Source: The Kathmandu Post, December 1, 2019

Six years on, Middle Bhotekoshi project is only half complete

Six years and three deadline extensions later, the construction of the Middle Bhotekoshi Hydroelectric Project is barely half finished with its Chinese contractor struggling to achieve a breakthrough on the 7.1-kilometre head tunnel.

Construction work on the 102 megawatt plant in Sindhupalchok began in 2013, and it was expected to start churning out electricity by 2016. But the project missed a succession of completion deadlines due to natural disasters, land compensation issues and delays by the civil and hydro mechanical contractor Guangxi Hydroelectric Construction Bureau.

The latest completion deadline for the run-of-the-river project is November 2020, but officials are not sure if work will be finished by that date too. Madhya Bhotekoshi Jalavidyut Company is developing the scheme.

“Workers still have to dig 1,200 metres of tunnel, and it might take six more months to achieve a breakthrough,” said project chief Sunil Lama. “The contractor must mobilise more workers as we have a good work window during the dry season if it wants to meet the 13-month deadline.”

The Chinese company, hired under an engineering, procurement and construction contract, had stopped work for over six months citing lack of equipment and building materials and funding issues.

Work resumed in May only after project officials warned the contractor that it could be fired. The contractor then replaced its project manager and resumed work at the construction site.

According to Lama, the contractor is yet to bring equipment and hire more workers as per the terms of the procurement contract. Lack of crucial equipment is expected to create a setback leading to further delays.

The project is built with 50 percent debt financing by the Employees Provident Fund, equity investment by Chilime Hydropower Company and public shares.

Due to delays in completing the project, the estimated cost of Rs12 billion has swelled by more than Rs2 billion, and that's without adding interest payments.

The project will have a minimum contribution to the national grid during the dry season and has reported a higher than average cost per megawatt of Rs137 million, as per 2018 cost reports.

Middle Bhotekoshi has three turbines each generating 34 megawatts. The units have a capacity to churn only 15.43 percent of the annual salable energy of 542.2 gigawatt hours in the dry season.

Poor work execution is also expected to result in further cost overruns.

On the electro mechanical front, work is progressing smoothly with the contractor Andritz Hydro preparing to install equipment in the powerhouse which is yet to assume full shape.

The project will evacuate electricity through a 4-kilometre transmission line from the plant's switchyard to Barhabise substation. Work on selecting a contractor to erect 13 pylons along the route began in June, and is slated to be completed in 18 months.

Source: My Republica, December 3, 2019

Compensation for land in market areas fixed

DHADING, Dec 3: Compensation amount for land to be acquired in Dhading and Gorkha districts for Budhigandaki Hydropower Project have been determined.

A joint meeting of Compensation Fixation Committee of the two districts held on Sunday determined the compensation for land plots to be acquired in Arughat and Khahare of Dhading and Arughat and Arkhet of Gorkha.

The meeting has fixed compensation of Rs 250,000 to Rs 700,000 per ana for land plots along main roads of Arughat. Similarly, compensation for land plots along secondary roads has been fixed at Rs 225,000 to Rs 300,000 per ana. Likewise, owners of land plots that touch foot trails will get Rs 50,000 to Rs 100,000 per ana, while plots that do not have road access will get Rs 50,000 per ana.

The fixation of compensation amount will pave the way for the project office to acquire 537 ropani in Arughat and 72 ropani in Arkhet in Gorkha district, and 245 ropani in Khahare and 910 ropani in Arughat in Dhading side.

Asman Tamang, joint coordinator of Joint Compensation Fixation Committee and Chief District Officer of Dhading, said they fixed the compensation amount based on the distance of land plots from main road, secondary roads and foot trails, as well as location of the land plots. "Landowners will get Rs 50,000 to Rs 700,000 per ana depending on type of land, commercial value and road access," he added.

According to committee, land plots in Arughat have been categorized into nine types. Similarly, land in Khahare side has been categorized into seven types.

The project will affect 14 local units of Gorkha and 13 of Dhading. The project has already distributed compensation for areas except Arughat, Arkhet and Khahare.

Along with land plots, owners will get separate compensation for buildings, trees and other resources in their land plots.

The project office will invite land owners to collect compensation through mass media after the compensation rate is published in Nepal Gazzette.

The project will acquire a total of 58,153 ropani of land. It has already distributed Rs 26.84 billion as compensation for 44,658 ropani.

Source: My Republica, December 4, 2019

Foundation stone for dam, powerhouse of Bheri-Babai laid

SURKHET, Dec 4: After seven months of construction of a tunnel, Bheri-Babai Diversion Multipurpose Project has finally laid the foundation stone for construction of the dam and the powerhouse of a hydropower project to be built under second package of the national pride project.

Minister for Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation Barshaman Pun laid the foundation at Chiple of Bheriganga Municipality on Monday. The Department of Irrigation awarded the contract for construction of the dam and the powerhouse to Raman-Guangdon JV. The contract agreement was signed on August 1.

The project aims at diverting the waters of Bheri River to Babai River for irrigation purpose through a 12.2-kilometer tunnel. Tunnel digging work has already been completed by using a tunnel boring machine (TBM). China Overseas Engineering Group (COVEC) had completed the tunnel one year before the scheduled date.

Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Oli attended the tunnel breakthrough ceremony at the project site earlier on April 14.

Speaking at the event, Pun said support and cooperation from every concerned stakeholder was needed to complete the national-pride project on time. He also assured that the project would provide different benefits to project-affected locals.

Speaking at the event, Sanjiv Baral, chief of Bheri-Babai Diversion Multipurpose Project, said hydromechanical and electromechanical work of the hydropower

project will start soon to ensure that the project is completed within the stipulated timeframe.

According to Baral, a 15-meter dam having six barrages will be built at Chiple. The project is expected to be completed within 2023. It is estimated to cost Rs 33.19 billion. It is expected to give returns of Rs 3.1 billion from increased agricultural yields and Rs 4 billion from hydropower annually.

Raman-Guangdon JV has set up camps at two places to build dam in Chiple and powerhouse in Babai. It needs 100,000 cubic meters of concrete for the dam and 50,000 cubic meters of concrete for the powerhouse. It has established a crusher plant at Chiple for production of concrete.

‘WON’T ALLOW THE PROJECT TO DIVERT WATER’

Representatives of local units in the project-affected areas have reiterated that they won't allow the project to divert water from Bheri River unless their demands are addressed.

Submitting a memorandum to Pun, representatives of Gurvakot, Lekbeshi and Bheriganga municipalities said the project most honor past commitments made to the people of the affected areas.

"The project area has been downsized. There is a need to resurvey the area and revisit compensation rate to be provided to the locals," Bhupendra Chand, the mayor of Bheriganga Municipality, told the minister.

Similarly, Hasta Pun, the mayor of Gurvakot Municipality, said that the federal government should implement the project by giving ownership to locals of the affected areas.

Source: The Himalayan Post, December 5, 2019

Province 2 aims to reduce electricity leakage to 10.97pc

Kathmandu, December 3

With a target to control leakage and reduce its overall loss, Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) has expedited the process of signing performance contracts with the chiefs of provincial offices and project managers to reduce electricity leakage.

Earlier, NEA had set some basic criteria to reduce its overall loss like leakage control, reducing administrative expenses, settling outstanding dues and increasing number of consumers, which have been included in the contracts.

As a part of this campaign, Managing Director of NEA, Kul Man Ghising, today signed a performance agreement with Manoj Kumar Singh, head of the Province 2 office of NEA. During the programme, Singh also signed performance agreements with other district and regional heads to control leakage.

Earlier, NEA had inked performance agreements with the division and project chiefs of Biratnagar, Hetauda and Surkhet regional offices.

NEA expects the performance contracts to enhance output of its staffers and subsequently contribute in making NEA a financially strong institution.

Before Kul Man Ghising assumed office in fiscal 2015-16, electricity leakage at the Janakpur regional office had stood at 47 per cent, which has now dropped to 19.61 per cent. According to the performance pact signed today Janakpur provincial office will have to reduce electricity leakage to 10.97 per cent. As per NEA, of the total income generated from the sale of electricity, 23 per cent of income is received from Janakpur regional office.

As per the agreement, Yadukaha distribution centre of Dhanusha district has been given the highest target to reduce leakage — from 46.76 per cent to 25 per cent. Similarly, Kalaiya distribution centre of Bara district needs to reduce leakage from 44.70 per cent to 25 per cent and Lahan distribution centre of Siraha has to reduce leakage to 19.77 per cent from 44.18 per cent at present.

NEA has a target to reduce overall electricity leakage to 8.50 per cent in the ongoing fiscal year.

“We have a target to electrify all the households within three years and increase the per capita power consumption by 700 units by the next five years.

So, we need to change our working procedure," Ghising said.

However, heads of various distribution centres have complained with the NEA management that they usually face undue political pressure while taking action against those involved in electricity theft.

As per NEA, it will provide cash incentives to chiefs of distribution centres if they are able to achieve at least 50 per cent of the target regarding loss reduction and outstanding due settlement.

The power utility has also stated that those who are able to meet the target will get the opportunity to attend training, seminar programmes abroad and add points that will help them get promotions.

However, if they are unable to meet the target, they will not be facilitated for those opportunities.

Source: My Republica, December 5, 2019

Upper Trishuli 3 ‘B’ achieves 40% work progress

KATHMANDU, Dec 5: The Upper Trishuli 3 'B' Hydropower Project (37 MW) has achieved 40% physical progress.

The project is being built under People's Hydropower Program which was initiated by the government to mobilize public capital for hydropower projects.

According to the company, it has already dug 1,400 meters of the 3,085 meters headrace tunnel.

Mohan Prasad Gautam, managing director of Upper Trishuli 3 'B' Hydropower Project, told Republica that the tunnel is being dug from four locations. "We are putting pressure on the contractor to complete the project within the stipulated timeframe. If it increases work pace a bit, I am confident of completing the project in time," he added. Work on the project began from mid-March last year. It is expected to be completed within three years.

"The project has achieved 40% physical progress and 20% financial progress so far. Works on powerhouse, surge tank and head reservoir are going on at present,” he added. "The contractor has also started procuring electromechanical equipment like turbine, runner and generator."

According to Gautam, the project does not need to build dam and complete descender works as it is a cascade project of Upper Trishuli 3 'A'.

The project is being built in Engineering, Purchase and Construction (EPC) model by Sichuan Anhe Hydraulic and Hydroelectric Engineering. The Chinese firm signed contract worth Rs 9.1 billion on February 9, 2018.

Gautam told Republica the project was facing some problem in tunnel digging due to lack of emulsion. "But we are forging coordination with government agencies to resolve the matter. We are in constant talks with the Department of Electricity Development; the Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation; the Ministry of Home Affairs; the Ministry of Defence; and Nepal Army," he said.

Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) and Nepal Telecom each hold 30% stakes in the project. Similarly, 15% of shares have been set aside for general public, while 10% of shares have been allocated for locals of Rasuwa and Nuwakot districts where the project is based.

"The project is attractive as it can generate energy as per its installed capacity i.e. 37 MW for eight months in a year. It produces a minimum of 25 MW even during dry months," added Gautam.

Energy generated by the project will be linked to Trishuli 3 'B' Hub substation by building a three-kilometer transmission line. NEA will bear 45% of the transmission line cost.

Source: Kathmandu Post, December 5, 2019

Indian-Nepali joint venture to carry out studies for three power lines

The Project Management Directorate under the Nepal Electricity Authority has signed a deal with an Indian-Nepali joint venture to carry out preliminary studies for the construction of three major 400 kV transmission lines.

Power Grid Corporation of India and Jade Consult of Nepal are joining forces to make a study of substations and power lines stretching from Tingla in eastern Nepal to Dhalkebar substation, from the Budhi Gandaki Corridor to Ratamate, and from Damauli to Baphikot.

The scheme is part of the Asian Development Bank-funded $21 million Preparatory Facility for Energy Project.

“We are gearing up to move forward with the crucial projects as per the transmission master plan issued by the government in 2018,” said Bodh Nath Neupane, project manager. “We initiated the process to hire international consultants in November, and we aim to have the projects ready to go into construction by February 2021.”

According to Neupane, the planned power lines will boost the capacity of Nepal's power grid to transmit and handle a greater power load, and allow smooth export of electricity to India.

Power Grid Corporation is an Indian state-owned entity which is also constructing a 400 kV transmission line from the export-oriented 900 megawatt Arun 3 hydel scheme to Bathnaha on the Nepal-India border.

The Indian company has executed 13 other consulting assignments funded by multilateral agencies including the Asian Development Bank and the World bank.

The consulting process of the Tingla, Budhi Gandaki and Damauli transmission lines will be carried out with a $3 million grant from the Asian Development Bank. The project’s closing date is slated for June 2020.

“As the projects are crucial to help us expand the grid and increase electricity supply within Nepal and India and were bogged down in processes, we are

planning to seek a deadline extension from the donor through the Finance Ministry," said Neupane.

Six international firms were in the race for the consulting contract. The state-owned power utility has signed an agreement with the joint venture, but it is yet to deposit the performance guarantee and conclude the contract process.

As per the Transmission System Development Plan of Nepal, the Tingla-Dhalkebar line, the current power exchange conduit between Nepal and India, will pass through the Khimti and Sunkoshi corridors which have a high concentration of power schemes.

The Tingla hub holds 19 percent of the total generation capacity of Province 1 with the proposed 590 megawatt Dudh Koshi 2 and 86 megawatt Solu Khola schemes on its periphery.

The plan has envisioned to evacuate 1444.94 megawatts from the Tingla hub and 2226.67 megawatts from the Khimti region by 2040 through the proposed conduit.

The transmission project in the Budhi Gandaki corridor will evacuate 1824.7 megawatts of electricity. Six transmission projects in the Damauli-Baphikot and Butwal regions, including the second high capacity Butwal-Gorakhpur cross-border line, will convey over 2000 megawatts. The power lines have been proposed to be built with an investment of over $500 million.

Source: The Himalayan Post, December 6, 2019

Dhalkebar substation likely to start operation from January

A 400/200-kVA high-voltage Dhalkebar substation is scheduled to start operations from January.

Once the substation comes into operation, it will be able to transmit cross-border electricity as well as strengthen the domestic distribution system. The gas insulated substation (GIS) is the only substation that is being built with the sole investment of the government. GIS is a high voltage substation in which the major structures are contained in a sealed environment with sulphur hexafluoride gas as the insulating medium.

According to Kul Man Ghising, managing director of Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA), after the completion of the substation, it will be able to export and import up to 1,000 megawatts of electricity to and from India.

As per him, this substation will be the sole hub of the country's East-West electricity transmission and will be the biggest ever substation to carry out power trade with India. "The substation will help to transmit generated electricity from 456-megawatt Upper Tamakoshi and other major hydropower projects that are connected to the New-Khimti Substation.

"With the 456MW Upper Tamakoshi hydropower project scheduled to be completed by ongoing fiscal year, Nepal will have surplus electricity from next fiscal and the Dhalkebar substation will help in the trade of electricity with India and also open the way for energy banking with the southern neighbour," Ghising further said.

NEA is installing transformers with total capacity of 945kVA at the substation. It plans to distribute electricity in the domestic market and export surplus energy through 400 kVA Dhalkebar-Muzzaffapur cross-border transmission line.

As per Ghising, the required equipment for the substation has already been delivered to the site and its construction is nearly complete.

Meanwhile, the construction work of 400 kVA cross-border transmission line has already been completed and the transmission line is currently being charged.

NEA is also constructing 400/220 kVA substations each in Hetauda of Makawanpur and Duhabi of Sunsari, with the aim to strengthen domestic demand and ensure uninterrupted power supply to major industrial areas in Tarai region.

The government is spending Rs two billion for the construction of the Dhalkebar substation. Indian construction firm ABB Substations Contracting India Pvt Ltd is building the project and NEA Engineering is providing counsel for the project.

Source: Kathmandu Post, December 6, 2019

US suspends payment of $500 million pending ratification of Nepal Compact

Millennium Challenge Corporation of the United States has suspended payment of $500 million to the Electricity Transmission and Transportation Project pending ratification of Nepal Compact by Parliament.

Nepal Compact, an agreement signed between the US agency and the Nepal government in 2017, comes with a prerequisite that it must be endorsed by Parliament and will prevail over domestic laws.

"The funds have been halted by the donor agency as the government is yet to meet the terms of the agreement it had signed," said Kumar Pandey, a board member of Millennium Challenge Account Nepal, the implementing agency of the Electricity Transmission and Transportation Project formed through a cabinet order.

According to Pandey, the Compact is likely to be ratified in the upcoming parliamentary session as the government has put it at the top of the agenda.

The multi-million dollar agreement is viewed by many in Nepal as a counter-initiative under the US Indo-Pacific Strategy against China's Belt and Road Initiative.

As per the agreement, the US agency will provide $500 million in grants, and the government will spend $130 million on energy and transportation projects of high importance in the Marsyangdi and Kali Gandaki corridors and the southern plains.

The Compact, which was tabled in Parliament nearly a year ago, awaits passage because of differences among the ruling party lawmakers and leaders over Nepal's degree of involvement in the Indo-Pacific Strategy and the Belt and Road Initiative.

According to an official close to the situation, lawmakers in the anti-West alliance prevailed on disgraced former speaker Krishna Bahadur Mahara to not bring up the Compact for approval in Parliament, resulting in the payment being suspended.

"US officials wanted the Compact to be ratified in the summer session, but it did not happen; and after the disbursement halt, the implementing agency

cannot even pay the salaries as no money has been coming since October," said the official.

Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli, in an interview with Kantipur, also blamed Mahara for not adhering to the discipline of the speaker's post by not bringing up the Compact for ratification.

After the funds were halted by Millennium Challenge Corporation, shortly before the Chinese president's Nepal visit, the Finance Ministry has disbursed around Rs50 million for keeping the offices running by reallocating some of the project budget set aside for land acquisition.

Millennium Challenge Corporation has pledged to provide $40 million as programme administration costs while the Nepal government's allocation is mainly for land acquisition and acquiring right of way for the transmission lines.

"The budget for this quarter starting October has been halted over the non-fulfilment of the pact, but the Finance Ministry has made some other arrangements," said Khadga Bahadur Bisht, executive director of Millennium Challenge Account Nepal.

"Ratification should not be taken as a political and controversial issue, but as a contingency measure to ensure that the projects will be completed on time, and aren't affected by political changes in the country," said Bisht.

As per the Compact, the projects must be concluded within five years from the date it comes into force or else the funds will go back to Millennium Challenge Corporation.

The proposed Rs13 billion Butwal-Gorakhpur transmission line, a second high capacity transmission line between Nepal and India, is one of the components of the Compact.

According to another official who wished to remain unnamed, the ruling party lawmakers including Bhim Rawal and Dev Gurung had spoken against the prerequisite clauses of the Compact which required ratification. They also wanted India to come on board to implement the Butwal-Gorakhpur project.

"The pro-China lawmakers had taken a stern stance against seeking agreement with the southern neighbour over a project with a domestic scope and which was funded by another country," said the official.

A 120-kilometre section of the proposed transmission line falls in Indian territory, and Nepal and India only agreed to fund and implement the transmission line through a joint venture in October after multiple meetings.

“It was like a chicken-egg conundrum, and authorities were perplexed over what to do first—ratification or agreement with India,” said Bisht. “But now that the agreement with India is in place, ratification of the Compact should not be an issue if the government wants $500 million to come to Nepal.”

Millennium Challenge Account Nepal declared in August that the agreement would become effective only in June 2020 as time was required to carry out preparatory studies and fulfil the conditions in the agreement.

Source: My Republica, December 7, 2019

DPR for Jagdulla Hydropower almost ready, initial estimate at Rs 22b

DOLPA, Dec 7: The Detailed Project Report (DPR) of 106MW Jagdulla Hydropower Project, to be located in Jagdulla Rural Municipality of Dolpa in Karnali Province, is in its final stage of preparation.

ANA Engineering Consultancy was given the responsibility to prepare the DPR with a 23-month deadline that is to expire this month. The company has said that the DPR will be prepared within the deadline.

The project is estimated to be completed in seven years. It will take two years to build roads, bridges and other infrastructure for transportation of required equipment to the project site, and five more years for the plant and related infrastructure, according to Project Chief Sanjay Sapkota.

Sapkota said that the initial estimated cost for the project was Rs 22 billion, adding that a more concrete estimation would be laid out in the DPR. A 6.1-kilometer-long tunnel is also planned for the project. The powerhouse of the project will be constructed in Mudkechula Rural Municipality Ward 7. The 20-meter-deep dam will be constructed at Harikot, from where water will be sent to the powerhouse. The powerhouse will be situated 300 meters below the dam, according to Sapkota. The electricity produced from this hydropower project will be directly sent to Nalgad Rural Municipality-7 of Jajarkot and connected to 400KV transmission line.

PROJECT TO BE COMPLETED ON TIME: ENERGY MINSTER

Barshaman Pun, Minister for Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation, said the

Jagdulla Hydopower Project will be completed within the allocated time. Pun had reached Dolpa on Tuesday for field inspection of the place. In a meeting with the locals, Pun stated that the government was serious about taking forward the project without any hindrances. The minister's visit has enthused the locals about timely completion of the project. In his meeting with the locals, Pun also discussed land acquisition for the project and due compensation.

Source: My Republica, December 9, 2019

Bhote Koshi starts test generation

SINDHUPALCHOWK, Dec 9: Bhote Koshi Hydropower Project (45 MW) has started power generation from Saturday.

The project faced multiple delays as it was affected by severe floods three and half years ago. The project started test generation after completing renovation of structures damaged by the floods.

Bikram Ratna Sthapit, general manager of Bhote Koshi Power Company, said that the project started test generation at 12 noon. "Electricity generated by the project has been connected to the national grid," he said, adding that the project will begin commercial generation after completion of 15-day test generation.

It took 20 months for the company to reconstruct structures damaged by the floods.

"We got permission to start test generation after Nepal Electricity Authority completed examining our structures and plant," Sthapit added.

According to him, officials of the NEA studied the project for eight days. "We have tested both units of the plant. However, the plant is running to its full capacity as water flow in the river falls during winter months," he added. The plant is producing 22-25 MW at present," he added.

Water flow in Bhote Koshi River starts increasing from mid-March. The project will operate to its full capacity from mid-July, according to the project.

Chinese firm Sino Hydro 11 Bureau rebuilt the project on a 'fast track mode', said Sthapit. The project had to invest another Rs 7 billion for reconstruction works.

The floods had submerged the project's dam located in 10 Kilo area and deposited huge boulders and debris which also damaged other head works.

The project was first hit by the 2015 earthquakes. Floods struck the project site when 80% of post-quake reconstruction was already completed, according to the company.

"We lost nearly 60% of the project cost due to the earthquakes and floods," said Sthapit, adding that the project cost has climbed to Rs 17 billion, up from the estimated Rs 10 billion.

Before the 2015 earthquakes, landslide of Jure had damaged transmission line of the project which halted power generation for nearly six months. Earthquake struck the project again four months after it had repaired the transmission line.

As the project has not been able to start generation since 2014, it is losing revenue of US$ 22-24 million annually, according to Sthapit.

Source: My Republica, December 9, 2019

No buyer for China-gifted induction stoves

Over 7,000 stoves gifted four years ago still remain unsold

KATHMANDU, Dec 9: Food Management and Trading Company (FMTC) is still struggling to sell induction stoves gifted by China some four years ago when the nation was reeling under acute shortage of fuel due to Indian blockade.

Sharmila Subedi Neupane, the spokesperson for the state-owned trading company, said the induction stoves of reputed Chinese brand were gathering dust in warehouse due to lack of buyers. "The Chinese government had provided the stoves during the blockade, as the use of induction stove was high during that time due to shortage of LP gas," she added.

FMTC has been selling the stove for Rs 4,000 per unit.

According to Neupane, the stove was sold initially at Rs 12,000 per unit. But the price was lowered to Rs 4,000 per unit as the product failed to attract buyers.

The government had authorized National Trading Limited to sell the stoves. But FMTC has been selling them since the merger of National Trading Limited with Nepal Food Corporation. Post-merger, FMTC has managed to sell only 149 units. It has more than 7,000 induction stoves in stock.

Of late, the government has been requesting general public to use induction stoves to reduce use of LP gas for cooking. Similarly, Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) has plans to start a campaign for encouraging household consumers to switch to induction stoves for cooking to increase energy consumption.

Consumers, however, seem to be concerned on the quality of the stoves which have remained unused in the warehouse for nearly five years. People have also shown lukewarm response to the product as it requires a different set of cooking utensils, say officials of FMTC.

“We are getting few buyers who are aware of the product and its benefits. Similarly, some have doubts on the product," Sushila Ghimire, an assistant with FMTC, told Republica.

“We also teach people various safety measures that need to be considered while using induction stoves. Even though many Nepalis have adopted induction stoves, some are still reluctant to use it in their kitchen," she added.