

Clean Air News

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Govt to Introduce Policy on Hybrid, Electric Vehicles

The government is preparing to introduce a policy to promote the use of electric and hybrid vehicles.

The proposed policy has been aimed mainly at reducing air pollution by reducing the use of fossil fuel-based vehicles. It also envisions converting petrol- and diesel-run vehicles into electric vehicles by introducing appropriate rules.

The Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport (MoPIT) will soon table the final draft of the policy to the Cabinet. "We have already compiled suggestions from various stakeholders," said Nabin Pokhrel, under secretary at MoPIT.

"The final draft will be first forwarded to the Law Ministry for its approval before sending it to the Cabinet." The ministry had taken feedbacks from line ministries, including environment, finance, urban development and industry. It also took suggestions from the Federation of Nepalese National Transport Entrepreneurs and the Nepal Electricity Authority.

According to officials at the Department of Transport Management, the draft has incorporated issues like customs duty waiver, areas of operation of such vehicles, operation of trolley bus, standards of charging stations,

conversion of old vehicles into electric and route permits, among others.

Although the proposed policy has provisioned incentives and excise and customs duty waivers, it is to be seen how it would encourage people to own electric vehicles amid acute power crisis.

The promotion of electric vehicles is expected to reduce petroleum imports. Nepal imported petroleum products worth Rs 98 billion in the first nine months of this fiscal year. In the entire last fiscal year, the imports were more than Rs 100 billion.

The imports this year are expected exceed last year's figure amid increasing automobile imports and use of diesel for electricity generation.

According to the data of the Department of Transport Management (DoTM), a total of 1.66 million automobiles have been registered in the country as of mid-January 2014. The number of electric vehicles is estimated to be just 2,200, including 630 Safa Tempos, 50 four-wheelers and 1,500 two-wheelers.

Source: www.ekantipur.com, May 25, 2014

It's Time we Cycled to Save Environment

Chief Secretary Leela Mani Paudyal today said it's high time 'we started thinking how we can save our environment from degrading further due to our lifestyle'.

"The consumption of petroleum products will decrease by around 300,000 litres even if we avoid our private vehicles for two hours and pedal bicycles, instead," he said at a cycle rally organised in the capital ahead of the World Environment Day which will be celebrated on June 5.

Paudyal held that the use of bicycle will not only reduce the growing trade deficit but will help address the pressure of the consumption of fossil fuel and protect environment as well.

"The bicycle culture would also benefit both users and the country in the long run. Our lifestyle and activities are also responsible for melting of Himalayan glaciers due to global warming," he explained. The theme of this year's World Environment Day is 'Raise Your Voice, Not the Sea Level'.

"People riding bicycles are often treated with disrespect in our society. We must shake off such mindset. Bicycle is a eco-friendly vehicle used by the general people. It is a safe means of individual transportation provided we reduced its vulnerability to road accidents. For this, the government has started making efforts to make a separate track for bicycle users on the expanded roads of Kathmandu," Paudyal said. Krishna Chandra Paudel, Sec-

retary at the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment, observed that cycling was also good for physical fitness and to reduce the risk of cardiovascular ailments. "The road is not only for motor vehicles. It is for bicycles as well," he said. Suroj Pokharel, Director General at the Department of Environment, and many other government officials, along with cyclists, conservationists and general public, were also present at the function.

The cycle rally started from Kupan-dole and went around the city before participating in the Bagmati River Clean-up Campaign in Min Bhawan.

Meanwhile, the DoE today handed over clean-up kits, including 200 pairs of boots and as many pairs of hand gloves, to the High Power Committee

for Integrated Development of Bagmati Civilisation. They will be used for cleaning the Bagmati River.

Source:

www.thehimalayantimes.com, May 31, 2014



National Road Safety Council Yet to be Revived

Though the government has envisioned reestablishment of the National Road Safety Council under its ten-year Road Safety Action Plan, it is yet to establish the council for improving traffic management and ensure road safety in the country.

A National Road Safety Council was set up during the nineties but the body has been defunct for quite some years now.

The government had then mulled reviving the council as part of the Road Safety Action Plan in line with the decision of UN Road Safety Collaboration, a multilateral body to address road safety issues globally, to observe the Decade of Action for Road Safety from 2011 to 2020.

As Nepal is a active member of the United Nations, the government has

already prepared its own Road Safety Action Plan 2013-20. The action plan has proposed a detailed plan of road safety.

“Unlike the agency in the past, the proposed council is likely to be a high-level road management board set up to improve traffic management and enhance road safety in the country,” said Sudharshan Prasad Adhikari, former Director General of Department of Transportation Management (DoTM). He has been replaced by Kashi Raj Dahal to the post recently.

According to officials at the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport, the council will include all the line ministries and departments such as the Home Ministry, Finance Ministry, Department of Roads and DoTM among others which are directly and indirectly responsible for traffic management in

the country.

The council will also have expanded jurisdiction and resources and develop a national road-safety strategy and implementation modality for reducing road accidents.

Mukunda Raj Satyal, a public transportation engineer, said that the government should immediately set up the council as road accidents are haphazardly increasing in the country with the expansion of roads and development of other infrastructures.

“It is the high time the government establish the council. It will show that the government is serious about minimizing road accidents in the country,” added he.

Source: www.myrepublica.com, May 23, 2014

Road Safety Exhibition Concludes

The three-day-long ‘Road Safety Exhibition’ organized by the Metropolitan Traffic Police Division (MTPD) concluded on Saturday.

The exhibition was organized by MTPD in collaboration with the Department of Road (DoR) and Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC), among others.

According to Inspector Rajendra Pokharel, chief of Public Awareness Section at MTPD, more than 100,000 people visited the exhibition. More than 30,000 people visited the exhibition on the last day, claimed Pokharel.

“Our main aim was to create awareness about road safety and I think we were quite successful,” said Pokharel.

SP Basanta Panta, spokesperson at MTPD, said the traffic division will organize such programs in future as well.

“I cannot guarantee that we will organize such exhibitions every year. However, we will promote such programs. We will give priority to such programs as we have it very fruitful and effective,” said Panta.

As many as 30 stalls were placed at the

Road Safety Exhibition held on MTPD premises.

Similarly, various photographs, cartoons, vehicles and video, among others were put on display to raise awareness about road safety. Of the total exhibition stalls, 12 stalls were set by MTPD.

DIG Keshav Adhikari, chief of MTPD, had inaugurated the three-day long road safety exhibition.

Source: www.myrepublica.com, May 17, 2014

Call for Abstracts: Integrated Conference of BAQ 2014

Clean Air Asia is pleased to announce an open Call for Abstracts for the “Integrated Conference of Better Air Quality (BAQ) 2014 and Intergovernmental 8th Regional Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) Forum in Asia” to be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 19-21 November 2014 and co-organized by the Ministry of Transport of Sri Lanka, Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy of Sri Lanka, Ministry of the Environment of Japan, Clean Air Asia, and the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD).

The Integrated Conference is expected to bring together a thousand policymakers, technical experts, practitioners and industry leaders from around the region for Asia’s leading event on air quality, covering key sectors of transport, energy, industry and climate change.

Selected abstracts should present innovative and smart **solutions (policy, institution, technology and financing)** that work in or can be adapted to the Asian context particularly those that (a) significantly reduce air pollution and greenhouse gases from energy, industry,

transport, and area sources, (b) improve the management of air quality and greenhouse gases, and (c) ensure a safe, equitable, environment and people-friendly transport system by accelerating the shift towards more environmentally sustainable transport. Abstracts that tackle emerging topics and issues such as reduction of short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs), low cost air quality monitoring, use of information technology in enforcement, citizen participation are particularly welcome.

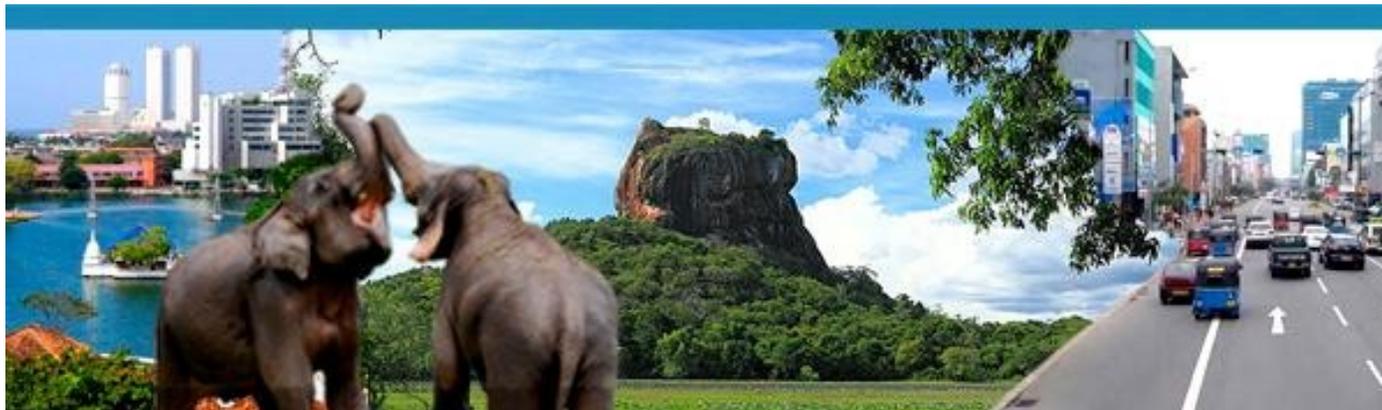
We encourage you to submit abstracts on:

- Air Quality and GHG Management
- Ambient Air Quality and Impacts
- Low Emissions Urban Development
- Freight Transport Emissions Management
- Passenger Transport Emissions Management
- Motor Vehicle Emissions and Fuels
- Power and Industry Emissions Management
- Management of Other Sources of Emissions

Abstracts can cover academic, technical or policy-related studies, projects and programs relevant to the integrated conference theme. An Asian focus is required and abstracts can relate to the city, national or regional levels. Abstracts with a focus on Europe, USA or other parts of the world should clearly state the relevance of the proposed abstract to Asia. Priority will be given to abstracts which focus on new research and innovative policies and solutions.

Please submit your abstracts using the template with a maximum of 300 words, reference to one of the eight topics above and at least 3 keywords to baq@cleanairasia.org. Deadline for submission is on 30 June 2014.

Source: www.cleanairinitiative.com



Air quality deteriorating in Many of the World's Cities

Air quality in most cities worldwide that monitor outdoor (ambient) air pollution fails to meet WHO guidelines for safe levels, putting people at additional risk of respiratory disease and other health problems.

WHO's urban air quality database covers 1600 cities across 91 countries – 500 more cities than the previous database (2011), revealing that more cities worldwide are monitoring outdoor air quality, reflecting growing recognition of air pollution's health risks.

Only 12% of the people living in cities reporting on air quality reside in cities where this complies with WHO air quality guideline levels. About half of the urban population being monitored is exposed to air pollution that is at least 2.5 times higher than the levels WHO recommends - putting those people at additional risk of serious, long-term health problems.

In most cities where there is enough data to compare the situation today with previous years, air pollution is getting worse. Many factors contribute to this increase, including reliance on fossil fuels such as coal fired power plants, dependence on private transport motor vehicles, inefficient use of energy in buildings, and the use of biomass for cooking and heating.

But some cities are making notable improvements - demonstrating that air quality can be improved by implementing policy measures such as banning the use of coal for "space heating" in buildings, using renewable or "clean" fuels for electricity production, and improving efficiency of motor vehicle engines.

The latest available data have prompted WHO to call for greater awareness of health risks caused by air pollution, implementation of effective air pollution mitigation policies; and close monitoring of the situation in cities worldwide.

"Too many urban centres today are so enveloped in dirty air that their skylines are invisible," said Dr Flavia Bustreo, WHO Assistant Director-General for Family, Children and Women's Health. "Not surprisingly, this air is dangerous to breathe. So a growing number of cities and communities worldwide are striving to better meet the needs of their residents - in particular children and the elderly."

For more information

www.who.int.com, May 7, 2014

Good Reads

1. [Thank God It's \(A Bike-to-Work\) Friday](#): nepalitimes. May 30– June 5, 2014
2. [I Cycle Kathmandu](#): fridayweekly
3. [Every Breathe We Take](#): Arnico Panday, nepalitimes, May 30– June 5, 2014

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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

To contribute articles, news items, or event announcements for the next issue, send an email with the complete details and URL source to info@cen.org.np or rassu@cen.org.np

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