

Nepal Rastra Bank: Introduction



Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB), the Central Bank of Nepal, was established in 1956 under the Nepal Rastra Bank Act, 1955, to discharge the central banking responsibilities including guiding the development of the embryonic domestic financial sector. Since inception, there has been a significant growth in both the number and the activities of the domestic financial institutions.

To reflect this dynamic environment, the functions and objectives of the Bank have been recast by the new NRB Act of 2002, the preamble of which lays down the primary functions of the Bank as:

- 1) to formulate necessary monetary and foreign exchange policies to maintain the stability in price and consolidate the balance of payments for sustainable development of the economy of Nepal;
- 2) to develop a secure, healthy and efficient system of payments;
- 3) to make appropriate supervision of the banking and financial system in order to maintain its stability and

- foster its healthy development; and
- 4) to further enhance the public confidence in Nepal's entire banking and financial system.

The Bank is aware that, for the achievement of the above objectives in the present dynamic environment, sustained progress and continued reform of the financial sector is of utmost importance. Continuously aware of this great responsibility, NRB is seriously pursuing various policies, strategies and actions, all of which are conveyed in the annual report on monetary policy.

Vision

To become a modern, dynamic, credible and effective Central Bank.

Mission

To maintain macro-economic stability through sound and effective monetary, foreign exchange and financial sector policies.

International Conference on Economics and Finance 20-22 April 2012, Kathmandu, Nepal

Background:

The main theme of the first NRB research conference is "The Role of Financial Sector Development in Economic Growth and Poverty Alleviation." The genesis for the seminal conference is the growing disagreements between policy makers for formulating policy in regard to financial sector development that will facilitate economic growth and help their respective economies achieve poverty alleviation. This disagreement is likely due to country-specific maturity and understanding of the role of financial sector. This is also reflected in the advances of financial instruments, expansion of capital markets and growing integration with external economy. This situation has made the role of policy makers for steering financial sector development (especially for developing country policy makers, like in Nepal), more complex. Thus it is expected that the conference will be useful for contributing essential and necessary information for fine-tuning financial sector related policies to achieve high-broad based and inclusive economic growth.

The coverage of Conference:

The coverage of conference is broad-based and includes prominent areas of economics, banking and finance as:

- 1) Financial sector development and economic growth
- 2) Issues, challenges and policy intervention for meeting

- Millennium Development Goals;
- 3) Monetary, banking and financial policies;
 - 4) Globalization, financial crisis, contagion and economic prosperity;
 - 5) Flow of financial resources from developed countries to developing countries;
 - 6) Role of microfinance, access to finance and financial inclusion for addressing developmental issues ;
 - 7) Macroeconomic policies, financial innovation and financial stability;
 - 8) International financial architecture, institutions;
 - 9) Corporate governance, financial system, and financial stability; and
 - 10) The role of remittance, climate changes, tourism, natural resources in economic development.

Conference Program:

The venue of the conference is Hotel Yak & Yeti. The three day conference (the 20th to the 22nd of April 2012), is scheduled to start from 08.30 ending on the second day with concluding session. Both days have dinner hosted by Nepal Rastra Bank. On the third and last day, the participants have a full day sight seeing tour in and around Kathmandu valley.

Guest Speaker:

Mr. Faisal Ahmed, currently the IMF Resident Representative in Cambodia, is a guest speaker to the International Conference and will deliver his address on the conference main theme "The Role of Financial Sector

Development in Economic Growth and Poverty Alleviation". Mr. Ahmed is currently the IMF Resident Representative in Cambodia. Mr. Ahmed, a Bangladeshi national, has previously worked on a broad range of African, Asian, Caribbean, Middle Eastern and European economies. He worked as part of the core team for the IMF's vulnerability exercise covering about 50 emerging market countries. His research interests include monetary and exchange rate policy, capital flows, and financial sector issues.

Mr. Ahmed holds a Ph.D. and an M.A. in Economics from the University of Minnesota and an M.Fin. in Finance from Princeton University and a B.A. in Mathematics and Economics from Wabash College, Indiana. Prior to joining the Fund, he worked as an actuary for four years and as an external research economist for the Central Bank of Turkey and was a visiting scholar at the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank. Mr. Ahmed is a Certified Financial Analyst (CFA) charterholder.

Conference Organizing Committee:

1. **Mr. Gopal Prasad Kaphle** *Coordinator*
Deputy Governor, NRB
2. **Dr. Min Bahadur Shrestha** *Member*
Executive Director
Research Department, NRB
3. **Mrs. Rameshowri Panta** *Member*
Executive Director
Banker's Training Centre, NRB

4. **Prof. Dr. Rudra Prasad Upadhyaya** *Member*
Central Department of Economics,
Tribhuvan University
5. **Dr. Nephil Matangi Maskay** *Member-Secretary*
Director
Research Department, NRB

Conference Secretariat:

1. **Dr. Nephil Matangi Maskay** *Coordinator*
Director
Research Department,
2. **Mr. Naresh Shakya** *Member*
Deputy Director
Financial Management Department
3. **Dr. Bishnu Prasad Gautam** *Member*
Deputy Director
Research Department
Economic Analysis Division
4. **Mr. Tulashi Prasad Ghimire** *Member*
Deputy Director
Research Department
Publication Division
5. **Mr. Pradit Kumar Regmi** *Member*
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General Services Department
6. **Mr. Suman Neupane** *Member-Secretary*
Assistant Director
Research Department
Economic Analysis Division

