



**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

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CECI NEPAL AGM	4
TECHNO-HUBS IN THE MUNICIPALITIES	6
WORKSHOPS	7
UNITERRA SUPPORTS	9
VISITS	10
SUCCESS STORIES	11
SDP IN ACTION	13
NEW FACES	14
VOLUNTEERS' BLOG	15
NEWS IN BRIEF	17



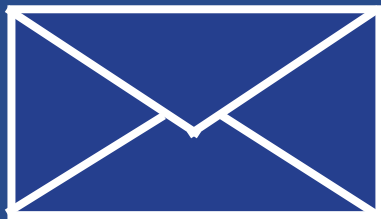
REFLECT

CECI Nepal's Newsletter

**JANUARY—APRIL
2018**



MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE



Dear Friends,

I am delighted to present you the latest edition of the CECI Nepal newsletter 'REFLECT'. In this issue, you will get a glimpse of our major activities that took place between January and April 2018.

During this period, we conducted District Project Advisory Committee Meetings under Livelihood Promotion for Earthquake Affected Population in Nepal (Punarnirman) Project, installed Techno-Hubs in the rural municipalities and municipalities for the Susasan Project. A two-day Annual General Meeting of CECI staff and volunteers was held in March. We also welcomed four (Canadian) new volunteers and bid farewell to 20 volunteers (7 Australians and 13 Canadians who successfully completed their assignments in Nepal.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our development partners, including government agencies, donors, project partners, civil society and other organizations who have always contributed to our development efforts. I am also thankful to all our staff and volunteers for their dedication to make our projects and programs successful.

Finally, I would like to thank Ms. Mallika Bhattarai for her untiring efforts to bring out this newsletter in this attractive form and on time

We hope you will enjoy reading this.

Keshava Koirala
Country Representative,
CECI Nepal

CECI NEPAL HELD ITS AGM

CECI held its' Annual General Meeting on 08 and 09 March 2018 at the Gokarna Forest Resort in Kathmandu with the participation of the entire CECI-Nepal team



and the Uniterra Volunteers. The Regional Director for Asia Mr. Dilip Chinnakonda, Head Office based Project Manager of SUSASAN and PUNARNIRMAN projects Mr. Jonathan De Luca and GESI Project Manager in CECI

Montreal Ms. Debbie Bucher also participated in the AGM. The AGM is always a big event for CECI, where staff and volunteers have the opportunity to interact and exchange about their work in a convivial ambiance. The AGM provides an opportunity to the participants to recognize their expertise and share their experiences and achievements of various projects and programs.



Rajendra Khadga, In-Country Program Manager of AVI presenting about the Australian Volunteer Program

The main theme of this year's AGM was Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and CECI's efforts to contribute to the SDGs. Brief highlights of the CECI's ongoing projects and programs were presented linking with the SDGs by respective project/program teams. In addition, presentations on SDG's and CECI's efforts, CECI Nepal's Autonomisation Process, CECI's Regional Perspectives on Program Development and CECI's Code of Conduct (CoC) were done. Besides, the



CECI Regional Director Dilip Chinnakonda and CECI Nepal Country Representative Keshava Koirala, combinely delivering session on program development

event allocated time for energizers, and fanfare activities. Simultaneously the beautiful location for the AGM gave the participants a chance to visit the surroundings: walk through the jungle, golf course, swimming pool, spa treatments, yoga sessions and chanting prayers. All this experience made us all feel refreshed and rejuvenated for a new working year



Quiz contest participants overwhelmed after the result



Presentation of Susasan Project



Presentation of Punarnirman Project



Nature Walk



Celebrating International Women's Day

TECHNO-HUB ESTABLISHED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES AND RURAL MUNICIPALITIES

to the promotion of e-governance significantly. The Nepal government has also emphasized to develop and use technological tools and mechanisms at all levels for the promotion of good governance.

In this context, CECI/SUSASAN project has planned to establish 27 Techno-Hubs (THs); 1 at Central/federal level; 2 at provincial level; 12 at rural municipal or municipal level; and 12 at the adjoining community of each municipality/rural municipality. The establishment process is underway in coordination with selected local governments based on a specific set of criteria, which include: accessibility and proximity to community they seek to serve; suitability of the environment; building congruence with specifications determined to meet technology requirements (i.e. Electricity, internet, mobile connectivity), proper environment, suitable sanitary facilities, access to government services among others.

The main objective of these techno-hubs are to strengthen citizen state engagement, particularly of women and marginalized groups (WMGs) in democratic citizenry as well as decision making process.

Until now, altogether 8 techno-hubs have been established at municipalities and rural municipalities. Among them, 6 are municipal techno-hubs and 2 are community techno-hubs. The techno-hubs established at municipalities are Sanfebagar in Achham, Barabise in Sindhupalchowk, Amargadhi in Dadeldhura and Jay Prithvi in Bajhang District. Similarly THs established in rural municipalities are Kailari rural municipality, Kailali and Bannigadhi-Jayagadha in Achham. Two community THs at Urma in Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City, Kailali and Sankhu of Konjyosom rural municipality have also been established.



Techno-hub in Sindhupalchowk

Digital technologies have spread rapidly in recent years around the world which have played an important role in keeping people better informed. It has been contributing



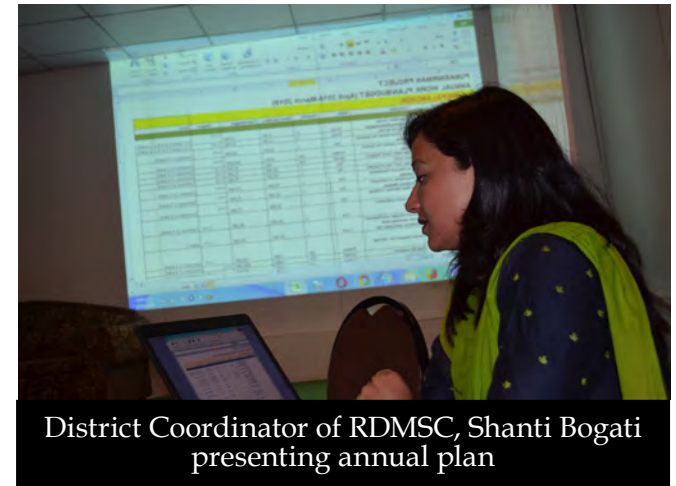
Techno-hub inauguration in Shankhu

WORKSHOPS

PRE-PLANNING WORKSHOPS

On April 4, 2018, CECI's Punarnirman project organized a one-day planning workshop in Dhulikhel. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss and plan project activities to achieve stated targets for the second year of the Punarnirman project. Additionally, gender equality and social inclusion policies were reviewed to ensure that women and marginalized groups were being appropriately represented at all stages of the project. The workshop was enthusiastically attended by the project's three local partners – Tuki Association Sunkoshi, Sindhupalchowk, Rural Development Multiple Service Committee, Kavrepalanchok; and The Society of Local Volunteer's Effort from the Lalitpur district.

Participants of the workshop were pleased to hear that the Punarnirman project was reaching its planned targets, and expected to accomplish any remaining objectives by the end of the project. With the project's fiscal year recently ending on March 31, 2018, CECI and its three local partners will be dedicatedly working towards finishing the annual reports.



District Coordinator of RDMSC, Shanti Bogati presenting annual plan



Team Leader Nirmal Gyalang addressing the workshop

WORKSHOPS

ANNUAL REVIEW AND PLANNING WORKSHOP

Sustainable Use of Technology for Public Sector Accountability in Nepal: SUSASAN project has completed its one year of implementation. It was implemented relying on the evolution of local government structure. The activities of the project were implemented through the joint effort and coordination of all involved partners such as district partners, Young Innovations, Freedom Forum and CECI. District partners are responsible for the implementation of activities at local level and maintaining coordination with local governments. As a resource organization, Freedom Forum is leading research on different theme, including techno-hubs and studying related activities as well as doing awareness



Team Leader Hem Tembe addressing the workshop

raising campaigns accomplishing Open Data and Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) survey. Technological partner- Young Innovations has developed and brought into practice 5 technological interactive platforms like, e-profile of municipalities, digitization and integration, group messaging, point of interest (POI) mapping and Janta Sanga Janapratidinhi (municipal voice) platform with the objective of promoting citizen state engagement.



group work



group work



PILOT PROJECT ON NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCT

CECI/Unitererra supported Nepal Herbs and Herbal Products Association (NEHHPA) in the construction of five hybrid dryers that use solar and electricity power. These dryers will be pilot tested to dry cardamom and other Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) and agricultural products in Lamjung District. If successful, this technology is expected to improve product quality and amplify the international trade of MAPs and agriculture products and contribute to the overall economic growth of the country.



QUALITY ENHANCEMENT IN DAIRY SECTOR

Unitererra supported operationalization of the Milk Processing Center of Lalitpur District Milk Procedures' Cooperative Union (LDMPCU), Lalitpur. In this context, Unitererra/CECI supported to insulate a room with both boiling and cooling facilities for making Yoghurt. The main purpose of this project was to support full-fledge operationalization of the Milk Processing Center, which in fact will contribute to the poverty reduction of Lalitpur District and effectively contribute to employment opportunities, and in particular, increase income for women and youth who account for 80% of dairy producers in Lalitpur District.

SUPPORT TO MODERN AGRICULTURAL SYSTEM

Sana Kisan Bikash Bank Limited is dedicated to enhance the technical skills of small farmers. For this, SKBBL with the support of Israel Government is providing opportunities for the youth farmers to go to Israel and work and learn to practice modern agricultural system there. Under this program a total of 144 youths from small farmers' families have completed training in Israel and 543 students are currently undergoing training. These youths return from Israel with new skills and knowledge, but lack sufficient capacity to start their own business in Nepal. To address this problem, CECI/UNITERRA has been supporting SKBBL to organize entrepreneurship development trainings. Until now 65 youths have received the training. Unitererra has also made some field assessment of entrepreneurship trainees recently and found that most of the youths were engaged in the production of cash crops and dairy using modern technology which have enhanced their production and income. Many youths have also motivated their neighbour farmers to adopt these production practices which have helped to increase the production scale thereby resulting in more efficient marketing. Encouraged by this finding UNITERRA has been considering to continue to support the SKBBL in future trainings too.

VISITS

INDEV COORDINATOR VISITS TO NEPAL

Professor Grainne Ryder International Development Volunteer Program (INDEV) Coordinator at University of Waterloo was on a mission to Nepal from 3 to 12 Jan 2018. The purpose of her mission was to observe the supports provided by volunteers to the multiple host organizations and conduct meeting with them on the opportunities and challenges in Nepal. During her mission she visited all the partners where INDEV volunteers are mobilised.



Grainne Ryder with Uniterra team



MISSION FROM HEAD OFFICE

Two representatives from the CECI Head Office, Dilip Chinnakonda, Regional Director and Project Officer Jonathan De Luca visited Nepal from 6 March to 22 March. The objective of this visit was to monitor the ongoing projects and provide guidance in their implementations. They visited development and project implementing partners and some ministries during their mission. Also, they participated in the CECI Nepal AGM where they shared the new development scenarios in CECI head office and other country offices. They additionally conducted sessions on program development and program implementation during their stay in Nepal.



Dilip Chinnakonda,
Regional Director

SUCCESS STORIES

THROUGH THE LIVELIHOOD SUPPORTS

Nepal's larger population has been engaged in agricultural sector using traditional practices and tools that are labor intensive and low productive. The Punarnirman Project is supporting the earthquake affected farmers in Sindhupalchowk, Kavrepalanchowk, and Lalitpur Districts to use modern tools and technology and increase agricultural production and diversify the agricultural base activities. The project is being implemented with the financial support of the Global Affairs Canada (GAC).



Maize Threshing Machine Made the Life Easier for Rural Women

In the rural areas, people, especially women, are performing multiple tasks at the same time. They perform household work, raise their children, take care of animals, and work in the farms. They normally work 16 to 18 hours a day. To reduce the workload of rural women and increase the production, CECI/ Punarnirman project has sponsored 15 women's groups to buy maize threshing machines. The total cost of the machine is Rs. 15,500. The project supported these groups with Rs 13,500, and Rs. 2000 was contributed by the groups themselves. The maize threshing machine was previously used only by one women's group in this area. For other women, this technology was very new as it was the first time they had ever seen it.

No one can deny the fact that technology makes life easier. Threshing a sack of 100 kg maize with bare hands takes eight hours for two people, but with the machine it only takes half an hour for one person. The threshing machine has significantly reduced the hard labour of threshing the maize with bare hands. They can now use the saved time to participate in extra income generating activities, take a rest, and have more time for family and children. They can even thresh the maize using the machine while also looking after their children by keeping them in their lap.



Indra Kumari Sanjel, member of Namuna Gaon Mahila Krishak Samuha of Shankhu said that they have 30 members in the group. They use the thresher in a rotation basis to make their life easier. Each member in the group pays Rs. 100 for the machine per day, while non-members are charged Rs. 200 per day. It has not only saved time, but has also supported to generate income for these groups.



SUCCESS STORIES

Encouraging Community Participation in Restoring Livelihoods



Proper shed which is conducive to good health, comfort and protection from inclement weather plays a vital role in the production of the animals. Raising buffalo for milk production is the backbone of the economic activity in Kavrepalanchowk and Lalitpur Districts whereas raising goats for meat is high in the Sindhupalchowk District. Animals are stall fed and grazing is not widely in practice due to shortage of grazing lands so they are kept inside the closed-shed during the night, but during the day, they are kept outside in open areas.

Addressing those problems, Punarnirman project has been supporting for the improvement or rebuild of animal sheds in the project districts. Remarkably, 155 sheds have been improved within a few months. Even though the farmers had a major priority of constructing their own houses which were collapsed from the earthquake. The average cost required for the construction of buffalo shed was Rs. 30,000 while Rs. 7,000 was for goat shed. The project contributed Rs.12,000 each for buffalo sheds and Rs. 3,000 each for goat sheds. The remaining cost was borne by the farmers. Despite having challenges for the project to meet the targets of improving animal sheds as the farmers had different priorities; the project



was successful to meet its targets. Apparently the project was successful to develop a sense of ownership among farmers and make them realize the relevancy of the project activities through various initiatives, including training, community discussion, home visits, demonstration, etc.

Strong Will and Determination of a Woman



Masonry is an occupation traditionally dominated by men. However, women nowadays are coming forward, leaving behind traditional mindsets.

Jamuna Lama is a woman who is 20 years old and lives in the Sankhu Village in the southern part of Lalitpur District. She is one of the four female trainees among 30 participants who received a seven-day formal mason training on earthquake resilient house construction from Punarnirman Project. During the training, participants were trained on how to lay the foundations, raise columns, fix cross beams, putties, set proper connections, and erect walls that would finally ensure resilient structures while strictly following the Government House Building Code. Eventually Jamuna has started building her own house using the technical knowledge of earthquake resilient construction that she learned during the training. Her house collapsed during the earthquake where she was living with her father, two sisters and a brother. Her father is also a mason and builds houses. Before the training she used to help her father with labour work by carrying bricks and making mortar. Her father has not received any formal training in house construction. Jamuna is now able to teach him how to build a house using earthquake resilient technology that will make buildings safer.

Jamuna was asked the question: what made you participate in this training that is predominately consisting of men? Her answer was that "a strong determination and will power always inspire me to compete with men. I felt if a man can build a house, then why can't I? So I enrolled in the training."

SDP IN ACTION

The ADB and Nepal Government funded Skills Development Project (SDP) is moving ahead with full speed in its 5th year to achieve its expected results: expanding market-driven and inclusive training, improving TVET sector management performance and improving both the quality and relevance of public training. SDP has worked to enhance the capacity of CTEVT to run short-term basic and mid-level training programs in construction, manufacturing and services in different trades in different regions through its constituent schools, and affiliated Private Sector Training and Employment Service Providers.

Over the last four years, SDP, with the technical support of the consulting services, has enrolled 41,700 (36.46% female, and 71.76% excluded groups). Among them, 32,978 completed training and 32,924 attended and completed the skill test examination. Subsequently 22,273 passed the test and 20,548 (30% female, 70% excluded groups) gained employment. The Consulting services to the SDP Project Implementing Unit (PIU) are managed by a consortium comprising of the World University Services of Canada (WUSC), CECI, Industrial Enterprise Development Institute (IEDI) and Colleges and Institutes Canada.



NEW FACES OF UNITERRA VOLUNTEERS

During this period CECI welcomed a total of 19 Canadian volunteers under Uniterra program. However the number of volunteers falls under different categories such are: seven long term volunteers, one L4Change and nine INDEV long term interns. The long term volunteers come normally for six months to two years mandate, intern for three to eight months, whereas L4Change for three to four weeks, which is a corporate volunteering initiative that enables employees to transform part of their annual vacation into volunteer assignment.



GILBERT COHEN

Gilbert Cohen, Canadian works as an artisan. He primarily worked with leather and recycled furs and attends numerous craft shows around Canada. He has worked abroad with women and children in several Asian, African, and Central American countries. His primary objective is to share his knowledge and experience with Mahaghuti Uniterra Nepal partner and the Fair-Trade group. He will be working in Nepal for six months.

SURYA BISHWOKARMA

Surya is a GESI Advisor for Uniterra Program based at Prerana Office, Lalitpur. Her role is to collaborate with the Prerana team to develop and facilitate GESI capacity development activities with Uniterra partners.



NATHALIE TREMBLAY

Tremblay is an international development worker from Canada and is currently working as a Teaching and Learning Environment Improvement Advisor at Balaju School of Engineering and Technology (BSET) affiliated to CTEVT. This is her second mandate at BSET and she will be working here for a year.



VOLUNTEERS' BLOG

BANKING AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION

MIKE WEBSTER

I found the Small Farmers Development Bank (SKBBL) to be a much more complex organization than I had expected when I first arrived in Kathmandu. Coming in I knew any financial organization would be tricky to understand quickly, but besides the intrinsic complexities of a bank, SKBBL also has this unique mandate focusing on lifting rural farmers out of poverty. They provide wholesale loans to small farmer cooperatives facilitating those co-ops in grass-roots lending to their members, providing micro-loans that might cover the cost of a second goat or new seeds.



The bank's reason to be is born out of a program to promote these farmer co-ops, a membership base that has proven to be uniquely successful in alleviating poverty where other programs have failed, providing working capital that gives people in rural areas the means to expand beyond subsistence farming. It's a bank, with a large percentage of its ownership held by the co-ops, that from everything I saw is an organization that prioritizes the alleviation of poverty over any profit maximization. It was rewarding to work there. You want to do your very best because you want to help this organization, since making them more successful may have a direct correlation to a poor family's struggle to better feed their children and to provide

them a brighter future. It was not an easy assignment, but I don't recall ever having a more rewarding experience.

It has been a few weeks since I returned from Kathmandu to Canada. People here at work ask me how it was as we pass each other in the corridor. It is hard to provide what for me is a complex answer in the 30 seconds of time that they have to listen before their next meeting. So, I say that is 'amazing', not doing the experience justice at all. Then they ask if I made a difference over there. Another tough question that is hard to answer quickly. I say definitively, that it was the best career development experience I have ever had, that I would recommend it to anyone who showed any interest in international volunteering, that I would jump at the chance to do it all over again, and that I know my kids are proud of me for going. You learn quickly in this kind of experience, that change won't come easy to Nepal. There's no magic solution and you certainly don't fly in equipped with an answer book. But every hour you put in is toward a cause that matters in a way I doubt many will experience in their normal careers in Canada. There's a satisfaction in Leave for Change that is hard to quantify. It's worth doing and it's worthy of your best. If whether I have made a positive impact in Nepal in my short time is up in the air, I know I tried, I think I did, and there is no doubt that Nepal impacted me in a way I haven't yet figured out how to fully describe.

VOLUNTEERS' BLOG

FOG WATER TO MEET THE DEMAND OF DRINKING WATER IN RURAL NEPAL

LAURENT CHARLES TREMBLAY

Integrated Water Resources Management Advisor for NACCFL, is currently working with the local small farmers cooperative towards improving access in drinking water supplies for residents of the Chainpur Village Municipality, Dhading District. A fog water collection study pilot project was recently launched to assess the possibility of using the fog water collection to expand the supplies in this water scarce community. Two Standard Fog Collectors (SFCs) of 1 m² were installed to measure the fog collection potential in two strategically selected sites over a one-year period. The aim of this

future project would be to build three or four Large Fog Collectors (LFCs) for a total surface area of up to 200 m². So far, results from the SFCs indicate that collection rates per square metre of 5 to 6 litres a day would be easily reached for the four continuous months of the fog season there. At these rates, we would expect to increase the water supplies for the community by at least 120,000 to 144,000 litres a year. This project would target 50 households, thus improving water security for approximately 200 people



NEWS IN BRIEF

AVID Continued with AVp

CECI manages the Australian Volunteers in Nepal who come under the Australian Volunteers program which is an initiative of the Australian Government. Till the end of 2017, the program was known as Australian Volunteers for International Development (AVID) and was managed by the Scope Global and Australian Volunteer International (AVI).

On 31 December 2017 AVID program ended and the new phase is continued with the new Australian Volunteers program (AVp) which is being managed by AVI globally. AVI, like Scope Global, has sub-contracted CECI to manage the Australian Volunteers in Nepal. CECI has been managing the Australian Volunteers program in Nepal



DPAC Meeting

CECI/Punarnirman project conducted District Project Advisory Committee (DPAC) meetings in Sindhupalchowk, Kavrepalanchowk and Lalitpur Districts from January to April 2018. It is a mandatory provision of the government to conduct the DPAC meeting. The meetings were accordingly hosted by the project district implementing partners: Tuki Association, Rural Development Multiple Service Committee (RDMSC) and The Society of Local Volunteer's Effort (SOLVE) Nepal and chaired by the District Coordination Officers of the respective districts. Officers from government authorities, private sectors and concerned stakeholders, including local media participated the meetings. The meetings kept the participants informed



DPAC meeting in Lalitpur



DPAC meeting in Kavrepalanchok



Media coverage of DPAC meeting

about the project activity results achieved during one year period and further plan of actions. Subsequently the meetings opened up the forum to receive recommendations and suggestions from the participants for the effective implementation of the project activities, where some of the participants provided fruitful suggestions. The DPAC participants appreciated the work done by the project.

Photo credits: Mallika and Susasan, Punarnirman, SDP and Uniterra team



Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI) Nepal

135 Naya Basti Marg

G.P.O. Box 2959

Baluwatar, Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: +977 1 4414430/4426791

Email: cecinepal@ceci.ca

Like us on [Facebook](#)

www.ceci.ca/nepal