

**Source: The Rising Nepal, September 19, 2020**

## **Construction Works Begin For Tanahu Hydro Project Transmission Line**

*Damauli, Sept 19 :* The construction works for Tanahu Hydropower Project transmission line have begun here. The works began under the third package of the project.

The transmission line will be of 220 KV double circuit, said project chief Achyut Ghimire, adding that the double circuit transmission line will be built from Damauli to Bharatpur. An Indian company KEC has been contracted for the construction. He further said digging for base for first tower was over and the works now onward would be intensified. There will have a total of 30 towers. The works to the project were however affected earlier owing the COVID-19 menace.

The construction of the transmission lined is expected to complete by 2022 March. The poles for the transmission line have been brought near Indian border. Ghimire believed that the remaining activities would be accelerated in the winter season.

Some 7,923 trees need to be cut down in Tanahu while the study on it was underway on the part of Chitwan. Even the works for power house are going on under the second package of the project. The power house is being built at Jhaputar of Rishing Rural Municipality-1.

**Source: My Republica, September 21, 2020**

## **People asked to report to energy minister's secretariat in case of power outage without prior notice**

KATHMANDU, Sept 21: The government has asked all concerned to report to Energy Minister Barsha Man Pun's Personal Secretariat or the central office of Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) if there is disruption in the power supply without a notice in advance.

The Ministry of Energy has asked all concerned to call at the hotline number 1151 of Minister Pun's Secretariat or directly at 9851109835 if there is disruption in power supply without a prior notice.

The ministry said electricity lines in various places are being cut due to a number of maintenance and technical reasons. The power supply was disrupted at a number of places including Poudel village, Kitini, Leninthok, View Bhrukuti and other places in Lalitpur district from 8 am to 10 am in the morning and from 11 am to 1 pm in the evening on Sunday.

According to the personal secretariat of Energy Minister Pun, the disruption in power supply from seven transformers near the transmission line was announced in advance by the Lagankhel Distribution Center of NEA.

**Source: New Business Age, September 22, 2020**

## **IFC Report urges Companies to Boost Women's Participation in Hydropower Sector**

*This photo taken from Twitter shows Wendy Werner, IFC country manager for Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan.*

September 22: Companies and women in Nepal would stand to benefit if greater action was taken to improve women's participation and contribution to the hydropower sector, reveals a new study conducted by the IFC.

IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, calls for companies to adopt gender sensitive policies and practices to attract more women into working in the hydropower.

“Women make up more than half of Nepal's population, yet the study reveals only 10 percent of all employees in the country's hydropower sector are women,” said Wendy Werner, IFC country manager for Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan. “Companies need to seize the opportunity to embark on more gender-sensitive and family-friendly policies to help boost staff productivity and attract and retain talent which will ultimately boost their businesses.”

The study of 20 companies is part of the Powered by Women initiative—a time-bound commitment by companies to build the business case for improved gender equality and diversity in renewable energy companies in Nepal.

“We recognize the need to make conscious efforts to increase the number of women in power sector. Our organization has already taken a forward step by making women participation in the executive committee mandatory,” said Ashish Garg, vice president of the Independent Power Producers’

Association of Nepal (IPPAN). “By partnering with IFC in this important initiative we are committing to championing this cause.”

The report recommends that companies need to develop and enforce gender-sensitive policies, including mechanisms to address cases of bullying, sexual harassment, abuse and exploitation.

More tailored programs to support professional development opportunities for women, such as more robust recruiting efforts directed at women’s advancement into leadership positions and targets for diversity in board representation, are also encouraged. Meanwhile, at the community level, the report urges increased support from companies to women-led businesses, including improving their access to finance, and efforts to train women in non-traditional roles within the sector.

The study – spearheaded by IFC’s Hydro Environmental and Social Advisory team in partnership with the governments of Australia, Norway and Japan – shows very few of those employed are in leadership positions, included in corporate boards or occupy non-traditional roles in the hydropower sector.

“Despite the considerable scope for women to take up non-traditional roles in the hydropower sector, we found that most companies in Nepal have not yet initiated adequate efforts to realize this,” said Kate Lazarus, team leader of Asia Environment and Social Governance for IFC. “While some companies, particularly those led by women entrepreneurs, do show willingness in this regard, there are still challenges in transforming that intent into action on the ground.”

Gender stereotyping, remoteness of hydropower project sites and a lack of women in science, technology, engineering, and math education have been identified as key constraints for women’s participation in this sector. Concerns around initial investment costs and uncertainty over whether

there will be a payoff in the short- to medium-term were also inhibiting factors, according to the study.

Nepal ranks 105 out of 149 countries on the Global Gender Gap Index 2018 conducted by the World Economic Forum, indicating that there is still a critical need to focus on gender equality across various spheres.

The study was conducted between 2019 and 2020. Over two dozen executives and almost 250 employees working in 20 companies within Nepal's hydropower industry contributed to the research.