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**March 17, 2016**

WALKATHON programme was organized by DHM, SOHAM-Nepal, CDHM/DOM, and SOM. The programme was inaugurated by Mr. Vijay Kumar Mallick, the then Secretary, Ministry of Population and Environment (MOPE). Mr. Keshab Dhoj Adhikari-Officiating Secretary-Water and Energy Commission Secretariat (WECS), Dr. Rishi Ram Sharma-Director General-Department of Hydrology and Meteorology also joined the programme. Altogether 85 participants from SOHAM-Nepal, DHM, academicians and university students actively participated in the programme. The WALKATHON was started from Bhadrakali Temple at 7:45 AM and moved along the route Sahidgate-Sundhara-RB Complex-Bhugol Park-New Road Gate-Ratna Park-Nepal Electricity Authority- Nepal Tourism Board. The mass entered Nepal Tourism Board at 8:30 AM.



**Nepal National Water and Weather Week-2016**

SOHAM-Nepal celebrated World Water Day (WWD) and World Meteorological Day (WMD) 2016 under Nepal National Water and Weather Week (NNWWW)-2016. This was a joint effort of SOHAM-Nepal with Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM), Government of Nepal; Water and Energy Commission Secretariat (WECS), Government of Nepal; Central Department of Hydrology and Meteorology CDHM, Tribhuvan University; Department of Meteorology (DOM), Tri-chandra College; Student's Organization of Meteorology (SOM), Tri-chandra College; The Small Earth Nepal (SEN) and other stakeholders. Altogether 22 stakeholders worked together in a single platform to mark the event a grand success. SEN was the secretariat for the weeklong event. Series of events were organized during NNWWW-2016.

Bicycle rally was also organized simultaneously under NNWWW-2016. Honorable Vishwendra Paswan, the then minister of MOPE inaugurated and also actively participated in the rally. The rally was arranged by SEN with support from the Cycle City Network, Nepal.

Formal inauguration of NNWWW-2016 was held at Nepal Tourism Board hall during 9-11 AM. Mr. Keshab Dhoj Adhikari, Officiating Secretary of Water and Energy Commission Secretariat (WECS) was the chairperson of the programme. Honorable Top Bahadur Rayamajhi, the then Deputy Prime Minister and minister for Ministry of Energy, was the chief guest of the programme whereas Honorable Vishwendra Paswan was special guest at the inauguration programme. Secretaries, Director Generals, and other distinguished officials from various government and non-governmental organizations, academicians and students from

various universities including Tribhuvan University attended the programme. Honorable Top Bahadur Rayamajhi inaugurated NNWWW-2016 by watering the plant. Various speakers including ministers delivered the speeches.

### March 18-20, 2016

Students' Organization of Meteorology (SOM) with support from SOHAM-Nepal and other stakeholders celebrated WWD and WMD at Tri-Chandra College, Ghantaghar from March 18 to 20, 2016. The programme was followed by the inaugural session on the first day. The inaugural session was chaired by Mr. Narayan Gautam, Head of Department, Tri-chandra College, Ghantaghar. Prof. Suresh Raj Chalise was the chief guest of the programme. Dr. Janak Lal Nayava, Adviser and former Chairperson of SOHAM-Nepal, Mr. Suman Kumar Regmi, General Secretary of SOHAM-Nepal and other distinguished guests were also present during the occasion. Prof. Chalise delivered an inaugural speech and was also honoured with a token of love. The programme comprised series of talk programmes and documentary shows during three days (March 18 to 20) period.



### March 21, 2016

A media interaction programme was held at Reporters Club, Kathmandu on March 21, 2016. Dr. Rishi Ram Sharma, Director General of Department of Hydrology and Meteorology; and Mr. Jagat Kumar Bhusal, Chairperson of SOHAM-Nepal (also of Electricity Tariff Fixation Commission, Government of Nepal) were the key speakers. Dr. Sharma basically highlighted the issues related to climate, weather, flood and ongoing DHM activities with further challenges whereas Mr. Bhusal discussed on the issues related to water resources and its potential for hydro-power generation. High officials from DHM/SOHAM-Nepal were also present during the occasion.



### March 23, 2016

A whole day programme was held at Hotel Himalaya on the final day of the week long programme.

On the first half of the day, National Workshop on Water for Livelihood, Science, Policy and Practices was held. The programme was chaired by Mr. Dhan Bahadur Tamang, Secretary, Water and Energy Commission Secretariat (WECS) and Chairperson of NNWWW-2016. High officials from various government and non-governmental organizations were invited as the guests on the programme. Five papers were also presented by professionals during the technical session. The technical session was chaired and co-chaired by Mr. Mahendra Bahadur Gurung and Dr. Arun Bhakta Shrestha respectively.

On the second half of the day, programme on national debate was held focusing the World Meteorological Day theme "Hotter, Drier and Wetter: Face the future". Dr. Rishi Ram Sharma, Director General of Department of Hydrology and Meteorology delivered a technical presentation on this second session. The technical session was chaired by Mr. Jagat Kumar Bhusal, Chairperson of SOHAM-Nepal. A national debate on climate change and water resources was also held among the distinguished personalities. Dr. Dwarika Nath Dhungel, former Secretary, Government of Nepal, was the chairperson of the national debate programme. The panelists involved in the session were Prof. Dr. Ramesh Maskey-Kathmandu University, Dr. Subarna Shrestha, Dr. Rishi Ram Sharma, Mr. Jagat Kumar Bhusal and Mr. Tirtha Koirala, Senior Media Personnel.

Formal closing of the NNWWW-2016 was held at the end of the day i.e. March 23, 2016. Honorable Vishwendra Paswan was the chief guest of the closing session. Secretaries, Director Generals, and other distinguished officials from various government and non-governmental organizations, academicians and students from Tribhuvan University attended the programme. Various speakers including minister also delivered speeches.



During the closing session Honorable Vishwendra Paswan announced to establish a fund for Hydrology and Meteorology activities by contributing NPR 1, 50,000/- (One lakh and fifty thousand rupees). Similarly, Dr. Rishi Ram Sharma, Director General of Department of Hydrology and Meteorology, also declared to deposit the amount NPR 1, 00, 000/- (One lakh rupees) in the fund.

## Talk Programme

- A talk programme on “Key findings of IPCC mitigation Report in the context of COP21 outcomes” was organized on January 6, 2016 at Nepal Tourism Board hall, Kathmandu. The lecture was delivered by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Shobhakar Dhakal, Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok.
- A talk programme on “Land and water conflicts in lower Mustang; legal pluralism and conflict resolution” was organized on February 3, 2016 at Nepal Tourism Board hall, Kathmandu. Mr. Mathijs Veenkant from Wageningen University, Netherlands delivered lecture on this topic.



## Paper Presentation

- “Participatory monitoring: Impact & Outcomes – A case study from Upper Kaligandaki Basin, Mustang” by Mr. Santosh Regmi, Researcher, SOHAM-Nepal during an “Inception meeting on Citizen science based Hydrological monitoring practices for flood forecasting and early warning systems (EWSs) in Nepal” on May 30, 2016 at Indreni Food Land, Kathmandu.
- “Water Security and Ecosystem services in Mustang: Relevancy of Environmental Virtual Observatory by Mr. Jagat Kumar Bhusal during Seventh National Conference on Science and Technology, Kathmandu, Nepal, March 29-31, 2016

## Meeting/ Workshop

- **Discussion program on “Climate Change and Citizen Science” (July 8, 2016)**

A discussion program on “Climate Change and Citizen Science” was organized by Central Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (CDHM), Community Based Rainfall Measurement-Nepal (CORAM-Nepal), Institute for Social and Environment Transition-Nepal (ISET-Nepal), Kathmandu Institute of Applied Sciences (KIAS) and RECHAM Consult (Pvt.) Ltd. with support from University of Wyoming, Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM) and Society of Hydrologists and Meteorologists-Nepal (SOHAM-Nepal) on July 8, 2016 at Nepal Tourism Board hall, Bhrikutimandap, Kathmandu. The programme was targeted to twenty six science school teachers of Kathmandu valley. On the occasion, representatives from various institutions also took part in the programme. The programme was chaired by Associate Prof. Dr. Deepak Aryal, Head of Department, CDHM. The chief guest of the programme was Dr. Jagadishwor Karmacharya, Deputy Director General, DHM.

The programme began with warm welcome speech by Mr. Suresh Marahatta, RECHAM Consult (Pvt.) Ltd. During the technical session, four technical presentations were delivered entitled “Weather Forecasting Practices in Nepal” by Mr. Suman Kumar Regmi-Senior Divisional Meteorologist-DHM; “Flood Forecasting Practices in Nepal” by Mr. Rajendra Sharma- Senior Divisional Hydrologist-DHM; “Community Based Science and Climate Research” by Mr. Ajaya Dixit,- Executive Director-ISET Nepal and “Use of GPS in Weather Forecasting” by Dr. Loknath Adhikari-RECHAM Consult (Pvt.) Ltd.

- **Inception meeting on Citizen science based Hydrological monitoring practices for flood forecasting and early warning systems (EWSs) in Nepal (May 30, 2016)**

An inception meeting on “Citizen science based Hydrological monitoring practices for flood forecasting and early warning systems (EWSs)” was organized in Kathmandu on May 30, 2016. The meeting was a part of the Ecosystem Services for Poverty Alleviation- Regional Opportunity Fund (ESPA-ROF) project led by the Grantham Institute, Imperial College, London in partnership with Practical Action Nepal, Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM) and Society of Hydrologists and Meteorologists-Nepal (SOHAM-Nepal).

The main purpose of the meeting was to share and to discuss about current practices of flood forecasting and early warning systems (EWSs) in Nepal, low-cost sensors for participatory environmental monitoring, some results from ongoing Mountain-EVO project in Mustang and the role of citizen science practices in flood resilience programme of Nepal. Dr. Wouter Buytaert and Dr. Bhopal Pandey from Imperial College, London were the key experts in the meeting. Local experts representing various institutions engaged in Early Warning Services were also present in the meeting.

- **DFID CRISSA Regional Consultation (April 7-8, 2016)**

Mr Jagat Kumar Bhusal, Chairperson, SOHAM-Nepal attended the “DFID CRISSA Regional Consultation : Towards Greater Coordination among Climate Researchers and Policy Makers in South Asia”, held on April 7-8, 2016 in New Delhi, India. Mr. Bhusal was invited as a panel expert in the programme.

The speakers at the event included leading experts in the sector of climate science, research and policy from Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh and India as well as bilateral institutions working on climate action in the region. Academic experts from international institutions were also among the presenters.

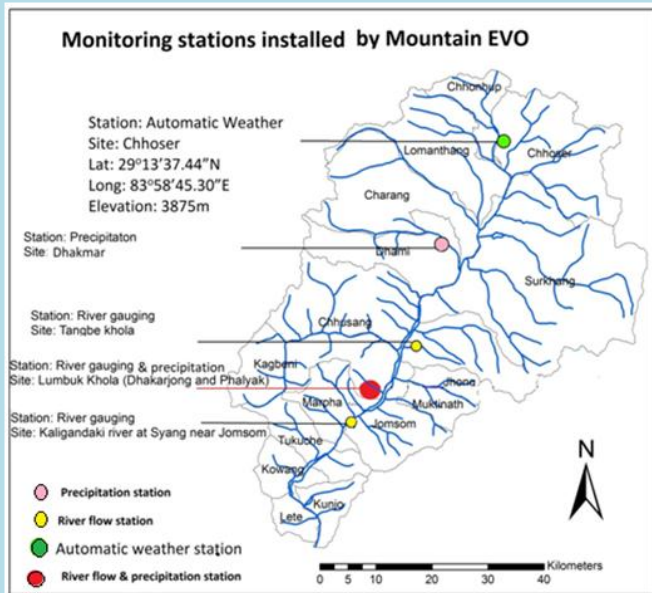
- **Building Impact and Partnerships in South Asia Conference Workshop (March 9-10, 2016)**

On behalf of Mountain EVO project, Mr. Jagat Kumar Bhusal-Chairperson, Mr. Suman Kumar Regmi-General Secretary, Dr. Prem Sagar Chapagain-Senior Researcher, Mr. Jeevan

Gyanwali-Planning Officer of District Development Committee Mustang, Dr. Timothy Karpouzoglou-Wageningen University attended Building Impact and Partnerships in South Asia Conference Workshop organized by ESPA (Ecosystem Services for Poverty Alleviation) during March 9-10, 2016 in New Delhi, India.

The event was highly interactive and focused around sharing lessons and strategies and building partnerships between participants mostly engaged in the South Asia.

### Data Observation and Monitoring under Mountain EVO



SOHAM-Nepal with support from Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM), District Development Committee (DDC), Mustang, and International Hydrological Programme-Nepal (IHP-Nepal) is implementing a three year's project on "Adaptive Governance of Mountain Ecosystem services for Poverty Alleviation (ESPA) enabled by Environmental Virtual Observatories (Mountain EVO)" which is led by Imperial College, United Kingdom. One of the activities of the research program is to acquire site specific data on precipitation and stream flows; assess the hydro-meteorological characteristics of focused area. In this context, Mountain EVO Research program had installed meteorological and hydrological station in selected site in Mustang as a part of the research.

The monitoring of the equipment will be carried out at participatory model. Mountain EVO researchers will make frequent visits to the monitoring stations and will measure flows, collect water level and other meteorological data. The data will be shared to the end users as well as other concerned stakeholders.

### SMS alert service for Flood Early Warning

SMS alert service for flood early warning has been initiated in Nepal. Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM) has signed the Memorandum Of Understanding with Nepal Telecom and Ncell to disseminate an early warning or SMS alert to people residing in the flood and landslide risk area. The service could help people to move towards safe place and

prevent loss of life and property. Dr. Rishi Ram Sharma-Director General of DHM; Mr. Buddhi Acharya-Managing Director of NTC; and Mr. Simon Perkins-Managing Director of Ncell signed the memorandum for the collaboration. NTC and Ncell will provide forecasting and early warning information on hydro- meteorology related disasters such as floods and landslides through mass SMS to the people living in the downstream of West Rapti, Narayani, Kankai, Koshi, Bagmati, Babai and Kamala river.

DHM has the system to keep track of the hydro-meteorological situations in the regions which will be provided to Ncell in case of triggering measurement (based on water level in river). Ncell will immediately forward it to the customers living in the disaster prone areas from short code 1155. With the message of water level rise in river (indicating the probability of disaster like floods and landslides), people can move to government designated safe locations with their belongings. There is also a provision to send SMS once the water level returns to normal level, indicating no immediate risk. The SMS is being sent by DHM itself in case of NTC mobile users. DHM has hoped that the loss of life and properties will be reduced significantly due to such instant mobile information.

### CONDOLENCE



SOHAM-Nepal is deeply saddened by the untimely demise of our life member, Mr. Sudeep Prasad Kayastha on January 8, 2016. He was a Meteorologist by profession, a dedicated person, served to the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM), Government of

Nepal. SOHAM-Nepal would like to express our deep condolence to his family members, relatives and friends. May his soul attain eternal peace.

### ANNOUNCEMENT

SOHAM-Nepal is going to organize Third International Conference on "Mountain Hydrology and Meteorology for Sustainable Development" on April 10-11, 2017 in Kathmandu jointly with Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM); United Nation Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization International Hydrological Programme Nepal (UNESCO IHP-Nepal); Central Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (CDHM); Himalayan Cryosphere, Climate and Disaster Research Center-Kathmandu University (KU); and Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST)

### CALL FOR PAPERS

SOHAM-Nepal requests all relevant professionals to actively participate in the International Conference on "Mountain Hydrology and Meteorology for Sustainable Development". The deadline for the submission of Abstract is December 31, 2016. The interested individual can send full paper by March 15, 2017 at [conference@soham.org.np](mailto:conference@soham.org.np). (Please visit [www.soham.org.np](http://www.soham.org.np) for more Information)