

\$500 million aid for sanitation programme



KATHMANDU, -National coordinating body under the Ministry of Physical Planning and Works launched a “National Sanitation Programme” with USD 500 million support from the Global Sanitation Fund (GSF) here on Thursday.

The first multi-million project on sanitation funded by UN-HABITAT will be focused on implementing sanitation and hygienic activities in five districts of three different development regions.

“The five-year plan aims to strengthen the civil society groups, schools, private sectors and maintaining integration and linkages among different local resources of the targeted areas,” said Oliver Jones, Programme Officer at Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC).

“It will be centered to the poor and unserved community in order to promote hygiene, raise awareness and create demand for sanitation.”

The project that will effectively work by 2011 is reported to select those districts which have less than 20 percent sanitation coverage and represent all three ecological regions with at least three development regions.

Speaking at a programme, Andre Dzikus, Chief at Water Sanitation and Infrastructure Branch, Kenya said the project can be extended to other districts if this plan succeeds to achieve its goal. “The changed behavior due to access to sustainable, safe sanitation and hygiene is expected to result better health in the targeted communities,” said Dzikus.

WHO and UNICEF reports on sanitation issued last March depicted that some 2.6 billion people across the world do not have access to basic sanitation.

It means four in every 10 humans in the world are dying annually in lack of sanitation related diseases such as diarrhea. Another report released in 2006 revealed that only 43 percent of the country’s total population has access to latrines against water supply coverage of 80 percent.