

Source: My Republica; 13 Oct 2018

## **15,000 MW electricity in 10 years: Energy Minister Pun**

Minister for Energy, Water Resource and Irrigation Barsha Man Pun on Saturday said 15,000 megawatts electricity would be produced in next 10 years.

"Nepal is rich in water resources, and it will be self-reliant by tapping the vast potential of hydro. Work is on toward realizing the goal of 'Nepal's water, Nepali's investment'.

"Each Nepali is a hydropower share holder," he said inaugurating the Mission Malinge Vision at Champadevi in Okhandhunga. He also said railway would be constructed in the next two years.

"Nepal will be prosperous in near future by modernizing agriculture and utilizing country electricity and tourism," he said.

RSS

Source: The Kathmandu Post; 13 Oct 2018

## **Work starts on Tamakoshi V cascade power project**

Tamakoshi Jalvidyut Company has initiated the development of a cascade plant downstream of the Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Project which is currently under construction. Tamakoshi V will use the water from the tailrace of the 456 MW Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Project to turn its turbines to generate 99.8 MW of hydroelectricity.

Tamakoshi Jalvidyut, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA), is planning to start the construction of the Tamakoshi V Hydroelectric Project by mid-2019. It has already called for tenders to prequalify contractors to implement the first package of the project which includes civil and hydromechanical works. According to the company, it will soon invite tenders to prequalify contractors for the second package of the project which includes electromechanical works. Prequalified applicants will have to participate in the final bidding process to get the contract for the construction of the hydroelectric project. They will be evaluated based on their technical and financial proposals. First, the technical proposals of the contractors will be evaluated, and the lowest bidder among the technically qualified ones will be awarded the contract.

“It will take around six months to complete the entire procurement process,” said Nasib Man Pradhan, CEO of Tamakoshi Jalvidyut Company. “Our target is to start the construction of the project by mid-2019.”

As Tamakoshi V will be built downstream of Upper Tamakoshi and make use of the water discharged by it, a separate dam will not be required, which means the project can be built at little cost. According to Pradhan, the project will be developed at an estimated cost of \$150 million and is seeking financial assistance from the Asian Infrastructure Development Bank (AIB).

Officials of the China-based multilateral lender have already visited the project site in Dolakha district. “Although a decision has not been made regarding the loan, we have signed an aide-memoire with the multilateral lender to finance the construction of the project,” said Pradhan.

While efforts are being made to expedite Tamakoshi V, the construction of the Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Project upstream has been delayed. Upper Tamakoshi, with more than 95 percent of the construction works completed, has stalled due to dillydallying by the Indian contractor hired to execute the hydromechanical works.

The Indian contractor is yet to start fitting the penstock pipe in the tunnel which is the major component of its task. The penstock pipes deliver water from the tunnel to the turbines in the powerhouse to rotate them to generate electricity.

Source: My Republica; 16 Oct 2018

## **Energy Minister Pun urges Chinese entrepreneurs to invest in Nepal's hydro sector**

Minister for Energy Barshaman Pun has urged the Chinese entrepreneurs to invest in Nepal's hydropower sector.

Addressing an interaction on 'Nepal-China Economic Co-operation Forum: Prospects of Investment in Nepal's Energy Sector' in Beijing on Tuesday, the minister shed light on the significance of electricity as a priority sector with a direct bearing on socio-economic transformation of the country, according to a press statement issued by Nepal Embassy in China.

Minister Pun, who is on a visit to China, outlined the government's plan to develop 15000 MW of electricity in 10 years.

Minister Pun underscored the key role of foreign investments in achieving the target and invited the Chinese enterprises to utilize the opportunities for investment in Nepal's hydropower for win-win outcomes for both countries.

On the occasion, Nepali Ambassador to China Leela Mani Paudyal, said that the forum was organized with a view to facilitating dialogue between Nepali policymakers and Chinese enterprises, and for exchanging ideas and experience on further accelerating Chinese investment in the generation of hydropower in Nepal.

He assured the full support and co-operation of the Embassy of Nepal in facilitating such investments. Briefing on the investment opportunities for Chinese investors in Nepal's hydropower sector, Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Energy Dinesh Kumar Ghimire outlined the policies, tools, processes and facilities relating to the investment regime in the hydropower sector.

Likewise, Managing Director of Nepal Electricity Authority Kulman Ghising highlighted the potentials of investing in Nepal's hydropower from a regional market perspective.

"It is a most appropriate time to invest in Nepal due to the huge volume of regional and domestic demand in electricity, the robust nature of energy connectivity infrastructures in the region, seasonal complementarities for demand and supply, and the credibility of NEA as an off-taker," he said.

Welcoming the Nepali delegates, Vice-President of China Association for International Economic Co-operation Guo Yongle hoped that the interactions would promote business co-operation between the two countries and create new opportunities in further advancing Nepal-China economic co-operation. The event was organized by Beijing-based Nepal Embassy in collaboration with China Association for International Economic Co-operation.

The forum brought together Chinese energy companies and entrepreneurs, as well as senior officials of the Government of Nepal and businessmen and representatives of companies from Nepal for interactions on facilitating Chinese investments in the hydropower sector.

More than one hundred and twenty participants including representatives of public and private sector companies of Nepal and China, senior office-bearers of Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI), Non-Resident Nepali Association (NRNA), Independent Power Producers Association of Nepal (IPPAN), representatives of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), and media persons also took part in the program, the embassy said.

Source: The Kathmandu Post; 16 Oct 2018

## **Upper Dordi to start production in 6 months**

*AASH GURUNG*

The Upper Dordi A, a 25 MW hydropower project based in Dordi Rural Municipality, Lamjung, is all set to start its production in the next six months.

The Upper Dordi A, under construction in Dordi Khola, which is located between Dodeni-6 and Phaleni-7 of the rural municipality, is being developed by Liberty Energy Hydropower. The Chairman of Liberty Energy, Kush Kumar Joshi, said they have completed 80 percent of the construction work as of now. According to Joshi, the company plans to conclude major construction of the project by mid-January. "We have planned to complete the construction of the entire structure and installation of equipment by mid-March," Joshi said. The company reported that it has also completed 90 percent of the installation of penstock pipes. The civil work of penstocks and hydro mechanical work of the project is undertaken by Machapuchchhre JV. The power plant has penstock pipes of length 2,854 meters in total.

As per the project officials, about 60 percent of the head works and power house construction has also been completed, which was assigned to Bajra Guru Construction. Last week, the project carried out the 'breakthrough' construction of its tunnel, the total length of which is 2,623 m. The project's powerhouse will have two pelton turbines, each with capacity of 12.5 MW. Four years ago, a consortium of banks led by Nepal Investment Bank Limited approved a loan of Rs 2.83 billion for the development of the Upper Dordi A. The project was supposed to be completed by April this year; however, it missed its completion deadline, citing a number of reasons, including the protests from local people.

The project is one of the five projects being developed on the Dordi Khola. The estimated cost of the project is Rs 3.96 billion. And Aatma Ram Ghimire, managing director of the project, said a total of Rs2.62 billion has been spent on the construction as of now.

The electricity generated out of the Upper Dordi A is expected to cost Rs 140 million per MW. The electricity generated is expected to be supplied through a 132 kV sub-station situated at Kirtipur, Lamjung.

Of the total investment of the project, 70 percent is financed from bank loans while 30 percent came from the equity capital of promoters. The project is said to have invested Rs60 million for the local development targeting the affected people.

Source: My Republica; 25 Oct 2018

## **Prospects of investment in energy sector in Nepal discussed in China**

An interaction program on the topic of 'Nepal-China Economic Co-operation Forum: Prospects of Investment in Nepal's Energy Sector' was held in Beijing today at the aegis of the Embassy of Nepal, in collaboration with China Association for International Economic Co-operation.

Minister for Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation of the Government of Nepal Barshaman Pun was the Guest of Honor.

The forum brought together Chinese energy companies and entrepreneurs, as well as senior officials of the Government of Nepal and businessmen and representatives of companies from Nepal for interactions on facilitating Chinese investments in the hydropower sector.

More than one hundred and twenty participants including representatives of public and private sector companies of Nepal and China, senior office-bearers of Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI), Non-Resident Nepali Association (NRNA), Independent Power Producers Association of Nepal (IPPAN), representatives of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), and media persons also took part in the program, the Embassy of Nepal in Beijing stated.

Shyam Kumar Shrestha, Member of Parliament, Dr. Krishna Prasad Oli, Member of the National Planning Commission and Anup Kumar Upadhyay, Secretary at the Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation (MoEWRI) were also present. RSS

Source: My Republica; 18 Oct 2018

## **Modikhola power plant in full operation**

The Modikhola Hydropower Project based in Modi rural municipality, Parbat has finally started functioning to its full capacity.

Earlier, the project would witness the power generation up to 11 megawatt at maximum in rainy season despite the capacity of 14.8 mw. The full operation followed the replacement of outdated machinery including a cooler with new ones. Besides, servicing of other machines at the power house also helped operate the project to its full strength, project chief Shiba Kumar Shah said. It cost around Rs 3.5 million to replace outdated equipments.

The project established in 2000 AD is the oldest power plant in the district. The 10-mw run- of- the- river lower Modikhola-I project has been in operation since 2012 while the construction works of the 20-mw lower Modi have neared the final phase.

## **World's second tallest Bungee jumping under construction**

Meanwhile, the construction of the world's 'second tallest' Bungee jump has reached the final stage. The Bungee jump construction project started by youth entrepreneurs of the private sector has so far recorded 80 per cent work progress. The structure based on the gorge of Kaligandaki River connects Kushma, the district headquarters of Parbat, with Balewa of Baglung via the 520-meter suspension bridge. It is 224 meters tall.

Netra Parajuli, Nawaraj Poudel, Yubaraj Joshi and Rajan Joshi of Kushma; Raju Karki of Sindhupalchowk, the Prabhu Bank and French woman Florence have already invested Rs 120 million for the project. The investors have claimed that it is the world's second tallest Bungee jump.

The investors have invested in the project through 'The Cliff Pvt Ltd'. The world's highest Bungee jump is the Macau Tower and it is in China. Prabhu Bank's Kushma branch manager Hemanta Sharma said the Bank has invested Rs 50 million in the project.

"The project will be the second tallest Bungee jump in the world," they said. The project contractor Paramount Construction has said the project will complete by the next three months if the works go smoothly. RSS

Source: My Republica; 22 Oct 2018

## **Darchula has three hydro power plants but depends on India for electricity**

Although three hydro power plants generate around 100 MW of electricity, Darchula continues to rely on electricity supply from India.

The district has 30-megawatts Chameliya Hydroelectricity Project, 8.5-megawatts capacity Upper Naugaad hydroelectricity Project, the 250-kilowatts Dunguri Hydro Electricity Project, among few others, that are producing power. However, the district imports 800 kilowatts of electricity from three places of India. One hundred kilowatts electricity is imported from Lali of Lekam, 100 kilowatts electricity from Huti of Byas and 600 kilowatts electricity from the border area at Jauljabi of Malikarjun rural municipality.

Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA), the state power utility, has distributed power generated from the power plant at Dunguri alone to the district headquarters Khalanga and surrounding places. Apart from this, power supplied to remaining areas of the district has been imported from India, said NEA's Darchula distribution centre chief Dayaram Shah. According to Shah, electricity generated from other power plants in the district except Dunguri is supplied to other districts of the Far-western province.

Source: The Kathmandu Post; 22 Oct 2018

## **Rukum's largest hydropower project nears finish line**

### **Simrutu River Small Hydropower**

*HARI GAUTAM*

Simrutu River Small Hydropower Project, a micro-hydro located in Rukum district has reached the final stage of construction. The biggest hydro power project of the district is on the verge of completion, ten years after construction started. The project is being developed under the financial grant of Asian Development Bank (ADB), Alternative Energy Promotion Center alongside cash and labour contribution by locals, According to the project office, 85 percent of construction work has been already completed. Once completed, the hydropower plant will produce 200 kw of energy. Currently, there are no other projects in the district producing electricity beyond 90 kw. The scheme will generate electricity by channeling water from the Simrutu River and the Khar River to rotate the turbine of the plant. The project is being constructed with an investment of Rs87.1 million where 65 percent of the investment amounting to Rs 57 million, is being provided by the ADB. Similarly, 24 percent of the total investment amounting to Rs20.1 million, is being provided through labour contribution from the district locals. The project has secured 11 percent of the total investment needs amounting to Rs10 million from Civil Bank for the construction of the project. The project received financial support from ADB under South Asia Sub-Regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) programme.

Source: My Republica; 25 Oct 2018

## **Cable stringing work on Upper Trishuli-Matatirtha transmission line begins**

*Bhagawati Lama*

Stringing work on Upper Trishuli-Matatirtha (Kathmandu) of 220 KVA transmission line started from Wednesday.

The transmission line is important to connect power generated by hydropower plants in Trishuli River basin, including Upper Trishuli 3A Hydropower Project, to the national grid. The first unit of the 60-megawatt plant is expected to start generation of 30 MW of energy by January next year.

Fanindra Raj Joshi, project manager of Upper Trishuli 3A, told Republica that they were working in coordination with officials of the transmission line project to make sure that stringing work is completed by December so that there is no problem in evacuating power generated by the project. "Now that the stringing work has begun, we are confident that there will be no problem in evacuating energy generated by our project," added Joshi.

The transmission line holds strategic importance for Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) as it is the only way to evacuate energy generated by hydropower plants in Trishuli River basin that have combined installed capacity of near 900 MW. Hydropower projects like Rasuwagadhi (111 MW), Upper Sanjen (14.8 MW), Lower Sanjen (42.5 MW), Upper Trishuli I (210 MW), Trishuli 3 (60 MW), Upper Trishuli 3B (37 MW), Middle Trishuli Ganga (65 MW) and Galchhi Hydropower (75 MW) are under different phases of construction in the Trishuli River basin.

The transmission line project has already installed all 140 pylons. Stringing and sagging cable is the only remaining work, according to NEA officials. "We have overcome all the hurdles in erecting pylons and laying cables. Now, we are hopeful that the remaining works will progress smoothly," added Joshi.

Chinese firm, China International Water and Electric Corporation Company Limited, is building the transmission line at an estimated cost of Rs 2.5 billion. The transmission line project work began in 2011. However, its work couldn't progress much initially due to problem in clearing forest land and acquiring land for the project.

Source: The Kathmandu Post; 25 Oct 2018

## **Formation of energy body bogged down by delays**

The Energy Ministry has not established a commission to regulate the energy sector even though more than a year has passed since Parliament passed the Electricity Regulatory Commission Bill. In August 2017, Parliament endorsed the bill paving the way for the establishment of a powerful commission to regulate the country's energy sector, and President Bidya Devi Bhandari subsequently signed the bill into law.

The Ministry has not got around to setting up the Nepal Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC). It has not formed a hiring committee to fill the different positions at the commission. A commissioner, members and other staff are still to be appointed. The hiring committee was supposed to be formed under the energy secretary as soon as the act came into effect, but it has not happened. According to the Ministry, its plan to establish the NERC was held up due to delays in preparing the required operating regulations. "It took several months to prepare a draft of the regulations, and the Law Ministry took another few months to give its approval, said Dinesh Kumar Ghimire, spokesperson for the Energy Ministry. "This was the major reason behind the delay."

The Energy Ministry said it would soon form a hiring committee under the leadership of its secretary for the appointment of NERC staff including a commissioner and members. "An expert committee will be formed within a couple of days, and it will invite proposals from interested candidates to select the commissioner and members of the commission," said Ghimire. "Now, it will not take much more time to establish the commission."

The NERC will supersede the existing Electricity Tariff Fixation Commission and set the charges that customers will have to pay to the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA), the state-owned power utility. The commission will fix the electricity tariff after holding a public hearing. The commission, according to the regulations, will also establish a code that various entities under its jurisdiction will have to follow. The code will specify standards for the construction of hydropower plants, transmission lines and distribution networks. It will also determine the voltage that will be supplied to customers by the utility. The commission will also have a full mandate to determine the power purchase rate for the state-owned power utility. At present, the NEA is the sole buyer of electricity in Nepal, and it has been fixing the rate for the purchase of electricity from hydropower projects. Also, the power utility has to take approval from the commission to sign power purchase agreements with project developers.

Source: The Himalayan Times; 26 Oct 2018

## **Construction of Marsyangdi Corridor Transmission Line moves ahead**

The Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) has started the process to find a contractor for the construction of Marsyangdi Corridor Electricity Transmission Line.

The process to select a contracting company has begun for the construction of 46-kilometre long 220 KV transmission line from Dharapani to Udipur, and 220/132/33 KV substations at Dharapani of Manang and Khudi of Lamjung. NEA has indicated that interested companies must send their applications by December 4. The selected company would be granted the contract to construct the two substations as well as the transmission line.

Meanwhile, a contracting company has already been appointed for the construction of 67 kilometres long Udipur-Markichok-Bharatpur transmission line within the same corridor. Works have already begun in this section of the transmission line.

Likewise, selection process has reached its final stage to determine a contracting company for the construction of 220/132/33 KV substations at Udipur and Bharatpur and their appointment would be finalised by the end of November 2018, said chief of the 220 KV Marsyangdi Corridor Transmission Line Project, Chirantan Bikram Rana.

He informed that the transmission line is being constructed with a subsidised loan from European Investment Bank (EIB). According to him, electricity generated from the Marsyangdi Corridor Transmission Line would reach Marsyangdi and Kathmandu from Markichok.

Similarly, construction of 220 KV Markichok-Kathmandu Transmission Line is taking place in full swing. Construction of the transmission line and substation is targeted to be completed by July 2019.