



SAARC Diploma Engineers Forum (SDEF)

Head Quarter's : IDEB Bhaban, 160/A, Kakrail VIP Road, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh

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Report of World Water Day 2017

& 17th Apex Body Meet of SAARC Diploma Engineers Forum.

Diploma Engineers Association, Nepal (DEAN) and SAARC Diploma Engineers Forum (SDEF) had jointly organized a seminar on "**Water Resource Management in the Context of Gorkha Earthquake-2015**" on the 22nd of March on the occasion of this year's World Water Day. The SDEF's Apex Body Meet 2017 was organized on the 23rd of March, the next day. The event was supported by Department of Water Supply and Sewerage, National Open College (NOC) and **ACTION CONTRE LA FAIM | ACF-France**. Rt. Honorable Nanda Bahadur Pun, Vice-President, Federal Republic of Nepal inaugurated the conference as the chief guest.

The special guests of the program were *Mr. Maihan Saeedi*, Director, SAARC Secretariat along with representatives from All India Federation of Diploma Engineers (AIFODE), Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh (IDEB), Institution of Incorporated Engineers, Sri Lanka (IIESL), Pakistan Diploma Engineers Federation (PDEF) and among others. Addressing the inauguration ceremony, DEAN's Chairman and SDEF Chairman KP Singh talked about the issues including the professional development of Diploma Engineers, demand for a council, integration, grade system and so on. Meanwhile, DEAN's General Secretary and Executive Member of SDEF Ms. Bindiya Karki made a welcome speech during the function. Patron of SDEF and former Vice-chairman, National Planning Commission Dr. Dinesh Chandra Devkota presented a working paper highlighting the aspects like utility and preservation of water and experts' roles on an overall socioeconomic development and the government's responsibilities in this regard. Likewise, DEAN Technical Coordinator Dr. Murali Gopal Ranjit presented a speech on the usefulness of the conference.



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Meanwhile, Co-chairman of the SAARC member countries discussed about the condition of technicians and relevant institutions in their respective countries along with their government's responses in this respect.

Similarly, Er. Md. Shamsur Rahman, Secretary General of SAARC Diploma Engineers Forum highlighted the role of Diploma Engineers to alleviate the poverty of the SAARC region.

In inaugural speech, Chief Guest Rt. Honorable Nanda Bahadur Pun, Vice-President, Federal Republic of Nepal said that the country needs technicians for development and dwelled on the aspects where the government needs to lend its support in this regard. He said that he's excited about the working style and achievements of SDEF and would lend the government's support for the betterment of the organization. Meanwhile, speaking about the important of the conference, Mr. Maihan Saeedi, Director, SAARC Secretariat pledged to provide the governments of respective countries every possible support in a bid to preserve the rights and improve the quality of Diploma Engineers. Speaking at the conclusion of the inauguration ceremony, president of DEAN and Chairman, SDEF Mr. K.P Singh shed the light on the issues including the aspects like accommodation for the organization's office, establishment of a council, lack of abiding by the activities carried out in other developed countries and contribution of Nepal as a SAARC member nation. He said that the government was still indifferent towards above mentioned demands being raised by DEAN in this respect.

The SAARC nations are considered rich in water resources. Moreover, Nepal has long been listed as the world's second richest country in terms of water resources. However, the country has been lagging behind when it comes to easy access to drinking water due to difficult geographical terrain coupled with lack of effective planning and



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concerted effort from the government in this regard. The conference shed the light on the challenges regarding the matter and stressed on the need of doing away with all the available obstacles via a serious discussion among experts followed by research and concerted effort from all stakeholders.

Meanwhile, DEAN handed over a felicitation letter to UNICEF and **ACTION CONTRE LA FAIM** | ACF-France requesting for similar kind of support from the latter in the coming days as well.

Technical Session was held following the inaugural session, which was divided into three different categories, as has been mentioned below.

Technical Session I

<i>Paper Presenter</i>	<i>Topic</i>
<i>Mr. Tej Raj Bhatta, Director General, Department of Water Supply and Sewerage(DWSS)</i>	<i>WASH policy and Strategy – Achieve the Target</i>
<i>Er. Rajesh Prasad Singh Project Chief, High power committee for Integrated Development of Bagmati Civilization (HPCIDBC)</i>	<i>Problems and issues of sewerage system in Kathmandu valley of Nepal</i>
<i>Er. A K M A Hamid, President. Institute of Diploma Engineers Bangladesh (IDEA)</i>	<i>Water and waste water management with respect to integrated water resource management in Bangladesh</i>
<i>Mr. Ganga Datta Nepal WASH Expert, WHO/DWSS</i>	<i>Rural Water supply sanitation and hygiene (WASH) management after the 2015 earthquake in Nepal</i>

Technical Session II

<i>Paper Presenter</i>	<i>Topic</i>
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<p>Mr. B B Thapa Chief of Party SEBAC and Manina Budathoki, Project supervision coordinator</p>	<p>Study on Water Source Mapping in Sindhupalchowk and Dolakha Districts of Nepal, SEBAC/USAID Nepal</p>
<p>Mr. Bhupendra Aryal ED and Er. Sanjya Mishra, DED, RWSSFDB</p>	<p>Sustainability of WASH Services under Projects implemented by Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Fund Development Board</p>
<p>Ms. Kamala KC WASH HOD, ACF and Mr. Giri Raj Kahtri, Program Manager ACF</p>	<p>Rural water supply and sanitation in post earth quake context- An intervention experience of ACF International (Action Against Hunger) in Nuwakot and Rasuwa district of Nepal</p>
<p>Mr. Ram Krishna Sapkota, DG DoLIDAR and Mr. Pallav Raj Nepal, MIS Specialist</p>	<p>Rural WASH Policy and practices in the context of water resource management in Nepal</p>

Technical Session III

Paper Presenter	Topic
<p>Er. Hari Prasad Sharma WASH Environment Specialist</p>	<p>An Experience of Project management in small town water supply in Nepal</p>
<p>Mr. Yuban Mall & Mochan Bhattarai</p>	<p>Save the holy river in Nepal</p>
<p>Er. Jyotirmoy Kalita and Saroj Upadhaya and Dr. Murali Ranjit, India</p>	<p>Water resource management in the context of Gorkha earth quake and lesson learned from BHOJI earth quake India</p>

For your kind information, the Conference Resolution has been attached alongside this report.

Speakers at the seminar also dwelled on the aspects such as the country's religious and cultural heritages along with rivers like Bagmati and Bishnumati being polluted and



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encroached by humans out of their selfish motives and stressed on the need of preserving such places in order to prevent any negative impact, or worse, natural calamities in the coming days.

Resolutions of the Conference

1. Knowledge generation and sharing among the SAARC member countries is essential for science based capacity enhancement. Such collaborative effort aids in enhancing the quality of life of our people. This upliftment is essential for people in SAARC region where 500 million people live below poverty line. Hence, forums such as SAAR Diploma Engineers Forum should play and is playing a proactive role in dissemination of ideas and knowledge.
2. There is a lack of clear jurisdiction on responsible authority for sewerage management. This situation is further complicated by a lack of coordination and collaboration among authorities. Hence, a leading and sectorial specific organization is the need of the hour especially in the context of recent restructuring of the state. An operational wastewater treatment facility and proper landfill site and its management is a prerequisite for an effective operation of any urban or semi-urban area. With ever increasing population living in an urban area in Nepal with the formulation of 246 municipalities, 13 sub metro and 4 metropolitan cities, a separate entity in the form of Waste Water and Solid Waste Management Department is indispensable for proper management of waste water and solid waste in Nepal.
3. Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems (DEWATS) is a low-maintenance needed technical approach to treat wastewater without involving any external energy input. It utilizes natural processes and are cost effective in operation and maintenance, hence ideal for individuals and other institutions lying in close



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proximity to each other. Therefore priority should be given to these types of system as such system fosters the sense of ownership among local people with enhancement of private-public partnership.

4. The reach of rural water supply has increased immensely in the recent years. However, it is found that most of the projects are either partially functional or are not functional at all. In many of these cases a lack of maintenance culture has been found to be the primary cause. Furthermore, a comprehensive and periodic rehabilitation and reconstruction of these projects should be carried out to make the rural water supply projects sustainable.
5. Technology should be incorporated in every aspect of disaster management .Geographic Information System (GIS) should be utilized for mapping current and new water sources all over the country. Furthermore, Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) should be established to analyze the disaster trends and their impacts in a systematic manner.

At the Apex Body Meet of SAARC Diploma Engineers Forum (SDEF) held on the 23rd of March, 2017, the chairpersons of the SDEF member organizations presented their intuitional activities and held a serious discussion on the Kathmandu Declaration along with the resolutions of the 15th and 16th Apex Body meetings. The chairpersons mutually decided to hold the 8th Apex Body Meet in Bangladesh on February 2018 and appealed the representatives of other nations as well to participate in the event. The meeting also decided to correspond with the foreign ministries of concerned countries to attain recognition from the apex body status. Similarly, decision was taken to appoint Secretary General of SDEF from Nepal in the next conference and move ahead with the process on a rotational basis.



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The concluding session of the seminar was held with the presence of National Reconstruction Authority's CEO Prof. Dr. Govinda Pokhrel as the chief guest. Special guest at the session was the Irrigation Department's Director General Er. Rajendra Prasad Adhikari.

Speaking at the concluding ceremony, the Co-chairman of the SDEF member organizations discussed about the forum's contribution, its achievements so far and the roles it needs to play in the coming days. Meanwhile, DEAN's advisor and former president Prof. Dr. Rajendra Prasad Adhikari pointed out some of the important roles played by Diploma Engineers. Likewise, SDEF patron Dr. Murali Gopal Ranjitkar presented the Conference Resolution.

At the concluding session, the Chief Guest and other special guests said that the role of the diploma engineers is crucial, citing that they possess both theoretical and practical knowledge in terms of infrastructure development. They also urged the government to make the best use of their skills by hiring them for the nation's post-earthquake reconstruction works and development. The participants said that they were proud to be the part of the event.

In order to make the event more interesting, the Panchamrit band played cultural and folk music of Nepal using traditional Nepali instruments. Concluding the event, DEAN's president and Chairman, SDEF Mr. KP Singh pointed out major activities being carried out by the SDEF and thanked all the participants for their valuable time and contribution. Meanwhile, the National Open College (NOC) and **ACTION CONTRE LA FAIM** | ACF-France were handed felicitation letters appreciating their support.

The final report will be submitted by SAARC Diploma Engineers Forum (SDEF) headquarter Dhaka, Bangladesh.



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Thanking You

Sincerely Yours

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