

# Clean Air News

Vol. 2 No. 3 June , 2008

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Clean Air News is a free e-mail publication that features news, information and events related to clean air. Clean Air News is published by Clean Air Network Nepal. For more information on our campaign, please visit [www.cen.org.np](http://www.cen.org.np) and [www.cleanairnet.org/cann](http://www.cleanairnet.org/cann)

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## **Network News**

### **One and Half Month Campaign to Celebrate Earth Day and Environment Day in Nepal**

One and half month long campaign on Environmental Awareness and Advocacy has been successfully completed in Nepal to celebrate Earth Day and Environment Day 2008. Under this campaign, various awareness and advocacy activities were conducted to raise public awareness and spread message on environmental conservation activities.

The world celebrate various environment special days such as Environment Day, Earth Day, and Water Day and so on to aware general people about pressing issues of environment, to express public commitment and will to create sustainable society by maintaining harmony with natural and human system.

A group of 25 organizations including NGOs, Media, Private Company, local government has formed "Earth Day and Environment Day- Nepal Committee 2008" to organize various

activities on the occasion of Earth Day and Environment Day. Clean Air Network Nepal (CAN-N) was one of the leading organizations among others. Following activities were conducted under this campaign:

### **Press Meet and Signature Campaign**

The organizing committee conducted press meet on April 21, 2008 to sensitize local media on the contemporary environmental issues and to involve them in disseminating information among the local public.

Mr. Bhusan Tuladhar, Executive Director of Environment and Public Health Organization (ENPHO) briefed about the pressing environmental issues and explained the role of the media on raising public awareness.

### **Signature Campaign on "Inclusion of Environmental Issues in New Constitution of Nepal"**

The whole nation is on the verge on drafting new constitution to reform the present socio-political structure in the country. However, the environmental issues generally receive low priority and attention among the policy makers and politicians. In this context, the committee organized a signature campaign to consider environmental issues in soon to be drafted constitution to ensure people's fundamental right for live in clean and healthy environment. Thus, collected signatures were submitted to the members of the Constitution Assembly of Nepal.

### **Bicycle Rally on Earth Day**

The Bicycle Rally on April 22 - the Earth Day was organized to instigate the campaign in array to promote non-polluting vehicles such as bicycle along with electric vehicles, trolley bus and non-motorized transport such as walking

The spot cleaning program was conducted at the end of the rally to aware people for not littering the public place recklessly.

About 70 participants bicycled the main streets of Kathmandu Valley. Banners and play-card were used by participants to spread message on clean air, climate change and environment conservation.

### **Demonstration and Training Programme on Vehicle Maintenance & Emission Control**

Proper inspection and maintenance of used vehicles can significantly reduce the vehicular emission problem, Experts highlighted during the training and demonstration program in Kathmandu.

The demonstration and training programme on Vehicle Maintenance and Emission Control was organized on April 22 to sensitize college students about the issues related to Kathmandu's Air Pollution and importance of vehicle maintenance to lower vehicular emission.

The resource persons for the programme include - Mr. Bhusan Tuladhar, Executive Director of Environment and Public Health Organization and Mr. Sanjeeb Pradhan, Director of Eco Tech Nepal.

Mr. Bhusan Tuladhar addressed various issues related to Kathmandu's Air Pollution. He suggested for clean vehicle technology, clean fuel, proper inspection and maintenance system and good transport management to control air pollution.

"In Nepal 20 % vehicles can be considered as gross polluters which are responsible for 50 % air pollution. So any intervention to improve their performance will have positive impact over air quality," said Mr Sanjeeb Pradhan, Director Eco Tech Solution. He introduced a simple technique known as de-carbonization, which removes the deposited carbon particles inside the engine of vehicle. "Decarbonization is a simple technology by which we can clean our vehicle's engine without opening it. It's just like washing the dishes with detergent to clean it." He informed that periodic decarbonization work of engine can improve the performance of engine through enhanced burning mechanism and save fuel at the same time.

Altogether 20 students from five different environmental science colleges of the valley participated in the training programme.

During the training, participants were demonstrated on how the process de-carbonization is carried out and to what extent it is effective in cleaning the engine. Initially the apparatus called "Four Gas Analyzer" was fitted at the vehicle's exhaust pipe for about 3 minutes. The data shown was noted. Then "Ecofuel" was kept on the vehicle to clean the engine and engine was runned for about 20 minute. Final vehicle emission was also examined and the result that came was remarkable reduction in emission.

### **Interaction Programme on Climate Change cum documentary show- 11th Hour**

The interaction programme was basically organized to sensitize the students on the contemporary issues of Kathmandu's Air pollution and Climate Change and to raise awareness among the participant about the impact of air pollution on our own health. There were around 60 participants from different colleges studying environment science in Kathmandu.

Mr. Bhusan Tuladhar, Executive Director at ENPHO in his presentation titled "Kathmandu's Air Pollution: Problem and Solution", discussed about Air Quality basics and health impacts of air pollution.

He highlighted that Kathmandu valley is vulnerable to air pollution as a result of both man made cause and natural cause. He urged that public participation and their commitment to improve environment is must. He listed out the some solution to air pollution such as remove "gross polluter, cleaner production in industries, stop burning tires and plastics, walk, use bicycle pollution free vehicles."

Mr. Sanjeev Pradhan, Director of Ecotechs Nepal discussed about how a problem can be divided, identified and tackled. He alleged that about must of the pollution is cause by vehicles in Kathmandu.

He introduced the technology by which we can clean our vehicle's engine without opening it. The technology is called de-carbonization and about 45% of pollution will be decreased by applying this technology in old vehicle.

The presentation session was followed by a documentary show titled "11<sup>th</sup> Hour" narrated by Hollywood actor Leonardo Caprio about climate change.

### **Eco-Yaatra**

Around forty people visited the homes of ordinary people who are using simple technologies to conserve Kathmandu's environment during a journey called as Eco- Yatra. The visitors used non polluting electric vehicles for the purpose of travelling so that participants were encouraged to use EVs as a mean to solve problem of air pollution in Kathmandu.

The main objective of the journey was to encourage participants to adopt the simple eco friendly technology that can be undertaken in our home and that can be helpful in environment conservation.

The destinations for the Eco-Yaatra were follows:

- a. Residence of Mr. Hari Prasad Pandey, Baneshwor to observe how household kitchen and organic waste can be converted into bio gas
- b. Residence of Mr. Bhusan Tuladhar at Kalimati to learn about how household garbage can be managed within the house by applying simple technologies such as reuse and composting.
- c. Residence of Dr. Roshan Raj Shrestha, Dillu to learn about rain water harvesting and grey water recycling system at home.

### **Environment Film Festival**

An "Environment Film Festival 2008" was organized during 22-24 May 2008 for the first time in Nepal to disseminate environmental message through films and documentaries. A total of seven documentaries covering the issues of climate change, air pollution and other environmental problems were screened. About 1000 people attended the program.

### **Sustainable Transport Rally**

The sustainable transport rally was organized on June 5, 2008 with an aim to promote cleaner vehicles and non motorised transport in a bid to lower dependency over the fossil fuel and reduce air pollution problem.

A hundred and fifty participants including eminent Nepali Marathon Champion, Mr. Baikuntha Manandhar, students, teachers, professionals and participants from other co-organizing and supporting organizations, NGOs and INGOs took part in the rally.

Four electric cars, two electric bikes, two rickshaws, two electric vans, eight Safa Tempo and 60 bicycles were demonstrated during the rally. The number and the assortment of different environment friendly vehicles at one place was truly first of its kind in the city and seemed to be the most tempting gathering in terms of attracting people's attention towards such vehicles. The slogans in the playcards and the banners and paper bags in hands of the participants were strong appeal for behavioural change to ensure clean environment.

### **College Level Workshop on Air Pollution and Climate Change**

**Clean Air Network Nepal and Clean Energy Nepal in association with Green Youth Network and Shree Eco Visionary celebrated "World Environment Day 2008" by organizing an Interaction Program and Documentary Show Program on the burning issue of Climate Change and Air Pollution.**

The program was organized in four colleges within the valley studying environmental science as their major subject.

The major aim of this program is to aware the college students on climate change and Air Pollution issues. For this, a presentation highlighting general overview of climate change and air pollution, its consequences, adaptation and mitigation measures and a documentary on the same issue were shown at all the venues.

**Presentation I: "Kick Your Habits: Towards Low Carbon Economy, Celebrating Environment Day 2008"**

Presenter: Mr. Gopal Raj Joshi, Program coordinator of Clean Energy Nepal / Clean Air Network Nepal

Initially, Mr. Joshi, Program in his presentation discussed on general overview of climate change and air pollution issue, its consequences, and adaptation and mitigation measures as well. In his presentation Mr. Joshi highlighted on the following issues:

- Overview of Clean Air Network Nepal (CANN) and its activities
- Carbon based economy – dependency on fossil fuel and its economic, environmental and social implications
- Climate change and Air pollution problem
- Vehicular pollution and its health impacts

Presentation II: Sustainable Transport System for Mitigation of Air Pollution and Climate Change

Presenter: Mr. Sanjay Shrestha, Shree Eco Visionary private Ltd.

In the second presentation, Mr. Shrestha discussed moreover about the mitigation measures or the solution or small effort that an individual can do to mitigate the changing climate. He mainly focused in cleaner technology and its applicability in local context.

He said electric vehicle is another good option for reducing carbon dioxide emission. It is a clean transport which is environment friendly. Highlighting the clean transport he said cycle, electric car, scooter, trolley bus, safe tempo etc are some possible examples which are very potential for our country.

Documentary Show:

At all the colleges, the program was concluded with the screening of documentary on the same issue. Documentary shown in the series of program were:

- Global Warning Global warning, a TERI production
- Melt down in Nepal produced by WWF Nepal
- An Inconvenient Truth, Documentary by Former US vice-President, Al Gore
- Jalbayu Pariwartan bare bujau (Lets us know about Climate Change), Produced by NEFEJ

### **Regional Workshop On Climate Change and Air Pollution**

**Clean Air Network Nepal in association with WWF Nepal and Clean Energy Nepal orgaized regional workshop on Climate Change and Air Pollution on 24 April and 15 May 2008 at Hetauda and Biratnagar respectively. The objective of the workshop was to sensitize and inform government officials, civil society, media and public on climate change and air pollution issues.**

The workshop highlighted the cross cutting issues of climate change and air pollution to sensitize the participants to take actions at their level to reduce climate change and air pollution impacts.

Altother 112 participants including government officials, NGOs represenatives, and media took part in the program.

The technical session of the workshop consisted of the following presentations:

Presentation I: "Climate Change in global perspective" By Mr. Ngamindra Dahal, NTNC

Presentation II: "Basic Concept on Climate Change and Carbon Trading." By Mr. Gopal Raj Joshi, CANN

Presentation III: "Electric Vehicle as a Solution." By Mr. Sanjay Shrestha, SEV  
Presentation IV: "Role of Renewable Energy for Mitigation of Climate Change." By Mr. Baburaja Shrestha, CRE

### **One-Day Teachers' Workshop On Climate Change and Air Pollution in Hetauda**

**One-day teachers' workshop was organized in Hetauda on 25 April 2008 to increase awareness among teachers. The workshop also intended to disseminate teaching tool kits and to collect feedback on Nepali version of the teaching toolkit and development of curriculum on climate change.**

Clean Air Network Nepal in association with WWF Nepal and CEN organized this workshop to help school teachers to realize the negative impacts of climate change and air pollution so that they share to their students and the community and encourage them to take action at their level to fight against climate change and air pollution.

There was a constructive group discussion and presentation by teachers on their expectations and contribution for the future programs on climate change. The total number of participants in the workshop was 33 teachers from government and private schools in Hetauda.

### **Two Days Interaction Cum Learning Workshop On Climate Change for Representatives of Local Municipality and NGOs**

**Clean Air Network Nepal in association with WWF Nepal and Clean Energy Nepal conducted two-days interaction cum learning workshop on climate change for the representatives of local NGOs and partner civil society on May 12 and 13, 2008.**

The basic objective of the workshop was knowledge management and information sharing among the participants to explore the possibility for the future collaboration and coordination to conduct climate programs. Besides, the workshop also intended to develop cordial relationship between national level organization/networks and local NGOs and civil society to boost up the issues of climate change.

Climate resource pack and the CD with relevant information on climate change were distributed to all the organizations.

The technical session of the workshop consisted of eight presentations:

### **Community Level Consultation Meeting in Chitwan**

**With an aim to disseminate information and knowledge on climate change and air pollution to the vulnerable groups of the community out of the Kathmandu Valley, five community level consultations meeting was organized in Chitwan.**

For sharing and assessing the participants' perception on climate change, air pollution and its impacts in their community, Participatory Rural Appraisal tools were adopted.

The meeting began with the technical presentation "Basic Concept on Climate Change and Air Pollution" presented by Mr. Gopal Raj Joshi, CAN-N. The presentation was then followed by the discussion by the participants where all the participants shared difficulties they have

been facing in their daily lives. All the participants actively took part in the discussion sharing the events and the changes they have faced in the last 10-20 years.

The community level consultation meeting was conducted with the help of five community forest users' group in Chitwan. Altogether 160 members of community forest users' group participated in the meeting.

### **One Day Youth Meet in Chitwan**

**One day youth meet was organized on 28 April 2008 with an aim to aware and inform them on climate change and air pollution issues, its impact and to motivate them to take initiation for awareness raising activities at their schools and community. For this purpose, sixty students from 15 different schools (both government and private school) were invited.**

The technical session consisted of two presentations on climate change and air pollution. Mr. Gopal Raj Joshi, CAN-N did first presentation on the topic "Basic concept on Climate Change and Air Pollution". Similarly, Mr. Sanjay Shrestha, SEV did second presentation on "Possible solutions to Climate Change and Air Pollution". The presentations were then followed by the group discussion and art competition on climate change.

### **Lecture Series on Climate Change and Air Pollution**

**CAN-N accomplished lecture series on Climate Change and Air Pollution in five private and community school in Chitwan from May 13 to May 16, 2008.**

The prime objective of the lecture series was to increase interest and awareness among school students on climate change and Air Pollution issues and motivate them to take part in awareness raising activities within the school and in the community. The lecture targetted the students of class 8, 9 and 10. The period of the lecture series in each school was approximately two and half-hours. The first session of the lecture was scheduled for the power point presentation. The special screening of documentary film on climate change was organized during the second session of lecture series, which was then followed by the signature campaign on climate change. 600 signatures were collected.

### **National News**

#### **Hetauda Cement To Cut Pollutant Discharge**

**Bowing down to mounting pressure from local residents, Hetauda Cement Factory is going to install an equipment to curb air pollution from dust particles discharged by the factory.**

The factory has decided to set up a Reverse Air Back House at a cost of Rs 57.4 million in a bid to control the quantity of particles going into the air, a source at the factory said. "Quantity of dust particles will go down substantially along with control of cement wastage through such particles in the days to come," the source told the Post.

Local residents had launched a year long protest demanding installation of a new device as the old device had failed to bring down air pollution level.

The factory expects to recover the cost of the new equipment within three years by containing wastage of cement with the new installation.

Pollution is affecting the residents of Padampokhari, Churiamai VDC and wards 7, 8 and 9 of Hetauda municipality and also inflicting annual loss of Rs 20 million to the factory.

*Source: <http://ekantipur.com/>*

## **Plan Sought To Curb Pollution**

**Sustainable forest management practices and effective laws can help control the emission of carbon dioxide and control pollution, experts said here today.**

Prof Dr. Bal Krishna Sapkota said at a programme, "Without effective policy, it will be impossible to find the long-term solution to the problem of carbon emission."

He added, "The government relies heavily on international support for policy formulation and implementation."

A strong mechanism is required to coordinate and implement the policy, he further said. "All projects to be executed in the energy and other sector should be subjected to environmental examination/environmental impacts assessment," he said.

But the requirements are fulfilled only cursorily without paying much attention to the complex analysis usually expected in a standard impact assessment.'

Adoption of cost-effective energy and shift to renewable energy can be the possible alternative to minimize carbon emission, he said.

Ngamindra Dahal of the National Trust for National Conservation, "Climate change will affect everyone and everywhere."

"Lack of awareness among the general public, politicians, legislative members and planners on climate change makes the climatic change a social problem."

Ananda Tiwari, assistant lecturer at the Patan Multiple College, said, "The world has warmed by about 0.6 degree Celsius during the past century. By the year 2100, surface temperature will rise globally by 1.4 -5.8 degree Celsius relative to the 1990's level.

The programme was held to mark the World Environment Day with the slogan CO<sub>2</sub>, Kick the habit! Towards low carbon economy.

*Source: [The Himalayan Times, June 5, 2008](#)*

## **Housewives Attracted Towards Improved Cook Stoves**

**Housewives of Bara district are attracted to improved cook stove after the implementation of alternative energy program by Rural Area and Agriculture Forest Development Centre, Bara with the aid from Plan Nepal.**

Women cooking on traditional cook stoves are mainly infected from respiratory related diseases, said Dr. Abdul Rehaman, Kalaiya Hospital.

Housewives of Bara districts say that improved cook stoves is beneficial from different aspects like health, it saves time and fuel wood etc.



Improved cook stove is cost-effective therefore a low economic family can also afford it , said Mr. Harinarayan Shah, president, Rural Area and Agriculture, Forest Development Centre.

*Source: Rajdhani, June 15, 2008*

## **International News**

### **Where Breathing Is Deadly**

*By Nicholas D. Kristof*

**China's biggest health disaster isn't the terrible Sichuan earthquake this month. It's the air.**

The quake killed at least 55,000 people, generating a response that has been heartwarming and inspiring, with even schoolchildren in China donating to the victims. Yet with little notice, somewhere between 300,000 and 400,000 Chinese die prematurely every year from the effects of outdoor air pollution, according to studies by Chinese and international agencies alike.

In short, roughly as many Chinese die every two months from the air as were killed in the earthquake. And the problem is becoming international: just as Californians can find Chinese-made shoes in their stores, they can now find Chinese-made haze in their skies. None of this is surprising: rural China is full of "cancer villages" caused by pollution from factories. Beijing's air sometimes has a particulate concentration that is four times the level considered safe by the World Health Organization.

The city of Shanghai charges up to \$7,000 for a license plate, thus reducing the number of new vehicles, and China has planted millions of trees and hugely expanded the use of natural gas to reduce emissions.

*Source: <http://www.iht.com/> May 25, 2008*

### **Pollution Kills 10,000 A Year In Southern China**

**At least 10,000 deaths every year in Hong Kong, Macau and neighbouring southern China are caused by the area's worsening air pollution, according to a study released today.**

Air pollution is also responsible for 4,40,000 hospital bed days and 11 million doctor visits each year, the Hong Kong-based think tank Civic Exchange said in its study.

"We estimate that there are about 10,000 deaths occurring which are attributable to daily pollution, 10,000 deaths which are potentially avoidable," said Anthony Hedley, a professor in the department of community medicine at Hong Kong University who worked on the study.

The researchers calculated the price of pollution at USD 968 million every year in health costs and productivity losses. Satellite images show the situation worsened between 2003 and 2006 - the year the data was taken from.

The area studied by a team of public health and environmental scientists stretched from Hong Kong and Macau to the Pearl River Delta, where thousands of factories have sprung up during China's economic boom the past 30 years.

Hedley said people were suffering from cardiovascular and respiratory diseases brought on by the pollution. One area the study had not been able to completely assess was the impact on pregnant women and their children.

"The unborn child is being irrigated by pollutants breathed by the mother," he said.

*Source: [http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/ET\\_Cetera/Pollution\\_kills\\_10000\\_a\\_year\\_in\\_Southern\\_China/articleshow/3121023.cms](http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/ET_Cetera/Pollution_kills_10000_a_year_in_Southern_China/articleshow/3121023.cms) 11 Jun, 2008*

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Compiled and Edited by : Anjila Manandhar and Gopal Raj Joshi

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Clean Air Network Nepal (CANN) is a network of organizations and professionals involved in air quality management in Nepal. The goal of CANN is to increase the ability of professionals and other interested stakeholders to effectively address the problems of air pollution in Nepal. We encourage you to join hands with us to expand our campaign for clean and better Air.

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