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Climate Change and its impacts in Nepal

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Climate change is one of the biggest global challenges of the 21st century. Natural resources are being exposed to climate change directly through changing weather patterns and indirectly through changes in quality of water, air, food quality and quantity, ecosystems, agriculture, livelihoods and infrastructure. However, in Nepal the effects of climate change differs its location between two rapidly growing economies of India and China. Nepal cannot escape the increasing influence of climate and global changes. The rapidly retreating glaciers (average retreat of more than 30 m/year), rapid rise in temperature (>0.06OC), erratic rainfalls and increase in frequency of extreme events such as floods and drought like situation are some of the effects Nepal. Most of the big rivers of Nepal are glacier-fed and its main resources of water and hydroelectricity will be seriously affected due to the ongoing changes in Glacier reserves, snowfall and natural hazards. These alarming trends not only make Nepal's major sectors of economy such as agriculture, tourism and energy more vulnerable but also endanger the health, safety and wellbeing of Nepalese people.

Climate change is becoming already dangerous to our survival and we have to do everything, possible to prevent as it being catastrophic to us. Especially the effects of greenhouse gases (GHGs) plays a

vital role towards climate change both drought, flooding and livelihoods in Nepal. The globally accepted strategy to contain disastrous climate change impacts is adaptation and mitigation.

In 2010, the Government of Nepal has approved National Adaptation Programme of Action. (NAPA) developed as a requirement under the UNFCCC to access funding for the most urgent and immediate adaptation needs from the least developed countries like Nepal. Somehow NAPA will be fulfilled the prime target of climate change impacts mitigation.

Speaker Biography

Lekhanath Bagale currently a Ph.D. Research Scholar at the Tribhuvan University, Institutes of Science & technology, Kathmandu, Nepal, he has completed two Master degrees one is Master's Degree of Engineering (Hydrology) from the University of Roorkee (IIT Roorkee), India (2000 with UNESCO Fellowship) and another is Master's in Science, from Tribhuvan University, Nepal (1992). He has been working as a Senior Divisional Hydrologist, at the Government of Nepal, Ministry of Energy since 1998 to date. Also involving teaching as a Senior lecturer for Statistics and Research Methodology, TU, Nepal. He has specialization on Ground Water Hydrology & Water Resource Engineering. He has strong professional skills towards Hydrology, Hydropower, and Environmental fields. He has published various text books, papers, abstracts for national and international journals. He is a life member of the Society of Hydrology and Meteorology (SOHAM) and Nepal Engineering Council (NEC) as well as members of the various technical organizations.

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