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SSDMA SEC interact with agencies on project proposals for Sikkim

SE Report

GANGTOK, December 11: Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA) organised an interaction meeting with various agencies willing to partner with Government of Sikkim for different projects on resilience building towards climate induced disasters, at a local hotel on Friday.

The chairman of the committee is the chief secretary of the State, while the members are secretaries of Finance, Home, Health and Urban & Housing departments. The State relief commissioner-cum-secretary of Land Revenue & Disaster management department is the member secretary.

Land Revenue & Disaster Management minister Kunga Nima Lepcha was the chief guest of the meeting, and SSDMA vice chairman Prof. V.K. Sharma and chief secretary S.C. Gupta were the guests of honour, informs a press release.

SSDMA director Prabhakar Rai, in his welcome address, emphasised on the importance of disaster resilience in the

vulnerable State of Sikkim. He highlighted the activities of SSDMA and stressed that technical assistance is crucial to develop action plans which help in emergencies and disasters.

Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA) director Dr. Sanjay Vashist gave an introductory presentation on Green Climate Fund (GCF) and proposals submission.

World Resources Institute head Tamiksha Singh, in her presentation, gave an insight on the different GCF-funded projects and how Sikkim can also benefit from the GCF grant.

Manju Dhamsena, director, Corporate Affairs – CSR/Philanthropies, Microsoft India, gave an overview on Microsoft's AI for Humanitarian Action Program. She said that Microsoft was looking forward to working in Sikkim to take this program forward.

Dr. Vikas Goswami, board chair of SEEDS India, spoke on length of SEEDS's association with SSDMA through programmes and initiatives targeted to enhance



the capacities of vulnerable communities in Sikkim. This was followed by a presentation by Mridula Garg on the Earthquake Risk Model using AI for Gangtok City, and a discussion on the subject.

Urban & Housing secretary M.T. Sherpa, while welcoming the proposals, also proposed to include mapping of jhoras in Gangtok for funding options.

Health director general and secretary Dr. Pempa Bhutia spoke on emergence of vector borne and ADR diseases. He also stated that hospitals contribute a large amount of greenhouse gases and spoke on the need of proposals to reduce the emissions.

SEC chairman S.C. Gupta, while welcoming the proposals, urged the agencies to work in unison and also take community perspective strongly. He also asked the departments to work toward preparing the project proposals and gave assurance that the government would be in support of the same.

Prof. V.K. Sharma thanked the agencies for their interest in developing the project proposals for Sikkim and also thanked the chief secretary for his positive support to the proposals.

Minister Kunga Nima Lepcha thanked the agencies for selecting Sikkim for their projects and assured them of

full government support. He stressed on Sikkim being short on resources was high on work ethics. He remarked that due to the hard work of the Chief Minister and chief secretary, Sikkim was adjudged best governed State in India.

He emphasised the need to work with local communities to build their resilience toward all disasters. He concluded by stating that due to the proactive nature of governance and decision making in the state many projects have seen remarkable progress and agencies needn't worry about the support from the government.

Training of Trainers for Climate Proofing and Climate Financing



GANGTOK, 09 DEC (IPR):

A two-day State Level workshop on Training of Trainers for Climate Proofing and Climate Financing commenced from today. The workshop is being organized by Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA), Department of Land Revenue and Disaster Management, Government of Sikkim, in collaboration with Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSAs) and World Resources Institute (WRI).

The inaugural session was attended by Minister, Land Revenue and Disaster Management, Government of Sikkim, KungaNima Lepcha as the chief guest.

The participants comprised mostly of government officials from various departments of the Government of Sikkim.

Minister KungaNima Lepcha in his address said that the training will guide the trainees about the natural calamities in Sikkim and ways to deal with them. He added that the participants would also be acquainted with the unique topography of Sikkim, its climate and vegetation. He said that the SSDMA has been working consistently in coordination with various stakeholders to come up with measures to mitigate disaster.

The Minister thanked CANSAs and WRI for their commitment towards climate proofing and climate financing in the State. He said that the

State Government will continue to support the endeavour of SSDMA and its partner organizations working in the field of disaster management.

Vice Chairman, SSDMA, Prof VK Sharma presented a brief note about the training.

Senior Manager, CRP, WRI, VivekVenkataramani briefly explained about the agenda of the training which included Training Modules in Sikkim and Multiple interactive sessions with the participants.

Resource Persons from World Resources Institute, India, ParvathiPreethan talked about the aims of the training and how this session will guide the participants through basic climate change terminology and knowledge about climate science.

Director, SSDMA, PrabhakarRai introduced the impact of climate change on Himalayan ecosystem and glacial retreat.

The inaugural session had the presence and participation of Director, Department of Science and Technology, DrDhirenShrestha, Training Officer, SSDMA, KeshavKoirala, Director, SIRD, Vishal Mukhia, Climate Vulnerability and Risk Assessment, Consultant, DrSandhyaRao, CANSAs, Sanjay Vashist, CANSAs, Harjeet Singh, CANSAs, Nakul Sharma, Senior Manager, and dignitaries and officials from the various departments of the Government of Sikkim.