



WORKSHOP ON

Communicating science for policy making

22 December 2021 | MS Teams and in-person at Dhulikhel, Kathmandu, Nepal

About the workshop

The Himalayan University Consortium (HUC) is organizing a one-day workshop that will focus on repackaging scientific work into succinct, accessible, and understandable two-page policy briefs. The workshop will help participants – senior researchers and scholars in the natural and social sciences – understand policy formulation processes and effective means of reaching policy makers. Invited speakers – environmental journalists and policy makers – will share their experiences interacting with scientists and incorporating scientific findings in their work. Participants will learn how to synthesize research findings and recommendations to achieve desired outcomes at the policy level.

Background

Policy making is a complex, interactive, and iterative process influenced by diverse factors and interests. The impact of evidence generated by scientists – crucial to policy making – can remain limited if the evidence is not packaged well or effectively communicated to policy makers. Good science feeds impactful policies, but given the vastly different mechanisms, languages, and mandates in the science and policy-making spheres, it is important to bridge the divide with targeted, effective communication. Scientific literature needs to be synthesized into accessible, focused communication materials and delivered using new platforms and media so that policy makers can easily use to navigate through pressing issues.

Agenda

Day 1 – Tuesday, 21 December 2021

Time (NPT)	Programme
14:00	Check-in at Himalaya Drishya Resort, Dhulikhel – Achala Sharma , ICIMOD
17:30	Registration
18:00–20:00	Orientation – Achala Sharma , ICIMOD Reception dinner
20:00–21:00	Introduction of participants and speakers – Chi H Truong (Shachi) , ICIMOD Keynote presentation on Building Intellectual Bridges – Alok K Bohara , University of New Mexico

Day 2 – Wednesday, 22 December 2021

Time (NPT)	Programme
09:00–09:30	Transfer from hotel to Kathmandu University Dhulikhel campus
09:30–09:40	Opening remarks – Chi H Truong (Shachi) , ICIMOD Objectives of the workshop – Chandra Lal Pandey , Kathmandu University
09:40–10:00	Science, policy, and practice: Experiences in urban planning – Kirti Kusum Joshi , City Planning Commission, Kathmandu Metropolitan City
10:00–10:20	Media, scientific knowledge, and policy making: Reflections from Himalaya region – Ramesh Bhushal , The Third Pole
10:20–10:50	Group discussion
10:50–11:00	Group photo and coffee break
11:00–12:30	Practical session 1 How to repackage scientific writing into a two-page policy brief – Chandra Lal Pandey , Kathmandu University, and Rachana Chettri , ICIMOD
12:30–13:30	Lunch break
13:30–14:30	Practical session 2 Presenting your research findings and bringing scientific knowledge into politics and policy making – Chandra Lal Pandey , Kathmandu University, and Ramesh Bhushal , The Third Pole
14:30–16:30	Practical session 3 Writing desk and pairwise review – Chandra Lal Pandey , Kathmandu University, and Rachana Chettri , ICIMOD Stakeholder Mapping – Simon Russell , Policy Associate, PolicyBristol, The University of Bristol Participants' evaluation of the workshop Closing remarks: Reflections on bridging science–policy–practice – Mani Nepal , ICIMOD

Speaker profiles

Alok K. Bohara

Alok K. Bohara is a Full Professor of Economics at the University of New Mexico. He is also a Senior Research Fellow at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Health Policy, University of New Mexico (UNM). His research focuses on the intersection of environment, health, and sustainable development. He has published close to one hundred and fifty papers, and has mentored more than thirty PhD students. As the founding director of the Nepal Study Center (est. 2005, UNM) Bohara has been working to build an intellectual bridge between the academic institutions in the Himalayan region and the North American scholar diaspora through the Himalayan Policy Research Consortium. Bohara has a master's degree in statistics from Tribhuvan University and a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Colorado.



Chandra Lal Pandey

Chandra Lal Pandey is the Programme Coordinator and a member of faculty of the Community Development Program and Department of Development Studies at the School of Arts, Kathmandu University. He has worked on several projects on the crosscutting themes of community resilience, governance, disaster management, capacity building of national, provincial, and local government institutions, environment and climate adaptation, urban water security, and sustainable development, focusing on South Asia. He has published three books, several book chapters, research reports, and policy briefs. He has also published several scientific articles in leading peer-reviewed journals including Global Environmental Politics and served as reviewer for the Journal of Rural Studies and Journal of Applied Communication Research. He supervises Masters, M.Phil., and PhD scholars in the areas of his expertise. Pandey earned his PhD and Post Doctorate in Political Science and Public Policy from the University of Waikato, New Zealand.



Kirti Kusum Joshi

Kirti Kusum Joshi is an Urban Specialist at the City Planning Commission, Kathmandu Metropolitan City. For over two decades, Kirti Kusum Joshi has been supporting various government and multilateral agencies in Nepal in the preparation of national policy documents related to urban development, settlement planning, and urban resilience, as well as land use and integrated development plans for several municipalities. He was a postdoctoral visiting scholar at Harvard University and University of Indonesia, and a postdoctoral fellow at Tohoku University. Joshi is also actively involved in teaching and research. He is a visiting faculty at the Institute of Engineering (M.Sc. in Urban Planning) and Kathmandu University School of Management. He has published papers in reputed international journals. Joshi received his Ph.D. degree in urban and regional planning from Tohoku University, Japan.



Mani Nepal

Mani Nepal is the Programme Coordinator for SANDEE and the Lead Economist at ICIMOD. He spent his early career in academia as the Associate Professor of Economics at Tribhuvan University; Assistant Professor at the University of New Mexico; Visiting Professor at Kathmandu University; and Adjunct Professor at Agriculture and Forestry University. He was also the Senior Economist at the Department of Finance and Administration, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA. Nepal is an applied economist with research interests in the intersection of development and environmental issues. He has published widely in international journals such as American Journal of Political Science, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Ecological Economics, Land Economics, Ecology and Society, Climatic Change, Environmental and Development Economics, Environmental and Resource Economics, and World Development, among others. He is also one of the co-editors of a recently published book, Climate Change and Community Resilience: Insights from South Asia. Nepal was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (USA) where he obtained his MS degree in Economics and received PhD from the University of New Mexico, USA, in environmental/development economics and applied econometrics.



Rachana Chettri

Rachana Chettri is an editor with a decade of editing, writing, and publications management experience. She is the Publication Coordination Officer at ICIMOD and works with in-house content producers, and external contributors to produce communication and outreach material, and fulfil editorial and managerial tasks for the institution. Working with a team of internal and consultant editors, she specializes in condensing scientific information into general audience-friendly formats, synthesizing the knowledge produced for greater dissemination. She manages the technical publications pipeline at ICIMOD, focusing specifically on its long-format knowledge products.



Ramesh Bhushal

Ramesh Bhushal is the Nepal Editor for the Third Pole, a multilingual news website in South Asia. Bhushal also manages a global network of environmental journalists, Internews' Earth Journalism Network, in the region. He is an environmentalist and an environment journalist/writer by profession. Bhushal started his career in 2007 as the producer/host for 'Ujyaalo Radio Network' and joined The Himalayan Times, Nepal's largest English newspaper as environment correspondent in 2009. He has also worked for The BBC Nepali as science correspondent and has contributed his articles to several national and international outlets.



ICIMOD gratefully acknowledges the support of its core donors: the Governments of Afghanistan, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Norway, Pakistan, Sweden, and Switzerland.