Press Release

1 April, 2021

Commission's concern over the impacts of air pollution on citizen's health

National Human Rights Commission of Nepal concerns over the impacts upon the citizens’ health due to air pollution increased in the various parts of the country including Kathmandu valley since last Friday.

The Commission has been regularly conducting media monitoring and concluded a discussion with the stakeholders with regard to this. The media monitoring shows that in the recent times there is forestfire/wildfire in 27 hundred places in Nepal and the common problems due to air pollution are burning eyes, coughing, and itchy nose. Environmental experts said in the discussion that due to dry season, excessive wildfire and weak western wind causes the very bad air pollution from few days as specified by the world Health Organization and it may cause serious impact upon human health. The experts drew attention of all persons that according to the Air Quality Index (AQI), the air quality measured in Kathmandu last Sunday was more that 3 hundred and the entire population is more likely to be affected. At this level of air quality, senior citizens, children asthma, people with acute respiratory diseases are prone to risk so they have to be very much sensitive.

The Article 30 of the Constitution of Nepal provides the right to clean environment. The Environment Protectio Act, 2019 and the rule, 2020, Disaster Risk and Management Act including other domestic laws as well as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights provide the right to clean environment. According to the experts to prevent the risks of air pollution, we should control the wildfire of the recent days, control the burning of the waste products of home and agricultural activities, and minimum use of means of vehicle and should immediately improve the air pollution situation.

Thus, the Commission draws attention of the government of Nepal to adopt immediate and long-term measures for the protection of citizen's right to live in the clean environment preventing the air pollution and reducing the natural disaster's risk.

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