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A Policy Seminar on

REIMAGINING PUBLIC POLICY IN NEPAL PROCESS, PRACTICES AND MANAGEMENT

9th October 2015

**Conference Hall, Nepal Administrative Staff College
Jawalakhel, Lalitpur**

Background

Public policy issues gained considerable momentum globally and are mainly seen as products of political and bureaucratic interaction. But, policy is also based on social discourse, public contestation, political negotiation and certain use of evidence. There are critical issues in the political representation of public issue and its subsequent translation into policy document in Nepal, and its subsequent implementation.

Nepal has seen some remarkable changes in recent years, and it will have significant bearing on the policy process and practice. The recent political changes, including the adoption of new constitution, is likely to transform social values and norms, and the rules of game in governance, while at the same time facing the issues of increasingly globalized economic and political environment. The greater access to data, information and claims have given greater opportunities for evidence-based policy process. On the other hand, growing demand for government accountability make new demands on government decisions. These lead us to the realization of viewing in new light the processes of policy making through more informed deliberation amongst major stakeholders.

In this context, Nepal Administrative Staff College (NASC), Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS) and Kathmandu University- School of Management (KUSOM) have joined hands to host a seminar on 'Reimagining Public Policy in Nepal' in order to create an opportunity for stakeholders deliberate on how the government would go about in handling policymaking and implementation in the country.

Aims

This policy seminar aims to initiate discourse in reorienting public policy making in Nepal with the following specific aims.

- Provide forum to discuss and share practices as well as experiences of public policy process.
- Support to promote culture of evidence-based public policy making and identify issues and opportunities in public policy process in Nepal.

- Strengthen the synergy and networking of diverse institutions working in public policy.

Seminar Sessions

This seminar is divided into four sessions—the inaugural one, two technical sessions, the closing session. It will have keynote speech, and presentations on different policy themes and policy processes and related politics (see the program schedule). There will be productive debate and discussions that both contribute to the refinement of presented papers and inform wider policy debate in the country.

Key Outcomes

Seminar proceeding: The papers presented in the seminar will be reviewed to incorporate inputs received from the audience and published in an anthology, the seminar proceeding.

Networking: Participants representing different policy research institutions, think tanks, academia etc. will enter into a network for public policy discourse and contribute into reimagining public policy management in Nepal. This initiative will extend to international scope for cross-learning benefits.

The Program

09:00	Registration	
09:30	Inauguration	
	Welcome	Name
	Remarks I	Dr. Netra Timsina, <i>SIAS</i>
	Remarks II	Prof. Subash K.C., <i>Dean-KUSOM</i>
	Remarks III	Dr. Govinda Raj Pokharel Vice Chairman, NPC
	Remarks IV	Mr. Punya Prasad Neupane, <i>ED- NASC, Chair</i>
10:40	Key Note Speech: Dr. Jagadish Chandra Pokharel, <i>Former VC—National Planning Commission</i>	
11:20	Break	
11:40	Technical Session I	Session Chair: Hari Sharma
	Discussant: (1) Geja Sharma Wagle (2) TBD	
	Presentation I: Impact of Local Elections on the Intensity of Civil War: Evidence from Nepal	Biswo Poudel
	Presentation II: Corporate Political Influences as Strategic Edge and Its Ethical Implications	Binod Krishna Shrestha
	Presentation III: Contested Positioning of Madhesi Movement and Tharu Movement in Nepal's Constitution Writing Process	Mahendra Sapkota
13:30	Lunch	
14:30	Technical Session II	Session Chair: Leela Mani Poudyal
	Discussant: (1) Gagan Thapa (2) TBD	
	Presentation I: Hydropower Policy and Site-Level Contestation: Challenges for Ending the Power Cut in Nepal	Gyanu Maskey and Hari Dhungana
	Presentation II: Rethinking Public Service Delivery in Nepal: How Costly are they?	Trilochan Pokharel, Achala Dahal, Rajendra Adhikari, Urgen Dorze Sherpa
	Presentation III: Practices of Policy Making: A Case of Urban Development Policy in Nepal	Mani Ram Gelal
16:30	Closing	
	Overall Summary	Dr. Hari Dhungana, <i>SIAS</i>
	Closing Remarks	Yuba Raj Bhusal, <i>NASC</i>
	Closing Tea	