

NDRI Explores Potential Collaboration with Jaya Mental Health Nepal



On 11th November 2024, Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) hosted a meeting with Ms. Luvana Shrestha, Country Representative of Jaya Mental Health (Unity in Health) Nepal, to explore potential collaboration in mental health initiatives. Jaya Mental Health, a leading organization dedicated to delivering direct services and providing capacity-building training in mental health, has a significant focus on supporting communities in Ilam and Mustang districts.

The meeting, held at the NDRI premises in Sanepa, Lalitpur, aimed to identify synergies between the two organizations. With NDRI's extensive portfolio and expertise across a wide range of research

and development areas, the discussion revolved around ways to combine resources and knowledge to effectively address mental health challenges in Nepal. Representing NDRI were Dr. Shankar Shrestha, Executive Director; Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung, Senior Research Specialist and Lead of the Health, Education and Environment Program; Mr. Rajendra Khatri, Senior Research Associate; Research Associates Ms. Kabita Yadav and Mr. Kamal Chaulagain; and Ms. Ashma Aryal, Outreach and Communication Officer. Both parties expressed optimism about working together to strengthen mental health service delivery, especially in underserved rural areas, by leveraging each organization's strengths and resources.

NDRI Hosts Insightful Discussion with Former Foreign Minister



On November 15, 2024, Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) hosted a meeting with Dr. Bimala Rai Paudyal, former Foreign Minister of Nepal, to discuss the potential roadmap for NDRI and the pivotal roles and responsibilities of think tanks in national development.

Dr. Paudyal shared her extensive experience, drawing from her tenure as a member of the National Planning Commission, a member of the National Assembly, and a development expert at the Office of the President. The meeting commenced with an interactive session between the NDRI team and Dr. Paudyal, followed by a presentation on NDRI's activities and achievements by Dr. Shankar

Shrestha, Executive Director of NDRI. During the discussion, Dr. Paudyal highlighted a critical challenge in Nepal's research ecosystem: the effective dissemination of research findings to target audiences. She underscored the importance of collaboration with key stakeholders and change agents through regular dialogue and actionable initiatives. Dr. Paudyal also emphasized leveraging mainstream media to ensure research findings translate into policy and action. She pointed out that political leaders often rely heavily on media for information, making it an essential tool for influencing decision-making. Furthermore, she elaborated on public expectations of the government, stressing the importance of good governance and efficient service delivery. The meeting was held at NDRI's premises in Sanepa, Lalitpur. Representing NDRI were Dr. Krishna Pahari, President; Dr. Shankar Shrestha, Executive Director; Dr. Nawaraj Khatriwada, Senior Research Specialist; and Mr. Anuj Dhakal, Research Intern.

Fostering Collaboration for MSME Growth: NDRI and FMC Join Hands

On November 15, 2024, Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) and the Foundation for MSME Clusters (FMC) summoned a meeting to discuss potential collaboration under the project *Promoting Innovation and Inclusion in Growth Potential Enterprises: Evidence from Nepal*, which focuses on MSME development. The collaboration aims to foster innovation, inclusion, and soft networking opportunities between the two organizations. Representing NDRI were Dr. Shankar Shrestha (Executive Director), Prof. Dr. Rajkumar Bhattarai (Principal Investigator), Mr. Rajendra Khatri (Project Manager), and Ms. Dikshya Barasaini (Research Assistant), while FMC was represented by Senior Advisor Mr. Tamal Sarkar and Mr. Subhradeep Das. Dr. Shrestha commenced the meeting with an introduction to NDRI, followed by a project overview by Ms. Barasaini and Prof. Bhattarai, who detailed the project's objectives and its potential to drive MSME innovation in Nepal. Mr. Khatri emphasized the importance of collaboration and proposed exposure visits to Indian MSME sectors, highlighting shared objectives and the potential for mutual learning. In response, Mr. Sarkar expressed enthusiasm for the collaboration, commended the initiative, and assured FMC's openness to innovative ideas and joint efforts. The meeting concluded with both organizations committing to further collaboration and co-working opportunities to strengthen MSME growth and innovation in the region.



Hillside College of Engineering Hosts Workshop on Sustainable Management of Construction Materials

Mr. Girish Raj Lamsal, a Research Associate at NDRI, participated in a workshop entitled "International Networking and Policy Design for Local Government on the River-Sourced Sustainable Management of Construction Materials" held on November 14, 2024. The event, hosted by Hillside College of Engineering in collaboration with Liverpool John Moores University (UK), brought together distinguished experts and participants to discuss pressing issues related to sustainable construction material sourcing. The program was attended by notable figures, including College Chairman Mr. Janardan Nepal; Prof. Dr. Govinda Raj Pokhrel, former Vice-Chancellor of the National Planning Commission; and experts from Liverpool John Moores University, such as Dr. Raj Shah and Dr. Indra Acharya. Also present were Dr. Bhola Ghimire from IoE Pulchowk, and Prof. Madhav Koirala from Pokhara University, Er. Shiva Mangal Giri from Nepal Engineering Council, and Senior Divisional Geologist Kushal Nandan Pokhrel, among many other esteemed speakers. Er. Dr. Samit Thapa, Principal of Hillside College, warmly welcomed the participants, while Program Coordinator Er. Pramod Karmacharya concluded the event with gratitude. The workshop gathered policymakers, geologists, engineers, and researchers to address key challenges and opportunities for sustainable river-sourced construction materials. Discussions centered around the environmental, social, and economic impacts of existing mining practices and emphasized the need for innovative approaches that balance material demand, flood risk reduction, and ecosystem preservation.



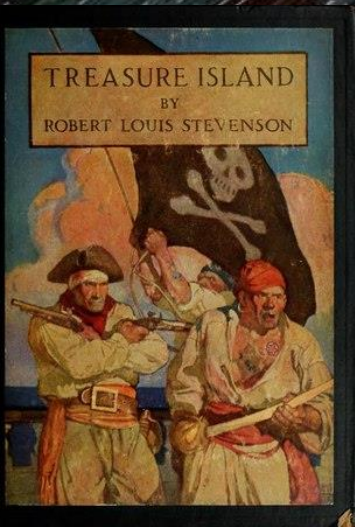
On-site Verification and Documentation

Review of Project Interventions



From November 11 to 15, 2024, Ms. Nirmita Shrestha, a Research Associate at NDRI and a team member of the IDRC-funded project "Promoting Innovation and Inclusion in Growth-Potential Enterprises: Evidence from Nepal," conducted monitoring field visits to Sudurpashchim Province. The visits aimed to verify documents, including VAT/PAN bills, submitted by entrepreneurs participating in the project interventions, as well as to affix project identification stickers.

Ms. Shrestha carried out the verifications across Baitadi, Bajura, and Dadeldhura districts, ensuring that the submitted information aligned with project requirements. The on-site verifications were completed successfully, contributing to the project's ongoing commitment to promoting transparency and accountability in supporting growth-potential enterprises.



Book
Recommendation
of the Week

★★★★☆ 3.70

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Thought-provoking News

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<https://kathmandupost.com/national/2024/11/14/kantipur-conclave-experts-discuss-impact-of-trump-s-foreign-policy-on-south-asia>

Not COP-ing well

<https://kathmandupost.com/editorial/2024/11/12/not-cop-ing-well>

Welcome to the NDRI Family!



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