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Policy Discussion Series-XIX

Further Optimization of Upper Karnali Project: A Key to Energy Crisis and Prosperity

By
Dr. Hari Prasad Pandit

Venue: Martin Chautari Seminar Hall, Thapathali

Date: Sunday, 20 April 2014 [7 Baisakh 2071]

Time: 3:00 pm

The upper Karnali Hydropower Project is a nature's gift to Nepal. Due to a natural fall of about 130m within a distance of 1.8 km, the project site has been recognized as the 'Jewel of the Crown.' Nepali engineers and planners have long argued this project for the domestic use. However, the Government of Nepal went for an international competitive bidding and the Indian infrastructure company GMR emerged victorious. Although the benefits offered by the successful bidder, GMR look attractive, the design and the outcome of the proposed 900 MW (with about 4,000 GWh) will not solve the current energy crisis in Nepal as it will add only 15-20 MW during the crisis period. On the other hand, the potential of the river at this site is about 11,000 GWh implying wastage of precious resources by 60 percent. Given the site conditions, a number of development options will be presented in the discussion, including a high dam and reservoir, keeping the proposed development by the GMR downstream as well. Not only will one of the proposed options benefit both GMR and the State but it will also solve energy crisis of the nation and pave the path to prosperity.

Professor Hari Prasad Pandit, PhD teaches at the Institute of Engineering, Tribhuvan University. He is a specialist in Hydraulic & River Engineering. Dr. Pandit, has completed feasibility study of several hydropower projects such as Likhu, Tamakoshi, Kaligandaki and Khimti river basins ranging from 50 MW to 400 MW. He has coordinated and conducted several training courses and served as a Resource Person for several National as well as International Trainings and Workshops. He is also the author of several manuals and research reports. He has published a number of articles in National and International journals, and has presented papers on energy at several international conferences and seminars.

About the Series

The Policy Discussion Series is an initiative of Martin Chautari and the Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS) under the aegis of Nepal Policy Research Network (NPRN). It aims to nurture a "community of practice" around public policy in Nepal, by bringing together experienced and emerging public policy scholars and practitioners to share their research insights and experiences with a larger audience.

With this Series, we seek to stimulate debates on contemporary public policy issues, policy research methodologies, and institutions that create policy knowledge.

The Series is also a forum for the sharing of findings of policy-related research.