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## Editorial



### Energy Crisis- Learning from experience and the way forward

The whole year of 2015 A.D. has left indelible marks on our life. First of all, the devastating earthquake took its toll by destroying lives and property. Almost one third of the country was paralyzed by the earthquake of April 2015 and its numerous aftershocks. Thanks to the unity of the Nepalese people and also the generous support shown by the international community relief could be provided to the needy. Yet a lot needs to be done mainly in terms of the permanent and earthquake proof dwellings.

A big sigh of relief was realized when the republican constitution of Nepal 2072 B.S was promulgated by a vast majority of the peoples' Representatives. But immediately after this, energy blockade and the strike in Terai districts caused an unprecedented hardship to the people including the capital city of Kathmandu.

Energy crisis brought the domestic, commercial, industrial and development activities - to a grinding halt. The youths of the cities had to be in a queue for days just to get three liters of petrol. Last but not the least in far flung areas ambulances not running due to unavailability of fuel and medicines being out of stock took the dreaded toll.

Thus it becomes clear that energy is a basic necessity of modern life and central to all development activities. Had the Nepal Electricity Authority's grid been robust enough to supply peak time energy the deadly impact of energy blockade could have been greatly reduced. This energy crisis lasted for five months and became normal after the constitution of Nepal 2072 was amended. Thus it became evident that restricting energy supply is being used as a tool to make the constitutional changes!

#### *Start with whatever you have*

Learning lesson from the painful past, Nepal must develop its indigenous hydro resource in a speedy manner. As a first step, work on a war footing has to be done to complete the Hydropower Projects that can be commissioned within six months to one year.

#### *Motivate by incentivizing*

Motivate all concerned by providing financial incentives such as tax exemption or bonus for timely completion of generation, transmission and distribution projects. At the time of crisis, the management has to have a broad chest and not be stingy.

#### *Go for the Alternatives*

Where productivity can be assumed to increase, provide thermal/imported energy for certain period in a day. Solar/mini hydro and wind turbines are to be encouraged for lighting purpose in rural areas. The dangerous habit of relying on more and more imports must be discouraged.

The objective of HYDRO Nepal is to initiate a healthy debate, provide constructive criticism and disseminate the best practices learnt from experience. We hope a brainstorming in these very crucial aspects would provide a guideline to the policy maker for effectiveness in the sector.

(Upendra Dev Bhatta)  
Editor-in-Chief