

# **High Level Panel Discussion: Smart Palika (Smart Municipality)**

**3 to 5 Pm , 18 June , Himalaya Hotel, Patan**

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\*\*\* (in Nepal there are 4 types of local bodies - Rural Municipality, Municipality, Sub Metropolitan City, and Metropolitan City; in Nepali local language – Gaun Palika, Nagar Palika, Upamahanagar Palika and Mahanagar Palika. Common word Palika is taking from here in “Smart Palika”.)

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In the past, the terms like “Cyber City” , “Cyber Hub” and others have been used to describe “IT enabled” cities in Nepal. These terms were primarily used by educational institutions, academicians, organizations related to information technology, ICT experts and business community but not by politicians.

There were selected group of peoples and organizations in Kavre and lately in Hetauda tried for creating a “Cyber City”, the focus was on connecting services and institutions through LAN (Local Area Network) and WAN (Wide Area Network) to deliver services through internet.

Some fruitful discussions were held; business plan, documentations and cost estimation were prepared and business houses, donor agencies and sponsors were also ready to invest in Hetauda. However it was not executed.

Recently, candidates from different political parties promised to make each municipality a smart city and this commitment also got reflected in the election agenda.

As there is no universal definition of a smart city, concept of a smart city provides opportunities for different countries and different cities within the same country. By now, most of the political leaders, senior governments' officials and intellectuals in Nepal are aware of the concept and the value of "Smart City". However, there is a gap between their understandings and the actions needed. For example, some Mayors feel that providing free Wi-Fi itself is good enough for smart city and other Mayors have a better understanding of the need for a comprehensive plan, action agenda and institutional capacity and financing needs.

To help develop a common understanding about the Smart City and to help prepare a reference document relating to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for smart society, a "High Level Panel Discussion Session" between leaders, senior experts, policy makers, and other stake-holders has been organized during the ICT conference.

Moderator and High-level Members for the  
Discussion Session are as below:

S. N.		Role	Status
1	Mr. Bindu N. Lohani Former Vice- President of Asian Development Bank	Moderator  Setting the Context and Wrap up	Confirmed
2	Dr. Yubaraj Khatiwada Hon. Minister, Ministry of Finance	Opening Address	Consented, TBC
3	Mr. Prem Kumar Rai, Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs	High Level Panel Member	Consented, TBC
3	Mr. Mahendra Man Gurung Secretary, Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, Government of Nepal	High Level Panel Member	Confirmed
4	Mr. Dipendra Sharma	High Level	Consented, TBC

	Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development, Government of Nepal	Panel Member	
5	Dr. Jib Raj Pokhrel Vice Chancellor of National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST)	High Level Panel Member	Confirmed
6	Mr. Renaud Meyer Country Director, UNDP	High Level Panel Member	Consented, TBC
7	Dr. Sunil Babu Shrestha Former Member, National Planning Commission	High Level Panel Member	Confirmed
8	Mr. Dilip Pratap Khand Mayor, Waling Municipality	High Level Panel Member	Confirmed