

Breathing in Kathmandu has now become a serious public health question. The city's pollution level is nearly five times higher than the limit set by the World Health Organization. Official records indicate that the last few months alone have seen a rapid rise in respiratory illness, asthma attacks and heart disease. Road expansion, rising vehicular emission and construction works linked to water pipelines, among other factors, add everyday to Kathmandu's alarmingly unlivable conditions. As such, 'Dustmandu', 'Dust Bowl' and 'Dustocalypse' have now become Kathmandu's new monikers that lament the loss of our right to breathe clean air. Against this backdrop, Bhushan Tuladhar sheds some insightful light on the ongoing institutional as well as citizen-proposed initiatives to deal with pollution, and outlines few conditions of possibility for reclaiming our right to breathe in the city.

About Speaker

A well-known environmentalist, Bhushan Tuladhar is a Regional Technical Advisor of UN-Habitat, South Asia. He has previously served as the Executive Director of 'Environment and Public Health Organization (ENPHO)' and 'Clean Energy Nepal'. Mr. Tuladhar is an esteemed public figure who is a 'go-to' person in matters related to the urban environment – transportation, mobility, pollution, the built form and so on. Very recently, he was a member of a National Planning Commission-mandated committee tasked with preparing an 'Action Plan' for controlling air pollution in Kathmandu.