



Scientist Nepal Session 21st May 28, 2020

A Report

On May 27, 2020 Nepal recorded 114 new Covid-19 cases, the highest in a single day, taking the national tally to 886. This was the first time more than 100 cases were reported in a single day. When compared to the total cases in the world (over 5.78 million), this number looks too minor. But this is an alarm bell as the number was double jump in a week, we should not only be vigilant but also prepare at war footing and scientists need work hard. This was observed in the 21st session of Scientist Nepal attended by nearly 100 professionals working in different field of science and technology representing all seven provinces.

Scientist Nepal is an e-platform of self-motivated professionals working in different fields of science and technology. The platform came into effect spontaneously after the declaration of the pandemic by the WHO and lockdown announcement in Nepal.

Facilitating the session Academician Dr Dinesh Bhuju, General Secretary of Resources Himalaya Foundation said, the objective of the e-platform Scientist Nepal was to mobilize Nepal's scientists and technologists in the global efforts of combating COVID-19 through knowledge sharing, science awareness and participation in technology development and innovation. Science has the greatest role to play to save the humanity at this historic peril, he added.

In its 21st session, Scientist Nepal had reports presented by coordinators: Ganesh Tamang from Province 1, Nashir Mulla from Province 2, Dr Meena Bohara from Province 3, Prof. Dayaram Pokhrel from Province 4, Chandra Thapa from Province 5, and Dr Pushpa Acharya from Province 6. The provincial platforms have actively been involved in preparing inventory of the facilities for diagnosis and human resources, producing sanitizer and its distribution, organizing policy dialogues with the provincial government to support COVID-19 control programs, and disseminating science materials through social/mass media.

Guest speaker in the session, Dr Ram Acharya presented a global and national scenario COVID-19. His presentation entitled "Trend of COVID-19: Where is Nepal advancing?"





Probability curve of COVID-19 case in Nepal
 Courtesy: R. Acharya 2020



Nepal's geography could be a blessing
 Courtesy: R. Acharya 2020

discussed the results of projection based on deterministic and stochastic models. There are three clusters of the nations, first which already had seen the flattening of the curve and now in recovery phase, second which are suffering the worst, and the third which are rapidly moving uphill. Nepal belongs to the third, Dr Acharya opined. Initial, Nepal's infection rate was in par with India (0.17%); however, in recent days it has jumped to 0.83%. Based on the mathematical modelling, the number of cases in Nepal could be 3,000 at minimum. There are some chances that Nepal can be spared, as it has sparse settlements in the mountain terrain.

Prof. KK Shrestha, former secretary of Nepal Academy of Science and Technology and Prof. IP Dhakal, former Vice-chancellor of Agriculture and Forestry University made remarks on the presentation. They said, Scientist Nepal should continue its activities so as to raise voice in increasing investment on Nepal's R&D sector.

Prof. Kedar Rijal, chair of the session proposed vote of thanks.

Earlier, Scientist Nepal had interactive sessions with Dr Usha Jha, Member of National Planning Commission, Prof. Devraj Adhikari, Member-Secretary of University Grant Commission, Nepal.

[Report prepared by Dr Meena Bohara, Coordinator of Bargmati Province.](#)

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Resources Himalaya Foundation has been facilitating various e-platforms involving young scientists, science teachers and professionals in raising public awareness to combat COVID-19.