

### TARA and Swiss government sign LC<sup>3</sup> agreement in Nepal



Meeting with Antonia Fluck and other members of the Embassy

On August 17th, Technology and Action for Rural Advancement (TARA) signed a significant agreement with the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, represented by the Swiss Embassy in Nepal. This agreement marks the start of feasibility studies for Limestone Calcined Clay Cement (LC<sup>3</sup>) in Nepal, aiming for significant transformations. Dr Soumen Maity and Dr Debojyoti Basuroy from TARA represented the organisation, while Matthias Meier and Antonia Elena Fluck led the embassy's team.

The Swiss Embassy is providing funding for this initiative, emphasising their commitment to innovation and progress. A detailed work plan was presented, outlining the strategic roadmap for the next two months.

In addition to this agreement, TARA also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Embassy and the Government of Nepal. This long-term MOU, scheduled for the first week of October, supports the government's efforts to integrate LC<sup>3</sup> into the industrial sector, fostering mutual progress.

Discussions were held with the Department of Mines and Geology, with the Director General Ram Prasad Ghimire and his team present. A tripartite agreement involving the Department of Mines and Geology, the Swiss Embassy, and TARA is set to materialise, reflecting shared aspirations. The Embassy of Switzerland will send a Letter of Intent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, encapsulating TARA's essence and the MOU's significance.

An orientation presentation on "Clays suitable for LC<sup>3</sup>" took place at the Department of Mines and Geology, attended by the Director General, Deputy Directors, Geologists, and departmental staff. The presentation covered topics like the suitability of kaolinite, its advantages over other clays, and calcination technologies. This led to an immersive visit to the Chemical and Geo Technical Lab.

The Director General expressed enthusiasm for LC<sup>3</sup> technology and invited the Chairpersons of Hetauda Cement and Samrat Cements to the presentation. Subsequent discussions and correspondences focused on LC<sup>3</sup> technology and Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) criteria, strengthening industry involvement in future project phases.



Agreement signed in the presence of the CTO, TARA

This transformative project aims to decarbonize Nepal's cement industry, reducing resource consumption and carbon emissions while promoting circular construction practices. It also fosters public-private partnerships throughout Nepal, setting an example for future endeavours beyond the present moment.