

NEWSLETTER

15th July to 21st July

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Tomorrow's Cities Project Partners from Tanzania visit NDRI

On July 18th, 2024, Prof. Wilbard Kombe and Prof. Alphonse Kyessi, along with Dr. Tatu Limbumba from Ardhi University, Tanzania, visited NDRI as part of their Nepal tour under Tomorrow's Cities Project. The goal of their visit was to explore potential areas for future collaboration. Dr. Shankar Shrestha, Dr. Divas B. Basnyat, Dr. Manjeshwori Singh, Ms. Shreya Bajimaya, Mr. Girish Lamsal, and Ms. Divya Subedi represented

NDRI in the meeting. NDRI and Ardhi University team provided a comprehensive introduction of each other's activities. The meeting was productive, with both parties agreeing to be in touch for collaboration, including for joint project development and organizing/participating in joint events, among others.

Gaining Insights on Hemp Production in Nepal

The Economic Development Program team at NDRI represented by Salisha Raila and Bipashwi Nepal, recently conducted a Key Informant Interview at Sunshine Hemp Pvt. Ltd. in Thamel as a part of the ongoing Pre-Feasibility study on Hemp Products. During their visit, they gathered valuable insights into the production cycle and the variety of hemp products produced. The team also explored the opportunities available for hemp producers, the market dynamics, and the challenges faced in hemp production.

This comprehensive information will contribute to the preparation of the pre-feasibility report, an initiative led by NDRI, aimed at assessing the potential of the hemp industry.

NDRI at JUAAN Benkyokai on Renewable Energy for Prosperity

The Japanese Embassy in Nepal hosted the Japanese Universities Alumni Association of Nepal (JUAAN) "Benkyokai" on Renewable Energy for Prosperity on Friday, July 19, 2024, bringing together experts and stakeholders in the field of renewable energy. The keynote presentation was delivered by Mr. Dipak Gyawali, a prominent figure in the field. Dr. Divas Bahadur Basnyat, Lead, Water and Climate Program, from the Nepal Development Research Institute, was a panelist in the panel discussion on "Status of Energy Consumption and Link to Prosperity" following the keynote presentation. Other panelists



included Dr. Ram Lama from Kathmandu University, Mr. Nawa Raj Dhakal, Executive Director of Alternative Energy Promotion Center (AEPIC), and Mr. Ashish Garg, Vice President, Independent Power Producers Association of Nepal (IPPAN).

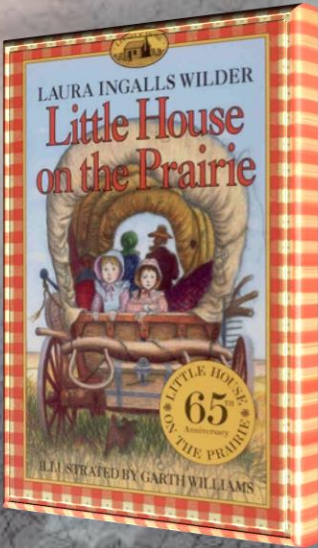
Dr. Basnyat highlighted the need for energy transition in Nepal to meet the energy requirements and trends of other middle income and developed countries. About 64% of the current total energy consumption in the residential sector and about 68% of the total energy supply from biomass (biofuels and wastes) are not sustainable both from development and climate action perspectives. Nepal needs to work on both the energy demand management and supply side to meet Nepal's climate change and sustainable development goals. Development of renewable energy sources and use of electricity in industry, transport, commercial and residential sectors should be our national priority.

He also noted that development of Nepal's hydropower potential, in combination with other variable renewable energy sources like solar and wind, is the answer to meet the national and regional energy needs of the coming decades.

Meeting at PQPMC Explores Scope and Use of e-Beam Technology

On 18th July 2024, a productive meeting was held at the Plant Quarantine and Pesticide Management Centre (PQPMC) at Harihar Bhawan, Lalitpur, to discuss the scope and use of e-Beam technology in plant quarantine and pesticide management. Key officials from PQPMC, including Chief Bhoj Raj Sapkota, Senior Crops Officer Devraj Adhikari, and Plant Pathology Officer Prakash Ghimire, participated in the discussions. Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung, Senior Research Specialist, and Ms. Binita Shahi, Research Associate, attended the event on behalf of the NDRI. The meeting focused on the potential applications of e-Beam technology in improving plant quarantine processes and pesticide management. The PQPMC has committed to supporting NDRI with comprehensive data and evidence on the use and import of pesticides, which will be crucial for advancing research and developing effective strategies. In addition, Mr. Prakash Ghimire has kindly agreed to provide a detailed two-page document summarizing critical information based on his extensive experience working in RMPR labs across the country. This document, along with the generated data and evidence, is expected to be useful to the NDRI team working on this area.

The next session of the Contemporary Policy Dialogue Series (on 2nd August 2024, 9:00-10:00 am) will be a special celebration of our 200th episode; stay tuned for information on participating in this milestone event, which will be provided through our social media channels.



Book Recommendation of the Week

★★★★☆ 4.21

Feel free to recommend books to our readers so that we can collectively enhance knowledge exploration.

Thought Provoking news

We should move towards impact-based forecasts

<https://kathmandupost.com/interviews/2024/07/22/we-should-move-towards-impact-based-forecasts>

Tourism earnings hit record high

<https://kathmandupost.com/money/2024/07/14/tourism-earnings-hit-record-high>

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us."

-Ralph. Waldo. Emerson

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