

26 May to 1 June 2025

Weekly Echoes of NDRI



नेपाल विकास अनुसन्धान प्रतिष्ठान
Nepal Development Research Institute

Welcome to the latest edition of NDRI Insights, your go-to source for important updates, valuable information, and the latest developments from the Nepal Development Research Institute.

HIGHLIGHTS FEATURED IN THIS EDITION

- NDRI Joins the Fight Against Tobacco through various Public Awareness Programs on the occasion of World No Tobacco Day.
- As part of the IDRC Canada-funded project, the research team from NDRI participated in the E4I Workshop held in Accra, Ghana.
- Mr. Ram Bahadur KC, Under Secretary and Spokesperson of the NDRRMA, shared key reflections and plans regarding the Monsoon Preparedness and Response National Plan for 2082 in the 219th episode of CPD.



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SUPPORTING EVIDENCE FOR A
BETTER FUTURE!**

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A reflection on NDRI's journey
and accomplishments as
chronicled in earlier newsletter
editions.



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NDRI Joins the Fight Against Tobacco on World No Tobacco Day 2025

Bright Products. Dark Intentions!!

As a part of the global movement for World No Tobacco Day 2025, NDRI's Tobacco Control Program (TCP) participated in a series of impactful events on May 30 and 31, 2025, aligned with this year's WHO's theme: **"Unmasking the Appeal: Exposing Industry Tactics on Tobacco and Nicotine Products."** This set a clear focus on how the tobacco and nicotine industry glamorized harmful products like e-cigarettes and vapes, attracting youth. Here's a glimpse into the events NDRI participated in:

Public Health Awareness Program at Lalitpur Metropolitan City, Ward-2

NDRI, in collaboration with Lalitpur Metropolitan City Ward No. 2, organized a Public Awareness Program on the eve of World No Tobacco Day. During the event, Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung, Project Lead of the Tobacco Control Program, delivered an insightful presentation covering the role of local government in tobacco control, the tobacco industry's youth-targeted marketing strategies, updates on tobacco taxation under Budget 2082, progress at municipal and rural levels, and the establishment of tobacco cessation help desks. The session was supported by Ms. Ashma Aryal (Outreach and Communication Officer) and Mr. Parashar Khadka (Research Associate), with a highly interactive audience including Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) and Aama Samuha (local mothers' groups).



Dr. Gurung delivering his presentation

Celebration at NHTC

On the occasion of World No Tobacco Day 2025, NDRI's team participated in a high-level national event organized by the National Health Education, Information & Communication Center (NHEICC) at the National Health Training Center (NHTC) in Kathmandu. The event brought together prominent figures in public health, including Dr. Rajesh Sambhajirao Pandav (WHO Representative to Nepal), Mr. Pradip Poudel (Minister of Health), Dr. Tara Singh Bam (Vital Strategies), Mr. Keshav Raj Pandit (Director, NHEICC), and representatives from key organizations like TAPAS Nepal and Baskar Tejashree Foundation.



Initiation of Tobacco Cessation Helpline (1132) on WNTD Day.

A proud moment for the nation, Nepal was recognized as the first country in the world to achieve 100% implementation of Public Health Warnings (PHW) on tobacco products. In recognition of this significant milestone,

Minister Poudel was honored by WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus at a special ceremony in Geneva. Further reinforcing national tobacco control efforts, the event also marked the official reactivation of the national Quitline (1132), a vital tool for supporting individuals seeking to quit tobacco. The celebration featured impactful presentations.



Dr. Jaya Gurung with the Government Representatives at the Program

A creative highlight of the day was the Tobacco Awareness Video Competition, where Kantipur Dental College was announced as the winner for their compelling video titled “Youth Against Tobacco.” In his closing remarks, Dr. Pandav applauded Nepal’s leadership in tobacco control and stressed the urgency of addressing the tobacco industry’s growing influence over youth through glamorized marketing. Minister Poudel concluded the event by announcing the launch of a national “Healthy Nepal” initiative, reaffirming the government’s commitment to a tobacco-free and healthier future.

NDRI Presents in Evidence for Innovation (E4I) Workshop in Accra, Ghana

As part of the IDRC Canada-funded project titled “Promoting Innovation and Inclusion in Growth Potential Enterprises: Evidence from Nepal,” the research team from Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI), along with an innovation agency representative, participated in the Evidence for Innovation (E4I) Workshop held in Accra, Ghana, from May 25–27, 2025. The delegation included Prof. Dr. Raj Kumar Bhattarai (Principal Investigator) and Ms. Nirmita Shrestha (Research Associate) from NDRI, and Mr. Bishwo Mohan Adhikari, Executive Director of the Youth and Small Entrepreneur Self-Employment Fund under the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Government of Nepal, representing the innovation agency.



Prof. Dr. Bhattarai delivering his presentation

The workshop was hosted by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research – Science and Technology Policy Research Institute (CSIR-STEPRI), Ghana, with the support of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

219th episode of the Contemporary Policy Dialogue Series

In the 219th episode of the Contemporary Policy Dialogue Series organized by Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) and Resources Himalaya Foundation (RHF), Mr. Ram Bahadur KC, Under Secretary and Spokesperson of the National Disaster Risk Reduction & Management Authority (NDRRMA), shared key reflections and plans regarding the Monsoon Preparedness and Response National Plan for 2082.

He highlighted that the previous year's monsoon response in 2081 had several shortcomings, primarily due to poor coordination among government agencies, delays in early warning dissemination, and inadequate preparedness at the local level. To address these issues, Mr. KC discussed the revised preparedness strategy for this year, which clearly defines the responsibilities of different institutions, including the Nepal Army, Nepal Police, Armed Police Force, the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology, and local governments.



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२१९th Episode of Contemporary Policy Dialogue Series

मनसुन पूर्वतयारी तथा प्रतिकार्य राष्ट्रिय कार्ययोजना, २०८२ को प्रभावकारी कार्यान्वयन

Key Speaker
Mr. Ram Bahadur KC
Under Secretary/Spokesperson
NDRRMA

Ram Bahadur K.C. is the Under Secretary & Spokesperson at the National Disaster Risk Reduction & Management Authority (NDRRMA). With over 10 years of government experience, he brings expertise in policy, disaster management, and public communication. He holds a Master's in Public Administration and Sociology, a Bachelor's in Law (LLB), and a BSc in Physics. He has also published articles on disaster-related topics in various national magazines.

30 May, 2025, Friday
09:00AM to 10:00AM

Zoom ID: 961 8021 7222
Password: 535476

Official banner of 219th Episode



Prof. Dr. Bhattarai, alongside co-panelists, during the event proceedings.

Prof. Dr. Bhattarai presented an overview of the project, its key findings, policy implications, and the way forward.

Mr. Adhikari actively contributed to the fishbowl discussions, which focused on translating research into practice through enhanced innovation support programs. The workshop brought together participants from all nine IDRC-funded E4I projects- seven from Africa and two from Asia. It also saw participation from innovation agency representatives from across the African continent, promoting cross-regional collaboration and providing researchers and policymakers with opportunities to engage in emerging innovation networks.



Group photo taken after the Workshop

He also informed that the forecast for this year's monsoon indicates slightly above-average rainfall, raising the likelihood of floods and landslides across several districts. In response, the plan emphasizes early preparedness, inter-agency coordination, and enhanced community awareness.

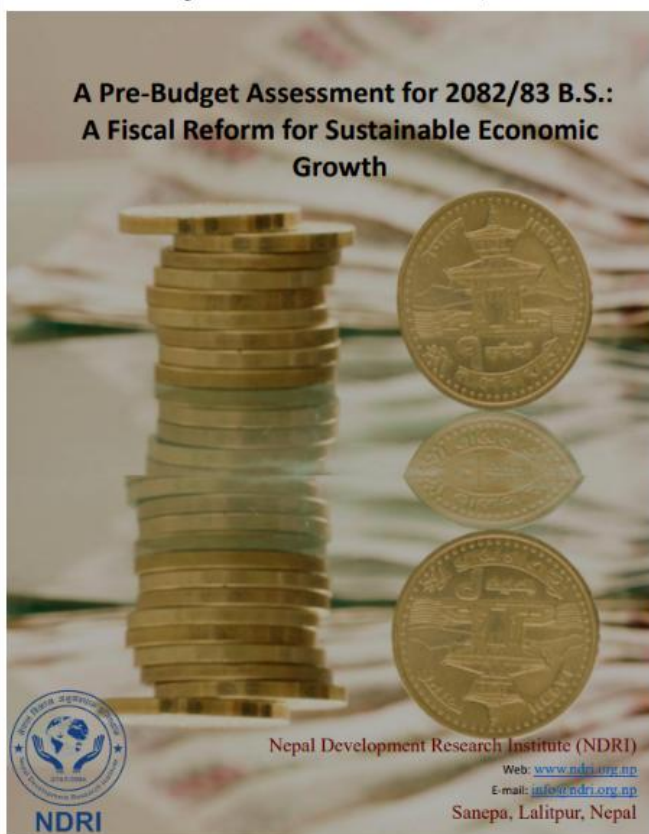
To watch the full Episode, click on the [link](#)

Media Coverage



Click on the image above to watch the full episode of Dr. Nawa Raj Khatriwada's interview on AP1 HD.

New NDRI Publication



NDRI is pleased to share a Research Report:
[Link](#)

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

The human spirit is stronger than anything that can happen to it. Though storms may rage and obstacles arise, your resilience, courage, and determination will carry you beyond every setback and into the dawn of a new day.
— C.C. Scott-inspired

Thought Provoking News

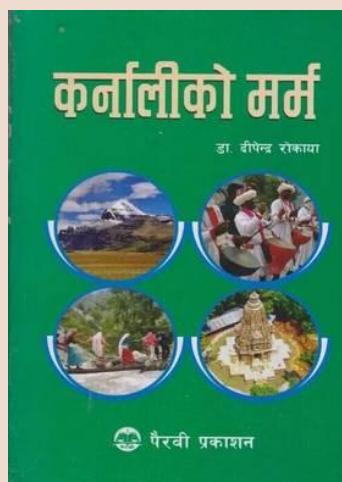
Consumer court expansion planned in all provinces

<https://kathmandupost.com/money/2025/06/02/consumer-court-expansion-planned-in-all-provinces>

Finance Minister Paudel unveils new budget

<https://kathmandupost.com/national/2025/05/29/finance-minister-paudel-unveils-new-budget>

BOOK RECOMMENDATION



Feel Free To Recommend Books To Our Readers So That We Can Collectively Enhance Knowledge Exploration.

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