PRESENT STATUS

Bidding Process:

- Following the signing of Contracts, several rounds of meetings were held among THL, PSC and Contractors (Package 1 and Package 2) regarding access to and possession of the site. A joint site inspection was also conducted in order to clarify the concerns raised by the Contractors on the proposed sites. The primary objective of the meeting was to confirm the access to and possession of site immediately after notifying the Commencement Date.

The Package 1 Contractor has submitted the guarantee for EURO portion of the first instalment of Advance payment and also notified that the guarantee for local portion would be submitted within 20 December, 2018. The Package 2 Contractor has not submitted any guarantee for the first instalment of advance payment. It was unofficially informed that the process is in underway with the Nepalese Bank for the counter guarantee.

After confirmation of access to and possession of sites to both Contractors, the Engineer shall notify the Commencement Date to both Contractors probably by the third week of December 2018.

- The THL Evaluation Committee for Bid Evaluation of Package-3- 220 kV Transmission Line of the Project with the supports of PSC has finalized the Technical Bid evaluation Report (TBER) after incorporating the comments received from the ADB. THL submitted the TBER to the ADB on 02 November 2018. After receipt of no objection from the ADB, the price bids of all substantially responsive bidders were opened on 20 November 2018. After evaluation of all price bids, THL submitted the Price Bid Evaluation Report (PBER) to the ADB on 26 November 2018. ADB gave the concurrence on 28 November 2018 and THL Board approved the PBER on the same date. THL also issued the letter to the lowest evaluated substantially responsive bidder for pre-award discussion before the issuance of letter of Acceptance (LoA).

Safeguard activities:

**Agreement with Concern Committee**

THL and Collective Rights Protection Committee to Directly Drown Affected People from inundation area signed the tripartite Course of Action (CoA) to be followed in order to address the complaints made by the committee on 21 November 2018. ADB fact finding mission of October 2018 discussed Action Plan with THL and members of the committee. THL, ADB and the committee are responsible to implement the CoA.
### Land Acquisition of Betini

ESMU team of THL has reached an agreement with the four affected households (living in public land) of Rising Rural Municipality-1, Banchare on 20 November 2018 regarding their complains about compensation. THL requires those lands for the access road to surge tank area and facilities for Package-2 Contractor. As per the agreement, affected households are ready to receive the compensation of the structures determined by CDC and ready to leave the land as soon as possible. Likewise, ESMU team along with Ward Chair Person of Rising-1 and APs discussed to settle the issues of Banchare area.

The compensation disbursement for land acquisition in Betini area is underway. THL is in regular consultation with APs of Betini area regarding the compensation. As of end of November 2018, about NRs. 4,81,00,000 has been disbursed to the affected HHs. The Compensation Determination Committee (CDC) determined the compensation rate of the land which ranges from 2,40,000 to Rs. 20,00,000 per Ropani depending upon types of land.

### Agreement with DFO for Forest Management

THL has signed an agreement with Division Forest Office (DFO) for forest clearance, nursery development, and afforestation program on 04 November 2018. THL will be providing total amount NRs. 26,25,65,665.00 for forest clearance, nursery development, and afforestation program in next 5 years. DFO will be carrying out the above activities in co-ordination with community forest groups.

As per the decision of Council of Ministers and agreement with Department of Forest, THL requires the clearance 417.23 Ha of forest land and cutting of 181,571 nos. of tress for reservoir, powerhouse, dam site and access road in reservoir, powerhouse, dam site and access road. THL is continuously in discussion with Ministry of Environment and Forest (MOEF) and Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation (MOEWRI) for compensation by cash for the use of forest land.

### Updated Resettlement and Indigenous Peoples Plan (RIPP)

ADB has disclosed the UpRIPP on 07 November 2018. The THL has prepared the UpRIPP with the support of Social Safeguard Expert of PSC along with Social Safeguard team of THL.

### Environment and Social Management Service Provider (ESMSP)

The Evaluation Committee has been evaluating the technical proposal of the short listed applicants. It is scheduled to submit the Technical Evaluation Report to the ADB by the first week of December 2018.

### Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

ADB has categorized Tanahu Hydropower Project as the Effective Gender Mainstreaming (EGM) project. Accordingly, as per the provision of Project Administration Manual (PAM), THL has started implementing the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) program for project affected people. As decided during a
meeting with the ADB GESI expert on 29 November 2018 at THL office, the training program of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion will be conducted at Rising Rural Municipality in the month of December. This program will include the activities to be conducted as prescribed in the GESI Action Plan, which provide the indicator and targets within the timeframe.

Project Preparatory Works
Access Roads
Access Road from Chapaghat to Dam Site Area (3,234)
The payment of compensation of the land in the remaining section of the roads towards the Betini area is almost completed. After the compensation process is over, track opening and construction work in the remaining section of the road towards the dam site will be initiated.

Access Road from RCC Bridge to Powerhouse (3,314m)
Access Road from RCC Bridge to Powerhouse has been completed.

Camp Facilities
All together 33 nos. of buildings are being constructed for camp facilities and are listed below:
- 2 nos. of office buildings for employer and consultants,
- 2 nos. of residential building of type A;
- 12 nos. of residential building of type B;
- 10 nos. of residential building of type C;
- 2 Dormitories;
- 1 Guest house;
- 1 health post;
- 2 restaurants and
- 1 guard house.
The entire construction works including landscaping are planned to be completed by end of December 2018. As of November 2018, 98% of physical work and 90% of financial progress have been achieved in the construction of the camp facilities.

Lower Seti Hydropower Project
The pre-proposal meeting was held on 02 November 2018 in order to clarify the concerns raised by the six shortlisted consulting firms. After consideration of the requests from the applicants, the deadline of submission of proposal has been extended till 05 December 2018.

FUTURE COURSE OF ACTION:
PROCUREMENT ACTION

Contractor Mobilization: THL is preparing to provide access to and possession of the sites to the contractors. Shortly after the site possession, the Engineer will instruct both Contractors to commence the Works by the end of December 2018. It is expected that the Contractors will be mobilized to the site by the beginning of January 2019.

Engagement of ESMSP: Contract agreement with ESMSP will be signed by the end of January 2019.
Award of Contracts for other Packages: Contract Agreements with Package-3 will be signed by the end of December 2018.

SAFEGUARD ACTION

House-to-House Consultation: As per the tripartite agreement, THL, ADB team and the Community Mediation Expert (appointed by ADB) will conduct house-to-house consultation with 21 HHs of reservoir affected area.

Translation of THL documents in Magar Language: THL will engage a local translator to translate the project related documents in Magar Language, which will be disseminated to the APs.

Compensation Distribution: Compensation distribution in Reservoir, Betini and Banchare area will be continued.

Stakeholders Consultation: THL is regularly engaged in consultation with Local Authorities like District Administrative Office, Land Revenue office, Survey Office, DFO and Local Level Government. Community consultation is planned for once in every two month at each LCF. Project site office at Jhaputar, Project Information Centre (PIC), Bhimad, Project Contract Offices in Rising and Myagde will be actively engaged to receive and hear the grievances from APs promptly. Project information in the form of Booklet and Leaflet which includes salient features, FAQ and information on present status and safeguard activities of the project, are being distributed to all stakeholders. Local media are also being mobilized to disseminate project related information.

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