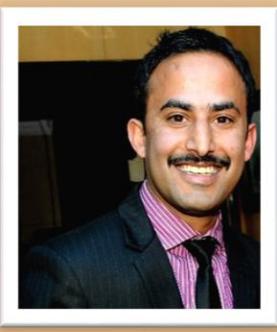




NEWSLETTER

सोसाइटी अफ कन्सल्टिङ्ग आर्किटेक्चरल एण्ड इन्जिनियरिङ्ग फर्म्स
**SOCIETY OF CONSULTING ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING FIRMS
(SCAEF), NEPAL**
(A National Body of Consulting Firms Recognized by Government of Nepal)

Editorial



In continuation to its commitment to the primary tenets of Communication, Capacity-Building and promotion of Professional Ethics and Integrity in pertinence to the consulting industry of Nepal as elucidated during the Newsletter Issue #1 and #2, I am very pleased to announce the issuance of Newsletter #3 which provides a comprehensive description of the various events/milestones conducted/achieved by SCAEF's Executive Committee during the period. It is to be noted that the activities as completed during this particular time-frame are in strict consonance with SCAEF's overarching philosophy regarding the promotion of consulting industry in Nepal, and the various interlinked activities to facilitate the same. Therefore, it has covered a

broad range of activities: from the successful conduction of various workshops, inter-agency communication/coordination, timely discussion on the contemporary issues, righteous advocacy etc. As the valued members of our fraternity, your constructive feedback on the current progress as well as your suggestions for future newsletters will be dearly appreciated.

Thank you.

Dr. Sudeep Adhikari

On behalf of Publication Sub-Committee

Presidents' Message



I have the pleasure to note the issuance of this SCAEF's Newsletter #3, which provides a comprehensive description of the various activities and events conducted by the SCAEF's Executive Committee during the reporting period from September to the middle of November 2022. I believe that the continuation of the Newsletter is important for dissemination of the SCAEF's initiatives in consonance with its objective of promotion of consulting industry in Nepal. I note that it has covered a broad range of activities; inter-agency coordination, interactions on the contemporary issues, advocacy, recreational events etc.

The Publication Sub-Committee is committed to welcome your suggestions for the improvement of the future Newsletters. I feel that the content of the Newsletter very well represents the entire spectrum of SCAEF's activities during the period and can hence be circulated to member firms as well as public/private entities, development partners and international networks through emails apart from posting in the SCAEF's website.

I look forward for the timely publication of future Newsletters. I wish to express my sincere thanks to the Publication Sub-Committee coordinated by Dr. Sudeep Adhikari.

Er. Tuk Lal Adhikari
President, SCAEF Nepal

Public Discourses

In consonance to its commitment to the professional welfare of its member firms, SCAEF during this period reviewed various bid documents as floated by the public entities and provided its feedback and comments to the concerned authorities to help making the documents more transparent, consistent, and in consonance with the Public Procurement guidelines. The issues were identified during the regular EC Meetings as well as collected from the concerns shared by the member firms. SCAEF highly encourages its member firms to actively participate in this process as the part of the institutional advocacy and also as an effort in capacity building of all the concerned parties, that is, consulting firms, consulting professionals and the Public Entities in the procurement process. The associate Table is provided the necessary details:

| Bid | Bid Type | Date | Client | Issues collated, and coordinated and conveyed by SCAEF | Response from the Public Entity |
|--|----------|-----------------|--|--|--|
| (a) Consulting Services for Project Support Team at Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management (DWSSM) and N-WASH Support; Reference No.: NP-DWSSM-290179-CS-QCBS | EoI | August 31, 2022 | Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management | Specific experience of the consulting firms, Joint-venture modality, experience of the proposed experts, logistic support etc. | Timely responded by the public entity with the raised issues adequately addressed. |
| (b) Consulting Services for Urban Water Supply, Technical Design Supervision and Governance Support in Birendranagar Municipality in Surkhet and Dipayal- Silgadhi Municipality in Doti, with one team in each municipality; Reference No.: NP-DWSSM-290178-CS-QCBS; and | | | | | |
| (c) Consulting Services for Technical and Governance Support to Sharada municipality and Janaki, Joshipur and Bardagoriya rural municipalities with one independent team for each municipality; Reference No.: NP-DWSSM-290176-CS-QCBS | | | | | |

| Bid | Bid Type | Date | Client | Issues collated, and coordinated and conveyed by SCAEF | Response from the Public Entity |
|--|----------|------------------|---|---|--|
| Preparation of Detail Project Report (DPR) of Medical College to be established by Surkhet Medical College Infrastructure Construction Development Project (SMCICDP); EOI/SMCICDP/CS/QCBS /079/080-01 | EoI | August 31, 2022 | Surkhet Medical College Infrastructure Construction Development Project, Karnali Province | Objective of the proposed assignment, ambiguity in the scope of the work, proposed experts and their qualification, deliverables etc. | Timely responded by the public entity with the raised issues adequately addressed. |
| (a) Feasibility Study of Different Wastewater Management Projects-1; (b) Feasibility Study of Different Wastewater Management Projects-3; and (a) Feasibility Study of Different Wastewater Management Projects-1 | EoI | August 31, 2022 | Department of Water Supply & Sewerage Management | Experience of the proposed experts, payment modality, evaluation criteria etc. | Timely responded by the public entity with the raised issues adequately addressed. |
| Project Implementation and Support Consultant (PISC) for RCIP-AF (Package No: DOLI/RCIP-AF/PISC-01/079/80* | EoI | November 4, 2022 | Rural Connectivity Improvement Project | Ambiguity regarding the nature of the call (national or international), Qualification of key-experts, Domestic preference etc. | Waiting on the response. |
| Detail Design of Storm Water and Sewerage Management, Landscaping, Sloe Protection, Furniture and Interior Design, HVAC | RFP | November 4, 2022 | National Defense University Infrastructure Development Committee | Difference in the criteria under EoI and RFP stage pertaining to Specific experience of the firm. | Timely responded by the public entity with the raised issues adequately addressed. |

Alongwith the formal letter regarding the bid, SCAEF's Executive Committee attended a meeting with the team of RCIP on November 6th , 2022 and conveyed their deep concerns about the issues as elucidated in the formal letter. RCIP assured that the issues will be appropriately addressed in due time and with due process. It has come to SCAEF's knowledge that the ADB NRM is in agreement with some of the points as raised by the SCAEF, thus indicative of the fact that SCAEF's continuous effort on public discourses and advocacy is certainly leaving a positive mark on the way procurement are currently being carried out by the public entities.

Capacity Building

SCAEF is well-aware of the fact that while the procurement of the service is very important, as a knowledge based industry, an optimum delivery of the product is the most pivotal requirement. Deliverance of good design, estimate and project-management are not only our professional liabilities, but they also form a part of our institutional responsibility to optimize the tax-payers' money and resources that has been invested for the development of infrastructures. This, needless to say, requires the capacity-building of our professionals to make them adapt the ever-changing ecology of knowledge, further accentuated by the ever-increasing trend of micro-specialization in recent times. With the knowledge and skills garnered by SCAEF with the successful conduction of various trainings in past, the following programs have been identified during the period, and also been scheduled to be conducted soon.

| Program | Target Groups | Executive Role |
|---|---|----------------|
| Contract Management, Quality Mgmt., Time & Control and Dispute Resolution, Arbitration, Taxation, Insurance, Lab Technician Training | Construction professionals & professionals involved in construction business, Er./Sub-Er. at local level | FCAN & SCAEF |
| Electronic Government Procurement (e-GP) Advance System with ToT Training | Construction business and Technicians involved in construction business, engineers/sub-engineers working with advance system at local level | FCAN & SCAEF |
| FIDIC Training for Consultant and Contractor Engineers | Construction professionals, technicians and legal manpower | SCAEF |
| Training on Design and Construction Multilane Roads and Highways, Express ways, Tunnel, Underpass and Flyovers | Government of Nepal, SCAEF members | SCAEF |
| Training on Detailed Design and Construction of Motorable Bridge | Government of Nepal employees, SCAEF members | SCAEF |
| Training on Design of Green Buildings | Engineers, Architects from public entities and SCAEF Members | SCAEF |
| Leadership development, Secretariat Capacity Enhancement & HR Training | Implementation committee, FCAN & SCAEF employees | FCAN & SCAEF |
| Training on BIM and Primavera, Microsoft Office Package | Government of Nepal employees, SCAEF members | SCAEF |
| Participation on FIDIC, ASPAC and other conference | Council, Committee members, FCAN and SCAEF Members | CBPS, SCAEF |
| Preparation of FIDIC International Conference in Nepal | Council, Committee members, FCAN and SCAEF Members | CBPS, SCAEF |

Congratulations and Best Wishes to Mr. Tuk Lal Adhikari for being appointed as a Board Member of FIDIC Asia Pacific

With Mr. Y J Lee (South Korea) completing his 3-years tenure as the board member of FIDIC Asia Pacific, the FAP GAM 2022 appointed Mr. Tuk Lal Adhikari, the current president of SCAEF for the vacant position. Mr. Adhikari has joined the board from October 01, 2022. SCAEF ardently believes that this event highlights the international recognition of Nepalese consulting industry and is very humbled by the appointment. SCAEF EC has congratulated to Mr. Adhikari with best wishes for his successful tenure.



Major Discussions during the EC Meetings

- Consortium between Industry and Academia
- Consulting Services Development Act
- Preparation and management of appropriate trainings
- CEO Appointment
- SCAEF's Billing Rate
- Residential Workshop regarding Ethics, Low bidding practices and SCAEF Billing Rate Application
- Meeting with professional bodies for cooperation and collaboration
- Amendment of by-laws of SCAEF
- Conduction of Financial Audit for the Fiscal Year 2078/079

Meeting with Mr. Ramakant Duwadi, Director General of DWSSM

A meeting was conducted between the SCAEF's Executive Committee and Mr. Ramakant Duwadi, Director General of DWSSM at Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management on 7th September 2022 at Panipokhari, Kathmandu. The EC conveyed their greetings for his appointment and wished him the best for his tenure. The primary issues discussed during the events were:



- ❑ SCAEF's billing rate and the dire necessity of its incorporation during projects' preparation for the professional safeguard of the consulting professionals;
- ❑ Utmost requirement of joint effort between SCAEF and DWSSM for the capacity building of the experts (client as well and the consultants) working in water supply and sanitation sector;
- ❑ Wide discrepancy on the consulting cost for the assignments of same nature when categorized as national or international calls.

Mr. Duwadi listened to all the raised issues and assured SCAEF that DWSSM is fully committed for their resolution in due time with due process.

Residential Workshop

One of the major highlights of this period can arguably be considered as the one and a half-day residential workshop conducted by SCAEF on 17th and 18th September 2022 at Dhulikhel Lodge Resort, Dhulikhel. 40 representatives from the 32 member firms participated in the program. The program kicked-off with the welcome speech, followed by the overview of the proposed workshop by Mr. Thakur Prasad Sharma, Vice-President of current SCAEF's EC. During the first day, the participants were sub-divided into 8 groups which were encouraged to go through the current draft of Consulting Sector Development Act and to provide their constructive feedback on the proposed provisions, necessary addendums and amendments. The primary issues endorsed by the participants were:

- ❑ Sectoral Classification of the Consulting Firms
- ❑ Promotion of Joint Venture between the SCAEF member firms
- ❑ Righteous lobbying with the public entities for the promotion of SCAEF member firms
- ❑ Prioritization of SCAEF member firms in international bidding
- ❑ Requirement of advance mobilization
- ❑ Broader definition of consulting business

The discussion was further facilitated by the comprehensive commentary on the draft Dr. Hare Ram Shrestha, and the associated details to be added/amended. The closing session was followed by a dinner arrangement. The second day of the workshop revolved around the issues pertaining to low-bidding, SCAEF's billing rate, possible modality of merging consulting firms, significance of professional liability insurance etc. Mr. Tuk Lal Adhikari, current president of SCAEF emphasized that the incorporation of mathematical/quantitative cut-off during the evaluation of the bids is the only appropriate way to mitigate low-bidding practices. The whole program was convened in a very cordial environment, and helped a great deal to facilitate the coordination and fraternity between the practicing members. The details of the event was also covered by a national daily (online), Lokantar.com (URL: <https://www.lokaantar.com/story/197356/2022/9/19/economy/insurance>).



MOU Between SCAEF and Department of Water Supply & Sewerage Management

During the meeting with Mr. Ramakant Duwadi, Director General of DWSSM, it was agreed that a formal signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between SCAEF and DWSSM would be worthwhile to institutionalize the professional relation between SCAEF and DWSSM for further works on capacity-building, mutual efforts and public discourses to bring in more clarity, transparency and understanding of the public procurements. The MoU was signed on November 11, 2022 by Mr. Rumakant Duwadi, DG of DWSSM and Mr. Tuklal Adhikari, SCAEF's President at Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management at Panipokhari in the presence of Mr. Narayanhari Rijal, Joint Secretary and Mr. Kamal Karki, Secretary (SCAEF) and other senior officials of DWSSM.



Participation on Nepal Infrastructure Summit 2022

Nepal Infrastructure summit was organized by the confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI) on 8 and 9 September, 2022 at the Soaltee Crown Plaza, Kathmandu. As informed by the CNI, the primary objective of the summit was to bring in various stakeholders associated with infrastructure development of the country, and to provide a platform for public discourses, and other associated activities on the backdrop of economic crisis as rendered by the global Covid-19 pandemic. SCAEF being one of the major stakeholders, participated in the program to depict their relevance with the spirit of summit. SCAEF is very thankful to CNI for allowing it to participate in the program and to enable itself to view the overall scale of the problem, challenges and way-out in a wider spectrum as provided by the Summit.



Inter-agency/ Professional Bodies Communication



General Secretary Er. Kamal Karki representing SCAEF Nepal in a Silver Jubilee function of Madhyapur Engineering Samaj, MES.



SCAEF and Society of Nepalese Architects (SONA)-SCAEF VP Mr. Thakur P Sharma delivered and interacted on "Procurement and Consulting Business"



Joint Secretary Er. Narayan Hari Rijal attending an Inception workshop of Building Energy Efficiency in Nepal (BEEN)



President Er. Tuk Lal Adhikari representing SCAEF on "Technical Seminar on Design, Condition Assessment and Codal Provision" conducted by SEAN (Structural Engineers' Association Nepal)



General Secretary Er. Kamal Karki participating and contributing to a discussion for incentive mechanism for use of Nepal National Building Code (NBC)

Last but not the Least!

Members of Team Junkiri from Kathmandu University visited the SCAEF's team during the 1 and a half day residential Workshop at Dhulikhel, and briefed about the Shell Eco Marathon which was scheduled to be conducted at Indonesia. During these really interesting times where public entities are asking for candidates with PhDs and 15 years of professional experience (of course not impossible if we inhabit two parallel universes), it was a nice breather to know about this novel endeavor of young tinkerers who are yet to be engineers, but committed to practical learning through innovation, novelty and feedback. SCAEF was pleased to know that it has been to some help (financially and morally) to get into the competition.



Team Junkiri (source: Team Junkiri official Facebook Page)



Thank you !