

I CARE FOR CLEAN AIR

2018

Proceedings of

# Youth Workshop on Importance of Open Data for Air Quality Management

June 11, 2018

Innovation Hub, Kathmandu

Clean Energy Nepal

June, 2018



## 1. Background

Air pollution is established as a major threat to human health. According to the State of Global Air 2018 report, 95 percent of the world's population is breathing unhealthy air. Air pollution has become the fourth-highest cause of death worldwide with the majority of deaths recorded in poorer nations. In 2016, long-term exposure to air pollution contributed to the deaths of 6.1 million people from stroke, heart attack, lung diseases and lung cancer. In Nepal, 215.6 in every 100,000 people die due to air pollution as of 2016. The global Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2018 has also ranked the quality of air in Nepal among the lowest in the world.

These data present an undeniable fact that air pollution has high public health cost and is a serious environmental concern. In order to counteract the alarming statistic, it is very important to conduct a comprehensive air monitoring of where the pollution is most concentrated, how it occurs, what factors are involved and how we can neutralize it. While data in relation to air pollution is being generated from governmental and non-governmental organizations, research institutions and informal groups, data sharing is still not practiced widely.

Youths play vital role in environmental management including air quality management. It is thus very essential to enhance their knowledge on the scenario of air pollution and also the importance open data for air quality management.

To sensitize the youths and spark up their interest in air quality management, youth workshop on 'Importance of Open Data for Air Quality Management' was organized by Clean Energy Nepal in collaboration with US Embassy in Nepal on June 11, 2018 in Kathmandu.

## 2. Objective

The main objective of the program was to enhance knowledge on importance of open data and air quality management system.

## 3. Program Participants

Around 40 youths from several educational institutions, youth networks, youth councils and informal groups participated in the workshop.

## 4. Proceedings

The program begun with the introduction of the guests and the participants. Opening and program overview was shared followed by two presentations and a group session. The presenters introduced the issue of air pollution and open data for air quality management to the participants. The group work session engaged the youths in active discussion about the scenario, existing problems, possible solutions and demands and roles of youth for air quality management.



**Figure 1: Participants of the youth workshop**

### Opening Session

An overview of the program was provided by Mr. Rajan Thapa, Program Manager, CEN in his opening remarks. He urged the youths to take actions against the environment problems. Following that, a special remark was given by Ms. Regan Smurthwaite, US Embassy in Nepal. On her remarks she stated that the youths are the leader of today and thus they must develop knowledge and take on the path towards betterment of the environment.

## Presentation 1: Air Pollution: Science, Current Scenario and Youth Involvement

Ms. Rashmi Maharjan, Program Officer, CEN gave a brief introduction on air pollution and status of air pollution in context of Nepal. She highlighted that the level of air pollution was four times higher than the National Standard set by the Government. She also focused on various roles that the youth can undertake to control the level of air pollution.

## Presentation 2: Introducing OpenAQ; Fighting Air Inequality through Open Data and a Global Community

Christa Hasenkopf, PhD, CEO/Co-founder OpenAQ introduced about air inequality, open air quality data and its use in Air Quality Management. She said that air inequality is completely solvable and takes a lot of efforts from a lot of groups for accessing reliable and transparent data. She also invited the youths to be engaged in air quality management through data reporting, sharing and devising creative solutions.



Figure 2: Guest Speaker Christa Hasenkopf, PhD during her presentation

## Group Work: Roles of Youth in Air Quality Management

The youths were divided into four groups on the basis of the air pollution causing sectors in Nepal (Transport, Industry, Agriculture and Solid Waste) for detail analysis of each given sectors. In a very interactive group session, current scenario of the sources, existing problems, possible solutions and demands and roles of youth for air quality management were discussed. Each group then drew a set of concrete demand they sought from the government officials and the stakeholder for Air Quality Management.

The demands of youths are as follows:

- Road traffic should be managed so that emission during traffic jam would be reduced.
- Fuel efficient vehicles should be promoted while fuel adulteration should be monitored and penalized effectively
- Systematize and promote public vehicles
- Monitor vehicular emission and also issue red stickers to non-compliant vehicles
- Environmental tax should be put in use for environmental management
- Effective monitoring of Industrial emission
- Use of environment friendly technologies such as Zigzag system in brick kilns
- Provision of waste segregation and colored bins in every wards
- Implementation of formulated polices and rules such as waste burning penalization
- Ensure community participation in Waste Management
- Nutrient management so that use chemical insecticide and pesticides are reduced.
- Manure Management to prevent gaseous release in the air
- Awareness against burning of Crop Residue
- Encouragement for youth in organic farming

Along with the demand, they have also shown their determination to undertake the responsibilities and play an active role towards achieving Clean Air. The summarized role of youths are as follows:

- Be actively involved in research and data analysis.
- Promote the use of non-motorized transport.
- Bring together relevant bodies and stakeholders to conduct various programs.
- Initiate waste management with technological aid from various software and applications.
- Be an example and encouragement to fellow youths.



- Mobilize youths in implementation of existing rules and policies.



Figure: Participants presenting after the group discussion

## 5. Conclusion and Way Forward

The youths concluded that the data should be easily accessible from all sectors so that youths can be engaged in research and explore possible solutions to the problem. Youth involvement in policy dialogues is highly important for sustainable environmental management. They demanded their fundamental right to live in a clean and healthy environment as ensured by constitution of Nepal, 2072 B.S. Along with the demands, youths also asserted commitment to actively perform their roles and responsibility towards air quality management. The youths expressed the uncertainty in fulfillment of their demands the youths right away but were very optimistic that the concerned bodies would consider the issue. Enhancement of knowledge could be a way forward to derive actions from the youths. Youth involvement in policy dialogues could lead to sustainable environmental management.

## Annex 1: Program Agenda

| S. No | Program   | Time        |
|-------|---|-------------|
| 1.    | Registration/ Tea and Coffee  | 11:00-11:50 |
| 2     | <b>Opening Session</b>  |             |
|       | Opening Remarks and Program Overview<br>- Rajan Thapa , Clean Energy Nepal (CEN)  | 11:50-12:00 |
|       | Guest Remarks   | 11:00-12:10 |
|       | Special Remarks<br>- Representative from US Embassy in Nepal  | 12:10-12:20 |
| 3.    | <b>Technical Session</b>  |             |
|       | Air Pollution: Science, Current Scenario and Youth Involvement<br>- Rashmi Maharjan, CEN  | 12:20-12:40 |
|       | Global scenario of open data standards and its use in policy making for air quality management<br>- Christa Hasenkopf, PhD, CEO/Co-founder OpenAQ | 12:40-13:10 |
| 4.    | <b>Group Work</b><br>Group work and Presentation on Roles of Youth in Air Quality Management  | 13:10-14:40 |
| 5.    | <b>Closing</b>  | 14:40-15:00 |
| 6.    | <b>Refreshment</b>  | 15:00       |

## Annex 2: Presentation

Please find the presentations in the link below:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1NzcEMFell5Fjgp\\_q0pfod1EdQXAERWKF?ogsrc=32](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1NzcEMFell5Fjgp_q0pfod1EdQXAERWKF?ogsrc=32)

### Annex 3: List of Participants

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