

20th NDRI Annual Day Program



On the special occasion of its 20th Annual Day, Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) organized an event on April 11, 2023, at Hotel Himalaya, Lalitpur, Nepal. Ms. Divya Laxmi Subedi, Research Associate, NDRI started the program as the Master of Ceremony. The event was conducted in a hybrid modality, and the program was divided into two parts. The first half included the Opening Ceremony and Keynote Presentation. The event was inaugurated by Chief Guest, Honorable Dr. Bimala Rai Paudyal, Former Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Nepal, and Member of the National Assembly, Federal Parliament of Nepal. Dr. Shankar Shrestha, Executive Director, NDRI delivered Welcome Remarks and also conveyed the written message from Honorable Ashok Kumar Rai, Minister, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Government of Nepal. The highlight of the event was the Keynote Address by Dr. Somkiat Tangkitvanich, President, of Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI), Thailand entitled “Learning from Thailand's Development Experience: Dos and Don'ts for Developing Countries” where he suggested what to do and what not to do for developing countries during their development course. Dr. Somkiat concluded his words with emphasizing the key role of Think Tanks in guiding government policies”. Dr. Nawa Raj Khatiwada, President, NDRI who chaired the session delivered the Closing Remarks.



Likewise, the second half of the program was a Panel Discussion session on “Role of Think Tanks in the Economic Development of Nation” which was moderated by Dr. Divas B. Basnyat, Senior Water Resources Specialist, NDRI.

The session started with a background presentation by Dr. Krishna Pahari, Senior Livelihood and Food Security Specialist, NDRI who provided the context for the session, before handing over to the moderator. Key personnel from leading Think Tanks in the region actively participated as panelists namely: Dr. Fahmida Khatun, Executive Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh; Dr. Vibha Dhawan, Director General, The Energy and Research Institute



(TERI), India; Dr. Deepak K. Khadka, Senior Research Fellow, Policy Research Institute (PRI), Nepal; Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Pakistan; and Dr. Somkiat Tangkitvanich, President, Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI), Thailand. The panel session highlighted the important role that Think Tanks can play for knowledge creation, collaboration and public sector rejuvenation for generating high impact in the overall development of a nation.



The program ended with the Vote of Thanks by Dr. Rabita Shrestha Mulmi, Senior Research Specialist, NDRI. The program witnessed a wonderful in-person and virtual gathering of the representatives from various diplomatic agencies, research institutes, Think Tanks, academia, development partners, media, professional associations and government agencies. Altogether, there were more than 100 participants representing various countries such as Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Thailand, Qatar, Japan, Canada, and America.

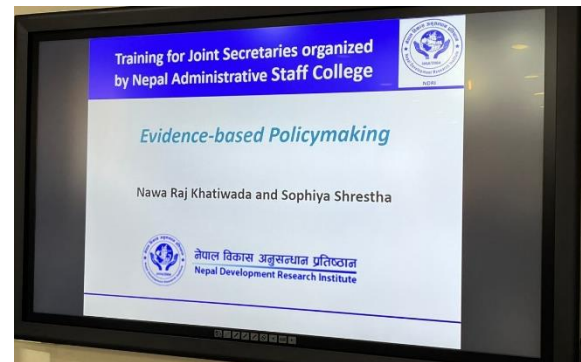
Session on Evidence-based Policy-making

On 7th April 2023, Nepal Administrative Staff College (Jawlakhel, Lalitpur) organized a session for the Class I Officers of the Government of Nepal on Evidence-based Policy-making, inviting Dr. Nawa Raj Khatiwada, President of NDRI as the speaker of the session. Dr. Khatiwada conducted an interactive and informative session discussing several key aspects of evidence-based policy-making, including the use of evidence for framing policies, identifying policy issues, and framing public policy problems.

The session also included a group exercise, conducted by Dr. Khatiwada and Ms. Sophiya Shrestha (Research Assistant, NDRI), that focused on the political systems, guiding principles, and evidence attributes in BIMSTEC countries.



This exercise allowed participants to explore the diverse approaches to evidence-based policy-making across different countries and gain valuable insights. Overall, the session was a valuable learning experience for the Class I Officers of the Government of Nepal, providing them with insights into evidence-based policy-making and empowering them to make informed decisions that can positively impact the country's development.



Workshop on Remote Sensing and Climate Science (RSCS)

Dr. Krishna Pahari, Senior Livelihood and Food Security Specialist, NDRI participated in the Workshop on Remote Sensing and Climate Science (RSCS) organized by the Tribhuvan University in cooperation with the Grant Commission Nepal, St. Xavier's College and the Nepal Physics Society in Kathmandu on 8th and 9th April 2023. He was invited as the Guest of Honour during the opening ceremony and provided a special lecture on 'Application of Remote Sensing in the Context of climate change and its Impacts'.



The workshop was attended by a range of participants including University professors, professionals from various national and international organizations, Government officials, and graduate students. There were participants from more than 55 districts across Nepal. During his lecture, Dr. Pahari elaborated on the evolution of remote sensing in the past fifty years. He highlighted on climate challenges, how remote sensing can be useful for understanding climate, and dealing with its impacts with examples from Nepal and abroad.

House Deputy Speaker Unveils the Report: Youth and Tobacco in Nepal

The Tobacco Symposium was organized by Annapurna Media Network on 7 April 2023. The event was inaugurated by Honorable Indira Rana Magar, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives. At the event, she unveiled the report entitled “Youth and Tobacco in Nepal” prepared by the Tobacco Control Program (TCP) research team of the Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI). At the same event, Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung, Project Coordinator, TCP presented the situation of tobacco control in Nepal and the importance of tobacco taxation as a prominent measure to control tobacco products. The presentation was followed by a dedicated panel discussion session on tobacco taxation focusing on the upcoming FY 2080/81.



The panelists of the discussion session were from the Ministry of Health and Population, the Inland Revenue Department, the Nepal Health Economics Association, the Cancer Care Foundation, and the Nepal Medical Association. Dr. Shankar Shrestha, Executive Director, NDRI was also invited as a guest in the program.

Workshop on Tobacco Taxation in FY budget 2080/81

A workshop on tobacco taxation was organized by the Nepal Cancer Relief Society on 6th April 2023. The workshop was conducted with the aim to discuss the situation of tobacco taxation in Nepal and priorities for the upcoming FY budget. The participants were from different government stakeholders, academia, representatives from political parties, elected member of parliament, and representatives from civil societies. In the workshop, Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung, Project Coordinator, TCP presented on the overall context of tobacco control initiatives in Nepal.



He highlighted the importance of tobacco taxation and the reasons for the increase in tobacco tax. He also emphasized Nepal has the lowest tobacco tax in the South Asian region and there is substantial room for increasing the tobacco tax.

Nepal records highest smoking prevalence, death rate in S Asia

Himalayan News Service
Kathmandu, April 12

Nepal has topped the list of countries with highest smoking rate and deaths caused by smoking in the South Asia region.

The most recent figures published by Nepal Development Research Institute shows that tobacco was responsible for nearly one in five deaths in Nepal (19 per cent). The problem is likely to get worse without firm government action," states NDRI report on Excise Tax on Cigarettes in the 2023-24 budget.

Tobacco responsible for nearly one in five deaths in Nepal

Tax rates on tobacco in Nepal are still very low compared to neighbouring countries and international recommendations. Even with the increases in tobacco tax rates in FY2021-2022 and FY2022-2023, tax as a percentage of the retail price in Nepal is still one of the lowest in the region at the only 41 per cent, compared

to much higher rates of taxation in neighbouring countries. In India, tax is 53 per cent of the retail price, and in Sri Lanka, it is 77 per cent. Nepal is currently facing a challenging economic environment. Domestic revenues are below target, leading to a 14 per cent reduction in the budget ceiling for 2023-24. Exports are down, leading to an increase in the trade deficit which is forecast to hit NPR two trillion by the end of the financial year. Domestic and external debt levels are rising. The government needs to take bold steps in response to increase revenues and support the Nepal economy.

https://epaper.thehimalayantimes.com/infinity/article_opover_share.aspx?guid=8989ca93-57bf-4d10-8938-f254535fae55

New publications of NDRI

- NDRI in collaboration with IDRC

Title: "Ensuring business innovation fundamentals : exploring equity, diversity and inclusion in small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMES) of Nepal"

<https://idl-bnc-idrc.dspacedirect.org/handle/10625/61869>

Authors: Prof. Dr. Raj Kumar Bhattarai (PI)
Nirmita Shrestha, Shreya Bajimaya
Rajendra Khatri, Dr. Rabita Shrestha
Mulmi, Dr. Shankar Shrestha

- Journal: BMJ Tobacco

Title: Extent of illicit cigarette sales in Nepal: findings from a retail survey

Authors: Sangita Shakya, Anjana Lamichhane, Pranav Karki, Jaya Kumar Gurung, Pramil Man Singh Pradhan

Link:
<https://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/early/2023/04/06/tc-2022-057619>

Interesting News!

Gender inequalities in food and agriculture are costing world \$1 trillion: FAO

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/04/1135597>

The to-do and not-to-do list

<https://tkpo.st/3o91FW2>

Featuring Dr. Jaya K. Gurung on Earth News HD

नसर्ने रोगको मुख्य कारण बन्दै सुर्तीजन्य पदार्थको सेवन

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RNvC_7pEn4g

NDRI got Featured



<https://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/think-tanks-can-play-major-role-in-guiding-govt-policies>

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