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
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<td>5. Nepal’s Economic Diplomacy and International Trade Facilitation</td>
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<td>I. Book Discussion: Kathmandu Dilemma: Resetting India-Nepal Ties</td>
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<td>N. Public Diplomacy</td>
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<td>15. Migration and Labour Diplomacy</td>
<td>O. Contours of Nepal’s Foreign Policy</td>
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<td>16. Nepal and her Neighbours</td>
<td>P. Diplomats’ Conclave- II</td>
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**Meeting ID**
899 9436 5753

**Password**
niicenepal

**Meeting ID**
837 5850 4906

**Password**
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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
Day 1 | 27 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-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.

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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.*
SESSION-B
Future of SAARC and BIMSTEC

Chair: Shivanee Thapa Basnyat, Senior News Editor, Nepal Television

- Niruka Sanjeewani 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*.

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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?.
- Dr. Surendra Rawal, Security Analyst, The UN Peacekeeping Participation as Nepal's Soft Power.

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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.
- Gaurav Bhattarai, Faculty, Tribhuvan University, Nepal's Foreign Policy Behavior in Accommodating the Interests of Major Powers: Opportunities and Challenges.
- 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.

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13:00-15:00 hrs  KATHMANDU
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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-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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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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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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SESSION-E
Women in Nepal’s Foreign Policy

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

- Mamta Siwakoti, UNICEF Regional Office of South Asia, *Women in Nepal’s Foreign Policy.*
16:00-17:00 hrs KATHMANDU
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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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*.
- **Pratiksha Ghimire**, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies.
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: Recalibrating 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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**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.

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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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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.
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*. 

**Day 2**
28 NOV

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**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*.
- **Vijay Parsad Jayshwal**, Assistant Professor, Tribhuvan University, *Narratives of ‘Soft’ in Soft Power Discourse in Nepal’s Foreign Policy Priorities*.

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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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SESSION-8
Emerging Security Challenges of Nepal

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

- AIG Rabi Raj Thapa, Security Expert.
- Maj Gen Ashok Kumar Mehta, Lt General of the Indian Army (Retd.)
- Amit Kumar Singh, Central University of Jharkhand, India-Nepal Relations from Security Perspective.
- Manmeen Kaur, Researcher, NIICE.

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SESSION-L

Nepal’s Foreign Policy: Emerging Trends and Patterns

Chair: Shail Suman Silwal, TV Journalist.

- 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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**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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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  ·  28 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
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04:15-05:15 hrs  WASHINGTON

SESSION-N
Public Diplomacy

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

- **Shiva Ram Rijal**, PhD Candidate, Department of International Relations and Diplomacy, Tribhuvan University, *Prospect of Development Diplomacy of Nepal*.

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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.

Day 2 28 NOV
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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.*
17:00-19:00 hrs  KATHMANDU
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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.
- **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*.

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12:15-13:45 hrs  LONDON
07:15-08:45 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.
- **Edward Roberts**, Deputy Ambassador, British Embassy.
- **H.E. Bhrigu Dhungana**, Nepalese Ambassador to Canada.

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**PW: niicenepal**
Nepal Institute for International Cooperation and Engagement is an independent, apolitical and non-partisan think tank which believes in freedom, democracy and a world free from conflict. We envision a world, where sources of insecurity are identified and understood, conflicts are prevented or resolved, and peace is advocated.

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