



NIICE

NEPAL INSTITUTE FOR
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ENGAGEMENT



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON

Understanding NEPAL's Foreign Policy

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

27-28 November 2021

NIICE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON

UNDERSTANDING NEPAL'S FOREIGN POLICY

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

27-28 November 2021



NIICE

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ZOOM DETAILS

SESSIONS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11	SESSIONS A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inaugural 2. Nepal in Multilateral and International Forum 3. Interpreting Nepal-India Relations 4. Millennium Challenge Corporation Debate 5. Nepal's Economic Diplomacy and International Trade Facilitation 6. Nepal and her Neighbours 7. Nepal-China Relations 8. Emerging Security Challenges of Nepal 9. Diplomats Conclave – I 10. Role of Think Tank and Media in the Making of Nepal's Foreign Policy 11. Migration and Labour Diplomacy 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Foreign Policy and Democracy B. Future of SAARC and BIMSTEC C. Nepal's Relations with Great Powers D. Hydro Diplomacy: Prospects and Opportunities for Nepal E. Women in Nepal's Foreign Policy F. Nepal's Foreign Policy G. Climate Change and Emerging Dynamics in Nepal's Foreign Policy H. Nepal-Australia Ties I. Book Discussion: Kathmandu Dilemma: Resetting India-Nepal Ties J. Nepal's Soft Power K. Nepal-Japan Partnership L. Nepal's Foreign Policy: Emerging Trends and Patterns M. Nepal-Europe Engagement N. Public Diplomacy O. Contours of Nepal's Foreign Policy P. Diplomats' Conclave- II
Meeting ID 899 9436 5753	Meeting ID 837 5850 4906
Password niicenepal	Password niicenepal

This is an academic discussion, hence, chairs, moderators and panelists will speak in the open format without protocol precedence. We have not followed any protocol, hierarchy or order. We have also engaged young scholars to moderate or chair the session as NIICE believes in being inclusive and encouraging young scholars to actively participate and learn.

Helpline Number: +977-9840383300

Email: niice.kathmandu@gmail.com

09:00-11:00 hrs	KATHMANDU
08:45-10:45 hrs	NEW DELHI
11:15-13:15 hrs	BEIJING
06:15-08:15 hrs	MOSCOW
03:15-05:15 hrs	LONDON

SESSION-1**Inaugural**

Moderator: **Dr. Pramod Jaiswal**, Research Director, NIICE.

- **Narayan Kaji Shrestha**, Former Deputy PM and Foreign Minister.
- **Prof. Dr. Meena Vaidya Malla**, National Defense University.
- **Amb. Dr. Dinesh Bhattarai**, Former Advisor to PM of Nepal.
- **Prof. Dr. Shambhuram Simkhada**, Former Diplomat and National Defence University.
- **Prof. Dr. Khadga KC**, Professor, Department of International Relations and Diplomacy, ***Evolution of International Studies in Nepal.***
- **Amb. Dr. Madan Bhattarai**, Former Foreign Secretary of Nepal, ***Journey of Ministry of Foreign Affairs.***
- **Deepak R Joshi**, Founding Executive Member, World Tourism Network, ***Tourism Potential of Nepal and Challenges in the Post COVID-19 Times.***

Day 1

27 NOV

10:00-11:00 hrs	KATHMANDU
09:45-10:45 hrs	NEW DELHI
12:15-13:15 hrs	BEIJING
07:15-08:15 hrs	MOSCOW
04:15-05:15 hrs	LONDON

SESSION-A

Foreign Policy and Democracy

Chair: **Sajana Maharjan Amatya**, Project Director, Data for Development Program, The Asia Foundation.

- **Janaki Ojha**, Section Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Democratisation of Nepal's Foreign Policy*.
- **Dr. Keshab Giri**, University of Sydney, *Digital Sovereignty and Small State*.
- **Sarita Bartaula**, Independent Researcher, *Foreign Policy and Democracy*.

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Day 1

27 NOV

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13:15-14:15 hrs	BEIJING
08:15-09:15 hrs	MOSCOW
05:15-06:15 hrs	LONDON

SESSION-B

Future of SAARC and BIMSTEC

Chair: **Shivanees Thapa Basnyat**, Senior News Editor, Nepal Television

- **Niruka Sanjeevani Gamage**, Lecturer, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University.
- **Angshuman Choudhury**, Senior Researcher, Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies.
- **Santosh Nandan Bhandari**, South Asia Partnership Nepal, *Nepal's Engagement with Regional & International Organisation*.
- **Saroj Aryal**, Warsaw University, *Future of SAARC: A Nepalese Perspective*.
- **Sausan Shareef**, Advocate, Local Government Authority, Maldives, *Revitalising SAARC*.

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Day 1

27 NOV

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10:45-12:45 hrs	NEW DELHI
13:15-15:15 hrs	BEIJING
08:15-10:15 hrs	MOSCOW
05:15-07:15 hrs	LONDON

SESSION-2

Nepal in Multilateral and International Forum

Chair: **Prof. Dr. Khadga KC**, Professor, Department of International Relations and Diplomacy.

- **Amb. Madhu Raman Acharya**, Former Foreign Secretary of Nepal.
- **Antara Singh**, Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- **Santosh Sharma Poudel**, Faculty, Tribhuvan University, *Multilateral Institutions in Nepali Foreign Policy: How much and Why?*.
- **Dela Prasain**, News Editor, Radio Nepal, *Nepal in the United Nations*.
- **Dr. Surendra Rawal**, Security Analyst, *The UN Peacekeeping Participation as Nepal's Soft Power*.

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12:00-14:00 hrs	KATHMANDU
11:45-13:45 hrs	NEW DELHI
14:15-16:15 hrs	BEIJING
09:15-11:15 hrs	MOSCOW
06:15-08:15 hrs	LONDON

SESSION-C

Nepal's Relations with Great Powers

Chair: **Dr. Cauvery Ganapathy**, Visiting Fellow, NIICE.

- **Eloïse Jha-Dussably**, Independent Researcher, Former Country Director of Planète Enfants et Développement, *French INGOs in Nepal*.
- **Dr. Souravie Ghimiray**, Independent Researcher, *US Engagement in Nepal*.
- **Gaurav Bhattarai**, Faculty, Tribhuvan University, *Nepal's Foreign Policy Behavior in Accommodating the Interests of Major Powers: Opportunities and Challenges*.
- **Prakriti Upreti**, Independent Researcher, *Nepal's Political and Economic Ties with Great Powers*.
- **Hari Prakash Chand**, PhD Scholar, Department of International Relations and Diplomacy, Tribhuvan University, *Major Power Play in Nepal and Nepal's Foreign Policy*.
- **Chandrika Pandit**, Planning Officer, National Planning Commission, *Nepal's Foreign Policy Patterns towards the Regional and Extra-Regional Powers*.

Day 1

27 NOV

13:00-15:00 hrs	KATHMANDU
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10:15-12:15 hrs	MOSCOW
07:15-09:15 hrs	LONDON
02:15-04:15 hrs	WASHINGTON

SESSION-3

Interpreting Nepal-India Relations

Chair: **Purvaja Modak**, Centre for Public Policy Research.

- **Prof. Sangeeta Thapliyal**, Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University.
- **Prof. Haribansh Jha**, Director, Centre for Economic and Technical Studies.
- **Ajapa Sharma**, PhD Candidate, University of Illinois, *Sovereign prerogatives: Problems of Extradition Between British India and Nepal in the 1920s.*
- **Sohini Nayak**, Junior Fellow, Observer Research Foundation, *Interpreting Nepal India Relations.*

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Day 1

27 NOV

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11:15-12:15 hrs	MOSCOW
08:15-09:15 hrs	LONDON
03:15-04:15 hrs	WASHINGTON

SESSION-D

Hydro Diplomacy: Prospects and Opportunities for Nepal

Chair: **Angshuman Choudhury**, Senior Researcher, Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies.

- **Dipak Gyawali**, Former Minister of Water Resources.
- **Dr. Uttam K. Sinha**, Research Fellow, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses.
- **Dr. Dwarika Nath Dhungel**, Senior Researcher, Social Sciences.
- **Udisha Saklani**, PhD Scholar, University of Cambridge.

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Day 1

27 NOV

15:00-17:00 hrs	KATHMANDU
14:45-16:45 hrs	NEW DELHI
17:15-19:15 hrs	BEIJING
12:15-14:15 hrs	MOSCOW
09:15-11:15 hrs	LONDON
04:15-06:15 hrs	WASHINGTON

SESSION-4

Millennium Challenge Corporation Debate

Moderator: **Dela Prasain**, News Editor, Radio Nepal.

- **Dilli Ram Paudel**, Graduate School of International Relations, Ritsumeikan University, ***MCC and the Construction of Threat Perception in Nepal.***
- **Bishal Thapa**, Managing Director, Suraj Urja Nepal.
- **Semanta Dahal**, Advocate
- **Sagar Jung Karki**, Researcher, NIICE.
- **Anurag Acharya**, Director of Practice, Policy Entrepreneurs Inc.

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Day 1 · **27 NOV**

15:00-16:00 hrs	KATHMANDU
14:45-15:45 hrs	NEW DELHI
17:15-18:15 hrs	BEIJING
12:15-13:15 hrs	MOSCOW
09:15-10:15 hrs	LONDON
04:15-05:15 hrs	WASHINGTON

SESSION-E

Women in Nepal's Foreign Policy

Chair: **Amb. Lucky Sherpa**, Former Nepali ambassador to Australia and New Zealand.

- **Ruby Khadgi**, Legal consultant UNDP, *A Feminist Foreign Policy Framework to Advance Gender Equality in Nepal.*
- **Prativa Khanal**, Human Rights Lawyer, *Is Nepal Ready for a Feminist Foreign Policy?*
- **Mamta Siwakoti**, UNICEF Regional Office of South Asia, *Women in Nepal's Foreign Policy.*

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Day 1 **27 NOV**

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15:45-16:45 hrs	NEW DELHI
18:15-19:15 hrs	BEIJING
13:15-14:15 hrs	MOSCOW
10:15-11:15 hrs	LONDON
05:15-06:15 hrs	WASHINGTON

SESSION-F
Nepal's Foreign Policy

Moderator: **Dr. Pramod Jaiswal**, Research Director, NIICE.

- **Prof. SD Muni**, Professor Emeritus, Jawaharlal Nehru University and Former Indian Diplomat.

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17:00-18:00 hrs	KATHMANDU
16:45-17:45 hrs	NEW DELHI
19:15-20:15 hrs	BEIJING
14:15-15:15 hrs	MOSCOW
11:15-12:15 hrs	LONDON
06:15-07:15 hrs	WASHINGTON

SESSION-5

**Nepal's Economic Diplomacy and
International Trade Facilitation**

Chair: **Dr. Raymond Kwun-Sun Lau**, Assistant Professor,
North South University, Bangladesh.

- **Chandra Ghimire**, Former Secretary of Government of Nepal.
- **Dr. Kalpana Khanal**, Senior Research Fellow, Policy Research Institute, ***Economic Diplomacy.***
- **Dr. Aparna Singh & Jharana Dhinda**, Central University of Jharkhand, ***Understanding India-Nepal Economic Relations in 21 st century: An Overview.***
- **Pratiksha Ghimire**, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies.

Day 1

27 NOV

18:00-20:00 hrs	KATHMANDU
17:45-19:45 hrs	NEW DELHI
20:15-22:15 hrs	BEIJING
15:15-17:15 hrs	MOSCOW
12:15-14:15 hrs	LONDON
07:15-09:15 hrs	WASHINGTON

SESSION-6

Nepal and her Neighbours

Chair: **Dr. Dhananjay Tripathi**, Senior Asst. Professor, South Asian University.

- **Dr. Gulbin Sultana**, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, ***Nepal-Sri Lanka Relations.***
- **Dr. Kishwar Munir**, Assistant Professor, University of Lahore, ***Nepal Pakistan Relations.***
- **Manish Jung Pulami**, PhD Scholar, South Asian University, ***India-China Antagonistic Cooperation: Re-calibrating Nepal's Foreign Policy.***
- **Ashbinkumar Pudasaini**, PhD Candidate, Tribhuvan University, ***Strategies for landlocked Countries like Nepal.***
- **Yukta Acharya**, Senior Coordinator, Tillotoma Foundation, ***Linguistic and Cultural Drivers in Indo-Nepalese Synergy.***
- **Rakshya Giri**, Senior Legal Officer, WOREC, ***Nexus between Migration and Trafficking - Effect of TIP Bill of India in Nepal.***
- **Divya Rai**, Researcher, NIICE, ***Nepal's Neighbourhood Policy.***

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Day 1 · **27 NOV**

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16:45-17:45 hrs	NEW DELHI
19:15-20:15 hrs	BEIJING
14:15-15:15 hrs	MOSCOW
11:15-12:15 hrs	LONDON
06:15-07:15 hrs	WASHINGTON

SESSION-G

Climate Change and Emerging Dynamics in Nepal's Foreign Policy

Moderator: **Sajal Pradhan**, Co-Founder, Best Paani.

- **Dr. Chandralal Pandey**, Program Coordinator, Community Development Program, Kathmandu University.
- **Shilshila Acharya**, Co-founder and Director, Avni Centre for Sustainability.
- **Ravi Kumar**, Central University of Jharkhand, ***Climate Change a Threat to the Internal Security of Nepal.***

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Day 1 · **27 NOV**

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17:45-18:15 hrs	NEW DELHI
20:15-20:45 hrs	BEIJING
15:15-15:45 hrs	MOSCOW
12:15-12:45 hrs	LONDON
07:15-07:45 hrs	WASHINGTON

SESSION-H
Nepal-Australia Ties

Moderator: **Dr. Pramod Jaiswal**, Research Director, NIICE.

- **H.E. Felicity Volk**, Ambassador of Australia to Nepal.

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Day 1 · **27 NOV**

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18:15-19:15 hrs	NEW DELHI
20:45-21:45 hrs	BEIJING
15:45-16:45 hrs	MOSCOW
12:45-13:45 hrs	LONDON
07:45-08:45 hrs	WASHINGTON

SESSION-I

Book Discussion:

Kathmandu Dilemma: Resetting India-Nepal Ties

Moderator: **Kosh Raj Koirala**, Associate Editor, Republica.

- **Amb. Ranjit Rae**, Author of Kathmandu Dilemma: Resetting India-Nepal Ties.
- **Atul K Thakur**, Policy Analyst and Columnist.
- **Dr. Pramod Jaiswal**, Research Director, NIICE.

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Day 2

28 NOV

09:00-11:00 hrs	KATHMANDU
08:45-10:45 hrs	NEW DELHI
11:15-13:15 hrs	BEIJING
06:15-08:15 hrs	MOSCOW
03:15-05:15 hrs	LONDON

SESSION-7

Nepal-China Relations

Moderator: **Shristi Kafle**, Independent Journalist.

- **Amb. Leela Mani Paudyal**, Former Chief Secretary and Nepalese Ambassador to China.
- **Sanjay Upadhyay**, Author.
- **Shiva Prasad Tiwari**, Faculty, National College, *Nepal's China Policy*.
- **Shrabana Barua**, Visiting Fellow, NIICE, *Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and Nepal*.
- **Dron Prasad Lamichhane**, Research Scholar, Department of International Relations and Diplomacy, *Silk Route Enhancing Nepal-China Connectivity and it's Geo-Strategic Implications*.

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Day 2

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11:15-13:15 hrs	BEIJING
06:15-08:15 hrs	MOSCOW
03:15-05:15 hrs	LONDON

SESSION-J

Nepal's Soft Power

Chair: **Dr. Angira Sen Sarma**, Assistant Professor, University of Allahabad.

- **Dr. Lila Nyaichai**, Assistant Professor, Tribhuvan University.
- **Bhuwan Bhatta**, Section Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Projection of Soft Power: Case of Nepal.*
- **Binod Khanda Timilsana**, PhD Scholar, Department of International Relations and Diplomacy, Tribhuvan University, *Soft Power in Nepal's Foreign Policy.*
- **Matrika Poudyal**, Spokesperson, Institute of Foreign Affairs, *Nepal's Soft Power and its Implication in Current Geopolitical Dynamics.*
- **Vijay Parsad Jayshwal**, Assistant Professor, Tribhuvan University, *Narratives of 'Soft' in Soft Power Discourse in Nepals Foreign Policy Priorities.*

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Day 2

28 NOV

11:00-12:00 hrs	KATHMANDU
10:45-11:45 hrs	NEW DELHI
13:15-14:15 hrs	BEIJING
08:15-09:15 hrs	MOSCOW
05:15-06:15 hrs	LONDON

SESSION-K

Nepal-Japan Partnership

Chair: **Astha Chadha**, Researcher, NIICE.

- **Prof. Khadga KC**, Department of International Relations and Diplomacy, Tribhuvan University.
- **Dr. Madan Kumar Bhattarai**, Former Foreign Secretary and Former Nepalese Ambassador to Japan.
- **Sunil Kumar Chaudhary**, Research Associate, NIICE.

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10:45-12:45 hrs	NEW DELHI
13:15-15:15 hrs	BEIJING
08:15-10:15 hrs	MOSCOW
05:15-07:15 hrs	LONDON

SESSION-8**Emerging Security Challenges of Nepal**

Chair: **Dr. Shanthie Mariet D'Souza**, Founding Professor, Kautilya School of Public Policy, and President & Founder, Mantraya.

- **Maj. Gen. Binoj Basnyat**, Security Analyst.
- **AIG Rabi Raj Thapa**, Security Expert.
- **Maj Gen Ashok Kumar Mehta**, Lt General of the Indian Army (Retd.)
- **Dr. Arpita Giri**, Researcher, NIICE, *India-Nepal Migration: A Human Security Perspective*.
- **Amit Kumar Singh**, Central University of Jharkhand, *India-Nepal Relations from Security Perspective*.
- **Manmeen Kaur**, Researcher, NIICE.

Day 2

28 NOV

12:00-14:00 hrs	KATHMANDU
11:45-13:45 hrs	NEW DELHI
14:15-16:15 hrs	BEIJING
09:15-11:15 hrs	MOSCOW
06:15-08:15 hrs	LONDON

SESSION-L

Nepal's Foreign Policy: Emerging Trends and Patterns

Chair: **Shail Suman Silwal**, TV Journalist.

- **Kamal Dev Bhattarai**, Journalist, *Nepal's Foreign Policy: Post Constitution Scenario.*
- **Amb. Pradhumna B. Shah**, President, Forum for International Relations and Development Studies, *Nepal's Relations with Rising China and Prospects of Bridging the Two Asian Big Emerging Markets through Trilateral Cooperation.*
- **Akansha Shah**, Independent Researcher, *Nepal's Engagement with India and China after 2015.*
- **GP Acharya**, Tribhuvan University, *Tech-Diplomacy in Nepal: Navigating Democratic and Rational Technological Future.*
- **Gaurab Shumsher Thapa**, President, Nepal Forum of International Relations Studies, *Nepal's Foreign Policy: Emerging Trends and Patterns.*

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Day 2

28 NOV

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15:15-17:15 hrs	BEIJING
10:15-12:15 hrs	MOSCOW
07:15-09:15 hrs	LONDON
02:15-04:15 hrs	WASHINGTON

SESSION-9

Diplomats Conclave-I

Moderator: **Dr. Pramod Jaiswal**, Research Director, NIICE.

- **H.E. Krishna Prasad Dhakal**, Nepalese Ambassador to UAE.
- **Mark Templer**, Deputy Chief of Political-Economic Section, US Embassy, Kathmandu.
- **Amb. Dr. Narad Nath Bharadwaj**, Former Nepalese Ambassador to Qatar.
- **H.E. Durga Prasad Bhandari**, Nepalese Ambassador to State of Kuwait.

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Day 2 · 28 NOV

14:00-15:00 hrs	KATHMANDU
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11:15-12:15 hrs	MOSCOW
08:15-09:15 hrs	LONDON
03:15-04:15 hrs	WASHINGTON

SESSION-M

Nepal-Europe Engagement

Moderator: **Jagriti Chand**, Data management officer, The Lutheran World Federation Nepal

- **Amb. Yuba Nath Lamsal**, Former Nepalese Ambassador to Denmark.
- **Jiwan Subedi**, Political Affairs Officer, Delegation of the European Union to Nepal.
- **Bipin Ghimire**, Doctoral Candidate, South Asian University, *Going Beyond Hard Politics: Nepal-Europe Engagement on Democracy and Development.*
- **Simant Shankar Bharti**, Doctoral Candidate, University of Warsaw, *EU-Nepal Development Cooperation: Does it need an Update?*

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Day 2

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12:15-13:15 hrs	MOSCOW
09:15-10:15 hrs	LONDON
04:15-05:15 hrs	WASHINGTON

SESSION-N

Public Diplomacy

Chair: **Dr. Uma Purushothaman**, Assistant Professor,
Central University of Kerala.

- **Ashmita Gautam**, Consultant at Institute for Integrated Development Studies, ***Digital Diplomacy.***
- **Jagdishor Panday**, Sub-Editor, The Kathmandu Post, ***Vaccine Diplomacy and Nepal: Unraveling Nepal's Vaccine Conundrum.***
- **Shiva Ram Rijal**, PhD Candidate, Department of International Relations and Diplomacy, Tribhuvan University, ***Prospect of Development Diplomacy of Nepal.***

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Day 2

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09:15-11:15 hrs	LONDON
04:15-06:15 hrs	WASHINGTON

SESSION-10

**Role of Think Tank and Media in the
Making of Nepal's Foreign Policy**

Chair: **Laxman Datt Pant**, Chairperson, Media Action Nepal.

- **Dr. Shubhra Chaturvedi**, Visiting Fellow, NIICE.
- **Dr. Bishnu Raj Upreti**, Executive Director, Policy Research Institute.
- **Prof. Dr. Mohan P Lohani**, Former President of Nepal Council of World Affairs.
- **Kosh Raj Koirala**, Associate Editor, Republica, ***Role of Media on Nepal's Foreign Policy.***
- **Namrata Sharma**, Advisor, Center for Investigative Journalism.

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Day 2

28 NOV

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18:15-20:15 hrs	BEIJING
13:15-15:15 hrs	MOSCOW
10:15-12:15 hrs	LONDON
05:15-07:15 hrs	WASHINGTON

SESSION-O

Contours of Nepal's Foreign Policy

Chair: **Prof. Dr. Meena Vaidya Malla**, National Defense University.

- **Rohit Karki**, Project Officer, Asia-Pacific Unit, DCAF, *Multi-Alignment in Nepal's Foreign Policy*.
- **Shila Devi Parajuli**, Researcher, NIICE, *Role of Nepal in Global Governance*.
- **Saphala Dhital**, Section Officer, Kathmandu District Court, *Nepal's Foreign Policy: A Reflection of Domestic Politics*.
- **Mubiyana Adhikari**, Researcher, NIICE, *Understanding Nepal's Relational Patterns*.
- **Nandita Khadgi**, Researcher, NIICE, *Theatrerizing Nepal's Foreign Policy*.
- **Dikshya Singh Rathour**, Research Associate, NIICE, *Politics of Foreign Aid in Nepal*.

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19:15-21:15 hrs	BEIJING
14:15-16:15 hrs	MOSCOW
11:15-13:15 hrs	LONDON
06:15-08:15 hrs	WASHINGTON

SESSION-11**Migration and Labour Diplomacy**

Chair: **Atul K Thakur**, Policy Analyst and Columnist.

- **Dr. Meena Poudel**, Migration Analyst.
- **Harishchandra Ghimire**, Joint Secretary and Head of Central Asia, West Asia and Africa Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- **Dr. Keshav Bashyal**, Faculty, Tribhuvan University.
- **Dr. Jeevan Baniya**, Assistant Director, Social Science Baha.
- **Neha Choudhary** National Project Coordinator Migrant Rights and Decent Work, ILO
- **Anurag Devkota**, Human Rights Lawyer, LAPSOJ, *Migration and Labour Diplomacy of Nepal.*
- **Samvidha Pathak**, Academic Facilitator, *Role of Migrant Resource Center in Labour Diplomacy.*
- **Neelam Shahi**, Tribhuvan University, *Intersecting Nepal's Foreign Policy with Plight of Migrant Workers in Middle East.*

Day 2

28 NOV

18:00-19:00 hrs	KATHMANDU
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15:15-16:15 hrs	MOSCOW
12:15-13:15 hrs	LONDON
07:15-08:15 hrs	WASHINGTON

SESSION-P

Diplomats' Conclave-II

Moderator: **Dr. Pramod Jaiswal**, Research Director, NIICE.

- **H.E. Mr. Hanan Goder-Goldberger**, Ambassador of Israel to Nepal.
- **H.E. Bhriгу Dhungana**, Nepalese Ambassador to Canada.
- **Sepideh Keyvanshad**, Mission Director, US Agency for International Development, Nepal.
- **Edward Roberts**, Deputy Ambassador, British Embassy.

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PROFILE OF PARTICIAPNTS

(Not in Particular Order)

Narayan Kaji Shrestha

Former Deputy PM, Home Minister and Foreign Minister

Narayan Kaji Shrestha is former Deputy Prime Minister, Home Minister, Foreign Minister, Cabinet Spokesperson, Member of Constituent Assembly and Member of Parliament, among others. He joined Nepal's communist movement in 1980s and played a role in bringing the seven parties and CPN-Maoist together in creating the 12-point Understanding for the democracy movement in mid-April 2006.

Prof. Dr. Meena Vaidya Malla

National Defense University

Prof. Dr. Meena Vaidya Malla, an academician, is Professor of Political Science. She was the former Head of the Central Department of Political Science, Tribhuvan University. She has written a number of research articles on contemporary issues of politics and Governance. She is decorated with *Dirgha Sewa Padak*, *Mahendra Vidhya Bhusan Ka*, by the then King, and *Suprabal Jansewashree*, by the president of Nepal. She has been associated as an expert and guest faculty member in Army Command and Staff College on Advanced course on national Security since its start. She is now a member of Academic Sub-Committee, Infrastructure Development Committee, National Defence University Nepal (NDUN), Ministry of Defence, Government of Nepal.

Dipak Gyawali

Former Minister of Water Resources

Dipak Gyawali, a hydroelectric power engineer and political economist, is an academician at Nepal Academy of Science and Technology and is Chair, Nepal Water Conservation Foundation and Interdisciplinary Analysts. Mr. Gyawali conducts interdisciplinary research at the interface of technology and society. As Minister of Water Resources in 2002/2003, he completed the privatization of Butwal Power Company. In the same term, his initiatives led to empowerment of rural communities by giving control over local distribution to rural consumers.

Saphala Dhital

Kathmandu District Court

Saphala Dhital is working as (Judicial) Section Officer for Government of Nepal and as a Lecturer of Law. Prior to this, she actively engaged as a Research Associate at Social Science Baha in various projects involving Governance, Federalism, Minority rights, Migration, SDG and so on.

Amb. Dr. Shambhu Ram Simkhada

Former Diplomat and National Defence University

Dr. Shambhu Ram Simkhada served as a member of the Secretariat of the Special Committee chaired by the Prime Minister and its Technical Committee for the Supervision, Integration and Rehabilitation of the Maoist Army Combatants. He was a former permanent representative to the United Nations, the World Trade Organization and other International Organizations in Geneva and also served as Chairman of the United Nations Human Rights Commission (Council), Ambassador to Switzerland and member secretary and treasurer of Social Welfare Council.

Amb. Dr. Dinesh Bhattarai

Former Foreign Policy Advisor to PM and Former Diplomat

Dr. Dinesh Bhattarai is a Former Foreign Policy Adviser to the Prime Minister of Nepal. He was Nepal's Ambassador/Permanent Representative to the United Nations including Conference on Disarmament and International Organizations. He was accredited to the World Trade Organization in Geneva, Food and Agricultural Organization in Rome and United Nations Industrial Development Organization in Vienna. Dr. Bhattarai was also Ambassador to the Swiss Confederation, Republic of Italy and the Republic of Croatia. He served as First Secretary (Political Affairs) at the Embassy of Nepal in New Delhi and Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Nepal in Washington D.C.. Dr. Bhattarai has worked in various capacities in Divisions of Protocol, Europe and America, Southeast Asia and Pacific, North Asia. He obtained his PhD in International Relations from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He has co-authored a book, "Nepal-India: Democracy in the Making of Mutual Trust", published in 1993.

Semannta Dahal

Advocate

Semanta Dahal practices law. He is Advocate and Partner at Abhinawa Law Chambers. He advises Nepali and international clients on issues as project finance, public private partnerships (PPP), energy and infrastructure, cross-border power trade and hydro concessions. He loves doing pro bono legal work to develop Nepal's entrepreneurial ecosystem. He tweets political satire when law bores him.

Amb. Dr. Madan Kumar Bhattarai

Former Foreign Secretary and Ambassador to Japan and Germany

Dr. Madan Kumar Bhattarai is a former Foreign Secretary and Nepalese Ambassador to Japan. He was an Expert on Foreign Affairs and Diplomacy (with the rank equivalent to minister of state). In his 37 years at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), he handled major bilateral visits, serving in India three times for eleven years. Dr. Bhattarai also was Spokesman of MOFA and the first-ever career diplomat to serve as Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany. He holds PhD and D. Litt. in International Relations from Jadavpur University, Kolkata. Dr. Bhattarai is also the author of *Diplomatic History of Nepal* (1990) and *'Pararastraka Prasak'*.

Deepak R. Joshi

World Tourism Network

Deepak Raj Joshi served as the Chief Executive Officer of Nepal Tourism Board (National Tourism Organization of Nepal). During his 20 years of work experience in destination management, tourism promotion and Public Private Partnership, Joshi successfully led the Tourism Recovery Committee (TRC) Nepal Secretariat in coordination with the private and public sector. Joshi has been awarded the highest IIPT Champions in Challenge Award 2018 from "International Institute for Peace Through Travel and Tourism" at the ITCMS (International Travel Crisis Management Summit) in London, UK. He was also awarded as the best CEO in Asia in the national tourism board category. Mr. Joshi has written extensively on tourism for select issues of national broadsheets, and contributed to the book "Readings in Rural Tourism". He holds a Master's degree in Social Science as well as in Business Administration (MBA) from the Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal.

H.E. Hanan Goder-Goldberger

Israeli Ambassador to Nepal

H.E. Hanan Goder-Goldberger is an Israeli Ambassador to Nepal. Previously he has served as Israeli Ambassador to South Sudan and Eritrea. In 2014, he also served as the Coordinator for the Intergovernmental Committee for Students in Agriculture. He has served as several positions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and at several missions such as Norway and Nigeria. He can speak English, Hebrew, Arabic, Norwegian and Tigrinya.

H.E. Felicity Volk

Australian Ambassador to Nepal

H.E. Felicity Volk is currently serving as the Ambassador of Australia to Nepal. She is a career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and was most recently Director, New Colombo Plan Secretariat. She has previously served overseas in Vientiane and Dhaka. She holds a Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Laws (Honours) from the University of Queensland.

Prof. Haribansh Jha

Centre for Economic and Technical Studies.

Prof. Haribansh Jha is the Executive Director of the Centre for Economic and Technical Studies, Nepal. He is also a Visiting Fellow at ORF, India. Formerly a professor of economics at Nepal's Tribhuvan University, Hari Bansh's areas of interest include, Nepal-China-India strategic affairs, border issues, conflict and peace, international migration, child labour, human trafficking, among others.

Amb. Leela Mani Paudyal

Former Chief Secretary and Nepalese Ambassador to China

Amb. Leela Mani Poudyal is the former Chief Secretary of the Government of Nepal and a former Nepalese Ambassador to China. Amb. Poudyal joined the Nepalese civil service in 1988 and worked as several positions, department and ministries including Industrial Promotion and Administration Division in the Ministry of Industry Commerce and Supplies. Ambassador Paudyal worked as Secretary at the Minister of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Ministry of Information and Communications, Ministry of Home and also at the Office of Prime Minister and Council of Ministers between 2007 and 2012. He further served as Consular General for Tibet Autonomous Region of China and as the Non-resident Ambassador to Mongolia and North Korea.

Jiwan Subedi

Delegation of the European Union to Nepal.

Jiwan Subedi is Political Affairs Officer at the EU Delegation to Nepal, European External Action Service (EEAS), for over 10 years. Previously, he worked for The Carter Center, the UN Department of Political Affairs (UNMIN), OHCHR, as well as research on State of Democracy in South Asia (South Asia Barometer).

Amb. Madhu Raman Acharya

Former Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ambassador Madhu Raman Acharya is a former career diplomat of Nepal. He has also spent some time as an international civil servant in the United Nations. During his career in Nepal's Foreign Service, Ambassador Acharya has served as Nepal's Foreign Secretary (2002-05), Ambassador to Bangladesh (1998-2001) and Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations (2005-2009). He joined the Nepalese Foreign Service as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1996. In 1997-1998, he was Deputy Chief of Mission in New Delhi, India. Acharya also served as Director at the United Nations Assistance Mission to Iraq (2010 -2011). During the 1990s, he also served in United Nations missions in Cambodia, South Africa and Liberia.

Dr. Dwarika Nath Dhungel

Senior Researcher, Social Sciences

Dr Dwarika Nath Dhungel is former Executive Director at Institute for Integrated Development Studies (IIDS), Kathmandu, and former Secretary for the Government of Nepal. Dr. Dhungel has had three decades of experience in the Nepali administration. He has specialized and made notable impact in the sector of Nepali Hydropower, General Administration and Local Development. Dr. Dwarika Dhungel got his PhD in Social Sciences from Nagpur University. He was a SPURS Fellow at the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Dr. Dhungel has been awarded notable medals in Nepal such as Mahendra Vidhya Bhusan, Birendra Coronation medal, Birendra Silver Jubilee Medal, Long Service Medals, Seva Padak medal, National Referendum Medal, Birendra Aishwarya Commemoration Medal, Suprabal Gorkha Dakchhin Bahu and Bikhayat Trisaktipatta. He is currently a Senior Researcher of Social Science. Dr. Dwarika Nath Dhungel has authored over 11 books and written several articles.

Sohini Nayak

Observer Research Foundation

Sohini Nayak is presently working as a Junior Fellow at Observer Research Foundation. She is also pursuing her PhD in international relations from the department of International Relations, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India. Sohini has completed her Masters and M.phil from the same university. Her niche area of interest is Nepal-India bilateral relations along with Sub-regionalism and regional multilateral institutions in South Asia and the Bay of Bengal.

Prof. Dr. SD Muni

Jawaharlal Nehru University

Prof. S.D. Muni is a Professor Emeritus, Jawaharlal Nehru University and member of the Executive Council of Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses. He has taught, conducted and supervised research at Jawaharlal Nehru University, National University of Singapore, Banaras Hindu University, and University of Rajasthan. He served as India's Special Envoy to South East Asian countries on UNSC Reforms and represented India's Minister of External Affairs at the 50th Anniversary celebrations of the Paris Peace Conference, held in Phnom Penh, Kampuchea. He was also India's Ambassador to Lao People's Democratic Republic. He was invited to address the UN Special Committee on the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace at Sochi, then as part of the Soviet Union, in 1985. Prof. Muni was nominated to National Security Advisory Board of India and was the founding executive member of the Regional Centre of Strategic Studies, Colombo and was bestowed with 'Sri Lanka Ratna', Sri Lanka's highest national honor for a foreign national.

Mark Templer

US Embassy in Nepal

Mark Templer is the Deputy Political and Economic Counselor for the U.S. Embassy in Nepal. He has also done assignments in Washington focused on assistance in Afghanistan and U.S. policies in Nepal and South Asia, as well as previously working in Dubai, Pakistan, and India. Prior to joining the USG, Mark served as the founder and CEO of HOPE worldwide South Asia for over 20 years, focusing on grassroots community development programs including extensive work in India and programs initiated in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. In the mid-1980s, Mark completed a Bachelor's in Physics and Master's in Political Science at MIT, and a Master of Science in Economics from the London School of Economics.

Jagriti Chand

The Lutheran World Federation Nepal

Jagriti Chand is a mid-career professional with six years of diverse experience ranging from project management to performing research, gathering and interpreting data, and designing and implementing the M&E activities of the project. Currently she is working as a data management officer in the Lutheran World Federation Nepal (LWF Nepal). Her primary research interests are issues of Rohingya refugees, international negotiations, and climate finance.

Dr. Pramod Jaiswal

Nepal Institute for International Cooperation and Engagement

Dr. Pramod Jaiswal is a Research Director at Nepal Institute for International Cooperation and Engagement. He is Visiting Fellow at Sandia National Laboratories, New Mexico, US and Senior Fellow at the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, New Delhi. Dr. Jaiswal has been a regular and visiting faculty at different universities and colleges of Nepal (Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu University, Pokhara University and Army Command and Staff College) and China (China Foreign Affairs University, Beijing; Fudan University, Shanghai, Tongji University, Shanghai and Qinghai University of Nationalities, Xining). Previously, he has worked with Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi and as Delhi Correspondent with the Rising Nepal. He is the Member of the Editorial Board, Academic Committee and International Advisory Committee of several journals and academic bodies. He has published around dozen of books, the most recent is the co-edited volume 'Rebalancing Asia: The Belt and Road Initiative and Indo-Pacific Strategy' (Springer, 2021).

Prof. Dr. Sangeeta Thapliyal

Jawaharlal Nehru University

Professor Sangeeta Thapliyal is Chairperson of the Centre for Inner Asian Studies in Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. She held ICCR Professor Chair of India Studies in the University of Valladolid, Spain. She was affiliated to York University, Toronto through Shastri Indo- Canadian Institute. She is an alumna of International Youth Leadership Programme, State Department, United States of America; and Regional Centre for Security Studies, Sri Lanka. She was a recipient of Asia Scholarship from Asian Scholarship Foundation, Bangkok and also from BP Koirala India Nepal Foundation. She is the Vice-President of the Association of Asian Scholars. She is advisor to the G.P. Koirala Foundation in Kathmandu and in the Editorial Board of the Journal of International Affairs, published by the International relations and Diplomacy Department in Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu. Before joining JNU, Prof. Thapliyal was Director in the Department of Strategic and Regional Studies in Jammu University. She has also worked in the Observer Research Foundation, Delhi Policy Group and the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses.

Vijay Parsad Jayshwal

Tribhuvan University

Vijay Parsad Jayshwal is working as Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law, Tribhuvan University and is pursuing a Doctoral degree at SouthWest University of Political Science and Law, China.

H.E. Bhrigu Dhungana
Nepalese Ambassador to Canada

H.E. Bhrigu Dhungana is currently serving as the Ambassador of Nepal to Canada. Prior to his appointment as the Ambassador, he was the Joint Secretary at the South Asia Division & Europe America Division and the Minister Counsellor/Deputy Permanent Representative/Deputy Chief of Mission at the Permanent Mission/Embassy of Nepal, Geneva. He was also the part of the 7th International Migration Law Course in Sanremo, Italy and the UNITAR-IPI Fellowship Programme in Holmenkollen, Norway.

Dr. Bishnu Raj Upreti
Policy Research Institute

Dr. Bishnu Raj Upreti is Executive Chairperson of Policy Research Institute. He holds his PhD in Conflict Management from the Wageningen University and PostDoc from the University of London. He served as South Asia Coordinator of a global research programme. Previously, he was Research Director of Nepal Centre for Contemporary Research. He is also teaching and supervising PhD and masters students at different universities. He has authored and co-edited 61 books, 500 articles and is the member of Board of Trustees of International Foundation for Science and member of Advisory Boards of different organizations.

Dr. Narad Nath Bharadwaj
Nepalese Ambassador to Qatar

Dr. Narad Nath Bharadwaj is an Ambassador of Nepal to the State of Qatar. He was an Associate Professor at the Central Department of History in Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu and holds Ph.D. from same University. He has been decorated with Nepal Vidya Bhushan 'A' and has received Pushpalal Memorial National Award. Ambassador Bharadwaj has co-authored more than a dozen books, research reports and articles.

Sunil Kumar Chaudhary
Nepal Institute of International Engagement and Cooperation

Sunil Kumar Chaudhary works at Research Associate at NIICE. He works on economic policy of South Asia and China. He is pursuing PhD in Economics at Northeast Normal University, China. He holds Master's Degree in World Economy from Jawaharlal Nehru University, India. He has worked as Research Associate at Foundation for Organizational Research and Education (FORE), New Delhi and has several publications.

Chandra Ghimire

Former Secretary of Government of Nepal

Mr. Chandra Ghimire is the current Secretary for Commerce, Government of Nepal. Before his current appointment, he was the Secretary at the Office of Prime Minister and Council of Ministers, Government of Nepal. In a career spanning 25 years, Mr. Ghimire has received numerous awards, medals, and decorations. Mr. Ghimire has an M.Phil. in Public Policy from the University of Bergen, Norway. His research expertise includes Trade/Transit and Industry / Investment.

Edward Roberts

Deputy Ambassador, British Embassy

Edward Roberts is serving as the DCM at the British Embassy, Kathmandu since August 2019. He has been working in the civil service for nearly 15 years now. Prior to being appointed as the DCM, Edwards was the Policy Manager for Security Partnership and the Senior Policy Advisor on Migration and EU Asylum Cooperation at the Cabinet Office, Department for Exiting the European Union, London. His other roles include Consul and Second Secretary Prosperity and Political at Foreign & Commonwealth Office, British Embassy Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, EU Institutions and Treaty Change Bill Team Desk Officer at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, London and Seconded National Expert - Human Development & Migration, DG AIDCO, European Commission, Brussels.

H.E. Durga Prasad Bhandari

Ambassador of Nepal to the State of Kuwait.

H.E. Durga Prasad Bhandari is the Ambassador of Nepal to the state of Kuwait. He joined Nepali Foreign Service in 1996 and in last two decades of his career in foreign service, he held various positions in the Ministry of foreign affairs of Nepal and the Nepali diplomatic missions abroad. Prior to his ambassadorial appointment, Mr. Bhandari served as joint secretary, Ministry of foreign affairs of Nepal in Central Asia, West Asia and Africa Division and Southeast Asia and Pacific Division. Mr. Bhandari served previously as a council, consulate general of Nepal in Kolkata, first secretary at Embassy of Nepal to the BENELUX countries and the mission of to the European Union, Brussels, Belgium, counselor/deputy chief of mission at the embassy of Nepal, Islamabad.

Amb. Yuba Nath Lamsal,
Former Nepalese Ambassador to Denmark

Ambassador Yuba Nath Lamsal was the former ambassador of Nepal to Denmark. He currently works as the Chief Editor at The Rising Nepal Daily. Amb. Lamsal has been in the media sector for 30 years. Previously, he worked as the editor of South Asian Media Network, the coordinator of Media Commission Nepal and as the editor of South Asia Journal. He is the international coordinator of World Journalists' Network and served as general secretary of Nepal Institute of Mass Communication and Press Chautari and Nepal Coordinator of South Asian Union Against Communalism and Fundamentalism and Forum for Secular Nepal. The Consultant for GTZ of Germany, ILO and Danish International Development Agency. He obtained training on editorial management and conflict reporting from Reuters Foundation, London. He was a fellow at the Honolulu Security Seminar in Hawaii, New York University, USA and was invited by the government of USA as the International Visitor Program Fellow to observe Congress reporting and the US presidential election in 1993. He has co-authored the book "Conflict Reporting in Asia " that was published by School of Journalism, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore and authored 'Resource Kit for Journalists on Child Labor Reporting'.

Dr. Chandra Lal Pandey
Kathmandu University

Dr. Chandra Lal Pandey is an Assistant Professor at Kathmandu University. He has over 15 years of working experience in South Asia, particularly India and Nepal. He has an extensive working experience in the fields of public policy focusing in the areas of political economy, environmental affairs and disaster governance. He earned his PhD and Post doctorate in Political Science and Public Policy from University of Waikato, New Zealand.

Prof. Dr. Mohan P Lohani
Former Diplomat

Dr. Mohan P Lohani was Professor of English at Tribhuvan University, Nepal. He was Ambassador to Bangladesh and concurrently accredited to Sri Lanka and Maldives. Prior to that, he was Nepal's Deputy Representative to UN in New York. Life member of Nepal Council of World Affairs he was vice-president and later president of the Council., Prof Lohani was also executive director, Institute of Foreign Affairs. He attended 5 SAARC Summits and 3 Nonaligned Summits as a member of Nepali Delegation. His publications include a number of articles on Nepal's foreign policy, nonalignment and SAARC.

Amb. Krishna Prasad Dhakal

Nepalese Ambassador to UAE.

H.E Krishna Prasad Dhakal is the Ambassador of Nepal to the United Arab Emirates (UAE). He joined Nepal Civil Service in February 2003. During his career in civil service, he held a variety of positions in various Ministries and Nepali Missions abroad. Amb. Dhakal served as Joint Secretary/Head of Division of Regional Organization (SAARC, BIMSTEC, ACO and SCO) Division and Policy Planning, Development Diplomacy and Overseas Nepali Affairs Division of the Ministry Foreign Affairs. He worked previously as Charge' d'Affaires/DCM/ Minister of the Embassy of Nepal, New Delhi. Amb. Dhakal was the Director General of Consular service Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal. Prior to this appointment, he served as Joint Secretary/Head of Economic Diplomacy and Policy Planning Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He also served as a Program Director at the National Planning Commission Secretariat, Kathmandu. Amb. Dhakal has long experience of working in World Trade Organization (WTO) Division, Ministry of Commerce and Supplies as section officer. He engaged in various multilateral trade negotiations under the auspices of the WTO.

Dr. Uma Purushothaman

Central University of Kerala

Dr. Uma Purushothaman teaches International Relations at the Central University of Kerala. She is also a Non Resident Fellow at the Middle East Institute, New Delhi. She was earlier associated with the Observer Research Foundation and the United Service Institution of India. Her areas of interest include great power politics, Russian foreign policy, soft power, Middle East politics, and US domestic and foreign policies. She serves as a peer reviewer to several international and national journals. She has published in national and international journals and presented papers at national and international conferences.

Eloïse Jha-Dussably

Independent Researcher

Eloïse Jha-Dussably is an independent researcher. She got her master degree in International Relations and Political Science from Lyon 3 University and wrote her master's thesis on the role of INGOs in the process of democratization in Nepal. She worked for several years in the private sector in Nepal before becoming Country Director of the French INGO Planète Enfants et Développement for 3 years.

AIG Rabi Raj Thapa (Retd.)

Former AIG of Armed Police Force AIG

Rabi Raj Thapa is former Additional Inspector General, Nepal Armed Police Force. He is also a Chief Academic Program Coordinator at APF Command & Staff College, Kathmandu. AIG Thapa holds 23 years of experience with Nepal Police and 8 years with Armed Police Force. He specializes on Police Administration and Law Enforcement and Narcotic Drugs Prevention and Control. Previously, he has worked as Deputy Superintendent of Police, Criminal Investigation Department; Director, Drug Advisory Program, The Colombo Plan Secretariat and Chief of the Immigration Office, where he was responsible for non-residential visas, trekking permits and immigration control all over Nepal. For five years, he was Aide-de-Comp of late King Birendra Bir Bikram Saha Dev and the Royal Family. He also served as the Security Advisor to the Ministry of Home Affairs and Head of the APF to the National Security Council Secretariat.

Maj Gen Binoj Basnyat (Retd)

Strategic Analyst, South Asian Affairs

Major General Binoj Basnyat (retd.) from the Nepali Army is a Strategic Analyst, South Asian Affairs. He is highly decorated with the Order of Suprabal Jana Seva Shree, Nepal; Order of the Lion of Finland; and the Order of Cross of Germany. He holds Masters of Philosophy degree in Defense and Strategic Studies with first class from University of Madras. He served in key leadership and management roles, notably as Brigade commander, Division Commander and Deputy Chief of Staff. After his retirement from the Army, he represented the UN Department of Political Affairs as a resource person for the Sri Lanka Transformational and Rehabilitation program. He devotedly is involved in advising, writing, editing and participating in intellectual capacity. He likes Strategic thinking. His focus is on Geo-political and National Security issues. He has been researching in China and South Asia.

Mubiyana Adhikari

Nepal Institute of International Engagement and Cooperation

Mubiyana Adhikari is a Researcher at Nepal Institute of International Engagement and Cooperation and an undergraduate student pursuing Political science honours from IPCW, Delhi University. Her realm of interest lies in the fields of Research, Policy making, Education and Governance. She is also particularly interested in analysing the political relationship between Nepal, India, and China.

Prof. Dr. Khadga KC

Tribhuvan University

Professor Khadga KC is a Japan Foundation Fellow MONBUSHO Fellow of Government of Japan, US State Department's SUSI Fellow, and a Guest Professor at Leshan Normal University, China and a Visiting Faculty at Nepali Army Command and Staff College, APF Command and Staff College, and Nepali Army Higher Command and Management. He holds his PhD and Post-Doctoral Research from Nagasaki University, Japan under Japanese Government Scholarship. He has edited Journal of Political Science and Journal of International Affairs. He is on the editorial board of Journal of International Affairs, Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh, Journal of Asian Political Affairs, Department of Political Science, Chittagong University, Bangladesh and Policy Review-Journal, Policy Research Institute, Nepal. He has contributed numerous research articles in national and international Journals.

Amb. Ranjit Rae,

Author of Kathmandu Dilemma: Resetting India-Nepal Ties.

Ambassador Ranjit Rae previously served as the Ambassador of India to Nepal. He is an Indian diplomat with over 30 years of experience in the Indian Foreign Service, which includes participation in complex negotiations both at bilateral and multilateral levels and extensive work in conflict areas/crisis situations. As a Senior Policy Advisor to the UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), Amb. Rae worked in close collaboration with the UN Assistant Secretary General within the Department for Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) on issues related to field operations. In his past role as a Joint Secretary (North) at the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, Mr. Rae also served as Ambassador of India to Hungary (with concurrent accreditation as Ambassador to Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina) (2006-2010) and then Ambassador of India to Vietnam (2010-2013), where he reinvigorated bilateral defence and trade cooperation. He was also a member of the Commonwealth High Level Group on Governance established by Commonwealth Heads of Government at their Summit in Malta in 2015.

Sagar Jung Karki

Nepal Institute of International Cooperation and Engagement

Sagar Jung Karki is pursuing Master's in International Business Management at the University of West of England offered by The British College, Kathmandu and is a Researcher at Nepal Institute of International Cooperation and Engagement.

Dr. Dhananjay Tripathi

South Asian University

Dr. Dhananjay Tripathi teaches International Relations at South Asian University, New Delhi. He specializes in South Asian Borders. He has authored one edited and a co-edited book, and also contributed in several edited volumes and reputed international journals. He is at the editorial board member of prestigious journals like Journal of Borderlands Studies (Routledge); Alternatives: Global, Local, Political; and BIG Review.

Amb. Lucky Sherpa

Former Nepali ambassador to Australia and New Zealand.

Ambassador Lucky Sherpa is a former elected member of the Constituent Assembly and Parliament of Nepal (from 2008 to 2012). She is the first indigenous and Sherpa woman to be appointed by Nepal Government as an Nepali ambassador for Australia, New Zealand from 2017 to 2019. Ms Sherpa is a General Secretary of Association of former Nepali Ambassadors. She has been an advisor of many national as well as international networks and organizations dedicated to promote green development, inclusive democracy, human rights and the rule of law. She has received many awards from a variety of national and international organizations. Ms. Sherpa was honoured with the recognition of 'Youth Ambassador for Peace' for 2007 and 'Young Women Human Rights Leader' by the World Youth Federation for Peace, Korea and MADRE, an International Women's Human Rights Organization, USA, respectively. She was also the first female graduate from the indigenous Sherpa community to hold a Master's Degree in Economics and was the faculty's top student for 2001 from Patan Campus of Tribhuvan University. Presently Ms. Sherpa is a PhD Scholar of PSU Thailand on Sustainable Energy Management.

Shilshila Acharya

Avni Centre for Sustainability

Shilshila Acharya is the Co-Founder and Director of Avni Center for Sustainability (a non-profit) and Avni Ventures, a recycling Business based in Nepal. She led the 'No Thanks I Carry My Own Bag' campaign that has been successful in bringing policy to ban plastic bags in Nepal. She has been recognized as a promising Young Social Entrepreneur by the Global Good Fund. She was awarded the 'Conservation Awards 2018' by WWF Nepal for her work on fighting plastic pollution. She received the prestigious COAS Award from Nepal Army for her contribution towards Mountain Clean Up Campaign 2021, that cleaned 6 mountains of Nepal during the height of COVID Crisis.

Dr. Meena Poudel

Migration Analyst

Dr. Meena Poudel, is a Nepali researcher and practitioner, has thirty-year committed history of development, research and feminist work on issues affecting lives of socially excluded and politically marginalized groups in Nepal and various parts of south, east and central Asia, western Europe, and North Africa with various organizations including Oxfam, USAID, UN systems and academia. Before returning to migration policy work, Meena was senior visiting research fellow for the period of 2008 – 2013 at the UK's Newcastle University and a teaching faculty member of Gender and Social Inclusion at Nepal's Purbanchal University for 2013 – 2018. In recent years she is more engaged in exploring various aspects of lives of vulnerable populations and experienced various forms of migration in Asia and North Africa. She has written academic and policy papers widely and spoken on these issues that include a single-authored book: "Dealing with Hidden Issues: Social Rejection Experienced by Trafficked Women in Nepal".

Dr. Uttam K. Sinha

Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses

Dr. Uttam Kumar Sinha is a Research Fellow and Head at Non-Traditional Security Centre, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses. He is a recipient of many fellowships and leadership programmes including senior fellow at the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, US-South Asia Leader Engagement Programme at the Harvard Kennedy School, Chevening 'Gurukul' leadership at the London School of Economics and Political Science and a visiting fellow at the Peace Research Institute Oslo. He has recently published "Indus Basin Interrupted: A History of Territory and Politics from Alexander to Nehru". His other works include "Riverine Neighbourhood: Hydro-politics in South Asia" and "Climate Change Narratives: Reading the Arctic". His edited and co-edited volumes include "The Modi Doctrine: New Paradigms in India's Foreign Policy", "Non-Traditional Security Challenges in Asia: Approaches and Responses", "Arctic: Commerce, Governance and Policy" and "Emerging Strategic Trends in Asia".

Dr. Kalpana Khanal
Policy, Research Institute

Dr. Kalpana Khanal received her PhD and MA degrees in Economics from the University of Missouri Kansas City (UMKC), USA. She brings with her more than a decade-long teaching and research experience in US universities. She focuses on interdisciplinary research and her research and teaching interests include money and banking, public finance, global finance, political economy, institutional economics, and feminist economics. Dr. Khanal has presented her research papers, served as panel chair and a discussant at several national and international conferences. Her journal articles, book reviews, book chapters, abstracts, and op-ed articles have been published in various national and international outlets. She is an active member of several US and Nepal based as well as international professional associations.

Namrata Sharma
Center for Investigative Journalism

Namrata Sharma has over 30 years of work experience in Journalism and women's rights. She has been an advocate of Human rights with focus on Women's Human Rights and has been a campaigner to abolish Violence Against Women. Her work is focused in setting up institutions with an aim at sustainable development, local/international development with focus on microfinance, decentralization, NGO capacity building, life skills training, and gender equality.. She has work experience in Nepal, UK, Kenya, India and Afghanistan. She has prepared and presented papers in various international events held in different countries in Asia, North America, Europe and Africa together with hosting several international workshops, training and seminars on microfinance in different countries in Asia. Currently she is Immediate Past President of Center for Investigative Journalism (CIJ), Nepal and Editor of Nariswor a quarterly Magazine. She is also a freelance consultant and is in the Governing Board member of BWDA Institute of Development Finance (BIDFin), Tamil Nadu, India; and Nepal. Her writings have been published both nationally and internationally. She was One of the first woman editors of a weekly English Newspaper The Independent.

Shiva Ram Rijal
Tribhuvan University

Shiva Ram Rijal is a PhD student at Department of International Relations and Diplomacy, Tribhuvan University. My area of interest is the Foreign Policy Analysis. I have been engaged as a teaching Faculty in Political Science department at RR Campus teaching Modern Political Theory and Politics and Governance in South Asia.

Gaurav Bhattarai
Tribhuvan University

Gaurav Bhattarai is an Assistant Professor at the Department of International Relations and Diplomacy (DIRD) under Tribhuvan University. His area of interest includes Nepal -India-China, Himalayan Geopolitics, Small States and strategic studies. He has published various intentional articles on the aforementioned issues and has presented papers on the same in different international conferences held in India, Australia, China and Bhutan. He also teaches Political Science and Strategic Studies to the Officer Cades at Nepalese Military Academy. His Book "Nepal China " was published by Beijing Tianli in 2015.

GP Acharya
Tribhuvan University

GP Acharya is an educator, researcher and inspirational speaker. He holds an M.Sc. in Computer Science, M.Sc. in Statistics, completed M.A. in International Relations and Diplomacy, studied MPhil in General Management, and pursuing research in Philosophy, Psychology and Scientific Thought. He has held several managerial and executive responsibilities in academia in various capacities. He has published nearly 50 articles and research papers, especially on Intelligence & National Security (Soft Security), Foreign Policy, Tech Diplomacy, Tech and Cyber Security, and International Relations & Diplomacy, in national and international publications and Journals.

Ajapa Sharma
University of Illinois

Ajapa Sharma is a Doctoral student at the Department of History at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She works on the legal and political encounters between the British Empire and Nepal in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Her research explores the interface between interstate relations and state-society relations through the prism of border management in colonial South Asia.

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Bipin Ghimire is a Doctoral Candidate at the Department of International Relations, South Asian University, New Delhi. His area of research interest includes Geopolitics, South Asian Studies, Foreign Policy Analysis, Small States, Sino-Indian relations and Politics of Foreign Aid.

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Sajana Maharjan is the Project Director of The Asia Foundation leading its Data for Development Programme funded by UK Aid. Prior to this, she was the Chief of Party of FHI 360, Civil Society: Mutual Accountability Project funded by USAID. From 2005-2016, she has worked in different capacities in programs designed to manage peace building, conflict management and political transition. She has extensive experiences working with civil society groups, political actors, government officials, media and women both at national and sub-national levels. Her prior working experience with UNDP Strengthening the Rule of Law and Reform of the Judiciary Programme from 2001 to 2005 helped her understand the functioning of judiciary and legislative bodies of Nepal more closely. She is one of the founding members of Nepal Transition to Peace (NTTP) Institute and is currently a member of the board. She is trained on Negotiation Approaches and Skills in Protracted Conflict at Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame, Indiana, USA and has done a summer course on peace and human rights studies from South Asia Forum for Human Rights (SAFHR).

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Shrabana Barua is a ICSSR Doctoral Fellow at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. She is also a Research Associate at the Nepal Institute of International Engagement and Cooperation (NIICE), Kathmandu. She pursued her bachelor's as well as her master's degree from Hindu College, Delhi University, where she is currently teaching Political Science. She completed her M.Phil from the Centre for International Politics, Organization and Disarmament (CIPOD) at JNU and worked as a Research Assistant at Gateway House, Mumbai. Her PhD research focuses on infrastructure diplomacy as a tool of influence by China and India, with Myanmar as a case study. Her area of interest lies in geopolitics of South and Southeast Asia, connectivity diplomacy and BRI, the Siachen dispute between India and Pakistan and also Indian nuclear history. Shrabana has presented papers in various conferences and seminars, including in Hong Kong, San Francisco, Yangon and Kathmandu. Her many book reviews, commentaries and papers have appeared in peer reviewed journals, magazines and online forums.

Rohit Karki

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Rohit Karki is a Project Officer in the Asia-Pacific Unit (APU) at DCAF - Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance. He has been advising and providing technical support to DCAF's partner institutions in the Asia-Pacific region with the aim to improve the integrity and accountability of security providers (military and police), and strengthen the capacity of oversight institutions, such as parliaments and civil society. Prior to joining DCAF, Rohit worked for almost nine years on peace and security issues, while working in NGOs, academic and policy institutes in Nepal. Rohit received his MA in Asian Studies from the Australian National University (ANU), Canberra (2011), with a thesis on "The Double-Edged Sword: The Role of Nuclear Weapons in South Asia". He has also taught courses in the fields of international relations and security studies in Nepal and is the author of various publications on small states' security and foreign policy challenges in international affairs, with a focus on Nepal.

Kishwar Munir

University of Lahore

Kishwar Munir holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Punjab University, Pakistan, focusing on electoral politics and voting behavior. She is currently an Assistant Professor at the School of Integrated Social Science & Research Fellow at the Centre for Security Strategy and Policy Research at the University of Lahore. Currently, she is a Charles Wallace Fellow at the London School of Economics where she is working on "Water Issues between Pakistan and India: Implications for Regional Security and Peace Process". She has been a Visiting Fellow at The Stimson Center, Washington DC (July 2017), and has recently co-authored (with Iram Khalid) an article on judicial activism in Pakistan in *South Asian Studies*. Kishwar's research interests include voting behavior, CPEC, terrorism, insurgency, regional and global security, and domestic politics in Pakistan.

Ruby Khadgi

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Ruby Khadgi is a legal consultant for A2J Project at United Nation Development Programme- UNDP. Associate with a demonstrated history of working in the legal services industry for the past two years. Experience of litigation in the sector of Nepalese Criminal Law and Civil Law. An activist working for and further seeking to work in the sector of women, children, minority and marginalized groups.

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Hari Prakash Chand is a PhD candidate in International Relations and Diplomacy, Tribhuvan University, Nepal. He is editor of "*Nepal and its Neighbours in the Changing World*". He is also Editor-in-Chief of the Asian Journal of International Affairs (AJIA) to be published by Kathmandu School of Law and also faculty for International Relations and Diplomacy at the same college in Nepal. His number of research articles have been published in national and internationally renowned journals.

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Dilli Ram Paudel is a graduate from Tribhuvan University pursuing Masters Degree in Public Administration, and International Relations and Diplomacy. Rightnow, he is pursuing a Master's Degree in International Relations at the Graduate School of International Relations, Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto, Japan. His research interest is on the role of small powers in international politics.

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Independent Researcher

Prakriti Upreti holds a Masters degree in International Relations from Jawaharlal Nehru University, India. She is a former IR officer at Nepal Scouts and has worked as a Project Manager at various Development Projects.

Bishal Thapa

Suraj Urja Nepal

Bishal Thapa is an energy sector professional with 20 years global experience in the sector. He currently works in India and Nepal, and is closely associated with the energy sector in both countries.

Anurag Acharya

Director of Practice at Policy Entrepreneurs Inc.

Anurag Acharya has a decade-long experience working on Nepal's governance and politics, through research and programming with different national and international organizations. Currently, he leads research on political governance and foreign policy at PEI. Anurag is also a former journalist who has written extensively on Nepal and South Asia, for national and international publications.

Neha Choudhary

International Labour Organization

Neha Choudhary has been working in the International Labour Organization (ILO) since June 2018. Based in Nepal, she is the National Project Coordinator for the Migrant Rights and Decent Work Project, which aims to strengthen support systems available to migrant workers for the protection of their rights to increase the benefits of labour migration. Sociologist by training, Neha holds a postgraduate degree from London School of Economics and Political Science, UK and an undergraduate degree from Lady Shri Ram College, New Delhi. Prior to joining ILO, she has worked in a research organization and has an extensive experience of research on migration. She also has private sector experience where she worked in promoting labour and human rights in the recruitment process. Some of her interest areas include labour migration, gender migration, migration of health workers and social integration of migrants

Dr. Gulbin Sultana

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Dr. Gulbin Sultana is a Research Analyst with the South Asia Centre at the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA), New Delhi. Her area of research includes Sri Lanka and the Maldives. She has written extensively on the politico-economic and foreign policy developments of these two countries. Additionally, Dr. Sultana takes interest in the study of small island states particularly in the Indian Ocean Region and also issues pertaining to maritime security. She has done her MPhil and PhD from the South Asian Studies Division of School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Before joining MP-IDSA, she worked with the National Maritime Foundation and the United Service Institution of India in New Delhi. She is also a Visiting Fellow at the Nepal Institute for International Cooperation and Engagement (NIICE)

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Dr. Angira Sen Sarma is presently working as Assistant Professor, Centre for Development Studies, University of Allahabad, India. Prior to joining the University of Allahabad, she worked as Assistant Professor at Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. She also worked as a researcher at Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) and Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi. She received her Ph.D. degree from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Her primary areas of research are Central Asia, Afghanistan, Energy Politics and Global Governance.

Rakshya Giri
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Rakshya Giri is a lawyer specialized in Criminal Law and Justice and is currently working as a Senior Legal Officer at WOREC, Nepal. She has previously worked as a Teaching Assistant at Kathmandu School of Law and as a Researcher at KSL Policy and Legal Research Center, in a project named- Enhancing Good Governance, Human Rights Protection and Law Enforcement Situation in Security Agencies and Criminal Justice Actors in Nepal in collaboration with Danish Institute for Human Rights and Ministry of Home Affairs, Nepal (2015-2018) and Preventing Sexual Violence in Nepal through Harmonizing Relevant Laws with International Human Rights Standards in Co-ordination with British Embassy (2014-2015). She was invited at the International Forum for Law Students at Renmin University of China to present a paper on “Challenges Faced by Nepal in Dealing with Digital World: A Legal Perspective” in the year 2018. She has been involved working in these sectors since 2014 in a variety of settings as a lecturer, mediator, trainer and facilitator with high motivation, enthusiasm and a keen interest in the field of women, children, criminal justice and security.

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Angshuman Choudhury is the coordinator of the South East Asia Research Programme (SEARP). His research interests include localised insurgencies, regional armed conflicts, and global terrorism and counter-terrorism. He holds an MSc in Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding from the School of Government and International Affairs, Durham University, and a BA in History from Ramjas College, University of Delhi. His MA dissertation was on the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA), focusing on the organisation's historical trajectory. Angshuman is also an independent photojournalist and filmmaker.

Dr. Cauvery Ganapathy

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Dr. Cauvery Ganapathy is a Visiting Fellow at NIICE. She has been a Fellow with Global India Foundation; a policy think tank that was founded by members of the National Security Advisory Board in 2006. At NIICE, she focuses on issues related to Energy Security, Nuclear Proliferation and Security, China and Eurasia. She has several publications and has participated at national and international conferences. Dr. Ganapathy has honed her understanding of the strategic milieu in Asia during a stint as Visiting Research Faculty at the School of Politics and International Studies (POLIS), University of Cambridge and as Senior Fellow, Sidney Sussex College, University of Cambridge, under the Pavate Fellowship. She worked as a Research Associate focusing on China and the Indo-Pacific region for projects with the Office of Net Assessment under the US Department of Defense for two years before starting as a Strategic Risk Management Consultant with the Surbana Group, Singapore. Dr. Ganapathy holds her PhD in International Relations from Jadavpur University, India. She is a recipient of Fulbright Fellow at the Energy and Resources Group and the Renewable and Appropriate Energy Laboratory, at the University of California, Berkeley.

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Dikshya Singh Rathour is a Research Associate at NIICE. She focuses on Gender, Human Rights, Peacebuilding, Sustainable Development, Climate Change and other Non-Traditional Security threats. She holds a Master's degree in International Relations from University of Warsaw, Poland. She has published several commentaries, articles and has participated at national and international seminars. She is associated with Women for Human Rights and several other organizations working on community development and migration.

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Shila Parajuli works as Research Intern at Nepal Institute for International Cooperation and Engagement. Her areas of interest are Migration, Global governance, Strategic Studies, and Human Security. She is also a participant of US Indo-Pacific Statecraft Matters for South and Southeast Asia (UMSS.) She is currently pursuing Masters in International Relations and Diplomacy at the Department of International Relations and Diplomacy, Tribhuvan University.

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Dr. Shubhra Chaturvedi is a Visiting Fellow and Editor at NIICE. Her areas of focus include nuclear policies, security issues, and understanding the 'soft' consequences of nuclear weapons possession. Previously, she has worked as a Research Officer in the Nuclear Security Programme at the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies (IPCS), India and as a Programme Officer at the Centre for Dialogue and Reconciliation, India. She holds a Ph.D in Diplomacy and Disarmament from School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India and has taught at Delhi College of Arts and Commerce, University of Delhi, India. She has been a part of the India-Pakistan Track II Dialogues and had organised the Indian Delegation to Pakistan in the Islamabad Dialogue in 2014 and 2015.

Kamal Dev Bhattarai

Journalist

Kamal Dev Bhattarai is a Current Affairs editor at The Annapurna Express. He has nearly 20 years of experience in Nepali journalism.

Gaurab Shumsher Thapa

Nepal Forum of International Relations Studies

Gaurab Shumsher Thapa is an analyst, researcher and writer on matters related to international relations. He is the President of the Nepal Forum of International Relations Studies (NEPAL FIRST). He holds an M.A. in International Relations and Diplomacy from Tribhuvan University, Nepal. His key areas of interest include foreign policy and diplomatic history of Nepal, foreign policy of Nepal vis-à-vis India, China, and the United States, geopolitics and South Asian politics. He is also a member of Nepal Council of World Affairs.

Jagdishor Panday

The Kathmandu Post

Jagdishor Panday is a journalist and author. He is a Senior Sub-editor at the Kantipur Daily newspaper, where he writes on foreign policy, security issues, and political affairs. He is the UN Reham al-Farra Memorial Journalism Fellow-2021. Panday has been reporting on the Covid-19 pandemic and contributed to a report for the Institute of Foreign Affairs, a government think-tank.

Kosh Raj Koirala,

Republica

Mr. Kosh Raj Koirala is a journalist with over 15 years of experience in the field. He is currently working as Chief of Political Affairs Bureau of Republica English Daily. His areas of interests include politics and foreign affairs. Prior to joining Republica Daily in 2009, Mr Koirala worked with The Kathmandu Post for almost five years besides working as a stringer for various international media outlets including CNN. Mr. Koirala holds Master's Degrees in English Literature and Political Science from Tribhuvan University and International Relations from University of Leeds, UK as a Chevening Scholar. He was also a student fellow at East-West Center, Hawaii, USA for one year as a part of Asia Pacific Leadership Program in 2011-12. He has had the opportunity to earn journalism and mass communication training courses from Nepal Press Institute, Kathmandu, Asian College of Journalism, Chennai and Indian Institute of Mass Communications, India, and Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, Oxford University, UK.

Mamta Siwakoti
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Mamta Siwakoti is a Human Rights Lawyer currently based in Kathmandu, Nepal. She works in the Gender Section of UNICEF Regional Office of South Asia. She also gives guest lectures on Nepali legal provisions to law students. Further, she is the Founder/Director of Pairavi Research Academia and is heading the project of 'The Digital Lawyer'. Her past experiences include working as a Program Officer in Swatantrata Abhiyan Nepal from 2019-2020 and as a Research Assistant in Kathmandu School of Law from 2018-2019. During her tenure she was engaged in Policy Review and Advocacy Programs. She was also engaged in drafting the UPR report on the Rights of Girl Child in Nepal in 2020. She is a law graduate from Kathmandu School of Law, secured first rank in the 27th National level Advocates examination and is currently pursuing Masters in International Relations and Diplomacy from Tribhuvan University. She is also the recipient of *Jyoti Bidushi* Award for Academic excellence from Nepal Bar Association.

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South Asia Partnership Nepal

Santosh Nandan Bhandari currently engaged as Project Officer with South Asia Partnership Nepal as project officer for promoting gender responsive local government in Nepal. Has experience of working in South Asia for more than 10 as managing editor for SAARC Publication, the publication published after SAARC Summit held in respective member states. His areas of interest are in International and regional organisations, small and landlocked states and South Asian. Completed Master in International Relations and diplomacy from Tribhuvan University.

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Purvaja Modak is a Research Fellow, International Relations – Geoeconomics at the Centre for Public Policy Research (CPPR). Her research focuses on issues of global economic governance, international trade and finance, economic diplomacy and multilateral financial institutions. Prior to joining CPPR, she was a Researcher for Geoeconomic Studies and the Manager of the Research Office at Gateway House: Indian Council on Global Relations, a Mumbai based foreign policy think tank.. She was a fellow at the 2nd G20 Global Leadership Programme 2019, hosted by the Korean Development Institute (KDI) and the Korean Ministry of Strategy and Finance. Purvaja has also held Research Assistant and Research Associate positions in her academic departments at both Bachelors and Masters levels. She has also interned at Reliable Investments, an exclusive franchise of Motilal Oswal Securities Ltd. She holds a Masters degree in Economics (MA) from the University of Mumbai with a focus on international trade, finance and regional monetary arrangements and a Bachelor's Degree in Economics (BA) from Jai Hind College, Mumbai.

Samvidha Pathak

Academic Facilitator

Samvidha Pathak is a graduate from Department of International Relations and Diplomacy, Tribhuvan University. She completed her under graduation from The University of Pune in Business Administration. She has an experience working with the Ministerial Project, government consultant and non-profits that has strengthened her acquaintance with the changing political and socio -economic structure. She also teaches undergraduate student social science subjects. Her major areas of interest are towards labour diplomacy, strengthening local level governance and academics. She will be speaking on “Strengthening Migrant Resource Center towards Reintegration of Migrant Workers”.

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Dr. Aparna Singh is working as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations, Central University of Jharkhand, Ranchi. She has completed her Ph.D from Banasthali Vidyapeeth, Rajasthan in 2014. She has presented papers in many International/National conferences/seminars/workshops and written many research articles in different edited books and research journals.

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Senior Researcher, Social Sciences

Dwarika Nath Dhungel, Ph. D. and SPURS Fellow Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA) - currently an independent Senior Researcher Social Sciences, is a former Visiting Scholar, The Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis, Indiana University, Bloomington Campus; a former Executive Director Institute for Integrated Development Studies (IIDS); and a former Water Resources Secretary, Government of Nepal.

Sarita Bartaula

Independent Researcher

Sarita Bartaula is an independent researcher and higher education professional. She has a unique background in non-profit management, civic education, international relationship, and advocacy. Additionally, she is interested in the informal economy, the labor market, South Asian politics, and the economy.

Shivanees Thapa Basnyat

Nepal Television

Shivanees Thapa Basnyat is a Senior News Editor at Nepal Television. She holds over 15 years of experience in broadcast journalism with issues relating to politics and international relations being her areas of interest. She is one of the most sought-after moderators and master of ceremony for national and international events in Nepal. Besides, she is also invited to host important events abroad. Recently she hosted the Global Gathering of the United Nations for Scaling Up Nutrition. Ms Basnyat is the founding member and Vice President of Children's Art Museum of Nepal, CAM. A Rotarian, she is also active in social welfare activities through the rotary movement

Santosh Sharma Poudel

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Santosh Sharma Poudel is a faculty at the Department of International Relations and Diplomacy, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu and a co-founder of Nepal Institute for Policy Research (NIPoRe). Santosh Sharma Poudel is foreign policy analyst and co-founder of Nepal Institute for Policy Research (NIPoRe). He leads the National Security and Foreign Affairs cluster at NIPoRe. He is also a faculty at Department of International Relations and Diplomacy, Tribhuvan University. He writes on Nepali foreign and security policy and regional order regularly in Nepali newspapers and magazines. Besides Nepal, his areas of interest are South Asian regional order, China's rise, and security in the Asia-Pacific. He advises and conducts research for Institute for Foreign Affairs, a semi-autonomous research institute of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nepal. He received his Bachelors from Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, Japan and Master's from S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University. He was awarded the ST Engineering Gold Medal for his excellence at RSIS and Nepal Bidhyabhusan (Kha) from the Government of Nepal.

Janaki Ojha

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Janaki Ojha, from Kanchanpur, entered MoFA as Section Officer in the year 2072 B.S., with a degree of M.Phil in English Literature. With passing years accumulating valuable experience and knowledge being a part of MoFA and now proudly serving in the Embassy of Nepal in the State of Kuwait as Second Secretary from 2019.

Atul K Thakur

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Atul K Thakur is a Visiting Fellow at NIICE and is a New Delhi based Public Policy Professional (Deputy Secretary, State Development Council & Nodal Coordinator, India-Nepal Centre, PHDCCI) and Columnist with specialisation in the interface of economics and politics. His books are included *India Now and in Transition* (2017) and *India since 1947: Looking Back at a Modern Nation* (2013)

Yukta Acharya

Tillotoma Foundation

Yukta Acharya is the Senior Coordinator of Tillotoma Foundation. She is also a hotelier and entrepreneur. She speaks five languages including Nepali and has special research interest in South and Southeast Asia. She is also interested in cultural diplomacy.

Antara Singh

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Officer in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nepal with experiences on issues of UN, peace and security, human rights, sustainable development, public policy, governance and administration. Professional deliveries include in capacities of Assistant Professor at Kathmandu School of Law and as Human Rights Officer at the UN Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva. Prior expanse of engagements range from litigation, academia and advocacy through non-governmental organizations. She carries Master's in Law from University of Utah, U.S.

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Prativa Khanal
Human Rights Lawyer

Ms. Prativa Khanal is a lawyer with nine years' relevant experience working with civil society organizations, government and UN agencies in various countries. Her expertise encompasses international human rights law with particular focus on women, peace and security (WPS) agenda. Prativa has worked at American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative, Global Network of Women Peacebuilders, Transitional Justice Resource Centre Nepal, UN Women in Nepal/Bangladesh/Somalia and several other organizations. Having worked on human rights and WPS issues in countries such as Bangladesh, Georgia, Indonesia, Nepal, Somalia, and the USA, Prativa has a strong passion to advocate for a feminist foreign policy in Nepal.

Dr. Raymond Kwun-Sun Lau
North South University, Bangladesh

Raymond Kwun-Sun Lau holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of Queensland, Australia. He is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at North South University and was formerly a Lecturer in History at Hong Kong Baptist University. In addition, he is the Book Reviews Editor of *Africa Review*, an interdisciplinary academic journal of the African Studies Association of India (ASA India), and a former Treasurer of Hong Kong Political Science Association (HKPSA). His teaching and research interests include international relations after 1945, international comparative studies of genocide and mass atrocities, the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) and humanitarian intervention, African studies and Africa-China relations, Chinese foreign policy and Hong Kong politics. Dr. Lau is the author of *Responding to Mass Atrocities in Africa: Protection First and Justice Later* (London & New York: Routledge, 2022).

Manish Jung Pulami

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Manish Jung Pulami is a PhD scholar at the Department of International Relations at South Asia University (a University jointly established by SAARC nations) in New Delhi, India. He has completed his Master's degree in International Relations and Diplomacy from Tribhuvan University, a gold medalist of the academic session 2018-2020. He was Daaiytwa Public Policy Fellow (2020) placed at National Planning Commission, Nepal, and completed a research fellowship in International Relations at Sichuan University, China.

Sajal Pradhan

Best Paani

Sajal Pradhan is an environmental entrepreneur, sustainability professional with an MA in Sustainable Development, involved in the following organizations: Best Paani (Co-Founder), Vishal Group Foundation (Lead), SOWA Healthcare Clinic (Co-Founder), Debate Network Nepal (Co-Founder), Safetyknot (Board Member), and WasteX (Co-Founder).

Shristi Kafle,

Independent Journalist.

Shristi Kafle is a journalist based in Kathmandu. After completing Graduation in Journalism, she started her career as a TV Presenter in a TV station. Over the past six years, she has extensively reported on foreign affairs in Xinhua News Agency, biggest media organization of China. Apart from that, she writes on disasters, environment and climate change. Besides freelancing, she mostly writes for Asia Pacific Daily.

Sanjay Upadhyay

Author

Sanjay Upadhyay is a journalist, author and analyst. His latest book is 'Backfire in Nepal: How India Lost the Plot to China' (New Delhi: Vitasta, 2021). Upadhyay has worked for the British Broadcasting Corporation, the Times of London, Inter Press Service, Khaleej Times and the United Nations. His previous books include 'Nepal and the Geo-Strategic Rivalry Between China and India' (New York and London: Routledge, 2012) and 'The Raj Lives: India in Nepal' (New Delhi: Vitasta, 2008).

Binod Khanda Timilsana

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Binod Khanda Timilsana is a PhD Scholar in International Relations and Diplomacy, DIRD, Tribhuvan University. He has awarded Master Degree in Human Rights from Kathmandu School of Law. He has served as Principal of Gurukul College of Bharatpur Chitwan, Nepal and assistant Professor in Saptagandaki Multiple campus, affiliated to TU Bharatpur Nepal. He is an human right activist and serving as a secretary of "Campaign for Human Rights and Social Transformation, Nepal".

Dr. Shanthie Mariet D'Souza

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Dr. Shanthie Mariet D'Souza, Founding Professor, Kautilya School of Public Policy, at GITAM University, Hyderabad and President & Founder, Mantraya. She also is Visiting Faculty & Member of Research & Advisory Committee, Naval War College, Goa; Board Director at Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS), Colombo; Non-Resident Scholar at the Middle East Institute, Washington, D.C.; Editorial board member of Small Wars & Insurgencies (Routledge: UK); Senior analyst for the South Asia desk with the Wikistrat Analytic Community and Adviser for Independent Conflict Research and Analysis in London. She has previously been Visiting Research Associate at the School of Business & Governance, Murdoch University, Perth, Australia (2017); Research Fellow at the Institute of South Asian Studies , National University of Singapore (2010-14); Fulbright Fellow and Visiting Research associate at South Asia Studies et al.

Dr. Arpita Giri

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Dr. Arpita Giri has done M.Phil. and Ph.D. in International Studies from Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. Her work mainly focuses on issues and challenges faced by women from the Global South in the migration process and as part of diaspora. She has been actively participating in and contributing to International and National Conferences, Workshops, and Training Courses. At present she is associated with Asia in Global Affairs as Adjunct Researcher.

Dela Prasain

Radio Nepal

News editor at Radio Nepal. Former News presenter at Nepal Television. Student of International Relations and Diplomacy at DIRD TU. 'Nepal and Beyond' program producer at Radio Nepal. Worked as a Research officer with SWISS foundation on 'Infertility and Childlessness' and other women human rights issues

Maj Gen Ashok Kumar Mehta

Lt General of the Indian Army (Retd.)

Ashok Kumar Mehta is a retired Major General of the Indian Army. He writes extensively on defense matters and previously anchored Defence Watch on Doordarshan, the national television of India. Maj. Gen Ashok Kumar Mehta is an expert on Nepal-India relations and is also a member of the India-Nepal Track II Dialogue. He is a Military commentator and has spoken and published his works across different platforms. From the Gorkha regiment, he has also explored Nepal since 1959, walking nearly 50,000 km over the years. He has also been involved in track-I and II diplomacy with Nepal, and can speak fluent Nepali language.

Laxman Datt Pant

Media Action Nepal.

A visiting faculty of journalism in the reputed Universities of Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, China, Finland, & Malaysia, Pant started his career as a journalist more than two decades ago and worked with numerous media institutions in different capacities ranging from a reporter to an editor. Prior to founding Media Action Nepal, he served as Head of Communications at UNESCO, Communications Specialist at UNDP/LGCDP, & Human Rights Documentation Officer at INSEC, & has formulated numbers of media & communications strategies for national/international organizations.

Dr. Jeevan Baniya

Social Science Baha

Dr. Jeevan Baniya is an Assistant Director at Social Science Baha. Dr. Baniya received advanced degrees from the University of Oslo, Norway, and Ajou University, South Korea. His research expertise includes Public Policy and Governance, Comparative Politics, and State building and State Failure in the Developing World.

Samvidha Pathak

Academic Facilitator

Samvidha Pathak is a graduate from Department of International Relations and Diplomacy, Tribhuvan University. She has an experience working with Ministerial Project, government consultant and non profits that has strengthened her acquaintance about the changing political and socio -economic structure. She also teaches undergraduate student social science subjects. Her major areas of interest are towards labour diplomacy, strengthening local level governance and academics.

Anurag Devkota

Human Rights Lawyer

Anurag Devkota (Human Rights Lawyer), holds an LL.M. on Rule of Law for Development (PROLAW) from Loyola University as a Gates scholar under Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. He worked as Program Officer in American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative, Nepal Country Office.

Chandrika Pandit

National Planning Commission

Chandrika Pandit is a Planning Officer at Research and Evaluation Division of National Planning Commission of Nepal. He graduated from International Christian University, Tokyo with an MA in International Relations. He is a former JDS fellow and HPAIR (Harvard College Project for Asian and International Relations) Delegate in 2020. His research focus is Nepal-India-China relations.

Dr. Surendra Rawal

Security Analyst

Dr. Surendra Singh Rawal is an experienced national security analyst and strategist with thirty-two years of service in the military and the United Nations. As a Brigadier General, he served as the Director of Plan and Policy in the Nepali Army headquarters. He also served as a Deputy Chief Service Delivery (P5) and Chief Service Delivery (D1) in the UN System. A US National War College graduate, he holds a Ph.D. in political science and four master's degrees in Public Administration, National Security, Civil-Military Relations, and Strategy. He researches and writes on National Security, Strategic Affairs, Foreign Policy, UN Peace and Security, Civil-Military Relations, and National Interests.

Shail Suman Silwal

TV Journalist

Youngest news editor and presenter of Nepal Television, Shail Suman Silwal has hosted many national and international events including 13th South Asian Games and the Trination T20 series. A journalist by profession she studied New journalism and media from University of Washington, Seattle. An alumni of US embassy youth council she pursued her master's degree from Tribhuvan University.

Neelam Shahi

Tribhuvan University

Neelam Shahi is at present, engaged in researching on the areas of work, livelihood and identity of Tibetan refugees. She pursued her MA on International Relations and Diplomacy.

Matrika Poudyal

Institute of Foreign Affairs

Matrika Poudyal is an MA and MPhil in English and International relations. He is a PhD candidate of Department of International Relations, Tribhuvan University. He writes in Nepali and English on contemporary issues of international relations, foreign affairs and diplomacy for various media. He is the host of the TV Talk Show "Kutniti" (Weekly, Aam Nepali TV) and the Radio Program "Mayorjyu" (Daily, Radio Annapurna Nepal 94 MHz). He is the Spokesperson at Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA). He has the experience of working as the senior lecturer for communication different universities in Nepal.

Dron Prasad Lamichhane

Department of International Relations and Diplomacy

Dron Lamichhane is an MA in Political Science. He is a PhD candidate at Department of International Relations and Diplomacy, Tribhuvan University.. He writes in Nepali and English on contemporary issues of international relations, foreign affairs and diplomacy for various media. He is the Administrative Staff at Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA). He has the experience of working as the lecturer in different College.

Akansha Shah

Independent Researcher

Akansha Shah holds an MA in International Relations from Jawaharlal Nehru University. She has collaborated in various academic projects at home and abroad. She also has wide ranging experience in the social sector with focus on environment and conservation. She has just been awarded the Jana Sewa Sri medal for excellence in journalism this year by Government of Nepal.

Dr. Keshav Bashyal

Tribhuvan University

Dr. Keshav Bashyal has more than 15 years of work experience in foreign policy analysis, economic diplomacy, cross border migration, employment, labour market analysis, and policy reviews. He has substantial work experience with Government, employer and worker organizations, NGOs, and other academic institutes. He was a member of the task force committee formed by the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, Nepal in 2017. He did PhD from Jawaharlal Nehru University, India. Currently, he is teaching at the Department of International Relations and Diplomacy, Tribhuvan University. He has significant publications in national and international journals and book chapters in the areas of diplomacy, bilateral relations, migration, and other issues.

Ashmita Gautam

Institute for Integrated Development Studies

Ashmita holds Masters in Economics (Specialization: World Economy) from Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, and a B.A. Economics (honors) with minors in Sociology and Political Science from Christ University, Bangalore. Previously, she has led projects with the Internet and Mobile Association of India, KPMG, Chaudhary Group, and the Indian School of Business across Research, Strategy, Data Analysis, Public Policy and Branding Initiatives. Currently, she is working as a Consultant at the Institute for Integrated Development Studies (IIDS) and Partnerships Specialist at UKaid Skills for Employment Programme with WSP USA. As a part of this project, she is scoping, designing, implementing, and managing innovative market-based partnerships that are building meaningful impact on the livelihoods and resilience of Nepalis, stimulating firm/industry growth, and combating systemic constraints.

Saroj Aryal

Warsaw University

Saroj Kumar Aryal is a PhD researcher at Doctoral School of Social Science, University of Warsaw. His area of research includes great power politics, South Asian Affairs and China in South Asia. Additionally, he is Non-Permanent Faculty Member of Faculty of Political Science and International Studies at University of Warsaw. He teaches 'Security System in Asia Pacific Region' and 'Developing Countries in International Relations'.

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