



Conference on **Accelerate Action: Redefining Leadership**



Background

Women’s leadership has emerged as a critical driver of sustainable growth, innovation, and institutional resilience across sectors. In Nepal, while progress has been made in improving women’s participation in leadership roles, structural barriers, cultural norms, and unequal access to decision-making platforms continue to limit their full potential and impact.

As part of NBI’s annual event celebrating International Women’s Day, the National Banking Institute (NBI) proudly announces a conference themed “*Accelerate Action – Redefining Leadership*”. Designed as a high-level knowledge-sharing and dialogue platform, the conference brings together regulators, industry leaders, development partners, CEOs, and senior executives. Through keynote addresses, expert sessions, real-world leadership stories, and panel discussions, the conference aims to move beyond conversations on inclusion and focus on action-oriented leadership transformation.

The program highlights global and regional perspectives—from institutions such as IFC to Nepal’s central bank and leading corporate voices—while grounding discussions in the Nepalese socio-economic and institutional context. The conference emphasizes leadership that drives impact, embeds cultural change, and enables women leaders to shape the future of finance, commerce, and enterprise.

Program Details

Date & Time: 11th March 2026 (9:00am– 5:30pm)

Venue: Kathmandu

Target Audience: Across all departments and level (Both Male and female; males are highly encouraged to participate)

Nomination Deadline: 3rd March 2026

An additional 5% Early Bird discount applies to nominations received on or before 20 February 2026

Program Details

Objectives

- **Highlight the evolving role of women leaders** in driving financial transformation, innovation, and inclusive growth in Nepal and beyond.
- **Share global and regional best practices** on leadership transformation, drawing lessons from emerging and developed markets.
- **Move beyond inclusion to impact**, focusing on how women leaders can accelerate decision-making, institutional performance, and long-term value creation.
- **Showcase real leadership journeys** of women and men leaders who have success fully navigated industry challenges, gender bias, and market volatility.
- **Encourage dialogue on cultural and organizational shifts** required to embed gender-responsive leadership for sustainable impact.
- **Inspire participants to translate insights into action**, strengthening leadership capabilities across financial institutions, corporate sectors, and enterprises in Nepal.



Program Itinerary

Time	Topics
9:00 AM - 9:30 AM	Registration & Tea/Coffee/Cookies/ Networking
9:30 AM – 9:45 AM	Opening Notes by Master of Ceremony Welcome Speech – Mr. Dhan Thapa, Deputy General Manager, National Banking Institute Ltd.
9:45 AM – 10:00 AM	Key Note Speech by Guest of Honor TBC
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Session 1: “Breaking Barriers: Women Leading Financial Transformation”. <i>(Architects of Leadership Transformation in Emerging and Developed market)</i> Speaker: International Speaker <i>(Time 1 hour presentation including Q & A)</i>
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Session 2: “Beyond Inclusion: Accelerating Leadership for Impact” <i>(Perspective in regard to Evolving Lessons for Leadership Transformation in Nepalese context)</i> Speaker: Ms. Lily Thapa <i>(Time 1 hour minutes presentation including Q & A)</i>
12:00 PM - 12:15 PM	Networking Break
12:15 PM - 13:15 PM	Session 3: “Her Hustle, Her Vision: A CEO Building an E-Commerce Brand” (In view of determining to overcome industry challenges, gender bias, and market volatility.) Speakers: MD/CEO of leading Ecommerce – TBC <i>Time 45 minutes presentation including Q & A)</i>
13:15 PM - 14:15 PM	Lunch Break & Networking Break
14:15 PM - 15:15 PM	Session 4: “Voices of Change: Stories that Inspires Action” Speaker: Mr. Anil Keshari Shah, Former CEO Nabil Bank Ltd. <i>(Time 1 hour minutes presentation including Q & A)</i>
15:15 PM - 15:30 PM	Networking Break
15:30 PM - 16:30 PM	Panel Discussion: “Embedding Cultural Shifts in Leadership for Long Term Impact”. <i>Perspectives from Industry Leaders</i> Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Bhawani Rana , Business Leader from FNCCI • Chief Executive Officer from leading Commercial Bank -TBC • Ms. Abhigya Malla, Executive Director, High Himalaya Hydro Construction Pvt. Ltd. • Leader from Insurance Industry-TBC Moderator: TBC <i>(Time 1 hour including Q & A)</i>
16:30 PM - 16:45 PM	Closing Remarks by NBI Vote of Thanks.

Speaker's Profile



Dr. Lily Thapa

Founder and Chairperson of **Women for Human Rights (WHR)**

Born in Kathmandu, Nepal, and demonstrated exceptional academic promise from an early age. She completed her higher secondary education at the age of 16 from Padma Kanya College and earned a bachelor's degree in Psychology and Home Science from the same institution. She later completed a master's degree in Sociology and Anthropology from Tribhuvan University, followed by a postgraduate qualification in Women in Management from Luleå University, Sweden. In 2024, she earned her PhD focusing on the sociological impacts of conflict in Nepal. She is the Founder and Chairperson of **Women for Human Rights (WHR)** and nationally and internationally recognized advocate for women's rights and leadership. Through her work, she has contributed to empowering over **500,000 women** across Nepal, inspiring inclusive leadership and social transformation.



Mr. Anil Keshary Shah

Chairperson, Lead Nepal

Former CEO, Nabil Bank Ltd.

Anil Keshary Shah is a renowned Nepali banking professional and leadership development expert, born on November 11, 1957, in Kathmandu. He holds an MBA from the Faculty of Management Studies, India, and has pursued executive studies at Harvard Kennedy School and George Washington University. With over three decades of experience, he worked at Grindlays/Standard Chartered Bank, later serving as CEO of Nabil Bank and Mega Bank, and returned to Nabil Bank as CEO until his retirement from active banking. Afterward, he founded Lead Nepal Inc., focusing on leadership development through his "50:50 formula," combining paid corporate training with pro bono programs for youth and public institutions. A prominent public speaker, he has served on several national boards, received multiple "Top CEO" awards, and in June 2023 joined the Rastriya Swatantra Party as Head of its Training Department.



Ms. Sewa Pathak

CEO, Vianet Communication

Details regarding International Speaker will be shared later.

Panelists ' Profile



Ms. Bhavani Rana
Business Leader (FNCCI)

Bhawani Rana is one of Nepal's most inspiring and influential women leaders and currently serves as the President of the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI), becoming the only woman among its eight office-bearers and breaking long-standing leadership barriers. Coming from a non-business background, she pursued education at St. Mary's School and earned a degree in Political Science from Lucknow University, India, before entering entrepreneurship. Despite early setbacks in the garment industry, she transformed challenges into opportunities and, along with her husband, established Hotel Sneha in Nepalgunj, which has grown from a 10-room hotel into a 65-room four-star property with investments in eco-tourism and tourism infrastructure. She has held several prominent roles, including President of FWEAN, Executive Member of FNCCI, Member of the SAARC Chamber Women Entrepreneur Council, Chairperson of Fortuna Group, and Director of National Life Insurance Co. Ltd. Her leadership and social contributions have earned her numerous national recognitions, including the National Award from the President of Nepal, and she continues to inspire women and youth by advocating inclusive leadership and national development.



Ms. Abhigya Malla
Executive Director, High Himalaya Hydro Construction Pvt. Ltd.

Ms. Malla is the Executive Director of High Himalaya Hydro Construction Pvt. Ltd.. With a strong academic foundation in finance, including a Master of Commerce in Finance and a Master in Professional Accountancy from Macquarie University, Australia, she has effectively leveraged her knowledge in the hydropower sector.