

Report on
International Conference on Business, Society and Governance:
Emerging Management Paradigm (INCONBS2017)

(Feb 26th to 28th, Pokhara)



School of Business

Organised by

School of Business
Faculty of Management Studies
Pokhara University

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1. Introduction

The three-day international conference on "Business, Society and Governance: Emerging Management Paradigm (INCONBS2017) " was successfully organized by the School of Business, Faculty of Management, Pokhara University with the support of the University Grants Commission (UGC) from 26th to 28th February, 2017 at Pokhara, Nepal. The provided a global forum to academicians and practicing managers to discuss critical issues pertaining to the impact of ethical business practices, corporate governance and CSR on society. It acted as a platform for sharing ideas on how value based businesses can contribute to formulating innovative paths regarding how companies are designed and managed, and how they take an active part in improving the societies where they operate. Conference highlighted on the broad forces that shape the relationships' between business and society and the way they govern. The changing societal and ethical expectations, redefined role of the government, dynamic global economy, ecological and natural concerns, and changing role of technology and technological advancements that are considered as evolving strategic initiatives will be the focus area of the conference. Similarly, the conference also provided opportunities to share cutting-edge research experiences bring new ideas, debate issues and address latest developments in the domain of business and management practices that deliver social value. It also offered platform for networking and collaboration amongst management scholars from different disciplines across the globe.

2. Significance of the Conference

The conference brought together management thinkers, scholars, young researchers and practitioners from diverse disciplines who are involved in studying the practices and impact of the nexus between business, society and governance. Primarily the conference accentuated the notion that businesses understanding themselves as a component of society, interacting with the alterations in external environment and interactively managing/governing their actions that profoundly influence each other are at the winning edges. The conference brought together the distinguished panel of speakers, including academics from renowned business schools, management

thinkers, marketing experts, senior government policy makers, young researchers, businessmen and management practitioners locally and across the world to share their insights on how value based businesses can contribute to formulating innovative paths by contributing and improving the societies where they operate. The conference's spotlight was on the broad forces that shape the relationships' between business and society and the way they govern. The conference was highly useful to better understand the connection between business, society and governance. The conference was significant event in the area of promoting value based business practices. The key features of the conference were:

Conference Main Theme: Business, Society and Governance

Conference Sub Themes: Business and Society, Corporate Governance and CSR, Marketing Management, Financial Management, Human Resource Management, General Management, and Social Accounting and Audit.

Keynote Speech: 1

Plenary Sessions: 3

Technical Sessions: 12

Number of Participants: 149

Number of Papers Presented: 71

Number of Countries Represented: 8 (South Korea, India, South Africa, Netherlands, Japan, China, UK, Thailand)

3. Objectives Achievement

The primary objective of the conference was to provide the platform for sharing research work and discussion on the domain of the conference main theme "Business, society and governance: Emerging management paradigm". The conference's focus was on, developing insights into creation of responsible, value based and ethical business practices, sharing of research based knowledge related to the emerging issues in business and management, and case studies and innovative applications on the related fields. The substantial participation of special guest speakers and conference delegates from various countries, the quality of research work disseminated in the conference, and the active discussions during plenary and technical sessions provided new insights on how to create value based business for sustainable development.

4. Outcomes of the Conference

The INCONBS2017 has been organized successfully. Diverse participation of conference delegates, eminent academic personalities' presence as guest speakers and quality of papers presented reflect the significant outcome of the conference in creating awareness and providing rich insights on emerging issues in the area of corporate social responsibility, corporate governance and business ethics. The major outcomes of the conference are:

- Sharing and discussion of issues related to creation of socially responsible businesses in developing and underdeveloped countries.
- Dissemination of findings of recent research studies in the area.
- Eminent academicians and practitioners in the area shared their views on contemporary issues on value oriented business practices.
- The research papers presented in the conference have been compiled and published as conference proceedings. Selected articles are being published in special issue of the official journal of School of Business, FMS, Pokhara University.
- The ideas developed through collective and rigorous discussions during the conference will aid in policy formulation in the area of corporate governance, CSR practices and business ethical standards.

5. Beneficiaries

International delegates, faculties from different campuses and academic institutions affiliated to Nepalese universities located in all over Nepal, research scholars, institutional participants, and delegates from business community participated in the conference. The participants received enriching insights on contemporary issues on the area of value based business practices and governance. They also benefitted from wide dissemination of research studies in diverse areas in the domain. Young faculties and research scholars received platform to present their research work. The business community will benefit by the academic inputs obtained in the issues. The policymakers can receive inputs for policy formulation in the area of corporate social responsibility, corporate governance and business ethics.

6. Guest Speakers

Renowned academicians and eminent personalities in the area of conference theme delivered special speech during the conference. They participated as key note speaker, panelist, and session chairs. The list of the key speakers is:

SN	Name	Country	Participation
1	Prof. Katshuhiko Hirasawa	Japan	Keynote Speaker
2	Prof. Young In Kim	South Korea	Session Chair
3	Prof. Nawal Kishor	India	Session Chair
4	Prof. Hanuman Prasad	India	Session Chair
5	Dr. Ankit Katrodia	South Africa	Guest Speaker
6	Mr. W.B. Van Doesburg	Netherlands	Guest Speaker
7	Mr. Mahabir Pun	Nepal	Guest Speaker
8	Prof. Radhe S. Pradhan	Nepal	Session Chair
9	Prof. Bijay K. C.	Nepal	Session Chair
10	Prof. Dev Raj Adhikari	Nepal	Session Chair
11	Prof. Fatta B. K. C.	Nepal	Session Chair
12	Prof. Kundan D. Koirala	Nepal	Session Chair
13	Prof. Rajan B. Paudel	Nepal	Session Chair
14	Prof. Indra P. Tiwari	Nepal	Guest Speaker
15	Prof. Keshar J. Baral	Nepal	Session Chair
16	Prof. Lekhnath Bhattarai	Nepal	Session Chair

7. Conference Arrangements and Expenditure

The conference was organized by School of Business, Faculty of Management, Pokhara University. The conference was held at the Hotel Pokhara Grande, Birauta, Pokhara.

Date of the Conference: 26th to 28th February, 2017.

Conference time: 10:00 am to 4:30 pm

Venue of the Conference: Hotel Pokhara Grande, Pokhara

Conference Kits: Official bag, pendrive, notecopy, pen

Conference Foods: Hi-Tea, Lunch and Valedictory Dinner

No of participants: 149 delegates

Main Convention Hall : 1

Technical Session Halls: 3

The institute provided transport facilities to the participants. Different conference materials and handouts were provided to all participants. City tour was organized for the conference delegates. Participants were provided tea, tiffin and lunch throughout the conference period. The valedictory dinner was organized by FMS, Pokhara University.

The total expenditure for the conference was Rs. 30 Lakhs approximately. The Faculty of Management, PU provided the grant of Rs. 8,00,000. The UGC Nepal financed grant of Rs. 2,00,000 and remaining amount was sponsored by various affiliated colleges of Pokhara University.

8. Daily Narrative Report

The conference was held for three days. The conference consisted of one keynote speech, two plenary sessions, 12 technical sessions and one special speech session. The conference schedule is shown in appendix. A short description of different activities commenced during the conference period is given below:

a. Day One:

Day one comprised of the inauguration ceremony, plenary session and technical sessions. The conference was inaugurated by the honorable vice-chancellor of Pokhara University. Special guest Prof. Devraj Adhikari, Member Secretary, UGC Nepal also delivered speech during the session. The inauguration session ended with keynote speech from Prof. Katsuhiko Hirasawa.

The second session comprised of Plenary session on "Business and Society" theme. The panel members were Prof. Katsuhiko Hirasawa, Prof. Bijay K. C., Prof. Radhe S. Pradhan, Prof. Nawal Kishore, and Mr. W. B. Van Doesburg. The panelists discussed on the issues pertaining to linkages between business and society and how to create

business structures and practices that deliver social value. In the following session, special guest Mr. Mahabir Pun spoke on innovation and sustainability.

The last session of the day comprised of three concurrent technical sessions on governance and management, financial management and human resource management respectively which were run simultaneously on three session halls. Professors Bijay K. C., Fatta Bdr. K. C. and Dev Raj Adhikari chaired the three sessions respectively.

b. Day Two

Day two started with plenary session on "Corporate governance and corporate social responsibility". The panel members were Professors Young In Kim, Kundan D. Koirala, Rajan B. Paudel, Keshar J. Baral and Hanuman Prasad who discussed on emerging issues on how to create well-governed companies and socially responsible business practices. On the second session, three concurrent technical sessions on marketing management, Financial institutions and markets, and Human resource management which were chaired by Professors Kundan D Koirala, Rajan B. Paudel, and Dr. Karna Bir Paudel respectively were held. The technical sessions had six presentations on average.

Similarly, the last session of the day comprised of three technical sessions on General management, Financial inclusion and Economics and development which were chaired by Professors Nawal Kishor, Keshar J. Baral, and Lekhnath Bhattarai respectively. The sessions contained paper presentations followed by floor discussion. The participants participated actively during the discussion sessions.

c. Day Three

Day three started with three concurrent technical sessions. The first session was on Ethical business practices which were chaired by Prof. Hanuman Prasad. The session had eight papers presentations. The second technical session was on Finance and governance chaired by Prof. Radhe s. Pradhan which had seven papers presented. The third technical session on Human resource management was chaired by Prof. Nawal

Kishor and had six papers presented. The sessions' floor discussion was informative and highly participative.

The session was followed by valedictory ceremony. The ceremony was chaired by Prof. Young In Kim. The speakers highly appreciated the successful organization of the conference and highlighted the significance of the conference on creating value oriented and sustainable businesses in developing economies. They recommended that the conference series should be organized periodically in future years. After the valedictory ceremony, city tour was organized for the participants. After the tour, cultural program was held at the conference venue which was followed by valedictory dinner. The feedback taken during the period revealed that the participants found the conference well organized, very informative and all the conference sessions academically rewarding.

9. Conclusions

The international conference was organized successfully and it was a significant academic event in the western region of Nepal. The conference participation was high and the quality of the papers presented was appreciable. The conference offered a venue for academicians and practitioners around the globe to share, discuss and debate on contemporary issues and policy framework for creation of responsible business practices which deliver sustainable social value. It was significant in providing platform for young researchers and research scholars to present their research findings. The conference was successful in meeting the UGC objective of improving quality of management education in Nepalese universities by developing the skills of faculties in the area of research and its dissemination. Overall, the international conference was highly successful in meeting its objective of creating awareness of and promoting good corporate governance and ethical business practices. The UGC should provide continuous support to academic institutions for organizing similar conferences, seminars, research projects, conferences etc. to meet the SHEP objectives of capacity building of universities and improving sustainable quality of education.

Some Glimpses of the program



The Conference Venue (Main Hall)



Inauguration by Honorable Vice-Chancellor



Photo: WhiteFOXEnt.

Token of Love Presentation to Keynote Speaker Prof. Katsuhiko Hirasawa



Paper presentation in a technical session



Participants listening to paper presentation



Closing Ceremony of the Conference



Release of Conference Proceedings by Prof. Kim In Young



Conference Organizing Committee with Special Guests



Welcome banner at the conference venue



Plenary session on business and society



Cultural program at the valedictory session



Presenting token of love to Member Secretary UGC Nepal, Prof. Dev Raj Adhikari