

Date: August 23rd, 2024
Ref. No.: SS/NP/24/149

Attention : **FEDREICA DONATI Offier-in-Charge Special Procedures Branch OHCHR**
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Subject : **JOINT COMMUNICATION FROM SPECIAL PROCEDURES**
Regarding Kathmandu-Terai / Madhesh Fast track(Expressway) Road
Project in Nepal

RE : **Clarification on AL OTH 36/2024 dated 25th June 2024**

Dear Sir/Madam,

In reply to your above reference letter dated 25th June,2024, we would like to reply as follows;

First of all, We, Soosung Engineering Co.,Ltd (<http://www.soosungeng.com>) is multi-disciplinary engineering consulting company in fields of Road / Airport, Bridge / Structure, Railway / Metro, Urban Planning / Landscape architecture, Water supply / Sewage / Resources, Transportation, Energy/Environmental engineering and Ports / Harbor. We have been established in 1991 and is the leading & reliable engineering consulting firms in Korea with over 1,000 engineers and specialists and the turnover of approximately USD 150Mil. In 2023. Based on our successful track records over 800 projects in Korea, we are moving forward to the global civil engineering market with highly skilled engineers and staffs.

With regard to the United Nations Working group's letter about the Kathmandu-Terai/Nadesh Fast Track Road project and concerning Allegations of potential displacement of the indigenous newar people and violations of their human rights due to the construction, we would like to inform you what we have done in 2018.

We had contracted with Nepali Army Headquarters for updating of the ADB's TA report from 16th October 2018 through 31st January 2019 for approximately 3months and we had already received completion certificate from the Client on 18th April,2019.

Below is our specific scope of works

- 1, Updating of the ADB's TA report
 - Actualization Technical-Economic report of the project, design of the Expressway
 - 4 lanes expressway, interchange, Toll plaza and Resting area
 - Bridge, Tunnel
 - Slope stability design in the mountainous and hilly area
- 2, Economic and financial analysis of the toll road

3, Revisiting the survey work of the project site

As you know, the ADB (Asian Development Bank) had conducted a Feasibility study and Preliminary design for this Kathmandu-Terai/Nadesh Fast Track Road project in May 2008 and even if we had maximized efforts to choose the best option to reduce adverse impact on the social and cultural life of Khokana people, it is unduly restrictive for us to update previous works done by ADB. The scope of work of Soosung engineering was just updating this feasibility study and preliminary design based on survey data, investigations and the related reports provided by the Nepal Army Headquarters which include hydrological, geotechnical and engineering survey data as per the Terms of Reference. Furthermore, Soosung engineering had to produce an environmental report summarizing the review of the existing EIA while updating the Environmental Management Plan and its cost.

During the preparation of the DPR (Detailed Project Report), Soosung engineering did not fully identify any issues regarding the alleged displacement of indigenous Newar people residing in the Khokana area. The expressway's entry point was originally located in Khokana of Lalitpur district in Nepal.

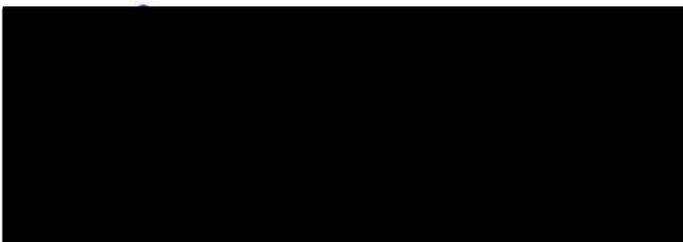
To address community concerns and to prevent the displacement of this community, as well as to protect cultural heritage sites such as the Khokana and Kudesh temples, the client had provided survey data of the first three kilometers of the alignment to bypass the said area prior to the commencement of the Soosung engineering's assignment. The revised alignment primarily traverses government land, with a portion of privately owned land, which has been legally acquired with appropriate compensation. There have been no reported issues regarding compensation.

We remain committed to ensuring that the rights and concerns of indigenous communities are respected and addressed throughout the project's development.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you need further information or clarification, please feel free to contact us at any time.

In close, as per your request, we would like to provide our DPR (Detailed Project Report)

Respectfully yours,



Attachment: DPR (Detailed Project Report)