

To,

Ms.Michiyo KAKEGAWA  
Mr.Naoyuki SAKUMOTO  
Mr.Takehiko MURAYAMA

Examiners for the Guidelines on Environmental and Social Considerations Japan International  
Cooperation Agency (JICA)

November 25, 2024

Opinions on the Examiner's Report regarding the "POKHARA WATER SUPPLY  
IMPROMENT PROJECT POKHARA,NEPAL"

This is to acknowledge the receipt of your investigation report and your perspectives on the objections we had raised on the report. We discussed your report and agreed to send our arguments as below:

- 1, The project-affected people of [REDACTED] have no role in not fulfilling the promises made by the JICA-funded project partners (,NWSC/Nepal government) put forward by the community before and during the project implementation period.
2. The community has the right to know what was written in the EIA report, which we could never read, despite our repeated requests. As per JICA's own Guidelines on Environmental and Social Considerations policy, don't they have any responsibility for making timely follow-ups to ensure that their partners are making progress on the matters that were promised?
3. As disclosed with your team during the field visit, we again would like to remind you that the community of [REDACTED] would not have given up their land if it was the Nepal government to fulfill these social responsibilities. We were repeatedly told by the project officials (who visited time and again before and during the project implementation) that this is a JICA-supported project. JICA has a the Guidelines on Environmental and Social Considerations policy and community concerns will be addressed in the course of project implementation. JICA may not have a legal obligation to fulfill these promises but doesn't it has ethical accountability towards the community that is affected? How can JICA remain silent for not fulfilling these responsibilities?
4. We have a feeling that the report concentrated on legal and more formal project documents and did not adequately address the concerns and perspectives we presented during the meetings. We anticipated that the report would clearly elaborate the in-action and negligence on the promises made and would have recommended JICA and Nepal government a "to-do list" so that JICA's responsibilities are fulfilled as per its social policy. In contrast to our expectations, the report has not even mentioned of the list of the promises made by the project to the communities. Very sad to know that the EIA report which we never had a chance to read, did not mention the promises they made. What was the basis of this EIA report? Where are our 4-page forms filled in during the meeting?

Finally, our apologies for raising the above arguments candidly with the hope that JICA is sensitive to the social concerns and will re-evaluate the entire social component of this project. We are hopeful that JICA will not ignore our repeated requests because we wish to get justice and a prestigious organization like JICA would adhere to its policy.

We are eagerly waiting to receive positive action on this matter at your earliest convenience.

Should you require any further information on our request, kindly email to us.

Thank you for listening to us and kind regards,

Sincerely

Requesters and Local people of [REDACTED]