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# IBN DISPATCH

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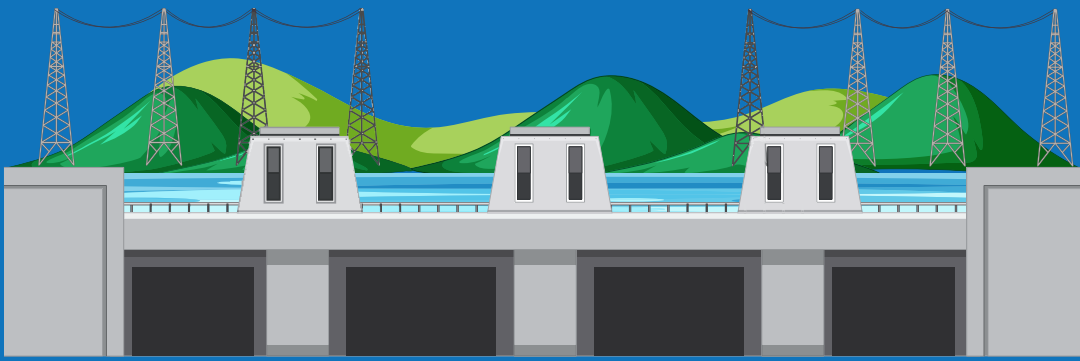
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Investments realised in IBN Projects as of December 2023



## Arun-3 Hydroelectric Project

Total Project Cost: Rs 144.76 billion

**900 MW**

Status: Under construction

Investment Realised: Rs. 64.70 billion

## West Seti Hydroelectric Project +SR-6 Hydroelectric Project

Total Project Cost: Rs. 168.19 billion + Rs. 101.93 billion

Status: Under study (Detailed Project Report Preparation)

Investment Realised: Rs. 0.34 billion

## Upper Karnali Hydroelectric Project

Total Project Cost: Rs. 162.49 billion

Status: PDA signed

Investment Realised: Rs.2.82 billion

## Lower Arun Hydroelectric Project

Total Project Cost: Rs. 92.67 billion

Status: PDA signed

Investment Realised: Rs. 0.84 billion

## Upper Marsyangdi 2 Hydroelectric Project

Total Project Cost: Rs. 78.34 billion

Status: DPR prepared and under review

Investment Realised: Rs. 0.104 billion

## Upper Trishuli 1 Hydroelectric Project

Total Project Cost: Rs. 73.15 billion

Status: Under construction

Investment Realised: Rs. 16.5 billion

## Huaxin Cement Narayani

Total Project Cost: Rs. 14.82 billion

Status: Operation

Investment Realised: Rs. 14.82 billion

## Hongshi Shivam Cement

Total Project Cost: Rs. 37.35 billion

Status: Operation

Investment Realised: Rs. 37.35 billion

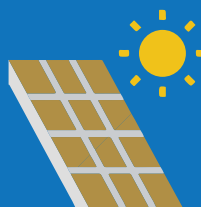


## Risen Solar Project

Total Project Cost: Rs. 19.81 billion

Status: DFSR acknowledged and EIA ongoing

Investment Realised: Rs. 0.087 billion



## Dolma Solar Project

Total Project Cost: Rs. 22.05 billion

Status: MoU signing stage

Investment Realised: Rs. 0.0602 billion

## Venture Waste to Energy, Dharan

Total Project Cost: Rs. 0.24 billion

Status: Operation

Investment Realised: Rs. 0.24 billion



Total Project Cost:

**Rs. 915.8 billion**

Investment Realised:

**Rs. 137.86 billion**



## Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister vows to strengthen OIBN



**KATHMANDU:** Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister and Chairperson of Investment Board Nepal, Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal, has vowed to strengthen the Office of the Investment Board, Nepal (OIBN). Addressing the nation on December 26, 2023, marking one year of the incumbent government, the Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister asserted that the Office of the Investment Board, Nepal will be granted executive authority in addition to the existing role of facilitator/coordinator.

Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister reiterated, "We have to do more to promote investment and improve the investment climate. I have mobilised the concerned agencies for legal and procedural reforms prior to the Nepal Investment Summit scheduled to be held in April 2024."

The Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister informed that the Sovereign Credit Rating will be carried out within this fiscal year.

Further, One Stop Service (OSS) for the registration of industries will be implemented by delegating the authority to the concerned civil servants/office bearers. Those agencies or office bearers reluctant to delegate required authority will be held accountable, according to the Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister.

## Government gears up preparations to host Nepal Investment Summit 2024

**KATHMANDU:** The government has decided to host the Third Nepal Investment Summit (NIS 2024) on April 28-29, 2024. NIS 2024 aims to attract more private investment including Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) by showcasing the improved investment climate in Nepal, government's strong commitment for legal, regulatory and procedural changes to boost investor confidence to invest in Nepal and to exhibit lucrative investment opportunities available in different sectors.



NIS 2024 will attract credible and potential investors and garner private investment including FDI, which will be instrumental in leveraging the required resources to bridge the resource gap to finance infrastructure, agriculture, manufacturing and service sectors.

Three committees and a secretariat have been formed to successfully convene the summit. All three committees and the secretariat have commenced their respective works to successfully organise the summit to achieve the desired outcomes. The Steering Committee, chaired by Hon'ble Finance Minister and Vice Chairperson of Investment Board Nepal, Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat, has been assigned to instruct the Implementation Committee, Technical Committee and Secretariat regarding the overall aspects of the summit under the direct guidance of the Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister. The Steering Committee will finalise the modality and



schedule of the summit, identify the required policy and finalise the projects to be showcased at the summit.

The Steering Committee, chaired by Hon'ble Finance Minister comprises of Minister for Foreign Affairs; Minister for Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation; Minister for Physical Infrastructure and Transport; Minister for Communication and Information Technology, Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation; Minister for Industry, Commerce and Supplies; Minister for Federal Affairs and General Administration; Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Development; Minister for Urban Development; Vice Chairperson of National Planning Commission; Chief Secretary of the Government of Nepal; Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank; Secretary of the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers; Secretary of the Ministry of Finance; Presidents of the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI); Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI) and Nepal Chamber of Commerce as members and the Investment Board Nepal Chief Executive Officer as Member Secretary.

Further, the Implementation Committee, Chaired by Chief Secretary of the Government of Nepal, and comprising of secretaries from various ministries, Deputy Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank, Presidents of the aforementioned private sector umbrella organisations as members and the Investment Board Nepal Chief Executive Officer as Member Secretary, has been formed to support the Steering Committee. In this regard, the committee will prepare the agenda for the Steering Committee meeting, coordinate with relevant stakeholders and provide needful support to the Steering Committee for the overall preparatory works of the summit.

Similarly, in a bid to support the Steering Committee and Implementation Committee, a Technical Committee has been formed under the

## Third Investment Summit



28-29 April, 2024



Kathmandu, Nepal

convenorship of the Secretary of Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies. The Technical Committee will collect, study, screen and identify projects to be showcased at the summit. The committee will also prepare necessary promotional materials and conduct market sounding and roadshows and also procurement documents for selected projects to be showcased during the summit.

The first meeting of the NIS Steering Committee Chaired by Hon'ble Finance Minister, Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat, was held on November 26, 2023 at the Ministry of Finance. The meeting held consultations with members of the committee and experts to take forward the necessary preparations and provide instructions to the Implementation Committee and Technical Committee.

Meanwhile, three rounds of meetings of the Implementation Committee, chaired by the Chief Secretary and Ex-Officio Member of Investment Board Nepal, Mr. Baikuntha Aryal, were held till December 2023. The committee has made some crucial decisions including finalisation of the concept paper, programme modality and representation of the private sector in the Technical Committee and finalisation of venue, among others and decided to submit its recommendations to the Steering Committee for endorsement.

Further, the first meeting of the Technical Committee, chaired by Secretary of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies, Mr. Mukunda Prasad Niroula, held on December 13, 2023, decided to summon the concerned ministries and line agencies to recommend projects to be showcased at the summit abiding by the legal and regulatory compliance of those projects.

The Secretariat of NIS 2024 has been set up at the Office of the Investment Board, Nepal, which is chaired by Investment Board Nepal Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Sushil Bhatta, and has been conducting preparatory works as instructed by the Steering Committee and Implementation Committee.



## Nepal Investment Summit will be an opportunity to showcase projects and reform initiatives to attract FDI



**MR. BAIKUNTHA ARYAL**

CHIEF SECRETARY & EX-OFFICIO MEMBER OF INVESTMENT BOARD NEPAL  
CHAIRPERSON OF THIRD INVESTMENT SUMMIT IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

**The fiscal budget 2023-24 has underscored the need to mobilise domestic and foreign investment (capital and technology) by developing an investment-friendly environment considering the sluggish investment growth of private investment and vowed to initiate reforms to attract private investment. What are the major initiatives of the government to create a conducive investment climate in the country?**

The fiscal budget has announced to promote private investment, both domestic and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) by initiating reforms in the legal, procedural and structural (institutional) fronts. Legal reforms are mainly within the jurisdiction of the Parliament, however, the government has been taking the initiative to submit the amended Bills in the Parliament. Apart from laws, the government will make necessary amendments to policies and regulations as well as procedural reforms. The government is going to convene the Nepal Investment Summit in April 2024, with an objective to attract and mobilise domestic and foreign investments. In this regard, the Implementation

Committee, under my leadership, has been preparing a comprehensive report listing the required reforms agenda and actions for implementation. Further, prompt service delivery, gaining confidence of investors (by ensuring returns of their investments), effective promotion of Nepal as an attractive investment destination should go together. There should be an effective platform, mechanism, promotional activities for sharing information with investors. An investor should get all the required information regarding investing in Nepal through

a single platform. We have to, at least, be able to disseminate investment-friendly arrangements to investors. For example, company registration fees have been drastically lowered and exit provisions have been eased and the One Stop Service (OSS) has been made functional and effective. Along with delegating authority to OSS, the authorised person shall be made equally accountable.

**We have One Stop Service at the Office of the Investment Board and Department of Industry. Could you briefly explain how these platforms will be made more effective?**

We have established different organisations, however, problems have surfaced due to the reluctance of the concerned people to delegate authority with regard to the Department of Industry. If a similar situation occurs at the Office of the Investment Board, Nepal, the OSS will not be able to function unless the concerned ministries and agencies act on this. These are some of the illustrations that legal reforms alone cannot push forward the desired change until we make some interventions at the functional level. Institutional reforms are equally important. We do not have to do big things; we can bring about a big change by tinkering with small things.

### **The government has already announced to host the Nepal Investment Summit 2024 in April. What are the priority areas, projects and investors?**

Different technical teams in various ministries are working on priority areas. As we are talking about mobilising private investment, we are also onboarding the private sector to explore potential areas and projects. While talking about potential areas, traditionally, we used to speak about 'TEA' - Tourism, Energy and Agriculture. That has been further revised over the period of time as 'ICETEA' - Information and Communication Technology, Export-oriented products and services, Tourism, Energy and Agriculture. Some have also been talking about 'HAT' - Hydropower, Aviation and Tourism. We will not stick to only the aforementioned areas, for instance, Manufacturing is another priority area. We might invite more franchises and production of intermediary goods, among others. The Technical Committee, chaired by the Secretary of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies, has been assigned to develop potential projects to be showcased at the summit. In addition, we might showcase some brownfield projects as well. Moreover, we will invite potential investors from around the world as well as encourage our private sector to invest in both Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and direct investment projects.

### **What are the plans to make the summit more outcome-oriented?**

We are going to make the summit outcome centric by attracting investments in low hanging sectors and projects. We will not just take pledges. We want the commitments to be realised within a desired timeframe from capable investors. We will be showcasing credible projects that are screened through proven practices for derisking them during their execution and operation.

### **Will we just showcase or carry out market sounding of the projects or also call for Expression of Interest?**

We are yet to make any decision and we will discuss it in the Steering Committee meeting chaired by the Hon'ble Finance Minister. We will make a

decision based on the preparations carried out by the Technical Committee. If we are able to make all necessary preparations to call for the Expression of Interest (EoI), that will be a lot better. I think all the necessary preparations of a few projects will be completed in the near term and we will be able to call for EoI and also Request for Proposal (RfP) for them.

### **Considering the expanded committed liability of the government and shrinking revenue base, when will the government come up with the concrete categorisation of projects to be executed through sovereign funds, PPPs and direct private investment?**

I think that will not take much time and we have to do it. With regard to public expenditure, the government has been trying to avoid the situation of financing recurrent expenditure through borrowing. Borrowing should be mobilised for capital formation only and I have been consistently advocating this since long. Not only in private investment, but we must also have to distinctly outline which source of public expenditure namely, revenue, borrowing, foreign aid, can be mobilised on what? Similarly, we must categorise projects to be executed through sovereign funds, public-private partnership and exclusively from private sector investment. Otherwise, we will miss the opportunity to efficiently use the sovereign funds. PPP has different modalities and options, including blending the resources as well as viability gap funding (VGF). Specifically, investments for public goods creation should be carried out through sovereign funds because the government's investment is not always for profit, it could be for social benefits as well. Apart from that the private sector is more profit oriented but we can create public goods from private investment too but that requires the government's strong support to harness the potential, Hydroelectricity development in Nepal is successful example under PPP modality. The upcoming Investment Summit will be an opportunity to showcase the reform initiatives for PPP and direct investment projects to attract private investment including FDI, where investors can lodge their interests in different sectors.



**The Public Private Partnership and Investment Act, 2019 has given authority to the concerned ministries and subnational governments to develop projects under public-private partnership. Why is PPP often ignored by the concerned ministries and subnational governments and what should be done to develop PPP culture?**

I would like to reiterate again that the legal framework only is not sufficient to make things workable. Subsequently, it demands functionaries with understanding, expertise and we will take it forward.

**How favourable is the macroeconomic situation of Nepal to attract FDI as far as the stability of the economy is concerned?**

The macroeconomic situation is stable and improving. We have been able to contain inflation to below six per cent. The external sector is more stable though we've got to worry about deteriorating exports. The recent review of the Monetary Policy has eased out the ongoing complexities faced by the private sector, however, it requires improvement in government spending and private sector

investment for stability as government expenditure stimulates private sector investment mobilisation. The first quadrimester has given a sign of hope for further improvement in the economy. However, the government still needs to cautiously watch the situation to ascertain whether the current situation is cyclical, seasonal or sustainable. In spite of that we can confidently say that Nepal's macroeconomic situation and more stable external sector are favourable for FDI.

**As the Chief Secretary of the Government of Nepal, what message would you like to convey to investors across the world?**

I would like to invite investors from across the globe to come and invest in Nepal, where they can earn better returns. We welcome feedback and suggestions from our valued investors. If they face any hassles, we will promptly take the initiative to resolve such issues. The Government of Nepal is committed to provide security to your investment and effective handholding for the entire project lifecycle.

## Consultation meeting for NIS 2024 held with DPs, MDBs and DFIs at MoF



**KATHMANDU:** A consultation meeting with development partners and development finance institutions (DFIs) regarding the upcoming Nepal Investment Summit (NIS) 2024 was held at the Ministry of Finance (MoF) on December 11, 2023. The meeting coordinated by the Office of the Investment Board, Nepal was chaired by Hon'ble Finance Minister and Vice Chairperson of Investment

Board Nepal, Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat. The Hon'ble Finance Minister is also the Chair of Nepal Investment Summit Steering Committee.

The consultation meeting was organised with an objective to inform the DPs, MDBs and DFIs regarding the preparations of the NIS scheduled for the last week of April in Kathmandu and obtain feedback from them.

Along with the Hon'ble Finance Minister, Chief Secretary, Mr. Baikuntha Aryal, Secretaries from the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers and Ministry of Finance, CEO of Investment Board Nepal, high-ranking government officials, country heads and resident representatives from various development partners, namely, the World Bank Group and its member International Finance Corporation, Asian Development Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, UNDP, FCDO, USAID, MCC and JICA, among others, participated in the consultation meeting. Further, the country representative of British International Investment - a development finance institution - participated in the meeting.

Investment Board Nepal Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Sushil Bhatta, as the Member-Secretary of the Nepal Investment Summit Steering Committee, delivered a presentation. The presentation focused on the objectives of the summit, its implementation modality, decisions taken by the Steering

Committee and Implementation Committee so far and preparations based on the decisions, snapshots of the previous investment summits (2017 and 2019) and priority activities (event promotion, project preparation, collaboration and participation of dignitaries and delegates) for the summit.

Addressing the meeting, Hon'ble Finance Minister, Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat, urged the development partners for needful support and to disseminate the message of Nepal's investment potential to potential investors within their network as goodwill ambassadors of Nepal as they are stationed in Nepal and have a better understanding of the country's investment climate.

In the meeting, the development partners advised the government to initiate tangible reforms and showcase priority investment areas of competitive and comparative advantage to attract foreign investment.

### Nepal-Korea Investment Seminar

## Korean companies keen to expand footprint in Nepal

**KATHMANDU:** Office of the Investment Board, Nepal jointly with Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Nepal, and Korea International Trade Association (KITA) hosted the 2023 Nepal-Korea Investment Seminar on November 8, 2023, in Kathmandu.



The Korean delegation led by Mr. Marn-Ki Jeong, Executive Vice Chairperson of KITA, along with Korean companies in Nepal and Nepali private sector, and officials from the Office of the Investment Board, Nepal participated in the seminar. The Korean delegation comprised of Korean Energy Headquarters, Korea Apparel Testing and Research Institute, Korea Optical Industry Agency and Korea Exim Bank. Hon'ble Minister for Trade, Industry and Energy of the Republic of Korea, Mr. Dukgeun Ahn, addressed the seminar virtually.

He underscored the need for deepening trade and investment relation between Nepal and the Republic of Korea stating that both countries have been sharing a friendly relation on the basis of



goodwill, friendship and mutual cooperation.

Moreover, His Excellency Ambassador of Republic of Korea to Nepal, Mr. Tae-Young Park, highlighted the encouraging scenario of investment from Korea to Nepal and mentioned that South Korea ranked among the top five in terms of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flow in Nepal.

Delivering his remarks in the seminar, CEO of Investment Board Nepal, Mr. Sushil Bhatta, applauded Korean electronics companies for establishing an assembly line.

“We welcome Korean footprints in Nepal specifically in the sectors of ICT, manufacturing, physical infrastructure, clean and renewable energy, minerals and quarrying-based industries, and resilient urban infrastructure development,” he stated.

He further stated that Investment Board Nepal has been effectively facilitating and coordinating with concerned agencies to expedite the 216 MW Upper Trishuli-1 Hydroelectric Project.

Mr. Daeyul Yoon, Managing Director, NWEDC, developer of the 216 MW Upper Trishuli-1 Project, and

Mr. Sung June Park, Managing Director, Samsung Nepal Office, presented the experience of Korean companies in Nepal at the seminar. In addition, Mr. Kisang Kim, Chief Representative, Korea Exim Bank, New Delhi Representative Office, delivered a presentation on new financing to collaborate with Korea: EDCF (Economic Development Co-operation Fund).

Similarly, Mr. Chandra Prasad Dhakal, President of the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI), shed light on the investment opportunities in Nepal, mainly, hydropower, tourism and ICT, among others, where Korean companies have a competitive strength. Stating that Nepal has been pursuing Korean technology and investments to move forward, he further mentioned that he has been receiving overwhelming feedback from Korean companies investing in Nepal.

Delivering his remarks during the seminar, Mr. Marn-Ki Jeong, Executive Vice Chairperson of KITA, expressed hope that the Korean delegation will have a fruitful visit to Nepal to explore opportunities and take forward the dialogue with government authorities and private sector for making investments in Nepal.



# 4,000 MW Projects streamlined in result-based framework shall be executed in due course: IBN CEO



**KATHMANDU:** Investment Board Nepal Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Sushil Bhatta, has said the board is confident about executing energy projects with a cumulative 4,000 MW capacity and other non-energy projects streamlined in a result-based framework and in different stages of development.

Delivering remarks during the Regional Conference on Powering Sustainable Growth #WithHydropower held in Kathmandu on November 23, 2023, he said that IBN has streamlined 4,000 MW capacity energy projects including two solar projects of 495 MW capacity, which will be a huge contribution for propelling energy mix in the system.

“The board is moving forward towards achieving substantial result in terms of mobilising resources under Public-Private Partnership modality in one of the highly potential areas of investment in the country, which is hydroelectricity,” said CEO Mr. Bhatta. He added, “The 900 MW Arun-3, which has already achieved 68.4% physical progress in generation and 15.81% in transmission component till date, has presented a demonstration effect to foreign investors closely looking at Nepal’s investment climate before making decisions to invest here.”

Following the completion of 253 km - 217 km in Nepal and 36 km in India - 400 kV cross-border transmission line, it will pave the way for evacuation

of at least 1,800 MW electricity from various projects along the Arun River corridor, he shared. The developer of Arun-3 Hydroelectric Project recently signed a Project Development Agreement (PDA) with the board to develop the 669 MW Lower Arun Hydroelectric Project at a total cost of Rs. 92.67 billion.

Moreover, CEO Mr. Bhatta underlined that the market is vital for any investment that produces goods and services that are largely consumed by the public. Indian government enterprise, NHPC Ltd., has also been expanding footprints in Nepal, and the board has also issued a survey licence for the study of 750 MW West Seti and 450 MW SR-6 to the latter. Indian firms are encouraged to invest in Nepal’s clean and renewable energy due to the assurance provided by the Government of India to purchase 10,000 MW electricity from Nepal in the next 10 years.

In addition, the board has been gearing up preparations to enter into PDA negotiations with the developer of the 327 MW Upper Marsyangdi 2 Hydroelectric Project, which is going to be developed by the joint venture of Butwal Power Company and SCIG International Cooperation of China, which is a domestic consumption proposition. He also emphasised that while seeking markets, stakeholders should focus equally on both domestic and international markets.

CEO Mr. Bhatta further emphasised that the board has been providing effective handholding to investors during the entire project lifecycle of the project.

The event was jointly organised by the Hydropower Sustainability Alliance (HSA); International Hydropower Association (IHA); Bizbell; Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad); Nepal Hydropower Association (NHA); USAID and Independent Power Producers’ Association, Nepal (IPPAN).



## BBIN Power Summit reinforces collaboration and innovation for regional energy trade



**KATHMANDU:** The Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation (MoEWRI) and Investment Board Nepal participated in the South Asia (BBIN) Power Summit, jointly organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Ministry of Power and Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India on December 19, 2023. The summit also brought together key stakeholders from the region to discuss on the challenges and opportunities in the energy sector.

Delivering his remarks at the summit, Mr. Gopal Prasad Sigdel, Secretary of the Ministry of Energy, Water Resources, and Irrigation, Government of Nepal, highlighted historical events shaping South Asian Power Cooperation. “India is committed to net-zero emissions by 2070; this can be supported by Nepal and Bhutan through cooperation in the hydropower sector.” He underlined the need for cooperation in the power sector and the changing role of cross-border power trading. Mr. Sigdel suggested policies such as a knowledge exchange platform, cross-border committees, financial support and a framework agreement.

Moreover, Mr. Srikant Nagulapalli, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Power, Government of India, stressed that securing adequate, reliable and affordable power supply is the topmost priority of all the countries because South Asia’s energy landscape is at a critical juncture. He advocated for interconnecting electricity grids to share resources



and enhance energy security, emphasising the potential for jobs, growth and a sustainable future through clean energy cooperation. Mr. Nagulapalli further highlighted the need for a comprehensive transmission line plan and to fast-track the construction of transmission lines.

Delivering his remarks, H.E. Mr. Md. Mustafizur Rahman, High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India, acknowledged the pivotal role of energy in sustaining the region’s rapid economic growth. “We can incorporate best practices from around the world and progress with the collective spirit of growth and prosperity,” he stated.

Meanwhile, Investment Board Nepal Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Sushil Bhatta, chaired the session titled ‘Streamlining Investment for Energy Cooperation’ during the summit. He hailed the initiatives taken by the countries of the BBIN region to create ground for robust energy trade in the region and also highlighted the opportunities and challenges as well as the importance of PPP for leveraging private investment including FDI with appropriate policy for lowering market risks to foster the development of energy projects.

In addition, Mr. Bhatta highlighted the role of the government for the development of associated infrastructure in the region to enhance energy cooperation by ensuring robust electricity trade in the BBIN region. Meanwhile, he informed the esteemed participants of the summit regarding the upcoming Third Investment Summit 2024 in Nepal scheduled for April 28-29, 2024.

## OIBN welcomes and bids farewell to Joint Secretaries



**KATHMANDU:** Office of the Investment Board, Nepal (OIBN) welcomed newly appointed Joint Secretary, Mr. Pradyumna Prasad Upadhyay, and bade farewell to Joint Secretary, Mr. Amrit Lamsal, on November 29, 2023.

The government has deployed Joint Secretary, Mr. Upadhyay, to OIBN from the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers (OPMCM). Similarly,



Joint Secretary, Mr. Lamsal, had served for one-and-a-half years at OIBN and has been transferred to the Ministry of Finance (MoF).

Welcoming and bidding farewell to the joint secretaries, Investment Board Nepal Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Sushil Bhatta, congratulated them for the new responsibilities, and said he is confident that the knowledge and expertise of the senior bureaucrats will be utilised in nation building.

## NUSACCI delegation visits OIBN



**KATHMANDU:** A delegation of Nepal-USA Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NUSACCI) led by its President, Mr. Kiran Prakash Saakha, paid a courtesy call on Investment Board Nepal Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Sushil Bhatta, on December 7, 2023.

The delegation discussed on different dimensions of reforms to be initiated, specifically in the procedural

and legal fronts including the early promulgation of Intellectual Property Rights and Compensation Law to attract investment from the United States of America.

They also expressed concerns regarding their participation in the upcoming Nepal Investment Summit. In the meeting, Investment Board Nepal CEO, Mr. Bhatta, informed them regarding the efforts being taken by the government to initiate legal and procedural reforms citing the activities to be performed by the task force formed under the convenorship of the secretary of the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers. The task force will submit the report to the government with a comprehensive review of the existing legal,



regulatory and procedural framework hindering private investments with recommendations of actions to be taken by the relevant agencies for needful amendments/changes.

In the meeting, Joint Secretary of OIBN, Mr. Pradyumna Upadhyay, assured the delegation regarding their participation in the upcoming Nepal Investment Summit stating that the binational

chambers should play a catalytic role to bring in investment by identifying and proposing potential investors within their network.

NUSACCI delegation led by President Saakha comprised of Vice President, Mr. Birendra Rajkarnicar, and Executive Members namely, Mr. Brindaban Man Pradhanang, Mr. Pashupati Dev Pande, Mr. Rakesh Adukia and Mr. Pranil Man Singh Pradhan.

## Sudurpashchim Provincial government looks for collaboration with IBN to host Development and Investment Summit



**KATHMANDU:** Investment Board Nepal Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Sushil Bhatta, and the senior management team held an interaction with Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sudurpashchim Province, Mr. Kamal Bahadur Shah, Hon'ble Minister for Economic Affairs and Planning, Mr. Naresh Kumar Shahi and Hon'ble Vice Chairperson of the Provincial Planning Commission, Mr. Anup Kumar Upadhyay regarding potential collaboration to attain the best outcome from the upcoming Development and Investment Summit to be hosted by the provincial government on March 6, 2024.

During the discussion held in OIBN on November 22, Hon'ble Chief Minister Shah said that the experience of Investment Board Nepal is crucial in making the summit output-oriented by showcasing credible projects and signing deals with potential investors. He further said the summit is aimed at bringing in investments in the areas of energy, agriculture, tourism and industry.

For the preparations of the conference, a Steering Committee has been formed under the coordination of Chief Minister Shah. Likewise, the Implementation Committee and Advisory Committee have also been formed. The provincial government is expected to create a foundation for its development through the Development and Investment Summit.



## Investment Board Nepal CEO participates in Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business Roundtable



**KATHMANDU:** Investment Board Nepal Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Sushil Bhatta, delivered remarks in the Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business Roundtable hosted by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) in Vientiane, Lao PDR on November 1, 2023, focusing on building smart, low carbon, climate-resilient infrastructure in developing countries under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and other private investment models.

The roundtable provided a forum for discussing the challenges of developing sustainable infrastructure in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Landlocked Least Developed Countries (LLDCs). The Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business initiative has been making

efforts to promote a green transformation of the economy for the well-being of all people in the region.

The roundtable focused on the infrastructure pillar of the Green Deal and brought multiple stakeholders together including representatives from LDCs, LLDCs, experts in public-private partnerships, and major private sector stakeholders. It developed some recommendations and mutual understanding on how the private sector can work with public sector entities to deliver the sustainable infrastructure necessary for a green transformation by leveraging the unique strengths of both sectors in creating green and climate-resilient infrastructure for sustainable growth.

## OIBN, CLDP host Workshop on Feasibility Studies

**KATHMANDU:** The Office of the Investment Board, Nepal (OIBN) jointly with the Commercial Law Development Programme under the U.S. Department of Commerce hosted a two-day Workshop on Feasibility Studies on November 2-3, 2023, in Kathmandu.

The workshop, organised for the capacity enhancement of project development professionals serving in OIBN, mainly focused on pre/feasibility study techniques of projects covering technical, environmental and social (E&S) as well as economic and financial aspects.





During the workshop, participants delved on the importance of a sound study of the best available alternatives, assessing and minimising associated risks on all fronts, and appropriate legal and institutional frameworks. Further, they conducted a group exercise on value-based procurement, which is essential to take forward projects towards successful execution and operation. Officials and project development consultants from OIBN participated in the workshop.

## Trade, tourism and investment opportunities in Nepal discussed with Indian business fraternity

**KATHMANDU:** Investment Board Nepal Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Sushil Bhatta, participated in the forum titled 'Trade, Tourism and Investment Opportunities in Nepal' organised by the Trans Asian Chamber of Commerce and Industry in association with the Embassy of Nepal in India, at Royal Mumbai Yacht Club, Mumbai, on November 26, 2023.

CEO Mr. Bhatta delivered a comprehensive presentation at the forum, where His Excellency Ambassador of Nepal to India, Dr. Shankar Sharma, delivered his keynote remarks focusing on Nepal's competitive and comparative advantages for foreign investors.

The forum targeted to inform the Indian business fraternity regarding the investment potential in Nepal. Delivering his presentation, CEO Mr. Bhatta shed light on the legal and institutional arrangements for attracting foreign investment. He stated that Investment Board Nepal, under the chairmanship of the Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister is the central fast-tracking agency for large-scale private investments including Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to be mobilised in Public-Private Partnership



(PPP) and direct private investment projects. The board approves investments of Rs. 6 billion and above, and executes energy projects with capacity of above 200 MW and non-energy projects worth Rs. 6 billion and above, he explained. "The Investment Board Nepal provides effective handholding to our valued investors during the entire project life cycle," he reiterated.

Meanwhile, CEO Mr. Bhatta shared with the esteemed participants that the Government of Nepal is going to convene Nepal Investment Summit on April 28-29, 2024, in Kathmandu and invited them to participate in the summit to explore investment opportunities in Nepal.



## Public hearing on EIA of solar project held



**KATHMANDU:** Public hearing programmes related to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the 250 MWp (including 40 MW battery storage) Solar Photo Voltaic Power Project promoted by Risen Clean Energy Nepal Pvt. Ltd., were organised in Kohalpur and Banganga, on November 6 and 8, respectively.

The developer of the project interacted with the people of the project affected area regarding their concerns related to the environmental impact and also shared with them about the major findings of the EIA and their proposed actions to mitigate the impacts.

The project is being facilitated by Investment Board Nepal. Officials and consultants namely, Mr. Prakash Sigdel, Environment Inspector; Mr. Tapendra Chand, Project Development Consultant and Mr. Ghanashyam Khatiwada, Stakeholder Relations Consultant, from the Office of the Investment Board, Nepal participated in the public hearing programmes.

## Russian business delegation in Nepal to explore investment opportunities



**KATHMANDU:** A delegation from the Russian Federation led by Trade Commissioner to Nepal, Mr. Alexander L. Rybas, and comprising of members from the Russian Export Centre held a meeting with Investment Board Nepal Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Sushil Bhatta, and Joint Secretary, Mr. Pradyumna Upadhyay, with regard to exploring investment opportunities in Nepal.

The Russian business delegation expressed interest to invest in ICT sector, production of turbines and other equipment to be used for electricity generation and transmission, solar panels, manufacturing of parts of trains as well as construction of railways and other infrastructure.

In the meeting, CEO of Investment Board Nepal, Mr. Bhatta, hailed the support extended by the Russian Federation in the construction of bridges along the East-West Highway and setting up manufacturing-based state-owned enterprises (SOEs). He further mentioned that Investment Board Nepal is the national PPP agency and investment promotion agency and the institution is guided by comprehensive PPP contracts while mobilising private investment under PPP modality.

CEO Mr. Bhatta invited the Russian business delegation to participate in the upcoming Nepal Investment Summit and look at projects of their interest. "The government is going to convene Nepal Investment Summit in the last week of April 2024 and we will showcase various projects of multiple sectors," he said, adding, "We believe, real showcasing will only happen if we are able to gain the confidence of genuine, serious, potential and capable investors."

The meeting was held on December 15, 2023, at the Office of the Investment Board, Nepal.

## OIBN holds interaction with experts to develop sector profiles



**KATHMANDU:** Office of the Investment Board, Nepal (OIBN) held an initial interaction with experts to prepare sector profiles for clustering sectoral opportunities for investors.

In the first phase, OIBN will prepare sector profiles for agriculture, manufacturing, ICT, health, energy and transport sectors. “We will develop additional sector profiles covering various other sectors that

have the potential of mobilising private investments including FDI,” said Investment Board Nepal Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Sushil Bhatta, adding, “The sector profile will be the baseline document through which investors can grasp the investment opportunities of particular sectors.”

OIBN officials, consultants and experts were present in the meeting held on November 5, 2023.

## Discussion with climate parliamentarians on green grid initiatives held in OIBN

**KATHMANDU:** Team members of the Climate Parliament from India comprising Dr. Mukul Sharma, Asia Director and Dr. Sumedha Basu, Policy Advisor, held a discussion on the green grid initiative with the senior management team and project development professionals at the Office of the Investment Board Nepal, on December 19, 2023.





The discussion drew an opinion that countries of the South Asia region can explore collaborative avenues including green grid initiatives to combat the impacts of climate change for which collaboration and cooperation among the countries should be intensified.

The Climate Parliament is a global network of legislators working to inform and mobilise Members of Parliament and Congress to take action on climate emergency.



## SBI Bank, India CGM pays courtesy call on Investment Board Nepal CEO

**KATHMANDU:** Chief General Manager of State Bank of India, Mr. Ashok Sharma, paid a courtesy call on Investment Board Nepal Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Sushil Bhatta, on November 29, 2023. During the meeting IBN CEO Bhatta hailed the role

of banks and financial institutions in India and joint venture banks in promoting Nepal as an attractive investment destination among investors within their network and providing financing including for Public-Private Partnership (PPP) projects.





# OIBN presents potential projects in Multilateral Development Bank Project Plaza 2023

**KATHMANDU:** The Office of the Investment Board, Nepal (OIBN) participated in the Multilateral Development Bank (MDB) Project Plaza 2023. MDB Project Plaza is an annual event organised by Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) and hosted by the Ministry of Strategy and Finance Trade, and Ministry of Industry and Energy of Korea. The event brought together global organisations, government bodies and institutions and competitive Korean companies for possible collaboration and partnerships.

The MDB Project Plaza was organised on November 28-29, 2023, in Seoul. It covered topics on Ukraine Reconstruction, and projects from Nepal, Mongolia, Poland, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Indonesia, and multi-lateral development banks. OIBN along with the Ministry of Urban Development participated in the two-day event from Nepal. The event was divided into a project seminar for Day 1 and a 1:1 project meeting for Day 2.

Mr. Vibek Gupta, Transport Specialist (Consultant), represented OIBN at the event and presented the various projects at OIBN under various stages of



development as prescribed by the IBN Project Bank Guideline. Nine Korean companies and institutions engaged with OIBN during the 1:1 project meeting on the second day. The 1:1 meeting discussion introduced OIBN projects and platforms on which Korean companies and institutions can engage with OIBN to develop transformative infrastructure in Nepal. Concerns and queries of interested companies and avenues for further collaboration were discussed.





## Skill development training programmes conducted by SAPDC are instrumental for embracing entrepreneurship

**Ms. MANKALA RAI**

**Vice Chairperson**

**Chichila Rural Municipality, Sankhuwasabha**

As part of its Local Benefit Sharing Plan, SJVN Arun-3 Power Development Company has been supporting skill development of people in the project affected area. The training programmes have been found to be instrumental in locals embracing entrepreneurship.

The company has been offering skill training to the project affected locals in collaboration with the affected rural/municipalities. Together with the developer of the 900 MW Arun-3 Hydroelectric Project, we review the progress of the implementation of the local benefit sharing plan, under which 0.5 per cent of the project cost shall be spent for people of the affected area including local infrastructure.

Chichila Rural Municipality, Sankhuwasabha has also been issuing a notice seeking applications from locals interested to participate in the skill development training. The company has been offering entrepreneurial skills development training

like electrician, cooking, driving, beautician and motorcycle repairing, among others, since the last one-and-a-half years. Apart from the skill development training, the developer company has also been providing a limited number of fellowships for academic courses, particularly for Bachelor's in Engineering and a few students from the affected area have benefited from this scheme.

The company has been conducting cooking and motorcycle repairing training in Itahari of Sunsari district and other training programmes in Khandbari, the district headquarters of Sankhuwasabha. However, there is demand from the locals that the skill development training should be conducted in their convenient location in the district.

On the other hand, there is high demand for driving training as it is easy to be employed in the country and abroad after acquiring this skill. Earlier, locals were expecting jobs in Arun-3 Hydroelectric Project, and now after obtaining entrepreneurial skills, many of them are able to embrace entrepreneurship.



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