

Second Annual Himalayan Policy Research Conference

Nepal Study Center

Thursday, October 11, 2007, Concourse Hotel, Wisconsin, Madison
Pre-conference Venue of the 36th South Asian Conference at the U. of Wisconsin,
Madison

I. Program Outline

(Version 10, October 4, 2007)

AR: Assembly Room

CR: Caucus Room

Welcome (8:15 – 8:25am, Room AR)

Session 1A: Discrimination, Exclusion and Political Participation, 8:30 AM – 9:45 AM (Room AR)

Chair: Daniel Putnam, University of Minnesota

1. The gender dimension of caste discrimination and resistance among Dalit communities in Kathmandu
Sambriddhi Kharel University of Pittsburgh, USA
2. Political participation and civic literacy in Bajung: an empirical study with correlation analysis
Khadga K.C. Nagasaki University, Japan
3. Democracy, exclusion and informal institutions in Nepal
Mahendra Lawoti, Western Michigan University, USA

Discussants: Mahendra Lawoti (1), Sambriddhi Kharel (2), Khadga K.C. (3)

Session 1B: Conservation and Resource Management, 8:30 AM – 9:45 AM (Room CR)

Chair: Joel Heinen, Florida International University

1. Leadership for environmental education and conservation: a case of green space park at P.N. Campus, Pokhara
Padam Giri, P.N. Campus, Tribhuvan University
Krishna Shrestha, Michigan State University
Bishwo Kallyan Parajuli, Tribhuvan University
Murari Suvedi, Michigan State University

2. Community-based integrated natural resource management: policy options and areas of intervention
Sabita Thapa, WWF, Nepal
John Soussan, Stockholm Environment Institute, Sweden
Dhruba Pant, International Water Management Institute, Nepal
Umesh Parajuli, Water and Energy Commission Secretariat, Nepal
Khem Sharma, Department of Irrigation, Nepal
Binod Bhatta, International Water & Human Resource Dev Institute, Nepal
3. The human dimensions of land change in Lamjung, Nepal
Milan Shrestha, University of Georgia, USA

Discussants: Milan Shrestha (1), Murari Suvedi (2), Sabita Thapa (3)

Session 2A: Political Structure and Democracy, 9:50 AM – 11:55 PM (Room AR)

Chair: Kristine Eck, Uppsala University

1. Pursuing democracy: the rise and fall of autocracy in Nepal
Prakash Adhikari and James Timberlake, University of New Mexico, USA
2. Identification of natural resources at watershed level: an initial step of mainstreaming of the federal structure of Nepal
Madan Koirala, Tribhuvan University, Nepal
3. “Retainer” bureaucracy: an impediment to the process of democratic governance in Nepal
Sucheta Pyakuryal, University of Akron, USA
4. Prospects and challenges in the transformation of Nepal’s security sector
Steve Hege, Columbia University, USA

Discussants: Madan Koirala (1), Steve Hege (2), James Timberlake (3), Sucheta Pyakuryal (4)

Session 2B: Water and Forestry Resources, 9:50 AM – 11:55 PM (Room CR)

Chair: Keshav Bhattarai, University of Central Missouri

1. A community-based micro hydro: a promise for rural development in Nepal
Bishwa Koirala, University of New Mexico
2. Coping with unreliable water supplies and willingness to pay for improved water supplies in Kathmandu
Hari Katuwal and Alok K. Bohara, University of New Mexico
3. Prioritizing and estimating hydropower project construction risks: a case study of Nyadi hydropower project
Kamalesh Panthi, Florida International University, USA

4. Trade potentiality and ecological analysis of non-timber products in Himalayan Kingdom of Nepal
Krishna Poudel, Himalayan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Nepal
5. The convention on international trade in endangered species: issues with implementation and compliance in Nepal
Joel Heinen, Florida International University, USA

Discussants: Hari Katuwal (1), Kamalesh Panthi (2), Krishna Poudel (3), Joel Heinen (4), Biswo Koirala (5)

Lunch Break: 12:00 PM – 1:45 PM

Introduction to Nepal Study Center: 1:15 PM – 1:45 PM

Session 3A: Conflict and Related Issues, 1:50 PM – 4:20 PM (Room AR)

Chair: Mahendra Lawoti, Western Michigan University

1. An assessment of the causes of conflict in Nepal
Bishwa Tiwari, Tribhuvan University, Nepal
2. Inequality, polarization and violent conflict: the Maoist insurgency in Nepal
Mani Nepal and Alok K. Bohara, University of New Mexico, USA
Kishore Gawande, University of Texas A&M, USA
3. Recruiting rebels: indoctrination and political education in Nepal
Kristine Eck, Uppsala University, Sweden
4. Dissonance in heritage: the case of Lumbini, Nepal
Gyan Nyaupane, Arizona State University, USA
5. Political predictions in Nepal
Aditya Shrestha Journalist, Nepal

Discussants: Mani Nepal (1), Kristine Eck (2), Aditya Shrestha (3), Bishwa Tiwari (4), Daniel Putnam (5)

Session 3B: Poverty, Development and Finance, 1:50 PM – 4:20 PM (Room CR)

Chair: Jeffrey Drope, Marquette University

1. Economic development through microfinance in Pakistan's northern areas
Feisal Khan, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, USA
2. Democratic but unequal? The scale, sources and policy implications of economic inequality in democratic Nepal
Udaya Wagle, Western Michigan University, USA

3. Poverty reduction in Nepal: a clinical economics approach
Gyan Pradhan and Rabindra Bhandari, Westminster College, USA
4. Rural vulnerability and tea plantation migration in eastern Nepal and Darjeeling
Sarah Besky, University of Wisconsin, USA
5. Remittances and their effects in Nepal: a microeconomic study
Mukti Upadhyay, Eastern Illinois University
6. The effect of remittances on child labor and child education in Nepal
Michael Milligan and Alok Bohara, University of New Mexico, USA

Discussants: Mukti Upadhyay (1), Sarah Besky (2), Udaya Wagle (3), Feisal Khan (4), Michael Milligan (5), Gyan Pradhan (6)

Coffee Break: 4:20 PM – 4:40 PM (Room AR)

Session 4: Environment and Pollution, 4:45 PM – 5:35 PM (Room AR)

Chair: Murari Suvedi, Michigan State University

1. The impact of foreign direct investment on environmental quality
Krishna Paudel Louisiana State University, USA
Biswo Poudel, University of California at Berkley
Kamal Upadhyay, University of New Haven, USA
2. Measuring quality of life of the Central Development Region of Nepal by integration of remote sensing and census data
Keshav Bhattarai, University of Central Missouri, USA
Dennis Conway, Indiana University, USA

Discussants: Keshav Bhattarai (1), Krishna Paudel (2)

Conference concludes at 5:35 P.M