

Harsh Man Shrestha Former Managing Director, Nepal Electricity Authority



*In light of recent discourse in water resources and hydropower development in Nepal, **HYDRO NEPAL** felt this an appropriate moment to review some of the personalities who have played important roles in these areas over the past few decades. In this issue, we begin with Mr. Harsh Man Shrestha.*

Background

Mr. Shrestha was born on 22nd January 1936 AD to mother Panna Maya Shrestha and father Amrit Man Shrestha in Kathmandu, Nepal. He is the eldest child among four brothers and two sisters. He has 3 sons and 4 daughters.

Educational Background

He passed his School Leaving Certificate (SLC) from Juddhodaya Public High School, Kathmandu, Nepal. He completed Intermediate in Science (ISc) in the year 1952 and Bachelor in Science (BSc) in the year 1954 from Tri-chandra College, Kathmandu, Nepal which was then affiliated to Patna University, India.

He joined Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India which was affiliated to MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA) for D.I.I.Sc. (Diploma in Electrical Engineering) in the year 1954 and graduated in the year 1957.

He has done Masters of Science (Civil Engineering) from Moscow Institute of Civil Engineering Moscow, then USSR, in the year 1963. He has specialized in Design and Construction of High Dams and Hydro Power Stations.

Professional Career

Mr. Shrestha began his career as an Assistant Engineer in the Department of Electricity, then His Majesty's Government of Nepal (HMG/N).

He has worked as a Project Chief in Panauti Hydropower project with installed capacity of 2.4 MW, which was commissioned in the year 1965.

He was assigned as a Project Chief in Sunkoshi Hydropower project with installed capacity of 10.05 MW in 1966 and it was commissioned in the year 1972.

He was promoted to Deputy Chief Engineer in Department of Electricity, then HMG/N in the year 1973.

His contribution as a Project Chief in Kulekhani-1 Hydroelectric Project (60 MW) is a landmark in Nepal's reservoir based high dam Hydropower projects. It was commissioned in the year 1982.

He was appointed as a Chief Engineer of Department of Electricity (DOE) under HMG/N from 1980 to 1985. The main responsibilities were to investigate, design and construct hydropower projects and high voltage transmission lines all over the country. In this period, Kulekhani high dam (60 MW) and Devghat

Hydropower Project (14 MW) were completed.

Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) was created on August 16, 1985, through the merger of the Department of Electricity of Ministry of Water Resources, Nepal Electricity Corporation and related Development Boards. Mr. Shrestha is the first Managing Director (MD) of NEA. He served as MD from 1985 till 1989. NEA is responsible for generation, transmission and distribution of electricity throughout Nepal. Construction of Lower Marsyangdi Hydropower Project (69 MW), Kulekhani II Hydropower Project (32 MW), 132 KV Transmission and Distribution lines, Feasibility study of various hydropower projects were carried out during this period.

He represented as Leader of Nepalese team of the coordination committee of Karnali (Chisapani) multipurpose project (Joint committee formed by then HMG/N of Nepal and Government of India) to finalize the feasibility study of Karnali Chisapani Hydropower Project (10,800 MW).

He also lead the Nepalese team of the joint group of experts formed by then HMG/N of Nepal and Government of India to monitor and evaluate the feasibility study of Pancheswor Multipurpose Project (6,470 MW).

He retired from the government service as a Chief Planning Co-coordinator, Ministry of Water Resources in the year 1992.

Major Accomplishments

As the first Managing Director of Nepal Electricity Authority, he has contributed in establishment and management of the largest public utility in Nepal. During his tenure, the first reservoir based hydropower project, Kulekhani HEP, was initiated with the support from the Japan Government, through JICA. This project has been the back bone for Nepal's energy sector for power back up.

Pastime

In his pastime, Shrestha pursues several hobbies including playing Lawn Tennis as a veteran, has passion for gardening and involvement in the establishment where he is involved.

Vision

As he has devoted all his life in energy sector, he

envisioned Nepal as self-reliant hydropower exporting country for the benefit of Nepal and Nepali people.

Unforgettable Moments

It was indeed very disheartening for him, when the World Bank decided to withdraw their support, effectively cancelling the Arun III Hydroelectric Project.

This project would have changed Nepal's Hydropower scenario and helped to boost country's economy too.

Travels

He has widely traveled during his career in countries like India, China, Japan, Singapore, Thailand, Korea, USA, France, United Kingdom etc.

Present Activities

He is the promoter, Director of Sinohydro Sagarmatha Power Company Pvt. Ltd (SSPC), partner of Upper

Marsyangdi Hydro Power, a 50 MW running hydropower plant in Lamjung district of Nepal.

He is also promoter, Director of COSMOS Cement Industries Pvt. Ltd. with its own clinker factory in Janakpur and Eastern Cosmos Cements Pvt. Ltd as a sister concern in Biratnagar, Nepal.

Medals and Honor

He is honored with very prestigious Tri Shakti Patta and Gorakha Dakshina Bahu medals.

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