

# HIGHLIGHTS





# PROLOGUE

2016 has been a year of recovery and promise for Nepal, both emotionally and otherwise. These themes were predominant, aided primarily by the common Nepali's resilience and individual effort. On the work front, new bills for industrial enterprise, labor reform and foreign investment are being tabled and considered. Load shedding is soon becoming a distant memory.

In all this, Samriddhi too had its fair share of highlights throughout 2016. We engaged in new ventures and interacted with newer audiences – whether it be young students interested in argumentation and debate or theatre-goers who found the medium of drama alluring. We organized several sessions of Econ-ity that saw economic political discussions culminate between policy makers, the civil society and the media. Econ-ity over the years has become one of our most recognized forums; our joy knew no bounds when we were awarded the Asia Liberty Award 2016 by Atlas Network this year for its work. It has made us devoted to work harder and better for all things liberty and freedom.

2016 has also been a year of tangible advocacy impact for us. A number of policy recommendations we worked for in the past years in energy, agriculture, education, public enterprises, and doing business reforms for industries and enterprises have been considered for implementation by authorities. Nepal is certainly moving towards better days and we are glad to be a part of these important changes.

This highlights report is a small snapshot then, of all that we did and achieved in the past year. It gives our esteemed reader a tiny window into The Freedom House to better understand what we work for. In the days gone by, we planned and carried out dozen of successful events and programs advocating for better market – led reforms whose success rested on our supporters' continual encouragement. Samriddhi thus would like to thank all our supporters and partners who helped give weight to our efforts. We look forward to better and bigger collaborations in 2017.

**Samriddhi Foundation**  
*December 2016*

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## Who are we?

Samriddhi's beginnings are rooted in the political and economic context of its time of inception. The second People's Movement in April 2006 had become a landmark for Nepalese in terms of political freedom, political awareness and civil liberties. However, considering the fact that the real longing for democracy in Nepal comes from the country's long history of economic deprivation, the realization among the founders was that if economic growth is not taken seriously, chances of another major political setback is very high. With this strong realization, on that very year of Nepal's major political transformation which led to the writing of a new constitution, Samriddhi was initiated in 2006. With this, the Foundation formally started its operations in 2007.

**Winner of Dorian & Antony Fisher Venture Grants 2009**

**Winner of the Templeton Freedom Awards 2011**

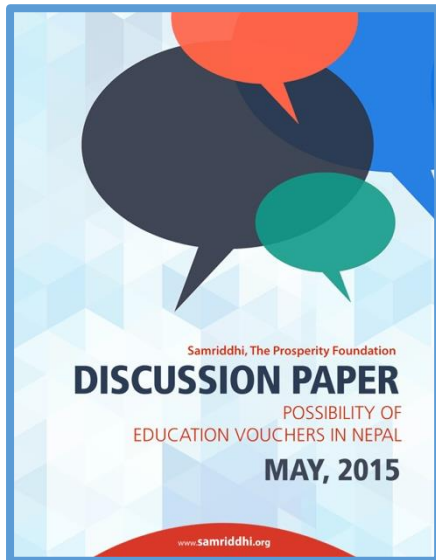
Samriddhi Foundation is a research and educational institution – a think tank—whose mission is to promote ideas of freedom- civil, political and economic- through public policy recommendations (based on independent research), educational programs and public participation. Registered in 2007 at the Company Registrar's Office as a profit not sharing company under the Company Act, 2006 of Nepal, it formally started its operations in 2008.

For the creation of a prosperous Nepal, Samriddhi believes in the power of private entrepreneurs as key to economic development and engages in fostering democracy and building a more conducive environment for economic growth.

# What did we achieve this year •

## PUBLICATIONS

### Discussion Paper: Possibility of Education Vouchers in Nepal



The abject performance of public schools in the country has led to a massive zero-enrollment rate in hundreds of public schools across the country. Why then is the national budget on education not looking at a radically different approach to revamp the status of these failing schools?

Education vouchers, an understandably new concept in Nepal, could prove to be a useful targeted experiment in the country. It is understandable that school officials may be skeptical of its worth, thus this paper calls for an initial means-tested targeted school voucher use in economically disadvantaged areas. After all, the primary purpose of all education institutions should be to provide quality education to children, regardless of them being

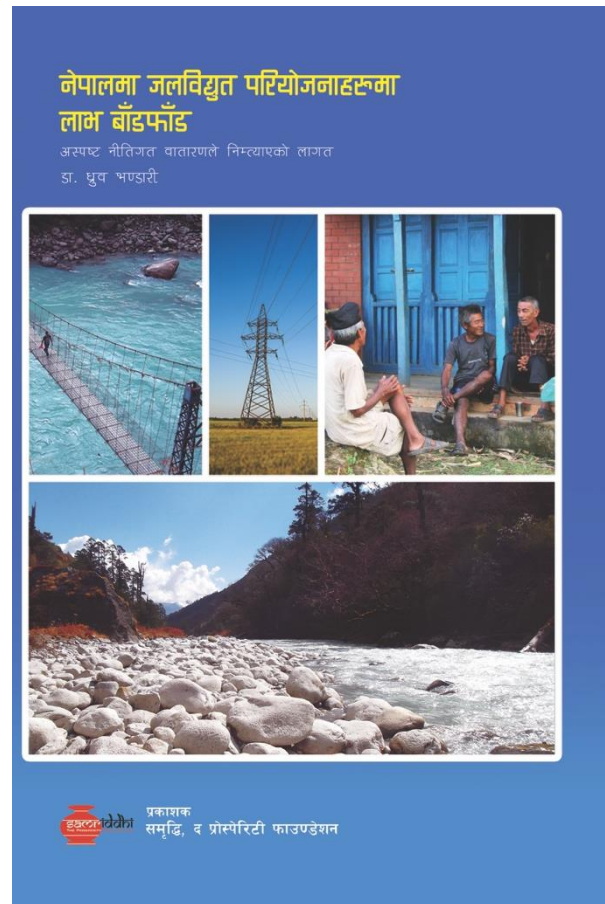
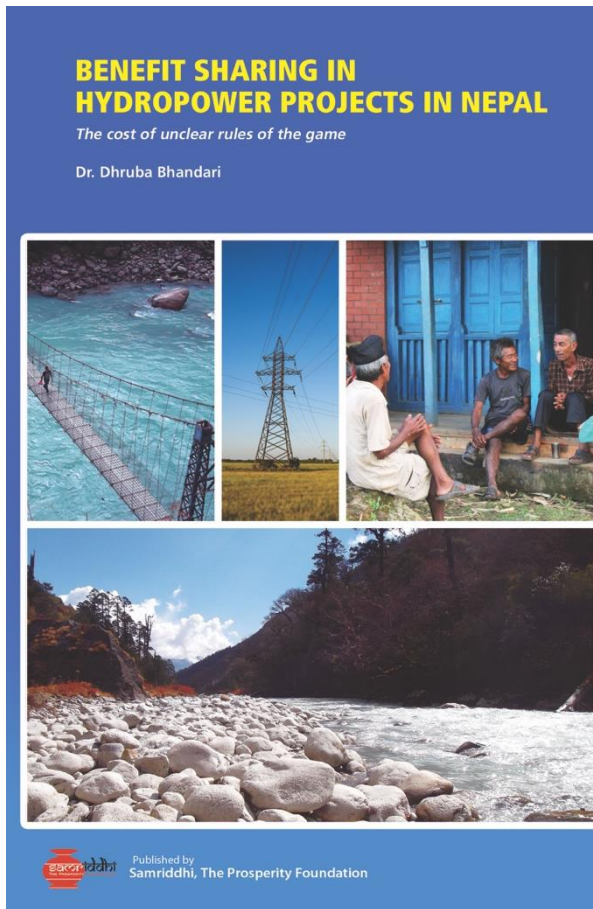
privately or publicly owned. While the debate of efficiency between the two is omnipresent, there needs to be recognition of the fact that the guardian's and/or the student's own interest to choose between the two should not be thought of as secondary. In this goal, vouchers become the ideal solution.

### Benefit Sharing in Hydropower Projects in Nepal

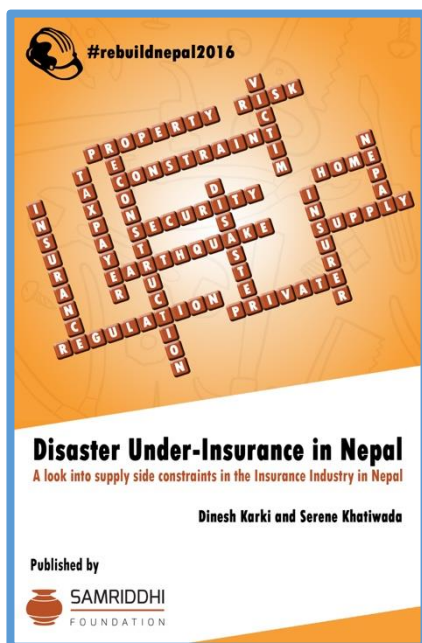
Over the past decade, many hydropower projects in Nepal have faced obstructions in construction and operation owing to benefit sharing demands from locals. The demands range from equity ownership in the company to building of infrastructure (such as roads, schools, etc.) to employment.

As the paper discusses, not having adequate legal provisions defining the scope and basis of benefit sharing is the root of the problem. Based on a survey with hydropower developers, the paper quantifies the cost of not having set clear rules of the game for benefit sharing. The study also provides a set of policy recommendations based on the observations and findings.

The online version of the paper can be found in both [English](#) and [Nepali](#) language.



## Disaster Under-Insurance in Nepal



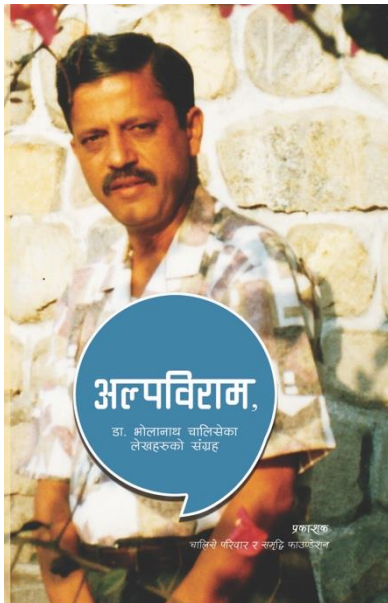
2015 has been amongst the most challenging years for Nepal, particularly with the catastrophic earthquake in April claiming thousands of lives and the crisis that came with the economic blockade in the later months worsening the already vulnerable state of victims. With homes and buildings having mercilessly collapsed and the very expensive reconstruction that was required, disaster insurance was a natural subject of interest.

In light of this, Samridhhi Foundation has released its exploration of the plausible causes for underinsurance against such calamity in the country. The paper, **'Disaster Under-Insurance in Nepal (A look at supply side constraints in the Insurance Industry in Nepal)'** aims to

analyze underinsurance under the framework of institutional arrangements and consumer decision-making processes.

## Alpabiram

'Alpabiram' is a compilation of articles published by Late Dr. Bhola Nath Chalise. The book also includes articles written by senior experts in his memory.



Dr. Bhola Nath Chalise was named Freedom Champion of Nepal in Asia Liberty Forum 2015 for his contribution in promoting individual and economic freedom during his time with the Government of Nepal and after. During his service as the Under Secretary, Joint – Secretary and Secretary of the Ministry of Industry for a period of 16 years, Dr. Chalise was a key figure in leading the process of formulating and enacting the Industrial Enterprise Act and Foreign Investment and Technology Transfer Act, 1992 which encompassed the vision of economic liberalization in Nepal. He also played an important role as the Secretary of Ministry of Industry in bringing about the Company Act, 1997 which eased the process of registering a business in Nepal to a great extent.



### Last Thursdays with an Entrepreneur

Initiated in 2009, Last Thursdays with an Entrepreneur is a sharing platform for successful and aspiring entrepreneurs. It has hosted more than 70 entrepreneurs in the past years and is jointly organized with [Entrepreneurs for Nepal](#) and [Biruwa Ventures](#). The talk program features successful and prominent entrepreneurs from Nepal to talk about their success stories and challenges they face in the Nepali business environment. For more than seven years now, it has proved as an excellent networking opportunity for aspiring and established business persons of Nepal.

This year saw us host 8 different events under this banner with entrepreneurs ranging from *eduprenuers* to those working in technological advancement:

- Nirjala Shrestha and Shanti Shrestha, Friend's Handicraft (Handicrafts)
- Deependra Tandon, Advantage Group of Companies (Advertising and Marketing)
- Tara Bahadur Kunwar, Diptara Construction (Construction)
- Narottam Aryal, King's College (Education)
- Bibhusan Bista, Young Innovation (Information Technology)
- Pravin Chitrakar, Patan Handicraft Center (Handicrafts)
- Shailendra Raj Giri, Merojob.com, (Online Job Portal)



## Liberty Discussion Series

Liberty discussion is a monthly discussion forum for young students who are enthusiastic about discussing political and economic dimensions in idea and practice. The event takes place every last Friday of the English month. Discussions are based on an article that is floated among participants at least a week in advance.

We saw an increasing interest in the Liberty Discussion this year. Our most popular discussion turned out to be on **'Market doesn't solve problems, people do'** by Louis Rouanet with 17 youngsters enthusiastically contributing to the discussion. Other popular articles that gained most participation include **'Is Neoliberalism Oversold?'** and **'Society, Finance and Freedom'** by Jonathan D. Ostry, Prakash Loungani and Davide Furceri and a discussion **'Does Foreign Aid Work?'** by Christian Bjornskov.



## Econ-ity

Econ-ity has been Samriddhi's most popular forum in the last few years. **This year it was also awarded the prestigious 2016 Asia Liberty Award by Atlas Network!**

Econ-ity is a regular discussion platform for sharing perspectives from different sides on political economic agendas that are important in the contemporary context. It constitutes of both an online forum ([the blog](#)) and a face-to-face discussion with a panel of journalists, experts and members of political and business communities, on the issue. This year we organized 3 discussions under our Econ-ity banner.

## A. Moving up the ladder

World Bank Nepal and Samriddhi Foundation organized an Econ-ity discussion on poverty reduction and social mobility in Nepal based on a report by the World Bank titled “Moving up the Ladder” on 29 June, 2016.



The discussion attempted to contribute to the public discourse around poverty reduction and long term economic development and the fundamental question of how to build, share and sustain prosperity in Nepal. The program was chaired by Honorable Dr. Yuba Raj Khatiwada, Vice-Chairperson, National Planning Commission and was moderated by Mr. Sujeev Shakya, Nepal Economic Forum. The panel comprised of Dr. Swarnim Wagle – Former Member, NPC, Dr. Shailesh Tiwari – World Bank and Dr. Deepak Thapa – Social Science Baha.

## B. Benefit-sharing in Hydro-power Projects in Nepal



An Econ-ity event was organized for official launch of the report: ‘Benefit-sharing in Hydropower Sector in Nepal’ on 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2016. It was largely a stakeholder consultation meeting with sectorial experts as the main panelists, and other key stakeholders also joined and contributed to the discussion. The

consultation meeting gathered inputs from sectorial experts on ways to formulate a clear benefit-sharing mechanism for hydropower sector in Nepal.

### C. Engaging the Private Sector in Economic Policy Reform

On February 17, 2016 Samridhhi Foundation hosted a special economic policy session with Dr. Eamonn Butler, Founder/ Director – Adam Smith Institute (UK). Adam Smith Institute (ASI) has been influential in several public sector & tax reforms in the UK and was ranked 7th in global think tank rankings in 2013, making Dr. Butler an excellent resource person to talk about how private sector can play a constructive role in economic policy reform. Mr. Sujeev Shakya, Founder of Beed Management, moderated the discussion.



The event marked discussions on **‘Engaging the private sector in economic policy reform’** with Dr. Butler sharing his experiences on the same as a think-tank head in the UK. He presented on how entrepreneurs and the private sector engaged in policy debates in England and how this had been beneficial. His talks also touched upon what gave rise to policy corruption and what safeguards could potentially help prevent corruption while engaging the private sector in economic policy reform.

## Global Entrepreneurship Week 2016

Global Entrepreneurship Week is the world's largest celebration of the innovators and job creators, who launch startups that bring ideas to life, drive economic growth and expand human welfare.



During one week each November, GEW inspires people everywhere through local, national and global activities designed to help them explore their potential as self-starters and innovators. These activities, from large-scale competitions and events to intimate networking gatherings, connect participants to potential collaborators, mentors and even investors—introducing them to new possibilities and exciting opportunities. Samriddhi Foundation has been the official host for GEW Nepal since 2010.

Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) 2016 celebrations in Nepal has undoubtedly been one of our most satisfying so far – both in terms of event frequency, quality and the number of people we could will to participate. Beginning with the story-sharing session of both young and established entrepreneurs with partner colleges, steadily moving onto a focus on innovation and finally leading to panel discussions with the rising business community, GEW 2016 – Nepal spelt success from its onset. We also marked the spirit of entrepreneurship by covering budding business persons on our Start-Up Account series this year.

An increasing number of partners were added to our growing lists of supporters this year. We also prepared a short [GEW highlights 2016 report](#) in order to commemorate the undertaking.

# STARTUP ACCOUNT



## The Liberty Debates and Championship 2016

Samriddhi Foundation in association with Debate Nepal Network organized **The Liberty Debates** – a three month long debate engagement series on ‘All Things Liberty’ beginning January, 2016. The Liberty Debates series was a two-day liberal ideas and debate workshop – on the first day, participants were introduced to classical liberal ideas on a particular theme. The second day engaged participants in the training the day before to engage in a live debate session. The Liberty Debates culminated into ‘The Liberty Debates Championship (MahaSangram)’ in April, 2016 which was a month-long league event. The league championship was also in British Parliament format and on liberal ideas.



The Liberty Debates Championship, also known as MahaSangram, was Nepal’s second premium British Parliamentary debate league. Participants debated in either English or Nepali category. The motion for the grand finale for the English Debates was – **‘This house condemns the breach of property rights during the recent road expansion project in Kathmandu’**.

For Nepali debates, the motion was: **‘This house believes that a public referendum should have been held before declaring Nepal a Federal Republic’**

**Teams Kaurav** and **Aerodite** won the first and second prizes respectively and **Rijan KC** (from Nepali category) was announced as the Best Speaker.

The first and second team winners took home Rs.30, 000 and Rs.20, 000 while the Best Speaker took home Rs.15, 000 in cash prizes.

Special guests at the event included Dr. Bidhyanath Koirala, renowned educationist, Professor of Education at Tribhuvan University and Sakar Pudasaini of Karkhana.

## The Road to Serfdom in Nepali Theatre



Photo source: Surath Giri

Samriddhi Foundation collaborated with Mandala Theatre to feature the drama ‘Yojana Park’ based on the book ‘The Road to Serfdom’ by F. A. Hayek that ran from 19<sup>th</sup> March – 10<sup>th</sup> April 2016. Written by one of Samriddhi’s Arthalaya program’s graduate, Suresh Sapkota, the story is adapted to the Nepali context based on the [Nepali translation](#) of ‘The Road to Serfdom’. This political book was first published in 1944 and has its central argument extracted from the article “Freedom and the Economic System” which was first published in Contemporary Issue 1938. In 1950s, this book sparked a huge political-economic debate that paved way for the number of reforms for the development in western countries. Over 2,000 people viewed the drama.



## Discussion Session on 'England's Transition from Agrarian to Industrial Economy'

On 15 February 2016, Samriddhi Foundation with the Department of Industry (DOI) hosted a discussion session on 'England's Transition from Agrarian to Industrial Economy' at Hotel Annapurna, Durbarmarg. The session's featured speaker was Dr. Eamonn Butler, Director of the Adam Smith Institute and was moderated by Dr. Hemant Dabadi, Senior Fellow at Samriddhi Foundation.

The session moved with Dr. Eamonn Butler's presentation which was focused on England's transition from agrarian to industrial economy. He shared that from 1750 - 1850 wages rose significantly, average life expectancy rose by 5 years, infant mortality reduced by more than half and the size of population doubled in England. However, these positive changes were not driven by the government but by the ingenuity of entrepreneurs and the innovations that came about from them. The most important role that the government played was maintaining the rule of law and protecting the property rights of individuals and facilitating the economy by reducing barriers and controls. Hence, the growth was self-perpetuating. Investments led to production which led to surpluses which in turn led to trade, generating revenues which were again invested and the process continued.



## Special Lecture with Dr. Eamonn Butler

On 15 February 2016, Samridhi Foundation hosted a talk program on 'The Secret to Prosperity: What made England rich?' at Himalayan White House International College, New Baneshwor. The session featured speaker Dr. Eamonn Butler, Director-Adam Smith Institute and was moderated by Akash Shrestha, Research Coordinator- Samridhi Foundation.



Dr. Butler gave a brief summary of events that took place from 1750 to 1820 AD which made Britain reach opulence. He talked on how a government should not force an economy to become prosperous but create conditions to make it so. According to Butler, the factors that made England prosperous were - permissive legal system, property rights, rule of law, free trade, low taxes, deregulation, private finance and limited government.



### Asia Liberty Award 2016



In the annual Asia Liberty Forum in Malaysia in February 2016, Atlas Network presented the Asia Liberty Award to Samriddhi for its 'Econ-ity' initiative. As part of Atlas' Regional Liberty Awards, The Asia Liberty Award recognizes think tanks

within the Atlas Network that have made important contributions to improving the landscape for enterprise and entrepreneurship in their regions. Through the award, Econ-ity was especially appreciated for the success it had brought in advocating for and having an impact on energy sector and investment policy reforms in the area of foreign investment in Nepal.

### 2015 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report:

Samriddhi was listed in the University of Pennsylvania's Global Go To Think Tank Index Report 2015 in multiple categories including the category Best Independent Think Tanks globally.

The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) of the Lauder Institute at the University of Pennsylvania released its annual Global Go To Think Tank Index Report in January, 2015. The report has recognized the existence of 12 think tanks in Nepal but only 6 of the 12 have figured on the Top Think Tanks in Southeast Asia and the Pacific. Samriddhi Foundation has made it as the only think tank from Nepal to be featured on Top Domestic Economic Policy Think Tanks, Top Transparency and Good Governance Think Tanks and Best Independent Think Tanks (globally) in addition to the Top Think Tanks in Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

The index catalogued 6,846 think tanks worldwide with inputs from over 4,750 journalists, policymakers, public and private donors, and area specialists from around the world. The 2015 categories were divided on basis of geographical region, areas of research, and 'special achievement' (which involves ranking based on advocacy campaigns, programs and upcoming think tanks).

Here is a link to the 2015 Global Go to Think Tank Index Report: [CLICK HERE](#)



Samridhi has been conducting advocacy for reforms in agriculture, hydropower, education, business environment and investments, public enterprises, governance, regulations for micro and small enterprises, and trading across borders over the past years.

In 2016, a [list of recommendations](#) was made and handed to the government weeks before the budget announcement.

The success of some of our advocacy efforts has been reflected in this year's budget announcements:

### Public Enterprises

In its publication "[Policy Options for Public Enterprises Reform in Nepal: A look at two public enterprises](#)" and in the list of recommendations Samridhi made weeks before the budget announcement, it had clearly recommended strategic reform of the state owned Nepal Airlines Corporation by bringing it under the purview of the Companies Act and seeking a strategic partner.

#270 in the budget announcement committed to converting the Nepali Airlines Corporation into a company and seeking a strategic partner or running it through management contract in the coming year.

### Hydropower

In its policy analysis paper titled "[Policy Options for Improved Electricity Transmission System in Nepal](#)" published in July 2014, Samridhi upheld the recommendation to establish a separate Transmission Company. In its other papers such as "[Investment Prospects & Challenges for Hydropower Development in Nepal](#)" published in July 2012, and "[Competition Watch in Key Growth Sectors of Nepalese Economy](#)" published in July 2013, a systematic approach to unbundle the Nepal Electricity Authority (which currently oversees all aspects of electricity production – generation, transmission, distribution, and retail supply) was recommended.

#11 in the budget speech announced operation of National Transmission Grid Company, establishment of National Hydropower Production Company, and National Electricity Trade Company. These steps will lead to [eventual unbundling](#) of the Nepal Electricity Authority.

## Agriculture

[Recommendations Samriddhi made](#) weeks before the budget announcement and handed over to the government during the budget preparation phase, included reforming the way agricultural subsidies were distributed such that the subsidies actually reached the targeted group and played a role in increasing productivity. One of the recommendations picked up by the budget was providing subsidy based on productivity. (#112)

## Education

In its publications '[Review & Overview of Economic Contribution of Education in Nepal \(2012\)](#)' and '[Possibility of Education Vouchers in Nepal](#)' (2015), Samriddhi had advocated for at least a piloting of education vouchers in Nepal.

#214 of the budget announcement has provisioned education vouchers for children from extremely marginalized communities such as Wadi, Haliya, Gandharva, Mashar, Dome, Chamar, etc.

## Doing Business Reforms

Pertaining to Doing Business reform, Samriddhi has been actively working on easing [entry to the market](#) and exit (i.e. registering and closing down a company respectively), trading across borders, and improving the environment for [foreign investments](#).

Following are the provisions in the budget that are in line with the [list of recommendations](#) Samriddhi made and handed to the government weeks before the budget announcement:

#164 in the budget announcement committed to conducting targeted legal reforms in cost of doing business indicators that would establish Nepal as a lucrative investment destination.

#165 in the budget announcement committed to formulation and/or amendments in the [Foreign Investment and Technology Transfer Act](#), [Companies Act](#), and Insolvency Act, among others.

#166 in the budget announcement committed to simplifying the process of [registering a company](#) and [exiting](#).

#167 committed to amending the law and provisions in order to allow entrepreneurs to acquire more land above the land ceiling for industrial and business purposes.

#168 committed to amending provisions for joint ventures and starting operation of the secure transaction registrar's office.

#174 committed to holding Nepal Investors' Summit in the upcoming year.

## Reforms For Micro And Small Enterprises

In its [publication](#) that outlined hurdles faced by micro enterprises such as [Kirana Pasals](#) (small mom and pop shops) and made recommendations to ease regulations to enhance their growth, Samriddhi recommended tax reforms for micro and small enterprises.

#404 in the budget announcement made a provision whereby small and medium enterprises making annual transactions below NRs. 10,000,000 need not perform an external audit and can declare their taxes themselves.



## OTHER ENGAGEMENTS

### Tenth Anniversary Celebration

On 23 April, 2016 (11 Baisakh, 2073) Samriddhi Foundation celebrated its tenth anniversary with the launch of a new evolved logo that celebrates a decade of the Foundation's existence and represents the future direction of Samriddhi. This evolution also marks our change from 'Samriddhi, The Prosperity Foundation' to simply 'Samriddhi Foundation'.

Find the story behind the change here, in our Executive Director's own words:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1r4YiQKBQ8s>

**WE HAVE**  
**EVOLVED**  
[www.samriddhi.org](http://www.samriddhi.org)

Year	Event	Logo
2006	Established with a resolve to help democracy deliver	
2009	Beginning of Flagship ventures like Arthalaya and Gari Khana Deu	
2016	Marking 10 years of Establishment	



## WHAT ARE WE PLANNING FOR 2017?

### Ongoing Researches

#### **Public transportation policies role in collusion and other non-competitive behaviors**

Demand for public transportation in Nepal is high, and continues to grow. Yet, the supply cannot be increased in line with the increasing demand. One reason for this is that the industry has been held captive by limited transport operators who create a huge barrier to entry for any prospective transportation entrepreneur. The policies and laws that regulate the industry also favor the existing operator which is evinced by the fact that they have been allowed to occupy major decision-making positions relating to entry of new players in the industry. This paper delves into such regulatory provisions, and special interests of existing operators behind coming together and creating a barrier for new players. The paper then aims to provide workable policy recommendations that allow for free competition in transportation industry in Nepal such that they result in enhanced consumer well-being.

#### **Market Exit Policy in Nepal: How it Creates Bottlenecks for Entrepreneurs**

Nepal lacks a clear market exit policy. As an entrepreneur, one s/he enters an industry s/he cannot exit the industry at will. The likelihood of being stuck within an enterprise itself, with no possibility to redeem the investments to channel into other productive sectors should one identify better prospects elsewhere, significantly discourages individuals from opening up enterprises in the first place.

This paper aims at streamlining existing laws and regulations under which market exits are guided, and offering road maps, exit strategies and related cost structure. Above all, this paper points out several inconsistencies in current government's regulations, identifies reasons behind discrepancies between the law and practice and offers an assemblage of policy recommendations to improve its existing policy framework. The paper also highlights some initiatives aimed at simplifying the exit process, as practiced in other countries.

#### **Facilitating Enterprise in Federal Nepal**

At this transitional phase in Nepal's political history, Samriddhi is working on enabling the decision makers to make informed policy decisions regarding the future of Federal Nepal. Under the 'Facilitating Enterprise in Federal Nepal' (FEFeN) program, Samriddhi is looking at enterprise facilitation.

As the new policies and institutions are being devised to govern the Federal Nepal, FEFeN looks specifically into providing recommendations for effective and economically sound (efficient) institutional structures for easy entry (to) and exit (from) the market.

In order to work out the recommendations for effective and economically sound (efficient) institutional structures for easy entry (to) and exit (from) the market, Samriddhi is currently

engaged in first-hand survey and consultation among local chambers and existing small/medium/large entrepreneurs across the country in chosen industrial and/or economically better-off corridors or commercial hubs in Nepal which contribute a significant share to Nepal's GDP.

### **Trading Across Borders**

This study aims to contribute to making sure that doing business (including, but not limited to) trading can happen with least possible barriers (if any), both within our domestic border and beyond.

Specific working area and objectives include:

On Starting a Business, we intend to decrease the number of procedures and time it takes to start a business and make it comparable to OECD level.

On Trading Across Borders, we intend to reduce the number of documents and days to export from and import to Nepal.

### **Formalizing the Non-Formal Economy: Exploring Options for Non-Formal Micro Enterprises**

The Kirana Pasal study in 2013 identified six different regulatory issues facing Kirana Pasal owners and combined with a communication approach of telling stories of these small entrepreneurs and the hurdles they faced, the advocacy campaign was successful in helping build favorable public opinion towards market oriented reforms. After all, supporting small entrepreneurs is a win-win agenda for politicians, business chambers, journalists and other important stakeholders alike.

With this new study, we intend to build on this successful approach of Kirana Pasal program and expand it further. We are therefore conducting a series of short advocacy centered studies on informal micro enterprises in three sectors - trade, service, and manufacturing and looking into three areas: entry, tax compliance, and compliance with standards.

### **Enhancing Public Education in Nepal: Learning from Charter Schools**

The world is rapidly innovating to yield new and better practices in education. A relatively new practice, gaining steady wide prominence, is that of charter schools. Simply put, charter schools are publicly funded but privately managed schools. A 'charter' is a legal document where an interested party signs a lease to take over the management of a public school. The 'interested party' here could be a group of teachers, parents, a mixture of both or even business persons looking to open specialized schools to create skilled human resource. Charter schools are characterized by lower regulatory burden than public schools but with effective internal and external monitoring mechanisms.

This book thus has two major aims: the first to outline the working of the community (public schools) in Nepal and second, to understand certain workings of the charter system that could be adopted in order to improve its state. Private schools have flourished in Nepal precisely because their management is perceived to be more efficient. There is a way of allowing the same to prosper in public education through charter schools.

# ANNEX I

## ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN 2016

S.N.	Article	Author	Date	Media House
1	<a href="#">The burden of reconstruction</a>	Dinesh Karki	8-Jan	Setopati
2	<a href="#">Across Borders</a>	Abyaya Neopane	14-Jan	The Kathmandu Post
3	<a href="#">Understanding markets for what they are</a>	Dhruba Bhandari	31-Jan	The Himalayan Times
4	<a href="#">Why Nepal scores low in cross border trade</a>	Akash Shrestha	14-Feb	The Himalayan Times
5	<a href="#">Decentralize public schools</a>	Dhruba Bhandari	28-Feb	The Himalayan Times
6	<a href="#">Virtues of federalism</a>	Ashesh Shrestha	13-Mar	The Himalayan Times
7	<a href="#">Deregulate the financial sector</a>	Dinesh Karki	27-Mar	The Himalayan Times
8	<a href="#">Why property rights matter</a>	Dhruba Bhandari	10-Apr	The Himalayan Times
9	<a href="#">Can we plan development?</a>	Ashesh Shrestha	25-Apr	The Himalayan Times
10	<a href="#">A beginner's guide to company exit</a>	Labisha Uprety	8-May	The Himalayan Times
11	<a href="#">Competitive Federalism</a>	Abyaya Neopane	22-May	The Himalayan Times
12	<a href="#">Free mobility must be ensured</a>	Ashesh Shrestha	5-Jun	The Himalayan Times
13	<a href="#">Institutionalize fiscal decentralization</a>	Dinesh Karki	19-Jun	The Himalayan Times
14	<a href="#">Budget 2073- A bundle of well-intended declarations</a>	Dr. Hemant Dabadi	June edition/June 22	Business 360
15	<a href="#">Let people create jobs</a>	Akash Shrestha	3-Jul	The Himalayan Times
16	<a href="#">समाजवादका नाममा शिक्षामा व्यापारिक साँठगाँठ</a>	Labisha Uprety and Murahari Parajuli	11-Jul	Setopati
17	<a href="#">Making sense of the discourse on federalism</a>	Suresh Sapkota	17-Jul	The Himalayan Times
18	<a href="#">The crowding out effect</a>	Ashesh Shrestha	31-Jul	The Himalayan Times
19	<a href="#">Brexit jolts global economy</a>	Dr. Hemant Dabadi	August edition/ August 1	Business 360
20	<a href="#">Transport Syndicate - a problem unsolved</a>	Abyaya Neopane	14-Aug	The Himalayan Times
21	<a href="#">Countering Hundi</a>	Sovit Subedi	28-Aug	The Himalayan Times
22	<a href="#">The cost of starting a business in Nepal</a>	Ashesh Shrestha	11-Sep	The Himalayan Times
23	<a href="#">Examining insolvency in policy and practice</a>	Labisha Uprety	25-Sep	The Himalayan Times
24	<a href="#">Let it die</a>	Akash Shrestha	26-Sep	Republica
25	<a href="#">On mature reflection</a>	Labisha Uprety	2-Oct	The Kathmandu Post

<b>26</b>	<a href="#">Good news for Nepali traders</a>	Akash Shrestha	16-Oct	The Himalayan Times
<b>27</b>	<a href="#">Dissecting the Foreign Investment Bill, 2016</a>	Ashesh Shrestha	2-Nov	The Himalayan Times
<b>28</b>	<a href="#">Auditing Education</a>	Labisha Uprety	13-Nov	The Himalayan Times
<b>29</b>	<a href="#">Building Entrepreneurship</a>	Ashesh Shrestha	27-Nov	The Himalayan Times
<b>30</b>	<a href="#">Economic Prosperity through Free Market</a>	Prience Shrestha	11- Dec	The Himalayan Times
<b>31</b>	<a href="#">Dissecting the Industrial Enterprise Bill 2073</a>	Prience Shrestha	25- Dec	The Himalayan Times

## ANNEX II

### EVENT AND NEWS COVERAGE IN 2016

Event: Engaging the private sector in economic policy reform		
Event Date: 17 Feb, 2016		
S.N.	Media	Type
1	<a href="#">The Himalyan Times</a>	National daily
2	Rajdhani	
3	Arthik Abhiyan	
4	Bizmandu	Online newspaper
5	<a href="#">Glocal Khabar</a>	
6	<a href="#">Business 360</a>	Monthly business magazine
Event: Yojana Park		
Event Date: March 2016		
S.N.	Media	Type
1	Himal Khabarpatrika	Weekly magazine
2	<a href="#">Saptahik</a>	
3	<a href="#">Ratopati</a>	Online newspaper
4	<a href="#">Glocal Khabar</a>	
Event: The Liberty Debates and Championship		
Event date: April, 2016		
S.N.	Media	Type
1	<a href="#">Glocal Khabar</a>	Online newspaper
Event: Nepal's Second Generation Economic Reform and Dr. Chalise		
Event date: 5 May, 2016		
S.N	Media	Type
1	Nagarik	National daily
2	<a href="#">Kantipur</a>	
3	<a href="#">Abhiyan</a>	
4	Karobar	
5	Republica	
6	<a href="#">NayaPatrika</a>	Online newspaper
7	<a href="#">Corporate Nepal</a>	
8	<a href="#">Bizmandu</a>	
10	<a href="#">GlocalKhabar</a>	Television
11	News 24	

**Event: Moving Up the Ladder**

Event Date: 29 July, 2016

S.N.	Media	Type
1	<a href="#">The Himalayan Times</a>	National daily
2	<a href="#">Republica</a>	
3	Arthik Abhiyan	
4	Annapurna Post	
5	Rajdhani	
6	Online Khabar	Online newspaper
7	ABC News	Television

**Event: International Property Rights Index 2016 – Nepal Release**

Event Date: 10 August, 2016

S.N.	Media	Type
1	<a href="#">The Himalayan Times</a>	National daily
2	<a href="#">Republica</a>	
3	<a href="#">The Rising Nepal</a>	
4	<a href="#">Housing Nepal</a>	Online portal

**Event: Economic Freedom of the World: 2016 Annual Report: Nepal Release**

Event date: September 15, 2016

S.N.	Media	Type
1	<a href="#">Republica</a>	National daily
2	<a href="#">Nagarik</a>	
3	<a href="#">GlocalKhabar</a>	Online newspaper
4	<a href="#">Nabil Invest</a>	Online portal

**Event: Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) - 2016**

Event date: 14-20 November, 2016

S.N.	Media	Type
1	<a href="#">The New Business Age</a>	Monthly Business Magazine
2	The Annapurna Post	National daily
3	<a href="#">The Himalayan Times</a>	
4	Abhiyan	
5	<a href="#">Republica</a>	