

NEWSLETTER

4th November to 10th November

Year: 2024

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UK-Based Abt Global Representatives Visit NDRI for Collaborative Talks

On November 5, 2024, representatives from Abt Global, based in the United Kingdom, visited Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) premises to discuss future collaboration opportunities. The meeting focused on identifying common research themes and exploring potential joint projects. Abt Global was represented by Ms. Madhavi Rajadhyaksha (Senior Director: Governance), Shreya Viswanath Basu, and Dr. Damodhar Adhikari (Consultant), who brought extensive expertise and insights into the conversation. Representing NDRI were Dr. Krishna Pahari, President; Dr. Shankar Shrestha, Executive Director; and Ms. Ashma Aryal, Outreach and Communication Officer. The discussions were constructive, covering areas of mutual interest and laying a foundation for potential future partnerships. This meeting marks an important step in fostering international collaboration and advancing NDRI's mission to address pressing development challenges.



Seventh Consultative Meeting of the University of Nepal Development Board Marking Milestone in Education and Nation-building

The University of Nepal Development Board successfully conducted its Seventh Consultative Meeting from November 6th to 8th, 2024. The event brought together academic, government, and development leaders to discuss the role of universities in national development and to inaugurate the University of Nepal, which was authorized by the President of Nepal on October 9, 2024.



The first day held at Hotel Himalaya, Lalitpur was divided into three segments: a symposium on "The Role of Universities in Nation-Building," a panel discussion on fostering partnerships between universities and government, and the official inauguration of the University of Nepal. The ceremony was chaired by Dr. Arjun Karki, Chairperson of the University

of Nepal Development Board, and featured insights from distinguished national and international dignitaries on the transformative role of universities.

Notable speakers like Dr. Poorna Kanta Adhikari, Prof. Amma Raj Joshi, former Vice-Chancellor of Far Western University; Prof. Rajendra Dhoj Joshi, President of Madan Bhandari University of Science and Technology;

Prof. Robert Woollard and Ms. Ann Buller talked about the level of political involvement in educational institutions, the dynamic balance between visionaries, implementers, and critics, and the need for inclusivity in fostering national prosperity considering both national and international perspectives. The panel discussion entitled "Building Synergistic Partnerships between the Government and Universities," was moderated by Dr. Jagadish Chandra Pokhrel, former Vice-Chair of the National Planning Commission while Panelists Prof. Dr. Bhola Thapa, Vice-Chancellor, Kathmandu University; Dr. Bimala Rai Paudyal (former Foreign Minister of



To be continued.

Nepal), Mr. Rameshwor Khanal (former Finance Secretary of Government of Nepal, and Dr. Sucheta Pyakurel (former Director, IIDS) shared their views. Dr. Pyakurel emphasized the importance of differentiating "residual politics" from governance, while Dr. Paudyal advocated for separating professional ethics from personal interests. She also proposed stipends for students to foster real-world skills, underscoring that universities should not be viewed merely as government liabilities.

The University of Nepal was inaugurated by Hon. Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Bishnu Poudel who served as the Chief Guest. After Officially Launching the university, he reassured the government's support, stating that the University symbolizes hope for the nation's educational landscape. Dr. Bindu Lohani, former Vice President of the Asian

Development Bank, delivered a Keynote Lecture on "The Pivotal Role of Universities in Nation-building", while other political leaders, including Hon. Ammar Bahadur Thapa, Hon. Shyam Kumar Ghimire, Mr. Girirajmani Pokharel, Hon. Bhanubhakta Joshi, Hon. Rajendra KC, offered congratulatory messages.

Ms. Ashma Aryal, Outreach and Communication Officer from NDRI, served as the Master of Ceremony for the inaugural day. NDRI was represented by its President, Dr. Krishna Pahari; Executive Director, Dr. Shankar Shrestha; Senior Research Specialists Prof. Dr. Punya Prasad Regmi and Dr. Nawa Raj Khatiwada; and Research Intern Mr. Anuj Dhakal.

The program continued at Dhulikhel Mountain Lodge Resort, where participants discussed progress in the development of academic programs, faculty and student recruitment, research initiatives, and innovation strategies for the University of Nepal. The session also focused on outlining the roadmap for the University's future growth and impact.



NDRI participated in Samata Foundation's Policy Dialogue on Climate Change and Marginalized Communities

Ms. Shreya Bajimaya, Senior Research Associate at NDRI, participated in a policy dialogue organized by Samata Foundation. The event, inaugurated by Honorable Rupa B.K., State Minister for Forests and Environment, was structured in three phases. Initially, PhD holders from Dalit community were felicitated. Following this, the book "Dalit Human Rights Book 2080", authored by Arjun Bishwokarma, was launched. The final session included a presentation on the project "Impact of climate change on marginalized communities" by representative of Samata Foundation, followed by a national level policy dialogue on climate change with political leaders and parliamentarians.



NAST Workshop on Science Diplomacy: Insights from World Science Day 2024

On the occasion of World Science Day 2024, Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) organized a workshop focusing on the significance of science diplomacy for Nepal's development. Dr. Sunil Babu Shrestha, General Member of NDRI and former VC of NAST, delivered the keynote speech, emphasizing the critical role of science in fostering international collaboration and cooperation.



Dr. Jaya K. Gurung, Senior Research Specialist, NDRI and a member of the Science Diplomacy and Science and Technology Promotion Committee at NAST, highlighted the potential of science diplomacy to drive progress in Nepal. Similarly, Prof. Dr. Ramesh Maskey, former Ambassador of Nepal to China, delivered a special remark underlining the strategic importance of scientific engagement in the global arena.

The workshop shed light on key issues and opportunities in science diplomacy for Nepal. It was emphasized that science diplomacy is a cornerstone for development and holds immense potential for strengthening international partnerships. However, it was also noted that Nepal's national delegations to major global events, such as COP29, often lack representation from scientists, which undermines informed decision-making on critical issues like climate change. The workshop stressed the need for scientists to take a more prominent role in the country's development initiatives. Additionally, the importance of encouraging young scientists, developing their capacities, and retaining their expertise within Nepal was strongly highlighted. The discussions underscored the necessity for Nepal to leverage science diplomacy effectively in addressing contemporary challenges and advancing its geopolitical and developmental goals.

206th Contemporary Policy Dialogue Series on Nepal's External Sector Challenges

The 206th episode of the Contemporary Policy Dialogue (CPD) Series was held on Friday, 8th November 2024. The session featured Dr. Ram Acharya, a prominent economist as the keynote speaker. His talk, entitled **"Nepal in Twilight: A Hollowed-Out External Sector and Its Ramifications,"** captivated attendees with its analysis and insights. Addressing the pressing concerns surrounding Nepal's external sector, which has shown signs of vulnerability in recent years. Dr. Acharya provided a detailed examination of the structural weaknesses in the sector, including trade deficits, foreign employment trends, and remittance reliance.

The session attracted a diverse audience, including policymakers, economists, academicians, researchers, and students. Attendees actively engaged in the discussion, posing questions and sharing perspectives.



नेपाल विकास अनुसन्धान परिषद्
Nepal Development Research Institute

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206th Episode of Contemporary Policy Dialogue Series

Nepal in Decline: With A Hollowed-Out External Sector



Key Speaker

Dr. Ram C. Acharya

Senior Economist

Ram Acharya has PhD in economics from University of Ottawa. He has more than 25 years of experience conducting research in economic policies at the Federal Government in Canada in areas of economic growth, international trade, investment, productivity innovation, and technology diffusion. His several research papers have appeared in refereed international journals, research volumes and online publications. Besides, he has quite a few working papers on economic policies. He has also written a few papers on Nepal's economic issues. In the past, he had also contributed Op-ed articles in Kathmandu Post, Republica and Setopati

8th November, 2024, Friday

09:00AM to 10:00AM

Zoom ID: 961 8021 7222

Password: 535476

Click to watch the full video of the Episode [Link](#)

NDRI Hosts Insightful Presentation and Heartfelt Farewell Program



Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) organized a dual event on Friday, November 8, 2024, featuring an insightful presentation session and a heartfelt farewell program. The program began with a presentation by NDRI Research Intern Ms. Prapti Shrestha on the topic **"Policy Review for Unlocking the Potential of Industrial Hemp in Nepal."** In her presentation, she provided a comprehensive review of existing Hemp policies, identifying barriers to growth and suggesting actionable

strategies for policymakers. Following the presentation, the NDRI team gathered to bid farewell to Senior Admin and Finance Assistant Mr. Anjan Silwal and Research Intern Ms. Prapti Shrestha. The farewell session was filled with warmth and appreciation as colleagues shared heartfelt words reflecting on their contributions to the organization.



NDRI Family Luncheon Hosted by NDRI President

On November 9, 2024, Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) family, including NDRI alumni and well-wishers, gathered for a warm and celebratory luncheon hosted by NDRI President Dr. Krishna Pahari at his residence in Hattiban, Lalitpur. This social gathering provided a unique opportunity for current and former NDRI colleagues to connect, reminisce, and discuss the future directions of NDRI's mission and research goals.

The gathering also saw the kind presence of Er. Ganesh Shah, Former Minister of Science and Technology, Government of Nepal. Dr. Pahari's gracious hosting fostered a genuine spirit of belonging, reflecting the core values that drive NDRI's ongoing impact. The NDRI family thanks Dr. Pahari for his hospitality and dedication in bringing together current and former team members to celebrate and inspire each other for the work ahead.



Thought-provoking News

What Trump 2.0 might mean for Nepal

<https://kathmandupost.com/national/2024/11/08/what-trump-2-0-might-mean-for-nepal>

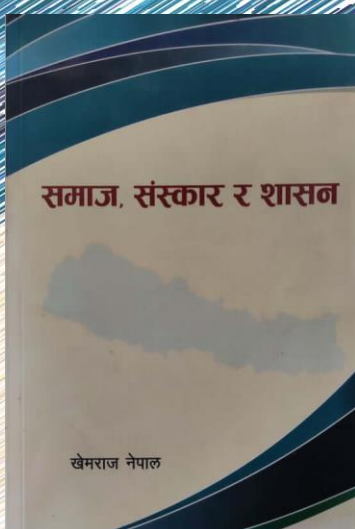
COP29 must see a scale-up of Loss and Damage Fund

<https://kathmandupost.com/climate-environment/2024/11/08/cop29-must-see-a-scale-up-of-loss-and-damage-fund>

Thought of the Week

Imagining something may be the first step in making it happen, but it takes the real-time and real efforts of real people to learn things, make things, and turn thoughts into deeds or visions into inventions.

— Mr. Rogers



Book
Recommendation
of the Week

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ 3.70

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

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