THEMATIC WORKSHOP

Information Technology and Elections Management

Informed Decisions for Sustainable Outcomes

ICT in Election Management
Nepalese Experience

Presented by

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Agenda

- Introduction

- Background of ICT Use

- CA Election 2008 and ICT Applications

- Strategic Plan of ECN (2009-2013) and ICT

- Voter List with Photo Program

- Future Direction

Introduction

Nepal

- A Federal Democratic Republic in Asia

- Area: 147181 Sq. Km (Mountain and Hill 83%, Terai 17%)

- Population: Approx. 27 Million (Male 49 % , Female 51%)

- Literacy Rate: Approx. 66% (Male 60% , Female 49%)

- Multicast and Ethnic Groups: More than 100

- Languages: 92

- Official Language: Nepali

European Commission
Development and Cooperation DG
EuropeAid

United Nations
Development Programme

Introduction

Election Commission

- Election Commission was firstly established in 1950.

- Five members Election Commission is a constitutional body to prepare voter list and conduct elections of Constituent Assembly, Referendum and Local Authorities as mandated by Interim Constitution 2007

- Eight general elections have been conducted including our multiparty democratic parliamentary elections

Background of ICT Use

- Computers were introduced for the first time in 1986 to prepare electoral rolls .

- Since 1999, computers found applications beyond electoral rolls preparation and were used for result processing activities. Website was used for disseminating election results.

CA Election 2008 and ICT

Electoral Roll Preparation

- Door to door collection and updating

- Data processing at district level

- Centralized Voters Database

- Political parties and other stakeholders were provided with electronic form of the voter list

- Voter list published in ECN Website with facility to search for names

CA Election 2008 and ICT
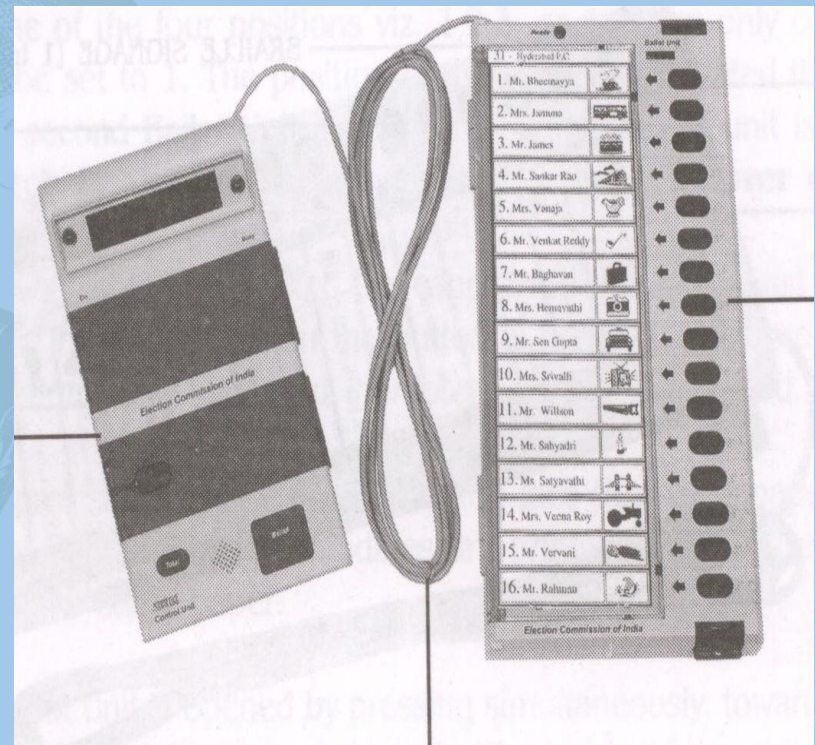
Election Result Processing and Dissemination

- VPN Connectivity in 41 out of 75 districts

- Data transfer from district to ECN HQ with the use of web application and fax machines

- Dissemination of election vote counting status in every half hour through ecn website.

- Access to updated counting status in XML files

- Media Center for press conference and vote counting information dissemination

Electronic Voting

- EVM was firstly used in one of the constituency in Constituent Assembly election 2008.
- ECN adopted it in all the six constituencies for the CA By-Election 2009.
- Well accepted by voters, political parties and other stakeholders.
- Supported by Government of India

Strategic Plan (2009-2013) and ICT

- Establish new electoral register that include voters' photograph.

- Keep information of polling stations in the Geographic Information System (GIS)

- Link the Commission and its field offices through an ICT network.

- Install election management information systems in the commission and its field offices.

- Provide updated election information on the Internet.

- Use Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) for polling.

Voter List with Photo Program

Inception and Pilot Project

- An assessment of prevailing electoral roll revealed

    - Lack of proper voter identification

    - Duplicate names and names of deceased individuals

    - Misspelled names and incorrect date of birth, etc.

- Recommendations made by Voters Registration Study visit of other countries

- Pilot projects were conducted in seven VDCs to trial and refine methodologies and operational processes

Voter List with Photo Program

General Information

- Started from: August 2010

- Age Criteria for registration: 16 years or above

- Voting Age: 18 years or above

- Citizenship Certificate as a compulsory requirement

- Total Registration Center – Approx. 10,000

- Staff Mobilized – Approx. 90,000

- Voter Registration Kits – 3,600 units

- Portable Generator- 800 units

- Number of Registrants 10.2 million (Feb 2012).

Registration Process

Voter Registration Centre

Enumerator Visits home

Returns with Completed Forms

data capture

Voter Residence

Voter attends registration centre at nominated time

form checking voter authentication

Data and forms transferred at completion of each RC

Uploading of Data

Report of matches for follow-up

District Election Office

District Server

Central Storage
Data Matching & Checking

ECN Kathmandu

5 - 9 March 2012, Mombasa, Kenya

Registration Center

European Commission
Development and Cooperation DG
EuropeAid

United Nations
Development Programme

Voter List with Photo Program

Funding and Assistance

- Government of Nepal , Nepal Peace Trust Fund
- Donor agencies including Embassy of Denmark, Danida HUGOU, Department for International Development, Norway, USAID, UNDP, European Union
- Procurement and technical assistance by UNDP Electoral Support Project

Voter List with Photo Program

Challenges

- Temporal obstruction caused by some political parties
- Logistical arrangements including support and maintenance of equipment due to geographic conditions
- Capturing of worn finger print of old people and farmers
- Data security and transfer from remote registration centers to district head quarters.
- Human resource
- Cost of technology
- Sustainability
- Legal Framework

Future Direction

- Share data for National ID

- Use of Geographical Information System (GIS) for Election Management

- Establishment of well equipped Electoral Education and Information Center (EEIC)to support voter / civic education

- Use Electronic Voting Machine

- Support to local level to collect and update voter register.

Thank You

Old lady Aged 74 at registration center with her husband and Grandson

The Rolls Right, The Poll Right

Your vote is a valuable thing