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Invite you to

Policy Discussion Series

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Linking Research with Policy Making in Nepal

By

Hari Dhungana

Venue: Martin Chautari Meeting Hall, Thapathali

Date: June 17, 2012

Time: 3pm

Many researchers working in one or the other “policy field” consider that influencing policy is part of their responsibility. Quite frequently, however, they complain that their findings are not heeded to in policy-making. On the other hand, policy-making in Nepal proceeds without sufficient evidence and decisions on public choice made on the whims of those in power. Do we have a space for any independent thinking and research that supports evidence-based policy making in Nepal? How can researchers be constructively engaged in the policy process? How can research and policy be linked in any meaningful way? What are issues involved in forging such a link?

This talk seeks to delve into these questions by drawing on some review and recent conversations in Nepal and South Asia. It will highlight that the frustrations around research-policy link are indeed widespread, and the onus lies on both policy-makers and researchers and the ways they interact and communicate. The talk also brings to focus larger factors at play, including for example, the nature of political regime and bureaucracy, and the role of donors, and institutional development of “think tanks”. It will also point to some of the ways in which researchers and policy-makers as well as their institutions forge more effective partnership.

Dr. Hari Dhungana is the Executive Director of Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies, and serves as Member Secretary of Nepal Policy Research Network. He has a PhD in International Development, and his work and research interests encompass public policy, local governance, climate change policy, social justice movements, and contestations over natural resources.

About the Series

The Policy Discussion Series is an initiative of Martin Chautari and SIAS under the aegis of Nepal Policy Research Network. It aims to nurture a “community of practice” around public policy in Nepal, by bringing together experienced and emerging public policy scholars and practitioners to share their research insights and experience with a larger audience. In this Series, we seek to bring in expertise and stimulate debate on public policy institutions, policy research methodologies, findings of research, and on contemporary policy issues.