

Himalaya, Climate Change and Development

A Seminar Series

Support by the British Academy International Partnership and Mobility Award

2013-2015

The seminar series is intended to bring together a committed group of scholars to intellectually engage with the challenges presented by climate change as it interfaces with contentious politics and development. The political transition in Nepal coincides with evidence that the Himalayas will suffer some of the most significant impacts from climate change, raising fears about Nepal's long-term ability to adapt to such rapid political and environmental changes. In addition, the Himalayas are portrayed as the 'water towers' of Asia, with glacial melt water feeding all the major river systems of Asia. As such, Nepal's adaptive capacity (or lack thereof) is rapidly becoming a major focus both nationally and internationally when climate change issues arise.

The seminar series therefore seeks to build a trans-national learning platform to tackle the question: how can we understand and improve the relationships between resource governance, adaptive capacity and political transition in Nepal? And how can we reframe current approaches to research, policy and practice for better results? Our focus is on exploring ways to achieve inclusive, equitable and resilient approach to tackling the intertwined challenges of climate vulnerability and political instability.

The seminars are intended to provide a forum for learning and reflection on key topics related to the overall theme. They capitalise upon the presence of visiting scholars in Kathmandu together with leading Nepali intellectuals interested in these topics. This seminar series is primarily meant for young and emerging researchers, civil society activists and academics, who are keen to take interdisciplinary and reflective approach to research, policy analysis and activism. Participation is open to all post-graduate scholars (MSc and above, or equivalent experience) but applications are required.

In Collaboration with:



University of Edinburgh Centre for South
Asian Studies



ForestAction Nepal



Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies
(SIAS)



Women Leading for Change in Natural
Resource Management



Wind Power Nepal

Seminars will be held approximately every two months over a 24 month time frame. Participants are expected to attend all the seminars, do the prescribed reading in advance, and arrive prepared for active engagement.

This seminar is part of British Academy supported initiative, the key aims of which are to enhance capacity in the partners on political transition and environmental change research, to understand the role of research in conflict resolution, and to train a new generation of Nepali and UK scholars equipped with research expertise for tackling complex social-environmental issues.

Presenters will be from various backgrounds with multidisciplinary professionals and currently engaging in extensive research, policy advisory and academic activities.

Participants are encouraged to write an essay and give a presentation at the end of the series. Those who are keen to advance the research will have the opportunity of having their writings considered for a publication (an edited volume or a Journal special Issue).

Participation is free and no compensation will be provided to speakers or participants.

Seventh Seminar Details:

Topic: “Challenges and Opportunities of Localizing Climate Change Adaptation in Nepal: Experience from LAPA Implementation in Nepal”

Date: Nov 3, 2014 (2:00-4:00 PM)

Venue: Local Development Training Academy (LDTA), Jawalakhel, Lalitpur

By: Meena Kunwar

Meena Kunwar

Meena Kunwar has been working in the field of NRM and development with commitment to bring positive impact on the livelihoods of poor and vulnerable groups. She holds a Master’s Degree in Environmental Science from the Australian National University, Australia. After successfully completion of Humphrey Fellowship Programme from University of California Davis, USA, she focused her work on climate change adaptation and mitigation. She has been engaged in different CC related project design and implementation. Her engagement with LAPA work started during the LAPA pilot study and LAPA framework development. Currently she is working as a Senior Climate Change Expert in Nepal Climate Change Support Programme, which is implementing LAPA in 14 districts of Nepal. In addition, she focuses on policies related to climate change adaptation and climate financing. She is committed to contribute on promoting gender equality and social inclusion. Her research interest is to identify and institutionalize simplified mechanism to enable Nepal in bringing climate funds accessible to the vulnerable people on ground – which the LAPA has been demonstrating as a promising potential avenue and NCCSP is providing learning opportunity for its establishment.