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Policy Discussion Series- XXIV

Nepal's economic roadmap and the need for a revamped policy and planning commission

By

Mr. Swarnim Wagle

Venue: Martin Chautari Seminar Hall, Thapathali

Date: Sunday, 28 Dec 2014 (Poush 13, 2071)

Time: 3:00 pm

This talk will consist of two parts. The first paints in broad brush Nepal's development trajectory so far and where it ought to go. The second part focuses on the need for a revamped policy and planning think tank in the government to help steer that path. After years of policy paralysis, Nepal seeks to correct its derailed economic direction. What shall be its long-term sources of economic growth? How can it ride the boom of its neighboring giants? How can it leverage, and eventually wean off high remittances? Will it augment its prowess in modern tradable services? Sluggish economic change in Nepal reflects the paradox of an "irresistible force meeting an immovable object" with the compelling high potentials of a uniquely attractive country lying under-utilized because of institutional failure. As the country ramps up its economic ambition, what kind of a public policy body should the government re-create?

Swarnim Wagle took office as Member of the National Planning Commission in June 2014. Prior to joining the Government of Nepal, he worked as a development professional for 15 years, most recently as Senior Economist at the World Bank in Washington D.C., Wagle has published several academic papers and flagship policy reports, including the 2013 Human Development Report titled "The Rise of the South." Wagle holds a PhD in economics from the Australian National University and an MPA in International Development from Harvard University. He was born in Bungkot, Gorkha.

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.