

Building Climate Change Awareness in Nepal's Remote Area

Nepal Climate Change Knowledge Management Center (NCKMC) successfully organized Climate Change Awareness program at Myanglung, the headquarter of Nepal's remote hilly district Terhathum in eastern region. Myanglung is beautifully located on the lap of the Tinjure-Milke-Jaljale (TMJ) hill, a renowned region for Rhododendron, the National Flower



of Nepal. The team comprising Professor Dr Prakash Chandra Adhikari, Secretary, Mr Ishwor Prasad Khanal, Chief, Faculty of Science, Mr Niranjan Kumar Acharya, Senior Administrative Officer, Dr Bimala Devkota, Senior Scientific Officer, Mr Bhoj Raj Adhikari, Promotion Officer and Mr Pawan Kumar Neupane, Scientific Officer reached Myanglung on May 13, 2014. The Principal and Teachers from Shree Singha Bahini Higher Secondary School warmly welcomed the team and organized an introductory program. Mr Dinesh Prasad Khanal, Science Teacher of the school briefly explained on the preparatory works and work plan for organizing climate change programs scheduled on May 15, 2014 at the premise of the school.

On May 15, 2014 the Constitutional Assembly Member, Honorable Bhawani Khapung formally inaugurated Climate Change Awareness Program at the premise of Shree Singha Bahini HSS amidst a gathering including Chief District Officer, District Education Officer, ,



Political leaders, Chairperson of School Management Committee, Principal, Teachers, Journalists, Police, Armed Police and Students. Addressing the program Honorable Khapung appreciated Nepal Academy of Science and Technology for organizing the

climate change awareness program at Terhathum district. He stated that the district expects more such programs in coming days. In the outset, speakers focused on climate change issues being observed at the district. Speaking at the program Professor Dr Prakash Chandra Adhikari, Secretary, NAST focused on well engineered infrastructural development to adapt with climate change. Mr Ishwor P Khanal, Chief, Faculty of Science explained the role of NAST in climate change research while Dr Bimala Devkota, Chief, NCKMC explained the objectives of the program. The program was live broadcasted by two local FM, *Radio Myanchhem* and *Radio Terhathum*.

The team organized Climate Quiz at the premise of Shree Singha Bahini HSS. Altogether 10 schools participated in the quiz program. Shree Ratna HSS bagged first prize, while Shree Singha Bahini HSS stood second and Shree Bagawati HSS stood third in the competition. Students and teachers observed the colorful posters carrying messages on climate change science, climate change impacts, adaptation and mitigation measures in simple Nepali language.



On the same day, an interaction program was also organized in the seminar hall of the school. Mr Pawan Kumar Neupane, an environmentalist in the team briefly explained climate change science and adaptation measures. The participants of the program watched a short film on climate change and



climate change knowledge management. Professor Dr Adhikari and Mr Neupane answered the questions on climate change adaptation and mitigation measures raised by the participants. Finally, Professor Dr Prakash Chandra Adhikari and Mr Tej Bahadur Karki, Principal of Shree Singha Bahini HSS distributed prizes to the winner and participating teams. About 300 students and teachers observed the program.

On May 16, 2014, Climate Change Knowledge Sharing Program was organized at the seminar hall of District Development Committee, Terhathum. Mr Umesh Prasad Dhakal, Chief District Officer chaired the program. In the program, Mr Pawan Kumar Neupane highlighted on climate change science, climate change impacts and adaptation measures. Dr Bimala Devkota explained on the importance of mainstreaming climate change risk management in local development plans. Altogether 40 participants including Chief District Officer, representative from GOs/NGOs, representative of political parties, Journalists and teachers discussed on the climate change issues being observed at their locality. The participants viewed that pest infestation on



Rhododendron trees, drinking water stress and migration might be the cause of climate change in the district. They request NAST to carry out a thorough research on such issues to bring out the scientific information supporting in development planning. Finally, Mr Umesh Kumar Dhakal, CDO stated that suitable adaptation measures are

important to tackle with climate change and such measures needs to be mainstreamed in local development plans. Later the information materials on climate change were handed over to District Administration Office, District Development Committee and Journalists which will be the reference materials for climate change activities in the district.