



विश्व जल दिवस
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SDG Confab:

Synergizing Efforts towards
Achieving SDG-6 and
SDG-13 in Nepal

March 21, 2018



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1 BACKGROUND

On 25th of September 2015, countries adopted a set of 17 goals to end poverty, ensure prosperity and protect the planet as part of a new sustainable development agenda. Among the goals, “**SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation**”, ensures access to water and sanitation for all. There is sufficient fresh-water on the planet to achieve this. However, due to fallacious economics or poor infrastructure, every year millions of people, most of them children, die from diseases associated with inadequate water supply, malnutrition, sanitation and hygiene. Similarly, “**SDG 13: Climate Action**”, aims at ensuring urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. People are experiencing various types and levels of impacts from climate change, which include changing weather patterns, rising sea level and increasing intensity and duration of extreme weather events. To address climate change, countries adopted the **Paris Agreement** at the 21st Conference of Parties of United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change, also called ‘COP 21’ in Paris on 12th of December 2015, where the countries agreed to work to limit global temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius. According to the baseline report on “Nepal’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” published by National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal, basic water supply coverage and sanitation coverages in the country reached to 87 and 70 percentages respectively 2015. However, only less than half (49.5 percent) of the households have access to piped water supply.

Hence, acknowledging these global goals in relevance, The Small Earth Nepal (SEN), in collaboration with Water Aid Nepal, Digo Jal Bikas (DJB) project of International Water Management Institute (IWMI), and SNV Nepal, organized a ‘**SDG Confab: Synergizing Efforts towards Achieving SDG-6 and SDG-13 in Nepal**’ on 21st March 2018 in Kathmandu. The program was organized as a part of Nepal National Water and Weather Week-2018 (NNWWW-2018). The event was divided into technical session and panel discussion (Annex I). The presentations and thoughts shared by well-renowned personalities played a pivotal role in raising discussions among the audience, presenters, and panellists.

2 SUMMARY

The main objective of this program was to explore/highlight and understand efforts/initiations of the government and non-government sectors in achieving SDG targets and bring in ideas of synergizing the effort of all the sectors to address the burning issues related to SDG-6 and SDG-13. Intensive discussion was carried out in the prevailing water and climate issues in Nepal, its impacts on sanitation and hygiene in relevance to the SDGs. Over 50 participants including Government officials, researchers, academia, graduates, students and other stakeholders from civil society were present at the event.

The program was started with a welcome remark from Mr. Dhiraj Pradhananga, President of SEN. His speech highlighted the relevance of SDG with the themes of this year’s World Water Day (Nature for Water) and World Meteorological Day (Weather ready, Climate smart). He also, talked about the untiring journey of NNWWW since its inception in 2009 and how it has been successful in collaborating with various I/NGOs, UN Organizations, universities and different communities. His concluding remarks emphasized on the need of efficient water, weather and environmental services from policy level to grass-root level, which is the main objective of NNWWW.



3 TECHNICAL SESSION

The technical session titled “**Clean Water, Improved Sanitation and Climate Action in Federal System in Nepal**” was chaired by Mr. Purushottam Ghimire, former Joint Secretary, Government of Nepal. The session was started off with the keynote presentation by Dr. Dinesh Raj Bhujju, Academician at Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) on the title ‘The eminence of SDGs as road-map of development’ followed by the presentation on ‘Water resource, Energy and Climate- Nepalese Perspective’ by Mr. Dipak Gyawali, Academician at NAST. All together four presentations were delivered in this session. Mr. Bipin Dangol, Executive Director at Environment and Public Health Organization (ENPHO) and Ms. Lazana Manandhar from Freshwater Action Network South Asia (FANSA) also shared their opinions through their presentations on ‘Priority Agenda for Achieving SDG WASH-2030 targets’ and ‘National policies and national accountability mechanism for SDG-6’ respectively.

3.1 PRESENTATION I: THE EMINENCE OF SDGs AS ROAD-MAP OF DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Dinesh Raj Bhujju, NAST

Dr. Dinesh Bhujju put forward a series of facts and figures that stressed upon the fluctuations faced by nature and humans on a temporal basis. He further shed light on the alterations faced by Gross Domestic Product (GDP), life expectancy, energy consumption and depletion, climate change and tropical forest depletion on a global scale.



The gradual increase in population all over the world has altered the status of resources. People started depending upon agriculture about ten thousand years ago and their energy consumption was about 25,000kcal back then but at the current status it has increased to 70,000kcal. The main source of this energy is ‘petroleum products’ which is present only in finite amount.

According to scientific assumptions, the petroleum products may diminish by 2051 and coal by 2081. These may only be the assumptions at the current status but at the rate the nations worldwide are consuming these resources, these are really a big matter of concern. Tropical rainforest, also considered as one of the major resources has been decreasing in coverage threatening the existence of many valuable species.

When addressing the issues related to climate change, it has been observed that the concentration in ppm of carbon dioxide has increased over time from 250 parts per million (ppm) to 400 ppm, resulting in

global warming. Dr. Bhuju presented a detailed analysis of all these aspects and how these have exponentially increased over time resembling the structure of a hockey stick. He emphasized on why SDG is pivotal at present context in Nepal.

3.2 PRESENTATION II: WATER RESOURCE, ENERGY AND CLIMATE- NEPALESE PERSPECTIVE

Mr. Dipak Gyawali, NAST

Mr. Dipak Gyawali initiated his presentation talking about water and energy consumption in context of Nepal. He reflected scepticism about Nepal's aim of over-achieving SDGs within the allocated time. Furthermore, he said that to avoid erroneous data generation we should not only depend on technical innovation but should also adopt 'Behavioural and Managerial Innovation' hand in hand. The behavioural changes depend upon the individual themselves and their attitude towards it and the managerial aspect hinge on how the Government manages it at various circumstances.

The occurrence of error in data is mainly due to problem in data collection method. Focusing on that, the foremost concern should be on addressing the real problem, proper and systematic management and understanding the linkage between innumerable aspects of public and private relationships. In conclusion, he encouraged the participants to create "critical masses" and instil a surge of "activism" to address issues that have not yet been unravelled to the general public. He glorified his statement by saying that the SDGs are at a better place than the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).



3.3 PRESENTATION III: PRIORITY AGENDA FOR ACHIEVING SDG WASH-2030 TARGETS

Mr. Bipin Dangol, ENPHO

Mr. Bipin Dangol gave a brief description about the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) targets. He gave special emphasis to SDG 6's subsection 6.1, 6.2, 6.3 mainly focusing on access to safe drinking water quality and Sanitation. The Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) supported by World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Program (UNICEF) is a ladder towards proper sanitation, hygiene and water services. The present scenario focus should be on shifting from basic services to safely managed services.

According to him, provision of basic services in the Open Defecation Free (ODF) campaign and drinking water distribution will fail holistically unless safe management tools are not acquired.

He added that, while conducting water quality analysis it was observed that the highest contamination was seen at Point of Use (PoU). He also informed the audience an interesting fact about jar water as most of us are dependent upon it. According to a study conducted by the University of Yamanashi in 2015, the jar water which we use for drinking water purpose is contaminated by fecal and total coliforms. In Kathmandu valley, it is observed that the shallow groundwater is contaminated by *E. coli*, *Cryptosporidium oocysts* and *Giardia* cysts and also some detrimental chemicals. According to JMP report of 2017, it is observed that globally, the safely managed drinking water is 71% and that of Nepal is 27%. Also, in terms of safely managed sanitation, the



global scenario is 39% and that of Nepal is not available.

A total of 1450 tons/day of domestic waste water and fecal sludge is disposed unsafely. This matter should be looked upon immediately as it will ultimately cause environment pollution, negative impacts on health and contamination. He stressed on the fact that sanitary provision in itself is not sufficient but it should be driven by “build, operate and transfer” mechanism. He concluded with a thought-provoking statement that made the participants question that whenever they flushed their toilet, where would it end up going?

3.4 PRESENTATION IV: NATIONAL POLICIES AND NATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM FOR SDG-6

Presenter: Ms. Lazana Manandhar, FANSA

According to her, the main aim of the findings of global review of national accountability mechanisms is to investigate the nature of the existing accountability mechanisms, the challenges and the opportunities at the national level. She further added that accountability mechanisms for SDG 6 are not available and when reported, accountability mechanisms have not been mentioned as effective. Also, she talked about how SDG-6 is limited to targets 6.1 and 6.2.

Accountability tools such as conferences along with events that allow for advocacy, coordination among participants, and sharing of learning and best practices should be adopted. In the meantime, shadow reporting and auditing exercises are considered a valuable accountability tool - as they point government actors towards their commitments in line with corresponding budgets. She said that accountability overall is hindered by a lack of adequate monitoring and reporting on SDG 6, limited progress on implementation of commitments and limited opportunity for CSOs to contribute to monitoring SDG 6 and to submit independent reviews.

Data is inadequate and not disaggregated to allow for tracking progress on reaching the most marginalized groups. Ms. Manandhar emphasized on the slogan “Leave no one behind”. She added that transparency and accountability mechanism is required to critically reflect and review the way forward. She further pinpointed the statement “Take the lead, make it happen, be inclusive” for any kind of activities to be undertaken for sustainable development.

She concluded stating that the only way forward, for development partners is to Support aid effectiveness agenda and finance good governance. Also, she encouraged the designated participants and speakers to support CSOs with technical and financial means to establish accountability mechanisms. As for UN Agencies, she requested them to recognize the role of CSOs in SDG 6 implementation and providing reliable information on progress for marginalized persons



SUMMARY BY MODERATOR

The moderator of this session was Mr. Purushottam Ghimire, Former Joint Secretary, Government of Nepal. He started off remarks promulgating the audience about the SDG 13 and 6 in a nutshell, highlighting the major aspects of those goals. He also shared his views and concern towards the necessity of achieving those SDG goals for the betterment of country and citizens. Further, he extended his vote of thanks to the organizing committee and the involved participants.



4 PROCEEDINGS OF PANEL DISCUSSION

Panel discussion on the theme of **“How to synergize on Nepal’s SDGs?”** was moderated by Er. Mahendra Bahadur Gurung, CEO of Pancheshwar Development Authority and Former Joint Secretary, Government of Nepal. The panellists include Mr. Rajendra Aryal, (Federation of Drinking Water and Sanitation Users Nepal, FDWSUN), Dr. Vishnu Prasad Pandey (International Water Management Institute, IWMI), Ms. Anisha Karn (Smart Paani), and Mr. Ngamindra Dahal (South Asia Institute for Advanced Studies, SIAS).

4.1 PRESENTATION I: CIVIL SOCIETY AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION’S EFFORTS

Presenter: Mr. Rajendra Aryal, FDWSUN

Mr. Aryal began the panel discussion by focusing on the bitter reality regarding the lack of joint effort on the localization of SDGs. He stated some of the insights of Nepal SDGs forum which was initiated in February 26, 2016 which included 23 target groups and 19 thematic areas. Mr. Aryal also discussed why the SDG plays a pivotal role from different aspects and the significance of conducting WASH Summit and conferences to stay updated of the status in regard to those matters.



It is also vital to look at these issues at policy-level, provide necessary feedbacks and incorporate those feedbacks appropriately in the documents to provide a strong foundation to make further decisions. It is the responsibility of the Government to provide the provision of safe drinking water to its every individual citizen. However, he made an interesting remark on how we voice our opinions for our rights but shy away from our responsibilities. The reality is that both the rights and responsibility must go hand in hand to attain sustainability.

The issues related to water sector must sensitize the involved parties to make necessary rules and laws to solve this issue in a long-term basis. He also talked about WASH Sector Development Plan and how to run it in long term to achieve maximum efficiency to fulfil the goals. All the goals are inter-related to one another, accomplishment of one can have a rippling effect on the others. Observing and learning our current preparation to achieve those SDGs goals, it seems that public centralization, enforcement of rules and laws, budget tracking and proper governance are required in the present context.

4.2 PRESENTATION II: RESEARCH TO SUPPORT INFORMED DECISION MAKING

Presenter: Dr. Vishnu Pandey, IWMI

Dr. Pandey accentuated the role of research in informed decision-making. He set the context by highlighting the 17 SDGs and 169 associated targets and mentioned that accomplishing them is a major challenge. All the guiding principles of the goals are highly ambitious and highly inclusive. He affirmed the inter-relations of all the SDG goals and how the accomplishment of one goal sends out waves of positive impact on the rest. In addition, he stated that water is a prominent resource for the prosperity of a country and the quantification of which is of paramount significance. Research and suitable methodological framework related to water availability is very crucial in order to meet present demands and the inclusion of provincial level strategies to attain national targets is also a requisite in present context. He also emphasized that the protection of springs is of utmost priority for the availability of fresh water along with proper research of water in river basins and sub-basins.

He made an interesting remark regarding the need of proper diagnosis of water for prescribing suitable set of cure. Only after a proper analysis of the issue, a remedy can be provided. In addition, he stated that the possible pathway for Nepal is to invest in the right resources to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and to formulate consistent climate related models.



4.3 PRESENTATION III: ROLE OF PRIVATE SECTORS AND INVESTMENT

Presenter: Ms. Anisha Karn, Smart Paani

Ms. Karn asserted that integration is crucial but difficult to achieve. She further went on to say that just the presence of water schemes is not enough but its functionality is of utmost priority. She pinpointed that investment should be done taking into account: quantity, quality and sustainability. She further talked about the role of Smart Paani in Rainwater Harvesting interventions and grey water treatment in urban areas. She asserted that the increasing urbanization has led to surface sealing of water and how it has resulted in the depletion of groundwater recharge. She requested

the participant to not let the rainwater go down the drain but collect it instead.



She further went to say that Kathmandu is facing acute water shortage, getting degraded water quality and is mostly dependent on groundwater. However, the ammonia contamination in the water today, is alarming indeed. Ms. Karn said that rainwater harvesting should be taken as an ecosystem entity from a business perspective as well. She added that the lowest tax paying agencies are polluting the water resources the most due to the lack of strict enforcement of regulations. We need to focus on providing solutions and promoting partnership among various organizations.

Ms. Karn focused on some subject matters such as the problem of maintenance, operation and the regulation of existing policies. According to her, business houses are the ones who must be most cautious. She concluded her statement by saying that a lot more acceptance is needed regarding private sectors for resources to be capitalized and used properly.

4.4 PRESENTATION IV:

INSTITUTIONALIZING PAANI CHAUTARI AS A KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM FOR SUSTAINABLE WATER SUPPLY PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT IN THE HIMALAYAN CITIES

Presenter: Mr. Ngamindra Dahal, SIAS

Mr. Dahal introduced the concept of “Paani Chautari” which was driven by the common idea of stakeholder’s engagement. Firstly, he put forward a statement saying how the current rate of urbanization and climate change has adverse effects on emerging cities, particularly in the water management sector. He articulated that the cyclic model of development is superior to linear model in terms of sustainability. He talked about the current stage of Climate Adaptive Water Management Planning for cities in South Asia (CAMPS) taking place in cities of similar geography such as Dharan and Dhulikhel (Nepal) and Mussoorie and Haldwani (India). He said that it was better to work with stakeholders jointly rather than being isolated on the project. The mechanism of “Paani Chautari” basically involved



the respective city’s Municipality (Water Division) taking the lead. The lead would incorporate an umbrella network comprising of relevant Government bodies and private agencies to work under a common framework in order to create unique knowledge. The individuals involved in the concept of “Paani Chautari” would be engaged in a science-based approach discussion dialogue concerning such as conflict resolving to attain water source, water management, supply-demand relationship. In addition, discussions regarding thematic areas are held such as the service sector’s need to be technologically efficient. All in all, it is a negotiation platform which highlights the idea of “Water Champions” to create critical masses. The idea of water champions is brought into practice to promote equitable water distribution philosophy, expertise and localize water knowledge forums and enhance meticulous policy-making. He concluded saying that, if the models prove to be successful in India and Nepal in the long run, this can also be replicated for global purpose.

5 QUESTIONS/ANSWERS SESSION

Deliberation from the panellists was followed by a Q/A session in which questions from the floor were entertained and noted together with the responses from the concerned panellists. Some of the representative questions raised in the discussion session and response from the panellist are summarized hereunder;

Q: How the resources must be blend to achieve profit? Is the investment for the analysis prospect solely done by the private sector or there is involvement of the government sector?

Answer: To attain profit in long term it is better to include private sector right from the initial phase of business development so that appropriate/sustainable model can be designed and adopted. In case of Smart Paani, the private sector has solely invested so far.

Q: Does rain water harvesting models in new house designs exist? For the existing problem of water storage, what measures can be undertaken by the user committees?

Answer: Any building structure greater than 10,000 sq. ft, rainwater harvesting model should be incorporated in the building design. There must be implementation of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene plan at household level, proper regulatory actions and provision of incentives to the public.

Q. Why is technical innovation only given more priority?

Answer: Nepal is among 50 countries to have submitted the report which highlights the status of SDG. However, due to the lack of capacity building and human resources, the Nepalese community is having difficult time adapting to other innovations.

6 CLOSING

The Confab program was officially closed with remarks from Er. Mahendra Bahadur Gurung, Former Joint Secretary, Government of Nepal. Mr. Gurung provided a quick summary of all the remarkable opinions addressed by the panellists. He also thanked all the participants for their patience and participation in an interactive Question/Answer session. He expressed happiness that much of the priority issues, if not all, under SDG-6 and SDG-13 were raised and responded in one way or the other. Mr. Gurung expressed appreciation to the well-renowned personalities in the related fields who took their time and shared their views in the Session. He further hoped that the views expressed by the expert panellists and from the audience will find appropriate place in the policy making by the Government. The program ended on a note with positive remarks from the participants.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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ANNEX : PROGRAM AGENDA



NEPAL NATIONAL WATER AND WEATHER WEEK 2018

SDG Confab : Synergizing Efforts towards Achieving SDG-6 and SDG-13 in Nepal

21 March 2018
Himalaya Hotel, Lalitpur

Program Agenda

Time	Activities
08:30-09:00	Arrival of presenters/participants, and Registration/ Tea/Coffee
A. Session: Clean Water, Improved Sanitation and Climate Action in Federal System	
09:00- 10:30	<p>Chair: Mr. Purushottam Ghimire, Former Joint Secretary, Government of Nepal Note takers: Kripa Thapa, Priya Kayastha Presenters:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Keynote presenter: The eminence of SDGs as road-map of development- Dr. Dinesh Raj Bhujju, Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) 2. Water resource, energy and climate-Nepalese perspective – Mr. Deepak Gyawali, Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) 3. Priority agenda for Achieving SDG WASH 2030 targets– Mr. Bipin Dangol, Environment and Public Health Organization (ENPHO) 4. National policies and national accountability mechanism for SDG 6– Ms. Lazana Manandhar, Freshwater Action Network South Asia (FANSA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion/Questions-Answers • Summary note from the chair
10:30-10:45	Tea/Coffee Break
B. Panel Discussion: How to Synergize Effort on Nepal’s Sustainable Development Goals	
10:45: 12:15	<p>Moderator: Er. Mahendra Badur. Gurung, Former Joint Secretary, Government of Nepal Note takers: Kripa Thapa, Priya Kayastha Panelists:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Civil society and non-governmental organization’s efforts – Mr. Rajendra Aryal, Federation of Drinking Water and Sanitation Users Nepal 2. Research to support informed decision making – Dr. Vishnu Pandey, International Water Management Institute (IWMI) 3. Role of private sectors and investment – Ms. Anisha Karna, Smart Paani 4. Institutionalizing Paani Chautari as a knowledge platform for sustainable water supply planning and management in the Himalayan cities - Mr. Ngamindra Dahal, Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion/Questions-Answers • Summary note from the moderator
12:15	Lunch



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