

POLICY DIALOGUE ON CLIMATE CHANGE CONDUCTED IN BIRATNAGAR

5 Dec 2012

A Policy Dialogue on Climate Change and Consultation was successfully conducted in Biratnagar, Nepal's industrial hub in eastern lowland Tarai. Professor Maheswor Man Shrestha, Vice Chancellor of Purbanchal University inaugurated the program amidst a hall full of over 100 enthusiastic participants who represented government line agencies, research and educational institutions, political parties, local and non government organizations, youth volunteers and mass media. Professor Shrestha said, taking climate change information to the general populace and raising awareness are more important for its negative impacts are looming around. Speaking from the forum, Chief District Officer Mr Tara Nath Gautam reminded how the eastern philosophies had been giving importance for harmony between nature and human activities to keep the environment clean and protected. The inaugural session was chaired by Professor Dr Prakash Adhikari, Secretary of Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST). Ms Ramila Raut, Division Chief at NAST, gave welcome address.



Altogether five presentations were made by invited experts, namely Dr Dinesh Raj Bhujju, Professor SN Jha, Professor Meen Raj Dhakal, Mr Sandip Ghimire and Er Sudeep Adhikary, which was facilitated by Professor Paras Pokharel of BP Koirala Institute of Health Sciences and Professor Pashupati Mishra of Central Campus of Food Technology. The presentations dwell on science of climate change, its impacts on various aspects of life and tools of mitigation and adaptation. On the policy of climate change, the participants voiced to set up institutional arrangements in the region (eastern Nepal) and elaborated site-specific issues. The policy dialogue has also



enthused interest on the issue among academic community while creating awareness among the general public, they opined.



The policy dialogue was a part of the activities under NAST's Nepal Climate Change Knowledge Management Center and supported by Climate and Knowledge Network. The NAST team is taking Mobile Library for Climate Change Awareness to Taplejung, a remote mountainous district bordering China and India, and other district headquarters on the way to organize programs for students and general public as well.