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ASPAC

NEWS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF FIDIC ASIA PACIFIC

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FROM THE EDITORIAL DESK

Publishing a NEWSLETTER for a multinational organisation like FAP is a matter of great pleasure. One needs an appreciative reader base, a supporting Editorial Board, and a helpful Governing Council. That pleasure can grow much more if one finds that the readership base is growing, the geographical coverage of the Newsletter is increasing, and appreciation coming one's way for the contents that are contributed from the community addressed!

The present members of the Editorial Board find themselves in that situation, with new countries from the Pacific like New Zealand participating, and contributing in their chosen area of the Climate Change, and its effects on sustainability of human civilisation. This publication has benefited during this year from regular participation from newer countries like Philippines, Nepal, Vietnam, Pakistan, and others. The Editorial Board feels humbled by this Welcome response and I gratefully thank all members of FAP.

Our world is passing through series of political uncertainties and recurring occurrences of catastrophic events due to changes in climate. FAP region has still managed to sustain the developmental growth and our Consultancy profession have been benefiting from the same. The role of FIDIC ASIA PACIFIC deserves greater support and encouragement from all stakeholders. In this uncertain situation and FAP newsletter has a major role to play. This Issue of the newsletter has devoted efforts to make the annual FAP event at Nepal hugely successful and productive- we look forward to all of yours support and active participation.

With Greetings from the Editorial Board

Amitabha Ghoshal - Chairperson

Samarjit Chatterjee

Thakur Sharma

Dilini Gamage

Patrick John R. Ramos

Izzat Annur

Ilham Akbar

Abdul Haseeb Mansuri

PRESIDENT'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE



**SUDHIR
DHAWAN**

President

FIDIC Asia Pacific

Email: president@fidicaspac.org

Dear Colleagues.

It was heartening to note that ASPAC newsletter is becoming popular amongst readers as some of them have communicated that they look forward to reading the ASPAC Newsletter due to its interesting contents. It also helps them to know the activities of the other MA's in the Asia-Pacific region.

We are ready with the new issue which also has an article of "Impact of Climate Change" from New Zealand. We have so far collected articles on climate change from few countries such as: India, Thailand, Vietnam, Philippines, Pakistan.

The other interesting news that I am happy to share with you is the launching of the FIDIC Asia-Pacific website. The website id is www.fidicaspac.org. We encourage all of you to visit the website. The website will get linked with FIDC website.

FAP annual awards have been announced . The details are mentioned on the website and you can also apply online .The awards will be distributed during annual conference in Kathmandu – 18th-20th November.

Some speakers have registered their interest to present paper during the conference . We once again seek your active participation in the annual conference in Kathmandu which is also a tourist's paradise .

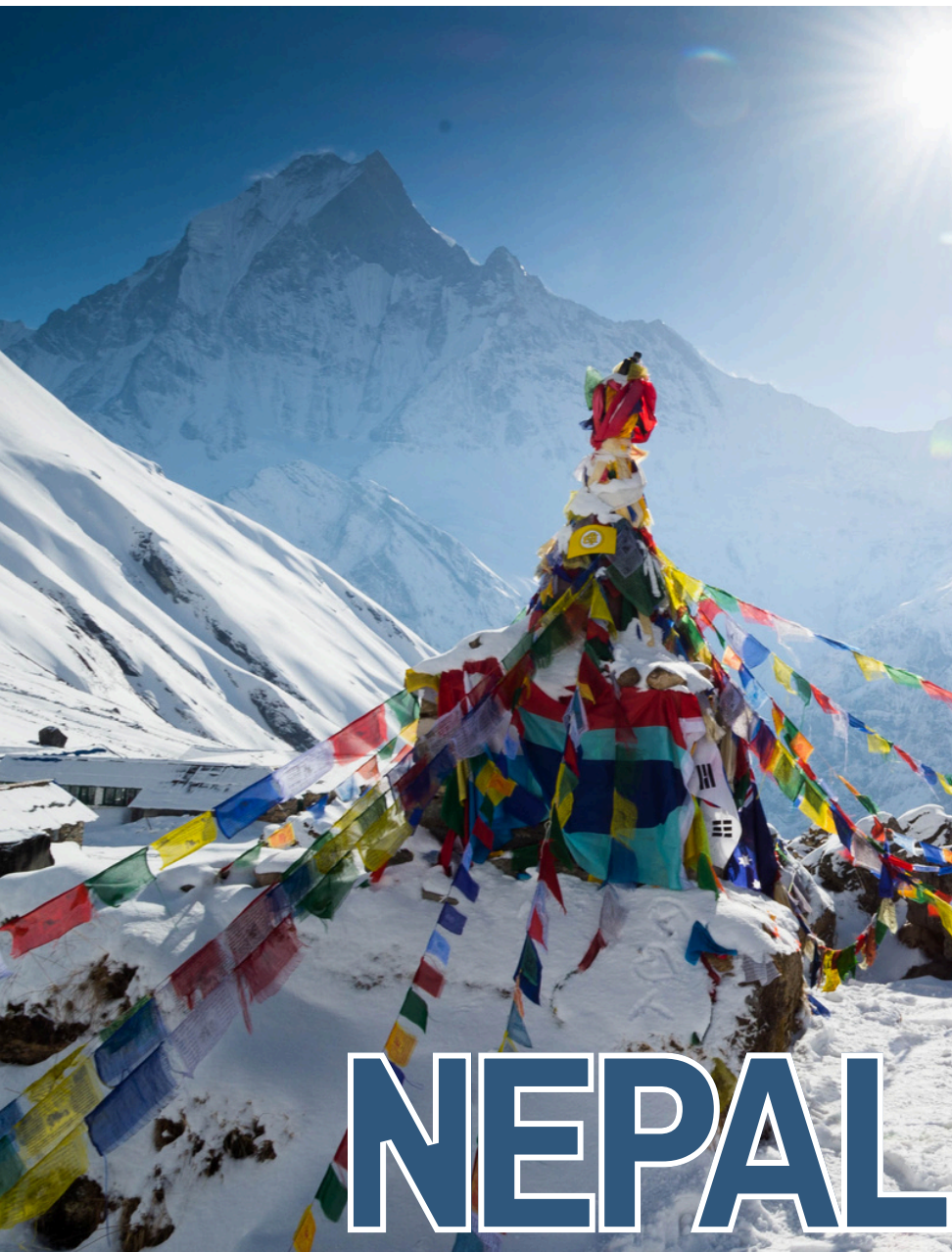


Sudhir Dhawan

President, FIDIC Asia Pacific



COVER STORY



NEPAL



FIDIC ASIA PACIFIC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

GOVERNANCE FOR CLIMATE SHOCKS

NOV 18-20

HYATT REGENCY | KATHMANDU

2024



Conference Director Er Mandakiri Karki

more information

Society of Consulting Architectural and Engineering Firms (SCAEF)

Chitiz Marga, Sankhamul, Kathmandu, Nepal

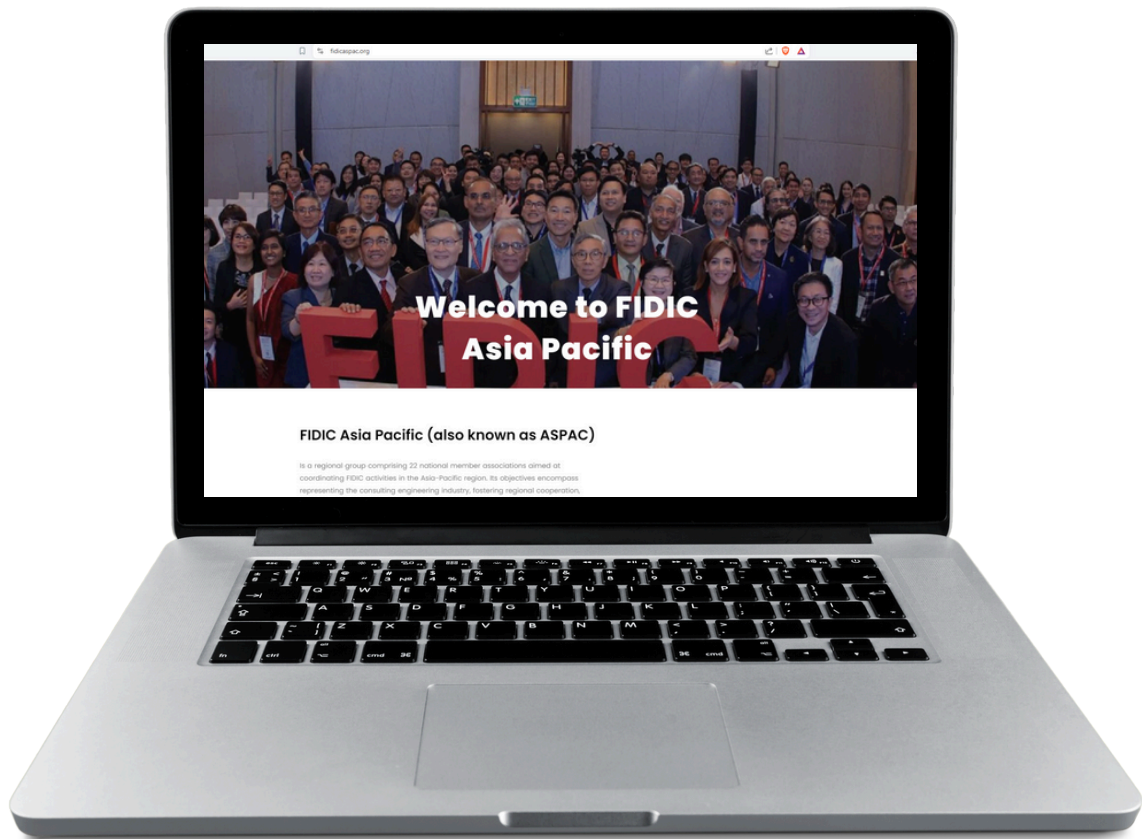
Contact: +9851332952, +9851327465

E-mail: fidicaspacnepal@scaef.org.np

Website: www.scaef.org.np, www.fidicasiapacific2024nepal.scaef.org.np



FAP WEBSITE Unveiled



Check out !



<https://fidicaspac.org>



FIDIC ASIA PACIFIC AWARDS - 2024 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS



We are pleased to invite you to participate in and celebrate the remarkable achievements of our member associations and leaders in the consulting engineering industry within the Asia Pacific region.

ABOUT FIDIC ASPAC AWARDS 2024

FIDIC Asia Pacific Awards celebrate the pinnacle of performance in the infrastructure sector. These prestigious awards recognize, highlight, and reward the outstanding achievements and successes of consulting engineering member firms, projects, and emerging leaders within the Asia Pacific region.

It acknowledges the significant impact their projects have on social, economic, and environmental quality of life and gives them the chance to shine and gain recognition for excellence.

Entries are now open for the Powerhouse Awards, Outstanding Project Awards, and Emerging Leaders Awards. The winners will be announced during the awards ceremony in November 2024 at this year's FIDIC Asia Pacific Infrastructure Conference Gala Dinner, which takes place in Kathmandu, Nepal from 18th to 20th November 2024.

Entering the awards is simple, thanks to our easy-to-follow, step-by-step online submission process. Entrants can save their progress and return later to complete their entries, ensuring a straightforward and user-friendly experience.



FIDIC ASIA PACIFIC EMERGING LEADERS AWARD

FIDIC's Asia Pacific Emerging Leaders Awards acknowledge and promote the remarkable achievements of emerging leaders in the consulting engineering industry within Asia Pacific and encourage the effective participation of emerging leaders in FIDIC.



FIDIC ASIA PACIFIC POWERHOUSE AWARDS

The FIDIC Asia Pacific Powerhouse Awards recognize, reward, and highlight the achievements and successes of FIDIC's Asia Pacific member associations. These awards, which acknowledge the work that MAs do representing the Asia Pacific consulting engineering industry, celebrate the many different facets of FIDIC members' work.



FIDIC ASIA PACIFIC OUTSTANDING PROJECT AWARDS

The FIDIC Asia Pacific Outstanding Project Awards recognize, highlight, and reward the achievements and successes of consulting engineering member firms across the Asia Pacific and the important impact their projects have on social, economic, and environmental quality of life around the world.

Submission Dead line

15th September, 23:59 NPT (UTC +5:45)

Link for Submission

<https://fidicaspac.org/awards2024/>

SCAN ME



SAFEGUARDING NATURE WHILE TRANSFORMING INDIA [WWF]

ER. PRAMOD NEUPANE | *Lead-ALIGN project | WWF-India*

Government of India has initiated an ambitious effort to transform the nation's infrastructure, with the goal of stimulating economic growth, improving connectivity, and enhancing the well-being of its people.

By prioritizing the modernization of transportation systems, the improvement of urban facilities, and the expansion of digital infrastructure, the government has introduced a number of groundbreaking projects.

These initiatives, which include the construction of roads, highways, railways, and airports, as well as the promotion of waterways and ropeway systems, are designed to promote comprehensive and sustainable development throughout the country[1].



[1] Building India - 10 years of Infrastructure Development [Press information Bureau \(pib.gov.in\)](https://pib.gov.in)

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has constructed 12,349 kilometers of national highways across India in FY 24[2]. MoRTH reached its second-highest level of national highway construction in FY24, next to FY21, when it constructed a record 13,327 kilometers of national highways across the country. The ministry achieved this feat through 8581 national highway projects.

While achievements are tangible on infrastructure development sector, India has likewise been showcasing the world successful examples of biodiversity conservation across its landscapes. No wonder when the development and conservation landscape coincide, there are immense challenges to achieve a balance between development and conservation.

With robust inter-ministerial clearance mechanisms based on the Environmental Impact Assessments, the infrastructure development trend follows natural resources safeguard measures where crucial aspects of environmental and social safeguards are well imbibed within the project planning, designing, execution and operation phases.

National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) organized a workshop on 15th April, 2024 on the preparation of Forest Clearance (FC), Environment Clearance (EC) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) - Environmental Management Plan (EMP) proposals including Eco-friendly Mitigation Measures and Challenges with respect to Statutory Clearances.

This workshop was a first of its kind which engaged a diverse group of stakeholders aimed at resolving issues related to FC, EC, EIA-EMP proposals in terrestrial landscapes including the coastal zones.

The issues of Wildlife clearances and opportunities with regards to incorporating Wildlife friendly approaches to developing linear infrastructures (LI) were discussed in the workshop. The major takeaway of the workshop was that multiple linear infrastructure projects are delayed because of lagging Forest and Environment Clearances which has resulted in the total average sum of 12,500 crores[3] currently stalled because of delays in receiving the clearance. This was blamed on incompetent Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) reports, mismatched and incomplete information produced by the proponent for receiving the clearances.

One of the major issues of inefficient DPRs and EIA reports was identified as one of major drawbacks for the endorsement of technical proposals resulting in delayed receiving green signal to go ahead for project funding.

The technical resources- mainly consulting firms do not get proper access to the biodiversity data and information, or they do not comply with the procedures required to follow up with authorities which eventually delay the crucial window of preparing the effective DPRs.

The exposure to these DPR consultants was another area that needs improvement. Further, there is a need for consideration at landscape level understanding for integrated approach to safeguard natural resources that considers right of way to the wild animals to ensure their abundance, freedom to roam even beyond Protected Areas as well.

[2] [MoRTH builds 12,349 km of highways in FY24, 2nd highest so far, ET Infra \(indiatimes.com\)](https://www.indiatimes.com/infrastructure/morth-builds-12349-km-of-highways-in-fy24-2nd-highest-so-far-ET-Infra)

[3] As per the presentation done during the NHAI workshop on 15th April

The concern of poor quality of DPRs and EIA reports were blamed to the lowest bid approach during the event. A proper report requires proper investment of time, expertise, field level engagement, and eventually the cost should not be compromised.

The initial study and outcome reports obviously becomes the basis of proper planning and hence an integral part of infrastructure development project. No compromises should be done in properly accessing the information and preparing the reports.

Another reason for inadequate information in the report is because of the lack in accessible data and information on ecology and biodiversity. Despite the information on key species, in key biodiversity areas are well available in the conservation stakeholders' portfolio, they are not being well articulated so that these could be used by developmental stakeholders.

There should be ample opportunities where the conservation and development stakeholders could sit together to synthesize the data and information to be readily available for use by the development authorities for infrastructure development plans and designs.

Wildlife Institute of India (WII) has been credibly contributing to national mega infrastructure projects when it comes to the inclusion of natural resources safeguards in national scale infrastructure projects.

A conservation-development alliance is the need of modern India where nature thrives, and the country advances achieves its target of a developed nation by 2047.

For this, WWF-India has collaborated with Consulting Engineers' Association of India (CEAI) which has been working in a coordinated direction to ensure consultants involved in DPR preparation are aware about the biodiversity issues and challenges.

Only by providing adequate knowledge of issues and challenges, proper mitigation measures can be planned and implemented as per Environment Management Plan.

This collaboration will share knowledge and information through various platforms including workshops, seminars, webinars, and joint publications among others to ensure development agenda incorporates conservation priorities and meet the dream of a prosperous nation.

WWF-India through its various conservation project extends its hands to strengthen governmental commitments to safeguard natural resources while meeting the developmental goals.

A geographical information system (GIS) database of all national and state highways passing through critical biodiversity areas including Protected Areas and forests of ecological importance was felt necessary to help planners and developers equip with the information system.

WWF-India has developed a GIS based Rapid Infrastructure Impact Analysis Model (RIIAM) which helps to foresee the probable impacts of infrastructure at the conservation landscapes right from the beginning of a project appraisal phase.

This helps planners, engineers, developers and decision makers to initiate the mitigation plans to minimize the impacts right from the project inception phase. This will also enable the consultants with required biodiversity data to ensure proper planning is done right from the beginning for clearances.

Currently the RIIAM is available for eight WWF-India conservation landscapes including Terai Arc, Khanchhendzonga, Western Arunachal, Brahmaputra, Sundarbans, Central India, Western India and Western Ghat Nilgiris landscapes and it can be extended across the country India as required.

WWF-India has received a mandate from state level meetings at Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Assam to ensure capacity building workshops are conducted. Natural Resources Safeguards properly being implemented in LI projects since the very beginning of project feasibility to Detailed Project Report (DPR) preparation phases does not only ensure the sustainability of LI projects, but also creates a better equitable world for all the living being.

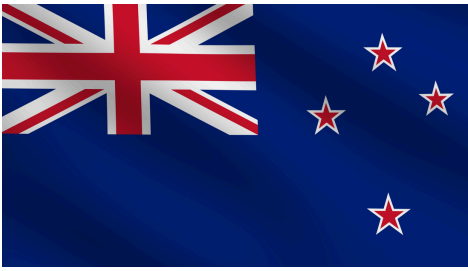
WWF-India is implementing Asia's Linear Infrastructure safeGuarding Nature (ALIGN) project which aims to add a very crucial brick to the dream of prosperous India where the voice of the voiceless are heard and the impacts on natural resources while developing these linear infrastructures are reduced.

ALIGN is being implemented with the financial support of United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and is being implemented in India, Nepal and Mongolia together with the Center for Large Landscape Conservation.





**GET TO
KNOW
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OF FIDIC
ASIA
PACIFIC**



NEW ZEALAND



ACE New Zealand
Association of Consulting and Engineering
National office:
Level 11, 79 Boulcott Street, Wellington 6140
Postal Address
 PO Box 10247, Wellington 6140
Website: acenz.org.nz
Contact number: +64 4 472 1202
Email: letstalk@acenz.org.nz



Advocate

A strong voice for our members in issues and decisions that impact them



Enable

Creating connections and upskilling members to build professionalism



Lead

Readying the sector for the future

ACE New Zealand is the consultant's champion – the voice for consulting and engineering in Aotearoa. It represents more than 260 businesses, ranging from large global firms to employee-owned SMEs, that employ around 16,000 engineers, project managers, planners, scientists, architects, surveyors and other technical disciplines who provide specialist services across the built and natural environment.

It provides the tools, advice, advocacy, leadership and enablement that allows members to build a strong and sustainable business, and a reputation as a consultant of choice.

It raises the profile of professional services consulting and builds trusting relationships, so its members have an influential voice and are ready to face the challenges of today and tomorrow.

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EFFECTS OF



We are the first generation to feel the impact of climate change and the last generation that can do something about it.

- Barack Obama

SRI LANKA

Nethmi Tharika and A. Witharana

1Department of Zoology and Environment Sciences, Faculty of Science, University of Colombo | ayomi@zoology.cmb.ac.lk

1. OVERVIEW OF GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE IN SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka is situated between 6° and 10° North latitude and 80° to 82° East longitude, spans 432 km in length and 224 km in width, covering 65,610 square kilometers. The island features a central highland massif in the south-central region, surrounded by lowlands. Rivers typically originate from these highlands, with the Mahaweli River being the longest at 335 km.

Climate varies mainly due to altitude. In the lowlands, the mean annual temperature is 27°C with a daily range of 6°C. In the central highlands, such as Nuwara Eliya at 1800 meters altitude, the mean annual temperature is 15°C with a daily range of 10°C. Humidity generally ranges from 70% during the day to 90% at night, dropping to 60% in semi-arid areas. Annual rainfall ranges from 900 mm to 6000 mm, higher in the central hills and lower in the northwestern and southeastern lowlands, exemplified by Mannar (967 mm) and Hambantota (950 mm).

2. CHANGES IN RAINFALL PATTERNS AND IMPACT OF DROUGHTS

Precipitation is the main factor affecting drought, influencing water levels, soil moisture, and river flows. For over half a century, scientists have developed methods and indicators to monitor drought using parameters like precipitation, temperature, soil moisture, and evaporation, along with vegetation health and water levels. These indicators help determine the severity and magnitude of drought.

Sri Lanka's climate is shaped by its topography and the Southwest (May-September) and Northeast (December-February) monsoons. Monsoonal rainfall is mainly orographic, while inter-monsoonal periods (March-April and October-November) bring convective rainfall. In October-November, weather systems from the Southwest Bay of Bengal and Southeast Arabian Sea also contribute to widespread rainfall. The annual climate of Sri Lanka is characterized by four monsoon seasons as described below in Table 1.

Table 1: Monsoon Seasons in Sri Lanka

Season	Time Duration
First Inter-monsoon	March - April
Southwest Monsoon	May - September
Second Inter-monsoon	October - November
Northeast Monsoon	December - February

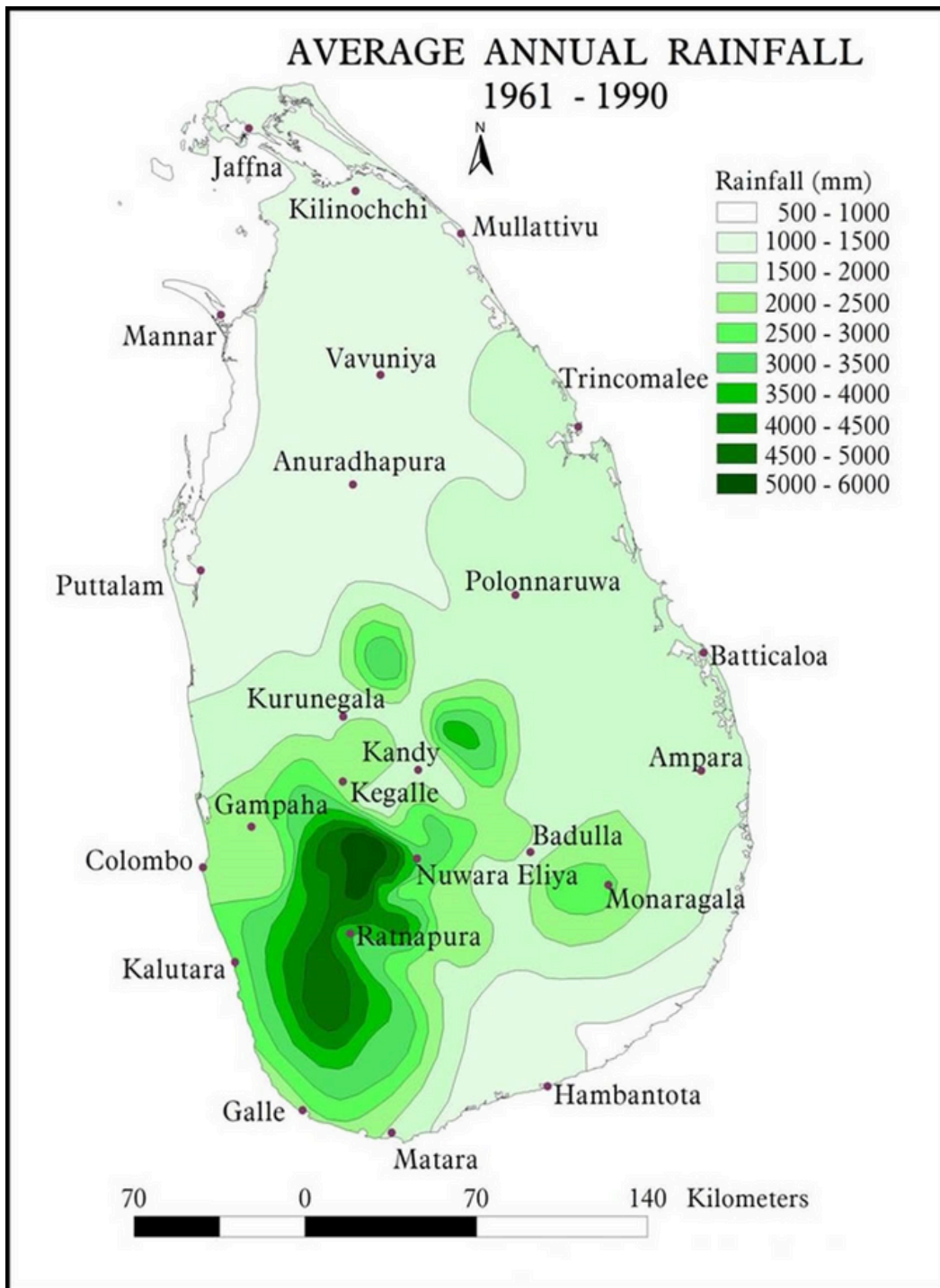


Figure 1: Average annual rainfall of Sri Lanka

(Source: The Climate Change Secretariat of Sri Lanka. (www.climatechange.lk))

Drought is classified into four types: meteorological, agricultural, hydrological, and socioeconomic, often occurring sequentially. Meteorological drought is caused by long dry spells due to low rainfall. Agricultural drought affects crops depending on their stage of growth. A few months later a hydrological drought occurs and the water level of rivers, reservoirs and groundwater drops. Meteorological droughts recover quickly and hydrological droughts take longer.

Although Sri Lanka is a tropical country, it has suffered a series of severe droughts in the last few decades, whose adverse effects have severely affected the country's economy. According to past studies and reports, 14 drought events have been recorded in Sri Lanka between 1980 and 2019. Moreover, drought alone accounted for 52% of crop losses from 1974 to 2013. Droughts reported in 2001, 2002, 2016, 2017 and 2019 focused heavily on Sri Lanka. Persistent droughts in 2001 and 2002 severely affected the country's hydroelectric power generation and agricultural sector, reducing its GDP by about 1%.

Table 2: Number of affected families and persons by drought in 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020

Province	District	2017		2018	2019		2020	
		Affected Families	Affected People	Affected Families	Affected Families	Affected People	Affected Families	Affected People
Sabaragamuwa	Kegalle	23,264	86,740	87,587	9,072	30,846	12,362	47,635
	Ratnapura	27,231	96,878	97,878	8,035	27,793	12,093	44,184
Central	Kandy	2,565	9,212	9,832	5,455	20,328	6,897	25,039
	Nuwara Eliya	416	1,555	1,555	380	1,465	360	1,518
	Matale	31,827	104,576	124,808	18,845	66,407	8,255	27,760
Western	Colombo	110	440	440	90	360	1,364	5,058
	Gampaha	70,516	292,199	292,199	10,529	37,376	12,519	46,245
	Kalutara	43,464	198,619	413,665	58,175	244,065	61,787	274,173
Northern	Jaffna	34,195	124,568	234,738	23,255	76,411	17,867	63,468
	Kilinochchi	27,221	93,073	206,972	12,440	43,220	4,907	16,245
	Mullaitivu	35,730	115,308	142,655	21,354	68,787	8,224	25,437
	Mannar	33,026	117,396	219,559	18,119	63,265	11,351	41,120
	Vavuniya	28,612	101,914	110,349	509	1,731	592	1,824
North Western	Kurunegala	80,608	267,284	366,334	13,603	43,942	13,995	48,640
	Puttalam	87,617	291,764	508,434	20,232	66,726	31,071	108,635
Southern	Galle	400	1,600	1,600	5,225	19,897	2,459	9,225
	Matara	418	1,556	1,556	3,468	12,537	3,788	15,944
	Hambantota	9,846	35,348	55,070	2,149	9,316	7,590	28,006
North Central	Anuradhapura	264,344	893,165	1,786,168	10,182	34,901	7,602	25,537
	Polonnaruwa	57,614	206,044	231,383	17,111	61,793	17,181	58,966
Eastern	Trincomalee	52,259	178,800	197,923	4,897	14,968	7,177	23,637
	Ampara	16,514	58,261	97,701	20,053	66,334	17,491	60,463
	Batticaloa	60,401	302,005	407,681	26,078	86,635	21,726	68,864
Uva	Badulla	12,170	38,775	43,299	4,083	20,829	2,956	11,599
	Moneragala	104,839	391,468	413,842	22,041	73,450	19,128	70,723

Note: Data extracted from the annual reports of DMC for 2017,2018,2019,2020 and presented by the author for each year)

The above Table 2 illustrates the number of affected people and families in 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 by showing the severity. Sabaragamuwa province is notable with significant vacillations in affected families and individuals, while North Central and Northern provinces have experienced fluctuations in affected populations, highlighting their vulnerability to large-scale events. Sabaragamuwasaw a significant increase, especially in the Kegalle and Ratnapuradistricts, while Western provinces such as Kalutara saw a large increase in the number affected, especially in 2018 and 2020. The northern regions, including Jaffna and Mannar, show significant changes indicating their continued vulnerability. In the eastern provinces such as Batticaloa, the effects have varied and, in some years, have been severe. The North Central and Southern regions also have different disaster responses, emphasizing the complex landscape of natural disaster impacts in Sri Lanka.

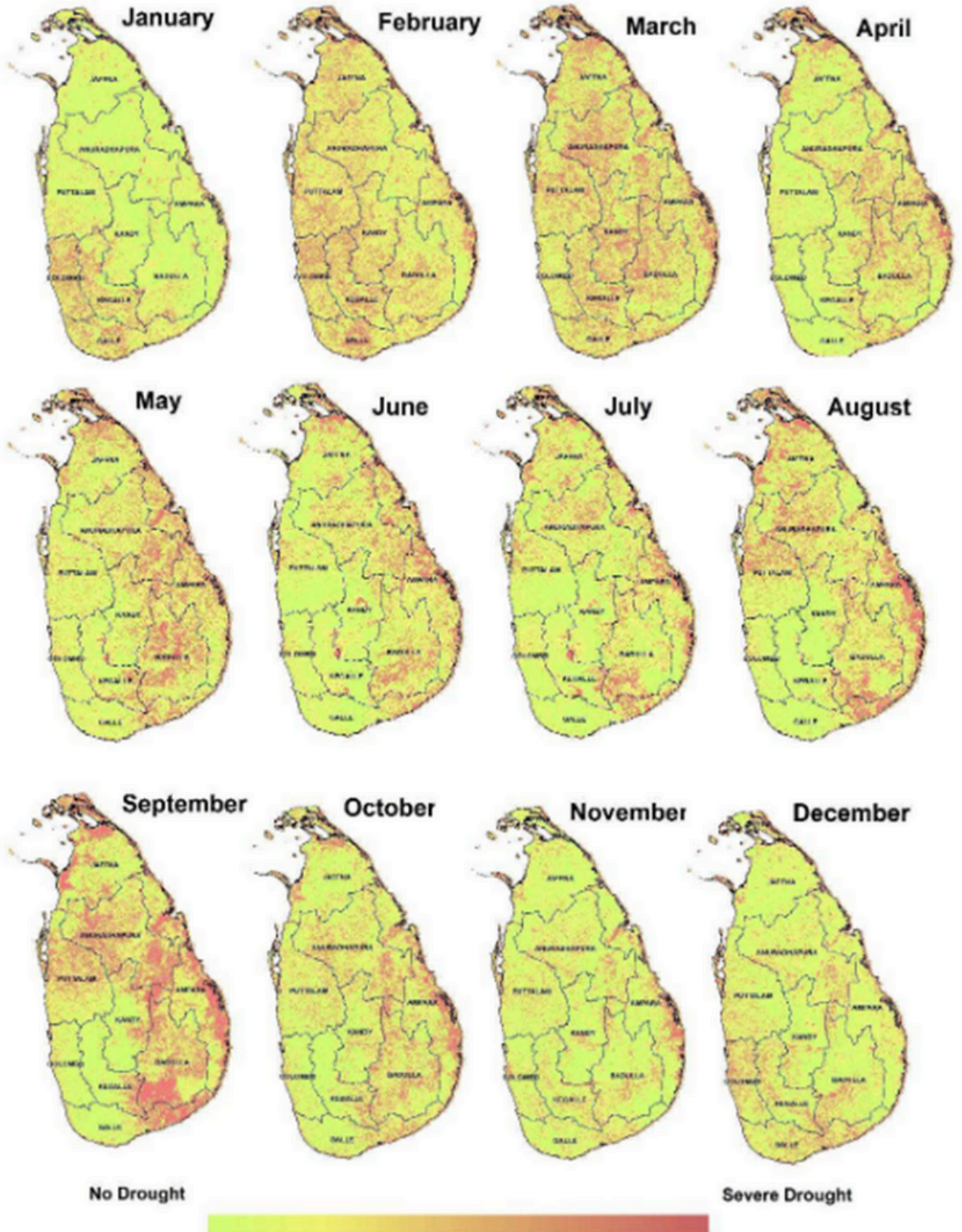
These droughts are primarily associated with changes in precipitation, particularly during the northeast monsoon season from December to February. Dry air originating from the Northern Hemisphere high pressure system passes over the arid mainland of India before reaching Sri Lanka, resulting in reduced rainfall over the island. Additionally, reduced formation of low-level disturbances and cyclone-like weather systems in the Bay of Bengal exacerbates dry conditions and affects large areas of the country. Occasional droughts also occur during the Southwest monsoon months from May to September, which are marked by deviations in the monsoon airflow path, resulting in drier conditions in regions of generally higher rainfall.

A composite map illustrates the overall probability of drought across Sri Lanka has been prepared by adding drought-prone areas for each month (Figure 2). Accordingly, the results show that the drought in January is less except in some areas of the Western and Southern provinces. Drought conditions can be seen from May to September in most of the north-eastern parts of Sri Lanka's dry zone, and peak drought conditions can be seen in August and September in Uva and Easter provinces. Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Batticaloa and Monaragala districts can be classified as severe drought prone districts.

3.CHANGES IN RAINFALL PATTERNS AND IMPACTS OF FLOODS AND LANDSLIDES

As previously, Sri Lanka experiences monsoon seasons, the Southwest Monsoon (May to September) and the Northeast Monsoon (December to February), which significantly influence rainfall distribution across the country. Variability in these monsoons has led to unpredictable and intense rainfall.

The drought situation that occurs when there is no water resource, as well as the situation that occurs due to unlimited increase, is also severe; they are floods and landslides. These natural disasters have severely disrupted countless lives, causing extensive damage to property and loss of valuable possessions. Overflowing rivers and water-logged mountains have triggered numerous floods and landslides, with the full extent of the damage proving challenging to assess. A particularly catastrophic event was the Aranayaka landslide (in Kegalle district), which buried parts of several villages, claimed over 150 lives, and destroyed many homes.



The Central Highlands of Sri Lanka, especially districts like Kegalle, Nuwara Eliya and Badulla are vulnerable to landslides due to steep slopes and deforestation. Gampaha, Ratnapura, Colombo, Puttalam, Kalutara and Kurunegala districts are also affected areas from flood and landslides. (Table 3).

Table 3: Number of affected Families and persons by Floods and Landslides in 2016

Province	District	2016				
		Affected Families	Affected People	Death	Injured	Missing Persons
Sabaragamuwa	Kegalle	9984	36123	52	0	99
	Ratnapura	4564	18035	2	16	0
Central	Kandy	1940	7957	7	3	0
	Nuwara Eliya	259	1109	0	0	0
	Matale	202	713	0	3	0
Western	Colombo	59108	256760	7	2	0
	Gampaha	34868	138645	8	3	0
	Kalutara	3496	12489	2	1	0
Northern	Jaffna	1576	6095	0	1	0
	Kilinochchi	5467	18265	0	3	0
	Mullaitivu	1997	5199	0	0	0
	Mannar	1885	6627	0	0	0
	Vavuniya	1377	5084	0	0	0
North Western	Kurunegala	3458	12011	5	3	0
	Puttalam	11345	42887	3	2	0
Southern	Galle	899	3406	2	3	0
	Matara	144	551	1	1	0
	Hambantota	21	92	0	0	0
North Central	Anuradhapura	1442	4729	2	0	0
	Polonnaruwa	75	283	0	0	0
Eastern	Trincomalee	58	211	0	0	0
	Batticaloa	3172	10748	0	0	0
Uva	Badulla	51	182	2	0	0

Note: Data was extracted from the annual report of DMC, 2016 and presented by the author for each year

4 IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Droughts

The effects of climate change in Sri Lanka are far-reaching and multifaceted, affecting many aspects of life and the environment. Agriculture, the backbone of the Sri Lankan economy, has been severely affected, resulting in reduced crop yields and significant financial loss to farmers. This, in turn, threatens food security and raises food prices, affecting the entire population, especially the poor and vulnerable.

Water scarcity becomes a critical issue as reservoirs, wells and other water sources dry up, making it difficult for people to access clean drinking water and water for irrigation (Figure 3). The health of the population is also at risk with the increase in water-borne diseases. Livestock and wildlife also suffer, with declining water supplies and food leading to declining animal health and mortality (Figure 4). The socioeconomic fabric of affected communities is disrupted, forcing many people to migrate in search of better living conditions, leading to increased urbanization pressures. As vegetation cover decreases, environmental degradation accelerates, leading to soil erosion and loss of biodiversity. Overall, drought exacerbates poverty, hinders economic development, and poses significant challenges to Sri Lanka's sustainable development.



Figure 3: Social Impacts (Source: www.redcross.lk)



Figure 4: Environmental Impacts (Source: Dinuka Liyanawatte/Reuters)

Floods and Landslides

Floods and landslides can both have major impacts on communities and the environment. Floods often result in severe property damage, economic losses, and loss of life due to rising waters and associated hazards.

They also pose health risks by contaminating water supplies and creating unsanitary conditions. The displacement of people, destruction of crops, and damage to infrastructure further compound the problem (Figure 5).

Landslides, on the other hand, cause significant property damage by burying homes and infrastructure under debris and can lead to loss of life through entrapment. They disrupt local economies and pose health risks from injuries and secondary hazards. Landslides also contribute to environmental degradation, loss of vegetation and destruction of habitats. They can block critical infrastructure like roads and railways, complicating transportation and access to services.



Figure 5: Impacts of Floods and Landslides (Source: PHOTO: AFP)

5. CASE STUDY: AN ANALYSIS OF IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN KEGALLE DISTRICT

Kegalle, located in Sri Lanka, has a tropical rainforest climate that is characterized by consistently warm temperatures and substantial rainfall throughout the year. The average annual temperature in Kegalle is 25.2 °C. Precipitation here is about 2306 mm per year. Due to its proximity to the equator, it is quite challenging to accurately depict summer in Kegalle. January, February, March, June, July, August, September, December are widely considered as the peak season for travel (Figure 6).

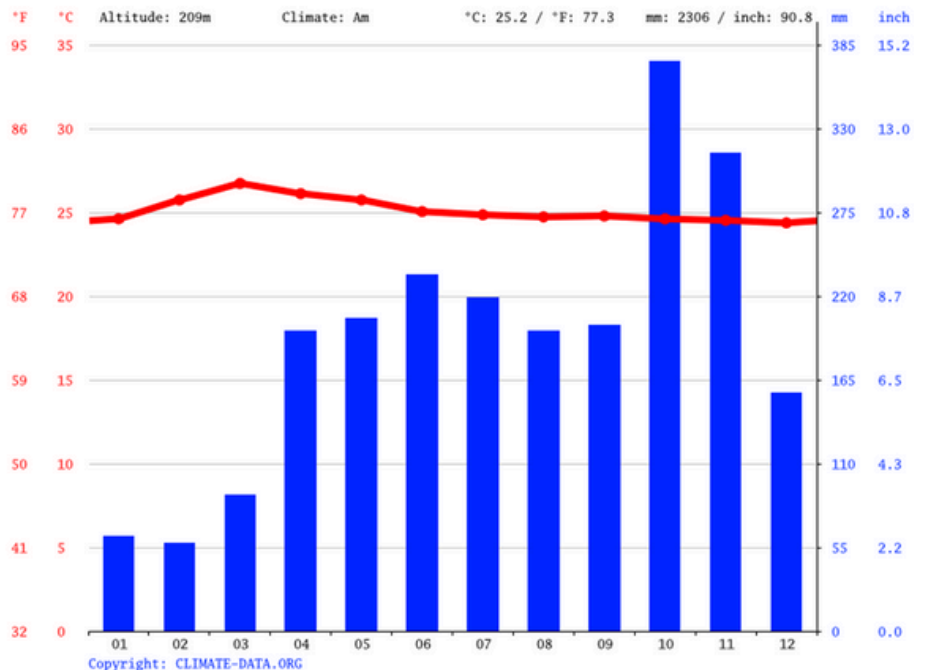


Figure 6: Rainfall by month in Kegalle

The least rainfall occurs in February. The average of this month is 58 mm. The maximum rainfall is observed during the month of October with an average value of 374 mm.

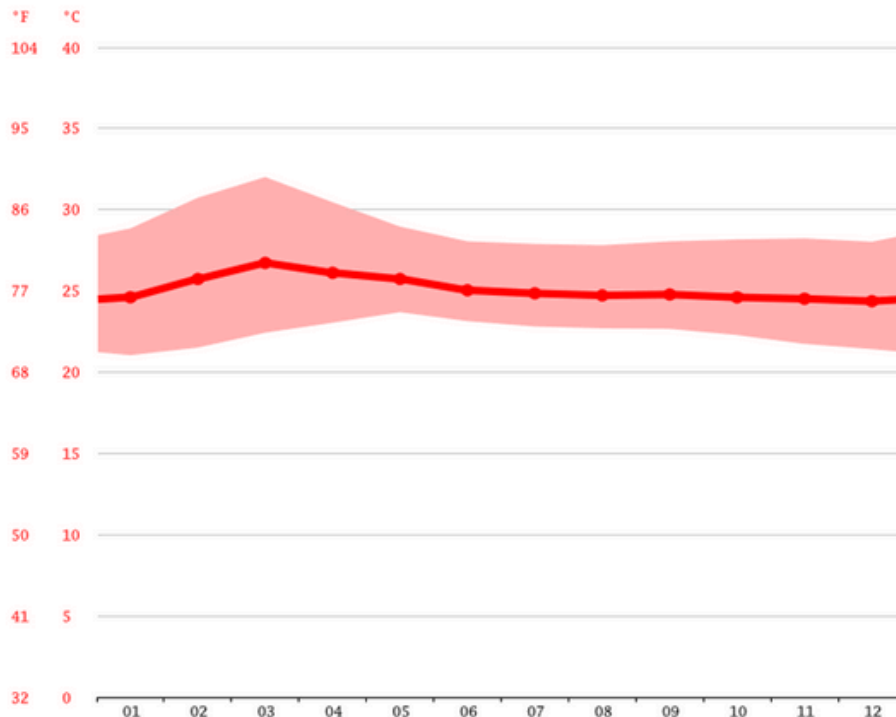


Figure 7: Average Temperature by month in Kegalle

The temperatures are highest on average in March, at around 26.7 °C. During the month of December, there is a notable drop in temperature, with an average low of approximately 24.4 °C (Figure 7).

The below Table 4 shows the average temperature, precipitation / rainfall, rainy days and average sun hours in Kegalle by summarizing the above details.

Table 4: Average temperature, precipitation / rainfall, rainy days and average sun hours in Kegalle

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Avg. Temperature °C	24.6	25.7	26.7	26.1	25.7	25	24.9	24.7	24.8	24.6	24.5	24.4
Min. Temperature °C	21	21.5	22.4	23	23.7	23.1	22.8	22.7	22.7	22.3	21.7	21.4
Max. Temperature °C	28.9	30.7	32	30.5	29	28.1	27.9	27.8	28.1	28.2	28.2	28
Precipitation / Rainfall mm (in)	62 -2	58 -2	89 -3	197 -7	205 -8	234 -9	219 -8	197 -7	201 -7	374 -14	314 -12	156 -6
Humidity (%)	75	70	71	82	85	86	86	85	85	86	85	81
Rainy days (d)	5	5	8	17	20	20	21	21	20	20	16	11
avg. Sun hours (hours)	8.4	8.9	9	8.1	6.1	6.2	6.6	6.4	6.3	6.6	7.7	8

(Source: Data extracted from Kegalle Climate (Sri Lanka))

6. RESPONSES FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

The impact of drought, floods and landslides are acutely felt and urgent attention is needed for rescue, relief and resettlement. Therefore, Disaster Management Center has already established clear protocols to deal with them. On the contrary, natural disasters have a long gestation period like especially drought and the effect is felt after several months. Consequently, relief in terms of distribution of materials (eg: food), compensation, seed material is the main activity undertaken by the Ministry of Disaster Management through the National Disaster Relief Services Centre (NDRC). This can be considered a reactive approach. However, there are several organizations that are actively trying to mitigate the effects of drought as well as floods and landslides. Meteorology Department (MD) and Natural Resources Management Center (NRMC) provide meteorology and agrometeorology consultancy respectively.

There are several other organizations that play a significant role in disaster management. Organizations and their assigned functions in disaster management activities are shown in Table 5. As example there are organizations to help in planning water supply, irrigation and crop cultivation taking into account the upcoming.

Table 5: Institution in Disaster Management Activities

Institution	Tasks undertaken for disaster management
Disaster Management Centre (DMC)	Develop programs for disaster management and increase awareness through training.
National Disaster Relief Centre (NDRC)	Coordinate drought management interventions and provide relief to drought affected communities.
The National Water Supply and Drainage Board (NWSDB)	Provide drinking water to drought affected communities using bowsers.
Department of Wildlife Conservation	Provide drinking water affected animals in national parks.
International Water Management Institute (IWMI)	Developed satellite data-based drought monitor and feed the DMC to create 10-day maps
Department of Irrigation	Provide irrigation and drinking water from major and medium irrigation schemes and introduce drought mitigation measures such as trans-basin diversions, construction of new tanks and diversion structures.
Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka (MASL)	Allocate water for different sectors at the national level in areas under the MASL and provide water for irrigation and drinking purposes.
Department of Agriculture	Develop and implement a program to encourage farmers through an incentive scheme to produce and apply organic manure to rejuvenate the soil, reduce moisture stress and thereby reduce the crop loss; provide micro irrigation facilities; promote research to develop disaster tolerant crops.

Local Authorities (District Secretariats and Provincial Councils)	Engages in disaster relief activities (e.g. distribution of relief goods, compensation etc.) with relevant organizations, Provide relief to women and children through community health workers at GN level
Non-Governmental Organizations (e.g. Sri Lanka Rain Water Harvesting Forum, Community Based Organizations etc.)	Promote community/household rainwater harvesting structures for local drinking water security
Agricultural and Agrarian Insurance Board	Expected to help address the risks faced by approximately 1 Mn smallholder farmers during climate catastrophe events via an efficient, affordable crop insurance product
Farmer Organizations	Formation and managing of user groups to control water resources/tanks

(Source: NDP Final Report-Sri Lanka, 2020 Sep)

7. CONCLUSION

In summary, natural disasters in Sri Lanka poses many severe and complex challenges to agriculture, water resources, health and socio-economic stability whether it is drought, flood, landslide or any other. The effects due to their severity many changes can be occurred in every section. Climate change and rising temperatures have increased the frequency and intensity of droughts, significant agricultural losses, water scarcity and health risks. As well as due to heavy rainfall is become a reason for occurring floods and landslides. These effects threaten food security and increase poverty levels especially in drought as well as in other disasters. Addressing natural disasters in Sri Lanka requires a comprehensive approach, including improved water management practices, investment in resilient agricultural systems, and proactive measures to mitigate the effects of climate change. Effective policies and community-based strategies are essential to build resilience, protect livelihoods and ensure the well-being of populations in the face of this escalating threat.

8. REFERENCES

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- 6.Kegalle Climate (Sri Lanka) Kegalle climate: Weather Kegalle & temperature by month (climate-data.org)

NEW ZEALAND

James Hughes | *Technical Director: Climate and Resilience*

Simon Harvey | *Specialist Sustainability Services Advisor* | Tonkin + Taylor New Zealand.

1. INTRODUCTION

The impacts of climate change in Aotearoa New Zealand are a pressing reality that demands immediate attention and sustained, long-term strategic planning. With its unique landscapes and cultural diversity, the country faces particular challenges and opportunities in combating climate change. This article explores the legislative framework, current state of climate risks, impacts already observed, and the role of consultants and engineers in navigating this evolving landscape.

The context for this article also needs to take account of recent anomalies in global temperature trends, which have raised concerns among climate scientists. The unexpected acceleration in sea surface temperatures underscores the urgency of robust climate action. Such uncertainties challenge traditional risk management approaches and emphasise the need for adaptive strategies in infrastructure planning and development.

2. WHAT'S THE LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK AND POLICY LANDSCAPE?

Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019

Central to New Zealand's climate action is the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019. This legislation establishes a comprehensive framework by which New Zealand can develop and implement clear and stable climate change policies. Key provisions include:

- Creation of the Climate Change Commission to advise on emissions budgets and adaptation plans
- Implementation of emissions reduction targets and budgets to reduce net emission of all greenhouse gases (except biogenic methane) to zero by 2050
- Requiring the Government to develop and implement policies for climate change adaptation (including a National Climate Change Risk Assessment and a National Adaptation Plan)
- Mandating regular government reporting to track progress towards climate goals

Current initiatives and strategic context

National Climate Change Risk Assessment (NCCRA)

The National Climate Change Risk Assessment, conducted every six years, identifies 43 priority risks across various domains. These risks include threats to potable water supplies, impacts on indigenous ecosystems, and economic costs from extreme weather events and sea-level rise.

First National Adaptation Plan

Published in 2024, the National Adaptation Plan outlines strategies to integrate climate resilience into governance, community planning, and business operations. It emphasises equitable transition and collaboration among government sectors, local councils, Māori communities, and private enterprises.

Climate Change Commission (He Pou a Rangī)

The Climate Change Commission provides independent advice on emissions budgets and policy effectiveness. Its role includes periodic reviews of emission targets and advising on adjustments to meet climate commitments.

Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP #2)

The country's second Emissions Reduction Plan, currently under consultation, focuses on market mechanisms and private sector involvement to achieve emission reduction targets. Key policies include increasing renewable energy, providing public EV chargers, lowering agricultural emissions, investing in resource recovery, improving public transport, and exploring carbon capture technologies.

Mandatory climate reporting

Under the Financial Sector (Climate-related Disclosures and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2021, Climate Reporting Entities must disclose climate-related financial impacts. This framework aims to enhance transparency and accountability among large organisations and the financial sector.

Climate strategy and policy development

New Zealand's five-point climate strategy, unveiled in July 2024, outlines five key pillars:

- Infrastructure is resilient and communities are well prepared
- Credible markets support the climate transition
- Clean energy is abundant and affordable
- World-leading climate innovation boosts the economy
- Nature-based solutions address climate change.

The strategy emphasises the importance of private investment and partnerships, access to data and evidence, international engagement and knowledge sharing, and competitive markets.

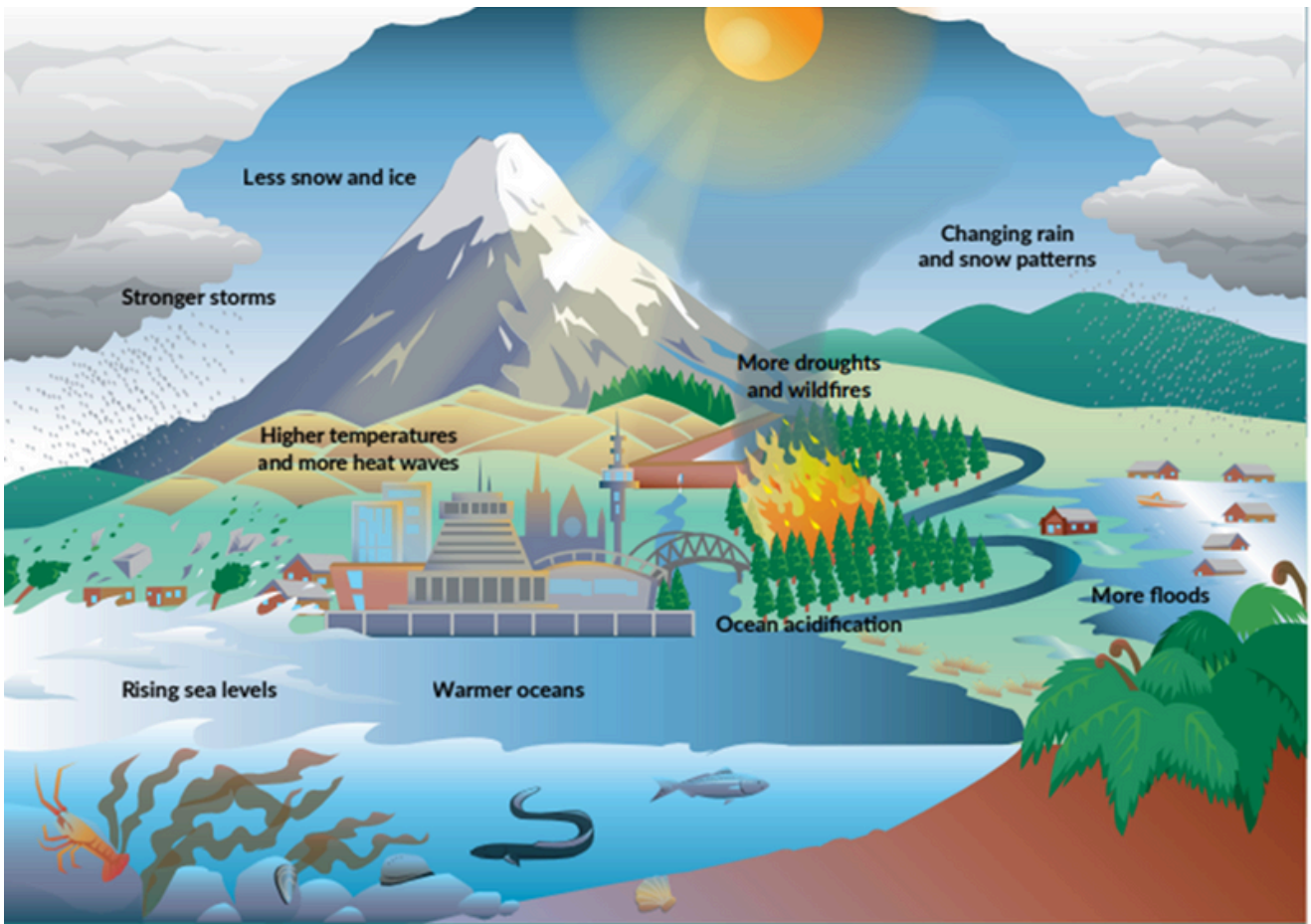
Legislative review for climate event recovery

The Severe Weather Emergency Legislation Act, passed in March 2023, amends several laws, including the Resource Management Act (RMA). The changes aim to provide more time for notifying councils and applying for consents for emergency work and adjust notice requirements for councils exercising emergency powers under the RMA.

National Policy Statement (NPS) on natural hazard decision-making

The NPS will guide local authorities on natural hazard risk considerations in policy and planning. It aims to limit new building in high-risk areas and require risk reduction actions in moderately risky areas.

How climate change is projected to impact New Zealand



(Source: Ministry for the Environment: Our atmosphere and climate 2023)

WHAT ARE THE CLIMATE RISKS AND VULNERABILITIES IN AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND?

Based on the NCCRA and other reports, priority climate risks for New Zealand include:

- **Water supply security:** Vulnerabilities in availability and quality of potable water due to changes in rainfall, temperature, drought, extreme weather events and ongoing sea-level rise
- **Economic impacts:** Government costs associated with lost productivity, disaster relief expenditure and unfunded contingent liabilities due to extreme events and ongoing, gradual changes
- **The built environment:** Risks to buildings due to extreme weather events, drought, increased fire weather and ongoing sea-level rise.
- **Biodiversity loss:** Threats to indigenous ecosystems and species from the enhanced spread, survival and establishment of invasive species due to climatic change
- **Coastal ecosystems:** Threats to intertidal zones, estuaries, dunes, coastal lakes and wetlands, due to ongoing sea-level rise and extreme weather events
- **Community disparities:** Differential impacts on vulnerable populations, including Māori communities, requiring tailored adaptation strategies.

Māori likely to be disproportionately affected

The NCCRA report identifies that Māori, New Zealand's indigenous population, are likely to be disproportionately affected by the priority risks. Some iwi (tribes) support the need for a parallel risk assessment carried out by Māori for Māori. And some iwi and hapu (sub-tribes) are already developing their own climate change plans.

Risks of particular significance to Māori include:

- Risks to social, cultural, spiritual and economic wellbeing from loss and degradation of lands and waters; and from loss of taonga (treasured) species and biodiversity
- Risks to social cohesion and community wellbeing from displacement of individuals, families and communities
- Risks of exacerbating and creating inequities due to unequal impacts of climate change

Vulnerable infrastructure

Research by Tonkin + Taylor commissioned by Local Government New Zealand assessed the vulnerability of local government infrastructure in New Zealand to sea level rise, highlighting critical findings and recommendations. The study focused on quantifying the exposure of infrastructure, including roads, water systems, buildings, greenspaces, jetties, and airports, at various sea level increments – 0.5m, 1.0m, 1.5m, and 3.0m above mean high water springs (MHWS). It revealed that approximately \$5 billion worth of council-owned infrastructure is currently at risk up to 1 meter above MHWS, escalating to around \$14 billion at 3 meters.

Beyond quantifying risks, the report emphasises the need for co-ordinated responses to rising sea levels. Specific recommendations include improving intra-council co-ordination across finance, geospatial information, and asset management. It also stresses the importance of inter-council collaboration for long-term planning and resource management, as well as enhanced co-operation between central and local governments to address climate change challenges collectively.

Economic dependence and transition risks

New Zealand's economy heavily relies on agriculture, forestry, and tourism, which are vulnerable to both physical and transition climate change impacts. Agriculture, particularly dairy, accounts for over half of the country's emissions. Dairy, red meat, and tourism sectors also face risks as global preferences and regulations shift towards lower-emission products. Despite agriculture being exempt from the Emissions Trading Scheme to maintain global competitiveness, the government plans to invest \$400 million in reducing on-farm emissions. This shift poses challenges to New Zealand's reputation as a producer of environmentally friendly goods, impacting market access and international standing with customers and markets favoring low-emission products.

Our climate, our biodiversity, our future



WHAT IMPACT IS CLIMATE CHANGE ALREADY HAVING IN NEW ZEALAND?

Many anticipated climate risks are already playing out across communities and sectors within New Zealand.

The recent report *Our Atmosphere and Climate 2023* details climate change impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems. It highlights direct effects on species and ecosystems, impacting public health, culture, economy, and recreation. High level changes include habitat shifts, species decline, and altered ecosystem dynamics due to rising temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, and extreme weather events. The report also highlights the need to understand the impacts of climate change through a te ao Māori (the Māori world) and mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge) perspective.

Specific impacts in Aotearoa New Zealand

- **Temperature and frost days:** Long-term temperature rise and declining frost days are reshaping agricultural suitability, affecting crops like kiwifruit and wine. This impacts Māori customary practices and increases invasive pest risks.
- **Rainfall patterns:** Southern regions are becoming wetter, while northern and eastern areas experience drying trends, affecting stormwater infrastructure and increasing flood risks.
- **Extreme weather events:** Intense events like atmospheric rivers and cyclones are more frequent, causing substantial damage and the largest insurance losses since the Canterbury earthquakes.
- **Sea level and ocean changes:** Rising sea levels, warming oceans, and acidification are diminishing habitat availability and affecting marine species like shorebirds and kelp.
- **Ecosystem cascading effects:** Climate impacts compound threats from invasive species and human disturbances, affecting biodiversity and ecosystem resilience.

All of these impacts come with associated and consequential economic costs. An example is the extreme weather events in January and February 2023 with insurance industry cost of approximately \$3.8b combined. This is the largest financial event for the insurers since the devastating Canterbury earthquakes in 2011.

As a consequence of these financial impacts, insurers are increasingly moving towards risk-based pricing models, which increase insurance costs for areas more exposed to climate change impacts. Insurers are also withdrawing from providing cover to higher-risk, flood prone areas which further reduces community resilience and recovery opportunities.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT CHALLENGES FOR CONSULTANTS AND ENGINEERS?

Uncertainty and regulatory complexity

Consultants face challenges in navigating regulatory frameworks that are evolving in response to emerging climate impacts. Short-term political cycles and varying local council approaches further complicate long-term planning and infrastructure development.

Client expectations and financial constraints

Clients increasingly demand innovative solutions that balance climate resilience with economic viability. Designing resilient infrastructure requires addressing uncertainty about future climate scenarios and integrating adaptive management strategies.

Skills and expertise

Consultants must cultivate expertise in climate science, risk assessment, and sustainable design practices. Embracing systems thinking and fostering interdisciplinary collaboration are essential to developing holistic solutions that meet diverse client needs.

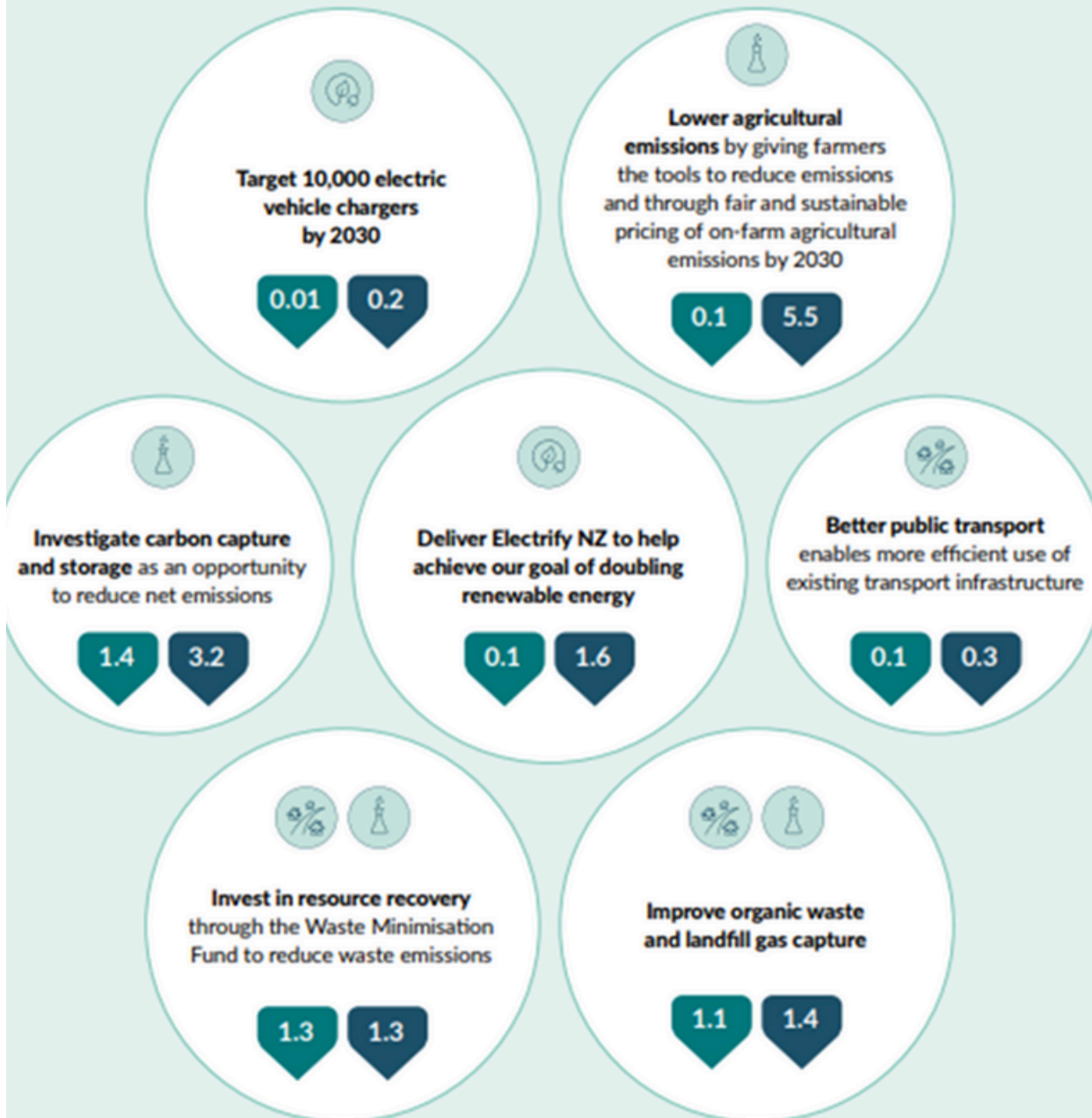
HOW MIGHT ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS RESPOND TO THE OPPORTUNITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE?

To respond to the unprecedented climate change and sustainability challenges, consultants must ensure future-fit solutions that address systemic degradation of natural and social capital. This requires broad and profound changes in how we plan our built environments and, more fundamentally, how we see our relationship with the natural world. In this context, specific challenges and opportunities for consultants include:

- Providing services which address dynamic and complex issues like biodiversity loss, circular economy, and just transition in meaningful ways as part of every project.
- Staying updated with emerging (and fast changing) science relating to climate change and other sustainability challenges; and building appropriate knowledge, capacity and service offerings to address these in the local context. For example, in Aotearoa New Zealand, adopting a partnership approach with local iwi and hapu, as well as the wider community, is vital.
- Encouraging clients to adopt inclusive, just, and environmentally restorative solutions. A local example is the restoration of the Kopurererua Valley wetland as part of a cycle path development(<https://letstalk.tauranga.govt.nz/projects/kopurererua-valley-reserve-restoration>).
- Developing new services for genuinely sustainable outcomes through radical collaboration across sectors and disciplines. This includes engaging with communities and public sector agencies in participatory democracy processes. A recent example is the deliberative democracy approach to developing a congestion charging regime for Auckland (<https://informedfutures.org/congestion-community-panel-media-release/>).
- Taking a systems approach to problems, better recognising trade-offs and cascading implications, and trying, wherever possible, to take a multi-generational, long-term perspective (drawing on indigenous Māori knowledge). A recent example of this approach is the Clifton to Tangoio Adaptation Strategy (<https://www.hbcoast.co.nz/the-strategy/>).

Key actions to drive emissions reductions

Our second emissions reduction plan will outline actions within the Government's five pillars and across multiple sectors. Within those actions, there are seven key policies that could have the greatest impact on our ability to meet our targets.



= Expected maximum emissions savings in second emissions budget period (Mt CO₂-e)

= Expected maximum emissions savings in third emissions budget period (Mt CO₂-e)

(Source: Ministry for the Environment: New Zealand's second emissions reduction plan)

CONCLUSION

Climate change is happening faster than models predict, exacerbating issues like biodiversity loss and social inequity. The window to mitigate the consequential financial, social, and environmental costs is closing rapidly, making the need for more effective responses increasingly urgent.

Globally, the transition to low-carbon energy sources is gathering pace, though being offset by continued use and expansion of fossil fuels. There is a growing awareness that the challenges and solutions require not only technological changes, but societal, behavioral, and arguably deeper systemic shifts.

In Aotearoa New Zealand, the impacts are already being felt through recent extreme events around the country – affecting thousands of people, and imposing huge economic costs. The impacts are uniquely experienced by Māori communities, threatening their wellbeing, cultural values and practices, as well as their primary sector economic interests. At the same time, working in partnership with Māori offers valuable perspectives for a more holistic view of our relationship with the natural world.

Given the complex issues and context to work within, environmental and engineering consultants must step up to these augmenting responsibilities. They must deliver environmentally restorative solutions and services that achieve genuinely sustainable outcomes. Engaging in meaningful dialogue with communities and the public sector is essential. Consultants should also consider new ways of thinking and designing to address climate change and other sustainability challenges.

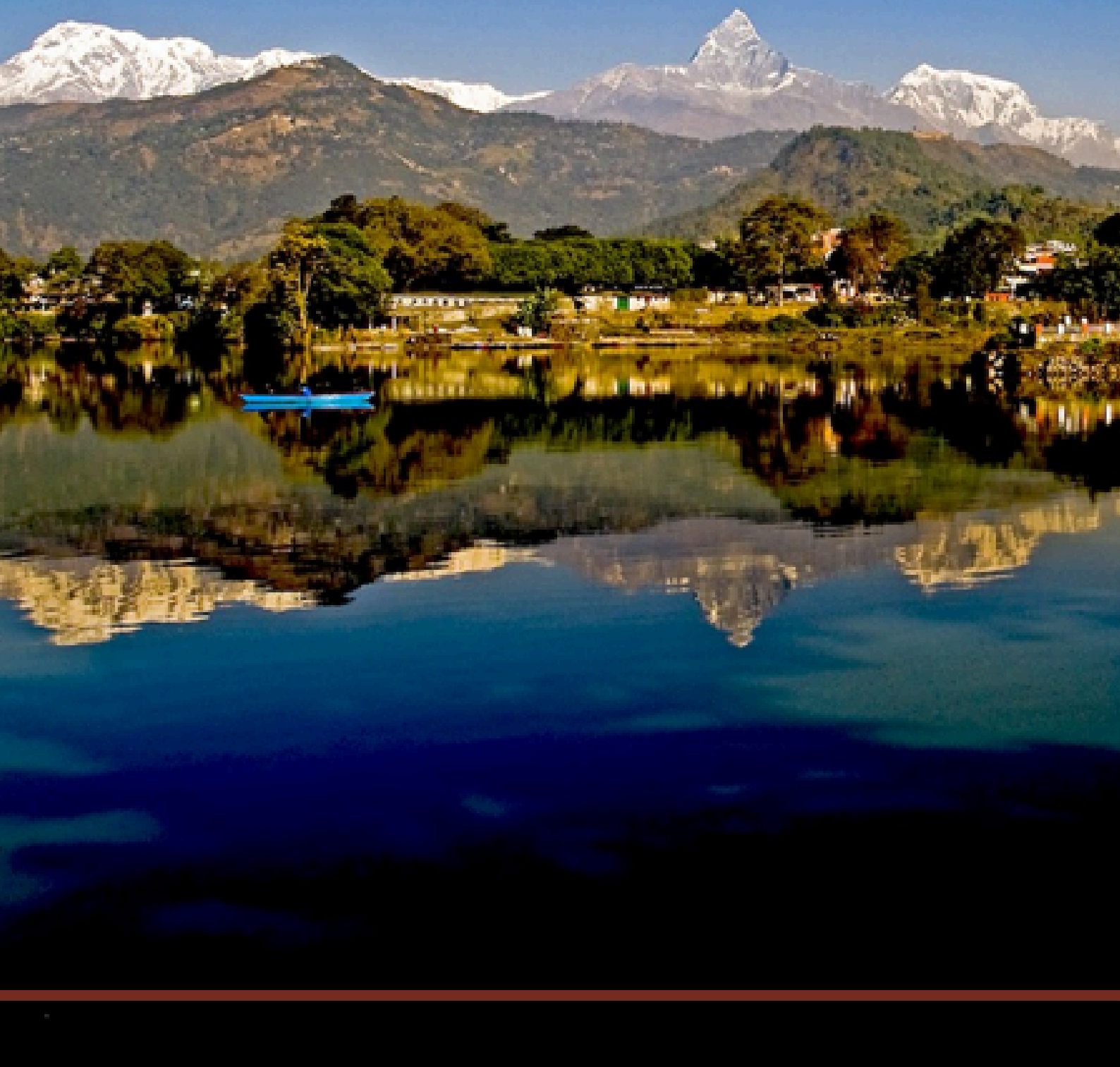




Asia
Pacific

VISIT

NEPAL



POKHARA THE JEWEL OF THE HIMALAYAS

Pokhara's tranquil beauty, with its pristine air, snowy peaks, blue lakes, and lush greenery, has inspired many travel writers. Known as 'the jewel in the Himalayas,' it offers breathtaking views of the Annapurna range and the serene Cluster of 9 Lakes, including Phewa, Rupa, and Begnas.

The Pokhara Valley, gateway to the Annapurna region, is a top destination in Nepal. Once a key trade route between India and Tibet, it retains its historical charm with mule trains still seen on the outskirts. The region is home to the renowned Gurkha warriors, the Gurungs and Magars, and the entrepreneurial Thakalis who run tea houses along trekking routes.

Pokhara is famed for its stunning, unobstructed views of mountains over 6,000 meters from an altitude of just 800 meters. The iconic Machhapuchhre's "Fish Tail" peak, piercing the skyline or reflecting in Phewa Lake, leaves a lasting impression.

In recent years, Pokhara has become a hub for adventure sports such as paragliding and ultra-light aircraft flights, along with boating, bird watching, trekking, and mountain biking. Whether seeking adventure or relaxation, visitors can explore rich cultural heritage, savor local cuisine, and immerse themselves in the natural wonders of this Himalayan paradise.

CHITWAN TREASUREY OF NATURE

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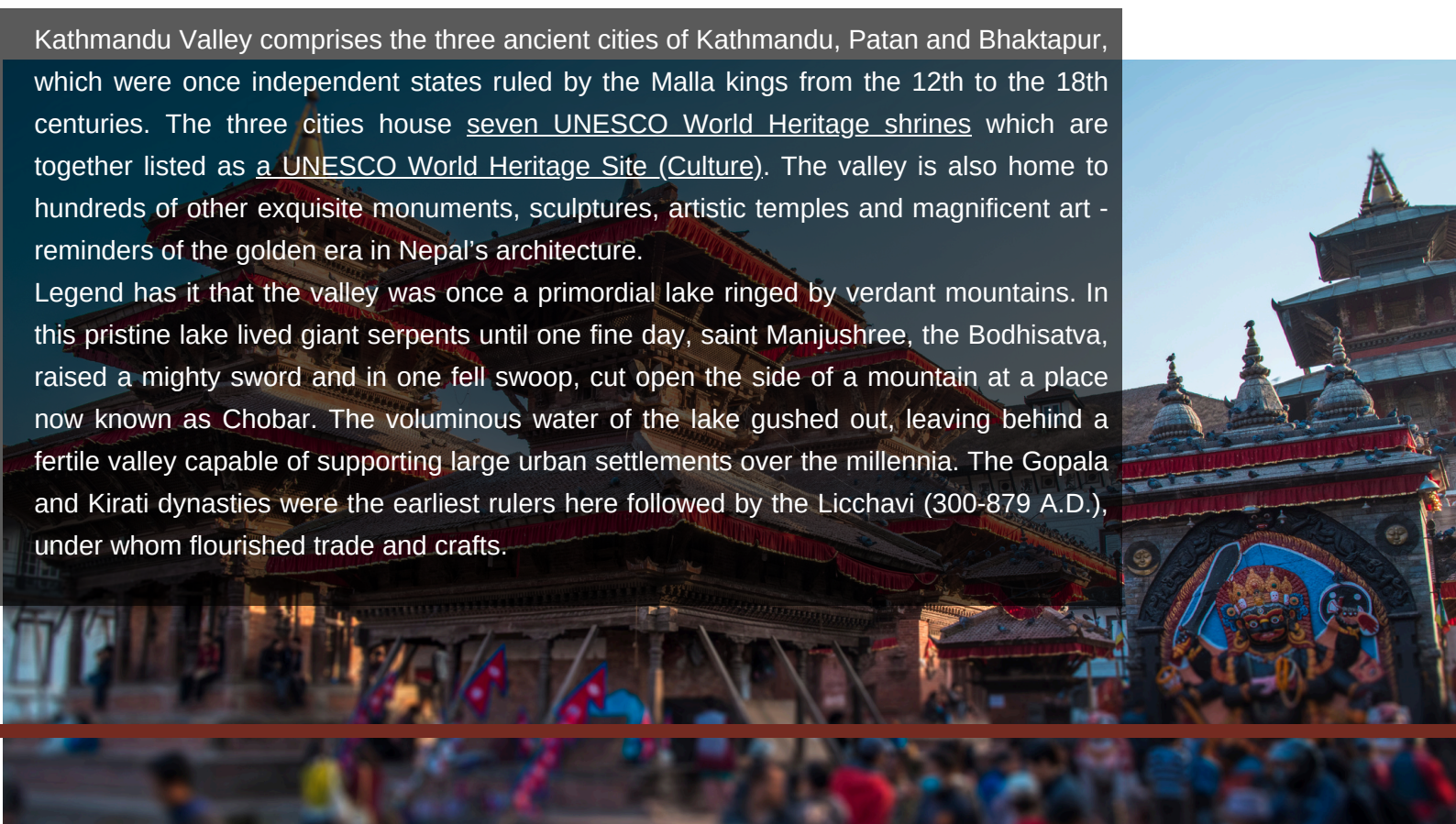


LUMBINI THE SACRED HEART OF NEPAL



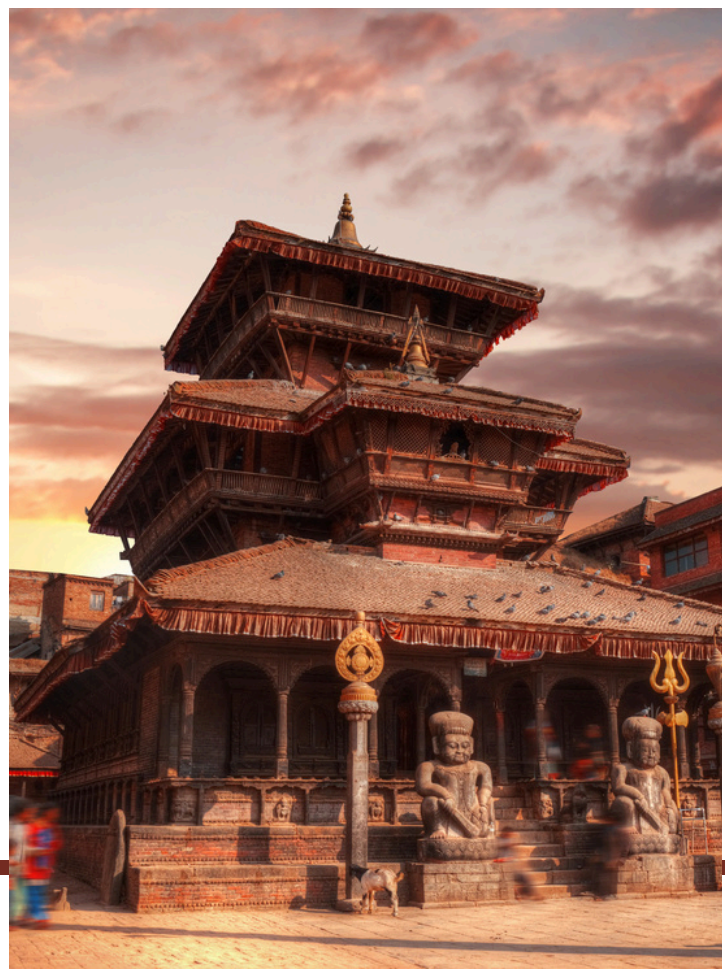
Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha and home to world-renowned monasteries, is the third-largest province in Nepal. The province is named after the holy pilgrimage site of Lumbini in the Rupandehi District. With an area of 22,288 square kilometers (8,605.44 sq. mi), the province covers about 15.1% of the country's total area. Lumbini has a humid subtropical climate and experiences four seasons. The largest national park in the Terai, Bardia National Park is also situated in this province and consists of a beautiful, unblemished wilderness filled with Sal forests, diverse flora and fauna, and alluvial washes of the Karnali River. Rani Mahal, which was a palace built in Patna in 1893, still stands alongside the Gandaki river.

KATHMANDU VALLEY A CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL GEM



Kathmandu Valley comprises the three ancient cities of Kathmandu, Patan and Bhaktapur, which were once independent states ruled by the Malla kings from the 12th to the 18th centuries. The three cities house seven UNESCO World Heritage shrines which are together listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site (Culture). The valley is also home to hundreds of other exquisite monuments, sculptures, artistic temples and magnificent art - reminders of the golden era in Nepal's architecture.

Legend has it that the valley was once a primordial lake ringed by verdant mountains. In this pristine lake lived giant serpents until one fine day, saint Manjushree, the Bodhisatva, raised a mighty sword and in one fell swoop, cut open the side of a mountain at a place now known as Chovar. The voluminous water of the lake gushed out, leaving behind a fertile valley capable of supporting large urban settlements over the millennia. The Gopala and Kirati dynasties were the earliest rulers here followed by the Licchavi (300-879 A.D.), under whom flourished trade and crafts.





FUTURE LEADERS CORNER

BREAKING BARRIERS

JOURNEY OF A FUTURE LEADER



**DILINI
GAMAGE**

Immediate Past Chair

FIDIC Asia Pacific Future

Leaders Executive Committee

As a young engineer, I often found myself sidelined by my own anxieties. Despite having innovative ideas, the thought of voicing them in meetings was terrifying. The prospect of speaking in front of a crowd, especially a professional one, was even more daunting. I shied away from leadership roles, preferring to be a team player due to my perceived weaknesses. However, fate had other plans for me when I stumbled upon the transformative power of Toastmasters. Three years ago, I took a leap of faith and joined the IESL Toastmasters Club. This decision was the beginning of an incredible journey. I embarked on various projects, delivered numerous speeches, and took on club positions. The mentorship I received was invaluable, and the encouraging evaluations from fellow members fueled my growth and confidence.

One of my proudest moments was coordinating a Speechcraft program aimed at helping professionals find their voice. This experience was instrumental in uncovering the leader within me while sharpening my communication skills.

The Future Leaders program was another cornerstone of my transformation. The FAP board entrusted me as the chair of the group, allowing me to design their newsletter and manage their social media. Last year, I had the distinct honor of delivering speeches at the annual conference held in Bangkok. Additionally, my involvement with CECC, another esteemed professional organization, provided me with the opportunity to speak at their ECM in the Philippines.

Through these experiences, I shattered the barriers that once held me back and emerged as a future leader. I am deeply grateful for these opportunities. Last year, I was honored to be recognized as the Outstanding Toastmaster of the IESL Toastmasters Club and secured third place in District 82 of Toastmasters for Best Social Media Presence.

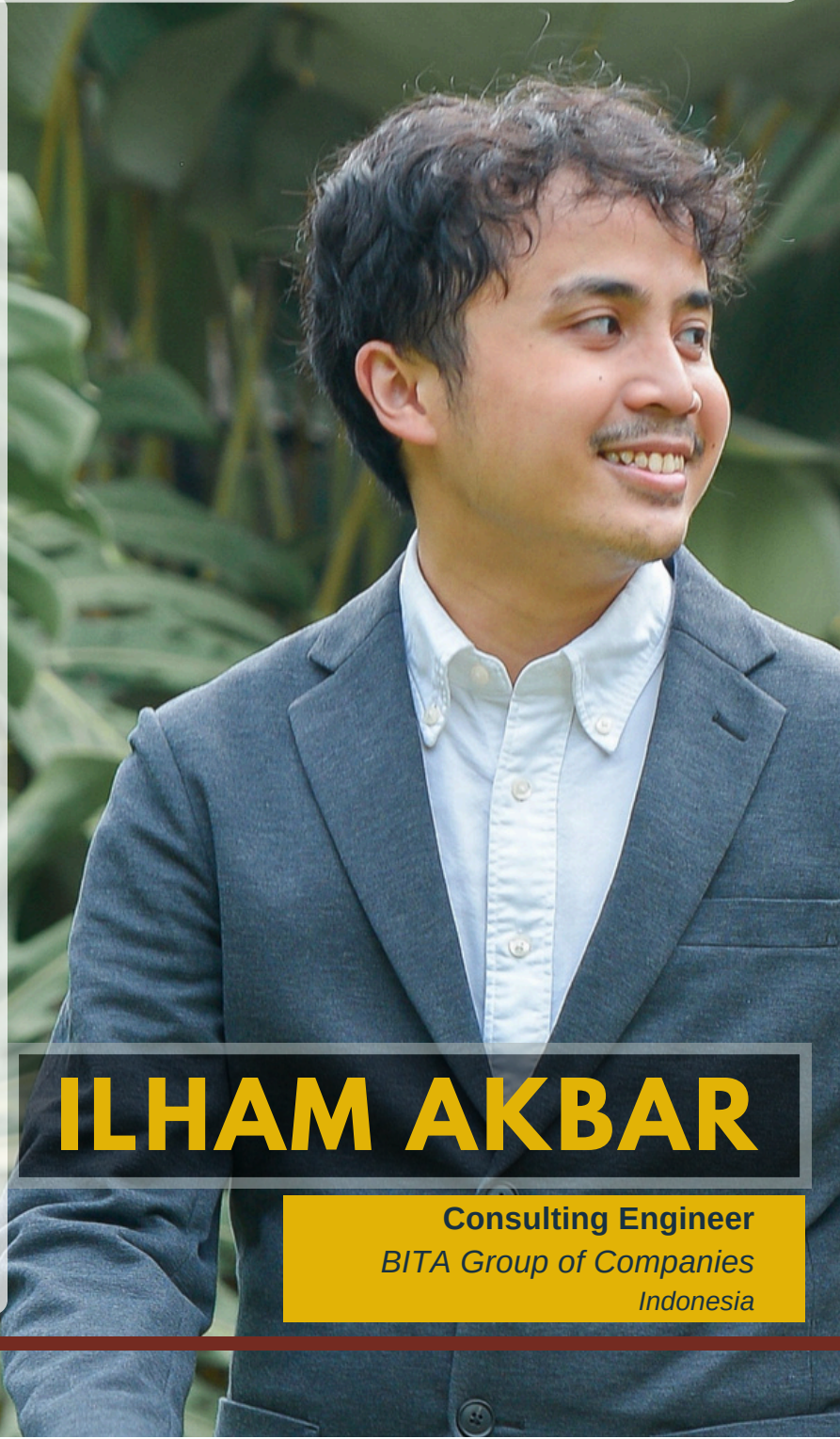
To our aspiring leaders, my message is simple: confront your fears and strive to overcome them. Our greatest obstacles are often within ourselves, not the external world. Embrace the journey of self-discovery and growth. Cheers to breaking barriers and becoming the leaders we are destined to be!

GET TO KNOW A FUTURE LEADER

Mohammad Ilham Akbar (Ilham) is a young consulting engineer who spent the past 6 years developing his knowledge and skills in multi-disciplinary engineering with BITA Group of Companies, Indonesia. Trained and educated in architecture, he broadened his field of work through experiences in BITA's three different companies, BITA Bina Semesta (BBS) focusing on urban and environment; Bamko Karsa Mandiri (BKM) focusing on architectural design; and BITA Enarcon Engineering (BEE) focusing on engineering, procurement, and project management. Currently, he is BITA's Business Development and Research Officer.

In the past year, Ilham became the Infrastructure and Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG) Study Coordinator for the Jakarta Grand Design project for the Directorate General of State Assets. Collaborating with management (BCG), urban design (Urban+), urban planning (Nusantara Urban Advisory), property (CISTR), and legal (UMBRA) consultants, he was in charge in coordinating a group of experts from BITA in formulating environmental infrastructure (flood resilience, water supply, renewable energy, waste and wastewater management) and social (gender equality, disability, and social inclusion/GEDSI) urban design and retrofit strategies for government building complexes in Jakarta about to be vacated to the new capital city of Nusantara in Kalimantan.

Continuing his academic experiences of green building and sustainable built environment in a short-term scholarship to the University of Kitakyushu, Japan, and also his bachelor's and master's theses in universal access and health/wellbeing in architectural design in Institut Teknologi Bandung, Indonesia, he is now a certified GREENSHIP Professional and Fitwel Ambassador, developing and certifying buildings/ environments in green/environmental sustainability and health/wellbeing respectively.



ILHAM AKBAR

Consulting Engineer
 BITA Group of Companies
 Indonesia

EVENTS FROM LAST QUARTER

<p>Australia <i>Consult Australia</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future Leader Program 2024- Sydney [16 May 2024] • Future Leader Program 2024- Melbourne [16 May 2024] • Industry Forum with Hon. Danny Pearson Minister for Transport and Infrastructure Victoria [4 June 2024] • Boardroom Luncheon with Sally Stannard, Director General of Transport and Main Roads [6 June 2024] • Boardroom Luncheon with Patrick Seares, Managing Director of Westport [6 June 2024] • Executive Workshop - Breaking Barriers & Building Inclusion [7 June 2024] • Boardroom Luncheon with Conservator of Flora and Fauna [13 June 2024] • Role of the Superintendent (in person) [18 June 2024] • Contracts for Consultants (in person) [19-21 June 2024] • FutureNet WA Quiz Night [27 June 2024]
<p>China <i>China National Association of Engineering Consultants</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The expert review meeting of the group standard "Integrated Circuit Project Environmental Protection Consulting Service Specification" was successfully held in Shanghai [14 May 2024] • 2024 Full-Process Engineering Consulting Practice and Foresight Exchange Meeting and Chief Consultant Talent Training Plan [2-6 June 2024] • The expert review meeting of our association on the compilation of the group standard "Guidelines for the Compilation of Regional Water Environment Comprehensive Management Plans (Draft for Review)" was successfully held in Beijing [29 June 2024] • The expert review meeting on the compilation of the group standard "Guidelines for the Evaluation of the Effects of River and Lake Ecological Environment Governance Projects (Draft for Review)" in Beijing [30 June 2024] • The first (Qinghai Cup) Excellent Paper Selection Activity and Ecological Seminar of China Engineering Consulting Magazine was successfully held in Xining, Qinghai Province [24 - 25 July 2024] • China Engineering Consulting Association's 2024 Standardization Capacity Improvement Training was successfully held in Beijing [25 July 2024]
<p>India <i>Consulting Engineers Association of India</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signed an MoU with World Wide Fund for Nature - India (WWF - India) on 20th May 2024 at CEAI office • Webinar on "Business Ethics and Corporate Governance" on 14th June 2024. • Seminar on Urban Mobility and Emerging technologies on 19th July 2024 in Bhopal • Webinar on "Ways & Means to Achieve Carbon Neutrality in Construction Industry" [24 May 2024]
<p>Indonesia <i>Indonesian National Association of Consultants</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between INKINDO and IPB [27 May 2024] • INKINDO Academy's visit to DPP INKINDO DKI Jakarta [5 June 2024] • Webinar Construction Insight #2 - INKINDO ACADEMY [6 June 2024] • INKINDO NATIONAL SEMINAR AT ICE BSD - SERPONG [12 June 2024] • INKINDO's 45th Anniversary Celebration in Central Jakarta [20 June 2024] • Gathering of INKINDO Central Java partner vendors, preparation for the 2024 INKINDO Central Java Member Forum [19 July 2024] • INKINDO Central Java Present in UNTAG Semarang Student Organization Capacity Building Program [24 July 2024] • Socialization of the Process of Implementing Direct Appointment of Repeat Orders in Consulting Services [31 July 2024]

EVENTS FROM LAST QUARTER

<p style="text-align: right;">Iran <i>Iranian Society of Consulting Engineers</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange of Memorandum of Cooperation between the Coordination Council and the Parliament [10 June 2024] • Ordinary General Assembly [18 July 2024]
<p style="text-align: right;">Japan <i>Engineering and Consulting Firms Association</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ·FIDIC Contract Management Practical Course (Beginner to Intermediate) [5 April 2024 and 10 May 2024] • ·Planning and Development Course [8-10 April 2024] • ·Consultant Development Basic Training for New Graduates [23-24 April 2024] • ·Future Leaders Seminar [24 April 2024] • ·Monitoring and Evaluation Planning Course for PCM Methodology [3-6 June 2024] • ·Financial and economic analysis workshops (basic and practical) [10-12 June 2024] • ·Global Career Seminar [3 July 2024] • ·International Cooperation as a Job ~ Development Consultant Connecting Japan and the World Lecture [12 July 2024]
<p style="text-align: right;">Korea <i>Korea Engineering and Consulting Association</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engineering Day [June 2024] • Quarterly Board Meeting and Steering Committee Meeting
<p style="text-align: right;">Malaysia <i>The Association of Consulting Engineers Malaysia</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ·Course on Preparation of BQ Using MS 2701:2018 (MCSCEM) & MYCESMM2 for Civil Engineering Works [May and June 2024] • ·ACEM-BASAM System Integrator Training Course & Exam #1/2024 [May 2024] • ·CIDB Full Course Batch 2/2024 [May 2024] Luncheon Webinar Facility Management Related to Construction [May 2024] • ·Luncheon Webinar Project Management Best Practices [May 2024] • ·HR Webinar Electrical Safety at Workplace [20 May 2024] • ·ACEM Webinar Series Site Supervision Course Discipline Module Mechanical 2024 [July - August 2024] • ·Webinar on Advancing Reinforced Connections Exploring ISO15835 Compliance in Mechanical Splicing [29 July 2024]
<p style="text-align: right;">Nepal <i>Society of Consulting Architectural and Engineering Firms</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ·SCAEF Award Alumni meetup [29 March 2024] • ·Training on "Bridge Design for Beginners (Design of RCC T-girder Bridge and RCC Abutment Open Foundation)" [7 - 11 April 2024] • ·Webinar on "Opportunities and Challenges of the Consulting Industry in Nepal" [16 April 2024] • ·Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Society of Consulting Architectural and Engineering Firms (SCAEF) and Sagarmatha Engineering College (SEC) [2 May 2024] • ·Training Session focusing on Company Policy, Taxation, and Insurance Policy. [3 - 4 May 2024] • ·Discussion on "Design, Construction and Maintenance of Steel Bridges" [5 May 2024] • ·Training on "Design Multilane Highway and Intersections" [14 - 15 June 2024] • ·SCAEF and Institute of Engineering, Thapathali Campus, celebrated the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) [25 June 2024]
<p style="text-align: right;">China, Hong Kong <i>Association of Consulting Engineers of Hong Kong</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACEHK Safety Forum 2024 - Safety Resilience: Adapting, Innovating, and Thriving in the Face of Challenges [8 May 2024] • ACEHK Annual Awards 2024 [2 August 2024]

EVENTS FROM LAST QUARTER

<p>Pakistan <i>Association of Consulting Engineers Pakistan</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Business opportunity Seminar being jointly organized by ACEP, CAP, along with ADB, IsDB and World Bank. [3 June 2024] • Soil Bearing Capacities, Improvement with Local Case Studies [22 June 2024]
<p>Philippines <i>Council of Engineering Consultants of the Philippines</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CECOPHIL Board of Directors Meeting [29 April 2024] • CECOPHIL Board of Directors Meeting with FIDIC on Training & Membership Matters [29 April 2024] • CECOPHIL Meeting with Singapore International Arbitration Centre for Future Prospects and Collaboration [16 May 2024] • CECOPHIL Meeting with POCB on Engineering Service Outsourcing Industry [29 July 2024]
<p>New Zealand <i>The Association of Consulting and Engineering New Zealand Incorporated</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to use the Contract Checklist Webinar [3 July 2024] • What does good look like? Consultant and client perspectives forum. [30 July 2024]
<p>Singapore <i>The Association of Consulting Engineers Singapore</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACES WEBINAR 2024 Engineering Innovations and Trends [23 - 24 May 2024] • World Cities Summit 2024, Singapore [2 - 4 June 2024]
<p>Sri Lanka <i>Association of Consulting Engineers Sri Lanka</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engineering Consultants' Forum: Delivering Projects on time and under budget is not easy due to the issue of Uncertainty [26 April 2024] • Engineering Consultants' Forum: Contract Law and Engineer [29 May 2024] • Engineering Consultants' Forum: Dispute Resolution in Construction Contracts - Adjudication Process [22 July 2024]
<p>Thailand <i>Consulting Engineers Association of Thailand</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Consulting Engineers Association of Thailand (CEAT) holds its annual general meeting 2024 [26 March 2024] • PMP EXAM PREP COURSE Training [15 - 30 March 2024] • Construction project management with FIDIC contract version 10 [3-4 April 2024] • 1st EDMS Training [25 April 2024] • Building Information Modeling BIM Seminar [30 April 2024] • Chat GPT Seminar [5 June 2024] • Professional Project Management with Microsoft Project Seminar [6 - 7 June 2024] • Enhance project management efficiency with project document management system (EDMS) technology seminar [12 June 2024] • Develop skills, knowledge, and professional practice in project management, 1st generation (Project Management Consultancy) seminar [24-25 July]
<p>Vietnam <i>Vietnam Engineering Consultant Association</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissemination of Bidding Law 22/2023/QH15 and Decree 24/2024/ND-CP Conference in Ho Chi Minh City [5 April 2024] • Conference "Application of AI in construction and sustainable development" [11 May 2024] • Membership Conference and Awarding Ceremony "VECAS AWARD 2023" [11 May 2024] • FIDIC contracts course in Ho Chi Minh City [24 - 25 May 2024] • Signing of cooperation agreement between Vietnam International Arbitration Center (VIAC) and Vietnam Engineering Consultant Association (VECAS) [27 July 2024]

CEAI SIGNED MOU WITH WWF – INDIA



CEAI has signed an MoU with World Wide Fund for Nature – India (WWF – India) on 20th May 2024 at CEAI office. The objective of the engagement between WWF- India and CEAI is to create a platform for cross learning opportunities between stakeholders with a motivation to contribute towards Natural Resources Safeguards in Linear Infrastructure Development.

WEBINAR ON “WAYS & MEANS TO ACHIEVE CARBON NEUTRALITY IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY”

Young Professional Forum of CEAI organised a webinar on “Ways & Means to Achieve Carbon Neutrality in Construction Industry” on 24th May 2024. The speaker in her presentation explained various tools and technologies which are built by the construction industry to play their essential role in achieving net zero carbon in the built environment.



WEBINAR ON BUSINESS ETHICS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

CEAI organised a webinar on "Business Ethics and Corporate Governance" on 14th June 2024.

The webinar was well received. The participants were appreciative of the speakers and described them as 'Excellent', 'Very insightful' and 'Informative'.



SEMINAR ON URBAN MOBILITY & EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES:



CEAI organised a seminar on Urban Mobility and Emerging technologies on 19th July 2024 in Bhopal. It was a successful event inaugurated by the Deputy Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Mr. Shri Rajendra Shukla. About 150 delegates participated in the seminar.

CEAI MEMBERS NEWS

Dr. Ajay Pradhan has been appointed as a member of the Integrity Management Committee of FIDIC.



VIETNAM ENGINEERING CONSULTANT ASSOCIATION (VECAS) SUCCESSFULLY ORGANIZED EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONFERENCE AND MEMBER CONFERENCE 2024

**CONFERENCE
“APPLICATION OF AI IN
CONSTRUCTION AND
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT”
ORGANIZED BY VECAS**





CONFERENCE TO POPULARIZE LAW ON BIDDING (NEW) AND GUIDING DECREE ORGANIZED BY VECAS

AWARDED THE "VECAS AWARD 2023" CONSTRUCTION DESIGN QUALITY AWARD



VECAS ORGANIZE FIDIC CONTRACT TRAINING COURSES IN HANOI AND HO CHI MINH CITY

VECAS ORGANIZE TRAINING COURSES ON BIM MANAGER, BIM COORDINATOR:



FAP - NEPAL 2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY



MEET UP WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL OF DEPARTMENT OF ROAD FOR FIDIC ASIA PACIFIC CONFERENCE

June 19, SCAEF team visited Department of Roads regarding the request for organizational support for the success of upcoming FIDIC Asia Pacific Conference. SCAEF team handed over documents related to the Conference.

VISIT TO NEPAL ENGINEERING COUNCIL

June 19, SCAEF team visited Nepal Engineering Council (NEC) to meet Chairman Prof. Padma Shahi. . During the meeting a discussion held on some of issues related engineering consulting services and ways to improve it. The team also had a fruitful communication regarding FIDIC Asia Pacific Conference.





MEETING WITH MANAGING DIRECTOR OF NEPAL ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY

June 23, In preparation of the conference, SCAEF team met with Managing Director of Nepal Electricity Authority Er. Kul Man Ghising and appraised about this international conference and seek full support from Nepal Electricity Authority for its success. Mr. Ghising committed for his support to the conference during the meeting.

MEETING WITH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF TOWN DEVELOPMENT FUND

June 25, SCAEF team visited Town Development Fund. Team had a meeting with Executive Director Er. Krishna Prasad Sapkota and updated about the conference. Er. Sapkota has assured his full support and cooperation in the success of the conference.



MEETING WITH MOU PARTNER, THAPATHALI CAMPUS

June 25, The information was shared with SCAEF's MOU partner, Thapathali Campus, about the upcoming FIDIC Asia Pacific Conference 2024, which will be held in Nepal. The facts floated about this prestigious event that will be hosted by Society of Consulting Architectural and Engineering Firms Nepal with the aim to bring industry leaders, professionals, and academics together from across the Asia-Pacific region to discuss the latest trends,

challenges, and innovations in engineering and construction. The meeting concluded with the key feature of conference that the representation of academic field will provide a unique platform for networking, knowledge exchange and showcasing the advancements in the field.

NEWS FROM FIDIC

TOWNHALL Review of FIDIC membership model for member associations 02.07.2024

Member associations around the globe got an insight into FIDIC's proposed new fee structure at an online Town Hall on 2 July presented by ACE New Zealand Chief Executive Helen Davidson.

- Helen Davidson, New Zealand (chair)
- Helena Soimakallio, Finland (vice chair)
- Jonathan Cartledge, Australia (member)
- Chituwa Sinkala Chulu, Zambia (member)
- Linda Bauer Darr, USA (member)
- Henrik Garver, Denmark (member)

In her presentation, Helen acknowledged that as member associations, we're all struggling with competing demands on our time and resources, and greater scrutiny on where and how we invest on behalf of our members.

FIDIC had received feedback that the current membership fee model was no longer fit for purpose, was complex and lacked transparency.

Helen said the task group considered a range of options for the proposed new fee structure and identified two options that fit well with the agreed principles – one based on member association revenue, and one based on member headcount.

The task group will now consider member associations' feedback on the proposal and make a recommendation to the FIDIC Board, which will propose a resolution at the GAM during the GIC in Geneva in September.



Helen Davidson
New Zealand
Chair of the task group

NEWS FROM FIDIC

Celebrating the key role of Women Engineers

23.06.2024

To mark the day, below FIDIC president Catherine Karakatsanis talks about why it's important to celebrate women engineers on days like this and the role they are playing in the industry. We also hear from Michele Kruger, chair of FIDIC's diversity, equity and inclusion advisory council on why it's crucial that women are recognised, valued and rewarded for the role that they play in engineering.

This year's International Women in Engineering Day on Sunday 23 June celebrates the amazing work that women engineers around the world are doing to support lives and livelihoods every day. Under the theme for the day, Enhanced by Engineering, organisers the Women's Engineering Society are profiling the best, brightest and bravest women in engineering, who are making a positive difference to people's everyday lives and helping to build towards a brighter future.



NEWS FROM FIDIC

New FIDIC report calls for transformative change to deliver more sustainable transport

13.06.2024

FIDIC’s latest State of the World report exploring the latest trends and innovative solutions shaping a sustainable future for global transportation was launched at a webinar on 13 June 2024. The new report, *Tomorrow’s Transportation and the Decarbonisation Challenge*, takes an in-depth look at the impact of transportation on the environment, economies and societies with a particular focus on the challenges and innovative solutions in the aviation and shipping sectors.

Opening the webinar, Alfredo Ingletti, FIDIC vice president and chair of the Italian consultancy firm 3TI PROGETTI, said that the issue of decarbonising transport was a key challenge for the industry and that as the world intensifies its efforts to achieve sustainability goals and combat climate change, transportation would play a key role across all societies.



NEWS FROM FIDIC

The line-up of industry panellists at the webinar included Charlotte Morton, chief executive at the World Biogas Association, Omar Moomen, director at Ibramar Shipping International, Helen Leadbetter, zero emissions flight and hydrogen challenge lead at the Civil Aviation Authority UK, Saleem Akhtar Farouqui, principal scientist biofuels division at the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, Indian Institute of Petroleum, Tarek Dajani, CEO at Jordan National Shipping Lines and Ajay Pradhan, president at C2S2 India.



This year's FIDIC Conference on International Construction Contracts and Dispute Resolution will take place in Seoul, South Korea, on 17-18 October 2024. Bookings are now open and delegates can take advantage of early bird discounted tickets if they book before 1 August 2024.

The annual two-day event, which gathers the world's leading construction practitioners, aims to provide participants with an update of the latest industry insights, trends and developments in the fast-moving world of contracts and disputes.

The conference will also offer excellent potential for networking for all industry professionals involved in using international construction contracts and in resolving disputes.

UPCOMING EVENTS

<p style="text-align: center;">Australia <i>Consult Australia</i></p>	<p>Consult Australia is organizing following ;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult Australia Champions of Change 7th Annual Industry Lunch [21 August 2024] • FutureNet QLD Trivia Night 2024 [21 Aug 2024] • Boardroom Luncheon with HON Minister Michael Ferguson MP, Deputy Premier of Tasmania [29 August 2024] • Boardroom Luncheon with Dean Mudford, Acting CEO of Development WA [8 October 2024] • Role of the Superintendent (online) [30 July 2024] • Contracts for Consultants - NEW One-Day Refresher Program (In-person) [16 September 2024] • Role of the Superintendent (in person) [17 September 2024] • Contracts for Consultants (in person) [18-20 September 2024] • Contracts for Consultants - NEW One-Day Refresher Program (Online) [8 November 2024] • Role of the Superintendent (online) [12 November 2024] • Contracts for Consultants (online) [13-15 November 2024]
<p style="text-align: center;">China, Hong Kong <i>Association of Consulting Engineers of Hong Kong</i></p>	<p>ACEHK is organizing following ;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACEHK Annual Awards 2024 [2 August 2024]
<p style="text-align: center;">India <i>Consulting Engineers Association of India</i></p>	<p>CEAI is organizing following ;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAIL-CEAI Seminar on "Advantages of Parallel Flange Sections over Conventional Indian Steel Sections" on 7th August 2024 at Mumbai. • Seminar on "Quality of Design and Construction for Sustainable Infrastructure" on 12th - 13th August 2024 at New Delhi. • Online Training Course on DESIGN of CABLE STAYED BRIDGES & EXTRADOSED BRIDGES on (6th, 7th, 14th, 20th, 21st, 27th & 28th September 2024). • SEPC-CEAI Conclave, "Export of Services- Opportunities and Challenges" in October 2024 at New Delhi. • Seminar on "Legal Matters Relating to Construction" on 18th October 2024 in Mumbai. • Seminar on "Environment and Climate Change Sustainability - Challenges and Opportunities" on 8th November 2024 at New Delhi.
<p style="text-align: center;">Japan <i>Engineering and Consulting Firms Association</i></p>	<p>ECFA is organizing following ;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and Strategy Course; Individuals involved in development aid for developing countries [28-30 August 2024] • Basic Training for Development Consultants (Mid-career and Transfers); Mid-career and transferred individuals who will be involved in overseas development consulting work [26 September 2024] • Monitoring and Evaluation Course; PCM (Project Cycle Management) Planning Course [28-29 October 2024] • The Procurement System and Consultants for ODA Loan Projects (co-hosted by JICA) [October 2024] • Introduction to Yen Loan (co-sponsored by JICA) Consulting for Yen Loan Projects [November 2024]

UPCOMING EVENTS

<p>Malaysia <i>The Association of Consulting Engineering Malaysia</i></p>	<p>ACEM is organizing following ;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CIDB Full Course Intake 3/2024 (In Collaboration with ACEM) [6-25 August 2024] • PCE Webinar Series [August 2024] • Luncheon Webinar Electrical Engineering in Construction Practices [August 2024] • Luncheon Webinar Fire Safety Prevention [August 2024] • Induction Course for New M&E Engineers [9-11 September 2024] • Geotechnical Engineering Course Brochure 2024 [9 September 2024]
<p>New Zealand <i>The Association of Consulting and Engineering New Zealand Incorporated</i></p>	<p>ACENZ is organizing following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACE Breakfast: Global market trends, insurance movements, and risk management [22 August 2024] • Conference: Futurespace [23-24 October 2024] • ACENZ Awards 2024 [24 October 2024]
<p>Philippines <i>Council of Engineering Consultants of the Philippines</i></p>	<p>CECOPHIL is organizing following ;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engineering Consultants Masters Class for International Practice [4th Quarter 2024] • Participation in the Committee for Revision of CIAP Document 102 (General Conditions of Contract for Private Practice in the Philippines) [2024-2025]
<p>Singapore <i>The Association of Consulting Engineers Singapore</i></p>	<p>ACES is organizing following ;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CARES & Leviat Delivering the Reinforced Connection [1 August 2024] • ACES Courses Series on Eurocode 7 Geotechnical Design [27-29 August 2024]
<p>Thailand <i>Consulting Engineers Association of Thailand</i></p>	<p>CEAT is organizing following ;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course (Module 1) "Selecting FIDIC Contracts for Professional Engineering Construction Projects" [8-9 August 2024] • Construction Industry Leader Development Project, Generation 8 [13 July 2024 - 18 January 2025]
<p>Vietnam <i>Vietnam Engineering Consultant Association</i></p>	<p>VECAS is organizing following ;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction contract dispute resolution procedures from Dispute Adjudication Board (DAB) to arbitration and practical lessons [18 August 2024]



We invite our member associations to share their constructive feedbacks and inputs to incorporate in the next issue of the newsletter.

Member associations are requested to circulate this newsletter among their members and seek articles, news and information related to past and future events to enhance the network and to represent more parts of the region.

Thank you
Editorial board

 @FIDIC_Aspac

 FIDIC ASPAC

 <https://fidicaspac.org>

 editorial@fidicaspac.org