

## **Election Statement of Shiva Raj Adhikari**

Greetings from Shiva Raj Adhikari, a candidate for the iHEA Board. I am a professor and head of the Central Department of Economics (CEDECON), Tribhuvan University, Nepal.

My academic journey includes a PhD in Health Economics in 2010 from Chulalongkorn University, Thailand, and a grantee of WHO/TDR, Geneva. As the head of the CEDECON, I organised the annual international conference in economics (CAICE) and the South Asian Students' Meet (SAESM) at Tribhuvan University. I have about 200 published research articles to my credit in referred journals with an h-index of 19, i10-index of 31, and over 3400 citations according to Google citation index. With 25 years of teaching and research experience in developing country context, I am acutely aware of expanding health economics research and policy analysis for improving health and wellbeing of the population.

I have been a member of iHEA since 2006. As a member of iHEA, I have actively participated in conferences, reviewing abstracts, chairing sessions, and participating in training workshops. Currently, I serve as the President of the Nepal Health Economics Association (NHEA) and have played a critical role of organizing seminars, workshop, training and supporting for curriculum development for various colleges and universities in Nepal. NHEA is collaborating with international organization such as Bergen Centre for Ethics and Priority Setting (BCEPS) University of Burgen, Norway to implement the priority setting research and BCEPS is working in Tanzania and Ghana, with EQUITAP (Equity in Asia-Pacific Health Systems) network for publications and research since its founding in 2001. In order to investigate global networks for health equity, I have also attended meetings in other regional networks, such as the Regional Network for Equity in Health in East and Southern Africa (EQUINET). I considered NHEA with iHEA as an invaluable platform for collaboration and knowledge exchange.

I am seeking a position on the iHEA Board because I believe that I can be a catalyst in further enhancing collaborations among health economists, especially the north-south dialogue. My commitment to inclusivity and diversity aligns with IHEA's values, and I am dedicated to ensuring that the voices of all health economists are heard, irrespective of national origin, gender, race, and geographic location. The challenges we face are complex that require examining the challenges from a global perspective, but they also demand a nuanced understanding of regional dynamics. As a representative for health economists in Southern, Central, and Western Asia, I am well-placed to bridge the gap between global goals and regional nuances.

I would like to request that IHEA members vote for me because of my proven track record, my passion for the field, and my ability to represent the unique needs of health economists in developing regions.