

Dr. Janak Lal Karmacharya

Former Managing Director, Nepal Electricity Authority



In light of ongoing discourses, at present, on hydropower development in Nepal, HYDRO Nepal felt this an appropriate moment to review some of the personalities who have played important roles in this sector over the past few decades. This time, HYDRO Nepal takes pleasure in presenting the personality profile of Dr. Janak Lal Karmacharya.

Background

Dr. Janak L. Karmacharya was born to father Hari Lal Karmacharya and mother Badri Maya Karmacharya at Janakpur Dham in BS Jestha 25, 2001 (1944/06/07 AD). He was placed in board fourth in the order of the board with first division in the School Leaving Certificate (SLC) examination in BS 2015. He passed Intermediate in Science (I.Sc.) in 1962 AD, Master in Science (M. Sc.) in Civil Engineering (Hydro Technical Construction) from People's Friendship University, Moscow in 1968 AD. He completed his Ph.D. in Technical Science in 1978 AD from Ministry of Higher Education, Moscow in the then USSR. He is married to Mrs. Shanta Karmacharya and has two sons.

Professional Background

Dr. Karmacharya started his professional career as Construction Engineer under the Department of Electricity of Government of Nepal in the Bhotekoshi Hydropower Station in 1968 AD. He has served the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) in various capacities including Director of Project Preparation Department, Project Director of Arun III Hydroelectric Project, and has also headed Planning, Finance, Administration and Engineering Directorate as Deputy Managing Director. During April 2002-October 2005, he served as the Managing Director of NEA, where he introduced the concept of internal unbundling of this public sector utility. He also initiated the program of rural electrification through community users groups.

He has a wealth of experience spanning over 39 years in the fields of hydropower sector in various capacities. As hydro-technical/hydropower engineer he has been associated with the development and construction of hydropower project over 27 years, led multi-disciplinary teams of engineers, geologists, economists, sociologists and environmental experts assigned to conduct pre-feasibility, feasibility studies and design of hydropower stations with the capacity ranging from 10 to 750 MW. He served as technical advisor to the feasibility study of 10800 MW Chisapani Multipurpose Water Resource Development Scheme and as technical coordinator of Koshi River Master Plan Study, which resulted in the identification of 11,000 MW hydropower potentialities.

He went on to work for the World Bank for two years in Zambia and also as resource person for the power sector reform in Uganda for Norwegian Water Resources Administration (NVE) in 1995-1998. He served as resource person for tariff study in electricity

utility in Mozambique and also served as a hydropower consultant for USAID's South Asia Regional Initiative on Energy during 2001-2002.

Special Experiences

Dr. Karmacharya's special experiences in the field of hydropower include development of model power purchase agreement; drafting of hydropower development policy; resettlement action plan for hydropower project and modalities for public consultation meetings.

Special Responsibilities

Dr. Karmacharya has also held the following special responsibilities during his professional career.

Forum Member: Dams and Development Project - UNEP, Kenya (From 1999)
Steering Committee Member: Dams and Development Project, Kenya (From 2005)
Board Member: International Hydropower Association, London (From 2004)
Board Member: Insurance Regulatory Commission, Nepal (2002-2005)
Chairman: Chilime Hydropower Company, Nepal (2002-2005)
Life Member: Nepal Engineering Association, Nepal
President: International Association for generation, transmission and distribution (Afro-Asian Region), New Delhi (2003-06)
Vice-President : International Hydropower Association, London (2007-2009)
Honorary Life Membership of International Hydropower Association

Honours and Awards

Dr. Karmacharya has been decorated with the Mahendra Vidya Bhusan for outstanding academic performance in BS 2035; Gorkha Dakshin Bahu for Outstanding Civil Service in BS 2035, National Civil Citizen Award in 2004 AD and Honors for Good Administrator in 2005 AD by Nepal Government.

Major Publications and Presentations

Dr. Karmacharya has numbers of articles and papers published in and presented at national and international magazines, journals and forums. Some of his major publications are as follows:

- Multipurpose utilization of water resources of the rivers with poor hydrological data base (in Russian) -

- Moscow, 1977
- Hydrological Studies of Nepal Rivers Vol I & II, Montreal, 1981
 - Role of Public and Private Sector Advancing Sustainable Hydropower, Antalya, Turkey, May 30, 2007
 - Hydropower - The Source of Sustainable Development, Kathmandu University, Dhulikhel, August 16, 2007
 - Third World Water Forum - An IHA Perspective, Business Summit on Sustainable Hydropower, Portland, USA, July 30, 2006
 - Hydropower Development Policies, Business Summit on Sustainable Hydropower, Portland, USA, August 01, 2001
 - Maximizing Benefits from Hydropower - a Nepal Case, Villach, Austria, Hydro 2006
 - Hydropower Development Policies - Success and Lesson - Overview of Policies of Developing Countries, Hangzhou, China, April 22, 2006
 - Power Potentiality of Nepal and Trade Opportunity with India, Eastern India Energy Summit, Kolkata, and March 10, 2006
 - Trans - boarder Power Supply - Opportunities and Challenges in Power Trade between Nepal and India, World Energy Congress, Sydney, Australia, 2005
 - Financing Hydropower Schemes in Nepal-World Water Week, Stockholm, Sweden. August 2004
 - Dam and Development Report - Its Impact on Dam Development -Third World Water Forum, Kyoto, Japan, March 2003
 - Workshop on World Commission on Dam and its Guidelines - Institute of Engineering, Kathmandu, December 14, 2001
 - Dam and Development Project - Thematic Issues - Nepal Water Partnership, Kathmandu, December 05, 2001
 - Dam and Development - Ways to Make it Adoptable, Jalsrot Vikas Sanstha, Kathmandu, August 23, 2001.
 - Dam and Development - A Nepali Context, Annual ICOLD Meeting, Dresden, Germany, September 10, 2001
 - Construction Management in Hydropower Symposium on Accelerated Construction of Hydropower Plants - NHPC and INHA, New Delhi 2003
 - Water Scarcity in South Asia - Nepal Chapter, Islamabad, 2001

- Promoting Transparency and Integrity in Hydropower - South Asia Regional Workshop on Transparency and Integrity in the Water Sector, Water Integrity Network, Transparency International Berlin-Bangladesh Chapter, Dhaka, Bangladesh November 3-5, 2007

Pastime

His favorite pastime includes reading and writing on technical issues of hydropower.

Vision

His vision is to see Nepal's energy security based on the development of hydropower/energy.

Aspiration

To enact effective development of hydro industry including the project financing hydropower plants.

Unforgettable Moments

Meeting with Mr. Nelson Mandela in the launching of Dam and Development: A New Development Framework in London in January 2000.

Travels

Europe: Almost all countries

Africa: Zambia, Mozambique, Uganda, Kenya, South Africa

South America: Brazil and Paraguay

North America: USA and Canada

Middle East: UAE, Qatar, Sharjah, Abhudhabi

Asia: All SAARC countries, All ASEAN countries, Japan

Australia and New Zealand

Present Activities

Research work in hydropower sector with special emphasis on the financing of private sector and financing of hydropower plants.

Past and Present Affiliation/Association

Dr. Karmacharya affiliation and association with the professional societies in the past and present include:

- Nepal Engineers' Association, Kathmandu, Nepal
- Nepal Engineering Council, Government of Nepal
- International Hydropower Association, London (Vice-President), 2007-2009
- Dam and Development Forum, UNEP, Nairobi, Kenya, 1999.

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