



Towards Sustainable Entrepreneurship Ecosystem June 2025 | Kathmandu, Nepal

ORGANIZED BY:



CERAD
Center for Research and Development
An initiative of King's College

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Hetauda School of
Management and Social
Sciences



Industrial Enterprise
Development Institute



The best way to predict the future is to create it” - Alan Kay

Conference Overview

The Nepal Entrepreneurship Forum is scheduled for June 2025 in Kathmandu, Nepal. This premier event will bring together thought leaders, entrepreneurs, policymakers, researchers, and experts from across the globe to discuss the theme 'Towards Sustainable Entrepreneurial Ecosystem'. The conference aims to serve as a pivotal platform to explore sustainable business practices, foster innovative solutions, and connect the entrepreneurial community with the vision of creating a more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable economic environment.

This year's forum will focus on the integration of sustainable principles into entrepreneurship, aligning with global efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and creating a positive impact for all stakeholders involved in the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Why Attend?

- **In-depth Discussions:** Engage in meaningful dialogues on integrating sustainability into entrepreneurial models.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Connect with a diverse group of entrepreneurs, academics, and industry leaders.
- **Global and Local Perspectives:** Gain insights from international experts as well as local stakeholders on how to create a thriving, sustainable entrepreneurial ecosystem in Nepal.
- **Showcase of Innovations:** Discover cutting-edge entrepreneurial ventures addressing sustainable business practices and solutions.
- **Recognition of Excellence:** Participate in a platform that recognizes and celebrates innovative ideas with awards for best theoretical frameworks and creative business solutions.

History

In 2016, King's College organized the "International Conference on Social Entrepreneurship" with the theme "Rebuilding Nepal through Social Entrepreneurship." Held in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake and political unrest, the event aimed to foster entrepreneurship and strengthen regional ties among academics and the entrepreneurial ecosystem. Endorsed by Nepal's Department of Industry and supported by Sherpa Adventure Gear, the conference brought together over 250 participants, including 30 international delegates. Featuring 4 plenary and 10 parallel sessions, 21 research papers were presented, and more than 20 entrepreneurial ventures were showcased. Key collaborators included Hyatt Regency, Teach for Nepal, and numerous I/NGOs.

Again, In 2017, King's College hosted the 16th International Entrepreneurship Forum in Kathmandu, themed "Sustainable Entrepreneurship and Economic Development." Organized with Essex Business School, University of Essex, the conference bridged gaps in sustainable entrepreneurship and economic development through conceptual, empirical, and practical insights. Endorsed by Nepal's Ministry of Education and partnered with global organizations like INSME and Yunus Social Business Center, the event featured 250 participants, including 80 international delegates, and 65 research paper presentations. Key sponsors included Nepal Rastra Bank, Radisson Hotel, and Khalti, with support from The Kathmandu Post and other prominent partners.

Yet again, In November 2018, King's College organized its third annual conference, "Entrepreneurship and Economic Growth in Federal Nepal," in Dhangadhi, Province 7. The conference aimed to assess Nepal's entrepreneurship agenda within the federal system, explore sustainable practices aligned with the UN's SDGs, and foster an entrepreneurial ecosystem for economic growth. Key themes included federal and local policies, social entrepreneurship, technology, innovation, and Vision 2030. Activities featured plenary and parallel sessions, networking, entrepreneurial venture showcases, and awards for outstanding research papers. The event welcomed representatives from government, academia, private sectors, and international institutions, with select papers published in the International Journal of Entrepreneurship and Economic Issues (IJEEL).

Background

The increasing global focus on organized dialogues and academic research has been encouraging. As a result, universities and governments worldwide are hosting conferences involving politicians, policymakers, researchers, financial institutions, and business startups to discuss advancements in entrepreneurship locally and globally.

In this global context, Nepal has become a key participant in these evidence-based discussions, with rising interest from government bodies, private sectors, banks, financial institutions, and startups over the past decade. To support these trends, King's College has been offering courses in entrepreneurship since 2012, now encompassing undergraduate and graduate programs in business, entrepreneurship, and information technology. The college also hosts an annual conference to disseminate its research findings to students, stakeholders, and the public, focusing on themes pertinent to entrepreneurship and Nepal's economic development. To continue this tradition King's College is organizing a second edition of a conference under the flagship of "Nepal Entrepreneurship Forum (NEF) with a theme "Towards Sustainable Entrepreneurship Ecosystem".

The conference theme highlights the necessity of fostering environments that support entrepreneurship while balancing economic growth with social and environmental sustainability. In our interconnected world, businesses are increasingly expected to innovate in ways that enhance societal well-being and environmental preservation, alongside achieving financial success.

A sustainable entrepreneurial ecosystem is more than a network of stakeholders such as entrepreneurs, investors, and policymakers; it integrates sustainability into business models to support economic, social, and environmental advancement. This ecosystem promotes innovations that align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that ensure that business practices have a positive societal and environmental impact.

Key players such as governments, educational institutions, policymakers, researchers, and financial entities are crucial in shaping these ecosystems. They can drive sustainability by creating and incentivizing policies, providing funds for environmentally and socially impactful ventures, and developing educational programs focused on sustainable business practices.

In Nepal, the urgency of a sustainable entrepreneurial ecosystem is particularly pronounced due to the country's challenges in development and sustainability. Emphasizing sustainable entrepreneurship can address environmental degradation, social inequality, and economic resilience and help Nepal build a more inclusive and robust economy. The upcoming Nepal Entrepreneurship Forum II will serve as a platform for discussing these issues, bringing together diverse stakeholders to explore strategies for nurturing sustainable entrepreneurial ecosystems in Nepal and beyond.

Conference Subthemes

- Integrating Social Economy in Sustainable Development Goals
- Leveraging Innovations
- Strategies for Diverse and Marginalized Communities
- Entrepreneurship Beyond Profits
- Strengthening Agricultural Economy for Resilient Communities
- Bridging Policy Gaps for Sustainable Entrepreneurship
- Empowering Local Economies through Entrepreneurship
- Harnessing Women's Leadership in Entrepreneurship
- Pioneering Innovations for Social Impact and Sustainability
- Inclusive Entrepreneurship
- AI-Driven Entrepreneurship
- Dynamism in Development, Entrepreneurship, and Economy
- Sustainable Tourism and Social Enterprises
- Innovative Financing Models for Sustainable Entrepreneurship
- Environmental Conservation and Green Economy Initiatives
- Entrepreneurship in High-Value Cash Crop
- Value Chain Analysis of Mountain-Based Agricultural Products
- Agri-Food System Strengthening Through Supply Chain Enhancements
- Investments in Entrepreneurship for Smallholder Farmers
- Women in Informal Economy

**The conference sub-themes are not restricted to the ones mentioned above. Depending on the submissions received, additional sub-themes may also be considered.*

Conference Activities

The forum will feature:

1. Plenary Sessions with renowned speakers and industry experts.
2. Parallel Sessions showcasing research papers, case studies, and best practices.
Networking Opportunities are designed to foster collaboration between entrepreneurs, academics, and policymakers.
3. Entrepreneurial Showcase featuring ventures focused on sustainable and innovative business solutions.
4. Awards Ceremony recognizing excellence in entrepreneurship:
 - a. Best Theoretical Framework.
 - b. Most Innovative Entrepreneurial Idea

Conference Partners and Participants

The organizing committee plans to engage representatives from the Government of Nepal, Nepal's private sector community, entrepreneurs, academia, development agencies, and students while hosting the event that benefits everyone.

To share insights from outside of Nepal, there would also be the engagement of universities, think tanks, and researchers from Europe, North America, the Middle East, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Asia-Pacific region.

Speakers & Panelists



Bibhuan Bista is a seasoned leader in the tech industry, currently serving as executive president at YoungInnovations Pvt. Ltd. and Coding Mountain Pvt. Ltd. With over a decade as CEO of YoungInnovations, he has led the company to become a top provider of innovative software solutions worldwide. His expertise extends to guiding projects that enhance public sector accountability and promote open data initiatives in Nepal. Bibhuan actively participates in international conferences, advocating for technology's role in social progress. With a strong academic background and proficiency in various programming languages and management skills, Bibhuan is dedicated to using technology for positive change, making him a valuable asset in the digital landscape.

Bibhusan Bista
Executive President, YoungInnovations

Sixit is an entrepreneur and former co-founder/CEO at Tootle, the ridesharing application from Nepal. He is a cross-functional professional with a background in ICT, education, telecom, and financial services industries. His experiences range from project management, operations, and business development to marketing and product definition. He is also the founder of vriddhi, digital public infrastructure. Over the past years, he has focused exclusively on integrating technology into education, leading a team of highly innovative and talented individuals. He holds a master's in business administration, with gold medals awarded by the Prime Minister and President of Nepal for educational excellence. He is also the president of Everest Toastmasters Club and has been a member of Toastmasters International for the last seven years.



Sixit Bhatta
**Founder, Vriddhi, Digital
Public Infrastructure**



Vedika Murarka is the co-founder of Educase, a women-led social enterprise providing innovative school bags that transform into desks for students in marginalized communities of Nepal. A graduate in Innovation and Entrepreneurship from the London School of Economics, Vedika combines her passion for problem-solving and impact with experience in public policy and business development.

Vedika Murarka **Co-Founder, Educase**

An engineer by education, an entrepreneur by profession, and an educator by passion, Mr. Gautam is the CEO of Karkhana, a platform revolutionizing education through maker-based learning to develop critical thinkers for the 21st century. A champion of entrepreneurship, he has served as Past President of NYEF Kathmandu and led the Start-Up Committee at NYEF's National Governing Council. Recognized as Nabil Skill Hero 2020 in Science and Technology and one of Business 360's "10 People to Watch in Education," he is also a two-time TEDx speaker.



Pavitra Gautam **CEO & Co-founder, Karkhana**



Prof. Majumdar is the former Director of the TISS Incube Foundation and an expert in entrepreneurship, social innovation, and strategic management with over 42 years of experience. He is co-chair of national biotechnology programs and mentors startups and social enterprises. Recognized with awards like the Dr. V.G. Patel Memorial Award (2023), he is a distinguished educator, consultant, and global speaker committed to fostering entrepreneurial talent and innovation.

Prof. Satyajit Majumdar **Professor, Social Entrepreneurship**

Sunita Nhemaphuki is an experienced agricultural entrepreneur with over 10 years of leadership in the agro-based social enterprise sector. As the founder of R & D Innovative Solution Pvt. Ltd., she runs flagship programs across the entire agriculture value chain. A member of the Agriculture Sector Skill Committee (SSC), Sunita's work focuses on enhancing the agricultural ecosystem and the impact of occupational mapping on the sector.



Sunita Nhemaphuki **Founder, R & D Innovative Solution Pvt. Ltd.**



Pranaya Ratna Sthapit is a seasoned project management practitioner and researcher with expertise in innovative, data-driven project oversight. With extensive experience in designing research methodologies, training teams, and managing data collection and analysis, Pranaya has contributed to numerous surveys across Nepal. He holds a B.A. in Information Management, an MBA with an IT concentration, and a Graduate Diploma in Social Science. Pranaya is certified as a Registered Open Data Trainer and has participated in various advanced training programs, including Six Sigma and ethnography for monitoring and evaluation.

Pranaya Sthapit,
Project Director. Data for Development. The Asia Foundation

Janne Karjalainen is an expert in interdisciplinary education, project-based learning, and transformative education practices. With a focus on experiential and reflective learning, Janne leads workshops and training sessions on teaching project-based courses, curriculum design, and design thinking. He specializes in lean startup methods, product management, and team communication. As part of the project BUCSBIN, Janne also contributes to teacher education, facilitating skill-building sessions in project communication and presentation.



Janne Karjalainen
Senior Lecturer and Project Manager at Oulu University of Applied Sciences



Mrs. Ulla-Maija Tormala is a Master of Science (MSc) in Health Sciences from the University of Jyväskylä. She has also education in occupational therapy (BSc, reg.) as well as psychotherapy (Special Level Family Therapy). She is also trained as a teacher. Ulma Seppänen has worked in mental health mostly with adolescence and their families, both policlinic and ward. Currently she is working in Oulu University of Applied Sciences (Oulu, Finland) as Senior Lecturer and LAB Master of Oulu DevLAB at Oamk LABs. She is also Head of Pedagogy at Oamk LABs. She is experienced both giving keynotes and workshops about the pedagogy of the LAB studio model, project-based learning, and intercultural and interprofessional learning.

Ulla-Maija Tormala
Lab Master (Dev-Lab) - OULU
UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCE

Dr. Sarah Louisa Birchley is a seasoned consultant, researcher, trainer, and lecturer with 22 years of experience in Japan. As the director of international education programs, she has developed and facilitated internships and study-abroad opportunities in countries worldwide. With strong intercultural communication skills, Dr. Birchley has presented globally and created innovative online exchange experiences through COIL. Her research, supported by grants from the Japanese Government, focuses on Japanese Diaspora Entrepreneurs in Latin America. She is also a business consultant, empowering small and mid-sized companies in Japan and the UK to think globally.



Dr. Sarah Louisa Birchley
University Director of International Exchange,



Umesh Kumar Gupta is an experienced project management professional specializing in supply chain and logistics. With a demonstrated history of working across government, development, humanitarian, and commercial sectors, he brings expertise in warehousing, inventory management, procurement, contract management, and emergency preparedness. His leadership in humanitarian logistics and supply chain operations has contributed to efficient resource management and crisis response. Holding an MBA and an MPH, along with a foundational background in engineering, he combines strategic planning with technical acumen to drive impactful solutions in Nepal's industrial and economic development initiatives.

Er. Umesh Kumar Gupta
Executive Director,
Industrial Enterprise Development Institute

Registration Fee

Domestic Participants

Category	Early Bird Pricing (Before 31st May, 2025)	Normal Pricing
Academicians, Entrepreneurs, I/NGOs	NRS 8,500	NRS 10,500
Full-time Students	NRS 5000	NRS 7,500

**The mentioned rates do not cover accommodation for domestic participants and participants from the South Asian Region.*

South Asian Participants

Category	Early Bird Pricing (Before 31st May, 2025)	Normal Pricing
General Fee	USD 180 or INR 15,000	USD 200 or INR 17,000
Student Fee	USD 120 or INR 10,000	USD 150 or INR 12,000

**The mentioned rates do not cover accommodation for domestic participants and participants from the South Asian Region.*

International Participants

Category	Early Bird Pricing (31st May, 2025)	Normal Pricing
Without Accommodation	USD 200	USD 250
Without Accommodation (for Full-time Students)	USD 150	USD 175
With Accommodation	USD 350	USD 400
With Accommodation (for Full-time Students)	USD 250	USD 300

**Special rates are available for group bookings above 10 participants from all regions.*

Registration Fees Include:

- Access to all academic sessions
- Conference materials and kit
- Tea/Coffee during breaks
- Banquet lunch
- Transportation support
- Accommodation for International Participants ("With Accommodation" Category only)

Account Name: Kings Center for Research and Development Pvt. Ltd.

Account Number: 0010092798500012

Bank: Prabhu Bank Limited

Swift code: PRVUNPKA

Make sure to include your name in the remarks section, such as ("Participant Fee: Your Name").

Kindly email the receipt to us at conference@kingscollege.edu.np. All submissions and queries to conference@kingscollege.edu.np (all mail should be clearly marked NEF).

IMPORTANT DATES

February 28, 2025

Registration Open

April 15, 2025

**Submission Deadline
for Abstracts**

End of April, 2025

**Notification of
Abstract Acceptance**

May 31, 2025

**Submission of Full
Papers**

June 14 - 15, 2025

Conference Days

Venue and Accommodation

The conference will take place in Kathmandu, Nepal, with venue details to be announced shortly. The organizing committee will assist participants in finding suitable accommodation close to the event venue.

Submission Guidelines

Abstracts and full papers should be submitted via email to conference@kingscollege.edu.np

Abstract Guidelines: The paper should be formatted using 12-point Times New Roman font, with normal margins, and the text should be 1.5-spaced. The abstract should not exceed 300 words.

Full Paper Submission: Papers must be submitted by May 31, 2025.

Submission Includes: Title, authors' names, affiliations, contact details, and keywords.

Publication Opportunities

Selected papers from the conference will be published in the International Journal of Entrepreneurship and Economic Issues (IJEI) and other related journals. All the papers presented at the conference will go through a double-blind peer review process. The papers that get through the peer review process will be published in the journal upon approval of the editor/s of the journal.

International Journal of Entrepreneurship and Economic Issues (ISSN: 2616-0048) is a double-blind peer-reviewed journal dedicated to the promotion and dissemination of academic works related to economic growth and entrepreneurship. This journal is published in autumn every year by the Center for Research and Development, King's College, Kathmandu, Nepal. For details, please visit www.journals.kingscollege.edu.np can be visited.



NEPAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP FORUM

ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF KING'S COLLEGE

Register Here

THANK YOU

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 <https://kingscollege.edu.np/centers>