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**Policy, Planning, Development Diplomacy  
and Nepali Diaspora Division**

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## A. Bilateral Affairs

### 1. The Speaker Visits United Kingdom

A delegation of Nepali parliamentarians, led by Rt. Hon. Onsari Gharti Magar, Speaker of the Legislature Parliament, visited the United Kingdom from 17 - 23 April 2016. During the visit, the Rt. Hon. Speaker held a meeting with the Speaker of House of Commons, Rt. Hon. John Bercow MP. Similarly, the delegation had meetings with several other British parliamentarians including Deputy Speaker, Chair of Women and Equalities Committee, and Chairman of All Party Parliamentary Group on Nepal.

The Nepali delegation exchanged views on various aspects of Nepal-UK relations in the context of the ongoing celebrations of bicentenary of Nepal-UK relations, implementation of the new constitution, post-earthquake reconstruction efforts, and development co-operation between the two countries. The Nepali delegation included Chief Whip of NC Parliamentary Party Hon. Chinkaji Shrestha, Chief Whip of CPN-UML Hon. Bhanu Bhakta Dhakal, Chief Whip of UCPN-Maoist Hon. Hit Raj Pandey, Chief Whip of RPPN Hon. Dil Nath Giri, Secretary General and Secretary of the Parliament Secretariat.

### 2. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Visits the USA

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Hon. Kamal Thapa, visited the United States of America to participate in the high-level signing ceremony of the Paris Agreement on

climate change. The ceremony was convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 22 April 2016 at the UN Headquarters in New York.

DPM Thapa had a meeting with John Kerry, Secretary of State, in Washington DC at latter's office on 26 April 2016. Matters of bilateral and mutual interests were discussed during the meeting. Priorities of the Government of Nepal in the context of implementation of the constitution and ongoing post-earthquake reconstruction drive were highlighted. Renewal of high-level contact helped to deepen the relationship between the two countries.

### 3. Swedish IDE Minister Visits Nepal

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Minister H. E. Isabella Lövin visited Nepal from 25 - 27 April 2016. During her stay in Kathmandu, the Swedish Minister met with the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Women, Children and Social Welfare and the Minister for Finance. She congratulated for promulgating the new constitution and expressed Swedish commitment to help Nepal's post-earthquake reconstruction works.

### 4. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Visits UK

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Hon. Kamal Thapa visited the United Kingdom from 26 - 28 April 2016. DPM Thapa had a meeting with Minister of State Rt. Hon. Hugo Swire, during which the British Minister assured of increased political and financial support to Nepal

in the new context after the promulgation of the constitution. He also met with Minister of State at the Department for International Development (DFID) Rt. Hon. Desmond Swayne MP.

DPM Thapa launched a special souvenir 'Taste of Nepal UK' directory and inaugurated 'Taste of Nepal UK' website on the occasion. The special souvenir was jointly published by the Embassy of Nepal and Nepal Caterers Association UK, as part of series of events to celebrate the 200 years of diplomatic relations between Nepal and the UK.

#### **5. Auditor General of Nepal Visits the USA and Canada**

At the invitation of Government Accountability Office of USA, Mr. Bhanu Prasad Acharya, the Auditor General, visited USA from April 28 - 4 May 2016. The Auditor General's delegation also visited Canada from 4 to 10 May 2016 at the invitation of the Office of the Auditor General of Canada.

#### **6. Chief of the Army Staff Visits the USA**

Chief of the Army Staff, General Rajendra Chhetri, visited the United States of America from April 24 - May 05, 2016. Gen. Chhetri had meetings with Vice-Chief of Staff General Daniel B. Allyn, US Army and Director of Strategic Plans and Policy at the Pentagon and with Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Nisha Desai Biswal at the Department of State. During his US tour, Gen. Chhetri also had meetings with senior UN officials including Under-Secretary General Atul Khare, Department of Field Support (DFS), and Assistant Secretary General Dmitry Titov, Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and Under Secretary General Jeffrey Feltman, Department of Political Affairs (DPA).

#### **7. UAE Minister for Foreign Affairs Visits Nepal**

His Highness Sheikh Abdullah, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the United Arab Emirates paid a day-long official visit to Nepal on 10 May 2016 at the invitation of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs. Minister Abdullah inaugurated the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates in Kathmandu.

High Highness Sheikh Abdulla paid a courtesy call on the President Rt. Hon. Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari and the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Mr. K. P.

Sharma Oli on 10 May 2016.

Matters relating to the promulgation of the Constitution and post-earthquake reconstruction and development and employment opportunities in UAE were discussed.

Mentioning the promulgation of the Constitution as a remarkable achievement the visiting Minister congratulated the President and the Prime Minister for this success.

Earlier, DPM Thapa and HH Abdullah had separate official talks.

#### **8. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Visits Israel**

A Nepali delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Hon. Mr. Kamal Thapa paid an official visit to the State of Israel from 24 to 26 May 2016 at the invitation of the Israeli Government. The delegation included Foreign Secretary Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi, Ambassador of Nepal to Israel H.E. Mr. Prahlad Kumar Prasai and other senior officials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Embassy of Nepal in Tel Aviv.

During the visit, Hon. Thapa met the President of Israel HE Mr. Reuven Rivlin, Prime Minister HE Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu, and Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development HE Mr. Uri Yehuda Ariel as well as other dignitaries and diplomats.

Matters relating to the promulgation of the Constitution, post-earthquake reconstruction, prospect of employment for Nepali nationals in Israel, and Israeli cooperation in the field of agriculture were discussed during the meeting. DPM Thapa also requested for the resumption of new visa issuance to Nepali workers that remains halted from 31 March 2009.

DPM Thapa, addressed the Israel Council on Foreign Relations in Jerusalem giving a talk on Nepal's Foreign Policy and Political Development and Nepal-Israel Relations.

#### **9. Sri Lanka Floods**

In mid May 2016, Sri Lanka suffered from heavy flood and landslides. Government of Nepal provided \$100,000 to the Government of Sri Lanka as humanitarian gesture.

## 10. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Visits Turkey

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon. Kamal Thapa, visited Turkey to participate in the UN World Humanitarian Conference in Istanbul on 23-24 May 2016 and Mid-term Review Conference of Istanbul Program of Action for LDCs in Antalya on 27-29 May 2016.

DPM Thapa had a bilateral meeting with his Turkish counterpart, Foreign Minister Mr. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu. The two Ministers had discussions on several areas of possible cooperation—educational and cultural exchanges, development cooperation, and trade and tourism. Similarly, DPM Thapa signed an agreement on establishment of bilateral consultation mechanism between the two foreign ministries.

## 11. Meeting of the Bilateral Mechanisms

- **Joint Standing Technical Committee on Water Resources:** The 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of Nepal-India Joint Standing Technical Committee on Water Resources was held on 26 May 2016 in New Delhi. Nepali delegation was led by Mr. Madhav Belbase, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Irrigation, and the Indian delegation was led by Mr. G.S. Jha, Chairman, Ganga Flood Control Commission. The meeting deliberated on Mahakali treaty, Saptakoshi High Dam Multipurpose Project, Sunkoshi Storage cum Diversion Scheme, Kosi and Gandak projects, and cooperation on flooding, inundation and soil erosion.
- **First Nepal-Switzerland Consultation Mechanism, Kathmandu:** The first meeting of Nepal-Switzerland Bilateral Consultation Mechanism (BCM) was held in Kathmandu on 30 May 2016. The Consultation Mechanism was established by an MOU signed between the two sides on 4 November 2015. Views on matters of mutual concern were discussed including regional cooperation, cooperation within the UN framework, and global issues such as climate change, migration, and human rights.

The Nepali delegation in the meeting was led by Bhriгу Dhungana, Joint Secretary (Europe America). The Swiss delegation was led by Assistant State Secretary Ambassador Johannes Matyassy, Head of Asia-Pacific Division of the

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.

- **Bilateral Consultative Group on Security Issues:** The 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of Nepal India Bilateral Consultative Group on Security Issues was held on 09 June 2016 in New Delhi. The Nepali delegation comprising officials from Ministry of Defense and Nepali Army was led by Mr. Prakash Kumar Suvedi, Joint Secretary (South Asia) while Mr. Abhay Thakur, Joint Secretary (North) led the Indian delegation of similar composition.
- **Meeting of Joint Working Group and Joint Standing Committee on Power Sector Cooperation held in New Delhi:** The third meeting of the Joint Standing Committee (JSC) and Joint Working Group (JWG) on Power Sector Cooperation between Nepal and India was held on 27-28 June in New Delhi. The Nepali Delegation for JWG was led by Mr. Suman Prasad Sharma, Secretary, Ministry of Energy and the Indian delegation was led by Mr. P.K Pujari, Secretary, Ministry of Power. The meeting deliberated on issues pertaining to power exchange between Nepal and India.
- **Boundary Working Group and Survey Officials' Committee:** The 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of Nepal-India Boundary Working Group (BWG) was held in Kathmandu from 23 to 25 June 2016. The Nepali delegation was led by Director General of Survey Department and the Indian Delegation was led by Surveyor General of India. The meeting was preceded by the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of Survey Officials' Committee (SOC) in Kathmandu from 20 to 22 June 2016. The meeting finalized the target and schedule for the next field season. It was decided that the completion of the backlogged tasks from previous field seasons will be given a high priority.
- **Eminent Persons' Group Holds its First Meeting:** The first meeting of Eminent Persons' Group on Nepal-India Relations (EPG- NIR) was held in Kathmandu on 25-26 July 2016. The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs inaugurated the meeting.

The Governments of Nepal and India have assigned the Eminent Persons' Group (EPG), comprising four members each from both the countries, to prepare a joint report with recommendations on improving bilateral

relations between Nepal and India in the changed context. Formation of EPG was decided upon Nepal's proposal during the third Nepal-India Joint Commission meeting in July 2014.

- **Inter-Governmental Committee on Trade, Transit and Cooperation to Control Unauthorized Trade:** The meeting of Inter Governmental Committee (IGC) on Trade, Transit and Cooperation to Control Unauthorized Trade was held in New Delhi on 28-29 June 2016. The Nepali delegation was led by Mr. Naindra Prasad Upadhyaya, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and the Indian delegation was led by Ms. Rita Teatota, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce. The meeting discussed matters related to bilateral trade and transit between Nepal and India.
- **Nepal-US TIFA Council Meets in Washington D. C.:** The second meeting of Nepal-US Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) Council was held in Washington D. C. on 10 June 2016. The Council met after a gap of five years. Minister for Commerce Hon. Jayant Chand and United States Trade Representative Michael Froman co-chaired the meeting. The talks focused on non-reciprocal preferential trade benefits for Nepal through 31 December 2025 for certain US imports from Nepal. This trade preference is considered as a catalytic to the growth in Nepali export sector. Both sides agreed to hold the next meeting of TIFA Council in 2017 in Nepal.
- **Bilateral Consultation Mechanism signed with Israel:** Foreign Secretary Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi and Director General for Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel signed the MoU on establishment of Consultation Mechanism between the Foreign Ministries of Nepal and Israel.

## 12. Acting Chief Justice Visits the USA and Canada

A delegation of the Supreme Court of Nepal headed by Acting Chief Justice Rt. Hon. Sushila Karki was on a study tour of the USA from 29 May to 5 June 2016. During the visit, the Nepali delegation met with senior judges and officials at Access to Justice Commissions at various courts across the USA, including the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, New York State Courts, Court of Arizona, and American Bar Association/Rule of

Law Institute.

The delegation also visited Canada from 6 -9 June 2016. The delegation met with Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, and visited a few Canadian courts.

## 13. Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs of the USA Visits Nepal

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs of the USA William Todd visited Nepal from 7 - 9 June 2016. He paid separate courtesy calls on Prime Minister Rt. Hon. K. P. Sharma Oli and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Hon. Kamal Thapa.

## 14. U.K. Delegation Calls on the Prime Minister of Nepal

The UK Foreign & Commonwealth Permanent Under-Secretary Sir Simon McDonald and the UK Department for International Development's (DFID) Permanent Secretary Mark Lowcock paid official visit to Nepal from 7 - 9 June 2016. During the visit, the delegation called on the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, and Finance Minister.

The UK delegation reiterated the UK Government's commitment to support the Government of Nepal in post-earthquake reconstruction and accelerated economic development through continued development cooperation. The visit was a part of series of bilateral exchanges between the two countries aimed at marking the bicentennial of Nepal-UK relations.

## 15. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Visits India

Hon. Kamal Thapa, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, visited India on 10-11 June 2016 to preside over the convocation ceremony of South Asian University. During the visit, he had a meeting with Minister of External Affairs of India, H.E. Smt. Sushma Swaraj. The two Ministers exchanged views on Nepal-India bilateral relations. Both leaders emphasized on the importance of regular exchange of visits at different levels for further strengthening close and neighborly relations. On 11 June 2016, DPM Thapa had a meeting with Dr. Manmohan Singh, Former Prime Minister of India.

## 16. CIAA Chief Commissioner Visits Europe

Hon. Lokman Singh Karki, Chief Commissioner of the Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA) visited France, Italy, Monaco and Portugal from 11 - 25 June 2016. During the visit, Hon. Karki held meetings with the heads of anticorruption authorities of the respective countries to exchange views and share experiences on anti-corruption measures and possibilities of cooperation in combating corruption.

## 17. IRLC Chairman Visits Canada and the US

The Chairman of International Relations and Labour Committee of the Legislature Parliament Hon. Prabhu Sah was on a visit to Canada and the USA from 28 June to 5 July 2016. He had a meeting with his Canadian counterpart, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development of the House of Commons Canada, Hon. Robert D. Nault on 28 June.

During visiting the USA, Mr. Shah had a bilateral meeting with Nisha Desai Biswal, Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs at the United States Department of State.

## 18. Repatriation of Dead Bodies and Mortal Remains from Afghanistan

In the morning of 20 June 2016 in Kabul, Afghanistan 12 Nepali nationals were killed in a suicide bomb attack. One among the seven injured Nepali died on 22 June 2016. Chargé d'affaires *a.i.* of the Embassy of Nepal at Islamabad was immediately dispatched to Kabul to coordinate the rescue and repatriation efforts. Upon receiving the news of the attack, Ministry of Foreign Affairs called an emergency meeting with the representatives of Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Ministry of Finance, Nepal Army, Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal, and Nepal Airlines Corporation. As decided by the Government of Nepal, a special chartered flight of Nepal Airlines was dispatched to Kabul to repatriate the dead bodies which returned to Kathmandu with the mortal remains of those killed and 24 Nepali workers that wanted to return.

## 19. Parliamentary Delegation visits India

An 18 member team of the Parliamentary Committee for Development led by Hon. Rabindra

Adhikari visited India from 8 to 16 July 2016. The delegation visited Bhuj, Gujarat, to study the post-earthquake reconstruction efforts. They had an interaction with National Disaster Management Authority in India. The delegation met some prominent Indian MPs. There was also an interaction with intellectuals and academicians at Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS).

## 20. Foreign Secretary Visits Seoul

At the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, Foreign Secretary Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi visited Seoul from 07 to 10 June 2016. The visit was a part of regular interaction between two Foreign Ministries.

Foreign Secretary Bairagi held a bilateral meeting with Mr. Lim Sungnam, the first Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea. During the meeting, both sides reviewed the progress on bilateral relations and economic cooperation.

The Foreign Secretary also paid a courtesy call on His Excellency Mr. Yun Byung-se, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea on 8 June 2016. Similarly, meetings were held with Deputy Minister of Planning and Coordination of the Ministry of Employment and Labour, Executive Vice President of Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA), and Vice President of Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

## 21. Foreign Secretary Visits Beijing

Foreign Secretary Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi visited People's Republic of China from 3 to 6 July 2016. He held a bilateral meeting with Mr. Kong Xuanyou, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Beijing on 4 July 2016. The two sides extensively discussed matters of bilateral relations with particular focus on status of implementation of various agreements and understanding reached during the official visit of Nepali Prime Minister to China in March this year. Both sides reviewed the cooperation between the two countries on regional and global issues of mutual interests.

Foreign Secretary paid a courtesy call on His Excellency Mr. Wang Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of China at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The discussion covered the major aspects of Nepal-China relations and ways for further strengthening them.

## B. Multilateral Affairs

### 1. Process of Ratification of Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)

Government of Nepal has submitted a proposal to ratify the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction (the Biological Weapons Convention) to the Legislature-Parliament. Nepal had signed the Convention on 10 April 1972, the day it was opened for signature.

### 2. Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the World Drug Problem

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Hon. Mr. Kamal Thapa led the Nepali delegation to the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the World Drug Problem held on 19-21 April 2016 in New York. While addressing the session, he expressed his confidence that a coherent and concerted plan of action emanating from the Session will go a long way in ensuring an integrated and balanced strategy to counter the World Drug Problem.

### 3. Signing Ceremony of Paris Agreement

On behalf of the Government of Nepal, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, signed the Paris Agreement on Climate Change on 22 April 2016, at the high-level signing ceremony convened by the UN Secretary General at New York. Addressing the meeting, DPM Thapa outlined that most Least Developed Countries (LDCs) continue to bear the brunt of action and inaction of others, in climate change and urged the international community to deliver on their promises of funding and technology for sustainable development efforts of the LDCs.

### 4. Mr. Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations Visits Nepal

Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, H.E. Mr. Jan Eliasson, paid a visit to Nepal from 30 April to 2 May 2016. He paid courtesy calls on the President, the Prime Minister, and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister. World Humanitarian Summit, current political development and reconstruction works being undertaken in Nepal as well as the Nepal-UN relations were discussed during the meetings.

### 5. 'Women Deliver Conference' Held in Copenhagen

Nepal was represented by a two-member parliamentary delegation led by Hon. Mahalaxmi Sharma (Dina) Upadhyay in the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of 'Women Deliver Conference' held in Copenhagen, Denmark on 16-19 May 2016 with title theme of "Investment in Girls & Women Powers Progress for A11". The conference was organized under the aegis of International Parliamentary Union and Asian Parliamentary Union.

### 6. World Humanitarian Summit

A Nepali delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon. Mr. Kamal Thapa, participated in the World Humanitarian Summit held in Istanbul on 23-24 May 2016. DPM Thapa co-chaired the High-Level Leaders' Roundtable on "Natural Disaster and Climate Change: Managing Risks and Crises Differently". Mentioning that development and humanitarian cooperation should go hand-in-hand, he underscored that the humanitarian principles of neutrality, independence, impartiality and universality should be upheld and adhered to in all circumstances.

### 7. Midterm Review of Istanbul Programme of Action (IPOA)

The Comprehensive High-Level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 was held from 27 to 29 May 2016 in Antalya, Turkey. While recalling Nepal's role as chair of the global coordination bureau of LDCs to steer negotiations for the IPOA in 2011, the Deputy Prime Minister highlighted the need for effective, full and timely implementation of the IPOA in coherence and synergies with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### 8. Nepal elected as the Vice President of the 71<sup>st</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) unanimously elected Nepal as one of the Vice-Presidents for the 71<sup>st</sup> Session of the General Assembly on 14 June 2016. With this election, Nepal will be a member of the UNGA General Committee, which serves as the bureau of the General Assembly, for three consecutive sessions, for the first time since joining the UN in 1955.

## 9. Nepali candidate Elected to CEDAW Committee

Nepal's candidate Ms. Bandana Rana was elected to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) with 106 out of 189 votes, receiving 6<sup>th</sup> highest number of votes among 11 candidates in the election held on 21 June 2016 in New York. This is the first time that Nepal's candidate has been elected in the CEDAW Committee.

## 10. 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council

The 32<sup>nd</sup> regular session of the Human Rights Council was held in Geneva from 13 June to 1 July 2016. The delegation of Nepal participated in major thematic debates and interactive dialogues with Special Rapporteurs during the course of the session. Nepal made interventions at the clustered interactive dialogues with the Special Rapporteur on the right of physical and mental health and the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children. Nepal also made interventions at the clustered interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences and the Working Group on the issues of discrimination against women.

## 11. First Special Council (2016) of the IOM

The 1<sup>st</sup> Special Council (2016) of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) was held on 30 June 2016 in Geneva. Making intervention in the Special Council, the Nepali delegation emphasized on the need for a strong partnership among Member States and international organizations, for improving the migrant's situation and for achieving the SDGs targets of 2030. Nepal also welcomed the admission of the three new members- Solomon Island, Tuvalu and the People's Republic of China, to the IOM and supported the draft agreement concerning the relationship between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration.

## C. Regional Affairs

### 1. The Fifth Meeting of the SAARC Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs)

The Fifth Meeting of the SAARC Chief Veterinary Officers was held in Nagarkot, Kathmandu from 13 to 14 April 2016. The Meeting agreed to constitute the 'Working Group on SAARC Animal Health and Diseases' and dropped the idea of 'Working

Group on SAARC Priority Animal Diseases'. The Meeting also decided that the activities of the Regional Advisory Group (RAG) on PPR (*peste des petites ruminants*) proposed during the PPR roadmap meeting would be subsumed into the TOR and function of the SAARC Working Group on Animal Health and Disease. The Meeting considered the trail discussion on "SAARC Livestock Vision Group". It also made several decisions on Establishing Regional Vaccine Bank and Regional Livestock Gene Bank.

### 2. SAARC Regional Workshop on Rural Tourism

SAARC Regional Workshop on Rural Tourism was held in Kathmandu from 2 to 3 June 2016 under the SAARC-Japan Special Fund. The workshop was inaugurated by the Minister of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation. In his inaugural remarks, Hon. Minister remarked that rural tourism is not only eco-friendly, agro-friendly and environmentally better initiative but also a critical factor of reducing poverty, maintaining social justice and making rural people aware of the hospitality, culture and international tradition.



Nepal as a host country had presented a thematic paper on "Rural Tourism: Hidden Treasures of Destination".

### 3. The Fourth Meeting of SAARC Cabinet Secretaries

The Fourth Meeting of SAARC Cabinet Secretaries was held in Kathmandu on 9 to 10 June 2016. The Prime Minister of Nepal, Rt. Hon. K.P. Sharma Oli, was the Chief Guest of the inaugural session. The Prime Minister in his address to the cabinet secretaries from the region highlighted the importance of deeper regional integration for the wellbeing of people in the region. Underlining the

need for massive investment, enhanced connectivity and intra-regional trade for the overall development of the region, the Prime Minister highlighted the important role of the Cabinet Secretaries in their respective countries in ensuring good governance as well as in implementing SAARC programmes and activities.

Best practices of the member states in the diverse fields of governance were also shared. Nepal shared its experience of local self-governance and community development programme and Ward Citizen Forum and Citizen Awareness Centers in local level.

In parallel, a Workshop on Performance-Based Incentive System (PBIS) was also organized. Nepal presented a comprehensive paper on "Performance-Based Incentive System: A Case Study of Nepali Experience".

#### **4. SAARC Seminar on Tax Treaty Negotiation and Application**

A three-day Seminar on Tax Treaty Negotiations and Application was held in Kathmandu on 11-13 July 2016. While inaugurating the Seminar Director General of the Department of Inland Revenue highlighted the need for collective efforts of the government and private sector to exploit the opportunities of fiscal transactions and cope with the challenges in this globalized world. Nepal presented a paper on Nepal's Tax Reforms System.

#### **5. Meeting of the High Level Study Group (HLSG) on the Establishment of Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Permanent Secretariat**

A Nepali delegation participated in the meeting of the High Level Study Group (HLSG) on the Establishment of Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Permanent Secretariat in Bangkok on 14 July 2016. The HLSG recommended that the ACD Secretariat be located in the State of Kuwait. It was also agreed that funding model, responsibilities, staffing of Secretariat will be discussed at a future date. The outcome of the Meeting is being presented to the upcoming ACD Ministerial Meeting.

### **D. New Ambassadors Proposed**

Parliamentary Hearing Special Committee after completing the hearing process has endorsed the nomination of proposed eight Ambassadors/ Permanent Representatives. All of them are career

diplomats from the Ministry of foreign affairs.

- 1) Ms. Sewa Lamsal Adhikari: Pakistan
- 2) Mr. Tara Prasad Pokharel: Brazil
- 3) Mr. Prakash Kumar Subedi: UN Offices in Vienna
- 4) Mr. Rishi Ram Ghimire: Russia
- 5) Mr. Ramesh Prasad Khanal: Germany
- 6) Mr. Jhabindra Prasad Aryal: Egypt
- 7) Dr. Durga Bahadur Subedi: United Kingdom
- 8) Mr. Lok Bahadur Thapa: Belgium and European Union

### **E. Presentation of Credentials**

1. Ambassadors-designate of the United Arab Emirates (residential), Kyrgyzstan, Algeria and Mali (with residence in New Delhi) have presented their Letter of Credence to the President Rt. Hon. Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari. The ceremony was followed by customary calls on the President and other high-ranking dignitaries.

### **F. Completion of Tenure**

Following Nepali Ambassadors have recently completed their tenure.

- 1) H.E. Mr. Dhananjaya Jha- United Arab Emirates
- 2) H.E. Mr. Muktinath Bhatta- Denmark
- 3) H.E. Mr. Rudra Kumar Nepal- Australia
- 4) H.E. Mr. Mr. Bharat Raj Paudyal-Pakistan
- 5) H.E. Mr. Prahlad Kumar Prasai- Israel
- 6) H.E. Mr. Paras Ghimire- Myanmar
- 7) H.E. Mr. Kaman Singh Lama- Republic of Korea
- 8) H.E. Mr. Ram Mani Pokharel- Belgium
- 9) H.E. Mr. Ravi Mohan Kopila- Russia

### **G. Passport and Consular Activities**

#### **I. Passport Activities**

#### **1. 1,81,658 Passports and Travel Documents Issued in Three Months**

The Department of Passport has issued a total of 1,81,658 passports & travel documents which include 1,80,810 ordinary passports, 597 official passports, 186 diplomatic passports and 65 travel documents from Baishakh to Asar 2073 (13 April to 15 July 2016).

Table:1(Monthly Production of Passports)

S.No.	Month	No. of Passports and Travel Documents
1	Baishakh	57,387
2	Jestha	61,523
3	Ashadh	62,848
4	TOTAL	1,81,658

Out of the total 1,81,658 passports and Travel Documents produced, 57,387 were produced in the month of Baishakh while 61,523 were produced in Jestha and 62,848 in Ashadh. Similarly, the Department of Passport distributed a total of 62,615 passports and travel documents, whereas DAOs and Diplomatic Missions distributed 1,10,660 and 8,383 passports respectively.

Table: 2 (Agencies distributing Passports)

S. No.	Office	No. of Passports and Travel Documents
1	Department of Passport	62,615
2	District Administrations Offices	1,10,660
3	Nepali Missions Abroad	8,383
4	TOTAL	1,81,658

## 2. Live-enrollment System Introduced in the Department

On 3 July 2016, the Department of Passports began the pre-live enrollment system in the emergency services. This provides the applicants option to submit their passport applications online through remote computers or smart phones. The applicant's photograph, signature and finger print are taken live



(Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Hon. Kamal Thapa (Center) while launching pre-enrollment (online enrolment) system at the Department of Passports in Kathmandu)

The Pre-live enrollment facility is also provided in ten diplomatic and consular missions of Nepal in Riyadh, Jeddah, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Doha, Abu Dhabi, Kuwait, London, New York, and Washington DC. While launching the system at the Department, the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister said that the issuance of the MRP in a day is a 'milestone' in the history of the passport service delivery in Nepal.

## 3. Urgent Passports within a Day

Department of Passports has started delivering passport within a day of application for the applicants seeking urgent services. Similarly, the applicants are provided with the choice of two-day or three-day urgent services. The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs inaugurated the service amid a function on Ashad 19, 2073 BS (July 3, 2016). About 100 applicants have been utilizing this premium service every day.



(Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Hon. Kamal Thapa handing over a passport to Chandrakali Budathoki while inaugurating one day service at the Department of Passport in Kathmandu)

## 4. Lost and Stolen Passports

The process for issuance of new passports to the applicants whose passports are reported lost or stolen has been simplified. Now, an applicant can directly come to the DOP or district headquarters or diplomatic missions to report about his/her lost or stolen passport.

## 5. Department Interacts with the District Administration Offices (DAOs)

Department of Passports organized interaction programs in Morang, Kaski, Rupandehi, Kailali and Kathmandu. Representatives from the nearby Districts Administration Offices were invited to the interaction programs. Newly introduced schemes

such as pre- enrollment, live-enrollment, and the revenue structure were shared with the participants.

## II. Consular Activities

The Department of Consular Services has witnessed significant increase in its consular functions over the period of Baishakh to Ashad, 2073 in comparison to the same period last year. The functions of Department with regard to the search & rescue, insurance & compensation and other issues of the Nepali nationals abroad have also increased in recent times. Number of consular attestation has increased. The Department receives in an average 900 applications daily for the attestation of the documents. The numerical details of the service delivery of the Department over this period are as follows:

S.N.	Details of Services	No. of Work Performed
<b>A</b>	<b>Consular and Legal Counseling Section</b>	
1	Recommendation for Medical treatment, Religious tour, World cycling tour and other	11
2	Recommendation for Indian education certificate, nationality verification and those who are visiting India for study purpose	490
3	Recommendation for Indian pension	7
4	Recommendation for issuing Nepali driving license on the basis of foreign driving license held by the Nepali citizen.	530
5	Recommendation letter to Indian Embassy for character verification report to Nepali citizens during their period of stay in India.	97
6	Recommendation for procurement of chemicals & explosives	15

7	Recommendation letter to Indian Embassy for issuing vehicle permit for vehicles to enter India.	2
8	Correspondence to the concerned authorities of Nepal regarding the citizenship renouncement of Nepali citizens as per their application submitted to the Nepali missions abroad	15
9	Correspondence letter regarding authenticity of Power of Attorney issued by Nepali missions abroad	268
10	Correspondence to the concerned authorities of Nepal regarding authenticity of documents issued by the Government of Nepal	33
11	POA, VOR, H-Form Request (Malaysia), and correspondence to the District Administration Office for compensation to Nepali citizens died abroad.	107
12	Correspondence concerning search and rescue of Nepali nationals to the Nepali Missions abroad	108
13	Correspondence with regards to repatriation of dead body of Nepali nationals abroad	69
14	Correspondence to the government agencies in Nepal	62
15	Number of draft received for the compensation from Malasiya.	47
16	Handover of compensation amount from Malaysia to the concerned family	22
17	Correspondence to the Nepali Missions on various subjects including insurance and compensation enquiry	72

18	Correspondence to the foreign missions based in Nepal	52
19	Telephone and email enquiries about insurance and compensation with the Nepali Missions abroad.	55
<b>B</b>	<b>Visa and Exemption Section</b>	
1	Issuance of diplomatic/official/gratis visa	803
2	Issuance of diplomatic/official ID Card	121
3	Issuance of SAARC visa stickers	42
4	Number of recommendation for exemption	814
5	Number of visa recommendation to the foreign missions on GON's nominations	614
<b>C</b>	<b>Attestation section</b>	
1	Number of attested documents	60,234
<b>Total</b>		<b>60,690</b>

## H. Mission's Activities

### 1. Earthquake Memorial Day in London

The Embassy of Nepal in London organized Earthquake Memorial Day on 25th of April at the Embassy premises to commemorate the anniversary of devastating Earthquake that struck Nepal on 25 April 2015. The Commemoration ceremony was attended by the Mayor of Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Councillor Robert Freeman, and the Director of South Asia Department of FCO, Owen Jenkin.

### 2. Nepal Now and Everest Day held in Copenhagen

The Embassy of Nepal in Denmark, in collaboration with Nepal Tourism Board and NRN-Denmark,

organized a tourism promotion event titled "Nepal Now" on 23 April 2016 coinciding with the first anniversary of the earthquake. Similarly, the Embassy hosted the Ninth International Everest Day (Sagarmatha Diwas) on 29 May 2016 in Copenhagen coinciding with the 63 years of ascending of Mt. Everest by Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenjing Norgay Sherpa.

## I. Miscellaneous

### 1. Interactive Session on Nepal's Foreign Policy Issues and MoFA's Capacity Enhancement

As part of its annual program, Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized an in-house interactive session on Nepal's foreign policy issues and enhancing institutional capacity of MoFA on 2nd of July 2016 in Dhulikhel. The half-a day session was conducted in the presence of DPM and Foreign Minister, Hon. Kamal Thapa, and Foreign Secretary, Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi. In a lively interaction on the challenges and opportunities faced by the MOFA in the constantly changing domestic and international environment, suggestions were made on the areas to be focused to make this institution a more responsive and robust. The discussion also covered the importance of making MOFA and Nepal's Foreign Service a brand positively different from other services in terms of serving the interests of the country and the people.

At the end of the session DPM Thapa gave direction on the ways and means to make MOFA a dynamic institution and highlighted the need to ensure that the people working here are more professional, accountable, and responsive public servants. DPM Thapa also underlined Nepal's foreign policy priorities and called for concerted efforts to realize them. Foreign Secretary Bairagi urged Foreign Service officials to demonstrate dedication and commitment to the institution, people and the country. Constant enhancement of professional qualities and institutional capacity can do better service to the foreign policy implementation of Nepal, he said.