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Monetary Policy for F.Y. 2026/27 Released

Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) has unveiled the Monetary Policy for the Fiscal Year 2026/27. Governor Prof. Dr. Biswo Nath Poudel released the policy from his office in Baluwatar on June 7. This marks the 25th annual monetary policy issued since the enactment of the Nepal Rastra Bank Act, 2002.

Stance of the Monetary Policy

Although external factors have placed some upward pressure on inflation, the policy projects that price levels will gradually ease in the coming months. To support the high economic growth target, maintain a low-cost economic environment, and strengthen private sector morale, the central bank has decided to continue its previously adopted "cautiously flexible stance". The Bank noted that the current foreign exchange reserves position remains comfortable and the overall macroeconomic outlook is favorable to sustain this direction.

Structure and Targets of the Policy

The Monetary Policy aims to maintain inflation at around 5.5 percent during FY 2026/27. It also seeks to achieve 7.0 percent economic growth while maintaining foreign exchange reserves sufficient to finance at least 7 months of imports of goods and services. Accordingly, the Bank will manage monetary liquidity and foreign exchange in line with these objectives.

While unveiling the policy, Governor Poudel stated that private sector credit is projected to grow by 11 percent, whereas broad money (M2) is expected to expand by 14 percent during the fiscal year.

The Monetary Policy continues to treat the fixed exchange rate of the Nepali Rupee with the Indian Rupee as the intermediate target. Likewise, the weighted average interbank rate remains the operating target, and open market operations will be conducted to keep the interbank rate around the policy rate. Depending on liquidity conditions, the Bank will continue to employ structural, regular and emergency liquidity management instruments as required.

Monetary Instruments

The Monetary policy keeps the policy rate, standing deposit facility (SDF) rate, and the bank rate under the interest rate corridor unchanged. Existing provisions concerning the Cash Reserve

Ratio (CRR), Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR), and the Standing Liquidity Facility (SLF) have also been given continuity.

To facilitate the management of liquidity flows resulting from foreign currency purchases, commercial banks will be encouraged to invest in foreign government bonds. Furthermore, a policy framework for "sterilized intervention" will be put in place during foreign currency purchases.

Macroprudential Regulation and Financial Stability

The Monetary Policy reiterates that macroprudential policy instruments will continue to be used whenever systemic risks emerge in any sector of the economy. To enhance the effectiveness of monetary policy transmission, the Bank will continue financial sector reforms, promote digitisation in banks and financial institutions, reduce financial intermediation costs, and ensure that the resulting benefits are passed on to customers through improved quality and affordability of financial services.

The policy also envisages the gradual implementation of regulatory measures following the completion of a study on the classification of banks and financial institutions to encourage them to serve their designated market segments more effectively.

Furthermore, policy measures have been introduced to eliminate unlimited liabilities arising from personal guarantees used as collateral for loans, reduce barriers to banking services caused by blacklisting due to cheque dishonour, facilitate the management of non-performing assets of distressed industries, support the restructuring of stressed loans, determine share-backed lending limits based on the institutional strength of borrowers and simplify the loan-to-value ratio for electric vehicles used as public transport.

The Bank has also announced measures to simplify regulatory directives and the Integrated Circular issued to banks, financial institutions and foreign exchange dealers by removing linguistic complexities and duplication. In addition, a study will be undertaken to introduce peer-to-peer (P2P) lending based on an individual credit scoring system.

The Monetary Policy further states that NRB will implement monetary policy-related programmes assigned to the Bank under the Government of Nepal's national commitments, governance reform agenda, the One Hundred-Day Action Plan, and the Budget Statement.

Future Guidance

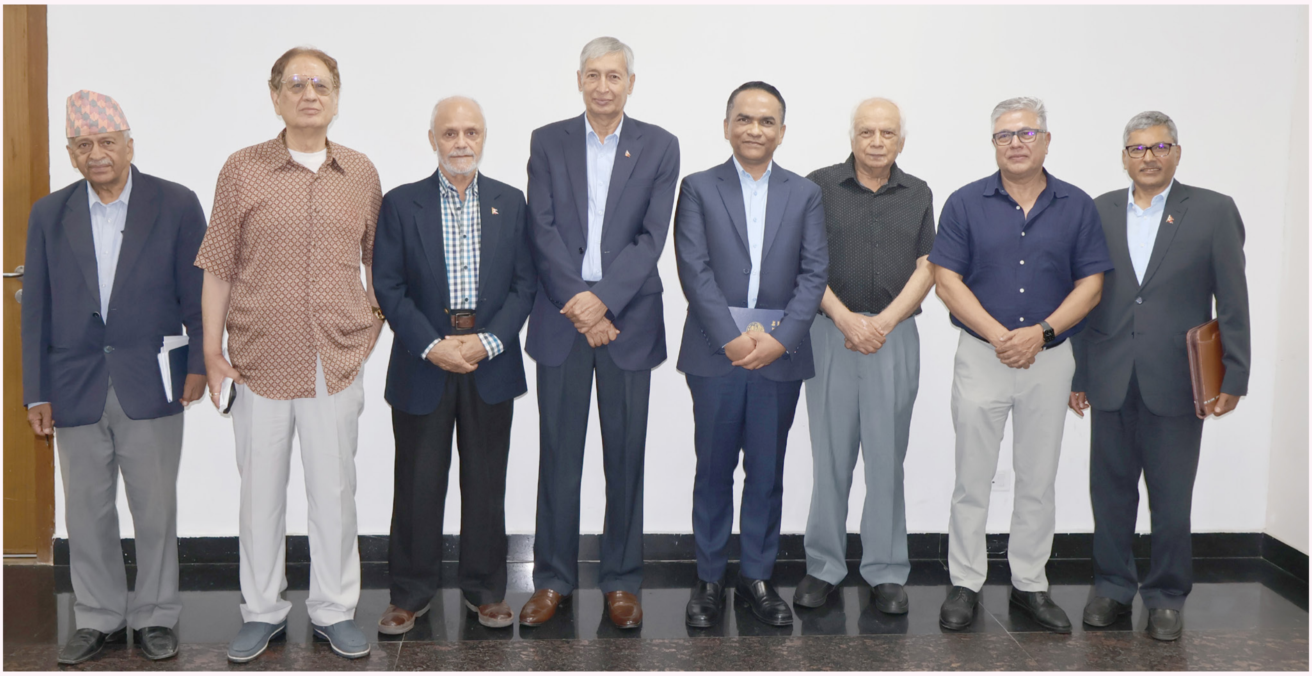
Nepal Rastra Bank expects the inflationary pressures driven by external factors to gradually moderate from next month onward, keeping the overall price levels within the Bank's projected limits for the year.

However, the policy explicitly states that the stance of the monetary policy will be reviewed if inflation continues to rise, if the public and private sectors fail to reap the expected benefits despite adequate market liquidity, or if challenges begin to emerge regarding macroeconomic stability. Furthermore, the existing interest rate corridor will be gradually narrowed down as necessary. Except in absolutely critical situations, the macro prudential tools adopted by the Bank will not be modified, ensuring policy stability and helping to streamline market expectations.

Press Conference

Following the announcement of the Monetary Policy, Nepal Rastra Bank organised a press conference at its Baluwatar premises, where Executive Director and Spokesperson of the Bank, Mr. Guru Pasad Paudel and Executive Director of the Economic Research Department, Dr. Satyendra Timilsina, briefed the media on various aspects of the Monetary Policy for FY 2026/27 and responded to questions raised by journalists. ■

Interaction Program with Former Governors



In connection with the formulation of the Monetary Policy for the Fiscal Year 2026/27, an interaction program with the former governors of Nepal Rastra Bank concluded on June 5, 2026.

The program was attended by former governors Dr. Tilak Bahadur Rawal, Dipendra Purush Dhakal, Bijaya Nath Bhattarai, Dipendra Bahadur Kshetry, Dr. Yuba Raj Khatiwada, Dr. Chiranjibi Nepal, and Maha Prasad Adhikari. On the occasion, Governor Prof. Dr. Biswo Nath Poudel, noting that credit flow remains low despite high liquidity and low interest rates, requested the former governors to provide suggestions on measures that can be adopted through the monetary policy to improve economic activities.

At the event, the former governors mentioned that the Nepal Rastra Bank has its own limitations and expressed the view that the efforts of the monetary policy alone are not sufficient to make the economy dynamic. Their view was that the role of the government is more important in improving aggregate demand and boosting the morale of investors for the expansion of economic activities.

Highlighting the rise in cybersecurity threats alongside the growth of digital payment transactions, the former governors made it clear that these challenges must be taken seriously. In the context that a separate structure has already been prepared for the regulation of the cooperative sector, it was their common consensus that the Nepal Rastra Bank should stay away from the regulatory and supervisory role of cooperative institutions. They expressed their respective views on issues including the role of the banking sector to exit the FATF's 'grey-list', matters of anti-money laundering, diversification of credit investment, and the necessity of an asset management company. The former governors put forward suggestions that the Rastra Bank should adopt monetary policy and other policy measures keeping financial stability in view.

On the occasion, the Executive Director of the Economic Research Department, Dr. Satyendra Timilsina, shared information about the current economic and financial situation of the country. ■

Interaction Program on Monetary Policy Formulation

The Economic Research Department organized an interaction program in Kathmandu on June 3, 2026 in connection with the formulation of the monetary policy. The Department organized the program in the presence of Governor Prof. Dr. Biswo Nath Poudel.

At the event, Governor Poudel stated that market liquidity remains comfortable, the external sector is robust, and inflation is contained well within the targeted limits. For Fiscal Year 2026/27, he emphasized the need to expand credit flow and private sector investment in a result-oriented manner. Furthermore, he highlighted that achieving high economic growth requires boosting investments in high-potential manufacturing sectors such as cement and steel alongside robust human capital development.

The program was attended by Deputy Governor Kiran Pandit and executive directors from various departments of central bank, chief executive officers of banks and financial institutions alongside officials from the Ministry of Finance and the Securities Board of Nepal, prominent economists, payment system operators, non-banking financial institutions, and key representatives spanning the industrial, commercial, energy, construction, tourism, and real estate sectors.

In light of the current economic slowdown, participating industrialists and business leaders urged the central bank to maintain long-term policy stability and implement effective measures to manage non-performing loans. They also recommended amending the Working Capital Loan Guidelines, revising sectoral lending, facilitating the restructuring and rescheduling of loans, and ensuring the continuity of concessional refinancing facilities alongside subsidized loan schemes.

In the program, the Executive Director of the Economic Research Department, Dr. Satyendra Timilsina, delivered a presentation on the current state of the economy and the background of monetary policy formulation. The event began with an opening welcome remarks of Dr. Gunaraj Bhatta, Director of Economic Research Department while Assistant Director Aditya Pokharel conducted the program. ■

Nepal Rastra Bank Enters Its 71st Year

Nepal Rastra Bank Remains Committed to Financial Stability: Governor Poudel

Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) has completed 70 years of its establishment and entered its 71st year. On the occasion of the Bank's 71st anniversary, a special ceremony was organized at the Bank's premises in Baluwatar on April 27. Governor Prof. Dr. Biswo Nath Poudel inaugurated the ceremony. NRB was established on April 26, 1956 and serves as the central bank of Nepal.

Addressing the program, Governor Poudel stated that the Bank is committed to promoting an open regulatory framework aligned with international best practices through simplified regulations and strengthened supervision. He emphasized that NRB remains dedicated to making banks and financial institutions stronger and more competitive while ensuring efficient financial services and appropriate pricing through effective regulation and supervision. In addition, Governor Poudel further noted that efforts are being made to improve the investment climate and channel capital towards productive sectors of the economy. He also informed that measures have been taken to ease lending limits in priority sectors to support economic activities.

In recognition of significant contribution to Nepal's economic, financial, monetary, and managerial sectors, former Finance Minister and former Governor Dr. Yuba Raj Khatiwada was honored at the ceremony. Governor Poudel honoured him by presenting a letter of appreciation and a commemorative shawl. Accepting the honor, Dr. Khatiwada shared his experiences from joining Nepal Rastra Bank to serving in its leadership. He also look back at the significant policy reforms and their execution during his tenure.

Deputy Governor Kiran Pandit delivered the welcome remarks and spoke about the objectives and relevance of the establishment of Nepal

Rastra Bank. Representatives of various staff associations and organizations also extended their best wishes on the occasion.

During the program, 17 employees who had completed 20 years of service at the Bank were awarded with the "Twenty Years of Service Award." A representative of the award recipients delivered remarks on behalf of all honorees.

Likewise, the Bank presented "Nepal Rastra Bank Excellent Service Award" and "Nepal Rastra Bank Outstanding Service Award" to employees from various departments and offices in recognition of their contributions and professional excellence.

The ceremony was attended by former Governors, former Deputy Governors, members of the Board of Directors, heads of regulatory agencies, chief executive officers of banks and financial institutions, senior officials and employees of the Bank, and former employees.

The program was conducted by Sharan Kumar Adhikari, Director of the Office of the Governor.

On the occasion of the 71st Anniversary of Nepal Rastra Bank, various commemorative activities, sports competitions, and blood donation programs were organized at the Bank and provincial offices. These programs were conducted with the objective of promoting employee participation, teamwork, and institutional companionship while celebrating the Bank's anniversary. ■

Governor Poudel Participates in the IMF–World Bank Group Spring Meetings 2026

Governor Prof. Dr. Biswo Nath Poudel participated in the Spring Meetings 2026 jointly organized by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group in Washington, D.C., United States, from April 13–18, 2026.

The meetings were attended by finance ministers, central bank governors, and senior financial and monetary officials from member countries of the IMF and the World Bank Group. During the event, Governor Poudel participated in the IMFC Introductory Session and the IMFC Plenary Meeting.

Governor Poudel held discussions with IMF Deputy Managing Director Bo Li in a sideline meeting. During the meeting, they exchanged views on Nepal's recent economic and financial developments, as well as the potential implications of emerging global economic challenges on the Nepali economy. Deputy Managing Director Li appreciated Nepal Rastra Bank's efforts in maintaining macroeconomic and financial stability, including the management of foreign exchange reserves and other key economic indicators. Also, they discussed the progress of programs being implemented under IMF support facilities and future plans. Governor Poudel expressed gratitude to the IMF for its continued support to Nepal. Officials from the Ministry of Finance also participated in the sideline meeting.

Governor Poudel also met separately with officials from the IMF's Asia and Pacific Department (APD), including Director Krishna Srinivasan, Nepal Mission Chief Sarwat Jahan, and representatives of the Monetary and Capital Markets Department (MCM). The discussions focused on the review of ongoing IMF-supported programs and the provision of technical assistance to Nepal in the coming years.

In addition, Governor Poudel met with Ivan Shadiev, Executive Director of the South East Asia Voting Group (SEAVG). Discussions centered on technical support available through the IMF for strengthening Nepal's financial sector and on developments related to artificial intelligence (AI) and digital innovation.

Governor Poudel also held a meeting with representatives of the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG). The discussions focused on Nepal's ongoing efforts in anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism, as well as measures being undertaken in addressing related international compliance requirements.

Furthermore, Governor Poudel met with Abdul Rasheed Ghaffour, Governor of the Central Bank of Malaysia. During the meeting, Governor Ghaffour shared Malaysia's experience in the use of artificial intelligbence and big data and highlighted their potential relevance for Nepal's financial sector.

During his visit, Governor Poudel participated as a keynote speaker at the "USA–Nepal Growth, Capital and Innovation Dialogue", organized by the Nepalese American Chamber of Commerce in Dallas, Texas, on April 18. He also participated in a "Fireside Chat" organized by the Nepali Students' Association (MITeri) at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Harvard University in Boston on April 19. On both occasions, he shared his views on Nepal's economic and financial outlook, investment opportunities, and the application of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence.

Governor Poudel also attended the Executive Forum organized by the World Bank Group in Washington, D.C., on April 20 and 21. The delegation included Dr. Ram Sharan Kharel, Executive Director of the Economic Research Department, and Sharan Kumar Adhikari, Director of the Office of the Governor.

The World Bank Group currently comprises 189 member countries, while the International Monetary Fund has 191 member countries. ■

Governor Poudel Participates in the 96th Annual Meeting of the BIS

Governor Prof. Dr. Biswo Nath Poudel participated in the 96th Annual Meeting of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) held in Basel, Switzerland, on June 27-28, 2026. The meeting was attended by central bank governors and high-level representatives from BIS member nations and various central banks worldwide.

During the meeting, BIS General Manager Pablo Hernandez de Cos, while releasing the BIS Annual Economic Report, noted that inflationary challenges continue to persist in the global economy, government debt has risen at a high rate, and vulnerabilities within the financial system are increasing.

Similarly, Governor Poudel participated in a panel discussion themed 'Stablecoins: Shaping Policy for a Resilient Future' on June 27. A special lecture on 'Stablecoins and Anonymous Money' was also conducted during the event. The session featured discussions on the necessity of formulating common international standards to curb regulatory arbitrage in stablecoin transactions, the insufficiency of targeting regulations solely at issuing institutions, and the vital importance of strengthening domestic economic indicators to enhance public trust in currency. The lecture was delivered by Gita Gopinath, a professor at Harvard University.

On the sidelines, Governor Poudel held a bilateral meeting with the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, Sanjay Malhotra. Their discussions focused on cross-border digital payments, the management of Indian currency notes, and other areas of mutual interest.

The Nepali delegation also included Dirgha Bahadur Rawal, Executive Director of the Bank Supervision Department, and Medani Prasad Pokharel, Deputy Director of the Office of the Governor.

Established in 1930, the BIS operates as an international financial institution that promotes monetary and financial stability by fostering policy coordination and cooperative efforts among central banks globally. It currently has 63 member central banks, with its headquarters located in Basel, Switzerland. ■

Governor Poudel Attends the 49th SAARCFINANCE Governors' Group Meeting and Symposium

Governor Prof. Dr. Biswo Nath Poudel participated in the 49th SAARCFINANCE Governors' Group Meeting and Symposium held in Paro, Bhutan, on July 9-10, 2026.

On the opening day, Bhutan's Finance Minister Lyonpo Lekey Dorji delivered the inaugural address, while Yangchen Tshogyel, Governor of the Royal Monetary Authority of Bhutan, welcomed the delegates. A panel discussion on 'Advancing Regional Financial Integration through Digital Payment Connectivity and Innovation' was conducted, featuring Governor Poudel alongside the central bank governors of Bhutan and Sri Lanka, and the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India.

During the panel, Governor Poudel highlighted Nepal's recent developments in digital payment systems and its ongoing efforts toward cross-border payment integration. In the second session, a presentation on 'Enablers and Challenges in Advancing Cross-Border Payment Interoperability' was delivered, where Nischal Adhikari, Executive Director of NRB's Payment Systems Department, presented on the current landscape and status of Nepal's cross-border payments.

The SAARCFINANCE Governors' Group Meeting concluded on the second day, bringing together governors, deputy governors, and delegates from across the SAARC region. Addressing the forum, Governor Poudel stated that political stability is maintained in Nepal and shared that the country's external and financial sectors remain structurally robust. However, he noted that international geopolitical influences continue to pose challenges to price stability and the overall macroeconomy. Other delegates also shared updates on the economic and financial positions of their respective nations, emphasizing the mutual need to strengthen cross-border payment and interoperability in the SAARC region.

The symposium also covered comprehensive discussions on climate investment and sustainable development in the SAARC region, financial inclusion frameworks, the SAARC currency swap framework, collaborative research and standardized data systems and SAARC fellowships and future strategic roadmaps.

During the visit, Governor Poudel held a separate bilateral meeting with Bhutan's Finance Minister Dorji. Governor Poudel returned to Nepal on July 12. The Nepali delegation also included Sharan Kumar Adhikari, Director and Swechhya Shakya, Deputy Director of the office of the Governor.

Established in 1998, SAARCFINANCE is a regional network of central bank governors and finance secretaries of SAARC member countries. It aims to foster dialogue on macroeconomic policies and promote mutual institutional cooperation. The network received formal recognition during the 11th SAARC Summit held in Kathmandu in January 2002. ■

Management Seminar-2083' Concludes

The Corporate Planning and Risk Management Department organized 'Management Seminar-2083' in Kathmandu on June 4-5, 2026. The department organized the seminar in connection with the formulation of the annual action plan and budget for the Fiscal Year 2026/27.

The seminar, organized in the presence of Governor Prof. Dr. Biswo Nath Poudel, Deputy Governor Kiran Pandit, and Board Directors Chintamani Shiwakoti, Dr. Shankar Prasad Acharya, and Dr. Rabindra Prasad Pandey and Executive Directors and Directors from all departments and offices.

During the program, Governor Poudel pointed out the need to decentralize workflows, mentioning that it is not necessary to escalate all decision-making processes of the bank to the top management. He emphasized that innovative and creative programs should be included in the bank's annual action plan. He also expressed the view that the morale of the bank's employees should be boosted by prioritizing their training and development.

Deputy Governor Kiran Pandit chaired the business sessions on the first and second days. During the business sessions, Executive Directors of all departments and offices, along with Directors of various divisions, units, and provincial offices, presented their proposed annual action plans for the Fiscal Year 2026/27. Following the departmental presentations, discussions were held among the participants regarding the bank's policy arrangements, problems observed in operations, challenges in budget and action plan implementation, and measures for resolution.

At the program, Deputy Governor Pandit stated that the budget priorities and action plans of all departments and offices must be aligned with the bank's core objectives. In light of the high volume of employee retirements projected for the coming year, he emphasized the need to adjust sanctioned staff positions and formulate a robust succession plan.

During the seminar, Board Director Chintamani Shiwakoti emphasized the need to formulate the annual action plan for the Fiscal Year 2026/27 in an economical manner by cutting the budget that lack justification. Furthermore, Board Director Dr. Shankar Prasad Acharya expressed the view that the capacity development and strengthening of the bank's information technology infrastructure should be carried out.

In the program, Executive Director of the Corporate Planning and Risk Management Department, Muktinath Sapkota, delivered the welcome address along with a departmental presentation, while Deputy Director Padam Raj Joshi conducted the program.

Interaction Program on the 'Status of Illegal Crypto Transactions'

The Payment System Department organized an interaction program on the 'Status of Illegal Crypto Transactions' in Bhairahawa on June 20, 2026.

The Department organized the program in the presence of Governor Prof. Dr. Biswo Nath Poudel and Deputy Governor Kiran Pandit. The program was attended by the heads of the bank's provincial offices, along with representatives from the Nepal Police and officials from the various departments and offices of the bank.

Addressing the program, Governor Poudel briefly discussed the background of cryptocurrency and pointed out the need for seamless coordination among state agencies to investigate illegal crypto transactions. He stated, "If illegal transactions continue to increase, public trust in the state diminishes. Therefore, coordination among state agencies is essential in the investigation of such transactions." Highlighting that the role of the Nepal Police is crucial in investigating crypto transactions, he expressed that the Nepal Rastra Bank stands ready to provide all necessary assistance to the police during the investigative process.

During the program, Dr. Satyendra Timilsina, Executive Director of the Economic Research Department, and Nischal Adhikari, Executive Director of the Payment System Department co-delivered presentation on 'Status of Illegal Crypto Transactions in Nepal'. They shared insights on the background of crypto currency, its market share in the global economy, trends of illegal crypto transactions in Nepal, the distinct differences between crypto currency and digital currency, and the prevailing regulatory arrangements. Following their session, Inspector Bhagwan Prasad Kushwaha from the Central Investigation Bureau (CIB) of the Nepal Police delivered a presentaion on 'Crypto currency and Investigation'.

On the occasion, Executive Director delivered the welcome address while Assistant Director Mausami Malla from the Siddharthanagar Office conducted the program. ■

Interaction on Information Technology and Cyber Security

The Information Technology Department organized an interaction program on "Problems, Challenges, and Way Forward in the Information Technology System" in Kathmandu on July 16, 2026.

The program was organized in the presence of Governor Prof. Dr. Biswo Nath Poudel. Addressing the event, Governor Poudel stated that financial system risks are escalating due to ransomware and various cyberattacks. He underscored the need to strengthen security infrastructure by establishing robust cybersecurity frameworks, such as a Financial Computer Emergency Response Team (FinCERT), to effectively manage these threats.

Furthermore, Governor Poudel highlighted the impact that frontier technologies including Technological Singularity, Super intelligence, and Co-intelligence could have on the financial sector. He emphasized that integrating information technology is now indispensable to leveraging these advancements and ensuring the central bank's policy formulation, decision-making processes, and regulatory efficacy.

At the program, Director Krishna Ram Dhunju delivered a presentation titled 'From Digitization to Resilience: NRB's IT Transformation Journey,' outlining the crucial steps needed to secure and fortify the central bank's infrastructure in the digital era. Following this, Director Sahadev Chand gave a presentation on 'Cyber Security Issues, Challenges and Way Forward,' highlighting the evolving cyber landscape and the strategic measures to be adopted in the coming days."

Following the presentation, a discussion session was held among the participants. Deputy Governor Kiran Pandit facilitated the discussion session. Executive Directors and Directors from various departments and offices of the bank were present at the program.

The program commenced with a welcome remarks by the Executive Director of the Information Technology Department Dr. Ram Sharan Kharel, who shed light on the rationale of the program. Saurabh Das Manandhar, Director of the department delivered the closing remarks while Assistant Director Nagina Kumari Chaudhary conducted the program.

Interaction Program on Anti-Money Laundering

The Anti-Money Laundering Supervision Division organized an interaction program in Kathmandu on June 5 with the participation of chief executive officers of banks and financial institutions and coordinators of Anti-Money Laundering Committees.

The Division organized the program in the presence of Governor Prof. Dr. Biswo Nath Poudel. Addressing the program, Governor Poudel emphasized the need for a strong banking system to discourage money laundering trends. Discussing various international developments in money laundering, Governor Poudel drew the attention of banks and financial institutions toward the effective compliance of legal and policy frameworks in the context of anti-money laundering. He said, “People might be conducting illegal transactions by using financial institutions. You must remain vigilant against that.” Mentioning that the reporting system of banks and financial institutions regarding financial transactions must be effective, Governor Poudel urged the chief executive officers to keep their employees always ‘alert’ for that purpose.

During the sessions, four different presentations were delivered in the context of anti-money laundering. Prakash Chandra Sapkota, a representative of the Department of Money Laundering Investigation, presented on ‘Contemporary Issues on AML/CFT Regime: Law Enforcement Perspective’ and discussed emerging trends in financial crimes and problems observed in investigations. Similarly, Ram Chandra Khanal, a member of the Nepal Bankers’ Association, presented on ‘AML/CFT in Banking: Implementation Challenges and Policy Expectation’. During the course, he shared information on topics including legal and policy arrangements related to anti-money laundering, their implementation aspects, client identification, and goAML reporting.

Similarly, Dilli Ram Neupane, Deputy Director of the Legal Division, presented on ‘Misuse of FIs for ML: Legal and Judicial Perspective’. During the presentation, he discussed international legal practices regarding the control of financial crimes, judicial perspectives of various countries, and decisions made by the courts of Nepal. Saunav Shrestha, Deputy Director of the Anti-Money Laundering Supervision Division, presented on ‘Major Comments Raised During Onsite AML/CFT Supervision’. This presentaion discussed legal and regulatory arrangements related to anti-money laundering, and deficiencies observed during supervision.

Following the presentation, a discussion was held among the participants. Dirgha Bahadur Rawal, Executive Director of the Bank Supervision Department, and Basudev Bhattarai, Director of the Financial Intelligence Unit, addressed the queries and suggestions raised by the participants and shed light on various aspects of anti-money laundering. Executive Director of the Banks and Financial Institutions Regulation Department, Ramu Paudel, facilitated the discussion session. The program was attended by Deputy Governor Kiran Pandit, along with executive directors and directors of various departments and offices. On the occasion, Head of the Division Rajan Dev Bhattarai delivered the welcome address and shed light on the objective of the program, while Deputy Director Manoj Gurung conducted the program. ■

International Conference on Payment Systems Concludes in Kathmandu

An international conference on payment systems themed 'The Future Landscape of Payment Systems: Opportunities and Policy Challenges', in coordination with The South East Asian Central Banks (SEACEN), was hosted by Nepal Rastra Bank in Kathmandu during June 22-23, 2026.

The conference was attended by 36 individuals, including 22 representatives from 14 central banks including Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, and India, among others along with 9 from Nepal Rastra Bank, and 5 representatives from SEACEN, BIS, and AMRO. On the occasion, Deputy Governor Kiran Pandit shed light on the concept of the conference, while the Acting Director of the SEACEN Centre, Wacharakun Jivakanont, delivered the inaugural address along with the rationale of the program. Executive Director of the Payment Systems Department, Nischal Adhikari, delivered the welcome remarks and highlighted the relevance of the program.

In the conference conducted across five sessions, presentations were delivered by resource persons from the SEACEN Centre, Nepal Rastra Bank, and central banks of various countries on subject matters related to the current status of digital payments, cross-border payment transactions, various dimensions of central bank digital currency, and the opportunities as well as challenges of digital payments.

Immediately after the conclusion of the conference, a discussion was held among the directors of the payment departments of the participating central banks, including Nepal Rastra Bank, regarding the strategic matters of the SEACEN Centre, a review of current learning activities, and the training subject matters required for capacity building in the coming year. ■

Bankers Training Center Concludes Capacity Building Programs

During the last quarter of fiscal year 2025/26, the Bankers Training Center successfully conducted four specialized training programs, aimed at enhancing the operational and regulatory capacity of both officer and non-officer-level personnel.

On the officer-level front, the Center organized a six-session training on 'ECL Model Review: Supervisory Perspectives' from May 14–15, equipping 30 participants with the core concepts of Expected Credit Loss (ECL), Effective Interest Rate (EIR), and supervisory dynamics. This was followed by a nine-session program on 'Financial Stability and Macroprudential Regulation' (May 18–20) for 30 employees, focusing on financial sector risks, macroprudential tools, and financial surveillance. Additionally, 31 officials participated in a nine-session course on 'Consumer Protection and Market Conduct Supervision' (June 1–3), which delved into financial inclusion policies, digital financial services, literacy campaigns, and market oversight frameworks.

Concurrently, the Center organized a dedicated non-officer-level training program on the 'AML/CFT Regime in Nepal' from May 11 to 13. The nine-session program, attended by 32 employees from various departments and offices, provided comprehensive instruction on anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) fundamentals. The curriculum extensively covered preventive measures, Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) workflows, goAML system reporting mechanisms, law enforcement collaboration, and mutual evaluation frameworks, further reinforcing the central bank's commitment to robust financial integrity and institutional capacity building. ■

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