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Radisson Hotel, Kathmandu 18th December 2024

Deepening Sustainable Financing for Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation





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# For Further Queries

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Register

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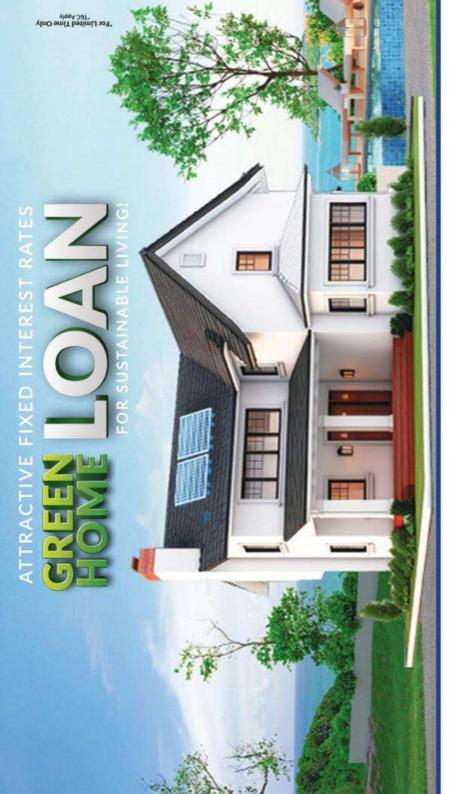
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#### BACKGROUND

The Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance (BFSI) sector plays a pivotal role in every aspect of economic development, from driving trade and investments to enabling infrastructure development and fostering financial inclusion. In Nepal and the broader South Asian region, the BFSI sector serves as the backbone of economic progress, supporting critical industries and ensuring sustainable growth. Recognizing its significance, the Banking, Finance, and Insurance Institute of Nepal (BFIN) and the India-Nepal Center of the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) have consistently collaborated on programs that address emerging trends and challenges in the BFSI sector. These initiatives aim to exchange knowledge, share innovations, and strengthen cross-border economic ties between Nepal and India.

In line with this tradition, Nepal BFSI Summit has emerged as a flagship event to foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing. Building on the success of its two previous editions, the Nepal BFSI Summit 2024 shifts focus to one of the most pressing global priorities: green financing and sustainable development. The third edition aims to position the BFSI sector as a key enabler of climate resilience by supporting initiatives that reduce carbon emissions and promote long-term sustainability.

This year's summit provides a platform for stakeholders from across the region to explore innovative financing solutions, regulatory frameworks, and public-private partnerships (PPP). It highlights the immense potential of the BFSI sector to address emerging challenges, such as climate risks, while simultaneously driving sustainable economic growth. By bringing together policymakers, financial institutions, and industry experts, the event seeks to inspire actionable strategies that advance green financing and position Nepal and India as regional leaders in sustainability-focused economic development.









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#### **KEY OBJECTIVES**

- Identify ways the BFSI sector can support climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives.
- Promote collaboration between Nepal and other South Asian countries for green financing and sustainable investments.
- Explore regulatory frameworks and best practices for sustainable finance in emerging markets.
- Foster public-private partnerships (PPP) for financing climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives.

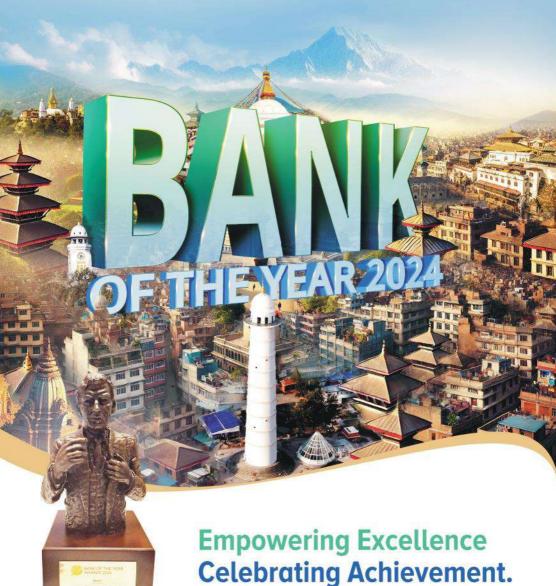
#### INAUGURAL CEREMONY

This summit brings together distinguished national and international speakers from the BFSI sector. The Minister for Forest and Environment, Government of Nepal will be gracing the opening ceremony, along with other Guests of Honor.

Keynote addresses from leaders and policymakers, focusing on the BFSI sector's role in mitigating climate change and promoting sustainable finance.







#### BRIEF OF GUESTS AND SPEAKERS



Chief Guest

Hon. Ain Bahadur Shahi Thakuri Minister for Forests and Environment Government of Nepal

Hon. Ain Bahadur Shahi Thakuri serves as the Minister for Forests and Environment, appointed on June 15, 2024. A seasoned leader with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science, he has contributed extensively to Nepal's political landscape. He has held key roles within the Nepali Congress, including three terms as President of the District Working Committee in Mugu. Additionally, he has served as a member of the Constituent Assembly Election and was directly elected to the House of Representatives in 2022.

Hon. Shahi has also been active in social causes, notably as a lifetime member of the Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh. His leadership reflects a deep commitment to sustainable development and environmental stewardship. With international exposure, including a visit to China, he continues to advocate for the socio-economic and environmental progress of Nepal.



**Guest of Honor** 

Dr. Prakash Kumar Shrestha Member National Planning Commission

Dr. Shrestha is a distinguished member of the National Planning Commission of Nepal, overseeing Industry and Commerce, Labour and Employment, Information and Communication, Investment, and Statistics. He is also a key member of the High-Level Economic Reform Advisory Commission, advising on reforms to boost economic growth. Previously, he served as the Executive Director of the Economic Research Department at Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB), where he led macroeconomic analysis and monetary policy formulation. Dr. Shrestha has held leadership roles, including SAARCFINANCE Coordinator (2015-2017) and Economic Adviser to the Ministry of Finance (2020-2021). He has also been Vice Chairman of the Lumbini Province Planning Commission and Chairman of the National Banking Institute. He holds advanced degrees in Economics from TU Nepal, Curtin University, and The New School, USA. Dr. Shrestha is a published researcher and former editor of NRB Economic Review and Mirmire.



Mr. Maha Prasad Adhikari Governor Nepal Rastra Bank

Guest of Honor

Governor Maha Prasad Adhikari is the 17th Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB), appointed in April 2020. Prior to his appointment, he served as the Chief Executive Officer of the Investment Board of Nepal (IBN). From December 2010, Mr. Adhikari held the position of Deputy Governor at NRB, accumulating over three decades of experience in central banking. His expertise spans financial stability, financial sector reforms, central banking operations, and Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) initiatives. He has been instrumental in modernizing NRB and the country's financial sector. Additionally, Governor Adhikari chaired a committee that contributed to resolving Nepal's real estate challenges. A Chartered Accountant from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, he continues to lead efforts in advancing Nepal's financial infrastructure and stability.



#### **Guest of Honor**

Dr. Ram Prasad Ghimire Finance Secretary Ministry of Finance Government of Nepal

Dr. Ram Prasad Ghimire is a seasoned public sector leader with expertise in governance reforms, public affairs, and financial management. As Finance Secretary, he plays a pivotal role in policy development, economic analysis, and foreign aid management. His diverse experience spans tourism, labor relations, migration governance, and social security systems, with a strong focus on evidence-based policymaking and political economy approaches to reform.

Dr. Ghimire holds a Master's in Development Studies (Public Policy Management) from the International Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, and a Ph.D. from the School of Politics and International Relations, Australian National University. Known for his strategic insights and dedication to good governance, he has contributed significantly to Nepal's development planning, fostering accountability, transparency, and sustainable growth across sectors.



Guest of Honor

H.E. Amb. Naveen Srivastava

Ambassador of India to Nepal

H.E. Mr. Naveen Srivastava is the Ambassador of India to Nepal, having assumed office on 25 June 2022. A career diplomat, he joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1993 and has held key positions in various international postings, including in Hong Kong, Beijing, Washington DC, and Shanghai. He served as the Ambassador of India to Cambodia from 2015 to 2017 and was on deputation to the New Development Bank in Shanghai from 2017 to 2019, where he worked closely with the President and Board. At the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), he led the East Asia Division, overseeing India's relations with China, Japan, South Korea, Mongolia, and North Korea. Ambassador Srivastava holds a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from IIT Delhi and a Master's degree from the University of Maryland, USA.



Guest of Honor

H.E. Leann Johnston

Ambassador of Australia to Nepal

Ms Johnston is a career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and presented her credentials to the Right Honourable President Paudel on 12 September 2024. She has previously served overseas as Chargé d'Affaires in Abuja (2023), Accra (2022) and Funafuti (2021), and as Counsellor and Consul-General, Suva (2019-21); Counsellor and Consul-General, Paris (2014-17); Senior Administrative Officer, Madrid, Kabul, Nairobi, Stockholm and Berlin (1995-2011); Attaché (Administrative), Ankara and Wellington (1986-1992).

In Canberra she served as Director Crisis Management and Contingency Planning Section, DFAT (2017-2019) and Director, Strategy & Project Inception, Overseas Property Office, DFAT (2012-2013). Ms Johnston holds a Bachelor of Arts from the Australian National University (2004). She has two adult children and a partner who live in Australia.



Guest of Honor

Amb Mr. Manjeev Singh Puri
India's Former Ambassador to Nepal & Chair

India's Former Ambassador to Nepal & Chair India-Nepal Centre, PHDCCI

Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Chair of the India-Nepal Centre at PHDCCI, is a distinguished diplomat and climate policy expert. A career Indian Foreign Service officer (1982), he has served as India's Ambassador to the European Union, Belgium, Luxembourg, Nepal, and as Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN. His extensive postings include Germany, Cape Town, Muscat, Bangkok, and Caracas.

Specializing in sustainable development and climate change, he was India's lead negotiator at the UN on the Sustainable Development Goals and major climate conferences like COP15 in Copenhagen. He also played a pivotal role in India's participation in G8-G5 summits and the Major Economies Forum. With a BA (Hons) in Economics from St. Stephen's College, Delhi, and a Master's in Management, Puri is a Distinguished Fellow at TERI and a trusted voice on global policy and environmental diplomacy.



**Eminent Speaker** 

Mr. Kamlesh Jain ED & COO (International), Varun Beverages Ltd & Co-Chair, India-Nepal Centre, PHDCCI

Mr. Kamlesh Kumar Jain is the Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of Varun Beverages Limited. He previously served as the Chief Financial Officer and Whole-time Director until August 2019. With over 30 years of experience in corporate finance, business management, and governance, Mr. Jain has developed expertise in areas such as financial management, strategic planning, M&A, fund raising, taxation, risk management, and corporate affairs. He joined Varun Beverages in 1993 when it operated a single bottling plant, contributing significantly to the company's growth. Under his leadership, the company expanded to 26 state-of-the-art Pepsi bottling plants across India and abroad. A Fellow Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), Mr. Jain has been instrumental in shaping the company's financial and business strategy, fostering growth, and ensuring operational efficiency.



Welcome Address
Dr. Binod Atreya
Managing Director
BFIN

Dr. Binod Atreya is the Managing Director and CEO of the Banking Finance and Insurance Institute of Nepal Limited (BFIN) and serves on the Board of Citizens Bank International, Emerging Nepal Limited, and Care Ratings Nepal. He is an adjunct professor at Centurion University, India, and a member of the International Advisory Board at GIBS, Bangalore. With over 30 years of experience in banking, including CEO roles at Nepal Bank Limited and Emerging Nepal Limited, Dr. Atreya has expertise in institutional development, public management reform, and strategic planning. He has also worked with UNDP and is a recognized speaker at global banking and management conferences. A member of the Advisory Council of Insurance Times and an Advisory Member of Nepal's Confederation of Nepalese Industries, Dr. Atreya was honored with the 2023 "Spirit of VU Award" for his contributions to Nepal's financial sector.



Keynote Speaker

Mr. Guru Prasad Paudel Executive Director Nepal Rastra Bank

Mr. Guru Prasad Paudel is the Executive Director at Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB), where he has served since August 2002. Throughout his career, he has worked in various departments, including Foreign Exchange Management, Bank and Financial Institutions Regulations, Bank Supervision, and Payment Systems. Paudel has played a key role in policy-related tasks and contributed significantly to the merger and acquisition process during the early consolidation of banks and financial institutions in Nepal. As Executive Director, he led the Payment Systems Department for two years, a critical period for digital payment advancements in the country. Currently, he heads the Banks and Financial Institutions Regulation Department. Prior to joining NRB, Paudel served in the Civil Service of Nepal for five years. He holds an MPhil in Management and an MBA from Tribhuvan University, Nepal.







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#### SESSION THEME I: Showering People, Planet and Cooperation



Session Chair

Amb Mr. Manjeev Singh Puri India's Former Ambassador to Nepal & Chair India-Nepal Centre, PHDCCI

Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Chair of the India-Nepal Centre at PHDCCI, is a distinguished diplomat and climate policy expert. A career Indian Foreign Service officer (1982), he has served as India's Ambassador to the European Union, Belgium, Luxembourg, Nepal, and as Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN. His extensive postings include Germany, Cape Town, Muscat, Bangkok, and Caracas.

Specializing in sustainable development and climate change, he was India's lead negotiator at the UN on the Sustainable Development Goals and major climate conferences like COP15 in Copenhagen. He also played a pivotal role in India's participation in G8-G5 summits and the Major Economies Forum. With a BA (Hons) in Economics from St. Stephen's College, Delhi, and a Master's in Management, Puri is a Distinguished Fellow at TERI and a trusted voice on global policy and environmental diplomacy.



**Panelist** 

Dr. Subodh Sharma Professor of Environmental Science & Engineering School of Science, Kathmandu University

Prof. Subodh Sharma is a Professor of Environmental Science & Engineering at Kathmandu University and a Visiting Professor at the Department of Hydro and Renewable Energy, IITR. He holds a PhD from the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna. Prof. Sharma's research focuses on climate change in the Himalayas, biological assessment, hydrobiology, river ecology, WASH, and GHG emissions. With nearly 32 years of teaching, research, and administrative experience, he is an active member of the Freshwater Science Society, USA, and serves as Chair of the South Asia Chapter. Prof. Sharma has received the Education Excellence Contribution Award and a National Award for his contributions to conservation and watershed management. He has supervised 21 PhDs, 16 MScs, and 65 BSc/B.Tech students, publishing 64 national, 73 international journal articles, and authoring three books.



Panelist
Mr. Sharad Tegi Tuladhar

Chief Policy, E&S and Climate Project NMB Bank

Mr. Sharad Tegi Tuladhar is a seasoned banker with over 30 years of experience, recognized for pioneering Environmental and Social Management (ESM) in Nepal's banking sector. Currently serving as the Chief Policy, Environmental & Social and Climate Project at NMB Bank Limited, he has spearheaded transformative initiatives, including implementing the Environmental & Social Management System (ESMS) aligned with IFC Performance Standards and pioneering carbon footprint disclosure in Nepal. Sharad's leadership extends to global platforms like COP29 in Azerbaijan, where he represented Nepal in sustainability initiatives. Previously, as Chief Risk Officer at NMB, he strengthened the bank's risk framework and achieved ISO 27001:2013 Certification for Information Security. With expertise in Corporate Banking at leading institutions, he continues to drive sustainable finance, climate resilience, and robust ESG practices. Sharad's contributions exemplify dedication to fostering sustainable growth in Nepal's financial landscape.



**Panelist** 

Dr. Ajay Kumar Nayak Pro Vice Chancellor Centurion University of Technology and Management (CUTM)

Dr. Ajay Kumar Nayak is the Pro Vice Chancellor of Centurion University of Technology and Management, Odisha. With a distinguished career spanning over three decades, he has held pivotal roles in public administration, academia, and policy development. Dr. Nayak served as an Odisha Administrative Service officer from 1989 to 2024, contributing to higher education and skill development through key government positions, including Joint Secretary for Higher Education and Technical Education Departments.

An academic with a Ph.D. in Personnel Management and Industrial Relations, he has extensive experience in policy formulation, university governance, and research, notably on the impact of industrialization on tribal women. A passionate advocate for Odishi culture, Dr. Nayak leads heritage preservation initiatives and writes on cultural and social issues. His leadership reflects a commitment to education, rural development, and cultural heritage



**Panelist** 

Mr. Raja Ram Pote Shrestha National Professional Officer Environmental Health WHO Nepal

Mr. Raja Ram Pote Shrestha is the National Professional Officer at the World Health Organization (WHO) Country Office for Nepal, overseeing the Health Systems Strengthening (HSS) Programme. His responsibilities include climate change, air quality, chemical safety, and other environmental health issues. With a background in engineering, he has completed advanced courses in Environment Management and attended various trainings on Climate Change, Environmental Management Systems, ISO, and Pollution Prevention. With over 30 years of experience, Mr. Shrestha has worked with government, non-government, and international organizations on climate and health, water and sanitation, and environmental management. He has contributed to developing project proposals for bilateral and multilateral agencies and has been involved in the formulation and implementation of climate-resilient health systems. He actively contributes to Nepal's Climate Change Health National Adaptation Plan (H-NAP) in line with national commitments.



Panelist

Mr. Susil Dev Subedi

Director

Nepal Insurance Authority

Mr. Susil Dev Subedi serves as a Director of the Nepal Insurance Authority and the Chief Executive Officer of the Insurance Institute of Nepal. With decades of involvement in various academic institutions, he has established himself as a prominent figure in the field. Mr. Subedi is the author of numerous books and has published several research articles. Renowned as a dynamic speaker and a leading trainer in the insurance sector, he has dedicated nearly two decades to serving in various departments within the Nepal Insurance Authority. Additionally, he played a pivotal role as a key contributor to the development of the new Insurance Act, 2022, and has been actively involved in formulating numerous regulations issued by the Nepal Insurance Authority.

Panelist

Mr. John Argiro

CEO and Founder

Argiro Credit Platform

Mr. John is a visionary financial services leader with over three decades of experience in global banking. As the CEO and founder of Argiro, he designed and built one of the world's most sophisticated digital credit platforms, focusing on empowering banks, non-banks, and organizations with material counterparty credit risk exposure. With expertise in strategy, growth, product development, and engineering, John leads all aspects of the business. Before establishing Argiro, he worked with ANZ Bank in the US and Australia and in financial consulting at Deloitte and EY. A qualified Chartered Accountant, John also oversees Argiro's product and technology team, which includes experts in software engineering and business analysis across Australia, India, and the US. This team is known for its expertise in leading-edge technology (GCP, AWS, Snowflake) and delivering world-class credit technology solutions to global financial institutions.



**Panelist** 

Mr. Nour Taher Senior Credit Product Specialist, Credit & Risk Solutions S&P Global Market Intelligence

Nour is a Senior Product Specialist in the Credit & Risk Solutions Department at S&P Global Market Intelligence, covering Emerging Markets, based in Dubai, UAE.

He focuses on assisting multinational corporations and financial institutions improve their ESG and credit-related workflows, across a broad range of industries globally. Nour has over 10+ years of experience in developing complex ESG & credit-related solutions revolving around the intersection of ESG and credit risk, especially from a regulatory and compliance lens, including credit risk assessments, credit scoring models, climate analytics, and stress testing.

Nour, a CFA Charterholder, holds an MBA in finance from Syracuse University in New York.

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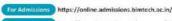
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#### SESSION THEME II: Innovation in Green Financing



Session Chair

Mr. Atul K Thakur

Secretary

PHDCCI, India Nepal Centre

Atul K Thakur is a Policy & Management Professional, Columnist, and Author specializing in economics and policy intersections, with a focus on South Asia. Currently serving as Secretary for multiple chapters of the India-Nepal Centre at PHDCCI, he is an alumnus of Banaras Hindu University and Pondicherry University. His career spans public policy, management consultancy, journalism, publishing, and think tanks. A prolific writer, he has authored and edited notable works, including India Now and in Transition (2017), India Since 1947 (2013), An Alternative Development Paradigm for Nepal (2021), and Kathmandu Chronicle: Reclaiming India-Nepal Relations (2024). His insights appear in prominent publications like The Hindu, The Times of India, and The Kathmandu Post. With expertise in public policy, macroeconomics, and sustainability, he contributes to shaping discourse in international affairs and regional development.



Panelist
Mr. Sushil Bhatta
Eminent Policymaker

Former CEO, Investment Board Nepal

Mr. Sushil Bhatta is a distinguished leader in Nepal's investment and development sectors with over 20 years of professional experience. As the Patron of the Nepalese Association of PPP Professionals and Practitioners (NAPPP), he champions sustainable development through public-private partnerships. During his tenure as CEO of Investment Board Nepal (IBN), he facilitated investments totaling NPR 697 billion (USD 5.2 billion) and spearheaded the development of hydroelectric and solar energy projects with a combined capacity of 3,311 MW. Recognized with the Prabal Janasewa Shree Award and the "CEO with HR Orientation" Award, Mr. Bhatta has contributed extensively to infrastructure, planning, and project management. An engineer and MBA graduate, he also teaches at Kathmandu University School of Management, combining academic and practical expertise to advance Nepal's economic growth and sustainable development.



**Panelist** 

Mr. Upendra Prasad Poudyal Chairman, Nabil Bank Limited President, Confederation of Banks and Financial Institutions of Nepal

Mr. Upendra Prasad Poudyal is the Chairman of the Board at Nabil Bank Limited, Nepal's first joint venture bank, and the President of the Confederation of Banks and Financial Institutions of Nepal. Since 2018, he has also been the Regional Representative for Asia Pacific at the Global Alliance for Banking on Values (GABV), promoting sustainable and ethical banking practices globally.

A former CEO of NMB Bank and President of the Nepal Bankers' Association, Poudyal has been instrumental in shaping Nepal's financial sector. His achievements have been recognized with the Prabal Janasewasri Medal, awarded by the President of Nepal for his significant contributions to banking and finance.



**Panelist** 

Mr. Anand (Vijay) Jha Vice President (Head of Government Engagement India and South Asia), Visa Inc.

Anand Jha is Vice President (Head of Government Engagement for Visa in India and South Asia), leading strategic interactions with government bodies, regulatory authorities, and stakeholders across the region. Previously, he was Managing Director of Government Relations at Blackstone for India and South Asia and held leadership roles at Heineken and Walmart India. With nearly two decades in public service, Anand served in various key roles within the Government of India, including Additional Director General at the Competition Commission of India. He holds an LLM in International Trade and Commercial Laws from Durham University, multiple degrees from the University of Delhi, and a professional certification from Oxford's Said Business School. Currently, he chairs the Fintech Council at ASSOCHAM, leveraging his expertise in governance, trade, and regulatory frameworks to drive impactful policy and business engagements in the region.



Panelist
Mr. Deepak Rauniar
Founder CEO
Oorja World

Mr. Deepak Rauniar is a seasoned leader with over 30 years of experience in technology, finance, and energy. He has held prominent roles as CEO, Managing Director, and board member in major public sector organizations, overseeing national retirement funds, large hydropower investments, and mega energy projects in Nepal. Through Oorja World, a pioneering digital marketplace recognized by Amazon Web Services, Mr. Rauniar has advanced global clean energy finance. An advocate for sustainability and net-zero initiatives, his contributions span South Asia policy development, with significant impact in Nepal, India, and the US. He has published extensively in scientific and policy forums and is a TED speaker, exemplifying thought leadership. With dual Master's degrees in Business Administration and Computing, Mr. Rauniar bridges business, technology, and finance, driving transformative solutions for sustainable development across sectors.





समृद्ध नेपालको लागि

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#### SESSION THEME III: Paradigm Shift in Sustainable Financing



Session Chair

Mr. Anil Keshary Shah Chairperson Lead Nepal Inc.

Mr. Anil Shah is the Founder of Lead Nepal Inc. and a leadership mentor with over 31 years of experience in banking. He served as the CEO of Nabil Bank for 17 years, becoming its first Nepali CEO, and played a pivotal role in establishing the bank as the nation's leading financial institution. He later founded and led Mega Bank with the vision of serving all strata of Nepali society. Returning to Nabil Bank as CEO, Mr. Shah reenergized the brand and reinforced its leadership in the industry. Now, he focuses on mentoring youth, companies, political parties, and organizations, promoting value-based leadership. As Head of the Training & Development Department of the Rastriya Swatantra Party, he works to craft future leaders for Nepal. Known for his vision, communication, and leadership, Mr. Shah is an iconic figure in Nepal.



**Panelist** 

Senator h.c. Honorary Consul Prof. Dr. Georg Bouche MBA IU International University

Georg Bouché is the founder of Bouché & Jakob, a marketing and strategy consultancy based in Berlin. With extensive international experience, he has lived and worked in the USA, China, Spain, Poland, and other countries. Georg has held roles such as Business Development Manager for a private equity firm in Spain and International Sales Manager at the Katz Group, a global leader in beer mats. He also served as International Sales Director at Proline Systems GmbH. Georg's expertise includes internationalization, marketing, business development, and strategic sales. He is a professor at IU International University in Germany and a visiting professor at universities in Europe, Asia, and Latin America. He holds an MBA and a doctorate from Liverpool John Moores University.



Panelist

Mr. Kushal Gurung,

President

Renewable Energy Confederation of Nepal (RECON)

Kushal Gurung is a clean-tech professional. He is the Founder CEO of WindPower Nepal, that provides low carbon solutions. He is also a co-founder of Gandaki Urja, that converts organic waste to compressed biogas and organic fertilizer. And he has recently started an agri-tech venture, Muttha Agro- a hydroponics vertical farm.

Kushal is also a Board Member of Alternative Energy Promotion Center (AEPC), under Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation and President of Renewable Energy Confederation of Nepal (RECON), an umbrella organisation of associations working in renewable energy sector in Nepal. He holds MSc in Carbon Management from the University of Edinburgh, UK and MSc in Environmental Science from the Tribhuvan University.



Panelist

Ms. Pujan Dhungel (Adhikari)

Director

Nepal Insurance Authority

Ms. Pujan Dhungel Adhikari is an experienced insurance professional with over 17 years of service at the Nepal Insurance Authority. Specializing in product development, actuarial valuation, insurance tariff, microinsurance, and agriculture insurance, she has played a key role in advancing the insurance sector in Nepal. Her leadership and expertise have contributed to the development of a more credible and stable insurance market, ensuring consumer protection and regulatory excellence. Ms. Adhikari's work has focused on fostering innovation and improving regulatory practices within the industry. In addition to her professional accomplishments, she enjoys music, reading, and traveling, which inspire her creativity and broadens her perspective. Through her dedication and diverse interests, Ms. Adhikari continues to make significant contributions to Nepal's insurance landscape.





Ms. Trupti Mhatre General Manager India Exim Bank

Ms. Trupti Mhatre is a Chartered Accountant with a bachelor's degree in commerce and over two decades of experience at Exim Bank, which she joined in 2003. She has managed key functions, including project and trade finance, buyer's credit, lines of credit, treasury, loan operations, and resource mobilization in domestic and international markets. Currently leading the Bank's Trade Facilitation Group, she oversees the Trade Assistance Programme to support India's trade in high-risk and untapped markets. Previously, she played a pivotal role in establishing the Bank's ESG framework and executing its inaugural Sustainability Bond in 2023. Ms. Mhatre has cultivated strategic relationships with global financial institutions and multilateral agencies, excelling in balance sheet management and sovereign borrower relations. Beyond her professional achievements, she enjoys singing, music, and traveling.



**Panelist** 

Dr. Meena Bhatia
Professor (Accounting and Finance), Dean (Executive Education),
Chairperson (Accreditation and Rankings)
Birla Institute of Management Technology (BIMTECH)

Dr. Meena Bhatia is an accomplished academic and corporate professional with over 27 years of expertise in financial accounting, corporate finance, securities analysis, and portfolio management. Currently serving as Dean (Executive Education) at BIMTECH, she leads the Centre for Management Development and oversees online education, accreditations, and rankings. Previously, Dr. Bhatia held leadership roles, including Director at IILM Graduate School of Management and Dean for the University of Bradford's India program. Her research focuses on financial markets, disclosures, and reporting, with presentations at prestigious institutions like Harvard University and IIMs. Dr. Bhatia holds a PhD in Finance, along with qualifications as an FCMA, CFA, and MBA. She is a merit holder from Delhi University and the Institute of Cost Accountants of India, and is actively involved in management training and consultancy for both private and public sector enterprises.





Mr. Nawa Raj Dhakal Executive Director Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC) Government of Nepal

Mr. Nawa Raj Dhakal is the Executive Director of Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC), Government of Nepal's focal agency on renewable energy and energy efficiency, under the purview of Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation (MoEWRI). He has over two decades of experience in renewable energy, energy efficiency and climate finance across the dimensions of policy and strategy formulation, resource mobilization, program planning, implementation, organization development and capacity enhancement. He has successfully led AEPC's accreditation as the Direct Access Entity to Green Climate Fund and approval of projects on Clean Cooking Solutions and GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support.



<u>Panelist</u>

Mr. Hari Gopal Risal Assistant Professor Kathmandu University (KU)

Mr. Hari Gopal Risal is an Assistant Professor at Kathmandu University and a PhD Scholar in Green and Sustainable Finance at Strathclyde University, UK, with the John Anderson Research Award. He holds an M.Phil. from KU, a Masters in Business from TU, and an FDP from IIM Ahmedabad. A seasoned researcher, Mr. Risal has published extensively in international journals, focusing on green finance and impact reporting. He has held various leadership roles, including Coordinator of MBA programs at multiple institutions. Additionally, Mr. Risal serves as an Independent Director at Team Venture's Specialized Investment Fund and as an editorial board member for the SN Business and Economics journal. His consulting expertise spans sustainability strategy support for Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks and research for the Scottish Government's Investor Panel. He has also provided training and consulting to multiple organizations in Nepal, contributing to various development projects.



**Panelist** 

Mr. Ram Bahadur Yadav Chief Executive Officer National Laghubitta Bittiya Sanstha Limited President Nepal Microfinance Bankers Association-NMBA

Mr. Ram Bahadur Yadav is the President of the Nepal Microfinance Bankers' Association (NMBA) and the CEO of National Laghubitta Bittiya Sanstha Ltd., a leading microfinance institution in Nepal. With vast experience in the financial sector, he has been instrumental in promoting financial inclusion, especially for marginalized communities, women, and low-income populations. Under his leadership, National Laghubitta Bittiya Sanstha Ltd. has grown significantly, offering tailored financial services to rural areas. As NMBA President, he advocates for regulatory reforms and the development of the microfinance sector in Nepal. Mr. Yadav is committed to sustainable development, social impact, and improving access to financial resources for underserved communities, earning him recognition as a key figure in Nepal's microfinance landscape.









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# **NEPAL BFSI SUMMIT 2024**

# PROGRAM AGENDA

PROGRAM DETAILS	INAUGURAL SESSION <u>SESSION THEME</u> : Enhancing Cooperation in Sustainable Finance	TIME 09:00 AM-10:00AM	
	Registration and Tea/Coffee/Cookies	08:30 AM-09:00 AM	
Invitation to the Dias	Master of Ceremony: Ms. Rakshya Bhetuwal & Ms. Rajina Khadka		
	National Anthem		
Welcome Address	Dr. Binod Atreya, Managing Director, BFIN	09:00 AM-09:05 AM	
Inauguration of the Summit by Lighting the Lamp Chief Guest			
Theme Address By "Guest of Honor"	Amb Mr. Manjeev Singh Puri Chair, India-Nepal Centre, PHDCCI, Former Ambassador of India to Nepal	09:05AM-09:10 AM	
Special Address By "Guests of Honor"	<ul> <li>Her Excellency Ambassador Leann Johnson         Ambassador of Australia to Nepal</li> <li>His Excellency Ambassador Naveen         Srivastava         Ambassador of India to Nepal</li> <li>Dr. Ram Prasad Ghimire         Finance Secretary, Ministry of Finance,         Government of Nepal</li> </ul>	09:10 AM-9:50 AM	
Keynote Address by "Chief Guest"	Hon. Ain Bahadur Shahi Thakuri Minister for Forests and Environment, Government of Nepal	09:50AM-10:00 AM	
Concluding Remarks & Vote of Thanks	Mr. Atul K Thakur, Secretary, India-Nepal Centre, PHDCCI	10:00 AM-10:05AM	
Felicitations	Dr. Binod Atreya, Managing Director, BFIN	10:05 AM-10:10 AM	
	Group Photograph NETWORKING TEA BREAK	10:10 AM-10:40 AM	

# **Technical Sessions**

SESSIONS	SUBJECT/TOPICS	TIME
Keynote Speaker	Mr. Guru Prasad Paudel, Executive Director, Nepal	10:40 AM-10:50
	Rastra Bank	AM
	(Regulatory measures to Climate Financing and Nepal	
	Green Finance Taxonomy)	
PANEL	SESSION THEME:	10:50 AM - 12:20
DISCUSSION-I	Showering People, Planet and Cooperation	PM
Session Chair	Former Ambassador Mr. Manjeev Singh Puri Chair, India-Nepal Centre, PHDCCI, Former Ambassador of India to Nepal, Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Union; Ambassador/Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations; India's Lead Climate Change Negotiator)	

D 11 /	D C L W C L D C C D C L L	(# 3 #: 4 E E 1
Panelists	Dr. Subodh Sharma, Professor of Environmental	(7 Minutes for Each
	Science & Engineering, School of Science,	Panelist)
	Kathmandu University	
	(Responding and adapting to life in a Changing	
	Climate)	
	Mr. Sharad Tegi Tuladhar, Chief Policy, E&S and	
	Climate Project, NMB Bank	
	(Collaborative approach in the South Asian region to	
	address the need of mitigation and adaptation to the	
	risks due to climate change)	
	Dr. Ajay Kumar Nayak, Pro Vice Chancellor,	
	Centurion University of Technology and	
	Management (CUTM)	
	(Bridging Academia and Industry: CUTM's Role in	
	Promoting Green Technologies)	
	Mr. Raja Ram Pote Shrestha, National	
	Professional Officer, Environmental Health, WHO Nepal	
	(Global Perspective on Climate Change, its Impacts	
	in the Health Sector and Climate Finance	
	Opportunities)	
	Mr. Susil Dev Subedi, Director, Nepal Insurance	
	Authority	
	(Opportunity and threats of climate change in the	
	insurance sector)	
	Mr. John Argiro, CEO and Founder, Argiro Credit	
	Platform	
	Mr. Nour Taher, Senior Credit Product Specialist	
	Credit & Risk Solutions, S&P Global Market	
	Intelligence	
	(The Convergence of Climate & Credit Risk: A New	
	Era for Financial Decision-making)	
	Q&A Session (30 MINUTES)	
	Felicitation & Group Photograph	
	LUNCH	12:20 PM - 01:15 PM
PANEL	SESSION THEME:	01:15 PM - 02:45
DISCUSSION-II	Innovation in Green Financing	PM
Session Chair	Mr. Atul K Thakur, Secretary, India-Nepal Centre,	(7.10)
Panelists	PHDCCI	(7 Minutes for Each Panelist)
	Mr. Sushil Bhatta, Eminent Policymaker &	
	Former CEO, Investment Board Nepal	
	(Thoughts, Availability and Prospects on Green	
	Financing/Investment in Nepal)	
	Mr. Upendra Prasad Poudyal, Chairman, Nabil	
	Bank Limited & President, Confederation of Banks	
	and Financial Institutions of Nepal	
	(Climate Change Transition - what it means for the	

	Financial Sector)	
	Mr. Deepak Shrestha, Vice President, Nepal	
	Chamber of Commerce	
	(NCC's Take on the State of Economy in Nepal: Role of BFSISector)	
	,	
	Mr. Anand Jha, Vice President (Head of  Covernment Engagement, India & South Asia)	
	Government Engagement: India & South Asia), Visa Inc.	
	(Fintech & Green Financing: A Case of South Asia)	
	Mr. Deepak Rauniar, Founder, Oorja World	
	and Former CEO, Employees Provident Fund,	
	Nepal	
	(Nepal's plan to achieve a Net-Zero Emission	
	target by 2045)	
	Mr. Hari Gopal Risal, Assistant Professor,	
	Kathmandu University (KU)	
	(Green Financing and Investment: Opportunities to Nepal)	
	Mr. Uttam Bhlon Lama, Executive Member and	
	Chairperson of Banking and Insurance Committee	
	at NICCI	
	Q&A Session (30 MINUTES)	
	Felicitation & Group Photograph	02 45 DM 02 15
	NETWORKING TEA BREAK	02:45 PM -03:15 PM
PANEL	SESSION THEME:	03:15 PM- 04:45
PANEL DISCUSSION-III	SESSION THEME: Paradigm Shift in Sustainable Financing	
		03:15 PM- 04:45
DISCUSSION-III Session Chair	Paradigm Shift in Sustainable Financing Mr. Anil Keshary Shah, Chairperson, Lead Nepal Inc.	03:15 PM- 04:45
DISCUSSION-III	Paradigm Shift in Sustainable Financing Mr. Anil Keshary Shah, Chairperson, Lead Nepal Inc.  • Senator h.c. Honorary Consul, Prof. Dr. Georg	03:15 PM- 04:45 PM
DISCUSSION-III Session Chair	Paradigm Shift in Sustainable Financing Mr. Anil Keshary Shah, Chairperson, Lead Nepal Inc.  Senator h.c. Honorary Consul, Prof. Dr. Georg Bouche MBA, IU International University	03:15 PM- 04:45 PM (7 Minutes for
DISCUSSION-III Session Chair	Paradigm Shift in Sustainable Financing Mr. Anil Keshary Shah, Chairperson, Lead Nepal Inc.  • Senator h.c. Honorary Consul, Prof. Dr. Georg Bouche MBA, IU International University (Strategies to mitigate, adapt and finance the climate	03:15 PM- 04:45 PM (7 Minutes for
DISCUSSION-III Session Chair	Paradigm Shift in Sustainable Financing Mr. Anil Keshary Shah, Chairperson, Lead Nepal Inc.  Senator h.c. Honorary Consul, Prof. Dr. Georg Bouche MBA, IU International University	03:15 PM- 04:45 PM (7 Minutes for
DISCUSSION-III Session Chair	Paradigm Shift in Sustainable Financing Mr. Anil Keshary Shah, Chairperson, Lead Nepal Inc.  Senator h.c. Honorary Consul, Prof. Dr. Georg Bouche MBA, IU International University (Strategies to mitigate, adapt and finance the climate change - A European Approach)  Mr. Kushal Gurung, President, Renewable Energy Confederation of Nepal	03:15 PM- 04:45 PM (7 Minutes for
DISCUSSION-III Session Chair	Paradigm Shift in Sustainable Financing Mr. Anil Keshary Shah, Chairperson, Lead Nepal Inc.  Senator h.c. Honorary Consul, Prof. Dr. Georg Bouche MBA, IU International University (Strategies to mitigate, adapt and finance the climate change - A European Approach)  Mr. Kushal Gurung, President, Renewable Energy Confederation of Nepal (Role of Renewable Energy in Building Sustainable)	03:15 PM- 04:45 PM (7 Minutes for
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DISCUSSION-III Session Chair	<ul> <li>Paradigm Shift in Sustainable Financing</li> <li>Mr. Anil Keshary Shah, Chairperson, Lead Nepal Inc.</li> <li>Senator h.c. Honorary Consul, Prof. Dr. Georg Bouche MBA, IU International University (Strategies to mitigate, adapt and finance the climate change - A European Approach)</li> <li>Mr. Kushal Gurung, President, Renewable Energy Confederation of Nepal (Role of Renewable Energy in Building Sustainable and Inclusive Financial Ecosystems)</li> <li>Ms. Pujan Dhungel (Adhikari), Director, Nepal Insurance Authority (Climate Risk Insurance: Protecting the impacts from climate change risk)</li> <li>Ms. Trupti Mhatre, General Manager, India Exim Bank,</li> </ul>	03:15 PM- 04:45 PM (7 Minutes for
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	Mr. Nawa Raj Dhakal, Executive Director, Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC), Government of Nepal (From Strategy to Action: Implementing Energy Efficiency Projects in Nepal)  Mr. Hari Gopal Risal, Assistant Professor, Kathmandu University (KU) (Green Financing and Investment: Opportunities to Nepal)  Mr. Ram Bahadur Yadav, Chief Executive Officer, National Laghubitta Bittiya Sanstha Ltd., President, Nepal Microfinance Bankers Association (Building Climate-Resilient Microfinance Systems: Strategies for Long-Term Sustainability)	
	Q&A Session (30 MINUTES)	
Felicitation & Group Photograph		
	CLOSING CEREMONY	
Special Address by "Guest of Honor"	Dr. Prakash Kumar Shrestha Member, National Planning Commission	05:00 PM-05:10 PM
Felicitations & Token of Love Handover	Dr. Binod Atreya, Managing Director, BFIN	05:10 PM-05:25 PM
Vote of Thanks	Mr. Sujan Subedi, Deputy CEO, BFIN	05:25 PM- 05:30 PM
	Reception	05:30 PM Onwards



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#### **GLIMPSES NEPAL BFSI SUMMIT 2023**

#### A Collaborative Milestone between BFIN and PHDCCI

The second edition of the Nepal BFSI Summit, held on December 22, 2023, at Hotel Radisson, Kathmandu, was a collaboration between the Banking, Finance, and Insurance Institute of Nepal (BFIN) and the India-Nepal Centre of PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI). Focused on banking innovations and strengthening India-Nepal economic ties, the summit attracted over 200 delegates from various sectors, with support from 27 Nepalese institutions.

The summit commenced with an auspicious inauguration, graced by the Chief Guest, Honorable Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat, Finance Minister of Nepal, and attended by distinguished dignitaries. Additional notable guests included Mr. Ram Kumar Phuyal, Member of the National Planning Commission; Mr. Maha Prasad Adhikari, Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank; Honorable Naveen Srivastava, Ambassador of India to Nepal; and Mr. Manjeev Singh Puri, India's Former Ambassador to Nepal and Chair of India-Nepal Centre, PHDCCI. Their presence underscored the summit's significance and enriched the discussions.

The program began with a Welcome Address by Dr. Binod Atreya, MD of BFIN, followed by keynote speeches from dignitaries. A key highlight was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between BFIN and Universal AI University, India. Dr. Ranjeet Mehta, Executive Director of PHDCCI, delivered the Vote of Thanks, and the Chief Guest addressed the audience.

In a time when Nepal's economy faces critical challenges—such as liquidity issues, declining trade, low employment in formal sectors, and high migration—the summit offered a unique policy platform for strategizing economic recovery. The BFSI sector was seen as a key force multiplier in driving economic growth in the region.

Prominent international and national speakers from shared insights across three insightful technical sessions; addressed pressing issues, such as innovative financing, regional economic cooperation, and the transformative opportunities and challenges in HR and digital banking.

The extensive media coverage, spanning traditional print, online publications, and social media, amplified the summit's impact globally. Overall, the event facilitated meaningful discussions and knowledge exchange, laying the groundwork for strengthened regional ties and collaborative initiatives in the BFSI sector.









THE RISING NEPAL

#### Nepal-India financial integration is crucial due to largest trading partner: Finance Minister Mahat



Strange Fork Street. A A A

By Ajay Chhetri, Kathmandu, Dec 22: Minister for Finance (MoF) Dr Prakash Sharon Mahat has sold that financial integration among the countries at the regional level is

While speaking at Nepal BFSI Summit 2023, at Kathmandu, Dr Mahat said that cooperation between India and Nepal is specifically vital as India is the largest trading partner of Negal





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#### Notes

#### Notes

#### **ABOUT BFIN**

Banking, Finance and Insurance Institute of Nepal Limited (BFIN) was established under Company Act 2063 on August 14, 2018 (2075 Shrawan 29). The main objectives of this Institute are to offer training, workshop and seminar and enhance the knowledge, skills and capabilities of the employees of financial sector and other stakeholders, conduct research and consulting to strengthen the financial sector, offer specific accredited courses and creating data bank for the use of banking community and help strengthen the financial systems in Nepal.

#### ABOUT PHDCCI & ITS INDIA-NEPAL CENTRE

PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI), established in 1905, is a proactive and dynamic National Apex Chamber, working at the policy and grass-root level across India and developing strong national and international linkages. PHDCCI has been closely working with the Government of Nepal (including the Embassies on both sides) and the leading industry bodies of Nepal. PHDCCI's India-Nepal Centre promotes two-way bilateral economic and business relations between India and Nepal. India-Nepal Centre (INC) was launched in the year 2018 with a key aim to promote two-way bilateral economic and business relations between India and Nepal. INC facilitates the investors from India to invest in Nepal and from investors in Nepal to invest in India in order to explore the trade and investment opportunities and to participate in the economic development of both the countries.

Through policy advocacy and dialogue, INC relentlessly works for deeper bilateral economic cooperation to ensure the accelerating inclusive economic development of Nepal by focusing on innovative approaches and partnership in priority sectors identified by the two countries for mutual cooperation, such as Energy, Infrastructure, Tourism, Agriculture & Food Processing, Healthcare, Education, New Technology, Services, Skill Development & Start-ups.





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