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## Editorial



## Hydropower development in Nepal: WHAT went WRONG !

Hydropower is the only sustainable source of electricity in Nepal. It could be the engine of economic growth and can transform our society into a prosperous nation. So, it is high time to check the REALITY on what went wrong in this sector !

### Let's Check:

- Nepal's has more than 6000 rivers and rivulets, mostly snow fed and perennial,
- theoretical hydropower potential established at 83000 MW,
- hydropower technology is a proven technology,
- Nepal's had commissioned its first hydropower plant in 1911 AD (500 kW Pharping Hydropower Plant),
- required raw materials for hydropower, i.e. water, is gifted by Mother Nature, and freely available,
- energy markets are available in domestic as well as regional which is ever increasing,
- GoN has termed hydropower as priority project in Nepal,
- manifestos of all the major political parties in Nepal has prioritized hydropower development,
- all the political leaders acknowledged hydropower as a major resource endowment in Nepal,
- IPPs and international companies are all interested to invest in hydropower sectors of Nepal,
- Nepalese people are very much enthusiastic to participate in hydropower sectors.

But, we have only 802.376 MW (NEA Report, 2015/16) installed capacity of hydroelectric power so far. And we had faced up to 18 hours of load shedding in recent past. Still we have to import electricity from India to balance load in our system. And it all have a severe consequences in national economy.

These scenario indicates that something is seriously *wrong* in this sector which cannot be considered as normal and natural.

Hence, we need to *demystify* the water resources and hydropower development in Nepal to achieve our much awaited dream of prosperous and developed Nepal with the realization of *Self sufficient, hydroelectricity exporting, and a hydro-powerful nation.*

Rajendra P. Thanju  
Managing Editor