

I CARE FOR CLEAN AIR

2018

Proceedings of

Youth Workshop on Importance of Open Data for Air Quality Management

June 13, 2018

Hotel Peninsula, Pokhara

Clean Energy Nepal

June 19, 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, a 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 13, 2018 in Pokhara.

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.



Figure 1: Youth participants discussing the issue of Air Pollution

4. Proceedings

The program began 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.

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 from Ms. Sara Litke, Regional Environment Officer for South Asia, US Embassy in Nepal.

Mr. Asirbad Subedi, President, National Youth Council Kaski Chapter remarked that the youths need to initiate local actions for Air Quality Management.

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 if provided with reliable and transparent data. She also invited the youths to be engaged in quality management through data reporting, sharing and devising creative solutions.



Figure 1: Guest Speaker Christa giving her presentation

5. 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 youth are as follows:

- The Pokhara-Lekhnath Metropolitan should initiate public awareness campaigns to protect the environment and control pollution
- A number of programs should be included in the fiscal plans of the Metropolitan City to address air pollution
- Policies should be formulated based on data and also input from experts of related fields.
- One home, one plant policy should be enforced strictly
- Regular vehicular emission test should be practiced for both private and public vehicles and also the government owned vehicles
- Ban the use of private vehicles for at least 1 day thus promoting the use of public and transport
- Youth participation should be ensured in Policy dialogues and policy formulation
- Facilitate trainings on solid waste management using 3R principles
- Eco-friendly equipment with technological advancement should be used in industries.
- Cycle lanes should constructed to promote non-motorized transport that leads to reduction in air pollution.

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 1: Group Presentation during the Youth Workshop

6. 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	13:00 -13:30
2	Opening Session	
	Opening Remarks and Program Overview - Rajan Thapa , Clean Energy Nepal (CEN)	13:30-13:40
	Guest Remarks	13:40-13:50
	Special Remarks - Representative from US Embassy in Nepal	13:50-14:00
3.	Technical Session	
	Air Pollution: Science, Current Scenario and Youth Involvement - Rashmi Maharjan, CEN	14:00-14:20
	Global scenario of open data standards and its use in policy making for air quality management - Christa Hasenkopf, PhD, CEO/Co-founder OpenAQ	14:20 - 14:50
4.	Group Work Group work and Presentation on Roles of Youth in Air Quality Management	14:50-16:20
5.	Closing	16:20-16:30
6.	Refreshment	16:30

Annex 2: Presentation

Please find the presentations in the link below:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=194Rh8VXcfhilqfbmsHKbaFdDt4eKOS8f>

Annex 3: List of Participants

S.N.	Name	Organization	Contact Number	Email ID
1	Kamal BK	IDEAS for Nepal	9816613725	kamal.bk41@gmail.com
2	Narayani Tripathi	National Youth Council	9846646854	tripathinarayani222@gmail.com
3	Bikash Ranabhat	P.B.P.C	9846646854	bikashofficial10@gmail.com

4	Anmol Lamichhane	Independent		alamic14@earlham.edu
5	Aashish Sharma	U.S Embassy YC	9846613584	sharmaashika@gmail.com
6	Sunil Pokhrel	JMC	9846855886	pokhrelsunil49@gmail.com
7	Binaya Parajuli	JMC	9846384859	parajulibinaya@gmail.com
8	Sundar Giri	Pokhara Engg.College	9860392167	user.sundar@gmail.com
9	Sujit Dhakal	IOF	9841000331	sujitdhakal@gmail.com
10	Saradda Tiwari	IOF	9841000331	tiwarisarada42@gmail.com
11	Rajan Thapa	Clean Energy Nepal	9841661146	rajan@cen.org.np
12	Bimal Chettri	CEN	9860997494	bimal@cen.org.np
13	Shankar prasad Sharma	CEN	9841632023	shankar@cen.org.np
14	Nav Raj Shahi	IOF,Pokhara	9851100469	nv.innovative@gmail.com
15	Prabesh Poudel	IDEAS for Nepal	9846590097	masterprabesh@gmail.com
16	Sushant Prajuli	PCM	9846590097	sushantparajuli91@gmail.com
17	Parbati Adhikari	IDEAS for Nepal	9846282104	parbati.adhikari88@gmail.com
18	Sonanda Malla	TWC	9817156352	sonanda.malla123@gmail.com
19	Pratikshya Pokhrel	TWC	9846771285	pratikshyapokhrel13@gmail.com
20	Laxmi Adhikar	TWC	9846771285	laxmiadhikari996@gmail.com
21	Astha Adhikari	TWC	9846359910	adk.aastha@gmail.com
22	Asmita Acharya	TWC	9846771284	asmitaa53@gmail.com
23	Richa Pokharel	LA Grandee	9846772040	richa123.pok@gmail.com
24	Madhu Adhikari	Radio Safalta 103.4	9846000851	madhusafal2012@gmail.com
25	Smriti Baral	Youth Thiukers/pec Society Pokhara	9846728666	yt.smrity@gmail.com
26	Anzila Gurung	PEC/Leo Club of Pokhara,	9806640423	anzeegr04@gmail.com
27	Nabin Timilsena	P.B.PC	9840603908	nabintml333@gmail.com
28	Shiva raj Poudel	P.B.P.C	9846210002	acceptpain133@gmail.com
29	Hari Prasad Acharya	P.B.P.C	9846564255	acharyahari199@gmail.com
30	Parbati Dhungana	Pokhara University	9826177834	parbatidhungana418@gmail.com
31	Sandesh Oliya	Polhara University	9805814415	sandesholia@gmail.com
32	Anamika Rajlaxmi Basnet	T.U,IOM,Pokhara campus	9861604388	anamikabasnet120@gmail.com
33	Usha Ghimire	T.U,IOM,Pokhara campus	9861604388	ghimireusha88@gmail.com
34	Bibek Sapkota	UYC,URJHALAB	9856022925	bibek@cumulusclouds.net
35	Salu Basnet	IOF,Pokhara	9849064334	shaalu016@gmail.com
36	Nisha Silwal	IOF,Pokhara	9845678613	nishasilwal77@gmail.com
37	Sujata Bhusal	Pokhara University	9824102747	sujata.bhusal2@gmail.com
38	Dhurba Poudel	WRC	9817144224	dhrub.poudel2@gmail.com
39	Dayaram Pandey	IOF Pokhara	9851185634	daya.dnpwc@gmail.com

40	Monika Ranabhat	Nepal Youth Council	9846816742	ranabhatmonika@gmail.com
41	Samrat Gurung	IDEAS for Nepal	9803620804	tamusamrat1@gmail.com
42	Adarsha Pratap Adhikari	Freelancing	98460404647	adars.adhikari@gmail.com
43	Kumar Bhandari	T.W.C	98465173399	bhandarikumar1994@gmail.com
44	Apar Poudel	U.S. Embassy	9801027964	poudela1@state.gov
45	Sava Litke	U.S. Embassy		
46	Christa Hasenkopf	Open AQ	507.246.7097	christa@opena.org