

# Clean Air News

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Clean Air Network Nepal –Local Country Network of CAI-Asia Center

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## Network News

### Regional Climate Change Workshops

WWF Nepal and Clean Energy Nepal have organized half day regional climate change workshop in Chitwan, Nepalgunj and Pokhara on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2007, 30<sup>th</sup> December 2007 and 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2008 respectively. The workshop basically intended to provide an overview regarding cross cutting issues and interlinkage of climate change and air pollution to sensitize the participants to take actions at their level to reduce climate change impacts.



The organizers have invited representatives from CANN and CEN to present paper highlighting the importance and role of electric vehicles in reducing green house emission from the transport sector. Mr. Gopal Raj Joshi and Mr. Sanjaya Shrestha participated as resource persons for the program.

The workshop mainly targeted the district and regional level government officials, civil society, NGOs, CBOs, and journalists from Nepali frontline media. The total number of participants in Chitwan, Nepalgunj and Pokhara were 33, 20 and 61 respectively.

### Exhibition Of Electric Vehicles

A "Cottage Industries Festival 2007" was held in Kathmandu, Bhrikutimandap Exhibition hall from 2064-08-20 to 2064-08-24. The event was organized by FNSCI (Federation of Nepalese Small



Cottage Industries) and co-organized by Small Cottage Industries Development Fund and the ministry of Industry; commerce and Supply.

Among the 150 exhibition stall, "A cleaner technology for Clean Environment" stall was jointly organized and managed by VSBK (Vertical Shaft Brick Kiln) Program Nepal, Shree Eco Visionary Pvt. Ltd. under the coordination Clean Air Network Nepal and Clean Energy Nepal.

The organizations exhibited EVs for the advocacy and awareness on cleaner technology for clean air. The electrical vehicles manufactured by Shree Eco- Visionary were kept for demonstration.



CANN also participated in "Made in Nepal Exhibition 2008" from March 6 to March 10, 2008.

## **National Climate Change Awareness Campaign 2008**



To mark ongoing Climate talk in Bali Indonesia from Dec 2 to Dec 16, 2007, a group of NGOs have organized various activities under "National Climate Change Campaign 2007." Clean Energy Nepal and Clean Air Network Nepal were responsible to coordinate these activities.

The basic objective of this campaign was to sensitize local people and create awareness about the ongoing climate discussion and to raise Nepalese voice for creating pressure on developed nations to take immediate actions. The campaign was conducted as a part of international global campaign on climate change. Following activities were conducted during the campaign:

- Signature Campaign on Climate Change in 25 schools
- Letter writing competition
- Eco Quiz
- Cycle rally
- Media Campaign
- A climate parade on Dec 8, 2008 by mobilizing school students, college youths, city volunteer, climate volunteer, organizations and media person

Nearly 2700 people from 25 schools, Volunteers from 12 different colleges and representatives from 22 different conservation related partner organizations came to the road to show their commitments and concerns for global environmental issue and also to raise awareness on climate change to the public.

## **National Stakeholders' Meeting Under Male Declaration**

"National Stakeholders' Meeting on Male Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Trans- boundary Effects for South Asia" was organized by Ministry of Environment Science and Technology, International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD),

Clean Air Network Nepal (CANN), Center for Pollution Studies (CPS), Institute of Engineering in support with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), South Asian Cooperation for Environment Programme (SACEP) and Stockholm Institute of Environment (SEI) on March 4, 2008 at Hotel Himalaya, Kuopondole.



The broad objective of the meeting was to bring all the stakeholders into one platform and generate future ideas and views on air pollution issues and Male Declaration. During the meeting, Mr. Gopal Raj Joshi presented paper on EVs and EVs were demonstrated to participants of workshop.

The participants took active participation in the constructive discussion expressing their opinions and suggestions on the floor.

### **Visit to VSBK Project Site**

CANN in coordination with the VSBK Program Nepal has organized a visit program to VSBK project site for national and international participants of Regional Training Workshop on Rapid Urban Assessment. The visit program was organized on March 6, 2008. The participants included representatives of CANN, IVL, SEI, UNEP, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Pakistan, Maldives, Shri-Lanka, India and ICIMOD. The project engineer from VSBK briefed on environmental and social benefits of vertical shaft brick kilns. He presented technical details of kiln operation. According to him, this brick kiln is more efficient in the case of coal consumption and at the same time reduces emission. VSBK can lower the coal consumption by 30 to 40% as compared to traditional brick kilns. The participants discussed about the replication of this good practice in other countries of this region.

### **Teachers Workshop in Chitwan**

With an aim to provide relevant information and knowledge on climate change and to increase interest and awareness among teachers on climate change issues, one day teachers' workshop was organized in on 28 March 2008.

WWF Nepal, CEN in partnership with the CANN team organized this workshop to help school teachers realize the negative impacts of global warming and climate change and its significance in the context of our country so that they share to their students and the community and encourage them to take action at their level to fight against climate change.



The total number of participants in the workshop is was 50.

### **Regional Training on Rapid Urban Assessment**

Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology (MOEST), International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) in support with UNEP, SACEP, SEI, and IVL have organized Regional Training Workshop on "Rapid Urban Assessment" from March 5 to 7, 2008 at ICIMOD Kathamndu Nepal.

## **Study tour for delegates of Hetauda Municipality**

CANN have organized study tour for the delegates of Hetauda Municipality on Jan 7 to Jan 10, 2008. This study tour was organized under the preparation of city level mass education and awareness program on air pollution to be organized in partnership of Hetauda Municipality and CANN.



The objectives of the tour were to:

- Familiarize participants with technical and managerial aspect of EVs operation
- Sensitize on environmental, social and economic benefits of EVs
- Strategy formulation and plan activities for the mass education program

The delegates visited manufacturing unit of SEV and charging stations to know about operation of EVs in Kathmandu. They are provided with a brief orientation about the technical components of EVs as well. At the same time, they interacted with driver and owners of battery operated three wheelers. The meeting with Mr. Bhusan Tuladhar, Environmentalist and Executive Director of Environment and Public Health Organization was also held to discuss over the environmental issues.

## **Local Leaders from Dharan Municipality Briefed on EVs**

CANN organized a visit program for the group of local political leaders from Dharan Municipality on Jan 27, 2008. This group consisted of representatives from mainstream political parties- Communist Party of Nepal (Moist), Communist Party of Nepal (UML), Nepali Congress, and United People's Forum, Nepal Sadbhana Party and so on. During the visit, the visiting team visited manufacturing unit of SEV and the team was orientated on technical and managerial aspects of EVs. The test driving on various types of EVs manufactured and developed at SEV was also organized. At the end of the visit, short meeting was carried out to collect their feedback and to devise further strategy for operation of EVs in Dharan.



## **EV Exhibition and Demonstration Program for Schools and Offices**

The CANN kicked off EVs exhibition and Demonstration Program for schools and offices. During this time period, the project team completed such program in three schools at various date. The target audience for such programs was school students, parents, teachers and school administration. The project team adopted following methodology for the event:

- Power Point Presentation for Parents
- Presentation for School Teachers and Administration
- Demonstration of Electric Vehicles and test drive
- Distribution of promotional materials for school students, teachers and parents and feedback collection after the test drive.



The project team also demonstrated EVs for three offices.



## Local News

### **Use Of Tyre In Brick Kiln**

**Brick Kiln of Tanahu district are using tyre posing risk to environment and health. The labors working at the brick kiln say more than 50% of the brick kiln in Tanahu district use tyre at the cost of environment and health.**

Dr. Ishwor Prasad Adhikari said that the labors of brick kiln can have adverse health problems like COPD, asthma, Tuberculosis, cancer etc. Brick kiln that are not registered are using tyre, said Bal Krishna Ghimire, president, Business Entrepreneur. He further said that such industries should be recognized and take immediate action. He said that there are about 50 brick kilns which have not been registered yet. Though there is a policy relating to the environment but these policies have not been strictly followed, said Shiva Prasad Devkota, president, Small Industry Development Committee.

*Source: Kantipur, February 2, 2008*

### **Increase Of Dust Particles In Air**

**Experts said that the dust particles less than 10 microgram is increasing and this will have more adverse effect on health, in the report published on Wednesday, 27 February 2008.**

We were relaxed when there was improvement in the air quality but since last year, the air quality again started to degrade, said Bhusan Tuladhar, executive director, ENPHO publishing the report.

According to the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology, the annual mortality rate of COPD patient has been projected to be sixteen hundred. The survey carried out to the tourist also showed that the air pollution is one of the major problems in the country.

The air quality of the valley is six times more (120 microgram per meter cube) than WHO standard (20 microgram per meter cube).

*Source: Kantipur, February 28, 2008*

## **Control Trans-Boundary Pollution**

**Being a landlocked country situated between two industrialized countries India and China, the threat of trans-boundary pollution is immense in Nepal, experts said on Tuesday.**

Speaking at a national stakeholder's workshop on air pollution, Meena Khanal, joint secretary at the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology, said the impacts of climate change and air pollution are generally trans-boundary and global in nature.

"Pollutants are not limited within the boundary of the country and are likely to travel to other neighboring countries affecting quality of life of millions people," she said.

Khanal said the government along with concerned stakeholders should come forward to tackle the negative impacts of air pollution in the country.

Another expert, Mr Lynrararasan from United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) said, due to the high rate of urbanization in developing countries like Nepal, the problem of air pollution is increasing. Although nearly 15 percent of the total population already lives in urban areas of Nepal, the urbanization rate is very high compared to other South Asian countries, he said.

"The urbanization rate will increase in coming years, thus increasing more problems of air pollution" Lynrararasan said.

According to a report presented by Bidhya Banmali Pradhan of Integrated Center for Mountain Development (ICIMOD), the pollutants causing air pollution can be transported regionally over distances from 100 to a few 1000 kilometers, far enough to cross state, provincial, national, and even continental boundaries.

Similarly, a report by World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that about 0.5 million premature deaths occur throughout Asia every year due to outdoor air pollution.

*Source: The Kathmandu Post, March 5, 2008*

## **Deteriorating Air Quality Of Kathmandu**

*By Shishir Bhattarai*

**Vehicle emission and the smoke from brick kiln is deteriorating Kathmandu's air quality. The number of vehicles is increasing and vehicle emission testing instrument is being misused. Vehicles that do not meet the standard are also receiving green stickers.**

Effective implementation of trolley bus that came into use in 2032 BS with the aid from Chinese government is lagging. And very few electric vehicles are plying in the road. The only way to get rid from the pollution problem for now is the maintenance of the vehicles in time and raising awareness.

*Source: Kantipur, March 19, 2008*

## **Illegal Operation Of Brick Kiln**

**Illegal operation of brick kiln in Lahan district has put the lives of locals at stake. According to the law, the brick kilns must be situated 500 meter away from the village but this has not been followed here, said the locals.**

The harmful smoke emitted from the kiln is creating number of respiratory diseases, claim the locals. Brick kilns are being constructed against the law as per the permission of small cottage industries and this should be stopped. Brick kiln entrepreneurs must strictly follow the law and must realize the health problem caused by the smoke, said the villagers.

*Source: Rajdhani, March 24, 2008*

## **International News**

### **Beijing Orders Tighter Emission Rules On Cars**

**Beijing will ban sales of new cars that fail to meet new emission standards starting from March, state news agency Xinhua said on Saturday, in another move to clean up its air before the August Olympic Games.**

All new cars are required to meet the new national standards that are equivalent to Euro IV standards, Xinhua said, citing Du Shaozhong, deputy director of the city's Environment Protection Bureau.

The new standards are estimated to cut emission of carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides by 48,000 metric tons, 5,300 metric tons and 4,100 metric tons, respectively, this year.

The capital city will keep a ban on diesel vehicles which emit three times as much nitrogen oxide as gasoline-power ones, Du was quoted as saying.

Beijing already ordered petrol stations in the city to sell gasoline and diesel that meet Euro IV standards at the start of 2008.

The city has about 3.1 million motor vehicles, and every day about 1,200 new ones hit the road, Xinhua said.

*Source: Reuters, February 15, 2008, <http://www.enn.com/pollution/>*

### **ADB And CDGK To Start Bus Rapid Transit System**

*By Irfan Aliqi*

**A new concept in urban transport systems is in the offing as the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has allocated US\$ 223 million for the Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS), to be launched in collaboration with the City District Government Karachi (CDGK). The BRTS would facilitate the transportation of at least 20,000 passengers on a persons-per-hour-per-direction basis.**

The BRTS will resemble a network of railway stations because instead of bus stops, there will be station-like compounds. Like railway tracks, no other transport will be allowed to ply on the track of buses under the BRTS.

The CDGK Mass Transit Cell director, General Malik Zaheer, told Daily Times that the BRTS is a CDGK project that came into being after the Pakistan government planning commission conducted a 3-month study on the possibilities of environment-friendly public transport systems for Karachi. The study yielded a solution based on 2 aspects: firstly, the use of CNG buses, which the government of Pakistan has opted to work on and secondly the design and development of the BRTS, which the ADB has picked to fund.

*Source: <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/> February 26, 2008*

### **Hydrogen Gas Fueled Vehicles A Step Closer**

**While liquid hydrogen is denser and takes up less space, it is very expensive and difficult to produce. It also reduces the environmental benefits of hydrogen vehicles. Widespread commercial acceptance of these vehicles will require finding the right material that can store hydrogen gas at high volumetric and gravimetric densities in reasonably sized light-weight fuel tanks.**

Researchers at the UCLA Henry Samueli School of Engineering and Applied Science, with the use of molecular dynamics simulations, have solved a decade old mystery that could one day lead to commercially practical designs of storage materials for use in hydrogen gas fueled vehicles.

Source: <http://www.enn.com/>

### **'Thirsty' Electric Cars Threaten Water Resources**

**They may not be gas-guzzlers, but electric cars have a raging thirst for water. A comparison of the volume of coolant water used in the thermoelectric power plants that provide most of our electricity and that used in extracting and refining petroleum suggests that electric vehicles require significantly more water per mile than those powered by gasoline.**

The findings could bode ill for drought stricken areas in the event of a large scale switch to plug-in vehicles. A destructive spring freeze that chilled the eastern United States almost a year ago illustrates the threat a warming climate poses to plants and crops, according to a paper just published in the journal Bio Science. The study was led by a team from the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

The "Easter freeze" of April 5-9, 2007, blew in on an ill wind. Plants had been sending out young and tender sprouts two to three weeks earlier than normal during an unusually warm March. Plant ecologists, as well as farmers and gardeners, took note of the particularly harsh turn of the weather in early April.

Source: <http://www.enn.com/>

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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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