

## A Roundtable Discussion on Nepal–US trade amid uncertainty

21 April 2025 | KUSOM

Following the sweeping tariffs announced by President Donald Trump on 2 April 2025, Nepal, along with virtually all countries in the world, is subjected to an additional 10 percent tariff on almost all goods exported to the US — the second-largest export destination for Nepal. Given that several countries that ran sizeable surplus with the US were hit with additional tariffs, it appeared that Nepal, at the worst, got off lightly, or emerged as one of the winners. Media discussions that emerged in the days following the announcement centered on how Nepal could take advantage of the relative tariff benefit in the US market. However, on 9 April, the additional reciprocal tariffs were put on hold for 90 days, meaning Nepal's tariff advantage vanished (at least for 90 days) as magically as it had appeared.

The road ahead is full of uncertainties—there are doubts about whether and how the reciprocal tariff scheme will continue. Hence, the current situation for Nepal is that tariffs on Nepali products in the US market have increased by 10 percentage points (as they have for other countries), and there are uncertainties about how the new reciprocal tariff regime will look like for other countries. An important question, thus, is whether Nepal can enhance its exports to the US in the face of emerging challenges—an increase in tariffs in the US market, the unlikely extension of the Nepal Trade Preference Program (set to expire in 2025), a potential reduction in tariff preferences if other countries are able to strike deals with the US, and general uncertainty.

Given this backdrop, SAWTEE and WTO Chairs Programme–Nepal at the Kathmandu University School of Management (KUSOM) are conducting a Roundtable Discussion to bring together relevant stakeholders to discuss Nepal-US trade in a vastly changed trade landscape and the ways to navigate the uncertainties to safeguard Nepal's exports to the US.

**Venue:** Kathmandu University School of Management (KUSOM), Balkumari

### Program Agenda

<b>2:00-2:15 PM</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>2:15-2:30 PM</b>	Welcome remarks by Prof. Dr. Bijay KC, Dean, KUSOM
<b>2:30-2:50 PM</b>	Trigger Presentation, Dr. Paras Kharel, ED, SAWTEE
<b>2:50-4:45 PM</b>	Round Table Discussion Moderated by Dr. Posh Raj Pandey, Chair Emeritus, SAWTEE
<b>4:45—5:00 PM</b>	Prof. Dr. Achyut Wagle, VC, Kathmandu University