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Invite you to

Policy Discussion Series- III

"Policy research institutions in Nepal: The experience of publicly-funded think tanks"

By

Dwarika Nath Dhungel, PhD

Venue: Martin Chautari Seminar Hall, Thapathali

Date: Sunday, 26 August 2012 [10 Bhadra, 2069]

Time: 3:00 pm

With the end of the Rana regime in 1951 and the initiation of the modernization drive, the governments of Nepal initiated and promoted the emergence of a number of think tanks that were to serve as knowledge centres for the country's development, administrative reforms, decentralization, foreign policy, and so on. These institutions, at various degrees, were engaged in conducting research, training government personnel, teaching, and a host of knowledge production and reproduction activities. By the 1990s, however, many of them became lethargic and ceased to prove relevance and to maintain existence under the changed political context. Subsequently several private and non-governmental formations have cropped up claiming to take this role, and their performance, sustainability, and capacity to produce credible evidence for policy change still remain limited. This talk focuses on the experiences of, and the causes for the rise and demise of publicly funded think-tanks and the role and challenge of new policy research organizations. The talk is also expected to spark off deliberation on the strategies that new policy research organizations should follow.

Dr. Dwarika Nath Dhungel is a senior researcher in Social Sciences. He has graduated from Department of Urban Studies and Planning as a SPURS Fellow, MIT, Massachusetts. He holds PhD in Social Sciences from Nagpur University, M.A. in Political Science, B.L., and B.A. in Economics, Political Science and English Literature from Tribhuvan University. He served as Executive Director and senior researcher/consultant in Institute for Integrated Development Studies (IIDS) and as a team leader in various projects. He has also served as Permanent Secretary to Government of Nepal in Ministries of Water Resource, General Administration, Land Reforms and Management and Administrative Reforms Monitoring Committee. He has also served as CDO of Darchula district.

About the Series

The Policy Discussion Series is an initiative of Martin Chautari and the Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS) under the aegis of Nepal Policy Research Network (NPRN). 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 experiences with a larger audience.

With this Series, we seek to stimulate debates on contemporary public policy issues, policy research methodologies, and institutions that create policy knowledge.

The Series is also a forum for the sharing of findings of policy-related research.