



## Press Release

Hon. Ms. Radha Kumari Gyawali, Minister for Energy, Government of Nepal paid a visit to Bangladesh from 5-8 August 2014 at the invitation of H.E. Mr. Nasrul Hamid, State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources. The Nepalese delegation comprised of Mr. Keshab Dhaj Adhikari, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Energy, Ms. Nirmala Sharma, Joint Director, Nepal Electricity Authority and Mr. Dipak Kumar Rauniyar, CEO, Hydropower Investment and Development Company Ltd.

The delegations from Nepal and Bangladesh held extensive talks on enhancing power sector co-operation between Nepal and Bangladesh and shared views on potential ways and means to harness synergies and complementarities by promoting cooperation in regional/sub-regional levels. In this regard, Hon. Minister Gyawali welcomed the initiatives of Bangladesh for trilateral cooperation involving Bangladesh, India and Nepal for hydropower development and grid connectivity. She also appreciated offer of the the Government of India to hold the meeting of Joint Working Groups of three countries and expressed Nepal's readiness to be the part of the trilateral process.

They also reviewed current energy situation and future power demand taking into consideration the projected economic growth and growing household demand for energy and agreed to share experience and best practices in such areas of energy efficiency, rural electrification by the utilization of alternative source of energy through exchange of visits and sharing of information at technical and experts levels.

During her visit, Hon. Gyawali paid a courtesy call on the President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, H.E. Mr. Md. Abdul Hamid, Prime Minister H.E. Sheikh Hasina Foreign Minister H.E. Mr. Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali and Advisor to the Prime Minister on Power, Energy and Mineral Resources H.E. Dr. Towfiq-e-Elhai Choudhury. On those occasions, matters relating to strengthening the bilateral relations between Nepal and Bangladesh, particularly in the power sector, connectivity, transit, trade, people-to-people relations were discussed.

The Nepalese delegation visited Bheramara, Kushtia near the Bangladesh-India border to observe the 400 kV double circuit first inter-country grid interconnection between Bangladesh and India with 500 MW back-to-back HVDC substation.

The next bilateral ministerial meeting between Nepal and Bangladesh in power sector co-operation would be held in December 2014.

**8 August 2014**