

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



ENVIRONMENT
Batu Uprety



VIEWPOINT
Sandip Poudel

NEW
S P O T L I G H T
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November 15, 2024
FORTNIGHTLY

NEPAL-BANGLADESH POWER TRADE
A Significant Achievement

INSIDE



PM OLI'S VISIT TO CHINA
Geopolitical Implications



HELVETAS NEPAL
Nutrition Through Riverbed Farming



COMMERCIALIZATION OF HYDROPOWER
Nepal's challenges

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VOL. 14 No. 03, August 21, 2020 (Bhadra 05, 2077) Publisher: Keshab Prasad Poudel Online Register Number: DOI 584/074-75



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

NEW SPOTLIGHT
NEWS MAGAZINE

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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

Notes From The Editor



After many years of endeavor, Nepal has successfully commenced the export of electricity to Bangladesh. Although the initial export capacity is limited to 40 MW, this marks a significant milestone in the history of power trade, facilitated through India. This initiative was established under a tripartite agreement involving Nepal, India, and Bangladesh, thereby actualizing the concept of sub-regional energy trade. The hydropower sector in Nepal, which has been supplying surplus electricity to India for the last three years, has emerged as a vital economic resource for the nation. With the initiation of exports to Bangladesh, Nepal has achieved yet another significant milestone. Remarkably, the current situation in Nepal can be regarded as a transformation; just eight years prior, the country was grappling with a severe power generation deficit, resulting in power outages lasting up to 12 hours. The appointment of Kulman Ghising as Managing Director of the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) has been pivotal in this turnaround. Under the guidance of MD. Ghising, Nepal has transformed from a nation experiencing over 12 hours of power outages to becoming a net exporter of electricity. The administration of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been instrumental in facilitating this sub-regional power trade. With the backing of the leaders from both Nepal and India, MD Ghising, a proficient manager leading the NEA, is establishing the necessary technical foundations for this trade. Recognizing its significance, we have selected this historic achievement as the cover story for this week. As Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli prepares for an official visit to China next month, we have examined the implications of this visit for Nepal.

Keshab Poudel

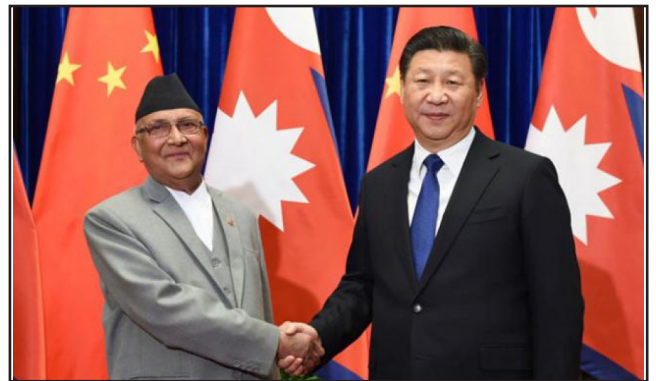
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Newly Appointed Israeli Ambassador Arrives In Kathmandu

Shmulik Arie Bass, Israel’s newly-appointed



ambassador to Nepal, has arrived in Kathmandu to assume his office.

Lekhnath Gautam, Deputy Chief of Protocol at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Janan Bebar, Charge d’ Affaires at the Embassy of Israel to Nepal, welcomed Ambassador Designate Bass at the VIP lounge at Tribhuvan International Airport.

Nepal and Israel established diplomatic relations on June 1, 1960, during the tenure of the first people-elected Prime Minister of Nepal, Bishweshwor Prasad Koirala. (RSS)

KOICA, SDC and MoLESS Sign MOU to Enhance Cooperation in Labor Migration and Employment

Ministry of Labor, Employment, and Social Security (MoLESS), Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aiming to establish a close collaboration to provide comprehensive support for migrants, returnees and their families in Nepal.

The MoU was signed by Jib Lal Bhusal, Joint Secretary of MoLESS, Dr. Danielle Meuwly, Ambassador of the Switzerland to Nepal and Kong Mooheon Country Director of KOICA Nepal. The understanding outlines a collaborative framework to address key challenges in labor migration, ensure fair employment opportunities, and foster sustainable economic growth.

The KOICA Project for Strengthening Stage-wise support system for the stable reintegration of Korea Returnee Migrants in Nepal (K-HaMiProject), the SDC Project for Reintegration of Returnee Migrant

Workers (ReMi Project) and the SDC supported government Program for Safer Migration (SaMi Program). All these 3 projects are being implemented in close collaboration with the MoLESS.

The main components of the MOU are a) Collaboration between MoLESS, KOICA and SDC regarding information sharing for cohesive migration messaging b) Support for the Returnee Migrants workers through various information content c) Digital Solutions through K-HaMi app development for the benefit of migrants, returnees and their families based on a Digital Roadmap developed by MoLESS d) Collaboration and coordination with GoN Stakeholders. Most importantly, the MOU aims to establish very close coordination mechanism between the Nepali Government stakeholders and key development partners working in this sector.

“This partnership is crucial for addressing the complexities of labor migration and ensuring that employment practices align with our national goals. Together, we aim to enhance the well-being of workers while supporting economic development”, Said Mr. Jib Lal Bhusal, Joint Secretary, MoLESS during the MOU Signing.

Dr. Danielle Meuwly stated that “this MOU reflects our shared commitment to fostering an equitable labor



market that benefits all stakeholders and we believe that through this collaboration, we can create meaningful opportunities for returnees”.

Similarly, Kong Mooheon, Country Director, KOICA Nepal Office expressed his belief on MOU to benefit the large number of Korea returnees in utilizing their skills and establishing enterprise, which can generate employment and contribute in economic growth of the country.

The MOU signing also commemorated the 50 years of diplomatic ties between Nepal and Korea. The Government of the Republic of Korea has been supporting

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the Government of Nepal through KOICA in various areas of health, agriculture, education(technical), vocational training, rural development and IT since 1991.

Helvetas Nepal and KUSoA Inked Agreement

HELVETAS Nepal and Kathmandu University's School of Arts (KUSoA) have officially partnered for the Urban Future Scape: Hamro Sahar pilot project.



Dr. Prabin Manandhar, country director of Helvetas Nepal, and Dr. Chandrakanta Pandey, from Kathmandu University School of Art (KUSoA), inked the agreement and shared it.

Sharing the views, Dr. Mandnadhar, Helvetas Nepal's country director, said that the collaboration between Helvetas Nepal and academic institution like KUSoA is valuable for the future.

In collaboration with KUSoA's Masters in Urban Studies Program, this initiative will integrate academic research and evidence-based practices to foster inclusive and sustainable urban development in Nepal's growing towns. Launched in October 2024 and running until December 2027, the pilot project seeks to advance inclusive and integrated urban development in Nepal's urbanizing and emerging towns.

The project is also part of the Global Helvetas Urban Engagement Strategic Acceleration Fund, which supports urban projects in Helvetas Bolivia, Tanzania, and Ethiopia.

During the program, Dharanidhar Khatiwada and Akriti Rana from Helvetas Nepal were also present.

KOICA Volunteer Enhances Early Childhood Ed-

ucation At Shree Bishankhu Narayan Secondary School

Korea Overseas Volunteer (KOV) Kyung Hee Lee, dispatched by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) has successfully completed a small-scale KOV project at Shree Bishankhu Narayan Secondary School in Godamchour, Godawari, Lalitpur. Since her assignment to the school in September 2023, she has worked on a project titled "Let's Play Together in the Playground," which focused on enhancing Early Childhood Development education by developing teaching modules, upgrading ECD classroom, facilitating faculty room, construction of playground and installations of age appropriate play stations in school. The main objective of the project is to create an engaging and interactive learning space that encourages students to learn through play and making teaching and learning environment more enjoyable.

KOV Lee has emphasized the importance of incorporating physical activity, art, and music as foundational elements in the children's education at Bishankhu Narayan School. She believes that these elements play a crucial role in supporting students' physical, emotional, and cognitive development. Altogether, Lee's approach aims to create a well-rounded educational experience that nurtures young mind, not just academically but also socially and emotionally.

Kyung Hee Lee through KOICA contributed approximately USD 10,000 to support the school, which included the management of three playgrounds tailored for different age groups. The first playground, for children from kindergarten to Grade 3, features 2 bicycles, 1 slide, 1 football goalpost, 1 sandbox, 3 toy trucks, 1 fire truck, and 5 sets of sandbox props. The second playground, for children in Grades 4 to 7, includes a



large play station. The third playground, for children in Grades 8 to 10, is equipped with 1 badminton net, 4 badminton rackets, 2 boxes of badminton shuttles, and 15 footballs and basketballs.

The project handover ceremony took place on October

29, 2024, at the school with notable attendees including Tae Young Park, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea and Mooheon Kong, Country Director of KOICA, along with their team members.

Tae Young Park, Ambassador of Republic of Korea to Nepal praised the impactful efforts of KOICA volunteer Kyung Hee Lee which was focused on installing educational playgrounds at Shree Bishankhu Narayan Secondary School. This project was designed to promote age-appropriate learning through play, enhancing educational outcomes across all student levels.

Similarly, highlighted the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Nepal and Korea, emphasizing the deepened partnership between the two nations described by cultural, educational, and economic ties. He noted KOICA's "World Friends Korea" program as a symbol of this enduring cooperation, highlighting its contributions to Nepal's growth in education, healthcare, agriculture, and tourism. He also commended the school's principal, Ishor Dhoj Karki, for his leadership and congratulated Lee on the successful completion of her project.

Mooheon Kong, Country Director of KOICA Nepal added about the importance of the KOV Program. He emphasized on Korea's commitment for global volunteerism and sustainable development since 1990. With over 3,000 KOICA volunteers making impactful contributions across various sectors like education, health, agriculture, and tourism, he noted the strengthening of people-to-people ties between the two nations. He praised Kyung Hee Lee for her dedication to early childhood development at Bishankhu Narayan Secondary School and emphasized the project's potential to create a vibrant, play-based learning environment. Finally, Kong expressed gratitude to the school teachers for their collaboration for the joint efforts.

KOICA's volunteer program is one of its main initiatives aimed at contributing to the socio-economic development of partner countries at the grassroots level. KOICA dispatches Korean national volunteers to partner government organizations based on their expertise, knowledge, and experience. Each volunteer serves in Nepal for 1 year in various fields such as education, health, agriculture, tourism and ICT. Currently, 7 KOVs are actively engaged in various government offices under an agreement between the governments of Korea and Nepal.

79th UN Day Celebrated Amid A Function

The Nepali Army marked the 79th United Nations (UN) Day.



A peace march-pass, a display of cultural bands, various sports including Taekwondo, and a joint band performance were held in the presence of Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli as chief guest at the Army Headquarters.

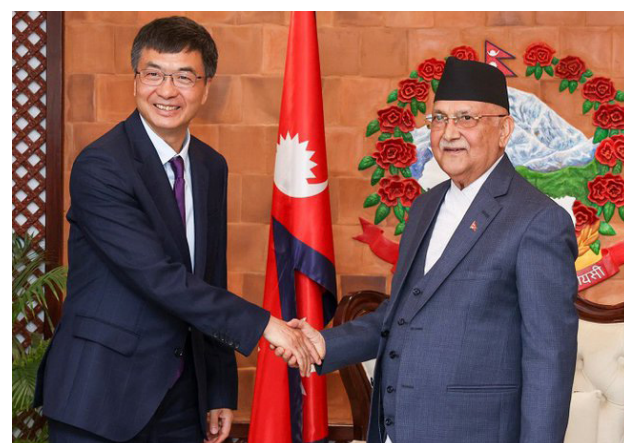
On the occasion, the Nepali Army, Nepal Police, and Armed Police Force teams performed their band display and cultural performance.

Visiting Chinese Delegation Calls On PM Oli

A visiting Chinese delegation led by Chen Jining, a member of the Communist Party of China's Central Committee and Secretary for the Shanghai Municipal Committee, called on Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli.

During the courtesy meeting held at the Prime Minister's official residence in Baluwatar, discussions focused on strengthening bilateral relations between Nepal and China, as well as collaboration between their respective political parties.

The Prime Minister highlighted the role of the CPC and General Secretary Xi Jinping's leadership in al-



leviating poverty and driving holistic development in China, expressing Nepal's interest in benefiting from such advancements.

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The Prime Minister informed the delegation about the coalition government formed by Nepal's two largest parties, the CPN (UML) and the Nepali Congress, aimed at ensuring political stability.

He expressed hopes for continued Chinese support for Nepal's economic development and stressed the need to regularise the exchange of high-level visits to enhance government-to-government, people-to-people, trade, cultural, and historical ties.

Reaffirming Nepal's commitment to the One-China policy, the Prime Minister stated that no anti-China activities would be tolerated within Nepal's territory.

In response, Chen said that his visit was directed by General Secretary Xi and reaffirmed China's support for Nepal's happiness and prosperity, respecting the decisions made by Nepal's political parties. Ge said that the delegation would brief Xi on the topics that came up during the visit.

Among those present at the meeting were the Prime Minister's Chief Advisor Bishnu Prasad Rimal, UML Secretary and Foreign Department Chief Raghuraj Mahaseth, Department member Dr Anjan Shakya and Gopal Khanal, Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Krishna Prasad Dhakal, and China's Ambassador to Nepal, Chen Song. (RSS)

France Supports Nepal In Linking Climate And Disaster Risk Financing With Shock Responsive Social Protection

The French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs has provided funding to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in Nepal valued at USD 161,000 for a project titled "Linking Climate Risk Financing and Insurance (CDRFI) with Shock Responsive Social Protection (SRSP)". This project



aims at strengthening the government of Nepal's capacity to respond to natural disasters by linking climate risk financing and insurance with social protection systems to better protect vulnerable communities

from the impacts of floods, landslides, and other natural hazards. The funding is part of a larger contribution from France to the WFP Social Protection Trust Fund hosted at the agency's headquarters in Rome.

The project will be implemented by WFP Nepal in collaboration with the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) and other stakeholders focusing on locations prone to recurrent floods and landslides.

Building on WFP's existing work, the project will aim to improve the way financial support reaches people before and after a disaster, ensuring quicker and more effective responses. By connecting disaster risk funds with Nepal's social protection systems, the goal is to reduce the impact of future disasters on both people and the economy.

This initiative is part of France's broader commitment to supporting vulnerable countries in addressing climate risks and building resilience.

SAARC Member States Deliberate on SDGs and Poverty Alleviation Plan of Action

A Consultative Workshop was held in Kathmandu on 21-22 October 2024 on Contextualizing Sustainable Development Goals in the SAARC Region and Revisiting the 2004 SAARC Plan of Action on Poverty Alleviation in light of the 2030 Development Agenda. The Workshop was hosted by the Government of Nepal; and financial and technical assistance was provided by the Asian Development Bank.

The Workshop was attended by delegations from SAARC Member States comprising senior officials of the Ministries/ Agencies responsible for SDGs and Poverty Alleviation as well as Foreign Ministries.

Speaking at the opening session of the Workshop as Chief Guest, Vice Chairman of the National Planning Commission of Nepal Prof. Dr. Shiva Raj Adhikari stated that given the size of the SAARC Region's population and its development challenges, success of SDGs globally depends largely on the progress in the countries of the Region.

Sharing about Nepal's experience with the SDGs, the Vice Chairman highlighted that although certain areas have witnessed remarkable progress, there remains a concerning proportion of targets that are either progressing too slowly or even regressing. He emphasized on the need of mobilization of larger financing sources in productive areas, and improving efficiency of investment.

Addressing the opening session of the Consultative Workshop, Dongxiang Li, Lead Regional Coopera-

tion Specialist, Regional Cooperation and Integration Unit, South Asia Department of Asian Development Bank stated that as SAARC's long-term development partner, ADB would like to continue the partnership to further promote regional cooperation and integration in the SAARC region.

Delegations of SAARC Member States made their respective country presentations covering the status of implementation of SDGs, identification of common priority SDGs for the Region, contextualization of global indicators with respect to the local circumstances, monitoring the attainment of the 2030 Agenda in the SAARC region, and building partnerships to achieve the 2030 Agenda as well as review of the 2004 SAARC Plan of Action on Poverty Alleviation. In their country presentations, Member States highlighted the need of Accelerating implementation of SDGs; Ensuring greater availability of data in standardized format to monitor progress; Creating economic opportunities for people; Boosting investment in research and development, and innovation and technology; Addressing financing issues and seeking external funding; Investing in human capital development particularly in health and education; Enhancing intra-regional trade,



investment and technology transfer; and Promoting cooperation in food security, among other measures.

ADB Consultant on SDGs and SAARC Plan of Action on Poverty Alleviation Dr. Posh Raj Pandey presented the Background Study, which provided a basis for deliberations.

Director (Information and Poverty Alleviation) at SAARC Secretariat Mr. Hari Odari opened the Workshop as Representative of the SAARC Secretary General.

Member Secretary of the National Planning Commission of Nepal Madhu Kumar Marisini addressed the closing session of the Workshop, which concluded by

adopting a Report.

The Programme was chaired by Joint Secretary at the National Planning Commission of Nepal Khomraj Koirala.

NEA MD Kul Man Ghising Directed To Complete 220 kV Marsyangdi Corridor Transmission Line Project In Time

As the Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation has been trying to stop the moment demanding clarifications for no reason, Kul Man Ghising, Managing Director of Nepal Electricity, has been travelling remote parts of Nepal to complete the stall transmission lines and hydropower projects under construction or damaged by recent floods.

With his constant efforts including the regular inspection visits, two highly important transmission lines projects, one damaged by flood in eastern Nepal and 220 kV Chillime Transmission line project, have completed recently.

Dharapani 220 kV Substation under construction, excavation in final stage

Under the Marsyangdi Corridor 220 kV transmission line project, a substation of 220 KV capacity is under construction at Nason Rural Municipality-1 Dharapani in Manang.

In his efforts, MD Ghising recently visited construction site of 220 kV Marsyangdi Projects meeting people, officials involved in the construction issuing necessary directions. He visited up to Chame, remote district headquarter of Manag.

Under the project, the construction of 220 kV substation under construction in Marsyangdi Rural Municipality-3 Khudi of Lamjung has reached its final stage. Dharapani and Khudi substations will have power transformers of 220-132 KV, 100 MVA and 132-33 KV, 30 MVA and 220-132 KV, 160 MVA and 132-33 KV, 50 MVA capacity respectively. Necessary arrangement of electricity supply has been made locally in both the substations.

After the construction is completed and the local power supply from the substation starts, the power supply of Lamjung and Manang will be reliable and of high quality.

Managing Director of Nepal Electricity Authority Kul Man Ghising requested everyone to participate in the construction of transmission lines and substations by adding more manpower and having detailed discussions with the construction professionals about the progress of substation and transmission line construc-

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tion, the problems encountered, the work completion schedule, etc.

In addition, MD Ghising has discussed with the local residents of Dharapani area and requested them to provide necessary support in the construction of substation and transmission line.

“Construction of contracted hydropower projects to connect the Masryangdi Corridor transmission line has already started, so the construction of this line should be completed as soon as possible, the construction should be accelerated with special attention to schedule, quality of work, etc.,” Ghising said.

“The power of the national transmission line has reached Manang despite the geographical difficulties, but there is a problem of reliable and quality power supply. To improve the supply, the construction of the transmission line and substation should be completed as soon as possible.”

Stating that the project is always ready to meet the legitimate demands of the local residents around the substation construction site, he mentioned that the work has been progressed in a planned manner to improve the electricity supply of the tourist place Manang.

The Masryangdi Corridor 220 kV transmission line project has been started for the electricity generated from Masryangdi and its tributaries to flow into the national transmission system. About 1,600 megawatts of electricity can be transmitted through the transmission line.

Under the project, the construction of the 114 km double circuit transmission line from Bharatpur in Chitwan to Dharapani in Manang has been divided into three packages. Under the first package, about 68 km transmission line from Udipur to New Bharatpur Substation via Markichoke in Tanahun is under construction. Out of 199 towers in this section, 125 foundations have been laid. 65 towers have been erected. Work is underway at the rest of the locations.

Under the second package, the construction of 220 kV substations has been completed at Udipur in Lamjung and Bharatpur in Chitwan.

Under the third package, Dharapani-Khudi-Udipur 46 km transmission line and Dharapani and Khudi substations are under construction. The foundations of 17 towers have been laid in the Khudi-Udipur transmission line section of about 16 km. 8 have been erected. Under this section, some local residents of Beisanhar Municipality-8 have been obstructing the construction for the past two years, demanding that the route of the

transmission line should be changed and if the line is not moved, 100% compensation should be given for the land under the right-of-way.

12 towers are to be constructed at that location. The compensation amount for the acquisition of land for the construction of the tower has been determined and about 80 percent of the land owners have already received the amount.

MD Ghising requested the Chief District Officer of Lamjung, Buddha Bahadur Gurung, to provide necessary assistance and facilitation to solve the problems encountered in the Udipur-Udipur section.



Construction has been obstructed for two years, we have repeatedly expressed our commitment to fulfill the legitimate demands of the local people and are working accordingly, the construction of such an important transmission line cannot be stopped anymore. For this, the necessary support should be facilitated”, he urged the Chief District Officer.

Stating that facilitation and coordination is being done by the local administration to remove the obstacles in the construction, Chief District Officer Gurung said that necessary support will be provided for the construction of national priority transmission lines.

Khudi-Dharapani section is in the process of evaluation of private land to be acquired for construction of transmission line. In this section, a transmission line has to be constructed in a geographically difficult and challenging location.

The overall estimated cost of the project under construction is around 16 billion rupees with the investment of the Nepal government and authorities and the concessional loan of the European Investment Bank (EIB).

KOICA Alumni Association of Nepal (KAAN) Hosts General Meeting Celebrating Nepal-South Korea Partnership And 2024 Initiatives

The Korea Alumni Association of Nepal (KAAN), in collaboration with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), held its highly anticipated annual meeting, spotlighting the successful partnership between Nepal and South Korea. The event, which brought together prominent dignitaries, KOICA alumni, and community leaders, showcased KAAAN's 2024 activity plans, program updates, and a vibrant cultural exchange between the two nations.

The program kicked off with a warm welcoming remarks from Ms. Nirmala Bhandari, Vice President of KAAAN, emphasizing the shared commitment of KAAAN and KOICA in contributing to Nepal's development. The event opened with the playing of the national anthems of Nepal and South Korea, symbolizing the strong diplomatic ties between the two nations.

Mooheon Kong, Country Director of KOICA Nepal, delivered the opening remarks, underlining KOICA's continuous support for Nepal through various development programs in education, healthcare, and capacity-building. Following this, Kamal Mishra, KAAAN's Treasurer, presented a detailed update on the KAAAN activities of 2024 and future plans.

The 2024 KAAAN activity featured a series of knowledge-sharing sessions, where recent graduates of the Masters Scholarship Program presented their thesis findings to over 300 students. This event provided attendees with a rich blend of theoretical insights and practical knowledge. As part of the school support program, four community schools were provided with sanitary pad vending machines and incinerators to enhance the school environment. The initiative focused on sustainable solutions to improve access to sanitation services and safe disposal of menstrual waste, promoting awareness of menstrual hygiene practices. A total of 2,295 school girls received sanitation facilities.

Additionally, the hospital support program medical equipment worth NPR 1,764,085.50 supported to Benighat Basic Hospital in Benighat Rorang Rural Municipality, Dhading. This support has strengthened the hospital's capacity to offer enhanced healthcare services to the local community and nearby areas, including the Chepang population.

One of the event's significant moments was the sharing of the impact of the KOICA-KAAAN Hospital Support Program by Mahesh Kharel, Mayor of Panchkhal Municipality, Kavre. He discussed the program's success in improving healthcare facilities at the Panchkhal Primary Healthcare Center and the positive impact it has had on the local community.

The event continued with congratulatory remarks

from distinguished guests. Taeyoung Park, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to

Nepal, praised the longstanding friendship between the two countries, noting the important role KAAAN plays in strengthening these ties. Narayan Prasad Sharma Duwadee, Secretary at the Office of the President of Nepal, also delivered remarks, focusing on the contributions of the KOICA CIAT program to the nation's socio-economic development.

During the event six former KAAAN Presidents were facilitated recognizing their contributions to the KAAAN. Each was honored with a certificate and traditional shawl, presented by KOICA's Country Director and KAAAN's current president, Nabaraj Gautam.

The cultural performances were a colorful display of the fusion between Nepali and Korean traditions. Students from Pragati Shikshya Sadan, a KAAAN-supported school, performed traditional dances, followed by a lively K-pop dance performance that captivated the audience and showcased the growing influence of Korean culture in Nepal.

The event concluded with closing remarks from Nabaraj Gautam, KAAAN's President, who expressed gratitude to all the participants and KAAAN's commitment to promoting mutual understanding and development cooperation between Nepal and South Korea.



Established in 2001 KAAAN is an association established by fellows of KOICA Fellowship Program to maintain a relation between KOICA and the Nepalese who have participated in KOICA Fellowship Programs.

Currently, it has 542 members. Its main purpose is to share knowledge and experiences learned in Korea and contribute to the development of Nepal. Fellowship program is one of the effective modalities of KOICA's capacity building programs. Since 1991, more than 2000 Nepalese officials have participated in KOICA's short and long term fellowship programs.

BUSINESS BRIEF

FNCCI President Dhakal Awarded from Indonesian Government

Chandra Prasad Dhakal, President of the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) and the honorary consul of the Republic of Indonesia to Nepal, has received



a prestigious 'Caraka Buwana Award' from the government of the Republic of Indonesia.

The Caraka Buwana Award is a prestigious honor presented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia. It recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to

strengthening bilateral relations with Indonesia.

This award recognizes his significant contributions to enhancing bilateral relations between Nepal and Indonesia.

The award was presented by Heru H. Subolo, the Ambassador of Indonesia to Nepal on behalf of the government of the Republic of Indonesia, during a special ceremony held in Kathmandu on Tuesday, according to a press note issued by the secretariat of FNCCI President Dhakal.

This honor reflects Dhakal's dedicated efforts in promoting tourism, cultural exchange, and economic ties between the two nations.

During the ceremony, Ambassador Subolo commended President Dhakal, stating, "President Dhakal's unwavering commitment has significantly strengthened our nations' bond, fostering a collaborative spirit that benefits both countries."

In his acceptance speech, President Dhakal expressed his gratitude for the recognition.

President Dhakal expressed his appreciation to the Indonesian government, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal, and all the distinguished guests present.

He emphasized that this award serves as an inspiration to work towards a future of mutual growth and prosperity between Nepal and Indonesia.

He further emphasized the importance of two recent landmark agreements: the Bilateral Consultation Mechanism and the Visa Exemption Agreement for holders of diplomatic and official passports.

He noted that these agreements, signed on the sidelines of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly, are crucial for reinforcing the partnership between Nepal and Indonesia.

"I am especially encouraged by these agreements," Dhakal said. "They will strengthen diplomatic ties, facilitate official travel, and lay the foundation for enhanced economic cooperation, tourism, and regional collaboration."

He also highlighted the growing interest of Nepalese travelers in visiting Indonesia, particularly Bali, which has become a popular destination.

"The rise in Nepalese tourists visiting Bali is a testament to Indonesia's natural beauty and vibrant culture," he remarked.

He called for the consideration of an on-arrival visa facility for Nepalese tourists to further strengthen cultural ties and tourism.

This award marks a significant milestone in the ongoing journey of collaboration and friendship between the two nations, paving the way for a promising future.

Dhakal was also honoured by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of the Republic of Indonesia, for his contributions to the rescue and relief efforts during the 2015 earthquake.

Dhakal has served as honorary consul of the Republic of Indonesia since 2010.

Ambassadors from various countries, high-level officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal, and other dignitaries attended the event.

Global IME Bank and Instant Cash Sign Agreement On Remittance

Global IME Bank and Instant Cash have signed an agreement for facilitating remittance payment in Nepal from across the globe.

INSTANT CASH is one of the fastest-growing money transfer companies in the world. Licensed by the Central Bank of the UAE, Instant Cash is part of FINTX, the fintech arm of 7X, and provides global remittance services through innovative fintech solutions.

This collaboration reinforces our commitment to offering fast, secure, and convenient remittance solutions to our valued customers. With this partnership, customers will enjoy streamlined services making it easier than ever to send and receive funds from around the world.

Under this agreement, Nepalese individuals residing in any part of the world will be able to send money effortlessly to their families and friends back home Instantly. Customer can send money into their Global IME Bank/s account as well as to any bank account in Nepal. Customers can also collect funds from any branch of Global IME Bank or over 50,000 agents of IME located in Nepal.

Global IME Bank remains dedicated to providing seamless financial solutions that meet the needs of our diverse community. Together with Instant Cash, we look forward to transforming the remittance experience for our customers.

Global IME Bank has been recognized as the Global Finance 2024 Best Bank for Nepal and for Best Bank in Nepal in two categories under the Euro Money Excellence Awards 2024. The bank has also received various national and international accolades for its outstanding service and contributions to the financial sector.

Global IME Bank is the first private sector commercial bank in Nepal with a branch network across all its seventy-seven districts. The bank operates through 354 branch offices, 384 ATMs, 255 branchless banking services, 68 extension and revenue collection centers in the country as well as three foreign representative offices in New Delhi, London and Australia. The Bank has been providing excellent service to its customers through over 1,100 service centers.

In addition to offering banking services to Nepali citizens, the bank



also facilitates the remittance process from various countries around the world. It has been receiving remittances from countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Malaysia, South Korea, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait, India, Jordan and many more.

Headquartered in the United Arab Emirates, Instant Cash is a leading provider of financial services through strategic partnerships with banks and other licensed financial institutions. With a presence in over 150,000 agent locations worldwide enabling a variety of payment options, including cash pickup, bank transfers and mobile wallets, Instant Cash is committed to providing customers with convenient and reliable financial solutions.

Chilime-Trishuli 220 kV Transmission Line Charged

Chilime-Trishuli 220 kV transmission line has been commissioned.

The 28-kilometer transmission line from Chilime Hub Substation located in Thambuchet, Amachodingmo Rural Municipality of Rasuwaga to Trishuli 3B Hub Substation located in Pahrebensi, Kispang Rural Municipality of Nuwakot was put into operation from 7.5 pm.

Likewise, the Chilime hub substation, built under the Chilime-Trishuli 220 kV transmission line project, was also charged on Wednesday.



The substation has two banks of 220-132 kV, 160 MVA, 320 MVA and 132-33 KV, 50 MVA power transformers. Trishuli 3B Hub 220 KV substation under the project was already in operation.

The Chilime-Trishuli 220 KV transmission

line, which was built to integrate the electricity generated from the hydropower projects under construction and to be built in the Trishuli river and its tributaries, into the national system, can transmit about 1,200 megawatts of electricity.

The estimated cost of the Chilime-Trishuli project is Rs 3.62 billion, with the investment of the Government of Nepal and the Nepal Electricity Authority and the grant of the German Development Bank (KfW).

There is a concessional loan under the European Investment Bank (EIB) project established by the European Union.

Thark Bahadur Thapa, Director of High Voltage Grid Department of Nepal Electricity Authority, said that since the construction of transmission lines and substations have been completed and put into operation, the electricity produced by the hydroelectric projects built in that area can be connected at any time.

Chilime-Trishuli 220 KV transmission line will immediately be connected to Chilime Hub substation with the electricity generated from 111 MW Rasuwagadhi, 42.5 MW Sanjen and 14.8 MW Sanjen hydropower projects built under the leadership of Chilime Hydropower.

Rasuwagadhi and Sanjen projects have been completed and are in

the stage of power generation. Even during the public holidays of Dasain and Tihar, the construction of the transmission line was completed by employees and construction professionals working round the clock.

76 towers have been constructed for the 28 km long transmission line.

The transmission line has been constructed in an area ranging from 680 to 2600 m above sea level. 33 towers had to be built in places where there was no access road.

A separate access road was constructed to reach the place. More than 20 kilometers of access roads have been constructed for the construction of the project. The tower was built by transporting construction materials by helicopter.

Global IME Bank Has Won The Inter Bank Futsal Tournament Title

Global IME Bank won the title by defeating NMB Bank by 6-0 in the first inter-bank futsal tournament organized by Nepal Rastra Bank Staff Association Siddharthnagar Committee in Butwal.

As the winner, Global IME Bank received a shield, medal and certificate along with Rs 50,000 in cash, while NMB Bank, which became the runner-up, received a shield, medal and certificate along with Rs 25,000 in cash

In the competition, Bam Bahadur Bhujel of Global IME Bank was declared the best player, while Durga Oli of Global IME Bank became the top scorer. He scored 18 goals throughout the game.

According to the organizers, 29 teams participated in the competition.



Nepalese Embassy In Canada Participated In International Tourism And Travel Show

The Embassy of Nepal participated in a three-day 34th International Tourism and Travel Show 2024 organized at Palais des Congrès in Montréal, Canada from 1 to 3 November 2024 as part of its economic diplomacy program to promote tourism of Nepal.

The Embassy set up a solo stall where tourism promotional materials were displayed and distributed to the visitors. Nepal's tourism related printed materials, documentaries and visual materials were also displayed throughout the exhibition period. Nepali exportable products such as tea, coffee, pashmina shawls, handicrafts, and items portraying Nepal's artistic and cultural diversity were also displayed.

Ambassador of Nepal to Canada Bharat Raj Paudyal presented during the events.

A large number of visitors visited the Nepali stall and inquired about the touristic



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attractions in Nepal. They were keen in getting information regarding the season, temperature, connectivity and if Nepal caters to the interests of all age group of visitors.

This is the 34th edition of International Tourism and Travel Show which is one of the largest tourism promotional events in Canada. Tourism promotion entities, travel agencies, tour wholesalers, tour operators, hotels, airlines companies, tour promoters from more than hundred countries had participated in the exhibition. It also included global culinary adventure, seminars on tourism destinations, B2B seminars, performances from various cultural groups among others.

World Bank, Nepal Government Partner to Strengthen Nepal's Disaster Response and Resilience

The Government of Nepal and the World Bank signed a US\$150 million equivalent (NPR 20 billion) financing agreement on October 23 for contingent financing that can be availed in the case of a natural or climate-induced hazard or health emergency in Nepal.

The Nepal Disaster Resilience Development Policy Credit with Catastrophe Deferred Drawdown Option (Cat DDO) operation supports policy and regulatory reforms to increase disaster resilience and strengthen institutional mechanisms for effective disaster response. It also supports the government in improving early warning communications and building the policies, institutions, and regulatory frameworks needed for risk reduction and risk-informed investment in critical infrastructure, as well as increasing preparedness for public health emergencies.



The agreement was signed by Ram Prasad Ghimire, Secretary, Ministry of Finance, and David Sislen, World Bank Regional Country Director for Maldives,

Nepal, and Sri Lanka in the presence of Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Bishnu Prasad Paudel and World Bank Vice President for South Asia, Martin Raiser.

“The Cat DDO is important for Nepal as it helps address climate-related as well as other natural catastrophe and health-related crises by providing contingency financing. It will enhance the country’s crisis preparedness, prevention, and response by providing immediate and flexible liquidity that is particularly important during the time of fiscal pressure,” stated Ram Prasad Ghimire, Secretary, Ministry of Finance.

Contingent financing through the Cat DDO complements the Government’s existing response mechanisms, such as the National Disaster Management Fund and the Prime Minister’s Disaster Relief Fund.

“The Cat DDO is an innovative disaster risk financing instrument that can help the government respond quickly to emergency needs without diverting resources from its ongoing development programs,” said David Sislen, World Bank Regional Country Director for Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. “Beyond providing financing, the operation is designed to ensure results on the ground and further strengthen the capacity of the government in disaster risk mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.”

The operation is also supported by technical assistance from the Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery (GF-DRR) and the Earthquake Housing Reconstruction Multi-Donor Trust Fund supported by the Canadian government, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

Kabeli Corridor Transmission Line Reconstruction completes

Reconstruction of the double-circuit 132 kV Kabeli Corridor Transmission Line has been completed.

Floods in the Maikhola river damaged four towers of the transmission line at Dhodrebesi, Ward Nos 1 and 7 of Mai Municipality in Ilam on September 28.

Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) and 20 private sector hydroelectricity projects feeding power to the Kabeli Corridor Transmission Line jointly carried out the reconstruction. The transmission line came into operation from 4.30 pm on Monday after the reconstruction.



Mohan Karki, an energy entrepreneur who was involved in the transmission line reconstruction on behalf the private sector, said the reconstruction works were completed in 19 days from the works were started.

The hydroelectric projects of Taplejung, Panchthar and Ilam have started producing power with the operation of the transmission line.

NEA had provided the spare parts and other equipment for the transmission line while the private sector-operated power projects bore other expenses including the labour for the reconstruction. Each of the private sector projects has contributed a certain amount for this.

The flood had damaged the Nos. 50, 51, 52 and 53 towers under the transmission line at Dhodrebesi on the section from Godak of Ilam to Damak of Jhapa. The Number 51 and 52 towers were totally destroyed due to the flood and new towers had to be constructed. The Number 50 and 53 towers suffered partial damage and they were repaired.

Global IME Bank Signs MOU With ICICI Bank Canada To Facilitate Seamless Banking For Nepali Immigrants Moving To Canada

Global IME Bank Limited and ICICI Bank Canada have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to streamline banking services for Nepali immigrants moving to Canada. The partnership, solidified in a ceremony held in Kathmandu on Friday, aims to support newcomers, including permanent residents, work permit holders, and students, through ICICI Bank Canada’s ‘Hello Canada’ programme.

This collaboration will provide comprehensive, digital, and hassle-free Canadian banking



solutions to clients of Global IME Bank. The ‘Hello Canada’ programme will assist in a seamless transition by allowing newcomers to set up essential banking services before their arrival in Canada.

Through the programme, Nepali newcomers can open Canadian banking accounts online, remit funds, facilitate bill payments, issue cheques, and create term deposits, among other services.

This MOU enhances the banking experience by offering tailored products and services that will benefit Nepalese individuals as they embark on new lives in Canada.

Highlighting the importance of the collaboration, Surendra Raj Regmi, Chief Executive Officer of Global IME Bank, remarked, “Canada plays a pivotal role globally in education, employment, and migration. This partnership offers a critical platform to streamline banking services for Nepali students and migrants, easing their financial integration upon arrival in Canada. This agreement marks a significant step in strengthening financial ties between Nepal and the international banking community.”

On this collaboration, Himadar Maddipatla - Business Head ICICI Bank Canada, expressed his enthusiasm for the partnership. Mr. Maddipatla, remarked, “Over the years, Canada has become a preferred destination for international students and newcomers. Through our subsidiary in Canada, we are excited to support Global IME Bank’s clients with 360-degree banking solutions, ensuring that students and newcomers can easily access our wide range of products and services before and after their arrival in Canada.”

This strategic tie-up between Global IME Bank and ICICI Bank Canada also strengthens cross-border remittance solutions, offering greater awareness of financial products between the two countries.

Global IME Bank Ltd. is a leading commercial bank in Nepal with a presence in every district of the country. Serving larger number of customers through its 1,000+ service centers, including 354 branch offices and 384 ATMs, the bank is committed to providing a full range of banking services. With representative offices in London, Sydney and New Delhi, Global IME Bank also plays a critical role in bringing remittances from over 60 countries to support Nepal’s economy.

ICICI Bank Canada, a wholly-owned subsidiary of ICICI Bank Limited, operates as a full-service direct bank under Canada’s Bank Act. Celebrating 20 years of service in Canada, the bank offers a diverse range of personal and business banking products, including newcomer banking accounts, mortgages, business FX, and more.

NIMBAACE Capital Limited Organized World Investor Week 2024” In Nuwakot

An investor education and awareness program has been completed at Siddharth Hotel Water Tower in Nuwakot in connection with the ‘World Investor Week 2024’ organized by NIMB ACE Capital Limited.

Ramakrishna Adhikari, the chief district officer of Nuwakot district was the chief guest in the program conducted by Giriraj Pokharel.

Among the other guests, all the members of Nuwakot District Security Committee and president of Nuwakot Chamber of Commerce and Industry as well as local people’s representatives were present.

Among the other guests, all the members of Nuwakot District Security Committee and president of Nuwakot Chamber of Commerce and Industry as well as local people’s representatives were present.

He gave a training speech regarding the current situation of the stock market in Nepal, its challenges and ways to avoid problems as well as various aspects of the Nepali stock market.

In that program, the practical aspects of Nepali investors were also discussed along with the characteristics of smart investors and the services provided by NIMB ACE apital were also given detailed information.

World Investor Week, 2024 is a week-long global campaign promoted by the International Organization of Securities Regulators (IOSCO) to raise awareness about the importance of investor education and protection and to focus various initiatives of securities regulators on these two important areas.



FNCCI President Dhakal Attended World Bank And IMF’s Annual Meeting, Calls For Investment In Nepal

Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FNCCI) President Chandra Prasad Dhakal urged the global community to consider investment in Nepal.

President Dhakal, who is currently in the USA to attend the annual meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF), highlighted the enabling environment for foreign investment in Nepal and the amendments to legislations to facilitate the foreign investment.

During the meeting with high-ranking officials of these agencies on Wednesday, he also pledged necessary coordination on the part of the Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FNCCI) to facilitate foreign investors considering investment in Nepal.

During the meeting with Imad Fakhoury, International Finance Corporation (IFC)’s Regional Director for South Asia, Dhakal discussed IFC’s role in empowering private sector of Nepal.

Talks on economic recessions in the wake of COVID-pandemic and conflict between Russia and Ukraine and repercussions of these two factors Nepal’s economy also figured the meeting, Dhakal shared.

Talking to the Rastriya Samachar Samiti (RSS) following the meeting, Dhakal mentioned that the two dwelled on potential areas for foreign investment in Nepal including hydro power, tourism infrastructures and Information Technology and thereby calling on the global community to consider investment in these areas.

The meeting was attended by IFC’s other officials as well as representatives of the FNCCI.

Similarly, Dhakal held a meeting with British International Investment’s Executive Director Samir Abhyankar on last Wednesday itself during which they discussed increasing investment on Nepal’s tourism and hospitality sector, hydro power and infrastructure sectors considering the tremendous potentials of these sectors.



Recalling The Initiatives For Baku Climate Conference



BY: BATU UPRETY

The 29th session of the Conference of the Parties (CoP 29) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, 19th session of the CoP serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 19), and 6th session of the CoP serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 6) will be held at Baku, Azerbaijan from 11 to 22 November 2024 along with the 61st sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA). Pre-sessions of the negotiating blocs such as the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), regional groups, and G77 and China are planned for 4-10 November 2024 in the Conference venue (Baku Stadium). As in previous CoPs, Parties to the Convention, Kyoto Protocol (KP) and the Paris Agreement (PA) will negotiate on agreed agenda items and make substantial decisions to achieve the ultimate objective of the Convention – stabilise atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases (GHGs), allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, ensure food production, and enable economic development in a sustainable manner.

At Baku, Parties and non-parties will raise voices, concerns and ideas, and share lessons, experiences and learning of climate actions through mandated-events of the governing and subsidiary bodies, side-events including of the constituted bodies, consultation meetings and dialogues.

As climate change has been a political agenda, political guidance from the World Leaders' Climate Action Summit and High-Level Segment on 12-13 November (Part

1) and high-level Segment on 20 November (Part II) will largely determine the nature of decisions in this CoP. Three High-Level Ministerial Dialogues on climate finance, and adaptation finance, and a Roundtable on pre-2030 ambition will largely shape the outcome of CoP29 and CMA 6.

Presidency's Initiatives

H.E. Mukhtar Babayev, CoP 29 President-Designate and Minister for Ecology and Natural Resources of the Government of Azerbaijan has informed Parties on Presidency's initiatives and pledges such as on: (i) Climate finance action fund (CFAF) – a public-private partnership fund which will be capitalized from voluntary contributions from fossil fuel producing countries and companies; (ii) Thematic days and Action Agenda initiatives; (iii) Baku Initiative for climate finance, investment and trade (BICFIT); (iv) Green energy zones and corridors; (v) Global energy storage and grids; (vi) Hydrogen action; (vii) COP truce appeal (for collaboration, climate action, and peace); (viii) Green digital action; (ix) Baku initiative on human development for climate resilience; (x) Baku Harmoniya climate initiative for farmers; (xi) Reducing methane from organic waste; (xii) Multisectoral actions pathways (MAP) for resilient and healthy cities; (xiii) Enhanced climate action in tourism; (xiv) Water for climate action by launching Baku dialogue; and (xv) Baku global climate transparency platform. The state of these initiatives will be better understood during and after CoP 29 to advance climate actions 'in solidarity for a green world'.

Provisional agenda include continuation of previous agenda items for the implementation of the Convention, Protocol and Agreement. As usual, several decisions may be taken to expedite actions, inter alia, on GHGs emission reduction (mitigation), adaptation, finance, capacity-building, and technology. The provisional agenda includes two new items: (i) facilitating dialogues on mountains and climate change as per request from Kyrgyzstan; and (ii) establishment of a regional centre for climate change technologies in Central Asia as per request from Turkmenistan. Provisional agenda is expected to be adopted by the plenary at its first session to advance negotiations and make decisions.

Finance was a key factor for major decisions in previous CoPs. A high-level ministerial dialogue will be convened in this CoP to set a new collective quantified goal (NCQG) on climate finance from a floor of USD 100 billion per year. Climate communities also consider this CoP a 'finance CoP'. At present, pledge-based five funds namely Special Climate Change Fund, LDC Fund, Adaptation Fund, Green Climate Fund, and Loss and Damage Fund exist. These funds provide nominal financial resources to implement climate actions in the climate vulnerable poor countries.

Nepal's Participation and Representation

Nepal participated all meetings and CoPs, right from the adoption of the Convention at New York in 1992, Kyoto Protocol during CoP 3 in 1997, and the Paris Agreement during CoP 21 in 2015. Nepal made statements in the high-level segment of almost all CoPs. The President of Nepal made a statement at CoP 24 at Katowice (Poland) in 2018, and three Prime Ministers made statements at Copenhagen in 2009, Glasgow in 2021 and Dubai in 2023. It is most likely that the President of Nepal will participate the Leaders Summit & High-Level Segment at Baku.

In the UNFCCC process, Nepal participated in the constituted bodies from 2004 onwards. It represented the Asian LDCs in the LDC Expert Group (LEG) for 2004-'05, from 2008 to 2024 and will continue till 2031. It has offered its services as the rapporteur for SBSTA from 2008 to June

2011 representing the Asia and Pacific, Adaptation Fund Board for 2015-'16 and 2024 representing the LDCs, Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) for Loss and Damage for 2016-'17 representing the Asia and Pacific, Facilitative Working Group (FWG) of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) for 2024 representing the Asia and Pacific, and LDCs from 2019 onwards, and Supervisory Body established under Article 6.4 of the Paris Agreement representing the LDC group from 2022. For documentation purpose, Meena Khanal and Purushottam Ghimire served as the rapporteur; Purushottam Kunwar, Batu Uprety, Naresh Sharma (one meeting), Ram P. Lamsal, and Buddi S. Poudel were in the LEG; Naresh Sharma in the Adaptation Fund Board; KC Poudel in WIM; Maheshwor Dhakal, Radha Wagley and Pasang Dolma Sherpa

in LCIPP; and Manjeet Dhakal in the Supervisory Body. Dr. Buddi Sagar Poudel is expected to continue in the LEG till 2031.

Between 2013 and 2016, Nepal offered its services as the chairs of the LDC Coordination Group (2013-'14), LEG (2014-'15), and Ad-

aptation Fund Board (2016). Prakash Mathema coordinated the LDC Group as the chair for nearly 22 months, and Ram P. Lamsal for the meeting in Lima, Peru. Batu Uprety served as the LEG chair for 2014-2015 and Naresh Sharma for February 2018 meeting. In 2024, Adaptation Fund Board has nominated Mr. Naresh Sharma who represents the LDC Group in the Board as the chair of its Accreditation Panel for 2025. In 2018, Nepal's climate change focal point changed the name of the LEG member, loose chairmanship, and attended meetings still 2020 as a member.

The administration of the then Ministry of Environment timely nominated officials to attend each session and meeting of the UNFCCC and constituted bodies. In 2018, the government merged the environment and climate change with forests by naming the Ministry of Forests and Environment. Since 2018, 'trusted members' representing negotiating blocs may have been irregular in meetings. Nepal is currently chairing the Global Coordination Bureau of the LDCs. On climate change, Malawi is chairing the LDC Group. Some conferences require participation at political level. For example, Malawi organised ministerial conference of LDCs at its capital on 28 August 2024 and agreed



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the Lilongwe declaration along with key messages of the LDC Group on climate change which will likely guide the negotiations at CoP 29, CMP 19 and CMA 6. However, Nepal could not participate it at political level, and it is noted.

National Initiatives and Priorities

As a reminder, Nepal's engagement on UNFCCC-related actions can be broadly grouped into three phases: (i) pre-2006 (1992-2006) period; (ii) 2007-2017 period; and (iii) 2018-2024 period. During the first phase, Nepal participated right from adoption of the UNFCCC to all CoPs and meetings, prepared initial national communication and registered two CDM (Clean Development Mechanism) projects. The then Ministry of Population and Environment was dissolved and the newly established Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology (later the Ministry of Environment) mainstreamed climate actions during 2007-2017 period through: (i) institutional strengthening (dedicated Climate Change Section in 2008, and Climate Change Division and Knowledge Management Centre in 2010), (ii) formulation and implementation of a climate change policy, programmes such as National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA), National Framework on Local Adaptation Plan for Action (LAPA), budget code, and start of the formulation of National Adaptation Plan (NAP) etc; (iii) establishment of functional coordination mechanisms such as Climate Change Network (2007), Climate Change Council (CCC, 2009) and Multi-Stakeholder Climate Change Initiatives Coordination Committee (MCCICC, 2010); (iv) enhancing political commitment by organising Cabinet Meeting at Kalpatthar (2009), national, regional and international conferences and meetings; (v) knowledge generation and management; (vi) accessing climate funds to largely implement adaptation actions; (vii) development and mobilisation of a multi-stakeholder Core Negotiating Team (CNT) along with the preparation of agenda and issue-based negotiating materials; (viii) contributions in constituted bodies as members and chairs and (ix) leading the LDC Coordination Group on UNFCCC negotiating processes.

During 2018-2024 period, broadly speaking, Nepal has: (i) heightened political commitment also due to climate-induced disasters and visit of the UN Secretary-General; (ii) revisited institutional structure; (iii) included climate change provisions in the Environment Protection Act (2019) and Rules (2020) to respond Supreme Court verdict, re-issued climate change policy and LAPA framework; (iv) revisited former coordination mechanisms, and constituted National Council on Environment Conservation and Climate Change Management, and Inter-ministerial Climate Change Coordination Committee (CCCC) and Provincial CCCCs; (v) prepared and published Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and its Action Plan, NAP, long-term strategy and other documents such as sector-specific vulnerability and risk assessments; (vi) discontinued mobilisation of CNT with substantial increase in number of delegates from 2021, but continued preparation of issue-based negotiating

materials; and (vii) facilitated in accessing climate finance and implement climate change adaptation and mitigation actions, faced difficulties in mobilising accessed resources and sent back partially the GCF funding for NAP. Nepal was the first country to access GCF resources for NAP preparation. During approval, it was attempted to lower down the total budget of USD 2.95 million. Nepal resisted in 2016 to lower down estimated budget. Unfortunately, she could not mobilise the accessed resources and returned its substantial portion.

Country preparation and engagement to access climate finance is comparatively very slow and updates in accessing and mobilising funds is discouraging. Nepal has introduced loan for climate change activities. Some may recall 'no loan to climate change' movement in 2010 while the government was accessing over USD 90 million for PPCR (Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience). In fact, it was not a 'loan' project, but small amount of service charge was introduced by the Bank. Fortunately, country is focussing towards 'climate-resilient' development in the recent years.

The climate change focal ministry – Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE) – is organising a one-day national conference on climate change on 26 October 2024 to discuss on loss and damage, mountains and climate finance for Nepal's meaningful participation at CoP 29. The conference outputs, Karnali declaration and recent training to Nepalese delegates (of CoP 29), including other initiatives for CoP 29 are expected to enhance country capacity for Baku climate negotiations.

At Baku, Nepal may wish to determine national priorities with clear concept for required funding from existing climate funds and development partners, revitalize the 2012 'core group' concept, best utilize Nepal's strength in accessing funding, and continue to develop knowledge-based human resources. A 'dedicated team' may be engaged to: (i) discuss with funding agencies and development partners to secure large-scale funding; (ii) participate in side-events to share lessons, experiences and sharing of 'home-grown' initiatives; (iii) attend and contribute in all meetings of agenda items related to adaptation, finance, carbon trading and capacity-building etc taking into account the climate change impacts in the mountains; and (iv) explore possibilities for positions in constituted bodies and once represented in such bodies, focus to secure leadership role. Opportunity exists and country-capacity needs to expand for accessing and mobilizing funds.

Let us hope that Baku Climate Conference will make substantial decisions, inter alia, on: (i) NCQG on finance to meet the urgent needs of climate vulnerable poor communities; (ii) submission of the updated NDCs with ambitious and achievable national commitments by February 2025; (iii) accelerating global adaptation actions through NAPs; and (iv) concrete decisions on carbon trading.

PM Oli's Visit To China

Geopolitical Implications

Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli has asserted that his forthcoming visit to China will not negatively impact Nepal's relations with India. However, there is an increasing level of skepticism in India regarding this visit, particularly in light of Oli's previous actions that have raised concerns among neighboring countries. Given his history of anti-India sentiments, India is monitoring Oli's trip closely, despite reassurances from his coalition partner, the Nepali Congress. As the leadership in Nepal appears to be losing confidence in India, the context surrounding Oli's visit becomes increasingly complex from a geopolitical standpoint.

By A CORRESPONDENT

In remarks made at the Kantipur Conclave-2024, Prime Minister Oli stated that the relationship between Nepal and India will not suffer simply because he chooses to visit China first. He drew a comparison to the practices of certain religious followers, noting that unlike in Islam, where devotees visit Hazrat Nizamuddin in Delhi before proceeding to the Sharif Dargah in Ajmer, political engagements do not adhere to such protocols.

He used these locations as symbolic representations of India and China. Oli emphasized that as a sovereign nation, Nepal retains the right to engage with whichever country it deems appropriate.

Oli remarked, "Islam has a revered site known as Ajmer Sharif Dargah, and it is often said that one must first visit Nizamuddin in Delhi before proceeding there. In the realm of politics, I find it challenging to distinguish between Nizamuddin and Ajmer." He humorously noted that having recently returned from the United States after participating in the United Nations General Assembly, the US should not be equated with Nizamuddin either. "We do not possess a Nizamuddin or



an Ajmer," he stated.

"We are situated between two significant neighbors, and it is essential to maintain amicable relations with both. A visit to China does not jeopardize our relationship with India; there is no justification for such a concern."

He highlighted his meetings with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, China's Foreign Minister, and various other officials during his time in the United States. Emphasizing that neighbors should not be treated like "YouTube," where trivial matters provoke anger and excessive reactions,

Oli asserted that Nepal's relationships with its neighbors are profound and steeped in a long-standing history.

Prime Minister KP Oli is scheduled to undertake an official visit to China in early December, indicating a commitment to enhancing relations with the northern neighbor and potentially recalibrating Nepal's historically India-centric foreign policy.

Typically, newly appointed leaders in Nepal make their inaugural international visit to India. However, Prime Minister Oli did not receive the customary invitation from New Delhi that



is generally extended following the establishment of a new government.

Oli assumed office in July, forming a coalition government with his Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist Leninist) and the Nepali Congress after his predecessor, Pushpa Kamal Dahal, also known as Prachanda, lost a parliamentary vote of confidence.

The Prime Minister has stated that he has never dismissed the possibility of visiting his southern neighbor and will travel wherever it is deemed appropriate. He emphasized that his forthcoming trip to China will not adversely affect Nepal's relations with India.

Traditionally, Nepali prime ministers have prioritized India as their first destination after taking office. However, after not receiving an invitation from India for several weeks, the Prime Minister attended the 79th session of the UN General Assembly in New York, where he engaged with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, and various other global leaders.

During these discussions, Oli addressed a variety of domestic matters, including the nation's economy, political landscape, the need for constitutional amendments, federal-provincial relations, and the arrest of Rastriya Swatantra Party leader and former Deputy Prime Minister Rabi Lamichhane, among other topics.

Geeta Kochhar, an assistant professor at the Center for Chinese and South Asian Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, remarked that while the relationship between India and Nepal remains "stable," it is essential to address issues such as border disputes and nationalist rhetoric to prevent them from evolving into long-term challenges. She characterized India's choice not to extend an invitation to Oli as a "scheduling issue" for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who had a meeting with Oli during the United Nations General Assembly in September.

"There exists a certain reluctance on the part of India to invite Oli promptly, as he tends to generate both theoretical and practical complications for India-Nepal relations," she noted. "Under the guise of nationalism, he has empowered the issuance of new currency notes to China featuring the new map."

In October, Nepal awarded a contract to a Chinese firm for the printing of its contentious map on 100 rupee banknotes. India has dismissed Nepal's map, which was released in 2020 and includes territories that Kathmandu asserts as its own.

The two nations have committed to several significant projects under China's Belt and Road Initiative, initiated in 2017, which encompass road expansion, hydropower development,

and a railway connecting Tibet to Kathmandu. However, the announcement of non-Belt and Road projects as imitations of the Belt and Road Initiative by China has frequently led to misunderstandings.

Former Foreign Minister NP Saud informed parliament last year that the implementation plan for the Belt and Road Initiative was still "at a discussion stage," indicating that no projects were currently underway in Nepal. Experts have noted that the decline in Nepal's exports following the signing of the Belt and Road Initiative suggests that the country is not capitalizing on the connectivity offered by the project and has not effectively invested in its economic relationship with China. Analysts recommend that Nepal leverage Prime Minister Oli's visit to enhance economic ties.

Huang Zhengduo, the director of the Center of Nepal Studies at Sichuan University's Institute of South Asian Studies, remarked that Nepal has the potential to serve as a transportation link between India and China. The proposed railway could lessen Nepal's reliance on India while fostering trade and tourism. Huang also highlighted the significance of the Nepali prime minister's domestic agenda, noting that Oli requires Chinese resources to fulfill his development commitments.

By choosing China for his inaugural trip, Oli aims to convey his intention to maintain a balanced relationship with both Delhi and Beijing, according to Huang. "Oli seeks to communicate that China-Nepal relations are at least as significant as those with India," he stated.

The increasing engagement of India and the United States in Nepal, coupled with their objective to mitigate Chinese influence in the region, suggests that Oli's visit to China signifies a gradual setback to these aspirations.

Oli's Utilization of the 'China Card': Prachanda

The recently removed opposition leader asserts that he elevated relations with India to unprecedented levels and

warns that the border issue may resurface due to deteriorating ties.

Former Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal, commonly known as Prachanda, has accused Nepal's Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli of strategically leveraging the "China card."

He claims that the policies of the new government have strained India-Nepal relations, posing a "risk" of rekindling the border dispute. In an exclusive interview with *The Hindu*, Mr. Dahal stated that during his 18-month term, which concluded abruptly in July following a parliamentary vote of confidence, he had significantly advanced India-Nepal relations before being succeeded by a coalition of Mr. Oli's UML and the Nepali Congress party.

Indian media indicates that the upcoming visit is perceived as indicative of the deteriorating relations between India and Nepal, particularly concerning matters such as the refusal of overflight rights and New Delhi's disapproval of Chinese investments or components in projects involving India and Nepal.

Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli is scheduled to visit China in early December, as confirmed by the Unified Marxist Leninist Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) in Kathmandu. This marks a significant departure, as he will be the first Nepali leader to choose China for his inaugural bilateral visit abroad following his assumption of office.

After being sworn in for a fourth term in July, Mr. Oli had a brief meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a United Nations conference in September. Additionally, Nepal's Foreign Minister Dr. Arzu Rana Deuba visited New Delhi in August for discussions with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.

Officials have stated that the arrangements for the visit to Beijing were recently concluded, and it is noted that New Delhi has yet to extend an invitation to PM Oli. Analysts interpret this visit as a reflection of the tensions in India-Nepal relations, which stem from various issues, including India's

concerns regarding Chinese investments in joint projects and Nepal's outstanding request for additional overflight routes from India to support newly constructed airports that are currently operating at a loss.

Concerns are mounting for New Delhi as Oli becomes the second leader, following Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu, to not prioritize India as his first foreign destination after assuming office. Muizzu had previously visited Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, and China before making his way to India this year, as noted by Indian journalist Suhasini Haidar in *The Hindu*.

Haidar points out that Oli appeared to be awaiting an invitation from India, which has yet to materialize. The Ministry of External Affairs did not provide any comments regarding whether an invitation had been extended to Mr. Oli.

Oli emphasized the necessity of making the airport successful and repaying the loan, while also advocating for a heightened dialogue with India. He expressed a legitimate demand for the use of their airports, comparing the Indian government's restrictions on international airport usage to a form of "economic coercion," reminiscent of the 2015 economic blockade along the India-Nepal border.

In June 2023, Nepal's then Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' also addressed the need for additional overflight routes during a joint press conference with Modi at Hyderabad House in New Delhi.

There has been no progress regarding the request, as officials from the for-



eign ministry have expressed security apprehensions about permitting overflight rights over "sensitive" regions along India's borders. Additionally, local reports indicate that the Nepalese government is worried about an unofficial "go-slow" approach concerning the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) certification for Nepalese cement exports and household items containing Chinese components, as well as the acquisition of hydropower from projects financed or constructed by Chinese entities. These matters have been addressed at the official level.

Nepal currently finds itself at a pivotal point in its geopolitical landscape, where a lack of trust with its larger neighbor and the actions of its political leaders could have serious repercussions for the nation's future. It is essential for Nepal to adhere to the boundaries established by its geography and cultural heritage. Nevertheless, Prime Minister Oli appears to struggle in conveying the importance of respecting these limits.

Enhancing Rural Entrepreneurship Through Business Services And Financial Inclusion: The Nepalese Context



BY: SANDIP POUDEL

Business services are essential for promoting entrepreneurship in rural areas and equipping young people with the knowledge and skills needed to run successful businesses. Creating jobs for youth is a priority for a responsible government. Young people entering the labor market as potential entrepreneurs face many challenges. These include limited access to business knowledge and skills, technical skills and business education. The lack of business services in rural Nepal hampers opportunities for business networking, individual-level entrepreneurship development, and mentorship to refine their business ideas.

How do business services help overcome the challenges of starting a business?

Business mentorship programs that connect potential entrepreneurs with experienced service providers and business owners are critical to overcoming initial challenges such as developing business plans, managing finances, and understanding market dynamics. Through such support, young entrepreneurs gain valuable insights and avoid common pitfalls. Business incubators and learning centers at the local level, which provide shared office space, Internet access, administrative assistance and sometimes financial support, offer essential business guidance to young entrepreneurs. In addition, technical skills in digital marketing, customer relationship management, and financial management increase the competitiveness of rural businesses. These resources empower young people to start and sustain businesses that stimulate local economies, create jobs, and improve rural livelihoods.

Business services for entrepreneurship development include a variety of support activities that facilitate the man-

agement of new and existing businesses and viable value chains based on market opportunities. These services include business planning, financial literacy and management, market analysis, relationship marketing, access to affordable finance, and technical advice on legal and regulatory issues. Public and private institutions, non-governmental organizations, and development programs often provide these services. For example, business planning assistance helps entrepreneurs assess the feasibility of their ideas, understand market needs, and plan for growth. Financial literacy training teaches entrepreneurs how to manage resources effectively, helping them to budget, save, invest and make sound financial decisions. Market analysis services provide insights into customer preferences, industry trends and competitor activities, enabling entrepreneurs to refine their offerings and identify new opportunities.

How financial literacy supports business development

Financial literacy is critical for potential entrepreneurs, providing them with the skills to make informed financial decisions, manage resources efficiently, and plan for long-term sustainability. Many entrepreneurs, especially those from producer groups, lack basic financial literacy, which can hinder effective cash flow management, budgeting, and financing. Without financial literacy, they risk financial instability, such as taking on excessive debt or failing to track expenses, leading to potential business failure. Financial literacy training provides essential skills in budgeting, saving, borrowing and investing that are essential for effective business management. It also enables entrepreneurs to assess and manage risk in volatile markets. Financial literacy enables entrepreneurs to negotiate effectively with financial institutions and to understand loan

terms, interest rates and repayment obligations. In this way, financial literacy provides a foundation for building stable, profitable businesses and enables entrepreneurs to scale their businesses with confidence.

In Nepal, financial institutions play a critical role by providing access to credit, offering financial advice, and creating business-relevant credit products. For example, microfinance institutions provide small loans to rural entrepreneurs—primarily producer groups—who may not qualify for traditional bank loans due to a lack of collateral or credit history. By offering smaller, more manageable loans, microfinance institutions encourage the growth of microenterprises in rural communities. By partnering with entrepreneurship development organizations, financial institutions expand their reach, particularly in remote areas, thereby increasing access to financial services and promoting economic growth.

However, access to finance remains a significant challenge for many Nepalese entrepreneurs, especially those in rural, marginalized communities. A major problem is the lack of collateral for smallholder farmers and producer groups, who often lack assets to secure loans. High interest rates also discourage entrepreneurs, especially those from low-income backgrounds, who fear the financial burden of repayment. In addition, complex and bureaucratic loan application processes can deter small business owners. Limited awareness of available financial products further limits the ability of entrepreneurs to secure financing for business needs. Financial institutions often view lending to start-ups as risky, creating a gap in business financing. Geographic and digital access barriers also limit rural entrepreneurs' ability to access financial services, particularly in remote and hilly areas. Addressing these challenges requires a multifaceted approach, including policy interventions, financial literacy initiatives, and the development of inclusive financial products tailored to the diverse needs of entrepreneurs across regions and sectors. Such efforts can help Nepal build a more inclusive financial landscape that supports entrepreneurship nationwide.

Successful model of localization of business services

Helvetas Nepal's InElam project, for example, uses the Enterprise Service Providers (ESPs) model to establish a sustainable, market-driven support system for

rural entrepreneurs, with the aim of localizing business services. Working in the Karnali and Madhesh provinces of Nepal, the InElam project works with local Enterprise Service Providers (ESPs) to provide services such as business training, mentoring, facilitating access to finance, and facilitating market linkages. This model fosters a supportive business ecosystem that enables local entrepreneurs to start and sustainably grow their businesses. A key feature of this model is its cost-sharing basis, where entrepreneurs and local governments contribute a portion of the service fees, enhancing its financial sustainability and scalability through partnerships with market actors. The model builds the capacity of local entrepreneurs and improves access to business services. It also focuses on strengthening local business ecosystems by improving skills, fostering innovation, and promoting inclusive entrepreneurship, thereby

creating jobs for disadvantaged communities. Through the InElam project, Helvetas Nepal is demonstrating the power of sustainable value chain development at the local level in different value chains to promote sustainable enterprises.

Conclusion

Business services and financial literacy are essential to

support entrepreneurship, especially in rural areas where young people face unique challenges in starting and growing businesses. Financial institutions in Nepal play a critical role in this process by providing business-friendly financial products, financial advisory services, and working with Enterprise Service Providers (ESPs) to reach the maximum number of potential entrepreneurs at the local level. However, challenges such as lack of collateral, high interest rates and limited access to financial products remain, highlighting the need for policy support and inclusive financial services. Helvetas Nepal's InElam project demonstrates a sustainable model for entrepreneurship development by creating a supportive ecosystem for local entrepreneurs through local level ESPs.

Sandip Poudel has extensive professional experience in entrepreneurship development, private sector promotion, market system development for employment generation and enterprise development in both private sector and development organizations for over 15 years in Nepal and other countries. This is his personal perspective. He can be contacted at poudel_sandip@yahoo.com



NEPAL-BANGLADESH POWER TRADE A Significant Achievement

After many years of endeavor, Nepal has commenced the export of 40 MW of electricity to Bangladesh via the transmission line from India. This development follows a tripartite agreement involving Nepal, Bangladesh, and India. Although the electricity export lasted for only one day, it marks a significant historical achievement for Nepal. Under the leadership of Kulman Ghising, who has served as the Managing Director of the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) for just over seven years, this export to Bangladesh represents yet another notable milestone.

By KESHAB POUDEL

A decade ago, enduring a significant power outage lasting over 13 hours rendered the notion of exporting electricity to India and Bangladesh seemingly far-fetched or even laughable. However, through re-

lentless effort and commitment, Ghising, the Managing Director of the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA), has diligently worked to demonstrate that Nepal is capable of exporting electricity to these neighboring countries, thereby

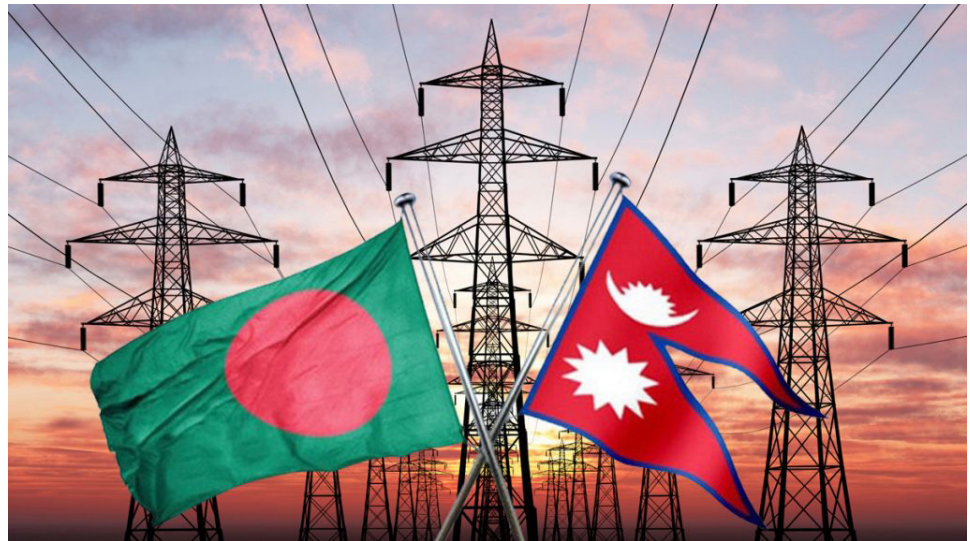
enhancing its economic prospects. While various ministers in Nepal, including the recently appointed Minister Dipak Khadka, are vying for recognition of this achievement, it is the combined insight of senior political leaders from both India and Nepal, along with

the unwavering dedication of MD Ghising, that has facilitated this progress. Following successful exports to India, Nepal has now commenced electricity sales to Bangladesh, with the NEA exporting 40 MW of electricity on November 15.

The inaugural trilateral power transaction from Nepal to Bangladesh was jointly launched by Union Minister for Power and Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar during a virtual event organized by Nepal's Ministry of Energy, Water Resources, and Irrigation. Khattar, alongside Md Fouzul Kabir Khan, Advisor to Bangladesh's Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, and Nepal's Minister for Energy, Water and Irrigation Dipak Khadka, marked the commencement of this power flow transaction, which was facilitated through the Indian grid.

A recent press release indicates that a power transaction from Nepal to Bangladesh via the Indian grid will facilitate the export of up to 40 MW of electricity. This agreement was initially announced in June 2023, coinciding with the visit of former Nepalese Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal to India from May 31 to June 3. During this visit, both nations reaffirmed their dedication to enhancing sub-regional cooperation, particularly in the energy sector, which is expected to foster greater interconnectivity among their economies for the benefit of all involved parties.

Following the inauguration,



Union Minister Khattar remarked that this initiative would be advantageous for all three countries in the region. He stated, "The power departments of the three countries have entered into an agreement for Regional Cooperation in Power Purchase, Sale, Distribution, and Transmission, whereby Nepal has committed to supplying 40 MW of hydropower to Bangladesh. The Nepalese government is utilizing India's transmission grid to deliver its electricity to Bangladesh... I believe this will be beneficial for all three nations." Additionally, a tripartite power purchase agreement was formalized in Kathmandu in October this year, involving NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam, Nepal Electricity Authority, and Bangladesh Power Development Board.

The initiation of power transmission from Nepal to Bangladesh via India is anticipated to improve sub-regional connectivity within the energy sector, as stated in the announcement. According to the tripartite agreement established approximately six weeks ago, the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) has dispatched 40 MW of electricity to Bangladesh. Pow-

er Minister Deepak Khadka officially launched the power export during a virtual ceremony held at the Ministry of Power. The event was attended by ministry officials, NEA Managing Director Kulman Ghising, and other dignitaries.

The NEA has been supplying electricity generated from the 25 MW Trishuli and 22 MW Chilime hydropower projects, which were constructed with Indian financial assistance and are owned by India, to Bangladesh. Following six years of preparatory work, an agreement was finalized on October 17 among Nepal, Bangladesh, and India for the sale and purchase of 40 megawatts of electricity.

This tripartite agreement was necessary due to the requirement of utilizing India's transmission infrastructure to facilitate the export of electricity from Nepal to Bangladesh. The agreement stipulates that the NEA will provide electricity to Bangladesh from June 15 to November 15 each year. This year, electricity was exported to Bangladesh for a single day on Friday.

The authority will receive 6.40 US cents per unit in accordance

COVERSTORY

with the agreement. The board has been engaged in the export of electricity via the Dhalkebar-Muzaffarpur 400 kV transmission line.

According to the authority, the electricity has been transmitted to Bangladesh through the 400 kV line connecting Muzaffarpur to India's Prasaran Bahrapur-Bher transmission line.

In a notable advancement for regional energy collaboration, Nepal has officially commenced the export of electricity to Bangladesh. The export of 40 megawatts of electricity produced in Nepal began on Friday.

This marks a historic achievement in Nepal's ambition to establish itself as a significant energy exporter in South

Asia, capitalizing on its rich hydropower resources. The virtual inauguration of the power export took place on Friday afternoon, featuring Dipak Khadka, Minister for Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation of Nepal, Manohar Lal, Minister for Power of India, and Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan, Advisor to the Power Division of the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources of Bangladesh.

This is the inaugural instance of electricity generated in Nepal being exported to a third nation, as

previously, Nepal has only engaged in electricity trade with India. On October 3, 2024, a tripartite power purchase agreement was executed among the Nepal Electricity Authority, NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam (NVVN) of India, and the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) to facilitate the export of 40 megawatts of electricity from Nepal to Bangladesh through the Indian grid.

The electricity produced in Nepal will be transmitted to the

of electricity to Bangladesh will recommence on June 15, 2025. Nepal plans to supply electricity to both India and Bangladesh exclusively during the monsoon season. On Thursday, the Central Electricity Authority, which operates under the Ministry of Power of India, sanctioned the export of 40 megawatts of electricity—comprising 18.60 MW from the Trishuli hydropower project and 21.40 MW from the Chilime hydropower project—to Bangladesh.



This approval allows for the export of 40 megawatts of power generated from these two projects to Bangladesh until October 2, 2029. Both projects have also received authorization to export electricity to India. The NEA will

Muzaffarpur substation in India via the inaugural cross-border Dhalkebar-Muzaffarpur 400 kV transmission line. Subsequently, power will be delivered from the Muzaffarpur substation to Bangladesh through the Behrapur (India)-Bheramara (Bangladesh) 400 kV transmission line. The export of electricity from Nepal to Bangladesh commenced at 12:30 PM on Friday and continued for a duration of 11 hours and 30 minutes until midnight.

According to the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA), the export

provide 40 megawatts of electricity to Bangladesh during the six-month rainy season, from June 15 to November 15 each year, over a period of five years. The NEA has indicated that the electricity trade between Nepal and Bangladesh will be conducted in U.S. dollars.

The authority will generate 6.40 US cents per unit (equivalent to Rs. 8.62 based on Friday's exchange rate) through the sale of electricity to Bangladesh. This marks the first occasion on which Nepal will earn revenue

in dollars from electricity sales, as previous transactions with India were conducted in Indian rupees. The Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) has received USD 28,160 (approximately Rs. 3,793,433) for exporting 40 MW of electricity to Bangladesh over a duration of 11.30 hours on Friday.

The payment for the electricity exported to Bangladesh will be received at the Muzaffarpur point in India. The NEA will be responsible for any technical losses incurred during the transmission from Dhalkebar to Muzaffarpur. Beyond the Muzaffarpur point, Bangladesh will assume responsibility for all applicable taxes and charges, including those related to the transmission line, leakage, NVVN, and the trading margin imposed by India.

Historic milestone

During this event, Minister Khadka remarked that the export of electricity from Nepal to Bangladesh represents a historic milestone for the nation. “This achievement reflects our collective vision for a sustainable and interconnected energy future in South Asia,” he stated. “This power trade transcends mere electricity; it signifies a move towards energy security, economic development,

and environmental sustainability for all our countries. It underscores our mutual commitment to clean, reliable energy and a regional shift towards renewable resources,” Minister Khadka further elaborated.

He expressed gratitude to the Government of India for its role in facilitating the export of electricity to Bangladesh, as well as to the Government of Bangladesh for its importation of power

tricity trade. Furthermore, he indicated India’s willingness to assist in the advancement of power generation in Nepal, emphasizing that such agreements would promote the sustainable development of green energy.

Advisor Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan remarked that these agreements would significantly

bolster regional energy security. He highlighted that such collaboration would enrich South Asian nations through integrated energy development and contribute to sustainable progress. He expressed confidence that Nepal’s hydropower resources would support Bangladesh in its pursuit of a zero carbon emission policy, facilitating a transition

towards renewable energy and economic growth.

This partnership represents a crucial advancement towards achieving our goal of becoming a prominent exporter of renewable energy within the South Asian region.



from Nepal. Minister Manohar Lal commended the initiative to extend electricity access to South Asian nations via India’s transmission infrastructure.

He noted that India has made significant investments in various hydropower projects in Nepal, and the successful completion of these initiatives would enhance the prospects for elec-

Obituary To Dr. Mohan Man Sainju!



BY: SHANKER MAN SINGH

We are shocked by the untimely death of MohanmanSainju, former Vice Chairman of the Planning Commission and realize that this is an irreparable loss to the country. Being the president of the “BalSakhaMandal” in Tansen as a child and opening a library and was a keen genius since childhood, Mohan’s sincere appreciation was a moral boost for the young lad which enabled him to gather like-minded youth at the age of 13 and start a club called “BalSakhaMandal”.

Although it was a childhood club, it helped to inculcate the values of abstinence from gambling, alcohol and smoking and to keep good company for a good way of life. They also had an understanding with the local police for their support and assistance where abusive adults threatened them by whistling in a bizarre manner.

The club also conducted adult classes in the evenings for those who did not have the opportunity of early education. Mohan also had close encounters with poet Lakshmi Prasad Devkota and freedom fighter Khadgaman Singh, and his contemporaries say that these childhood experiences helped him to aspire to more.

Born in Saiju family of PalpaTansen’sBhagwatiTole, he achieved many works and fame both personally and nationally “Without constant growth and progress, words like improvement, achievement and success have no meaning. -Benjamin Franklin” He believed in this sayings. He has two children of his own one a son and a daughter. We express our deepest condolences for the bereavement to his wife Madhuri, son Manish and daughter Mita.

Looking at a cursory summary, he was selected for three scholarships at the London School of Economics, the University of Manchester and the Fulbright in the United States. During this period, the government was reviewing the first five-year plan and Mohan actively participated in the program and the then Planning Secretary Dr. Bhesh-BahadurThapa noticed. Thapain the government had an important project in mind and were inspired and encour-

aged to join the government service. Mohan was watched by those who returned to Nepal without completing his PhD to help his nation’s development.

Mohan turned down the opportunity to go abroad for higher education and started working in the government.

In 1963, he entered the first pilot project that started using the land reform program in Nepal. He was appointed as a special officer. He started an experimental program in 3 districts of Nepal namely Jhapa in the Terai, Palpa in the mid-hills and Chitwan in the inner Terai.

Mohan was expected to come up with a proposal to use in the process of land reform implementation and suggest to policy makers what kind of land reform is appropriate in Nepal and what land reform is needed to address the problem of land and landlessness in Nepal.

He has published many works on Nepal’s development administration, planning, decentralization, diplomacy, etc. in Nepal and foreign communication media and he has also published the book “From Budhabareto Chakupat”.

After a year of experimentation, Mohan succeeded in submitting a proposal to the government, which was enthusiastically accepted, and land reform was implemented in 1964 for the first time in Nepal’s history. It was an important project because almost all political parties talked about it from 2051 but never saw the light of day because the mechanism was never envisaged.

Thus, in 1964, the Department of Land Reforms was established and the program was implemented. Mohan was given the opportunity to become the first Director of Land Reforms and at the age of 23 was the youngest at the central level.

Land reform was not popular among the army, palace or high-ranking officials of the Singh Darbar, the elite and the program was becoming ineffective in its implemen-

tation.

Most of the landlords were somehow against it and when they could not remove Mohan from the job, they gave him some obstruction in the jagir.

After some time, the government took action against the civil servants and 17 employees were fired. They were given the opportunity to retire from service and Mohan was in the group in 1968 along with PashupatiShamsher-Rana.

The timing was perfect to fulfill Mohan's desire to study and thus he again applied for the Fulbright scholarship. There was no problem as Mohan was already selected despite having no prior work experience.

Now with accumulated rich experience there was no problem in selecting him and approval was given immediately.

And in 1969, Mohan went to the United States for his doctoral program. Mohan graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1972. His major was in development and he also completed a minor in international relations.

Dr. Sainju returned to Kathmandu and started working at the Center for Economic Development and Administration (CEDA) where PashupatiShamsherRana was the executive director and who was also at the stage of his dissertation after his expertise.

Dr. Sainju was appointed Chief Expert at CEDA. Later in 1973 Dr. Tribhuvan University rector.Sainju was appointed.

He was a good and effective speaker or a good orator . Even in the movement of 2036BS , he had the ability to convince people.

Perhaps it was because he had to look at the whole of Nepal, the work he did was not something to be done only for Palpa and Tansen. He was "TansenGuthi"'s advisor during late in his life.

With his untimely death, Nepal feels that it has lost a gem of a skillful planner, economist, diplomat and resident of Palpa.

He hold important positions like: Land reform during Birendra's reign, Rector of TribuvanUniversity, long time member of Planning Commission, then Vice Chairman, Ambassador to America, President of Poverty Alleviation Fund.As the president of IIDS, he fulfilled his intensive responsibilities successfully. I could hear Birendra visiting the development area in the review meeting and before the king, asking concerned authorities about the progress of a certain issue in the last time.



Our family, especially my father Dasharath Man Singh and mother Mithila Devi, had a very close and religious relationship with his brother Dwarikadai and Bhauju, and he used to call my father "Mama".

As long as his brother was alive, it was customary to celebrate Dashain one year in Palpa and one year in Kathmandu.He was the chief guest at JanataVidyalaya's Sil-

ver Jubilee. He was a brilliant student of the same. Later, when we were studying in Tribhuvan College, he also addressed the "Planning Cell" about the importance of planning and the goals, policies, working policy and programs adopted by the plan.I remember addressing us .

In the year 1987, I remember that he wrote the preface in the book written by me on "SAARC: From Dhaka to Kathmandu" published during the inauguration of the SAARC Secretariat and at that time he was a member of the Planning Commission. The untimely death of a person like Saiju, who has done exemplary work in terms of profession, cannot complete the incomparable contribution made by him, be it in the economic field, in education or in diplomacy, and in the social field.

Nepal has lost a skilled personality and a rich thinker. In this sad time, we express our heartfelt condolences to his family and pray that ShriPashupatiNath gives them the strength to bear the grief.

Izumi Tateno's Piano Concert

Musical Excellence

Renowned Japanese Pianist Izumi TATENO Delivered a Left-Hand Recital in Nepal

By A CORRESPONDENT

In a realm where each note conveys a narrative, certain melodies emerge from the spirit of perseverance. The internationally acclaimed Japanese pianist, celebrated for his remarkable skill in performing solely with his left hand, enthralled an audience of over 100 individuals in the Kathmandu. The 88-year-old's piano recital highlighted his exceptional musical talent.

The distinguished Japanese maestro Izumi Tateno presented his extraordinary one-handed performance at the residence of the Japanese Ambassador to Nepal on the evening of Friday, September 13.

In the presence of ambassadors, diplomats, Japanese nationals living in Nepal, honorary consuls, and several prominent figures, Izumi TATENO demonstrated both resilience and musical excellence for nearly one hour.

In 2002, Tateno experienced a cerebral hemorrhage at the age of 65, resulting in paralysis on the right side of his body. Nevertheless, he made a remarkable return to the stage two years later, performing solely with his left hand. Since that time, he has established himself as one of the foremost left-handed pianists globally, expanding the boundaries of this unique style through his performances and recordings. Numerous renowned composers have created original works specifically for Mr. Tateno.

Now at 88 years old, Tateno continues to tour internationally, enchanting au-



diences with his emotive and engaging music. His dedication to music has profoundly impacted many, and he has consistently drawn attention since his return. Presently, he remains active in solo performances using only his left hand, with several new compositions for the left hand being crafted by composers inspired by his journey. He has performed works by Koichiro Mitsunaga, Sisask, Takashi Yoshimatsu, Nordgren, and others.

The Embassy of Japan has granted piano music enthusiasts in Kathmandu a unique opportunity to witness a once-in-a-lifetime performance. The acclaimed pianist Izumi Tateno will present a concert featuring six classical pieces.

Tateno has long desired to visit Nepal, the birthplace of Lord Buddha, to perform in the name of world peace. His aspiration will be realized on Friday, September 13.

To facilitate this event, the Embassy of Japan has provided a venue for an extraordinary evening of music, showcasing Tateno in a left-hand piano recital.

Throughout his distinguished career, Tateno has collaborated with some of the most prestigious orchestras globally. Notably, he toured Japan with the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra in 1982 and 1988 and served as a soloist during the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra's European tour in 1984.

The evening will commence with in-

troductory remarks from the Japanese Ambassador to Nepal, Kikuta Yutaka highlighted Tateno's musical achievements.

Tateno's repertoire for left-hand piano has expanded significantly, with over 100 compositions written for him by composers from ten different countries, including the esteemed Takashi Yoshimatsu, who created Japan's first left-hand piano concerto in 2007.

Renowned for his remarkable capability to perform solely with his left hand, TATENO's concert is set to be a tribute to resilience, artistry, and a lifelong commitment to music.

As Izumi Tateno commenced the first note on the piano, the enchanting melody of the Ainola Lyrical Ballads resonated throughout the auditorium, enveloping the environment in a tranquil harmony. TATENO has introduced numerous compositions and persistently ventures into new musical realms, while also playing a vital role in the preservation and promotion of left-hand piano music through his Left Hand Music Library Foundation.

For nearly an hour during his presentation, the internationally acclaimed Japanese musician Tateno captivated the hearts and minds of the audience with a diverse array of performances. TATENO's accolades and recognitions are extensive; he has served as the artistic director for both the Finland Music Festival and the Nordic Light Sapporo Music Festival, in addition to founding the Oulunsalo Music Festival Izumi Tateno and His Friends.

Following his solo concert, he expressed that performing in Nepal and Bhutan had always been a dream of his, and he was elated to see that aspiration finally realized.

He expressed that performing in Nepal and Bhutan had long been a goal of his, and he was elated to see that aspiration finally realized. He has collaborated with renowned conductors such as Kurt Masur, Charles Dutoit, and Mariss Jansons, thereby establishing himself as a prominent figure in the realm of classical music.

In recognition of his contributions,



TATENO was honored in 2008 with the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette, one of Japan's most prestigious civilian awards. Additionally, in 2019, he was appointed as Friendship Envoy by the Embassy of Finland in Tokyo, acknowledging his efforts in enhancing diplomatic relations between Japan and Finland.

During his recital in Kathmandu, he presented the culmination of a lifetime dedicated to artistry and perseverance, providing the audience with a unique opportunity to experience a living legend. "I have been playing the piano for 80 years across the globe. As always, I do not concern myself with the location or audience. However, I recognize that classical piano music is quite rare in Nepal and Bhutan, which makes my visit particularly exciting. It has been a remarkable experience for me."

Tateno, who began his piano studies at the age of five and is now 88 years old, has graced stages with over 3,500 concerts across the globe. In 2002, his illustrious career as a pianist faced an abrupt interruption when he suffered a stroke that resulted in paralysis on the right side of his body.

Despite this setback, he persevered and created an extensive repertoire designed exclusively for the left hand. During a recent performance in Kath-

mandu, the audience was thoroughly enchanted, with many expressing how inspired they felt witnessing his remarkable ability to play with only his left hand. One audience member remarked, "We are truly delighted by the performance."

Despite the challenges posed by paralysis, he played around eight pieces using just his left hand. It was an incredibly moving experience for me to witness on stage. I believe I can achieve this too in the future." Maestro Izumi Tateno, born in 1936, is a cherished Japanese pianist who relocated to Finland in 1964 during his youth. Throughout his career, Tateno has performed thousands of concerts, recorded over a hundred albums, and received numerous awards and honors.

. Numerous active composers have devoted their original compositions to his left hand. The musical pieces, he created, seemingly tracing the fluid currents of his life, leave a lasting impression on the audience, supported by his unwavering passion for music.

The audience has had the chance to witness his extensive repertoire, which spans from classical to contemporary works. He has garnered significant praise for his performances and recordings across all musical genres.

Nepal's challenges

A recent discussion program organized by the Nepal Energy Foundation focused on the Commercialization of Hydrogen Energy within the Nepalese context, addressing various opportunities and challenges

By A CORRESPONDENT

As Nepal embarks on its energy transition from fossil fuels to cleaner alternatives, the nation has committed to achieving zero emissions by 2045, making the commercialization of hydrogen energy essential.

Research indicates that relying solely on hydrogen energy and other renewable sources will not suffice to eliminate fossil fuel dependency entirely.

In this regard, the program hosted by the Nepal Energy Foundation (NEF), a non-governmental organization, holds significant relevance.

The primary aim of the event was to discuss potential sectors for the commercial use of green hydrogen, as well as the associated challenges, opportunities, and strategies for the successful commercialization of hydrogen energy in Nepal.

Representatives from various government agencies, including the Electricity Regulatory Commission (ERC), Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA), and the Alternative Energy Promotion Center (AEPCC), along with stakeholders and practitioners from the clean energy sector, participated in the event.

The program was graced by Dr. Ram Prasad Dhital, Chairman of the ERC, as the chief guest. Other distinguished guests included Dr. Madhusudhan Adhikari, a member of the ERC; Nawaraj Dhakal, Managing Director of AEPCC; Achyut Ghimire, Director of Planning and Technical Services at NEA; and Urtar Kumar Shrestha, Managing Director of Butwal Power Company Ltd., along

with various experts from the sector.

During the event, the chief guest and special guests launched the book "Micro Hydro and Sustainable Practice," authored by Krishna Adhikari, as well as the annual report of NEF. Nepal's energy sector is steadily advancing towards a sustainable transition, guided by the national climate and energy policy, which establishes ambitious targets aligned

financial viability of hydrogen, stressing the necessity for it to compete with the existing fossil fuel infrastructure within the transportation and residential sectors, as well as outlining strategies for initiating the substitution of industrial fuels. He provided a calculation-based analysis aimed at identifying the optimal levelized cost of hydrogen (LCOH) required for hydrogen to emerge as a



with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 7 and 13. These goals emphasize the importance of adopting cleaner energy sources, particularly in the transportation and cooking sectors.

1. In a recent discussion program, Sher Singh Bhat, Vice Chairman of NEF, delivered a presentation on the theme: "Commercialization of Hydrogen Energy in the Context of Nepal: Opportunities and Challenges." He highlighted three primary sectors that significantly rely on imported commercial fuels and possess substantial potential for transitioning to hydrogen energy: Transportation, Residential (cooking and heating), and Industrial (specifically for furnaces utilizing industrial oils like furnace oil).

Bhat's presentation underscored the fi-

cost-effective and feasible alternative.

As Nepal advances towards its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets, which include a significant emphasis on electric vehicles (EVs) by 2025, the transportation sector encounters considerable challenges.

Although private EVs are gaining popularity, the transition in public transportation, particularly for heavy-duty vehicles such as buses and trucks, remains problematic, as battery electric vehicles (BEVs) frequently fall short of meeting the energy demands of larger fleets. Given its superior energy density, hydrogen is ideally suited to fulfill the energy requirements of heavy-duty transportation.

Bhat provided a comprehensive cost analysis to demonstrate the price point

at which hydrogen can effectively compete with existing gasoline prices. He identified two primary price benchmarks:

NOC purchase price benchmark:

This benchmark pertains to the price at which the Nepal Oil Corporation (NOC) acquires gasoline, excluding the six types of taxes and duties imposed by the Government of Nepal (GON) on gasoline imports, such as VAT and excise duties, along with handling costs and losses due to evaporation. Currently, this benchmark is established at NPR 88 per liter, necessitating that the indicative cost per kilometer for hydrogen fuel be limited to NPR 7.33. Consequently, the price of hydrogen must not surpass NPR 703.68 per kilogram.

Consumer price benchmark

This benchmark indicates the price consumers pay for gasoline, which includes VAT and excise taxes, currently set at NPR 163 per liter.

In order to compete with this consumer price, the indicative cost of hydrogen per kilometer should not exceed NPR 13.58, implying that hydrogen must be priced below NPR 1304.88 per kilogram.

Achieving these benchmark costs is crucial for hydrogen to successfully compete with gasoline and position itself as a viable cost-effective alternative in Nepal's transportation sector.

In the context of cooking applications, the event underscored Nepal's Nationaly Determined Contribution (NDC) goal of reaching 25% electric cooking by the year 2030. However, progress towards this target has been minimal, with only 1% advancement recorded to date.

The sluggish uptake of electric cooking technologies can be attributed to user reluctance towards flameless cooking methods and various technical obstacles. As the use of traditional biomass for cooking diminishes, there has been a notable increase in the reliance on liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), which raises significant concerns regarding energy security and the nation's dependence on imported fossil fuels.

In contrast, hydrogen fuel presents a viable and eco-friendly alternative. Unlike



electric cooking technologies that necessitate specialized cookware and encounter challenges in user acceptance as a primary cooking fuel, hydrogen cooking systems are user-friendly and do not require any special utensils. In a manner similar to the analysis conducted in the transportation sector, Bhat provided a cost analysis to evaluate how hydrogen can effectively compete with LPG and electric cooking technologies.

To be competitive with LPG pricing, hydrogen must maintain a cost per kilowatt-hour of no more than NPR 11. This requirement translates to a hydrogen price of NPR 363 per kilogram, based on the current LPG price of NPR 2000 for a 14.7 kg cylinder.

The benchmark for e-cooking pricing indicates that for hydrogen to be a viable competitor, its cost per kilowatt-hour must fall below NPR 11.70. This suggests that the price of hydrogen should not exceed NPR 386 per kilogram. Consequently, a target price of Rs 12 per kWh or lower for hydrogen combustion would position it competitively against current cooking energy sources, such as electricity and LPG.

Bhat highlighted that substituting a standard 14.7 kg LPG cylinder would necessitate approximately 5 kg of hydrogen. Therefore, to ensure affordability and competitiveness, the price of a 5 kg hydrogen cylinder should be limited to below NPR 2000. Achieving these pricing objectives will enable hydrogen to effectively rival LPG and electric cooking methods, offering a cleaner and more sustainable alternative for cooking in Nepal, in addition to the various advantages hydrogen presents over LPG and

electricity as cooking fuels.

In the discussions, participants expressed appreciation for the information shared within the context of Nepal. There was significant interest regarding the costs associated with hydrogen production, safety concerns, and the challenges related to storage and transportation for end-use applications, as well as issues of social acceptance and behavior modification.

The ongoing research conducted by the NEF has pinpointed the essential measures required, and upon the successful completion of this research, further initiatives will be necessary to ensure that the system is economically competitive with current fuel options.

Participants raised concerns regarding the permitting processes for hydrogen production facilities and highlighted the necessity for government regulations to expedite the commercial adoption of hydrogen. In their concluding statements, chief guest Dr. Ramprasad Dhital, along with special guests Dr. Madhusudhan Adhikari, Nawaraj Dhakal, and Achyut Ghimire, underscored the considerable potential of hydrogen fuel in facilitating Nepal's shift towards cleaner energy alternatives.

By achieving the specified cost benchmarks, hydrogen could emerge as a feasible substitute for traditional fossil fuels, thereby supporting Nepal's aspirations for a more sustainable and eco-friendly energy landscape. At the conclusion of the event, NEF Chairman Mohandas Manandhar expressed gratitude to all participants for their engagement and formally closed the proceedings.

HELVETAS NEPAL

Nutrition Through Riverbed Farming

The introduction of River Bed Farming (RbF) by Helvetas-Nepal has been a pivotal moment in improving the nutritional well-being of the children, pregnant women, and the elderly of backward, poor and under privileged communities living in Madhesh, Koshi and Sudur Paschim Provinces . This innovative farming technique has not only provided a means for supplemental income but has also become a vital source of nutrition and food security for the community.

By Keshab Poudel

Riverbed farming has changed things for Dalits and other marginalized groups in Gajara Tole, Ward 3, Laxminiyapur Rural Municipality, Dhanusha District. It is 300 kilometers south of Kathmandu. RbF is now a source of income, nutrition, and food security.

Forty households have formed two groups: Ram Janaki Bagarkheti Samuha and Bajrangbali Bagar Kheti Samuha. With support from Helvetas Nepal's Riverbed Farming Project, Manab Kalyan Samaj Nepal is implementing programs in the community, improving the economic and

nutritional and food security status of poor Dalit settlements.

Binita Devi Das, 28, a mother of two, used to only get vegetables, eggs, and meat during festivals or weddings. We used to eat two items for breakfast and two for dinner. "We ate five or six items when we got food from landlords and upper cast people at festivals and ceremonies," said Das, head of Ram Janaki Bagarkheti Group.

Binita is married to a Dalit from Bhangaha, Dhanusha. Her father's

home is different now. "My father's kitchen has been diverse in food for five years. They have two to three vegetables in their own gardens by the river. These include beans, tomatoes, pumpkins, watermelons, gourds, pointed gourds, brinjal, cucumbers and cabbage.

Helvetas Nepal has shown that RbF has helped Dalit and marginalized communities earn more money. Cucurbits grown in riverbeds provide poor and marginalized people with vitamins, minerals, protein, and vegetable oil. People eat these vegetables

and sell them in local markets to make money.

Ram Janam Sada, 65, Mushar is also growing vegetables next to the village on the bank of the Aurahi river. Sada earns about Rs. 60,000.00 (USD 500) from river bed farming on 3 Kathha (10935 square feet of land). “River bed farming earns enough money to buy essentials like oil, lentils, and wheat.” “I don’t have to buy vegetables from the market anymore,” said Sada.

I can see a difference in the faces of pregnant women and children. “They look healthier and stronger than four years ago,” Sada says. Sada also takes care of vegetables and watermelon. “All four of us are busy here from October to June before the monsoon and flood,” said Sada. “We eat vegetables with every meal.”

Manab Samaj Nepal, a local partner, has been implementing River Bed Farming in Ward 3 Gajaria Dalit Settlement with the support of Helvetas-Nepal.

Nirmala Devi Sada, 30, is a member of the Bajrangbali Group. She is also growing vegetables on two acres of land. She has two children and four



family members. “The river and barren banks were there, but we never thought of growing vegetables here. We had a very bad experience with flooding,” said Sada.

“Four years ago, people from Manab Kalyan Samaj Nepal came to our village and taught us how to plow and grow vegetables. This was the start of a change in our lives,” said Sada, who also made Rs. 50,000 last year. “This is a lot of money.” Our riverbank is small, so there is not much

land to grow vegetables.”

Riverbed farming helps poor farmers in the Madhes region make a living. “It has helped them make money, feed their families, and be more secure,” said Hari Gurung, Helvetas Nepal’s InElam team leader. Cucurbits are the main crops grown in riverbed farming. They can adapt to harsh environments because they have long taproots that can extract nutrients and water from deep in the soil.



Like other farmers, landless farmers in Gajaria prepare fields and grow vegetables and fruits in riverbanks after the monsoon season.

The first crop grown in riverbeds was watermelon and matsum. Now, many cucurbit crops are being grown in the riverbeds. Farmers are also growing beans.

Gurung said that eating at least 3-4 different vegetables a day helps families eat better than they did in the past.

As RbF becomes more popular, local governments are supporting it be-



cause it helps farmers make money and provides food for their families.

Many Dalits in our area don't have land. "Farming on riverbanks helps landless farmers make a living and increases productivity," said Bhogendra Mishra, Mayor of Rural Municipality. We work with Manab Kalayan Samaj to make riverbed farming work. The municipality helped farmers in ward 3 by installing a 300-meter deep irrigation system. "We help landless farmers by giving them fertilizer and seeds," said Mishra. The municipality is also supporting river bed farming in Ward 2. Seventeen farmers' groups in our municipality are involved in river bed farming.

River bed farming, also called "Bagar Kheti" in Nepal, is becoming more popular in Nepal's plains. It is an alternative form of agriculture for poor and landless farmers to improve their food security. This is good for 1.8 million people without land and about 4 million others who don't have enough food.

Supported by Helvetas Nepal's Riverbed Farming Project and the Manab Kalyan Samaj Nepal, a local NGO, in collaboration with Laxminiya Ru-

ral Municipality, has played a crucial role in the successful implementation of RbF programs. These efforts have not only improved the economic status but also the nutritional status of the impoverished Dalit settlements in the area.

Das, along with other marginalized farmers practicing Riverbed Farming nationwide, participated in exchanging vegetables and watermelon through barter. Due to their limited cultivating land, these farmers traded

their produce for rice and wheat, thus significantly enhancing food security.

Das mentioned, "I have traded one quintal of wheat for my vegetables and watermelon. In rural regions lacking monetary resources, our vegetables are exchanged for rice and wheat."

Manab Kalyan Samaj Nepal is implementing riverbed farming with the support of Helvetas Nepal in five local Palikas in Dhanusha district. The project has also been implemented in Chhireswarnath Municipality, Mithila Bihari Municipality, Hanspur Municipality, and Dhanushadham Municipality in the district. "We work with local Palikas on all our programs," said Pramod Yadav, Head of Manab Kalyan Samaj.

Helvetas Nepal also helped install 300 meters of bores to irrigate the land in Gajaria. We also gave farmers seeds, fertilizers, and other equipment," Yadav said.

Local governments in Madhesh are supporting RbF. The Provincial government and Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperatives have already endorsed RbF.



“We have asked the District Level Agriculture Knowledge Center to help poor and landless farmers with seeds, fertilizers, and other supplies,” said Roshan Kumar Mehata, Senior Agriculture Officer of Madhesh Province. “We need to give land to poor and landless communities across the province to improve food security and nutrition. Riverbed farming is a good choice.”

“With the aid from Helvetas Nepal, we have also installed 300 meters deep borings in Gajaria to irrigate the land, and have provided essential resources such as seeds, fertilizers, and other necessary equipment to the farmers,” Yadav added.

As local governing bodies begin to recognize the potential of river bank farming in Madhesh, the provincial government and Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture, and Cooperatives have already endorsed these projects as part of their annual schemes.

“For the sake of food security and nutrition, it is crucial to allocate land to the impoverished and landless communities across the province. These communities have been unused for far too long; river bank farming offers a practical solution,” said Roshan Kumar Mehata, Senior Agriculture Officer for Madhesh Province.

Given the significance of food security and nutrition, the Dalits and marginalized individuals in Ward 3 of Laxminiya Rural Municipality are making strides. The income generated from river bank farming is being used to purchase food, and the surplus vegetables are being fed to the

families.

The primary factors that contribute to proper nutrition include having access to sufficient and nutritious food, along with clean environments. A study from Dalit communities in the Laxminiya Rural Municipality has shown that farming is essential for nutrition, as it directly affects the food that families eat and also supports their ability to earn a living and



manage their food supply.

Experiences from the Rajasthan Food For Fog (RbF) program in a small Dalit community have also shown that focusing on agriculture is an important first step in efforts to enhance nutrition and livelihoods.

This is not only in the Dalit settlement of Laxminiya Rural Municipality of Dhanusha District, Mukta

Kamiya Camp, and other poor settlements in Kalali, Kanchanpur of Sudur Paschim and Morang and Jhapa of Koshi.

People need access to good food and a healthy environment to be healthy. Dalits in Laxminiya Rural Municipality have shown that agriculture is important for nutrition. It affects how much food people eat and their livelihoods.

Riverbed farming is a good way for poor people without land to make a living, especially in the Madhesh region. This farming method has helped people make money and eat better.

“Helvetas-Nepal has been implementing projects to improve the livelihood of poor, marginalized and landless. Riverbed farming is one of the program introduced in Nepal by Helvetas-Nepal early 2006/07 This has also established new development discourse in Nepal,” said Dr. Prabin Manandhar, country director, Helvetas-Nepal.

The experience of RbF in the small Dalit settlement has also shown that agricultural development is a necessary entry point for efforts to improve nutrition and livelihoods.

The RbF project in a small Dalit settlement has shown that supporting agriculture is a good way to improve nutrition and food security. Helvetas-Nepal’s support for the RbF project has helped address food security and malnutrition issues faced by small farmers, landless people, and land-poor marginalized groups not only in Madhesh province but also in Kosi and Sudur Paschim.

सुशासन प्रवर्द्धन गरौं

- कानून पालना गर्ने संस्कार र संस्कृतिको विकास गरौं,
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- विकास निर्माणका कार्यमा सहभागी बनौं,
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