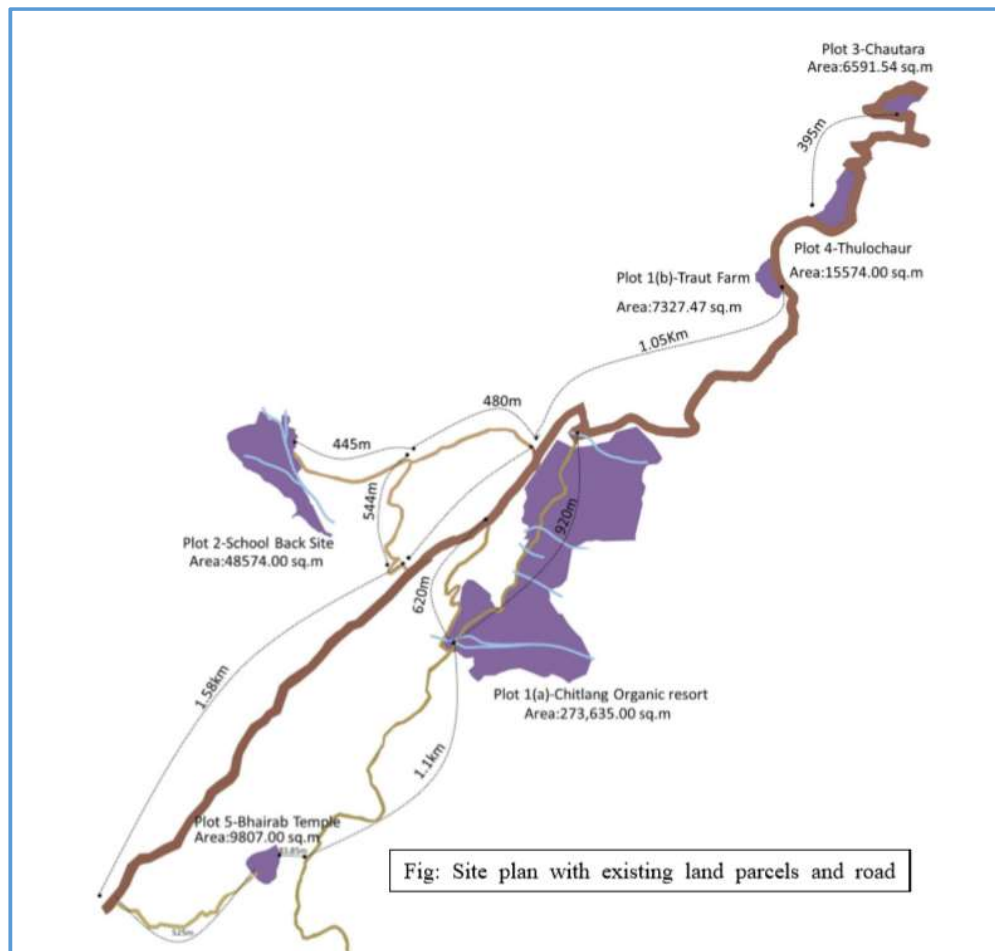


Madan Bhandari University of Science and Technology Development Board

Notes on Chitlang visit with Chinese Delegation

A Chinese delegation led by Mr. Wang Dan, Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee of Beijing Institute and General Manager of Beijing Design Institute has come to Nepal to discuss about technical issues related to Chinese Government assistance to the proposed Madan Bhandari University of Science and Technology (MBUST) at Chitlang. In connection with this a one-day visit was organized to Chitlang - the site for MBUST - on 30 September 2019 as per the request from the Chinese delegation. The team consisted of 9 members of various expertise including civil engineer, architects, hydropower engineer, economist and manager. Three members of Nepali team led by Prof. Joshi, Chairperson of Madan Bhandari University of Science and Technology Development Board (MBUSTDB) accompanied them.

The proposed site plan for Madan Bhandari University of Science and Technology at Chitlang, ward # 9, Thaha Municipality, Makwanpur is shown below.



Three 4-wheel drive vehicles were sent to Chandragiri Cable Car top station in the morning via Dakshinkali since the road from Thankot to Chitlang was under reconstruction. A minibus with three Nepalese team members reached Maya Manor Boutique Hotel, where the Chinese delegation was staying, at 9:00 am to pick up the Chinese delegation. The minibus picked up the Chinese delegation and left the hotel for Chandragiri Cable Car station. It took about 45 minutes to reach Chandragiri Hill Cable

Car bottom station. After getting off the vehicle we had a sightseeing of Kathmandu Valley from the bottom station of cable car.



After buying the cable car tickets all of us lined up in queue to ride the cable car. Eight persons can be accommodated in one car. We took two cars and started going up. It was sunny at the bottom station but as we go up and up the mist covered the sites and nothing was visible except ourselves in the cabin. The cable car was moving slowly and smoothly. It took about 10 minutes to ascend to the upper station located at 2,502 m from the sea level.



We were welcomed by Mr. Parshuram Shrestha, Ward Chairperson of Ward # 9 of Thaha Municipality and ward secretary with Khada garlands. We took group photo with them and headed towards Bhaleshwor Mahadev Temple situated at the top of Chandragiri Hill. Due to cloud the mountain and Kathmandu Valley was not clearly visible.

After going around the temple, playground and other recreational area we got into the three vehicles and started our journey towards Chitlang valley where Madan Bhandari University of Science and Technology will be built. It is a graveled road under reconstruction so the vehicles had to be driven at a very slow speed. We could notice the fallen trees after landslides along the road.



The first site we arrived was Chautara (6,591.54 m²), proposed location for Incubation Center. It is slightly steep. The Chinese team made concern about the possibilities of landslide. The second site was Thulochour (15,574 m²), proposed location for individual housing and studio apartments. There was a stream flowing with clean drinkable water at the side. The third site was a Traut Farm, no longer in operation. It has an area of 7,327.4 m² and designated for a Hotel and a Hospital. A stream passes through the land.



Another site, where the main campus and students' hostel are proposed, is located near the Chitlang tourist hub, where homestays are very popular. This site has very attractive view and gradual slope. Its area is 273,635 m². It is liked by all the delegates. It is, at the moment on lease to Chitlang Organic Resort. It has already built its own resort in another place and it is empty now.





Then we headed to the opposite side of the main campus site. It is sloppy land surrounded by forest and access road is under construction by the local government. We went to the site on foot after getting off the vehicle by walking about 100 m. The area covered by the site is 48,574 m². The Chinese team remarked that the construction will be costly as well as complicated at this site. This site is designated for staff housing.



After visiting this site, the Chinese delegates asked if an open space close to the allocated site is available or not. The ward Chairperson said that it is public property and can be made available in exchange for land near Bhairab Temple allocated to MBUST. The Chinese delegates said it would be much better to make this land available to University.

All of us were tired and hungry by this time after visiting various sites. It was almost 2:00 pm so we decided to go for lunch. The lunch was ordered at Chitlang Resort Pvt. Ltd. We were welcomed by the locals with buckets of flowers. It was a surprise for all of us. We took group photos with them and headed towards the resort for lunch. We were again welcomed with Khada and bucket of flowers by the staff of resort at the entrance of the restaurant.



We were served with pieces of goat cheese, local product of Chitlang valley then served with nettle leaf soup. It was very tasty and nettle leaf has medicinal value. After that, buffet was ready for lunch. It consisted of rice, lentils, vegetables, pickles, chicken and fish from Kulekhani reservoir. Everybody took his/her share as per taste and satisfied with the food. Chinese delegates as well as Nepali team members and local government representatives relaxed for few minutes after lunch. Then all of us headed for the last site of the MBUST.



The site is located near the Bhairav temple, South of Main Campus site. We do have to walk along the small narrow path of paddy field towards the Chitlang river. The site was situated at the other side of the river and the link road is from main campus. There is about 80 m long motorable road to be completed to reach the site by vehicle from the link road. The site area is 9,807 m². This site is proposed for studio apartment and guest apartments.



It is not easy to cross the river so we just took a look at the side and returned back to Bhairav Temple where our vehicles were waiting for us. Once we arrived the temple site we said goodbye to ward Chairperson and locals by thanking them for their support and company. Then we returned back heading towards Thankot. On the way, we crossed all previous sites of MBUST and reached junction road one heading to Thankot and another leading towards upper Cable car station. We stopped few minutes there and relaxed. The boundary between Kathmandu and Makwanpur districts passes via the junction.



We descended slowly and very carefully since the road was under construction and not in good condition. The road was just opened for public on the day of our travel at our request. Bulldozers helped us to pass the blocked sections of the road. There was no traffic except for few motor bikes. It was really enjoyable and adventurous travel for all of us. We noticed the landslides as well as lovely view of Kathmandu city. It started to rain after descending 3 km from the junction. The drain was not made yet as the expansion of road is going on and the rain water was flowing through the center of the road making it difficult for vehicles to pass. The problem was compounded because of the uneven surface. The drivers of the vehicles were very careful and skillful. It took almost one hour to complete 6 km downhill. When we reached Thankot there was no rainfall and no jam until we reached Kalanki. A few minutes jam was at Kalanki.

It was almost 7:00 pm when we reached the hotel. We got off the vehicle and Chinese delegation team leader invited Nepali team members to join a dinner. The dinner was organized to celebrate 1 October (National Day of the People's Republic of China) on the occasion of 70 year establishment of the People's Republic of China. It was also joined by the President of Tibet University and his colleague. The dinner was at Thamel. We went there by walking since it was difficult get parking there. We left dinner party at 7:45 pm for hotel. The vehicles dropped us off to our respective home.