



Year 20

Issue III

May 2026

Volume 63

International Conference on Anti-Money Laundering Concludes

Shared Commitment Essential for Anti-Money Laundering: Governor Poudel



A two-day international conference on “Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT)” was held in Kathmandu on February 11 and 12. The conference was organized by Money Laundering Prevention Supervision Division.

Addressing the inaugural session, Governor Prof. Dr. Biswo Nath Poudel expressed the need to strengthen and empower internal mechanisms for anti-money laundering, especially as Nepal is currently on the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) ‘grey list.’ Governor Poudel emphasized that the fight against financial crime is not limited to a single agency or sector, and that success



requires the collective commitment of banking, insurance, capital markets, cooperatives, and all stakeholders. He believed the conference would be fruitful in addressing weaknesses and adopting best practices in AML efforts.

In the welcome remarks, Dirgha Bahadur Rawal, Executive Director of the Bank Supervision Department, expressed confidence that the conference would be meaningful in addressing risks and challenges in AML and in strengthening regulatory and supervisory practices. The inaugural session was attended by Board Director Chintamani Siwakoti and other executive directors of the bank.

Experts from India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Mongolia attended the conference. Representatives from the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers, various ministries, financial sector regulatory bodies, and investigative agencies of the Government of Nepal also took a part. Discussions focused on contemporary challenges and risks in AML and counter-terrorism financing, regulatory, supervisory, and judicial perspectives, and capacity building of relevant agencies.

On the first day, two working papers were presented, followed by a panel discussion. Abhiyan Upadhyay, Deputy Director of Nepal Rastra Bank, presented a paper on 'Current Status of AML/ CFT Regime in Nepal with Regards to Mutual Evaluation 2023'. Supun Gunasekara, Senior Assistant Director of Sri Lanka's Financial Intelligence Unit, presented the second paper on 'Pertinent Issues on Trade and Service Based Money Laundering and Counter Measures'. A panel discussion on 'The Importance of Consolidated and Co-ordinated Efforts to Counter Money Laundering (Supervisory Perspectives)' featured Ramkrishna Lamichhane, Director General of the Tourism Department; Bashu Dev Bhattarai, Head of the Financial Intelligence Unit; Rupesh KC, Executive Director of the Securities Board of Nepal; Hreedayaswor Pandit, Deputy Director of the Nepal Insurance Authority; and Md. Faisal

Kabir, Deputy Director of the Bangladesh Bank, with banking expert Bhuvan Kumar Dahal as moderator.

On the second day, three working papers were presented, along with a panel discussion. Vijay Raina, General Manager of the Reserve Bank of India, presented on 'Regulatory Tools and Techniques to Detect ML/ PF/ TF including RBI initiatives: Data analytics and Use of Technology in Supervision and Risk Assessments', and Nominchuluun Batsukh, Supervisor of Mongolia's Financial Regulatory Unit, on 'From Increased Monitoring (Grey List) to Delisting' - Impacts, Success Story, and Lessons from Mongolia's Journeys to Delisting and Take Away for Nepal'. Prakash Chandra Sapkota, Director of the Money Laundering Investigation Department, presented on 'Financial Intelligence Unit Report Dissemination and its Use Under ML/ TF Investigation'. The final session featured a panel discussion on 'The Importance of Consolidated and Coordinated Efforts to Counter Money Laundering TF/ PF (Judicial Perspectives)' with Bimal Paudyal, Chief Registrar of the Supreme Court; Gajendra Kumar Thakur, Director General of the Money Laundering Investigation Department; Binod Kumar Bhattarai, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Law; Amrendra Bahadur Singh, Superintendent of Police at the Central Investigation Bureau; and Gaurav Saini, Assistant Legal Advisor at India's Directorate of Enforcement, with Deputy Attorney General Sanjiv Raj Regmi as moderator.

Arya Joshi, Head of the AML Supervision Department, provided a brief review of the conference in the closing remarks. The program was conducted by Assistant Directors Sadhana Subedi and Sujal Dhungana.

The conference is expected to be result-oriented in strengthening legal and policy frameworks for AML, inter-agency coordination, adoption of best practices from other countries, and capacity building, especially in the context of Nepal's placement on the FATF grey list. ■

Agreement on Revolving Fund Operation



A ‘Revolving Fund’ has been launched to expand financial access in Nepal’s rural and semi-urban areas and promote small and medium enterprises (SMEs). The fund, established under the “SEDRA Project” with financial support of EUR 2 million from the German Development Bank (KfW), will be operated by Rastriya Banijya Bank. An agreement was signed on February 10, 2026 in the presence of Governor Poudel. The agreement was signed by Shikha Adhikari Regmi, Acting Director of the Financial Inclusion and Consumer Protection Division, and Devendra Raman Khanal, CEO of Rastriya Banijya Bank.

On the occasion, Governor Poudel highlighted the role of SMEs as the backbone of Nepal’s economy, emphasizing their contribution to local resource utilization, entrepreneurship development, and job creation. He expressed confidence that the

fund would support the development of SMEs in rural and semi-urban areas through sustainable and regular financial resources. Dr. Benjamin Seidl, Deputy Chief of Mission at the German Embassy in Nepal, noted the strong relationship between Germany and Nepal and the SEDRA project’s role in expanding financial access and promoting SMEs.

Dayaram Sharma Pangeni, Executive Director of the Office of the Governor, expressed confidence in the sustainable financial resources provided by the Revolving Fund for SME development. Michael Samsar, Director of KfW’s Nepal and Bangladesh offices, shared insights on various aspects of the SEDRA project and the Revolving Fund.

The event was attended by executive directors and directors from various departments of the central bank, officials from the Ministry of Finance and German cooperation agencies, and CEOs of commercial and development banks. The SEDRA project, funded by KfW, has been operating in Nepal since 2018. The existing fund under the project will now be operated as the Revolving Fund, which is expected to run until 2034. The “Revolving Fund Operation Directive, 2082” has been issued for its operation and management. Rastriya Banijya Bank will manage the fund, and ‘A’ class banks and national-level development banks will access financial resources from the fund to lend to SMEs. The Financial Inclusion and Consumer Protection Department of Nepal Rastra Bank will supervise and monitor the project. ■



Meeting Between Governor Poudel and Governor Pan of People's Bank of China

Governor Prof. Dr. Biswo Nath Poudel of Nepal Rastra Bank and Governor Pan Gohsheng of the People's Bank of China (PBOC) held a meeting on January 28, 2026, during the “International Conference on Digital Finance and Anti-Money Laundering” in Tianjin, China.

The meeting discussed opportunities and challenges in cross-border payments, investment, and cooperation between Nepal and China. They also discussed modernizing electronic payment systems, cooperation, and the use of QR code-based payments to facilitate and reduce costs for citizens traveling between the two countries. Governor Pan expressed PBOC's readiness to cooperate in digital payment modernization and information exchange.

Governor Poudel emphasized need for continuous cooperation, coordination, and communication between the two central banks.

The meeting was also attended by Zhou Yu,



Director General of the International Department of PBOC, and Dirgha Bahadur Rawal, Executive Director of the Bank Supervision Department, and Roshan Neupane, Assistant Director, of the Office of the Governor. ■

Meeting Between Governor Poudel and Governor Malhotra of RBI

Governor Prof. Dr. Biswo Nath Poudel of Nepal Rastra Bank and Governor Sanjay Malhotra of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) met on January 19, 2026, at the RBI headquarters in Mumbai.

The meeting focused on cross-border electronic payment systems and QR code-based payments between Nepal and India. Discussions also covered monetary policy, liquidity management, foreign exchange management, AI-based supervision, and IT sector best practices. The meeting was attended by Kiran Pandit, Executive Director of the Foreign Exchange Management Department; Dr. Satyendra Timilsina, Executive Director of the Payment Systems Department; and Dirgha Bahadur Rawal, Executive Director of the Bank Supervision Department.

During his visit to India, Governor Poudel



also met with senior officials of the “International Financial Services Centers Authority” (IFSCA) in Gujarat, Ahmedabad, on January 20, 2026. The meeting discussed the development of Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City), investment promotion policies, and potential cooperation with Nepal Rastra Bank. ■

Interaction Program on “Financial Crime: Practice and Challenges” Concludes



A one-day interaction program on “Financial Crime: Practice and Challenges” was jointly organized by Nepal Rastra Bank and the Judges’ Society Nepal in Kathmandu on February 21, 2026.

The program was held under the chief guestship of Honorable Justice Sapana Pradhan Malla of the Supreme Court. On the occasion, Honorable acting Chief Judge of the High Court Janakpur and General Secretary of the Judges’ Society Nepal, Tek Narayan Kunwar, delivered the welcome remarks.

Speaking at the program, Justice Malla highlighted that cryptocurrency is a complex subject, which has made judicial adjudication increasingly challenging for judges. She noted that alongside theoretical challenges in the dispensation of justice, a key contemporary issue is how constitutional and legal frameworks can effectively address evolving social behaviors and emerging financial crimes.

Addressing the program, Governor Prof. Dr. Biswo Nath Poudel, stated that the rapid advancement of technology has introduced new challenges in the payment

system. He emphasized the need for enhanced coordination among national-level investigators, prosecutors, judicial bodies, and concerned authorities to effectively address such challenges.

Chairing the program, Honorable Justice Til Prasad Shrestha of the Supreme Court and President of the Judges’ Society Nepal remarked that since cryptocurrency-related cases originate at the district court level, it is essential to organize such programs with the participation of district court judges as well.

During the program, working papers were presented by Mani Raj Shrestha, Deputy Director of the Assets and Service Management Department of Nepal Rastra Bank, Shiva Kumar Shrestha, Senior Superintendent of Police of the Central Investigation Bureau (CIB), Dr. Manoj Kumar K.C., Additional Inspector General of Police, and Honorable Meghraj Pokharel, Justice of the Supreme Court.

The program was moderated by Honorable Judge Churaman Khadka of the High Court Patan and Secretary of the Judges’ Society Nepal. ■

Farewell Program for Deputy Governors



A special farewell program was organized on March 9, 2026 by the Bank, in honor of the outgoing Deputy Governors, Dr. Neelam Dhungana Timsina and Bam Bahadur Mishra, completing their five year tenure on March 8, 2026.

The program was held in the presence of Governor Prof. Dr. Biswo Nath Poudel, with participation from members of the Board of Directors, senior management, union representatives, and staff. Addressing the program, the Governor highlighted the significant contributions made by the Deputy Governors to the stability, strengthening,

and development of Nepal's banking and financial sector, particularly in the areas of regulation, supervision, and institutional development.

On behalf of the employees, Executive Director Guru Prasad Paudel expressed appreciation for their leadership and guidance, noting their role in institutional development, human resource management, and policy reforms. Similarly, Board Member Chintamani Siwakoti emphasized that their tenure contributed to enhancing the strength and credibility of the financial system.

In their remarks, the outgoing Deputy Governors

expressed gratitude to the Governor, Board, management, and staff for their support and cooperation. They described their tenure at Nepal Rastra Bank as a significant professional experience and expressed their willingness to continue contributing to the country's economic and financial development.

On the occasion, tokens of appreciation and letters of honor were presented to the outgoing Deputy Governors. The program was conducted by Sharan Kumar Adhikari, Director of the Office of the Governor and Secretary of the Board. ■

Global Money Week 2026 Concludes

Global Money Week 2026 was observed across the country under the theme "*Smart Money Talks*." The week-long campaign was coordinated by Nepal Rastra Bank from March 16–22, 2026.

Observed annually in March, Global Money Week is a global initiative aimed at promoting financial literacy among children and young people. This year marked the 14th edition of the campaign,

coordinated globally by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Under the leadership of Nepal Rastra Bank, banks and financial institutions,



regulatory bodies, and various associations organized a wide range of financial literacy programs across the country. The campaign commenced with a National Launch Event jointly organized by Nepal Rastra Bank in collaboration with the Securities Board of Nepal, Nepal Insurance Authority, and the Department of Cooperatives. The event witnessed the participation of around 600 students from various schools in Kathmandu.

In the event, Governor Prof. Dr. Biswo Nath Poudel emphasized the importance of financial literacy, stating that students should help promote awareness among their families regarding earning, saving, and the proper utilization of money. He highlighted that effective financial management is

essential for individuals across all professions.

Delivering the welcome remarks, Dayaram Sharma Pangeni, Executive Director of the Office of the Governor, noted that the program aimed to educate students on prudent financial management from an early stage.

The inaugural session was attended by senior officials from Nepal Rastra Bank, Securities Board of Nepal, Nepal Insurance Authority, Department of Cooperatives, and representatives from banks and financial institutions. The second session featured a panel discussion with participation from representatives of regulatory bodies, banking associations, and students.

On the occasion, Ramu Poudel, Executive Director of

Nepal Rastra Bank, Dr. Navaraj Adhikari, Executive Director of Securities Board of Nepal, Sushil Dev Subedi, Executive Director of Nepal Insurance Authority, Shashi Kumar Lamichhane, Deputy Registrar of the Department of Cooperatives, and Santosh Koirala, President of the Nepal Bankers' Association shared insights on their respective institutional roles and responsibilities. They also responded to queries raised by students. The panel discussion was moderated by Shikha Adhikari Regmi, Acting Director of the Financial Inclusion and Consumer Protection Division.

As part of the campaign, additional financial awareness programs were conducted targeting students from various schools and colleges in the Kathmandu Valley. Students were provided opportunities to observe operations at Nepal Rastra Bank, including banking functions and currency management processes. Similar awareness activities were also conducted in different educational institutions, including colleges of health sciences, management, and



