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Policy Discussion Series-XVII

Rise of Aam Aadmi Party in India: Parallels on the possibilities of the rise of alternative political force in Nepal

By

Barsha Paudel

Venue: Martin Chautari Seminar Hall, Thapathali

Date: Sunday, 23 Feb 2014 [11 Falgun 2070]

Time: 3:00 pm

In many countries political parties rise during or immediately after a political upheaval – for example, a war, unrest, economic downturn—or through the transition of civil society, such as anti-corruption movement or other struggles. *Aam Aadmi* Party in India, which saw an overwhelming rise in recent Delhi elections, has its roots in an anti-corruption campaign initiated by Anna Hazare. The disenchantment of citizens with the existing corrupt system played in favor of *Aam Aadmi* Party. Nepal's troubled socio-economic and political affairs may also offer an opportune moment for new political force(s) to rise by cashing in on the frustrations of voters. The extraordinary rise of *Aam Aadmi* Party may also bolster the hopes of voters and for such new alternative political voices alike. So, what are the possibilities of such a rise of new political force(s) in Nepal? What are the odds that we might as well see clean, semi-idealistic and inclusive politics (free from the caste, class, territory or race divisions) growing roots in Nepal? Barsha Paudel shares some of her views and analysis on the matter.

Barsha Paudel has a graduate degree in economics and an undergraduate degree in engineering. She is currently working as Assistant-web-editor at Himal Southasian. Her interest in politics is an off-shoot of her deep interest in public policy. This talk is a result of her individual attempt to analyze the possibilities of the rise of new political force(s) in Nepal drawing parallels/anti-parallels with the exemplary rise of Aam Aadmi Party in India.

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.

Participation is open to all.