

MARTIN CHAUTARI INVITES YOU TO A SERIES OF DISCUSSIONS
ON
**Loktantra and the Challenges to the
Idea of Open Society in Nepal**

About the Series

We think of the idea of an ‘open society’ as one that is opposed to all forms of authoritarianism. In the actually existing loktantrik Nepal, authoritarianism is present in all sectors of the polity to a lesser or greater extent. In the past 10 years, most of our attention has, for all the right reasons, been focused on getting the building blocks of our new Constitution for loktantra correct. In so doing we think (and this can of course be challenged) the larger discussion about the future of open society in Nepal has not received adequate attention. Martin Chautari’s a series of discussions around the theme of ‘Loktantra and the Challenges to the Idea of Open Society in Nepal’ is an attempt to promote debates on this issue. Speakers from various walks of life will be invited to reflect on different aspects of this connection and will be expected to focus on and talk about those aspects that concern them the most or in which they have comparative expertise arising from work and research experiences. We will seek to explore the idea of open society in our political, social, cultural, educational and other institutions.

Series I by Pitamber Sharma

Martin Chautari Seminar Hall, Thapathali, 23 August 2016 (Tuesday), 3:00pm

About the Speaker:

Pitamber Sharma has a PhD in urban and regional planning from Cornell University. He was a former Vice-Chair of the National Planning Commission and Professor of Geography at Tribhuvan University. Sharma also worked for the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) for over a decade. Among his publications are *Urbanization in Nepal* (1989), *Tourism as Development* (2000), *Unravelling the Mosaic: Spatial Aspects of Ethnicity in Nepal* (2008), *Towards a Federal Nepal: An Assessment of Proposed Models* (2009), *Towards a Federal Nepal: An Assessment of Proposed Models* (2009) and *Some Aspects of Nepal’s Social Demography: Census 2011 Update* (2014).

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This is a public event and participation is open to all.