

NDRI Explores Avenues of Collaboration with Sarkegad RM

On January 28, 2025, Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) hosted a meeting with Sarkegad Rural Municipality representatives at NDRI Hall, following a prior discussion on December 27, 2024. Attendees included NDRI President Dr. Krishna Pahari, General Secretary Dr. Manjeshwari Singh, Secretary Dr. Rudra Suwal, Senior Research Specialist Dr. Deependra Rokaya, and Outreach and Communication Officer Ms. Ashma Aryal, along with Mr. Than Bahadur Rokaya (Mayor), Ms. Devaki Timilsina (Vice Chair), and Mr. Dhananjaya Budhathoki from Sarkegad Rural Municipality. The meeting focused on developing an action plan for budget implementation, emphasizing private sector engagement, road construction, and resource mapping to harness the municipality's potential in agriculture, tourism, and hydroelectricity. The meeting also explored avenues of collaboration on research and development of the Rural Municipality. This collaboration marks a step toward research-driven development in Sarkegad.



NDRI Conducts Training for Enumerators



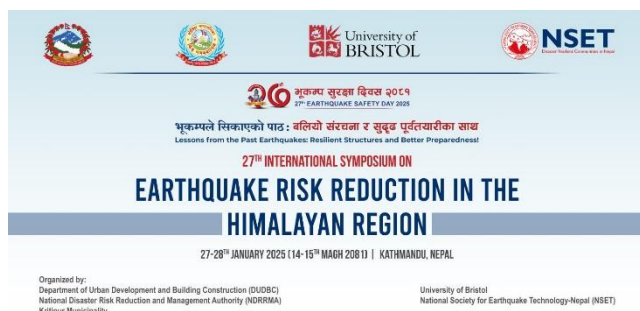
On January 27, 2025, NDRI organized a training session for 11 enumerators in preparation for the field execution of the “Cash-Based Intervention Post Distribution Monitoring (CBI PDM)”, funded by UNHCR. The training focused on equipping enumerators with the necessary skills and knowledge to conduct the end-line survey effectively. The team has now mobilized on the field, in order to actively conduct the survey.

Participation in the Energy Transition Summit: Exploring Investment & Climate Finance

On January 28, 2025, Mr. Daya Shrestha, Research Associate at NDRI attended the panel session on "Investment & Climate Finance for Energy Transition: Need for Domestic and International Financing" as part of the **Energy Transition for Resilient and Low Carbon Economy Summit** organized by the Alternative Energy Promotion Center at Soaltee Hotel on the occasion of "International Day of Clean Energy - 26 Jan 2025." The session discussed the various avenues of financing Nepal can tap into to realize the targets amounting to US\$46.4 billion outlined in the recently unveiled Energy Development Roadmap 2081. Insights gathered will help inform a small portion of NDRI's ongoing research on climate finance as part of the Water and Climate Program's ECONOGENESIS Project.



Advancing Earthquake Resilience: Insights from the 27th International Symposium in the Himalayas



Ms. Akriti Sharma, Research Associate at NDRI attended the 27th International Symposium on Earthquake Risk Reduction in the Himalayan Region held on January 28–29. The symposium aimed to bring together experts, policymakers, and stakeholders to share insights, foster collaboration, and propose actionable strategies for enhancing earthquake resilience in one of the most vulnerable regions globally. The event was organized by National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management

Authority (NDRRMA), Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC), and the University of Bristol, UK, in collaboration with National Society for Earthquake Technology-Nepal (NSET). Building on pioneering efforts such as the implementation of seismic isolation technologies, rapid inspection tools, and school safety initiatives, the symposium provided a platform for knowledge exchange and the development of effective risk reduction strategies.

16th Episode of "Mesmerizing Mondays!"



On January 20, 2025, Mr. Rajendra Kumar Shrestha, a Research Associate at NDRI, presented on "Impact Assessment of climate change in hydroelectricity generation in Himalayan Region: A Case study of Arun III hydropower project (900MW), Nepal." During the presentation, he presented an assessment of the impact of climate change on hydroelectricity generation in the Himalayan region, focusing on the Arun III Hydropower Project (900 MW) in Nepal. It aims to evaluate future water flow variations and energy production under different climate scenarios (SSP245 and SSP585), highlighting significant seasonal fluctuations and recommending adaptive strategies for sustainable hydropower development.

NDRI's MSME Project Team Meets with SIAS and MoICS

On January 31, 2025, the research team from the IDRC-funded project "Promoting Innovation and Inclusion in Growth Potential Enterprises: Evidence from Nepal" at NDRI, including Prof. Dr. Raj Kumar Bhattarai (Principal Investigator) and Ms. Nirmita Shrestha (Research Associate), attended a meeting with representatives from the South Asian Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS). The meeting was attended by Mr. Dil Khatri (Executive Director), Mr. Sushant Acharya (Program Director), and other representatives from SIAS. The discussion was productive, focusing on potential areas for collaboration in the field of MSME sector.

In addition, at the request of officials from the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Supplies (MoICS), Prof. Bhattarai and Ms. Shrestha also attended a meeting on February 2, 2025 with Mr. Jitendra Basnet (Joint Secretary, Industry and Investment Promotion Division), along with Mr. Shekhar Poudel, Mr. Bhim Prasad Bhattarai,



and Mr. Pashupati Babu Puri (Under-Secretaries at MoICS). During the meeting, Prof. Bhattarai presented a review of the MEDPA program, highlighting the areas of improvement of program, shared key research findings of the project, and proposed suggestions. The discussions were insightful, and both the Ministry and NDRI's project team agreed to review government programs, particularly MEDPA, with a commitment to creating impact and enhancing the effectiveness of government programs and policies.

Thought-provoking News

Trump administration memo tells USAID to put "America First" in reviewing foreign aid

<https://kathmandupost.com/world/2025/01/27/trump-administration-memo-tells-usaid-to-put-america-first-in-reviewing-foreign-aid>

The country's pulse

<https://kathmandupost.com/editorial/2025/01/27/the-country-s-pulse>

Thought of the Week

O all, let's live only for today's sunlight
Tomorrow will bring tomorrow's light

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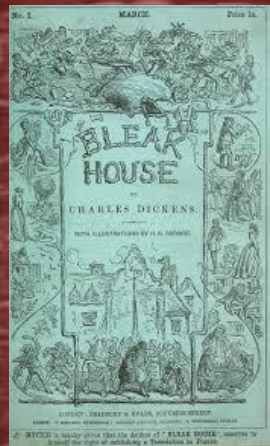
Ms. Seetal Luitel
Front Desk Officer

Editors :

Ms. Ashma Aryal
Outreach and Communication Officer

Dr. Shankar Shrestha
Executive Director

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Book Recommendation of the Week

★★★★★ 4.02

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