

Panel Brief: Empowering Women in Trade for Inclusive Growth

1. Event Details:

Event Name: The WCP-Nepal 3rd Annual Conference on Climate Change and Trade Sustainability in South Asia

Date: January 12, 2025

Time: 1.05PM - 2.05 PM (subject to change based on paper presentation schedules)

Venue: Hotel Yak and Yeti

Duration: 60 Minutes

2. Panel Title: Empowering Women in Trade for Inclusive Growth

Brief Description:

This panel discussion explores the transformative role of women in trade as drivers of inclusive economic growth, highlighting their contributions to local and global economies through case studies from both developing and developed nations. It delves into the **barriers women face, such as structural, societal, and institutional challenges**, alongside **disparities in access to resources, networks, and markets**. The discussion emphasizes the critical role of **governments, trade organizations, and NGOs in implementing impactful policies and initiatives to support women in trade**. It also examines how **digital transformation creates opportunities for market access, skill development, and global connectivity, showcasing women-led digital businesses and e-commerce ventures**. Lastly, it underscores the importance of public, private, and civil sector partnerships in building inclusive ecosystems that empower women entrepreneurs, fostering collaboration and sustainable support networks.

3. Objective

- To highlight the transformative role of women in trade and their contributions to fostering inclusive economic growth.
- To explore strategies for addressing systemic barriers that hinder women's participation in global trade.
- To promote gender equity in trade systems by enhancing opportunities and access to resources, networks, and markets for women.

4. Key Themes

1. Role of Women in Driving Inclusive Economic Growth:

Contributions of women entrepreneurs and traders to local and global economies.

2. Barriers to Women's Participation in Trade:

Structural, societal, and institutional challenges.

Disparities in access to resources, networks, and markets.

3. Policy Interventions and Support Systems:

Role of governments, trade organizations, and NGOs.

4. Digital Transformation as a Catalyst for Women Entrepreneurs:

Leveraging technology for market access, skills development, and network expansion.
Examples of women-led digital businesses and e-commerce ventures.

5. Partnerships for Empowerment:

Collaborative efforts between public, private, and civil sectors.
Building inclusive ecosystems to support women in trade.

4. Audience Profile:

Target Audience:

- Academics and researchers.
- Women entrepreneurs and traders.
- Policy-makers and trade officials.
- Representatives from NGOs and civil society organizations.
- Students and aspiring entrepreneurs.

Audience Size: 50

5. Panel Composition:

1. Moderator: Dr.Mona Shrestha Adhikari, Chief Executive Officer, EMERGE Pvt.Ltd

2. Panelists:

- Mrs. Darshana Shrestha, First Vice President, Federation of Woman Entrepreneurs Associations of Nepal (FWEAN)
- Prof.Dr. Kushum Shakya, Former Dean - Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University (TU)
- Mr. Lila Dhar Adhikari, Under Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies, Government of Nepal
- Mr.Subash Nepali, Economic and Sustainable Development Adviser, United Nations

6. Discussion Flow

Opening (10 minutes): Welcome remarks and introduction of the topic and panelists by the moderator.

Moderated Discussion (30 minutes): The moderator asks prepared and follow-up questions to foster discussion among the panelists and encourage them to share their insights and experiences.

Audience Q&A (15 minutes): Open the floor to questions from the audience.

Closing (5 minutes): Summary of key insights by the moderator and thank-you remarks