



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **New agreement with** Municipal Association of Nepal (MuAN)

28 March 2017

Two peak bodies working to strengthen local government in Australia and Nepal have signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), in a commitment to building good governance at the local level in Nepal.

LG Professionals Australia and the Municipal Association of Nepal (MuAN) have signed the agreement to deliver technical support and exchange between practitioners, and build on capacity in local municipalities in Nepal.

"Nepal is not only grappling with the reconstruction phase of the devastating earthquake in 2015, but it's seen rampant and haphazard urbanization over the past decade and this has significantly challenged the responsibilities for development and service delivery at the local level," said Lauren Oakey, CEO, LG Professionals Australia.

"With a renewed focus on decentralization and institutional capacity building, MuAN plays a pivotal role in Nepal and we will support them in this."

"We have been working in Nepal for five years now, and we are committed to stepping up our program. We will draw on the huge amount of talent and expertise in Australian local government, and connect these people with their counterparts to provide unparalleled opportunities for practitioners in both countries," said Lauren.

Kalanidhi Devkota, Executive Secretary of MuAN said the agreement and support from LG Professionals Australia has come at a pivotal time for local governance in the country.

"We are witnessing a great transition due to the restructuring of local government. The new constitution has given exclusive powers to local governments," said Kalanidhi

"This has significantly increased MuAN's role in supporting municipalities to implement these provisions. It is indeed a herculean task, but we are committed to our role to institutionalise urban governance in the country.

"The partnership with LG Professionals comes at a very significant time for us. We believe, our cities and towns will benefit greatly from the planned activities, which will in turn motivate municipalities to better serve their tax payers," said Kalanidhi.

## **About LG Professionals Australia**

LG Professionals Australia is a federation with offices in NSW, QLD, SA, TAS, VIC and WA, and a national office based in Melbourne. We are part of an international network that shares thought leadership, best practice, and the latest research to support good local governance and build better communities. Our members learn from, and experience local government in other countries and broaden their perspective on the possibilities, as well as build networks and collaborate with likeminded peers from around the world. They gain experience in a wider capacity, test their expertise while extending their skills in an international context, and create and influence projects from the ground up. They contribute their knowledge and expertise, to make a real and practical difference to international and developing communities.

For more information about LG Professionals Australia, visit [www.lgprofessionalsaustralia.org.au](http://www.lgprofessionalsaustralia.org.au)

## **About MuAN**

The Municipal Association of Nepal (MuAN) was established in 1994 as the pioneer Local Governance Association across South Asia. All 263 urban municipalities of Nepal are members of MuAN, including four metropolitan and thirteen sub-metropolitan cities. MuAN has successfully established itself as a credible voice of the municipalities of Nepal and has accomplished many landmarks in policy reform on issues of decentralization, urban governance, poverty reduction, gender and social inclusion as well as urban environment.

MuAN's recent major achievements include the successful lobbying for immediate local elections, campaigning for the exclusive rights and responsibilities for local governments, and supporting the Local Level Restructuring Commission. This has recently extended to advocating for an integrated development structure for Kathmandu Metropolitan City. MuAN has also been institutional in conducting needs assessment for all 263 municipalities, developing the capacity of newly created municipalities, as well as training and supporting locally elected women.

For more information about MuAN, visit [www.muannepal.org.np](http://www.muannepal.org.np)

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