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Webinar on "Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST): Ways Ahead Of Nepal"

The webinar on "Environmentally Sustainable Transport: Ways Ahead for Nepal" ended finally with the forum proposing and accepting following plans to implement, without any objections.

- CANN will write a letter requesting Ministries of Environment, Transport, Finance and National Planning Commission to write to UNCRD pledging their supporting to the process of preparing the EST strategy. Ministry of Physical Planning and Works will be copied in the letters.

- CANN will write a letter requesting National Planning Commission to lead a National Steering Committee with representatives from Ministries of: Physical Planning and Works, Environment, Finance and Transport and civil society to advise the process of preparing the EST strategy and coordinate input from various ministries. The ministries will be copied in the letter.

- CANN will write a letter to the Ministry of Physical Planning and Works to offer CAI Asia-CANN's services as the



Nepal urgently needs to initiate process for formulating national Environmentally Sustainable Transport Strategy. Clean Air Network Nepal offers its services as the National Collaborating Centre

National Collaborating Center. CAI Asia with its regional expertise in promoting policies and practices in EST and CANN as the Nepal Network promoting activities to reduce outdoor air will facilitate and support the preparation of the EST strategy. Winrock International will provide the technical and administrative assistance to CANN during the EST strategy preparation process. UNCRD will be copied.

Realizing the importance of environmentally sustainable transport (EST) to address environmental, social and economic is

sues related transport sector in Nepal, webinar on "Environmentally Sustainable Transport: Ways Ahead for Nepal" was held on 15th September, 2010 at DECC Hall, United World Trade Center, 4th floor Tri-pureshwor, Kathmandu.

The webinar started with the welcome note by Mr. Gopal Raj Joshi, Country Coordinator of CANN. Mr. Bart Fabian, Transport Expert of CAI-Asia Centre from Philippines presented and shared on "Developing Environmentally Sustainable Transport Strategies and Action Plan" via web to the participants present in Nepal.

The presentation basically focused on increased motorization, and the need and strategy of EST. On the starting of second session, Mrs. Sushma Upadhyay of Ministry of Environment shared the facts about road conditions and vehicle composition in Nepal along with condition of Kathmandu Mobility and challenges of EST in Nepal. She, then, elaborated on the issues and discussed in detail the current activities by the government and the ways ahead for Nepal.

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The fourth annual meeting of CITYNET National Chapter has on Sunday in Kaski district come up with the demand for the formation of an urban development ministry in Nepal, RSS reports.

The participants in the meeting have demanded for the formulation of ministry along with tangible plans and clarity in policy for investment citing the sensitiveness of urban development. The Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements-CITYNET has been supporting the local governments in the sustainable manage-

Participants Of CITYNET Demands For Urban Development Ministry

ment of human settlement which incorporates 29 municipalities of Nepal. On the same occasion Dormani Poudel, president of Municipality Association of Nepal (MUAN) said that the local development is lacking behind due to the tussle between the local development ministry and the ministry of physical planning. So, he also expects a separate urban

development ministry in Nepal.

The CITYNET has started with 26 members in 1987 and it has managed to become an international organization. It has more than 100 members in more than 20 countries, most of which are cities and local governments in the Asia-Pacific region.

Source: <http://www.nepalnews.com> September 13, 2010

Few Air Travellers Offset Carbon Emissions, Study Finds

Only 7% of flyers are funding green energy projects to offset the carbon emitted on their flights, according to a survey.

A study of passengers at Stansted airport revealed that 93% of those questioned did not offset their flights. Ignorance cannot be blamed: 56% of those questioned by the Civil Aviation Authority knew what the practice meant. Asked if they had taken fewer flights over the previous year on environmental grounds, only 9% of those asked said yes. Most of this 9% took one or two fewer flights. When asked if their choice of airline had been affected by how environmentally friendly they were, only 3% replied in the affirmative. In total 318 travellers were surveyed in September last year, the most recently available figures. British Airways and easyJet, which both allow passengers to offset their flights directly on their websites, said that the number who chose to do so this year was "static" compared to last year, without giving more details.

Carbon offsetting was first practiced by individuals on a meaningful scale about five years ago in response to mounting concern over global warming. It fostered a new industry which set up green energy projects, mostly in the developing world, which consumers could fund to offset their emissions. Initially, regulation of the new industry was lax and some projects were not properly audited to make sure that the claimed carbon emission savings were actually taking place. Even though the carbon offsetting industry is now more professional, some environmentalists believe the principle is misguided.

Friends of the Earth said: "Carbon offsetting is a con – it encourages businesses and individuals to carry on polluting when we urgently need to reduce our carbon emissions." "The greenest thing holidaymakers can do is choose a location that is closer to home, that can be reached by coach or by train. The travel industry must do more to promote nearby towns, coasts and countryside, and the government must ensure rail is a fast, convenient and affordable alternative to flying."

Source: <http://www.guardian.co.uk> Aug 30, 2010



Picture @ selectadventure.com

Continued from page 1 : Webinar on EST

The webinar was addressed by the Secretary of Ministry of Physical Planning and works, Mr. Purna Kadariya, who briefly shared his experience of EST Forum, held in Bangkok and highlighted the main theme of the forum. He also announced that The Government of Nepal has decided to invite UNCRD to draft Nepal's Action Plan. It was, then, followed by the presentation and sharing of "Best Practices of EST in other countries" by Mr. Bibek Chapagain, Director, Winrock International. He facilitated the further discussion for Ways ahead and during the discussion various participants suggested some key ideas and opinions on EST.

A total of 36 participants representing government, local government, INGOs, Intergovern-



mental Agency, donor, private sector, academia and research institutes, media and NGOs took part in the webinar. The webinar was organized by Clean Air Network Nepal (CANN) and Clean Energy Nepal (CEN) in coordination with Ministry of Physical Planning and Works and the Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities Center (CAI-Asia Center). The webinar was organized in support of the Knowledge Air Project implemented by the CAI Asia Center, Clean Energy Nepal and Winrock International on behalf of the Asian Development Bank.

Breath Free Kathmandu" Radio Program for Clean Air



"The radio program "Breath Free Kathmandu" will be on air at 7:30 A.M to 8:30 A.M every Thursday from 23rd September on Radio Kantipur FM, 96.1 MHz. The radio program is being initiated by

Clean Air Network Nepal (CANN) and Clean Energy Nepal (CEN) with the support of US Embassy and CDMG Nepal as production partner. This radio program will mainly focus on air quality related issues of Kathmandu. The main objective of this radio program is to make people aware on air quality related issues of Kathmandu as Kathmandu is one the city having high level of air pollution.

Everest Brown Haze Puzzles Scientists

By Kamal Raj Sigdel

Italian scientists have confirmed a “worrying” phenomenon in the world’s highest Mountain range in Nepal, especially around Mt. Everest.

A two-year-long research based on information received from a hi-tech lab placed at Mt. Everest has revealed that the level of pollutants in the region has reached an “alarming” high and their concentration has formed the Atmospheric Brown Cloud (ABC) over the mountains.

The ABC, according to scientists, can cause solar radiation, greenhouse effect, increase the temperature and lead to faster melting of glaciers and snow. Nepali scientists, who were shocked to read the findings, say the government should take the claim seriously, find out the truth and make sure that it is not just another hoax created by eco-alarmists.

The Italian research committee, known as EV-K2-CNR, has warned that the increasing haze of pollutants—which were so far found in urban areas only—in the mountain region can be dangerous. “It can influence regional and global climate, air quality, public health, agriculture and food security,” Ev-K2-CNR Project Manger Paolo Bonasoni told

the Post from Italy. According to him, the ABC over the mountains warm the lower atmosphere just as much as greenhouse gases do, leading to a “major redistribution of solar radiation in the troposphere by dimming solar energy at the surface and enhancing the atmospheric heating rate.” The research was based on data sent by the “pyramid observatory” placed at 5,079 metres near Everest base camp by the Italian National Research Council in coordination with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), ICI-MOD and others.

The scientists are wondering whether the alarming rise of the brown haze in the region is due to the transport of pollution from China and India, two of the most rapidly developing nations in the world. EV-K2 members said they have started a new research to better understand the characteristics of atmospheric conditions and pollution in the Himalayas, considering its location between China and India. However, NAST scientists who are involved in the research from Nepal’s side said they were unaware of the new findings. “In the past 10 years after the lab was set up, over 1,040 reports have been pre-

pared and Nepal was involved in hardy 100 of them,” said Dr. Dinesh Bhujju, a senior scientist coordinating an EV-K2 cell at NAST. NAST Academician Dr. Madan Lal Shrestha argues that if NAST has access to the data, it has to come up with its own version to find out what is right and what is wrong. “It is true that the brown haze has increased in the past 10-15 years due to growing pollution,” said Shrestha. “The pollution emitted by Nepal and to some extent India can travel up to the mountains and form the haze but it is very unlikely that pollution emitted by China can have such a role. Whatever the truth, the government must have a say.”

The EV-K2 researches say their report is based on a proven premise that the atmospheric conditions of the Himalayas can be influenced by the transport of polluted air masses coming from South Asia and Indo Gangetic Plain. Both Shrestha and Bonasoni agree that the brown cloud extends from the Indian Ocean to the Himalayan ridge.

Source: <http://www.ekantipur.com> September 1, 2010



Brown Cloud

“The brown haze has increased in the past 10-15 years due to growing pollution .”





Nepal Starts Receiving Euro III Petrol

Nepal has started receiving high octane petrol of Euro III standard, which yields better mileage and increases engine efficiency.

However, only consumers of the far and mid-western region will enjoy the benefits for now because Nepal Oil Corporation (NOC) has started supplying 91-octane petrol only from the Dhangadhi depot. "Consumers in the other parts, mainly the Kathmandu Valley, too will not need to wait for long," said NOC Spokesperson Mukunda Dhungel, "We will start supplying the high octane fuel throughout the country within a month." NOC officials said they could for now supply Euro III petrol from Dhangadhi depot only because of all the supply points, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), the sole supplier of fossil fuel to Nepal, first managed to complete upgrading its refinery and distribution system in Banthara.

IOC has informed of getting the conversion completed in other refineries and depots

like Barauni, Raxaul and Baitalpur, among others, within the next few weeks. "IOC has already started to clean a number of its vertical tanks in Raxaul as well as a part of supplying better standard petrol," Dhungel said. Once IOC completes its upgrading process, Nepal will completely switch to consumption of petrol of Euro III standard. India has already replaced Euro II diesel with Euro III diesel. The supply of 91-octane is believed to greatly relieve vehicle owners from a host of problems, such as undue wear and tear of fuel pump and engine.

Owing to low grade fuel, high-end vehicle owners have been lamenting that they are not being able to enjoy the extent of efficiency the engines were designed to deliver. Instead, the low grade fuel was making engine life shorter and causing damages, thereby increasing their operational costs. The upgraded quality of petrol supply will bring cheers to automobiles dealers as well, because it will enable them to

bring in latest brands of vehicles with sophisticated engines. So far, leading automobiles manufacturers were denying the local dealers' request to introduce latest brands in Nepal, mainly referring to the low quality fuel. They cited that inferior fuel quality in Nepal do not match with engine to yield promised efficiency and ensure longevity -- something which will erode their brand image. These benefits, however, will come with added cost, because IOC has said that the price of Euro III petrol will be expensive by around Rs 1 per liter than the 87-octane petrol that NOC was supplying so far.

But as the prices of petroleum products are state-administered, the increased cost will go down as loss to NOC, unless the government chose to act sensibly. Given the benefits of high-octane petrol, NOC officials expressed the hope that consumers will not resist the due rise in prices.

"NOC will start supplying the high octane fuel throughout the country within a month"

Dealers In Dark Over Euro III Fuel

The public does not need to pay more for the Euro III standard 91-octane petrol that Nepal Oil Corporation will be supplying throughout Nepal by October.

But petroleum dealers are completely unaware of NOC's plan to introduce higher grade petrol to replace the current 88-octane petrol. "We are unable to comment on the pricing of the fuel officially," said Saroj Pandey, president of Nepal Petroleum Dealers Association.

But NOC is ready to supply the higher grade 91-octane petrol to replace the current 88-octane petrol in circulation at the same price.

Source: <http://www.thehimalayantimes.com> August 31, 2010



Research Team

“The study will also develop the emission factors of different pollutants for ICS and TCS of Nepal”



Equipment Set Up inside the Kitchen

Research on Improved Cooking Stove and Indoor Air Pollution

Dipesh Chapagain

A team of experts from university of Illinois and Berkeley Air monitoring group, USA is conducting research on the effectiveness of Improved Cooking Stove (ICS) in comparison to the Traditional Cooking Stove (TCS) in Panchkhal VDC, Kavrepalanchok.

The research is based on the measurement of emission of CO₂, CO, PM, CH₄, black carbon and total non-methane hydrocarbons (TNMHC) from ICS and TCS. This study will help to evaluate the effectiveness of ICS promotion program in Nepal, which is one of the largest of such kind in the world. Another component of this research is the kitchen performance test (KPT) in rural household to estimate the effectiveness of ICS in saving fuel.

Outcomes of this research will be the solid base for evaluating performance of ICS in rural community of the country and help designers to make it better. This study will also develop the emission factor of different pollutants for ICS and TCS of Nepal. These emission factors will be very effective in estimation of total GHGs and other pollutants from solid biomass fuel burning in rural household of Nepal.

Burning of fuel wood is one of the major sources of indoor air pollution in rural household and causing the severe health and environmental impacts. Besides that, the black carbon emitted from burning of fuel wood is now considered as one of the major contributor for the global warming and the glacier melting. Scientists are calming that the major portion of black car-

bon comes from the solid fuel burning from rural community. This research will estimate the proportion of black carbon in emission from solid fuel burning in rural household.

This research is also intended for the capacity buildup of local organizations and individuals. Energy Sector Assistance Program (AEPC-ESAP), Centre for Rural Technology (CRT) and Clean Energy Nepal (CEN) is assisting this research by providing human resource and other supports.

The American research team of Dr. Tami C. Bond, Nick Lam and co-workers will conduct similar research in India and Peru in coming 2 months. This will help to compare the types of ICS and its performance from different country.

Filipino Community ties up with CEN for ICS Dhading project

Charina Cabrido

From firewood cooking to improved cooking stoves (ICS), a small change can make a difference especially on the lives of indigent Nepalis in Dhading district. **Dhading**, situated west of Kathmandu is close to the capital in terms of distance, but large parts of the district, especially in the north, are very remote due to lack of roads. Most of the women rely on fire woods in their daily cooking, depleting forest and affecting their children's health. According to WHO,

the annual death toll caused by indoor air pollution in Nepal is around 7,500.

The Filipino Community in Nepal (FCN) decided to address this issue by joining the Clean Energy Nepal, an NGO based in Kathmandu working for clean air. The ICS Dhading project, a way to distribute ICS in Dhading district, was officially launched at British Club last July 31 with the Filipino community in full support. This coincides with the FCN's officers Oath Taking and the

ratification of the FCN Constitution.

Mr. Pankaj K.C. Program Director of CEN explained more about the project and how the Filipino community can adopt Dhading as their pilot area for ICS distribution. ICS is a stove that is designed to consume less fuel, save cooking time, convenient in cooking process and creates a smokeless environment in the kitchen.

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ICS is 15-20% efficient than the traditional cooking stove which accounts for savings of 20-30% fire-wood.

This generated a lot of interest from the Filipino group, especially to one of the members, Marivic Gu-

rung, whose husband is a local of Dhading. The donations poured in amounting to NPRS 10,000 that is equivalent to almost 35 ICS, and 35 households whose lives are about to be changed. Series of planned donation drives in the next months are scheduled to

carry out this project into full implementation. ICS in Dhading project is one of the initiatives of the Filipino Community in Nepal in partnership with the Clean Energy Nepal in order to give back to its Nepalese community.



Oath taking ceremony for Filipino community



Presentation by Pankaj KC

“The Filipino community will adopt a community in Dhading to promote Improved Cook Stoves to curb indoor air pollution .”

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

For more information on our campaign, please visit: www.cen.org.np/cann and www.cleanairnet.org/cann

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Compiled by : Kriti Shrestha

Edited by : Gopal Raj Joshi