

Story of the Month

Media sensitisation workshop in Nepal



A 'Water Resource Journalism Programme' was held on 22 December 2015 by GWP Nepal/JVS at Hotel Annapurna, Kathmandu with the objective of sensitising journalists on water related issues.

This Core activity which is in line with the Goal 2 of GWP Strategy Towards 2020: *Generate and Communicate Knowledge* also addresses one of the key activities identified under information dissemination in the Communications Strategy of GWP SAS: *Country Water Partnerships are encouraged to meet the media in their countries at least every six months to improve awareness of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), discuss progress and announce latest developments.*

The materials prepared for the programme were based on the responses and prioritised issues raised by journalists during the reconnaissance survey. Journalists from around 16 media institutions participated the programme. The objective of the training is to assist the journalists to report the happenings in water sector accurately in a simple manner.

Five experts in the waters sector made presentations on the role of media in water resource development.

Mr Sheetal Babu Regmi, during his presentation mentioned that journalists should always be careful on reporting units and should crosscheck the information collected prior to reporting. Prof Amrit Man Nakarmi provided an

Presentations:

- **Water Resources Information and their availability and use** by Mr Sheetal Babu Regmi Former Secretary, Ministry of Energy
- **Current Energy Consumption trends and its impact on economy of Nepal**, Prof Amrit Man Nakarmi Coordinator, Center for Energy Studies, Institute of engineering, Tribhuvan University
- **Conservation of Water Resources** by Dr Keshav Prasad Sharma, Former Director General Department of Hydrology and Meteorology
- **Water Resources: Constitutional Aspects and Challenges**, Mr Suryanath Upadhyay, Secretary General, JVS
- **Improving Water Quality on Water**, Mr Aditya Man Shrestha, Senior Journalist

overview on energy sector during the presentation and outlined the strategies for sustainable energy development including cost effectiveness and environmental sustainability. He also discussed about strategies for materialising the low carbon economic development and energy security. Presentation on 'Conservation of Water Resources' was delivered by Dr Keshav Prasad Sharma. He discussed several technical aspects of the sector such as water stress, availability, variability, footprint and water banking. He also mentioned that awareness on water resources diversification and integration is very important and wasting water and energy should be avoided. Mr Suryanath Upadhyay in his presentation on 'Water Resources: Constitutional Aspects and Challenges', explained several legal provisions on water resources in the constitution of Nepal. He pointed out the challenges which the water sector is facing nowadays and problems in news reporting. The last presentation was by Mr Aditya Man Shrestha who described strategies for improving the quality of reporting on water. He emphasised that a good quality report means a comprehensive report with clarity written in simple language.

A panel discussion was held towards the end of the programme to share experiences of the Panellists. The panel comprised of Mr Rajendra Dahal, Former Chair, Nepal Press Council; Dr Mahendra Bista, President, Federation of Nepali Journalists and Mr Gokarna Awasthi, Chair, Society of Economic Journalists. Dr Upendra Gautam, Treasurer, GWP Nepal/ JVS Nepal facilitated the panel discussion.

Journalists who attended the programme shared their experiences and barriers they are facing during reporting. They indicated that, the information gathered in this training will be utilising for effective information dissemination and are looking forward to get similar guidance in reporting by water experts in the future.



Mr Sheetal Babu Regmi during his presentation



From left Dr Vijaya Shrestha, President; Mr Som Nath Poudel, Vice President; Mr Surya Nath Upadhyay, Secretary General and Dr Keshav P. Sharma, Resource Person, JVS/GWP Nepal during the programme



From left, Mr Rajendra Dahal, Former Chair, NPC; Dr Upendra Gautam, Treasurer, JVS/GWP Nepal; Dr Mahendra Bista, President, FNJ and Mr Gokarna Awasthi, Chair, SEJON, during panel discussion