



UNITY FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Leading The Climate Change Dialogue

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2022



“GREEN PARTNER’S SAY”



Sunil KC
CEO, NMB Bank

NMB being a frontrunner in sustainable banking practice within the country and also the member of Global Alliance for Banking on Values is upholding the Triple Bottom Line principles NMB has an opportunity to demonstrate a unique brand that delivers profits while also delivering on sustainability. We have been facilitating the transition to a fairer, greener economy by financing projects that accelerate clients' sustainable transitions and their ability to create jobs in the market, supporting clients that contribute solutions to environmental and social challenges and embracing sustainable operations. The approaches

and initiatives on sustainability undertaken by the Bank well resonate to the Green Resilient and Inclusive Development (GRID) approach adopted by Nepal Government as well. We see sustainability in a way that helps to generate revenue, cut costs, attract talent and future-proof our business through effective risk management. Sustainability for us is also a source of competitive advantage and we have been building upon it by developing, implementing, monitoring, and reporting on a sustainability strategy that blends international best practices while applying it to the local context for sustainable development in Nepal.

As part of our corporate climate responsibility, NMB measured and disclosed greenhouse gas emissions from its financed loan portfolio, thus becoming the first Bank in the country to be transparent in terms of its sustainable banking endeavors. This initiative of the Bank also showcases its seriousness towards monitoring and reporting greenhouse gas emissions through business and operations as part of its Sustainability commitments.

The Bank over the years has been directing its loan investment for the upliftment of real economy sectors and envisions achieving at least 50% assets in the real economy while fully implementing Environmental and Social Risk Management (ESRM) in line with International Finance Corporation (IFC) standard by 2025. Moreover, through our sustainable financing approaches, we estimate to reduce the carbon emission through our financing and operations by more than 10,500 tons.

We are the leading bank of Nepal in terms of Renewable Energy financing focused towards promoting green business such as solar, biomass, waste to energy projects. We have been financing more than 40 major hydropower projects with a total installation capacity of around 600 MW. NMB is the first and only bank in the country to have already issued local currency energy bonds of over NPR 4 Billion in Nepalese market that will be utilized for financing large energy projects in Nepal thereby supporting the nation's drive to be self-reliant on energy.

We signed an agreement with Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPCC)/Central Renewable Energy Fund (CREF) assuming role of Handling Bank of CREF for the second consecutive tenure of 3 years under Sustainable Energy Challenge Fund for financing in Renewable Energy sector in Madhesh, Lumbini and Karnali Provinces. The fund is established with support of the British Government funded Nepal Renewable Energy Program to scale up renewable energy financing in the country.

We are also the first bank in the country to initiate and implement the Environment and Social Management System (ESMS) as guided by the central bank. With ESMS in place, we introduced E&S due diligence toolkits applying IFC standards for high risk potential portfolios including project financing, hydropower, and large corporate loans.

NMB Bank was recognized by “Green Deal of the Year” award from Asian Banking and Finance magazine based in Singapore as the champion of Green Financing in Nepal for its pioneering debt deal with IFC under which the bank provides credit facilities to projects that qualify as Green Deals under the IFC eligibility criteria.

The Bank for the first time in the history of Nepalese Banking Industry was honored by the award of the Best Bank in Asia 2021-Asia for its focus on sustainable banking, commitment towards digital transformation and high corporate governance standards by the prestigious The Financial Times, United Kingdom.

We are now a Green Partner of Unity for Sustainability Campaign, an initiative of Annapurna Media Network with an aim to fight against climate change issues. From the banking aspect, we are trying to contribute to sustainability aspects and are happy to be a part of this progressive initiative carried by the media.



MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM MANAGER



Chiranjibi Neupane
Program Manager
Unity for Sustainability

Pledge to save the environment will keep us alive in the heart of humanity.

To engage and initiate the conversation from the deeper dimension, we are launching the Green behavioral flagship events having different themes on climate and clean environment. It will give us an idea of the role we need to play as responsible citizens and urge people around us to do the same. A green behavioral campaign has an important step in preparing ourselves to fight against climate change. During the month, we have conducted different programs, for instance, EV rally for Sustainability, and awareness for changing the pattern of our lifestyle. We have partnered with various like-minded organizations and global campaigns to sensitize the issues from both, top to bottom and bottom-up approaches. We are grateful to all AMN reporters, editors, board members, Group CEOs, and

UFS's experts for their valuable and meaningful contributions in this campaign for leading the climate change dialogue. We request all citizens to abide by the pledge made by the country to save and unite for a clean and green environment.

Through the proper context of advocacy and media sensitization, the right communication approaches with a right reason will be amplified from a top-down as well as a bottom-up approach. We need to be mindful of our every action and functioning modalities:

1. Climate change awareness is a part of advocacy and communication which is most applicable and replicable among all the communities.
2. Climate change has an impact on all walks of lives with each existing and future generations.
3. Each effort of any individual could make a difference in climate literacy.
4. Partnership with media space would take us forward on climate mitigation and adaptation process.

So, to tackle climate change, every stakeholder has to carry the proper message with evidence-based advocacy.

“Communications...”

Dear Green Enthusiast Citizens, we find ourselves in a more vulnerable stage right now. Climate change is no longer an urgency but an emergency factor for all life on the planet. It is high time we talk about climate change and its aftershocks day by day. The Unity for Sustainability campaign of Annapurna Media Network celebrates this month of June by sharing your contribution to save the environment practices. We need partnership as participation, commitment, association with green ideas, volunteering in the outreach of the climate change communication, green referral, and recommendation among each other. Our concern is only to keep our natural ecosystem and its tendency to restore its original strengths and capabilities to make our living planet safe and secure for all beings.



Subha Khanal Thapa
Director of Communications
Unity for Sustainability



ACTIVITIES

AMN EV Rally 2022 - June 5 - World Environment Day



Annapurna Media Network (AMN) in association with Alternative Energy Promotion Center (AEPCC) organized an electric vehicle rally in Kathmandu on the occasion of World Environment Day. The rally started from corporate office of Annapurna Media Network in Tinkune passed through Gaushala, Chabahal, Mahargunj, Balaju, Sorakhutte, Lainchaur, Kesarmahal, Jamal, Durbarimarg, Gyaneshwor, Ratopul, Gaushala and culminated at Tinkune ground. Before the start of the rally, Annapurna Media Network Chairman Capt Rameshwar Thapa said that the people should contribute to the protection of the environment from today itself for the next generation. He stressed on the need for national and international organizations, government and private sector to work hand in hand for the protection of the environment. Saying that human activities are degrading the environment, Dr Madhusudhan Adhikari, Executive Director of the Alternative Energy Promotion Center, said that human activities should be environment friendly. He stressed on the need for promoting electric vehicles to protect the environment. World Environment Day was observed on June 5 in Nepal and across the world.

UFS - Green Partners co-organized events for saving soil.



On the occasion of World Cycling Day on 3 June 2022, UFS co-organized a cycle rally with its green partner Cycle City Network. On the same day other Green Partners' like Conscious Planet-Save Soil have also organized the cycle rally with the save soil theme. The event was inaugurated by Minister of Forest and Environment Honorable Ramsay Yadav.

Unity for Sustainability, Annapurna Media Network's climate change dialogue campaign, in association with Save Soil, and VFX Talks organized a panel discussion on the topic 'Soil and I' in Kathmandu on June 5. The event held at Nepal Academy Hall to mark the World Environment Day was aimed at raising awareness about soil degradation in solidarity with the global movement 'Save Soil' initiated by Sadhguru, an Indian yogi and the founder of Isha Foundation. More than 1,000 people were in attendance to listen to the panelists representing various fields.

Govinda Prasad Sharma, secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, spoke about the importance of soil and the current soil condition in Nepal. The panel discussion was moderated by banker Anil Shah.



ApEx started a 10-part InDepth series titled 'Nepal's Energy Myopia' starting with a roundtable on the issue this week. The larger goal of the series is to take a deep dive into Nepal's energy sector and unearth the opportunities and challenges and to question assumptions. For the roundtable, we welcomed five guests with expertise in different aspects of energy production and consumption to share their views on the series title.



The capital city of the Nation, everywhere you go, your breath stinks. There are piles of garbage in the streets. Most of the roads are impassable due to the rain water. The Kathmandu Metropolitan City says that 18 other local governments of the Kathmandu Valley should also help in waste management. The suffering of the people at the landfill site is inconceivable. In this regard, Annapurna Post National Daily interacted with different experts and activists on waste management in Kathmandu, in presence of the metropolis, stakeholders and locals' representatives in the month of June.

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