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Editorial



Hydro-path and Hydromacy of Nepal!

Since the generation of hydroelectricity from the 500 kW Chandra Jyoti Hydro-Electric power station at Pharping in 1911, the first in Nepal and second in Asia, Nepal presently stands with a meager 918 MW (Nepal Electricity Authority, 2016/17) of installed capacity of hydroelectric power. During dry periods when energy demand is in its peak, the power generated decreases by 2/3rd of the installed capacity.

Out of the estimated 83,000 MW of hydropower potential, 43,000 MW is techno-economically viable, yet, we have harnessed only a small fraction of this potentiality so far.

Having referred to our first hydel plant, our potentialities and existing installed capacity of hydropower of Nepal, now, the common query that demands reasonable answers is 'What went Wrong?' in terms of planning and developing hydropower project despite the enormous potential and ever growing demands of energy, a pre-requisite and backbone of economy.

We do know that all the major political parties, the Government, Business communities, Independent power producers including general public are concerned and interested to participate in hydropower projects development for the benefit of our nation, fulfill their business interest and meet their demands.

Taking into consideration the journey of hydropower development and achievement so far, it is time to introspect the cause of underutilization of renewable resources and come forward with sound and sustainable solutions to address energy crisis and climate change.

Hence, with the advent of new political system and priority on hydropower, it is high time to make and establish our Hydro-path to address our economic ailment in a transparent manner that would be immune to political changes. In addition, Nepal needs to formulate and ascertain its sound Hydromacy¹ (Hydropower Diplomacy) in sharing and dealing with international communities including our neighboring countries in order to avoid any kind of conflict, and in the best interest of our nation to realize the dreams of Nepalese people to make Nepal a self-sustaining, hydroelectric power exporting and hydro-powerful nation.

Rajendra P. Thanju
Managing Editor

1. The word Hydromacy is first coined in HYDRO Nepal Journal.