

# **COMPREHENSIVE**

REPORT



### **Objectives of the Banking Discourse 2024**

#### **Executive Summary**

The Banking Discourse was organized in response to significant challenges that had emerged in the banking industry. As the financial landscape evolved, issues such as financial stability, technological disruption, regulatory compliance, and customer trust became increasingly prominent. The role of monetary policy in influencing these dynamics was recognized as critical, affecting both the operational aspects of banks and their broader impact on economic stability and growth.

The event was designed to explore the complex relationship between these challenges and monetary policy. By bringing together industry leaders, policymakers, and experts, the discourse aimed to deepen understanding of how regulatory reforms, government interventions, and central bank actions could enhance the stability, efficiency, and integrity of the banking sector.

The discourse also addressed emerging trends in digital finance, including Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs), digital banking, and the development of Nepal's digital ecosystem. These innovations presented opportunities for financial inclusion and economic development, along with challenges that required careful consideration.

Additionally, the event highlighted the growing importance of corporate social responsibility (CSR) and social impact investing. By examining how these investments could advance financial literacy and support sustainable development in Nepal, the discourse emphasized the role of banks in fostering positive social change.

Finally, the discourse explored the role of remittances in socio-economic development, recognizing their impact on poverty alleviation, access to essential services, and community development, while also addressing the challenges associated with their effective use.

Overall, the Banking Discourse aimed to provide a platform for discussing key issues facing the banking industry, focusing on monetary policy, digital finance, CSR, and remittances to shape the future of the sector and drive socio-economic development in Nepal.

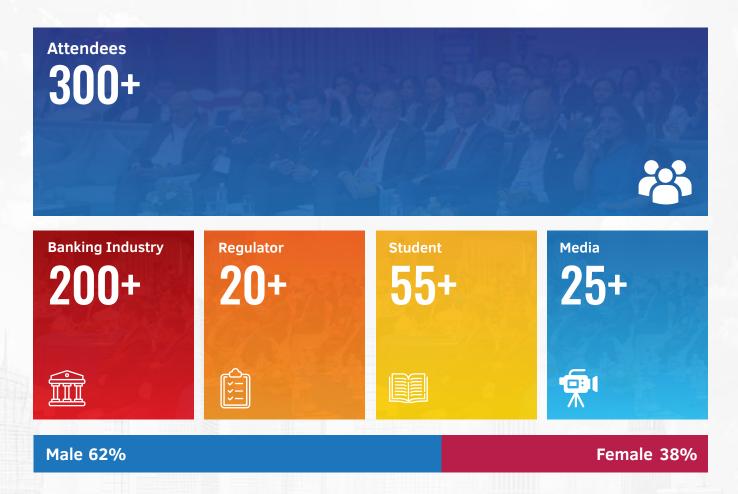
**04**MODERATOR

16+
SPEAKERS

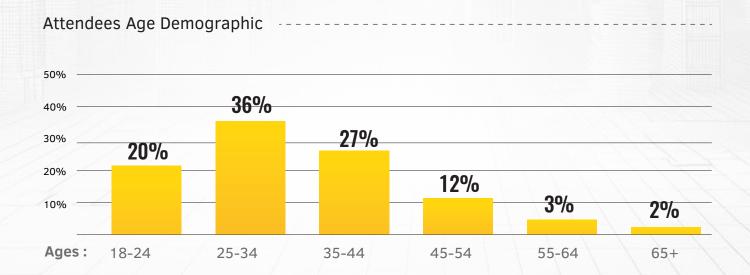
500+

**05** 

# **Event**Insights



# BANKING INDUSTRY, FINANCIAL REGULATORS, TECHNOLOGY PROVIDERS, POLICY MAKERS & STUDENTS



# **Event Inauguration**













The event was formally inaugurated by the Deputy Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank,

Dr. Neelam Dhungana, setting the stage for the proceedings. The ceremony was further honored by the presence of distinguished figures such as Mr. Suyog Shrestha, President of the Development Bankers Association; Mr. Suni Pant, President of the Nepal Financial Institutions Association; and Mr. Raju Dhungel, Chairman of Banking Samachar.



# Event's Chief Guest & Special Guests



**Chief Guest** 

**Dr. Neelam Dhungana Timsina** 

SENIOR DEPUTY GOVERNOR, NRB



**GUEST SPEAKER** 

Mr. Suyog Shrestha

PRESIDENT, DBAN, CEO, SHANGRI-LA DEVELOPMENT BANK LTD.



**GUEST SPEAKER** 

Mr. Sunil Pant

PRESIDENT, NFIA CEO, ICFC FINANCE LIMITED.

#### **Event Moderators**



**DIL BHUSAN PATHAK** 

SR. JOURNALIST



MICHAEL SIDDHI

HEAD, TRANSACTION BANKING, SCB



**SHREE PANDEY** 

MEDIA PERSONALITY



**TIKARAM YATRI** 

MEDIA PERSONALITY



Event EMCEE
SADICHHA
SHRESTHA

MEDIA PERSONALITY





# Speakers





MR. SURENDRA
PANDEY
FORMER FINANCE MINISTER



DR. SURYA
BHADHUR THAPA
SR. ECONOMIST



MR. RAMU PAUDEL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NRB



DR. ALLEN BABY MBA, PHD LINKEDIN TOP HR & LEADERSHIP GLOBAL VOICE, DUBAI



ER. KRISHNA RAM DHOJU DIRECTOR & HEAD OF THE CBDC DIVISION, NRB



MR. SANJIB SUBBA
FINTECH ENTHUSIAST



MR. NILESH MAN SINGH PRADHAN CEO, NCHL



MR. DIWAS KUMAR SAPKOTA CEO, FONEPAY



MR. BHUVAN DAHAL

CHAIRPERSON FINANCIAL LITERACY NEPAL,
FORMER PRESIDENT - NBA



MR. SANTOSH KOIRALA CEO, MBL



MR. MANOJ KUMAR GYAWALI DCEO, NABIL BANK



MR. PAWAN REGMI
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER,



MR. GURU PRASAD PAUDEL

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NRB



MR. CHETAN
ADHIKARI
JOURNALIST / DEMOGRAPHER



DR. DWARIKA
UPRETI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FOREIGN
EMPLOYMENT BOARD



MR. SUMAN POKHAREL DCEO, GLOBAL IME BANK



PRESENTED BY



**POWERED BY** 



#### SUPPORTED BY































































#### Expected Monetary Policy role: Prevalent Issues of the Banking Industry



DIL BHUSAN PATHAK
SR. JOURNALIST



MR. SURENDRA
PANDEY
FORMER FINANCE MINISTER



DR. SURYA
BHADHUR THAPA
SR. ECONOMIST



MR. RAMU PAUDEL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NRB

#### Background -

In this session, we delved into the prevalent issues confronting the banking industry, with a particular focus on the role of monetary policy as the banking sector grapples with challenges ranging from financial stability and technological disruption to regulatory compliance and customer trust, monetary policy decisions play pivotal roles in shaping industry dynamics. By examining the interplay between banking issues, and monetary policy measures, we aimed to gain insights into how regulatory reforms, government interventions, and central bank actions influence the stability, efficiency, and integrity of the banking sector. Through this analysis, we seeked to uncover strategies and solutions to address the multifaceted challenges facing the banking industry in the contemporary landscape.

#### **SESSION 01: KEY FINDING**

- 1. There is a serious threat of coordinated media propaganda against banks and financial institutions which has increased wilful default, diminished trust, and the looming danger of panic-induced bank runs thus stakeholders must work equally for the solution of such issues
- 2. Rapid liquidity change in the banking sector has created financial market volatility, operational disruptions, and reduced investor Confidence. The discourse expected a farsighted, watchful, and proactive monetary intervention to maintain liquidity.

- 3. Maintaining an optimal level of foreign reserves is crucial for Nepal's import-dependent economy, ensuring the country can meet trade obligations without the inefficiencies of holding excess reserves.
- 4. The government should establish a robust regulatory body with stringent rules to oversee cooperatives operating in the country, as defaults within this sector are a contributing factor to economic instability.
- 5. The central bank's interest rate corridor should be utilized to stabilize liquidity by setting clear rate bounds, compelling banks to adjust deposits and borrowing, and ensuring adequate liquidity.
- 6. Real estate, the stock market, gold, and imports are foundational to our economy. While expanding beyond these sectors is essential for future growth, we must ensure that policy changes acknowledge and sustain the vital role these sectors play in our economic framework.
- 7. It's high time to introduce policies that incentivize family businesses to transition into corporate entities. These policies should promote formal governance, professional management, and support for scaling operations, fostering growth and stability in the business sector.
- 8. Bankers and corporate entities should be separated to enhance the effectiveness of financial intermediaries. This separation would help prevent conflicts of interest and ensure more specialized and efficient management of financial activities.
- 9. The government should focus on a solution-oriented approach to address the issues of cooperative defaults, prioritizing practical and effective measures over populist actions.





Social Impact of Financial Literacy Situation in Nepal: Bank for All



SHREE PANDEY
MEDIA PERSONALITY



MR. BHUVAN DAHAL

CHAIRPERSON FINANCIAL LITERACY NEPAL,
FORMER PRESIDENT - NBA



MR. SANTOSH KOIRALA CEO, MBL



MR. MANOJ KUMAR GYAWALI DCEO, NABIL BANK



MR. PAWAN REGMI
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER,

#### **Background**

Corporate social responsibility represents a growing trend toward investments aimed at generating positive social or environmental impact. We'll explore how such investments contribute to the promotion of financial literacy initiatives in Nepal, assessing their effectiveness in empowering individuals and communities with essential financial knowledge and skills. By examining the symbiotic relationship between Social Impact Investing and Financial Literacy, we aimed to understand their combined potential and lackings to drive sustainable development and positive social change in Nepal.

#### **SESSION 02:** KEY FINDING

- Government investment in financial literacy is minimal. It is recommended that more resources be allocated to financial education programs to enhance individual decision-making and support economic growth.
- 2. Our approach to financial literacy must expand beyond just opening a bank account. We need to provide broader education that encompasses comprehensive financial management skills, empowering individuals to make informed decisions across all aspects of their finances.
- 3. The rise in loan shark victim cases highlights the urgent need for improved financial literacy. A collective effort is essential to address this issue and reduce such incidents by enhancing financial education nationwide.

- The fragmented investment in financial literacy results in scattered efforts and limited impact. A unified strategy is needed to streamline resources and create a more effective approach to financial education.
- Our financial literacy data is significantly misrepresented, with the actual rate in Nepal around 30%.

  Addressing this gap and accurately assessing the current literacy status should be our top priority for improving financial education.
- The challenging topology of Nepal makes delivering financial literacy in mountainous regions costly.

  6. Collaborating to explore effective, cost-efficient alternatives is essential for ensuring widespread financial education across the country.
- To bring the unbanked population into the banking system and expand their customer base, banks and the financial sector must significantly increase spending on financial literacy. Investing in education will drive greater inclusion and boost overall engagement.
- Financial literacy is essential for the general public as well as politicians, lawmakers, law enforcement, and bankers. Equipping these groups with financial knowledge will enhance policy-making, enforcement, and banking practices, creating a more effective financial system.
- The rise in financial crimes threatens to undermine the banking and financial sectors. Without effective measures and proper financial literacy, these issues could lead to debilitating consequences for the industry.
- Financial literacy is crucial for national prosperity. Without a financially educated populace, long-term progress is severely compromised. It is imperative that all stakeholders grasp the gravity of this issue to drive transformative change and ensure sustainable development





Harnessing Remittances for Socioeconomic Development: The Way Forward



TIKARAM YATRI
MEDIA PERSONALITY



MR. GURU PRASAD
PAUDEL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NRB



MR. CHETAN
ADHIKARI
JOURNALIST / DEMOGRAPHER



DR. DWARIKA
UPRETI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FOREIGN
EMPLOYMENT BOARD



MR. SUMAN
POKHAREL
DCEO, GLOBAL IME BANK

#### **Background**

Remittances, the funds transferred by migrants to their families in their home countries, represent a significant and growing component of international financial flows. Beyond their immediate impact on household income, remittances have far-reaching implications for socio-economic development. They play a crucial role in alleviating poverty, enhancing access to education and healthcare, improving housing conditions, and fostering entrepreneurship. However, the benefits of remittances are accompanied by challenges such as high transaction costs and potential dependency risks. This discussion aimed to delve into the various dimensions of remittances and their impact on socio-economic development. By exploring the ways in which remittances contribute to economic stability, financial inclusion, and community development, as well as addressing the obstacles that limit their effectiveness, to better understand how to optimize this vital financial resource for sustainable development.

#### SE

#### **SESSION 03:** KEY FINDING

- 1. Instead of imposing regulations that limit personal choices, we must create an appealing environment that encourages youth to stay in the country. Empowering them with opportunities and fostering growth will lead to a stronger, more vibrant nation.
- 2. We are at a crucial stage to reap the benefits of the demographic dividend, which will end by 2047. If we fail to capitalize on this opportunity, we risk facing severe economic consequences.

- 3. The remittance industry has significantly contributed to poverty alleviation, education, health, and overall well-being. It has empowered individuals with skills, market insights, and global perspectives, driving substantial improvements in their lives and communities.
- 4. The trend of sending remittances through official channels is rising, with fintech innovations reducing costs to an average of 3%. However, ongoing efforts are essential to meet sustainable development goals and fully leverage these advancements.
- 5. A comprehensive strategy is needed to support individuals from the moment they seek foreign employment or after their return. This approach should facilitate their transition and encourage them to stay and invest in their skills within their own country for lasting impact.
- 6. The problem is not in how individuals use remittance money, but in our failure to develop sufficient domestic industries. Without robust local sectors, we miss out on opportunities to fully leverage remittance money for economic growth and self-sustaining development.
- 7. Remittance has become a vital source of deposit mobilization for Nepal's banking sector, making it a key economic factor. Rather than sidelining it, our agenda should focus on enhancing the quality of remittances, ensuring their sustainable growth, and protecting the rights of migrant workers.
- 8. The agriculture sector is struggling with a shortage of labor, making it crucial to explore alternatives to fill this gap. Innovative solutions and technology should be sought to enhance productivity and sustain the sector.
- 9. Initiatives like foreign employment savings bonds, additional interest on remittances, and IPO allotments for foreign workers are steps towards promoting saving and investment. However, these measures alone are not enough; we need a comprehensive strategy to truly harness the potential of remittances and drive meaningful economic growth.





Nepal's Digital Ecosystem & Cross Border Digital Payment Challenges: Assessment



MICHAEL SIDDHI

HEAD, TRANSACTION
BANKING, SCB



ER. KRISHNA
RAM DHOJU
DIRECTOR & HEAD OF
THE CBDC DIVISION, NRB



SANJIB SUBBA FINTECH ENTHUSIAST



NILESH MAN SINGH PRADHAN CEO, NCHL



DIWAS KUMAR SAPKOTA CEO, FONEPAY

#### **Background**

This session delved into the dynamics of Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), digital banking, and the digital ecosystem of Nepal. Each component represents a facet of the evolving financial landscape, showcasing opportunities and challenges in the realm of digital finance. From the potential of CBDCs to revolutionize payment systems to the convenience and accessibility offered by digital banking, and the strides made in Nepal's digital ecosystem, we explored the intricacies of these phenomena, highlighting their implications for financial inclusion, innovation, and economic development.

#### **SESSION 04:** KEY FINDING

- 1. The financial exchange between Nepal and India is substantial, with NPR 380 billion in inward and NPR 460 billion in outbound transactions, including P2P transfers, remittances, and retail card payments. With 1.25 million incoming and 2.75 million outgoing transactions, these figures highlight the urgent need to implement two-way cross-border digital payments.
- 2. Cross-border transactions from India to Nepal have stalled due to the absence of a limit regime. However, since a similar structure already exists for card payments, these provisions can be temporarily enforced to facilitate transactions until a standardized limit regime is established.

- 3. The key pillars of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) include identity, payments, data exchange, connectivity, regulatory frameworks, standards for interoperability, and governance structures. While we've made significant progress on the payments front, the urgent task now is to develop the remaining components. Without these critical elements, the vision of a fully realized digital economy will remain out of reach.
- 4. The integration of the centralized accounting system for 753 local agencies with the National Payment System has been achieved, enabling seamless transactions through a single, unified channel.
- 5. Given Nepal's economic scale and technological advancements, the country's policy seeks to rapidly develop a competitive payment ecosystem with multiple players. The central debate is whether core infrastructure and fund flows should be routed exclusively through a single national payment system or if a decentralized approach might better promote innovation and competition while still adhering to regulatory mandates.
- 6. NCHL's recent mandate to regulate all domestic transactions, including cards, mobile payments, stored value wallets, acquiring and issuing instruments, and international transactions, raises a key debate. Should regulations enforce the integration of these diverse payment methods into a single central infrastructure? While this could streamline transactions and enhance system cohesion, it also introduces the risk of a single point of failure and questions whether a unified central system is the best approach for fostering innovation and addressing the varied needs of payment networks and others in the ecosystem.
- 7. Interoperability between payment networks should be guided by market forces, not enforced by industry rules. Mandating strict standards could hinder new technology and innovation. A market-driven approach allows for more flexibility and encourages the development of better solutions that meet real consumer needs and adapt to changing technology





DR. ALLEN BABY
MBA, PHD
LINKEDIN TOP HR & LEADERSHIP
GLOBAL VOICE, DUBAI

#### **Presentation on:**

It's Time to Re think Talent Startegy, by Dr. Allen Baby,
Talent Strategy Thought Leader



- Understand the criticality of talent especially a few roles that contribute immensely to your organisation
- 2. Refrain from assuming talent is always available just because you have a budget. You may find many skilled resources but no talent
- 3. Technical skills are set to become increasingly vital across all roles in the financial sector, as technology continues to reshape operations, services, and customer expectations.
- 4. Human-centric skills will be even more critical for financial organizations in the coming years. Banks and financial institutions must proactively prepare by investing in both areas, offering continuous training in emerging technologies, and enhancing leadership and interpersonal skills to meet evolving demands and future challenges.
- 5. Talent requirements in banking are shifting from basic cognitive skills to socio-emotional and technological skills, requiring banks to assess long-term skill gaps and implement strategic plans to close them effectively.

- **6.** Approximately 10 to 15% of roles within financial organizations are projected to drive 80% of their growth shortly.
- 7. To thrive in an evolving financial landscape, organizations should identify and develop the key 10 to 15% of roles that will drive 80% of their growth, invest in upskilling employees in these critical positions, implement agile workforce planning, foster a culture of innovation, and leverage technology to enhance decision-making and operational efficiency.
- 8. Talent strategy develops high-potential employees to align with long-term goals, while human resources (HR) manages day-to-day operations like recruitment and compliance. This distinction is crucial in dynamic sectors like banking, where proactive talent strategies address future skill gaps. Together, they enhance human capital and drive organizational performance in a rapidly evolving environment.
- 9. Invest in training and development programs to upskill existing employees in these key roles, emphasizing technical and socio-emotional skills critical for success in a changing environment.
- 10. Implement agile workforce planning to ensure the organization can quickly adapt to changes in demand and leverage talent effectively. This includes aligning talent acquisition strategies with future growth areas and market trends.
- 11. The disruption in the financial industry highlights the urgent need for government authorities to adopt policies to foster innovation, ensure stability, and protect consumers in a rapidly changing landscape.



## **Event Live** Insights









#### **REGION VIEWERS**

**Bagmati Zone** 129.6K

**Koshi Zone Mechi Zone** 23.1K 22.7K

**Lumbini Zone** 21.4K

**Gandaki Zone** Narayani Zone 21.3K 20.8K

**Bheri Zone** 9.3K

Seti Zone 7.9K 7.6K

Janakpur Zone 7.3K

Rapti Zone

Male 72%



Nepal (NP) 284.9K India (IN) 2.7K

Bangladesh (BD) 1.9K

Saudi Arabia (SA) 451

Pakistan (PK) 355 Malaysia (MY) 241

United Arab Emirates (AE) 198

United States (US) 158

Cambodia (KH) 117

Oman (OM) 98

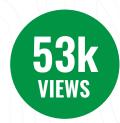
## **Event Promo** Insights

#### **EVENT PROMO 1**



Total Reach: **40,694** 

Total Impression: **56,780** 







#### **REGION VIEWERS**

Lumbini Zone Bagmati Zone 129.6K 21.4K

Mechi Zone Janakpur Zone

22.7K 7.3K

Kosi Zone 23.1K

**Bheri Zone** 

9.3K

Narayani Zone

20.8K

Seti Zone 7.9K

Gandaki Zone

21.3K

Rapti Zone 7.6K

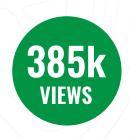
#### **EVENT PROMO 2**



Total Reach: 770,024 Total Impression: 815,024







# Influencer Promo Insights



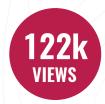




#### **EVENT'S EMCEE**

#### SADICHHA SHRESTHA

MEDIA PERSONALITY



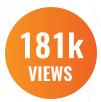
**93,235** 

Total Impression **114,102** 

#### **MODERATOR**

# SHREE PANDEY

MEDIA PERSONALITY



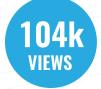
Total Reach **139,447** 

Total Impression **172,601** 

#### **MODERATOR**

#### MICHAEL SIDDHI

HEAD, TRANSACTION BANKING, SCB



**75,687** 

**Total Impression** 

100,632

## Reels Insights



TOTAL 191 **REELS** TOTAL 4.6 M **VIEWS** 



#### 10 highly engaged Reels of the event







views 374k



views 181k



views 140k











7 VIEWS 118k







VIEWS 105k



VIEWS 101k



# Moments of Events

































































































# Unparalleled Gathering of INDUSTRY LUMINARIES & DIGNITARIES.

**Unveiling** the **Tomorrow** 

NP www.bankingsamachar.com

www.bankingnews.com.np

Thank Jour

