Daayitwa Abhiyaan

Monthly Newsletter

March 2025

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Growth Entrepreneurship and Employment Program (GEEP)

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As a part of the Growth Entrepreneurship & Employment Promotion (GEEP) Program, Executive Policy Leadership Courses on 'Leadership for Economic Governance' were concluded in Biratnagar and Pokhara, convening over 80 local leaders, bureaucrats, and provincial stakeholders across Koshi and Gandaki Provinces. These sessions were facilitated by distinguished experts including Hon. Kalyan Shrestha, Mr. Krishna Gyawali, Dr. Sucheta Pyakuryal, and Dr. Pukar Malla.
The courses were inaugurated by Hon. Chief Minister Hikmat Kumar Karki in Koshi and Hon. Chief Minister Surendra Raj Pandey in Gandaki, alongside key ministers including Hon. Khagensing Hangam, Hon. Mitra Lal Basnet, and Hon. Dr. Tak Raj Gurung.
The leaders emphasized the provincial commitment to entrepreneurship-led employment and collaborative governance innovation for inclusive growth. Together with five local governments and Daayitwa, this initiative aims to empower rural enterprises and build adaptive leadership capacity for effective policy implementation.

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Research Topics - DNPPF 2025

Research Presentation and Outreach at King's College Kathmandu

A research dissemination and outreach session for the Daayitwa Nepal Public Policy Fellowship 2025 was conducted at Kings' College Nepal on Thursday, March 20, 2025.
Soniya Bashyal, Daayitwa Nepal Public Policy Fellow 2023 and Governance Fellow 2024, presented her fellowship research conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development on Exploring Alternate Distribution Channels to Overcome Frequent Fertilizer Shortage in Nepal, and also shared her experience of working as a fellow on the "Mobilization of Governance Fellows in Parliamentary Committees in Lumbini Province" project. In this project, Ms. Bashyal worked in collaboration with the Agriculture, Forest and Environment Parliamentary Committee on the topic - Economics of Stray Cattle Management in Gaushala of Lumbini Province.
Following this, Daayitwa team presented an overview of Daayitwa Abhiyaan's mission, vision and impact; as well as details of this year's fellowship and application process.

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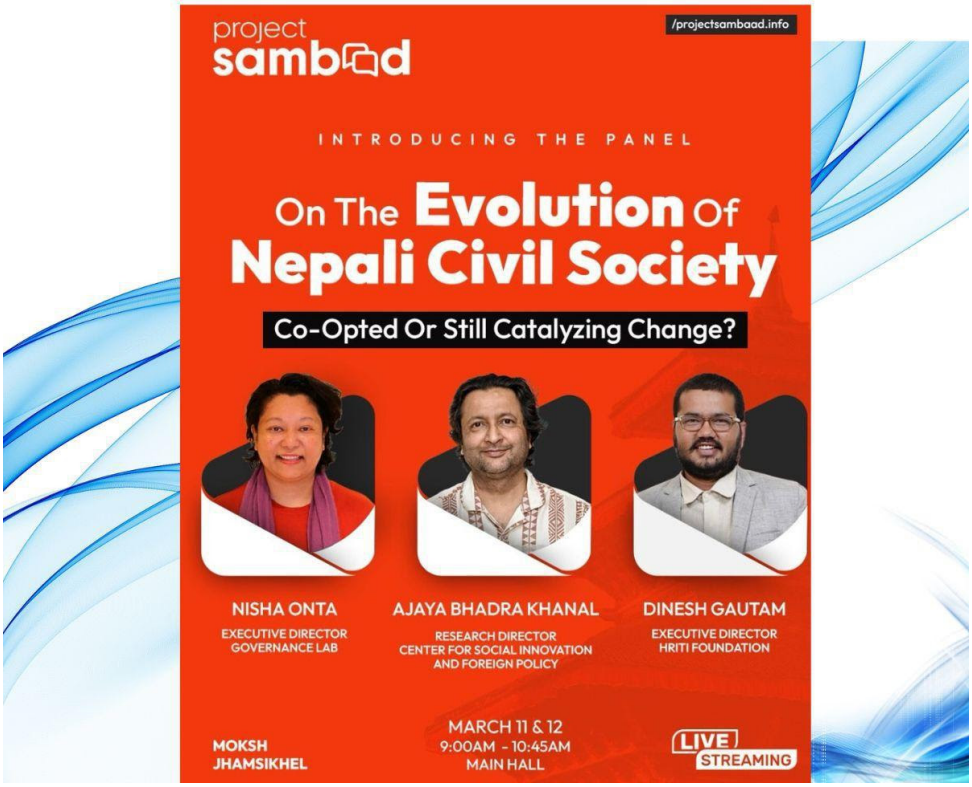
Governance Lab

Governance Lab Collaboration with PEI for Project Sambaad 'Bhag II'

GOVERNANCE LAB
RESEARCH • POLICY • NETWORK

EVENT PARTNERS

project sambaad



Governance Lab successfully moderated the session titled "The Evolution of Nepali Civil Society: Co-Opted or Still Catalyzing Change?" for Project Sambaad 'Bhag II'. Governance Lab Collaborated with PEI for Project Sambaad 'Bhag II'. The insightful and interactive discussion covered key topics such as:

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Evolution of Civil Society: The journey of Civil Society in Nepal through major political changes like the Panchayat regime and globalization, and how CSOs have been established to advocate for democracy and state accountability.
Role, Conflicts, and Accountability of CSOs in Nepal: Addressing why the role of service delivery by CSOs has been misinterpreted in Nepal. Highlighting concerns about the ethics and accountability of CSOs and how that needs to be communicated well.
Collaborative Policy Research: The need for relevant, implementable policy research as the next significant avenue for CSOs and highlighting the importance of aligning the model of social change and development with modern times.
The session was moderated by Nisha Onta, Founder & Executive Director of Governance Lab and the panel included Ajaya Bhadra Khanal (Research Director, Centre for Social Innovation and Foreign Policy (CESIF)) and Dinesh Gautam (Executive Director, Hriti Foundation).

Project CASA Updates

1. Scoping Sessions: Rapid Policy Assessment and Multi-Stakeholder Consultations in Lumbini Province

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In February, rapid policy assessment and multi-stakeholder consultations were conducted in Lumbini Province using research methodologies, including Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). Led by the Governance Consultant, this process aimed to analyze the existing policy landscape and capture diverse stakeholder perspectives on agribusiness MSMEs. The assessment included an in-depth review of existing policies and secondary data while also mapping the roles, responsibilities, and capacity needs of government staff across relevant ministries.

2. Rapid Policy Landscape Assessment of Business Enabling Environment for MSMEs in Lumbini Province, MoITT, Lumbini

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To ensure stakeholder engagement and secure political commitment, a consultation was organized at the Ministry of Industry, Tourism, and Transport (MoITT) in Deukhuri, Lumbini Province, with approximately 30 key provincial actors. This session provided a platform to present the findings of the rapid policy assessment, facilitate discussions on key issues, and refine policy priorities based on stakeholder feedback. Representatives from line ministries and agencies – including the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Planning (MoEAP), the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD), the Provincial Policy and Planning Commission (PPPC), and the Ministry of Agriculture, Land Management, and Cooperatives (MoALC) – actively participated, contributing valuable insights and helping build consensus on the way forward.
The formal presentation of the policy assessment findings took place on March 6, 2025, during the “Rapid Policy Landscape Assessment of Business Enabling Environment for MSMEs in Lumbini Province” event at MoITT. The event brought together stakeholders from various government institutions to discuss necessary reforms and initiatives to strengthen the business-enabling environment for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the region. The session was instrumental in fostering dialogue, refining policy focus areas, and aligning efforts across government entities.

Celebrating Women’s History Month Through Unity and Expression - Unapologetically Us

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This Women's History Month, Governance Lab created a vibrant space for reflection, unity, and empowerment through the Unapologetically Us program. More than just a nod to the past, the event celebrated the stories, struggles, and achievements that continue to shape our present and future.
The heart of the event was "**What I Bring to the Table**", a moving session where participants brought objects that reflected their personal journeys, identities, or women who inspire them. From heirlooms to handwritten letters and cherished books, each item opened a window into stories of resilience, courage, and love. As these objects came together on our Solidarity Table, they formed a beautiful representation of shared strength and vulnerability.
We also shared reflections through a collaborative HERStory Mural, where participants left behind heartfelt messages, drawings, and creativity supporting collective action for women empowerment.
Unapologetically Us reminded us that feminism is not just a movement, it's a feeling of being seen, heard, and valued. And Women's History Month is not only about the pioneers who came before us, but also about the legacy we're building now: Unapologetically, together.

Inclusion Economics Nepal

IEN launched a survey of citizens on March 8, 2025 under our research project called 'Understanding Political Selection in Nepal'. This research project aims to deepen our understanding of the forces holding women back in terms of political representation by conducting a study in Nepal, the world's youngest federal democracy. An explicit goal of Nepal's new federal system is to create pathways for greater political representation of women, which have not been realized in the first two elections.
Our project will adjudicate between three forces determining the equilibrium level of female candidacy for local-level positions:

- Structural constraints and socialized attributes that limit women's willingness to run (candidate supply);

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- Party bias against female candidates (party demand);
- Voter bias against women (voter demand).

Nepal Leadership Academy

Executive Policy Leadership Course

NLA is going to facilitate a leadership course for joint secretaries of the Foreign Ministry in April 2025. The major aim of the workshop will be to provide the participating Joint Secretaries with leadership sessions that are designed with adaptive leadership principles, to re-evaluate notions of leadership and practice leadership that encourages innovation and focuses on the work at the center.

Podspective by Daayitwa Abhiyaan

Conversation with Soledad Artiz Prillaman, PhD - Part 2

How do we create structures that empower women, not impose goals, but provide resources for collective action?

In this conversation with Soledad Artiz Prillaman, PhD, we explore the work of Inclusion Economics Nepal (IEN) at Governance Lab at Daayitwa Abhiyaan, where local knowledge blends with international expertise to address Nepal's institutional challenges.

Soledad has been involved with IEN as a Principal Investigator guiding research aimed at understanding the engagement of women and marginalized ethnic groups in political leadership positions amid Nepal's transition to federalism.

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Focusing on the decline in women's representation between the 2017 and 2022 local elections, IEN digs into the root causes--resources, voter preferences, or gatekeepers. Through rigorous data collection and on-the-ground insights, IEN is uncovering deeper truths and working to test solutions in collaboration with local organizations.

Watch Part 2 Here

Publications

From Peaceful Rallies to Violent Protests: Pro-Monarchy Sentiments Reshaping Nepal's Identity

What started as a peaceful pro-monarchy rally in Kathmandu turned into a violent protest, leaving two dead and 110 injured and causing millions in economic losses. Yet another day, power struggles played out in the streets, with common citizens caught in the crossfire. The chaos reflected a deeper issue—discontent, frustration, and a growing divide in Nepal's political landscape.

Read Full Article Here

Women's History Month

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communications@daayitwa.org

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