

Political Update from Nepal

April 2010

A 19-days mass movement that took place on April 2006 in Nepal was succeeded to reinstate parliament dissolved by ex-king in October 2002. This success had also led to initiate a peace process for the end of one-decade long armed conflict between the Maoist insurgent and the government. A Comprehensive Peace Agreement was agreed on a historic 12-point memorandum of understanding for peace and democracy in Nepal.

In 2008 the newly elected Constituent Assembly declared Nepal a federal democratic republican country, abolishing the 240-years long monarchy in Nepal. The main task of the Constituent Assembly is to draft a constitution. The President of CPN (Maoist), the largest party, was elected the first Prime Minister of the Republic of Nepal. Over a crisis on sacking of the army chief the CPN (Maoist) left the government after nine months.

Now the CPN (Maoist) party is planning urban-centric uprising due to the failure of drafting of constitution on time. But the current ruling party Communist Party of Nepal - United Marxist Leninist is all set to make a formal request to extend the Constituent Assembly tenure in a meeting between the big three parties (CPN-Maoist, CPN-UML & Nepali Congress).

Increasing political chaos is proving detrimental to Nepal's future. Political uncertainty has coupled poor law and order system, bribery, corruption, black marketing, robbery, looting, kidnapping, killing, hoodlum, violence, strikes and vandalism etc. Meanwhile, Terai region, also called the Madhesh, has seen more than a dozen minor rebel groups threatening, kidnapping and killing of businessman and civilians. Twenty-two districts in Nepal's southern plains bordering India constitute the Terai or Madhesh. It is fertile area and is linked to Nepal's major supply routes to hills. The violent conflict in the Tarai has forced the hill people to migrate to safe places and create their own mechanisms.

Despite political instability, there has not been so far any adverse effect on the work of TSS and its development activities. In the context of current political scenario, the involvement of TSS in rural development has been very significant and instrumental.