

2021

A year in review

NEPAL
ECONOMIC
FORUM

Introduction

Nepal Economic Forum (NEF) is a premier private sector-led economic policy and research organization that seeks to redefine the economic development discourse in Nepal. Founded in 2009 as a not-for-profit organization under the beed (www.beed.global) umbrella, NEF is a thought center that strives to positively transform Nepal’s economic and development policies by strengthening the Nepali economy through various activities to promote an efficient and inclusive private sector. NEF has been featured in the list of Top Think Tanks in Southeast Asia and the Pacific in the Global Go-To Think Tank Index Reports 2016 through 2020.

Highlights from 2021



Started Incubation Centers



Rebranded and launched a new look of the website



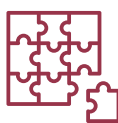
Redesigned all NEF collaterals



Expanded our leadership team



Regional Step-up



Aligned ourselves to five core areas –



Youth Empowerment



Digital Transformation



Sustainability



Bottoms-up Growth



Global Integration

Business Policy Research Center (BPRC)

Business Policy Research Center (BPRC) consolidates NEF's activities into a hub that takes a holistic approach to the issues; generates dialogue between the public and private sectors on economic growth concerns, and acts as a platform for information dissemination.

NEF produced the following products as part of BPRC in 2021:



Nefport, Quarterly-Economic Publication



Weekly Economic Update



Neftake-periodic blogs



Did You Know



Neftalk



Nefport is a quarterly-economic publication that analyses key-events that occur across the year. In 2021, each issue focused on one core theme – digital transformation for **nefport 43**; political economy in **nefport 44**; macroeconomies for greener economy in **nefport 45**; international relations for economic growth in **nefport 46**; and, evidence-based policymaking in **nefport 47**.



Nefport 47 has been redesigned with the aim to contribute to discourses and to effectively present robust data and analysis. This issue deconstructed the effectiveness of policymaking.

With this issue, we also announced the new look of the brand and the report.



periodic blogs that cover wide range of issues

Neftakes are periodic blogs that cover wide range of topics and issues. So far, NEF has published more than **70 Neftakes** throughout 2021.



Publications



1. **Dissecting Bordenomics:** Understanding Political and socio-economical aspects of Nepal's borders.
2. **Insights on Nepali Banking Sector:** Study on the collusive behavior in the banking sector and how it influences the banking sector in the Nation.



Neftalks are a discussion platform hosted by NEF for policy discourse under various themes. There have been four Neftalks this year. Three were conducted using the hybrid model with in-person and an online audience, while one was entirely virtual.

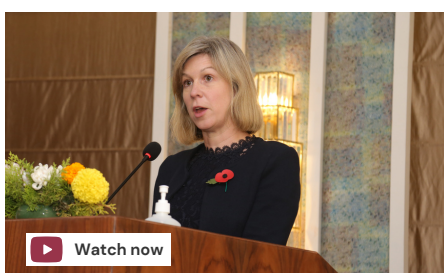
2021 was the year when NEF explored online tools to design talks that were open to a physical audience while also being accessible to a virtual one. The hybrid set-up allowed our discussions to be more widespread and integrative.



Dissecting Bordernomics: A futuristic perspective on borders as points of lifeline and facilitation of economy
Date: 10 March 2021



Procurement during pandemic: Responses and Failures
Date: 20 May 2021




Nepal and the World
Date: 11 November 2021



Green SME Financing in Nepal
Date: 16 November 2021

Weekly Economic Update

Weekly Economic Update
22 October 2021 - 28 October 2021



- 1 The Nurturing Excellence in Higher Education Program (NEHEP) has been launched by the government with the World Bank to help the labor market of Nepal. USD 60 million has been provided for this five-year program to provide more educational resources online, build academic institutions and increase collaborative research.
- 2 The Department of Transportation has started application for driving license from 25th October after months of halt. New applicants will be examined under a new scoring system requiring an applicant to obtain 60 out of 100 in written test and 70 out of 100 in the trial phase.
- 3 The government, as a part of the 'Business Continuity Loan Disbursement Procedures 2020', has extended its help to tourism and domestic industry workers by providing them a Rs 1 billion loan.
- 4 Nepal Insurance companies' collection premiums increased by 20.11% compared to last year. Insurance Premium amounting to Rs47.87 billion were collected, out of which premium worth Rs.38.18 billion of life insurance and Rs.9.69 billion premium collected from non-life insurance.
- 5 Nepal Rastra Bank has unveiled that the first three months of FY 2021/22 has resulted in a significant trade deficit by 68.73 percent signalling growing concerns for the country's foreign currency reserves. This has been triggered by the fall in remittance inflow, which has gone down by 6.3 percent.
- 6 The Department of Industry recorded 194 companies pledged investments amounting to Rs. 146 billion in the first quarter of 2021-2022. Out of which 87 domestic companies have pledged investment of Rs. 122 billion and foreign companies have pledged Rs.24 billion with a target to provide job opportunities to 7,195 people.
- 7 According to the NRB report remittance has decreased by 6.3% to Rs.155.37 billion in the first two months of the current financial year. Even with an increase of workers for foreign employment which had decreased by 99.2% in the same period last year.
- 8 The Tanahun Hydropower, a 140 MW transmission project, has successfully completed work on 27 foundations showing signs of rapid growth.
- 9 The gold prices, which increased by Rs. 200 per tola during the Dashain festivities, have now seen a Rs. 600 fall in their prices. Gold is now trading at Rs. 92,000 per tola. Silver has also seen a fall of Rs. 15 and is trading at Rs. 1250.
- 10 The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development has preliminary estimates that stated a loss of Rs.8.26 billion readies for harvest paddy over 85,580 hectares across the seven provinces. Lumbini province has suffered the Highest loss worth Rs.4.51 billion.

NEF@nepaleconomicforum.org | www.nepaleconomicforum.org | @nepaleconomicforum

NEF has published upwards of **31 Weekly Economic Updates** until December 2021.

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Weekly Economic Updates

Did You Know (DYK) series

NEF has published upwards of **43 "Did You Know"** updates, and is still ongoing.



DID YOU KNOW



Nepal's second Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) is estimated to be **USD 28.4 billion**, of which Nepal can only manage **USD 3.4 billion** from its own financial resources.

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Did You Know updates

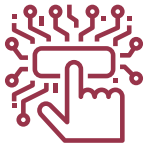
Incubation Centres

The Incubation Centers or Programs at Nepal Economic Forum act as building blocks of transformation. In 2021, we kickstarted operations for all the centres.



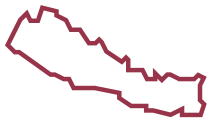
Himalayan Circular Economy Forum (HICEF)

HiCEF is a platform to ideate research, initiate policy dialogues and disseminate information relating to the circular economy and the Himalayas.



Center for Digital Transformation

Center for Digital Transformation is an incubation program that addresses cross-cutting themes related to digital adoption and revolution in emerging and frontier markets of Asia and Africa.



Global Nepali Network

Global Nepali Network is a platform to connect Nepalis around the world regardless of their citizenship.



Renewable Energy Center

Renewable Energy Center is an incubation program that engages multiple stakeholders to articulate discourse that will shape national-level energy policies.



Nepal and the World

Nepal and the World (NAW) will study Nepal's foreign policy and diplomacy.



Center for Private Sector Development

The Centre for Private Sector Development (CPSD) will focus on private sector-led development by supporting the growth of small and medium enterprises.

NEF Fellowship

The NEF Fellowship is a one-year program which allows talented young graduates to contribute towards research and analysis for the various products and assignments conducted at NEF.

The NEF Fellows are committed to the organization for a full year, they are instrumental in refining NEF's research and analysis while also creating content for its digital as well as physical information dissemination platforms by writing and participating in research papers/projects, blogs, publications, events and more.

P.O.Box 7025, Krishna Galli, Lalitpur - 3, Nepal
Phone: +977 1 5548400 info@nepaleconomicforum.org
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