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CEDA NEWS

CENTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
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TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

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CEDA HIGHLIGHTS LEADERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS

CEDA celebrates its leaders for strengthening its role in economic research and driving impactful collaborations.

The Centre for Economic Development and Administration (CEDA) acknowledges the significant contributions of its recent leaders, Laxmi Kanta Sharma and Dr. Arjun Kumar Baral, in advancing the institution's mission.

From 19th Bhadra 2079 (September 4, 2022), Mr. Sharma served as the Executive Director for three and half months, bringing valuable insights and expertise to the role. His leadership focused on strengthening CEDA's foundation and ensuring smooth operations during a transitional period.

On December 20, 2022, Dr. Baral succeeded Mr. Sharma as Executive Director. With over three decades of experience



at Tribhuvan University, Dr. Baral has led CEDA's initiatives in economic research and policy development. His expertise in Macro-econometrics, Environmental Economics, and regional economic issues has further elevated CEDA's standing as a premier research institution.

Both leaders have played crucial roles in enhancing CEDA's impact, fostering national and international collaborations, and addressing critical economic and administrative challenges. The institution deeply values their dedication and the milestones achieved under their leadership.

CEDA CELEBRATES 56TH ANNIVERSARY WITH GRATITUDE AND FAREWELLS



The Centre for Economic Development and Administration (CEDA) celebrated its 56th Anniversary on 2081/02/02 with a special ceremony at the CEDA Auditorium Hall. The event was graced by the presence of Prof. Dr. Khadga KC, Rector of Tribhuvan University, who attended as a distinguished guest.

As part of the celebrations, CEDA bid a heartfelt farewell to former Executive Director Prof. Dr. Gopi Nath Regmi, recognizing his invaluable contributions to the institution.



He was honored with a token of love and a certificate of appreciation. The program also acknowledged the dedicated service of Mr. Ram Chandra Paudel, Office Assistant, who has been an integral part of CEDA for the past 20 years, with a special recognition for his commitment and loyalty.

The occasion celebrated the achievements and legacy of CEDA while expressing gratitude to individuals who have significantly contributed to its journey over the years.

NATIONAL / INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM



An Interaction Program on “HARNESSING REGIONAL SYNERGIES FOR A PROSPEROUS BIMSTEC REGION”

An Interaction Program on 2081/02/07 (20th May, 2024) with BIMSTEC Secretary General Indra Mani Panday, Prof. Dr. Keshar Jung Baral, Vice Chancellor, TU, held at Smriti Bhawan, Tribhuvan University Kathmandu, Nepal, organized by the Centre for Economic Development and Administration (CEDA). The program, themed “Harnessing Regional Synergies for Development and Prosperity in the BIMSTEC Region,”



International Symposium on “Harnessing the Potential of Productive Sectors for Accelerating Economic Growth in Nepal”

Centre for Economic Development and Administration (CEDA), T.U hosted an International Symposium Jointly Organized by Centre for Economic Development and Administration (CEDA) and Center for Regional Development (CRD), Chonnam National University (CNU), Republic of Korea on 28th July, 2023. Numbers of experts from South Korea and Nepal were invited to discuss on the connection on “Harnessing the Potential of Productive Sectors for Accelerating Economic Growth in Nepal”. Chief Guest of the event, Honorable. Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat (Finance Minister, Ministry of

Finance, Government of Nepal), Prof. Dr. Shiva Lal Bhusal (Rector, TU), Prof. Dr. Punya Prasad Regmi (Vice Chancellor, AFU), Co-Chairperson of the Symposium, Prof. Dr. Jumong Na (Director of Center for Regional Development, Chonnam National University), Chairperson of the Symposium, Prof. Dr. Arjun Kumar Baral (Executive Director of CEDA) and several other honored guests from domestic and international organization attended the event with full enthusiastic responses. Their participation enriched the event greatly.



Pre -Budget Discussion

Prof. Dr. Arjun Kumar Baral, and Dr. Laxmi Kanta Sharma participated on this Discussion Program on 2081/01/19 at Nepal Tourism Board Hall, Bhrikutimandap, Kathmandu.

PARTICIPATION ON NATIONAL / INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR



Participated the Training Program entitled “BIMSTEC’s Capacity Building for Uplifting the Quality of Life through Creative Economy and BCG Economy Model

Prof. Dr. Arjun Kumar Baral, Executive Director of CEDA, Associate Prof. Laxmi Kanta Sharma, and Dr. Mukunda Prasad Paudyal, Former Secretary of Nepal, participated in the training program “BIMSTEC’s Capacity Building for Uplifting the Quality of Life through Creative Economy and BCG Economy Model,” held from September 5–10, 2023, in Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand. The program was organized by Thailand’s Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research, and Innovation, in collaboration with Ubon Ratchathani University and the BIMSTEC Network of Policy Think Tanks.

Participation in the 5th CRD Global Scholars Seminar Series

Prof. Dr. Arjun Kumar Baral, Executive Director of CEDA at Tribhuvan University, and Associate Professor Laxmi Kanta Sharma participated in the “5th CRD Global Scholars Seminar Series” on March 22, 2023. Dr. Sharma also presented a paper on “Tourism Development in Nepal and Its Sustainability.” The event was organized by the Centre for Regional Development, Chonnam National University, South Korea.

MOU/AGREEMENTS



MOU with CRD, Chonnam University

An MOU was signed on March 22, 2023, with the Centre for Regional Development (CRD), Chonnam National University, to promote short-term faculty exchanges, joint teaching, and research collaboration.

MOU with Nepal China Friendship Forum

An MOU was signed with the Nepal China Friendship Forum to strengthen collaborative efforts on....

COMPLETED RESEARCH PROJECTS

1. The study on Firewood Dependency and the Transition to Biogas in Koshi Province

The study on Firewood Dependency and the Transition to Biogas in Koshi Province explores the heavy reliance on firewood for energy in Koshi Province, highlighting significant economic, health, and environmental challenges. On average, households consume 9,720 kg of firewood annually, leading to deforestation, carbon emissions, and respiratory illnesses, particularly affecting women and children. The study evaluates biogas systems as a sustainable alternative, capable of reducing firewood use by 80–90%, improving health outcomes, and mitigating environmental degradation. Despite their potential, barriers such as

financial constraints, limited infrastructure, and cultural resistance hinder widespread adoption. The report offers actionable recommendations, including expanded subsidies, microfinance initiatives, infrastructure development, and awareness campaigns, to promote biogas adoption and align with sustainable development goals (SDGs). This research underscores the need for targeted interventions to address energy poverty and drive a sustainable energy transition in rural Nepal.

2. Provincial Level Survey on the Demand and Supply of Skilled Workforce in Koshi Province

Provincial Level Survey on the Demand and Supply of Skilled Workforce in Koshi Province examines the demand and supply of skilled technical and vocational manpower in Koshi Province, Nepal, highlighting a significant mismatch between labor market requirements and the outputs of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programs. Using data from surveys, interviews, and secondary sources, the research identifies challenges such as outdated curricula, inadequate skill development, and

limited collaboration between industries and training institutions. To address these issues, the report recommends structural reforms, including modernizing curricula, aligning training with industry needs, and fostering employer engagement. Additionally, it emphasizes the need to retain skilled manpower and enhance workforce productivity to bridge gaps between labor supply and demand, thereby supporting sustainable economic growth in the province.

3. The Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Baseline Survey conducted in Koshi Province

The Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Baseline Survey conducted in Koshi Province provides an academic foundation for understanding the socio-economic and cultural dynamics affecting marginalized communities. Employing a mixed-methods approach, the survey integrates quantitative data collection with qualitative participatory methodologies, such as focus group discussions and key informant interviews. This dual approach ensures a holistic analysis of critical socio-demographic indicators, encompassing livelihood strategies, access to resources, and governance frameworks. The study's methodology is designed to capture the intersectional dimensions of gender, ethnicity, and socio-economic status, providing a nuanced perspective on systemic inequities.

The findings of the baseline survey underscore significant disparities in resource distribution, policy execution, and

gender representation. Marginalized groups face pronounced barriers in accessing essential services and livelihood opportunities, reflecting structural inequities embedded within local governance and socio-economic systems. The report highlights the urgency of targeted interventions to address these gaps. Key recommendations include the implementation of inclusive governance mechanisms, the development of community-led initiatives, and capacity-building programs to foster equitable participation in socio-economic development. These recommendations aim to inform policymakers, stakeholders, and development practitioners in designing sustainable interventions that promote gender equality and social inclusion across Koshi Province.

COMPLETED RESEARCH PROJECTS

4. The Gandaki Province Capacity Development Project

The Gandaki Province Capacity Development Project is a strategic initiative aimed at enhancing the province's governance and public service delivery by addressing critical gaps in human resources, institutional frameworks, and systemic efficiency. The project identified significant deficiencies in the knowledge, skills, and attitudes (KSA) of government employees, emphasizing the need for targeted training in ICT, project management, financial analysis, and public service delivery. Additionally, institutional gaps, such as inadequate infrastructure, outdated systems, and lack of inclusive and citizen-friendly environments, were recognized as key barriers to effective governance. The study also highlighted systemic issues, including weak interdepartmental coordination, outdated policies, and

inefficient service delivery mechanisms, which hinder transparency and accountability. With a focus on inclusivity and social equity, the project proposes gender-sensitive and citizen-centered administrative reforms alongside 46 targeted training programs with a five-year budget of NPR 92.5 million. Strategic recommendations include conducting training needs assessments, improving infrastructure, updating policies, and fostering a transparent and technology-driven administrative culture. By addressing these challenges, the project seeks to equip Gandaki Province with the institutional and human resource capabilities required for sustainable development, efficient governance, and equitable service delivery.

5. Impact of Covid -19 and Management Strategies in Tourism industry in Nepal

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on Nepal's tourism sector, particularly its hospitality industry, encompassing hotels, resorts, and related services. This project examines the far-reaching consequences of the pandemic on employment, financial and psychological stress, occupational health and safety, and entrepreneurial behavior in the sector. Key challenges identified include widespread job insecurity, shifts in consumer behavior, operational disruptions, and heightened financial pressures. The study also evaluates government interventions, such as fiscal stimulus packages and safety regulations, which played a critical role in supporting resilience and recovery.

Employing a mixed-method approach, the research integrates literature reviews, pilot surveys, and structured questionnaires to analyze strategies for sustainable recovery. The project focuses on implementing robust safety measures, fostering innovation among entrepreneurs, and promoting practices that enhance employee well-being. The findings aim to provide actionable insights for policymakers, industry stakeholders, and business leaders, emphasizing the need for adaptive management strategies and long-term resilience planning to navigate future crises effectively and ensure the stability and growth of Nepal's tourism industry.

6. Impact of Travel Trip on Chinese Tourists Quality of Life : A case study of Pokhara

This study explores the impact of travel experiences in Pokhara on the Quality of Life (QoL) of Chinese tourists through surveys of 400 tourists and 25 interviews. Findings reveal a positive link between travel experiences and overall life satisfaction, with key factors including cultural enrichment, relaxation, culinary experiences, and health

and safety. Pokhara's natural beauty, cultural richness, and tourism infrastructure significantly enhance visitors' well-being. The study highlights the need for improved services, personalized experiences, and sustainable practices to attract high-value tourists, offering insights for boosting satisfaction and fostering sustainable tourism growth.

ONGOING RESEARCH PROJECTS

1. A National Study on Returnee Migrant Workers, Their Economic Whereabouts, and Potentialities in Economic Development of Nepal, 2023 (T.U. Funded)

This project explores the economic contributions and potential of returnee migrant workers in Nepal, aiming to provide insights for policy development. It focuses on evaluating their employment or entrepreneurial activities, identifying mismatches between skills acquired abroad and current roles, analyzing their impact on economic linkages, and assessing the influence of demographic factors on innovation and creativity.

Significant progress includes completing a comprehensive literature review, finalizing methodologies, and developing a structured questionnaire. The study identified 1,680

respondents across various districts and municipal wards, with data collection tools and analysis methods fully prepared. Collaborative efforts with key organizations, such as the Ministry of Labor and targeted municipalities, facilitated the acquisition of secondary data. Final field data analysis is in progress.

The project emphasizes harnessing the skills and experiences of returnee migrant workers to drive economic growth and develop sustainable policies for their successful integration into Nepal's domestic economy.

2. The Impact of Indian Labor Migration in Nepal, 2024 (T.U. Funded)

This study investigates the socio-economic impacts of Indian labor migration on Nepal's local and national economy. Using a mixed-method approach, the research incorporates primary cross-sectional data from a sample of 3,800 respondents across seven provinces, along with secondary data from official sources. The study aims to map labor migration patterns, analyze spillover effects on productivity, skill transfer, and investment in both formal and informal sectors, and provide actionable insights for economic and workforce development.

Significant progress includes the formation of a dedicated research cell, an extensive literature review, organization of an inception workshop, and the development and piloting of comprehensive survey instruments. Data collection has been successfully completed across ten districts, with a focus on validating findings and addressing identified challenges such as data reliability and skill gaps among native workers.

PUBLICATIONS

1. The Journal of Development and Administration Studies (JODAS), Vol.32, No 1-2, 2024
2. The Journal of Development and Administration Studies (JODAS), Vol.31, No 1-2, 2023
3. The Journal of Development and Administration Studies (JODAS), Vol.30, No 1-2, 2022
4. The Journal of Development and Administration Studies (JODAS), Vol.29, No 1-2, 2021
5. The Journal of Development and Administration Studies (JODAS), Vol.28, No 1-2, 2020
6. The Journal of Development and Administration Studies (JODAS), Vol.27, No 1-2, 2019

CEDA extends its gratitude to Associate Prof. Dr. Prakash Shrestha for his editorial leadership in publishing these journals.

CEDA STAFF NEWS

Dr. Laxmi Kanta Sharma, Associate Professor at CEDA, successfully earned his PhD in Tourism Economics on September 29, 2023. His dissertation, titled "Impact of Tourism Development on the Quality of Life of Residents and Tourists in Pokhara" highlights his significant contribution to the field. Furthermore, we are pleased to announce his appointment as the Director of the Planning Directorate, Office of the Vice-Chancellor, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, effective from 2081/09/01.



TRANSFER

1. Mrs Bimala Shrestha, Deputy Administrator transferred to Padma kanya Multiple College on 2081/07/23
2. Mr. Karna Bahadur Shrestha , Head Account Assistant transferred to Central Department of Sociology on 2081/07/01

WELCOME TO CEDA



Mr. Keshab Prasad Acharya



Mrs. Nirmala Bhandari



Mr. Khagendra Prasad Joshi

Executive Director and all CEDA staffers welcome Mrs. Nirmala Bhandari, Deputy Administrator transferred from Ayurveda Campus on 2081/08/01 , Mr. Keshab Prasad Acharya, Head Account Assistant transferred from Examination Controller Office to this Centre on 2081/07/01 , Mr. Khagendra Prasad Joshi, Account Assistant transferred from Saraswati Campus on 2081/08/01.

CEDA VISITORS (2023-2024)

- Prof. Dr. Jumong Na (Director of Center for Regional Development , Chonnam National University)
- Prof. Sang-Ho Lee Professor of Economics College of Business and Administration, Chonnam National University, South Korea
- Dr. Doo Ri Kim, Chonnam National University, RoK
- Dr. Alan Dixon Brown, Research Professor, Center for Regional Development
- Chonnam National University
- Professor LiLi F, Director, Editorial office of South and Southeast Asian Studies, Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences,
- Associate Professor GUO Suiyan,F. Institute for Bangladesh Studies, Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences,
- Associate Professor DENG Lan,F, Institute for India Studies, Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences and
- Research Assistant SU Yu,F, Institute for India Studies, Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences

OTHER ACTIVITIES



Executive Director Prof. Dr. Arjun Kumar Baral and Associate Prof. Dr. Laxmi Kanta Sharma, along with Prof. Dr. Jumong Na (Director of the Center for Regional Development, Chonnam National University), Prof. Sang-Ho Lee, Professor of Economics at the College of Business and Administration, Chonnam National University, and Dr. Chul Hi Park, Chonnam National University, South Korea.



Executive Director Prof. Dr. Arjun Kumar Baral and Associate Prof. Dr. Laxmi Kanta Sharma with Professor Li Li, Director of the Editorial Office of South and Southeast Asian Studies at Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences, Associate Prof. Guo Suiyan from the Institute for Bangladesh Studies, Associate Prof. Deng Lan from the Institute for India Studies, and Research Assistant Su Yu, also from the Institute for India Studies, Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences.



Executive Director Prof. Dr. Arjun Kumar Baral and Associate Prof. Dr. Laxmi Kanta Sharma extend their greetings to Dr. Ajit Parulekar, Director of the Goa Institute of Management, Goa, India.



Field visit for the Koshi GESI Project



Training to Enumerators on Returnee Migrants Project

