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MCA-Nepal Newsletter

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MCC CPA VP Aysha House Visits Nepal



Ms. Aysha House, MCC's Vice President of Congressional and Public Affairs, addressing the members of US Embassy Youth Council (USYC) on 30 June 2022.

Ms. Aysha House, MCC's Vice President of Congressional and Public Affairs (CPA) visited Nepal from 28 June to 2 July 2022.

During her visit, she met with MCA-Nepal staff, interacted with women from the energy sector in Nepal, engaged with U.S. Embassy Youth Council Nepal and participated in a communications workshop with USAID, the U.S. Embassy Nepal and MCA-Nepal to discuss areas of collaboration and to share facts and progress on the MCC Nepal Compact.

Interaction with USYC

In a meeting with US Embassy Youth Council (USYC) members, conducted on 30 June 2022, Ms. House shared the purpose of the MCC Nepal Compact, success stories of MCC initiatives in other countries, MCC's commitment to transparency and encouraged

the youth group to verify information shared in social media platforms given the history of mis/disinformation on MCC in Nepal.

The youth participants in the interaction openly discussed the various aspects and myths surrounding the MCC funded projects in Nepal. They also expressed their concern about the possibility of political leaders manipulating Nepali youth against the program.

Mr. Khadga Bahadur Bisht, Executive Director, MCA-Nepal, highlighted the major features of the projects under the Compact and highlighted the program was distinct from other projects being implemented in Nepal as it had a five-year timeline for completion.

Mr. Bisht mentioned that MCA-Nepal had initiated various activities online and offline to

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Ms. Aysha House, MCC's Vice President of Congressional and Public Affairs, participating in the round table meeting with women in the energy sector in Nepal on 30 June 2022.

dispel mis/disinformation on the MCC Nepal Compact. He encouraged the participants to study documents related to the program available on the MCA-Nepal website.

Around 35 youth council members from all over the country took part in the meeting.

Meeting with Women in Energy Sector

Ms. House attended a round table meeting with women in the energy sector on 30 June 2022, in which a representative group of Nepali women involved in the energy sector participated.

Ms. House mentioned that MCC encourages the involvement of women in the Compact and energy sector at large, and MCA-Nepal projects are also guided by MCC's Gender Integration Guidelines that requires the development of a social and gender integration plan.

Mr. Khadga Bahadur Bisht, ED, MCA-Nepal, presented on the Electricity Transmission Project and how the project will contribute to an important segment of the transmission system development plan of Nepal and impact the economy.

The participants emphasized that Nepal should be self-sustainable and use energy

within the country rather than selling/exporting it. They also expressed their concern about the effect of inflation and increased prices of commodities

on project costs.

Around 15 women representing NEA, ERC and the private sector took part in the meeting.

MCC CPA VP House at Substation Construction Site in Nuwakot

Ms. Aysha House, MCC's Vice President of Congressional and Public Affairs visited Belkotgadhi-7, Nuwakot on 1 July 2022 to observe the implementation of the Ratmate Livelihood Restoration Program (LRP) in the Ratmate Substation site.

During her visit, she visited SAPPROS Nepal Office in Nuwakot, where she was updated on the progress of the Ratmate LRP implementation. LRP is an integral component of the Resettlement Action Plan based on international standards to ensure improved means of livelihood for physically displaced people.

She also interacted with the project-affected families in the field.



Ms. Aysha House, MCC's Vice President of Congressional and Public Affairs, interacting with project-affected families at Belkotgadhi-7 in Nuwakot district on 1 July 2022.

EVENTS

Informative Session for Journalists

MCA-Nepal organized an informative and interactive session for journalists on 18 August 2022.

Information related to ongoing preparatory works on site access, Entry into Force (EIF) date after which construction work will begin, fiscal and procurement procedures and plans were shared with participating journalists in the interactive session.

Highlighting that activities which support compact implementation and are necessary for construction work to begin were ongoing, Mr. Khadga Bahadur Bisht, Executive Director at MCA-Nepal shared that these activities include conducting environmental assessments, developing resettlement action plans, and working with partner agencies of the Government.

He added that these activities were being carried out to ensure all of its standards are being met in advance of any construction to ensure successful implementation of the compact. The target date to begin all construction work i.e. EIF has been set for August 2023.

Mr. Nirmal Khatiwada, Chief Financial Officer and Mr. Mahendra Shrestha, Program Procurement Manager presented on MCA-



Mr. Khadga Bahadur Bisht, Executive Director at MCA-Nepal, providing updates on MCA-Nepal projects to journalists

Nepal fiscal and procurement procedures and plans at the event respectively.

During the interaction, participating journalists questioned on the challenges for the project in the field, tax exemption provisions, intellectual property (IP) rights and administrative expenses prior to the implementation of the compact, etc.

The queries from the media were addressed by Mr. Bisht, ED, MCA-Nepal. He also shared the challenges in building transmission lines were common in all projects throughout the nation.

Clarifying on the issue of IP Rights, he mentioned, "There is no intellectual property issue. The Compact is not producing any new technology and reusing known technology. There will be some project documents such as feasibility studies, EIA report etc. All of them will be published online. MCC will have access, but the ownership will remain with the Government of Nepal."

43 journalists representing various media took part and had the opportunity to present their questions and acquire facts on the MCC Nepal Compact in the half-day session.



Media representatives participating in the interactive session.

Market Outreach for Potential Bidders

MCA-Nepal organized a market outreach event for electricity transmission lines and substations with potential bidders in Kathmandu on 20 September 2022.

Information on details of the plant design, supply and installation, testing and commissioning of around 300 km 400 kV transmission lines and three 400 kV substations along with procurement procedures, principles and guidelines of MCA-Nepal was provided to approximately 100 in-person and online participants representing national and international companies.

Welcoming the participants at the event, Mr. Khadga Bahadur Bisht, Executive Director, MCA-Nepal, remarked that participating in the construction of electricity transmission lines and substations could be an opportunity to contribute to nation building.

Mr. Bisht presented on the status of the projects and highlighted, “Activities that support Compact implementation are ongoing, which include conducting environmental assessments, developing resettlement action plans, and working with partner



Ms. Shalini Tripathi, Deputy Executive Director – Management, MCA-Nepal, responding to queries from potential bidders in the market outreach event for electricity transmission lines and substations in Kathmandu on 20 September 2022.

agencies of the Government to ensure all of its standards are being met in advance of any construction to ensure

successful implementation of the Compact.”

He also shared that the target date for all construction work to begin has been set for August 2023.

Similarly, Mr. Sanjay Poudyal, Acting Resident Country Director - MCC Nepal, appealed to the participants to get involved in the procurement process based on quality work.

He highlighted, “MCC Compact procurements are not limited to companies from one country. They are open to international bidders. The bidding process under the Compact is a competitive bidding process and maximizes transparency and fairness through open competition.”

Divided into two sessions, the first focused on Plant Design, Supply and Installation, Testing and Commissioning of around 300 km of 400 KV D/C Transmission Lines in Nepal, and the second focused on Plant Design, Supply and Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Three 400 KV Substations in Nepal.



Mr. Luis Villalta, Procurement Agent Manager at DT-Global, briefing on the procurement process in the market outreach event for electricity transmission lines and substations with potential bidders in Kathmandu on 20 September 2022.

ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION PROJECT

Walkover Survey in 30 km Stretch of Proposed TL Alignment

As a part of preparatory works for the construction of the 400 kV power transmission lines, MCA-Nepal's consultants PGCIL and Jade JV completed a walkover survey in an approximately 30 km area of the proposed alignment route.

The walkover survey precedes a detailed re-survey of 30 km of the transmission line route launched to address grievances of project affected people in line with the findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report.

The survey was conducted from 30 June to 11 July 2022.

Based on the survey findings, alternative routes will be proposed.



MCA-Nepal team conducting a walkover survey in an approximately 30 km area of the proposed transmission line route.

District-Level Inception Meeting for LRP Implementation



Participants at the District-Level Inception Meeting for the Ratmate Livelihood Restoration Program (LRP) Implementation organized in Bidur Municipality, Nuwakot on 11 July 2022.

A district-Level Inception Meeting for the Ratmate Livelihood Restoration Program (LRP) Implementation was organized in Bidur Municipality, Nuwakot on 11 July 2022.

The objective of the meeting was to present the goals, objectives, approach, methodology and plan for the implementation of Ratmate

LRP to district-level stakeholders and seek their support for the implementation and sustainability of the interventions.

The Chief, Deputy Chief and Members of the Nuwakot District Coordination Committee, the Mayor of Belkotgadhi Municipality, the Chief District Officer of Nuwakot, Chiefs of Nepal Police

and Armed Police Force Nuwakot and In-charge of the district-based government offices were present in the meeting.

Mr. Khadga Bahadur Bisht, Executive Director of MCA-Nepal and Mr. Sunit Adhikari, Executive Director of SAPPROs responded to questions and concerns raised by participants.

Interaction with Newly Elected Local Representatives

MCA-Nepal organized an interaction with local authorities and newly elected local representatives to discuss the right of way for the construction of the 400 kV power transmission lines passing through Ghiring Rural Municipality, Tanahun.

The interaction was held on 25 July 2022.

Deputy Chairperson of the District Coordination Committee Mr. Basudev Thapa, Chairperson of Ghiring Rural Municipality Mr. Hom Bahadur Thapa, Deputy Chairperson of Ghiring Rural Municipality Ms. Radhadevi Adhikari, Chairperson of Ghiring Ward No 1 Mr. Rabi Chandra Ghorasini, local officials and project affected people participated in the meeting.

Mr. Khadga Bahadur Bisht, MCA-Nepal Executive Director, shared the importance, social and environmental impact and mitigation measures adopted by



Mr. Khadga Bahadur Bisht, Executive Director of MCA-Nepal, interacting with local stakeholders during the interaction in Ghiring Rural Municipality, Tanahun on 25 July 2022.

MCA-Nepal, economic benefits addressed the concerns of the and facts on the high-capacity project-affected people in the power transmission lines. He also meeting.

Contract signed for the Preparation and Implementation of RAP and LRP



Exchange of the contract on consulting services for the preparation and implementation of the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) and Livelihood Restoration Program (LRP).

A contract for consulting services required for the preparation and implementation of the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) and Livelihood Restoration Program (LRP) for the transmission lines to be built by MCA-Nepal was signed with

SA Infrastructure Consultants Pvt. Ltd. in a joint venture with BOTEK Bosphorus Technical Consulting Corporation, GOEC Nepal Pvt. Ltd. and Total Management Services Pvt. Ltd.

The contract was signed on 29

August 2022.

MCA-Nepal will work with the selected consulting firm to avoid and/or minimize any adverse involuntary resettlement and livelihood impacts on the project-affected people.

Ward-Level Consultations to address Grievances



Mr. Gokarna Nepal, a ward member of Ward No. 5 of Belkotgadhi Municipality, Nuwakot district sharing his concerns in a ward-level consultation on 17 August 2022.



Mr. Drona Kandel, Chairperson of Ward No. 11 of Gajuri Rural Municipality, Dhading district sharing his concerns in a ward-level consultation on 18 August 2022.

MCA-Nepal organized ward-level consultations to address grievances of project-affected people in the 30 km stretch of the transmission line route of the Electricity Transmission Project that is being resurveyed for viability.

Consultations were conducted at Ward No. 5 of Panchakanya Rural Municipality and Ward No. 6 of Likhu Rural Municipality in Nuwakot on 16 August 2022, Ward No. 5 and 7 of Belkotgadhi Municipality in Nuwakot on 17 August 2022, and Ward No. 2 of Gajuri Rural Municipality and Ward No. 6 of Siddhalek Rural Municipality in Dhading district on 18 August 2022.

Similarly, consultations were conducted at Ward No. 1 of Ghiring Rural Municipality in Tanahun district on 25 August 2022, Ward No. 17 of Ramgram and Ward No. 13 of Sunawal in Nawalparasi (Bardaghat Susta West) on 26 August 2022 and Ward No. 10 and 11 of Hetauda in Makwanpur district on 28 August 2022.

Participants in these consultations included ward chairpersons, ward members and project-affected people at the local level.



Mr. Rabi Chandra Ghorasini, Chairperson of Ward No. 1 of Ghiring Rural Municipality, Tanahun district addressing the ward-level consultation on 25 August 2022.



Mr. Krishna Prasad Paudyal Bagale, Chairperson of Ward No. 13 of Sunawal in Nawalparasi (Bardaghat Susta West) presenting his concerns in the ward-level on 26 August 2022.



Participants at the ward-level consultation conducted at Ward No. 10 of Hetauda Sub-Metropolitan City on 28 August 2022.

Training on Commercial Off-season Farming



As a part of the Livelihood Restoration Program (LRP), MCA-Nepal conducted training on commercial farming for Project Affected Persons in Belkotgadhi-7 Nuwakot, the construction site of 400 kV Substation.

The training, facilitated by MCA-Nepal's Consultant SAPPROS, was conducted on the Farmers' Field School model and mostly focused on practical sessions in the field.

A total of 15 project-affected persons (PAP) received the training, conducted from 4 to 6 September 2022. A total of 39 PAPs have selected commercial vegetable cultivation as their livelihood option, and all of them will be provided with the training.

The LRP is an integral part of the RAP under the ETP to ensure improved livelihood for physically displaced people from the sub-station construction site.

Training on commercial farming of off-season vegetables for project affected persons in Belkotgadhi-7 Nuwakot from 4 to 6 September 2022.

Kick-off Meeting for TL RAP and LRP Preparation and Implementation

A kick-off meeting for the preparation and implementation of the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) and Livelihood Restoration Program (LRP) for affected people in the route of the transmission lines was organized on 21 September

2022 in Kathmandu.

SA Infrastructure Consultants Pvt. Ltd. in a joint venture with BOTEK Bosphorus Technical Consulting Corporation, GOEC Nepal Pvt. Ltd. and Total Management Services Pvt. Ltd. has

been selected for preparation and implementation of the RAP and LRP activities to avoid and/or minimize any adverse involuntary resettlement and livelihood impacts on the project-affected people in 10 districts of Nepal.



Participants in the kick-off meeting for the preparation and implementation of the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) and Livelihood Restoration Program (LRP) of the transmission lines organized in Kathmandu on 21 September 2022.

ROAD MAINTENANCE PROJECT

Survey Verification along the Dhankhola - Shivakhola Section

MCA-Nepal conducted a verification survey to determine the impacts of the Road Maintenance Project along the Dhankhola - Shivakhola section of the East-West highway in Dang district from 23 - 25 July 2022.

During the process, MCA-Nepal also conducted consultations with local people to be affected by the project. As per the survey results, 43 private structures will be affected by the project.



MCA-Nepal and MCC representatives conducting a verification survey to determine the impacts of the Road Maintenance Project along the Dhankhola - Shivakhola section of the East-West highway in Dang.

Public Hearing Events in Dang



Public hearing conducted at Kalakate, Gadawa Rural Municipality of Dang district as a part of the Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) under Road Maintenance Project.

MCA-Nepal organized public hearing events in Dang district as a part of the Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) under its Road Maintenance Project to upgrade and maintain the 40 km road section from Dhankhola to Lamahi from 26-28 August 2022.

The public hearings were conducted at Masuriya, Rapti Rural Municipality; at Kalakate, Gadawa Rural Municipality and Lamahi, Lamahi Municipality in Dang; at Lahape, Sheetganga Municipality in Arghakhanchi and Chandrauta, Shiva Raj Municipality in Kapilabastu.

Elected representatives, local authorities and people from project affected area took part in a total of five hearings in municipalities of the road section to be upgraded.

MCC NEPAL COMPACT FACTS

MCC Nepal Compact & Climate Change

- ☞ The transmission lines to be built will increase the availability and reliability of electricity in Nepal, decreasing the dependency on fossil fuels.
- ☞ The cross-border transmission line will facilitate regional power trade, decreasing the emission of greenhouse gas in the region.
- ☞ 10 trees will be planted as compensation for each tree cut for the construction of transmission lines, which will increase the area of forest, known as the carbon sink.
- ☞ The consumption of fuel by vehicles will decrease after the quality of roads improves with the introduction of new road maintenance technology in Nepal under the Road Maintenance Project.
- ☞ The overall program will contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting clean energy.



COMMUNITY VOICES

Binda Maya becoming a Commercial Vegetable Farmer

Mrs. Binda Maya Lama of Nandutar, Belkotgadhi-7, Nuwakot was initially uncertain about her future when MCA-Nepal acquired 11 Anna (334.75 square meters) of her land for the construction of Ratmate Substation, but today she feels different. She sees it as bringing a positive change in her life.

"I was not sure what we would do for our livelihood after my family land was acquired by MCA-Nepal. We used to grow rice and other cereal on the land, and that was the only means of earning for our family," shares Mrs. Lama. "But I am happy now because apart from providing us with compensation against the land, MCA-Nepal Livelihood Restoration Program (LRP) is supporting us with livelihood skills."

Mrs. Lama, a project-affected person (PAP) of Ratmate Substation to be constructed under the Electricity Transmission Project (ETP) has benefitted from the Commercial Off-season Vegetable Production Training, being organized by SAPPROS, MCA-Nepal's Consultant in Nuwakot.

"I am very happy to participate in the training. We are equipped with new skills and technologies for commercial off-season vegetable production. We are also provided with seeds of cauliflower, cabbage, chilly and four-season beans."

She adds, "We have taken 4.5 Anna (140.6 square meters) of land on lease nearby our residence, and started the cultivation of commercial vegetables."

She is taking care of around



Mrs. Binda Maya Lama tending to her cauliflower saplings.



Mrs. Binda Maya Lama (fifth from the right) with other participants in the four-day Commercial Vegetable Farming Training.



Mrs. Binda Maya Lama planting cauliflower in her field with the support provided by LRP.

one thousand seedlings of various vegetables daily with the knowledge and skill acquired during the training.

She shares her thoughts on the livelihood restoration program being pro-affected people and remarks, "Normally land acquisition process leaves affected people nowhere, but the land acquisition process in

Ratmate included the livelihood restoration and ensured the upliftment of the living standard of affected people."

Not only Mrs. Lama but her husband Mr. Dinesh Lama will participate in a JCB operator training as per the plans in the LRP, which will enhance the couple's ability to increase their source of income.

Contact us:

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