

DAO Kathmandu Regd., No. 148/11/063/064
ISSN: 2091-0711



VIEWPOINT
Dr. Tilak Rawal



ENVIRONMENT
Batu Uprety



OPINION
LS Ghimire &
Bindeswar Prasad Lehhak

NEW
SPOTLIGHT
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FORTNIGHTLY

TANAHU HYDROPOWER

Following Right Track

INSIDE



PM PRACHANDA AT NAM SUMMIT
Criticism At Home



HANAN GODAR
Diplomat With Love



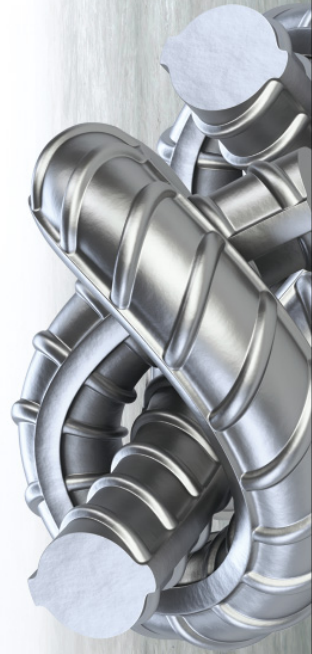
InELAM
Sharing Of Learning

हिमाल स्टील

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मचिप्यो जाति,
बलिप्यो त्याति

बढी
हिमालले सुरक्षित घर बनाउँछ।



१००% गुणस्तर परीक्षण | लोडशेडिंगमा पनि निरन्तर उत्पादन | ७६ डिपो मार्फत चाहिँदको स्थानमा नेपालमरि तुरुन्तै डेलिमरी हुने | निर्माणकर्ताको पहिलो रोजाई | पारदर्शी वजन र मूल्य



Vol.: 17, No.:12, January-26, 2024
(Magh- 12, 2080) Price NRs.100

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Kathmandu DAO Regd. No.

148/11/063/64

Central Region Postal Regd.

No. 36/067/068

US Library of Congress Catalogue

No. 91-905060, ISSN : 2091-0711

(Print), ISSN: 2091-0754 (Online)

Printing

Megha Offset Printing Press P. Ltd.,

Dhapasi, Kathmandu

Tel. : 977-1-4363624

Over the past 50 years, Nepal has achieved great strides in the production, transmission, and distribution of hydroelectric power. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has been a tremendous source of support. In order for Nepal to meet its Nationally Determined Commitment to become carbon neutral by 2045, hydropower project development is essential. Due to its plentiful water resources, hydropower development can also aid in Nepal's economic expansion. An important factor in the growth of Nepal's energy sector is ADB. It helped to prevent the energy crisis in the 1990s and funded the two large hydropower projects, the 70 MW Khmti and the 144 MW Kaligandaki A. The second storage project after Kulekhani, which was constructed in, is the 144 MW Tanahu Hydropower Project, which is now funded by ADB. Due to COVID-19, contractor termination, and the selection of new contractors, the project was delayed for a few years. The good news is that it is currently reviving with impressive speed. The project is being beset by difficulties in clearing forests and a shortage of explosives. The top management of NEA is taking the lead in resolving both issues, so we can anticipate that the current rate of construction will continue. The 144 MW Tanahu Hydropower Project will be the subject of our cover article. After years of controversy, the Ram Temple in India is finally being built, and a large number of Hindu pilgrims from Nepal will be present for the dedication. We shall discuss this tale as well.

Keshab Poudel

Editor

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PM PRACHANDA

Peace In Priority

Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda is prioritizing peace, despite the uncertain future of the shaky coalition. He is making efforts to conclude the peace process.

By A CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition party CPN-UML is currently attempting to break the present coalition and join the government as a junior partner. Despite being critical of the government, the Nepali Congress leadership is also giving maximum leverage. Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda, who is in his third tenure as prime minister, is finding the right time to conclude the peace process.

Prime Minister Prachanda has hinted that the transitional justice bill will be tabled for approval from both houses of parliament.

Discussions are ongoing with all parties involved. The peace process will be completed through consensus immediately after the next session of the Federal Parliament begins.

The Prime Minister announced that preparations have been made for the Truth and Reconciliation Bill. The sub-committee has finalized the bill, and it is now with the parliamentary committee. Once the parliamentary session opens, it will be given priority and taken to the full

house. The Prime Minister stated that he is making efforts to have the bill decided through consensus.

The government's work has been expedited, and ministers have been directed to carry out their tasks accordingly. Ministers will be given targets, and decisions will be made accordingly if they do not carry out their re-

The peace process was signed in 2007 with the aim of concluding it within two years. However, political differences have prevented the resolution of the issues. Prime Minister Prachanda is in a position to make or break the coalition, making this the most opportune time for



sponsibilities correctly.

The Prime Minister mentioned that Nepal's bureaucracy is efficient and experienced, but lacks promptness, seriousness, and courage to take initiative. He has been regularly holding discussions with the Chief Secretary, secretaries, and the bureaucracy.

him to bring the peace process to a logical end.

Prime Minister Prachanda has been working to resolve differences by holding an all-party meeting and meetings with the three major political parties: Nepali Congress, CPN-UML, and Maoist Center.

NEWSNOTES

Foreign Minister Saud Meets with Bangladesh Foreign Minister

Foreign Minister NP Saud held a meeting today with Foreign Minister of Bangladesh on the sidelines of NAM Summit in Kampala.



According to Ministry of Foreign Affairs, during the meeting, the two Min-

isters deliberated on ways to enhance cooperation in areas including trade, transit and power trade.

PM Prachanda And Sri Lankan Prime Minister Discussed Bilateral Issues



Prime Minister Purna Kumar Dahal 'Prachanda' had a meeting with Ranil Wickremesinghe, President of Sri Lanka, at the margin of Non Alignment Summit.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, during the meeting views were exchanged on further strengthening bilateral and regional cooperation.

PM Prachanda Met India's Minister Of External Affairs Dr. Jaisankar



Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda met with External Affairs Minister of India Dr. S. Jaishankar during

one sidelines of 19th NAM Summit in Uganda. According to Embassy of India's X page, they discussed the matter of mutual interest.

First Annual Joint Steering Committee Meeting Of Nepal And The UN Concludes

The Government of Nepal and the United Nations in Nepal jointly organized the first annual meeting of the Joint Steering Committee of the Nepal UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027.

The meeting was co-chaired by the Honorable Vice Chairman of the National Planning Commission, Dr. Min Bahadur Shrestha, and the UN Resident Coordinator in Nepal Ms. Hanaa Singer Hamdy.

Following the adoption of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF 2023-2027) in 2023, at the meeting of the Government of Nepal - the UN Joint Steering Committee discussed work plans and priorities for 2024 under its four outcome areas: Sustainable, Resilient, and Inclusive Economic Transformation; Inclusive and Transformative Human Development; Environment Sustainability, Climate and Disaster Resilience; and Governance, Federalism, Participation, and Inclusion.



Speaking at the meeting the Vice Chairman stated that Nepal looks forward to graduating from the LDC status in 2026 and implementing the 16th Development Plan. In this context, he highlighted, Nepal seeks scalable, transformative, and impactful support of the UN to create more employment opportunities, boost productivity, and productive capacity, promote sustainable use of natural resources, fortify the data management system for evidence-based policy-making, and enhance access to quality education and health facilities.

The Joint Steering Committee provides strategic oversight of the development and implementation of the Cooperation Framework, to ensure strong co-ownership and alignment with national priorities as outlined in the upcoming 16th National Plan and guided by the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The United Nations Resident Coordinator, Ms. Hanaa Singer Hamdy, stated that the Cooperation Framework is the centerpiece for the implementation of the UN Development System reform at the country level. It articulates how the UN is supporting the people and Government of Nepal in achieving its development goals.

The meeting was attended by government representatives and UN Country Team members; the outcome of the meeting is the agreement on the priorities for the coming year for the four outcomes under the UNSDCF 2023-2027.

FAO Director-General Dr. Qu Dongyu Concludes Three-Day Nepal Visit, committed to forging seven dec-

ades long robust partnership

The Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Dr QU Dongyu successfully completed a mission to the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal. During this visit, the Director General paid a courtesy call with President Ram Chandra Paudel and Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal in Kathmandu. He also had a bilateral meeting with Bedu Ram Bhusal, Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Development and, Birendra Prasad Mahato, Minister for Forests and Environment.

In the courtesy meeting, the President praised FAO's support to the country and conveyed his appreciation to the FAO Director-General for the seven decades long partnership with Nepal and continuous support in various dimensions of agriculture and natural resource management ranging from policy support, technology introduction, institutional and human resource development.

During the meeting with the Prime Minister, the Director-General reiterated his commitment to support Nepal in its graduation from Least Developed Country status and smooth transition. He further highlighted the importance of adopting enabling policies, promoting science and innovation, and attracting investment, and how FAO could support Nepal in these areas.

The Prime Minister stated that the country was now focused on economic building and would shortly graduate from the Least Developed Country category. The Prime Minister expressed his expectation on FAO to play an even more positive role in supporting Nepal, mainly focusing on attracting youth on agriculture, youth entrepreneurship, proper utilization of the fallow land, making agriculture more attractive and profitable through mechanization, digitalization and sound investment for agri-food system transformation.

The Director-General replied to the Prime Minister's request by reiterating FAO's commitment to support the Government of Nepal in achieving overall agricultural development and the SDGs through science and innovation, enabling policies, and capacity development. He appraised the Prime Minister's support for the active cooperation with FAO through the Organization's flagship initiatives, including the Hand-in-Hand, One Country One Priority Product and 1000 Digital Villages, Green Cities resulting to achieve four betters- better production, better nutrition, a better environment, a better life, leave no one behind.

In the bilateral meeting with the ministers, both acknowledged the inputs provided by FAO to the country in introducing new technologies and validating best practices, addressing persisting and emerging challenges of food security, nutrition, and sustainable natural resource management.

The Director-General admired the Government of Nepal for its active participation and strong cooperation in FAO's corporate initiatives- Hand-in-Hand Initiative, One Country One Priority Product Initiative, 1000 Digital Vil-

lages Initiatives, Green Cities initiatives and one health initiatives in achieving four betters.

The Director General, Vice President Ram Sahaya Prasad Yadav and Minister Bedu Ram Bhusal jointly inaugurated International Policy Dialogue on Future Smart Crops and unveiled millets compendium entitled "Millets Traditions, Science and Technology in Nepal".

Addressing the policy dialogue, the Director General emphasized the need for more and better crops, ensuring accessibility while minimizing environmental impacts. Further, he stated that over-reliance on a few staple crops



leads to low dietary diversity whereas the underutilized crop species hold huge potential for a more inclusive, sustainable, climate-resilient future.

Vice President, Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Development and the Director General of FAO including other delegates observed the Future Smart Crops Exhibition which highlighted four key FAO initiatives – the 1000 Digital Villages Initiative, the One Country One Priority Product, the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, and the Green Cities Initiative, alongside other flagship projects.

In addition to this, FAO Director-General visited the Nepal Agriculture Research Council (NARC) and interacted with the scientists. He observed potato tissue culture Laboratory, Plant Pathology Research Centre, Animal Breeding and Genetic Research Centre and National Gene Bank.

The Director General visited the Central Veterinary Laboratory, observed the facilities and launched the animal health component the Global Health Security Program to strengthen the health systems of Nepal in tackling prioritized zoonotic diseases and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) through an inclusive One Health approach.

The FAO Director-General attended the signing ceremony of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) outlining a five-year collaborative framework between FAO and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) to promote sustainable mountain

NEWSNOTES

development in the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region.

The Director General and delegation also visited Kavre and interacted with farmers, witnessed the adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) technologies, and launched the “Tele Plant Doctor”—an AI and machine learning-based application to contribute to the Digital Village Initiative (DVI).

The Director General praised strong partnership with Government of Nepal since 1951 and commended active engagement in FAO’s flagship initiatives and regular program to achieve the better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life, leaving no one behind.

Foreign Minister Saud For Finding Solutions To Global, Regional Problems

Minister for Foreign Affairs, Narayan Prakash Saud, has underscored that deeper cooperation is essential for finding solutions to global or regional problems the world is facing.

Addressing the ministerial meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) taking place at Kampala of

Uganda today, Foreign Minister Saud said, “We are facing a multitude of crises and challenges. They include the persistent impact of COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, conflicts, soaring food and energy prices, inflation, debt burdens. So it is necessary to find out global and regional cooperation for the same.”



Uganda today, Foreign Minister Saud said, “We are facing a multitude of crises and challenges. They include the persistent impact of COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, conflicts, soaring food and energy prices, inflation, debt burdens. So it is necessary to find out global and regional cooperation for the same.”

He laid emphasis on the need that NAM must assert its collective voice to create an inclusive global order where all countries can prosper together, sharing global affluence equitably. “NAM, as a strong block with 120 countries representing around 60 per cent of the world’s population, holds both majority and moral strengths to devise solutions to global problems that we face today- from conflicts to climate change, economic injustice to social inequality, the digital divide to debt distress, and hunger to disease”, mentioned the Foreign Minister.

He pointed out that NAM must play a pivotal role in promoting multilateralism, defending the UN Charter and international law, finding peaceful solutions to disputes, reforming the global financial architectures, creating a just global economic order for shared affluence. Furthermore, NAM should focus on the achievement of SDGs and other Internationally Agreed Development Goals, including the Paris Agreement in the spirit of leaving no one behind, embracing the power of technology to drive progress for

all, and ensuring climate justice for vulnerable countries and regions.

Reiterating Nepal’s commitment to NAM’s objectives and principles, he shared that the Constitution of Nepal itself has embraced the principles of NAM as a basis of her foreign policy. “We always conduct independent, objective, balanced, and nonaligned foreign policy. We are effortful to graduate from LDC status and achieve our aspiration of development and prosperity”, he explained.

PM Prachanda Attended Reception Hosted To Celebrate Chinese Lunar New Year

Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal ‘Prachanda’ attended the inauguration ceremony of the first Chinese Lunar New Year celebration in Kathmandu organized by the



Embassy of the People’s Republic of China on 14 January 2024.

On the occasion, Prime Minister extended his good wishes of bliss, good health and further prosperity to the leadership and the friendly people of China.

In his address, Prime Minister also reiterated Nepal’s unequivocal commitment to One China Principle.

Prime Minister expressed his satisfaction over the close and cordial relations subsisting between the two countries. He highlighted that the two countries understand each other’s aspirations and sensitivities and extend support to each other in times of need in the spirit of true friendship.

KOICA Dispatches Two Korean Volunteers Arrived In Nepal

Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) has dispatched two new Korea Overseas Volunteers (KOVs) to work in Nepal. They arrived in Kathmandu on January 10, 2024 and will dispatch to their concerned organizations on February 9, 2024 after completing the local adaptation training program.

Kyungdong Kim is set to be assigned to the Korean Language sector at Bishwa Vasha Campus, Kathmandu,

while Youngman Lim will be deployed to the Tourism sector in Namobuddha Municipality, Kavre. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, KOICA re-launched its KOV program in December 2021, a total of 16 KOVs have been dispatched to Nepal in various sectors.

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

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

Since 1990, KOICA volunteers have been assigned to different government organizations both within



and outside the Kathmandu valley, in response to the requests and demands of the Nepalese government. They contribute to diverse sectors such as education, health, agriculture, IT, tourism, and more. As of now, a total of 436 volunteers have been sent to Nepal, with 8 KOICA volunteers presently engaged in active roles within various government institutions located in the Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Bhaktapur and Kaski Districts.

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

Prithvi Narayan Shah’s 302 Birthday And National Unity Day

The 302nd birth anniversary of King Prithvi

Narayan Shah is being celebrated across the country today by organizing a variety of programs. The event is celebrated every year on Poush 27 of the lunar calendar.



The government has also given a public holiday today declaring this day as the National Unity Day.

Different programs are being organized across the country to commemorate the contributions made by King Prithvi Narayan Shah for the nation’s unifications.

Floral tribute is being offered to King Prithvi Narayan Shah, the unifier of modern Nepal, by gathering in front of his statute at the west gate of Singhadurbar.

Prithvi Narayan Shah was born on 27 Poush 1779 BS in Gorkha to King Narabhupal Shah and Queen Kausalyavati. Prithvi Narayan became the King on Chait 25, 1799 BS. Before that, Nepal was divided into 52 principalities.

Prithvi Narayan Shah had conquered Nuwakot in 1801 BS. Twenty-five years later, in 1826 BS, he conquered the Kathmandu Valley. After conquering the Nepal Valley, Prithvi Narayan Shah extended the borders of the country.

Chinese Ambassador Paid A Courtesy Call On Foreign Secretary Lamsal

Chen Song, Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China, paid a courtesy call on Foreign Secretary Sewa Lamsal on Wednesday.

According to Ministry of Foreign Affairs, various matters of Nepal-China relations were discussed on the occasion.



BUSINESS BRIEF

NIMB Opens Two New Branches In Kathmandu

Nepal Investment Mega Bank (NIMB) Limited has expanded 2 new branches in Kathmandu from Thursday (January 18).



Jyoti Prakash Pandey, Chief Executive Officer of the Bank, inaugurated the new branches. In the inaugural program, CEO Pandey said that the new branches will provide excellent banking services and facilities to the customers. He also informed that more branches will be opened soon in Kathmandu Valley.

Bank open two branches in Kathmandu Metropolitan City which include Shankhamul Branch on ward no 31 and Anamnagar branch ward no 29. With these two branches, the number of branches of the bank has reached 264. All banking services have started from Thursday from the new branches.

Currently, the bank has 264 branch offices, 63 extension counters, 113 branchless banking and 255 ATMs.

ADB and Nepal Government Signed Loan and Grant Agreement Amount 166 Million Dollar

Finance Secretary Dr. Krishna Hari Pushkar and ADB Country Director Arnaud Cauchois signed a loan agreement of USD 160 million and a grant agreement of USD 6 million for Urban Resilience and Livability Improvement Project.



According to Ministry of Finance, they also exchanged the agreement amid a function.

Asian Development Bank is a largest multilateral development partner of Nepal.

The World Bank And MoFA Host Events On Hedging Strategies

The World Bank in coordination with the Ministry of Finance held a two-day learning event last week on “Managing Risks and Sustainable Finance”. The event was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Finance, the Public Debt Management Office, the Financial Comptroller General Office, Nepal Rastra Bank, Nepal Bankers’ Association, Nepal Insurance Authority, Confederation of Nepalese Industries, and other financial sector professionals.

Participants discussed derivatives instruments and international experiences with the use of financial instruments to address different market risks including interest rate, currency, liquidity, and commodity price risks. They also discussed the benefits of and the critical steps needed to set up a national hedge program from a fiscal risk management perspective.

“The Ministry of Finance is interested in working with the World Bank on a detailed cost-benefit study to evaluate the

potential advantages of adopting a hedging mechanism to manage financial risks,” said Ram Pramod Yadav, Under Secretary, and Ministry of Finance. “There is a need to implement financial instruments in new projects on a pilot basis to help practitioners and policy makers understand the significance of structure approaches in mitigating risks from uncertain market conditions.”

Participants discussed the technical support the World Bank can provide to set up relevant knowledge exchange programs, as well as the Bank’s various lending instruments.

“The World Bank is committed to working with the Government of Nepal to strengthen the country’s risk management strategies and set up a hedging program to manage financial risks,” said Fabio Aparecido Da Silva, Sr. Financial Officer at the World Bank. He emphasized the need to develop a regulatory framework and build capacity to ensure that hedging strategies serve as effective tools for managing risks.



“I welcome the idea of implementing hedging mechanisms to address market volatility on commercial terms, which could help prevent undue fiscal pressures on the nation,” said Bam Bahadur Mishra, Deputy Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank. “Endorsing market-driven solutions is key to efficiently managing financial risks, fostering sustainability, and navigating challenges, especially considering the country’s resource limitations.”

“The absence of sovereign ratings is a contributing factor to the high cost of borrowing for Nepal from international financiers. Leveraging the currency peg with India could address the absence of a transactable Nepali Rupee sovereign bond yield curve, as many transactions can be priced based on the long-term Indian Rupee-USD curve,” said Joseph Silvanus of Dolma Consulting. “Hedging serves as a good risk mitigating tool, and Nepal stands to gain by accessing the World Bank’s IDA window to uphold a robust balance of payments.”

RUWDUC and WVI -Nepal Share Achievements And Learning’s Of End Child Marriage Campaign

Efforts to ending child marriage in Nepal by 2030 strengthened further by It Takes Nepal to End Child Marriage Campaign

In collaboration with the Government of Nepal and various CSOs actors, World Vision International Nepal (WVI Nepal) concluded its six-year campaign, ‘It Takes Nepal to End Child Marriage’, through an event in Kathmandu today.

The event was attended by child rights experts and like-minded stakeholders, and included a session on national-level policy dialogue discussing the roles and responsibilities of the government, civil society organizations, national & international NGOs alike, to eliminate child marriage from Nepal by 2030.

The government of Nepal has a target to end child marriage as outlined in the National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage 2016, aligning with the Sustainable development Goals.



Over the past 6 years the campaign has reached over 400,000 children and successfully collaborated with different levels of government in 6 provinces to formulate 44 policies related to ending child marriage, indicating positive commitment in

addressing this issue is being observed.

The closing event of It Takes Nepal to End Child Marriage Campaign was chaired by Dr. Arzu Rana Deuba with participation from various ministries including Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens, along with various national and international organizations working to end child marriage in Nepal.

Findings from research conducted by World Vision was shared along with stories from children impacted by the campaign and a Policy Brief launched by Joining Forces, a network of child focused agencies committed to ending child marriage. Speaking at the event, Minister Surendra Raj Acharya said, “Child Marriage is a criminal act and robs children of their rights. Grassroot level awareness is key to stopping child marriage in the communities, at the same time a common effort of all stakeholders is required to end child marriage from our community”.

The chair for the event and parliamentarian Dr. Arzu Rana Deuba, shared her commitment to continue to work on the issue relating to children, specifically on girls and women. While she also added that social awareness is not enough to end child marriage as targeted by the government of Nepal. Implementation of policies is also key to ending child marriage. At the same time, the child representative and member of National Child Advocate Council Prekshya Adhikari shared about importance of child participation across decision making as well as implementation of programs relating to children.

The campaign ‘It Takes Nepal to End Child Marriage’ started in Nepal on 2017 August through a formal launch by the then President Bidya Devi Bhandari with an aim to bring impact through the campaign with a specific focus on strengthening systems, changing behaviors of children, adolescents and their family and influencing effective implementation of policy.

Roslyn H. Gabriel, the National Director of WVI Nepal highlighted the importance of efficient collaboration between government and non-government agencies to eliminate child marriage in Nepal by 2030. “The campaign brought together more than 65 partners in the federal, provincial and local level to join hands in declaration of 11 Child Friendly Local Governments and has been able to directly prevent 561 Child marriages throughout WVI Nepal’s working areas.

102 MW Middle Bhotekosi Starts Technical Testing Of The Structures

The technical testing of the 102 MWt Middle Bhotekosi hydropower projects, which is being completed in Bhotekosi Rural Municipality and Bahrbise Municipality of Sindhu-palchok, has started. The test of the project being constructed by Madhya Bhotekosi Hydropower Company has been done since Friday (12 January, 2024).

The company has informed that the technical testing of the dam, intake, gate, descender, stop log, tunnel and other structures of the project has started.

The technical test work will continue till 29 of January. During the trial period, the company has requested not to carry out operations around the Bhotekosi River, as the river water has to be pumped and released at the dam site of the project.

The company issued a notification and informed that the water level will continue to decrease in the places on the banks of the river Bhotekosi under the lower coastal area of the dam site. During that time, it has been requested not to fish, bathe, wash clothes, graze, and quarry stones in the river.



99.9 percent of the project has been completed so far. The civil, hydro-mechanical and electro-mechanical aspects of the project have been completed 100 percent. 80 percent of the construction of the transmission line has been completed.

The construction of the project is being delayed due to disputes over the compensation of the land to be taken from the locals.

Upper Tamakoshi’s Auction Shares: Huge Crowds of Applicants Lined Up For Hours

Large number of people applies for the rightful shares of Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Limited. On the last day of applying for company rights, LS Capital and Citizen Investment Fund are crowded. Investors have been queuing up for hours and applying.

Investors have been lining up at LS Capital since morning to apply for shares. They have applied for the shares of the company at the rate of 150 to 160 rupees per share. The company has put 1 crore 70 lakh 19 thousand 30 shares of unallocated right shares on sale. The company has auctioned the unsold shares of the rights issued from September 4 to October 9. The rights are going to be sold through the auction process.



Those who want to buy can get the application form from Citizen Investment Fund, Naya Baneshwar, Kathmandu, Sunrise Capital Limited Kamalpokhari, Kathmandu and Lakshmi Sunrise Bank Biratnagar, Dharan, Birganj, Janakpur, Heptode, Narayanghat, Pokhara, Baglung, Nepalganj, Surkhet, Dhangadhi and Charikot and can explain. After the sale of rights shares, the paid-up capital of the company will be 21.18 billion rupees.

Prachanda Completes One Year



BY: DR. TILAK RAWAL

Prime Minister Dahal addressed the nation on December 26, 2023 basically to highlight the performance of his government in the last one year. Notwithstanding his attempt to throw some so called positive achievements of the coalition government for public consumption in a convincing way, he had no choice to admit that the dispensation could not perform as per his priority. He mentioned cases of fake Bhutanese refugee scam, Lalita Niwas land grab case and gold smuggling case in which his government initiated actions irrespective of who was involved in it. He also pointed out that overall economic indicators were positive, but was not happy with the economic growth. He also made an honest observation that negativity had plagued the country with people losing hope in the country's future. He also stated that he would concentrate on preparing government policies and programmes and the new fiscal budget. He was also noticed mentioning that agriculture decade would be declared from 2025-2035. Revolving around what Prachanda observed on 25 December, an attempt is made here to put before our readers an analysis of existing situation, backed by facts and figures.

There is no denying of the fact that surfacing of the refugee scam, land grab case and one of the gold smuggling cases happened during this government's tenure, but what rulers of this country (the Deubas, Oli and Prachanda) should not forget is that people of this country are in know of how these cases were\are being handled. In fact, people are fully confident that major decisions in this country are made by a cartel consisting of above mentioned political figures, irrespective of who is in power and who is in opposition. Despite the fact that two former head of government (Madhav Nepal and Baburam Bhattari) are relatively less corrupt and not many would want them behind the bar, clean cheat granted to them, despite their involvement in decision making related to land grab case, has perplexed many. Likewise, even commoners on the street know where and how did the refugee scam stopped. People also know how Prachanda was pressured into transferring some senior

police officials who were sincerely investigating the scam and were hell bent on seeing that anyone (he or she) found involved is punished. People also know what led to the incapacitation of promising home minister Narayan Kaji Shrestha who now does not look much different from ambitious, action less and transparency-lacking Purna Khadka, another deputy prime minister in the Cabinet. Indeed, if Prachanda wants to take some credit for the initiation of some actions against these scandals, he should also not forget that people are well aware of his half-hearted approach towards punishing the culprits in these scandals, which has tarnished the image of Nepal globally. Prachanda undoubtedly is a politician with immense oratory power, but people have be-

Common people and honest politicians from different parties have to join hands to make the much desired change happen so that a ruthless attack on corruption could be launched and executable schemes introduced for the correction of our ailing economy. Peaceful change is what people of this country want and these rulers, about 4 in number, who have ruled\ruined this country are expected to clear the way for change. Indeed, a prerequisite to change is the ouster from active politics of these harmful people, sooner the better.

gun not to take his orations, often not backed by actions, seriously. Waning confidence of people in Prachanda and their unhappiness about the way this country has been governed by a handful of rulers is bound to make things difficult for the cartel members who are governing the nation by turn since long. Prime Minister must have understood the happiness of the people on hearing that the Supreme court nullified the Dahal-led government's decision

to give public holiday on the first day of the Nepali month of Fagun (February 13) to mark the day in 1996 when the CPN-Maoist launched guerrilla war against the state. Acting on the writ petitions filed by conflict victims, the apex court verdict stated that there was no national consensus over the word people's war as that had not been used in the constitution and a bill aimed at concluding the remaining tasks of the peace process was still subjudice in the Parliament and acting against the preamble of the constitution in such a situation could hurt the sentiments of petitioners and adversely affect the work of transitional justice mechanism in the future. It was something for most political parties and people at large to celebrate and rejoice over. It looks like people have reached a point where they look at decisions of Nepal government with doubts and suspicion.

Some key agreements were signed between India and Nepal during India's Minister of External Affairs

S Jaishankar's two-day visit in the first week of January 2024. The long-term power agreement signed, which allows Nepal to export 10 thousand MW power in ten years to India is a praise worthy step and people of Nepal expect its neighbor to be more generous in not only buying Nepal-generated energy but also help us export power to other countries, too. It would not be too much on our part to expect this kind of cooperation from a country on the verge of being recognized as an economic and political power of global scale. Controversy arose, however, over an agreement regarding Indian grant assistance for implementation of High Impact Community Development Projects under which the Government of India will fund each project worth Rs. 200 million. Our Prime Minister has not succeeded in justifying the sharp increase in grant assistance (from 50 to 500 million) and many of his colleagues in the Cabinet have accused him of not maintaining transparency regarding the hiked Indian assistance. As far as the question of grant or highly concessional loan from bilateral and multilateral agencies is concerned, many of us feel that Nepal should accept it as long as it does not come with lots of strings attached to it. Therefore, without compromising our national interest, there is no harm in accepting assistance, be it American grant under MCCI, Chinese loan under BRI or Indian grants/assistance of different scales and nature. It is unfortunate that Panchand's inconsistent observations, pre and post bilateral deal, basically related to Indian grant, played a major role in fueling suspicion and creating lots of controversy.

Our Prime Minister also announced that agriculture decade would be declared from 2025- 2035 probably to make this agricultural country self-reliant in agricultural products. It is difficult to predict who will be heading the government then, but our urging would be that adequate homework be done, keeping in mind the failure of several schemes/declarations in the past, before launching this kind of scheme or soon-to-be repeated investment forum. Otherwise, people have the liberty of branding these announcements as mere technique of government's to deflect attention of the mass from major problems plaguing the country. It may be recalled that Nepal government announced some 15 years ago that Nepal would soon be self-reliant on products like paddy and how import of paddy/rice has increased over these years is known to everyone. He also rightly mentioned that negativity had plagued the country with people losing hope in the country's future. There is no disagreement with him on the negativity issue, but should we not delve a bit into the prevailing situation that is forcing Nepali youths out of the country, even risking death. It is learnt that our youths have joined both forces (Russian and Ukrainian) and are fighting the war as rivals in the war between Russia and Ukraine. Who do we think should be blamed for the killing of protesting youths, desperate to leave Nepal in the hope of a better life abroad? Indeed, poverty and insecurity, an outcome of bad governance, is driving youths

away from home not only in Nepal but in numerous other badly governed countries of the world. People know very well that The Deubas, Oli and Prachanda have been running the show in the country since long, with Madhav Nepal, Baburam Bhattari and J N Khanal also surfacing as head of government intermittently. Any good or bad done to this country and its people is, therefore, the outcome of their governance. People have keenly observed their governance style and they know where Nepal and Nepalis stand today. People want major political change in the country to control corruption and correction of the derailed economy.

Despite improvements in balance of payment, current account and increase in foreign exchange reserve, economy is not likely to attain the government-wished 6 percent growth. It is believed that increase in rice/paddy production (by 4 percent) and significant increase in inflow of tourists (likely to hit 1 million) could help economy achieve 5 percent growth. Even a moderate target of 6 percent does not look achievable because the current state of manufacturing and construction is far from satisfactory. On the revenue front also progress is not satisfactory as only 35 percent of the target (Rs. 1422 billion) has been realized in the first six months of this fiscal year, which is just little more than what was collected earlier. It may be noted that last fiscal year was the worst year, judged from several economic angles) and revenue collection was the lowest (Rs. 9.57 billion) in years. Contraction in foreign trade (3.47 percent in six months) has also contributed to slackness seen on revenue front and it is almost certain that budget deficit as a proportion of GDP will exceed the desired level. Trade deficit has decreased a bit (2.62 percent) but disappointing thing is that export has declined more (7.23 percent) than import (3.09 percent) during the six months of this fiscal year. Like last fiscal year, this year also more than 700 thousand people are likely to leave Nepal for work outside. In the six months, 350 thousand people have already left Nepal, which is a result of instable political situation and deplorable economic conditions in the country. The rulers of this country must have realized by now that that the issue of monarchy cannot be brushed aside with ease and their anti-monarchy utterances cannot stop King Gayendra from mixing around with people who have been extending whole hearted welcome to him wherever he goes. Very strong is also the feeling of people about Hindu religion. Common people and honest politicians from different parties have to join hands to make the much desired change happen so that a ruthless attack on corruption could be launched and executable schemes introduced for the correction of our ailing economy. Peaceful change is what people of this country want and these rulers, about 4 in number, who have ruled/ruined this country are expected to clear the way for change. Indeed, a prerequisite to change is the ouster from active politics of these harmful people, sooner the better.

Dr. Rawal is a former governor of NRB

Criticism At Home

Despite internal criticism about the relevance of his participation in the 19th Non-Aligned Summit, Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal's Prachanda defended his visit as necessary.

By A CORRESPONDENT

Even after returning from attending the 19th Non-Aligned Summit in Kampala, the capital of Uganda, Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda has made every effort to justify his visit. But his critics are not yet satisfied.

In Nepal, it is a ritual to criticize the leaders who attend such summits. Prime Minister Prachanda is no exception. Nor will he be the last. From the monarch to the present rulers, all of them have faced similar hostile move whenever they make high level visit to international summit.

Attended by over 120 countries, including high-level delegations from multilateral and bilateral agencies, summits such as the Non-Aligned Movement are appropriate venues for the smaller countries to present their views and show their presence.

Despite such a highly relevant forum, Prime Minister Prachanda and his core team could not convince the people about the implications of participation in the national context.

Why NAM Is Important for Nepal

In the words of Dr. Dinesh Bhattarai, a career diplomat and National Foreign Relations Advisor to the late Prime Minister Sushil Koirala, "Non-alignment remains deeply rooted in the defensive values and policies of Nepal's foreign policy. It seeks a rough balance between adversaries and uses it as a diplomatic tool for security, identity, survival and advancement. Non-alignment is a peculiarly Nepali trait that fits well with the nation's need to protect sovereignty and national independence while pursuing development in a policy-centric world order," writes Dr. Bhattarai in his book *Non-alignment, Quest for an independent foreign policy*.

Published by the Center for Nepal and Asian Studies, Tribhuvan University, Dr. Bhattarai states, "Nepal, sandwiched between two of Asia's colossal powers, India and China, is unable to avoid geographical constraints and reap opportunities. It has strong spiritual, social, economic and cultural ties with them, especially with India. The phrase "a yam between two rocks," coined by the unifier of Nepal, King Prithvi Narayan Shah, has

member of NAM has historical significance."

Prachanda In NAM

As a founding member of NAM, it is not unnatural for any political leader to attend the summit and show solidarity with the ideology that is the foundation of the country's foreign policy. In this sense, Prachanda's participation in the summit despite the opposition in the country is significant.

"It is a matter of happiness for



remained the nation's geographical code for its regional and international behavior and strategy not to be overshadowed by its vastness but to find its own path for survival, resilience and progress. The Rana regime also followed the spirit of a Yam, seeking balanced relations with neighbors while trying to diversify relations outside the neighborhood sphere so that the nation's freedom of maneuver is not entirely determined by its neighbors."

Dr. Bhattarai asserts in his book that non-alignment has remained a fundamental basis of Nepal's foreign policy choices in the interstate system ever since. As a sign of solidarity, Nepal's decision to be a founding

Nepal to participate in the 19th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit in Kampala, Uganda, as a founding country. It is of immense importance as the conference has been organized at a time when several problems have come to the fore in the world," said Prime Minister Prachanda.

"The NAM Conference has been organized in the context of geopolitical complexities, the Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Palestine wars, the impact of the COVID pandemic on the global economy, the challenges posed by climate change and the problems faced by the least developed countries. "To address these challenges, NAM should take initiative and

leadership. The importance and essence of NAM has further increased than before. “

Nepal is the founding member of NAM. The organization was established in the Bandung Conference in 1955 AD. Since then, Nepal has been playing an active role in NAM. Although the regime has changed as a system, Nepal’s commitment to the movement is intact.

In this context, Nepal can continue to play its pivotal role in NAM. NAM should be further strengthened. NAM came into existence under the peculiar circumstances of the Cold War.

“The essence of NAM has been further strengthened in the changed context. It has been realized to make it more effective and empowered. The Non-Aligned Movement should not be seen in the context of the Cold War. Raising voice and struggle against the hegemony of colonialism, neo-colonialism and powerful countries is equally important at the present time. In this context, the essence of NAM has been further strengthened,” PM said.

The NAM’s founding spirit should be maintained today. Countries should avoid exhibiting a dual policy and make their position clear.

The organization includes over 120 countries, including some developed nations from the third world. If these countries work together in an organized manner, they can contribute significantly to peace, stability, and the future of humanity. This idea was expressed in the commitments made during the NAM Summit.

Nepal, as a member of NAM, has a special responsibility and has fulfilled it by advancing NAM in a strong, integrated, and centralized way. Nepal can take pride in this achievement.

Attending the summit was necessary, but the preparation for the visit did not meet Nepal’s standards for continuity with its foreign policy. The prime minister’s statement at the summit was inadequate, unlike the statements delivered by the presidents



of Venezuela or Cuba.

The PM was surrounded by people ideologically closer to the communist regime, which naturally influenced his statement. However, this could damage Nepal’s long-term global interests.

Led by Saud, a young and energetic leader of the Nepali Congress, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs seems to have made no effort to obtain the statement or clarify the wording. The team includes professional and qualified high-level officials such as Secretary Sewa Lamsal and Joint Secretary and Spokesperson Amrit Rai.

Although Prime Minister Prachanda made efforts to correct his statement during the press conference, the damage to Nepal’s foreign policy position and stance has already been done. During the Summit, the Prime Minister held bilateral meetings with heads of state, heads of government, and other high dignitaries in attendance.

Nepal is a founding member of the Non-Aligned Movement and has actively participated in all NAM Summits since its inception. During the 19th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) held in Kampala, Uganda, Nepal advocated for the interests of developing nations.

According to Prachanda, Nepal has faced various multidimensional challenges despite its efforts to graduate from a Least Developed Country,

making it unlikely to achieve sustainable development goals (SDGs).

The PM emphasized the importance of economic development and prosperity for developing countries to achieve the internationally agreed-upon goals, including the SDGs, Paris Agreement, and others.

In his address to the 19th NAM Summit, the PM urged NAM members to reaffirm their commitment to the values and principles of non-alignment. He called on them to work together with utmost sincerity, harmony, solidarity, and cooperation for our shared affluence. The PM reiterated the need to reinvigorate NAM to make it a force to be reckoned with in building a just, equitable, peaceful, sustainable, and prosperous world, leaving no one behind.

Dr. Bhattarai writes that non-alignment is the cornerstone of the country’s approach to balancing its foreign policy objectives. This approach aims to uphold and advance Nepal’s national goals of survival, prosperity, stability, status, and international acceptability. The recently concluded summit and Nepal’s commitment are highly important.

Beyond Borders: Global Value Chains (GVCs) Role In Empowering Emerging Economies



BY: LS GHIMIRE AND BINDEŚWAR PRASAD LEKHAK

Global Value Chains (GVCs) represent a central outcome of globalization, originating in prominence during the late 1990s, particularly impactful for developing nations, that is, developing economies must prioritize international trade and

foster regional economic integration. The UNCTAD’s 2013 delineation defines Global Value Chains as intricate supply chains characterized by dispersed international tasks and activities orchestrated under the guidance of a lead firm. The World Bank’s World Development Report 2020 describes GVCs as the fragmentation of production processes across multiple nations and specialized firms, each focused on distinct tasks rather than the holistic production of an entire product. Noteworthy exemplars such as Samsung, a prominent mobile brand, source components from approximately 2500 suppliers worldwide (WDR, 2020), while the iPhone, manufactured through collaboration with nine companies across five nations (Xing, 2020), exemplifies this distributed production model. The report further illustrates this phenomenon with the example of bicycles, showcasing how China assembles parts and components sourced from diverse countries, including Italy, Spain, Vietnam, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, and France, to produce a complete bicycle.

In contemporary global trade, two distinct paradigms of Global Value Chains prevail: Producer-Driven Global Value Chains typified by entities like Toyota and Apple, and Buyer-Driven Global Value Chains exemplified by corporate giants such as Walmart, Nike, and GAP. These divergent models collectively encompass a significant portion of the current global trade landscape, accounting for approximately 52 percent, as elucidated in the World Development Report 2020 (WDR, 2020).

In the Asian context, several nations have demonstrated notable success within Global Value Chains. China, notably, stands as a key global assembly hub for information communication technology products, while Thailand has emerged as a burgeoning center for automotive exports in Asia, securing the third position worldwide as a commercial vehicle producer (Xing, 2020). India holds a prominent position in Asia as a global destination for information technology software sourcing, and the Philippines has solidified its status as the region’s primary voice (call center) outsourcing destination (Xing, 2020). Additionally, Vietnam has gained recognition for producing mobile parts used in globally esteemed mobile phone brands (Xing, 2020).

The efficacy of Global Value Chains in ameliorating the challenges faced by the developing world has been a subject of inquiry among economists. Extensive research conducted by prominent institutions such as the Bretton Woods Institutions and esteemed economists consistently concludes that Global Value Chains play a pivotal role in augmenting macro and microeco-

nomie landscapes within developing nations. These chains offer a spectrum of advantages, fostering spillover effects that benefit developing countries profoundly. Economists note that their impact encompasses

augmenting economic growth, curbing poverty and unemployment, facilitating industrialization, opening avenues for raw material utilization, fostering stronger ties with developed nations, and contributing to environmental safeguarding. Additionally, Global Value Chains serve as a mechanism for mobilizing internal resources and bolstering tax revenue, thereby addressing the persistent fiscal challenges characteristic of the developing world. Moreover, their influence prompts necessary tax reforms in developing countries, aligning their mechanisms and structures with global standards (WDR, 2020; Xing, 2020).

Global Value Chains wield a multifaceted impact on the contemporary world, particularly regarding gender equality. According to findings from the World Bank (2020), IFC (2018), and Xing (2020), these chains play a pivotal role in mitigating the gender gap prevalent in both industrial and social sectors. Global Value Chains contribute significantly to narrowing this divide by fostering employment opportunities for female labor. Simultaneously, they catalyze women’s rights regarding property ownership, notably in countries where Global Value chain firms are owned or managed by women. This dual effect, offering employment avenues and bolstering property rights, underscores the positive impact of Global Value Chains on advancing gender equality within societies.

Understanding the mechanics of Global Value Chains (GVCs) is a pivotal and debatable inquiry in the contemporary world. This discourse holds significance as esteemed multilateral institutions like the World Bank and WTO concentrate their efforts on bolstering foundational elements such as the rule of law, fostering an enabling environment, promoting openness, and fostering international cooperation. Central to the efficient operation of GVCs are initiatives aimed at enhancing connectivity through the modernization of communication channels and the development and maintenance of critical infrastructure, including roads, railways, air transport, and ports. These infrastructural components are integral drivers that facilitate the seamless functioning of Global Value Chains by expediting the flow of goods, services, and information across global borders.

Concurrently, the escalating tensions between Western and Eastern powers have spurred a discourse revolving around the dichotomy of ‘de-globalization versus globalization 2.0’. This ideological friction has given rise to the amplification of concepts and sentiments rooted in nationalism, protectionism, populism, and individualism, particularly evident in the trajec-

tory of advanced economies. Instances such as the UK’s Brexit referendum, the outcome of the 2016 US presidential election, and the US withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) exemplify the burgeoning prominence of these ideologies, reshaping the conventional narrative of globalization into a more fragmented and inward-focused paradigm. The repercussions of such shifts are palpable, notably highlighted by the US-China trade conflict, which is a poignant manifestation of the implications stemming from these prevailing sentiments and slogans.

Meanwhile, China and India assert their influence on the global economy, actively pursuing their positions within international economic frameworks. India, for instance, advocates for a permanent seat at the UN Security Council, while China aims to devalue the role of the US dollar in Asian trade. Moreover, emerging economies are exploring alternative avenues to traditional Bretton Woods institutions, evident in initiatives like the BRICS alliance, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), and participation in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). This strategic shift is a response to the historical dominance of Western economies through Bretton Woods institutions, limiting the policy autonomy of emerging economies within the global economic landscape. Consequently, this poses a formidable challenge to the Washington Consensus in its efforts to promote the concept of globalization 2.0.

Economists have cautioned that the world economy will encounter trade and financial challenges in the coming years. This anticipated scenario is expected to prompt a dynamic interplay between advanced and emerging economies, characterized by a push and pull strategy, potentially exerting a significant impact on the current trajectory of Global Value Chains. Consequently, a comprehensive, comprehensible, and universally agreed-upon economic policy is imperative to mitigate the adverse repercussions stemming from both the Western-Eastern geopolitical tensions. Crafting and implementing such a policy framework is the most viable way to navigate Global Value Chains’ current phase. Successfully addressing this complex scenario necessitates the collective efforts of leading global entities, including the WTO, the World Bank, and the IMF, and collaboration between advanced and emerging economies. Furthermore, adopting a win-win strategy emerges as a pragmatic approach to safeguard Global Value Chains and orchestrate the recovery of the world economy from the pervasive effects of the COVID-19 crisis.

Nepal currently remains distanced from the intricate networks of both the backward and forward linkages within

Global Value Chains. Despite possessing a federal governance structure, a liberalized economy, a robust Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy, and the enactment of the Foreign Investment and Technology Transfer Act, which have collectively contributed to elevating its standing on the Doing Business Indexes, Nepal continues to grapple with a persistent trade deficit. Nepal’s affiliation with global bodies such as the WTO, the World Bank, and the IMF underscores its commitment to regional economic integration efforts. However, despite these initiatives, Nepal faces ongoing challenges in balancing its trade, thus encountering a perennial trade deficit.

The Government of Nepal keeps on initiating various policy measures to address pressing concerns within the nation’s economy. However, several imperative actions remain to be taken to harness the potential benefits of Global Value Chains.

These include a concerted focus on establishing a cohesive and enduring economic agenda, fortifying governance structures, curbing corruption, modernizing customs and tax systems, fostering robust economic diplomacy, overhauling fiscal and monetary

policies, upholding the rule of law, bolstering accountability and responsibility mechanisms, and embracing digitalization initiatives. The effective implementation of these measures is the linchpin for Nepal to attract and integrate into Global Value Chains. Nevertheless, it’s crucial to remember the adage: “A fish rots from the head down,” emphasizing the paramount importance of effective leadership and governance as the cornerstone for any systemic change or progress within an economy, Nepal included.

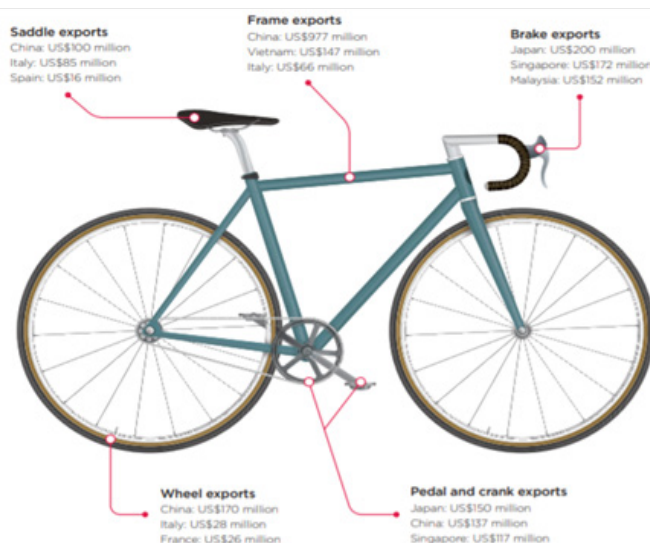
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**Mr. Ghimire was a Secretary of the Government of Nepal, and Mr. Lekhak is a Joint Secretary of the Government of Nepal and currently a Ph.D. (Economics) fellow at Waseda University in Tokyo, Japan.*



TANAHU HYDROPOWER Following Right Track

In order to reach its goal of having no emissions by 2045, Nepal is working toward energy self-sufficiency. It is noteworthy that the Asian Development Bank is supporting the 144 MW Tanahu Hydropower project, which is the second storage-type project after Kulekhani. Despite being nearly two years behind schedule due to setbacks including contractor termination, COVID-19, and new contractor selection, the Tanahu Hydropower Project (THP) is moving forward. The project is expected to start generating by 2027 at the present rate of progress; the river was redirected in September 2023. The project will guarantee a consistent supply of electricity and is located near to the load center. A one-year extension has been requested by the civil work contractor.

By KESHAB POUDEL

With all personnel mobilized in three shifts, the 140 MW Tanahu Hydropower Project construction is moving forward. The construction pace has accelerated after a few years of delay.

The Tanahu Hydropower project's project manager, Rajbhai Shilpakar, says that the physical infrastructure is progressing satisfactorily. Shilpakar claimed that the project is now making impressive progress despite the lack of explosives and the difficulties in obtaining authorization for tree cutting. The completion of both diversion tunnels on the headworks has made it possible to start building the coffer dam. The completion of

the river diversion project, a significant endeavor for the dam's construction, has also cleared the way for the coffer dam's construction.

Because it will assist meet the need for electricity and lessen the import of petroleum goods, the project is economically significant for both Nepal and the Northeast Asian region. Nepal's attempts to lessen the effects of and adjust to climate change will be aided by this project. The risk of flooding downstream will be lessened by the dam.

Nepal has 2800 MW of installed capacity total, which includes solar and hydroelectric. At the moment, the sole reservoir is the 106 MW Kulekhani, construct-

ed within the last forty-three years. THP is therefore strategically important for the NEA system.

Currently, around 1400 MW is produced by NEA and its subsidiary firms, with the remainder power coming from run-of-the-river projects in the private sector. After THP is finished, NEA, which only uses hydropower, will have some supply relief.

Due to the nature of hydropower plants, Nepal's winter generation capacity is only about 1000 MW, despite the country's 1900 MW total electricity consumption. During this period, Nepal's capacity as an Independent Power Producer (IPP) drops to one third. The difference in energy be-

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and semi-reservoir hydropower projects in order to advance national wealth. As a result, the construction of the 1200 MW Budhi Gandaki, 635 MW Dudhkoshi reservoir hydroelectric project, and 1063 MW Upper Arun semi-reservoir hydropower project has advanced. According to NEA Managing Director Ghising, loan investments from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank have been made for the Upper Arun and Dudhkoshi hydropower projects, while local investment has progressed the Budhi Gandaki hydropower project.

THP Nature.

The 140 MW Tanahu Hydropower Project is a medium-sized hydroelectric facility. Three packages comprise it: headwork, waterway, and powerhouse. It also covers rural electrification and transmission and power transfer. Large-scale water storage facilities and related transmission lines are part of the project, which aims to evacuate generated power and foster community development in the project areas.

Building diversion tun-

tween the dry and lean seasons is substantial.

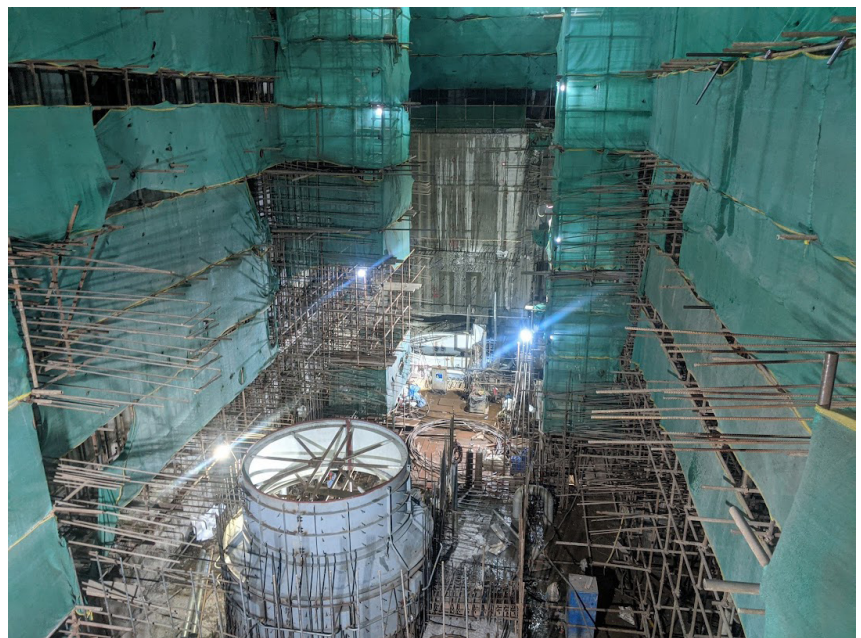
In this case, the 585.7 Gwh of energy produced by THP is extremely useful. After 11 years, the project produces 489.9 Gwh, compared to 585.7 Gwh in the first 10.

In addition, in less than a year, 507 megawatts of power were added, increasing the total installed capacity to 2858 MW. Moreover, hydropower plants with a 564 MW capacity are presently undergoing testing and commissioning. Within the next two to three months, it is anticipated that projects totaling approximately 3421 will be operational throughout the nation. The solar electricity will account for 107 MW of the total power output. All of the solar power sources won't have storage capacity, though, unlike THP.

A major goal for the Nepal Electricity Authority's system is the completion of the Tanahu Hydropower Project, according to Kul Man Ghising, Managing Director of NEA. A major goal for the Nepal Electricity Authority's system

is the completion of the Tanahu Hydropower Project, according to Kul Man Ghising, Managing Director of NEA. A major goal for the Nepal Electricity Authority's system is the completion of the Tanahu Hydropower Project, according to Kul Man Ghising, Managing Director of NEA. He said that things are moving along at a good pace right now.

We must accelerate the development of major reservoir



COVERSTORY



nels, maintaining the river, dam, and spillway, protecting the reservoir's slope, and constructing an access road surrounding the dam are all included in Package 1. The centerpiece of the headworks area is a dam with a height of 140 meters, a crest of 175 meters, and a volume of about 8,000,000 square meters.

The 140-meter-wide Seti River forms the border between Tanahu district's Rishing Rural Municipality-1 and Byas Municipality-5.

To release sediment that has accumulated in the reservoir, the dam will have sediment flushing features. The tractive force of river flow releases silt through sediment flushing conduits buried in the dam. According to Shilpakar, the reservoir is drained once a year. About 30% of the physical improvement has been made. The package was given to Song Da Corporation and Kalika Construction.

Waterway, powerhouse, and equipment are included in package 2. Construction is currently underway on the hydro-mechanical apparatus, draft gates, tailrace gate, intake gate, steel penstock, sediment flushing facilities, and water level lowering facilities. Along with related civil works, this package also comprises electro-mechanical equipment such as maintenance flow producing facilities, turbines, generators, generators, overhead moving cranes, and transformers. Over 55 tangible progress has been made on the project. Sino-Hydro was given the contract.

Four 2480-meter-long Audit Tunnels are among the equipment. Concrete and power excavation have already been finished with excavation. Additionally, the headrace tunnel has been dug out.

A 220 kV double circuit transmission line measuring 37 kilometers is part of Package 3 and runs from the Tanahu generating

facility to the recently constructed 220 kV Bharatpur substation. Over 72% of the project's physical progress has been made. Additionally, to link the transmission line to the current network, the new 220 kV Bharatpur substation facilities have been erected.

Thirty-three of the 94 towers have been finished, and 71 towers are still under construction. But only one kilometer of the conductor has been strung.

The project manager said that because they have not been able to obtain permissions from the relevant authorities to chop trees, they are unable to grant access to the remaining places. The project's contractor is the Indian business KEC International.

In the previous three months, the project has advanced significantly. As per Sachin Gautam, who works as a Communication Specialist at Tanahu Hydro-power Company Ltd., the project's physical progress was 52 percent

as of the conclusion of Mangsir on December 16. According to Gautam, 65 meters of excavation remain to be done in order to reach the main dam's foundation.

It is planned for the project to be finished in May 2026. Because explosives are needed to speed up excavation work, the contractor's performance is still poor. The THP project is extremely lucrative, and the contractor has asked for a one-year extension until May 2027, despite encountering various obstacles prior to the project's start.

The project came out of a virtual slumber due to the initiative of Kenichi Yokoyama, who worked as an ADB Country Director in Nepal from 2013 to 2017.

THP has implemented notable social and environmental safeguards. The project includes rural electrification, which aims to provide reliable grid electricity to people in the affected areas.

The package comprises the construction of two new substations, the augmentation of an existing substation, and the construction of 48 km of 33 kV dis-



tribution lines, 344 km of 11 kV distribution lines, and 450 km of 400 V distribution lines. All work under the package has been completed, resulting in Tanahu District achieving 100 percent electrification.

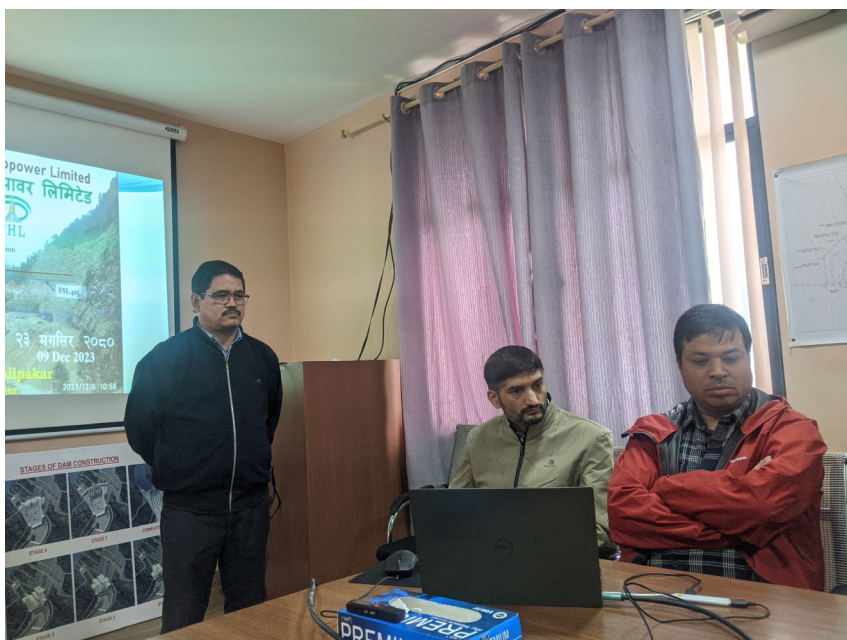
Pushkar Manandhar, senior project officer (Energy) at ADB Nepal Residence Office, stated that the project's progress is expected to accelerate once the issues of

explosive scarcity and forest clearance are resolved. ADB has been supporting NEA and the project to speed up the work.

The completion of the Tanahu Hydropower project will significantly improve the current state of power supply in Nepal. The Nepal Electricity Authority has been facing difficulties in maintaining power supply during peak and winter seasons. The project, which has a capacity of 144 MW and is located close to the country's load center, will ensure the quality of electricity supply.

An Impact Assessment for upgrading the generation license from 127 MW to 140 MW has been prepared. The project manager, Shilpkar, stated that all preparatory work, including the construction of the road at the dam site, camp facilities, equipment and maintenance yard, and office building, has been completed. Additionally, procurement of all major packages has been completed, and implementation is underway.

Despite having a huge surplus of electricity during the rainy



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season, Nepal faces a significant deficiency of electricity supply during the winter. Most hydropower projects built in the last decade are run-of-the-river type, resulting in a natural disparity in production patterns.

The government has prioritized private sector involvement in hydropower and solar power generation. In the past year, the private sector has been granted permission to produce additional megawatt capacity of solar power and hydropower. MD Ghising reported that power purchase agreements have been concluded with projects worth 3470 MW, and agreements for projects worth 10456 MW have been completed, including 205 MW of solar power.

The completion of the 144 MW THP project, the second semi-storage type project, will provide some relief, despite its relatively small size.

NEA recognizes the project's significance in Nepal's electricity sector and is working diligently to complete it on time. According to MD Ghising, they are addressing issues such as explosives and trees at higher levels.

The project was delayed for nearly two years due to the termination of the contractor for lot 1, the selection of a new contractor, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Completing the project on time will have a significant impact on load management.

According to project manager Shilpkar, early completion can help alleviate load pressure during the winter. This is the second storage project after Kulekhani.

Kiran Kumar Shrestha became managing director a few months ago. He has been visiting the site to accelerate construction

the contractor of the second package has made good progress ahead of schedule.

The project was completed on time. After terminating the contract with CMC di Ravenna, Italy in April 2019, the project had to restart the bidding process from the beginning.

The procurement of Package 1 (Head works) has been significantly delayed due to the unavoidable termination of the contract with CMC di Ravenna, Italy, and the rejection of all bids received for the re-bidding. The bids were substantially non-responsive to the requirements of the bidding documents.

Given his experience working on a number of hydropower projects, the current MD Shrestha

is likely to push the contractor to make progress.

The THP is expected to produce 587.7 gigawatt-hours of energy in its first 10 years of operation. During the dry season, the project can generate energy for six hours per day.

The project's total cost is estimated to be 505 million USD, and funding arrangements have been made after signing loan agreements with ADB, JICA, and EIB.

ADB, the European Investment Bank, JICA, and the Nepal government are investing a to-



work.

Currently, Song Da Corporation, Vietnam-Kalika Construction (P) Ltd, Nepal (JV) is constructing package one of Headwork of Tanahu Hydro-power Project, including the diversion of the river.

Under the second package, the Chinese contractor Syno Hydro has made significant progress in constructing the tunnel, power house, and supplying hydro-mechanical and electro-mechanical components.

Thanks to the hard work of former MD Pradeep Kumar Thike,

tal of USD 505 million in Nepal's energy sector.

Thanks to ADB's financing, Nepal has made significant progress in the past decade. The THP, Nepal's second storage project, is progressing well and paving the way for ADB to support Dudhkoshi hydropower, Nepal's largest storage project.

ADB is a key partner in Nepal's energy sector development, focusing on supporting NEA's expansion of generation, transmission, and distribution capacity.

NEA has made significant progress in transmission projects and distribution capacity building projects funded by ADB in the past year. Examples include the completion of the Kali-Gandaki corridor and the Bharatpur

Bardaghat 220 kV transmission line. The Bardaghat-New Butwal 220 kV transmission line project is now in its final stage of completion.

The project is progressing at a good pace. Arnaud Cauchoi, Country Director of the Asian Development Bank Country Mission, expressed hope that the Tanahu project will begin generating power as scheduled.

The ADB funded the 144 MW Kali Gandaki 'A' project, which is still strategically impor-

tant for balancing power during peak periods, until the completion of the 456 MW Upper Tamakoshi project. Additionally, the ADB supported the Khimti hydropower projects.

"ADB is our main partner in the energy sector, and NEA seeks more support from ADB for generation projects such as the Dudh Koshi Storage and 440 kV Butwal-Kohalpur Transmission Line Project. 'We will complete the 140 MW Tanahu project on

tion networks since 1972 through loans, grants, and technical assistance. In the past 15 years, ADB has focused on expanding and improving these infrastructures.

Various river corridors now have transmission lines that bring electricity from private sector projects to the national grid system. These include the Kali-gandaki, Modi, Khimti, Dordi, and Koshi corridors. The Hetou-

da (Bharatpur) Wardghat 220 kV transmission line and Marsyangadi (Kathmandu 220 kV) transmission line projects have also been completed.

Jan Hansen, Principal Economist at ADB Nepal's Resident Mission, stated that

ADB has been supporting Nepal's hydropower sector to achieve the goal of prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable growth. He mentioned that storage projects like THP are likely to support Nepal in achieving higher economic growth.

As ADB celebrates 50 years in Nepal, contributing immensely to the energy sector, the completion of the Tanahu Hydropower Project by 2027 is crucial.



schedule,' said Kul Man Ghising, Managing Director of NEA.

Over the last fifty years, ADB has made significant contributions to building Nepal's infrastructure, including transportation, air and highways, and hydropower.

ADB has invested in strengthening Nepal's transmission and distribution networks since 1972 through loans, grants, and technical assistance. ADB has invested in strengthening Nepal's transmission and distribu-

Advancing Need-Based Adaptation Options



BY: BATU UPRETY

The fifth session of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA.5) held during CoP28 to the UNFCCC at Dubai has made several decisions to expedite the implementation of adaptation options to reduce climate vulnerability, strengthen resilience and build adaptive capacity. On water stream, the first global stocktaking (GST1) has recognised “the critical role of protecting, conserving and restoring water systems and water-related ecosystems in delivering climate adaptation benefits and co-benefits, while ensuring social and environmental safeguards”. In line with the call of CMA.5 on adaptation, Nepal may wish to increase ambition and enhance adaptation actions at scale and at local levels to, inter alia, “significantly reduce climate-induced water scarcity and enhance climate resilience to water-related hazards ...” by 2030.

Nepal, a least developed, mountainous, and land-linked country, is implementing most urgent and immediate adaptation interventions as prioritised in the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) based on observed and perceived climate change impacts, national circumstances, needs and priorities. Nepal issued a National Framework on Local Adaptation Plan for Action (LAPA) in 2011 to localise adaptation options.

Urgency of implementing adaptation options was further realised at the global level. In 2010, Parties to the UNFCCC decided to prepare and implement the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) to address medium and long-term adaptation needs in developing countries. As of CoP28, 51 developing country Parties to the UNFCCC, including Nepal have prepared NAPs. Countries have prioritised both community-based and ecosystem-based approaches to implement adaptation options to reduce a range of climate change risks, address the needs of the climate vulnerable, and provide multiple co-benefits.

In 2011, the UK government provided support to implement the most urgent and immediate adaptation options as prioritised in Nepal’s NAPA using the LAPA framework in climate-vulnerable districts of mid-west and far west Nepal. The UK government continued its support to localise adaptation options and improve the socio-economic conditions of the climate-vulnerable communities through the Nepal Climate Change Support Programme (NCCSP).

Revisiting the concept and approach of supporting the needy people and communities, NCCSP at its second phase continued its support on ‘demand-driven’, people-centric, and income-generating adaptation options taking note of the climate vulnerability of the municipalities as ranked in the Vulnerability and Risk Assessment (VRA) report prepared as a part of NAP formulation process by the Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE) - the climate change focal point of Nepal - in 2021. A review of adaptation options informs people’s demand on water supply either for drinking or irrigation

purposes to meet the drinking water needs and utilise water for economic benefits by raising vegetables. The linkage of water demand with production is advancing towards economic and ecological security in the adaptation piloting areas. The

following paragraphs provide few examples of NCCSP support in addressing water supply as the most prioritised needs of the climate-vulnerable communities in sample districts of Karnali and Sudur Paschim provinces.

Field visit of the following adaptation sites in December 2023 in Surkhet and Kailali districts, implemented with support from NCCSP, offers a message on its approach of ensuring climate-induced effects and future impacts, linking with climate vulnerability and risks based on VRA report and climate rationale, selection of adaptation options using LAPA framework (2019), involvement of marginalised and disad-



vantaged climate vulnerable communities such as Dalits and janajatis, and approach of supporting through the local user groups under the guidance, coordination and supervision of the concerned municipality:

1 The Attitude Drinking Water scheme at Bherigan-ga Municipality-4, Surkhet was supported to provide drinking water to marginalised and climate-vulnerable 489 households, affected by drought, landslides, pest infection, and riverbank cutting etc. The required quantity of water is lifted to a vertical height of 80m through the pump and distributed through a storage tank for drinking purposes and other uses.

2 In Bherigan-ga Municipality-10, NCCSP supported Kareli lift irrigation scheme has substantially changed the life and livelihood of in-migrated 27 households (with 96% Dalits and janajatis and 52% women) from vegetable production due to irrigation facilities. A small support can bring a remarkable change in generating income, developing entrepreneurship, and improving the livelihoods of the marginalised and ‘highly climate vulnerable communities’ due to drought.

3 NCCSP support in ‘moderately climate vulnera-

ble' Panchapuri Municipality-11 in Surkhet to develop Raji Dhara Drinking Water Supply scheme has substantially contributed to meeting the demand for safe drinking water of marginalised, climate vulnerable, and small farmers, totalling nearly 1600 people of 6 settlements at Thankot Kuine. Roles and responsibilities of the municipality are clear and instrumental in coordinating the support of relevant organisations and enhancing ownership over the water scheme and its operation and maintenance.



4 Again, in Panchapuri municipality-10, Rajigaun (Rudrerowa) water supply scheme is providing drinking water to over 150 climate-vulnerable and resettled people who were severely affected by landslides and floods. Local people have started growing vegetables from unused water and have increased their seasonal income.

5 Climate change projects are designed to reduce climate vulnerability, build adaptive capacity and strengthen resilience to climate change. Community-driven adaptation options are multi-fold and proper selection of actions contributes to multi-purpose use as well. In flood-affected and inundated areas of Tikapur Municipality-3 (Chiya settlement with 5/6 of Dalits, and Janajatis of 150 households), Kailali, local people prioritised actions to protect them and their properties and enhance the adaptive capacity of local people against flood. It resulted in the construction of a disabled (having different capacities) and gender-friendly flood-resilient shelter house. NCCSP supported to construct of the multi-purpose building to protect people from floods and inundations, and use the building for meetings, training and social events, and storing crops during floods and other seasons.

6 Economic upliftment contributes to cope with the adverse impacts of climate change. Coping capacity is sufficiently linked with the purchasing power of an individual or a community. Support of NCCSP for banana farming at Rajapur Municipality, experiencing a high rate of vulnerability due to high exposure, sensitivity and low adaptive capacity, under its Covid-19 Special Partnership Programme has benefitted about 100 people.



NCCSP support to a progressive farmer has been instrumental in promoting 'banana farming'. Banana farmers informs greater potential of linking adaptation options with income-generating activities.

NCCSP support in the above six sites calls for helping

climate-vulnerable communities to protect them from drought (too little water) to meet their water needs, at least for drinking and irrigation, and 'too much water' to reduce adverse impacts of inundations and flooding. This informs to prioritise climate actions to solve water-related impacts and link adaption interventions for economic security. This also informs the urgency of enhancing adaption capacity to conserve, manage and sustainably utilise water resources to improve people's livelihoods for ecological security.

Looking after the support utilisation approach, municipalities have been engaged in selecting and prioritising adaptation interventions through a 'branded' LAPA, implementing actions through user groups, involving concerned wards in coordination and supervision, utilising benefits through collaborative approaches, and developing the most important element for sustainability - the ownership over the interventions. A decade-long experience in engaging municipalities and local service providers through the 'on-budget, on-treasury' practice of fund flow to climate vulnerable communities provides evidence to empower elected local body - the municipality - for overall priority setting, coordination, supervision, monitoring, and evaluation and involve local beneficiaries - the people - in implementation and maintenance.

Realising the greater impacts of climate change on water resources, the Water and Energy Commission Secretariat (WECS) has coordinated, supervised, guided, and facilitated the preparation of a response strategy for water resources under the Global Water Leadership (GWL) Programme to address key barriers namely, policy implementation, institutional coordination, and data & capacity building prioritised through the multi-stakeholder consultative process. The strategy outlines prioritised root causes of each barrier which ranges from inadequate political will to the lack of coordination at different levels, and data acquisition and sharing policy. Nearly two dozen of strategies have been developed with 29 actions and 76 sub-actions to address challenges that impede inclusive and climate resilient policies and strategies. Effective implementation of the response strategy is expected to substantially contribute to integrate climate change into water resource policies and programmes (climate-smart policies), and water concerns into climate change policies and programmes (water inclusive climate policies). The response strategy was validated by the multi-stakeholders on the second week of January 2024. WECS may process for accessing and mobilising resources for its effective implementation again with multi-stakeholder approaches.

HANAN GODAR

Diplomat With Love

Despite his country's continuous struggle with Hamas militants, he has shown personal support for Nepal and its people. He is a diplomat with a heart full of affection.

By KESHAB POUDEL

Israel has been struggling for its survival against terrorism since Hamas' terrible terrorist attack in Southern Israel on October 7th, which claimed over 1500 innocent Israeli lives, including 10 students from Nepal, and abducted over 500 captives.

Hanan Goder, the Israeli ambassador to Nepal, whose family is also in Israel, is going through trauma and a challenging time, just like all Israelis. In addition to carrying out his diplomatic duties, Ambassador Hanan Goder stays in regular contact with the families of those who were evacuated and with Nepalese students hurt in a terrorist assault.

He has maintained continuous communication with the family of Bipin Joshi, a student from Nepal who was purportedly kidnapped by Hamas. Ambassador Hanan Goder made major efforts to enhancing grassroots people-to-people ties both during his first and second terms as Israel's ambassador to Nepal.

He attempted to modernize Nepali agriculture and developed the 'Learn and Earn' program to train young farmers from Nepal in Israel. He also made it easier for experts from Nepal to enter the Israeli job market.

Although ambassadors come and go, Ambassador Goder will leave a lasting impression on the relationship between Israel and Nepal. On the other hand, some diplomats have a profound effect on the nation in which they are posted. Israel is one of the few nations that the people of Nepal hold in high respect and confidence as their nation broadens its international contacts.

After serving their terms in Nepal, a number of Israeli envoys have left the country having made significant contributions to improving relations between the two nations. But the Israeli ambassador to Nepal, Hanan Goder, who held the position twice, has demonstrated a stronger bond with the country and its people.

Ambassador Goder has been traveling the nation and meeting farmers, business owners, and individuals from all walks

of life in order to promote Nepal's natural beauty.

Through his effort, the business sectors in Israel and Nepal are collaborating to modernize the agriculture industry in Nepal and increase the capacity of Nepalese farmers.

In Nepal, the brand "Shalom" is currently well-known. After their return from Israel, several Nepalese entrepreneurs



and products were founded. Their businesses were called "Shalom."

Recognizing its more than 65 years of diplomatic connections and friendship with Nepal, Israel has been in Nepal to support Nepalese, whether it was during the catastrophic earthquake in 2015 or during regular times.

Dhulikhel Hospital and Israeli medical professionals have been collaborating on community medicine and water purification. A project to introduce water purifying technology to Nepal was started by Ambassador Hanan.

The University of Maryland in the United States will work with Namo Buddha Municipality and Kavre District to develop a water treatment plant.

Various people from Nepalese society were introduced to University of Maryland professors and students currently visiting Nepal.

By 2030, water demand is pre-

dicted to surpass availability by 40% if substantial reforms to water management are not implemented.

Water treatment can eliminate dangerous impurities from drinking water while also enhancing its taste, fragrance, and appearance. Chlorine, soil residue, and both organic and inorganic pollutants are reduced.

Ten percent of treated water in Israel is set aside for environmental uses including reducing river flow and fighting fires. The majority of treated water in Israel is used for agricultural irrigation. Merely 5% of it is released into the ocean.

Israel's well-planned, excellent reuse and distribution of water have led to a national surplus of water that it exports to its neighbors.

The construction of a water treatment facility in the NamoBuddha municipality with assistance from Maryland University will mark a significant milestone for the unplanned urbanization of the Kathmandu Valley, according to Professor Dr. Bim Shrestha of Kathmandu University.

Israel is a global pioneer in water recycling, according to Israeli Ambassador to Nepal Hanan Goder. He also brought up the horrific October 7, 2023, attack on Israel by Hamas, which left hundreds dead, including ten students from Nepal. Bipin Joshi, one of the students, was abducted and is still missing.

In addition, Ambassador Hanan emphasized the significance of Israel's development of Nepal by introducing a water treatment plant to Namobudha. Ambassador Hanan gave Nepal and the Nepalese people a piece of his heart.

Israel has consistently sided with Nepal and the Nepalese people when disputes about its existence arise. Nepal strengthened its leadership within the monarchy and installed BP Koirala as its first democratically elected prime minister.

Wherever he goes, Ambassador Hanan—who prefers to go as Dil Bahadur—leads with a few words of wisdom. He gathers plastic debris from the trail when he goes trekking.

InElam

Sharing Of Learning

At a time when Nepal's import of agricultural products has increased drastically and surpassed the total value of Nepal's exports, senior officials, technicians, entrepreneurs, farmers and concerned stakeholders representing the agricultural sector from Sudur Pashim, Karnali and Lumbini Provinces recently gathered in a workshop agreed to work together to increase production for the first time in eight years. Organized jointly by Helvetas Nepal's InElam project and the Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperatives of Sudur Paschim Province, the Inter-Provincial Coordination and Learning Exchange Workshop provided an opportunity to share practices and learning.

By KESHAB POUDEL

Nepal's agriculture sector is facing new challenges due to declining cultivated land and increasing imports of agricultural products. Despite being a net exporter of agriculture two decades ago, Nepal is now a net importer of agricultural products.

Karnali, Sudur Paschim, and Lumbini provinces are also experiencing deficits in agricul-

tural production.

In the first four months of the current fiscal year 2023/24, Nepal imported agricultural products worth Rs. 85 billion. According to the Department of Customs, the amount exceeds the total export by almost Rs. 35 billion.

In response to this alarming scenario, Helvetas Nepal's InElam Project and the Ministry

of Land Management, Agriculture, and Cooperatives of Sudur Paschim Province jointly organized an inter-provincial coordination and sharing workshop.

During the day-long program, three provincial government leaders presented their annual policies, programs, plans, and strategies. They also discussed federal, provincial, and local policies, rules, and regula-





tions.

At a time when all provinces are facing similar problems, including managing the agriculture extension network, crop management, fertilizer supply, and irrigation, an Inter-Province Coordination and Learning Exchange Workshop is highly significant to share the challenges and opportunities faced by each province.

The first inter-provincial coordination workshop brought together agriculture secretaries, senior officials, experts, farmers, civil society members, and entrepreneurs from Sudur Paschim, Karnali, and Lumbini Provinces. Its purpose was to facilitate dialogue, coordination, and knowledge sharing among stakeholders involved in the agriculture sector.

Although Nepal's agriculture sector has performed poorly in all provinces over the last decade, no concrete steps have been taken to address the common challenges.

Tika Ram Thapa, joint secretary of the Land Management, Agriculture, and Cooper-

ative Ministry in Sudur Paschim Province, expressed gratitude to the In-Ilam Project of Helvetas Nepal for their support in organizing this workshop. The workshop has provided an opportunity to share experiences and shortcomings. A meeting was held among all seven provinces to discuss politics, programs, and share learning. The Ministry would like to express gratitude towards Helvetas Nepal, despite the fact that

the organization has already completed its project in our province.

The Sudur Paschim Province Agriculture Ministry and Helvetas Nepal's Elam project have been working closely together for the past seven years. This is another successful collaboration to create an open platform for sharing experiences of public light among the secretaries and directors of all three provinces," said Thapa.

Others agree. "The communication network between agricultural experts and officials has completely broken down in the last eight years." Dr. Narahari Prasad Ghimire, secretary of Agriculture, Lana Management and Cooperative Ministry of Karnali Province, stated that the program was renewed after participating in the Inter-Province Coordination and Learning workshop. Dr. Narahari Prasad Ghimire, secretary of Agriculture, Lana Management and Cooperative Ministry of Karnali Province, stated that the program was renewed after participating in the Inter-Province Coordination and



Learning workshop. Dr. Narahari Prasad Ghimire, secretary of Agriculture, Lana Management and Cooperative Ministry of Karnali Province, stated that the program was renewed after participating in the Inter-Province Coordination and Learning workshop. He also expressed the need for more programs like this in the future.

Narayan Prasad Sigdyal, the Head Master of Jana Jyoti Secondary School in Surkhet, shared his concept of a ‘learn and earn’ program currently implemented in his school. He discussed the endorsement of the program by the federal government to boost the agriculture sector.

Sigdyal emphasized the importance of providing vocational education focused on agriculture and teaching students the value of ‘learn and earn.’

Sigdyal requested that local, provincial, and federal governments focus their attention and resources on utilizing CTV products in agricultural production across the country. He believes that agriculture should be taught to students from an early stage.

Top Lal BK, a prominent banana farmer and entrepreneur from Bardia of Lumbini Province, presented the current state of banana farming and the challenges faced by farmers.

BK, who started banana farming on a small plot of land and now grows bananas on over 20 bigha (five acres), believes that Nepal has the potential to be self-reliant in banana production and even become an exporter with proper government support. Currently, Nepal is importing bananas, but with a review of import policies and incentives for



land leasing and irrigation, Nepal could start exporting bananas to China within a few years.

Prabin Paudel from Helvetas Nepal’s Mitho project presented a paper on the opportunities for cash crop production in Nepal, specifically highlighting the potential for high-quality walnut production in the country’s high hills.

Despite the lack of policy-level support, Nepalese farmers can benefit from exporting walnuts to third countries. However, farmers have yet to plant walnuts on a mass scale. Paudel stated that the project aims to increase the number of walnut trees in Jumla and surrounding areas. This increase in production can significantly reduce poverty in the Karnali province. Close coordination and cooperation between local, provincial, and federal governments is necessary for this to happen.

Dutta Ram Avasthi, a senior official from Sudur Paschim Province, supported Paudel’s presentation, stating that the

barren hills of Sudur Paschim are suitable for growing walnuts.

The seminar brought together agriculture experts, policymakers, higher government officials, and farmers, including secretaries from three provincial governments, to share their experiences and knowledge. One positive outcome is that everyone agreed to continue this process in the future at various levels.

“A key component of Helvetas Nepal is supporting the capacity building of all three branches of government.” We have been offering technical and administrative assistance to the federal, provincial, and local governments. Inter-provincial coordination is critical to the successful implementation of a federal system in Nepal. “The InElam Project effort will most likely support regular inter-provincial dialogue,” stated Dr. Prabin Manandhar, country director of Helvetas Nepal.

The workshop raised the price chain facility of various agricultural items, such as fruits,



vegetables, bananas, walnuts, seeds, and fish. It also included reading and earning programs. It is important to ensure self-sufficiency in agricultural items.

Dr. Madan Singh Dhimi, Secretary of Land Management, Agriculture, and Cooperative of Sudur Paschim Province, suggested conducting this kind of inter-provincial learning and sharing exchange workshop at least twice a year, even on Zoom.

We must thank Helvetas for this initiative and seek another one to hold a similar workshop in all seven provinces. Our province is ready to collaborate with Helvetas Nepal for this.

The workshop emphasizes the marketing aspect and urges officials to encourage domestic products while discouraging imports. To achieve this, they suggest avoiding an increase in the use of technology, facilitating

objective pricing, and following good practices.

Yam Narayan Devekota, the Secretary of Agriculture and Land Management of Lumbini Province, thanked Helvetas Nepal for supporting the workshop that helped to restore the link among the three ministries.

Devekota expressed his satisfaction with the new effort and emphasized the importance of these workshops in restoring communication among the agriculture-related ministries. Devekota expressed his satisfaction with the new effort and emphasized the importance of these workshops in restoring communication among the agriculture-related ministries. The workshops help to improve understanding and learning of good practices and failures.

Communication gaps among provinces can lead to a decline in agricultural production, possible food insecurity,





and can even push struggling farmers into poverty. This is especially concerning for a country that relies on agriculture for more than a quarter of its GDP.

Farmers in Nepal are facing setbacks in agricultural production due to climate change, soil degradation, and cheaper imports from neighboring countries. Addressing these challenges is crucial.

In 2022, the agriculture sector contributed 23.95% to GDP, while the manufacturing sector contributed 14.3%. In 2000, 75% of Nepal's population relied on agriculture for their livelihood. By 2022, this had decreased to 66%.

Our project includes advocacy as one of its components. Hari Gurung, the InElam Project Manager, stated that the organiza-

tion advocates for policy change and the creation of a conducive environment for resource-based enterprises. The focus is on employment generation by promoting local resources and creating value chains through a market system development approach.

The aim is to benefit disadvantaged women and men in Nepal by providing employment opportunities through the productive use of local resources. The workshop's issues are relevant in the present context.

Akriti Rana from Helvetas Nepal stated, "Our primary stakeholders are unemployed and underemployed men and women from disadvantaged groups. The project advocates for policies and programs that require intensive meetings between government officials, private sectors, and

farmers to be favorable."

The agricultural sector's contribution to the GDP has steadily declined over the years. In the fiscal year 2013/14, the sector accounted for 30.3% of the GDP, while in the last fiscal year, it accounted for 24.7%. This decline is due to the increasing use of technology and professionalism in agriculture, as well as the expansion of the service sector, which has led to a gradual decrease in the population's involvement in agriculture.

The growth of agricultural production has been affected by several factors, including the increase in barren land in hilly areas, more young people going abroad, and people being attracted to other areas instead of agriculture. As a result, the contribution of agriculture to the total



domestic product has decreased.

In the last fiscal year 2022/23, agricultural goods worth Rs. 296.30 billion were imported. To increase agricultural production, it is necessary to create plans and policies that are favorable. Dr. Ghimire, the agriculture secretary of Karnali province, stated that the province is working towards producing organic agriculture products for export.

The country has imported vegetables and lentils worth over Rs. 11.8. All provinces need to focus on replacing these imports. Our twenty-year agriculture strategy is directed towards this goal,” said Dr. Ghimire.

Officials from Sudur Paschim and Lumbini Provinces shared their annual and long-term agriculture programs, expressing their belief in the possibility of reducing imports and promoting

exports.

Sudur Paschim Province is focusing on cash crops supported by cereal. Dr. Madan Singh Dhimi, secretary of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperative, Sudur Paschim Province, stated that evaluating the current trends in demand and supply is crucial. Our long-term agriculture plan prioritizes this.

Despite Nepal’s own production, 33,340,140 kg of apples worth Rs. 3.26 billion were imported last month. Secretary Dr. Ghimire stated that apple plantations are being expanded in Dolpa, Jumla, Mugu, and Humla. Results are expected within a few years.

InElam project has supported multiple advocacy programs to bring changes to policies, regulations, agriculture, livelihood, and employment generation sectors.

Last month, we led a delegation of farmers to visit the agriculture committee of the federal parliament and federal ministries related to agriculture. We advocated for solutions to the problems and policies that obstruct agriculture development. We called on the Minister of Finance, Agriculture, and the Managing Director of Nepal Electricity Authority. The concerned authorities responded positively to our demands. I believe that these activities will help Nepal become an agricultural country. In the past, the government has responded positively to issues raised by farmers’ delegations. Tek Bahadur Singh from Helvetas Nepal Karnali Provincial Office said, ‘They will take drastic steps this time as well.’

Our project aims to support and promote resource-based

enterprises at the policy level through advocacy. We do this by strengthening the capacity of farmer-related associations at the district level, such as the Banana Association, Dragon Association, and Floriculture Association. We provide all necessary training to strengthen the capacity of the farmers and support their participation in workshops.



InElam's Learning: Experience Sharing in Madhesh

Nepal is in the initial stages of state reform, with three tiers of government operating at three levels. Lack of coordination and cooperation is a significant impediment to the implementation of development projects and programs.

On December 30th, Helvetas Nepal's InElam Project and Madhesh Province's Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Tourism co-hosted an interaction program in Bardibas, Mahottari district. The initiative sought to overcome the lack of coordination between Madhesh province and local governments, which had produced issues during project implementation.

The gathering was attended by province and municipal government officials, members of the private sector, political parties, and media personnel.

They discussed their experiences and learnings from Helvetas Nepal's InElam initiative. The initiative was started by

Rahbar Ansari, State Minister of Madhesh Province's Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forestry, and Environment.

Representatives from the Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture, and Cooperatives, as well as the head of the Food Technology and Quality Control Department, attended the ceremony on behalf of the Madhesh government.

Mayors, deputy mayors, executive officers, the Birganj Industry and Commerce Association, and various business associations from the Madhesh province, such as fish, honey, banana, and herb producers, service providers, and farmers, all took part in the program. This was the first of its sort, and the goal was to share what they had learned.

Hari Gurung, the InElam Project's program manager, discussed his experiences with the Bagar project, enterprise development, and other initiatives. He spoke about how these programs have affected the livelihoods of disadvantaged and marginalized groups.

Sushil Sah, Secretary of

the Ministry of Education and Culture, spoke on behalf of Madhesh Pradesh. Entrepreneurs, farmers, local government officials, and political leaders all gave their thoughts. During the discussion, farmers and business owners shared their experiences and proposed potential solutions to the government.

They voiced worry that small fish farmers being paying the same electricity rates as larger companies. Madhesh province is well-known for its fish production, however there is insufficient technical manpower to support the business.

The farmers urged that the province administration and Helvetas Nepal help build a cold storage facility and processing technologies for fish storage.

They also proposed revising the current agriculture loan program to make it more accessible to poor and marginalized farmers. They also wanted a land-use policy to address the issue of land for cash crops.

The farmers also advocated for separate horticultural and fishing rules to help small



businesses. They also advocated for a simpler approach for obtaining a quality certificate for products like honey. The milk producers sought that the government's milk subsidies be credited directly to their accounts.

Ansari, the State Minister of Industry, Tourism, Forestry, and Environment, recognized Helvetas Nepal's excellent role in growing firms in both the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors. He claimed that Helvetas gives regular support in contrast to other organizations, and the Madhesh government is closely with them.

Ansari, the state minister, assured participants that the provincial government is taking the necessary steps to address issues such as registration, cold storage construction, and agricultural electricity tariff reductions for a variety of industries, including

bananas, fish, bees, vegetables, forest herbs, and non-agricultural sectors.

Furthermore, he indicated that the Madhesh administration is willing to provide financial, technical, and marketing assistance to entrepreneurs starting businesses in both agricultural and non-agricultural areas.

Hariwan Municipality Mayor Kamal Budathoki said that Helvetas Nepal's In-Ilam, Swablamban Market Management, and Employment Creation Center Hariwan Pvt. Sarlahi had inked a tripartite agreement to develop a model municipality.

He stated that the partnership intends to encourage dairy and vegetable production, support young agricultural entrepreneurs, and produce revenue through waste management in the city.

Ram Prasad Chaudhary,

Mayor of Kolbi Municipality in Bara district, declared that Kolbi is a model region in Nepal for fish farming. Helvetas Nepal's InElam worked with the municipality to construct a fish processing facility.

Municipal officials met with the federal government to discuss the problem of agricultural electricity tariffs.

The mayor of Durgabhagavati Municipality in Rautahat, Shambhu Kumar Singh, announced that the municipality has incorporated Helvetas Nepal in the initiative to maintain paddy field agriculture.

All of the participants in the interaction program asked Helvetas Nepal to keep funding economic and social development since it has been helping the underprivileged and disenfranchised.

Economics And Management Integrated Professional Legal Education In Nepal



BY: TULASA NEUPANE

In recent years, Nepal has witnessed a substantial surge in the field of professional legal education. Initially, Tribhuvan University stood as the sole institution offering formal academic degrees across all levels. However, the last two and half decades

have witnessed the establishment of several new universities providing professional legal education in various cities throughout Nepal. There has also been a significant upswing in the number of students opting for legal studies at the higher education level.

While a considerable number of students are opting to pursue undergraduate studies abroad for various reasons, there remains a significant local interest in legal education. This growth has led to increased competition among universities and colleges offering legal courses. Furthermore, the job market for law graduates and young lawyers has expanded. This overall transformation in the landscape of professional legal education is undoubtedly positive. However, a critical question arises: Does the evolving trend in legal education align with the contemporary needs of Nepal, particularly in terms of fostering the rule of law, economic growth, and overall national development?

Why interdisciplinary legal education?

There is a growing realization that exclusively teaching lawyers the law without exposing them to other disciplines or providing a broader educational context at the undergraduate level can have both advantages and limitations in their professional development. Lawyers who undergo specialized legal education typically acquire in-depth knowledge of legal principles, statutes, and case law within their jurisdiction. Such intensive legal training often hones research and writing skills, enabling lawyers to analyze cases, interpret statutes, and craft persuasive legal arguments. They may become specialists in specific legal areas, contributing to a deep understanding of niche practices such as tax law, environmental law, or intellectual property law. While a specialized legal education at undergraduate level provides a strong foundation in legal principles and practice, there are important advantages to incorporating interdisciplinary elements into legal training.

Lawyers exclusively trained in law may have a more limited perspective when addressing complex issues that involve multiple disciplines. They may struggle to appreciate the broader context and implications of legal matters. Legal issues often intersect with other fields, such as business, technology, and ethics. Lawyers who haven't been exposed to interdisciplinary education may find it challenging to navigate the complexities arising from these intersections. Without a broader education, they may lack a deep understanding of business operations, which is crucial for advising corporate clients effectively, especially in areas like mergers and acquisitions, contracts, and corporate governance. Lawyers who haven't been exposed to diverse disciplines may

face challenges in communicating with professionals from other fields. Effective collaboration often requires a shared understanding of terminology and concepts.

Cross-disciplinary perspectives often contribute to innovative problem-solving.

Legal practitioners exclusively trained in law may be less inclined to think creatively or consider non-legal solutions to legal challenges. In rapidly changing environments, professionals benefit from adaptability. Those with a narrow educational focus may find it challenging to adapt to emerging trends, technologies, or changes in legal and business landscapes. Exposure to other disciplines can enhance critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and the ability to address the diverse and interconnected challenges that legal professionals may encounter in their careers.

Kathmandu University Approach

Kathmandu University School of Law, as a novel intervention in legal education, has adopted a unique approach to address this concern. Established in 2013 by its founder dean, Professor Bipin Adhikari, the school has been a pioneer in Nepal by introducing, for the first time, an integrated undergraduate legal education that combines economics and business management. Under his innovative initiative, there are two undergraduate programs offered: the Bachelor of Business Management & Bachelor of Laws (BBM-LL.B) and the Bachelor of Economics and Bachelor of Laws (BEc-LL.B).

The primary objective of the BBM-LL.B program is to meet the demands of Nepal's burgeoning private sector, while the BEc-LL.B program aims to cultivate human resources for the economic development of the country. Graduates from these programs have the option to enter the legal profession through competitive channels or pursue civil and judicial positions within the Government of Nepal. Professor Adhikari envisions that these graduates, due to the interdisciplinary nature of these programs, will bring about significant changes in Nepal's legal landscape. While the actual impact is yet to be substantiated, the emerging trend is undeniably positive.

As proposed, economics can be an important foundation for a law degree. Its significance depends on the area of law and the career path a student plans to pursue. As a discipline, economics provides a framework for understanding how legal systems function within the broader context of society. It helps students grasp the economic implications of legal decisions, regulations, and policies. Legal professionals often engage in policy analysis and advocacy. An understanding of economics enables lawyers to assess the economic impact of proposed policies and regulations, contributing to informed decision-making. In areas such as corporate law and business transactions, knowledge of economics is crucial. Lawyers involved in mergers and acquisi-

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tions, contract negotiations, and corporate governance need to understand economic principles that underpin business decisions.

Antitrust and competition law frequently involve economic concepts. Lawyers practicing in these areas must analyze market structures, assess competition, and understand economic consequences of business practices. Environmental law often intersects with economics, particularly in matters related to resource allocation, cost-benefit analysis, and environmental impact assessments. An understanding of economics can enhance a lawyer's ability to address environmental issues. In intellectual property law, particularly in areas related to patents and innovation, an economic background is valuable. Lawyers may need to assess the economic value of intellectual property, analyze market dynamics, and understand the role of innovation in economic development. Economics is integral to understanding international trade and investment law. Lawyers in this field must navigate complex economic issues related to tariffs, trade agreements, and investment flows.

Lawyers working in public interest law and advocacy may encounter economic justice issues. Understanding economics helps in addressing issues related to poverty, inequality, and access to resources. In civil litigation, economic analysis may be crucial in cases involving damages, valuation of assets,

and financial disputes. Lawyers with an economic foundation can collaborate effectively with economic experts in such cases. Professionals providing legal consulting services or advising on public policy may benefit from an economic background. It enhances their ability to provide comprehensive advice that considers both legal and economic aspects.

Similarly, according to Professor Adhikari, a foundation in business management can also be highly beneficial for individuals pursuing a law degree, particularly if they are interested in areas of law that intersect with business, commerce, and corporate governance. Business management knowledge is valuable in corporate law, where lawyers often deal with issues related to corporate governance, compliance, and the management of business entities. Business management skills are beneficial in contract law and negotiations. Understanding business operations, financial implications, and strategic goals can enhance a lawyer's ability to draft effective contracts and negotiate favourable terms. Individuals interested in entrepreneurship law or working with start-ups can benefit from a background in business management. Start-ups often require legal advice that integrates legal considerations with business strategy.

In M&A transactions, lawyers need to understand the business rationale behind mergers, acquisitions, and divestitures. Business management knowledge aids in assessing the strategic

and financial implications of such transactions. Business management skills can be advantageous in tax law, where lawyers may need to analyze the financial structures of businesses and advise on tax planning strategies. Business management knowledge is relevant in risk management and compliance, where lawyers help businesses navigate legal requirements, mitigate risks, and ensure compliance with industry standards. Lawyers specializing in financial regulation or securities law may find business management knowledge useful in understanding financial markets, investment strategies, and regulatory compliance.

Individuals pursuing entrepreneurial lawyering or working with small businesses may find business management skills helpful in providing holistic legal advice that aligns with the business goals of their clients. In-house counsel roles often require lawyers to collaborate closely with business leaders. Understanding business management principles enables lawyers to communicate effectively with executives and contribute to strategic decision-making. Individuals with a combination of legal and business management skills may explore alternative legal careers, such as legal consulting, legal project management, or roles that involve both legal and business expertise.

Strategy of Double Jurisdiction

Professor Adhikari's integrated law courses, incorporating economics and business management, highlight an additional significant aspect.

The curriculum and syllabi are intentionally designed to enable students to explore the concept of "double jurisdiction" across various law subjects. In this innovative approach, students are not restricted to studying Nepali laws exclusively; rather, they are actively encouraged to delve into an additional legal system pertinent to the subject matter in each course.

To illustrate, a student specializing in constitutional law will not only explore the constitutional law of Nepal but will also delve into the constitutional law of a comparable advanced jurisdiction, such as British constitutional law. This distinctive feature empowers students to grasp not only the intricacies of the Nepalese legal system but also gain insights into a foreign legal system where applicable. The emphasis is not on studying British constitutional law comprehensively; instead, the focus is on understanding issues that have not yet surfaced in Nepal or do not exist within the Nepalese context.

Despite their absence in the local scenario, these issues remain crucial and warrant attention. Consequently, students acquire knowledge of laws and institutions practiced abroad, aspects that may not be as clearly or adequately elucidated in the local constitutional laws. This approach serves to reinforce students' legal knowledge, particularly in areas where the Nepali system may be less robust or less transparent. It also enhances their capacity to comprehend legal themes within a global context, mitigating



any potential identity crisis that may arise when navigating legal concepts and practices on an international scale.

In practical terms, students in a program offering double jurisdiction legal studies might study and analyze legal concepts and cases from both the native jurisdiction and a selected developed legal system. This approach can provide a larger and comparative perspective on legal issues, preparing students to navigate legal complexities in different contexts. It can be particularly valuable for individuals who plan to work in international law, cross-border transactions, or in areas where knowledge of multiple legal systems is beneficial.

A legal education that includes exposure to multiple jurisdictions can contribute to the development of quality lawyers in several ways. Exposure to different legal systems provides students with a broader and more global perspective on legal issues. This understanding is crucial in an increasingly interconnected world where legal matters often transcend national borders. Quality lawyers with an international outlook are better equipped to handle cases with cross-border implications. Studying diverse legal systems helps students develop adaptability and flexibility in their thinking. They learn to navigate and apply legal principles in different contexts, preparing them to address a variety of legal challenges that may arise in their future careers. Comparative legal studies allow students to analyze and compare legal frameworks, practices, and outcomes. This analytical skill is valuable for lawyers working in areas such as international law, trade law, and human rights, where understanding the similarities and differences between legal systems is essential.

Exposure to different legal systems often goes hand-in-hand with exposure to different cultures. This can enhance a lawyer's cultural competence, an important skill when dealing with clients, colleagues, and legal professionals from diverse backgrounds. Dealing with legal issues in multiple jurisdictions requires sophisticated problem-solving skills. Lawyers who have been trained in double jurisdictions are often adept at finding creative and effective solutions to complex legal problems. A legal education that includes exposure to multiple jurisdictions can open up diverse career opportunities for lawyers. They may be well-suited for roles in international law firms, multinational corporations, government agencies dealing with international affairs, and organizations focused on human rights or global governance. Lawyers with knowledge of different legal systems can make more informed decisions for their clients. They can weigh the advantages and disadvantages of legal strategies, taking into account the legal landscape in different jurisdictions.

While the benefits are significant, it's important to note that the effectiveness of such programs also depends on the quality of the curriculum, faculty expertise, and the practical experiences provided to students. Overall, a legal education with a focus on double jurisdictions can contribute to the development of well-rounded and adaptable lawyers capable of addressing the complexities of today's global environment.

The case law method is a fundamental approach used at Kathmandu University to teach law to students in a well-developed semester system. This method emphasizes the study of judicial decisions, or case law, to understand legal principles, doctrines, and reasoning.

Teaching Pedagogy

Interdisciplinary professional legal education is a dynamic process, and is increasingly becoming a trend in the modern world. The legal landscape is evolving, and there is a growing recognition that lawyers need to possess a broader skill set that extends beyond traditional legal knowledge. This includes the use of online learning platforms, virtual classrooms, and legal research tools. Technology is also influencing the way legal professionals engage with clients and manage cases. Law schools are offering courses that address international legal issues, and students are encouraged to consider the global implications of legal problems. International collaborations and exchange programs are also on the rise. There's a greater focus on preparing law students for practice. This involves incorporating practical skills training, such as legal writing, client counselling, and advocacy, into the curriculum. Clinics, externships, and simulated exercises are becoming more common.

Legal education institutions are placing a stronger emphasis on diversity, equity, and inclusion. Efforts are being made to create more inclusive learning environments, diversify faculty and student bodies, and address issues related to social justice within the legal system. Flexibility in legal education is becoming more prevalent. This includes offering part-time programs, online courses, and other flexible learning arrangements to accommodate the diverse needs of students, including those with work or family commitments. Legal technology is influencing the way law is practiced, and legal education is responding.

Some law schools are incorporating courses on legal technology, innovation, and data analytics. Students are being exposed to tools that can enhance efficiency in legal practice. There's an increased emphasis on ethics and professionalism in legal education. Law schools are incorporating ethics courses and practical training to instill a strong sense of professional responsibility and integrity in future lawyers. The mental health and well-being of law students and legal professionals are gaining attention. Law schools are implementing programs to address stress, burnout, and mental health challenges. The goal is to create a healthier and more supportive learning environment. In some jurisdictions, there's a focus on reforming continuing legal education to ensure that practicing attorneys stay updated on changes in the law and maintain high professional standards throughout their careers.

Conclusion

Legal education is increasingly taking a challenging perspective. The traditional approaches to teaching law are being reconsidered, and new challenges and complexities are being embraced in the educational process. The evolving nature of the legal landscape, the demand for interdisciplinary approach, and advancements in technology are likely to continue influencing how legal education is structured and delivered in the future. Legal systems must adapt to these changes to remain relevant and effective. This could involve the integration of technology in teaching methods, the use of digital tools for legal research, or the exploration of innovative ways to deliver legal education through online platforms.

[Advocate Neupane is a legal consultant]

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- सवारी साधन चलाउनु अगाडि चेक जाँच गरौं,
- तोकिएको स्थानमा मात्र विद्यार्थी चढाउने र ओराल्ने गरौं,
- सवारी साधन पूर्ण रूपमा रोकिसके पछि मात्र विद्यार्थीहरूलाई चढाऔं र ओरालौं,
- विद्यार्थीहरू सिटमा बसिसके पछि मात्र सवारी साधन गुडाऔं,
- विद्यार्थीहरूले शरिरका अंगहरू सवारी साधन बाहिर निकालेका छन कि ? ध्यान दिऔं,
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VOL. 14 No. 02, August 07, 2020 (Shrawan 23, 2077) Publisher: Keshab Prasad Poudel Online Register Number: DOI 584/074-75



VOL. 14 No. 01, July 17, 2020 (Shrawan 02, 2077) Publisher: Keshab Prasad Poudel Online Register Number: DOI 584/074-75



VOL. 13 No. 18, June 19, 2020 (Asadh 5, 2077) Publisher: Keshab Prasad Poudel Online Register Number: DOI 584/074-75

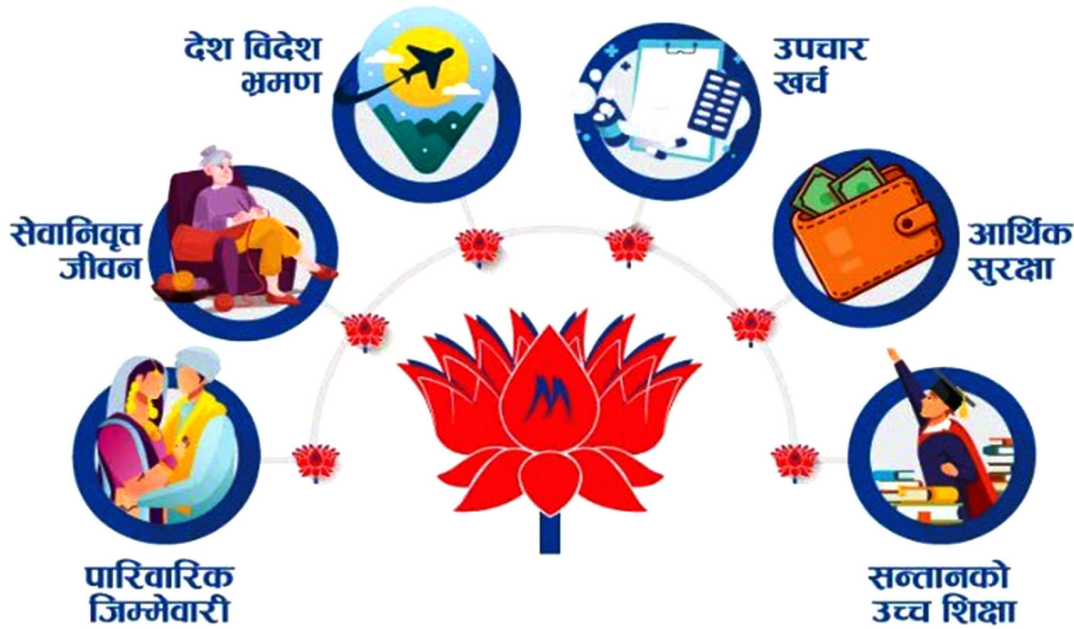
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