

## **Disastrous Earthquake in Nepal and the Neighbouring Countries**

The disastrous earthquake of magnitude 7.9 with epi-centre at east-southeast of Lamjung, Nepal has led to a great loss of life, property and infrastructure in Nepal and neighbouring countries including India, China and Bangladesh. The earthquake had triggered an avalanche at Mt. Everest leading to the death of at least 19 mountaineers. It is a natural calamity of great magnitude with more than 6,300 deaths reported so far. It is feared that the death toll may reach 10,000 or even more. The heavily damaged buildings included several centuries old monuments at UNESCO World Heritage sites at the Kathmandu Darbar Square, the Patan Darbar Square and the Bhaktapur Durbar Square. These were of great cultural and historic importance. The UN Agencies and individual countries, particularly those in the immediate neighbourhood like India, China, Pakistan and others are actively involved in rescue operations and supporting affected population through food, shelters, transportation and medical facilities. Rebuilding of damaged educational institutions: schools, colleges and universities and R&D institutions will take a lot of resources, as well as expert inputs. At the same time these educational and S&T bodies are key vehicles of nation building, particularly after this disaster.

The Association of Academies and Societies of Sciences in Asia (AASSA) expresses deep grief and conveys solidarity, sympathy and best wishes to the people and leadership of Nepal and all affected countries of the region. AASSA particularly wishes to convey that the scientific community in the Asia-Pacific as well at the global level through organizations like IAP and ICSU is deeply concerned about the consequences about this calamity.

The Association of Academies and Societies of Sciences in Asia appeals to international bodies of science like InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) and the International Council for Science (ICSU) for providing all possible assistance to rebuild the educational institutions and research bodies engaged in S&T. The Nepalese R&D establishment needs to be assisted and helped to evolve efficient strategies for recovery from the disaster. We appeal to major agencies like UNESCO, World Bank and Asian Development to provide all possible financial support. The academies and societies, being apex bodies of scientists and engineers volunteer to provide subject experts in the areas of relevance.

**Professor Soraya Popal**  
**Academy of Sciences of Afghanistan**

**Professor Radik M. Martirosyan**  
**National Academy of Sciences of Armenia**

**Professor Andrew Holmes**  
**Australian Academy of Science**

**Professor Akif Aga Mekhti oglu Alizadeh**  
**Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences**

**Professor Mesbahuddin Ahmad**  
**Bangladesh Academy of Sciences**

**Professor Chunli Bai**  
**Chinese Academy of Sciences**

**Professor George Kvesitadze**  
**Georgian National Academy of Sciences**

**Professor Raghavendra Gadagkar**  
**Indian National Science Academy**

**Professor Sangkot Marzuki**  
**Indonesian Academy of Sciences**

**Professor Reza Davari Ardakani**  
**Academy of Sciences of IR of Iran**

**Professor Ruth Arnon**  
**Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities**

**Professor Takashi Onishi**  
**Science Council of Japan**

**H.R.H. Princess Sumaya bint El Hassan  
Royal Scientific Society, Jordan**

**Professor Murat Zhurynov  
National Academy of Sciences of the  
Republic of Kazakhstan**

**Professor Sung Hyun Park  
Korean Academy of Science and Technology**

**Professor Sook Il Kwun  
National Academy of Science, Republic of  
Korea**

**Professor Abdygany Erkebaev  
National Academy of Sciences of the Kyrgyz  
Republic**

**Tan Sri Datuk Dr Ahmad Tajuddin Ali FASc  
Academy of Sciences Malaysia**

**Professor Batbold Enkhtuvshin  
Mongolian Academy of Sciences**

**Professor Sir David Skegg  
Royal Society of New Zealand**

**Professor Anwar Nasim  
Pakistan Academy of Science**

**Dr. William G. Padolina  
National Academy of Science and  
Technology, Philippines**

**Professor Valentin Sergienko  
Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy  
of Sciences**

**Professor Aleksander Aseev  
Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of  
Sciences**

**Professor Andrew Wee**  
**Singapore National Academy of Science**

**Professor Vijaya Kumar**  
**National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka**

**Professor Mamadsho Ilolov**  
**Academy of Sciences of the Republic of  
Tajikistan**

**Professor Supot Hannongbua**  
**Science Society of Thailand Under the  
Patronage of His Majesty the King**

**Professor Vichai Boonsaeng**  
**Thai Academy of Science and Technology**

**Professor Ahmet Cevat Acar**  
**Turkish Academy of Sciences**

**Professor Shavkat Salikhov**  
**Academy of Sciences of the Republic of  
Uzbekistan**

**Professor Chau Van Minh**  
**Vietnam Academy of Science and  
Technology**

**Datuk Ir Hong Lee Pee**  
**ASEAN Academy of Engineering and  
Technology**