

The Student Workshop Proceedings on

PEACE-BUILDING IN NEPAL

January 2009, Kathmandu, Nepal



Organizers

South Asia Regional Coordination Office of Swiss NCCR
(North-South), Kathmandu
Human and Natural Resources Studies Center, Kathmandu
University, and
Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research
(HPCR), School of Public Health, Harvard University

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OPENING WORDS

From the homeland to abroad discussions, peace building in Nepal is now a widely debated topic. As this country is in the phase of socioeconomic as well as political transition, some institutional as well as infrastructural changes are likely to take place in the near future. Furthermore, researching upon peace has been a very interdisciplinary job this day. So, the role of science also cannot be negated in the transformation of conflict-ridden settings. Involved in the issues incorporating health, peace, transformation, and development, the three organizers of this program, viz. Harvard-HPCR, NCCR (North-South), and KU-HNRSC, would like to express immense pleasure in hosting such a program entitled 'Peace Building in Nepal'. Basically, the main objective of the program was to facilitate the learning process of the students, by the help of their exchange, interaction, and inter-cooperation. Throughout the program, it was expected that the students could promote the co-learning as they range from the two different corners of this globe. We have the hope that this program has facilitated all of the participants in getting a new sight of analytical knowledge through group participation.

This proceedings paper is prepared so as to detail, delineate and describe the issues raised during the program period. It is also hoped that this paper will provide a brief overview on the current peace building process in Nepal. Simultaneously, it has endeavored to excavate the key opportunities and challenges present in the scene around us. Knotting the words, we are serenely grateful to all of the contributors.

With thanks,
Dr. Bishnu Raj Upreti
South Asia Regional Coordinator
Swiss NCCR (North-South)

PROMISING INITIATIVE

In January 2009, fifteen students from the Harvard University School of Public Health were afforded the unique opportunity to explore the challenges and successes of peace-building as part of a three week Nepal Field Study. Central to this course was the exchange of knowledge, experience, and perspectives. The 'Peace Building in Nepal' workshop, co-hosted with NCCR (North-South) and Kathmandu University, provided an opportunity for cross-cultural dialogue, not only to facilitate an understanding of the key issues facing the 'New Nepal', but also to articulate the opportunities and explore the specific role of youth in this process. This rich and informative dialogue demonstrated the vibrant future that awaits Nepal, and the range of talented young people, both international and local, empowered to support this transformative process. We express our sincere appreciation for the warm welcome we received, and special thanks to the faculties and professor of Kathmandu University and NCCR (North-South) for their provocative analysis and expert commentary; and to the students for their thoughtful insights and willingness to engage.

Sincerely,
Mr. Claude Bruderlein
Director
Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research (HPCR)
Harvard University School of Public Health

ORGANIZATIONAL INTRODUCTION

Harvard-HPCR

The Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research at Harvard University (HPCR) is a research and policy program based at the Harvard School of Public Health in Cambridge, Massachusetts. This Program was established in 2000 through the common efforts of Harvard University, the United Nations, and the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.

The main goal of the Program is to foster the development of professional and innovative approaches to conflict prevention, conflict management, and peace building among governments and international agencies. To achieve this goal, the Program offers original and dynamic research processes, policy tools, training opportunities, and advisory services to international organizations, governments and non-governmental actors engaged in conflict situations. It focuses on the protection of vulnerable groups, the development of humanitarian law, the promotion of human security strategies, and the role of information technology in emergency response.

Swiss-NCCR (North-South)

The Swiss National Centre of Competence in Research (NCCR) North-South works under the slogan "Research Partnership for Mitigating Syndromes of Global Change". Implemented by the Swiss National Science Foundation, it was created based on the understanding that development, research and cooperation are of primary concern to Switzerland. It has created a worldwide research network including seven partner institutions in Switzerland and some 160 universities, research institutes and development organizations in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Europe. Approximately 350 researchers worldwide contribute to the activities of NCCR (North-South). Research for sustainable

development focuses on four different thematic areas: (1) Governance and Conflict, (2) Livelihoods and Globalization, (3) Health and Sanitation and (4) Resources and Sustainability.

The South Asia Coordination Center of NCCR (North-South) is also involved in a training program for master's students, PhD candidates, and post-doctoral researchers. This program provides basic theoretical and methodological training to the university students and researchers. KU-HNRSC is one of its research partners.

KU-HNRSC

Kathmandu University (KU) is an autonomous, not-for-profit, non-government, public institution created through private initiation. It is an institution for higher learning dedicated to maintaining a high standard of academic excellence. The Human and Natural Resources Studies Center (HNRSC) at this university is the center for the first interdisciplinary graduate degree course (Master's and PhD) in Nepal. It comprises academic courses and basics as well as applied research, thus providing students with substantial interdisciplinary knowledge and understanding in the field of human and natural resources studies.

KU-HNRSC emphasizes studies about the social dimensions of human and natural resources, as well as conflict management. The program promotes research of an action and people-oriented nature rather than a purely academic exercise. By analyzing and addressing real situations, it facilitates the utilization of the results rather than importing views and visions from previous studies. The KU-HNRSC's main focus is on enhancing professionalism and creative leadership.



PROGRAM SCHEDULE

PEACE BUILDING IN NEPAL

Date: Sunday, 11 January 2009

Venue: Summit Hotel, Kupondol, Kathmandu

Organizers: Harvard-HPCR, KU-HNRSC, NCCR (North-South)

| SESSION NUMBER | SECTION | SUBJECT | TIME |
|----------------|---|--|---------|
| 1 | Introduction | Welcome Mr. Claude Bruderlein and Dr. BR Upreti Overview of Institutions NCCR and Harvard Introduction of Participants Research interests, affiliation, and nationality Framing of the workshop Agenda, approach and objectives | 1:30 pm |
| 2 | Panel Discussion Role of research and academia in the peace processes | Ms. Suneeta Kaimal, Moderator Dr. BR Upreti Dr. KN Pyakuryal Mr. Claude Bruderlein | 2:00 pm |
| 3 | Break-out sessions | Breakout session into small groups (each group comprising students from both organizations) with the aim of promoting group discussion on a designated topic related to Nepal's peace building process. | 3:00 pm |
| 4 | Presentation of group discussions | One KU-NCCR/one Harvard representative from each group | 4:15 pm |
| 5 | Wrap-up | Substantive review of discussion Mr. Claude Bruderlein Closing Dr. SR Sharma | 5:15 pm |
| 6 | Reception | Summit Hotel, Kathmandu | 5:30 pm |



INAUGURAL SESSION

The Beginning

Harvard HPCR, NCCR (North-South), and KU-HNRSC had organized a student workshop on 'Peace Building in Nepal' on January 11, 2009 at the Summit Hotel, Kupondol, Kathmandu. This synoptic proceeding imparts information, incorporating the views expressed and discussions presented during the stay of the program.

The program commenced with the inviting words of welcome by the workshop moderator Ms. Suneeta Kaimal, HPCR's Peace Building Initiative Program coordinator and co-instructor of the Nepal Field Study course at Harvard University. The panelists were Mr. Claude Bruderlein from Harvard University, Prof. Dr. Kailash Nath Pyakuryal and Dr. Bishnu Raj Upreti from South Asia Coordination Office, NCCR (North-South) and Dr. Sagar Raj Sharma from KU-HNRSC. Following the commencement of the workshop, Ms. Kaimal invited Mr. Bruderlein to deliver his inaugural words of welcome to the participants.

Words of Welcome

-Mr. Claude Bruderlein
Director, Harvard-HPCR

Offering his inaugural welcome speech on the behalf of the organizers, Mr. Bruderlein expressed his immense pleasure for being a part of the very program. He opined that the program was bridging students from two very different countries. He also hoped that the workshop was going to serve and enhance the education of the students and scholars in a very broad way and stressed its importance in terms of a global exchange of views and ideas. Feeling as a privileged one to be working with Nepali students and scholars, he thanked the all participants for joining the program.



PANEL DISCUSSION

As the very first sentence of his speech, Dr. Upreti expressed his warm welcome on the behalf of KU and NCCR. He introduced the Nepali delegates to the workshop participants. In addition, he hoped that the program would be



very fruitful in the sense that it was going to serve as a platform for the sharing of experiences of diverse students and scholars. His

-Dr. Bishnu Raj Upreti
South Asia Regional Coordinator
NCCR (North-South)

words had the expectations that the program might help all of the participants in terms of gaining information and knowledge from their diverse different socio-political backgrounds.

At the beginning, Dr. Upreti elaborated on the areas of interest of NCCR (North-South). He discussed the livelihood-realities and environmental conditions of Nepal and its context in the world. Conflict and insecurity have become prime issues in recent studies of Nepal and the issue of social exclusion is hotly debated here. The allocation of resources was also highly affected by the decade-long armed conflict, along with the tourism industry. As a result of this, small arms and violence proliferated. In the past, social research on the issue of this country counted on visiting scholars from different parts of the globe. But in the course of time, this scene has changed. Currently, there are numerous Nepalese scholars with strong aptitude and a solid foundation in social science.

The political ups and downs in Nepal are also note-worthy. After the king usurped the power of the country, he declared a state of emergency. The globally popular uprising in Nepal acted as the very window of negotiation to end the existing armed conflict. It reinstated the dissolved parliament and paved an avenue for the

Constituent Assembly (CA) election in 2008. This process successfully dethroned the centuries-old monarchy in Nepal.

Yet, the institutional irresponsibility and power-sharing tussle among the parties have obstructed the peace building process. Nepal has difficult days ahead to bring into operation the issues like transitional justice and human security. Several challenges also remain in translating the peace agreement into practice. Frustration is on the rise, with the hope of the people for immediate change in all aspects. As a result, the contribution of the young PhD scholars to the political system and the anticipation by the people are praise-worthy.



Due to an unequal balance of different groups, various problems are currently on the rise. Without conflict, there is no opportunity for change. Some of the scholars opine that conflict is pathogenic. Actually, conflict does not create a problem.



Rather, it is essential for peace and harmony to be established. We outright negate the recurring of conflict, sometimes especially

-Prof. Dr. Kailash Nath Pyakuryal
South Asia Coordination Office
NCCR (North-South)

associated with territorial issues and power struggles. In order to understand the perpetuation of conflict, research should instead focus on why these kinds of conflict consistently erupt. Substantive root causes of conflict ought to be explored in order to obtain sustainable peace.

He also discussed the problems faced by the researchers during Nepal's adverse political situation. The connection of researchers to big political power-houses has rendered a serious problem in knowing whether the research is genuine or not. Such researchers are usually appointed to vital posts in development sectors after performing research on behalf of these power-houses. Almost all

of these research initiatives are found to be biased to an extreme degree, due to their conflict of interest, as they pursue the advancement of their own career and agendas. In contrast to this existing situation, a long-term engagement in research, which is unattached to career advancement, is required in order to enable peace building to flourish. Currently in Nepal, most of the research is limited to academic one. Only few policy-oriented research studies have been undertaken. Here in Nepal, academics are appointed for research activities only when there are specific problems to be examined. As a result, individual research activities are rarely taken on.



There are currently various types of scholarship prevailing in the peace process. Especially during the time of the Cold War, the peace process was at its height of importance. There were different definitions of the determinants of power and



security balance. When the Cold War ended in the early 1990s, there were appeals to further engage in peace research. At that time, novel dimensions of science were attached with peace building. Peace was a social as well as a political objective in global literature. It was a mental engine of change that mobilized broader research and political efforts.

-Mr. Claude Bruderlein
Director, Harvard-HPCR

Peace building involves the application of methodologies for evaluation, assessment, and comparative analysis. Harvard university research has merged Public Health in its studies of conflict. Health is an outcome of human behavior. So bringing science into politics is a must so as to incorporate health policy into humanitarian issues. The research in Sri-Lanka, Gaza, and Indonesia are the practical instances in this regard. Peace is not a matter of objective balance whereas science is related to the

objectivity of truth and justice, natural resources, livelihood and gender policy. The challenge in science is to maintain objectivity. But peace deals with the subjective perception of security. Through the fulfillment of health needs, we can find practical solutions for the conflict-ridden settings. Public health addresses the relationship between science and policy. Health can be considered as a political output, and one of the most fundamental aspects of human welfare. Science can contribute to designate priorities, evaluate policies, and improve mechanisms of accountability. To tackle the challenges inherent in the issues like migration, climate change, and globalization, science should be at the core of every solution in the paradigms of the nations these days. Researchers, therefore, should be astute and they should work to enhance peace among conflicting parties.



FLOOR DISCUSSIONS

After the speech of Mr. Bruderlein, the moderator of the program, Ms. Suneeta Kaimal shortly recapped the lectures of the panelists. Then the program transitioned into the Q & A session.

Safal Ghimire from KU raised a curiosity to Mr. Bruderlein. He said that there was an ample and a fine detail on the role of science in peace building. But how the objective reality of science can be utilized in the treatment of the subjective pains caused by conflict?

In answering to this curiosity, **Mr. Bruderlein** told the participants that problems in Public Health have been one of the major nuisances in war-torn settings. People feel relieved when their health needs are appropriately addressed. Human welfare is not simply an objective reality. So, neutrality in peace building can be maintained not as an outcome but as a method. Although the pain caused by the experience of the insurgency can not be erased by health measures, such measures can be very helpful and useful means of establishing peace. Science should be used to boost these processes. There was a similar experience while Harvard HPCR was working in Gaza.

Prof. Dr. Pyakuryal expressed his interest in the research performed by Harvard-HPCR in Gaza. In addition to this, he uttered the view that, nowadays, politicians need to know about the details in their field of interest. Science and peace have now become two different islands to bridge the issues. Political actors in addition to political science are actively involved in peace building. But the complicated words and jargons in health and science are not for political actors to deal with. They need to know the details in their own language.

Then **Dr. Upreti** shortly discussed how terminologies create problems. In the case of Nepal, the problem is that politicians do not like to go into depth when learning about issues. They only

either read or hear short reviews. Many of them still do not realize that they should have at least a common level of understanding of the facts and terminologies. But some newly emerged leaders are beginning to make the effort to learn more in this regard.

Prof. Dr. Pyakuryal summed up the discussion stating that there are biases in the recommendations made by researchers. Furthermore, we tend to assume that the researchers are a homogenous group but this is not true. Some are very much tilted on political ideologies and affiliations. Because of this, two different parties may use the results in very different ways.

Dr. Sharma raised the issues of making science understandable by lay people. The long and boring research studies can not be understood by the people and politicians who are not related to the same field. A focus should be placed on using simpler language in research for politicians to understand.

One of the participants, **Kit Chan**, asked about the outsiders' as well as insiders' role in the peace process of Nepal. It was a wish to know the role of different political as well as apolitical actors in the very context of Nepali peace building process.

Dr. Upreti responded to that question saying United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) acts as a formal-international actor in the peace process of Nepal. Informally, there are different diplomatic countries and agencies involving themselves actively in this process. Though, they overplay their role by wishing to decide everything. Particularly, India's role in the process is frequently described as an unnecessary one. This is a highly debatable issue. Negotiation between leaders takes place in dark and closed rooms, at times situating inside the houses of VIPs. The foreign diplomats as well as politicians have an easy access to the highest levels of Nepal's government. They play a decisive role in the power-sharing arrangement. But this is not their role during the all phases of political negotiation. Time and again, they support Human Rights

and the Rule of Law. There are some constructive supports from various bilateral agencies as well.

Prof. Dr. Pyakuryal had added in the above discussions that it is the trend of our society to always suspect the outsiders. This also fuels the perception that foreigners negatively influence the decisions that Nepalese people do. In fact, foreign involvement does not always have negative effects.

Mr. Sundar K Sharma raised a question about whether or not there are any mathematical models developed for the future projection of the relationship between health and conflict. Mr. Bruderlein replied that this belongs to quantitative analysis and it might have been done.

Mr. Thomas Tsai was curious about the issues in the Terai (the southern plain belt in the geography of Nepal). He wanted to know about the dynamics of discussions on Terai issues and on the politics as a whole in Nepal.

Dr. Upreti responded to his question by starting with words of agreement that there are concentrations, debates and discussions centered in Terai now. It has been a hot-debate in the political scenes. Moreover, political discussions on this topic have started to take place in different parts of the country. From an urban debate, it has now become a national debate. It seems like no one is excluded. After the reinstatement of the parliament and the Constituent Assembly election, debates and discussions are taking place in headquarters and villages. Furthermore, the Constituent Assembly now has the mandatory provision to go to the local level to consult on the upcoming Constitution and its components. This has further rendered participation of the people in debates regarding national politics.

Ms. Manuja Shahi asked how Public Health can be a social issue in sectors like gender, violence and others. The question had aligned the issues of health with a biological matter and has done so to the issues of social lives with a qualitative one.

Mr. Bruderlein responded to this question by stating his opinion that Public Health is not the health of an individual but it is the health of the population as a whole. This includes mental, physical as well as environmental health. Thus, health is not only the absence of diseases. We must also look at the access to equity in health services. Public Health, in this way, may look the representation in government. Health is therefore a core essence of collective activity. It includes multiple facts of sociology, economy and environment.

Some participants asked **Prof. Dr. Pyakuryal** about the challenges of 'selling' research and its utilization. In response, he discussed the instance of Mumbai where researchers were involved in demystification of the realities. All the effects rely on the ways the results act. Nepal is stratified on the basis of gender, caste, ethnicity, and geography. The feelings of exclusion are inviting the floodgate of demands. He emphasized for the need to know that this time is the right and appropriate phase for a research environment. In Hindi proverb, it is said that '*Abhi Nahee Toh Kabhi Nahee*'. (If it's not now, it's never.) Therefore, to be hot and marketable, research has to address the burning issues of daily politics.

Dr. Upreti added that most of the political decisions in Nepal are based not on research findings but on ideologies and negotiations. Researchers do get rewards on the basis of their political linkages. Lecturers in universities also obtain professorships by means of political affinity. But the current scene is not so pessimistic. The culture of acknowledging research results is emerging. Mr. Bruderlein emphasized further that there are certain problems in the marketing of the research, such as funding and that sometimes the research itself becomes very poor. The use of science is needed, therefore, to affect the policy decisions.



GROUP DISCUSSIONS IN BREAKOUT SESSION

During this phase of the program, the students (31 in total) of both universities were divided into six different groups. Each of the groups was comprised of both KU and Harvard students. Five of the groups had 5 members each and the sixth group had six members. The groups were given a set of three questions to discuss. The groups were also assigned to present their findings following one hour of discussion. Two students from each group, one representative from each university, were to present the findings. The questions were as follows;

- 1) What are the main challenges and obstacles to building peace in Nepal?
- 2) What are the opportunities and strengths present?
- 3) What are the key challenges?
- 4) Who are the key actors?
- 5) What is the role of Academia?



PRESENTATIONS

After the breakout session, the six different groups presented their findings from the discussion about the given set of questions. Presentation materials, such as newsprint papers and markers were provided. Below, we have summarized the findings presented by the students following the group discussion.

Group I

Members:

1. Kate Penrose
2. Kit Chan
3. Anjana Luitel
4. Anupama Mahat
5. Ashok Rai

Key Challenges:

1. Integration of the Maoist combatants into the national army is the first challenge. The role of political parties is of key importance in this issue, but it is also a concern of the general public. If we could manage this issue, there are numerous opportunities for alternative development.
2. Encouraging political parties to engage in constructive action with tangible results is a must for this country right now.
3. There should be a common vision developed for the upcoming federal structure of the nation. Different scholars as well as political parties are proposing different structures but a homogenous model for federalism is lacking.

Key Opportunities:

1. Now, the Constituent Assembly (CA) has the full participation of minority groups. They will have a direct and active role in the making of the Constitution.
2. There is a mandatory provision for public consultation in the drafting of the upcoming constitution. It will ensure people's participation.
3. The recent political developments have rendered the people empowered. The decade-long conflict has made people aware of their unheeded needs and unaddressed issues.

Key Actors and Commentators:

The **key actors** mentioned were as follows:

1. Political parties
2. Security Officers (Maoist combatants + Nepal Army)
3. I/NGOs
4. Media Houses
5. Civil Society

The **key commentators** were mentioned differently:

1. United Nations
2. Academic Institutions/Scholars
3. Human Right/Gender activists
4. International donors/EU/India/China

Roles:

The **role of academia** was discussed as follows:

1. Performing research and publications.
2. Participation in advocacy/ public awareness.
3. Facilitation in finding solutions to problems.
4. Mediation between/amongst polarized parties.

5. Providing recommendations for further action.

This group distinctly listed the **role of policy communities** as follows;

1. Feasibility analysis of different plans and policies.
2. Public consultation (for example on issues like social inclusion)
3. Transparency
4. Accountability.

Group II

Members:

1. Melody Eckardt
2. Kara Cotich
3. Prawin Subba (Limbu)
4. Sunita Bhandari
5. Purna Nepali

Key Challenges:

1. Lack of agreement among political parties to draft a constitution has further delayed the peace-process.
2. Demands of ethnic states and armed groups in the Terai belt have created a serious threat to the security situation and posed a question-mark on national integrity.
3. Integration of the Maoist combatants into the Nepal Army has been a principal challenge.

Key Opportunities:

1. A general consensus has been achieved among the political parties to abolish the feudal system.

2. Marginalized groups will now become involved in the federal government.
3. All political parties are now engaged in the constitution making process.

Role of Academia:

1. Action-Research should be of prime focus for scholars and academic individuals as well as institutions.
2. Research should be focused on the meaningful and appropriate integration of Maoist combatants into the Nepali Army.
3. They can prepare different blueprints of proposals on different scientific models about the upcoming federal system appropriate for Nepal.

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Group III
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Members:

1. Danielle Braun
2. John Ji
3. Inka Weissbecker
4. Manuja Shahi
5. Suman Babu Poudel

Key Challenges:

1. Politicians these days are lacking the motivation to change. Lack of accountability in the political parties has resulted in myopic policies. No one is responsible/made responsible for the decisions and deeds they perform.
2. Lack of law enforcement has created a serious havoc. Impunity is on the rise and numerous crimes are taking place under the political links.

3. Corruption has put the country on the path towards a failed state. There is a serious problem in delivery of the core state functions. This has further created class division in every segment of society.

Key Opportunities:

1. There is increased funding and attention by the international community and the bilateral agencies. But this flow requires a degree of check and balance because undisciplined flow of such resources may visibly or invisibly result in a national loss.
2. The current political situation provides incentives for the inclusion of disadvantaged regions/groups.
3. Reconciliation between victims of conflict on both sides is another good opportunity.

Key Actors and Commentators:

This group had categorized different types of actors and commentators. They are listed under the following sub-headings:

- **Actors in Mentioned Challenges**
 - Politicians, donor agencies, police, army, judiciary (supreme and district courts etc.)
 - Bribing middlemen
- **Commentators in Mentioned Challenges**
 - Media, civil society, local NGOs, Human Right activists
- **Actors in Mentioned Opportunities**
 - International communities, donors, I/NGOs, and national organizations to monitor the peace process.
 - Ethnic community, victims from both the sides of rebel and the state-armies, World Bank etc.

- **Commentators in Mentioned Opportunities**

- Pressure from the International media
- Media and government

Role of Academia:

The roles of academia were also characterized according to the above-mentioned style. They are discussed below;

- **Recommended Activities on Challenges**

- Academia can perform studies and assessments of outcomes regarding security, economy, and poverty related policies. This can generate accountability in the decision-makers.
- They can help create an independent judiciary system through pressure from civil society. Currently, it almost functions by judges themselves on the basis of voting.
- They can assist in setting up national/international organizations to check and balance politicians regarding issues of ethics and accountability.
- Demanding transparency, providing incentives in terms of moral support and disincentives for the political propagandists can also be a next task.

- **Recommended Activities on Opportunities**

- They can publish reports/studies on the peace-process in Nepal; and initiate documentaries, Dramas, or academic field studies about their views and visions.
- They can perform research focused on disadvantaged groups or regions and promote gender sensitivity.
- They can perform research and interventions for victims of conflict and endeavor to reconcile the conflicting parties. Additionally, they can monitor and evaluate the programs and processes inside the country.

Group IV

Members:

1. Tsering Lama
2. Orli Frenkel
3. Sundar K Sharma
4. Shreesti Singh
5. Sulava Piya

Key Challenges:

1. There is a power-struggle and a lack of agreement between different political groups on the processes of security issues and the model of army integration.
2. Making a new model in the mentioned issue is a next challenge. To do so, broad-consensus should be carried out to incorporate the diverse population. There are pressures rising from insiders and outsiders in the home politics.
3. The belief in leaders is almost lost. People currently doubt the true agenda of the leaders. Hence leaders are demoralized.

Key Opportunities:

1. To bring about true political change enhancing equitable agendas.
2. To enhance the country's economic situation.
3. To invite meaningful international support on humanitarian issues.

Key Actors and Commentators:

1. Political parties
2. Military

3. Civil society
4. Media
5. Youth
6. NGOs
7. Chamber of Commerce
8. Ethnic groups
9. UN
10. India/China/the US/EU
11. I/NGOs
12. Humanitarian donors/ Foreign Investors

Role of Academia:

1. Having a true need assessment in terms of quantitative and qualitative analysis of the situation.
2. Developing a representative sample for a social inclusion process in the country.
3. Identifying qualified professionals to bridge academic research and politics.
4. Identifying the realistic capacity of the human resources inside the country.
5. Integrating needs and capacities into a coherent and realistic model, appropriate to the Nepali people.
6. Identifying politicians' incentives and playing on these incentives in order to get the model implemented.
7. Performing an impact evaluation to examine achievement of implemented programs and efforts.
8. Electing a neutral group of experts responsible for maintaining transparency in a language appropriate to all level of society including the illiterate and underprivileged groups.

Group V

Members:

1. Thomas Tsai
2. Kristen Geiger
3. Anita Bhattarai-Ghimire
4. Pranil Upadhyay
5. Marit Hauger

Key Challenges:

1. The role of the youth-wings of the political organizations is creating a serious threat to the security situation. There is a sincere lack of economic and educational opportunities for youths.
2. Political parties are lacking cooperation amongst themselves. Inter-party conflict is on the rise. There are different interests/ideologies, privileges of older, established parties versus bargaining of new parties for political space.
3. Intra-party conflicts are also at their height. Differences between the ideologies of leadership and members/activists exist. There is a situation of extremism versus liberalism, and old versus new visions.

Key Opportunities:

1. Channeling youth for constructive goals is a must. Supplying hope as well as providing opportunities and constructively converting existing structures may have a positive effect on the national situation.
2. A sort of momentum exists and there are several milestones and opportunities.
3. Democratic awareness in civil society plus mass media is helping empower marginalized groups.

Key Actors and Commentators:

1. Educational institutions, employers, and mass media

2. Party leaders
3. International organizations and communities
4. Leadership of sister organizations of political parties. Their older versus younger members.
5. 'Big' parties, civil society, inter-party alliances (including Committees in Constituent Assembly), civil organizations and others.

Role of Academia:

1. Compulsory education for youths.
2. Increasing quality of education- strong monitoring and evaluation, and generation of more resources.
3. Creating employment opportunities.
4. Increasing trainings through the organizations such as the Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT)
5. Developing economic prosperity through the promotion of tourism and other required technologies.
6. Engaging with youth group leadership.

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Group VI
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Members:

1. Christine Feigal
2. Gretchen Williams
3. Erin Zuena
4. Safal Ghimire
5. Chhatra Mani Koirala
6. Jyoti Baidya

Key Challenges:

1. Militarization of youth wings
2. Ethnic fragmentation
3. Lack of foresight and accountability in political actors

Key Opportunities:

1. Constructive utilization of youth and armies
2. Utilization of natural resources
3. Prospects of tourism

Key Actors

1. Political parties
2. Media
3. Business persons

Key Commentators

1. Academicians/Scholars
2. Pressure groups
3. International community/bilateral and multilateral agencies

Role of Academia:

1. Constructive engagement and investment in youth involvement for the peace-building process.
2. Utilization of media neutrally for individual empowerment and increased awareness of vested interests.
3. Assisting in employment generation, educational opportunities in tourism, and natural resources etc.
4. Accessibility of quality education.

Following the discussion, Mr. Bruderlein was requested by the moderator to review the discussion. In doing so, he opined that there were interesting points brought up in the discussions. Some of the issues raised by the students have critical importance. So the discussion had become a seminal one for all the participants.



VOTE OF THANKS

Urged to deliver his vote of thanks on behalf of the organizers, Dr. Sharma focused that there was no single answer for the peace challenges in Nepal. It is difficult to find a uniform answer to the issues at stake in the peace process. Therefore, academia in these days should speak not only for the people, but also to the people. In a nut-shell, he concluded that peace still seems illusive in Nepal. The formal program ended with his giving thanks to all of the participants and panelists.



-Dr. Sagar Raj Sharma
In-Charge
KU-HNRSC



An informal reception was followed thereafter. The participants as well as the panelists had jointly attended the session.



SYNOPSIS OF FINDINGS

We believe that the half-day workshop organized by KU-HNRSC, NCCR (North-South), and Harvard-HPCR entitled 'Peace Building in Nepal' has provided a useful platform for the participants to interact on peace building issues. It has also served as a bridge to transact the experiences of students from diverse parts of the world. We hope that the issues raised and views expressed during the different sections of the program will play an eminent role in making the students aware and astute in the issues of conflict and peace.

The panelists contributed remarkably by sharing their views and visions. These have opened new avenues of understanding to serve the participants in the field of science and peace. The realities depicted in the field of conflict and peace research have strongly raised the necessity to move forward towards finding ways to resolve these problems. Similarly, the breakout session and student presentations provided creative understanding and served as an analytical exercise for the students.

The lack of downward accountability and the diminishing sense of responsibility in political leadership have created serious problems in the Nepalese peace process. Conflict has been an issue for centuries around the world. In the same regard, Nepal is now in a critical period of transition, so the peace building in Nepal has become a growing concern worldwide. Conflict in Nepal is related to inequitable distribution of benefits and regional imbalance of development. The issues like (mis)utilization of youth and short-sightedness in leadership should be appropriately addressed. Beside this, the management of Maoist combatants and democratization of state armies are discussed as the key challenges.

Every time, we feel the need to use political force which can address this issue instantly rather than investing several tries. As a

whole, employment generation and technical education of youths is a principle challenge in Nepal and the likely countries this day.

Similarly, high expectations from the people during this period of transition have rendered feelings of frustration within themselves. During the workshop, there was a unanimous consensus of every participant that the present peace building process must be twinned with economic prosperity and sense of good-governance. We believe that this program has been able to provide a common platform to look at the strengths and shortcomings of the current peace process in Nepal. Participants as well as the contributors fuelling for the achievement of the goal and success of this program deserve sincere thanks.

ANNEX

List of the Participants

| S. No. | Name | Representing Institution |
|--------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | Prof. Dr. Kailash Nath Pyakuryal | NCCR (North-South) |
| 2 | Claude Bruderlein | Harvard-HPCR |
| 3 | Dr. Bishnu Raj Upreti | NCCR (North-South) |
| 4 | Dr. Sagar Raj Sharma | KU-HNRSC |
| 5 | Kate Penrose | Harvard-HPCR |
| 6 | Kit Chan | Harvard-HPCR |
| 7 | Anjana Luitel | KU-HNRSC |
| 8 | Anupama Mahat | KU-HNRSC |
| 9 | Ashok Rai | KU-HNRSC |
| 10 | Melody Eckardt | Harvard-HPCR |
| 11 | Kara Cotich | Harvard-HPCR |
| 12 | Prawin Subba (Limbu) | KU-HNRSC |
| 13 | Sunita Bhandari | KU-HNRSC |
| 14 | Purna Nepali | KU-HNRSC |
| 15 | Danielle Braun | Harvard-HPCR |
| 16 | John Ji | Harvard-HPCR |
| 17 | Inka Weissbecker | Harvard-HPCR |
| 18 | Manuja Shahi | KU-HNRSC |

| | | |
|----|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 19 | Suman Babu Poudel | KU-HNRSC |
| 20 | Tsering Lama | Harvard-HPCR |
| 21 | Orli Frenkel | Harvard-HPCR |
| 22 | Sundar K Sharma | KU-HNRSC |
| 23 | Shreesti Singh | COLARP/NCCR |
| 24 | Sulava Piya | NCCR (North-South) |
| 25 | Gretchen Williams | Harvard-HPCR |
| 26 | Marit Hauger | Harvard-HPCR |
| 27 | Pranil Upadhyay | KU-HNRSC |
| 28 | Erin Zuena | Harvard-HPCR |
| 29 | Christine Feigal | Harvard-HPCR |
| 30 | Chhatra Mani Koirala | KU-HNRSC |
| 31 | Thomas Tsai | Harvard-HPCR |
| 32 | Anita Bhattarai-Ghimire | KU-HNRSC |
| 33 | Safal Ghimire | KU-HNRSC |
| 34 | Kristen Geiger | Harvard-HPCR |
| 35 | Jyoti Baidya | KU-HNRSC |



Participants of the workshop





Program on Humanitarian Policy
and Conflict Research (HPCR)
Harvard University

INCCR north
south

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