Promoting Ecocities In Nepal

(Phase-IV)

Final Narrative Report (July 2012-August2013)

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Promoting Eco-cities in Nepal - Phase IV

Background

Rapid urbanization has become a threat to human civilization. Urbanization has intense effects on the ecology of a region and on its economy. With more than 60 percent of the world population expected to live in urban cities by the year 2025, urbanization as a trend will have diverging impacts and influences on future lives and mobility. Rapid expansion of city borders driven by increase in population and infrastructure development, would force encroachment of open and green space, leaving the city environmentally vulnerable.

Globally, urban growth peaked in the 1950s, with a population expansion of more than 3% per year. Today, the number of urban residents is growing by nearly 60 million every year. The global urban population is expected to grow roughly 1.5% per year, between 2025-2030. Developing countries, like Nepal, are also not exception for urban population growth; Nepal is also facing many challenges as a result of uncontrolled increasing urbanization. The value for Urban population in Nepal was 5,181,306 i.e. 17 percent of total population as of 2011.The world's population, however, is quickly becoming urbanized as people migrate to the cities. Developed nations have a higher percentage of urban residents than less developed countries. However, urbanization is occurring rapidly in many less developed countries, and it is expected that most urban growth will occur in less developed countries during the next decades. As Nepal tries to tackle these major problems, ensuring cities are livable, which creates supportive environments for healthy behaviors, is critically important.

The health of the Nepali population is greatly affected by the state of its cities. In cities, there is a notion on ensuring that the city is supportive of cars rather than pedestrians. Evidence of this can be found when looking at both the state of the non-motorized transportation (NMT) environment and at the budgets allocated NMT. Public transportation options are poorly coordinated and there is a serious lack of routes in Kathmandu. According to a recent report more than 500 motorbikes are sold per month in Kathmandu only. Poor public transportation facility and risk of pedestrians in city is encouraging purchase of more private vehicles. Parks and public spaces are poorly managed and under constant threat of privatization. Car and truck drivers use high volume horns, which creates noise pollution and as a result people are losing their hearing. Finally, there is

emerging evidence that the people are switching from fruits and vegetables to processed foods high in fat, sugar, and salt.

Non communicable Diseases (NCDs) are gradually becoming the leading cause of deaths in developing nation as they have been in the developed world for several decades, threatening and increasing amount of people in many low and middle income countries. NCDs result from a number of factors involving various facets in daily life such as unhealthy diet, smoking, and consumption of alcohol and lack of physical activities. They are preventable if more emphasis and attention can be put on the severe situation that humans are facing.

While much is negative in the current situation, the potential for positive action is also significant. With the experience gained from its many years of successful work in tobacco control, RECPHEC is address policy issues and promote positive change.

RECPHEC, with a vision of ensuring people's rights to health, has been working constantly on public health issues during the last two decades. The centre works from health policy advocacy at the central level to the field study level in the different divisions of the country. RECPHEC, through partnership with HealthBridge, has been working on Urban Health issues like noise pollution, nice walking zone, vehicle regulated zone and zero waste management programs, which took a momentum in the capital. The Traffic Police, Traffic management Division, Luzza Nepal, Thamel Tourism Development Council, have joined hands with us in this movement. In addition RECPHEC'S Health Right and Tobacco Control Network in 54 districts has also been advocating on these issues. As a result of our combined effort, the Government has banned plastic bags in Kathmandu Since July 15, 2013.RECPHEC worked with the Kathmandu Municipality hand in hand to reduce use of polythene bags in Kathmandu Valley. During this period there has been significant response from people and communities to extend the program covering other related issues.

Areas of Focus

Transportation has been a major area of focus for the RECPHEC program. However, we have faced a lot of difficulty when working on transportation issues. The vision of having Thamel as a pedestrian-only zone has proven to be particularly challenging, especially when number of private vehicle are increasing day by day. Recently Finance Ministry has proposed to reduce the tax on vehicles from next fiscal year. However, we believe there is potential to have Thamel become pedestrian-only given the support we have from the Thamel Tourism Development Council and other likeminded organizations including Clean Energy Nepal and UN-

Habitat. Therefore, moving forward, we are going to continue to treat Thamel as a major focus of our activities and develop an action plan for creating a pedestrian-only Thamel. We believe that creating a pedestrian-only Thamel will not only enhance the lives of the people living in the area, but will also serve as a model for other parts of the city to initiate pedestrian-only activities.

Non Communicable disease is also emerging as one of the major concern in urban cities of Nepal. Considering this alarming situation, RECPHEC in 2011/2012, conducted a field study that looked at the food habits of school-aged children and youth and we found that food habits of children and youth are moving towards unhealthy foods (foods high in sugar, salt and fat) and away from our traditional diets. Our field study survey found that aggressive food advertising is significantly influencing children and youth. As a result of 2012/2013, thus another field study was conducted to analyze the television advertisement pattern of junk food in Nepal. The field study survey foundthat one fourth of the total advertisements are about junk food majorly targeting children and housewives. To understand the overall advertisement pattern in Nepal, in 2013/2014 year we will conduct field study survey to understand the advertising pattern of junk food in print media, radio and hoarding board. This study with the above study of television advertisement would provide us the overall coverage of junk food advertisement in all possible medium.

We believe by focusing on these, we will be able to impact our ultimate outcomes. The vision of the project is to contribute in developing an environment friendly city, which can ensure the public health of the citizens. Thus, the ultimate outcomes of the project can be listed as follows:

- To decrease morbidity and mortality due to injury, chronic diseases, and non communicable diseases;
- To reduce air pollution, noise pollution leading to poor environment and climate change;

A. Activities Accomplished

1. Access to Healthy Transportation

Summary

Activities	Reach - numbers	Reach – percentage	Result/ Immediate Outcome	Intermediate Outcomes	Variance
a) Field Study on people's perception on making Thamel pedestrian zone.	a)Local Residents: 300 b)Business:100 c)Tourist-150	a) 5 percent b)4 percent (Source:CIUD Report)	A report is completed on ""Multi Stakeholder Assessment of Perception to make Thamel a pedestrian Zone"	As a result of our continuous efforts, we have received commitment from the TTDC to make Thamel a pedestrian zone. A preparatory committee has been suggested to formulate a plan of action for pilot project in next phase. A idea has been forwarded to celebrate world tourism day on 27th Sep 2013 as vehicle free day in Thamel area.	No variance
b) Consultative Session with UN-Habitat; Owner of Kathmandu Guest House, Thamel; Thamel Tourism Development Council; Kathmandu Sustainable Urban Transport Unit, KMC	(TTDC,KMC, UnHabitat, CEN, , local sub-committees, youth clubs and other influential stakeholders.)	N/A	**a**. Positive response and commitment for all the important and influential stakeholders in support to make Thamel a Pedestrian Zone has been received. **b**. A commitment from newly elected president of TTDC has been received. These sessions resulted in plans to celebrate various days by banning vehicles in Thamel. (22nd Sep. World No Car Day)		The election in TTDC. Board member including president in TTDC has made some delay in this process.

Activities	Reach - numbers	Reach – percentage	Result/ Immediate Outcome	Intermediate Outcomes	Variance
c) GIS mapping	N/A	N/A	N/A		It has been felt by all the stakeholders' that it is not required at this moment.
d) Consultation with Community	205 – (Stakeholders of Thamel including local residents, business entrepreneurs, member of local clubs and sub committees)?		The stakeholder is more positive as they have been approached directly. They now feel themselves one of the member on decision making process. Also, these meeting have provided the ownership towards the stakeholders.		
e) Media Sensitization and Advocacy.	21 Jounalist; - Print media: 12 - Electronic Media: 9		Media has indicated that this the right time to focus on issue of pedestrian rights as the infrastructure development in the city is going on. The media also showed their interest in noise pollution campaign An interview was taken by NTV Television medium on Noise Pollution including FM Radio of Traffic Police.		
f) Sensitization workshop in Rishikesh India with our partner organization in collaboration with Uttaranchal University on Noise Pollution	N/A	N/A	A very positive response and commitment from representative of MLA, Chairman of Municipality of Rishikesh was received to formulate policy on reducing the existing noise pollution level in Rishikesh area.	A preliminary session on Policy formulation was initiated.	No Variance

a.Field Study on People's perception of making Thamel a Pedestrian Zone.

A field study has been completed with the objective to acquire the knowledge about the perception of major stakeholders on making Thamel a pedestrian zone. The stakeholders interviewed for the survey include local resident business entrepreneurs and tourists. The study covered areas bound by nine major entity points. According to the field study, majority of respondent support making Thamel a pedestrian zone. It also showed that there is high level of willingness to support from the stakeholders to implement pedestrian zone in Thamel. Forty-two percent of business reported that restricting vehicles would provide them more opportunity for their business where as only 2 percent were against the idea. They also suggested that it would be better if we try for few hours first, for which most of them suggested the time from 10.00 am to 6.00pm. The overwhelming majority of businesses (75%) and local residents (67%) believed that rule breakers be made to pay fine. But, the respondent also mentioned about the requirement of a sustainable and strong strategy before implementation. They said that issue of parking spots, taxi and rickshaw stands, diversion of traffic, mobility in emergency cases, mobility of luggage of tourist and goods transfer should be addressed. (*Please find thefinal report in Annex I*).

i)Report Dissemination of Field Study on People's perception of making Thamel a Pedestrian Zone.

A report dissemination program was conducted in Hotel Vaishali, Thamel on July 26 to disseminate the findings of the field study on "Multi Stakeholder Assessment of Perception to make Thamel a pedestrian Zone" and discuss future action from different stakeholders. A paper was presented in this program for sharing of the findings of the field study conducted. Dignitaries including the Deputy Inspector General and board members of TTDC were also present in this program.

Participants in the program

Mr. Mulmi gave his insights on the benefits of making Thamel a pedestrian zone. He also mentioned that this is a combine effort to move forward with a concept to make Thamel an eco friendly zone. He said that, we would need all the support from all the stakeholders to make this possible. Our vision would not be effective until then. He also thanked for TTDC and other major stakeholder for their continuous support for this event.

Mr. JeevanLohani (NEAT) presented on his field study "Multi Stakeholder Assessment of Perception to make Thamel a pedestrian Zone". He gave us the brief about the finding from her field survey. She said that majority of stakeholders are in support to make Thamel a pedestrian zone followed by practical and sustainable strategy.

After the presentation, the floor was opened for discussion where the participants proposed their concern and suggestions regarding this issue. The program was concluded by Mr. Thapaliya(President, TTDC) thanking all the participants for their participation and also committed to address the concern raised with a sustainable plan of action before implementing Thamel as a vehicle free zone.*(Please find the detail report of the program in Annex II).*

b. Consultative Sessions.

A chain of meeting was conducted with all the major influencial stakeholders of Thamel as concious effort to know their view on making Thamel a Pedestrain zone.A series of meetings were conducted with the new presedent of TTDC as we had to build our rapport with him starting from the beginning. We are also able to build a level of trust amongt them. During this process we have had meeting with experts from Un-Habitat including Mr. Padma Sundar Joshi and Mr. Bhusan Tuladhar. We also met with local residents of different clusters, members of committee and sub committees, and local youth groups in Thamel. A continous interaction with stakeholders have made us more familiar amongst them. There has been a better communication with them and we are also able to approach them directly. During these session, in one of meeting TTDC, CEN and a member of Jyatha sub committee discussed an idea about celebrating "World Car Free Day" on 22nd September and "World Toursim Day " on 27th September by making Thamel vehicle free. We have consulted a plant to make a small strect of Thame that is JP Road vehilce free for a few hours involving students of JP School in a art competition with the theme of "World Car free Day" where are we have discussed to celebrate world tourism day bannign the vehilce in whole Thamel for all day (*Please find detail of all the meetings with planning of world Car free Day and World Tourism Day in Annex III*).

c. GIS mapping in Thamel.

Since, we are interacting with the major stakehloders of Thamel to aquire the knowledge about their perceptions on making Thamel a pedestrain zone through interaction programs and field study, we did not find GIS mapping necessary.

d. Consultation withwith Community.

An Interaction Program with the local residents and other stakeholders of Thamel on Making Thamel an Eco Friendly Zone was organized from April to August, 2013 at8different locations covering the entire area of Thamel: Satghumti JP Road , ParyatanMarg , Kwabahal , Jyatha and SanchayaKoshBhagwanBahaland Nursing Chowkarea in Thamel. Mr. Ram SharanThapaliya, Presisent, TTDC, Mr. Raju Man Dangol, Secretariat, TTDC, Mr. ShantaLallMulmi, ED, RECPHEC and Ms. KamanaManandhar, Program Officer, RECPHEC were present at the interaction program. Local residents and other stakeholders of Thamel area participated in this interaction program. The main objective of the program is to acquire knowledge about the perspective of local residents and other stakeholders of people towards making Thamel a pedestrian zone, specificallytheir concerns and suggestions. From these meeting we have realized that there are different problems in Thamel varying in different location, they do prefer the solution of those problems first but also they are open with the idea of making Thamel a pedestrian zone. These programs are concentrated more for direct interaction and their participation. The direct involvement of the participants provides a kind of ownership towards the decisions made.In these programs Ms. Kamana presented a paper on the benefits of making any area a pedestrian zone and also mentioned that RECPHEC along with TTDC has taken a decision to go amongst the mass first for their ownership. (*Please find detail of all the meetings in Annex IV*)

Participants in the workshop

e. Media Sensitization and advocacy.

RECPHEC organized "Media Sensitization Program" on 28th June 2013 at Hotel Himalaya, Lalitpur to raise issues like sustainable urban transportation, HIV/AIDS and Migrant Workers and Indigenous Health System of Nepal among the media persons from print & electronic media. A total of 49-media persons representing from various leading newspapers, televisions and FM stations and representatives from government & non-government organization, traditional health and RECPHEC staffs participated in this media sensitization

Participants in the workshop

program.

Mr. BhusanTuladhar, Environmentalist presented a paper on “Sustainable Urban Transportation in context of Nepal”. Mr. Ram SharanThapaliya, President, Thamel Tourism Development Committee (TTDC) put forward his planning for Making Thamel a Pedestrian Zone. Mr. Mahesh Sharma, RECPHEC presented a paper on “HIV and AIDS and Migration”. Ms Rita Subedi, Global Fund Project, RECPHEC, presented a case study of an external migrant worker of Malaysia. Ms. SaritaShrestha, Director, Devi Ma Ayurvedic Hospital presented a paper on “Traditional Healing System”. (*Please find detail of all the meetings in Annex V*)

f. Policy Advocacy Workshop.

Since, we are interacting with the major stakehloders of Thamel to aquire the knowledge about their perceptionon making Thamel a pedestrain zone through interaction programs and field study. We are still in conservation with them thus, it would not be appropriate to have a policy level advocacy right away. Thus , we did not organized this workshop as yet.

g. Sensitization workshop at Rishikesh India with our partner organization in collaboration with Uttaranchal University on Noise Pollution.

Rally in Rishikesh

An international workshop and awareness campaign was organized by our partner organization Daliyo ka Dagariyaon October 10, 2012 followed by a Rally against Noise Pollution in Rishikesh on October 11, 2012.

The workshop on Noise Pollution in Rishikesh was attended by Chairman of Municipality of Rishkesh, MLA, Ex. Environment Minister and representatives from different sectors viz; Garwal University, GPSS, Govt, Post Graduate Autonomous College Rishikesh, State Pollution Control Board, Ganga Sparsh Board, Road Transport Office. Ms. Kamana Manandhar from RECPHEC, gave a brief detail of Noise Pollution Campaign that was conducted by RECPHEC in her presentation whereas Dr. D.M Tripathi (Department

Workshop at Rishikesh

of Zoology, Autonomous College) shared the data and details of their study on Noise Pollution of Rishikesh. His studies showed that, in a place like Rishikesh where people come for peace, there is an alarming amount of noise pollution. All the respected participants present in the workshop committed to support this campaign in all possible ways. The workshop was then followed by a Panel discussion where all the participants discussed the way forward. It concluded that it is necessary to create awareness among all the people to first change the behaviour in social level. In addition, the issue of noise pollution should be in policies of the government of Rishikesh, Uttarakhanda.

On the following day, a rally was organized by Private and GovtSchool, NGOs, Civil Society organizations, which started from Municipality of Rishikesh to TriveniGhatChok including Private and Roadways Bus Stand, Dehradun Road, Haridwar Road and NatrajChok. The rally consisted of around 500 school students with the slogan against noise pollution in Rishikesh area. The rally was also accompanied by the MLA, Chairperson of Municipality and Ex. Environment Minister of Rishikesh, Mr. ShantaLallMulmi and KamanaManandharfrom RECPHEC, Nepal. (*Please find detail of all the meetings in Annex VI)*

Orientation to the Students

Mass Rally

The second workshop on "Noise Pollution in Rishikesh was organized on" on 28th August ,2013 in collaboration with Municipality Board of Rishikesh, DKD, WBB and P.G College, Rishikesh. The meeting came with the following decisions;

- Core group was formed for Mitigation of Noise Pollution at Rishikesh Town
- A detail Plan for Good and Healthy City Rishikesh should be developed in near future
- Some other local organization should involve in the activity
- A continuous program for Rishikesh is required.

2. Access to Healthy Food

Summary:

Completed Activities	Reach - numbers	Reach – percentage	Result/ Immediate Outcome	Impact/Intermediate Outcomes	Variance
Field Study on Advertisement Pattern on packed/ junk food	N/A	N/A	A report has been prepared on "Media Coverage of Junk Food and its Content Analysis on Selected Nepali and Indian Television Channels ". The report has been disseminated to media persons. An interview was taken in Sagarmatha FM about the findings of the study.	Media indicated a challenge with reporting on these issues included the advertising dollars that the newspapers and television stations receive from processed-food producers. This issue will need to be taken into account as the project moves forward.	No variance
Field Study on community food environment.	N/A at this period.	N/A	A draft report has been prepared on "Nutrition Environment of Kathmandu Metropolitan area"		
Media Sensitization and Advocacy.	14 journalists From; a)Print Media-10 b) From Television-4		Participated journalists were oriented about RECPHEC's area of intervention and our focus. Ms. AmikaRajthala from Hasana Magazine proposed with concept note for a field study on advertisement pattern of junk food in Nepal after the program. The study will begin from February 2013.		No variance

a. Field study on Advertisement pattern on packed /Junk Food

The world has witnessed threat of non communicable disease in recent time. A study was conducted to understand the food habits of urban population, which showed preference of unhealthy foods. The study also showed that that consumer is influenced by the advertisement to consume such unhealthy food products. Following that study a new study was conducted to acquire the knowledge about media coverage status of junk food television channels of Nepal to explore situation with the objectives to find out the types and frequencies of advertisement broadcasting in different Nepali Television Channels and to exploring its cost analysis for both parties' media and producers. The study was carried out with objectives to analyze and record frequency, content of advertisement of junk food in Nepali television on channel.

The study showed that one fourth of the total advertisement broadcasting in Nepal television medium is about junk food products. The study also showed that the cartoon channels broadcast near about half of the advertisement on junk food products. The study showed also showed that the main target audience of junk food are children and housewife. From the content analysis of those advertisement, it showed that these product claim nutritional benefits from their product. (*Please find the final report in Annex VII*).

i) Report Dissemination of fields study on Advertisement pattern on packed /Junk Food.

A report dissemination program was conducted in RECPHEC Office, BagBazaar on August 16, 2013 to disseminate the findings of the study on "Media Coverage of Junk Food and its Content Analysis on Selected Nepali and Indian Television Channels " and discuss future action from different stake holder. A paper was presented in this program for sharing of the findings of the field study conducted.

Participants in the workshop

Mr. Ajit Acharya (Hasana Magazine) presented on his field study "Media Coverage of Junk Food and its Content Analysis on Selected Nepali and Indian Television Channels". He gave us the brief about the finding from her field survey. He said that one fourth of the total advertisement is about junk food products. The also shared the frequency, content, messages and target audience of those junk food advertisement.

After the presentation, Dr. Aruna Upreti and Dr. Uma Koirala commented on the paper presented. They made a strong point that the advertisement should not claim false statement about their product. They also strongly mentioned that junk food product is nowhere near of having nutritional benefit in any case. They also suggested advocating against these advertisements.

After their comments the floor was opened for discussion where the participants raised their concern and suggestions regarding this issue. The program was concluded by Dr. Mathura Pd. Shrestha (Chairperson, RECPHEC) thanking all the participants for their active participation. (*Please find the concept note in Annex VIII).*

b. Field Study on community food environment

A field study is being carried out with objective to study is to assess the environment of the nutritious as well as of the junk foods in Kathmandu, and how those factors impact food choices. The study will also identify the factors influencing availability and accessibility of the nutritious foods including and specific location (area) in Kathmandu city where the actions of marketing (demand, supply, pricing, quality) of fruits, and vegetables followed by the junk foods prevailed.

c. Consultative Sessions:

Advocating for healthy food is new issue introduced. There is not much of information available. This year we concentrated on our field studies to advocate further on this issue thus, we decided to hold consultative session later, once we identify the exact stakeholders and responsive authorities on this issue

d. Media Sensitization and advocacy

An orientation program for Media on Urban Health and Environment issue was organized on October 05, 2012 in RECPHEC Office. 14 Journalist from different print media and television participated in the program. Mr. Mulmi, welcomed all the participants and briefed about the main objective of this program. After that, Ms. Manandhar presented on "Orientation Program for Media". She briefly gave them the area of intervention for the year 2012 by RECPHEC which included issue of healthy transportation,

Participants in the workshop

access to healthy food, media fellowship and also requested for their support and collaboration to work in these issue in near future. The presentation was then followed by open floor discussion where journalists pour their thought. All of them appreciated the initiation taken by RECPHEC but at the same time they were also concerned that the maximum amount of advertisement comes from junk food section thus it would be a challenge for them to act against it. (*Please find the detail in Annex X*)

3.Living City Kathmandu

Summary:

Completed Activities	Reach - numbers	Reach – percentage	Result/ Immediate Outcome	Impact/Intermediate Outcomes	Variance
a) Core group meetings. The core group meetings this year has specifically focused to revive the proposal prepared as Living City proposal to a small and practical proposal.	5	85% of Core Group	6 meetings were organized where data and basic information were shared by core group members	Core group members have agreed to develop a concept note for living city Kathmandu on Kankeswori area. The purpose of the concept note is to seek funds to implement one of the components of the LCK plan. Eco-City Builders is going to support this activity.	no variance

a. Core Group Meeting.

RECPHEC mobilized high-level professionals who are constantly working on Ecocity concepts. These professional have been contributing since last few years in different activities. In order to conduct regular interaction with these different professionals this core group was formed by RECPHEC. The Core Group consists of Professional members including:

1. Prof. Dr. Sudarshan Raj Tiwari –Professor, Institute of Engineering
2. Mr. PradeepAmatya- Chief, Environment and Sanitation Section, Lalitpur Sub-Metropolitan City

3. Ms. Riddhi Baba Pradhan- Chairperson, Nepal Heritage Society
4. Mr. Indra Man Suwal – Chief, Cultural and Heritage Section, Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC)
5. Mr. PadmaSundar Joshi, UN Habitat
6. Mr. Kasi Prasad Gupta-Department of Urban Building Construction Nepal

Mr. ShantaLallMulmi- Executive Director, RECPHEC is requested to act as coordinator of this core group where as Ms. KamanaManandhar- Program Officer; RECPHEC works as secretary for this project.

Participants in the meeting

RECPHEC organized six core group meetings during this period.The agenda for the first meeting was to share the accomplished activities and achievements of the Project "Promoting Ecocities Phase III" and area of focus of the project "Promoting Ecocities Phase IV". The second meeting was called to share the accomplished activities till November of the Project "Promoting Ecocities Phase IV". The third meeting was called to share the activities of core group members in their respective department related to Living City Kathmandu and also introduce Ms. Kristie Daniel, Program Director for the Livable Cities program at HealthBridge where she could also share main goal of living city Kathmandu. The fourth meeting was called to discuss the way forward with more practical and approachable proposal on Living City Kathmandu. The fifth meeting was called upon in Alfa House, New Baneswor to forward the ideas and inputs from core group members for the new proposal. In these meetings, the core group members are providing technical inputs for effective implementation of the programs related to these issues as well as discussing way ahead to proceed with the Living City proposal in more practical approach.

- In the fifth meeting Kankeswori area of Kathmandu has emerged as a possible site for the new practical and achievable proposal in Living City Kathmandu Project named as "Jalabijak" to be submitted to Ecocity Builders and other interested agencies for funding.

In the sixth meeting, Ms. Kamana shared her finding about the Kankeswori area. She shared the basic structure of the area and opened the forum for their suggestions. In the meeting, it was concluded that more information was required to develop a proposal and we should focus on water component. The core group members suggested that a complete water cycle should be monitored of the area.

(Details of all the meeting minutes are attached in Annex XI)

Planning for September 2013.

- Mr. Shanta Lall Mulmi (ED, RECPHEC) and Ms. Kamana Manandhar(Program Officer, RECPHEC) would participate in Eco City Summit 2013 held in Nantes, France.
- World Car free Day would be celebrated on 22nd September 2013making a small area of Thamel vehicle free for certain hour.
- World Tourism Day on 27th September 2013 would be celebrated making whole Thamelvehicle free for all day long.

Key Achievement:

There has been some positive response towards our approach on;

i) Access to Healthy Transportation:

a. The major stake holders of Thamel area have responded positively towards the approach of makingThamel a pedestrian zone according to the field study conducted.

b. Thamel Tourism Board Council/ (TTDC) and Kathamandu Metropolitan City (KMC), is in support and are ready to provide their help in this regard.

c. The newly elected President of Thamel,Mr. Ram Sharan Thapaliya is equally committed to make Thamel a pedestrian zone.

d. The interaction program with the stakeholders focusing on the local residents has created more familiar environment.

e. The direct approach through interaction program has given key stakeholders an ownership and responsibility toward the plan of making Thamel a pedestrian zone.

f. A good rapport has been build with the major stakeholders of Thamel.

g. Media has shown their interest towards various issues of rights of pedestrian and noise pollution.

ii) Access to Healthy Food:

a. Field study to analyze the advertisement pattern of junk food in Nepal television showed that one fourth of the total advertisement is about junk food mainly targeting children and housewives. The study has provided us a strong background to proceed with our advocacy against junk food advertisement in Television medium of Nepal.

b. Media also showed their support on this approach.

iii) Living City Core Group Meetings:

a. All the core group members have agreed to develop a proposal on Living City Project with Kankeswori area as sample site.

iv) International Media Hailed on Noise Pollution Campaign in India:

(*Paper clippings are in Annex XII*)

v) Polythene Bags:

a. Kathmandu Municipality has declared to ban polythene bags in Kathmandu from July 2013.

b. Lalitpur Sub Metro Politan City has decided to ban black color polythene bags in Lalitpur.

c. Illam, Itahari ,Jhapa has declared their municipalityas polythene free zone.

d. Udayapur Ghaighat has declared their Municipality as polythene free zone from 14th April 2013.

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