

**Stakeholder Workshop**

**On**

**Hydropower Development in Nepal: Negotiating Indigenous and Local Rights**

November 10, 2014

**Time:** 9.00am to 1.00pm @ Yala Maya Kendra, Patan Dhoka

Over the past few years, optimism has been growing for hydropower development in Nepal. The government and the private sector are increasingly active in pursuing new hydropower projects in different parts of the country. On the other hand, the project developers are also facing local struggles and resistances that place claims for redistribution (compensation and benefit sharing), participation in relevant steps of decision-making from licensing to on-site project development, and recognition of the culture and relevant rights of indigenous and local people. There are diverse experiences in Nepal in regard to addressing these local claims and also on demands from international (funding) agencies in addressing safeguards policies. There is therefore an opportunity to deliberate on and learn from ongoing research and practice about how the researchers and activists can inform their work and identify policy messages relevant to hydropower project development in an efficient, equitable and environmentally sound ways.

As part of ongoing collaboration, Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS) and NITI Foundation have hosted this workshop which will bring together hydropower stakeholders, including government officials, developers, activists, researchers into a unique facilitated discussion.

**Objectives.** Our aim is to a) provide a platform for learning from each other on ongoing research and strategies around safeguards and rights on hydropower projects, b) understand multiple experiences of projects' engagement with local demands, and c) identify issues for further research, advocacy and policy response.

**Contact person:**

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**Note: Participation by invitation only.**