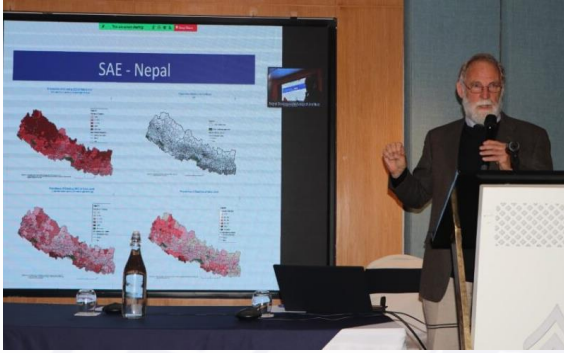


Seminar on Measuring Nutrition, Health, and Poverty in Small Areas



A seminar entitled “Measuring nutrition, health and poverty in small areas – how low can you go?” was organized by NDRI on the 9th of January 2024. With more than 50 participants, the program had a good representation from various government agencies, Development Organizations, Academicians, and think tanks.

The presentation included various examples from different countries, and particularly in Nepal, how small area estimates (SAE) could produce statistically representative data on various indicators at the lower level by using data from national surveys such as National Living Standards Survey (NLSS) and the Census data. This was followed by a Q&A session, and then remarks by Dr. Hem Raj Regmi, Deputy Chief Statistician, National Statistics Office (NSO), Dr. Shridhar Thapa, VAM Officer at the UN-World Food Program in Nepal, and Dr. Krishna Pahari, President of NDRI. It was followed by a discussion on the way forward moderated by Dr. Pahari, where representatives from WFP (Mr. Haile Aberra, Head of Programme), NSO (Dr. Hem Raj Regmi) and other participants all agreed on the need to conduct fresh round of SAE in Nepal which is likely to produce important data representative at the municipality level, which could be very useful for evidence based planning to meet the aspirations of reducing poverty and achieving zero hunger. Dr. Pahari concluded the session with his remarks that NDRI would be happy to coordinate this process by engaging with various stakeholders in Nepal and with Prof. Haslett’s team.

Ms. Ashma Aryal, Outreach and Communication Officer of NDRI served as the Master of Ceremony, and Dr. Shankar Shrestha, Executive Director at NDRI concluded the event with a vote of thanks which was followed by an interactive high tea.

The recording of the seminar can also be viewed at [Youtube](#).



Collaboration Sparks New Avenues for Research in Disaster Risk Management

In a recent meeting held on the 10th of January 2024, key members from the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) and the Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) convened to explore collaborative opportunities in disaster research and response. The session included introductions, presentations, and discussions on potential joint initiatives. The meeting began with introductions from both NDRI and NDRRMA members. Dr. Shankar Shrestha, Executive Director of NDRI presented an overview of NDRI, highlighting its foundation, collaborative partners, ongoing research projects, and events. He specifically focused on NDRI's research papers related to water induced disasters.



Mr. Anil Pokharel, the Chief Executive at NDRRMA, emphasized the importance of collective wisdom in research endeavors. He highlighted the challenges faced when different institutions independently produce similar reports and stressed the need for collaboration to optimize resources and expertise.

Mr. Pokharel pointed out that collaborative efforts between NDRRMA and NDRI could significantly enhance the quality and promptness of disaster reports. He highlighted the need for technical expertise, suggesting that NDRI's knowledge could complement NDRRMA's existing information, leading to more effective disaster bulletins and dialogues, or even coming up with special editions. He suggested picking a specific area to work on collaboratively. Dr. Krishna Pahari, President of NDRI, and Prof. Dr. Tara Nidhi Bhattarai, Vice President of NDRI expressed their appreciation for the common interests shared by both institutions and emphasized the importance of maintaining open communication channels. Mr. Pokharel also shared insights into NDRRMA's initiatives, including the establishment of a food bank and challenges faced during floods, emphasizing the critical role of food security in disaster response.



After the discussion, Dr. Pahari on behalf of the NDRI family handed over the cheque worth NPR 2,55,336/- (In words: Two Lakh, fifty-five thousand, three hundred and thirty-six Nepali Rupees only) to NDRRMA to contribute to the recent Jajarkot Earthquake Response Fund.

The meeting concluded with a consensus on the need for continued communication and collaboration. Both institutions recognized the potential for a synergistic partnership to address complex challenges in disaster risk reduction and management.

[Featured in NDRRMA Social Media Post](#)

Meeting with the Australian Ambassador Felicity Volk

On 10th January, NDRI President Dr. Krishna Pahari and Immediate Past President Dr. Nawa Raj Khatiwada had a meeting with Her Excellency Felicity Volk, Ambassador of Australia to Nepal. This was a follow-up to the meeting Dr. Khatiwada had with H.E. Kailash Raj Pokharel, Ambassador of Nepal to Australia during his recent trip to Australia.



During the meeting, Dr. Khatiwada shared his insights from his recent Australia visit where he had presented papers in conferences and had seminars with the Nepali diaspora. He shared his view that there is ample room for learning from the development experience in Australia and thus the need for collaboration between NDRI and Australian institutions.

Dr. Krishna Pahari provided a brief overview of NDRI as one of the leading think tanks in Nepal, and the existing collaboration between NDRI and various institutions in Australia such as CSIRO and some Universities. He indicated that NDRI would like to seek further opportunities for enhanced collaboration with Australian institutions to contribute to society at large through studies and findings for informed and rational policy-making.

H.E. Ambassador expressed her happiness to learn about NDRI and her willingness to work with NDRI in various areas where the interests would intersect. These could include work on areas such as disaster risk reduction, climate adaptation and resilience, higher education and research exchange, and so on. It was agreed that a more detailed discussion shall be held later between the relevant staff of the Embassy and NDRI on identifying areas of collaboration.

NDRI Debrief: Insights from Dr. Nawa Raj Khatiwada's Australia Trip

On January 11, 2024, a debriefing session took place from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the NDRI meeting hall. The session was moderated by Ms. Anjana Lamichhane, Research Associate, NDRI where Dr. Nawa Raj Khatiwada, Senior Research Specialist, NDRI debriefed about his November-December 2023 Australia trip.



Throughout his visit, he participated in various meetings, seminars, conferences, and site visits in different states of Australia, including Perth, Canberra, Melbourne, and Sydney. These events attracted both national and international participants.

During his visit, Dr. Khatiwada gathered valuable insights, experiences, and knowledge, which he shared during the presentation.

Field Survey for ILO Project

Three teams from NDRI participated in a field survey for the Project titled 'Mapping and Review of Enterprise Registration and Renewal Processes, Practices, and Existing Policy Incentives in Nepal', funded by International Labor Organization (ILO). The survey was conducted from 5th January 2024 to 12th January 2024. Each team consisted of three members and was assigned to Karnali, Sudurpaschim, and Madhesh Provinces respectively. The teams conducted KII with economic units in their respective provinces. Furthermore, Consultative meetings were held with different stakeholders of Provincial and Local levels



relating to enterprise registration and renewal of all three provinces where the teams observed the challenges involved in the enterprise registration. The stakeholders involved were the personnel from enterprise registration units, Provincial and Local representatives, the members of the labor union, and the members of different federations.

186th Episode of Contemporary Policy Dialogue

In the latest episode of Contemporary Policy Dialogue (CPD) Dr. Divas B. Basnyat, the Lead of the Water and Climate Program at NDRI, delivered an enriching presentation on "Water and Climate Change: Sharing Insights from NDRI Studies." The session delved into crucial topics such as climate uncertainty, resilience, and the interconnected role of water and climate change.

Dr. Basnyat emphasized four major messages drawn from NDRI research; (i) The greatest impact of climate change is from increased climate induced hazards, higher than from changes in water availability. (ii) Current climate and hydrological variability is a major challenge for Nepal's water resources and hydropower sector. (iii) Future climate change is highly uncertain. (iv) Investing is needed to learn monitoring, research, and pilots, to improve decisions and planning.

YouTube: The 186th Episode of CPD if you missed.



नेपाल विकास अनुसन्धान प्रतिष्ठान
Nepal Development Research Institute



रिसोर्स हिमालय
Resources Himalaya

186th Episode of Contemporary Policy Dialogue

Water and Climate Change: Sharing insights from NDRI studies



Key speaker
Dr. Divas B. Basnyat
Water and Climate Expert

Dr. Divas B Basnyat leads the Water and Climate Program at Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI). He has more than 30 years of experience on University teaching, research, and consulting in 13 countries in Asia and Africa. He is the project lead of several current NDRI research projects. These include: (i) Climate Resilient Guideline for Hydropower and its application in the Narayani Basin (ICIMOD and WECS) 2023 - 2024, (ii) Mitigating flood risks through women's leadership in EBA interventions (Global EBA Fund, IUCN) 2023 - 2025, (iii) Tomorrow's Cities-Urban Risk in Transition" (GCRF, UK) 2021 - 2024, and (iv) Understanding the gender, equality, social inclusion and distributional implications of the economics of climate change, the costs of adaptation, and bankable adaptation projects (ECONOGENESIS)" (FCDO-IDRC) 2023 - 2025. He is also leading the "Preparation of River Basin Plans, Hydropower Development Master Plans and Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment" for the Water and Energy Commission Secretariat (WECS), Nepal, and a research project on "Hydro-economic modelling of Kamala River Basin, Nepal" for ICIMOD and CSIR, Australian. His specific areas of expertise and interest are hydropower and water resources systems analysis, river basin planning and management, hydrological studies and modelling, climate change risk assessment, and water-induced disaster risk management.

12th January, 2024 | Friday
09:00 AM to 10:00 AM

Zoom ID: 961 8021 7222
Zoom Passcode: 535476

Techno-Social Solutions for Off Grid Food-Energy-Water (FEW) Challenges: An Event by Israel Embassy, Nepal

On 12 Jan 2024, Dr. Shankar Shrestha (Executive Director, NDRI) was invited by H.E. Mr. Hanan Goder Goldberger (Ambassador of Israel to Nepal) to attend a presentation followed by a Reception at his garden residence, Bishalnagar, Kathmandu. The presentation entitled "Techno-Social Solutions for Off-Grid Food-Energy-Water (FEW) Challenges" was presented by subject matter experts from Israel's wastewater treatment institutions and the University of Maryland, USA.



It was presented that a pilot project using the “Off-grid wastewater treatment system (the Laguna system)” will be implemented in a school in the Namobuddha Municipality of Nepal in cooperation with the University of Maryland Global FEWtues program, Arava Institute, and Laguna Innovation. The pilot project will provide wastewater treatment and reuse services for the school.

Israel is number one in the world in the field of wastewater treatment and reuse and this project is expected to be very fruitful in reusing the wastewater so that it can replace the use of the normal clean water which can be used for other purposes. The program was attended by professionals involved in the water, energy, and agriculture sectors including Er. Ganesh Shah (Former Minister of Environment, Science and Technology), Mr. Kunsang Lama (Mayor, Namobuddha Municipality), Dr. Bim Prasad Shrestha (Professor, Kathmandu University), Er. Gyanendra Lal Pradhan (Hydropower Specialist and Entrepreneur), students and subject matter experts from Israel and the University of Maryland, among others. The program ended with a moment of silence for the Nepalese killed in the recent Hamas-Israel war including a Nepali citizen Mr. Bipin Joshi who has been missing to date.

Thought-provoking News

Teenage girls in Rukum East live in terror of outdated traditions

<https://kathmandupost.com/province-no-5/2024/01/10/teenage-girls-in-rukum-east-live-in-terror-of-outdated-traditions>

Focus on road safety

<https://kathmandupost.com/columns/2024/01/10/focusing-on-the-road-safety-agenda>

Thought of the Week

“Only put off until tomorrow what you are willing to die having left undone.”

– Pablo Picasso

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Executive Director

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