



SAWTEE CSD—Roundtable Discussion Series

Changing strategic landscapes: Nepal's external engagements

5 February 2019, SAWTEE premises, Baluwatar

Context

We are entering a crucial period in the conduct of international relations. The world is in flux. There is a growing contest to increase the influence among nations by the ruling, rising and other aspiring powers. The Asia Pacific region as a whole and our region in particular is in a vortex of this strategic change.

Our aspirations to become a prosperous nation, while consolidating our independence and sovereignty, depends as much on our internal political maturity and social and economic progress, as it does on our conduct of a prudent, balanced, and prescient foreign policy. In fact, our history and strategic location demand that we hold a clear and holistic view of our relationship in terms of the actors and the areas of cooperation to ensure that we attain our goals.

The fundamental tenets of the current liberal international order, of which we are part, is an important anchor of our foreign policy, even though we have called for it to be more inclusive, fair and just so that each nation, small or big, can prosper and utilize its full potentials for promoting peace, stability and progress.

We have multi-pronged linkages with the world, which cover political, security, economic, commercial and cultural fields including people-to-people interactions.

As we move towards a post-conflict situation in Nepal with the promulgation of a new Constitution and subsequent elections to the federal, provincial and local levels, it is right time to have a thoughtful and comprehensive look at both the changing global dynamics as well as our external engagements to promote our interests and aspirations in a coherent manner. By doing so, we would be able to better navigate the tide to reach our destination.

Against this background, SAWTEE-CSD has initiated a *Roundtable Dialogue Series* to bring forth national and international issues affecting Nepal's socio-economic development with participation of wide section of experts and stakeholders to come up with prudent policy prescriptions.



Objectives

This first roundtable of the series titled “**Changing strategic landscapes: Nepal’s external engagements**” therefore has the following objectives:

- i. To have a free and frank discussion on major strategic changes taking place around us and to identify key areas that we need to focus on, in order to enhance our larger national interests in the days ahead; and
- ii. To promote multistakeholder dialogue on fundamental issues of importance to the nation.

Participants

This roundtable shall bring together senior policy experts of Nepal that will include, among others, former ministers, government officials, members of political parties, former ambassadors and intellectuals.

Date, time and venue

The roundtable will take place as per details below:

Date: Tuesday, 5 February 2019

Place: SAWTEE office Baluwatar

Time: 2pm – 5pm

For further information, please contact:

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About SAWTEE-CSD

SAWTEE-Centre for Sustainable Development (SAWTEE-CSD) is an independent, non-partisan, research and advocacy spin-off of SAWTEE that seeks to support accelerated, inclusive and sustainable development and structural transformation in Nepal, taking into account the convergence between the national development objectives and the global development framework—Sustainable Development Goals, with meaningful South Asian and global partnership.