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### Special points of interest:

- Kathmandu Metropolitan City is found to be committed to promote walking in the city. It has decided to bar vehicle movement inside the Kathmandu Durbar Square Area.
- Nepal Government should think of public private partnership in promoting Environmentally Sustainable Transport
- Most of the outdated vehicles are still plying regardless of their poor condition, worsening the already messed up traffic system in the Kathmandu Valley

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## Clean Air Symposium Concluded



**The Clean Air Network Nepal (CANN) working on Air Quality Management issues conducted Clean Air Symposium at Kathmandu on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2010. The air related issue were presented and discussed in Clean Air Symposium in order to disseminate information on different research on air quality management and the activities of CANN.**

Ms Bidya Banmalli Pradhan from ICIMOD presented under the topic Rapid Urban Assessment of Kathmandu and Patan Cities. She

talked on dispersion model and passive monitoring; satellite image, monitoring area and analysis of her research.

Next to her presentation, Ms Glynda Bathan from Clean Air Initiatives for Asian Cities made clear about CAI-Asia structure along

with its partners, members and its activities on different aspects related with improving air quality in Asian Cities. She also shared about the current projects being undertaken by the center. Furthermore, she encouraged the partners for abstract submission for the Better Air Quality (BAQ) 2010 to be held this November 9-11, 2010 in Singapore. BAQ is the biggest gathering on air quality in Asia in every two years, covering transport, energy, industry and climate change.

*Continued in page 3 .....*



## Mid Term Review Meeting of FK Exchange Program



*Kathmandu, March 27*

**Clean Air Network Nepal hosted the FK Mid-Term Review Meeting for the "Clean Air and Blue Skies Asia Exchange 2" Project, a young professional exchange program under the Fredskorpset exchange program, which was scheduled on 26-27 March 2010 in Kathmandu, Nepal.**

The objective of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for the Project Partners to share the progress of work carried out by the participants and assess their performance as stipulated in the project.

The partners from Hong Kong (Department of Civil and Structural Engineering, Hong Kong Polytechnic University), Nepal (Clean Air Network Nepal), Philippines (Clean Air Initiatives for Asian Cities), Sri Lanka (Clean Air Sri Lanka) and Vietnam (Vietnam Clean Air Partnership of the Vietnam Association for the Conservation of Nature and Environment - VCAP/VACNE) attended the meeting. Meanwhile, Ms.

Saowanee Sangsawangisri, FK representative was also present.

The partners shared the progress of the project and participants' performance. They also shared the issues and challenges in the implementation of the project and discussed on the possible solutions. The partners presented and discussed on the financial status of the project along with the work plan of the participants. Necessary adjustments were made to this. On the two day meeting, current FK participant Ms. Charina Cabrido

currently hosted by Clean Air Network Nepal/ Clean Energy Nepal did a presentation about her work and stay for the project in Nepal. Partners visited her work station and accommodation in Kathmandu.

The meeting decided the venue and time for the Planning meeting for the next Phase of the Exchange Program as Sri Lanka on July 16-18, 2010.



## **Continued from page 1 .....Clean Air Symposium**

Similarly, Mr. Pankaj KC, from Clean Energy Nepal presented on campaigning plan for I Care 4 Air campaign. "Air being a very integral issue to each sector, an integrated and effective campaign is thus very necessary to clean the air. That is why we are doing this campaign," he added.

Dipesh Chapagain did a presentation on his case study on Emission Inventory and Clean Fleet Strategy for Nepal Yatayat. Ms Charina Cabrido from Clean Air Network Nepal did the walkability results dissemination along with 3 minute documentary as a part of information of this



survey. In her presentation she explained about the walkability project and the activities carried out in the project period. Later presenting at the program, Mr, Prashanta Khanel shared about the CAR Free Day concept and how they have thought strategically to make it in Nepal, starting with Kathmandu, initially

with the CANN partners. Followed by his presentation, the Walkability Ambassadors were awarded with the certificates.

The Clean Air Symposium ended with positive note to address the air quality management issue more effectively by joint effort of all the stakeholders.

## **A TOT On Clean Fleet Management Toolkit Held**

Clean Energy Nepal in partnership with the Clean Air Initiatives for Asian Cities conducted a half day Training of Trainers (TOT) on "Clean Fleet Management Toolkit" at ENPHO Hall on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2010 to staffs of Clean Energy Nepal and ENPHO and representative from Nepal Yatayat.

Ms. Glynda Bathan from Clean Air Initiatives for Asian Cities conducted the training on UNEP-TNT Clean Fleet Management Toolkit mainly focusing on monitoring of emission from fleet, evaluation of impact on environment and health, knowing the better options and cost of saving from better action. She also gave an emphasis on link between air pollution and climate change.

Mr. Dipesh Chapagain shared his research work on Emission Inventory and Clean Fleet Strategy for Nepal Yatayat which focused on estimation of baseline emission scenario of Nepal Yatayat and action plan with benefit to reduce the current emission. According to him, the annual fuel consumption of Nepal Yatayat is 925,360 litres with annual emission of 2175 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>, 3.5 tons of PM<sub>10</sub>, 77.7 tons of NO<sub>x</sub>, 44.4 tons of CO, 8.5 tons of VOC's and 0.4 tons of SO<sub>x</sub>. He also added that to offset the emission of 2175 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year, Nepal Yatayat has to plant 2175 to 15222 trees each year.

This training presented an idea and better option for studying and managing the urban transport fleet emission for Nepalese cities.

## FK Network Nepal Meeting held



*Kathmandu, March 28*

**FK Network Nepal conducted a Partners Meeting on March 28, 2010 in Kathmandu with the objective of sharing and updating on FK Network Nepal Activities and bringing together the FK partners, alumni participants and current participants. The meeting was commenced informally by welcoming all the participants and sharing about the**

**program outline by FK Network Nepal Coordinator, Ms. Radha Gurung.**

Mr. Gopal Raj Joshi, Country Coordinator, Clean Air Network Nepal (CANN) gave a presentation on the campaign which is a part of FK Network Nepal activity being implemented by CANN. Mr. Joshi shared about the deteriorating air quality issue in context of Kathmandu along with the climate change potential due

to the air pollution and its increasing threat to the living species. The group discussion found that an integrated approach to policy transformation and awareness into action is very important to clean the air. For this, he added that CANN will play a coordinating role in managing the activities and asked them to join hand in the campaign put forth.

Lastly, Ms. Amita Thapa Magar from CANN did a sharing presentation on the findings of the Walkability Project conducted in Kathmandu city. Walkability Index Project is global project being implemented in other Asian cities as well. She explained about the walkability, its importance, project implementation and later shared the findings of walkability. Furthermore, she briefly expressed her personal experiences while doing the study.



## Walkability in Bhaktapur

*Bhaktapur, March 23*

Clean Air Network Nepal conducted a Youth Sharing Program on Walkability Results dissemination at Khowpa College, Bhaktapur on March 23, 2010 as a part of Walkability Dissemination series this month. The program was aimed to share about the Walkability Index Project done in Kathmandu and promote and publicize pedestrianization.

In the program, Ms. Charina Cabrido, Research officer from Clean Air Network Nepal did a presentation on the overall issue of air pollution in Kathmandu followed by the Walkability. Walkability is the overall support to the pedestrians in terms of safety and security. She shared that walkability index project is a global project which is simultaneously conducted in different Asian cities. Further she showed the findings and results of the project which clearly directed that the road infrastructures and facilities are in poor condition and it also showed great importance in addressing the pedestrian issues.

Mayor of Bhaktapur Municipality City, Mr. Prem Suwal was also present in the program where he has shown clear interest to conduct Walkability Survey in their city.

## Interaction for Cooperation among Universities

*Pulchowk, Lalitpur, March 28*

**Clean Air Network Nepal (CANN) organized an interaction program between the Universities of Nepal, Hong Kong Polytechnic University and CAI-Asia Centre to develop cooperation and collaboration in research and other activities on Air Pollution.**

Including representatives from Nepali academic institutions, CANN members, Hong Kong Polytechnic University and CAI Asia Center, 18 participants participated on the discussion. Pro-

gram was held in Center for Energy Studies, Institute of Engineering Pulchowk.

Speaking to the program, Prof. Wing Tat Hung from Hong Kong Polytechnic University shared about their activities and resources on air quality analysis. He requested Nepali academic institutions for the joint research activities in coming days to exchange the expertise and optimum uses of resources.

Representatives from Nepali Institutions like CDES and IOE of Tribhuvan University, and Environmental Science Department of

Kathmandu University agreed to discuss further and develop the possible cooperation within Nepali Institutions and with international universities.

Talking in the program, Ms. Glynda Bathan from Clean Air Initiatives for Asian Cities (CAI-Asia) Centre briefed about the FK Exchange program "Clean Air and Blue Skies Asia 2" where CAI-Asia and its country network are involved. Also, she emphasized in developing cooperation among the academic institutions and partner countries for the clean air.



## Asia Pollution Circles The Globe In Stratosphere: Study

Pollution from Asia's booming economies rises into the stratosphere during the monsoon season then circles the world for years, according to a report out Thursday.

A study by the Boulder, Colorado-based National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) said the strong air circulation patterns linked to Asia's monsoon rainy season serves as a pathway for black carbon, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and other pollutants to rise into the stratosphere.

The stratosphere is the layer of the atmosphere located some 32 to 40 kilometers (20 to 25 miles) above the Earth's surface.

Using satellite data and computer models, the scientists found that once the pollutants are in the stratosphere they circulate around the globe for several years. "Some eventually descend back into the lower atmosphere, while others break apart," read a statement on the study. Researchers fear that the impact of Asian pollutants on

the stratosphere may increase in next decades due to fierce industrial growth in countries like China and India. Scientists however do not know the impact of climate change on the Asian monsoon, unsure if it will strengthen or weaken the monsoon's vertical air movements.

*Source:*

<http://www.independent.co.uk>  
Mar 28, 2010

## Partner's Corner

Center for Pollution Studies, Institute of Engineering, Tribhuvan University

CPS is the newest autonomous Center in the Institute of Engineering system. IOE has been involved in research related to noise, dust, gases, water and land. The state of the art laboratories of IOE and the equipment for pollution studies, coupled with faculty interests in this kind of studies have already produced some pollution studies of national importance. The State of Pollution Seminar on October 20, 2000, held at IOE, participated by national experts, concerned institutions, and foreigners, also urged IOE to initiate serious pollution studies through a dedicated center for it as an autonomous center within IOE.

The objective of this center is to provide a forum for Engineers, Environmentalists, Scientists and Sociologists to work together in solving the pollution problems of the industry. The center also works in creating awareness, encouraging recycling, education, and generating long term strategy in this area.

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## Follow Up Story : Pedestrinization of Kathmandu Durbar Square Area

After conducting "Walkability Study", CANN is regularly disseminating its findings to the concerned authority and local people to promote walking as a mean to clean the air. CANN is utilizing media and various forum to highlight this issue and increase general awareness. CANN interacted with Kathmandu Metropolitan City and Ministry of Tourism to encourage walking habits in certain areas such as heritage sites, core business area and so on. In the mean time, Kathmandu Metropolitan City has decided to bar entry of vehicles inside the Kathmandu Durbar Square. Ms Charina Cabirido, who is involved in recent



walk, you contribute to the creation of a healthy environment by reducing traffic congestion, air and noise pollution and creating a safer, more social and liveable community.

It also creates a good impression for many visiting tourists in this country that there are safer and quieter roads that is designed entirely for the people. Pedestrian facilities that create safe and attractive environments with a range of amenities will encourage walking and attract visitors to these areas.

Pedestrian-friendly urban design is one of the key enabling conditions for effective transit systems. It tends to lower crime rates and accidents. With the segregation of people from vehicles, the safety of pedestrian and transportation abilities are greatly improved.

The concept of pedestrianisation is relatively simple, its benefits almost immediately apparent, but its implementation is hardly easy. This is not only under KMC's turf, it is everybody's responsibility that road security practices are being followed to ensure that safer and quieter roads bind us all.

Those who rightfully enforce the law are famous to be hated by a whole lot of people. When the Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC) recently closed the Hanu-mandhoka Durbar Square from all kinds of vehicles, this invited many scrutinies. This is part of the government's initiative to preserve the monument zones and reestablish the World Heritage Site as pedestrian friendly area.

What KMC has done is something that we must applaud for. Urban cities with improved land use and transportation planning

deliberately include pedestrianising streets to contribute to good health and quality of life. Based on a study made by the WorldWatch Institute, a short, four-mile round trip of walking helps reduce 15 pounds of pollutants in the air that we breathe.

The heritage walk project in Hanu-mandhoka Durbar Square motivates people to take action to improve Kathmandu's air quality. It reminds us that walking is the most socially inclusive mode of transport and is available to most people, regardless of age, gender, education or income. When you

## Preparatory Meeting for the Knowledge Air Case Study

Kathmandu, March 28

**Government should think of public private partnership in promoting Environmentally Sustainable Transport, says Joint Secretary Mr. Kamal Pande speaking at preparatory meeting for the Knowledge Air Case Study arranged by Clean Air Network Nepal in Kathmandu.**

CANN conducted preparatory meeting for the Knowledge Air Case Study where concerned stakeholders related to clean air convened to discuss on the knowledge air project. The main objective of the project is about capturing and transferring the Air Quality Management Knowledge in Asia. Under this project, CANN and CAI-Asia is going to undertake Kathmandu Case Study for formulating Environmentally Sustainable Transport strategy by involving various relevant stakeholders through online forum. On a more in-depth presentation was given about Knowledge Air by Ms. Glynda Bathan. She also asked for the infor-



mation on the necessary regarding any relevant policies for AQM and Sustainable Urban Transportation. Responding to the meeting Joint Secretary, Ministry of Physical Planning and Works (MoPPW), Mr. Kamal Pande shared about the planned programs in the Sustainable Urban Mobility by the Ministry wherein he said that government should think of Public Private Partnership in promoting Environmentally Sustainable Transportation.

Mr. Pande suggested that the civil society can play crucial role in promoting pedestrianization and in overall Sustainable Urban Transportation in cities for a clean and healthy city. The meeting attendees identified that integrated air quality management plan and strong coordination among different government agencies and bodies is the urgent need of the city in addressing air quality.

## Outdated vehicles mess up Valley's traffic

By Om Astha Rai

At present, hundreds of thousands of vehicles ply across the country. And, a majority of them vie for a little space in the already crowded valley. Despite the steady increase in the number of vehicles, the government is yet to wake up to displace the outdated vehicles.

A committee headed by Sharad Chandra Poudel, director general of DoTM, has recommended the government to displace over 20-year-old vehicles from the valley by providing 75 per cent discounts on customs duty while importing new ones. Barring only two exceptions, the government has never displaced old vehicles. In 1999, the government had displaced old three-wheelers, known as Bikram tempos, by providing discounts on customs duty to their owners. Similarly, in 2007, the government announced discount on customs duty to those who wanted to displace their private cars.

According to DoTM, there are 3,500 outdated vehicles in the valley. Of them, just 525 are off the roads. Similarly, of the total 5,100 outdated vehicles across the country, just 765 have been scrapped. This means that most of the outdated vehicles are still plying regardless of their poor condition, worsening the already messed up traffic system.

However, Kamal Raj Pande, joint secretary at the Ministry of Physical Planning and Works, says that the number of outdated vehicles is higher. At a recent interaction with lawmakers, Pande said that almost 10 per cent vehicles are over 20 years old. A total of 805,614 vehicles of all sorts have been registered at DoTM.

Source: <http://myrepublica.com> Mar 08, 2010

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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[www.cleanairnet.org/cann](http://www.cleanairnet.org/cann)

Clean Air News is a free email 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 member and partners.

Compiled and Edited by: Amita Thapa Magar and Gopal Raj Joshi

## Talking Points

On March 11, 2010, Ms. Karuna Maharjan from Clean Air Network Nepal had an interview with Mr. Prakirn Tuladhar, Senior Engineer from Ministry of Tourism regarding "The Heritage Walk" that has now been terminated.

Excerpts from the interview

**Q: When was this Project "Heritage Walk" started?**

A: It's been almost a year now. The project started on Baishak 1, 2066 B.S.

**Q: What is the Status of Project?**

A: Well, now the Heritage Walk Project has been terminated. It has been withdrawn (100%) by the Ministry of Tourism.

**Q: What made you terminate the project?**

A: Actually we faced some challenges to this. Local barrier was the main challenge. Along with there was lack of promotion, lack of motivation. We feel we have strong need of awareness campaign which was missed there. So we had to withdraw the project.

**Q: Any other problems did you face in carrying out the project?**

A: Yes, political influence was is a big problem.

We tried to talk with Kathmandu Metropolitan City and the local people from different ward of the area in this regard. But sadly we couldn't manage to get help for this project.

**Q: From now, what is the future direction of the project?**

A: Nothing for this year in 2066. But we are planning start this project next year in 2067.

**Q: What are your plans for next phase to make it successful?**

A: We are now looking for awareness raising and peoples' involvement in the project. We are trying to build motivation and give a strong message of why the project is necessary for us, especially for the locals. I think this is the way to involve them and a key to make the project successful. And also it is very important that each of us should think above politics.

**Q: How do you see the role of civil society in this whole issue?**

A: Definitely they have clear and very important role. There is strong need of bridging people interest and the project. Public awareness campaign can be carried out by the civil society and we are work in partnership. Even I think in motivating people to work for the project can be effectively carried out.