



**OPINION**  
Dipak Gyawali



**VIEWPOINT**  
Shivaram Pd. Koirala, PhD



**FORUM**  
Dr. Prabin Manandhar

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# NEW SPOTLIGHT

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FORTNIGHTLY

## KULMAN GHISING Fight Alone for the Light

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**LIRIC**  
CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT REDUCTION



**CHIEF SECRETARY DR. ARYAL**  
CIVIL SERVICE LEADER



**BEEN**  
FOR ENERGY EFFICIENT BUILDING POLICY



# बाढीपहिरोबाट जोगिऔं

जथाभावी सडक निर्माण र वन विनाशले बाढीपहिरो निम्त्याउने हुँदा:

- वृक्षारोपण गरौं, वनजंगल जोगाऔं, बाढीपहिरो नियन्त्रण गरौं।
- पहिरोको जोखिम भएका क्षेत्र तथा नदी किनारमा रुख, बाँस, निगालोजस्ता भु-क्षय रोक्ने खालका विरुवा रोपौं र संरक्षण गरौं।
- आफ्नो बस्ती तथा समुदायको रक्षा गरौं।
- बाढी तथा पहिरो गएको सूचना तल्लो तटीय क्षेत्रमा दिऔं।

बाढीपहिरोबाट आफू पनि बचौं अरुलाई पनि बचाऔं।



नेपाल सरकार  
विज्ञापन बोर्ड



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There is a report that K.P. Sharma Oli, leader of the CPN-UML, and Sher Bahadur Deuba, leader of the Nepali Congress, has begun talks to form a new alliance that would topple the existing coalition. Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda recently returned from a successful visit to India where he resolved many issues between the two countries. The meeting between Shanker Pokharel, Oli's trustee and leader of the CPN-UML, and former Prime Minister Deuba, who is currently receiving medical treatment in Singapore, has been interpreted as the start of the negotiation process.

The political legacy of Deuba and Oli's camp is under threat due to Prachanda's successful tour to India and the respect he has earned from the Indian establishment. Although nothing has been officially announced, the formation of the Socialist Front by the Radical Maoist Party, Sanghiya Samajbadi, Maoist Center, and CPN-US, led by Biplab is a significant political move that points to future political instability in the nation. It may seem difficult for the UML and Nepali Congress to form a coalition government due to Deuba and Oli's ambitions, however, in Nepali politics, anything is possible. Despite the impending new political environment, we have chosen to focus on the current energy supply issue and the challenges NEA's MD Kul Man Ghising is facing as a cover story for this week. MD Ghising is leading his NEA colleagues as he works to improve and extend Nepal's power supply system.

**Keshab Poudel**

Editor

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# Controversial Constituency Development Fund In Nepal: Public Concerns



BY: DR. PRABIN MANANDHAR

The Constituency Development Fund (CDF) in Nepal is a government initiative that assigns a specific budget to members of the federal parliament and provincial assemblies, allowing them to implement small- and medium-scale development projects within their constituencies. However, the CDF has been a subject of controversy due to ongoing concerns about transparency and accountability.

Despite undergoing name changes under different governments, both in the unitary and federal systems, the CDF has faced consistent scrutiny. As a result, questions regarding the fund's effectiveness and its potential impact on the overall development process have arisen. The recent announcements by the federal and provincial governments in their upcoming budgets regarding the allocation of such fund has raised alarming concerns among the public.

The implementation of the CDF in several South Asian and African developing countries has yielded unfavorable outcomes. These initiatives have been associated with negative impacts on accountability and service delivery. The experiences with the CDF programs highlight the importance of addressing governance issues, strengthening oversight mechanisms, and promoting transparency and accountability in order to achieve the desired development outcomes.



It appears that lawmakers often face the temptation to engage in budget management and spending, despite their primary responsibilities in law-making and policy formulation. This diversion from their core duties has detrimental effects on their ability to effectively carry out oversight functions. There are important lessons to learn from national and international contexts:

**Violation of Separation of Powers:** The CDF undermines the democratic principle of separation of powers by assigning the executive function of budget execution to the legislature. This leads to conflicts of interest and potential conflicts between local and central governments.

**Weakens Federalism:** The CDF undermines the ideal of devolution and vertical separation of power. It hampers adequate resourcing and empowerment of local government, thereby weakening the principles of federalism.

**Regressive Effect on Development:** The CDF has

a regressive effect on development as it distributes scarce resources equally among constituencies without considering specific needs and potentialities.

Studies have shown that project selection under the CDF is often driven by political interests rather than prioritizing the most vulnerable and disadvantaged communities.

**Undermines coherent local government strategies:** The CDF encourages ad-hoc projects, undermining coherent local government strategies and programs aimed at addressing the underlying causes of poverty and inequality.

**Lack of monitoring mechanisms:** The absence of robust monitoring mechanisms and internal audits creates opportunities for financial irregularities in loosely managed funds that are not part of structured fund-flow mechanisms.

In summary, the CDF does not strengthen the lawmakers. Instead, it diverts their attention from their core responsibilities and makes them accountable to the executive. It compromises the integrity of both the legislature and the executive. The lawmakers should prioritize their primary tasks and actively engage in providing critical feedback and holding the executive branch accountable for the implementation of the budget. By focusing on their oversight role, the lawmakers can ensure that public funds are utilized efficiently and effectively, promoting transparency and accountability in the budgetary process.

Acknowledgment goes to the lawmakers and youth wings who have been actively advocating for the removal of the CDF. Civil society organizations should play a crucial role in advocating for reforms and monitoring the implementation of the CDF.

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## NEWSNOTES

### Three New Korea Overseas Volunteers Arrived In Nepal

Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) has dispatched three new Korea Overseas Volunteers (KOVs) to work in Nepal. They arrived in Kathmandu on June 21, 2023 and will dispatch to their concerned organizations on July 21, 2023 after completing the local adaptation training program.

KOV Misun Kim will be dispatched in Shree Ganes Secondary School, Kathmandu in ECD sector, KOV Young Joong Jang and KOV Hyunwook Park will be dispatched in Shree Public High School and Shree Shiksha Sadan Secondary School, Dharan respectively in Computer Education sectors.



Since the outbreak of COVID-19, KOICA relaunched its KOV program from December 2021 and since then total 12 KOVs have been dispatched to Nepal in various sectors.

The volunteers will take 1 month local adaptation training program in Kathmandu where they will learn about Nepalese society, culture, tradition as well as language. Such kind of adaptation program will be helpful for them to adjust and work in their concerned community/organization enabling them to be familiar with Nepalese environment.

The objective of KOV program is to focus more on transferring Korean knowledge and experiences directly in the grass root level. However, these programs aimed to improve the quality of life of people in partner countries to strengthen the friendship and mutual understanding between Korea and partner countries and to help in the efforts to achieve development goals set by the international community.

Since 1990 KOICA volunteers are deployed in various government organizations within and outside the Kathmandu valley according to the demand and request of Nepalese government in different sectors like education, health, agriculture, IT, tourism etc. Till date total 478 volunteers have been dispatched in Nepal. Currently, 8 KOICA volunteers are actively working in various governmental institutions inside Kathmandu Valley.

KOICA Nepal Office expressed commitment to take every possible measure in following the health protocol with regards to COVID-19 while implementing the KOV program.

### Four In Five LGBTIQ+ Respondents Experience Violence In Nepal

Marking the Pride month, the national study “EVIDENCE TO ACTION: Addressing Violence Against LGBTIQ+ People in Nepal” was launched on 15 June 2023. The study was carried out by UN Women in collaboration with Blue Diamond Society Nepal, M&C Saatchi World Services, and Viamo, with funding support from the Embassy of Finland.

The national study “EVIDENCE TO ACTION: Addressing Violence Against LGBTIQ+ People in Nepal” with 1,181 LGBTIQ+ people revealed a pervasive pattern of violence among LGBTIQ+ people in Nepal. The study covered forms of violence, including physical, emotional, sexual, and economic violence.

Four in five respondents (81 percent) reported to have experienced at least one form of violence in their lifetime. The study also showed that the experience of violence is exacerbated by various intersectional factors such as socio-economic status, disability, and caste/ethnicity.

In the event, LGBTIQ+ Activist and Make-up Artist Rose Magar share her lived experience of violence and courage. She urged everyone to create a safe environment for LGBTIQ+ people to live freely.

Echoing the recommendations in the study LGBTIQ+ activists, Gauri Nepali, Bipin Kadayat, Safal Lama, Sunrose Maskey, and Elyn Bhandari, called the government, development, and civil society partners to work together to:

Speaking at the event, Hanaa Singer Hamdy, UN Resident Coordinator shared, “Nepal is one of the most progressive countries in South Asia providing special provision for LGBTIQ+ rights but much

remains to be done to ensure LGBTIQ+ people can live lives free of discrimination and violence. Nepal needs to demonstrate its continued commitment by upholding the legal provisions and translate laws into concrete actions.”

Tuovi Leppänen, Head of Cooperation, Embassy of Finland also shared, “It is important we have a safe school environment. We should train teachers and classmates to respect each other irrespective of our gender identity or sexual orientation,” adding that Government of Finland is honoured to work with LGBTIQ+ communities for a non-violent, equal Nepal.

Presenting his closing remarks, Hon’ble Member of National Human Rights Commission Manoj Duwady





stated, “NHRC is committed to protecting the rights of LG-BTQI+ people in Nepal. The report provides concrete recommendations on addressing violence against LGBTQI+ community in Nepal.”

**Karki Sworn-in As Chief Justice Of Supreme Court**

President Ram Chandra Paudel administered the oath of office and secrecy to the newly-Appointed Chief



Justice of the Supreme Court Hari Krishna Karki.

In the oath-taking ceremony Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal ‘Pra-

chanda’ was also presented.

Earlier today, the Parliamentary Hearing Committee of the Federal Parliament had approved him as the Chief Justice.

The name of Karki was approved after he had responded to queries raised by Committee members in today’s meeting of the committee.

**EU Human Rights Journalist Award In Nepal- Call For Application**

The Delegation of the European Union to Nepal is launching The EU Human Rights Journalist Award to recognise excellence in reporting on human rights issues in Nepal. The main objective of the award is to recognise the contributions of Nepali journalists to raise awareness on the need to promote and protect human rights with the authorities and the general public.

The media play an important role in highlighting the challenges to defend human rights to ensure that all the human rights are well-protected in Nepal. We need to reach out to citizens and governments for meaningful action to defend human rights. Journalists can stimulate dialogue and action across borders by sharing information.



In this regard, the EU Human Rights Journalist Award aims to support Nepali journalists who are raising awareness about human rights and enhancing the un-

derstanding of the EU’s effort for protecting human rights.

The EU Delegation hopes that the Award will attract significant media interest in human rights and encourage high-quality human rights journalism in Nepal.

**President Of RSP Meets Israeli Ambassador Hanan Goder**

Rabi Lamichhane, chairman of the Rashtriya Swatantra Party (RSP), and Hanan Goder, the Israeli ambassador to Nepal, had a meeting.

Central member Pratibha Rawal informed that in a meeting between them today at the central office of the party in Bashundhara, they discussed how can the arable land of Nepal, especially in Ichchhakamana Rural Municipality of Chitwan, be used by using Israeli technology, knowledge and skills, which are considered to be the best in the world.

According to him, other contemporary issues were



also discussed during the meeting. Joint General Secretary Kavindra Burlakoti and other central members were also present on the occasion.

**Korean Ambassador Park Taeyoung Paid A Courtesy Call On Foreign Minister**

Newly appointed Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Nepal Park Taeyoung has paid a courtesy call on Foreign Minister NP Saud at his office in Singhadurbar.

According to Ministry of Foreign Affairs, various matters of bilateral relations and cooperation were discussed during the meeting. Ambassador Park Taeyoung presented his credential on Monday to President Ram Chandra Poudel at Shital Niwas.



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**IFC’s Programs Provide Benefits To 67 Hydropower Plants In Nepal**

IFC’s Program in Nepal Fuels Sustainability and

## NEWSNOTES

Energy Resilience, Benefiting 67 Plants Producing 3919 MW, Including Projects in the Pipeline

By promoting projects with robust environmental and social benchmarks and collaborating with stakeholders, IFC's Nepal Environmental and Social (E&S) Hydropower Program (2016-2023) helped ramp up the capacity of the hydropower sector, thus supporting the development of a resilient industry.



The program benefitted 67 hydropower projects producing 3919 MW, including projects in the pipeline. This included training of local experts to replicate global practices to potentially influence an additional 17 projects generating an additional 2382 MW.

With over 83,000 MW of hydroelectric potential, Nepal is well positioned to transition towards a greener resilient and inclusive development model while also helping its neighbors meet their climate goals through export of surplus power.

Recognizing this potential, in 2018, IFC supported the Ministry of Forests and Environment to develop a Hydropower Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Manual to align Nepal with international policies and practices along with innovative approaches in line with its climate goals.

“IFC’s efforts have had a significant impact in promoting sustainable practices and fostering a more inclusive industry,” said Ashish Garg, Vice President of the Independent Power Producers’ Association, Nepal (IPPN). “We appreciate IFC’s dedication to advancing environmental and social standards, which we hope will continue to contribute to the overall growth and development of Nepal’s hydropower sector.”

As part of the program—supported by the governments of Norway, Australia, and Japan—around 150 local officials underwent training to strengthen their understanding of the EIA evaluation and monitoring process.

These sessions were key to implementing the manual in Nepal, now mandatory for all hydropower projects that require an EIA.

Acknowledging the document’s importance, Maheshwor Dhakal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Forests and Environment, said, “The manual is in line with the Environmental Protection Act, 2019, and introduces international

good practices to Nepal’s hydropower sector.”

## Japan Hands Over The Rehabilitation Center For Muscular Dystrophy In Kathmandu

The Government of Japan handed over the Rehabilitation Center for Patients with Muscular Dystrophy in Shankharapur Municipality, Kathmandu District.

Tamura Takahiro, Charge d’Affaires ad interim of Japan to Nepal, attended the ceremony. The rehabilitation center project of the Muscular Dystrophy Foundation-Nepal (MDF-Nepal) was supported with a grant of USD 95,235 (approximately NPR 10.9 million) under the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) of the Government of Japan.

On this occasion, Tamura congratulated and expressed his appreciation for the efforts of all those involved in the project. He emphasized that the project will enable muscular dystrophy patients to receive the care they need, further develop MDFNEPAL’s existing medical initiatives, and provide higher quality services.

He also expressed his hope that the new rehabilitation center will provide appropriate treatment to the patients and contribute to the health and welfare of the patients and their families. MDF-Nepal was founded in 2003 by families who had lost their children due to muscular dystrophy.

In Nepal, MDF-Nepal is the only organization dealing with the disease, and it has contributed to expansion of knowledge and awareness of the disease as well as providing



mental health care to patients and their families. MDF-Nepal is now able to provide more effective services to its patients with the newly constructed center which was supported by the Japanese government.

The Embassy believes that this assistance will contribute to further deepening the friendship between the people of Japan and Nepal. GGP was established to implement projects that directly benefit people at the grassroots level for the socio-economic development of communities. Since 1991, over 200 GGP projects have been implemented in Nepal

## Nepal And World Bank Launched \$275 Million Project In Transport And Trade Connectivity



Government of Nepal and World Bank Launch \$275 Million Project to Boost Transport and Trade Connectivity in Nepal



The Government of Nepal and the World Bank jointly launched the \$275 million

(equivalent to NRs. 34.96 billion) Accelerating Nepal’s Regional Transport and Trade Connectivity (ACCESS) Project today. It will help improve trade and connectivity by reducing trade and transport costs and transit time along selected corridors in Nepal.

The Project was launched by Honorable Minister of Physical Infrastructure and Transport, Prakash Jwala and the World Bank Vice President for South Asia, Martin Raiser.

“The ACCESS project will help develop resilient infrastructure in Nepal and help unlock Nepal’s economic potential through better connectivity and trade, both between the provinces as well as regionally,” said Honorable Minister Prakash Jwala.

Under the Project, the 69-kilometer two-lane section of the Butwal-Gorusinghe-Chanauta road along the East-West Highway will be upgraded to a climate-resilient four-lane highway. With a focus on ensuring better road safety, the project is expected to reduce travel time by 30 percent, thus providing better access to India’s western seaports.

The project will construct at least three market areas with required internet and trade information facilities along the highway to help enhance economic opportunities, especially for women entrepreneurs and traders. The project will also support advancing Nepal’s preparedness and subsequent implementation of the Motor Vehicle Agreement signed by Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal to allow smooth passage of goods and passenger vehicles in each other’s territories.

“Enhanced trade and transport connectivity promotes economic integration and opens larger markets among South Asian countries. The ACCESS Project will help improve regional trade and promote sustainable infrastructure development to support Nepal’s green, resilient, and inclusive development,” said Martin Raiser, World Bank Vice President for South Asia Region.

The Project will be implemented by the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport, Ministry of Industries, Commerce and Supplies, and Ministry of Forests

and Environment. The Project’s financing agreement was signed by the Government of Nepal and the World Bank in September 2022.

**Nepal And The World Bank Convene Round Table Discussion ON Green, Resilient, And Inclusive Development**

Nepal: Government, Development Partners, Stakeholders Convene to Discuss Actions and Investment Priorities for Green, Resilient, and Inclusive Development

The World Bank and Ministry of Finance convened a high-level roundtable meeting today on investment priorities and enabling policies to operationalize Nepal’s vision for Green, Resilient, and Inclusive Development (GRID).

Leaders from Government and development partners, as well as representatives from civil society, the private sector, youth groups, and think tanks participated in the event and took stock of efforts to implement GRID since the government and development partners endorsed the Kathmandu Declaration on GRID in September 2021.

“Nepal formally adopted the integrated approach to green, resilient, and inclusive development, or GRID, as its national development vision,” said Chief Secretary, Shanker Das Bairagi. “This approach can be an engine of sustainable growth, good jobs and livelihood opportunities, and resilience in the face of multiple risks.”



The Roundtable reviewed priority actions in the Government’s emerging draft GRID strategic action plan. These include managing land, water, and forests in a more productive, sustainable, and integrated way; equipping people with new skills and resilient livelihoods; greening urban development; scaling up water supply and sanitation, managing pollution and waste; scaling up renewable energy; boosting the sustainability and resilience of the transportation system; strengthening disaster risk management and financing; and enhancing social protection to be responsive to shocks.

“Green, resilient, and inclusive development is about lifting incomes, improving opportunities for all, and achieving growth in harmony with nature,” said Martin Raiser, World Bank Vice President for the South Asia Region. “The World Bank and development partners are fully committed to supporting Nepal’s GRID priorities and we are excited to see the impactful outcomes of GRID unfold.”

## BUSINESS BRIEF

### Rajesh Agrawal Elected CNI President

Rajesh Kumar Agrawal has been elected President of the Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI). The 20th annual general meeting of the CNI elected its new leadership.

CNI's elected national council members are Sanjaya Golchha, Raj Bahadur Shah, Bidushi Rana, Ajit Bikram Shah,



H e m r a j Dhakal, Aashish Agrawal, Jajodiya, Manish K h e m k a , D w a b i r a j S h a r m a , Dhurba Prasad Rijal, Barsha Shrestha, Hitesh Golchha, Aashish Garga, Sapana Saponkota, Biren-

dra Raj Pandey, and Laxmi Prasad Subedi.

Similarly, other elected members are Gokul Bhandari, Sandip Sharada, Mohit Kediya, Amit Mor, Amit Kumar Begani, Chandra Tandan, Rohit Gupta, Nirman Chaudhary, Barun Kumar Todi, Rahul Kumar Agrawal, Sharad Kumar Tibadewala, Bikram Singhaniya, Milan Babu Malla, Dipak Agrawal, Bishal Agrawal, Saurav Dugad, Dilip Agrawal, Gopal Kumar Agrawal and Aditya Sanghai.

Seven CNI vice presidents were elected from the elected national council members. The elected vice presidents are Nirman, Birendra Raj, Raj Bahadur, Hemraj, Rohit, Amit and Bhim.

Meanwhile, outgoing CNI President Bishnu Kumar Agrawal administered an oath of office and secrecy to the newly elected CNI President Agrawal amid a function here on Saturday.

### Finding Sharing Workshop On Vegetable Crops Concluded In Janapur

The Nepal Horticulture Promotion Centre (NHPC), in collaboration with Manakamana Training and Skills Development Institute, successfully organized the Provincial Level Validation/Findings Sharing Workshop of the Research on the identification of vegetable crops that reduce imports and increase self-reliance in the Madhesh Pradesh of Nepal.

Supported by Swisscontact's Commercial Agriculture for Smallholders and Agribusiness (CASA) programme and in coordination with the Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperatives of Madhesh Pradesh (MoLMAC), the event took place on the 14th of June, 2023 at the National Rice Research Program in Hardinath, Dhanusha.

The workshop served as a platform to present and discuss the extensive research findings conducted in Madhesh Pradesh. Dr. Namrata Singh, Secretary of MoLMAC, graced the event as the chief guest. She emphasized her commitment to enhance the vegetable crop scenario in Madhesh, reducing imports, and enacting policy regulations to strengthen self-reliance.

The Senior Economist, Dr. Prahlad Kumar Thapa of NHPC addressed the workshop, and presented comprehensive research findings that highlighted the existing gaps in vegetable imports in the Madhesh Pradesh. The presentation also delved into

demand analysis, providing valuable insights for stakeholders and policymakers to strategize sustainable solutions.

The main strategies emphasized include focus vegetable production in peri-urban areas and in interior parts that have road access, Introduction of new high-yielding varieties, improved production practices, timely availability of fertilisers and plant protection materials, and irrigation, Increase of cropping intensity by providing short duration crops and vegetable varieties to catch production seasons effectively supported by timely supply of material inputs, irrigation and appropriate tools and equipment to save labour time.

Similarly, it also discussed reduce post-harvest losses by improving the techniques of harvesting, hauling to packaging yard, cleaning, grading, packaging, storage and transportation by farmers and by improving vegetable handling process during marketing by wholesalers and retailers.

Reduce vegetable trade-deficit by reducing import from India and promoting export to India by solving the problems faced in vegetable trade with India.

Improving marketing management by providing proper marketing yards and structures, water and electricity at the wholesale and bigger retail markets; by providing stalls, proper transit storage and garbage management system in the retail markets; and by providing transit storage, security, loading and unloading platforms and price information at the market centres.

The Head of Portfolio and Quality from CASA Manish Bikram Shah expressed gratitude to the research organization, relevant stakeholders, and participants for their valuable contributions to the



successful completion of the research study and the subsequent findings of the sharing workshop. The event marked a significant milestone in the collective efforts to foster self-reliance and sustainable agricultural practices in Madhesh Pradesh.

### New Khimti Substation Started Operation

The 132/33/11 kilovolt (kV) substation infrastructure, constructed at the New Khimti substation, located in Manthali Municipality-13, Sankhe, in Ramechhap district, has come into operation.

The substation, built for local electricity supply under the Ramechhap (Garjyang) - New Khimti 132 kV transmission line project, came into operation on Thursday. The two power transformers of 30 MVA capacity each and one power transformer of 33/11 kV, 6/8 MVA capacity are kept in the substation, according to the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA).

Five feeder lines of 33 kV and three feeder lines of 11 kV have been connected from the substation supply power in the local area.

The 33 kV feeder was charged on Thursday and the electricity supply has been started in Manthali and Doramba of Ramechhap and some parts of Dolakha district. According to the





NEA, the electricity will be supplied to Khimti Rural Electricity Cooperative through a feeder line of 11 kV.

The Cooperative has electrified some areas of Dolakha and Ramechhap districts. The new Khimti substation of 220/132 kV capacity

was constructed by the 456 MW Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Project, operating in Dolakha.

However, since there is no provision for local electricity supply in the substation, the NEA has constructed a substation infrastructure of 132/33/11 kV. After the preparation of 132/33 kV infrastructure, power supply to the locals has started from the New Khimti substation.

The electricity generated from the hydropower projects, including Khimti, those along the Likhu River corridor along with Upper Tamakoshi is connected with the New Khimti substation. The electricity supplied from these projects to the New Khimti substation has been reduced to 33 and 11 kV through 132/33 kV substations and supplied locally.

The rest of the electricity is supplied through 220 kV transmission line to Dhalkebar in Dhanusha and through 132 kV line to Lamosanghu substation in Sindhupalchowk. Managing Director of NEA Kul Man Ghising said with the operation of the New Khimti substation, electricity supply to Ramechhap and other districts, is expected to improve.

The electricity of the hydroelectric projects connected to the New Khimti substation had been supplied to the national transmission system through the Lamosanghu of Sindhupalchowk and Dhalkebar of Dhanusha and the excess power was exported to India through Dhalkebar-Muzaffarpur. Due to the lack of infrastructure to supply power to the locals in New Khimti, despite having a large substation in their own district, the consumers of that area were deprived of reliable and quality electricity consumption," he said.

But now, with the power supply starting from the New Khimti, the problems in the electricity supply will be solved and consumers here will get quality electricity, he said. The length of the 33 kV transmission line from Dhalkebar to Manthali is about 80 km.

The consumers of Ramechhap and Sindhuli were facing problems such as tripping and low voltage due to long and dense lines. Anup Gautam, chief of the project, said, "Now that the power supply is going to start from New Khimti, the length of the line will be reduced, and the power supply in that area will be improved and maintenance of the line will be easier." Electricity will be supplied from the new Khimti substation to the Khurkot substation in Sindhuli.

**New World Bank Report Recommends Reforms to Strengthen Fiscal Federalism in Nepal**

Nepal has made significant progress on fiscal federalism, but more needs to be done to strengthen the regulatory framework, institutional setup, human resource capacity, and

public financial management (PFM) systems at the provincial and local levels, says the World Bank in its first annual Nepal Fiscal Federalism Update launched today.

"The report highlights the need to develop a fiscal federalism roadmap that encompasses a clear set of actions, sequence, timeline, and responsible actors to improve fiscal federalism outcomes in Nepal," said Balananda Paudel, Chairperson of the National Natural Resource and Fiscal Commission.

While provincial and local governments received nearly 36.7 percent of the federal money through intergovernmental fiscal transfers, -which amounted to 64.8 percent of their revenue in FY21, in the past five years the largest and proportionally growing fund transfers to subnational governments have been through conditional grants. These are heavily earmarked, thus the share of conditional grants needs to be gradually lowered and other grants including equalization grants be increased following the expenditure capacity of the provincial and local government increases, according to the report

"This report, as prepared by the World Bank team, provides a comprehensive review of the progress of fiscal federalism in Nepal. The proportion of conditional grant seems to be high in the early years of federalization due to transfer of projects to provincial and local governments being operationalized by federal government in the past and contributing the salary and allowances of teachers and health staffs deputed in the local governments and it will be gradually improved as situation changes. The recommendations are well aligned with our national development plan and further support our ongoing efforts to advance on fiscal federalism," stated Dr. Ram Prasad Ghimire, Revenue Secretary, Ministry of Finance.

The Nepal Fiscal Federalism Update identifies key reforms to help Nepal improve fiscal federalism outcomes. It recommends developing a fiscal federalism roadmap to guide and monitor the reforms in this area, reinforcing the Inter-Governmental Fiscal Transfer system, and establishing a consolidated PFM performance database at the subnational level. It also recommends amending the legal framework to clarify the concurrent and shared responsibilities among the three tiers of government, strengthening the capacity of provincial and local government staff to carry out PFM-related functions, and reinforcing systems to improve the budget credibility and delivery of services by subnational governments.

"Fiscal Federalism is a foundation for sustained service delivery by provincial and local governments. To this, they need adequate financial resources and the ability to make spending decisions at the subnational level, in the spirit of federalism," said Mr. Faris Hadad-Zervos, World Bank Country Director for Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. "The World Bank is committed to support the Government of Nepal, in close collaboration with other Development Partners, to further solidify fiscal federalism in Nepal."



# Questioning Philosophy Anew Across Civilizations



BY: DIPAK GYAWALI

In Kathmandu's current degraded public discourse milieu that is confined to opportunistic political she-nanigans of our Loktantricksters, two recent June events came as an oasis in a desert. The first was Dr Sagar Prasai discussing the timeline of Eastern and Western philosophical curiosities across recent human history. It was organized by Nepal Darshan Adhyan Samaj, a gathering of the capital city's (mostly young) philosophy enthusiasts. The other was a provocatively titled talk by Hari Roka: "Why has Nepali Left gone downhill?" Chaired by the current vice-chancellor of Kamaladi's Nepal Academy and organized by Nepal Alternative Studies Society, the gathering consisted primarily of Marxist intellectuals still true to their beliefs but dejected because of its blatant desecration by politicians across the mainstream Left spectrum. Indeed, the mood in the hall felt like that of an orphanage with wards in deep depression induced by their parents' betrayal.

Both events, confined though they were to their current narrow circles, are critical seeds of related philosophical interrogations that will need to grow and spread if Nepal's future is to see any renaissance, starting with the intellectual and proceeding on to social and economic. And it will need to be framed within a larger cultural and civilizational context to allow for explorations beyond confined topics, often determined by Western donor agencies. It is already happening with our giant neighbours to our north and south. In March, Xi Jinping proposed a Global Civilization Initiative that calls for respect for diversity of civilizations (and implied challenge to the hegemony of European definition of modernization which is inviting alarm in Western thinktanks).

India's Modi, when recently inaugurating a rather grandiose new parliament building, did two things that pointed in the same direction as Xi but, India's politics being Bollywood-infused, invited quite a media uproar. The first was to install the Raj Danda (Sengol of the Chola dynasty, a symbol of the ruler upholding Raj Dharma), relegated by Nehru to his family museum in Allahabad as his "walking stick", next to the new seat of the Speaker of Indian parliament. It was a powerful reinterpretation of the symbolic legitimacy of India's ruler beyond the procedural aspects

of elections and other imported features. The other was to display a map of South Asia depicting ancient kingdoms, never really one country except to a significant extent under British rule, as "unified India", which has sparked protests in neighbouring countries as creeping imperial aggression on their territories. In truth, it was a misplaced attempt at civilizational hijack conflating cultural with the current political.

Both the Chinese and the Indian assertions, as well as currently African and South-East Asian as the boundary fault line of Indic and Sinic civilizations, are bound to play a greater role in governance debates in the years ahead. It is not just the post-World War-II Bretton Woods defined Pax Americana world order that is being challenged – via de-dollarization and new political alignments – by a more



assertive multipolarity: it is also modernity as equated with Westernization. This is where the Prasai-Roka efforts, very small though they may be, carry greater meaning as nascent efforts to understand this global tectonic shift underway and requiring many such endeavours in the days ahead.

Civilization as a unit of study has been put forth by many scholars, most notably Arnold Toynbee, but it was downplayed and ultimately banished in Western academia by mainly its Marxist-leaning historians that preferred to smudge all such boundaries with categories of class and the Westphalian nation-state. His ideas are making a comeback, not just as "clash of civilization" as Huntington so crassly postulates, but as a much more dynamic living social entity that rose, flowered, engaged with other civilizations, went into decline and often morphed into a successor civilization that imbibed the suppressed values of both its internal and external ('barbarian') proletariat. By proclaiming the



equivalence of all civilizations, he has more than any other intellectual figure struck down the idea that Western civilization as currently avails is the consummation of entire human history. The idea of Western hegemonism, however, still lives as can be seen when its officials proclaim Europe as a garden and the rest of the world as a jungle. Despite such arrogance of the hegemon, the study of comparative civilizational philosophies by those relegated to the margins must start – and find their most fertile seeds – in the works of Toynbee, and then of Stavrianos (below) as well as the better and more relevant in the post-Soviet era non-Marxist political economy of Karl Polanyi.

This peripheralization of other civilizations by Western civilization has happened since the 15th century after it gave birth to capitalism. Historian Stavrianos has examined this process in his classic *Global Rift*, where he analyses the history, not of civilizations as Toynbee does much less of countries as others have done, but of the very process of Third World-ization. While Marx, Lenin and Rosa Luxemburg have all contributed to the understanding of capitalism’s imperial expansion through colonization and its unequal



terms of trade, it is Stavrianos who links it to the very conditions at the extreme western end of the Eurasian peninsula that gave birth to capitalism. It consisted of several historical “accidents”: the lack of a resource-sucking empire after the collapse of the Roman order and its replacement with decentralized power centers and their self-sufficient manor economics; lack of slave-holding order due a Christian faith that grew out of Roman slavery and hence forbade it within themselves (but in the rest of the world they practiced it with gusto!); the Black Death plagues that decimated the labour force prodding the search for labour-saving devices and technologies; a Protestant Reform that curtailed the power the Roman Papacy that not only elevated labour (“to labour is to pray to God”) but also removed intellectual

shackles of the Church that allowed modern science to take root; and doing away with religious ban on usury to allow the flourishing of mercantile capitalism.

These historical factors allowed an European Renaissance in the sciences, with no mean contribution of the Christian Crusades against Middle East Islamic infidels that allowed the Western world to re-discover not just Greek philosophy anew but also Islamic and Hindu mathematics as a side bonus. The groundwork for opening up Judaic values into the declining Roman world was done by the 5th Century theologian St Augustine of Hippo with his *City of God*. That of integrating Greek philosophy (especially Aristotle and thus the basis of modern science) was done at the end of the Crusades in the 13th Century by St. Thomas Aquinas, which was followed by the European Renaissance. As one reflects on Western philosophy and its absorption of

Judeo-Christian and Greek thought traditions, it must be remembered that it was the result of often violent conflicts including the Inquisition that saw the burning of “heretics” at the stake. It must also be remembered that over the millennia, the growth of Western philosophy, despite these violent up-

heavals, was organic which allowed its modern universities to grow out of its religious monasteries. In contrast, modern universities of South Asia are Western transplants that have little umbilical connection with their own past traditions.

That is now being challenged mainly by scholars in India. Philosophers like Sundar Sarukkai and educationists like Sahana Singh and many others have begun this search for life-giving civilizational links that, if pursued by others as vigorously, promise a mentally de-colonized South Asia and allow for its innate renaissance. Hopefully, more younger Prasais and Rokas in Nepal will pick up this challenge that promises so much intellectual recompense to a country grappling with the shortcomings of its own society and its politics.

## POLITICS

# Prachanda Is In Trouble

*The efforts of reconciliation between Sher Bahadur Deuba and K.P. Sharma Oli, two former prime ministers, has rocked Prachanda's Government.*

By A CORRESPONDENT

The coalition government led by Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda is in danger as a result of recent press reports about efforts to resolve tensions between NC leader Deuba and UML leader Oli.

Even though reconciling Deuba and Oli, two extremely ambitious and power-hungry political players, is still a ways off from upending the administration, nothing in Nepali politics can be ruled out.

The CPN-UML trustee and leader Shanker Pokharel met with former prime minister Deuba, who is presently receiving medical treatment in Singapore, and their meeting has been seen as the beginning of the negotiation process.

Following Prachanda's successful official tour to India and the respect he has gained from the Indian establishment, the political legacy of Deuba and Oli's camp is in jeopardy.

The negotiation process suggests that history will repeat itself in Prachanda's case as it did in the cases of all of his predecessors, who all quit their positions after ending a successful journey to India.

Madhav Kumar Nepal, the president of the CPN (Unified Socialists), made a comment about the claims that CPN-UML leader KP Oli was attempting to persuade Nepali Congress lawmakers to form a government under Congress leadership at a recent event organized by his party.

What a paradox! In talks amid apparent unease among the ruling party over the budget and the formation of the Socialist Front, Nepal UML and Congress alleged that the leader of a communist party, Oli, was attempting to overthrow the government presided over by another communist party chair

and wanted to collaborate with Sher Bahadur Deuba, a comprador capitalist and liberal capitalist.

A new political partnership has reportedly been discussed informally by some leaders of the Congress, the second-biggest party in Parliament, and the UML, the largest.

A Nepali Congress official stated that some of the party's dissident leaders have had unofficial discussions with the UML. "These conversations are just getting started. But the key issue is whether the leaders engaged in



negotiations can accomplish anything without the party president's approval.

The party's majority of leaders, according to the leader, favor maintaining the current administration. Gagan Thapay, the general secretary of the NC, would not rule out the idea of the two largest parties forming a coalition to form the government.

Among several common interest, both the parties are now pleading to remove the percentage of proportional representatives in the Both parties are currently asking for the percentage of proportional representatives in the House of Representatives to be eliminated, among other issues of similar concern. Gagan Thapa, the general secretary of the NC, called the CPN-UML, the largest party, to discuss collaborating to change the elec-

toral process.

"The prime minister's formation of a sub-alliance within the ruling coalition has alarmed the Congress, which is in turn a hint of mistrust and disenchantment in the coalition," said UML whip Mahesh Bartaula.

The much-touted Socialist Front, chaired by Netra Bikram Chand Biplab and made up of the CPN (Maoist Centre), CPN (Unified Socialist), Janata Samajbadi Party, and Communist Party of Nepal, was launched by Nepal's leftist forces last Monday.

With 32 representatives from the Maoist Centre, 10 from the Unified Socialist, and 12 from the Janata Samajbadi Party, the front holds 54 seats in the House of Representatives. However, with 10 ministers and 3 ministers of state, the front of the 25-member federal Cabinet takes up the most space.

The current budget announcement has also caused a stir inside the ruling alliance. The CPN (Unified Socialist) parliamentary party meeting authorized Madhav Kumar Nepal, the party's chair, to communicate the party's displeasure with the budget to Prime Minister Dahal and Finance Minister Prakash Sharan Mahat.

The prime minister's constituency, President Deuba's home district of the Nepali Congress, and Finance Minister Mahat's home district, respectively, are Gorkha, Dadheldhura, and Nuwakot, according to the party officials.

Rajendra Pandey, vice chair of the CPN (Unified Socialist), frequently criticizes the government and the prime minister. Speaking to the lower chamber on Friday, he suggested dissolving the prime minister's secretariat because it was useless.



## KULMAN GHISING

# Fight Alone for the Light

*The majority of Kul Man Ghising's weekends are spent inspecting construction sites and resolving disputes throughout the nation as the managing director of the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA). In order to remove obstacles, including the clearing of the forest, MD Ghising spends his six days in the office completing official business and visiting various ministries and departments. In order to offer uninterrupted electricity, MD Ghising has been running from location to location to preserve the quality of the electricity. He is waging a lone struggle to improve Nepal power system*

By KESHAB POUDEL

The strategically significant Hetauda-Inaruwa 400 kV Transmission like project, which was due to be finished in 2017, is still unfinished. Following a Supreme Court ruling, the 220 kV Bharatpur-New Butwal Transmission line is finally cleared after years of disruptions.

The work to erect the final tower has already been delayed for two months as a result of the official Ministry of Forest and Environment notification delaying approval to remove the trees, interfering with the transmission of extra electricity from Bharatpur to New Butwal.

The installation of 400 kV transmission line substations in

Lapsifedi has been impeded by a small number of people, preventing NEA from transferring extra electricity produced in Khimit, Tamakoshi, and Bhotekoshi to Kathmandu Valley.

The valley will experience an electrical shortage starting the following year if the building work is not completed promptly. NEA presently uses a 40-year-old, 132 kV east-west transmission line because there isn't a more powerful transmission line available to carry the electricity from east to west. Overpowering has frequently disrupted the line, causing tilting and occasionally hours-long power outages.

Any delay in the MCC-backed 400 kV Lapsifedi-New Butwal transmission project will negatively affect Nepal's distribution and supply of energy.

The extension and enhancement of the distribution system has also run into opposition from the general public and concerned politicians, in addition to this huge transmission project. The public is opposed when NEA seeks to add transformers to increase capacity and quality.

The initiative to install underground cables in the Katmandu Valley to improve distribution is being hampered by the Department of Road on a number of fronts. The agency has released a notice



warning the public that it is not permitted to install any subterranean cables in the valley.

After a brief power outage, however, a flurry of social media handlers assailed MD Ghising and accused him of being ineffectual. Nobody takes responsibility.

Frequent electricity tipping is typical at a time when the majority of significant transmission and distribution improvement projects are being delayed as a result of obstruction put forth by officials of concerned ministries like the Ministry of Forest and Environment and the Ministry of Land Reform, Departments of Roads, local governments, and the general public.

The tipping has been so frequent in certain places that it brings up memories of load shedding. It's interesting to see that former NEA officials of various higher ranks, including former MD Mukesh Kafle, are all the ones

strongly criticizing MD Ghising.

With positive attitude and time to time interventions from Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal, MD Ghising is somehow accelerating the pace of transmission line and distribution improvement projects. As NEA is under a fire for frequent tipping and no one come to defend NEA, MD Ghising organized a press meet explained entire power scenario including dissemination of fake information linking export of energy to frequent tipping.

MD Ghising stated that despite the fact that the trees on the Kaligandaki corridor and the Bardghat-New Butwal transmission line have been cut for the past 4-5 years, the cutting order has yet to be issued. .

“We will still be unable to obtain a tree-cutting order five years after the Council of Ministers’ decision.” No agreement has yet been reached despite the fact

that money has been gathered for the use of forest land and tree cutting. How can NEA finish the job when no one is helping us? “There will be a major disaster if we do not increase our investment.”

### **Provision of Electricity**

Nepal now uses 1900 Megawatts (MW) of electricity, even though its installed capacity for power production is 2700 MW.

The installed capacity will reach 4,843 MW in fiscal year 2023/024, when Nepal’s peak consumption exceeds 2,482 MW, according to the NEA’s prediction.

The capacity of Nepal’s power supply transmission and distribution lines has not expanded in accordance with the rate of electricity generation. As a result, there is concern that Nepal, which has already been forced into load shedding owing to low production, could experience it once more in the future due to a lack of infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of power.

The nation-wide electrical supply issues that have been occurring over the past few months are now severe enough to cause such concern. The issue of power supply, particularly in the western portion of Nepal, has run its course.

### **Returning Of Load Shedding**

MD Ghising has already issued a warning that there may not be enough electricity available next year if all stakeholders do not help to finish the transmission line infrastructure projects that are now under construction. His cue is the anticipated load shedding for the following year.

The NEA has previously issued warnings of this nature. Last January, NEA issued a warning that load shedding would return to the Kathmandu Valley if it was not allowed to operate in accordance with the plan after being persuaded not to build a transmission line and



substation in Lapsiphedhi. Despite the stoppage of the transmission line developments in Lalitpur, MD Ghising has been warning of a “return” to load shedding in the area.

In his previous position, MD Ghising had cleared a lot of barriers and finished significant transmission lines. Although measures have been carried out to reinforce the infrastructure, the authorities has failed to eliminate the barriers in their way.

According to MD Ghising, “work has been halted while attempting to create transmission and substation infrastructure, due to compensation conflicts in certain regions, while there has been an issue with forest and tree cutting in some places.

“Before 2016, the main cause was the lack of electricity, but now the load shedding has returned, not the lack of production, but the lack of infrastructure could be the reason,” stated MD Ghising.

The Tamakoshi region generates the most power, according to MD Ghising. There is a chance that loads shedding would reappear if the energy flowing from there does not reach Kathmandu and the western part of Nepal.

Electricity demand management is getting harder, according to MD Ghising, because the transmission system is getting smaller. Locals have erected obstructions all over the place. The barrier was lifted, but it caused the 132 kV transmission line upgrading project in Sukouli, Hetauda Sub-Metropolitan City-15 of Makwanpur, to stall for two weeks. The

obstruction was removed as a result of MD Ghising’s visit and his discussions with locals.

The 136 km segment from Hetaunda to Dhalkebar substation in Dhanusha will see the Nepal Electricity Authority replace the old low capacity wire with a new high capacity wire in order to boost the capacity of the East-West 132 KV double circuit transmission line. The transmission line’s current capacity is roughly 200 megawatts, but it may be raised to about



400 megawatts by switching the conductor.

The local power supply will be improved, electricity produced in the west can flow to the east, and excess electricity used in the nation can be exported to India via the Dhalkebar substation, according to the authorities.

For the authorization to cut down trees along the 220 KV power line between Bardghat and New Butwal, the authority is circling the forest service. By refusing to perform the work that

takes two days to accomplish, MD Ghising has publicly accused the forest of significant tardiness. The authority is unsure that the forest will aid in the succeeding process, despite the department just giving authorization.

The operation of the Kaligandaki Corridor’s Dana-New Butwal section has been problematic as a result of the delay in this development. This has prevented projects like Mistrikhola connected to the Kushma-Dana part of

Kaligandaki from getting the market for their electricity.

In addition, compensation is being provided for the construction of the 400 kV Hetaunda-Dhalkebar-Inaruwa transmission line, which will transport electricity from east to west. The backbone of energy transmission is getting worse and sicker due to the conflict over this high-capacity line, which is also necessary for electricity trading with India.

Sending the power from the Upper Tamakoshi project from

## COVERSTORY

Dhalkebar to the east and west for domestic use is difficult because this transmission line, whose construction was began 11 years ago, has not yet been completed. The capacity is inadequate because Dhalkebar West only has 132 KV transmission lines at this time.

In the Makwanpur, Hatia, and Jiyajor areas of the Lalbandi Municipality of Sarlahi, Hetaunda Sub-Metropolitan Wards 15, 16, and 17 have been blocking construction of the transmission line that passes through 10 districts for almost 6 years.

The Hatia area has 14 towers, the Thanabharyang area has 2 towers in Hetaunda sub-metropolitan ward No. 11 and the Jiyajor area has 8 towers. To pass the line to the substation at Thanabharyang, 2 towers must be built. There will be an impact on 46 homes constructed on Ailani land.

The purpose of these lines is to transport power produced by projects constructed along the eastern river corridor, particularly the Upper Tamakoshi, to Birgunj and West Nepal. However, the authority is in difficulties because these lines could not be finished on schedule.

According to Ghising, the Birgunj Industrial Corridor and Banke's Kohalpur district experience some issues with power delivery during the evening peak due to a shortage of capacity in the transmission and distribution system,

but the electricity hasn't been exported because of power outages.

There is a problem with the electricity supply as a result of local opposition, court interim orders, a delay in tree felling approval, and other considerations.

### Kathmandu's Energy Demand

In the Kathmandu Valley, the demand for electricity has surpassed the maximum demand, which was 500 megawatts. Without substations, the Nepal Electricity Authority

deliver energy from another location, even though the capacity of the transformers in the valley has been increased. This is because electricity cannot be sent easily from the ring (outer distribution cycle). According to MD Ghising, "We have started work to increase the infrastructure's capacity in response to the increasing demand."

In order to transport and distribute the electricity generated by the hydroelectric projects in the catchment areas of the Marsyangdi and Trishuli rivers to Kathmandu, a 220 KV substation is also being built in Matatirtha. Getting the electricity from this substation to Thankot, Satungal, and Gurdhara in addition to Bhaktapur presents additional challenge.

According to MD Ghising, completing the Thankot-Chapagaon-Bhaktapur line will create a ring of 132 KV transmission lines in Kathmandu, Lalitpur, and Bhaktapur. This would enhance the consistency

of the power supply and the quality of the voltage. However, it was unsuccessful.

### Huge Investment

Huge investments must be made for the plan to operate, but the authority has struggled with a shortage of funding. The Authority is unhappy because the Ministry of Finance is not only not interested in giving the Authority enough resources, but is also robbing it of profits by announcing various discounts.

Only 7 billion rupees of the nearly 100 billion rupee demand for transmission and distribution were



ty will not be able to create the transmission infrastructure necessary to fulfill the 2,000 megawatt demand in the Kathmandu Valley.

Additionally, Kathmandu city lacks the necessary transmission infrastructure to receive the electricity from the Marsyangdi and Trishuli lines. The 220 kV transmission line to Matatirtha does not have a transmission line connecting it to the substations in the valley's inner cities. Utilizing the electricity that comes from the valley's long and narrow side is another issue.

A issue with one substation in the city makes it difficult to



allocated by the Ministry of Finance. Nepal has promised to have zero emissions by 2045, but their budget is merely a peanut.

The government's decision to give a very small budget for the upcoming fiscal year, despite the fact that a sizable investment is simply needed for the building of a transmission, distribution system, and substation, has further angered the NEA. It was believed that the authority had turned a profit and that additional investment was unnecessary. He declared, "This way of thinking won't get us anywhere. The practice of withholding funding when a significant investment is required won't aid in the growth of the nation's energy sector.

In order to strengthen the system, the Nepal Electricity Authority plans to invest 8.5 trillion over the next five years. The authority has now begun the 4.37 trillion project implementation. Furthermore, preparations have been made to move forward with further projects totaling nearly \$4 trillion.

Despite the fact that improvement work has already begun, the authority is having trouble be-



cause of several barriers. Demand management is a top priority, and our system also needs to assure energy security, according to MD Ghising.

The NEA has made investments totaling more than one trillion rupees from recent gains. If the expense had not been made, there would have been a load shedding

issue. The government requests lower consumer power bills and investments in dependable and high-quality energy supply when the NEA is not provided a budget. MD Ghising questioned, "How can reliable electricity be supplied in such a situation?"

In response to recent comments made on social media and in the press, MD Ghising asserted that NEA hasn't ever interrupted power to India in order to export electricity.

According to MD Ghising, it is incorrect that the domestic electricity supply has been cut back in order to export to India. MD Ghising asserts that "the nation's electricity generated will be consumed domestically first and exported only as surplus product."

The transmission and supply systems must be constructed for continuous supply. MD Ghising needs all of our support as he fights a battle alone.



# Industrialization From The Ground Up: Small Farmers Could Be The Catalyst



BY: SHIVARAM PD. KOIRALA, PHD

Well said, Hunger and poverty are more deadly than bullets and bombs that can destabilize entire country. Realizing this fact, it is imperative to build a peaceful and prosperous society for tomorrow, to achieve development that is inclusive, sustainable, and people-centered, a country where extreme poverty and hunger has disappeared, everyone has access to adequate nutritious food and decent jobs especially for young people entering labor markets. Unfortunately, in Nepalese context, social anomalies like extreme poverty, discrimination, exclusion, inequality, unemployment and brain drain of youths still persist, failing to avail of demographic dividend. Industrial sector contribution to the economy has decreased and average annual growth of agriculture sector is extremely low resulting in import of even agricultural products constantly draining the treasury of the government.

Needless to mention, Nepal is richly endowed with agro-bio diversity and different types of eco-systems from tropical, temperate up to the alpine in a short distance can be observed besides having adequate land and water prerequisite for agriculture. Cereal crops, high value cash crops, medicinal and aromatic plants under agro-forestry can be grown simultaneously in different ecological regions. Nevertheless, owing to traditional farming practices adopted by small holder farmers who have mainly been responsible to feed the entire population for years, neither production nor productivity has increased to meet the food demand of increasing populace. So, the urgent need is to replace labor intensive agriculture by capital intensive technology-based production creating alternative opportunities to the people engaged excessively in agriculture sector alone. Transformation of agriculture by providing support to the small farmers especially the youth in entire value chain process could be the viable option to make the country food sovereign and shift excessive labor force engaged in subsistence agriculture to non-agriculture sectors.

The alternative opportunity for the rural poor obviously could be formal manufacturing job that improves their productivity, makes the agriculture sector more efficient and raises government revenue through taxation. In 2010, Cambridge economist Ha-Joon Chang observed that

development without industrialization is like Shakespeare's Hamlet without the prince of Denmark. This observation is especially true in lower income countries like Nepal where industrialization is still a crucial driver of economic growth.

Against this backdrop, Nepal undoubtedly has to follow the path of industrialization. However, from primitive method of agriculture production to modern automobile assembly line or other big industries related to mineral and mines are least likely in the name of industrialization. Promotion of SMEs mainly based on agricultural products as raw materials is a must for sustainable and inclusive economic growth. Early and successful examples of industrialization in Europe have been closely associated with improvements in the productivity of land, labor, and capital employed in primary production. Some countries moved towards industrialization from agriculture are China, India, Singapore, Taiwan and Turkey among others. In China in 1952, 83 percent of Chinese workforce were employed in agriculture whereas in 2021 around 22.9 percent in agriculture, 29 percent in industrial sector and 48 percent in service sector were employed. China's rapid rise from backward agrarian society to industrial power house is just around four decades. Chinese government has always accorded high priority to agriculture development. In fact, agriculture and agro-processing are one of the crucial economic sectors to transform the economy through sustainable employment creation, business opportunities, investment attraction and growing export base. This sector has a firm backward linkage with the primary sectors and forward linkages with the secondary as well as tertiary sectors of the economy.

In Nepal, there is ample room for raw material production of agro based industries such as sugar factory, Jute-mills, tea industries, vegetable seed production and many horticultural commodities of flowers, fruits, vegetable and agro processing and post-harvest related industries. The slaughter of livestock and poultry and the making of cheese and butter can be carried out at the farm level with little investment and know-how. There is possibility of herbs and fruits processing industries too. Agro-industries add value to, and increase demand for farmer's products thereby reducing poverty and food insecurity stimulating economic



growth. On contrary to the tremendous potentials of running its own agro processing industries, Nepal supplies a number of agri produce as raw materials to Indian agro-processing industries.

The contribution of industrial sector to Nepal's GDP of only 13.5 percent and the contribution of productive sector industry of less than 6 percent stands a big challenge before the country. Considering that big challenge needs bold action to overcome them, the government might have set the goal of 2100/01 that intends the contribution of agriculture, industry and service sector 9,30 and 61 percent respectively.

In addition, Industrial policy of Nepal, 2067 lays special emphasis on promotion of industries utilizing local resources and raw materials, skill and technology. It is therefore the need to identify and utilize products of competitive and comparative advantage in order to ensure strong and sustainable industrial base. Agricultural processing is most important in virtually all nations. After Covid-19 economic recovery has become priority and inclusive and sustainable industrialization has been critical to building a better future.

It is indeed heartening that over 1 million small farmer households of 546 local levels of 76 districts are currently able to have access to finance for agri-business from their own co-ops called Small Farmer Agriculture Cooperatives (SFACLs). The SFACLs which are entirely community based looks unique in model from the perspective of inclusion, gender focus, human capital development, social capital formation, local resource mobilization and last but not the least bottom-up development approach which is the need of the hour.

These co-ops through their small farmer members are doing the wonders in the area of promoting agriculture value chain and cultivating the culture of entrepreneurship development in rural areas. A large number of showcasing models of cereal crops/horticulture or livestock farming can be observed in different corners of the country. Involvement of youth in agriculture adopting Israeli technology in farms (an outcome of Learn and earn program supported by the Israel government) has become instrumental to change the traditional farming practices and motivate the youths in technology-based farming. In order to attract many more small farmer youths in agriculture, Sana Kisan Bikas Laghubitta Bittiya Sanstha Ltd (SKBBL) through its partner cooperatives (SFACLs) not only provides credit support but also extends technical supports and need based counselling. Of late, considering that farmers are not able to get reasonable price of their produce, these institutions are inspiring the small farmer producers to set up and

run cottage and small agro processing industries in order to add value of their raw agricultural products. As a result of constant motivation and support to the small farmers, a number of large plot farming with commercial production of vegetable and fruits, production of adequate milk and meat, establishment and operation of small agro-processing industries like rice, seeds, tea, turmeric, dairy, oil can be seen from east to far west region.

The process of planned industrialization in Nepal started with the launching of first five-year plan in 1956. It is irony that in more than six and half decades, the contribution of this sector to GDP growth, employment creation, and export promotion has not been worth mentioning. Considering the existing disappointing industrial environment, severe shortage of skilled, technical and managerial personnel, reluctance of private/foreign investors to invest in big manufacturing/processing industries etc., small labor intensive agro-based industries need to be promoted and protected at least to create industrial base and develop entrepreneurship culture in the country. Moreover, Special policy needs to be adopted to produce enough agro-products that are currently being imported

from foreign countries. Made in Nepal and Make in Nepal policy of the government is undoubtedly worth appreciating. Industry friendly policies and encouragement to private sector as well as the cooperative sector mainly agricultural co-ops like SFACLs need motivation to set up and operate agro-processing industries across the country.

The budget of fiscal year 2080/81 can be presumed progressive since it commits to attract youth in agriculture, encourages farmers to make big

farm plots, motivates for collective farming, makes provision of grant for youth start up program, encourages contract farming and further commits to bring in use the uncultivated lands apart from supporting Agricultural co-ops for collection, storage, processing and marketing of agro products. Moreover, the budget mentions that Small Farmers Enterprise Development Program would be conducted consecutively in all local levels through Small Farmer Development Microfinance Financial Institution. It is really inspiring for all small farmers who have been effortful for years to change the rural socio-economic status quo through transformation of agriculture and development of entrepreneurship in rural areas. Under the aegis of SKBBL in particular and SFACLs in general, potentials of industrialization can be unlocked from the ground up provided that small holder farmers are duly recognized and their voice heard while devising policies and plans for development of the country.

*Dr. Shiv Ram Prasad Koirala is a CEO of Sana Kisan Bikas Laghubitta Bittiya Sanstha Ltd.*



CHIEF SECRETARY DR. ARYAL

# Civil Service Leader

*Dr. Bikuntha Aryal, the newly promoted chief secretary who has served in the civil service of Nepal for more than 25 years, maintains a low profile and is renowned for making swift decisions.*

By A CORRESPONDENT

**D**r. Baikuntha Aryal is a well-known government official in Nepal who prefers to keep a low profile at work. Dr. Aryal served in a variety of roles in practically all important ministries after joining the civil service as a non-gazetteer. He is known for being an action- and outcome-oriented worker.

On June 15, the administration named Dr. Aryal as the Chief Secretary. On June 18, his five-year term as secretary comes to an end. Dr. Aryal has held the positions of Secretary for the Ministries of Industry, Commerce, and Supply as well as the Ministries of Communications and Information Technology.

Aryal is a seasoned public servant who started out in the position of a Non-Gazette (First Class). He is familiar with all aspects of the civil service.

Originally, Bairagi, the former chief secretary, was supposed to hold office through September. Aryal was able to take over as chief secretary for an additional three years since Bairagi willingly resigned from his position and was then named the national security adviser.

In Nepal's over 90,000 public officials, Dr. Aryal enjoys a strong reputation as the senior most secretary among the 72 government secretaries.

Aryal, who was born in Pharping, Kathmandu, entered the civil service in 1990 after clearing the Public Service Commission's (PSC) Non-gazette (First Class) test with flying colors. He steadily advanced through the ranks over the years, becoming a section officer in three years and an undersecretary and joint secretary in an astonishingly short period of time.

Aryal has an advanced degree in public administration from Tribhuvan University and has also done economics coursework in Norway.

Aryal has demonstrated excellence in his prior responsibilities and is regarded as a specialist in the allocation of natural resources and financial man-

agement. He was essential to Nepal's federal financial transfer system while serving as the Finance Commission's secretary. Prior to that, he earned a respectable reputation within the civil ser-

vice sector by showcasing his abilities as a joint secretary and deputy secretary. Prior to that, he earned a respectable reputation within the civil ser-

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vice sector by showcasing his abilities as a joint secretary and deputy secretary.

Throughout his career, Aryal has held a number of significant posts, including leadership responsibilities in the Finance Management Commission, the Ministry of Commerce, and the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology. He was given a position in the Prime Minister's Office and Ministerial Council by the government in March.

He made a substantial contribution to the digitization initiatives within the Council of Ministers and Office of the Prime Minister even during his tenure there. Notably, Aryal worked for the Ministry of Finance for six years and was seen as a strong prospect for the position of finance secretary, albeit at the

cause of his stellar reputation among political elites and his proficiency in staff management.

Dr. Aryal is regarded as the most qualified applicant for the role by his coworkers with whom he has collaborated throughout his career. Aryal was a key figure in creating Nepal's financial transfer mechanism after the nation switched to federalism because of his expertise in economics.

He made a great impression while serving as the Budget and Program Division's Chief of Economic Affairs and Policy Analysis Division. In order to lay the groundwork for resource sharing among the three branches of government, he also served as the first secretary of the National Natural Resource and Fiscal Commission.



BEEN

## For Energy Efficient Building Policy

*Despite the possibility of facing a severe energy crisis in the upcoming anticipated rise in the home energy use for heating and cooling, Nepal still lacks a strong policy for energy-efficient construction. Building Energy Efficiency in Nepal (BEEN), funded by the European Union under SWITCH -Asia and started a year ago, is currently being implemented by the University of Innsbruck in partnership with MinErgy Pvt. Ltd in Nepal, Greentech Knowledge Solutions Pvt. Ltd in India, and Association Espaola de Normalization (UNE) in Spain. This project is also assisting national and sub-national governments in developing energy-efficient building policies*

By KESHAB POUDEL

The Terai region's demand for electricity has surged by more than 100% this sweltering summer, according to Kulman Ghising, Managing Director of the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA). Despite installing new transformers and improving in distribution systems, NEA's distribution system had severe breaks at a time when more homes are utilizing fans and air conditioning.

Ghising's assertion highlighted the expanding patterns of rising electricity demand at the home level as a result of their buildings' disregard for the concept of energy efficiency in construction. This year's household energy consumption phenomenon is just the tip of the iceberg.

With the number of new constructions increasing, the demands for

electricity are likely to increase heating and cooling home in the near future. As there is currently no energy efficient building codes or policies at all levels, the future of energy supply is bleak threatening Nepal's commitment for zero emission by 2045? .

At a time when the issue of energy efficiency in building construction is receiving low priority at policy levels, Building Energy Efficiency in Nepal (BEEN), established a year ago and focusing on energy-efficient buildings, has started to offer technical support in all different sectors, including building materials, design, research, and policy level at federal and local governments.

Launched by European Ambassador to Nepal Nona Deprez, BEEN- a European Union-funded

project under Switch Asia, aims to support national and sub-national governments in policy, training, and building materials to create energy-efficient buildings.

In the present context, BEEN which has been working with different stakeholders including the governments and the private sector at different level of building construction, come as a boon.

The goal of BEEN is to identify affordable and energy-efficient building design options for Nepal. The design of energy-efficient buildings is a complex process involving many interrelated design criteria. BEEN also seeks to reduce operational energy consumption by at least 25% and energy embodied in materials by 10% by improving the building or retrofitting



of at least 200 buildings in 60 municipalities and advising these on policies.  
The Scenario

Gajendra Maharjan, Mayor of Godawari Municipality, admits without hesitation that his municipality lacks an energy-efficient building code. “Our municipality doesn’t even have a building code, let alone one for energy efficiency,” Maharjan explained.

Godawari Municipality, which borders Lalitpur Metropolitan City (LMC), is one of Kathmandu Valley’s fastest-growing urban areas, with over 500 building designs approved for construction each year.

Godawari is not the only municipality that lacks a building code; other municipalities also lack one. Valley’s two largest Municipal Cities Kathmandu Metropolitan and LMC also lack an energy-efficient building code. “We are in the process of making it with the help of some organizations,” said LMC Mayor Chiribabu Maharjan.

Governments at all levels, including the federal level, lack an energy-efficient building code. According to reports, the Ministry of Urban Development is creating a new building code that will include green and energy-efficient regulations.

Many larger public buildings, including the Federal Parliament Building, one of the largest currently under construction, lack these features due to a lack of energy-efficient building rules. The harm has already been done as new buildings are being constructed without following these codes.

Nepal is one of the world’s fastest urbanizing developing countries, with over 100,000 new buildings added each year. Kathmandu Valley is the fastest urbanizing city, with over 40,000 new buildings added each year. According to a Ministry of Urban Development study, it is estimated that 1 million homes will be built in Nepal over the next decade, with over 400,000 added in the valley. Apart from private residential houses, energy-intensive large

new building stocks in the tourism, public, education, and commercial sectors are expected.

Despite expressing an international commitment to achieve zero emissions by 2045 through Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), Nepal’s Federal, Provincial, and Sub-national governments have yet to develop a broader policy to make it a reality. Given that buildings will be a major energy consumer, achieving the zero-emission target will require addressing the sector.

Following the launch of the project, BEEN has been organizing various programs at different levels to support the formulation of policies and their implementation, as well as capacity building at the local level. Similarly, the project is also launching programs to generate awareness about energy efficient buildings.

The project will encompass 60 municipalities in the four bioclimatic zones of Bagmati, Lumbini, and Gandaki Provinces and it is expected to bring about significant changes in building design, construction materi-





als, and policy within four years.

“Since the inception of the project, we have been organizing various kinds of stakeholders meeting in the project areas and discussing the issues with technical staffs and political leadership at the local level to apply building codes emphasizing low carbon and climate resilient settlements,” said Suyesh Prajapati, BEEN team leader and Program Director at MinErgy. “We have been receiving a good response in the programs and meeting.”

**Lack of Policy**

The current building designs in Nepal are extremely energy-intensive. A lot of energy will be used to make building materials such as brick. The overall operational energy requirement in such buildings will be higher. Furthermore, the use of building materials with high embodied energy contributes to the building sector’s increased carbon footprint in Nepal.

While structural stability of buildings has received greater attention in Nepal since the 2015 earthquake, consideration of climate responsiveness and energy efficiency is lacking in most new building designs.” Notably, none of the governments have energy efficiency building codes,” said Usha Maskey Manandhar, Advisor - Policy, Governance, and GESI Integration MinErgy - BEEN. “We’ve been collaborating with sub-national and federal governments to hold joint awareness campaigns and provide assistance in capacitating them. Along with the policy, we are working to promote environmentally friendly brick, such as hollow brick.”

“Energy efficiency issues must be addressed by incorporating passive strategies to design climate-responsive buildings as well as the use

of energy-efficient space heating and cooling systems.”

Similarly, materials with low energy and resource efficiency during production and use should be prioritized. “The integration of renewable energy measures in building design



and operation must be encouraged in order to further reduce the carbon footprint of buildings,” said Prajapati, team leader.

Nepal has already expressed its international commitment to achieve zero emissions by 2045 through the NDC and building en-



ergy-efficient buildings is a critical sector. However, the Nepalese government lacks specific laws, bylaws, guidelines, and codes to ensure energy-efficient buildings.

The existing building code, regulations and guidelines applied in

the country does not address the issue of thermal comfort based on ecological zones. This could be the reason contemporary buildings constructed in accordance with the design code perform poorly in terms of the indoor thermal comfort of various regions.

Each of the three ecological zones has a unique climate and set of requirements for the design of building and construction materials. Previously each ecological region had its own set of structures, materials, and designs. Now brick, cement, and concrete are now frequently used materials. In every ecological region, houses are designed with the same height and width.

Buildings that are energy efficient can be constructed with minimal changes to the materials and designs and with no big additional financial outlay. However, the general public believes that it costs more money to build energy-efficient buildings. Even higher-level officials are negatively impacted by the cost issue in the absence of specific studies and modality tests.

Since the buildings in Mustang, Kapilvastu, and Kathmandu have been using similar types of materials and designs that undermine thermal performance and impede home staying comfortable. overheating for more than six months in the Himalaya and under-heating for longer than four months were the two main issues in Kathmandu’s buildings. Both thermal performance and active energy consumption need to be improved,” according to Prajapati.

To optimize the design parameters such as window-to-wall ratio, glazing material, shading devices, glazing type, and insulation levels were changed. Additionally, Nepal’s bioclimatic zoning was consolidated,

## NATIONAL

resulting in five zones based on elevation that could be used to implement building energy regulations in the future.

BEEN has been collaborating with local governments and related associations, creating passive design guidelines, design tools, technical standards and manuals, as well as training programs. This has enabled building sector's entire value chain to use the project's measures, aiding building-MSMEs in creating pertinent communications and promoting energy-efficient and renewable building technologies.

"We are making efforts to implement policy interventions through local multi-stakeholder consensus processes, providing standards advisory and favorable policies establish an environment that is conducive to builders' and owners' stepping up their efforts, while also providing MSMEs with policy incentives to keep providing their services," said Prajapati.

"The project has already begun educating the public and municipality officials about energy efficiency methods and municipal policies (guidelines and any bylaws) on energy-efficient building practices. As the deadline is approaching, numerous organizations are working to develop energy efficient and green building construction. We are in contact with the World Bank's Green Project to discuss potential areas for collaboration," added Prajapati.

The World Bank is supporting the federal level, and BEEN is working with elected Palika leaders and technical officials. "We have already begun capacity-building and awareness-raising initiatives. To ensure our programs are based on an

authentic and data-based baseline survey, we are conducting research and studies to gather data. Based on that data, we are launching several programs at the sub-national level," said Manandhar.

The Federal Government has an important role to play in the development of policies and guidelines and in ensuring they are properly implemented. There are a number of institutions at the federal, provincial, and



local levels that can develop and carry out the policies to fulfill Nepal's obligations to other countries.

For instance, the Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUBC) within the Ministry of Urban Development is solely responsible for issuing building-related guidelines, codes, and regulations.

The authorities and powers related to building construction, including the creation of laws, bylaws, guidelines, and codes, are subject to the provisions of the Constitution of Nepal.

The Federal Government still has some prerogative rights despite some ambiguity. The federal government's authority includes national and international environmental management, national forest policies, carbon services, land use policies, human settlement development policies, tourism

policies, and environment adaptation, according to Schedule-5 (Relating to clause (1) of Article 57 and Article 109) List of Federal Powers.

Additionally, the federal government continues to have authority over any matter that is not mentioned in the lists of federal, provincial, local, or concurrent powers, as well as any matter that is not mentioned in this Constitution or federal laws.

Town planning and local-level development projects are the responsibility of local-level government, according to Schedule-8 (Relating to clause (4) list. These particular constitutional rights are inalienable.

As a line ministry of sub-national governments, the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA) is the federal agency responsible for providing operational-level support to the Local Governments, provid-

ing model laws, guidelines, policies and programs, budgets, and gazettes. At all local levels, MoFAGA appoints executive officers.

The MoFAGA's spokesperson, Kamal Prasad Bhattarai, stated that local governments are responsible for determining the types of design they require. "However, he said they still have to abide by decisions made regarding certain matters, such as Nepal's stance on climate change."

MoFAGA is pleased with the start-up work and ongoing projects of BEEN. It has already had some training and discussions with Palikas about building regulations," said Pralhad Kumar Karki, Undersecretary of the Ministry. The project is assisting Palikas in developing the new policy.

BEEN is a small grant project supported by the European Union that aims to conduct research and dis-



seminate information on the building of energy-efficient structures to Nepal's three main governments and the private sector. The 60 local levels of the Lumbini, Gandaki, and Bagmati Provinces, as well as the various ecological zones from Mustang to Butwal and Kathmandu, have been involved in the project, 'said Karki.

This is a pioneering project of its kind that aims to disseminate fundamental information about building, policies, and material usage that promote energy efficiency.

The Ministry's advisory group consists of representatives from the Ministry of Urban Development and other related ministries. Its responsibility is to provide the project with advice. The Ministry of Urban Development is also in charge of assisting the project with any technical issues.

"BEEN and the Engineering Division of Local Level Palikas are closely collaborating," said Karki "The project is expected to result in significant policy changes and advancements in private sector technology. It will provide Information on the use of energy in building construction. Additionally, the ministry anticipates improved technical municipal units responsible for approving building codes and increased awareness among elected officials."

The Ministry of Urban Development, the Ministry plays a minor role in the publication of any building-related policies and codes. "Local governments are responsible for deciding what types of buildings and building designs they prefer", they said.

Though they are not required to comment on building codes, the Ministries of Energy, Water Resources, and Irrigation have greater influ-

ence over energy policies and regulations regarding energy generation, transmission, and distribution.

In recognition of the significance of promoting energy efficiency issues, the Ministry has been implementing the Nepal Energy Efficiency Program (NEEP) 2010–2017. Through the Alternative Energy Promotion Center (AEPC), the Ministry is currently putting NEEP into practice.

"As a nodal organization for implementing energy efficiency, AEPC has been standardizing different heating, cooling, and lighting products to reduce energy consumption at the same level. We recommend LED-SFL lamps at all levels instead of conven-



tional lamps, "stated Subha Laxmi Shrestha, Assistant Director, Energy Efficiency and Outreach Management (AEPC). "Furthermore they are standardizing fans and air conditioners for energy efficiency."

Experts have emphasized that energy efficiency issues for private buildings must be incorporated into the building code. "Nothing can be done after a building is built for at least another 50 to 100 years, "explains Om Rajopadhyaya, a policy expert with the BEEN Project.

The new buildings currently being built will use a significant amount of energy, particularly for

heating and cooling. "National Building Guidelines are essential, and that is the most important thing," Rajopadhyaya adds.

The Ministry of Urban Development can now include energy efficiency features in public building construction. However, the federal government has not yet finalized the building and building code policy draft, despite it being in the process of creation.

Incorporating the National Building Guidelines into bylaws and buildings at sub-national government levels is essential, according to Upadhyaya, who spent his entire career in the Ministry of Urban Development.

Sanjay Uprety, an associate professor at the Engineering College in Pulchowk explains that the Ministry of Urban Development and DUBC must implement an energy audit during the building of public structures including the use of hollow brick, which was present in the past.

The biggest problem, according to Associate Professor Uprety, is a lack of knowledge about energy efficiency in building design. Not just among privately owned homeowners and locally elected officials; but even at the federal level. In response to this, the Institute of Engineering began offering the Master Level course last year and they are now also incorporating an energy-efficient building curriculum at bachelor level

The current work of the BEEN project is critical, as it will help change the current situation and support Nepal's goal of having zero emissions by 2045 when there are currently few regulations governing energy-efficient construction.

# The Importance Of Addressing Environmental Conflicts On World Environment Day



BY: PARMITA SHRESTHA

The yearly celebration of World Environment Day on June 5th promotes raising awareness of the developing environmental conflicts that could harm our ecosystem. These conflicts present grave dangers that require our urgent attention if we are to be resolved.

People all throughout the world celebrate it by taking stock of the surroundings they have created and reconsidering their deeds as individuals, groups, and countries. To raise as much awareness as possible about the need to conserve the environment, events, posters, plantations, recycling campaigns, and other initiatives are carried out. It serves as a reminder to adopt a sustainable strategy and protect the finite and depleting natural resources.

The promotion of the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle) and tree planting are just two examples of environmental consciousness, though. It covers a wide range of topics, including migration, environmental justice, natural resource conservation, and protection.

In terms of global biodiversity, Nepal is ranked 49th, according to the Nepal Biodiversity Research and Conservation Center. One of Nepal's many treasures is its abundant supply of water. Compared to other countries, Nepal has the 43rd-best water resources (<https://english.onlinekhabar.com>). So it's imperative to keep them safe. Numerous NGOs, INGOs, and development partners are taking action to safeguard it.

Researchers, scholars, experts, and students from Japanese and Nepalese higher education institutions recently shared their perspectives on environmental peace-building at a seminar hosted by the Network for Education and Research on Peace and Sustainability (NERPS), Hiroshima University, Hiroshima University Scholars' Alumni Nepal (HiUSAN), and Department of Conflict, Peace, and Development Studies, Tribhuvan University.

The uncollected rubbish within Singha Durbar and how it was determined to be a political issue rather than an environmental issue were two questions brought up during the floor discussion. The best course of action for resolving these issues was also questioned, along with the role played by politicians in situations like this.

It appears that the government in Nepal is the root of the issue. People who are attempting to address environmental concerns appear to be being hampered by their lack of interest in them.

After more debate, the crowd appeared to have come to the unified conclusion that the situation occurred because the au-

thorities were inattentive to the situation when they were on their own. As a result, issues began to immediately involve politics in an effort to gain attention. That was a blatant sign that the authorities were and are often only interested when a clear system and power are at play.

Additionally brought up and their duties were considered was the significance and importance of local government in environmental problems. The local authority has been carrying out projects like the Dozer actions without taking the environment into account. It was discussed that the local government's commendable effort needed to be scaled up and should be documented. Also mentioned was the requirement for a top-down and bottom-up system.

Few people expressed their dissatisfaction with their interactions with the local entities, claiming that their visit and initiative to speak with them did not go as smoothly as anticipated. Provinces 2 and 3's rural areas appeared to be particularly unconcerned with these problems. Additionally, there were rarely established standards and rules in most places.

The topic of environmental justice must be addressed in order to protect the ecosystem. These include intercultural disputes like the desecration of historical artifacts and monuments and the underfunding of indigenous organisations by the government. These kinds of problems hinder peace-building.

A population that is distributed fairly among the land was one of the solutions put forth to preserve the ecological equilibrium. For this, the government's role in decentralizing authority and resources was discussed. A population that is evenly distributed is better for the environment and for us as citizens.

Making ensuring the public can readily communicate and understand the information supplied by climatologists is another fantastic technique to raise awareness. This will stop inaccurate information and malpractice brought on by a misinterpretation of the data.

It was determined that a more multidisciplinary perspective should take the place of the conventional method of tackling issues in an orderly and systematic fashion. The acts and actions made by the government need to be noted and further investigated by organizations. We must always remember how closely tied to our surroundings we are. Our very existence and being will be shaped by what occurs to it. Therefore, taking care of it is not only a duty but also a requirement.





LIRIC

# Climate Change Impact Reduction

*The Local Initiative to Reduce the Impact of Climate Change (LIRIC) has shown how Nepal's development partners, local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), communities, and elected local governments can collaborate to build a climate-resilient community and reduce the effects of climate change. The LIRIC Project, funded by the European Union and Austrian Development Cooperation, Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA Austria), and implemented by ADRA Nepal in collaboration and close coordination with Rupantaran, Community Development and Advocacy Forum (CDAFN) Bardibas, local communities, and locally elected governments, has built resilient communities by launching various programs and schemes such as climate field schools, community based adaptation plans, payment for ecosystem services, school climate change education, third party financing, integrated water systems including pond conservation, seepage water harvesting system, water source conservation, and local community development. With capacity strengthening of Civil Society's Organizations (CSOs) and developing their networks, the project has worked towards making the local governments and stakeholders accountable for their actions as well as supporting vulnerable communities towards mitigation and adaptation interventions. Because Nepal is particularly vulnerable to climate change, many of the LIRIC project's beneficial lessons can be repeated in other places to lessen the impact.*

By KESHAB POUDEL

As part of Madhesh Province, Dhanusha and Mahottari have been experiencing high to extremely high levels of climate change impacts due to significant and erratic rainfall events and droughts that have impacted the lives of tens of thousands of people.

Climate change has had an impact on water resources and has increased the number of water-related disasters and water scarcity in both upstream and downstream Chure. This has had an impact on the livelihoods of the poor, women, persons with disabilities, and landless people and groups that live in the southern plain and rely on agriculture with limited capacity to respond to climate shocks and stressors.

The Ratu, Aurahi, and Maraha rivers, as well as a dozen tiny rivulets, flow through the six municipalities - Bardibas, Aurahi, Bhangaha, and Gaushala of the Mahottari and Mithila and Batesh-

wor of Dhansuha districts of the Madhesh Province.

These rivers which originate in the Chure mountain range, during wet season cause flooding whereas it remains dry during dry seasons resulting in a negative impact on the lives and livelihoods of communities living in upstream and downstream of these municipalities.

However, the LIRIC Project changed the game by supporting these communities of six municipalities in tackling the risk posed by these extreme conditions through proper climate change adaptation and mitigation practices, tools, technologies and infrastructures while simultaneously offering opportunities for a living.

“Only upstream-downstream linking and the introduction of a Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) scheme that pays



# Climate Field School: Transforming Livelihood

Bharat Bahadur Raut, a member of the Churiyamai Farmer Group of Mithila Municipality Ward 11, has experienced several catastrophes and difficult times due to the yearly excessive rain during the monsoon and dry and drought over eight months.

Raut's participation in EU funded and ADRA implemented LIRIC project's climate field school (CFS) marked a turning point in his life since he began to practice climate-resilient agriculture. "The flood and drought are there, but the loss is minimal," said Raut.

Following their participation in the program, the locals formed a group. The door to learning was opened by this.

"In the climate field school, we were trained in various farming technologies. We experienced encouraging results in our vegetable output as a result of taking the course and learning the new methods. Our homegrown produce used to last for about three months, but now that we've implemented new climate-smart agriculture techniques, we have plenty for the full year. Vegetable purchases are not necessary.

Raut is not alone in his joy right now; Laxmi Farmer Group Chair Renu Kumari Singh of Mithila Municipality Ward 3 Dhanusha is also quite delighted.

She gained knowledge of a variety of new agricultural technologies after attending the climate field school, including

the usage of drip irrigation and the tunnel.

"I learned how to choose good and healthy seeds and how to produce in a way that is climate-friendly. I used to grow vegetables before, but CFS taught me new, better techniques like treating the soil and putting seeds in trays and poly-bags," said Singh.

Through CFS, climate friendly technology has been utilized to advance the



agricultural practices and enhance farmers' capacity. Farmers in the Mahottari and Dhanusha Districts can increase their output and revenue by reducing the effects of climate change after attending the CFS regularly.

When compared to traditional approaches, the CFS that was conducted in the agricultural groups showed that farmers' vegetable production might be doubled.

Weather changes are causing farmers' great suffering, according to Bimal Kumar Shrestha, chair of the Arundanda Farmer Group in Bardibas Municipality

Ward 10 Mahottari. "Farmers' practices must be modified in accordance with the varying weather patterns."

The technical staffs and facilitators from the partner organizations are crucial to the project's successful completion. Their passion, commitment, and ongoing efforts have led to a significant improvement in this region's agriculture industry.

The management of CFS and other operations are both adequately coordinated by the local government.

"The LIRIC Project is using a variety of methods and technologies to lessen the effects of climate change and advance the agricultural industry. The project is moving along smoothly. I recently got the chance to tour a field where climate friendly technology like mulching, river bed farming, tunnels, bio-pesticides, pheromone traps, integrated pest management that show how we can change the climate to improve agriculture have been introduced.

"I am thankful for the project since it gave me the chance to coach and train the group's members. The farmers are working hard," said Srijana Lama, chief of the agriculture section of the Bateswor Rural Municipality.

Farmers have the opportunity to learn practical agricultural skills thanks to the agricultural technicians, facilitators, and local government's cooperation and oversight in the climate field school.

for upstream Chure forest protection can be identified as a long-term sustainable solution to the problems of these river systems, which have been made worse by climate change. Without safeguarding resources upstream, it is impossible to lessen the effects of floods and other disasters.

"The implementation of Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) systems in a coordinated manner among the communities has also begun. The capacity of nearby communities to deal with the effects of climate change has increased as the project's completion nears. As stated by Project Coordinator Tirth Kumar Timsina, "With the new

concept helped to strengthen the upstream-downstream link."

Despite the fact that PES schemes are being implemented on a small scale, the project's present goal is to determine a payment method for ecosystem services by examining the qualitative and quantitative of services given and ways to improve them.

He claimed that safeguarding the environment upstream is necessary to control floods. Residents downstream can have a big impact by making a specific payment to upstream conservation. A similar situation occurs in other Madhesh locations.

According to an International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) research, the Chure is largely made up of elevated topsoil and rocks, with no bedrock beneath. This renders the low-lying range vulnerable, particularly during major weather events such as rains. The study proposed upstream environmental conservation and slope management to reduce flood effects in the downstream Terai.

Because the effects of climate change are not limited to a single site or region, the Project employed more extensive techniques. This included multi-stake-



holder collaborations, climate field schools, school climate change education, community based adaptation plans, local capacity building, appropriate targeting, and inclusion through research into climate risk and capability. Collaboration with local governments, a right-based approach, upstream-downstream connectivity, CSO engagement, and capacity building were all significant components of the project.

As the project nears completion, CDAFN-Bardibas, one of the implementing partners, was awarded the EU Green Award this year. The award has proved the project’s usefulness and success in making the community more resilient to the effects of climate change.

“The project launched several programs aimed at river system and natural resource management, disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, livelihood support programs, and a climate field school.” LIRIC has revolutionized the community living in the six municipalities by launching these intervention initiatives,” Timsina added.

The CDAFN constructed 166 ponds in the Chure region to collect rainwater for river control. It has built 40 community-managed



irrigation systems, 67 river embankments, retaining walls in sloppy hillsides to prevent landslides, and used low-cost bio-engineering methods in several upstream Chure areas to mitigate landslides and soil erosion.

Following these safeguards, the Project reactivated the 30-water system to supply water to the residents living upstream. In the downstream, the initiative encouraged the planting of fruits and vegetables on of riverbank land.

“The award is the result of the successful efforts of all the partners engaged in the implementation of the project,” said Nagdev Yadav,

president of CDAFN. “As the objective of this project, we can reduce the impacts of climate change and support the livelihoods of the communities, underprivileged families and poor who are at high risk due to disasters such as floods and landslides.

Yadav said that the LIRIC Project implemented numerous beneficial programs to improve incomes through efficient conservation and management of natural forests, water sources, and rivers, among other things.

**Reducing Adverse Impact**

Despite the fact that the six municipalities of Mahottari and Dhanusha continue to experience a variety of climate-related natural disasters, such as floods and droughts, the damage to communities is now minimal because of mitigation and adaptation efforts.

“The LIRIC Project has planned a lot of initiatives for our municipalities. We actively participated in the project from start to finish and gave them essential advice,” said Mayor Pradip Kumar Khadka, Aurahi Municipality, Mahottari and “To address the effects of climate change, the project implemented several mitigation and adaptation programs and established a favorable environment for enhancing resil-



## Community-Based Adaptation Plan Builds Community Resilience

Janak Prasad Sharma, Chairperson of Shitalmai Farmers Group of Mithila Municipality Ward 3 Dhanusha and Sushila BK, member of Jagaran Group of Mithila Municipality Ward 1, have now become accustomed to adapting to the changing environment.

Through ADRA's numerous training programs and the acquisition of skills, people have become capable of surviving in a variety of circumstances. They used to worry about the drought and flash floods up until a few years ago. Now, things have changed.

They receive daily weather bulletins aired from the local FM, thanks to weather substations in their municipality and neighboring municipalities provided by the LIRIC project. In a similar vein, individuals are also disseminating information via networking.

"Adopting climate-friendly agricultural methods and technologies has provided us with several advantages. Through numerous pieces of training from this program, we learned about contemporary agricultural technologies. One of the methods we have learned is tunnel cultivation. With the use of these technologies, we can grow foods out of season, such cucumber and tomato. According to Janak Prasad Sharma, Chairperson of Shital Mai Farmers Group, Mithila Municipality ward 3 Dhanusha, "We have access to fresh veggies, and the incidences of diseases and use of pesticide is also low.

We can now cultivate crops with less water by employing drip irrigation technology. We have seen this technology's many advantages ourselves," Sharma remarked.

After being involved in the project,

ience."

"I am pleased to say that the project shares information with us regarding the sectors they are working in and their method of operation. Municipality extended its cooperation and support to help their successful completion of the project."

"With the project, we collaborated and coordinated really well. We have developed special environmental and climate change rules with the project's technical assistance. These regulations were developed through collaboration

Sushila BK, a member of the women group of Mithila Municipality, Ward 1 Dhanusha developed the ability to deal with the flood issue after getting involved in the project. "If I notice a lot of rain coming down, I listen to the radio and my phone to find out how things are upstream. We have time to find a secure spot if there is heavy rain upstream, according to BK.

Thanks to modern information and technology, I am aware of the vegetables that are best for the given season and time. Based on my knowledge, I am raising veggies and



other agricultural items. We are growing vegetables out of season in a tunnel, explained BK.

Depending on the location and surrounding natural environment, the effects of climate change may be perceived differently. This also applies to Dhanusha and Mahottari, where different areas are affected differently by problems like flooding, landslides, and erosion upstream. However, both regions frequently experience droughts.

As a result of climate change, the region has already experienced extreme weather patterns, including shorter rainy days and an increase in the incidence of significant rainfall in a short period.

Additionally, this EU funded pro-

ject implanted the programs' unique geography and circumstances for the reduction of the effects of climate change. Climate-friendly technology is adopted in some locations while not in others. Water conservation, reforestation, and other practices vary by location.

There have been developed community-based adaptation strategies for each of the 87 local groups.

According to the project's climate change and livelihood specialist Birat Panth, both the historical timeline of the local community and the current situation of climate change were given adequate consideration during the planning phase.

"We conducted a climate scenario analysis and looked at the resources connected to the community's way of life. We also looked at service organizations that operate primarily around major population centers and their catastrophe preparedness plans. These plans, which are implemented at the local level, are created to manage a variety of problems like floods, droughts, and diseases in livestock and crops.

A thorough community-based adaptation strategy has been created, and it has been prioritized as first, second, and third among other plans.

Various actions in the community-based adaptation plan are being carried out, according to Sushil Dhakal, Executive Director of CDAFN. To determine how they may contribute to the growth and development of the project, the local government, community, and project should each define their respective roles and responsibilities.

between the Municipality and the LIRC Project," said Mayor Khadka.

### Progress of the Project

The LIRIC project has also supported the development of 87 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and networks across approximately 2000 families who are actively executing various programs, in addition to building embankments in rivers and protective works in Chure to prevent soil erosion and flooding.

"We are less at risk for flooding than we were four years ago. In a similar vein, we have all

learned about seasonal farming in light of climate change. Naturally, we must make certain modifications and alterations," said Bimal Kumar Shrestha, chair of the Arundanda Farmer's Group in Mahottari, Bardibas Municipality. "With technical assistance from the project, we conducted training sessions for our members and other farmers in response to the impact of various illnesses and insects on the crops. Both the production of organic fertilizers and vermicomposting has begun among our members."



Similar views are held by others as well. Shital Mai Farmers' Group, located in Mithila Municipality ward 3 of Dhanusha district, Chairperson Janak Prasad Sharma remarked, "From this project, we learned about contemporary agricultural technologies through various pieces of training.". One of the methods that are commonly used in the area is tunnel cultivation. We are raising off-season vegetables like tomatoes and cucumbers using this technique. As a result, we have fresh produce that we can offer on the market for greater prices. With this technology, there are fewer instances of infections and pests."

The project has left long-lasting, positive impacts on the community, and residents appreciate it. Nona Deprez, the Ambassador for the European Union, praised the undertaking during her visit to the project sites last year. Tom Pignon, Country Director, ADRA Nepal, said: "I am incredibly proud of what we have been able to achieve along with our partners CDAFN and Rupantran on the LIRIC Project."

"This has been a project that has been running for the past 3 or almost 4 years working to increase the resilience of people, poor communities and vulnerable communities, reducing their vulnerability to climate change and the various impacts of climate change."

"The project we have been



implementing is working at the household levels with various families to increase their knowledge and increase their skills in farming so that they can farm effectively on the condition that they find themselves in. We are also working with Civil Society Organizations to enable them to be able to address climate change and advocate for their communities with the local governments. I remember just recently visiting the communities in which we are working and being incredibly impressed by the differences the project is making. I attended one of the climate field schools that we have been running and you can see the impact of the different technologies that farmers can use. " said ADRA Nepal Country Director, Tom Pignon.

"We are very grate-

ful for these funds from both the European Union and also the Austrian Development Cooperation along with support from ADRA Austria who have also partnered with us to make this project the success that it has been."

According to Kabir Ratna Sthapit, Team Leader of Livelihoods, ADRA Nepal, the project's accomplishments are supported by three main pillars. "We launched the program to encourage responsibility among the local government and the communities through these civil society organizations, which is our first accomplishment. Second, we have proposed ideas for improving these civil society organizations' capabilities. In our third initiative, we have worked to create a supportive atmosphere that can respond to climate change efficiently while also taking

preventative action to lessen its effects."Sthapit said, "Furthermore, we have engaged our youth by offering them a variety of skill-development options that enable them to actively contribute to the community and enhance employment. To facilitate communication and interaction between the various stakeholders, we have established networks inside civil society organizations. . We carry out programs in compliance with pertinent policies or





## DEVELOPMENT

through collaboration.”

A total of 87 CSOs have been established in the operating regions under this initiative. Additionally, they actively participate in awareness campaigns, discussion facilitation, and the implementation of steps to mitigate and lessen the effects of climate change through the six networks of these groups.

One of the most crucial aspects of CSOs is that they collaborate with local governments to boost income through increase in agriculture production and promote climate resilience.

According to Birat Panth, Climate Change and Livelihood Specialist with the LIRIC Project, “As part of the project, we have conducted pilot tests of payment for ecosystem services in several schemes, including the KalapaniMarka Drinking Water, the Khaimara Water Supply Project, and Riverbed farming in Sangampur. This kind of farming technique can be used successfully, as demonstrated by riverbed farming in Sangampur. The pond in Mithila has also been integrated into the ecotourism and drinking water scheme. Currently, the Bhumara Irrigation system is being implemented.

The group members have mastered the art of saving money to-



gether. In order to work with the ward office and Municipality, they have learned new farming techniques and the process for developing strategic plans, according to Swastika Rakhal Magar, LIRIC Project Dhanusha facilitator. “The group members are now more aware of the effects of climate change, including the shifting patterns of the weather and associated phenomena.”

To inform farmers about climate change and climate-wise farming techniques to lessen its effects, the Project also conducted climate field schools.

According to Bharat Bahadur Raut, member of the Churiyamai

Farmer Group, Mithila Municipality Ward 1, Dhanusha, “We now produce enough for the year and also sell the surplus. Previously, our homegrown vegetables used to be sufficient for about three months. We formed a group after getting associated with this organization. We have enough vegetables for the entire year thanks to climate-smart technologies. Vegetable purchases are not necessary. People are quite happy as a result.”

The interventions, through measures like water source conservation, water collection and protection, the establishment of suitable distribution and conservation systems, and the construction of an effective irrigation network, have significantly reduced the issue related to drinking water and irrigation problems faced by the people living in six municipal areas.

In some places, public ponds are maintained and managed, which has solved the irrigation problem. Today, everyone grows a variety of crops, including tomatoes, cauliflower, and mustard.

“Now that we are cultivating a variety of crops, we are reaping huge benefits. People without land can engage in the agriculture business and generate money through the provision of land leasing to landless individuals and support in implementing adaptive agriculture





technologies. The project promoted river bed farming, fruit production, and the leasing land for agriculture to help landless people and goat farming,” says Ranjana Devi Mahara of Janjagriti Farmers Group, Bhangaha Municipality-1, Mahottari. “With the support of leasehold land, the project helped us.”

To increase knowledge and awareness about climate change through the medium of education, the project also conducted school climate change education in six different schools.

The initiative, according to Ram Narayan Yadav, a teacher at Saraswati Secondary School Gaushala-8 Mahottari, improved students’ knowledge of the environment and climate change. “After participating in the program, children’s conduct has changed. Students who previously threw plastic bags and chocolate wrappers everywhere instead started throwing them in the trash, according to Yadav. Students are also disseminating information about climate change to their parents and neighbours.”

The project also trained youth and women champions to raise community awareness of climate change and effectively communicate community issues and demands to the ward and municipal



authorities for prompt resolutions at a time when youth and women make up a sizable portion of the population in the regions.

Bishwa Nath Thakur, a Youth Champion from Bhangaha Municipality-6 Mahottari, said, “We took on the responsibility of Youth-Champion in the LIRIC project having gained an understanding of climate change. The initiative has a team of Champions within the village, and by connecting to the network; I had conversations with other teams and individual members. We talked about how climate change affects people, its effects, and potential solutions.”

To strengthen the ability of other groups involved in agricultural and commercial operations in

the community but outside of the project’s primary beneficiaries, the project also ran a program known as Third-party Financing. The current situation has made it imperative for Mahottari and Dhanusha’s municipal administrations to work more closely together in order to mitigate the effects of climate change.

By giving these significant challenges the top priority, the Madhesh Pradesh administration is also providing essential coordination. By actively involving and including all local stakeholders, the project has successfully increased awareness among people, families, and communities about climate change, its effects, and mitigation methods.

With the help of the project’s knowledge and support, the communities are accepting change. This emphasizes the project’s importance. As a result, it’s important to encourage the project’s beneficial practices to be replicated in other parts of Nepal.

The 42-month project, which ADRA began in January 2020, focused on multiple strategies to enable a functional CSO network as an advocate for climate issues to raise community awareness, assert their rights, and improve capacity to implement climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.



# A Story About Nishankhe, A Small Village Near Mount Everest



A jeep awaits us, and we set off for Nishankhe, a little mountain community near Okhaldhunga. A fresh landscape awaits us, free of pollution, noise, and excessive traffic. These are not roads, but rather dusty paths that must be followed. We travel through fields, modest terracotta cottages, and even jail shelters. There is no room for jeans and T-shirts here; the villages' residents wear traditional attire.

The "kurta" steals the show. Traditions, customs, and mores are held in high regard in the community. Despite the ban on marriage before the age of 20, it is extremely normal for young girls to marry at the age of 18 to a man chosen by the father of the family. "At the age of 18, all of my daughters were married, and now I'm a grandfather to several grandchildren," Resham explains. Maternity starts early for these young females, making it impossible for them to study or work. Women are more likely to take care of the food, the house, the children, but also the fields or the animals.

Because it is uncommon to see them working, they are frequently reliant on their husbands. Women's roles in villages are consequently significantly different from those in cities. Some taboos remain in place, making it difficult to address concerns of menstruation and reproduction. It is still customary for mothers to leave their families home while on their period. Women have several challenges, such as household management and other responsibilities. For our own safety, we must walk with our female companions.

We have to cope with our monthly periods; perhaps we've studied women, but that's debatable. My knowledge is limited. I believe it has to do with sexual education, childbirth, and other related issues. We have been investigating and studying about sex education on our own up until this point, so we won't object if we need to learn more. Sarita, a mother and wife in her forties, declares, "We won't back down." Speaking a language other than Nepali is challenging while interacting with the villagers. English is not easily accessible.

There aren't enough educators. We are located in a remote area; the closest town, Okhaldhunga, is already three hours



distant on foot. The residents of the village, who lack access to public transportation and cannot afford to own personal vehicles, have developed the practice of walking. Going to school, grazing the goats, and running even the smallest errands all require many hours of daily walking. Everything becomes more difficult the further you are from the city lights, be it access to water, health care, or even education. Village schools receive considerably worse treatment.



Despite the government's desire to spend money on facilities that are safer for students, everything takes a very long time. The pupils are currently teaching under the cover of jails, which are supported by four stone walls. They will learn the rules of arithmetic, Nepalese literature, or the English language here, huddled together on a few wooden benches. The conditions at schools are getting better because of associations, but they still need to be better. « Compared to before, the situation for early childhood development (ECD) in the school is significantly For teaching, however, we currently have rugs, charts, tables, and posters.

Principal Gagan Bahadur Rai says, "we still need more things to make ECD lessons and also to study and play the games more effective. For example, we need to train the teachers at the school and give the kids instruments for practical instruction. There is no justification for being ill in the mountainous tiny towns. Even if a few clinics are present, the hospitals are far away, and occasionally there aren't enough nurses, making it difficult to receive healthcare there. Everything in the village is different; it moves more slowly and peacefully. I believe it depends whether this is good or negative. The importance of nature has been restored, and when the kids get out of school, they all gather for a game of football.

*Lucie is an intern from France*



## JAPAN SUPPORT

# Solar-Powered Water

*Takahiro Tamura, Charge d’Affaires ad Japan, stated that the Project Will Provide Sustainable Access To Clean Drinking Water*

By A CORRESPONDENT

Seven solar drinking water projects have been built with assistance from the Japanese government. More than 11,000 residents in the Mahesh province’s Sarlahi and Siraha districts now have access to clean drinking water as a result of the project’s completion.

The installation of solar pumps with a combined capacity of 186 kWp was supported by the Government of Japan, the Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC), and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

One of the seven projects, the 9 kWp Kothi Khola Solar Drinking Water Project, was given to the Atrauli User’s Committee in Ward 1, Hariwan Municipality, Sarlahi district, Madhesh province, by the Japanese government and the UNDP.

It offers access to irrigation for contemporary agriculture, including as drip irrigation for greenhouse farming, to more than 260 residents.

Takahiro Tamura, the interim charge d’affaires of Japan in Nepal, spoke at the handover ceremony and praised the AEPC, UNDP, the District Water Supply and Sewage Office, the Hariwan Municipality, and the residents of Atrauli.

Takahiro Tamura, Charge d’Affaires ad, stated “I hope that this project will improve the quality of life and provide sustainable access to clean drinking water.” I’m hoping that the local community’s participation in the team’s training will help the initiative run sustainably.” He continued by saying that the project would deepen friendship between the citizens of the two nations, as well as connections between Japan and Nepal.

Thanking the Japanese government, AEPC and UNDP, Mayor of Hariwan Municipality Ramesh Budhathoki said, “We really need to replicate this model to promote sustainable use of water resources by utilizing re-

newable energy-based water pumping.” We pledge the support of our local government for upkeep of the solar-powered water system.

Vijaya Singh, Assistant Resident Representative, UNDP, emphasized the significance of the initiative for attaining the goals of the Nationally Determined importance and thanked all partners.

‘Now we don’t have to walk three hours a day to gather water and we



can utilize that time in agriculture and some constructive activities which will help us in our livelihood,’ said Kunta Maya Rapal, President of the Atrauli User’s Committee.

The Chure hill regions of Nepal are particularly vulnerable to a lack of access to a supply of clean water. Because of deforestation, uncontrolled development, and the exploitation of sand and stone, all of which are made worse by climate change, locals have long been forced to rely on tiny seasonal streams and water holes. Women and children spend 3–4 hours a day lugging water to their homes. With assistance from the Japanese government, solar PV

backup systems were erected in addition to the solar-powered drinking water system. As a result, the electrical supply to 2 schools in the Sarlahi district’s Sarlahi district’s computer and audio-visual equipment, as well as 11 healthcare facilities’ vital medical equipment, was uninterrupted.

To assure their continued use even after the project is completed, 266 women and men have been trained in various elements of solar PV technology and institutional construction.

Leveraging NDCs to Achieve Net-Zero Emissions and Climate Resilient Development in Response to Climate Emergency, a project funded by the Japan Supplementary Budget, seeks to increase residents’ access to modern energy services by using solar energy solutions, electricity generated by micro hydropower plants (MHPs), agro forestry, and waste management.

11,865 people benefited from the installation of 7 solar drinking water projects with a combined capacity of 186 kWp in the Madhesh province’s Sarlahi and Siraha districts.

The project restored 14 MHPs in the provinces of Karnali and Sudur-paschim, producing 1,378 kW of electricity for 67,000 people. A total of 164 homes began using electric cook stoves, and 129 people, including 62 women, started working using productive energy.

Multilayer plantation has been used to repair 85 hectares of damaged land in total. The project helped six hospitals manage hospital trash more effectively.

In order to improve their Nationally Determined Contributions in accordance with the global Paris Agreement, 120 countries—including 14 major emitters, 28 small island developing states, and 40 least developed countries—are supported by Climate Promise.

## विद्युतीय उपकरणको प्रयोगबाट बालबालिकामा पर्ने असर

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- झिज्याहट हुने,
- साथीहरूसँग घुलमिल नहुने,
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