

Japanese Students Share Research Experience in Nepal



On the 20th of November 2023, Ms. Nami Mizuno and Ms. Chikayo Mori, two Japanese students from the University of Tokyo, Japan shared their recent experience about research in Nepal at NDRI. They had been in Nepal for the past 2 months.

In the session, Ms. Mizuno (Saraswati Mahato) shared about her study on “Local Alcohol Practices in Sidhuwa, Madi”, while Ms. Mori shared about her research on the “Diet of Darai people focusing on fermented food”. Their study area for the past two months had been, Madi, Chitwan. We learned that their delightful experience was centered on the lifestyle of the Darai people and the local communities in Madi.



NDRI at ITM Colloquium 2023 in Kathmandu

Mr. Kamal Chaulagain, Research Associate of NDRI, attended the ITM Colloquium 2023 in Kathmandu from the 21st to the 23rd November, co-hosted by the Institute of Tropical Medicine Antwerp (Belgium) and the Nepal Health Research Council. The event brought together global experts to discuss the impact of climate change on health. The Colloquium's comprehensive program featured six sessions with lectures from renowned international experts, providing a platform for robust discussions on the profound impacts of climate change, especially in low and middle-income countries like Nepal. The event emphasized the urgent need for adaptive strategies and resilient health systems to counteract the escalating health challenges posed by rising temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, and extreme weather events. The program further served as a preparatory platform for the upcoming UN Climate Change 28th Conference of Parties (COP28) in Dubai.



Dr. Nawa Raj Khatiwada's Insightful Seminar in Australia

Dr. Nawa Raj Khatiwada, President of NDRI, is currently in Australia, participating in various events. On November 24, 2023, Friday, he led a seminar addressing the topic, "How can you be a part of the collaboration between think tanks and academia of Nepal and Australia?" During



this session, Dr. Khatiwada provided an overview of NDRI, showcasing its founding members, current members, and staff. He extensively discussed the organization's goals, past and present affiliations, conducted activities, and offered a historical perspective, detailing NDRI's past accomplishments and projects. Shifting focus, he explored diverse sectors such as hydropower, women's empowerment, hospitality, and entrepreneurship, highlighting Nepal's growth in these areas. Additionally, Dr. Khatiwada emphasized the potential for collaboration with NDRI, proposing fellowship programs for young students in outsourcing and startup businesses, introducing the concept of partnering the think tanks of Nepal and Australia. This involved the initiation of a virtual research platform as well as platforms dedicated to outsourcing and startup ventures.

SAES XIV Debrief: Insights from Dr. Shrestha and Dr. Suwal

On the 21st of November 2023, Tuesday, a very enlightening sharing session was conducted at the NDRI by Dr. Shankar Shrestha (Executive Director) and Dr. Rudra Suwal (Lead, Economic Development Program). During the session, both shared their insights from their recent participation in the 14th the South Asian Economic Summit (SAES XIV), organized by the Centre



for Policy Dialogue (CPD) in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The first segment of the session was initiated by Dr. Shankar Shrestha, covering all the necessary details about the schedule of the entire two days. As both Dr. Shrestha and Dr. Suwal served as panelists in the thematic sessions, they each presented a brief

explanation on the topics "Towards an Integrated Energy Grid" and "Cooperation in Public Health," respectively. Also, they set forth their valuable insights on the present condition, benefits, barriers, initiatives, and possibilities related to their respective topics. Dr. Shrestha expressed a strong interest in making an in-kind contribution on behalf of NDRI during the 15th South Asian Economic Summit to be held in Nepal. Additionally, he is eager on establishing collaborations within the existing network at SAES. Overall, the sharing session proved to be highly informative and engaging.

Traditional Cake Mixing

On the 25th of November 2023, Dr. Krishna Pahari and Ms. Ashma Aryal represented NDRI at the Traditional Cake Mixing Program organized by the Hotel Himalaya. The event was a gathering of dignitaries from various organizations for the mixing and preparation of Christmas cake, which is a symphony of flavors, and celebrating the pre-festive harmony before Christmas.



Pre-project Workshop on SPAN

NDRI participated in a pre-project workshop on the potential project "Springwater Management, Agriculture, and Resilient Livelihoods in the mid hills of Nepal (SPAN)" on the 24th of November 2023 at Hotel Himalaya, Lalitpur. The workshop was organized by Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO).



The main objective of the workshop was to share broader perspectives, experiences and insights to position SPAN, update the engagement strategy to maximize research impact, and clarify partnership roles and responsibilities. Prof. Dr. Tara Nidhi Bhattarai, Mr. Girish Lamsal, Ms. Sunita Magar and Ms. Shreya Bajimaya represented NDRI at the workshop.

Community of Practice for Water Modelling in Nepal

A workshop on "Community of Practice for Water Modelling in Nepal" was organized by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) in collaboration with Water Resources Research and Development Center (WRRDC) and Center for Water Resources Studies (CWRS) of Institute of Engineering (IoE). The objective of this workshop was to initiate a Community of Practice among the water resources professionals of various government agencies, and academic and research institutes. They shared their experiences of hydrological modelling along with the challenges and opportunities. Ms. Divya Laxmi Subedi represented NDRI in this workshop.



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Thought of the week

"Either write something worth reading or do something worth reading."

— Benjamin Franklin

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