

# **Fourth Annual Himalayan Policy Research Conference**

## **Nepal Study Center**

Thursday, October 22, 2009, Concourse Hotel, Wisconsin, Madison  
Pre-conference Venue of the 38<sup>th</sup> South Asian Conference at the U. of Wisconsin, Madison

### **I. Program Outline**

(Version 3, September 26, 2009)

**Welcome (8:40 – 8:55 a.m., Capital Ballroom A)**

**Session 1A: Development of Marginalized Areas and Peoples: 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. – (Capital Ballroom A)**

*Chair: Udaya R Wagle, Western Michigan University, USA*

1. Developing Kham: An inquiry into the use of environmental and economic history for developing policy in Tibetan Regions  
*Jared Phillips, University of Arkansas, USA*
2. The impact on commercial activity of road construction in the Annapurna Conservation Area, Nepal  
*Michal J Bardecki, Ryerson University, Canada*
3. Rural development dynamism in the context of uncertain agricultural productivity, natural resources use and political wavering in Nepal  
*Krishna L. Poudel, University of Miyazaki, Japan*  
*Ram C. Bastakoti, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand*  
*Shambhu Katwal, Agricultural Produces Market, Nepal*
4. Surviving on margins: Dilemmas of a Himalayan primitive tribe – Bhuxas over developmental paradigms in globalizing India  
*Bina Saklani, HNB Garhwal University, India*
5. Does municipal revenue really matter the accessibility of slums and squatters? A Comparative study of six Nepalese municipalities  
*Chandra Ghimire, Government of Nepal*  
*Prakash Regmi, Freelance Researcher, Nepal*
6. Social and economic policies for reducing horizontal inequalities in post-conflict Nepal  
*Bishwa N Tiwari, Tribhuvan University, Nepal*

*Discussants: Bina Saklani (1), Jared Phillips (2), Michal Bardecki (3), Bishwa Tiwari (4), Shambhu Katwal (5), Krishna Poudel (6)*

**Session 1B: Resources and Environment-I: 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (Madison Ballroom)**

*Chair: SM Patnaik, University of Delhi, India*

1. Greening historic core for the mitigation of urban environmental problems of the Kathmandu Valley  
*Upendra Sapkota, Ball State University, USA*
2. Benefit Estimation of Water Quality Improvements in the Bagmati River: Choice Experiments  
*Hari Katuwal, University of New Mexico, USA*  
*Alok K Bohara, University of New Mexico, USA*  
*Jennifer Thacher, University of New Mexico, USA*
3. Solid waste impact on community shallow wells and springs around Gokarna landfill site  
*Bimala Khanal, Integrated Development Society, Nepal*
4. Land suitability evaluation using GIS for vegetable crops in Kathmandu Valley/Nepal  
*Nabarath Baniya, Center for Research Innovation and Training, Nepal*  
*Micheal Boehme, Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany*  
*La Roja Perez, Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany*
5. Risk management in Nepalese agriculture: Prospect of agricultural insurance  
*Shyam Adhikari, Texas Tech University, USA*
6. Phosphorus management and sustainable use: Comparative advantage to the developing countries  
*Shyam K Basnet, Wageningen University and Research, the Netherlands*  
*Sri P. Vista, Nepal Agriculture Research Council, Nepal*

*Discussants: Nabarath Baniya (1), Upendra Sapkota (2), Hari Katuwal (3), Shyam Adhikari (4), Shyam Basnet (5), Bimala Khanal (6)*

**Nepal Study Center Presentation  
&  
Lunch Break  
11:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. (University Rooms)**

**Session 2A: Food, Health and Education: 1:05 p.m. to 2:20 p.m. – (Capital Ballroom A)**

*Chair: Vinod K Bhardwaj, BBD Government PG College, India*

1. An assessment of the potential impacts of dietary norms in food consumption structure and expenditure in Nepal  
*Arun KC, West Virginia University, USA*  
*Nilam Prasai, Regional Research Institute, WVU, USA*
2. Geographic disparity in access to healthcare in Nepal  
*Gyanesh Lama, Washington University, USA*
3. Preparing communities for disaster management: Myths and challenges  
*SM Patnaik, University of Delhi, India*  
*Nilika Mehrotra, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India*

*Discussants: Nilika Mehrotra (1), Nilam Prasai (2), Gyanesh Lama (3)*

**Session 2B: Resources and Environment – II: 1:05 p.m. to 2:20 p.m. (Madison Ballroom)**

*Chair: Michal J Bardecki, Ryerson University, Canada*

1. Development issues in the Indus River Basin: The limitations of the Indus Waters Treaty (1960) and ongoing ecological consequences  
*Eric Strahorn, Florida Gulf Coast University, USA*
2. Ecological deteriorations of Mangrove Forest in Indus Delta: Changing ecology of Indus Delta, management measure and future prospects  
*Durdana A. Khan, Commecs Institute of Business and Emerging Sciences, Pakistan*
3. Assessment of community vulnerability and coping mechanisms due to climate change: A case of Khudi Watershed Lamjung  
*Aseem R Sharma, Tribhuvan University, Nepal*  
*Narendra R. Khanal, Tribhuvan University, Nepal*

*Discussants: Durdana Khan (1), Aseem Sharma (2), Eric Strahorn (3)*

**Coffee Break: 2:20 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. (Capital Ballroom A)**

**Session 3A: Money, Finance and Remittances: 2:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Capital Ballroom A)**

*Chair: Jeffrey Drope, Marquette University, USA*

1. The Impact of microfinance and remittances on the lives of Nepali people  
*Bishal B Kasu, Illinois State University, USA*
2. Explaining high repayment rate in microfinance schemes  
*Biswo Poudel, University of California Berkeley, USA*
3. Remittance to Nepal from foreign employment: changes and implications  
*Udaya R Wagle, Western Michigan University, USA*
4. Patterns and Utilization of Rural-Out Migrant Remittance Flow at household Level: A Case Study of Khanigaun Village of Western Nepal  
*Bishnu B. Khatri, Tribhuvan University, Nepal*

**Coffee Break: 3:50 – 4:00 p.m. (Capital Ballroom A)**

5. Towards a South Asian common currency: Evidence from macroeconomic shocks  
*Krishna Regmi, University of New Hampshire, USA*
6. Indo-Nepal open international border: Challenges and management  
*Vinod K Bhardwaj, BBD Government PG College, India*
7. Causes and consequence of fiscal imbalance in Nepal  
*Bharat M Pandey, Institute of Social Studies, the Netherlands*
8. Empirical causality analysis between exports and inward FDI in Nepal over 1972 through 2007  
*Nandita Dasgupta, University of Maryland, USA*

9. MoU Pak – Afghan transit route: New beginning of Pak – Indian trade relation  
*Sheema Siddiqui, Daily Jang, Pakistan*

*Discussants: Udaya Wagle (1), Bishal Basu (2), Bishnu Khatri (3), Sheema Siddiqui (4), Nandita Dasgupta (5), Bharat Pandey (6), Krishna Regmi (7), Biswo Poudel (8), Vinod Bhardwaj (9)*

**Session 3B: Conflict and Political Transformations: 2:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Madison Ballroom)**

*Chair: Eric Strahorn, Florida Gulf Coast University, USA*

1. Federalism in Nepal: An opportunity for improving service delivery mechanisms  
*Yam N Sharma, Government of Nepal*  
*Abdu Muwonge, World Bank, USA*
2. Nepali indigenous movements: Recommendations to create a ‘fully democratic’ Nepal  
*Pasang Y Sherpa, Washington State University, USA*
3. Civilian Conflict and Internal Displacement, Dimensions of Forced Migration in Nepal  
*Prakash Adhikari, University of New Mexico, USA*
4. Nepal: The dilemma of a buffer state  
*Dilip Mohite, India*

**Coffee Break: 3:50 – 4:00 p.m. (Capital Ballroom A)**

5. Globalized context of socio- political transformation of Nepalese society  
*Hom R. Dahal, Parliament Secretariat, Nepal*
6. Nuclearization of the Kashmir conflict  
*Nyla A Khan, University of Nebraska-Kearney, USA*
7. Son preference and gender bias: Emerging skewed demographic trend in Uttarakhand Himalaya, India  
*Atul Saklani, HNB Garhwal University, India*  
*Bina Saklani, HNB Garhwal University, India*
8. Impacts of information technology on prostitution (a scenario of conservative societies)  
*Rashida Valika, SZABIST, Pakistan*
9. The future of Nepal: Civil society organizations, millennium development goals, and development strategies  
*Shrochis Karki, Oxford University, UK*

*Discussants: Dilip Mohite (1), Yam Sharma (2), Pasang Sherpa (3), Prakash Adhikari (4), Atul Saklani (5), Hom Dahal (6), Shrochis Karki (7), Nyla Khan (8), Rashida Valika (9)*

**Conference ends at 6:00 p.m.**