

Annual Report 2015/2016



MuAN



Municipal Association of Nepal



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New Location Map of MuAN



VOICE OF PRESIDENT

The current constitution has given 22 exclusive and 15 concurrent powers and responsibilities to the local governments.



We are pleased to publish the annual report of Municipal Association of Nepal (MuAN), Fiscal Year 2072/073, to all our partners and stakeholders who are contributing to promote sustainable urban growth and decentralized local governance in Nepal. This annual report details various activities undertaken in the last fiscal year. It will give glimpses of the events, our priorities as well as opportunities and challenges of urban governance in Nepal.

Most importantly, the promulgation of Nepal's new constitution with provision for local governments has further motivated our work in the field of urban governance. The current constitution has given 22 exclusive and 15 concurrent powers and responsibilities to the local governments. The government has also initiated the local government restructuring process and the commission formed by the government is busy demarcating and determining the numbers of local governments,

which is trying its best to create viable units of local government via large consultation with various stakeholders in a participatory manner. The commission is confident we will be able to form politically, socially and economically sustainable units of local government, which is also a major concern of MuAN. We hope the government will institutionalize democracy and announce local elections as soon as possible. The meaningful participation of citizens in the decision making processes will only be possible after the successful restructuring of local governments.

Lastly, we would like to express our gratitude to all our partners for their kind cooperation which enables MuAN to make our cities more effective and efficient to provide better services to the people. Our achievements so far would not have been possible without their support. We welcome more partners and donors to contribute to making our cities autonomous, prosperous and self-reliant.

| Dormani Paudel
President

PREFACE

MuAN is further motivated to provide support to strengthen the institutional and human capacity of municipalities.



As per the transitional strategic planning of MuAN (2015-017), our work has focused on four major working areas; advocacy and lobbying, technical and advisory support, networking and coordination, and institutional capacity development. Through these focus areas we have concentrated our efforts on the effective implementation of the current Constitution of Nepal, which has rendered immense power and responsibilities to urban and rural municipalities in the country. Secondly, we are focusing on the capacity development of new municipalities in coordination with MoFALD and MoUD at the centre level, as well as through continuing s partnerships with international partner organizations such as CD-MUN/GIZ and others. Thirdly, documentation and dissemination of information to the member municipalities and other sectoral ministries has been made more effective. Fourthly, and finally, we have focused on the institutional capacity development of municipalities, particularly newly created ones, by

initiating needs assessment of new municipalities in coordination with MoFALD.

The scope and responsibilities of MuAN has significantly increased along with the declaration of a number of new municipalities. While this has brought about challenges and opportunities, MuAN is further motivated to provide support to strengthen the institutional and human capacity of municipalities. We believe development in these areas is vital for effective and efficient service delivery to the tax payers.

Last but not least, we take this opportunity to express our gratitude to MoFALD, MoUD and our partners for their kind cooperation in successfully implementing our projects and programs for the municipalities; our achievements would not have been possible without their support. We look forward to working with urban stakeholders to make our cities smart, economically viable and sustainable in the days to come.

Kalanidhi Devkota
Executive Secretary

INTRODUCTION

MuAN has ascertained itself as a credible organization working for the betterment of all municipalities in Nepal since its establishment in 1994. Initially focused on issues of good governance, decentralization and local governance; MuAN has now broadened its sphere of work in a number of areas including; Environment Friendly Local Governance (EFLG), Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Child Friendly Local Governance (CFLG), Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI), education, municipal WASH status, social accountability, solid waste management and so on. The Year 2072/073 proved to be significant in extending partnerships with various stakeholders and carrying out different activities.

Under its four major working areas; advocacy and lobbying, information and networking and technical and advisory support; MuAN completed numerous activities and events. The association has enthusiastically been advocating for good municipal

governance, restoration of autonomous local governments as well as capacity and institutional development of small and weak municipalities. Likewise, MuAN along with Association of District Development Committee (ADDCN) and National Association of VDCs in Nepal (NAVIN) has been campaigning for immediate local elections. MuAN has also been successful in publishing numerous books and publications to ensure the effective flow of information among all urban stakeholders.

MuAN has established itself as a supportive, protective and representative organization of all the municipalities. The changing political context of Nepal saw major challenges which affected program implementation this financial year. Despite this, MuAN was able to carry out most of the activities as per the annual work plan. This annual report will therefore demonstrate the efforts the association has made throughout the past year to make municipalities autonomous, prosperous and self reliant.

MUAN'S REPRESENTATION IN COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

- Decentralization Implementation and Monitoring Committee under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister
- Local Bodies Fiscal Commission
- Local Development Fee Committee
- Local Governance and Community Development Programme (LGCDDP/MoFALD) Advisory Committee
- National Member of Local Governance and Accountability Facility (LGAF)
- Direction Committee of UEIP/IUDP
- Steering Committee of Local Development Training Academy (Invitee)
- Steering Committee of Town Development Fund (Invitee)

AFFILIATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

- Co-President of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG-ASPAC)
- Regional Committee Member of ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, South Asia
- Executive Committee Member of CITYNET
- Sister relationship with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
- Affiliate organization of International City/County Management Association (ICMA)
- Working relationship with European Union, GIZ/CD Mun, FES, DFID, SDC, The Asia Foundation (TAF), UNICEF, etc.
- Partner with NAVIN, ADDCN, MoFALD, MoUD, MoH, DUDBC, UDTA/UDTC, Municipal RLCs & others

WORKING AREA I: ADVOCACY AND LOBBYING

One of the major functions of a Local Government Association is to represent the local government's needs and interests at the central level. Considering this, MuAN has been playing a pertinent role as an advocate and lobbyist to strengthen the capacity of local governments to make them autonomous, prosperous, and self-reliant. In association with the two Local Government Associations in Nepal - ADDCN and NAVIN, MuAN has been lobbying for immediate local elections and implementation of constitutional provisions of local governments.

MAIN CONTRIBUTIONS

National Interaction on provision on Local Governments in the New Constitution & Capacity Development of New Municipalities

Present Constitutional Provision regarding the Local Government is the new concept in the federal structure of Nepal. Constitutionally there are three tiers of the government in the current constitution. Change in the jurisdiction was studied to contribute to advocacy and lobbying efforts by MuAN under CD Mun Project, which is supported by GIZ Nepal. MuAN has been working to protect the existing rights of the municipalities and to develop plans and programs for the municipalities. The member municipalities of MuAN do not have equal status in terms of resources and capacity. Thus, the prime responsibility of MuAN in this context is to advocate for the rights of municipalities and also support them through technical capacity development activities. The concept of federal governance is to exercise the maximum power at the local level which, in turn helps to strengthen the democracy. For the purpose of strengthening local self-governance, and to ensure effective implementation

of constitutional provisions, it is vital to initiate a thorough dialogue and debate involving all relevant stakeholders to identify the strengths, gaps, and challenges.

MuAN held the 'National Interaction on Constitutional Provision regarding Local Governments in the New Constitution and on Capacity Development of New Municipalities' program in Kathmandu. The program informed municipalities about changes to constitutional provisions regarding local governments in the new constitution. In addition, this interaction sought to educate the new municipalities about the needs assessment format developed by MuAN and reiterated the importance of information sharing and networking between municipalities through the Regional Learning Centers (RLCs). Key participants included representatives from 36 municipalities which fall under the Central region-level RLC.

Implementation mechanisms of the constitutional provisions for local governments and their relations with state and federal governments in Nepal is on hold while federal law-making processes are ongoing. While the judicial power is provided for the local government; the concept of judiciary is still in the quasi unitary. MuAN is of the opinion that it would be ideal if the jurisdictions of all local governments were similar; this way the municipalities of east and west would have a similar nature of the jurisdiction. During the event, Mr. Dormani Poudel, President of MuAN emphasized the need for more intensive research on the relevancy of existing legal provision and the legal gaps throughout his address to attendees.

Similarly, in order to scale up the needs assessment format, MuAN has worked rigorously to identify the demands of each member municipality. MuAN, in coordination with MoFALD, has been working to enable interconnection between entire municipalities through the RLCs. Municipalities which fall under a RLC need to become members in order to assess the services they deliver. Overtime, the RLCs have enabled an excellent learning and networking forum. MuAN along with the two other LGAs has worked hard for years to manifest the favorable provisions of local governments in New Constitution of Nepal 2072. MuAN has updated the Need Assessment Format for Municipalities from using the vast learnings and knowledge gathered in municipal governance sector. This need assessment form will be circulated to all the municipalities via email. MuAN will conduct needful follow-up and communication with the municipalities to help complete the form. The information contained in the consolidated need assessment forms will be analyzed. The assessment will enable valuable insight on municipal needs pertaining to human resources or organization



Participants from municipalities in the interaction program

development, infrastructure development, solid waste management and other programs or projects.

23rd Anniversary of MuAN and Advocacy on Urgency of Local Elections

Municipal Association of Nepal (MuAN) celebrated its 23rd Anniversary on March 13, 2016 (30th Falgun 2072) at Local Development Training Academy Center (LDTA), Jawalakhel; amid MuAN's Founder Members, Executive Board Members, important stakeholders such as Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD), GIZ/CD Mun, Local Government. The program was inaugurated by Prime Minister, Mr. KP Sharma Oli as Chief Guest. The key objective of the 23rd Anniversary programme was to bring together all its stakeholders, highlight the activities being carried out by MuAN, share the learnings, challenges and opportunities and thank participants for their support and coordination.



Prime Minister presenting the Municipal Excellence Award to Waling Municipality

Chief Guest of the 23rd MuAN Day Celebration program, Prime Minister Mr KP Sharma Oli awarded a Lifetime Honor achievement to Mr Janak Man Joshi, the first people's elected Mayor of Kathmandu city. In addition, MuAN's Municipal Excellence Award 2072 was bestowed to Waling Municipality. Mr Surath Pokharel, Executive Officer of Waling Municipality received the award amount worth Rs. 100,000 from the Chief Guest. MuAN has been providing this Municipal Excellence Award since few years. The award is judged on submissions of a duly prepared questionnaire by participating municipalities. Mr Bidur Mainali, General Secretary of MuAN in his welcome remarks at the event appealed for the unification of local government associations and encouraged them to take forward their needs and demands together to enable effective local governance. Prime Minister, Mr Oli congratulated MuAN for a successful 23 years in the local governance sector. Mr Oli said MuAN's development

initiatives implemented at city-level increased the prosperity of villages, noting that every actor is inter-related and inter-dependent. He suggested that every actor should internalize this and undertake initiatives accordingly to maintain this harmony of inter-relatedness. The Prime Minister finalized his address, noting that the concepts of Green City and Smart City should be introduced in municipalities and all involved actors should perform accordingly to maintain city systematically.

Interaction on Restructuring of Local Governments

The Government of Nepal has formed a 'High-level Commission for the Determination of the Number and Boundaries of Village Bodies, Municipalities and Special, Protected or Autonomous Regions' – in short Local Level Restructuring Commission (LLRC) under clauses (4) and (5) of the Article 56 as mentioned in Constitution of Nepal 2072. The Commission purposefully will determine the number and boundaries of the village bodies, municipalities and special, protected or autonomous Regions in accordance with the criteria set by the Government of Nepal whereby making suggestion on matters relating to the boundaries of State.

To collect the appropriate ideas, views of experts and other related key stakeholders (representatives from the government, ministries, line agencies, lawyers etc.) and sentiments of the political representatives, to feed into the outcome report of LLRC, a half-day Interaction Program was organized by MuAN with support from CD Mun project. Organized at Hotel Yellow Pagoda, Kathmandu on 32th Jestha 2073 (14th June 2016), the program was chaired by Mr Dormani Paudel, President of MuAN and the member of the Commission. Similarly, the Chief Guest of the event was Mr Balananda Paudel, Chairperson of the LLRC. Other key participants included of Members of Parliament (MP), other Members of the Commission, Experts in Decentralization and Law, Executive Members of the Nepal Bar Association, representatives from MoFALD, representative from NAVIN and ADDCN, board members of MuAN and other stakeholders.



Devi Prasad Subedi, Under Secretary, LLRC presenting the progress report of the Commission.

Mr Devi Prasad Subedi, Member Secretary of the aforementioned Commission presented the first paper in the Interaction Program. Mr Subedi expressed that this intensive restructuring is aimed to ensure the entire local units are as effective, rational and easy to access for the general public. The Commission has the authority to propose concepts of restructuring the cities and villages for proper channelization of the concurrent power of federal states.

Mr Krishna Prasad Jaisi, Spokeperson from ADDCN presented the perspectives of the three LGAs regarding the restructuring of the local bodies. In the process of restructuring the number and boundaries of local government bodies, MuAN in coordination with ADDCN and NAVIN has suggested the Commission emphasize the population density and ensure adequate resources for local units. In order to create an effective administrative unit, the LGAs suggested implementing a protected and autonomous body within the supervision of each local unit. Mr Jaisi stated that a measuring criteria of geographical structures should concern differently in mountain, hilly and terai regions. He suggested Nepal learn from experiences and examples of international practices on federal states as rationale for the restructuring of local units.

The participants said that having large boundaries creates problems with the daily services for the people. For this reason, restructuring should focus on making small and viable local units rather than the larger units. Similarly, invited experts stated that the Commission should focus on the number and territories of the local units noting that cooperation, mutual understanding and inter-coordination are among the desirable attributes. Provisions for Fundamental rights should be clarified under the mechanisms of local governments, and if not, the existence of local government is not necessary.

Mr Balananda Poudel, Chairperson of the High-level Local Bodies Restructuring Commission, stated that while the Commission is working on the TOR of how units can be made functional, the Commission welcomes guidelines and suggestions from all the stakeholders and experts. Mr Dormani Poudel, President of MuAN and a Member the Commission concluded the interaction program by expressing his gratitude for meaningful participation. He added that the present constitution of Nepal includes provisions for autonomous local government, but in making changes to federal law there is a risk to the subject of the delegated authority for the local government. Local government should strengthen their autonomous power and implement with due process of law. Now is the appropriate time to instigate measures for the autonomous and effective units of the local government.

WORKING AREA II: INFORMATION AND NETWORKING

Information and networking, the second major working area of MuAN, aims to foster a reliable and functioning network of communication and information exchange among all municipalities and urban stakeholders. MuAN's Urban Resource Centre (URC) has become an important learning hub on issues and matters related to urban development and local governance. As well as the regular publication of the Voice of Cities magazine, MuAN also has maintained the official website and publication of the bi-monthly e-newsletter.

MAIN CONTRIBUTIONS

Regular Publications of MuAN

Voice of Cities (VOC)

– Urban sector related quarterly magazine 50 percent funded by GIZ



Monthly

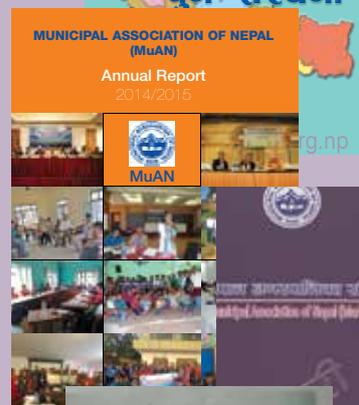
e-newsletter- Jointly published with CITYNET National Chapter- Nepal



MuAN's Annual Report

Diary-

Informative diary with result of Minimum Conditions and Performance Measure (MCPM) along with other details and important contact numbers



Calendar -

Introductions I/ NGOs working in urban issues, contact numbers and addresses of all municipalities



Research Study & Relevant Project Reports



Updated Databank of Municipalities

The Government of Nepal has added 26 new municipalities in Mangshir 2072, bringing the total number of municipalities to up to 217. Very few are familiar with the previous numbers and information pertaining to existing and newly created

of municipalities. In addition data and information about the 58 previous was not regularly maintained. Various internet reports do not reflect true picture. Hence, MuAN deemed it necessary to compile this important information pertaining to municipality population, area, density, number of VDCs,, number of wards, and names and contact details for Executive Officers. Within the Information and Networking working area, MuAN has prepared an electronic databank of municipality information. The databank has been shared on the MuAN website and with various organizations on a demand basis. Data was collected through resources including the Census data from the Central Bureau of Statistics.

This databank has enhanced the capacity of the concerned stakeholders and line agencies by enabling access to the information from entire municipalities. The databank has also added value in raising the profile of new municipalities.

ICT Support to Municipalities

MuAN provided Information Communication and Technology (ICT) packages to Sankhu Municipality in this Fiscal Year. For five consecutive years, MuAN has supported small and weak municipalities through the provision of ICT packages. MuAN's ICT support program aims to strengthen the municipalities through access to information and communication. In addition, MuAN is in the process of setting up information centres in each municipality. This year, Sankhu Municipality received a power backup system in order to regularize the service delivery during power cut off periods. After the events of 2015, Sankhu Municipality is one of the worst earthquake affected municipalities. A small handover event was held, in which Mr Kalanidhi Devkota, Executive Secretary of MuAN presented the power backup inverter system to Mr Durganath Gautam, the Executive Officer of Sankhu Municipality. Mr Gautam expressed his appreciation and thanked MuAN for its continual support to municipalities, considering presently there are no elected representatives at the local level.



Handover of power backup inverter system to Sankhu Municipality

Need Assessment of Municipalities: Update

With an objective of extending support to increasing members municipalities MuAN has taken initiated needs assessment of municipalities by developing a fully structured questionnaire. In phase one of the projects MuAN has tested the questionnaire in five municipalities (Kirtipur, Dakshinkali, Sankharapur, Dasrathchand, and Liwang). The number of municipalities in Nepal is increasing, which has resulted in a rise in the need and demand for timely services to the residents and the construction of appropriate infrastructures and resources. Currently there are 217 municipalities, among which, 159 municipalities have been declared as emerging towns by the Government in the period over the last two years. Municipal needs, especially those of recently declared municipalities are huge at present. Municipalities have indicated areas which require drastic improvement includes solid waste management, internal revenue, water and sanitation, social services support, energy resources, and special programs for women and children. Following preliminary testing it was revealed that municipalities are in dire need of capacity building support, particularly related to advancing computer knowledge, mechanisms for increasing internal revenue collection, supports for networking building and project development to raise the profile. In the coming financial year, MuAN will collate the results from the Needs Assessment of Municipalities into a Report which will form the basis for many interventions in municipalities related mostly to capacity development and project based activities.

LOGIN Asia Nepal Country Chapter hosted by MuAN

The Local Governance Initiative and Network (LOGIN) is a south and east Asia centric multi-stakeholder network aiming to aid reform agendas that work in favor of greater decentralization and strengthened role of local governments. For the Year 2016, MuAN is hosting LOGIN Nepal Country Platform. The network currently spans 11 countries and is supported for the time being by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and coordinated by a Secretariat that is sponsored and hosted by the SDC and located in the Embassy of Switzerland in Delhi. The secretariat is the implementing organ of the network and interacts on behalf of the network with third parties.

From Nepal, Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local development (MOFALD), Local development Training Academy (LDTA), Association of District Development Committee of Nepal (ADDCN), COMAT, Municipal association of Nepal (MUAN), National Association of VDC in Nepal (NAVIN) and Department of Rural Development Tribhuvan University are

members of LOGIN. COMAT held responsibility of facilitation of the network in Nepal from March 2014 to December 2015. In the meeting of LOGIN Nepal Chapter in December 2015, members consensually agreed to give responsibility to MUAN to steer the LOGIN Nepal platform for the year 2016. Through a Country Facilitator, the Role of MuAN as LOGIN Secretariat are-i) Ensure knowledge management, documentation, institutionalizing and scaling up the learnings and initiative forwarded by LOGIN Nepal country platform; ii) Liaise to make LOGIN functional in Nepal in close coordination with the members of LOGIN in Nepal; iii) Provide backstopping and logistics support to operationalize LOGIN functions in Nepal. The LOGIN Country Facilitator is coordinating with members to conduct monthly meeting, has developed relevant plans and programs to stretch LOGIN activities in Nepal throughout 2016 and also has initiated the process of horizontal and peer learnings.

WORKING AREA III: TECHNICAL AND ADVISORY SUPPORT

Within the third working area; technical and advisory support, MuAN has been assisting the member municipalities through pilot projects and interventions, capacity building and training, providing opportunities for exposure visits and so on. MuAN has been coordinating very closely with MoFALD and various development partners to carryout meaningful activities which ultimately work towards the betterment of the municipalities.

MAIN CONTRIBUTIONS

Child Friendly Local Governance (CFLG) Implementation Support Program to the Municipalities of Nepal

On the basis of the Child Friendly Local Governance: National Strategy - 2068 (2011) and the Child Friendly Local Governance: Operational Guideline-2068(2011), and Child Friendly Local Governance Policy 2069, MuAN and UNICEF initiated

a cooperation in March 2014 in order to support the municipalities in Nepal with the implementation of their obligations towards the objectives of CFLG in close cooperation with MoFALD. The project phased over in December 2015.

The activities conducted under the collaboration have highlighted the key achievements and exemplary initiations forwarded by the municipalities in CFLG. Children's development has become an enduring issue of the societal development and MoFALD has built in mandatory CFLG activities into the performance contract of the municipalities. Hence, CFLG has been regarded as a good governance mechanism to ensure children's development in terms of survival, development, participation and protection. MoFALD is very serious in taking forward CFLG at municipality level and municipality is the best source for institutionalizing the activities of CFLG.

The various activities conducted under this joint initiation were:

- Declaration Workshop on CFLG Model Municipalities
- 1-day Photography Competition on Children's Perspectives towards Municipalities
- Formalizing CYP Participation Workshop in Municipalities
- CFLG Audit in Municipalities
- National Stakeholders Meeting on Resource Mobilization for Child Friendly Infrastructures
- CFLG Policy Discussion and Dissemination and National Photography Competition
- Sharing on Findings of CFLG/Target Group Program Grant Expenditure and Orientation on Municipal Financial Management Training

Through these activities, in close coordination among municipalities, MuAN was able to ensure participation of children, youths, women and adolescents including all other concerned stakeholders of the municipality through regular participatory structures and procedures in the local governments from the demand side through an interactive forum. The interactive workshops conducted under this project have assessed the status of participation issues from various stakeholders and have generated a common understanding in implementing CFLG programs which aim to gather



National Photography Competition related to CFLG

support from stakeholders and move municipalities towards a child friendly city declaration process. Similarly, MuAN reviewed the budget and expenditure on CFLG program of municipality and also supported municipalities to be able to identify the reasons of performances in CFLG program. As a part of peer learning and capacity building, MuAN organized a sharing session on block grant and municipal financial management on CFLG, which was attended by finance personnel of the municipalities.



DRR Education and Awareness Training and its Follow Up Workshop

After the Nepal Earthquake 2015, CityNet Yokohama in collaboration with MuAN, Toshiba Foundation and Plus Arts (Japan), organized an intensive three day DRR Awareness and Education Training workshop for school teachers from the earthquake affected municipalities. The training aimed to reachout to school students through their teachers. Imparting DRR education, awareness, knowledge and information to teachers is vital to increase awareness among children about disasters. Held on 13-15 August 2015 at Hotel Himalaya, the training enabled knowledge sharing with 16 teachers from various schools within Kathmandu Metropolitan City, Lalitpur Sub Metropolitan City, Bhaktapur Municipality and



Information sharing during DRR Education and Awareness Training

Sankhu Municipality. The training schedule featured education on DRR and emergency skills in case of an earthquake. Examples from the preparedness practices of Japan were provided to the participants. A presentation on 'DRR in Nepal' was conducted by a representative from National Society of Earthquake Technology (NSET). Mr Hirokazu Nagata, Chairperson of Plus Arts conducted a session on 'Introduction to Plus Arts and Disaster Education in Japan', which focused mainly on Frog Caravan and practical exercises through Frog Caravan. The DRR tools that were imparted to the teachers by Plus Arts included; earthquake fresher exercise, making paper dish, first-aid exercises, emergency kit, bed stretcher practice, catfish game, shuffle game and an earthquake quiz. The tools were demonstrated at Mitra Primary School, Chakupat Lalitpur and parents of the students involved in the demonstration and dissemination of the DRR tools also attended. The teachers who received DRR training through this program have localized the DRR educational tools that were demonstrated and disseminated through the practical session.

As next steps for this training, the participating teachers again assembled on 24th March at Hotel Himalaya for a '1-day Follow-up Workshop on DRR Education Awareness Training in Schools'. The teachers who were earlier involved in DRR Education Awareness Training in August shared their experiences following implementing the trainings in their respective schools. For example,; card game and exercise games were preferred by the students of Bhasu Higher Secondary School, Bhaktapur. Trained teachers from Arunodaya Lower Secondary School, Kathmandu with help from other teachers managed to prepare a card game which was specific to the local area. Mitra School, Lalitpur have conducted an Art Competition using the disaster prevention theme. The teachers of Tri Padma Vidhyashram, Lalitpur after this training have managed to prepare a booklet that compiles the disaster experiences of their students. The teachers have realized that the students are geared towards learning-by-doing activities provided by their teachers.



Localized DRR education tools prepared by the participants

Interaction Program between High and Low Revenue Collecting Municipalities

The Local Self Governance (LSGA) Act 2055 BS has directed rules for autonomous actions by local government whereby bestowing significant and effectiveness in their service delivery, rights, responsibilities, resources and ensuring accountability and social inclusion in all its performed actions. Raising the internal revenue system by the local governments is regarded as one such minimum condition, but despite this, many local government bodies are performing poorly on this front. The LSGA Act has also accepted this principle. Though local bodies internalize this responsibility to raise their internal revenue system and create a better tax system, due to differences in the capacities of the local government bodies their performances have differed in comparison to other municipalities.

MuAN, as the representative of entire municipalities of Nepal has been given platform where the municipalities can voice and share their varied and vast experiences of internal revenue collection in the one place. This enables municipalities to share their best success stories as well achievements, challenges, and weaknesses associated with internal revenue collection. In order to involve municipalities with varied experiences of revenue recollection, a meticulously designed two-day workshop was held by MuAN in Hetauda and Pokhara. MuAN assembled 30 participants who represented high and low revenue collecting municipalities. Member Secretary of MuAN, Mr Bidur Mainali chaired the workshop and representatives from MoFALD, including Joint Secretary, Dr Hari Paudel and Section Officer, Mr. Anand Ram Bista graced the event by sharing their technical and strategic inputs that focused on inspiring the local bodies to perform better and significantly boost their internal revenue system.

Monitoring of the LGAF districts

MuAN continued a partnership with Local Governance Accountability Framework (LGAF) Secretariat of LGCDP/MoFALD in monitoring the districts where LGAF was implemented. For the Year 2072/073, MuAN had an agreement to conduct Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Monitoring in 22 out of 66 districts, as part of LGAF Compliance Monitoring. The objective was to monitor the performance of the CSOs selected in the districts or municipalities where LGAF program is conducted.

The 22 districts that were monitored over Fiscal Year 2072/073 for LGAF by MuAN were: Taplejung, Panchthar, Ilam, Jhapa, Bara Parsa, Makwanpur, Dhading, Kavre, Bhaktapur, Nuwakot, Rasuwa, Kaski, Tanahu, Myagdi, Baglung, Rukum, Rolpa, Dang, Mugu and Jumla. It was revealed from the members of ward citizens forum and citizens awareness center that public awareness related to people's right to information over activities in local government bodies have increased intensively. Local bodies including municipalities and district development committees are coordinating with CSOs for their facilitation role in public hearing activities. The CSOs have marked their visibility and space in their districts and among local government bodies in their larger roles of providing cooperation and coordination. The LGAF program has been able to instill knowledge of accountability and transparency of the local government bodies towards citizens and has managed to sensitize the community towards accessing the government level services. Local governments have gained opportunities to improve and update their services through this monitoring. However, due to a lack of elected local government representatives and in light of an increasing volume of work of the VDC Secretaries, CSOs have been putting forward 'One VDC One Secretary' as their advocacy theme with relevant actors at the district level. The field monitoring has perceived the necessity of making relative improvements in program modality of LGAF and these results have been provided to LGAF Secretariat at MoFALD.



Group photo after monitoring of LGAF in Rolpa district



Discussion taking place during LGAF monitoring at Myagdi district

At the implementation level, the LGAF program has been instilled knowledge of accountability and transparency of the local government bodies to citizens and has managed to sensitize the community towards accessing the government level services. As a result, local governments have gained opportunities to improve and update in their services through this monitoring.

CITYNET National Chapter Nepal

MuAN has been hosting the secretariat of the CITYNET National Chapter Nepal (the regional network of local authorities for the management of human settlements, in the Asia-Pacific Region) since 2001. The chapter currently has 36 members in Nepal. The primary objectives of the chapter include providing a national forum for municipal development issues through regular meetings, a small grants programme for improving urban infrastructure and opportunities for international exchange.

CITYNET has been providing small grant of 5000 USD for a pilot project since 2010. These are replicable projects and many small municipalities of Nepal have benefitted a lot from this. CITYNET has also enabled opportunities for international visits and given exposure to municipal staff and secretariat members of MuAN. CITYNET National Chapter-Nepal has become a very important urban sector network and is highly valued by its members.

In the FY 2072/073 the following activities have been conducted:

- General Assembly of CITYNET National Chapter-Nepal
- Working Committee Meetings of CITYNET National Chapter-Nepal
- Technical Assessment of Earthquake affected sites of Lalitpur and Kathmandu
- Power Backup Support to Earthquake affected Municipalities
- DRR Education and Awareness Preparedness Training to School Teachers of Kathmandu, Lalitpur & Bhaktapur
- DRR Education and Awareness Video Documentary Production
- Toilet Construction project at Chhepetar health Post of Gorkha Municipality

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- Stretch working in the areas of Smart Cities, Disaster Resilient Cities, Environment Friendly Local Governance (EFLG), Child Friendly Local Governance (CFLG), Child Friendly Cities, Local Governance, Local-level Restructuring, Local Accountability together respectively with GIZ, DFID, UNICEF, The Asia Foundation, CITYNET, MoFALD, MoUD etc.
- Conduct Interactions related to Local-level Restructuring, Functional Assignment, Fiscal Decentralization.
- Conduct Need Assessment of New Municipalities to support them in various areas as per the need.
- Support municipalities to do self-assessment and to develop their Disaster Reduction Preparedness Planning
- Support municipalities to increase performance in MCPM as well as to maximize their revenues.
- Support municipalities to make IT friendly through ICT support program, and upgrade in MCPM for increased grant from the government.
- Upgrade and revitalization of RLCs for promoting peer learning among municipalities.
- Action Research on Appropriate Municipal Taxation System in Nepal.
- Promote Horizontal Learning among Municipalities through LOGIN Nepal Country Chapter.
- Develop relevant capacity development programs to support some new and old municipalities

CONCLUSION

Fiscal year 2072/073 was also challenging in terms of program implementation due to political instability, a series of strikes and the impacts of devastating earth quakes that hit the country on May 25 and April 12, 2015. However, MuAN has successfully completed almost all planned activities through the support from MoFALD and its other development partners. MuAN now has many more responsibilities to support new municipalities, particularly as the new constitution has given immense powers and responsibilities to the local governments. MuAN is committed to better serve its members based on its strategic planning to ensure the urban residents will obtain better services, be motivated to pay taxes and be more proactive to participate in the decision making process at the local level.

NETWORKING AND RELATION BUILDING THROUGH INTERNATIONAL VISITS FISCAL YEAR 2072/073

Events	Place	Date	Attended by	Organized by /Supported by	Objectives
Horizontal Learning Process	Dhaka, Bangladesh	27 August- 1 September, 2015	Devi Prasad Gyawali, Executive Committee Member, MuAN	Local Governance Initiative Network (LOGIN), Asia, New Delhi	To widen the learning processes among local governments of South Asia.
Local Government Voices Toward HABITAT III on a New Urban Agenda 2015	Wakatobi, Indonesia	5-7 September 2015	Bidur Minali, General Secretary, MuAN	UCLG ASPAC Executive Bureau	To discuss on new urban agendas, challenges and opportunities
33rd Session of the Executive Committee of CityNet	Sidoarjo, Indonesia.	5-7 October 2015	Dormani Paudel, President, MuAN, Bhagwan Aryal, former President of CityNet National Chapter Nepal and Rudra Singh Tamang, Executive Officer, Kathmandu Metropolitan City.	Citynet Secretariat	To discuss the network's direction and strategy. To share experiences to further develop a strong Asian perspective on sustainable urbanization.
ICMA Annual Conference, USA	Kansas City, USA	25-28 September 2015	Krishna Thapa, Executive Committee Member of MuAN, Kalandidhi Devkota, Executive Secretary, MuAN	ICMA	To share their experiences, issues, challenges and opportunities from the respective countries and local government.
Asian Leaders Meeting	New Delhi, India	17-19 November 2015	Kalandidhi Devkota, Executive Secretary, MuAN	UNISDR, Asia	To discuss local implementation of the Sendai Framework.
Regional Seminar on Local Economic Development and Local Government Role in Communicating the SDGs	Negombo, Sri Lanka	9-11 December 2015	Sagar Pratap Rana, Board Member, MuAN, Ambika Amatya, Program Officer, MuAN	UCLG-ASPAC	To conduct a rapid needs assessment for localizing the SDGs; ii) To develop a strategy or roadmap for communication and a learning program, and, iii) To initiate communication and provide a learning platform for cooperation among cities and local governments.
LOGIN Annual Planning Meeting 2016	Bangkok, Thailand	16-18 March 2016	Kalandidhi Devkota, Executive Secretary, MuAN	LOGIN Asia Secretariat	To review the past activities and share and develop Year 2016 activities.
Resilient Cities Summit	Malaka, Malaysia.	2-4 March 2016	Mr. Rudra Singh Tamang, Chief and Executive Officer of Kathmandu Metropolitan City and Mr. Kalandidhi Devkota, Executive Secretary of MuAN	ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability, South Asia and Malaka City Government.	To create a space for local governments, institutions and communities where they can come together to discuss climate resilience in urban areas.
Training on Sustainable Tourism	Jeju, South Korea	21-24 March 2016	Pramod Shrestha, Networking and Information Coordinator	UNITAR CIFAL Jeju/JITC	To promote awareness and recognition on the importance of sustainable tourism
3rd South Asian Cities (SAC) Summit 2016	New Delhi, India	6-7 May 2016	Dormani Paudel, President, MuAN	All India Institute of Local Self-Government (AIISSG), and United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC)	To discuss and explore the common goal of working together to develop and build a better future for South Asian cities and their citizens.
UCLG CIB Working Group Meeting	Istanbul, Turkey	19-20 May 2016	Kalandidhi Devkota, Executive Secretary, MuAN	UCLG International/The Union of Municipalities of Turkey	To discuss on the need for capacity development of local governments in the Middle East and West Asia region as a result of the conflict in Syria.
Study Visit on Territorial Reform and Federalization and Participation in German Habitat Forum, Berlin	Berlin, Germany	30 May – 3 June 2016	Dormani Paudel, President, MuAN; Gopikrishna Khanal, Joint Secretary, MoFALD, Ramesh Prasad Singh, Director General, DUDBC	GIZ/CD Mun Project	To made aware on approaches to plan and implement a territorial reform process from the perspective of different institutions; to learn about examples of different government institutions at respective state levels and to participate in German Habitat Forum.