

Loss reduction and improvement activities for NEA

ENERGY EFFICIENCY DESERVES TO BE PURSUED AS A CHEAP SOURCE OF GENERATION

Roshan Silwal
Kathmandu

Happiness is what everyone seeks in their life. Our happiness has increased since we celebrated Dashain and Tihar; both the festivals having

possible due to control of leakages, demand side management, 300 MW energy bought from India and 25 MW from Upper Marshyangdi (which has the total capacity of 50 MW) being added to the national grid. The distribution system of the Kathmandu Valley has im-

been helpful in providing general public relief from load shedding.

In order to serve the increasing capacity and energy demand, NEA can initiate the following loss reduction and improvement activities:

- Consumer indexing, codification, metering upgrades and consumption and revenue data management, so that distribution transformers are better planned and outages, losses are minimised. Keeping pace with

Whatever demand side management measures were taken up by NEA, they have been helpful in providing the general public relief from load shedding

tion system for loss reduction.

- Upgrading, strengthening and improvement of the transmission and distribution system for efficient and reliable power network.
- Replacing the entire sodium/mercury vapor lights with efficient LED lights with automatic control system.
- Provide efficient solar lighting system for new installation wherever feasible.
- Conduct of regular substation, feeder, distribution transformer detail Energy audits to enable loss reduction for better accounting and revenue management.
- Introducing kVAh based consumer billing in place of kWh billing for better reactive power management.
- Review of technical specifications of various procurement guidelines of NEA in present context of energy efficiency.
- Venturing into a comprehensive renovation and modernisation programme of existing assets so that plant load factor of the present assets is maximised before huge investments for new plants are considered.
- Prioritise renewable energy for clean and sustainable source of generation.

Energy efficiency deserves to be pursued as a cheap source of generation, and no less, but a lot needs to be done in this regard.

Let us all pray for more power to NEA in their endeavours, and look forward to times when we can talk of load shedding, only as of old times.



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been celebrated with no load shedding, thanks to the new MD and the entire team of Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA).

As per NEA, this has been

proved and work in progress would make it even better. Whatever Demand Side Management (DSM) measures were taken up by NEA, they have

the advances in metering technology, replacement of conventional electromechanical metres with high accuracy static meters could be welcome to avoid pilferages, under billing.

- High voltage distribution system adoption for loss reduction and metering at distribution transformers towards better accounting.
- Incorporation of power factor capacitors in distribu-



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Media's role

MEDIA'S CONTRIBUTION NEEDS TO BE RESPECTED AND RIGHT TO INFORMATION MUST BE GRANTED

Ananta Raj Luitel
Kathmandu

With the face-smearing scandal of suspended Chief of the Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA) Lokman Singh Karki, some people have alleged that the media misused its access to the Supreme Court.

Some lawyers and officials alleged that the incident took place because the media has/had free access to the top court of the country. They claim the accused misused the opportunity to enter the Supreme Court and painted the face of the suspended anti-graft body's chief with black ink.

Across the world, media's free access to information has been recognised but sometime it has been misused. The following day, Karki's counsels said that the media should not be given such free access to the apex court.

Immediately after that scandal, security has been tight-

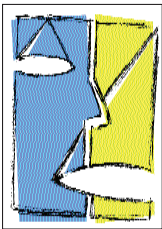
ened in the Supreme Court which has adversely affected the rights of the justice seekers and the rights of lawyers and journalists who need to be present at the Supreme Court to do their job.

There have been culprits who perpetuated the act against Karki but it is not right to solely blame any profession without concrete evidence.

If an individual acts unethically in the capacity of his profession, then legal action should be taken against him/her with enough evidence.

The media plays a major role in society by informing, educating and entertaining people and there may be some shortcomings in the profession not a single journalist has behaved irresponsibly till date without justification.

Access to information should not be curtailed because it serves a higher purpose. In its absence journalists will not be able to perform their duty to the nation.



A PIONEERING NAME IN THE FIELD OF COMPLETE IRRIGATION PACKAGE IN NEPAL

Nivida Lamichhane
Kathmandu

Paras Katuwal, founder of Nepal Thopa Sinchai (NTS) shares, "My father has worked as a farmer all his life and he left Nepal in early 2000s to work as a farmer in Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Israel. I often asked myself, why would a farmer leave his country to do the same work in someone else's land but not his own?" He adds, "My vision behind establishing NTS is to change the traditional system of farming and the goal is to be able to increase the capacity with fewer inputs using the modern technologies."

Nepal has not been able to make a mark in the agriculture sector globally but in Nepal, almost 34 per cent of the nation's GDP comes from the agriculture sector. Almost 66 per cent of the people are employed in agriculture and 80 per cent of the population depends on agriculture. But the bitter reality behind it is that many agricultural products are imported in a huge number and the farmers are heavily dependent on weather which fluctuates frequently in a country like Nepal. The farmers in Nepal are still acquainted with the traditional style and only know the difficult way. They have never been introduced to the hassle free form of farming which can be

Making agriculture fun!

fun, easy and very rewarding!

Katuwal shares, "Nepal Thopa Sinchai works with Drip Irrigation, Solar Pumps and Green Houses. The new technology that we introduced is Drip Irrigation is an irrigation system that is cost effective and

farm initially almost five years ago. Their farm would only give between seven to 10 kilos while they were following the traditional form of agriculture while with the drip irrigation system, they were able to achieve 20 kilo which crossed re-

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it saves water and fertiliser by allowing water to drip slowly to the roots of many different plants, either onto the soil surface or directly onto the root zone, through a network of valves, pipes, tubing, and emitters." He further says, "It involves dripping water onto the soil at very low rates (two to 20 litres/hour) from a system of small diameter plastic pipes fitted with emitters or drippers. With drip irrigation, water applications are more frequent (usually every one to three days) than with other methods and provides a very favourable high moisture level in the soil which is good for plant growth and development."

NTS started working on their own

cords for Nepal. Katuwal adds, "After seeing the success in our own farm, we decided to do that on a commercial basis and make the technology available to all the farmers in Nepal." He further states, "We started with four farmers in the first year who were acquainted to us with a yearly sale of 10,000 m in the first year while now; we have been able to touch base with 15,000 farm-

ers with a yearly sale of one million meters in accurately 60 districts. The growth from 10,000 m to one million m was very challenging." According to him, they gave up on their comforts of being in Kathmandu and visited farmers introducing them to the new technology on motorbikes and foot. He shares, "When they were skeptical, which was the case most of the times, we drove them all the way to our farm and gave them a tour to show them a plot which was being 100 per cent utilised with 100 per cent yield compared to their existing farms."

Nepal Thopa Sinchai (NTS) is currently working on supply, installation, commissioning and testing of advanced Green House, Solar Pumps and Smart Irrigation tools and services to farmers and institutes working in technology based modern agriculture. It is a pioneering name in the field of complete irrigation package in Nepal through delivery of drip and sprinkler irrigation. Paras believes that farming is a noble profession that needs to be simplified. He aims at transforming the lives of the farmers and changing the country's agriculture sector to a big industry that is environmentally friendly and enables sustainable agriculture.



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Gold: Post rate hike

TRADERS ALL OVER THE WORLD ARE CAREFULLY LOOKING FOR ANY HINTS

Ashish Poudel
Kathmandu

We are already familiar that gold has been continuously falling for six weeks. The highest seen during election night which was USD 1337.30 per ounce on November 9 and now the price has fallen as low as USD 1122.73 per ounce while the weekly close is at USD 1133.46 per ounce.

Finally, the fever of rate hike is over and there was easing of pressure on gold as it rebounded to as high as USD 1141.18 per ounce.

Since 1.6 billion people will likely have a new gold investment standard, it could hugely affect the price of gold



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Interestingly, the rate hike was common knowledge to all, why then it eroded around USD 30 of its price. Some claim that it was the positive statement given during the Fed meeting where they claimed they see the possibility of raising interest rates as much as 3 times during 2017. The Fed cannot directly quote their view of the market and use gray lines to indicate their view of the economy. Traders all over the world are carefully looking for any hints like the use of certain words or phrases which could possibly give them a possible profitable trading opportunity.

Another important fact to observe is that the Fed targeted rate hike for 2016 was also as much as three times. It is one thing to want and another thing to do as various factors beyond the con-



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