

Discussion Notes

Interaction Programme on Water Resources in the Nepalese Media

Organised by: Jalsrot Vikas Sanstha (JVS) Nepal/ Nepal Water Partnership (NWP)

Venue: Hotel Royal Singhi, Kathmandu

Date: 26 December 2008

Presentation by : Mr. Byakul Pathak
Mr. Samundra Sigdel

Topic: Water Resources in the Nepali Newspapers

Objectives: The objectives of the discussion were as given below:

- To study the published reports about water resources in the Nepali print media
- To study the weightage given to different aspects of water resources in the print media
- Identification of gaps on the basis of above study and inform the stakeholders

The summary of the discussion issues and consensus arrived at; following the presentation are summarized below.

Summary of Discussion Issues:

- In order to study the coverage given to water resources in the Nepali newspapers, three dailies (*Gorkhapatra*, *Kantipur*, *Samacharpatra*), one weekly (*Samaya*) and one fortnightly (*Himal*) papers were chosen for the study.
- The study was limited within the newspapers published in one year (from 7 Falgun 2062 to 6 Falgun 2063 BS)
- The analysis was done in the 10 categories.
- News items are the main coverage in the daily newspapers. More than 91 percent coverage in the news items is found in the dailies. About 5.5 percent coverage is in the form of articles. Very less coverage was found in the editorial and letters to the editor. Similarly, the weekly and fortnightly papers have more coverage in the news items (81.82%). Not a single editorial was found in the studied newspapers during the study period.
- The dailies dispatch their news items from their own source whereas the materials published in the weekly and the fortnightly are from their own source.
- Hydropower has been given top priority while publishing the news items in all types of newspapers and magazines. Similarly, drinking water is in the second priority.
- The study was focussed in the sectoral coverage of news in the newspapers. Six sectors were chosen for the study (community sector, government sector, intergovernmental sector, private sector, community-private sector and public-private sector). Community sector news have largest portion of coverage (51.64%), government sector news coverage is 42.31%. Other sectors have least

priority in the newspapers. Similarly, the weekly and fortnightly magazines have given top priority for the government sector news (52.27%) followed by community sector news (31.82%).

- On the territorial basis the study was categorized as Local, National, International, and bilateral. The dailies have given top priority to the local level news (54.67%) followed by national level news (36.58%). International and bilateral issues have got least priority in the daily newspapers. Similarly, the weekly and fortnightly magazines have given top priority for the national level news(50%) followed by local level news(38.64%). International and bilateral news have got least priority in these magazines too.

General consensus reached

The general consensuses reached during the discussions are as follows:

1. A network of Water Resources Professionals and Media is essential to effectively disseminate the news to the general public. JVS will play the role of focal point in this regard.
2. The gaps identified in the study will be minimized by publishing the news in a balanced way in the future.
3. Press Council prepares the press clips of the news published in different newspapers in a daily basis. These news clips can be taken as reference materials in the future studies.
4. The study is not an analysis of Nepalese newspapers but to study the status of the news published and use it as a reference to fulfil the gaps in the future.
5. The data and conclusions could be used by the trainers and trainee of media representatives, and college level students to know the status of Nepalese press.
6. Electronics media such as TV and FM stations are more effective than print media to reach to the general public. Though, it is difficult to study the news items in such media, focus should be given to disseminate more news through these media.
7. The study was mainly focused in the Kathmandu based news papers only. For a comprehensive study papers published from outside the Kathmandu valley should be selected as well.
8. Some of the technical terms published in the newspapers are wrongly printed giving a different and wrong meaning. This may be because of less knowhow of the correspondent or because of a misprint in the desk. Such mistakes should be corrected before printing.
9. The Water and Energy Commission's Secretariat (WECS) in the project component of IWRMP has provision to provide training to the media persons. Hence, WECS will organize some training to the journalists through this project.
10. Publication of a technical dictionary will take more resource and time. Hence, a glossary of technical terms will be prepared to make the journo familiar to the technical terms of water resources.