

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 to highlight the activities and initiatives for clean air by CANN and its members or partners. For more information on our campaign, please visit [www.cen.org.np/cann](http://www.cen.org.np/cann) and [www.cleanairnet.org/cann](http://www.cleanairnet.org/cann)

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Clean Air Network Nepal is Local Country Network of CAI-Asia Center and secretariat is hosted by Clean Energy Nepal, a local NGO dedicated for research based education, awareness and advocacy on sustainable environmental issues.

To know more about CAI-Asia Centre please visit [www.cleanairnet.org/caiasia](http://www.cleanairnet.org/caiasia)

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## CLEAN AIR NEWS AND HAPPENINGS

### **CAI-ASIA Country Network Summit Held**

**A two-day Country Network Summit was held in Manila, Philippines by CAI-Asia on 14-15 April, 2009. The summit drafted the outlines on how CAI-Asia could realize its goal of becoming a stronger organization by 2010 by smoothly transitioning from its “consolidation phase” in 2008 to “delivery phase” in 2009.**



8 country networks including Clean Air Network Nepal, country network of CAI-Asia Center in Nepal, participated in the summit.

The two day programme began with the welcome remarks by Sophie Punte, CAI-Asia Center Executive Director. In her opening remarks she emphasized three ways to be more efficient in using resources viz. develop large projects from small projects, replicate existing projects in other locations, and leverage existing funding from one donor to raise funds from other donors.

The CAI-Asia Center staff gave brief summaries of the CAI-Asia Strategy and CAI-Asia Center Business Plan (Glynda Bathan), CAI-Asia’s 3 components: Partnership, Center, and Country Networks (Jaja Panopio), Air Quality Program (May Ajero), Transport Program (Bert Fabian), and Knowledge Management and Communications (Mike Co).

On the second day participants were given an overview of the main training materials and tools which the Center promotes SEI Foundation Course on Air Quality Management in Asia, Sustainable Urban Transport Courses of SUMA Project, UNEP/TNT Clean Fleet Improvement Toolkit, Walkability Index and NGO Co-benefits Course. The session was followed by brainstorming on the three areas as such Case Studies, Communications and Work plans which were an integral part of the Summit.

Each of the area of the session was discussed in detail to come up with the strategy and responsibility for each member country of CAI- Asia. For the case study, first the criterion of case study and then the cases to be considered were identified providing enough reasons for their consideration. Then the country network communication plan was formulated after rigorous discussion of the participants. For that first challenges that were facing were briefed and with that solution were identified therewith. The most important session being the strategic planning for the work plans was carried out with the responsibility for each of the member country. The strategy was categorized on different heading like organizational development, Communications, Activities/ projects. Also, the top areas for Center’s support were briefed.

## **Talk Program on Atmospheric Brown Cloud**

**A Talk program was organized by the Center for Pollution Studies, Institute of Engineering, Kathmandu on 23 April, 2009. There were two presentations:; Atmospheric Brown Cloud: Current and Future 3D Chemical Modeling Analysis for Nepal.**

In another presentation the finding of the recent study in Kathmandu regarding the effect of CO emissions by vehicles due to traffic congestion was discussed. The discussion was based on the Paper presented to BAQ 2008 in Bangkok.

Minister, Environment Science and Technology presided over the program.

The university faculties stressed the need to encourage more collaborative research amongst the Universities in the country

## **Goal against Climate Change**

**To mark the World Environment Day 09, NYCA organized Eco-Football 2009: Goal against Climate Change in support of VSBK Technology Transfer Program, WWF Nepal, Clean Energy Nepal, Clean Air Network Nepal and other various corporate, organizations and institutions at ANFA Complex, Satdobato, Lalitpur. This program aimed to unite different individuals and institutions to combat climate change. NYCA, actively involved in mobilizing youths for clean air and climate actions, is a youth partner of Clean Air Network Nepal and Clean Energy Nepal.**



More than 50 individuals including environmentalists, entrepreneurs, artist, media persons, Constituent Assembly Members and celebrities united to play Eco-Football 2009. The program included various performances from artist and schools, influencing speeches from players along with eco-football match. The match was held between Team A- Green Team which includes CA members, environmentalist, CA members Vs Team B- Conservation Team which includes actors, singers, media persons and other celebrities.

The Conservation Team lead by renowned singer Yogehwar Amatya defeated Green Team lead by Constitution Assemble Member Gyanendra Kumal by 8-1. Suraj Singh Thakuri from Kantipur Television and Swapnil Sharma from Shadows Band scored 3 goals for conservation team.

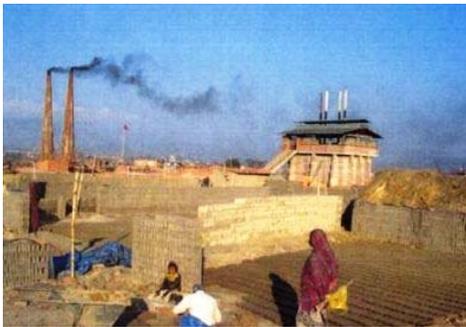
In the program, Chief Guest, Former Minister of Environment, Ganesh Shah said that the youth efforts are essential to combat climate change. The players delivered influencing messages on climate change and called to unite for climate change. Team

Captain of Conservation team Mr. Yogeshwar Amatya said to love earth and be aware and prepared for negative impacts of Climate Change.

All the players and observers appreciated the program and congratulate youths for carrying such an event for a noble cause. And the players committed to support such events further.

More than 1500 youths and students from various schools and colleges observed the program. The schools' students presented their performance during the program.

### **Greening the Construction Sector**



*By Michelle Ng and Margo Schaedel*

**Vertical Shaft Brick Kiln (VSBK), a Swiss company aiming to reduce local air pollution and mitigate global warming by decreasing the amount of GHGs emission is one of the construction sectors that are greening up.**

It is found out that this VSBK technology originated from rural areas of China reduces the energy consumption by 40% and emission rate by 25%. Not only does VSBK seek to reduce the air pollution and mitigate global warming, they encourage entrepreneurs to provide better working conditions for their workers. Further VSBK increases the entrepreneur's awareness of his/her social responsibility, discussing measures to abolish child labour, improving wages and living conditions, and providing workers with child care.

VSBK provides interested entrepreneurs with the energy-saving technology after they pass a rigorous screening, guaranteeing their dedication to the project and the use of proper materials to ensure their success. Once they pass the screening process, VSBK provides entrepreneurs with staff training and technical support. To assure factory owners are adhering to the stringent requirements, VSBK awards the entrepreneur with subsidies after they have complied with all of VSBK's stipulations.

Unfortunately, there has not been a widespread reception of this new technology because the start-up cost is higher than traditional methods, despite this; there has been a 50% rate of return on VSBK shafts. To promote this technology VSBK invites the successful VSBK factory owners to discuss their opinions on this methodology at informational workshops held across Nepal. This month a workshop is scheduled to be held in Dhangadi, in conjunction with the local Industrial Development office.

Not only has VSBK promoted the greening of the brick manufacturing sector, they hope to also greening the construction sector. Various workshops are held to discuss environmentally friendly materials and practices. Engineers, architect, contractors and masons are invited to learn different methods of improving the construction sectors.

The development of the Rat Trap Bond method of laying bricks is one of the best examples of VSBK on greening the construction sector. This method not only uses a reduced number of bricks and less mortar, but also provides better insulation for the structure. This method is also taught in workshops held at vocational schools to teach masons better practices.

### **Green vehicles' Rally Sees 30 Participants**

**Nearly 30 electric vehicles — Reva cars, Safa tempos and two-wheelers — took part in a Spinal Injury E-car Rallyc Vehicle rally that began at Maitighar Mandala and ended at Saanga near Banepa in Kavre district on Saturday morning June 14, 2009 .**



The rally was organised to pressurise the government to formulate an environment-friendly policy to promote the use of the electric vehicles in the country. At the same time, the rally aims to generate funds to support patients at the Spinal Injury Rehabilitation Centre at Saanga.

Inaugurating the rally, popular artiste Madan Krishna Shrestha hoped that the rally would help create awareness about the preservation of environment by promoting eco-friendly electric vehicles.

The participants included individual owners of electric vehicles as well as organisations such as International Center for the Integrated Mountain Development, GTZ, World Food Programme and the Norwegian and U.S. embassies. The umbrella organization, Electric Vehicles Association of Nepal (EVAN), also took part in the rally.

Dibya Man Sherchan, president of EVAN, said though the vehicles are environment friendly, the government has not given much priority to promote these vehicles compared to conventional fossil-fuel vehicles which are the major sources of environment pollution. He said the state should come up with a policy promoting the use of electric vehicles.

At present, there is an exemption on value-added tax for batteries and mechanical parts used by electric vehicles.

Meanwhile, Sherchan said that at a time when the government is planning to displace vehicles more than 20 years old, it is better to convert the vehicles to electric by assembling some parts. "Rather than investing a huge sum of money in providing compensation to the old vehicles and introducing newer vehicles, the government should restructure the old vehicles to electric ones," he said.

*Source: <http://kantipuronline.com> June 14, 2009*

## **Pollution Awareness School Reach-Out Program Held**

**The Center for Pollution Studies at the Pulchowk Engineering College has recently completed their fifth annual Pollution Awareness School Reach-Out Program aiming to promote increased environmental awareness among Nepal's youth, particularly with regard to pollution.**

Each year, the center selects eight to twelve schools (government and private) throughout the Kathmandu Valley, targeting students in grades eight through ten.

Science teachers from the selected schools were invited to join with several upper-level university student volunteers and few experts from the field in a one-day workshop where they collaborate on putting together appropriate materials to present to the students.

The university student volunteers were also trained to interact with the students and discuss the topic with them in a convenient way. These volunteer will be organized to educate and aware youth on issues of pollution to the selected schools.

Past programs have addressed air and water pollution, while this year's program focused on noise and indoor air pollution. Currently, the Kathmandu Valley is greatly susceptible to both types of pollution which has adverse impacts in human heath. Noise pollution finds an outlet through the unnecessary and exaggerated use of car horns and transportation while indoor air pollution results from poor ventilation, excess dust particles, as well as smoke derived from cooking, smoking cigarettes.

To encourage participation of the students, the program closes with an annual competition to assess the students' overall comprehension of the chosen topic. The type of contest changes from year to year. This year, on the other hand, each school sent forth two participants to take part in a quiz bowl competition, held on the 8th May, 2009. Kathmandu University High School, Kavre Secondary School and Malpi International School awarded the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes respectively. The university student volunteers are also rewarded for their hard work and effort in organizing the program each year.

## **MinErgy Pvt. Ltd. won "Best Innovative Clean Energy Technology Award"**

**MinErgy Pvt. Ltd. has won "Best Innovative Clean Energy Technology Award" in Clean Energy Marketplace Competition held at the Asia Clean Energy Forum on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2009 in Asian Development Bank, Manila Philippines.**

Suyesh Prajapati, the main person to develop and test this new idea, presented the project concept at the forum on behalf of MinErgy Pvt. Ltd. and received the award in Manila. The technology presented in the competition is "Renewable



Biomass solid fuel as Alternative to Coal for Firing Bricks in Kilns". The Biomass solid fuel is charcoal dust produced from forest waste by community forestry users group in Nepal.

You are welcome to contact at [info@minergynepal.com](mailto:info@minergynepal.com) for further information.

*MinErgy Pvt Ltd [www.minergynepal.com](http://www.minergynepal.com), a Service Company based in Nepal, is formed as an offspring of and inherits the competency, skills and know-how and expertise of the Vertical Shaft Brick Kiln (VSBK) Project Nepal [www.vsbknepal.com](http://www.vsbknepal.com), which is being implemented since 2003 by skat, Switzerland [www.skat.ch](http://www.skat.ch) with financial support of Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) [www.sdc.org.np](http://www.sdc.org.np). MinErgy is managed by the pool of multi-disciplinary experts and practitioners and brick makers with their competency and confidence in brick and construction sector for technology transfer management, technology development, techno-social integration, community mobilization, economic analysis, environment management and knowledge management for energy efficiency and mitigating climate change.*

## **KNOW ABOUT CLEAN AIR INITIATIVES**

### **Asia towards Sustainable Urban Mobility**

**While most of the people having sustained economic growth and increased affluence in urban areas enabling them to afford private vehicles, CAI-Asia in support with ADB and other agencies are lobbying for sustainable urban transport (SUT) and Air Quality Management (AQM) policies as part under the SUMA (Sustainable Urban Mobility in Asia) project.**

Increased number of vehicles at a side is increasing the level of CO<sub>2</sub> and the other, contributing towards Climate Change. Latest research by Asian Development Bank (ADB) and CAI-Asia shows that motorization level in many countries is projected to double in the next two decades. It is estimated that by 2035, China and India are going to have more vehicles than North America and Europe combined.

With the growing number of vehicles and there with the environmental concerns, need in its control and management is urgently required. To this, SUMA project has been initiated and is to achieve the goal of environmental sustainability.

The SUMA program is supported by ADB through a grant from SIDA. Others supporters of the program are CAI-Asia, EMBARQ, United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), The German Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ), Interface for Cycling Expertise (I-CE) and Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP).

The program works with Asian cities and countries to strengthen the formulation and implementation of sustainable Urban Transport (SUT) and Air quality Management (AQM) policies.

The aim of SUMA is to improve urban air quality, improve road safety and reduce transport's contribution to climate change.

The aims are projected to attain through various activities as such training programs, strategic planning and data base study and research works.

*For further details: Please visit: [www.cleanairnet.org/suma](http://www.cleanairnet.org/suma)*

### **Local Entrepreneurs go GREEN!**

**While it seems that a majority of Nepal's entrepreneurs and public care little for its environment, it is definitely not the case with Shree Eco Visionary Private Limited (SEV). This company has decided to take up the environmental banner; nor have they dally with setting this progression in motion.**

You may have noticed the plethora of three-wheeled green-striped trucks bouncing around town, sporting a label denoting SAFA TEMPO. Because the vehicles are electric, they neither require fuel nor do they emit any exhaust, thus contributing to the pursuit of a clean, non-polluting transportation industry.

The electric vehicles were introduced to Kathmandu thirteen years ago, although SEV has only been manufacturing the SAFA TEMPO vehicles for five years.

It takes approximately three weeks to manufacture a single vehicle, and the company produces about four to five vehicles per month, depending on the number of orders coming in. The vehicles are sold for both private and commercial use, and can be custom-designed by the client as well.

Typically running for about seventy to seventy-five kilometres from a fully charged battery, the owners of these SAFA TEMPOs can charge their vehicles to any of the many charging stations around Kathmandu, and switch the batteries in a convenient process that only requires a few minutes. SEV has been integral in placing these charging stations around the city. At present, there are thirty-two charging stations in the Kathmandu Valley, with more along the way.

In addition to the SAFA TEMPOs, the company is currently promoting the use of electric bicycles and motorbikes that are imported from China. A third project that SEV has in the works is the campaign to switch to the Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) bulbs which reduces energy by 80%, and have a longer life average of 8000 hours, compared to regular bulbs.

SEV hopes to encourage ecologically efficient practices by endorsing these products and bringing them to the Nepali public. Local entrepreneurs and the general

population will surely benefit from SEV's dedication to the pursuit of an environmentally improved Nepal.

### **EVENTS/LINKS**

- Sustainable Urban Mobility in Asia <http://cleanairnet.org/suma>
- 17th International Conference on Modelling, Monitoring and Management of Air Pollution <http://www.wessex.ac.uk/09-conferences/air-pollution-2009.html>
- The Clean Air Campaign <http://www.cleanaircampaign.org>
- Clean Air Nepal blog <http://cleanairnepal.blogspot.com>
- 15th IUAPPA World Clean Air Congress <http://www.iuappa2010.com>
- Clean Energy News [http://cen.org.np/page.php?this=ce\\_news](http://cen.org.np/page.php?this=ce_news)

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Compiled and Edited by: Amita Thapa Magar, Prashanta Khanal 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.

Secretariat office:

Clean Energy Nepal, 108 Vinayak Marg, Kamaladi Ganeshsthan, Kathmandu, Nepal  
POB No. 24581, email: cen@mos.com.np  
Tel: 977-1- 6915649 Fax : 977-1-4257481