Source: The Kathmandu Post, December 13, 2020

Nepal, India close to finalizing regulatory modality for power trade

Once the regulatory modality is finalized, it would provide an outlet for Nepal's surplus power in the coming months.

Nepal and India are close to finalizing the regulatory modality for allowing Nepali power producers access to the Indian power market, according to the statement of the 8th joint steering committee meeting on cooperation in power sector held on Friday.

The statement said that once the regulatory modality is finalized and signed between the two countries, it would provide an outlet for Nepal's surplus power in the coming months.

The power and energy secretaries of Nepal and India co-chaired the meeting through video conferencing on Friday.

The meeting was led by Dinesh Kumar Ghimire, secretary of the Ministry of Energy from Nepal's side while his counterpart Sanjiv Nandan Sahai was accompanied by Ambassador of India to Nepal Vinay Mohan Kwatra and a 17 member delegation drawn from various ministries and public sector undertakings of India.

The meeting is the apex bilateral mechanism for enhancing and coordinating various government-to-government led initiatives in the power sector.

According to the press statement issued by the Indian Embassy in Nepal, the meeting reviewed the progress made on bilateral processes and initiatives in this sector.

Both sides discussed, inter alia, development of suitable rules and guidelines for allowing access to Nepali power producers to Indian markets, development of energy banking mechanism, development of cross border high voltage transmission lines and reviewing the progress of the SJVN Limited- developed 900MW Arun-III hydropower project in Nepal.

> "Both governments have been coordinating closely with each other in the power sector. Consequently, progress made in the last five years in this sector has been exemplary," the statement reads.
>
> This includes completion of South Asia's first cross border 400 kV transmission line at Muzaffarpur-Dhalkebar, agreement on funding modality for Gorakhpur-Butwal 400 kV line for which the construction will commence soon, and progress on the 900 MW Arun-III hydro project.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening the power sector cooperation between the two countries, including the development of an integrated grid, building more cross border transmission lines, as required, as well as investing in Nepal's hydro and solar power projects.

"The positive and wide-ranging discussions are expected to further support the expansion in power sector cooperation between India and Nepal," the embassy said in the statement.

Source: The Rising Nepal, December 15, 2020

Two Microhydel Projects Constructed In Mugu

Kathmandu, Dec 15 : Two micro hydroelectricity projects constructed in separate Rural Municipalities of Mugu district have started power generation,the Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC) said.

These projects were constructed with the grant assistance of AEPC.

The projects are constructed at Mugum Karmarong Rural Municipality and at Soru Rural Municipality. The Ghanseodar Khola Hydel Project at Mugum Karmarong is 17 kilowatts capacity and the Rumakhola Micro Hydroelectricity Project in Soru is of 35 kilowatts capacity.

Two hundred and fifteen households would be benefitted by the Ghanseodar Khola hydel project while 350 households would be benefitted by the Rumakhola hydel project.

Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation, Madhu Prasad Bhetuwal inaugurated the both projects.

On the occasion, he said the government has the goal of carrying out electrification in the remote villages of the district through micro hydroelectricity projects within short time and stressed on the need of sustainable operation of these projects.

AEPC executive director Madhu Sudhan Adhikari said the Centre has expedited the electrification works throughout the country to make the government's 'Ujyalo Nepal (Bright Nepal)' campaign successful. He added that electrification would be carried out by means of renewable energy in places in the district without access to power.

The Ghanseodhar hydel project is constructed at a cost of Rs 16 million 800 thousand, out of which Rs 6 million 460 thousand was provided by the Centre while the Rumakhola hydel project was constructed at a total cost of Rs 28 million 360 thousand, including the Rs 13.3 million provided by the Centre.

The Centre has the goal of installing 200 minigrids at 97 local levels without access to the national grid.

Source: The Rising Nepal, December 17, 2020

Barpak Connected To Central Transmission Line

Gorkha, Dec 17 : The central transmission line has connected Barpak of Gorkha district, the epicenter of the 2015 Gorkha earthquake, elating local people.

The transmission line has been extended along 10 kilometers from Baluwa in Ajirkot Rural Municipality, said Madhav Neupane, Gorkha distribution center of Nepal Electricity Authority.

The project cost Rs 30 million. "Electricity has reached the village on Monday. Work to install electric meters is ongoing," he said.

In getting electric meters installed, house owners are required to fill out a form. Electric meters would be distributed free of cost to poor families, he said.

In the first phase, a plan is afoot to electrify 500 houses, he said. Started in 2075 BS, the power supply had faced a delay due to ongoing COVID-19 risk.

The project contract was signed with Langali Suppliers and Construction Service, Dhading.

With the power supply, local people have been benefited in various ways.

"In the past, we faced a problem of low voltage, thus creating difficulties to run electric equipment.

Now such problems have been erased after with the transmission line connecting the village," said a local Kopila Ghale.

Source: The Rising Nepal, December 18, 2020

Government Releases National Water Resources Policy

Kathmandu, Dec. 17: The government has released 'National Water Resources Policy-2077' with a long-term thought for making multi-dynamic, equitable and sustainable development of water resources and making economic prosperity and social transformation from its multipurpose.

Minister for Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation, Barshaman Pun, said that the policy was released after around four year's hard work and common initiative of the concerned people, groups and bodies.

The policy has set a target to contribute for economic prosperity and social transformation by protecting, promoting and multipurpose development of water resources.

Contributing in the growth of the national production, conservation, development and management of water resources areas by equitable development and use of water resources is the objective of the policy.

Similarly, water resources area would be developed by distributing water resources-related services in an easy and equitable manner for the fulfillment of people's necessity, to conserve, development and use of water resources at coordination of federation, provinces and local levels.

The policy has the objective of developing and using the water resources, lessening water-induced disaster and minimizing losses by lessening negative impact on economic, social and environmental side.

The policy has determined 11 strategies. It has a policy to carry out study and research in water resources sector, capacity building of concerned organisation and human resources.