



GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL
OFFICE OF THE INVESTMENT BOARD NEPAL

IBN

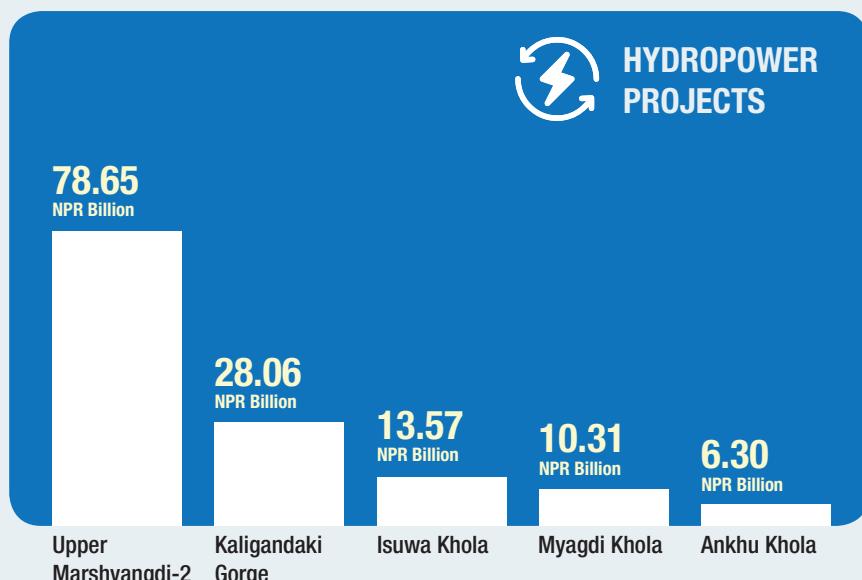
DISPATCH

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF OIBN

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IBN 44th Board Meeting

HYDROPOWER PROJECTS



CEMENT PROJECTS



IBN APPROVES INVESTMENT WORTH NPR 185.43 BILLION

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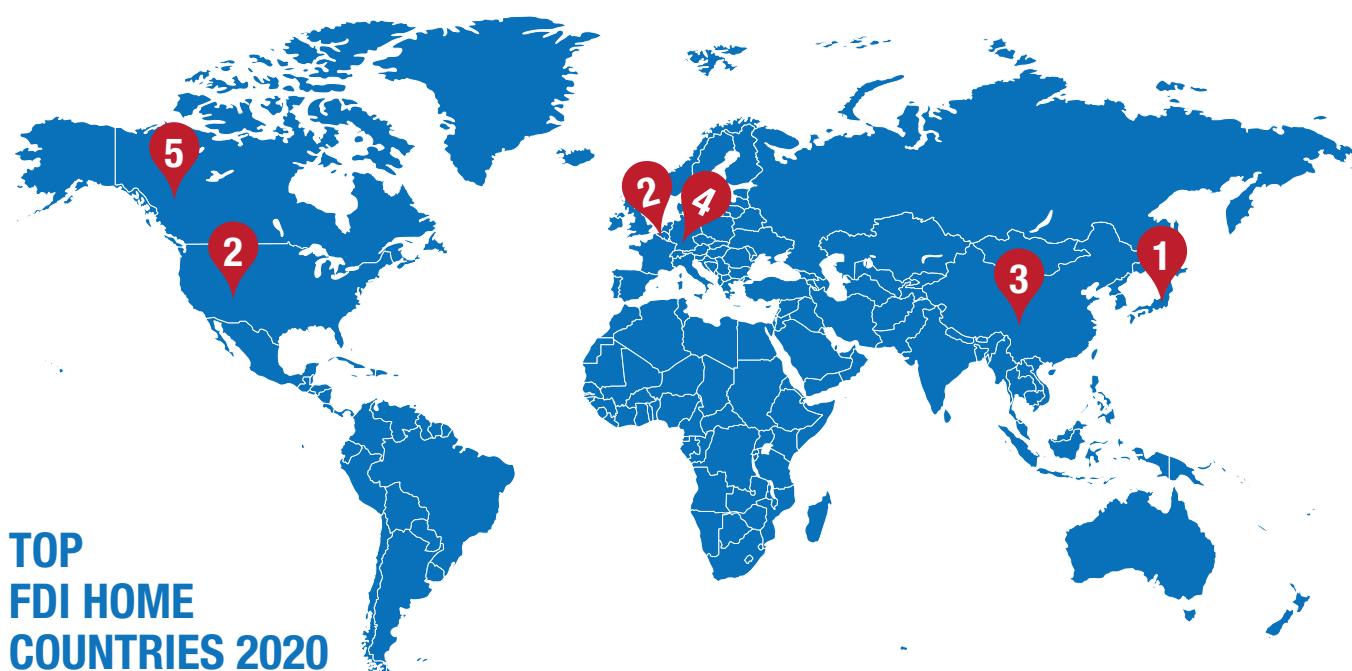
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Project activities, IBN services continue amid the COVID crisis. 11

INVESTOGRAPH



1 UNITED STATES 246 BILLION USD	2 CHINA 141 BILLION USD	3 SINGAPORE 92 BILLION USD	4 NETHERLANDS 84 BILLION USD	5 IRELAND 78 BILLION USD
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1 JAPAN 227 BILLION USD	2 UNITED STATES 125 BILLION USD	3 NETHERLANDS 125 BILLION USD	3 CHINA 117 BILLION USD	4 GERMANY 99 BILLION USD	5 CANADA 77 BILLION USD
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Data Source: World Investment Report, 2020 / UNCTAD

IBN APPROVES FDI WORTH NPR 185.43 BILLION



KATHMANDU: The 44th meeting of Investment Board Nepal (IBN) was held in Baluwatar under the chairmanship of the Right Honorable Prime Minister and Chairman of IBN Mr. K. P. Sharma Oli on June 19, 2020. The meeting approved NPR 185.43 billion worth of investment for a total of seven projects. The meeting approved investments worth NPR 78.65 billion for the 327 MW Upper Marshyangdi Hydropower-2 Project, NPR 6.3 billion for the 42.9 MW Ankhukhola Hydropower Project, NPR 10.31 billion for the 57.3 MW Myagdi Khola Hydropower Project, NPR 13.57 billion for the 97.2 MW Isuwa Khola Hydropower Project, and NPR 28.06 billion for the 164 MW Kaligandaki Gorge Hydropower Project. The meeting also approved investment worth NPR 32.5 billion and NPR 15.05 billion for Dang Cement Industries and Samrat Cement Industries, respectively.

Similarly, the meeting granted permission to Risen Energy Singapore JV Pvt. Ltd. to conduct feasibility studies to develop and operate 125 MW solar power plants with 20 MW storage capacity in Kapilvastu district and Kohalpur of Banke district under the public-private partnership (PPP) model. Considering the emerging abnormal situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting decided to extend the timeline

for completing the detailed feasibility of the following projects: China-Nepal Friendship Industrial Park in Damak, Muktinath Cable Car, Multimodal Logistics Park, and Private Freight Terminal and Bulk Handling Facility.

Mr. Balaram Riyal, then Joint Secretary of the Office of the Investment Board Nepal (OIBN) gave a brief on investment promotion and facilitation activities of OIBN. Other dignitaries present on the occasion were Honorable Minister for Finance and Vice-chairman of IBN Dr. Yubaraj Khatiwada, Honorable Minister for Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation Mr. Barsha Man Pun, Honorable Minister for Industry, Commerce and Supplies Mr. Lekha Raj Bhatta, Honorable Minister for Forest and Environment Mr. Shakti Bahadur Basnet, Honorable Minister for Physical Infrastructure and Transport Mr. Basanta Nembang, Honorable Vice Chair of the National Planning Commission Dr. Pushpa Raj Kandel, Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank Mr. Maha Prasad Adhikari, IBN members from the private sector (Ms. Bhawani Rana, Mr. Rajesh Kaji Shrestha, Hari Bhakta Sharma, Balkrishna Siwakoti, Chandra Prasad Dhakal), and high-ranking officials of the Government of Nepal. ♦

CEO BHATTA TAKES OFFICE



KATHMANDU: The newly appointed CEO of the Office of the Investment Board Nepal (OIBN) Mr. Sushil Bhatta took charge of the office amid a function on August 5, 2020. Speaking at a program organized in the IBN office in New Baneshwor, Mr. Bhatta said he would put maximum effort into promoting and facilitating foreign investment in the country. Mr. Bhatta emphasized the need to establish OIBN as a center of excellence by maintaining team spirit and functioning in an innovative manner. OIBN Joint Secretary Mr. Dharmendra Kumar Mishra gave a brief on OIBN's ongoing functions and organizational

structure at the program. During the program Mr. Bishnu Prasad Ghimire, Under Secretary of Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers expressed gratitude on Bhatta's appointment. The government appointed Mr. Bhatta as OIBN CEO on August 3. He was a member of the National Planning Commission (NPC), which is the apex policy formulating body of the government. Mr. Bhatta, an engineer by profession, also holds a Master Degree in Business Administration (MBA) from Kathmandu University. He is also a former president of the Management Association of Nepal (MAN). ♦



OIBN INTERACTS WITH MPs REPRESENTING PALPA DISTRICT



KATHMANDU: On August 9, the Office of the Investment Board Nepal (OIBN) organized an interaction with the people's representatives from Palpa district to discuss issues regarding the Hongshi Shivam Cement project. The project's mining site is located at Nisdi Rural Municipality of Palpa district while the plant is in Nawalparasi (East) district. Senior officials of OIBN led by CEO Mr. Sushil Bhatta interacted with Honorable Mr. Dal Bahadur Rana, a member of the Federal Parliament; Honorable Mr. Narayan Acharya, a member of the Provincial Assembly; Mr. Radha Krishna Timilsina, a former member of the Constituent Assembly; Mukta Singh Saru, chairperson of Nisdi Rural Municipality, Palpa.

On the occasion, the people's representatives stressed on the need to explore an appropriate solution to the dust problem, stating that dust generated by trucks plying along the 28 km road between the plant and mine site is negatively affecting the environment and causing serious health problems in the local community. They suggested that some schools and health posts impacted by the dust be relocated to a better location, roads be upgraded to ease vehicular movement, and at least one km in dense settlement be black-topped to reduce dust pollution in those areas. Similarly, they asked OIBN to put further pressure on relevant government agencies to develop access

roads and transmission lines for the project and stressed the need for frequent interaction between the project developer, IBN and the local community to maintain better relations with the community. They also demanded that the project increase employment opportunities for locals, arrange free health checkups as part of its CSR for local residents living along the access road, and establish a police check post near the mining site to improve local security.

Speaking on the occasion, OIBN CEO Mr. Bhatta said there must be a regular follow up mechanism to monitor the activities of the project as well as document and address local concerns. Mr. Bhatta also stressed the need for frequent interactions/dialogues between the project and local people to address outstanding issues in an amicable manner. OIBN Joint Secretary, Mr. Mishra, said challenges and opportunities come together, and OIBN is committed to continuing the necessary facilitation to resolve contentious issues and remove existing bottlenecks in the process of project implementation. OIBN consultants Mr. Ghanasyam Ojha, Mr. Ratish Basnyat, Mr. Prabhakar Ghimire, Mr. Ganesh Acharya and Ms. Suvechha Nepal were also present on the occasion. ♦

OIBN STARTS HANDOVER OF AGRO PROJECTS TO PROVINCES



KATHMANDU: Office of the Investment Board Nepal (OIBN) has started consultations with concerned provincial officials and developers to handover the Integrated Agriculture Projects to their respective provinces. OIBN organized meetings with high-ranking officials of Province 1 and Province 5 on July 19 and July 22, 2020 respectively, to discuss ways to move the handover process forward.

OIBN interacted with Province 1 officials led by its Honorable Chief Minister Mr. Sher Dhan Rai in a virtual meeting on handing over the project which is going to be implemented in Urlabari, Morang. The project covers programs including the establishment of agriculture infrastructure such as cold storages, warehouses, and processing centers. The cost of the project is estimated at USD 5.45 million. Other officials present at the meeting on behalf of the Province 1 were Honorable State Minister for Agriculture Mr. Ram Bahadur Magar, Honorable Vice Chairman of Province Planning Commission Mr. Subodh Pyakurel, and CEO of the Province Investment Authority Mr. Saroj Koirala.

Speaking at the meeting, Honorable Chief Minister Mr. Rai said that if the project is implemented

successfully, it will have a huge impact on the agricultural transformation of Province 1. Honorable Province State Minister Mr. Magar stated that the project is selected in line with the province's policy priorities. Honorable Province Planning Commission Vice Chairman Mr. Pyakurel said the proposed project would link the province's farming sector to larger national and international markets. The CEO of the Province Investment Authority (PIA), Mr. Koirala, said the PIA was committed to moving the project forward by bringing all stakeholder agencies on board.

Similarly, OIBN organized a meeting with Province 5 officials on the handover of the Integrated Agriculture Infrastructure Project in Tilottama, Manigram. The program was organized on July 22 and was attended by senior officials of the province led by Honorable Chief Minister Mr. Shankar Pokharel. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Mr. Pokharel said such large commercial agricultural projects would unlock the market for high-value farm products and stated that the provincial government is committed to supporting farmers with subsidies and other incentives.



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OIBN STARTS...



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On the occasion, the developer's representative gave a presentation on technical aspects of the project. Nepal Warehousing Company Public Ltd. in association with Probiotech Industries Pvt. Ltd. (Nimbus) and Lambton Agricultural Infrastructure Ltd. Canada in association with DG Market Nepal Pvt. Ltd. are the developers of the project. Mr. Ananda Bagaria, CEO of Nimbus represented the project development company at the meetings.

On both occasions, OIBN then Joint Secretary Mr. Balaram Rijyal said OIBN would continue to extend its facilitation and technical support to the provinces in the process of project implementation even after the handover. Joint Secretary (Technical) Ms. Mon Devi Shrestha, Under Secretary Mr. Lekhanath Neupane, Senior Divisional Engineer Mr. Jaya Ram Prajapati and other IBN officials as well as concerned consulting staff were present at the both meeting.

Before formally handing over the projects, a MoU between IBN and the province as well as a Request for Proposals (RFP) are necessary. A MoU between the developer and the province and a Project Development Agreement will then follow.

The project was showcased during the Nepal Investment Summit 2019. Nepal Warehousing Company Public Ltd. in association with Probiotech Industries Pvt. Ltd. (Nimbus) qualified for implementing the project. The 42nd meeting of the Investment Board Nepal (IBN) directed OIBN to handover the project to their respective provinces stating that the project was beyond the mandate of the IBN. As per the Public Private Partnership (PPP) and Investment Act 2019, projects worth NPR 6 billion or above falls under the IBN's jurisdiction. However, even after the handover of the project, OIBN is responsible for extending technical support as well as necessary facilitation in the process of implementation. ♦

OIBN WELCOMES AND BIDS FAREWELL TO SENIOR OFFICIALS

Incoming



Ms Mon Devi Shrestha
Joint Secretary (Technical)



Mr Dharmendra Kumar Mishra
Joint Secretary



Jaya Ram Prajapati
Senior Divisional Engineer



Mr Ramesh Adhikari
Under Secretary

Outgoing



Mr Balaram Rijyal
Joint Secretary



Mr Lekhnath Neupane
Under Secretary

KATHMANDU: The Office of the Investment Board Nepal (OIBN) welcomed new Joint Secretary Mr. Dharmendra Kumar Mishra and bid farewell to outgoing Joint Secretary Mr. Balaram Rijyal, on July 29, 2020. Mr. Rijyal, who remained in OIBN for 16 months has been transferred to the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supply. OIBN also welcomed Joint Secretary (Technical) Ms. Mon Devi Shrestha, who was transferred from the Department of Energy Development earlier this month.

Speaking on the occasion, incoming Joint Secretary Mr. Mishra said the role of IBN in the overall development of the country is crucial. He stated that he would try his best to make the services of OIBN more investor friendly. Outgoing Joint Secretary Mr. Rijyal said he had the opportunity to play a coordinating and facilitating role to push different IBN mandated projects during his tenure at OIBN.

All OIBN senior officials and consulting staff were present on the occasion.

Similarly, OIBN welcomed Senior Divisional Engineer (SDE) Mr. Jaya Ram Prajapati, who was also transferred from the Department of Energy Development. Likewise, OIBN welcomed Under Secretary Mr. Ramesh Adhikari and bid farewell to Under Secretary Mr. Lekhnath Neupane this month.

Under Secretary Adhikari was transferred from the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration, and Under Secretary Neupane was transferred to the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration. ♦

NEPAL SECURES FDI COMMITMENTS WORTH NPR 1,435 BILLION

KATHMANDU: Nepal secured foreign direct investment (FDI) commitments worth NPR 1,435 billion and approved FDI amounting to NPR 155 billion and NPR 29.82 billion through the Investment Board Nepal (IBN) and Department of Industry (DoI) respectively during the 2019/20 fiscal year. Delivering the budget speech in the parliament on May 28, then Honorable Minister for Finance and Vice-chair of IBN, Dr. Yubaraj Khatiwada stated that FDI commitments were made in response to the various reforms introduced by the government and last year's Nepal Investment Summit. In an attempt to attract startup investments to utilize business opportunities created by Covid-19, the government has setup initial capital worth NPR 500 million for startup loans at 2 percent interest rate for interested entrepreneurs. Khatiwada also announced that feasibility studies, land acquisition, access roads and electricity supply for the infrastructure development of the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) will be completed through the public-private partnership approach.

The budget stipulated encouraging private investment by applying full automation to the One-Stop Service (OSS), which was introduced this year to provide easy quality services to investor. Khatiwada also stated that the process of company registration, renewal, termination will be decentralized employing information technology. To manage investment and trade, the government formulated necessary laws and reform in existing laws based on national context and international best practices. The process of credit rating Nepal will be completed within six months. Hedging of foreign currencies, mix-financial arrangements, and other alternative instruments will be introduced to encourage private investment.

Khatiwada also announced the initiation of the implementation process of Budhi Gandaki, West Seti-SR6, Chisapani, Nalgad, Uttarganga and Naumure hydropower projects by fixing the investment modality, and that the detailed feasibility studies and design of Tamor and Madi hydropower projects will be completed through a PPP approach. Khatiwada tabled a budget worth NPR 1,474.64 billion in the

parliament for the fiscal year 2020/21. According to the Economic Survey, 2020, Nepal's per capita income has increased to USD 1,085 (approximately NPR 126,018). Khatiwada announced a target of 7 percent economic growth for the fiscal year 2020/21 amid the deepening impact of Covid-19 on the domestic economy.

PLANS AND POLICIES

In the Plans and Policies for the 2020/21 fiscal year, the government has announced that it will upgrade the OSS based on information technology and make the process of company administration simplified and fast by decentralizing and automating the process of company registration, renewal and termination. The budget has tightened the screw on FDI projects/companies making it mandatory to secure work permit before hiring foreign nationals. Similarly, in the budget, the government has envisages setting up at least one industrial estate in each province. The budget has also stipulated the completion of the feasibility studies of tunnels in the Tokha-Chhahare and Betrawati-Syaphrubesi sections of the Kathmandu-Nuwakot-Rasuwa road, which is included in IBN's project list.

The budget also announced that it will move forward the study of different sections of the East-West Electrical Railway, which is another project being facilitated by IBN. Announcing the budget, then Finance Minister Khatiwada also informed the parliament that the necessary budget has been allocated for the relocation of settlements and construction of a circuit at the proposed Nijgadh International Airport Area. 'Nepal for film shooting' will also be implemented targeting the Film City Project, one of the projects included in IBN's project list. ♦

OIBN ACCELERATES EFFORTS ON PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

OIBN has greater responsibility in critical project delivery: CEO Bhatta

KATHMANDU: Despite the nation-wide lockdown due to Corona pandemic the Office of the Investment Board Nepal (OIBN) has continued delivering on its key milestones.

OIBN officials and consulting teams jointly briefed the incoming CEO and joint secretaries in the second week of August this year. Five clusters— Stakeholder Engagement and Policy Advocacy Cluster, Investment Promotion, Private Investment and Partnership Cluster, Social and Environment Cluster, Energy Project Development and Management Cluster and Infrastructure Project Development and Management Cluster provided updates on all projects, under IBN mandates, and the activities being carried out by each cluster for smooth development and implementation of the projects.

The clusters also apprised the CEO and joint secretaries about the key challenges and opportunities around the projects. After each cluster-wise briefing, CEO Mr. Sushil Bhatta said OIBN has a greater role in conceptualizing, studying, facilitating and

implementing infrastructure projects, which are critical for an overall development of the country. “IBN, being the apex government body for investment promotion and facilitation, we have greater responsibility to deliver on critical projects,” he said.

Joint secretary Mr. Dharmendra Kumar Mishra emphasized the need to have a strong cooperation and coordination among relevant agencies to speed up the process of project implementation. “We are committed to fulfilling the duty of OIBN as a facilitating agency and all stakeholder agencies on board,” said Mishra.

Another joint secretary, Ms. Mon Devi Shrestha said that OIBN was trying its best to render any possible support to project developers even during the lockdown. “We have left no stone unturned to provide services to project developers even during this difficult time,” said Ms. Shrestha. ♦



OIBN DEVELOPING TOR FOR 13 PROJECTS

KATHMANDU: As a part of its project development function, the Office of the Investment Board Nepal (OIBN) has initiated a preliminary process of developing Terms of References (ToRs) for the development of Feasibility Study/Detailed Feasibility Study (DFS) of 13 infrastructure projects.

With the development of DFS, the projects will be ready for soliciting prospective investors in the near future. The projects under the process of DFS are related to agriculture, tourism, Information Technology (IT), urban development, health, transport, energy, and industry.

The list of such projects includes Agricultural Tools and Machinery Assembly Industry Project, Innovation and IT Park Project in Gandaki Province, Khaptad Integrated Tourism Project, Smart Kathmandu Valley Development Project, Integrated Agricultural

Industrial Zone (including Herbal Processing) Project in all Provinces and Film city Project in Dolakha. Similarly, Damauli Multipurpose Tourism Project, Janaki Heritage Hotel and cultural village Project, Medical Infrastructure Project in all Provinces, Nagdhunga - Dhulikhel Metro Rail Project, Industrial Park Project in all Province, Electrical Bus Rapid Transit (EBRT) on Ring Road of Kathmandu, Solar and Wind in Karnali and Gandaki Province are also incorporated in the list. ♦

OIBN ENGAGES HONGSHI-SHIVAM CEMENT OFFICIALS, LOCALS

KATHMANDU: On June 26, OIBN held a meeting with the management of the Hongshi Shivam Cement Project at the IBN office to discuss ways to ensure the smooth operation of the factory. During the meeting, OIBN then Joint Secretary Mr. Balaran Rijyal assured the project management team that OIBN would put in all the effort required to ensure unhindered operation of the factory.

Locals in Palpa and Nawalparasi (East) districts have interrupted the factory's trucks from accessing both the mine and plant sites putting up some demands including conducting medical test on all truck drivers. OIBN has been coordinating with district-level political parties and government administrators to resolve the issue. The locals have assured OIBN that they will not interrupt the factory's vehicles from reaching the mine site. But, they have asked for a formal meeting with the Hongshi management.

Speaking on behalf of the project, Gaurav Goyal said the company is committed to addressing the issues raised by the local community. "We value the local community and their needs," Goyal said, "Therefore, we will go back to the community, sit with them, listen to their issues, and address each of their demands." On OIBN's request, Goyal said the factory representatives will have a meeting with the community in both the districts to address the issues soon. ♦

MFC MEETING HELD



KATHMANDU: The 5th meeting of the Monitoring and Facilitation Committee (MFC) headed by IBN Vice Chair and the then Honorable Minister for Finance Dr. Yubaraj Khatiwada took place in IBN Office on 28 August. The meeting discussed various pertinent issues, including evaluation of feasibility studies of investment projects, implementation of Integrated National Agriculture Projects, necessary infrastructures to be developed for Hongshi-Shivam Cement Project and Huaxin Cement Narayani Project and others. On the occasion, Ms Mon Devi Shrestha, joint secretary (technical) of OIBN, who is a member secretary of the Committee, gave a presentation on the agenda.

Then IBN Vice Chair Dr. Khatiwada directed to concerned officials in taking necessary measures for removing the bottlenecks of the IBN-mandated projects. He said the relevant agencies need to work together to resolve key bottlenecks and move forward the projects despite difficult situation. OIBN CEO Mr. Sushil Bhatta stressed the need to maintain strong coordination among line agencies of the government to resolve the outstanding issues that emerge during project development and implementation. Secretaries and senior officials of relevant ministries and OIBN were also present at the meeting. ♦



OIBN ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORTED

KATHMANDU: The Office of the Investment Board, Nepal (OIBN) presented its annual progress report to the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers (OPMCM) at a meeting on 14 August 2020.

OIBN Joint Secretary Mr. Dharmendra Kumar Mishra made a presentation about the IBN-mandated projects, key milestones of each project and the project bottlenecks during the meeting. The meeting, held under the convenorship of Chief Secretary Mr. Lok Darshan Regmi, was attended by all secretaries

from the Prime Minister's Office, secretary from the Ministry of Finance, secretary from the National Planning Commission, joint secretaries from the Prime Minister's Office and section officer from the OIBN.

Following the presentation by Joint Secretary Mishra, the meeting discussed opportunities and strategies for resolving the key challenges around the IBN projects. ♦

IBN APPROVES APPROXIMATELY USD 2819 MILLION IN 2076/77

KATHMANDU: Investment Board Nepal (IBN) approved investment worth app. USD 2819 million for various 11 projects combined during the fiscal

year 2076/77 (2019/20). The project securing investment approvals are eight hydropower projects, two cement projects and one industrial park project.

S.N	Project	USD Million
1	China-Nepal Friendship Industrial Park, Damak	586.093
2	Marshyangdi Besi Hydropower Project	103.4
3	Upper Trishuli 3B Hydropower Project	72.25
4	Upper Trishuli 1 Hydropower Project	647.4
5	Ankhu Khola Hydropower Project	51.98
6	Myagdi Khola Hydropower Project	84.9
7	Kali Gandaki Gorge Hydropower Project	230.96
8	Isuwa Khola Hydroelectric Project	103.44
9	Upper Marshyangdi-2 Hydropower Project	547.16
10	Dang Cement Project,	267.42
11	Samrat Cement Project,	123.99
Total		2818.99

LAND ACQUISITION PROCESS MOVING SMOOTHLY FOR TRANSMISSION LINES

Arun-3 Hydropower



KATHMANDU: Amid the Covid-19 crisis, the process for the acquisition of land for the Transmission Lines (TL) of the Arun-3 Hydropower Project moved forward smoothly in all seven concerned districts. The seven Chief District Officers (CDOs) who head the Compensation Determination Committees (CDCs) in their respective districts accelerated the process of determining the compensation for land and non-land assets of the affected households. The CDC of Dhanusha district, where the sub-station is located, has finalized the compensation for the land to be acquired for the proposed substation in Dhalkebar. The Dhanusha District Administration Office has issued a public notice to concerned land owners to approach the CDC for compensation for land to be acquired for the Dhalkebar sub-station.

On July 17, 2020, the then CDO of Dhanusha, Mr. Kosh Hari Niraula, informed a virtual joint meeting between the Office of the Investment Board and the CDC of Dhanusha that the compensation rate for land in the Dhalkebar area had been fixed. The CDC determined land prices by taking into consideration trading prices fixed by the District Land Revenue Office, prevailing market prices and the valuation of land by banks for lending purposes. The land prices were fixed in three categories (NPR 6.2 million, NPR 5.8 million and NPR 1.7 million per kattha) depending on the location of the land. However, compensation for non-land assets of landowners in the proposed Dalkhebar substation are yet to be finalized.

The meeting was chaired by CDO Mr. Niraula and

was attended by the mayor of Mithila Municipality, chairs of the respective wards, and representatives from the District Survey Office. Similarly, IBN Joint Secretary (technical) Ms. Mon Devi Shrestha, Senior Divisional Engineer Mr. Jaya Ram Prajapati and concerned IBN consultants, and the SAPDC (SJVN-Arun 3 Power Development Company) team led by its CEO Mr. Arun Dhiman were present at the meeting.

Similarly, District Administration Office (DAO) Mahottari has started the process of determining the price of land for installing TL towers. At a joint (virtual) meeting with IBN on July 19, 2020, the CDO of Mahottari, Mr. Krishna Bahadur Katwal, who is also the convener of the CDC, announced they would speed up the process of fixing land price for the TL as early as possible. Mayors of relevant municipalities/rural municipalities and chairs of their respective wards as well as officials from District Survey Office were present at the meeting, which was chaired by CDO Mr. Katwal.

FINANCIAL AWARENESS SOON

In coordination with the Dhanusha District Administration Office (DAO) and Mithila Municipality, OIBN and SAPDC are jointly organizing financial awareness activities targeting compensation receivers. Since organizing awareness programs by inviting compensation recipients to one place is not possible due to the Covid-19 crisis, they



Continued to Page 15...

LAND ACQUISITION...

« ...continued from Page 14

will be contacted individually to distribute awareness materials and impart counselling regarding the productive utilization of the compensation amount. ♦

PROJECT ACTIVITIES, IBN SERVICES CONTINUE AMID THE COVID CRISIS

KATHMANDU: Despite the hard time created by COVID-19, the projects under Office of the Investment Board Nepal (OIBN) are carrying out their activities in the field.

The construction of the dam site and power house of the 900 MW Arun-3 Hydropower Power Project (AHPP) is moving smoothly by adopting protective measures amid the COVID-19 crisis. AHPP also has been supporting the local government in the project area in its COVID-19 response by providing medical equipment such as PPEs, ICU beds, and ventilators with a combined worth of around NPR 9 million. OIBN has been extending administrative support to AHPP for administrative processes such as documentation for the import of required materials and the repatriation of funds among other required services. However, the project has stated that movement of goods and supplies have been disrupted due to the lockdown.

Similarly, Hongshi Shivam Cement has been selling and distributing cement and clinkers from their existing stock. However, their stock is declining every passing day due to the absence of fresh production of cement and clinkers. The project has taken this opportunity to undergo maintenance work during the lockdown. The project informed OIBN that due to the restrictions on the movement of materials and workers in the site, the construction of the conveyor belt is going to be delayed. Similarly, the construction of the access road and transmission line to the project site have not moved ahead amid the COVID-19 crisis.

Huaxin Cement Narayani reported that the construction of civil structures is ongoing despite limited manpower, and disruptions in the import of machinery and equipment. However, the crisis and

subsequent delays in some government approvals are set to push back the targeted deadline for the completion of construction work. The prolonged lockdown has prevented field investigations under the planned feasibility study for the 756 MW Tamor storage hydropower project.

Even during the lockdown, OIBN remained open with the presence of key officials to continue its services to project developers.

OIBN PROVIDES FACILITATION FOR REPATRIATION, RECOMMENDATION

On request from developer company, the Office of the Investment Board Nepal (OIBN) provided services to Arun-3 Hydropower Project for repatriation of foreign currency to foot the bills of construction works by different contractor companies. Similarly, OIBN also recommended to the Ministry of Home Affairs for the movement of at least 370 workers working in the 900-MW project during the lockdown and other forms of travel restrictions imposed by the government due to COVID-19. OIBN also asked the SAPDC, the developer company, to abide by protocol and guidelines issued by Nepal government while mobilizing the workers at construction sites. ♦

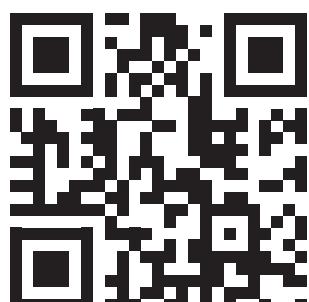
MY STORY...



My name is Kopila Parajuli, resident of Makalu Rural Municipality-5, Num Bazaar, Sankhuwasabha. I just turned 48. I am literate but did not get an opportunity for further studies after school. However, I am satisfied with what I am doing today. I am one of the beneficiaries of 900 MW Arun-3 Hydropower Project (AHPP) which is being implemented in our district. Makalu Rural Municipality happens to be the area that has been the most affected and has benefitted the most from the project. I am among those who provided land for the construction of civil structures for the AHPP. I received around four lakhs in compensation for my land in Fakshinda Dovaan which is the dam site of Arun-3 Hydropower Project. Though the compensation that I received from the project was not a big amount, I properly utilized it for a better future for my family. Out of the compensation amount, I constructed a house in Num Bazaar, where I have been running a small hotel and a grocery store. I am

satisfied with what I am earning from this business. Other people are also getting benefits from AHPP directly or indirectly.

AHPP has boosted business activities, supported local development activities and generated employment at the local level. I am among the hundreds of beneficiaries from AHPP. As the chairperson of a local women's group, I have been requesting the AHPP to maximize employment opportunities and other benefits for local women. I have been observing how this area has evolved since the start of AHPP. I realize that even a single development project can open various avenues for the benefit of local people. The project not only improved local development activities, businesses and employment opportunities, but the project has also become a major attraction for domestic tourists as it is the largest hydropower project in the country. ♦



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