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MCA-Nepal Newsletter

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CONTENTS

☞ Events	2
☞ Electricity Transmission Project	4
☞ Road Maintenance Project	8
☞ MCC Nepal Compact Facts	9
☞ New Publications	9
☞ Community Voices	10

Newly Appointed US Ambassador and DCM to Nepal visit MCA-Nepal Office

Newly appointed US Ambassador to Nepal His Excellency Dean Thompson paid a visit to MCA-Nepal office on 18 November 2022.

Mr. Khadga Bahadur Bisht, Executive Director of MCA-Nepal welcomed His Excellency and

provided an update on preparations for MCC Nepal Compact's roads and transmission line projects.

Similarly, Mr. Jason Meeks, newly appointed US Deputy Chief of Mission to Nepal, paid a visit to MCA-Nepal office on 6 December 2022.



The US Ambassador to Nepal His Excellency Dean Thompson at MCA-Nepal office.



The US Deputy Chief of Mission to Nepal Mr. Jason Meeks at MCA-Nepal office.

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EVENTS

Market Outreach Event

MCA-Nepal organized a market outreach event with potential international bidders for electricity transmission lines and substations in New Delhi, India on 1-2 November 2022.

Information on details of the plant design, supply and installation, testing and commissioning of around 315 km 400 kV transmission lines and three 400 kV substations along with procurement procedures, principles and guidelines of MCA-Nepal was provided to more than 90 in-person and online participants representing various international companies.

Mrs. Shalini Tripathi, Deputy Executive Director-Management, MCA-Nepal, welcomed the participants and provided an update on the status of the MCC Nepal Compact projects to participants. She encouraged potential bidders to participate in the bidding for the construction of electricity transmission lines and substations, highlighting the fact that the selection procedure would be fair and based on the quality of work. Mr. Julio Sarria, Director, Program Acquisition and Assistance Group at MCC,



Mrs. Shalini Tripathi, DED-Management, MCA-Nepal, providing an update on projects.

introduced MCC and provided an overview of MCC Compacts around the world.

Details of the Electricity Transmission Project (ETP) including project description, project areas and requirements were shared by Mr. Sanjay

Kumar Sharma, Project Manager-Substations, MCA-Nepal. Mr. Luis Villalta, MCA-Nepal Consultant and Procurement Agent Manager at DT-Global Nepal Team presented on the procurement procedures, principles and guidelines of MCA-Nepal.



Mr. Luis Villalta, MCA-Nepal Consultant, presenting on the procurement procedures, principles and guidelines.

Orientation for MCA-Nepal Board Members

MCA-Nepal organized an orientation on MCA-Nepal structure and status of MCC Nepal Compact projects to Board Members on 14 November 2022.

Welcoming the Board Members, Mr. Khadga Bahadur Bisht, the Executive Director at MCA-Nepal, expressed his gratitude to the Board Chair and Board Members for the leadership and constant guidance in MCA-Nepal's key undertakings.

His presentation focused on the key achievements of the projects in the preparatory phase and also highlighted the risks and challenges moving forward.

Mr. Sanjay Poudyal, Resident Country Director (Acting)/Nepal at MCC, provided an insight to MCC's global structure, country selection criteria and MCC Compacts around the world and its overarching goal to reduce poverty through economic growth.

Mr. Mahendra Kumar Shrestha, Procurement Manager at MCA-Nepal, Mr. Nirmal Kumar Khatiwada, Chief Financial Officer at MCA-Nepal, Mr. Luis



Mr. Krishna Hari Pushkar, the Secretary at the Ministry of Finance providing his remarks at the event.

Villalta, Procurement Agent Manager at DT-Global and Mr. Babken Mnatsakanyan, Fiscal Agent Manager at DT-Global presented on the procurement and financial structure and processes in MCA-Nepal.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Krishna Hari Pushkar, the Secretary at

the Ministry of Finance and the Chairperson of MCA-Nepal Board, shared that the MCC Nepal Compact will contribute significantly to the infrastructure development of Nepal, and the Government of Nepal was committed to its successful implementation.



Participants and resource persons at the orientation.

ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION PROJECT

Contract for Boundary Wall Construction in Ratmate

MCA-Nepal has signed a contract for the construction of a boundary wall around the 400 kV power substation site at Belkotgadhi-7, Ratmate, Nuwakot with Binayak Nirman Company Pvt. Ltd. on 14 November 2022. The contract was signed by Mr. Khadga

Bahadur Bisht, ED, MCA-Nepal and Mr. Sudin Shrestha, Director, Binayak Nirman Company Pvt. Ltd. in MCA-Nepal office.

As per the terms of the contract, a boundary wall will be constructed within 180 days around the land acquired

for the construction of the Ratmate Substation. MCA-Nepal completed the acquisition of 398 Ropani of land at Ratmate, Nuwakot in 2022 for the construction of a 400kV substation under the ETP Project.



Mr. Khadga Bahadur Bisht, ED, MCA-Nepal, and Mr. Sudin Shrestha, Director, Binayak Nirman Company Pvt. Ltd., after signing the contract.

Bid Launch to construct 315 km long 400 kV Transmission Line

MCA-Nepal has launched a bid to construct 315 km long 400 kV double circuit Quad Moose overhead electricity transmission line under its Electricity Transmission Project.

A specific procurement notice (SPN) was published on 28 November 2022 with an invitation for sealed bids from all interested eligible bidders for the design, supply,

delivery, installation, testing and commissioning of the transmission line.

The bid for the total construction is divided into three sections: 117 km stretch of transmission line along Lapsipedi - Ratmate - New Hetauda, 90 km stretch from Ratmate to Damauli and 90 km stretch from New Damauli to New Butwal with an option of 18 km from New Butwal to Nepal-

India border.

The deadline to apply for the contract has been set for 27 March 2023.

A complete set of bidding documents can be obtained by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application at E-mail address MCANepalPA@dt-global.com with cc to MCANepalPA@mcnp.org.

Ratmate Livelihood Restoration Program

Off-season Vegetable Cultivation Training to Project Affected People

MCA-Nepal's consultant for the implementation of the Ratmate Livelihood Restoration Program SAPPROS Nepal conducted a training on Off-season Vegetable Cultivation for 16 Project Affected People (PAP) in Belkotgadhi-7, Nuwakot from 20 - 22 December 2022.

The participants were trained on the significance of off-season vegetable cultivation and its scope, general management practices like pruning, stacking and integrated disease and pest management.

The program is also providing various supports, such as the construction of plastic houses for commercial vegetable farming, plantation of various vegetables, pruning of plants in plastic houses and other follow-up supports to participants of the training.



Mr. Umakant Nepal, a participant, taking care of plants under the plastic house.



Project affected people attending the practical session of the training.



Mrs. Saraswati Adhikari, a participant, monitoring her tomato plant under the plastic house.



Mrs. Sunita Shrestha, a participant, pruning her tomato plants under the plastic tunnel.

Doll and Cushion Making Training to Project Affected People

Similarly, SAPPROS Nepal is organizing a two-month long training on Doll and Cushion Making as a part of a series of vocational trainings to PAPs under the Ratmate Livelihood Restoration Program in Belkotgadhi-7, Nuwakot from 23 December 2022.

Ten project affected people are participating in the training. The training is an integral component of the Resettlement Action Plan based on international standards to ensure improved means of livelihood for physically displaced people.

Furthermore, MCA-Nepal conducted a one-day training on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Harassment and Abuse for SAPPROS board members, senior management team members, staff and the LRP implementation team on 26 December 2022.



Participants at the two-month long Doll and Cushion Making Training



Inception for the Preparation and Implementation of TL RAP and LRP

An inception meeting between MCA-Nepal and consultants was organized to discuss the plans and requirements for the preparation and implementation of the Transmission Line (TL) Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) and Livelihood Restoration Program (LRP) for affected people in the route of the transmission line on 29 and 30 December 2022.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Khadga Bahadur Bisht, ED, MCA-Nepal, highlighted that MCA-Nepal aimed to implement the project with minimal impact on the people inhabiting the project sites. He highlighted, "RAP and LRP are important to ensure that the affected people are sufficiently compensated during resettlement and their livelihood is well restored as per IFC standards and MCC guidelines."

In the same meeting, MCA-Nepal staff presented its fiscal and branding guidelines for consultants as per the requirement of the MCC Nepal Compact.

Mr. Babu Ram Dumre, Consultant and Deputy Team Leader of the joint venture, presented



Mr. Khadga Bahadur Bisht, ED, MCA-Nepal, delivering the opening remarks.

an overview of the planned activities for the preparation and implementation of TL RAP and LRP.

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 was selected to provide consultancy services for the preparation and implementation of TL RAP and LRP. The activities under RAP and LRP will avoid and/or minimize any adverse involuntary resettlement and livelihood impacts on the project-affected people in 10 districts of Nepal along the route of the transmission line.



Participants at the Inception Workshop.

ROAD MAINTENANCE PROJECT

Asset Verification and Socio-economic Survey for Road Maintenance

MCA-Nepal Road Maintenance Project team conducted an asset verification and socio-economic survey in the project site and section of road from Dhan Khola to Lamahi in the East-West Highway from 11-14 December 2022.

The survey was carried out with an objective to assess the roadside affected structures and determine affected households eligible for compensation.

The 40 km stretch of the East-West Highway has been selected for the road maintenance works to be carried out under the project.



MCA-Nepal team conducting an asset verification and socio-economic survey.

Data Collection for Pavement Design Work

The Department of Roads (DoR) has measured pavement deflection in the Dhan Khola to Lamahi section of the East-West Highway using a Falling Weight Deflectometer to collect data required for pavement design work from 25 December 2022 to 1 January 2023.

MCA-Nepal is introducing Full Depth Reclamation technology

for road maintenance and Superior Performing Asphalt Pavement (SUPERPAVE) technology to increase the load-bearing capacity and improve smoothness of the road under the Road Maintenance Project (RMP).

The DoR as a project partner for the RMP will support the delivery of two activities

related to technical assistance and maintenance of roads. A Falling Weight Deflectometer was also procured in February 2020 by MCA-Nepal for use in highway maintenance and rehabilitation planning by The DoR, the installation of which along with operation training was conducted by MCA-Nepal in January and December 2021 respectively.



A team from the Department of Roads measuring pavement deflection at Dhan Khola to Lamahi section of East-West Highway.

MCC NEPAL COMPACT FACTS

How were projects under MCC Nepal Compact selected ?

The electricity transmission and road maintenance projects under the MCC Nepal Compact are priorities set by Nepal in consultation with civil society, the private sector and numerous other stakeholders.

Since December 2014, Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) and the Government of Nepal (GoN) focused on developing a Compact to address the identified constraints to growth in Nepal.

A joint team of economists working on behalf of the GoN and MCC conducted extensive due diligence analysis for several years, proactively engaging a wide array of stakeholders both within and outside of the Nepal government.

This extensive and inclusive analysis concluded that there are four main binding constraints to economic growth in Nepal: policy implementation uncertainty; inadequate supply of electricity; high cost of transport; and challenging industrial relations and outdated labor laws and regulations.

Agreeing with these findings, the GoN and MCC ultimately agreed to focus on two of the identified constraints: inadequate supply of electricity and the high cost of transport as priority sectors for intervention.

Throughout the Compact development process, the GoN engaged civil society, trade associations, development partners, political parties, and other relevant communities and stakeholders to seek their support, guidance, and feedback in project design and risk mitigation.

The report is available on MCA-Nepal's website:

https://mcanp.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Nepal_Growth-Diagnostic-Report-2014-May.pdf

NEW PUBLICATIONS

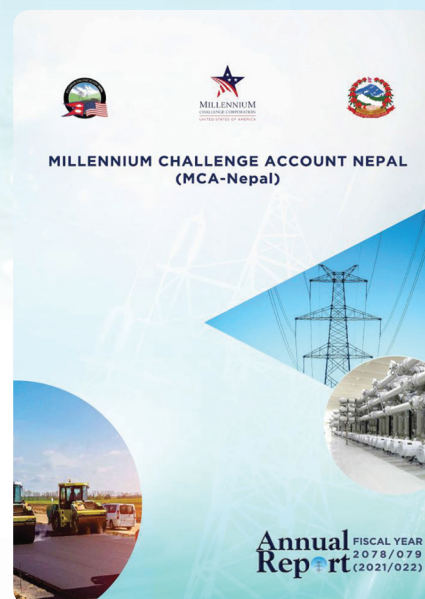
MCA-Nepal Annual Report

MCA-Nepal Annual Report for the Fiscal Year 2078/79 BS is out and available for the public in both English and Nepali language on its website.

The report includes overall financial reporting done for the Government of Nepal, project updates submitted to the MCA-Nepal Board of Directors, and organizational status as of the ending date and covering the period from 16 July 2021 to 16 July 2022.

The report is available on MCA-Nepal's website:

https://mcanp.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/MCA-Annual-Report-2022_English.pdf



Brochure in Five Languages



MCA-Nepal has published a brochure with questions and answers on the impact of the Electricity Transmission Project (ETP) on forest areas and steps taken to mitigate the impact. The brochure is available in Nepali as well as Bhojpuri, Chepang, Magar and Tamang languages to address the communication needs of indigenous people in project areas.

The transmission line under the ETP will pass through 30 municipalities in the following districts: Kathmandu, Sindhupalchowk, Nuwakot, Dhading, Makwanpur, Chitwan, Tanahun, Palpa, Nawalparasi (East) and Nawalparasi (West).

Additionally, MCA-Nepal has published its brochure with Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the MCC Nepal Compact in Bhojpuri, Chepang, Magar and Tamang languages.

The brochures are available on MCA-Nepal's website.

<https://mcanp.org/en/publications-resources/>

COMMUNITY VOICE

Ram Pyari's Journey to be a Vegetable Producer

Like many local residents of Ratmate, Nuwakot, who were affected during the acquisition of land for Ratmate Substation, Mrs. Ram Pyari Rai and her family from Belkotgadhi-7 were sad when they heard that MCA-Nepal would acquire their land for the construction of an electricity substation in Ratmate.

But their experience was totally different after the acquisition process was over.

"I was distressed when my family had to sell the land we were farming for a long time. But later we not only received compensation from MCA-Nepal but also support for livelihood restoration as per our choice."

As a project-affected person, Mrs. Rai was given an opportunity to select and participate in a four-day-long commercial vegetable production training under the Ratmate Livelihood Restoration Program to be conducted by MCA-Nepal's Consultant SAPPROS Nepal.

"I participated in the training very actively and learned basic skills in nursery management, soil treatment and nutrients, crop calendar for seasonal and off-seasonal crops, constructing plastic tunnel houses and using water-smart technologies", she shared. The training focused on using innovative low-cost and climate-smart technologies for vegetable production.

Additionally with support from the program, she has established a cauliflower



Mrs. Ram Pyari Rai working in her vegetable nursery.



Mrs. Ram Pyari Rai transplanting cabbage saplings.

and cabbage nursery in the remaining land, and has been taking care of the vegetable seedlings based on the skills and knowledge acquired from the training.

She elaborated the support process with a smile, "SAPPROS Nepal came to our doorsteps to consult with me and my family about the choices for livelihood interventions and offered support to improve our livelihoods. I was suggested that my land was suitable for commercial

vegetable production. They also encouraged me to enroll in commercial vegetable production training for the best use of my land."

Post the training, the program has been supporting her to ensure healthy vegetable crops. She was also provided with inputs and materials to construct a plastic tunnel house for vegetable cultivation and climate-smart irrigation technology (drop irrigation).

Though Mrs. Rai never had an opportunity to go to school due to poverty and lacked awareness on capacity-building services like the training she received, she has started her journey as a vegetable producer now.

She says, "I am confident I will adopt vegetable cultivation as my farming enterprise. I am very thankful to MCA-Nepal for considering the support to help us restore our livelihoods."



Mrs. Ram Pyari (third from the left) with other participants in the training.

Contact us:

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Fostering economic growth with better access to electricity and roads