Fifth Annual Himalayan Policy Research Conference
Nepal Study Center
Thursday, October 14, 2010, Concourse Hotel, Wisconsin, Madison
Pre-conference Venue of the 39th South Asian Conference at the U. of Wisconsin, Madison

I. Program Outline
(Version 3, revised Oct 4, 2010)

Welcome (8:20 – 8:30 a.m., Capital A Ballroom)

Session 1: Poverty Issues: 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. – (Capital A Ballroom)

Chair: Stephanie Smith, University of New Mexico, USA

1. Moving out of chronic poverty: Community level study on poverty over the time
   S.A.N.C. Samaraweera, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka
   Rupika Abeynayake, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka
2. India’s poverty eradication efforts: Some vital questions
   Mohd Saeed Khan, Aligarh Muslim University, India
   Ghazala Aziz, Aligarh Muslim University, India
3. Geographic isolation and poverty among indigenous peoples in Nepal
   Gyanesh Lama, Washington University in St. Louis, USA
   Palsang Lama, Tribhuvan University, Nepal
4. Hunger and coping mechanism among tribes in India: A case study of Melghat
   Neilratan Shende, Indian Institute of Technology, India

Discussants: Neilratan Shenda (paper 1), Mukti Upadhyay (paper 2), Rupika Abeynayake (paper 3), Gyanesh Lama (paper 4)

Session 2A: Resources and Environment – I: 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon (Capital A Ballroom)

Chair: Neelmani Verma, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, India

1. Developing soil erosion indices in Nepal using distributed modeling
   Keshav Bhattarai, University of Central Missouri, USA
2. Economics of urban drainage system: A case study of Cuttack City, Orissa, India
   Jogasankar Mahaprashasta, Christ College, India
3. Environmental attitude and water treatment behavior of the residents in Kathmandu Valley
   Hari Katuwal, University of New Mexico
   Mona K Qassim, University of New Mexico
   Jose Pagan, University of New Mexico
   Alok Bohara, University of New Mexico
Discussants: Jogasankar Mahaprashasta (paper 1), Hari Katuwal (paper 2), Keshav Bhattarai (paper 3)

Session 2B: Political Issues – I: 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon (Capital B Ballroom)

Chair: Keith Leslie, Support to Participatory Constitution Building in Nepal Project, UNDP, Nepal

1. The dynamics of Madhesi identity in Nepal: The moderating role of pluralistic politics
   Pramod Kantha, Wright State University, USA
2. Spatial and temporal analysis of civil war
   Shikha Basnet, University of Pittsburgh, USA
3. Media contribution in transfer of power to people in Nepal
   Binod Agrawal, TALEEM Research Foundation, India

Discussants: Shikha Basnet (paper 1), Binod Agrawal (paper 2), Pramod Kantha (paper 3)

Nepal Study Center Presentation
&
Lunch Break
12:00 p.m. to 1:20 p.m.

Session 3A: Resources and Environment – II: 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. – (Capital A Ballroom)

Chair: Keshav Bhattarai, University of Central Missouri, USA

1. Sedimentation and economics of reservoir management
   Biswo Poudel, University of California Berkeley
2. Conflict resolution and institutional arrangements for flood disaster management on Indo-Nepal fringe: Focus on Koshi Basin
   Neelmani Verma, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, India
3. Local people’s perception on climate change, its impact and adaptation practices in Himalaya to Mountain regions of Nepal
   Krishna Tiwari, Tribhuvan University, Nepal
   Mohan K Balla, Tribhuvan University, Nepal
   Keshav D Awasthi, Tribhuvan University, Nepal
   Bishal K Sitaula, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Norway

Discussants: Krishna Tiwari (paper 1), Biswo Poudel (paper 2), Neelmani Verma (paper 3)
Session 3B: Development Issues – I: 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Capital B Ballroom)

Chair: Krupasindhu Pradhan, Udaya Nath Autonomous College of Science and Technology, India

1. Looking for stability: Holistic policy analysis in light of rapid development among Kham Tibetan herding groups
   J. Marc Foggin, Plateau Perspectives, USA
   Jared Phillips, University of Arkansas, USA
2. Economic growth and human development in South Asia: Experience of selected countries
   Ranjit Singh Ghuman, Punjabi University, India
   Amarjit S. Bhullar, University of Northern British Columbia, Canada
3. Is postmodernism compatible with the development studies? The case of Nepal
   Ravi Bhandari, St. Mary’s College of California, USA

Discussants: Ravi Bhandari (paper 1), Jared Phillips (paper 2), Amarjit S. Bhullar (paper 3)

Coffee Break: 3:00 – 3:15 p.m.

Session 4A: Political Issues – II: 3:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. (Capital A Ballroom)

Chair: Pramod Kantha, Wright State University, USA

1. An opportunity for improving service delivery through local governance in Nepal
   Yam Sharma, Ministry of Finance, Nepal
   Abdu Muwonge, World Bank, USA
2. Federalism Dialogue: Voices from below in state restructuring in Nepal
   Keith Leslie, Support to Participatory Constitution Building in Nepal Project, UNDP, Nepal
   Krishna Khanal, Tribhuvan University, Nepal
   Krishna Hachhethu, Tribhuvan University, Nepal

Discussants: Keith Leslie (paper 1), Abdu Muwonge (paper 2)

Session 4B: Agriculture, Industry, Health and Finance – I: 3:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. (Capital B Ballroom)

Chair: Abhaya K Nayak, National Institute of Science Education and Research, India

1. Measurement and determinants of production efficiency of farmers in Nepal
   Satis Devkota, Wayne State University, USA
   Mukti Upadhyay, Eastern Illinois University, USA
2. Exchange rate misalignment in Nepal: A case study
   Anjan Pandey, American University, USA

Discussants: Anjan Pandey (paper 1), Mukti Upadhyay (paper 2)
Session 5A: Development Issues – II: 4:15 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. (Capital A Ballroom)

Chair: Ravi Bhandari, St. Mary’s College of California, USA

1. Micro, small and medium enterprises and economic development of Orissa
   
   Krupasindhu Pradhan, Udaya Nath Autonomous College of Science and Technology, India
   
   Santosh Munda, UTI Asset Management Company Ltd., India

2. Use of modern technology in rural development: A case study of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in Odisha
   
   Abhaya K Nayak, National Institute of Science Education and Research, India
   
   Sukhmaya Swain, AXIS Bank Ltd, India

3. Impact of industrial environment on socio-economic conditions of workers: A study of coal industries in Odisha
   
   Abhaya K Nayak, National Institute of Science Education and Research, India
   
   Krupasindhu Pradhan, Udaya Nath Autonomous College of Science and Technology, India
   
   Santosh K Munda, Udaya Nath Autonomous College of Science and Technology, India

Discussants: Ranjit Singh Ghuman (paper 1), Krishna Khanal (paper 2), Krishna Hachethu (paper 3)

Session 5B: Agriculture, Industry, Health and Finance – II: 4:15 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. (Capital B Ballroom)

Chair: Abdu Muwonge, World Bank, USA

1. Factors in health initiative success: Learning from Nepal’s newborn survival initiative
   
   Stephanie Smith, University of New Mexico, USA

2. Swine flu: A preliminary study of the planning and policy of Nepal to combat the H1N1 pandemic
   
   Rojee Rajbanshi, University of Findlay, USA

3. The economic cost of health problems due to indoor air pollution at the household level in Tamil Nadu
   
   B.P. Chandramohan, Presidency College, India
   
   S. Karthikeyan, Presidency College, India

Discussants: B.P. Chandramohan (paper 1), Stephanie Smith (paper 2), Rojee Rajbanshi (paper 3)

Conference ends at 5:45 p.m.