Mr. Shanta Raj Subedi  
Secretary  
Ministry of Finance  
Singha Durbar  
Kathmandu, Nepal

Dear Mr. Subedi:

Nepal: Advance Agreement for Preparation of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Improvement Project.
Preparation Advance No. O870-NP

In response to the request for financial assistance made on behalf of Nepal ("Recipient"), I am pleased to inform you that the International Development Association ("World Bank") proposes to extend to the Recipient an advance out of the World Bank’s Project Preparation Facility in an amount not to exceed three million Dollars ($3,000,000) ("Advance") on the terms and conditions set forth or referred to in this letter agreement ("Agreement"), which includes the attached Annex, to assist in financing the activities described in the Annex ("Activities"). The objective of the Activities is to facilitate the preparation of a proposed project designed to: (i) increase access to improved water and sanitation services in rural areas; and (ii) promote sustainability of community managed water supply schemes by implementation of a long-term support mechanism in selected Districts, in support of which the Recipient has requested the World Bank’s financial assistance.

The Recipient represents, by confirming its agreement below, that: (a) it understands that the provision of the Advance does not constitute or imply any commitment on the part of IDA to assist in financing the Project; and (b) it is authorized to enter into this Agreement and to carry out the Activities, repay the Advance and perform its other obligations under this Agreement, all in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.

Please confirm the Recipient’s agreement to the foregoing by having an authorized official of the Recipient sign and date the enclosed copy of this Agreement, and returning it to the World Bank. Upon receipt by the World Bank of this countersigned copy, this Agreement shall become effective as of the date of the countersignature; provided, however, that the offer of this Agreement shall be deemed withdrawn if the World Bank has not received this countersigned copy within 60 days after the date of signature of this Agreement by the World Bank, unless the World Bank has established a later date for such purpose.

Very truly yours,
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Johannes Zutt  
Country Director for Nepal
Enclosures:

(1) “Standard Conditions for Advances Made by the World Bank under its Project Preparation Facility”, dated July 31, 2010; and

(2) Disbursement Letter for the Advance of the same date as this Agreement, together with “World Bank Disbursement Guidelines for Projects”, dated May 1, 2006.
Article I
Standard Conditions; Definitions


1.02. Definitions. Unless the context requires otherwise, the capitalized terms used in this Agreement have the meanings ascribed to them in the Standard Conditions or in this Agreement.

Article II
Execution of the Activities

2.01. Description of the Activities. The Activities for which the Advance is provided consist of the following parts:

Part 1. Increasing Access to Improved Water Supply and Sanitation

(i) Preparation of Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF); (ii) selection of Support Organizations and Pre-feasibility site appraisal for the first batch of schemes (550) to be financed under the proposed Project; (iii) development of phase contract for the schemes selected for the first batch of schemes; (iv) review and updating of the manuals of the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Fund Development Board.

Part 2. Improving Sustainability of Community Managed Schemes.

Preparation of Terms of Reference for consultant and start procurement process for preparation of Part 2.

2.02. Institutional and Other Arrangements. The activities financed under the Advance shall be implemented by the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Fund Development Board under the Ministry of Urban Development.

2.03. Execution of the Activities Generally. The Recipient declares its commitment to the objectives of the Activities. To this end, the Recipient shall carry out the Activities in accordance with the provisions of: (a) Article II of the Standard Conditions; (b) this Article II; and (c) the “Guidelines on Preventing and Combating Fraud and Corruption in Projects Financed by IBRD Loans and IDA Credits and Grants”, dated October 15, 2006 and revised in January 2011.

2.04. Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation of the Activities. The Recipient shall monitor and evaluate the progress of the Activities in accordance with the provisions of Section 2.08 of the Standard Conditions.

2.05. Financial Management. (a) The Recipient shall ensure that a financial management system is maintained in accordance with the provisions of Section 2.09 of the Standard Conditions.

(b) The Recipient shall ensure that interim un-audited financial reports for the Activities are prepared and furnished to the World Bank not later than 45 days after the end of each trimester, covering the Fiscal year trimester, in form and substance satisfactory to the World Bank.

(c) The Recipient shall have its Financial Statements audited in accordance with the provisions of Sections 2.09 (b) of the Standard Conditions. Each such audit of the Financial Statements shall cover the
period of one fiscal year of the Recipient, commencing with the fiscal year in which the first withdrawal under the Advance was made. The audited Financial Statements for such period shall be furnished to the World Bank not later than six months after the end of such period.

2.06. **Procurement**

(a) **General.** All goods, non-consulting services and consultants’ services required for the Activities and to be financed out of the proceeds of the Advance shall be procured in accordance with the requirements set forth or referred to in:

(i) Section I of the “Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits and Grants by World Bank Borrowers” dated January 2011 (“Procurement Guidelines”), in the case of goods and non-consulting services;

(ii) Sections I and IV of the “Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits and Grants by World Bank Borrowers” dated January 2011 (“Consultant Guidelines”) in the case of consultants’ services; and

(iii) the provisions of this Section, as the same shall be elaborated in the procurement plan prepared and updated from time to time by the Recipient for the Activities in accordance with paragraph 1.18 of the Procurement Guidelines and paragraph 1.25 of the Consultant Guidelines (“Procurement Plan”).

(b) **Definitions.** The capitalized terms used in the following paragraphs of this Section to describe particular procurement methods or methods of review by the World Bank of particular contracts, refer to the corresponding method described in Sections II and III of the Procurement Guidelines, or Sections II, III, IV and V of the Consultant Guidelines, as the case may be.

(c) **Particular Methods of Procurement of Goods and Non-consulting Services**

(i) Except as otherwise provided in sub-paragraph (ii) below, goods and non-consulting services shall be procured under contracts awarded on the basis of National Competitive Bidding in accordance with the Nepal Public Procurement Act, 2007 (and regulations made thereunder), subject to the additional provisions listed in Appendix 1 of this Annex.

(ii) **Other Methods of Procurement.** The following table specifies the methods of procurement, other than National Competitive Bidding, which may be used for goods and non-consulting services. The Procurement Plan shall specify the circumstances under which such methods may be used:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procurement Method</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) Shopping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Direct Contracting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(d) **Particular Methods of Procurement of Consultants’ Services**

(i) Except as otherwise provided in item (ii) below, consultants’ services shall be procured under contracts awarded on the basis of Quality- and Cost-based Selection.

(ii) The following methods may be used for the procurement of consultants’ services for those assignments which are specified in the Procurement Plan: (A) Quality-based Selection; (B) Selection under a Fixed Budget; (C) Least Cost Selection; (D) Selection based on Consultants’ Qualifications; (E) Single-source Selection of consulting firms; (F) Well-established Private Sector Procurement Methods or
Commercial Practices which have been found acceptable to the World Bank; (G) Selection of consultants under Indefinite Delivery Contract or Price Agreement; (H) Selection of Individual Consultants; and (I) Single-source procedures for the Selection of Individual Consultants.

(e) Review by the World Bank of Procurement Decisions. The Procurement Plan shall set forth those contracts which shall be subject to the World Bank’s Prior Review. All other contracts shall be subject to Post Review by the World Bank.

Article III
Withdrawal of the Advance

3.01. **Eligible Expenditures.** The Recipient may withdraw the proceeds of the Advance in accordance with the provisions of: (a) Article III of the Standard Conditions; (b) this Section; and (c) such additional instructions as the World Bank may specify by notice to the Recipient (including the “World Bank Disbursement Guidelines for Projects” dated May 2006, as revised from time to time by the World Bank and as made applicable to this Agreement pursuant to such instructions), to finance Eligible Expenditures as set forth in the following table. The table specifies each category of Eligible Expenditures that may be financed out of the proceeds of the Advance (“Category”), the amount of the Advance allocated to each Category, and the percentage of expenditures to be financed for Eligible Expenditures in each Category:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount of the Advance Allocated (expressed in Dollars)</th>
<th>Percentage of Expenditures to be Financed (inclusive of Taxes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) Goods, Consultants’ Services, Training, Workshops, Incremental Operating Costs</td>
<td>3,000,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL AMOUNT</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,000,000</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.02. **Withdrawal Conditions.** Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 3.01 of this Agreement, no withdrawal shall be made for payments made prior to the date of countersignature of this Agreement by the Recipient.

3.03. **Refinancing Date.** The Refinancing Date is June 30, 2014.

Article IV
Terms of the Advance

4.01. **Service Charge.** The Recipient shall pay a service charge on the Withdrawn Advance Balance at the rate of three-fourths of one percent (3/4 of 1%) per annum. The service charge shall accrue from the respective dates on which amounts of the Advance are withdrawn and shall be paid in arrears in accordance with the provisions of Section 4.02 of this Agreement. Service charges shall be computed on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months.

4.02. **Repayment.** The Withdrawn Advance Balance shall be repaid by the Recipient to the World Bank (together with any service charges accrued thereon) in accordance with the provisions of Article IV of the Standard Conditions and the following provisions:
Refinancing under the Refinancing Agreement: If, on or before the Refinancing Date, a Refinancing Agreement has been executed by all of its parties, then the full amount of the Withdrawn Advance Balance shall be repaid to the World Bank (together with any service charges accrued on the Advance to the date of repayment) as soon as the Refinancing Agreement becomes effective, by means of a withdrawal by the World Bank of an amount of the Refinancing Proceeds equivalent to the Withdrawn Advance Balance plus such service charges, in accordance with the provisions of the Refinancing Agreement.

Repayment in the absence of a Refinancing Agreement: If, on or before the Refinancing Date, no Refinancing Agreement has been executed by all of its parties, or if, by such date or at any time thereafter, it has been so executed but terminates without becoming effective, then:

(i) if the amount of the Withdrawn Advance Balance does not exceed $50,000, it shall be repaid by the Recipient to the World Bank (together with service charges accrued on the Withdrawn Advance Balance to the date of repayment) on such date as the World Bank shall specify in a notice to the Recipient, which shall in no event be earlier than 60 days following the date of dispatch of such notice; and

(ii) if the amount of the Withdrawn Advance Balance exceeds $50,000, it (together with service charges accrued on the Withdrawn Advance Balance to the Notice Date) shall be paid by the Recipient to the World Bank in ten approximately equal semiannual installments, in the amounts and on the dates (“Payment Dates”) which the World Bank shall specify in a notice to the Recipient. In no event shall the first Payment Date be set earlier than 60 days following the date (“Notice Date”) of dispatch of such notice. The Recipient shall pay a service charge on the Aggregate Balance at the rate of three-fourths of one percent (3/4 of 1%) per annum, payable in arrears on each Payment Date. The service charge shall be computed on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months.

Article V
Recipient’s Representative; Addresses

5.01. Recipient’s Representative. The Recipient’s Representative referred to in Section 9.02 of the Standard Conditions is Secretary, Minister of Finance.

5.02. Recipient’s Address. The Recipient’s Address referred to in Section 9.01 of the Standard Conditions is:

Cable: Telex: Facsimile:

5.03. World Bank’s Address. The World Bank’s Address referred to in Section 9.01 of the Standard Conditions is:

International Development Association
1818 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20433
United States of America
Mr. Shanta Raj Subedi

Cable: INDEVAS
      INTBAFRAD
      Washington, D.C.

Telex: 248423 (MCI) or 64145 (MCI)

Facsimile: 1-202-477-6391

August 14, 2013
APPENDIX 1

National Competitive Bidding Procedures

In order to ensure economy, efficiency, transparency and broad consistency with the provisions of Section I of the Procurement Guidelines, the following provisions shall be adhered to:

(a) bid documents shall be made available, by mail or in person, to all who are willing to pay the required fee;
(b) foreign bidders shall not be precluded from bidding and no preference of any kind shall be given to national bidders;
(c) bids shall be opened in one place, immediately after the deadline for submission of bids;
(d) qualification criteria (in case pre-qualifications were not carried out) shall be stated in the bidding documents, and if a registration process is required, a foreign firm declared as the lowest evaluated bidder shall be given a reasonable opportunity of registering, without let or hindrance;
(e) evaluation of bids shall be made in strict adherence to the criteria disclosed in the bidding documents, in a format and specified period with the Association and contracts shall be awarded to the lowest evaluated bidders;
(f) rebidding shall not be carried out without the prior concurrence of the Association;
(g) extension of bid validity shall not be allowed without the prior concurrence of the Association: (A) for the first request for extension if it is longer than 4 (four) weeks; and (B) for all subsequent requests for extension irrespective of the period; and
(h) there shall not be any restrictions on the means of delivery of the bids.