

Shaping Visioning Scenarios for Rapti, the Lumbini Provincial Capital City in Nepal



Various representative groups from local communities and also authorities and city planners have jointly worked on shaping Visioning Scenarios for Tomorrow's Rapti City. A 2-day Visioning Scenarios Validation Workshop was held in Rapti, the Lumbini Provincial Capital City that aimed at shaping visioning scenarios for future city.

“Making Rapti Valley a beautiful city is our dream, and we are working to fulfill the dream into reality. The process of building Rapti a planned city is underway, and we are so lucky that such an opportunity to build a planned city was not available to most of the cities in the world. Therefore, I would like to thank Tomorrow's City project and Provincial Infrastructure Development Authority (PIDA), Lumbini Province Nepal for this initiative”, **Mr. Prakash Bista**, Chairperson of Rapti Rural Municipality, remarked in the opening session.

Formal opening of Validation Workshop was jointly done by Mayor from Shitaganga, Chairperson from Rapti & Vice Chairperson from Gadhawa and representatives from Tomorrow's Cities research project by signing on the program banner.

The [Provincial Infrastructure Development Authority \(PIDA\), Lumbini](#) has collaborated with [Tomorrow's Cities](#), to ensure the future Rapti City, the Lumbini Provincial Capital City (LPCC) is built resilient to disasters. The local governments from Rapti & Gadhawa Rural Municipalities and Shitaganga Municipality are the key stakeholders of the collaboration. [National Society for Earthquake Technology - Nepal \(NSET\)](#) is an implementing partner for the Tomorrow's Cities research project working collaboration with other national and international partners. Shaping [Visioning Scenarios](#) for future cities is one of the key milestones of the TCDSE.

Mayor **Chhabi Lal Paudel** from *Shitaganga Municipality*, shared, “While developing a city, we must be far-sighted enough and need to consider the future scenario. As we are embarking on building a resilient, beautiful and model city to Rapti Valley, I would like to urge all of you to express your ideas and feedback so that we can achieve our aspiration of making this city as good as possible”.

Vice Chairperson **Ms. Sharada Kumari Chaudhary** from *Gadhawa Rural Municipality* added “I would like to make the request to the experts and intellectuals who are present here in this program to share your important thoughts, experiences, perceptions, ideas, and visions that will be an important guidance to build a safer and resilient future Rapti City.

Mr. Pahalwan Chaudhary, *Ward Chair and Spokesperson, Rapti Rural Municipality* hoped that this 2-day workshop would provide worth input regarding how we could build our Rapti Valley a disaster resilient, strong, and beautiful city.

“Seeking your feedback, we will share digital maps during the workshop which will provide an opportunity to review and make necessary changes to the maps and policies. This is a very exciting moment, and we are looking forward to hearing what you think and taking part in a new discussion on your plan”, remarked **Dr. Max Hope** from Leeds Beckett University, United Kingdom who is working for Tomorrow’s Cities project.

On the occasion, **Dr. Ramesh Guragain** from NSET who also sits in Senior Management Team of Tomorrow’s Cities project and leads Capacity Strengthening component of the project briefed on process, “Community members are the ones who should decide on how their city be made. In this context, our urban planners have developed different scenarios based on the ideas and suggestions provided by community people and stakeholders. The main objective of this workshop is to share and hold discussions on those whether their opinions are truly reflected or not. From now onwards, we will sit with the elected representatives of the various municipalities and city planners, and then finalize the plan regarding how the future Rapti City should be.”





After the Opening Session, there were 2 presentations; first, a quick recap to Works Package 1 (WP1) activities that was done by Dr. Dilli Poudel from SIAS who is a Senior Researcher for Tomorrow's Cities project, and, second, a brief presentation on Validation Workshop was made by Dr. Ramesh Guragain from NSET who is a Senior Management Team (SMT) Member and Capacity Strengthening Lead for Tomorrow's Cities project.

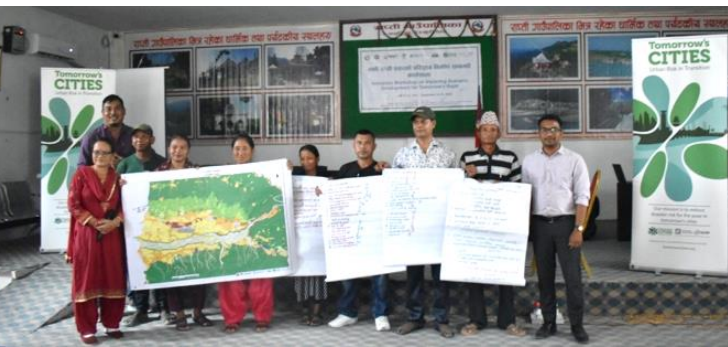
There were 6 stakeholder groups on the same assemblage of disaggregated stakeholder groups with minor changes in composition - identified in the Future Visioning stage of the TCDSE, the Tharu, Migrants (Pahade), Squatters, Madhesi-Muslim-Dalit, Ethnic (Magars) and the Planners & Authorities.

The workshop was designed in different segments:

- Discussion on Land Use Plan (LUP) for Future Rapti City,
- Discussion on Trade Off and Equity Check,
- Hazard Impact Brainstorming,
- Impact Priority Exercise and
- Policy Discussion

At the end of the two days long exercise, each group made presentation and shared their insights and opinions.





Sharing Group works on Visioning Scenarios for Tomorrow's Rapti City, Photos: NSET/Tomorrow's Cities

Please refer Brief Workshop Report: [Shaping Visioning Scenarios for Future Rapti City by Community Representatives and Planners](#) and also news coverage by Nepal Television: [NTV News on WP2 Validation Workshop in Rapti](#) & Naya Yougbohd National Daily: [Visioning Scenarios Validation Workshop in Rapti](#)

The Closing Session was addressed by CEO Chhabiraj Pokhrel from Provincial Infrastructure Development Authority (PIDA), Dr. Max Hope and Dr. Ramesh Guragain from Tomorrow's Cities project. In his closing remarks, CEP Pokhrel appreciated the efforts of all stakeholders during this process and hoped to see the dream of making safer, better, inclusive and equitable new capital city come true soon.



Group Photo after the Closing of Visioning Scenario Validation Workshop held in Rapti on Sep 15, 2023, Photo: NSET/Tomorrow's Cities

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