

Acknowledgements

The Nepal Study Center would like to acknowledge the efforts of committee members: Dr. Alok Bohara, Dr. Vijaya Sharma, Dr. Jeff Drope, Dr. Mukti Upadhyaya and Dr. Jennifer Thacher, for their support in organizing the conference.

NSC would also like to thank to a group of volunteers: Naresh Nepal, Dadhi Adhikari, Surendra Prajapati, Rashesh Shrestha, Shikha Basnet, Menuka Karki and Prakash Adhikari for their support and encouragement.

Financial Support

NSC would like to encourage all the friends of NSC to continue their financial support so that it can successfully undertake various tasks: update software, run conferences, produce proceedings, maintain electronic research repository, provides a platform for virtual e-conferences, and advertise and publish journals (*HJDD* and *LDNB*). NSC is a not-for-profit organization registered under the College of Arts and Sciences, University of New Mexico.

Please send your tax deductible contribution payable to *Nepal Study Center* at the following address: Attn: Ms. Maria Daw Department Administrator II; Department of Economics; University of New Mexico; Albuquerque, NM 87131, USA; Phone: (505) 277-5304; Fax: (505) 277-9445; Email: mdaw@unm.edu. Contact Ms. Daw for any direct wire transfer information.



Seventh Annual

Himalayan Policy Research Conference

Thursday, October 11, 2012

**Madison Concourse Hotel and Governor's Club
Madison, Wisconsin**

**Pre-conference Venue of the
41st South Asian Conference at
The University of Wisconsin--Madison
(October 12-14, 2012)**

**Nepal Study Center
The University of New Mexico**

**Department of Economics, The University of New Mexico, 1915 Roma Ave
NE, MSC05 3060, Rm. 1019 Albuquerque, NM 87131,
<http://nepalstudycenter.unm.edu>, Ph: 505-277-5903, nsc@unm.edu**

Venue Information and Hotel Accommodation

Conference Venue: Sessions will be held at the Madison Concourse Hotel and Governor's Club <http://www.concoursehotel.com/>.

Hotel Contact: The Madison Concourse Hotel & Governor's Club, 1 West Dayton Street, Madison, WI 53703, Phone - 608.294.3016, Fax - 608.257.8454, (Limited rooms available at discount rates for HPRC participants)

Alternate accommodation: Visit the NSC Conference Website for ideas.

Participants are personally responsible for funding and organizing their travel, hotel accommodations, food and all other expenditures related to their attendance at the conference. However, breakfast, lunch, and refreshments on the day of the Conference will be available at the conference at no cost to participants. Dinner is not provided.

Conference Fees will be collected at the conference venue. You may pay in cash or with a check to the *Nepal Study Center*.

Registration fees:

Participants working in the SAARC Region	\$25.00
Non-SAARC participants:	\$70.00
Non-SAARC Students:	\$35.00

III. Call for Papers for e-journals (HJDD & LDNB)

Himalayan Journal of Development and Democracy (HJDD), a peer-reviewed interdisciplinary academic journal, invites high quality papers on development, democracy, conflict, and environmental issues relating to the Himalayan or the South Asian region. The submitted papers should provide robust **analyses of issues** important to the region and yield significant **policy implications**. We consider development issues in a broad socio-economic perspective to include growth, poverty, income distribution, urban sprawl, food security, education, environment, industrial and labor issues, trade, technology, regional development, health care, gender and ethnicity, and child labor. HJDD also welcomes papers on democracy, conflict resolution, and political transition.

Liberal Democracy Nepal Bulletin (LDNB) focuses on the contemporary political economy, democratic development, good governance, international relations, and conflict resolution and invites high quality **essays** and analytically presented **non-technical commentaries** for publication with a regional focus.

Electronic submissions are accepted for both journals. For guidelines on submission and related matters, please visit <http://nepalstudycenter.unm.edu/journals/>. Send your inquiries to Professor Alok K. Bohara, Nepal Study Center, Department of Economics, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131, U.S.A. (505) 277-5903.

IV. Himalayan Study Abroad Summer Program: Society and the Environment

The Department of Economics and Nepal Study Center (<http://nepalstudycenter.unm.edu>) at the University of New Mexico have developed an interdisciplinary study abroad program --Himalayan Study Abroad Program: Society and the Environment with Kathmandu University. The first trip completed in the summer of 2009. The course began with a one-semester class introducing students to important environmental, cultural, health, and development issues. The 2-week long field experience in Nepal taught students about the Bagmati River basin in Kathmandu valley. Additionally, the students participated in several hands-on sustainable development projects: smokeless stoves distribution, rainwater harvesting installation at a school, KIVA microfinance interaction. Visit the NSC website for more details.

V. Association for Himalayan Policy research

Through various scholarly activities, NSC aims to create a **global network** of scholars, professionals, and policy practitioners interested in the policy and development of the Himalayan and SAARC region. NSC plans to form an *Association for Himalayan Policy Research*. Journal publications and Himalayan-focused conference at Wisconsin University are important activities contributing to this collaboration, and our initial attempt to create this network has been very successful. Many scholars from the US, Europe, Far East, Australia, and South Asia are joining this network.

II. Accomplishments

Since its inception, the Center has made several noteworthy accomplishments. This record has been produced with volunteer time and energy and with limited resources.

The Center has established **two electronic journals**, *Himalayan Journal of Development and Democracy* (HJDD), and *Liberal Democracy Nepal Bulletin* (LDNB): <http://nepalstudycenter.unm.edu/journals/journals.htm>

The Center collaborated with the **Liberal Democracy Nepal** forum and the National Democratic Institute (NDI) in Washington, DC, to conduct a highly successful workshop in DC in October 2005.

NSC has been organizing the annual **Himalayan Policy Research Conference** since 2006 at the pre-conference venue of the University of Wisconsin Annual Conference on South Asia.

The Center has showcased **seminars** by distinguished scholars and policy makers.

NSC has created an electronic research repository, **Himalayan Research Papers Archive**, which will allow scholars to upload, store, and disseminate policy research through the open-access repository system Dspace created at MIT.

The Center has also concluded **educational collaborative projects** with the University of Miami and the UNM College of Education.

NSC is conducting important **research** on several areas: remittances, poverty mapping, food security, social capital, conservation, health, Bagmati River restoration, GIS analysis and habitat modeling.

NSC has become an attractive **venue for graduate studies**. There are currently several doctoral students at UNM's Political Science and Economics Department studying issues related to the Himalayan Region and countries in South Asia.

NSC has created the **Himalayan Study Abroad** program for undergraduate students that include a two-week immersion experience in Nepal.

NSC had an **official visit to UNM** by the Vice Chancellor and the Dean of the Kathmandu University (April 2008).

A team from UNM is visited Kathmandu in November 2009 for an **MOU** signing ceremony with KU and ICIMOD. The team will also held meetings with the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC). The **satellite office of the NSC** was officially opened on the KU Campus

A satellite office of the NSC was opened at KU

We believe that these activities are valuable in promoting knowledge sharing. There are a number of Nepali and non-Nepali scholars involved in the NSC's mission.

Welcome!

On behalf of the scholars, professionals, policy practitioners, and the friends of the Nepal Study Center (NSC) at the University of New Mexico, we would like to welcome all the participants to the Seventh Annual Himalayan Policy Conference at the pre-conference venue of the University of Wisconsin's 41st Annual South Asian Conference.

NSC was established at the University of New Mexico in 2004 with an objective to promote global connectivity among the scholars with policy research interests in the Himalayan Region, with a focus on South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries. NSC takes the policy research theme broadly to include issues related to development, democracy, conflict and the environment. NSC is dedicated to creating platforms to enhance knowledge sharing.

NSC's research capacity-building activities include two e-journal publications (*Himalayan Journal of Development and Democracy* and *Liberal Democracy Nepal Bulletin*), the annual Himalayan Policy Research Conference, e-seminars, Himalayan Study Abroad Summer Program, and maintaining an electronic repository to allow scholars to upload, store, and disseminate policy research. This Seventh Annual HPRC 2012 is an important milestone for us that has built upon the success of the previous conferences. The ultimate goal of the NSC and its friends is to form an *Association for Himalayan Policy Research*.

We are grateful to the University of Wisconsin's 41st Annual South Asian Conference for giving us a pre-conference venue. We would like to thank those who have provided financial support to Nepal Study Center to conduct this conference. We acknowledge the help provided by staff and the graduate students of the Department of Economics, UNM, and the goodwill and support of many friends of NSC.

Sincerely,

Nepal Study Center, UNM



Dr. Alok K. Bohara

Professor, Department of Economics, University of New Mexico
bohara@unm.edu

Dr. Vijaya Sharma

Adjunct Faculty, Department of Economics, University of Colorado

Dr. Jeff Drope

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Marquette University

Dr. Mukti P. Upadhyay

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Dr. Jennifer Thacher,

Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of New Mexico

Global Connectivity & NSC



Through global connectivity, the Nepal Study Center (NSC) at the University of New Mexico (UNM) is dedicated to fostering intellectual collaboration and sharing knowledge with a dedicated focus and wider perspective on the socio-economic development and sustainability, health, technology transfer, and environmental issues of the Himalayan region and the countries in South Asia. NSC conducts research and trains scholars; holds annual conferences --Himalayan Policy Research Conference (HPRC); publishes e-journals and conference proceedings; maintains electronic working papers archive; builds regional strategic academic partnerships through Memo of Understanding (MOUs); and conducts Himalayan Study Abroad program.

High-level delegates from UNM, Kathmandu University, and International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) have paid visit to each other's institutions to sign MOUs. Consequently, UNM is now an associate member of the 8-country Himalayan University Consortium. NSC-UNM's newly established regional branch office at Kathmandu University also gives research leverage to UNM students and faculty. That is, UNM now has gained tremendous advantage to open up academic opportunities in South Asia, and make its presence felt in the middle of the two rising giants India and China.

For more details please visit: <http://nepalstudycenter.unm.edu>

The Center takes a broader South-South thematic focus with an interest on development, health, natural resources, sustainability, empowerment, conflict and the environment. NSC has also initiated a Global South theme to foster exchange of knowledge on the low income economies from the three distinct societies -- Latin America, Asia, and Africa -- on the wider issues of international development, global health and sustainability.

I. About Nepal Study Center

The creation of the Nepal Study Center (NSC) at the University of New Mexico in 2004 was an important milestone in knowledge sharing among a global network of scholars who are interested in policy work on the Himalayan region and the countries in South Asia. The Center is broadly interested in the issues of development, democracy, conflict and the environment. The Center is registered within the College of Arts and Sciences of the University of New Mexico as a not-for-profit foundation.

Nepal Study Center Mission

- Policy Research** on topics related to the environment, resources, food security, poverty mapping, health, climate change, sustainable development, governance etc.
- Sharing Knowledge** through e-journals, annual conferences, e-seminars, e-workshops, and working paper series.
- Building Partnerships** with regional and global institutions.
- Higher Education** through the promotion of undergraduate and graduate level studies and research opportunities.
- Diaspora Knowledge Management** through diaspora studies, digital connectivity, and analysis.
- Sustainable Development** through the promotion and transferring of innovative technology and ideas

It is hoped that this conference and future research activities and collaborations will result in pertinent, accurate, and cutting-edge research on issues relevant to the region.

Session 2B: Gender, Ethnic, Health and Education Issues: 2:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Capitol Room B

Chair: Bill Fleming, University of New Mexico, USA

1. Inequities in antenatal care in Nepal: An ecological perspective
Arati Maleku, University of Texas at Arlington, USA
Vijayan Pillai, University of Texas at Arlington, USA
2. A comparative study of witchcraft in Ghana and Nepal
Prakash Adhikari, Central Michigan University, USA
Mensah Adinkrah, Central Michigan University, USA
3. Coherence between environmental policy and school level curricular processes in Nepal
Parbat Dhungana, Kathmandu University, Nepal
4. Ethnic wage differential in Nepal: The cost of being Dalit
Menuka Karki, University of New Mexico, USA
Alok Bohara, University of New Mexico, USA
5. Living on the edge: Exclusion of LGBTI population in Nepal
Sadixya Bista, SNV, Nepal
6. Gender mainstreaming in Nepal: Policy and practice
Bonita Sharma, University of Texas at Arlington, USA

Discussants (Number within parentheses is the serial number of the paper in the above list):

Parbat Dhungana (1), Menuka Karki (2), Prakash Adhikari (3), Sadixya Bista (4), Bonita Sharma (5), Arati Maleku (6)

Conference ends at 5:30 p.m.

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Thursday, October 11, 2012, Concourse Hotel, Wisconsin, Madison,
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Program Outline

Welcome (8:45-9:00am, Capitol Room A)

Session 1A: South-South Cooperation & Developmental Issues: 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Capitol Room A (Capitol Room A)

Chair: Mukti Upadhyay, Eastern Illinois University, USA

1. A North Indian village that changed, 1954-2010
James Michael Mahar, University of Arizona, USA
2. Economic development and socio political change in colonial district Multan (1849-1901)
Abida Chuadhary, Bahauddin Zakariya University, Pakistan
3. Reinvigorating South Asia by deepening 'Look East' policies
Pradumna Bickram Rana, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
4. Inflation and economic growth: A dynamic panel threshold analysis for Asian economies
Vinayagathan Thanabalasingam, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Japan
Leon-Gonzalez Roberto, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Japan

Discussants (Number within parentheses is the serial number of the paper in the above list):

*Abida Chuadhary (1), James Michael Mahar (2),
Vinayagathan Thanabalasingam (3), Shikha Basnet (4)*

**Session 1B: Resources and Environment: 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Capitol Room B**

*Chair: Kaustubha Nand Bhatt, G.B. Pant Social Science Institute,
India*

1. Valuing health risks against storm damages given the presence of private defensive strategies, public programs and natural barriers: Evidence from Bangladesh coastal areas
*Sakib Mahmud, University of Wisconsin-Superior, USA
Edward Barbier, University of Wyoming, USA*
2. Coalition formation in climate negotiations: Insights for mountain coalitions
Rishikesh Bhandary, Tufts University, USA
3. Wildlife sanctuary ecotourism in Kerala, India: An alternative source of livelihood for resident tribal families
*Bill Fleming, University of New Mexico, USA
Jeanie Fleming, Freelancer, USA*
4. Determining carbon abatement cost through the integration of remotely sensed land cover observations and biogeochemical model
Keshav Bhattarai, University of Central Missouri, USA
5. Impact of climate change on human livelihood and agricultural growth in Himalayan country Nepal
Shankar Prasad Acharya, Nepal Rastra Bank, Nepal

Discussants (Number within parentheses is the serial number of the paper in the above list):

Bill Fleming (1), Shankar Prasad Acharya (2), Keshav Bhattarai (3), Rishikesh Bhandary (4), Sakib Mahmud (5)

**Nepal Study Center Presentation and Lunch
Break (Assembly Room):
12:30 – 2:00 p.m.**

**Session 2A: Political and Administrative Restructuring: 2:00
p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Capitol Room A**

Chair: James Michael Mahar, University of Arizona, USA

1. Restructuring the state in Nepal: The difficulty of a federal bargain
Andre Lecours, University of Ottawa, Canada
2. Decentralization and development in India: Issues and challenges
Kaustubha Nand Bhatt, G.B. Pant Social Science Institute, India
3. “Since the fighting stopped:” Changing attitudes about development in rural Nepal
Christopher Butler, University of California, Santa-Cruz, USA
4. Patronage, politics and administration in Naya Nepal
Sucheta Pyakuryal, University of North Florida, USA
5. Nepal’s stalled political transition, what next?
Pramod Kantha, Wright State University, USA

Discussants (Number within parentheses is the serial number of the paper in the above list):

Pramod Kantha (1), Christopher Butler (2), Andre Lecours (3), Kaustubha Nand Bhatt (4), Sucheta Pyakuryal (5)