



United Nations Human Settlements Programme
(UN-HABITAT)

Programme des Nations Unies pour les établissements humains
Jl. T.M.Pahlawan No.3A, Banda Aceh, NAD,
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**Laying Foundation for New Homes
--486 houses to be completed by UN-HABITAT and ADB
in four villages in North Nias—**

Press Release - Feb 15, 2007

Banuagea, Nias---15 February 2007-- Head of Asian Development Bank (ADB) Banda Aceh, Mr. Pieter Smidt and Program Manager UN-HABITAT, Mr. Binod.K.Shrestha joined the people of Banuagea, North Nias to mark the starting of construction of 486 new houses.

Asian Development Bank (ADB) through UN-HABITAT's Nias Settlements Support Program (NSSP) is providing support for the construction of 486 unit houses in four villages in North Nias, Banuagea, Sawo, Hiliduruwa and Silimabanua. These villages are under sub-district of Tuhemberua and Sawo.

Reconstruction of the houses including basic infrastructure such as drainage, septic tank, village road and water supply will take an estimated five months to complete. The project preparation took about two months earlier to complete studies of the social and environmental assessment. The project will cost an estimated US\$ 4.3 million. The housing project in Nias is also in cooperation with Aceh-Nias Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Agency (BRR) and local government of Nias.

UN-HABITAT/ADB project will also provide assistance to construct a piped water supply system to serve all 1,700 households in these four villages at the cost of US\$ 537,000.

Pieter Smidt thanked the people for their cooperation and their patience during the process before the first stone is laid to mark the starting of construction.

"The preparation of the process takes longer time than we expected. We care about to ensure that every step of the process is properly done with feedback from the community"

The project also provides support to the communities' own efforts through a process of rebuilding through a needs-driven, participatory approach to reconstruct houses destroyed/damaged by the earthquake. Binod.K.Shrestha in his speech emphasized the philosophy of the project as the people's process.

"You are the one who will build your own houses, this is your house. UN-HABITAT and ADB are here to provide support. There are no work too difficult to be done, as long we work together to achieve our goal".



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The groundbreaking ceremony was attended by Representative government of Nias District, Drs. FG M Zebua. In his speech, Zebua conveyed gratitude for housing assistance from ADB and UN-HABITAT. Zebua appealed for local government and community in these areas to fully support the implementation of the program.

The groundbreaking ceremony was attended by BRR, local government officials, other United Nations and organizations working in Nias and people for these four villages.

During the field visit, one of the beneficiaries in Banuagea village, Nur Adi Gea, expressed his happiness.

“I am happy that the construction will be started very soon. I can’t wait to see our house completed”

The earthquake of 28 March 2005 destroyed Nur’s house and since then he and his family have been living in a temporary shack built from the salvaged material.

For More information, please contact :

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Welcoming dance by students



Together with community and guests dancing
Maena, traditional dance of Nias



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Laying the stone to mark the start of housing construction process