

Launch of the Nepal Renewable Energy Policy Study

Panel Discussion on Policy Strategies for Adaptation and Mitigation to Achieve National and Global Commitments

10 December 2023 | 17:30-18:30 (UAE Time) | Nepal Pavilion

Background

Nepal, a mountainous nation without oil, gas or coal reserves, has a wealth of untapped renewable energy sources. Despite this potential, a significant portion of the population relies on traditional fuels for their daily energy needs. The Government of Nepal has identified affordable and reliable energy access as a primary priority within its Sustainable Development Goals. Throughout the course of time, the government has proactively advocated for the adoption of renewable energy sources by means of subsidy programmes and strategic implementation approaches, with the ultimate objective of mitigating rural poverty.

However, the attainment of sustainable growth in the renewable energy sector in Nepal requires a higher level of investment and the implementation of a comprehensive approach. To bridge the disparity between demand and investment, comprehensive planning, objective setting, evidence-based policymaking, and the establishment of an enabling environment are required.

In order to meet its international commitments on sustainable energy and climate adaptation and mitigation, Nepal is required to formulate comprehensive policies that are in line with these aims. In this context, ICIMOD, under the initiative of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Capability for the Hindu Kush Himalaya (REEECH), has undertaken detailed policy research to address the important concerns pertaining to renewable energy in Nepal. This activity was supported by the Austrian Development Agency ([ADA](#)), through the United Nations Industrial Development Organization ([UNIDO](#)). This report provides significant insights, discoveries, and policy suggestions that can serve as guidance for the government, development partners, and stakeholders in crafting an enduring and environmentally friendly energy future.

Objectives

- Launch the Nepal Renewable Energy Policy Study in order to disseminate key findings and recommendations.
- Facilitate a panel discussion with experts and stakeholders to investigate policy strategies for adaptation and mitigation for the HKH countries in alignment with global commitments.

- Promote dialogue and collaboration between government agencies, development partners, and the private sector to improve renewable energy adoption in the HKH region.

Expected Outcomes

- Increased awareness of the Nepal Renewable Energy Policy Study and its findings.
- Enhanced understanding of policy strategies for adaptation and mitigation of the HKH countries in alignment with global commitments.
- Facilitated collaboration and partnerships among stakeholders for the sustainable development of renewable energy in the HKH region.

Agenda

Time	Agenda	Speaker(s)
5 min	Welcome remarks	Dr Deepshikha Sharma, <i>Climate and Environment Specialist, ICIMOD</i>
10 min	Special address and launch of Policy report	Nawa Raj Dhakal, <i>Executive Director, Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC)</i>
40 min	<i>Panel discussion: Policy Strategies for Adaptation and Mitigation to Achieve Nepal's Global Commitments</i>	<p><i>Moderator:</i> Avishek Malla, <i>Energy Specialist, ICIMOD</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Nawa Raj Dhakal, <i>Executive Director, AEPC</i> Dawa Chhoedron, <i>Department of Energy, Royal Government of Bhutan</i> Dr Eklabya Sharma, <i>Strategic Advisor and Distinguished Senior Fellow, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE)</i> Shilp Verma, <i>Senior Researcher, International Water Management Institute (IWMI)</i></p>
5 min	Vote of thanks and concluding remarks	Pem Kandel, <i>Chief Policy Advisor, ICIMOD</i>

The program is organised along with the Alternative Energy Promotion Center ([AEPC](#)), Government of Nepal.