

Conference on Local Water Management

Challenges and Opportunities in an Era of Change and Uncertainty

**2-3 October 2018
Dhulikhel, Nepal**



Local Initiative for Biodiversity
Research and Development



Institute for Social and
Environmental Transition Nepal



Municipal
Association of Nepal



Southasia institute of
Advanced Studies



Dhulikhel
Municipality

Background

Several communities in Nepal have been facing acute water scarcity in recent years. Specially after the Gorkha earthquake in April 2015, problem of water security has become more severe in the earthquake affected districts. Water sources such as springs and streams on which people rely for domestic water uses disappeared or significantly decreased. Urban areas have been suffering more from water insecurity due to rapid population growth and declining water sources due to the impact of climate change. Further, management and governance of water resources i.e. accessing and distribution of quantity drinking water has become daunting task for rapidly urbanizing towns. The newly elected local governments have been facing these challenges and seem to have lack of strategies to deal with the growing problems and ensuring sustainable supply of water.

There are emerging studies, innovations and technologies to cope with the situation. However, these initiatives are fragmented and there is need for deeper engagement to develop better understanding of the problem and develop innovations. This conference will bring key stakeholders into a single platform where research findings, experiences and ideas and innovations on water management and governance will be shared and debated. The conference also provide a deliberative platform to dialogue among state and non-state actors.

Objectives

This conference aims to take stock of the problems and bring them in debate among diverse stakeholders. While the technical sessions will provide platform to share research findings and innovations, the policy dialogues which are expected to provide concrete feedback for future policies and actions pertaining to address the water management problems at different levels.

Conference theme and sub-themes

The conference will be focused on local water management and governance and include the following sub-themes.

Water security in changing climate and rapid urbanization: Climate change along with rapid urbanization and increased population have added to the problem of water scarcity in urban areas. The local governments and water management authorities are facing the problem of supplying sufficient quantity of drinkable water in the towns. Under this theme, there will be presentations on the impact of climate change and urbanization on local water management, rural urban linkages of water management and some ideas of adaptation. The participants will have the opportunity to discuss the findings and insights.

Water management lessons and solutions: Supplying quality drinking water on sufficient basis has become major challenges of towns. They have adopted different strategies to address this challenge. Presentations within this theme will share the experiences and lessons learned by the water management authorities. Presenter also share a framework as a solution to peri-urban water management.

Water policy and governance: After the significant move towards state restructuring in Nepal, most of the water related policies are either under revision or had already been amended. In this crucial juncture, a dedicated technical session and a panel discussion are included with the aim of informing the ongoing policy processes with knowledge generated from research and local practices.

Local level water governance/management: After the long awaited local government election, peoples' expectation has mounted to newly elected local government bodies to address the problem of water. Technical session and policy round table under this theme will opportunities to discuss the challenges and opportunities of local level water management and governance in the changed political context. We expect that the local government representatives will be particularly benefited from the sessions with regard to new ideas and feedbacks.

Summary of conference program

| Day I | Day II |
|--|---|
| Inaugural Session: Technical Session I: <i>Water Security in changing climate and rapid urbanization</i> Technical Session II: <i>Water management lessons and solutions</i> Panel Discussion I: <i>Water Policy</i> | Technical Session III: <i>Water policy and governance in Nepal</i> Panel Discussion II: <i>Local level water governance/Management: Opportunities and challenges</i> Closing Session |
| Side events Photo exhibition Poster presentation Demonstration of technologies and publications | |

Conference organizers:



Dhulikhel Municipality
www.dhulikhelmun.gov.np

Dhulikhel – a touristic town is one of the rapidly growing municipalities in Nepal. It lies about 30 km east from Kathmandu and covers an area of 55 sqkm. About 32 thousand people live in Dhulikhel. Dhulikhel has been perceived as a role model because of its initiatives on managing pure drinking water supply, quality education and health services through community. Dhulikhel is a pioneer on compensating upstream communities against the water it brings.



Southasia Institute of Advanced
Studies (SIAS)
www.sias-southasia.org

SIAS is a Kathmandu-based think tank institution, aspiring to become the 'Centre of Excellence' in South Asia led by a vibrant team of academics and researchers of national and international repute. Scope of its research and engagements encompasses multidisciplinary fields that includes water security, ecosystem services, climate change, environmental justice, local governance and public policy.



Institute for Social and
Environmental Transition in
Nepal (ISET-Nepal)
www.isetnepal.org.np

ISET-Nepal is a non-governmental and not-for-profit organization to study and analyze developmental issues of rapidly changing social and environmental context that demand new insights into the emerging challenges to manage resources for sustainable development. ISET-Nepal envisions a society capable of addressing the emerging social and environmental challenges through the improved local institutional capacity to respond flexibly using innovative approaches and sustainable solutions as new issues arise.



Local Initiatives for Biodiversity,
Research and Development
(LI-BIRD)
www.libird.org

LI-BIRD - a non-profit making, non-governmental organization is committed to capitalizing on local resources, innovations, and institutions for sustainable management of natural resources for improving livelihoods of smallholder farmers. LI-BIRD is a pioneer organization in developing and strengthening participatory research methodologies in agro-biodiversity and natural resource management, playing an instrumental role in institutionalizing these approaches in the national systems.



Municipal Association of Nepal
(MuAN)
www.muannepal.org.np

MuAN is the association of all municipalities and metropolitan cities in Nepal. MuAN has successfully established itself as a credible voice of the municipalities of Nepal and has accomplished a number of landmarks in policy reform, on issues of decentralization, urban governance, poverty reduction, gender and social inclusion as well as urban environment. Advocacy and lobbying for the common interests of the municipalities is the prime responsibility of MuAN.

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