

EDITORIAL

The second issue of *Nepal Tourism and Development Review (NTDR)* is finally before us. If someone had asked us only a few months before when the Journal would be published, we would not be able to say. Apart from getting authors to contribute, unexpected hurdles and simple bottlenecks like loadshedding are always a problem for a fledgling Journal of this type.

This issue has a number of unique features. First, there is a strong empirical flavor regarding the local impact of tourism in Nepal. While macro level analysis is important, understanding of the impacts at the micro level is equally necessary for making tourism a sustainable activity. The results clearly indicate that there are several measures that can be taken to enhance the local income and employment impacts of tourism. Similarly, we have made an effort to take account of women entrepreneurs in tourism who have begun to play an important role amid several institutional hurdles. The narratives of how they overcome many of these difficulties provide a number of interesting insights.

Climate change is a new topic and even more so in the context of its linkages with tourism. The discussion here has less to do with climate change per se but more about the perception of tourists and local service providers about this pressing phenomenon. Another novel effort included in the Journal deals with the growing urban pressures on the heritage sites in Kathmandu Valley. The author discovers that if these sites are not regulated with some urgency, tourism could be adversely affected and an important piece of Nepali heritage lost forever.

A significant section of the Journal is devoted to notes from the field work on two principal themes. The first includes the social, cultural and economic facets of the home-stay programme. The second examines the status of tourism and its economic impact in Nepal's three major tourist destinations such as Bhaktapur, Sauraha and Nagarkot. The last section presents a review of a book which discusses the role of private sector in tourism.

Important to note, majority of the contributors in this issue are young scholars including a good number of female researchers. *NTDR* promises to remain a platform for substantiating curricular

endeavours of Kathmandu University through professional support and networks of Nepal Tourism Board.

We are moving ahead to work for the third issue and are committed to emulate our products with more hard work. We look forward to valuable inputs from our readers.