Science, policy and practice: Insights from collaborative water forum (Pani Chautari) in Nepal

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Map showing location of cities

- **Dhulikhel** – hill-top town, 30km east of capital (Kathmandu)
  - 1441 meters above the sea level
  - 32,162 people in 52 sqkm

- **Dharan** – foothill town of Mahabharat, 380 km southeast of Kathmandu
  - 350 meters above the sea level
  - 137,705 people in 1892.32 sqkm
The water and climate in the Himalaya

- Himalayas are known as the “Water Tower of Asia”
- The region is vulnerable to climate change
- In Nepal- 58.4% people live in rapidly urbanizing small towns
- Springs, streams and rivers are the main source of drinking water
- Increasing demand-decreasing supply
- Too much and too little water
Pani Chautari: Conceptual design

Diagnostic study

Municipality, government organizations, water user committees, private sector, excluded community, commercial users

Issue identification

Innovation, champion, leadership capacity building

PANI CHAUTARI

Deliberation

Ownership, sustainability, governance

Informed policy making and sustainable practices
Collaboration approach and innovation

- Multi-stakeholder platform
- Collaboration among academic and practitioners community
- Open deliberation
- Discuss on problems and identify solutions followed by piloting and up scaling
- Lead by municipality
- Demand driven
- Links science with local policy and practice
Solution tested in Dhulikhel

- Series of recharge ponds and contour trenches
- Co financed by municipality, community (water and forest users groups) and research institute
- Use of simple geohydrology and local knowledge
- Water discharge in the drying springs enhanced gradually
Solution tested in Dharan

- Recharge pit to avoid flash flood and recharge ground water
- Training to masons to construct recharge pits
- Municipal policy – now mandatory recharge pit while building new buildings
Key opportunities and way forward

- Importance of science, policy and practices to make cities resilient

  - **Pani Chautari**
    - strengthen capacity of city level water champions
    - broker partnership and foster innovations on climate adaptive and equitable water management

- **Pani Chautari** tool kit with flexibility to contextualize and use in different contexts
Thank You