



### *Editorial*

## *KCA Needs to be Materialized*

Nepal has been actively engaged in raising concerns over the adverse impacts of climate change in national and international forums ever since it signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on 12 June 1992. In 2005 Nepal ratified the Kyoto Protocol, an international agreement that aims to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and the presence of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Realizing an urgent need to address the adverse impacts of climate change on mountain ecosystems, Nepal put forward the concept of a Mountain Initiative (MI) during the High-level Segment of the 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP15) in Copenhagen in 2009. The Government of Nepal endorsed the plan and designated the Ministry of Environment to take the MI forward in May 2010. Nepal then successfully organized side-events on the MI during the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties held in Cancun (2010) and Durban (2011), respectively. These events highlighted the adverse impacts of climate change that mountain countries like Nepal are facing and called upon affected countries to raise their voices effectively and collectively in the UNFCCC negotiations. Pushing forward the future agenda of the MI as to facilitate a more concise and coherent discussion about climate change issues among mountain countries and stakeholders, Nepal organized an International Conference of Mountain Countries on Climate Change on 5-6 April, 2012 in Kathmandu, which concluded with “The Kathmandu Call for Action (KCA)”. Among other things, the KCA urges development partners to support the establishment of dedicated funding arrangements for adaptation and mitigation programmes in mountain countries within the framework of UNFCCC. Now it is high time for Nepal to take a lead in preparing a Program of Work as stipulated in the paragraph 10 of KCA. This will help Nepal to garner more support from other mountain countries, and exert pressure in UNFCCC negotiations to have a separate climate funding available for mountain countries to address the adverse impacts of climate change on fragile mountain ecosystem.

## Government Forms Core Negotiating Team (CNT)

The Government of Nepal has recently formed a Core Negotiating Team (CNT) for the purpose of increasing the quality and effectiveness of Nepal's participation in conferences organized under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Kyoto Protocol (KP). The team consists of 17 members including officials from the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Agricultural Development as well as experts from academia, NGOs, INGOs and the media. “CNT is a multi-stakeholder team of bureaucrats, professionals and practitioners, who will work in a team but with allocated responsibilities”, said Mr. Krishna Gyawali, Secretary at MoEST. “Other members can also be included, if felt needed, and the tenure of the existing members can also be terminated based on their performance”, he further elaborated. The tenure of CNT is for two years.

## Nepal Prepares for COP18

As the 18<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP18) is imminent, the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology has commenced the mechanisms for effective and result-oriented participation in the event to be organized from 26 November to 7 December, 2012 in Doha, Qatar. Government-formed Core Negotiating Team (CNT) is already in place to provide background support to the government delegation to COP18. Similarly, resource materials covering various aspects of climate change and UNFCCC negotiation are also being prepared by a team of experts. A Pre-COP18 Consultation Workshop is also planned for in-depth discussions with stakeholders and decision makers to make Nepal's position more visible during the conference negotiations. Nepal will also organize a side-event on “MAINSTREAMING MOUNTAINS IN THE CLIMATE AGENDA: THE CONTEXT OF

MOUNTAIN INITIATIVE AND RIO+20” during the climate summit at Doha to highlight the impacts of climate change on mountain countries. It will also discuss and design a ‘Programme of Work’ as stipulated in paragraph 10 of the Kathmandu Call for Action.” (KCA); an outcome of International Conference of Mountain Countries on Climate Change hosted by Nepal in April 5-6, 2012. A team of panellists that includes representatives from Hindu Kush Himalayan, Andean, Alpine, Pamir, Atlas regions and also representatives from development partners will highlight the mountain issues of respective regions. Policy makers, high ranking government officials, and civil society members will also emphasize the collective role of mountain countries in devising instruments to cope with the adverse impacts of climate change. Honourable Minister for Environment, Science and Technology will be the Chief Guest of the event.

## Ministry Organizes Orientation Program on Climate Negotiation

The Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology (MoEST) organized an “Orientation Program on Climate Negotiation” on 19-21 September, 2012 in Nagarkot, a village at the outskirts of Kathmandu Valley. The main objective of the event was to provide fundamental information on UNFCCC processes to the recently formed government’s Core Negotiating Team (CNT) along with enhancing basic negotiating skills for leading a successful multilateral negotiation. In addition to the CNT members, the participants included the government officials from Ministry of Environment Science and Technology, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agricultural Development, Ministry

of Forests and Soil Conservation, Ministry of Energy, and experts and professionals from the academia and I/NGOs. Providing the opening statement as the Chief Guest in the Inaugural Session of the program, Dr. Keshab Man Shakya, Hon. Minister for Environment, Science and Technology, urged participants to enhance tactical negotiating skills and use it in a collaborative way. He made an analogy with the teamwork showed by football players on sharing responsibilities to win the game. He also expressed his opinion that the negotiation is just like mathematical models being used to find most appropriate solutions out of two competing and contradicting objectives. By saying so, he was apparently referring to the fact that the responsibility of a negotiator is no less than that of an expert who helps assist to minimize the impacts of climate change in Nepal. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Krishna Gyawali, Secretary at MoEST expressed his hope that the orientation programme will be a “curtain raiser” event allowing participants to realize the responsible role of a negotiator, who often have to spend tedious hours to arrive at a conclusion. Referring to the recently concluded International Conference of Mountain Countries on Climate Change, Mr. Gyawali also emphasized the role of Nepalese negotiators stating that the team needs to focus its activities on Mountain Initiative and Kathmandu Call for Action in order to make Nepal’s position visible during international climate negotiations, and also in the platform of Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Dinesh Chandra Devkota, Former Vice-Chair, National Planning Commission expressed his hope that the orientation will be an important opportunity to the participating officials to realize the need of climate diplomacy in their respective ministries, and be prepared accordingly.



The orientation programme was looked upon as an effort of the government to orient its Core Negotiating Team for the forthcoming Doha Conference and beyond. “The topics covered in the orientation programme were very useful for enhancing the knowledge on the current issues of climate change negotiation and the dynamics of multilateral international negotiation”, says Mr. Prakash



Mathema, Joint Secretary and Chief, Climate Change Management Division, MoEST. He further highlights that “the participants will have to build on the knowledge and skills learnt during the orientation programme through continuous self-study and updating themselves about new developments in climate diplomacy”. The participants noted that the orientation programme was an event to exchange views and experiences on the issues of climate negotiations in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). “The orientation programme was an opportunity to enhance negotiating skill by getting knowledge on the key negotiating issues under the Bali Action Plan, Copenhagen Accord, Cancun Agreements, and Durban Outcomes. The negotiating experiences shared by the resource persons, especially on the issues of climate negotiation were the guiding knowledge to the participants for future negotiations”, says Mr. Laxman Mainali, CNT Member and Joint Secretary, Nepal Law Commission. In addition to Mr. Ian William Fry, International Expert on Climate Change Negotiation, Mr. Krishna Gyawali, Secretary, MoEST, Mr. Prakash Mathema, Joint Secretary, MoEST, Dr. Dinesh Chandra Devkota, Former Vice-Chair, NPC, Mr. Madhu Raman Acharya, Former Secretary, MoFA, Dr. Dinesh Bhattarai, Nepal’s Former Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva, and Mr. Batu Krishna Uprety, Vice-Chair, LEG to UNFCCC also delivered lectures on various aspects of climate change diplomacy, climate change and development and finance during the orientation programme.

## Nepal Makes Submission to UNFCCC

Nepal has gained important experiences in preparing and implementing National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA), Local Adaptation Plan for Action (LAPA), and also accessing financial resources from the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF). Based on these experiences, and also noting on the fact that climate change has adversely affected mountain ecosystems including glaciers, livelihoods of the people, and the

development process as a whole, Nepal recently made two separate submissions to the UNFCCC. After having in-depth discussions among policy makers and stakeholders, and referring to the financial mechanism of the Convention in relation to LDCF in its submission made on 31 July, 2012, Nepal has requested for the reduction of the service charge that development agencies are deducting from the LDCF, and has also appealed for simplifying the process of accessing such funds. Similarly, recognizing the need for a dedicated fund to move the Mountain Initiative forward, Nepal has expressed her views on potential future areas of work of the Nairobi Work Programme (NWP) in the next submission made on 17 September 2012. Stating that the mountain ecosystems and mountain communities including indigenous peoples and marginalized communities, especially women, need particular attention while framing adaptation programmes through the international convention processes, Nepal has proposed in her submission to establish Mountain Ecosystems and Climate Change as a potential new area of work under the NWP.

## Ministry Organizes Interaction Meeting

The Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology organized a half day interaction meeting on August 24, 2012. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss and collect feedback from the experts, civil society members, academicians, and NGO representatives in relation to the Ministry’s activities. The dignitaries present during the occasion included Mr. Keshab Man Shakya, Minister for Environment, Science and Technology (MoEST); Mr. Hemraj Tater, Former Minister for Environment; Mr. Ganesh Shah,



Former Minister for Environment; Mr. Krishna Gyawali, Secretary, MoEST; Mr. Prakash Mathema, Joint Secretary, MoEST among other high ranking government officials. The participants requested the Ministry to work out a policy initiative for the improvement of the air quality, solid waste management practices, river water pollution control measures, and groundwater conservation. Participants also emphasized a need for research grants to prepare important data required for evidenced-based advocacy in national and international arenas. They also urged the ministry to establish the Himalayan Climate Change Center as early as possible. Other issues discussed included utilization of solar energy, climate finance, strengthening the capacity of Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) and encouraging people-initiated environmental conservation activities. Mr. Keshab Man Shakya, Minister for Environment, Science and Technology (MoEST) was the Chief Guest and Mr. Krishna Gyawali, Secretary, MoEST chaired the programme.

## Rio+20 Conference Addresses Mountain Agenda

Although the recently concluded UN Conference on Sustainable Development, known as Rio+20, might not have met the expectations of many, it has brought good news for mountain people living around the world. The outcome document entitled “The Future we Want”, adopted by heads of States and top key representatives present in the conference, recognized the role of mountains ecosystem as an indispensable source to provide global benefits for the betterment of human beings and their livelihood through sustainable development. Recognizing mountains as a vital source of fresh water to a large portion of the world’s population living downstream, the declaration also encouraged States to adopt mountain specific national policies and development practices that could prove beneficial in conserving mountain ecosystem and improving the lives of people, including indigenous and local communities, who have developed sustainable uses of mountain resources living in the mountains. The threats posed to mountain people and ecosystems due to the adverse impacts of climate change such as natural disasters, deforestation, land use change, forest and land degradation, and rapid melting of glaciers are also highlighted in the Rio+20 declaration. The declaration also makes a note on the instrumental roles played by mountain communities, including disadvantaged and poor population, in maintaining the environment and ecosystems of the mountains. Inclusion of the mountain agenda in the Rio+20 Conference is one step forward to putting the issue of fragile mountain ecosystems in front of the international community. It has also paved a way for Nepal and other mountain countries to lobby further for a dedicated fund for addressing adverse impacts of climate change being felt by the mountains and the people living there.

### Knowledge Products Published

In addition to the last year’s publication, namely, background notes on Climate Adaptation to Climate Change, Ecosystem Restoration in Nepal through REED-plus, Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology (MoENV) has recently published the following two important documents:

- 1) Mountain Environment and Climate Change in Nepal: Country Report for the International Conference of Mountain Countries on Climate Change.
- 2) Mainstreaming Climate Change into Mountain Development: Proceedings of the International Conference of Mountain Countries on Climate Change held on April 5-6, 2012 in Kathmandu.

All the publications mentioned above can be downloaded from the website: [www.idsnepal.org/nseu](http://www.idsnepal.org/nseu)

This newsletter is published as a component of the project “Nepal’s Strategic Engagement with the UNFCCC”. One more volume of this newsletter is planned to publish after COP 18, to be organized from 26 November to 6 December 2012 in Qatar

**For Further Information:** Climate Change Management Division  
Ministry of Environment, Science & Technology  
Government of Nepal  
Singha Durbar, Kathmandu  
E-mail: [info@moest.gov.np](mailto:info@moest.gov.np)

**Edited by:**  
Dr. Tara Nidhi Bhattarai  
**Supported by:**  
Ms. Deepa Bastakoty

