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Two-day Training on Sustainable Urban Transport

Two day Training on Sustainable Urban Transport (SUT) was organized by UN Habitat and Clean Energy Nepal in partnership with Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport, GIZ-SUTP, UN-Habitat and ADB on 29th and 30th October 2013. The course aimed to enhance the capacity of local decision makers and urban and transport planners to formulate and implement appropriate policies that contribute to sustainability in the urban transport. About 60 participants from different government and non-governmental agencies, academe, private sectors, media and researchers attended the training. A short press briefing was organized on the SUT, which was followed by the training program.

Mr. Tulasi Prasad Sitaula, Secretary, MoPIT gave opening remarks highlighting on the importance of such training to achieve the vision of efficient mobility in our city and make the city more livable. Mr. Manfred Breithaupt, Project director, GIZ-SUTP shared his views and observation on urban transport system in Kathmandu Valley. He discussed about the current trend in urban transport development and shared the best practices from around the world.

Field visit on walking and cycling along the Thapathali- Maitighar-Babarmahal road stretch was done and the group presented the good and bad practices on walking and cycling infrastructures and services, and made proposition to make the road stretch more pedestrian and cycle friendly. The importance and various aspects of efficient public transportation, and the criteria for selecting suitable mode of public transportation for the city was discussed by Mr. N. Seshadri. He also highlighted on the importance marketing and branding of public transport system to attract more people to use public transport, as the automobile companies do to attract buyers.

Mr. Andri Heriawana from ADB shared the information about the Kathmandu Sustainable Urban Transport Project (KSUTP) that is being implemented in Kathmandu. This was followed by the presentation of Mr. David J. Ingham, Public transport specialist, where Clean Energy Nepal and UN-he shared his experiences and overview of the status of public transportation in Kathmandu, highlighting the needs of route restructuring. He updated the activities on route restructuring and public

transport improvement being carried out under the KSUTP. Mr. Vedant Goyal, Project Officer, GIZ-SUTP delivered presentation on 'Urban Transport, Environment and Public Health' highlighting the different environmental and public health problems associated with the motorization. Highlighting the increasing road accidents cases due to motorization, he said that road accident will be the fifth cause for death in the world by 2030.

The two day training on Sustainable Urban Transport ended with a discussion on pedestrianization of Thamel area. Mr. PS Joshi, Program Manager, UN-Habitat Nepal, and Ms. Kamana Manandhar briefly explained the strategies and challenges on pedestrianization of Thamel. During the discussion, all the participants have agreed that the urban core areas should be made pedestrianized.

Source: www.cen.org.np/maya

Two-day Expo to Observe World Habitat Day

A two-day exhibition began here today on the eve of the World Habitat Day 2013, to be marked with the slogan 'Urban Mobility'. Minister for Urban Development, Chhabi Raj Pant inaugurated the exhibition.

The exhibition includes stalls with pictures related to the construction of earthquake resistant buildings, method for purifying drinking water, traffic awareness, among others. Speaking to journalists, Minister Pant said the ministry has been working to develop the cities and upgrade their look, especially the capital city. "It is not that we don't have laws regarding such matters but they are vague and need codification," he said. He also touched upon the problems

The day is being celebrated since 1986 on the first Monday of October as decided by UN Habitat while Nepal has been celebrating the day since 2004.

Meanwhile, experts and stakeholders underlined the need to construct pedestrian-friendly roads in Kathmandu. Speaking at an interaction meet 'Sustainable Urban Mobility' organised by DUDBC, Clean Energy Nepal and UN-Habitat, today, Suresh Prakash Acharya, joint secretary at the Ministry of Urban Development, said road users have more responsibility towards ensuring safe urban mobility.

Kanak Mani Dixit, a journalist, suggested that the number of public vehicles should be increased, cycling should be encouraged among commoners, and

disabled-friendly roads should be constructed. Dixit, who is also the chairman of Sajha Yatayat, also stressed on the need of low- step buses for differently-abled and elderly people. He admitted that Sajha Yatayat too lacks such facilities.

Bhusan Tuladhar of UN Habitat, in his presentation, pointed out that the roads in Capital are structured for vehicles but not for pedestrians. Citing the dramatic rise in ratio of vehicles in Kathmandu, Tuladhar asked policy makers to plan roads of urban standard for sustainable urban mobility in the coming days.

Source: www.thehimalayantimes.com, October 6, 2013



Separate Lanes for Public Transport Vehicles Urged

Experts have urged the government to promote public transport and create separate lanes for such vehicles on the city's roads. The recommendation follows growing public concern over traffic management and air pollution.

The number of private vehicles in the country has grown significantly, but public transport is still the main mode of mobility for many people. "Dedicated lanes for public transport is a must," said Manfred Breithaupt, project director, GIZ-Sustainable Urban Transport Project, while addressing a training programme on sustainable urban transport.

A separate lane for public vehicles will help to make transport services safe, reliable and effective. Manfred stressed the need to encourage people to switch from private vehicles to public transport besides promoting bicycles. He said that cycles were for the people, not the poor, as they are good for health, economy and environment. As of the last fiscal year, there were 1.5 million vehicles registered nationwide. An estimated

35,000 mini buses and buses provide public transport services in the country. Participants said that the government should be serious about controlling air pollution and the growing number of vehicles.

Studies have shown that pollution kills more people in the world than road accidents, they added. From last year, the Nepal government has banned the import of vehicles below Euro III emission standard as part of the effort to control air pollution. Speaking at the programme, government officials said that it had become difficult for them to manage the increased number of vehicles due to the narrow roads and unplanned urbanisation.

Tulasi Prasad Sitaula, secretary at the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport, said that they were carrying out a project with the assistance of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to improve the transport service in Kathmandu besides continuing with the road widening plan. "We are also widening

the Ring Road to eight lanes which will have a separate way for cycles," he added.

The government plans to widen the 27-km Ring Road which encircles Kathmandu and Patan with the support of China. In the first phase, a 9-km stretch from Koteshwor to Kalanki will be improved within the next three years. Government officials said that the Physical Infrastructure Ministry had already started urging the Chinese government to widen the rest of the Ring Road. Yogeshwor Parajuli, commissioner of the Kathmandu Valley Development Authority, said that lack of a land use plan had hindered infrastructure development.

Source: www.kantipuronline.com, October 29, 2013



12-km Expanded Roads to be Blacktopped Before Dashain

Twelve kilometer road of the expanded areas in the capital would be blacktopped before Dashain, according to government officials.

The officials of High Level Monitoring Committee (HLMC) under the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said this after inspecting the road construction work on Tuesday.

The committee also declared that 8 km stretch would be graveled whereas sidewalk construction in another 8-km stretch will be completed in the next five days. Similarly, wall construction in 1 km stretch and drainage construction in 270 meter stretch would be completed before Dashain. The government has also targeted to locate sewage pipes in 1.5 km area within a few days.

Source: www.myrepublica.com, October 1, 2013

KMC Authorises Only 20 Parking Lots

Before paying a parking fee make sure the parking lot is legal, as there are only 20 legal parking lots inside Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC). People operating unauthorised parking lots are collecting huge amounts from the general public.

Most of the parking lots in KMC are unlicensed and do not share revenue with the local municipality either in the form of tax or rent.

After waking up to the proliferation of illegal parking lots in KMC, which not only hampers revenue but is also behind traffic mismanagement in the city, the KMC office on October 25 announced the names of the authorised parking lots, with the help of the Metropolitan Traffic Police Division (MTPD).

The authorised parking lots include Piukha New Road, Shukrapath, New Road Stupa, Dharahara-Sundhara, Khichhapokhari (in front of Everest Bank), Pako Pipalbot, Dharmapath, Pako Photo Concern to Rannuteswhor, inside RB complex, Durbar-marg, New Baneshwor Chowk-I, Shankar Dev Campus, Kamaladi Khanepani, Naxal Balmandir, in-front of Tribhuvan International Gate (TIO) and Khulla Manch, among

others.

Along with announcing the names of the parking areas, the KMC office has also requested people not to park their vehicles in illegal parking lots. Parking fees should be paid to the 20 licensed parking lots only, it says.

"We are compelled to designate the places for parking in the city as unlicensed parking lots are increasing day by day," said Dhana-pati Sapkota, chief of Implementation Department at the KMC office. "Though we tried out different things, we were not successful in closing them. But this time we are not going to spare anyone."

According to Sapkota, KMC will give permission for running parking lots to those who maintain the rules and regulations set by the KMC office.

Under the Local Self-governance Act 2055, permission from the municipality concerned is mandatory for running a parking lot. KMC office had conducted a study on illegal parking areas in the city and formulated some plans, including introduction of a dress code for parking lot attendants, road markings and time cards. However, the plans remain unimplemented.

"While carrying out monitoring work we will also check whether the rules (on dress code, time cards, etc) are maintained or not," said Sapkota, adding, "We will fine those running illegal parking lots in the city and take other strong action against them."

According to chief of MTPD, DIG Keshav Prasad Adhikari, most of the illegal parking lots are operated by criminal dons and should be clamped down on.

"They have no right to operate such unlicensed parking lots. They are only exploiting innocent people," said Adhikari.

In a bid to tackle the illegal parking lots, the KMC office and officials of MTPD carried out monitoring on Tuesday. They won't stop their monitoring work until the unlicensed parking lots are closed for good.

With 23.62 percent of the total population using motorbikes and another 4.03 percent using private cars, according to the census 2011, parking is a huge problem in the Valley.

Source: www.myrepublica.com, October 29, 2013

Marking World Habitat Day 2013

Clean Energy Nepal and UN-Habitat in collaboration with Department of Urban Development and Building Construction, Ministry of Urban Development organized various programs on 6th and 7th October to commemorate World Habitat (WHD) 2013. This year's WHD theme is 'Urban Mobility' and various programs were organized to have policy discussions and sensitize public on sustainable urban mobility issues.

Press Briefing and Media Workshop on Sustainable Urban Mobility

A press briefing was organized on 6th October to inform media persons about WHD 2013 events and messages. The message of Dr. Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN-Habitat was distributed along with the press brief of Government of Nepal. The press briefing was followed by "Media Workshop on Sustainable Urban Mobility". The objective of the workshop was to raise awareness on key issues related to urban mobility and mobilize support from media in promoting sustainable urban mobility in Nepal. The program included presentations from government officials, experts and senior journalists as well as interaction among key stakeholders and media.

Mr. Bhushan Tuladhar from UN-Habitat said that when we built roads we are focusing on moving vehicles not people. "It should have been other way round", he said. "Pedestrians and cyclists are the most vulnerable to road accidents and air pollution even though they are not emitting any pollution", he said. He also highlighted some of the projects of government on people-centric transport system. He also

praised the media for promoting sustainable mobility in the cities and asked to continue to do so.

Mr. Kanak Mani Dixit, senior journalist said that Bus Rapid Transit System is the best mode of mass transit for Kathmandu Valley. "We can't afford to build metro at least for now", he said. He also highlighted the difficulties that disable people are facing, and informed media about the campaign to build disable friendly road in Jorpati. "Even though Nepali media are good at news reporting but analysing the issues and presenting them are lacking", he said. Mr. Rishi Dhakal from Spinal Injury Rehabilitation Center and Jorpati Disable-friendly Road Campaign presented on the barriers and mobility challenges that disable people are facing. Mr. Bijay Swar, Senior Vice President from Federation of Nepalese National Transport Entrepreneur Association presented the situation of public transport system in Nepal. He asked government to formulate policies and plans to improve public transport system.

Conference on Urban Mobility and Workshop on Urban Road Standard

With the objectives to bring the experts together and share knowledge and ideas the main event was designed for presentations and deliberations on sustainable urban mobility. The full day conference organized on 7th October was formally inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Mr. Chhabi Raj Pant, Minister, Ministry of Urban Development. During the inaugural session, Habitat Programme Manager Mr. Padma Sunder Joshi read out the messages of UN Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki-Moon and

Under Secretary General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat Dr. Joan Clos. Dr. Jagdish Chandra Pokharel, Former Vice Chairman, National Planning Commission and Mr. Bhushan Tuladhar from UN-Habitat made key note speeches on Urban Mobility in the context of Nepal. Mr. Acharya announced that the government is going to establish Urban Roads Section under DUDBC.

The first technical session was focused on various urban mobility issues from the perspective of experts and the city dwellers. Mr. Ramesh Singh, Deputy Director General of DUDBC, Dr. Partha Mani Parajuli, Dr. Uttar Regmi from KSUT project presented the ongoing sustainable urban transportation activities in Kathmandu Valley while Mr. Rhishi Dhakal presented the concerns of disables and Ms. Sambridhi Dhakal highlighted the gender dimension that need to be incorporated in urban mobility.

The second technical session was dedicated to upcoming Urban Roads Standard for Nepal. This session was chaired by Mr. Shambhu KC, Director General of DUDBC. Mr. Padma Sunder Joshi made a presentation on urban road standard and its components that need to be incorporated to make it people-centric and sustainable. The participants were divided into two groups to discuss on the scoping of the standard. Mr. KC praised the inputs gained from the workshop and expressed his commitment to incorporate the recommendations of the workshop in the upcoming standard.

Source: www.cen.org.np/maya

Regmi Directs to Expedite Road Expansion Drive

Chairman of the Interim Election Council of Ministers Khilraj Regmi on Thursday has directed the top government officials to expedite the construction works of roads in Kathmandu valley.

During a meeting held at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Regmi issued such directive to the concerned minister, secretary and top level government officials.

Secretary at the PMO and Coordinator of the High Level Monitoring Committee of the road expansion drive, Krishna Hari Baskota said that works were underway to blacktop 16 kilometers roads by November.

Baskota informed Chairman Regmi that during that period Maitighar-Tinkune road section would be gravelled, 1.9 kilometers pavements and 2.15 kilometers road would be blacktopped.

Similarly, 300 meters road along Kalimati-TU Gate would be gravelled and 1.28 kilometers road would be blacktopped while 1.8 kilome-

ters road along the Lainchaur-Galputar section would also be blacktopped.

The Maitighar-Bhadrakali, Naxal-Mitrapark, Pipalbot-Sukedhara, Tankeshwor-Swyambhu, Bhagawanpur-Banasthali, Ekantakuna-Chakrapath, Jawalakhel-Ekantakuna-Lagankhel and other road sections would be completed

by mid-December.

Source: www.himalayantimes.com, October 31, 2013



Good Reads:

1. [Bad to Worse at Old Bus Park](#): Sangeet Sangroula, Republica, October 20, 2013
2. [Prodding China to Confront its Urban Air Pollution Problems](#): Tamara Scott, The Washington Post, October 22, 2013
3. [On the Road](#): The Kathmandu Post, October 3, 2013

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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.

CANN is a Country Network of Clean Air Asia and hosted by Clean Energy Nepal.

For more information: www.cen.org.np

www.cleanairinitiative.org

Building Partnership for Clean Air

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