, although we are not able to fully exploit the benefit from tourism. Such actions should & will continue in future too (See table No.1)