

Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) Signs MoU with Policy Research Institute (PRI)

On December 10, 2024, Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) and Policy Research Institute (PRI), a government think tank, signed a [Memorandum of Understanding \(MoU\)](#) at the PRI premises in Narayanhiiti. This collaboration aims to foster research and policy development in Nepal.

Representing PRI at the event were Executive Chairperson Prof. Dr. Lekhnath Sharma, Senior Research Fellow Hari Sharma Neupane, Dr. Deepak Kumar Khadka, Dr. Mukti Ram Rijal, Dr. Khaga Nath Adhikari, and Office Manager Mr. Laxman Prasad Bhattarai. The NDRI delegation included President Dr. Krishna Pahari, Executive Director Dr. Shankar Shrestha, Senior Research Specialist Prof. Dr. Punya Prasad Regmi, and Outreach and Communication Officer Ms. Ashma Aryal. Both organizations expressed their commitment to collaboratively addressing emerging policy issues through high-quality research.

The partnership will focus on critical areas such as climate change, food security, economic development, social inclusion, and governance, among others aiming to provide evidence-based solutions for national and global challenges. This MoU marks a significant step toward strengthening Nepal's research and policy ecosystem.



NDRI at Regional Consultation on Innovative Ideas and Knowledge Sharing

NDRI participated in the Regional Consultation on Innovative Ideas and Knowledge Sharing, organized by the Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh in collaboration with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Held on December 14, 2024, in Kathmandu, the event brought together experts from South Asia and Southeast Asia (representing think tanks, universities, bilateral and multilateral development partners, etc.) to discuss critical themes such as Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation; and Universal Health Coverage (UHC), among others. NDRI was represented by Dr. Shankar Shrestha (Executive Director) and Mr. Kamal Chaulagain (Research Associate) as Panelists in the sessions on “Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Efforts in South Asia and Southeast Asia” and “Regional Cooperation and Knowledge Sharing in UHC System” respectively.

Dr. Shankar Shrestha highlighted the sustainable agricultural practices currently being implemented in South Asia and Southeast Asia to adapt to the impacts of climate change, and their effectiveness. Dr. Shrestha also highlighted the key barriers to adopting climate-resilient agricultural practices and the ways to address them. Details available [here](#).



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Mr. Kamal Chaulagain focused on the barriers to achieving UHC in the region, highlighting challenges such as insufficient healthcare financing, workforce shortages, and the rising burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). He recommended practical solutions, including increasing health investments, expanding telemedicine services, and strengthening collaboration between public and private sectors to create an equitable and inclusive health system. Details available [here](#).



NDRI Meets with CPD from Bangladesh

On 14 December 2024, NDRI team represented by Dr. Krishna Pahari (President) and Dr. Shankar Shrestha (Executive Director) met with delegates from the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka, Bangladesh at the NDRI office in Sanepa, Lalitpur, Nepal. The CPD team was led by Dr. Fahmida Khatun (Executive Director). The meeting focused on knowing each organization in detail and exploring areas of collaboration in the areas of research events, and publications, among others. CPD with more than 3 decades of existence and NDRI with more than 2 decades of existence as think tanks in Bangladesh and Nepal respectively, shared their enormous experience with a commitment to work jointly in the areas of common interest.



NDRI Participated in the 15th South Asia Economic Summit (SAES XV)

Dr. Shankar Shrestha (Executive Director, NDRI) and Dr. Rudra Suwal (Senior Economist and Lead of the Economic Development Program, NDRI) participated in the 15th South Asia Economic Summit (SAES XV) held in Kathmandu on 11-13 December 2024. SAES XV was jointly organized by the five think tanks in the South Asia region, namely, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal; Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh ; Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), India; Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Pakistan; and Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS), Sri Lanka.



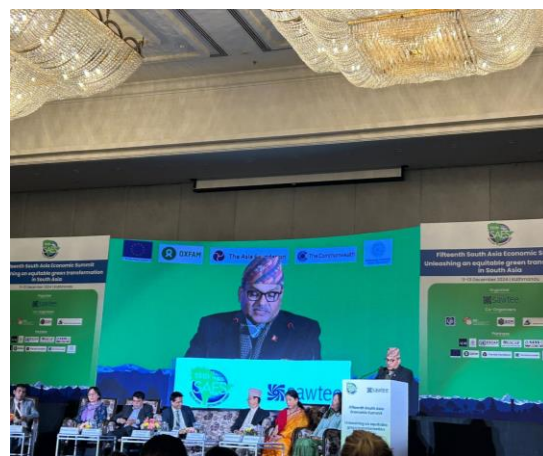
The overarching theme of SAES XV was “Unleashing an Equitable Green Transformation in South Asia.” The event featured an opening session with the Hon’ble Damodar Bhandari, Minister of Industry, Commerce, and Supplies, Government of Nepal, as the Chief Guest, followed by three plenary sessions, twelve parallel sessions, and a closing session graced by Mr. Maha Prasad Adhikari the Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank. Discussions covered a wide range of topics relevant to the South Asian region, including green value chains, trade and industrial policies, clean energy, sustainable tourism, disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and mitigation, MSMEs and inclusive businesses, green finance, climate-resilient agricultural

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systems, circular economy, green and sustainable trade facilitation, and equitable green transformation. SAES XV brought together over 50 speakers and more than 200 participants representing think tanks, development partners, government agencies, universities, and private organizations from South Asia, Southeast Asia, Europe, the UK, and the USA. Since its launch in 2008, SAES has been organized annually and has emerged as a reputed platform that convenes the research community, policymakers, lawmakers, private sector representatives, and civil society. It serves as a forum to deliberate on pressing regional issues, identify new avenues for cooperation, and generate innovative, practical solutions to advance South Asia's collective progress. Details of SAES XV can be accessed here:

<https://saesxv.sawtee.org/>

<https://www.youtube.com/@sawteenp/streams>



NDRI Team Participates in the Official Launch of GEDSI in Water Modelling Toolkit at ICIMOD

Ms. Shreya Bajimaya, Senior Research Associate, and Mr. Girish Lamsal, Research Associate at NDRI participated in the **official Launch of Gender, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) in Water Modelling Toolkit** organized at ICIMOD, Nepal on the 9th of December 2024. The toolkit has been jointly developed by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), Australia, and the ICIMOD. The toolkit empowers water modelers with the knowledge and skills necessary to integrate GEDSI considerations into their modeling approaches. During the launch, Ms. Bajimaya also shared her reflections about the major learning from the training on the toolkit and the way forward to use it in future works.



Official Launch of SPAN/Muhan Project to Enhance Springwater Management and Resilient Livelihoods in Nepal

On 13th December 2024, the project "Springwater Management, agriculture and resilient livelihoods in the midhills of Nepal (SPAN/Muhan)" was officially launched at Hotel Dusit Princess, Kathmandu. The project is introduced by the Australian government's Australian Centre for International Agriculture Research (ACIAR) and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). NDRI is one of the project implementers leading the biophysical research and database development aspects of the project. The four-year (2024-2028) project is implemented under the five-year Australia Nepal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation in Water Resource Management and seeks to empower communities and strengthen local water governance by piloting participatory solutions, generating knowledge and governance options, and building stakeholder capacity in the Sindhuli district.

A Step Toward Scaling Nepal's Science, Technology, and Innovation

On December 9, 2024, the National Innovation Digital Network (NIDN) hosted INNO TALK #11 at NAST, focusing on "Impact Fund and Angel Investing in Scaling Nepal's Science, Technology, and Innovation." The event brought together key leaders, innovators, and stakeholders to explore the role of funding in fostering Nepal's technological advancements. Among the distinguished speakers, Dr. Jyoti Giri stood out with her insightful remarks. Representing Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) as a Senior Research Specialist, Dr. Giri addressed the need for robust investment mechanisms to empower research-driven innovations. Her remarks highlighted the importance of

connecting scientific research with practical solutions to achieve sustainable growth in Nepal's innovation ecosystem. Dr. Giri emphasized how institutes like NDRI play a critical role in bridging gaps between research, policy, and implementation. The event also featured opening remarks by Dr. Iswor Bajracharya, Chief of the Faculty of Technology at NAST, and closing reflections by Prof. Dr. Dilip Subba, Vice Chancellor of NAST. Other key speakers included Er. Arun Bhandari from NAXA and Mr. Suvash Thapa from the Nepal Private Equity Association, among others. INNO TALK #11 was a collaborative effort organized by NIDN, Robotics Association of Nepal, NAXA, and their international partners, aiming to build an ecosystem where science, technology, and innovation can flourish with strategic investments.



Thought-provoking News

A maternity waiting home provides a lifeline in remote Baglung village

<https://kathmandupost.com/gandaki-province/2024/12/13/a-maternity-waiting-home-provides-a-lifeline-in-remote-baglung-village>

Dutch disease and Nepali economy

<https://kathmandupost.com/columns/2024/12/06/dutch-disease-and-nepali-economy>

Thought of the Week

In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life: It goes on.

-Robert Frost

Newsletter Preparation :

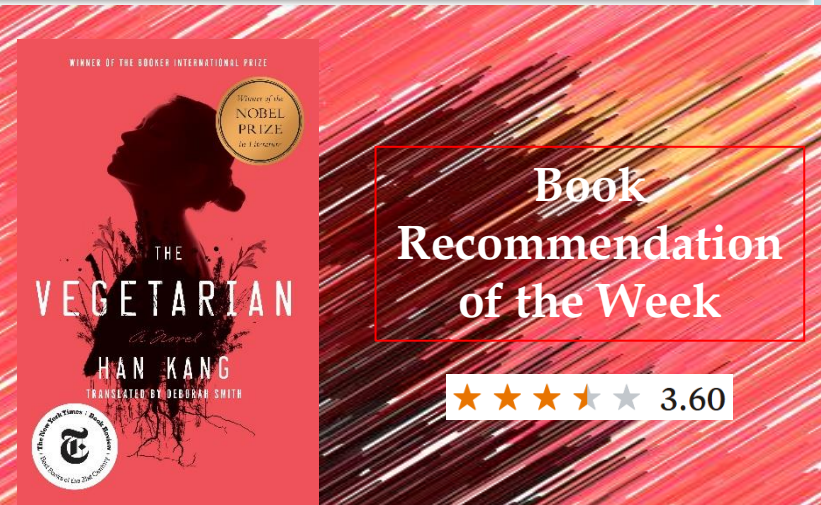
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Book Recommendation of the Week

★★★★☆ 3.60

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