

NEWSLETTER

25th November to 1st December

Year: 2024

Volume:174

IDRC Senior Program Specialist Visits NDRI for Project Review

Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) had the pleasure of welcoming Dr. Bhim Adhikari, Senior Program Specialist from IDRC Canada, for an insightful meeting with the team working on the IDRC-funded project, "Promoting Innovation and Inclusion in Growth Potential Enterprises: Evidence from Nepal" on the 26th of October 2024. This three-year experimental research project aims to foster innovation and inclusivity in Nepalese enterprises with growth potential by implementing targeted interventions as needed. Dr. Adhikari's visit was an opportunity to assess the project's progress and understand the challenges faced during its implementation. The meeting was attended by NDRI's key representatives, including President Dr. Krishna Pahari, Executive Director Dr. Shankar Shrestha, Project Principal Investigator Prof. Dr. Raj Kumar Bhattarai, and Project Manager Mr. Rajendra Khattri. Other members present were Senior Research Specialist Dr. Rabita Mulmi, Research Associate Ms. Nirmita Shrestha, Research Assistant Ms. Dikshya Barasaini, and Outreach and Communication Officer Ms. Ashma Aryal.

Dr. Shankar Shrestha provided an overview of NDRI's vision and activities, while Prof. Dr. Raj Kumar Bhattarai presented a detailed update on the project's progress. The productive session reinforced the commitment of both IDRC and NDRI to achieving the project's goals and fostering inclusive development in Nepal. The visit concluded with a renewed sense of collaboration and determination to address challenges effectively, ensuring the project delivers meaningful outcomes for Nepal's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

NDRI and IDRC Discuss the ECONOGENESIS Project



Similarly, on November 28, 2024, the Water and Climate Program (WCP) team of the Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) also had a productive meeting with Dr. Adhikari at Avocado Café, Baluwatar, Kathmandu. NDRI was represented by Executive Director Dr. Shankar Shrestha, Senior Research Associate Shreya Bajimaya, and Research Associates Girish R. Lamsal, Divya L. Subedi, and Daya Shrestha. The meeting centered on the ECONOGENESIS project of NDRI, funded by UK Aid and IDRC, which aims to advance understanding of the economics of climate change, the costs of adaptation, and the development of actionable, bankable climate adaptation finance projects. Dr. Adhikari, a key expert in the field of climate finance, offered invaluable insights to make the Econogenesis project outputs impactful.

To be continued...



Dr. Adhikari engaged with the team in detailed discussions about the project's progress, innovative approaches, and the hurdles encountered. He also highlighted IDRC's ongoing research priorities and emphasized opportunities for further collaboration between IDRC and NDRI, particularly in the emerging area of climate financing.

He elaborated on the project's current objectives and shared a vision for its future direction, emphasizing the need for macro-level policy development to enhance climate finance mechanisms. His inputs reinforced the importance of generating actionable research and strengthening institutional capacities to address the growing challenges posed by climate change.

The meeting underscored the collaborative commitment of NDRI and IDRC to fostering innovative, sustainable solutions for climate adaptation and resilience, marking another milestone in their shared mission of promoting inclusive and impactful development. A core feature of the project is its focus on promoting gender equality and social inclusion.

SHERPA Project Highlighted at Ministerial Conference in Vienna

Vienna, Austria – The project entitled “Feasibility Study on Cold Plasma Technology in Agriculture, Healthcare, and Other Sectors in Nepal” (SHERPA), led by Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung, Senior Research Specialist, NDRI gained international attention during the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science, Technology, and Applications and the Technical Cooperation Programme, held from November 26–28, 2024 at the Vienna International Centre (VIC), Austria. Dr. Gurung was invited to share insights about the SHERPA project and its transformative potential for Nepal’s development.



In his presentation, Dr. Gurung detailed the SHERPA initiative and its implications for leveraging nuclear science and technology (NST) to address socio-economic challenges in Nepal. The conference also featured remarks from Mr. Bishwo Babu Pudasaini, Secretary of Nepal’s Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology (MoEST), who underscored Nepal’s strong commitment to collaborating with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in advancing development efforts.

His Excellency Mr. Bharat Kumar Regmi, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations and other international organizations in Vienna, extended his appreciation to both the Nepalese and U.S. teams working on the SHERPA initiative.

He encouraged further collaboration and offered the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ support in facilitating the project’s progress. For Dr. Gurung, the conference was a profound learning experience. He observed how NST is driving socio-economic transformation in other countries, with innovative approaches such as public-private partnerships (PPP) and regional cooperation playing pivotal roles. He stressed that Nepal must actively seek opportunities to adopt similar models and benefit from the IAEA’s technical support for capacity development. Additionally, he highlighted the importance of drawing lessons from international best practices to establish e-beam technology in Nepal, a vital step in enhancing the country’s technological capabilities.

During the conference, Dr. Gurung also met with key U.S. diplomats, including Ambassador Bonnie Jenkins, U.S. Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, and Ambassador Laura Holgate, U.S. Permanent Representative to the IAEA and UN offices in Vienna. These interactions underscored Nepal’s alignment with global commitments under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and its aspirations to use NST for peaceful and developmental purposes.

Welcome to NDRI Family!



Ms. Akriti Sharma

Research Associate (Engineering Geology)



Mr. Umesh Pokhrel

Admin and Finance Assistant

Thought-provoking News

Nepal secures 'BB Minus' rating, ranks second in South Asia after India

<https://kathmandupost.com/money/2024/11/21/nepal-secures-bb-minus-rating-ranks-second-in-south-asia-after-india>

Nepal starts losing Indian tourists

<https://kathmandupost.com/money/2024/12/02/nepal-starts-losing-indian-tourists>

Thought of the Week

The only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle. As with all matters of the heart, you'll know when you find it.

-Steve Jobs

Newsletter Preparation :

Ms. Seetal Luitel
Front Desk Officer

Editors :

Ms. Ashma Aryal
Outreach and Communication Officer

Dr. Shankar Shrestha
Executive Director

Click the icons to Connect with Us on Social Media!



★★★★★ 3.70

Book Recommendation of the Week

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