



Government of Nepal  
Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment

# CLIMATE CHANGE NEGOTIATION

## Newsletter

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### Editorial

## Nepal Chairs LDC Group for 2013/14

Nepal has formally taken over the responsibility of chairing the LDC group for 2013-2014. The incumbent Chair, the Gambia, handed over the LDC group chairmanship to Nepal amid a function held at Qatar National Convention Center (QNCC) in Doha during COP18 on 5 December 2012. The handover ceremony was addressed by Ms. Fatou Ndeye Gaye, Honorable Minister, Forests and the Environment, The Gambia, and Dr. Keshab Man Shakya, Honorable Minister for Science, Technology and Environment, Government of Nepal. The current LDC group chair Mr. Pa Ousman Jarju, and Mr. Prakash Mathema, UNFCCC Focal Person for Nepal also spoke on the occasion. Dignitaries and commentators praised Mr. Jarju for his dynamic leadership and expected Nepal to lead the group to new heights maintaining all the achievements made until now.

Negotiating incessantly during COP18, the LDCs group has urged Parties to UNFCCC to resolve various issues left behind from the Bali Road Map, including the work of the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol and the Bali Action Plan on long term cooperative action. They have also stressed the need to take a clear decision for the post-2020 regime on the basis of climate change science and climate change impacts, the Convention's principles and provisions, and the lessons learnt under the current climate change regime. But for the Group the overall outcomes of Doha negotiations were modest. During the closing plenary of COP18, the Chair of the Group expressed disappointment about the lack of ambition reflected in the decisions adopted, particularly in relation to mitigation and finance. The Chair also urged developed country parties to increase their mitigation and finance pledges as per their responsibilities. Now it is Nepal's turn to show its leadership capability and strength to negotiate with developed countries and explore possibilities for solving these pertinent issues amicably as early as possible.

Multilateral negotiation is a complex, tedious and time consuming process as every party has to be accommodated in the agenda being discussed. However, preparing strategic plans in advance and employing competent team of negotiators in place may help achieve the goal in due course. It is also equally important to appreciate the fact that being the LDC Chair does not mean Nepal has to do everything itself. Obviously, Nepal has to play a crucial role in exploiting experts' knowledge and experiences available with other member countries in favor of the LDC group. As a result, Nepal has to build on the foundation laid by the Gambia in the past leadership tenure; establish and strengthen alliances; engage positively with civil society and media; establish a LDC coordination team at MoSTE comprising of Core Negotiating Team (CNT) members, experts, researchers, academicians, negotiators and diplomats; and secure funds for logistic and strategic supports.

We wish the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment a grand success in this novel endeavor.

## Ministry Organizes Debriefing on COP18

A half-day consultation meeting on "Debriefing of Nepalese Participation at UNFCCC COP18/CMP8" was organized by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (MoSTE) on 26 December, 2012 with an objective of providing information on the outcomes of the COP18/ CMP8 held in Doha, Qatar from 26 November to 8 December, 2012. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Prakash Mathema, Joint Secretary and Chief, Climate Change Management Division, MoSTE, expressed his opinion stating that in the context of loss and damage, adaptation, technology transfer, and gender issue, the COP18 outcomes are somehow satisfactory, while regarding mitigation and finance, the outcomes are insufficient. Highlighting the importance of strategic planning in UNFCCC negotiations, Dr. Dinesh Chandra Devkota, former Vice-Chair, NPC, argued that we have to focus only on Nepal's prioritized-issues and attend the concerned sessions of UNFCCC accordingly. He further added that the issue of loss and damage, and gender equality are relevant to us and we need to start background work to achieve benefit from the opportunities associated with the issues in the forthcoming negotiations. Following the remarks, there was a floor discussion session where participants stressed for a need to utilize the climate data available at the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM), conduct research for evidence-based negotiation, strengthen inter-ministerial coordination, distribute responsibilities among CNT members, involve journalists in the COP delegation, clarify the role of women in the negotiation, institutionalize the lessons learnt, perform enough baseline work to proceed with the Mountain Initiative (MI) in international arena, and prepare strategic plan for COP19. Addressing the programme as the Chief Guest, Honourable Minister Dr. Keshab Man Shakya, MoSTE, mentioned that we should be prepared in line with the outcomes of the Rio+20 conferences, which stresses on three pillars, namely social, economical and environmental to be approached simultaneously. Highlighting a fact that India and China should also be taken on board to make the MI agenda stronger in the UNFCCC negotiation, he further stressed for a need to identify LDCs issues, our position and pre-position on those issues, along with capacity building for ensuring and utilizing the fund effectively. Providing closing remarks, the Chair of the programme, Mr. Keshab Bhattarai, Secretary, MoSTE expressed his opinion that Nepal should

focus its attempt to access fund for the betterment of Nepalese people who are suffering due to negative impacts of climate change. He informed that the Ministry has the intention to prepare a work plan for COP19 so as to conduct sufficient baseline work involving CNT members and stakeholders. The program, which was attended by more than 40 people, was organized with the support from the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) and Integrated Development Society Nepal (IDS- Nepal).



## Secretary Releases a Resource Book

A resource book entitled “Climate Change and UNFCCC Negotiation Process” was released by the Secretary, Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (MoSTE), during the Pre-COP18 Consultation Workshop organized by MoSTE on 16th November 2012 in Kathmandu. Introducing the book during the function, Dr. Tara Nidhi Bhattarai, one of the editors, highlighted that the book is written to address the need of Nepalese delegates at COPs and its intercessional. He further added that the book provides fundamental information on negotiation skills and Nepal’s prioritized-issues on climate change negotiation, climate change impact, climate change policy, climate change adaptation, clean development mechanism, REDD-plus, gender, and climate finance. Edited by renowned climate change experts, the book is authored by experienced professionals and academicians. The book was published with the support from the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) and Integrated Society Nepal (IDS-Nepal). The book can be obtained from the Climate Change Management Division, MoSTE. Its electronic version can also be downloaded from the Ministry’s website.

## Ministry Organizes Pre- COP18 Consultation

A half-day Pre-COP18 Consultation Workshop was organized under the chairmanship of Mr. Keshab Bhattarai, Secretary, Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (MoSTE) on 16th November 2012 aiming to provide information on Ministry’s preparatory status for COP18 and also to gather

feedback and inputs on the issues and agendas to be discussed at COP18. On the occasion, a presentation on “Issue and Agenda for COP18” was delivered by Mr. Prakash Mathema, Joint Secretary and Chief, Climate Change Management Division, MoEST. Providing general information on COP18, he gave an account of the existing negotiating groups, and outlined the position of LDCs in various issues of negotiations. He then highlighted the Ministry’s plan to assign responsibility on specific thematic area to each CNT members who have to follow the code of conduct prepared by the ministry strictly. He also informed that the government delegation will be led by Dr. Keshab Man Shakya, Minister, MoSTE. Following the presentation, dignitaries and participants provided their valuable comments and inputs to make the Nepal’s participation at COP18 visible and result oriented. Ms. Sharmila Karki, President, NGO Federation Nepal, expressed that our attempt should be such that it yields some assistance to vulnerable people in terms of saving their livelihood and traditional knowledge. Likewise, Dr. Dinesh Chandra Devkota, former Vice-Chair, National Planning Commission, stated that Nepal has two main responsibilities to be fulfilled in COP18; one to push forward the mountain agenda and the other to convey a message of competent leadership to lead the LDC Group as of its Chair for 2013-2014. Discussing possible agendas for Nepal at COP18, Dr. Krishna Chandra Poudel, Secretary, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, mentioned that mountain specific agendas are imperative and should not be sidelined while dealing with the LDC’s issues. He further mentioned that attending COP proceeding itself is a capacity building opportunity and the delegates should learn as much as possible from its proceedings. Mr. Krishna Gyawali, Secretary, Ministry of Industry, expressed his opinion that being the LDC-Chair for the year 2013/14, Nepal has both opportunities and challenges which should be analyzed carefully and utilized to Nepal’s favor as far as possible. He also stressed for the need to have responsibility allocation to each of the government’s delegates for effective coordination and capacity building opportunities.

Following the remarks, there was a floor discussion session where participants and presenters interacted to explore ways of negotiating in Nepal’s favor. Discussing the importance

of innovative ideas for climate adaptation, Dr. Madhab Karki, DDG, International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), stressed that we need to find innovative ideas on finance, without which, climate adaptation may not be successful. Stating the importance of loss and damage issue for Nepal, he urged to develop a program on the topic. Similarly, Mr. Ajaya Dixit, Executive Director, ISET-Nepal, highlighted the importance of diplomatic skills and language and stressed for further training the CNT members on topics like international policy so as to make the negotiation effective. The participants also highlighted the need for a strong and effective coordination among concerned ministries and departments. They also expressed their concerns on balanced and inclusive government delegation to COP18.

## Nepal Organizes a Side-Event at Climate Conference in Doha

Nepal organized a side-event on “Mainstreaming Mountains in the Climate Agenda: The Context of Mountain Initiative and Rio +20” during COP18/CMP8 in Doha, Qatar on December 6, 2012. The event was attended by about 40 participants that included, among others, foreign dignitaries, invited speakers, and Nepalese high level decision makers. Welcoming the dignitaries, speakers, and participants, Mr. Keshab Bhattarai, Secretary, Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (MoSTE), gave a brief account of the activities conducted by Nepal on Mountain Initiative (MI). He emphasized for an urgent need to implement the Kathmandu Call for Action (KCA), an important outcome of the International Conference of Mountain Countries on Climate Change held in Kathmandu on April 5-6, 2012. Discussing the world-attention received by the sea level rise as a consequence of climate change, Mr. Prakash Mathema, Joint Secretary, MoSTE highlighted the fact that the mountains are not receiving due attention despite the fact that they are the source of life supporting resources for millions of mountain inhabitants. Elaborating the objectives of the Mountain Initiative, Mr. Mathema mentioned that the side-event is organized to discuss on the programme of works, as stipulated in the 10th point of the KCA, and to take feedback from the world community on it. Discussing the next steps for the Mountain Initiative, he then proposed to establish Mountain Initiative Programme Implementation Unit; to form Mountain Experts Group including representatives from the key member countries; to appoint Focal Point in each member country; to form Mountain Advocacy Forum comprising of the senior negotiators and experts from the interested mountain countries; and to try and establish a special fund for effective channelization of resources by engaging the UN agencies, international institutions, and other actors.

Giving a presentation on “Highlights of Mountain Day 2: Time for Action is Now” Dr. Madhav Karki, Deputy Director General, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), discussed the likely scenarios of the negative impacts of climate change on mountains and stressed for a global support through political action, capacity building and scientific research to keep the impacts of climate change under control. Another presenter Mr. Ilhomjon Rajabov, Head, Climate Change and Ozone Centre, State Administration for Hydrometeorology, Tajikistan, shared the observation that the glaciers are melting faster and discharge of many rivers is reducing gradually due to the impacts of climate change on mountains in Tajikistan. He expressed his opinion that the mountain ecosystems all over the world should be conserved following the Article 4.8 of the UNFCCC. During the occasion, Dr. Stefania Proietti, Department of Industrial Engineering, University of Perugia, Italy, presented a case study on “Green development approaches in Sagarmatha (Mt. Everest) National Park, Nepal, to reduce environmental impact”. She shared an approach of designing residential units that meet the local people’s housing needs in terms of simplicity, replicability, availability and cost-effectiveness of materials and environmental compatibility (energy saving and using renewable energies) as a means of reducing environmental degradation in Nepalese mountains. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Dinesh Chandra Devkota, former Vice-Chair, National Planning Commission, emphasized the importance of Kathmandu Call for Action and called upon all the mountain countries to come forward jointly for its implementation. Recalling the outcome of the recent Summit-level United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), which recognized the role of the mountain ecosystems as an indispensable resource for the betterment of human beings, Mr. Krishna Gyawali, Secretary, Ministry of Industry, highlighted the fact that the mountains reflect physiographic, religious and economic resources. Describing the importance of implementing the Kathmandu Call for Action (KCA), he further noted that the diversity of mountains and the people living there should be brought into a common platform by converging issues on the basis of commonalities and mutual cooperation to address the impacts of climate change on mountains. Providing the closing remarks, Dr. Keshab Man Shakya, Minister for Science, Technology and Environment, clarified various queries raised during the floor discussion session. Thanking all the speakers and participants, he stated that the ideas, feedbacks and comments expressed are of utmost importance for the implementation of the KCA. He assured that the proposed work programmes will be given due attention and steps will be taken for its implementation. This meeting was successful in sharing Nepal’s views on Mountain Initiative, Kathmandu Call for Action and its proposed work programmes to the world community attending the COP18.



## CDKN Supported Project Comes to an End

The project “Nepal’s Strategic Engagement with the UNFCCC” comes to an end in March this year. The project was launched in 2011 with the main objective of strengthening the capacity of the Nepalese delegation participating in the UNFCCC negotiations, and facilitating greater coordination among relevant Ministries in the Government of Nepal and concerned stakeholders in preparation and follow-up to the UNFCCC negotiations. In line with the objective, the project provided logistic support to five additional delegates to participate in COP17 and 7 additional delegates to COP18. In addition, it also published background notes, policy briefs, and proceedings of the international conference of mountain countries on climate change hosted by the government of Nepal in 2012. It also published a resource book on “Climate Change and UNFCCC Negotiation Process”. Furthermore, it provided capacity building orientation training to the members of the government-formed Core Negotiating Team (CNT). Assisting government’s efforts in putting mountain agenda in world-community, the project also supported to organize Nepal’s side events at COP17 and COP18. In addition, the project also supported the Nepal Government in arranging several meetings to facilitate better inter-ministerial coordination and communication among stakeholders in the context of climate change. Highlighting the impacts of the project, Mr. Keshab Bhattarai, Secretary, MoSTE, stated, “The project contributed in various ways. It provided international exposure to our negotiators and strengthened their negotiating capacity. The high quality resource materials

published are extremely useful for bridging the knowledge gap and increasing our awareness and enthusiasm to be involved in climate negotiation continually. The project also helped us in disseminating Nepal’s views on Mountain Initiative across the globe”. Regarding the crucial role of CNT members in climate change negotiation in the future, he further expressed that the Ministry wished to explore possibilities to provide them with specific capacity building training, and to ensure funding for their participation at upcoming COPs and its intercessional. The project was funded by the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN), which receives fund from the Department for International Development (DFID), UK, for the benefit of the developing countries. Integrated Development Society (IDS-Nepal) served as the service provider for the project.

## Knowledge Products Published

As a component of the project “Nepal’s Strategic Engagement with the UNFCCC”, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment has published the following knowledge products with the support from the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) and Integrated Development Society (IDS- Nepal).

- 1) Background notes: Addressing the climate change impacts in Nepal, Adaptation to Climate Change (NAPA to LAPA), and Ecosystem Restoration in Nepal through REED-plus.
- 2) Flyers: Mountain Initiative: Voices from the Mountains, and Mainstreaming Mountains in the Climate Agenda: The Context of Mountain Initiative and Rio+20.
- 3) Conference Proceeding: 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.
- 4) Resource Book: Climate Change and UNFCCC Negotiation Process.

All the publications mentioned above can be obtained from the Climate Change Management Division, Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (MoSTE). Soft copies of the documents can also be downloaded from the MoSTE’s website and also from the IDS-Nepal’s 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

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