

Linking Futures of Mountain and Ocean: Rescuing the SDGs 2030 for Sustainable Livelihood

The 30th Annual International Sustainable Development Research Society (ISDRS) Conference took place from June 10 to June 14, 2024. This annual event brought together scholars, practitioners, and policymakers worldwide to discuss sustainable development issues and share their research findings and experiences.



Rt. Honorable Vice President Ram Sahaya Prasad Yadav in the Inauguration Ceremony

The theme for the 2024 conference was “Linking Futures of Mountain and Ocean: Rescuing the SDGs 2030 for Sustainable Livelihood.” The event was conducted in a hybrid format and saw a total of 264 registered participants from 47 countries, with over 150 participants attending in person in Kathmandu and over 100 participants joining online.

The conference was hosted by Mid-West University and Nepal Open University, with Resources Himalaya Foundation serving as the conference Secretariat, in collaboration with various emerging universities in Nepal, as well as national and international organizations. The conference was inaugurated by Rt. Hon’ble Vice President Mr. Ram Sahaya Prasad Yadav, where he emphasized that the commitment to sustainable development “is a necessity for the preservation of our planet and the wellbeing of future generation” and called the event a “testimony to our shared commitment for a sustainable future for all’.

The conference started off with an interactive PhD Workshop on the first day June 10, aimed at providing early-career researchers with valuable feedback and one-on-one mentoring focusing on their research topics and the necessary steps to publish their findings in high-quality, high-impact journals.



PhD Workshop: One to one mentoring Session

The workshop featured career talks from renowned social entrepreneur Anil Chitrakar and economist Gustavo N. Salamanca, along with a scientific writing workshop by Tomas B. Ramos, Executive Editor of the Journal of Cleaner Production & Editor-in-Chief of Cleaner Production Letters, Elsevier.



PhD Workshop: Scientific Writing

Over the next three days, from June 11 to 13, delegates engaged in Technical Sessions with various panel discussions, parallel sessions, and workshops. The panel discussions focused on various themes such as Climate Change and Sustainability, and Partnership for Sustainable Development.

The Water-Energy and Food Nexus panel was chaired by Prof. Dr. Rejina Maskey Byanju. The keynote presentation, "A Food-Energy-Water (FEW) Nexus Solution towards Global Sustainability," was delivered by Prof. Dr. Wei Liao from Michigan State University. Panelists included Mr. Vijaya Singh from UNDP and Dr. Manohara Khadka from IWMI. The keynote and panel discussion underscored the importance of integrated, innovative approaches to the FEW nexus to ensure global sustainability, highlighting ongoing research, practical initiatives, and policy considerations.



Panel Discussion I: Water Energy Food Nexus

The Climate Change and Sustainability panel, chaired by Prof. Dr. Netra Chhetri from Arizona State University, featured a keynote by Prof. Dr. Klaus Hubacek from the University of Groningen on "Global Carbon Inequality, Poverty Alleviation, and the Paris Agreement." Panelists included Dr. Rajendra KC (MoFE, Nepal), Dr. Reeti Kulshrestha (Birla Institute of Management Technology, India), and Prof. Dr. Minghong Tan (IGSNRR, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China), resulting in a very insightful discussion highlighting the complexities and interdependencies of global carbon inequality, poverty alleviation, and climate goals, underscoring the urgent need for integrated solutions.



Panel Discussion II: Climate Change and Sustainability



Panel Discussion III: Partnership for Sustainable Development

The Partnership for Sustainable Development panel featured a keynote by Prof. Dr. Gianni Vaggi (UNESCO, UNITWIN Network) on Partnerships for Knowledge and Development. Panelists Dr. Leela Nyaichyai (Former Member of Constituent Assembly, Nepal), Dr. Gustavo Paez (UNICEF-ROSA), and Dr. Rupak Sapkota (Foreign Affairs Advisor to the Prime Minister of Nepal) discussed and highlighted SDG 17, aimed at strengthening implementation and revitalizing global partnerships for sustainable development, and SDG 16, which promotes peaceful, inclusive societies, access to justice, and effective, accountable institutions at all levels.



Presentation delivered by in-person delegate



Presentation delivered by online delegate

The conference featured 207 presentations from different tracks in the ISDRS across 32 parallel sessions. Of these, 102 presentations were delivered in person, and 105 were delivered online. There were a total of 15 interactive poster presentations, with 10 presented in person and 5 presented online. The diverse range of tracks and themes allowed participants to explore various aspects of sustainable development, facilitating interdisciplinary discussions and collaborations.

The conference included interactive workshops facilitated by experts within the ISDRS Society. These workshops covered critical topics such as "The Role of Universities in Solving Sustainability Challenges," "Sustainability Discourse," and "Assessing Sustainability (Indicators and Reporting)."



Engaging with the Presentation

The 30th Annual ISDRS Conference concluded with the release of the Kathmandu Communiqué, a significant declaration underscoring the collective commitment to advancing sustainable development goals (SDGs), signed by the ISDRS 2024 President Prof. Dr. Sjors Witjes and the ISDRS 2024 Conference Convener Prof. Dr. Dinesh Raj Bhujju.



Prof. Dr. Dinesh Raj Bhujju at the Valedictory Program



Announcement of 31st ISDRS Conference

Prof. Gyula Zilahy, the ISDRS 2025 President, officially announced that the 31st Annual ISDRS Conference, themed ‘Sustainability and Beyond,’ will be held at the Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary, from July 7-11, 2025.

The closing ceremony was graced by the Hon’ble Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Narayan Kaji Shrestha, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nepal, as the chief guest, who provided insightful and knowledgeable remarks.



Celebration of the Closing Ceremony

The 30th ISDRS Conference successfully achieved its objectives, providing a comprehensive platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration on sustainable development. The hybrid format allowed for greater accessibility and inclusivity, accommodating participants from various parts of the world.