



ENVIRONMENT
Batu Uprety



VIEWPOINT
Arup Rajouria



ARTICLE
Akriti Rana

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CHANDRA PRASAD DHAKAL **A Maiden Century**

INSIDE



AMBASSADOR NONA DEPREZ
DIPLOMAT WITH HEART



KUL MAN GHISNG'S MISSION
TRANSMISSION LINE COMPLETION



INTERVIEW
MOHAN PRASAD GAUTAM



RAGHUGANGA HYDROPOWER LIMITED

Piple, Myagdi

Raghuganga Hydropower Limited was established as subsidiary company of Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) on March, 2017 with an aim of construction of Rahughat Hydroelectric Project (2x20 MW) in Mygdi District, Gandaki Province, Nepal. The financing of the project has been managed by EXIM Bank's GOI-supported LOC to GoN, GoN and NEA. The project is at implementation stage with overall progress of 60%.

Salient Features	
Project Location	
Province	Gandaki
District	Myagdi
Intake Site	Jhi, Raghuganga Rural Municipality -05
Power House Site	Tilkane chaur, Raghuganga Rural Municipality -03
General	
Name of River	Raghuganga
Nearest Town	Beni
Type of Scheme	Peaking run -off- river scheme
Gross Head (m)	292.83
Net Rated Head (m)	281.56
Installed Capacity (MW)	2*20=40
Average Annual Energy after Outage	238.59 GWh (Peaking Energy =27.95GWh, Non Peaking Energy =50.26GWh and Wet Energy =160.37GWh)



Headworks



Surge Shaft



Pressure Shaft



Power House



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फोन: ०१, ४३७१७४४, ४३७१७९४



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Notes From The Editor



The political battle has shifted from Kathmandu to Koshi Province. In compliance with a court order, political parties are diligently working to form a coalition government in a hung parliament. Top-level political leaders are vying for the support of RPP, which is pivotal in establishing the new government. This is a prestigious and critical battle for all political parties.

However, the parliamentary process has been put on hold due to the disruption of the House of Representatives by the main opposition, CPN-UML. Many pending businesses have been affected by this disruption. CPN-UML's demand for the formation of a high-level probe committee on a recent gold smuggling case has caused this disruption.

Despite the challenges, the ruling coalition remains united, with CPN-UML attempting to divide them by targeting Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister Narayan Kazi Shrestha. Nonetheless, it appears that the alliance remains unbroken.

In light of the current political situation, we have decided to shift our focus and cover the first 100 days of FNCCI President Chandra Dhakal as the cover story for this week. The country is facing a significant economic crisis that is impacting the business community and industrial sector, and Dhakal's leadership at FNCCI during these challenging times has been commendable. In his initial hundred days, he has worked to implement policy reforms beneficial to the business and industrial communities, gradually bringing about positive changes.

Keshab Poudel

Editor

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अपर तामाकोशी हाइड्रोपावर लिमिटेड

अन्नपूर्ण मार्ग, ज्ञानेश्वर, काठमाण्डौ
फोन नं. ४५२१६९४ फ्याक्स नं. ४५१२५६९
URL: www.tamakoshihydro.org.np

कर्मचारी संचयकोषमा रकम जम्मा गर्ने संचयकर्ता लगायत आयोजना प्रभावित सम्पूर्ण स्थानीय बासिन्दा शेयरधनीहरुलाई हितग्राही खाता (Demat Account) खोली शेयर अभौतिकीकरण गर्ने सम्बन्धी सूचना

कर्मचारी संचयकोषमा रकम जम्मा गर्ने संचयकर्ता कर्मचारीहरु लगायत कम्पनीमा ऋण लिने र दिने संस्थाका कर्मचारीहरुको लागि बाँडफाँड गरिएको अपर तामाकोशी हाइड्रोपावर लिमिटेडको शेयर भौतिक रुपमा प्रमाणपत्र वितरण गरिएको हुँदा सो प्रमाणपत्र संकलन गर्न बाँकी शेयरधनीहरुले यस कम्पनीको शेयर रजिष्ट्रार सनराइज क्यापिटल लिमिटेडबाट यथाशीघ्र शेयर प्रमाणपत्र संकलन गरी आफ्नो हितग्राही खाता (Demat Account) मा अभौतिकीकरण गर्नको लागि यो सूचना प्रकाशित गरिएको छ ।

निकट भविष्यमा नागरिक लगानी कोषको निष्काशन तथा बिक्री प्रबन्धकत्व तथा सनराइज क्यापिटल लिमिटेडको सह निष्काशन तथा बिक्री प्रबन्धकत्वमा हुने अपर तामाकोशी हाइड्रोपावर लिमिटेडको १:१ (एक बराबर एक) का दरले निष्काशन हुने प्रकृत्यामा रहेको हकप्रद शेयरको लागि आवेदन दिन समेत डिम्याट खाता (Demat Account) खोली शेयर अभौतिकीकरण अनिवार्य हुने हुँदा हितग्राही खाता (Demat Account) नभएका **आयोजना प्रभावित क्षेत्र दोलखा जिल्लाका स्थानीयबासिन्दा** शेयरधनीहरुले समेत समयमै आफ्नो नजिक रहेको बैंक तथा वित्तीय संस्था वा सनराइज क्यापिटल लिमिटेडको वेवसाइट www.sunrisecapital.com.np मा गई अनलाइन बाट समेत हितग्राही खाता (Demat Account) खोली आफ्नो नामको शेयर अभौतिकीकरण गर्नका लागि अनुरोध गर्दछौं । हितग्राही खाता (Demat Account) रहेको तर हाल सम्म शेयर अभौतिकीकरण गर्न बाँकी रहेका शेयरधनीहरुले आफ्नो हितग्राही खाता (Demat Account) रहेको बैंक तथा वित्तीय संस्थामा गई छिटो भन्दा छिटो शेयर अभौतिकीकरण गर्नका लागि समेत अनुरोध गर्दछौं ।

यो सुविधाको लागि सनराइज क्यापिटल लिमिटेडको कार्यालय कमलपोखरी, सनराइज बैंक लिमिटेडका सम्पूर्ण शाखा कार्यालयहरु लगायत नजिकका अन्य बैंक तथा वित्तीय संस्थामा सम्पर्क गरी नागरिकताको प्रमाणपत्रको प्रतिलिपी र पासपोर्ट साइजको फोटो सहित स्वयम् उपस्थित भई हितग्राही खाता (Demat Account) खोल्न सकिने जानकारीको लागि अनुरोध छ ।

शेयर रजिष्ट्रार



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NEWSNOTES

EU Reports Nepal's Rights Record On Positive Trajectory

Nepal's human rights record remains on a positive trajectory. This is according to the annual report on human rights and democracy published by the European Union (EU) for the year 2022.



As per the report, published on Tuesday, Nepal's human rights situation appeared largely encouraging last year. However, given the many challenges the country is still facing, progress remains slow.

"Discrimination related to caste, gender, ethnic or religious background, is the most crucial issue and together with corruption, the biggest impediment to development in Nepal," the report stated. Nevertheless, despite the prevalence of discriminatory practices, EU felt that the country had made remarkable legislative achievements to ensure the rights of Dalits.

Nepal receives over 700,000 COVID-19 vaccines donated by France through the COVAX Facility

The Government of France has just delivered 702,720 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech's bivalent COVID-19 vaccines to Nepal through the COVAX Facility, offering a boost to the country's ongoing COVID-19 vaccination drive. This latest donation had been divided into separate shipments received across the months of June and July, with the final installment of the donation having arrived at the Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu today.

France had been the first country worldwide to donate vaccines to the COVAX mechanism when global COVID-19 vaccination efforts began in early 2021. In the years since, France has remained one of the top donors to COVAX, a testament to the Government's commitment to support vaccine coverage worldwide, especially in vulnerable countries hit hard by the pandemic.

On this occasion, French Ambassador to Nepal, Gilles Bourbao, reiterated one of France's key positions: Working with partners in multilateral platforms to address global issues, the COVID-19 crisis being no exception.

France had previously donated 685,400 doses of the Astra-Zeneca COVID-19 vaccines to Nepal through COVAX in 2022, and more recently, 195,840 of the Pfizer-BioNTech's bi-valent vaccines as part of a joint Team Europe donation in April 2023.

While Nepal currently sees relatively low numbers of daily new COVID-19 infections, the Government of Nepal is still running the vaccination program, given the continued need to protect communities. This is particularly crucial for vulnerable populations such as those with compromised immunity, existing health issues and co mor-

bidities, the elderly and pregnant women, among others.

"On behalf of the COVAX partners, UNICEF extends gratitude to the Government of France for the latest donation of COVID-19 vaccines to Nepal," said Ms. Alice Akunga, UNICEF Representative to Nepal. "This contribution is testament to the critical role of global solidarity and partnership in the fight against COVID-19, and in ensuring a safer, healthier future for all."

PM Prachanda Meets Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' had a cordial bilateral meeting with Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina in Rome during his visit.

According to Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the two leaders discussed different facets of friendly bilateral relations and cooperation.



Australian Ambassador Volk And Master Chef Shah Award Certificates

Australia's Ambassador to Nepal, Felicity Volk, and winner of BBC Master Chef: The Professionals Rematch 2021, Chef Santosh Shah, awarded graduation certificates to participants of commercial cooking training organized by the Didi Foundation Nepal.

The Australian Embassy supported Didi Foundation to establish its cooking training centre and deliver a 390-hour course in commercial cooking, based on the curriculum of the Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT). Fifteen women from disadvantaged communities comprised the first cohort of students.

In his keynote presentation, Chef Shah, whose story has recently been added to Nepal's



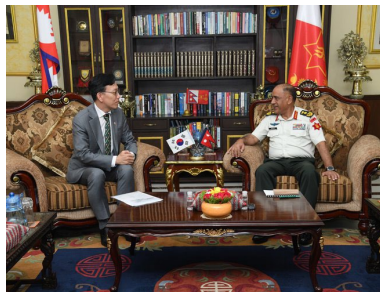
Grade 10 curriculum for English, spoke about his personal journey to become a world-renowned chef. He told the graduates that each person is unique and must find their own path, understand their personal strengths, focus on their personal goals and live with values and self-discipline. "Every person is different, so we must understand ourselves well and master the skills that make us happy," he said.

Ambassador Volk congratulated the trainees and thanked the Didi Foundation for organizing the inaugural training program, which is promoting employment, livelihoods and entrepreneurial ventures for women from all communities.

Korean Ambassador To Nepal Park Taeyoung pays a courtesy call on CoAS General Sharma

Park Taeyoung, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to

Nepal, makes a courtesy call on Chief of Army Staff of Nepal Army General Prabhu Ram Sharma at the Nepal Army Headquarter.



COAS General Sharma and the Korean ambassador discussed issues of bilateral and mutual concern. The Nepal Army hopes that this type of conference will help to deepen existing bilateral relations between the

two countries.

Chaudhary, Hamal And Mishra's Stories Win EU Human Rights Journalist Award 2023

The EU in Nepal announces the result of the 'EU Human Rights Journalist Award 2023'. The articles & news reports of the following journalists have been selected among the top three out of all the entries.

"Congratulations to the winners of the 'EU Human Rights Journalists Award' who have been selected for a weeklong learning tour to Brussels in autumn this year. Thanks to all journalists who participated in the competition," tweets EU Nepal.



The winners are Dhangadhi based journalist Kalimaiya Kumari Chaudhary (Unnati Chaudhary) from sandhaann.com, Chandani Hamal of Gorkhapatra Daily, and

Aashish Kumar Mishra from The Rising Nepal Daily.

Bangladesh Embassy In Kathmandu Honors Mountaineer Ikramul Hasan Shakil

Ikramul Hasan Shakil, the first Bangladeshi to successfully complete the Great Himalaya Trail expedition was accorded a reception today by the Embassy of Bangladesh in Kathmandu.

Shakil walked 1,700 kilometers border-to-border trail in 102 days, starting from the Hilsha border in the west and ending at the Kanchenjunga base camp in the east. Only a much selected number of mountain climbers from around the world have successfully completed the trail so far.

During the expedition, Shakil had to cross 29 difficult mountain passes, 14 of which are above the altitude of 5000 meters and are marked as inaccessible and extremely difficult.



Shakil earlier conquered several mountains including Mt. Kayazo Ri (6,186 m), Himlung Himal

(7,126 m) and Dolma Khang (6,332 m). A prolific writer of travelogues, Shakil promotes awareness building on education in mother language and conservation of environment.

During the interaction with Embassy officials, Shakil shared his experience and thanked them for the support. He was honored with a crest by the Ambassador.

Japan Hands Over Mammography Equipment To Nepal Cancer Care Foundation

The Handover Ceremony the mammography equipment, supported by the Government of Japan to the Nepal Cancer Care Foundation in Satobato, Lalitpur, was held today.

Kikuta Yutaka, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, attended the ceremony. Under the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) of the Government of Japan, the project to install medical equipment for breast cancer screening at the Nepal Cancer Care Foundation, a specialized medical institution for women's cancer screening, was supported with USD 75,869 (approximately NPR 8.3 million).

Ambassador Kikuta congratulated and expressed his appreciation for the efforts of all those involved in the project. He emphasized that early detection and treatment are crucial to cure diseases such as breast cancer, one of the most common cancers among Nepali women.



He expressed his confidence that the project would lead to early detection of disease and improve the health and quality of life of individuals, families and communities in Nepal.

The Nepal Cancer Care Foundation was established in 2011 to reduce the burden of cancer by providing screening and counseling services, primarily for breast and cervical cancer.

They provide these services at their diagnostic center in Lalitpur and through screening health camps in rural areas. For the last year, they have conducted breast cancer screening for more than 500 women by using the equipment provided by GGP.

Chinese Leader Meets Nepali Political Leaders

Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' and Member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee Yuan Jiajun held a virtual meeting on Sunday afternoon.

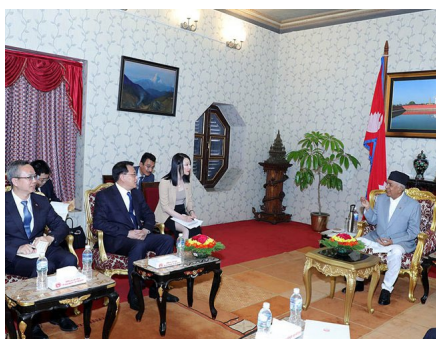
PM Prachanda, who is currently in Italy, held virtual dialogue with leader Yuan, who is currently in Nepal, according to PM Prachanda's Secretariat.

Member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee Yuan Jiajun called on President Ram Chandra Paudel at the Office of the President, Shital Niwas.

According to the President's Foreign Affairs Expert Dr Suresh Chalise, issues of the bilateral interests and strengthening mutual ties between Nepal and China were discussed during the meeting.

On the occasion, President Paudel said that Nepal and China are very good friends since ancient time and such high-level visits

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would contribute to further deepen the bilateral relations.

Present at the meeting were Chinese Ambassador to Nepal Chen Song and other members of the delegation from the Chinese side while President's Foreign Affairs Expert Dr

Chalise, Secretary at the President's Office Dilliraj Sharma, Chief of North East Asia Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Lok Bahadur Thapa and others from the Nepali side.

Member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee Yuan Jiajun paid a courtesy call on Acting Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Purna Bahadur Khadka on Sunday.

He mentioned that China-Nepal ties became further cordial after late Prime Minister Bishweshwar Prasad Koirala's China visit in March, 1960.

The book *Monuments Of The Kathmandu Valley: Before and After The 2015 Earthquake* by Dr. Rohit Ranjitkar was Unveiled

The former director of the National Reconstruction Authority, Sushil Gyewali, the director general of the Department of Archaeology, Damodar Gautam, and the American ambassador Dean R. Thompson launched the book by Dr. Rohit Ranjitkar, "Monuments of the Kathmandu Valley: Before and After the 2015 Earthquake," today at Patan.



An executive officer for the Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust (KVPT), Dr. Ranjitkar is a person behind the restoration of monuments in Patan.

Speaking at the session were Ambassador Thompson, Gautam, Director General of the Department of Archeology, and Gyawali, a former CEO of the National Reconstruction Authority.

U.S. Ambassador Thompson underlined the assistance offered by the US Ambassador Fund during the discussion, which was moderated by KVPT honorary chairperson Kanak Mani Dixit.

The book by Niels Gutschow's Restoration of Itumbaha was also unveiled today.

European Union Provides Nepal Rs.11 Billion Grant To Implement Quality Education And Climate Adaptation Projects

Ambassador of European Union to Nepal Nona Deprez and Finance Secretary Arjun Prasad Pokharel signed two separate Financing Agreements; a grant agreement of €50 million (equivalent to Rs. 7.38 billion) for 'Quality Education for All' to support the School Education Sector Plan - SESP, and a grant agreement of €22 million (equivalent to Rs. 3.25 billion) for the 'Local Adaptation to Climate

Change' initiative.

'Quality Education for All' will support the implementation of the government's School Education Sector Plan in a sector-wide approach (SWAP) supported by eight development partners, including EU.

According to a press release issued by the Ministry of Finance, the overall objective of this support is to contribute to a well-educated and skilled society in Nepal which is able to play an active role in the social and economic development of the country.

"I am hopeful that the support for SESP will help in increasing equitable access and improving the quality of education, which are crucial for human capital development", said Arjun Prasad Pokharel, Finance Secretary.

"The European Union is proud to continue to support Nepal in education. Supporting quality education is one of our core commitments in our cooperation. As our EU Commissioner for International Partnerships, Jutta Urpilainen, put it: "young people can change the world, and education will empower them to do it'. We are heartened by the government's commitment to support quality education and are happy to be a close partner", stated Nona Deprez, EU Ambassador to Nepal.



'Local Adaptation to Climate Change' is initiated with an overall objective to improve the sustainability and conservation of natural resources to notably increase their climate resilience in Sudurpashchim and Karnali provinces.

"Nepal is making sincere efforts to balance the development and climate action. I appreciate the support of EU to plan and develop measures for Disaster Risk Reduction and to focus on' increased human and financial capacities in order to enable the selected local levels and communities manage their natural resources in regards to adaptation to climate change. I would like to thank the European Union for its continued support in the socio-economic development endeavors of Nepal," said Pokharel, Finance Secretary.

EU Ambassador Deprez Paid Farewell Call On Minister Of Foreign Affairs Saud

Ambassador of the European Union to Nepal Nona Deprez paid farewell call on Minister for Foreign Affairs NP Saud at his office today. Nepal-EU relations and matters of bilateral cooperation were discussed during the meeting.

According to Ministry of Foreign Affairs, they discussed the matter of mutual interest during the meeting. Ambassador Deprez is leaving following completion of her successful three years tenure as an ambassador to Nepal.



NIMB Bags EUROMONDY Awards

Nepal Investment Mega Bank bags the prestigious EUROMONEY– Awards for Excellence for the third time

Nepal Investment Mega Bank Limited (NIMB) is honored to have won the



“Best Bank in Nepal” at the Euromoney Awards for Excellence 2023. Euromoney is a British based esteemed international financial publication. This is NIMB’s third time receiving this prestigious accolade having won

it on two previous occasions (2018 & 2021). NIMB has bagged this award on the basis of its performance and strategic growth throughout the year. By providing tailor-made products and services and branchless banking to its clients, NIMB has been credited by Euromoney with ramping up financial inclusion throughout the country.

Providing loans at a concessional rate to ex-Army personnel, servicemen and their families, through the Deprived Sector Lending program, is another reason why NIMB has been awarded this year, as stated by Euromoney on their official website.

The Bank’s Paid-up Capital stands at NPR 34.12 Billion, and has one of the strongest financial standings amongst the Nepalese commercial banks, with the highest Shareholder’s Fund of NPR 59.95 Billion in the country. NIMB has been catering to its 3 Million+ valued customers from 296 Branches, 280 ATMs, 62 Extension Counters, and 107 Branchless Banking Counters. The Bank, being the recipient of 7 ‘Bank of the Year’ awards for exemplary service and business, is an ISO 9001:2015 certified Bank with Credit Rating ‘A’ from ICRA Nepal (International Credit Rating Agency- Nepal).

IFC Vice President Susan M. Lund Arrives on a Three-Day Visit to Nepal

A senior IFC official is on a three-day visit to Nepal to renew IFC’s commitment to support private sector to help meet



country’s development goals while discussing investment opportunities. During her visit, IFC’s Vice President for Economics and Private Sector Development, Susan M. Lund, is scheduled to meet senior government officials and private sector leaders.

Nepal is a priority country for IFC, and its first investment dates back to 1975. Since July 2018, IFC has committed over USD 560 million in long-term financing in the country.

Based in Washington DC, Lund leads a large staff of

economists who provide economic analysis to support IFC investments, including macroeconomic outlooks, country risk assessments, and country private sector diagnostics.

Prior to joining IFC, Ms. Lund spent over 20 years as a partner at McKinsey & Company and the leader of the McKinsey Global Institute.

Nepal Needs To Think Outside the Conventional Approaches Trading With The US: Secretary Marasini

Madhu Kumar Marasini, Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies, pointed out that Nepal needs to think outside the conventional approaches and explore new products to export to the US in which Nepal has comparative advantage.

He said the government is proposing that more products of export interest to Nepal be included in the US’s trade preferences for Nepal.

Addressing a roundtable discussion organized by South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE) in association with The Asia Foundation, to discuss the prospects and challenges of exporting to the US, Secretary Marasini also highlighted the importance of services trade, such as IT exports, for which government intends to ease the process.

Despite being granted duty free access to 77 products by the US, Nepal’s export performance in those select products is dismal. Limited utilization of trade preferences necessitates a careful examination of the constraints faced by exporters if



Nepal aims at improving export performance through such facilities, experts said during a discussion event held today.

A SAWTEE study on Nepal-US trade, presented at the event, finds that Nepal’s merchandise exports to the US in 2021, at US\$108.3 million, were lower than what they were at their peak in the late 1990s even in nominal terms.

The US granted duty-free access to Nepal on an additional 77 products under the Nepal Trade Preference Program (NTPP), introduced through legislation and enforced from December-end 2016. The scheme was unveiled to help Nepal recover from the devastating earthquakes of 2015. It will last till 31 December 2025.

As per the study, while total goods exports to the US have been on an upward trend since 2012, exports of NTPP products have been on a downward trend, the study finds. Exports of NTPP products in 2021 were US\$8.47 million and had a share of 7.8 percent in total exports to the US (compared to 14 percent in 2012). The utilization of NTPP remains low, at under 50 percent, compared to another duty-free scheme of the US, the Generalized System of Preferences, which Nepal also benefits from.

Presenting the study, Dr. Paras Kharel, Executive Director, SAWTEE, added that it is crucial to address productive capacity and supply-side constraints, highlighting that even if the available preferences were fully utilized, it would not lead to a

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dramatic increase in exports of these products without resolving the underlying constraints in production and supply.

Kiran Saakha, President, Nepal-USA Chamber of Commerce and Industry, pointed out that the end of global quotas on textiles and clothing in the early 2000s dealt a severe blow to Nepal's exports to the US as exports of readymade garments, which accounted for over 80 percent of Nepal's exports to the US at that time, plunged.

He highlighted the existing export potential with respect to the US market, citing the example of Nepali hand knotted carpets, which he said were being bought by American consumers despite being significantly more expensive than their competition on account of their high quality. He urged the governments of Nepal and the US to provide meaningful assistance to exporters.

Purushottam Ojha, Former Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies (MoICS), Government of Nepal, said Nepal's Commerce Policy and Nepal Trade Integration Strategy, which have identified priority products, should be the basis for negotiating an extension to the trade preferences provided by the US.

Shankar Prasad Pandey, President, Federation of Export Entrepreneurs Nepal (FEEN), said precise items of export interest to Nepal should be identified when seeking an extension of the US' trade preference program for Nepal. He expressed concern over the underutilization of the provision for technical assistance and capacity building under the TIFA. According to Mr. Pandey, Nepal must establish clear objectives regarding the kind of technical assistance required from the US to ensure optimal utilization.

Vidushi Rana, Executive Director, Goldstar Shoes, highlighted the huge potential and demand for Nepali footwear in the US and the prohibitively high tariff it faces there, and urged the US government to include footwear in the list of preference-granted products, given the industry's role in inclusive growth and job creation.

Ajit Bikram Shah, Founding member and Chairperson, The American Chamber of Commerce in Nepal (AMCHAM), expressed the need for Nepal to strengthen its negotiation skills to tap its export potential in the US market.

The participants in the roundtable discussion called attention to the need for support in promoting Nepali products in the US through trade fairs, and expanding the product coverage of the NTTP if the latter is extended. They emphasized the need for the utilization of the capacity building and technical assistance component of the NTTP and the Nepal-US Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) to enhance the productive capacity of Nepali exporters.

The event saw the participation of around four dozen participants, including trade experts, policymakers, exporters, freight forwarders and representatives from the US Embassy in Nepal.

Dusit Princess Kathmandu Has Started Its Business For Guests

Dusit Hotels and Resorts under Dusit International, one of Thailand's leading hotel and property development companies, have started its hotel in Kathmandu. Dusit Princess Kathmandu has started welcoming guests from 17 July 2023.

"I would like to welcome all guests to the roof of the

world, home to Everest & the birthplace of Lord Buddha. Dusit Princess is nestled amidst breathtaking landscapes and steeped in rich cultural heritage. This will be a gateway to explore the wonders of this extraordinary nation. We promise to exceed your expectations and provide an experience that will leave you with cherished memories for years to come," said Tenzin Zoepa Lama, Chairman, Dusit Princess Kathmandu."

"I am delighted to open the doors of Dusit Princess Kathmandu and share the unparalleled wonders of Nepal with travelers from near and far. Through this endeavor, I am committed to supporting the country's tourism growth, creating opportunities for local communities, and showcasing the richness of our cultural heritage. It aspires to be a symbol of Nepal's excellence in hospitality. We are unwaveringly dedicated to exceptional service, attention to detail, and commitment to sustainability will ensure that guests have an extraordinary and authentic experience throughout their stay," expressed Dorje Lama, Managing Director, Dusit Princess Kathmandu.

"We are extremely delighted with the opening of Dusit Princess this year 2023. With the boost of tourism in Nepal we are excited to share our contribution in tourism industry for Nepal where Dusit Princess Kathmandu will define your stay, with warm

Thai and Nepalese hospitality woven into every moment for our guest and local community whom we are privileged to serve," said. Kalpesh Agrawal, General Manager, Dusit Princess



Kathmandu." To celebrate its opening, Dusit Princess Kathmandu is offering a special opening offer – Your New Kathmandu Base – starting at only NPR 16,500 (USD 125) per night for a Superior room with breakfast for two and a set dinner at specialty Thai restaurant SOI, valid until 17 September 2023.

Designed to appeal to business and leisure travelers who appreciate comfort, value, and convenience, Dusit Princess Kathmandu is located in the heart of the capital's vibrant Lazimpat neighborhood, a short walk from Narayanhiti Palace Museum and just 18 minutes by car from Tribhuvan International Airport.

Dusit International Established in 1948, Dusit International or Dusit Thani Public Company Limited (DUSIT) is a leading hospitality group listed on the Stock Exchange of Thailand. Its operations comprise five distinct yet complementary business units: hotels and resorts, hospitality education, food, property development, and hospitality-related services.

The group's portfolio of hotels, resorts and luxury villas includes approximately 300 properties operating under a total of seven brands (Dusit Thani, Dusit Devarana, Dusit Suites, DusitD2, Dusit Princess, ASAI Hotels, and Elite Havens) across 19 countries worldwide. The group also operates culinary schools and hospitality colleges in Thailand, plus catering companies for the education sector in Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam.

AMBASSADOR NONA DEPREZ

Diplomat With Heart

Ambassador of European Union to Nepal Nona Deprez is leaving next week weaning the heart and minds of people from different walks of life

By KESHAB POUDEL

Ambassador Nona Deprez is a shining example of an exceptional diplomat, renowned for her unwavering dedication, love, and passion for the people and the country she represents. As the Ambassador of the European Union to Nepal, she has left an enduring impact on the hearts and minds of Nepalese from all walks of life.

Through her recent interviews in various media outlets and her interactions and observations during her tenure as ambassador to Nepal, she has consistently demonstrated remarkable professionalism and diplomatic finesse.

Arriving in Nepal amidst the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the global crisis caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Ambassador Deprez displayed extraordinary leadership by bringing Team Europe together in Nepal to address pressing issues. Her tireless efforts secured much-needed medical assistance, equipment, and vaccines from EU member states to support Nepal in combating the pandemic.

Throughout her time in Nepal, Ambassador Nona Deprez has shown genuine affection for the country and its people. Despite being relatively unknown to many Nepalis when she first arrived, she quickly won the hearts of the young generation and made a lasting impression on the entire nation. Additionally, she played a significant role in creating the Youth Sounding Board and encouraging young Nepalese to apply for European higher study Erasmus+ scholarships, resulting in 53 Nepalese youth being selected for further studies.

One of the crowning achievements of her tenure was the high-level visit of Jutta Urpilainen, the EU's commissioner of International Partnership, marking the first such visit from the European Union to Nepal. This visit further solidified the commitment of the EU to Nepal's development process and strengthened the relationship between the two. Similarly, Nepal firmly stands in UN against Russia on invasion of Ukraine.

Ambassador Deprez has fostered

close ties between the European Union and Nepal, leaving a remarkable legacy for the country's bright future. Her interactions with local communities, elected representatives, and stakeholders involved in EU-supported projects have allowed her to appreciate the warmth and smiles of the Nepali people, as well as the beauty of the nation's natural wonders.

Her dedication to Nepal's welfare and her efforts to strengthen the partnership between the EU and Nepal will be remembered for years to come. The people of Nepal will undoubtedly cherish her as a true diplo-



mat who demonstrated genuine love for their country and left an indelible mark on their hearts and minds.

Nona Deprez, as a highly skilled and adept professional representing the European Union in Nepal, has served as a bridge between the two regions, fostering communication, understanding, and cooperation to advance mutual interests. Her intelligence, cultural awareness, tactfulness, and strong interpersonal skills have allowed her to make a positive and lasting impression.

Ambassador Nona Deprez has demonstrated a remarkable combination of intelligence, cultural understanding, and interpersonal finesse. As an ambassador from the European Union, she has tirelessly worked to promote peace, understanding, and cooperation with Nepal. Through her diplomatic skills, cultural awareness, and ability to navigate complex situations, she has significant-

ly contributed to the advancement of mutual interests between the European Union and Nepal.

Reflecting on her experiences, Nona Deprez shared, "I got a chance to visit different places in Nepal, mainly Madhes Province, Karnali Province, and Sudurpashchim Province. Along with other ambassadors, I also went on a site visit. Last year we did a field trip to Far West, and this year to Karnali. These site visits were enthusiastic, providing an opportunity for direct meetings with the concerned persons and communication with people from various communities."

Representing the European Union in Nepal is a special and proud responsibility for Nona Deprez, especially considering the challenging time of her arrival. She emphasized the shared values between the EU and Nepal, particularly regarding climate change. The EU aims to be carbon neutral by 2050, while Nepal has set an ambitious goal of becoming zero carbon by 2040, making them ideal partners in this critical area.

Ambassador Nona

Deprez also highlighted the closeness between Europe and Nepal, despite the geographical distance. Celebrating 50 years of EU-Nepal diplomatic relations next year, their long-standing partnership is built on mutual trust and shared values, including a commitment to addressing climate change and supporting a rules-based multilateral system.

She also mentioned the formal communication mechanism between the two countries at the Foreign Secretary level, which discusses multifaceted issues throughout the year, underscoring its significance in facilitating fruitful cooperation.

As a development partner of Nepal, the EU supports the country's 'Green, Resilient, Inclusive' development agenda. Ambassador Deprez emphasized the importance of advancing this agenda at the union, state, local levels, and within civil society, urging collaboration from all stakeholders, including businesses and citizens.

Climate Change: The Ultimate Test Of Our Time



BY: ARUP RAJOURIA

Human induced climate change is the definitive test of our time. Its far-reaching consequences are already gripping the world, with a bleak forecast that only gets worse if we don't take immediate action now. Climate change is an urgent existential threat that affects countries worldwide. In recent weeks, extreme weather events have affected countries around the world, regardless of their income level.

Climate scientists are shocked by the scale and intensity of the floods, which have caused widespread damage and displacement. The consequences of this crisis are catastrophic, resulting in the loss of human lives, widespread destruction of infrastructure, and the staggering loss of hundreds of billions of dollarsworth of property. Extreme weather events, which are being intensified by climate change, have unleashed a relentless assault on countries and communities, highlighting the urgent need for global collaboration and multilateral action.

In Japan, climate change has brought about a surge in extreme weather events. These events have led to severe flooding, landslides, and significant damage to buildings and critical infrastructure. Heatwaves, amplified by climate change, pose risks to public health, particularly for vulnerable populations. The impacts of climate change in Japan highlight the need for global cooperation in protecting the lives and livelihoods of its citizens.

India is experiencing the effects of human-induced climate change on a massive scale, with heatwaves claiming numerous lives, particularly in densely populated urban areas with inadequate infrastructure to cope with extreme temperatures. Unpredictable monsoon patterns lead to floods and droughts, causing damage to infrastructure, agriculture, and displacing vulnerable populations as we are currently witnessing in North India. The North India floods and heatwave have been particularly devastating.

Here in Nepal, we face our own unique challenges due to human induced climate change. The changing climate in Nepal has already begun to affect various aspects of the country, including water resources, ecosystems, agriculture, and urban areas.

The melting of glaciers and changing precipitation patterns are causing landslides, flash floods, and erratic monsoons. These events have caused displacement, dam-

age, and disruption of vital services. The risk of glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) looms large in Nepal. In addition to these environmental and socio-economic consequences, climate change also has implications for national security. Addressing these impacts and protecting vulnerable populations require collective action and multilateral collaboration.

The impacts of climate change disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, particularly women, in low-income economies. These populations face additional challenges due to existing social and economic inequalities, limiting their abilities to adapt to and cope with climate change. Recognizing and addressing the specific vulnerabilities of women is essential for building resilience and achieving sustainable development.

Multilateralism is an indispensable force in combating climate change. The gravity of this crisis demands a unified international response. Together, we can forge robust policies to slash emissions and prepare ourselves against the climate's onslaught. The Paris Agreement is the most significant multilateral agreement on climate change which builds on the foundation of the Kyoto Protocol which was the first international treaty to set legally binding emissions reduction targets for developed countries. The Paris Agreement is embraced by 195 nations in 2015, it sets an ambitious target of limiting global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius, ideally 1.5 degrees Celsius, above pre-industrial levels. Moreover, it mandates countries to submit their Nationally Determined Contributions, known as NDCs, outlining their emission reduction commitments.

While the Paris Agreement represents a momentous achievement, it alone falls short. We must push boundaries and expedite emission cuts, as well as address the crucial issue of climate finance to empower developing nations in adapting to climate change impacts.

Multilateralism, though plagued with challenges, triumphs in its benefits. It fosters the exchange of information and best practices, paving the way for more effective climate policies. It provides a platform for negotiation and consensus-building, ensuring a shared vision among nations. It cultivates trust and cooperation, indispensable in surmounting the daunting hurdles that climate change presents—a feat demanding global collaboration.

Of course, multilateralism is not without obstacles. Divergent interests and priorities among countries pose a hurdle, as not all nations bear equal burdens or share identical motivations in tackling climate change. The absence of robust enforcement mechanisms allows countries to renege on their commitments at will. The specter of free-riding looms, as some nations may exploit the efforts of others without contributing their fair share, impeding global emissions reductions.

Nonetheless, multilateralism stands as the primary approach to addressing climate change. Through collective endeavor, we transcend these challenges, forging a sustainable future for all.

Enter the Upcoming COP28

COP28 or the 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, is a major international climate summit that will be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from November 30 to December 12, 2023. The summit will provide an opportunity for countries to come together



and review progress on the Paris Agreement, as well as to negotiate new commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The upcoming COP28 is particularly important because it will be the first major climate summit since the release of the IPCC’s Sixth Assessment Report, which warned that the window of opportunity to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius is rapidly closing. The summit will also be a chance for countries to discuss the issue of climate finance, which is essential for helping developing countries adapt to the impacts of climate change. The upcoming COP28 is a major multilateral forum that can be used to build consensus on climate action and to mobilize global ambition. The summit can also be used to address the challenges of multilateralism, such as free-riding and the absence of robust enforcement mechanisms.

Furthermore, climate change poses significant implications for national security, and these concerns are expected to take center stage at the upcoming COP 28. As

global temperatures continue to rise, we are witnessing extreme weather events, resource scarcity and increased migration patterns, all of which have direct implications on national security. Rising sea levels threaten coastal regions, displacing populations and leading to conflict over limited resources. Drought, desertification and water scarcity can deepen socioeconomic inequalities and can fuel tensions within and between nations.

Additionally, climate change acts as a threat multiplier, amplifying other security risks as terrorism, political instability and conflicts. At COP 28, it is imperative for nations to collaborate, share knowledge, and formulate strategies that prioritize climate action as a fundamental component of national security.

By addressing the root causes of climate change and adopting adaptation and mitigation measures to build a resilient society and safeguard collective security.

In conclusion, the upcoming COP28 is a critical opportunity for countries to come together and take decisive action on climate change. The summit can

be used to build momentum for climate action, to address the challenges of multilateralism, and to mobilize global ambition. The summit has the potential to significantly enhance the effectiveness of multilateralism in addressing climate change. Firstly, it can be used to build consensus on a new set of ambitious targets for emission reductions. Secondly, it can be used to negotiate new commitments on climate finance. Thirdly, it can be used to address the issue of free-riding and to strengthen enforcement mechanisms. Finally, it can be used to build trust and cooperation among countries. By taking these steps, the upcoming COP28 can help to ensure that multilateralism remains the paramount approach to addressing climate change.

Rajouria is a former Member Secretary of NTNC. He also worked for UNDP, UN-Habitat, UNEP and USAID. He completed MPA from Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, and Climate Change & Public Policy Issues. Chairman, Climate & Co-Existence, and is also on the Board of like minded organizations.

KUL MAN GHISING'S MISSION

Transmission Line Completion

Amidst numerous ongoing construction projects across different regions in the country, such as the Kali Gandaki basin and Sunkoshi and Bhoté Koshi basins, the Managing Director of Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA), Kul Man Ghising, faces mounting pressure to ensure the timely completion of substations and transmission lines. These projects play a crucial role in strengthening the nation's power infrastructure and meeting the increasing demand for electricity.

By A CORRESPONDENT

As British Prime Minister and statesman Winston Churchill once wisely said, “You will never reach your destination if you stop and throw stones at every dog that barks.”

Amidst criticism and competition, MD Ghising has chosen to focus on accelerating the pace of construction and completing projects on time. Consequently, he spends most of his time inspecting construction sites.

The construction of several hydropower projects is currently at the final stage of generation, necessitating transmission lines and substations. However, the construction of these transmission lines and substations is not progressing as quickly as required, leading to MD Ghising's increased involvement at the project sites.

Since MD Ghising needs to handle administrative and management tasks during office hours, he has opted to visit the construction sites on weekends and official holidays.

One project, the 102 MW Middle Bhotekhoshi Hydropower project, is nearing completion during the Bahrabishe reign, placing pres-

sure on the authorities to finish building the necessary substation for its connection.

The construction of Madhya Bhoté Koshi is likely to be completed within the next two months. To connect the electricity from Madhyabho-

ers.

Unfortunately, due to the poor performance of the joint venture between the Chinese firms Guangxi Transmission and Substation Construction and Shenzhen Claw Electronics, which won the contract for



tekoshi power plant to the Bahrabise substation, a 220 kV transmission line is being drawn from the power plant to the Bahrabise substation after constructing the transmission line's tow-

the construction of the Bahrabise substation, the substation's construction has faced delays.

The NEA has issued a warning that the builders will be held re-

sponsible for compensating if the substation's construction is not completed in time to connect Madhya Bhotekoshi's electricity.

On Saturday, July 29, Deputy Managing Directors of the Project Management Directorate, Tara Prasad Pradhan and Dalgayu Kumar Shrestha, along with Managing Director Kulman Ghising, visited the substation building site. During the visit, the team consulted with project management and construction experts about the challenges faced, equipment supply status, projected completion date, and other related matters.

to Managing Director Ghising, the construction company's performance has shown some improvement since last February. To expedite the process, he announced his intention to visit the substation site weekly for updates and to add more personnel.

All the necessary equipment for the substation, including power transformers, has already arrived at the construction site. There is no reason to delay the construction, and the company is fully prepared to provide any assistance needed. The construction must be completed within three months, as any delay could lead to



the wastage of electricity in Madhya Bhotekoshi. Managing Director Ghising urged everyone to take action, saying, "Let's do it."

The corporation has already procured equipment like power transformers for the substation, and the construction of the control center building is ongoing, where the transformers will be placed. Specifically, power transformers of 160 MVA at 220-132 kV and 5 MVA at 132-11 kV will be installed at the substation.

Additionally, a second 400 kV substation is also under construction in Bahrabise.

Currently, the NEA has made temporary arrangements to manage Madhya Bhotekoshi's electrical flow, but the development of the Baharabishe substations is necessary for a more permanent solution. The 22 MW Upper Knife A hydroelectric project's promoter, Shivashree Hydropower, plans to quadruple the 132 kV single circuit transmission lines it has constructed.

Shivshri Hydropower is supposed to construct a line from the Lamosanghu substation to Bahrabise, although construction has not commenced yet.

To transmit the power generated by the Tamakoshi and Sun-koshi river hydroelectric projects and their tributaries to the national transmission system, work has begun on the Tamakoshi-Kathmandu transmission line and substation. The Asian Development Bank is providing concessional loans for the construction of these transmission lines and substations.

Presently, a 44 km transmission line from the New Khimti substation in Ramechhap to Bahrabise is being constructed as part of





Photo : NEA

the Tamakoshi-Kathmandu 220-400 kV transmission line project.

Other similar projects include the 14 km 132 kV transmission line from Lapsipedi to Changanarayan in Bhaktapur and the 46 km 400 kV double circuit line from Bahrbise to Lapsipedi in Kathmandu. Unfortunately, the construction of Lapsipedi's 400/220 and 132/11 kV substations has been hindered by local disruptions.

With a commitment to providing reliable and uninterrupted power supply to the people of Nepal, Kul Man Ghising has taken on the mission to expedite the construction process. Under his leadership, the NEA is working tirelessly to overcome challenges and streamline the execution of these vital energy projects.

By optimizing resources, collaborating with various stakeholders, and implementing efficient project management strategies, the NEA aims to bring these under-construction substations and transmission lines online promptly. The successful

completion of these projects will not only enhance the country's power distribution capabilities but also contribute to the overall economic growth and well-being of its citizens.

Kul Man Ghising's dedication and visionary approach have garnered support from both the public and private sectors, and he remains resolute in his pursuit of a sustainable and robust energy infrastructure for Nepal. Through strategic planning and a focus on quality and safety, the NEA strives to achieve its mission and elevate the nation's power sector to new heights.

Inspection of 220 kV Kaligandki Corridor Transmission Line

The Managing Director of Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA), Mr. Ghising, urgently directed the contractor to complete the construction of the 220 kV Kaligandki Corridor transmission line. He emphasized the need to adhere to the new schedule for the project's completion and personally visited the site on 22 July.

The project faced delays

due to issues with tree-felling permissions, regional barriers, and the unsatisfactory performance of the Indian construction company L&T.

Taking charge after a comprehensive evaluation of the construction site, Mr. Ghising oversaw the project and conducted meetings with project management and construction experts to identify and address the problems effectively.

Given the crucial importance of the Kaligandki Corridor transmission line in supplying electricity from hydropower projects, it has been decided that the construction must be completed without fail by July.

Upon completion, this transmission line will significantly improve the distribution of electricity to hydropower projects in Myagdi, Parbat, Kaski, and Lamjung districts.

The Kaligandki Corridor transmission line project spans 127 km and consists of two sections. The first section, covering 39 km from Dana substation in Myagdi to Khurkot in Parbat, has already been completed and is operational. It in-

cludes 220/132 kV substations in Khurkot and 220/132/33 kV substations in Dana.

The second section, spanning 88 km from Kushma to New Butwal substation, is in its final stages. Out of the planned 235 towers for this section, 234 have been completed, with the construction of the last tower underway in the Devdah area of Rupandehi. Additionally, 7 kilometers of wire installation is pending in Parbat, Palpa, and Rupandehi.

From Sunwal municipality-13 Badera of Nawalparasi to New Butwal substation, towers for a 220 kV four-circuit (multi-circuit) line have been completed, and approximately 8 km of double circuit wire has been installed.

New Butwal-Bardghat transmission line

Furthermore, there is a separate 220 kV transmission line under construction from the New Butwal substation in Sunwal Municipality-13 Bhumhi, Nawalparasi (Bardghat Susta West) to Bardghat. The goal is to complete this line by December.

Previously, the project encountered delays due to decision-making processes regarding forest area land use and tree felling approval. Fortunately, the project now has the necessary permission for tree felling.

To complete the transmission line, 56 towers need to be constructed for the 21 km stretch. So far, 21 foundations have been laid, and 5 towers have been erected. Most of the transmission line equipment has been

supplied to the project site.

Managing Director Ghising has instructed the project management and construction professionals to increase manpower and accelerate construction to complete the project within the next month, as the issues related to land use and tree felling in the forest area have been resolved. Additionally, he has directed the commencement of pulling the double circuit wire, which will be laid from the 220 kV four-circuit (multi-circuit) lines from Sunwal Municipality-13 Badera to the New Butwal Substation in Nawalparasi. The construction of



the 220-132 KV New Butwal substation in Bhumhi has already been completed.

Ring of Transmission Lines

Electricity for the industries in the Parasi region is being provided through a ring of transmission lines connecting five substations.

In order to provide industries and local inhabitants with an adequate, dependable, and high-quality electrical supply, a ring of transmission lines connecting 5 substations is now under construction and will soon

be operational in the Parasi neighborhood of Nawalparasi (Bardghat Susta West).

To supply power to the Butwal, Sunwal, Gandak, and Hakui 132 kV and New Butwal 220 kV substation pairs in the Parasi area, which has ample room for industrial growth, a ring of transmission lines will be built.

To meet the growing demand for electricity in the Bhairahwa Industrial Corridor of Parasi and Rupandehi, the Nepal Electricity Authority has advanced the construction of a Sunwal-Hakui 132 kV double-circuit transmission line. This will increase the transmission capacity, reduce technical leakage, and provide reliable and high-quality electricity.

Transmission lines for 33 kV double circuits Gandak-Parasi and 33 KV single circuits Butwal-Jamire (Sunwal) are both in use. The first of the 33 kV double circuit's three extra feeders, which will deliver local electricity from the Sunwal substation, is now operational. The double circuit line was officially opened by Kulman Ghising, the Authority's executive director.

Despite criticism and opposition, MD Ghising is determined to complete the transmission line projects and distribution systems so that NEA can supply uninterrupted and quality electricity. As he completes his second year of the second tenure, MD Ghising is running with his own agenda to complete the projects. Until then, there will be no holidays and no rest.

Revisiting The Flagship Adaptation Program



BY: BATU UPRETY

Designed in 2011 as an adaptation flagship program to implement the most urgent and immediate adaptation needs as prioritized in the National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA, 2010), Nepal Climate Change Support Program (NCCSP) - a government-led program - has maintained its 'flagship identity' at its second phase as well. NCCSP2 is implemented in 42 municipalities of three provinces (Lumbini, Karnali and Sudur Paschim Provinces) by preparing and implementing the Local Adaptation Plan for Actions (LAPAs). The Program contributes to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change and build resilience of the climate vulnerable communities of the target municipalities. Further recognizing the climate vulnerabilities, climate change adaptation (CCA) actions are being implemented in 34 municipalities in the Karnali Province. MoFE is implementing it with the financial support from the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) and the British Embassy in Nepal and technical assistance of the Mott MacDonald.

NCCSP2 has multi-pronged approaches in supporting the municipalities. As planned, it provides technical and financial supports to implement CCA interventions to help climate vulnerable communities build adaptive capacity and assist in making the infrastructures climate-resilient. It contributes to building capacity to mainstream CCA into planning processes and programs of the municipalities. It empowers local levels to manage public finance such as in preparing budgets, train municipal officials on best practices on public finance management, fiduciary risk management and procurement processes and to ensure transparency and accountability. Most importantly, NCCSP has linked its people-prioritized adaptation actions with income generation and livelihoods improvement.

Using the LAPA framework, NCCSP2 has supported to implement prioritized adaptation interventions in thematic and sub-thematic areas such as

irrigation, drinking water, flood control and other water uses, including CCA actions to stabilize slopes and control landslides, improve roads, increase agriculture productivity, and increase forest productivity. Municipalities are expected to internalize and institutionalize CCA interventions to reduce dependencies on projects.

Several projects have supported to prepare LAPAs; a concept emerged in May 2009 to localize adaptation interventions. This resulted to the issuance of the National Framework on LAPA in 2011 which was re-issued in 2019 taking note of 7 years of experience in raising awareness, and building human resource to prepare, and implement LAPAs, including mainstreaming CCA into national to local planning and programming processes. Importance of LAPAs has been greatly realized in addressing climate change impacts in Nepal.

Five years back, Adaptation for Smallholders in Hilly Areas (ASHA) Project, executed by the then Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation with support from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to improve the livelihood and resilience of smallholders in hilly areas of seven districts of Lumbini and Karnali Provinces, published an enhanced LAPA Manual in January 2018. It aims to make familiar on eLAPA preparation, help stakeholders to provide insights on integration of scientific information for eLAPA preparation, and support to identify and prioritize adaptation options based on climate trends. eLAPA manual considers sub-watershed a LAPA unit, and promotes GIS application, participatory scenario development, harmonizes scientific information with local perceptions and follows the LAPA Framework 2011 in preparing LAPAs. The 2011 LAPA Framework opens avenues to use science to formulate LAPAs and encourages LAPA formulating and implementing entities to select the unit (of LAPA) which may be municipality, ward, settlement, micro-watershed, and sub-watershed, political or administrative boundaries



as appropriate. Tendency of adding or removing few elements and branding for project is a common practice in Nepal. Weak regulatory effort has made possible to brand as project outcomes which looks simply the ‘same wine in the new bottle’.

In LAPA programs, the government has shown remarkable ‘leadership’ in administering the demand-based adaptation activities at the local level. Government ‘ownership’ on the flagship adaptation program and on its outputs and outcomes has developed ‘confidence’ that adaptation interventions work well with people’s participation and help to address the threats of climate change. Furthermore, strong ‘dedication and commitment’ of the Program Director and the Manager, including the NCCSP2 officials in supporting the climate vulnerable communities to identify, prioritize and implement adaptation prescriptions in climate vulnerable areas informs climate communities to scale-up and scale-out good practices and negotiate with partners for additional and predictable resources for CCA interventions country-wide. Nepal should promote sharing of decade-long knowledge and learning on adaptation planning and implementation at the grass-root level through the ‘flagship’ programs, including NAPA and National Adaptation Plan (NAP) formulation processes to timely inform the international communities to consider additional actions and provide financial resources & technologies to protect climate vulnerable mountain communities, their livelihoods, and natural resources from climate-induced disasters.

Adaptation needs are well recognized in Second Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC2). It targets to prepare and implement climate-resilient and

gender-responsive adaptation plans (LAPAs) in all 753 local governments by 2030.

As per the national needs, and international commitments on targets, local governments should prepare and implement gender-responsive LAPAs. To facilitate it, the government has issued GESI Strategy and Action Plan (SAP) on Climate Change (2020-2030) in December 2020. The GESI SAP has objectives, inter alia, of: (i) mainstreaming GESI and gender empowerment into climate change related policies and plans at three-tiers of government; and (ii) institutionalizing GESI at local level CCA planning and implementation processes. In a nutshell, government commitments of preparing and implementing gender-responsive LAPAs should be institutionalized at all levels to the earliest possible.

As per the call and guidance of the Climate Change Management Division (CCMD) of the Ministry of Forests and Environment, the Global Water Partnership (GWP)/Jalsrot Vikas Sanstha (JVS) under the NDC Partnership Support Program has supported the preparation of the gender-responsive LAPAs in Kali Gandaki and Chhatrakot Rural Municipalities, Gulmi. These two municipality-level LAPAs are expected to provide guidance for future LAPAs in the spirit of the NDC2. Organization(s) supporting the preparation and implementation of LAPAs are encouraged to focus on gender-responsive LAPAs as a move to meet the national needs and international commitments in localizing

CCA and implement ‘gender-responsive flagship adaptation’ program to be the leading country in this undertaking as well.

Relief To Share Market

Avoiding unnecessary pressure from business group, Nepal Rastra Bank governor Maha Prasad Adhikari finally has unveiled a New Monetary Policy. Although it provides certain relief to share market and real states, the policy has not compromised on financial stability and discipline

By KESHAB POUDEL

Nepal Rastra Bank has recently unveiled the monetary policy for the financial year 2080/81, aimed at fostering economic growth and stability in the country. The policy measures have been carefully crafted to align with the government's financial policy and address various sectors of the economy.

Interest Rate and Inflation Control:

The policy rate has been reduced by 50 basis points to 6.5 percent, aiming to encourage borrowing and investment in the economy. Furthermore, efforts will be made to manage monetary expansion in a way that keeps inflation within 6.5 percent, thereby preventing undue price pressures.

Strengthening the Financial Sector:

To bolster the financial sector's resilience and efficiency, the Nepal Rastra Bank will review existing lending arrangements and develop guidelines for the internal credit risk classification of banks and financial institutions. Additionally, a separate regulatory body will be formed to oversee savings and credit cooperatives, ensuring effective oversight and promoting financial stability.

Encouraging Home Ownership and International Travel:

To support the real estate market, the first residential home loan limit has been increased from Rs 1.5 crore to Rs 2 crore, making it easier for citizens to invest in their own homes. For Nepalis traveling abroad, a facility of up to 2,500 dollars will be provided when traveling to countries other than India, upon showing their passports.

Foreign Currency Loans and Electronic Payments:

Loans taken in foreign currency can no longer be paid in Nepali currency, removing the previous provision. This step is aimed at enhancing currency stability and minimizing foreign exchange risks. The monetary policy also emphasizes the adoption of electronic payment systems to facilitate smooth and secure revenue transactions.

Supporting Borrowers Affected by Natural Disasters:

In response to the challenges posed by natural disasters, Nepal Rastra Bank will implement special arrangements to rehabilitate borrowers facing difficulties. Loan restructuring and other measures will be employed to help impacted borrowers recover and reestablish their businesses.

Promoting Domestic Production:

The monetary policy prioritizes increasing domestic production capacity by channeling financial resources into productive sectors. Regulatory policies will be tailored to facilitate effective monitoring and supervision of large loans, reduce over-centralization of credit, and give priority to small and medium productive loans, thus promoting financial stability and accessibility.

Conclusion:

The 2080/81 monetary policy has been thoughtfully crafted to boost economic growth, maintain price stability, and ensure the stability of the external sector in Nepal. By taking proactive measures and implementing targeted policies, Nepal Rastra Bank aims to support various sectors of the economy, benefitting businesses, consumers, and employees alike. The monetary policy will play a crucial role in strengthening the payment system and fostering overall financial stability in the country.

Bank Rate Unchanged, Focus on Economic Growth and Stability

The Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) has recently unveiled the monetary policy for the fiscal year 2023/24, aiming to maintain economic growth and stability. While the policy rate has been reduced by 50 basis points to 6.5 percent, the bank rate remains unchanged at 7.5 percent. Additionally, the deposit collection action rate has been reduced from 5.5 percent to 4.5 percent.

The NRB will maintain a standing liquidity facility at the bank rate and an overnight liquidity facility at the policy rate. Moreover, the interest rate corridor will be made effective by providing fixed deposit collection facilities at the lower limit of the corridor.

To achieve sustainable high economic growth while maintaining price and external sector stability, the monetary policy prioritizes mobilizing financial resources in sectors that contribute to capital creation and production capacity. The goal is to keep inflation within 6.5 percent, ensuring that monetary expansion does not exert undue pressure on prices.

The NRB aims to increase broad money supply by 12.5 percent and credit to the private sector by 11.5 percent in the fiscal year 2023/24. By channeling financial resources to the productive sector, the NRB seeks to achieve the government's target of 6 percent economic growth.

To maintain financial sector stability, the Banking Offense and Punishment Act 2064 will be amended to address non-commercial and disorderly activities that may affect the sector's stability. Additionally, measures to prevent money laundering will be implemented based on mutual evaluation suggestions, and the use of modern equipment and technology will be encouraged to pro-



mote electronic payments.

The NRB will provide special arrangements for borrowers facing difficulties due to natural disasters or other exceptional circumstances. Guidelines for asset quality review and internal credit risk classification will be formulated and implemented to enhance the financial sector's resilience.

The monetary policy sets seven targets, including maintaining foreign exchange reserves sufficient to cover imports for at least seven months, keeping interbank interest rates within the interest corridor, and limiting inflation to 6.5 percent.

By adopting these measures, the NRB aims to foster economic growth and stability, ensuring a favorable environment for businesses and consumers alike.

The NRB reduced the policy rate keeping the bank rate unchanged at 7.5 per cent.

While unveiling the monetary policy for the fiscal year 2023/24, the NRB has announced that the policy rate has been reduced by 50 basis points to 6.5 per cent in view of the internal and external economic scenario.

Similarly, while keeping the bank rate unchanged at 7.5 per cent, the deposit collection action rate has been reduced from 5.5 per cent to 4.5 per cent, according to the NRB.

If the weighted average inter-bank interest rate taken by the NRB as an operational target is higher than the bank rate and lower than the deposit collection rate, the secondary market transaction and deposit collection will be opened.

According to the NRB, the provision of a standing liquidity facility at the bank rate and overnight liquidity facility at the policy rate has been maintained.

In order to make the interest rate corridor effective, arrangements will be made to provide fixed deposit collection facilities at the lower limit of the interest rate corridor, according to the NRB.

The mandatory cash reserve ratio and statutory liquidity ratio have been kept unchanged.

Focus on productive sector loan

It seems that the growth rate of the potential production capacity of Nepal is around 4.5 per cent.

According to a study conducted by NRB, if the inflation in Nepal remains above 6.5 per cent, it is supposed that it will adversely affect economic growth.

Therefore, to achieve high economic growth sustainably while maintaining price and external sector stability, the policy of increasing production capacity by mobilising financial resources

in the areas where capital is created has been prioritised, said Adhikari.

The NRB has stated that the weighted average interest rate of inter-bank transactions of banks and financial institutions has been kept unchanged as the operating target.

The monetary policy has proposed that the policy rate will be determined based on the ability of the foreign exchange reserves to support imports and the annual target inflation.

The goal of monetary policy is to maintain foreign exchange reserves to cover goods and services imports at least for seven months, said the NRB.

In order to keep the inflation within 6.5 per cent, monetary management will be done in such a way that monetary expansion does not put pressure on the prices.

As targeted by the budget statement of the government for the fiscal year 2023/24, the priority is to channel the financial resources towards the productive sector in order to help achieve an economic growth of 6 per cent.

Broad money supply to rise by 12%

In the fiscal year 2023/24, growth rate of broad money supply is projected to be 12.5 per cent and the credit from banks and financial institutions to the private sector is expected to be 11.5 per cent.

ECONOMY

Broad money supply was projected to expand by 12 per cent and credit to the private sector by 12.6 per cent in the last fiscal year. Due to the interest rate hikes, the private sector credit could not expand as per the target.

In the last 20 years, credit has expanded by an average of 19.4 per cent from the banking sector.

In addition to the increase in the average ratio between the loans flowing to the private sector and the gross domestic product, the number of large loans has also increased. However, the real sector has not been able to expand in accordance with the expansion of credit.

When the real sector expands, not financial sector alone, there is a risk that the quality of financial assets will weaken and not only affect financial stability, but it will ultimately have an adverse effect on the real sector and government finances in the long term, said governor Adhikari.

Banking offense act to be amended

It is said that the amendment process will be carried forward in the existing Banking Offense and Punishment Act 2064 to help control non-commercial and disorderly activities that affect the stability of the financial sector.

The central bank is about to amend the Banking Offense and Punishment Act to discourage various individuals and communities from continuing chaotic activities in the banking sector, blackmailing bank employees.

According to the NRB, the instructions related to the prevention of money laundering will be issued based on the suggestions received from the mutual evaluation. In addition, it will be facilitated to revise the relevant laws and formulate a national strategy.

According to the central bank, the limit of first residential house loans will be increased from Rs. 15 million to Rs. 20 million.

There is a mention in the monetary policy that the guidelines related to working capital loans will be reviewed based on the suggestions of banks and financial institutions.

The system of giving at least 1 per cent additional interest if remittances are sent by opening remittance accounts in banks and financial institutions has

been continued.

It is mentioned in the monetary policy that mergers and acquisitions of microfinance financial institutions will be encouraged so that existing facilities will be available if integrated transactions are conducted by the end of mid-July 2024. In addition, NRB has emphasised the use of the latest equipment and technology in association with international gateways to promote electronic payments.

The existing risk burden provisions of share mortgage loans, real estate loans and hire purchase loans will be reviewed.

Making special arrangements for distressed borrowers

The NRB is going to make special arrangements for the revival of troubled borrowers.

Governor Adhikari said that the Stressed Loan Resolution Framework would be issued to include the measures and procedures to be adopted by banks and financial institutions for the recovery and other management of borrowers who are in trouble due to natural disasters or other special circumstances.

According to the NRB, the guidelines regarding asset quality review of commercial banks and the internal credit risk classification of banks and financial institutions will be formulated and implemented.

The existing system of providing up to USD 1,500 twice a year as a passport facility to Nepali citizens visiting countries other than India will be amended.

The arrangements will be made to provide up to USD 2,500, said the NRB.

Sets seven targets

The Monetary Policy for the current fiscal year 2023-34 unveiled by

the Nepal Rastra Bank today has set seven various targets.

The structure and targets of the new Monetary Policy seek to maintain the foreign exchange reserve at a level sufficient to cover the anticipated imports of goods and services at least for seven months.

The Monetary Policy has determined its policy rates to be based on the capacity of the foreign exchange reserves to cover imports and the target annual inflation rate. Additionally, the exchange rate of the Nepalese currency against the Indian currency has been maintained as it is.

It targets to keep interbank interest rates within the interest corridor by operating and promoting open market operations based on the position of the operating target.



Similarly, it has set a target of limiting inflation at 6.5 per cent by preventing pressure on prices by the monetary expansion.

The Central Bank has accorded priority to shift the fiscal resources to the productive sector in line with the target of achieving six per cent economic growth set by the budget for the current fiscal year.

The broad money supply is expected to increase by 12.5 per cent and credit to the private sector from banks and financial institutions is likely to go up by 11.5 per cent in the current fiscal year.

CHANDRA PRASAD DHAKAL

A Maiden Century

Chandra Prasad Dhakal, the President of the Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI), embarked on his tenure with a five-point agenda and his three point principle. Over the course of his first one hundred days in office, Dhakal successfully accomplished numerous significant initiatives on both national and international levels. Amidst Nepal's current economic crisis and the challenges faced by the industrial sector and business communities, Dhakal's leadership has been pivotal in driving positive change during his term as FNCCI's president. With his clear vision and mission, Dhakal successfully hits numbers issues keeping the pace for another four years.

By KESHAB POUDEL

As the British Prime Minister and statesman, Winston Churchill famously stated, "It is not enough that we do our best; sometimes we must do what is required." This quote emphasizes the importance of going beyond our best efforts and doing what is necessary to achieve success.

Similar to Churchill's approach, FNCCI President Dhakal follows three principles to complete

tasks as per the requirements of the government and people, ensuring professionalism and sustainability.

President Dhakal has exemplified this principle by taking decisive actions according to the demands of the situation, earning him the position of a respected leader.

Just as Churchill led the United Kingdom during World War II with global unity, Dhakal is leading FNCCI amid major economic

crises following the Russian war in Ukraine and the COVID-19 pandemic. With his soft and reconciliatory approach, he is leading a unified team.

Thanks to President Dhakal's efforts, the Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI), Confederation of Nepalese Industry (CNI), and Nepal Chamber of Commerce (NCC) - Nepal's three main business and in-



dustrial organizations - have issued a joint statement, taking a common stand against the recently published Monetary Policy.

Furthermore, FNCCI also successfully organized a joint business summit in New Delhi during the official visit of Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda. The summit, jointly organized by FNCCI and the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), was attended by Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda, ministers from Nepal and India, as well as businessmen from both countries. Credit for making this landmark event a success goes to President Dhakal.

During his first 100 days as president, Dhakal achieved remarkable success in addressing numerous challenges faced by Nepal's business communities, akin to scoring a maiden century in cricket. As he assumed the position of FNCCI president, Dhakal adeptly handled the prevailing crisis in the Nepalese econo-

my and the various troubles plaguing the business communities, drawing from his experience as the senior vice president alongside the outgoing president, Shekhar Golcha.

With a thorough understanding of the overall situation, Dhakal commenced his tenure by setting five primary targets aimed at resolving the issues encountered by the private sector in the country.

President Dhakal holds the view that FNCCI will remain strong through a robust network and unity among its members. He called for

professional cooperation and unity, stating, "At times, lone efforts don't yield success. Our unity could be further robust if FNCCI joins hands together with the members."

Soft-spoken and self-disciplined, President Dhakal used his two major powers to win over his rivals. His actions during the first hundred days were highly impactful and marked by significant achievements, including the amendment of the CIAA Act. After taking oath, he started a campaign to amend the provision included in the Commission of Abuse of Authority Act to bring the private sector under CIAA jurisdiction.

The amendment proposal was registered by lawmakers following his business delegation's meetings with the speaker, prime minister, main opposition leader, and others.

With support from all political parties and his business communities, Dhakal successfully removed the clause when it was tabled in the Lower House. During these meetings, he argued that the private sector should not be under the jurisdiction of CIAA, as there are several regulatory bodies overseeing the



sector already, making the provision unnecessary and hindering private sector investment.

Issues and Concerns

Following this, Nepal Central Bank announced the Monetary Policy. In response, Dhakal proposed several amendments and new provisions aimed at facilitating the business and industrial sectors to revive the economy.

“Regrettably, the monetary policy accepted only a few of our suggestions. Nevertheless, we took initiative alongside CNI, Nepal Chamber of Commerce, and Federation of Nepalese Chamber, Commerce and Industry to develop a common stand, which we then submitted to the NRB governor. Although some of our common suggestions were accepted by the Central Bank, some were discarded. Particularly, the recommendation for a flexible monetary policy was not accepted, and as a result, the monetary policy remains rigid despite our efforts to influence it.”

“Notably, the government accepted our recommendations to suspend certain processes related to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), land acquisition issues, and land ceiling issues to

promote the development of tourism infrastructures. However, the budget also introduced unexpected provisions, including taxes for mergers, among others. We shared our views

organized a large business conclave in New Delhi, partnering with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). The summit was graced by the presence of India’s Minister of Industry,

Pius Goel, and Prime Minister Dahal. As part of the coordination efforts, a substantial industrial delegation from Nepal visited India during Prime Minister Dahal’s trip. The business summit in New Delhi, jointly organized with CII, witnessed the enthusiastic participation of numerous Indian industrialists, making it a



on the budget,” said Dhakal.

Visit to India and Business Summit

During my 100-day tenure, one of the most significant events

historic event during the prime minister’s visit.

With the active involvement of our counterpart, CII, which is one of the largest industrialist groups in India, all major business houses were invited to the summit. The success of this event demonstrated the ample opportunities for business collaboration between Nepal and India. During the summit, I played a leading role in fostering fruitful interactions and discussions.

One of the key achievements during the visit was the agreement between Nepal and India to export 10,000

MW of electricity from Nepal. Additionally, we also secured an agreement that allowed Nepal to export



was my visit to India accompanied by Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda. Together, we or-



electricity to Bangladesh via Indian territory. These agreements marked significant strides in strengthening regional cooperation and energy trade.

Furthermore, I highlighted the attractive incentives provided to Indian invested industries, financial institutions, and service providers in Nepal. Prominent companies such as Dabur India, Surya Nepal, Hindustan Labor, and banks have been offering high dividends, and Indian joint ventures have emerged as top taxpayers in Nepal. These examples underscored the ample opportunities for investment and growth in Nepal.

Personal Lifestyle

His chorus begins with a morning walk inside his home compound. Dhakal has a profound attachment to his family. He starts his day by leaving with his mother and returns home early, except during official functions.

“I have developed a consistent routine that starts at 5 in the morning. Each day begins with a refreshing morning walk within the comfort of my own compound. It has become an integral part of my lifestyle, one that I cherish and maintain

regularly.”

Spending quality time with my family is crucial to me, so, aside from outdoor activities, I prefer staying at home with my mother and loved ones. After my morning walk, I gather with my family to enjoy a cup of tea and share some pleasant moments together.

Weekends and official holidays are precious to me, and I usually opt to spend them at home. My mornings remain consistent, starting at 5 with a refreshing walk, followed by tea and a glance at the newspaper. By 7:30, I am usually ready to start my day, and I try to maintain a healthy habit of sleeping early, often retiring before 9.

My daughter, son-in-law, and son are all in Kathmandu, and I am grateful for the support I receive from my brother Hem Raj Dahal, who looks after operational matters. This invaluable assistance allows me to dedicate my time freely to FNCCI (Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry).

IME Group

Despite being the president of FNCCI, he begins his day by arriving at IME’s Corporate Office

around 8:30 AM. Once he finishes his business tasks there, he shifts his focus to his presidential responsibilities.

Chandra Dhakal is a prominent figure within the IME group, while his brother Hem Raj Dhakal oversees internal affairs. “Alongside my brother, we form a highly effective team within the IME group, and each member is dedicated and professional in their respective roles. As the president, I hold additional responsibilities and make crucial decisions during pivotal moments,” said Dhakal.

With his brother supporting him in the operational affairs of IME Group’s business, President Dhakal normally has adequate time to spare in FNCCI.

Each of our companies has its own CEO and board members, alleviating much of my burden. With extensive experience leading the IME group, Dhakal understands how to optimize organizational efficiency. Moreover, having served as vice president and senior vice president of FNCCI, he gained valuable insights into organizational behavior.

“IME has become synony-

mous with money transfer, reflecting its strong brand presence. In recent years, numerous new banks and financial institutions have emerged, and Nepal Rastra Bank has encouraged mergers and capital increase. Under Dhakal's leadership, IME successfully merged with five commercial banks, ten development banks, and six finance companies, and later, Global IME Bank merged with a total of 21 banks and financial institutions. This aligns with the government's vision for a more beneficial, sustainable, and professional financial landscape," Dhakal remarked.

FNCCI's Team

Possessing a key personality trait that fosters teamwork, President Dhakal has consistently relied on his entire team at FNCCI.

"I am fortunate to lead a highly harmonized and strong team. My colleagues are individuals who understand each other well, and they have been wholeheartedly cooperating with me as we work together to address common issues. As the president, I hold a higher level of responsibility, but I am confident in the capabilities of our diverse team representing various sectors."

Within the organization, we have vice presidents assigned to



specific sectors. Additionally, there is a senior vice president who steps in when the president cannot attend certain programs. Ultimately, it is the president's responsibility to oversee matters and make crucial decisions.

Five Point Agenda

After taking the oath, I have laid out a comprehensive five-point agenda for my tenure as follows:

Addressing the Economic Crisis: My foremost priority is to overcome the prevailing economic crisis and restore business growth and stability in our nation.

Creating a conducive environment for both foreign and domestic

investment is my second agenda. Despite ample opportunities, Nepal has struggled to attract the necessary investments, and I aim to rectify this situation.

Strengthening Public-Private Collaboration: Harmonizing and strengthening the collaboration between the public and private sectors is my third agenda. By fostering a mutually beneficial partnership, we can achieve greater progress and development.

Human Resource Development: In light of the rising unemployment rate, I recognize the urgent need to bridge the gap in skilled manpower. To address this, I am diligently working with various organizations to provide the necessary training to produce a skilled workforce that meets the country's requirements. This will not only reduce unemployment but also enable us to send qualified manpower abroad, thereby doubling annual remittance inflows.

Enhancing the Prestige of the Private Sector: Despite the private sector's significant contributions, it has faced undeserved criticism. My fifth agenda is to enhance the reputation of the private sector by highlighting its crucial role in providing 85 percent of employment opportunities. Efforts to change the



COVERSTORY

outdated perception of the private sector are already underway.

Furthermore, I am committed to collaborating closely with bilateral, multilateral agencies, and the government to expand infrastructure and development activities. Ensuring state protocol and addressing the concerns of all stakeholders will also be a priority during my tenure.

“ I am dedicated to achieving these five goals during my tenure, working diligently with government bodies and various agencies. My focus will be on increasing employment opportunities, revenue generation, and infrastructure development,” said Dhakal, expressing his determination to make a positive impact on the nation.

Three Priorities

As an individual, I prioritize three key aspects whenever I begin any work. Firstly, the work should benefit the common people. Secondly, it should align with the government’s objectives and be conducted in a professional and sustainable manner. These three principles form the core of my approach.

In the past, remittances used to flow through informal channels, causing difficulties for the common people as money was sometimes stolen. The central bank’s wish to formalize remittances was not being fulfilled. To address this issue, I initiated the IME money transfer mechanism to ensure public benefits,

government compliance, and sustainability.

Nepal holds enormous potential for tourism due to its beautiful

scenery and diverse climate, attracting both domestic and foreign tourists. However, the lack of adequate infrastructure hinders its growth.

“We have introduced Chandragiri Cable Cars, equipped with necessary facilities such as a Fun Park for children, temples, resorts, and hiking options. This development has proven successful, prompting us to plan similar infrastructures in all seven provinces. Currently, Chandragiri, Maula Kali, and Gandaki, as well as Butwal cable cars, are operational, and we aim to gradually build more.”

FNCCI boasts around 500,000 members across Nepal. In the hydropower sector, the Dordi and Mistry projects, along with others in Myagadi, are already operational. The IME group is currently involved in constructing two hydropower projects in the Kaligandaki River.

As Bhagavad Gita suggests, “Karma pays.” President Dhakal

continues on his journey, unwavering in his beliefs, and places trust in his work and colleagues.

Success comes when one genuinely believes in and enjoys their work, which is the essence of what he embodies. Dhakal’s first hundred days as president of FNCCI demonstrated his unwavering commitment and trust in his role, making it evident that he is the right person for the job.

He fulfills his duties with utmost dedication and conviction, setting an inspiring example for others.

Through his actions and leadership, President Dhakal has shown the significance of karma, wherein one’s actions determine the outcomes they experience. By embodying the principles of the Bhagavad Gita, he is reaping the rewards of his positive contributions to society and business.

As he continues on his path, guided by the wisdom of the Bhagavad Gita, President Dhakal is poised to lead FNCCI and the nation towards a prosperous and harmonious future. His journey serves as an inspiring testament to the power of belief, dedication, and conviction in achieving one’s goals and making a positive impact on the world.



From Tradition To Green Innovation: Painting A Sustainable Future



BY: AKRITIRANA

The growth of environmentally conscious businesses and change-makers is gradual but constant, with many of them making persistent efforts to bridge the gap between environmental sustainability and economic prosperity. One such innovation has sprung from the centuries-old Nepali practice of covering walls and floors with cow dung. Inspired by this old tradition, green entrepreneurs have turned it into an innovative, eco-friendly, and cost-effective paint made from cow dung.

This eco-paint is non-toxic, odorless, and devoid of heavy metals, in contrast to traditional paints that emit hazardous chemicals and volatile organic compounds into the atmosphere. The primary cause of the paint's antifungal and antibacterial characteristics is the scientifically processed cow dung, which functions as a natural barrier against the growth of hazardous germs on painted surfaces. Additionally, it has been noted that the covering this paint creates helps control temperature, making interiors warmer during the winter months and cooler during the hotter summers.

The innovative concept is inspired by the Government of India's initiative to promote cow dung paint, which is strongly entrenched in Nepali history of using cow dung as a natural coating material. Helvetas' InElam project aims to encourage local-resource-based firms, first enabled Birgunj Metropolitan City entrepreneurs to examine and test this notion in India. After extensive research and development, it was the combined efforts of two private sector actors, Birgunj Nepal Business Consultancy and Husk Power Nepal Private Limited, that effectively localized this technology from India.

They effectively lowered expenses by one-third by building treatment and production machinery in Nepal, reducing the cost from seventeen million Nepali rupees to a mere five lakh Nepali rupees. This localization of technology greatly contributes to the affordability of eco-paint, which boosts its replication potential and has the potential to transform the paint business through micro entrepreneurs. This project collects cow manure from farmers, which not only helps to keep their surroundings clean but also offers them with a new source of revenue. Farmers can now sell their cow manure to firms of this type for up to 8 Nepali rupees per kilogram in the foreseeable future, transforming cow dung into a more lucrative commodity.

Husk Power Nepal, in conjunction with Helvetas Nepal, inaugurated the manufacturing unit for eco-friendly paint on June 25th, 2023. The occasion was presided over by the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of Birgunj Metropolitan Office, who thanked the stakeholders for their achievements in producing this success-

ful and easily transferable technology. He emphasized the initiative's good impact at the grassroots level by not just supporting local green entrepreneurs but also contributing to farmer income. The CAO also promised on behalf of the local government to prioritize the

acquisition of eco-paint, specifically for the construction and refurbishment of temples and cultural heritage sites, which contributes to the preservation of both the environment and cultural identity.

The eco-friendly paint's extensive laboratory test reports have been completed, proving the absence of heavy metals and harmful compounds. After completing this critical step, the next stage entails acquiring government certification. Once authorized, Husk Power Nepal would be able to advertise their product and generate information materials to help other prospective companies. The emulsion eco-paint has also been discounted to 150 Nepali Rupees per liter, which is less than half the price offered by commercial paint businesses. By providing a cost-effective alternative, more individuals and businesses may embrace sustainable options, accelerating the adoption of eco-friendly activities.

Engineer Manoj Kumar Gupta, Managing Director of Husk Power Nepal, remains a staunch supporter of knowledge sharing, even as young entrepreneurs replicate their eco-paint idea. Husk Power Nepal, in addition to their eco-paint program, exhibits a great commitment to environmental protection through

a variety of other green initiatives, one such undertaking being their active involvement in the production of smoke-free stoves. He claims that "sharing knowledge not only expands one's own understanding but also contributes to the improvement of the product itself." Sunil Kumar Sah, Managing Director of Birgunj Nepal Business Consultancy Private Limited, who was instrumental in localizing this technology, expressed similar sentiments.

Dr. Prabin Manandhar, Country Director of Helvetas Nepal said, "Helvetas Nepal is dedicated to empowering private sector actors and fostering a supportive environment for the growth of green jobs and a thriving green economy." In the future, the In-Elam project and Helvetas Nepal will play a critical role in assisting the sector by developing a learning center for young students and aspiring green entrepreneurs. Similarly, it is critical to strengthen the capacity of such private sector actors to advocate for laws and regulations that promote the growth of environmentally friendly enterprises. The purpose of this joint endeavor is to develop a culture of continuous learning, innovation, and advancement, ensuring the eco-paint industry's long-term prosperity.

Rana is associated with Helvetas Nepal



Upper Tamakoshi Faced A Significant Setback This Year Due To Low Water Flow: CEO Mohan Prasad Gautam

With the low snow melting, Nepal's largest 456 MW Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower's generation has been severely affected this year. MOHAN PRASAD GAUTAM, Chief Executive Officer of Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Ltd, with extensive experience in working on hydropower projects, shared his insights on the challenges they are facing in an interview with NEW SPOTLIGHT at his office. Excerpts:

How do you assess the electricity generation pattern from Upper Tamakoshi in the last three years?

If we look at the pattern of electric generation, we faced a significant setback this year due to low water flow. The extreme weather conditions resulted in slow snow melting during April and May, which had a considerable impact on the generation and revenue of the company. In comparison to previous years, the dry season from Chaitra to Jestha (April to June) was notably worse.

Can you explain the generation pattern?

The project initiated testing and commissioning in July and August 2021, providing free electricity to NEA. Starting from September 9, 2021, the company began commercial generation of electricity from all six units. In 2021, the company supplied 43.54 percent (137,359.39 MWh) of contract energy and 58.48 percent (186,981.36 MWh) of electricity to NEA in Shrawan and Bhadra as per the contract. After commencing generation from all six units, the company managed to deliver 100 percent energy until Falgun in 2078.

What has been the pattern of generation since then?

During the initial two years of commercial electricity generation, the company successfully met its targets. However, in the months of Chaitra (2079) and Baisakh, Jestha (2080), the electricity generation experienced a drastic decline compared to the previous periods. In Chaitra 2078, the company supplied 99,545.61 MWh, 102,897.85 MWh in Baisakh, and 213,747.66 MWh in Jestha 2079. However, the electricity generation witnessed a significant drop in Baisakh and Jestha 2080. These two months were the worst for the company, as it couldn't supply 50 percent of the contracted energy, resulting in penalties. The period from Chaitra to Jestha was the most challenging for us.

Considering this year's scenario, what do you anticipate for the future?

The weather pattern remains uncertain for the upcoming session. We are actively gathering real-time data from the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DoHM) and our gauging stations. The slow snow

melting in Chaitra and Baisakh this year was attributed to fluctuations in temperature, making it challenging to predict future conditions.

What is the current state of power generation?

Due to low water flow caused by minimal snow melting, the company has incurred significant financial losses in the last four months. The reduced water flow also affects Nepal's internal power generation. In Falgun (2079), the company generated 55,035,730 kWh, while in Chaitra, it generated 50,225,010 kWh. In Baisakh, Jestha, and Asaadh, the company generated 53,934,220 kWh, 144,332,460 kWh, and 323,123,690 kWh, respectively.

How do you interpret the trend?

Looking at the trend, the company supplied 135 percent of the contracted energy in the last Chaitra, but this year it was only 69.33 percent. According to our hydrological study, this year's water flow was significantly lower at 45.12 percent. As per the contract agreement, the company is now subject to penalties. In Jestha 2079, the company delivered 74.9 percent of the contract energy, but this year, it only delivered 51.43 percent, resulting in a 24 percent penalty.

How do you assess the overall scenario?

The months of Chaitra, Baisakh, and Jestha were severely affected, which will have a drastic impact on the project's annual revenue due to the low hydrological flow in the river. This extreme event is evident across all snow-fed river hydropower projects this year. Further analysis is needed over the next few years to determine if it's a result of climate change. We are requesting real data from the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology to compare with our gauging stations. After Asadh, the percentage has improved due to rain, and the company has supplied over 100 percent of electricity as per the contract agreement.

What is the company's response to the situation?

Although there is a provision in the agreement to revise the rate every five years after generation, this is only our second year. We have discussed the matter with NEA following the analysis of real-time data from



DoHM. They have assured us to consider the penalty. After completing the Rolwaling Hydropower Project, the situation may improve during the dry season. According to our study, the plant's peak hour is likely to increase by two hours after the completion of the Rolwaling diversion.

Is this the primary challenge during your first one hundred days in office?

Yes, this is a major challenge as it will significantly impact the company's annual revenue and income. On average, the company's revenue is around Rs. 1 billion, with an annual revenue of over Rs. 10 billion. This year, the company lost around 15 percent of its revenue due to low water flow. The main concern is meeting the revenue and schedule payback principle and interest.

What is the current interest rate?

The company is currently paying double-digit interest to the Employment Provident Fund, Citizen Investment Fund, and others. We are requesting the concerned lenders to reduce it to single digits because the company is now risk-free and generating revenue. The company is asking the major lenders to reduce the interest to single digits from the current 11 percent.

How can the company attract more investors?

There are two options to make the company attractive: either revise the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) and increase the tariff or involve NEA, with its 41 percent share in the company, to protect its interests. If PPA cannot be revised now, NEA must consider revising

it after the completion of the Rolwaling project, which will add 212 GWh.

What is the company suggesting for PPA revision?

We are suggesting a PPA rate of Rs. 4.80 and Rs. 8.40. Our project is a 4-hour peak load project, and there is a separate rate for peak load, which is Rs. 10 something, but it is not applicable to Upper Tamakoshi. The current PPA considers four months as the dry season and eight months as the lean season. Currently, the company receives Rs. 3.70 in the rainy season and Rs. 7 in the dry season. In other projects, the dry season tariff is fixed at Rs. 8.40 and may increase up to Rs. 10 after escalation.

What is the current status of the Rolwaling project?

The construction work is set to start within a year. The 20.6 MW Rolwaling Project, with 30 percent dry energy, has already signed a contract agreement with a cost of Rs. 6 billion. NEA engineering has already acquired a consultant. The challenge lies in transportation. A mule track has already been constructed from Lamabagar to the dam site. An audit tunnel has also been completed, and work will now begin on a six-kilometer tunnel. The first phase involves the Rolwaling diversion, and the second phase relates to electro-mechanical and powerhouse installation. There are social issues, and demands for roads are being made, but the state does not have a clear policy due to its location in the Gaurishanker Protected Areas.

JDS: Japan's Support To Nepal

Japan demonstrates its strong commitment to Nepal's human resource development by offering scholarships to Nepalese civil servants through the Japan Development Scholarship (JDS) program.



BY: PARMITA SHRESTHA

At a send-off party for Nepal's government officials set to study in Japan under the Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) at his official residence, Japanese Ambassador to Nepal, Kikuta Yutaka, commenced the deliberations by citing the famous quote of American President John F. Kennedy, "Ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country."

In his ten-minute address, Ambassador Kikuta, an experienced and distinguished Japanese diplomat, provided valuable advice and insightful tips to the Nepalese civil servants embarking on their higher education journey in Japan.

Drawing from President Kennedy's words, Ambassador Kikuta encouraged his fellow Nepalese civil servants to reflect on how they could contribute positively to society instead of solely seeking personal gain from every opportunity.

Ambassador Kikuta advises that civil servants pursuing world-class education in Japanese universities should actively contribute to the betterment of their nation through their participation, rather than passively expecting the government to solve everything. As civil servants, they ought to be proactive and involved in giving back to society, rather than solely being on the receiving end.

The JDS (Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship) offers young government officials in Nepal the opportunity to pursue Master's and Doctoral level courses in reputable Japanese universities. This year, a total of 22 government officials, with 20 studying for a master's degree and two for a PhD, will depart for Japan next month to further their education.

Upon completing their studies, the JDS fellows are expected to actively engage in formulating and implementing socioeconomic development plans, becoming leaders in Nepal, and contributing to strengthening the friendly relations between Japan and Nepal. This information was provided in a press release issued by the Embassy of Japan.

Ambassador Kikuta extended his congratulations to the successfully selected JDS fellows and expressed his

hope that they would have a fulfilling learning experience in Japan, which has increasingly become a popular destination for Nepali students seeking to study abroad.

He also encouraged the JDS fellows to actively seek knowledge and gain valuable experiences during their time in Japan, while deepening their understanding of the country. The Ambassador expressed his best wishes for their success and anticipated their significant contributions



to the bilateral relations between Japan and Nepal upon their return.

Given Nepal's transition from unitary forms to federal structures, there is a pressing need for highly capable civil servants with international education. Japan has been fulfilling this requirement through its JDS scholarship program, providing Nepali civil servants with invaluable exposure and opportunities.

Japan's scholarship programs have played an instrumental role in nurturing the development of Nepal's civil service, making it more proficient and effective.

Under a recently signed grand agreement between the Governments of Nepal and Japan, the Japanese Government has extended its support by providing assistance

equivalent to NPR 385 million (Japanese Yen 424,000,000) to Nepal for the Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) for the Fiscal Year 2024. This generous support will enable government officials to pursue higher education at reputable Japanese Universities. It marks an increase from the grant aid of 376 million Japanese Yen provided in the Fiscal Year 2022/2023. The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) will be responsible for facilitating this aid project.

JDS Objective:

The primary objective of the JDS program is to strengthen the knowledge, skills, and capacities of young, competent, and dynamic Nepalese government professionals. The aim is to prepare them to take on leadership roles in their respective areas of duty and contribute to the country's development. Upon completion of their studies, these officials are expected to play a vital role in the social and economic transformation of Nepal. It is essential for the Nepalese fellows to demonstrate leadership by actively and effectively participating in the formulation and implementation of the country's development plans and programs. Additionally, the JDS program fosters a partnership between Nepal and Japan to address future issues and needs collaboratively.

The JDS program offers opportunities for Nepali civil servants to pursue master's and PhD degrees in prestigious Japanese universities. Its main objective is to

enhance the abilities and skills of Nepali civil servants, enabling them to become effective leaders and professionals in their respective fields.

The Government of Japan has revised its Development Cooperation Charter, emphasizing the significance of investing in people. The JDS program is seen as a means to achieve Nepal's development goals. H.E. Mr. KIKUTA Yutaka, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, hosted a send-off party for Nepal's government officials who will be studying in Japan under the JDS Scholarship at his official residence in Tahachal on July 28, 2023.

"The JDS program is not a charity but an investment made by the Japanese taxpayers. The Japanese people

understand that the development of human resources is the foundation of the country, so they invest in you," said Ambassador Kikuta.

JDS for Nepal

Nepalese political leadership and officials have a long-standing tradition of studying in Japan. Rana Prime Minister Deb Sumsher chose Japan for higher studies for Nepali 123 years ago over Europe or England. JDS aims to continue and support that tradition.

The Government of Japan has been providing this scholarship since 2016. The selection process started in 2015, and the first batch went to Japan in 2016 after signing the grant aid. To date, 105 civil servants have graduated

from Japanese universities and are now dispersed across Nepal, building a strong alumni network. Currently, 38 JDS fellows are pursuing academic degrees in prestigious Japanese universities, with 35 studying for masters and 3 for PhD courses.

Students are encouraged to focus on fields such as business administration, public policy, economic policy, law, public management, disaster management, international relations, and other areas crucial to the nation's sustainable growth. This tailored approach ensures that scholars are equipped with knowledge directly relevant to Nepal's unique challenges and priorities.

Shree Krishna Nepal, head of the International Economic Cooperation Coordination Division at the

Ministry of Finance, similarly motivated the scholars by encouraging them to gain insights into Japan's development methodologies. These include understanding their service delivery systems, efficient management practices, cultural norms of politeness and honorifics, and much more.

Nepal emphasized the importance of not only showcasing their individual abilities but also representing Nepal's identity. He further urged the scholars to apply the skills and knowledge they have gained through their life experiences and civil service to contribute to the development and progress of Nepal.

Ambassador Kikuta concluded by reminding the scholars not to forget their mission and offered some ad-



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vice. He encouraged them to study diligently, engage socially, travel, experience the culture, try local cuisine, and learn about the history.

As Ambassador Kikuta highlighted, Nepalese officials will have opportunities to interact with Japanese students, who are widely regarded as some of the world's most polite people.

The Japanese way of life encompasses various aspects, including their customs, culture, skills such as packing food items and folding paper, the art of arranging flowers, kindness towards strangers, respect for elders, conscientiousness in picking up rubbish and not being a nuisance to others. Moreover, it includes prioritizing pedestrian safety while crossing roads, refraining from spitting or throwing wrappers, papers, chocolate covers, and waste on



roadsides and public places. They also emphasize on being cautious and considerate towards their neighbors, conserving energy and water, and actively contributing to maintaining a clean and green environment in their locality.

Reactions from the Fellows:

Ms. Deepa Pariyar, one of the selected fellows for the 2023 JDS scholarship, stressed the importance of the opportunities they were being given. She highlighted the various benefits of the scholarship, including assistance from the committee, such as language classes and guidance, all provided within a well-structured framework.

It's noteworthy that Ms. Pariyar is the only female employee who received this opportunity in her batch. This gender imbalance in government services indicates the need for the Government of Nepal to hire more female employees, thereby ensuring that female students also have increased access to such opportunities in the future.

The scholars returning from the JDS scholarship program come back to Nepal equipped with advanced knowledge, skills, and fresh perspectives. Shreedhar Gautam, a reselected scholar for the JDS scholarship, shared his

experience and learning.

In 2016, during his time in Japan, Shreedhar Gautam witnessed a Paddy Plantation Program that had been ongoing since 2001. This experience taught him the significance of evidence-based policy and decision-making as a Government Official.

Upon their return to Nepal, these scholars are actively addressing various issues, starting with initiatives to increase exports, which can significantly contribute to resolving unemployment. They are making valuable contributions by raising awareness through articles, proposing policy changes, and critically evaluating existing ones.

Furthermore, it's important to note that the government places high hopes in the JDS scholars, expecting them to make a visible difference by enhancing their work ethics, discipline, and professionalism so that they can be identified as JDS scholars.

In the past, Nepal has experienced brain drain, with skilled professionals seeking opportunities abroad due to limited prospects at home. Japan's scholarship programs, like JDS, play a crucial role in addressing this issue by encouraging scholars to return to Nepal after completing their studies. This return of educated and skilled individuals not only enriches the country's workforce but also contributes to a brighter future for generations to come.

Among the numerous Nepal-Japan bilateral cooperation efforts, the JDS program stands out as a key partnership that has significantly strengthened Nepal-Japan relations and fostered a network of young and dynamic Nepalese scholars and officials who graduated from Japan. This network fosters cultural and traditional ties between the people of Nepal and Japan, given their leadership roles and responsibilities in government offices and ministries.

Considering the considerable number of Nepalese officials who have already returned from Japan, it would be highly beneficial if these officials could explore opportunities for Japanese students and researchers to come to Nepal for their academic activities. Such an exchange would further strengthen the already established sound relationship between the two countries.

Over the years, Japan has supported Nepal in various aspects, ranging from infrastructure development like roads, electricity, and telecommunications to agriculture. Now, with human capacity development through the JDS program, Japan's contribution will be immense in modernizing Nepal's civil service and enhancing its overall capabilities.

Parmita Shrestha is an Intern with New Spotlight.

EMBRACING NEPAL'S ELECTRICITY REVOLUTION

A Decline in Fossil Fuel Imports

Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) has become the driving force behind a remarkable shift in the country's energy landscape. With a steady and reliable supply of quality electricity, industries, automobiles, and individual households have experienced a surge in electricity usage, leading to a significant reduction in the import of diesel, gasoline, and Liquefied Petroleum Products (LPG). The appeal of electricity over expensive fossil fuels has made it the preferred choice for businesses, households, and vehicle users alike. While specific data on the micro-level impact is yet to be fully explored, the increased consumption of electricity has undeniably contributed to a noteworthy decline in petroleum product imports this year, translating into substantial savings in foreign cash for the nation.

By KESHAB POUDEL

Nepal's reliance on imported fossil fuels, including diesel, gasoline, and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), has seen a notable decline since the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) started providing consistent and reliable electricity.

This trend marks the first decrease in fossil fuel imports in the country over the past thirty years. The surge in fossil fuel imports had been exerting immense pressure on Nepal's foreign exchange reserves and overall

commerce.

The situation was further exacerbated by the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the subsequent rise in global market prices. As a consequence, consumers in Nepal were compelled to reassess their energy options. In response, the government introduced plans to promote domestic energy surplus for local consumption.

Amidst the global energy crisis that caused fossil fuel prices to sky-

rocket from \$70 to \$180, Nepal faced the necessity of exploring its own hydropower resources to manage foreign exchange reserves. Realizing the crucial role of hydropower in averting an economic disaster, the three levels of government in Nepal initiated several key measures. These included subsidies for home electricity usage, reduced import taxes on electric vehicles, and lower electricity rates for businesses.



Coincidentally, as the 456 MW Upper Tamakoshi and other hydropower projects were completed the previous year, under the leadership of Kul Man Ghising as NEA’s managing director, Nepal’s energy surplus proved instrumental in avoiding an energy catastrophe and concurrently decreasing fossil fuel imports.

These developments signal Nepal’s commendable transition from fossil-fuel-based energy to cleaner alternatives. The recent progress in energy reduction serves as an encouraging initial step, aligning with Nepal’s commitment to achieving zero emissions by 2045 through its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and reducing LPG consumption by 30% as part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Nepal’s installed capacity has now reached 2700 MW, with 27 projects contributing an additional 491 MW to the national grid in the last fiscal year. Consequently, Nepal anticipates an energy surplus for years to come, creating opportunities for households and businesses to switch to more affordable and sustainable green electricity.

The increasing shift towards electric vehicles is also evident, with last year’s imports of 6,000 electric motorcycles and 4,000 electric vehi-

cles. Presently, Nepal boasts approximately 10,000 electric cars and motorcycles. Moreover, Bagmati Province has already unveiled a plan to gradually replace gasoline taxis with electric taxis, further promoting the adoption of eco-friendly transportation.

Nepal’s Progress Towards Electric Mobility and Green Energy

Over the past year, Nepal has witnessed a significant shift towards electric vehicles, with the import of over 10,000 electric vehicles and the establishment of more than 30 charging stations by NEA.

This surge in electric vehicle adoption has led to an increased demand for electricity, a need that the NEA has met by expanding the transmission and distribution networks, now covering about 95% of the population.

The Nepali government is delighted with the decrease in LPG im-

ports, as it has helped reduce losses suffered by the Nepal Oil Corporation (NOC), which provides subsidies for LPG cylinders. This shift is driven by a growing trend of households embracing electric cooking, supported by the government’s initiatives such as reduced electric vehicle customs duties and subsidies for household electricity usage.

At both the provincial and municipal levels, local governments have also taken steps to encourage the adoption of electric cooking among underprivileged communities. As a result of these efforts, there has been a substantial decrease of 21 billion 70 million dollars in petroleum product imports.

According to the Department of Customs, petroleum product imports have seen a significant decline compared to the previous fiscal year. Diesel imports, for example, have decreased by 346,439 kiloliters, while gasoline imports have decreased by 57,729 kiloliters. Additionally, LP gas imports have reduced by 21.5 million 24 thousand 647 kg.

This reduction in fossil fuel imports has resulted in significant savings in foreign currency equivalent and customs duties for the government. However, the decrease in customs duty revenue is compensated by the growing adoption of electric vehicles and electric cooking, promoting the use of green energy sources.





Nepal’s efforts towards green energy don’t stop there. The country has made remarkable progress in hydropower development, adding an additional 500 MW of capacity, resulting in surplus electricity during the monsoon season.

In alignment with its commitment to combat climate change, Nepal submitted its second Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the UNFCCC on December 8, 2020. This improved NDC includes quantitative activity-based and policy targets in crucial industries, with several energy-related targets now considered unconditional commitments for the first time.

Nepal’s dedication to embracing electric mobility and transitioning towards clean energy sources signifies a promising step towards a more sustainable and environmentally friendly future.

Nepal’s Ambitious Clean Energy Targets

Nepal’s current surplus of electricity proves to be a fortunate advantage as the nation sets its sights on ambitious targets outlined in its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). According to the NDC, Nepal aims to increase renewable energy generation from approximately 1,400 MW to an impressive 15,000 MW by the year 2030. A substantial portion of this capacity, 5,000 MW, will be

domestically constructed using local materials, making the country more self-reliant in clean energy production. The estimated cost to achieve this unconditional goal is projected at USD 3.4 billion.

The emphasis on clean energy production extends beyond the generation of electricity. Nepal plans to expand its clean energy portfolio, which currently stands at 1,400 MW, to also reach 15,000 MW by 2030. This diversified mix of clean energy



sources includes mini- and micro-hydropower, solar, wind, and biofuels, with the aim of meeting 15% of the world’s energy needs through clean energy sources by the target year.

Promoting electric mobility is another key focus of Nepal’s energy targets. The plan is to increase the sales of electric vehicles (e-vehicles) to constitute 60% of all sales of four-wheeled public passenger vehicles and an impressive 90% of all private passenger vehicle sales, including two-wheelers.

In terms of transportation infrastructure, Nepal plans to construct 200 km of an electric rail network, significantly enhancing mass goods movement and public transportation.

Efforts to promote clean cooking solutions are also part of the agenda. Nepal aims to ensure that 25% of households predominantly use electric burners for cooking. Furthermore, the plan involves installing 500,000 upgraded cook stoves by 2025, particularly focusing on rural areas, and setting up 500 large-scale biogas plants and 200,000 additional household biogas plants by the same year.

Nepal’s determination to achieve these targets exemplifies its commitment to transition towards a sustainable and greener energy future, playing an essential role in global efforts to combat climate change.

A promising indicator of Nepal’s progress towards its clean energy objectives is the decline in fossil fuel imports. The Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA), under the guidance of Managing Director Ghising, plays a pivotal role in this endeavor by ensuring the provision of high-quality and reliable electricity supply, contributing significantly to limiting the import of fossil fuels.

डेङ्गीबाट बचौं

- उच्च ज्वरो आउनु।
- जोर्नी र मांशपेशीहरूमा असह्य पीडा हुनु।
- आँखाको गेडी दुख्नु।
- अत्याधिक टाउको दुख्नु।
- शरीरमा राता बिमिराहरू आउनु।
- वाकवाकी लाग्नु वा वान्ता हुनु।

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