



## Himalayan Project Nepal

A Nepali NGO dealing with Development Aid in Nepal

Neel Saraswati Marga, Lazimpat-2, Kathmandu

G.P.O. Box 8974 E.P.C. 168

00977-1-6914163

hipron@wlink.com.np

[www.nepalhelp.dk](http://www.nepalhelp.dk)

### Monitoring Report

20. January - 04. February 2012

### Fire Brigade

### Upper Solu, Solukhumbu

by Namgyal Jangbu Sherpa

After several times of fire outbreak in the area of Upper Solu (Bakanje, Beni, Tamakhani and Salleri), Solukhumbu and also other part of the district devastating several houses and property due to lack of safety measure in the absence of organization related to fire management. 2 years ago, Himalayan Project Denmark (HP-DK) in cooperation with Himalayan Project Nepal (HIPRON), introduced the concept of Fire Brigade (FB). Water pumps and several instruction materials were distributed in the area with the demo program to spread awareness among the local people. It aimed to make the local people active for the management of fire. We advised them to form a Committee of FB in each village and act according to the instruction given for the additional support from the HP-DK, and also to be prepared to be able prevent the fire. According to the instruction, they have

to form Active Fire Fighter Group in each village and convene regular meeting to discuss about the fire management, as well as to mobilize the village people, especially young people to prevent and minimizing the potential fire outbreak. In addition, identifying the most vulnerable area and accessibility of the nearest water source were the part of the activities they have to carry out. Since the very beginning, HIPRON has been following up it to keep them pushing.

In last autumn, we had a meeting with government officials and leaders of major political party under the chairmanship of Chief District Administrative Officer (CDO) of Solukhumbu, who is also Coordinator of District Disaster Management, and issue of Fire Brigade was extensively discussed



during the meeting. The meeting had undertaken certain decision that HP-DK will provide water pumps and fire proof jackets, and CDO will manage necessary fund through District Development Committee for shipping. It was also decided that when shipping was done, CDO will form District Fire Brigade Committee involving all stakeholder and conduct the activities.

In January 2012, I was on Runner Service in the area and checked up their progress. Unfortunately, very less activity was done according the instruction. In fact, no group is active for FB except Mountain Star Club, newly established club in Phaplu. The club is carrying out the program in different way than as mentioned in the instruction provided by us. In their first phase program, they checked the kitchen of each house in Phaplu. In second phase, they posted several pamphlets of fire in Phaplu and Salleri to alert the people about fire accident. In third phase, they disseminated the information through local FM.

The club complained that they failed to obtain the water pumps and instruction materials that were delivered in Phaplu at Everest Lodge.

I have talked to the Chairman of Club for the cooperation. He is very interested and eager to work for the FB. He wants to make FB one of one of the main activities of club.

I also met CDO and we followed-up issues. His service term in Solu was over just then. However, the issue is well known to his successor, acting CDO. He promised follow the decision made in the last meeting. He also advised me to ensure the quality and effectiveness of the equipment before shipping process begins. We all agreed to involve the interested and party such as Red Cross in the District Fire Brigade to ensure the effective use and maintenance of the equipment.

**Kathmandu on 15, February 2012**

**Namgyal Jangbu Sherpa**

**Managing Officer**

**HIPRON**