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Ministry of Foreign Affairs
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A. BILATERAL AFFAIRS

1. Fourth Meeting of Nepal-India Oversight Mechanism Held in Kathmandu

The Fourth Meeting of Nepal-India Oversight Mechanism was held in Kathmandu on 6 July. Co-chaired by Foreign Secretary Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi and Ambassador of India to Nepal Mr. Manjeev Singh Puri, the meeting was attended by senior officials of both countries and the representatives of developers/contractors of various economic and development cooperation projects between Nepal and India.

The meeting made a comprehensive review of the progress achieved in bilateral economic and development cooperation projects since the 3rd meeting of the mechanism held on 12 April 2017. Specific issues related to the cross border rail projects, Integrated Check Posts, cross-border transmission lines, Upper Karnali and Arun III Hydropower projects, Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project, postal roads, Exim Bank Lines of Credit projects and reconstruction projects were discussed during the meeting.

2. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Visits India

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Krishna Bahadur Mahara visited India on 2-4 July at the invitation of Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs of India.

During the visit, Mr. Mahara met with Smt. Swaraj and exchanged views on matters of mutual interest.



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs with Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs of India

During the visit, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs interacted with New Delhi-based Non Resident Ambassadors to Nepal in New Delhi on 2 July.



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Interacting with New Delhi-based Non Resident Ambassadors to Nepal

In his brief remarks, Mr. Mahara stated that Nepal's historic transformation in recent years had been a

matter of interests to our friends- near and far. He shared with the diplomats that the new Constitution promulgated by the elected Constituent Assembly in September 2015 marked the beginning of a new era of peace, democracy and development in Nepal. The Constitution is progressive and has safe-guarded interests and aspirations of all segments of Nepali society, he said.

The Ambassadors present in the interaction congratulated Nepal on the achievements made in institutionalization of peace and democracy and expressed their willingness to further enhance bilateral engagements with Nepal.

3. Vice President Visits China

Vice President Mr. Nanda Bahadur Pun paid an official visit to the People's Republic of China on 4-10 July. The Vice-President delivered a keynote speech at the Opening Ceremony of the 23rd Lanzhou Investment and Trade Fair and High-end Forum for Cooperation and Development along the Silk Road in Lanzhou on 6 July.



Vice-President delivering a keynote speech at the Opening Ceremony of the 23rd Lanzhou Investment and Trade Fair and High-end Forum for Cooperation and Development along the Silk Road in Lanzhou

On the same day, the Vice-President inaugurated the Nepal Pavilion jointly with the Governor of the Gansu Province and visited Nepali stalls in the exhibition center. On 7 July, the Vice-President delivered a keynote speech at the “Nepal-China (Gansu) Economic and Trade Exchanges Conference”, a country specific investment, tourism and trade promotion program, organized by the Embassy of Nepal in Beijing with support from Gansu Provincial People’s Government of Gansu at

Gansu International Conference Centre in Lanzhou. The Vice-President also visited Yannan and Xi'an of Shaanxi Province on 8-9 July.

During his stay in Lanzhou, Mr. Pun was called on by Mr. Qi Xuchun, Vice-Chairman of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) on 5 July 2017.

4. Eleventh Meeting of Nepal-China Consultation Mechanism Held in Kathmandu

Eleventh Meeting of the Joint Consultation Mechanism between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Nepal and China was organized on 20 June at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kathmandu. Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi, Foreign Secretary and Mr. Kong Xuanyou, Assistant Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China led their respective delegations in the meeting.

The two sides reviewed the status of Nepal-China relations and assessed the progress made in the implementation of agreements/MoUs concluded between the two Governments in the past. Both sides expressed commitments to promote their cooperation further in mutually agreed areas and agreed to work together for the realization of economic opportunities available in both countries for mutual benefits. The Nepali side underscored the need of enhanced cooperation for the cross-border connectivity, infrastructure development, diversification of Nepal's trade, promotion of investment and tourism under the framework of Belt and Road Initiative. Early resumption of Tatopani-Zhangmu border point was emphasized. Both sides shared the same views on maintaining the tradition of regular exchange of high level visits.



Foreign Secretary welcoming Chinese delegation in Kathmandu

The meeting also focused on various areas of mutual cooperation for further widening, deepening and consolidating our bilateral relations by stocktaking the progress of the ongoing activities, programs and ways of ensuring smooth and effective implementation of the agreed matters.

5. Memoranda of Understanding Concluded:

The Ministry of Industry of the Government of Nepal and the State Administration for Industry and Commerce of China signed the MoU in the field of Registration of Industrial Entities on 7 July in Kathmandu. The MoU aims at promoting effective application of respective laws and regulations, facilitating their business environment and strengthening trade and industry relations between the two countries.

Similarly, Ministry of Health and Population of the Government of Nepal and Central South University (CSU), Changsha, Hunan signed an MoU at the Embassy of Nepal in Beijing on 6 June. According to the MoU, the University will provide 25 scholarships every year for Master's Level Program in Advanced Nursing Practice & Medical Technology upon recommendation of Ministry of Health of Nepal for the coming five years starting from this year.

6. Japanese Leaders and MPs Visit Nepal

Ms. Hinako Takahashi and Ms. Yuko Nakagawa, Members of the House of Representatives of Japan visited Nepal on 26-28 July. They called on the President Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari. They also held separate meetings with Mr. Ram Chandra Poudel, Senior Leader of Nepali Congress and President of the Nepal-Japan Parliamentary Friendship Association and Mr. Nabindra Raj Joshi, former Minister of Industry. The MPs also held a meeting with Ms. Bhawani Rana, President of the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) and business leaders of Nepal and shared ideas on the investment prospect in Nepal. The delegation visited Kanti Children's Hospital, Patan Durbar Square and Kathmandu Durbar Square during their stay.

Mr. Tadahiko Ito, State Minister for Environment of Japan visited Nepal on 18-19 July. During his stay in

Nepal, Mr. Ito called on the Prime Minister Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba. Matters of mutual interest including cooperation and collaboration on climate change and disaster management were discussed during the meeting. Mr. Ito met with the CEO of the National Reconstruction Authority to discuss various issues of reconstruction including the management and disposal of disaster waste in Nepal. The State Minister attended the seminar on "Promoting Disaster Waste Disposal" in Kathmandu on 19 July.

Mr. Ito is also the Vice President of Nepal-Japan Parliamentary Friendship League.



The Prime Minister with Mr. Tadahiko Ito, State Minister for Environment of Japan

Mr. Kiyoshi Odawara, Parliamentary Vice-Minister visited Nepal on 11-12 July. During the visit, the Vice Minister called on the President, the Prime Minister and DPM and Minister for Foreign Affairs. On all these occasions, matters of bilateral interest were discussed.



DPM and Minister for Foreign Affairs with Mr. Kiyoshi Odawara, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Japan

7. Japanese Grant Assistance for Human Resource Development

The Government of Japan extended the Grant Assistance up to two hundred and eight-two million Japanese Yen (¥282,000,000), the equivalent of about two hundred and fifty-seven million Nepali Rupees (NRs. 257,000,000) to the Government of Nepal for the implementation of the Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) Scheme in Japan's Fiscal Year 2017. The Grant Agreement for the implementation of this scheme was signed in Kathmandu on 7 July 2017. JDS Grant was designed to support human asset development of friendly nations through accepting highly capable, energetic, and young government officials in Japanese universities as JDS fellows.

8. Ambassadors Present Credentials

Ambassador Mr. Leela Mani Paudyal presented his Letters of Credence to Mr. Kim Yong Nam, President of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly on 29 June in Pyongyang as the Non-resident Ambassador of Nepal to Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

Ms. Partiva Rana, Ambassador of Nepal to Japan presented her Letters of Credence to His Majesty Akihito, the Emperor of Japan on 22nd June 2017.

Similarly, Mr. Arjun Junga Bahadur Sing, Ambassador of Nepal to the Republic of Korea presented his Letters of Credence to the President of the Republic of Korea, Mr. Moon Jae-in on 18 June 2017.

9. Foreign Secretary Visits Malaysia

Foreign Secretary, Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi paid a visit to Malaysia on 8-10 July. During the visit, he held meeting with his counterpart Dato Mr. Ramlan Ibrahim, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia. During the meeting, they shared their views on the problems faced by the Nepali migrant workers in Malaysia, its solutions and also discussed the conclusion of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Bilateral Consultation Mechanism (BCM) and Agreement on Visa Exemption for the holders of Official and Diplomatic Passport.

Mr. Bairagi also held meeting with Secretary General of Ministry of Human Resources and raised specifically the issues of Nepali migrant workers and further urged for the early conclusion of MOU on the Recruitment, Employment and Repatriation of Workers between Nepal and Malaysia. Mr. Bairagi, in his meeting with the Datuk Mohammad Sadik Kethergany, Director General of Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) discussed the possible exchange of cooperation between Nepal's Institute of Foreign Affairs and IDFR.



Foreign Secretary Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi with his Malaysian counterpart Dato. Mr. Ramlan Ibrahim

10. Bilateral Consultation Mechanisms Established

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia on the establishment of Bilateral Consultation Mechanism was concluded on 14 July in Canberra, Australia. The MOU was signed by Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi, Foreign Secretary of Nepal and Mr. Gary Quinlan, Acting Foreign Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia on behalf of the respective Governments.

This MoU has been considered as an achievement to further strengthening the bilateral relationships. The two sides have agreed to hold the first meeting of BCM in Kathmandu in early 2018.



Foreign Secretary with Mr. Gary Quinlan, Acting Foreign Secretary of Australia

Similarly, Nepal and Bulgaria established a Bilateral Consultation Mechanism by concluding a Memorandum of Understanding on the Consultation Mechanism between the Foreign Ministries of Nepal and the Republic of Bulgaria on 7 July. Foreign Secretary Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi and Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria to Nepal signed the agreement on behalf of their respective Governments. The Bilateral Consultation Mechanism is expected to contribute towards enhancing bilateral relations between Nepal and Bulgaria.

11. Ireland-Nepal Parliamentary Friendship Group Established

The members of 32nd Dail Eireann (Lower House of the Irish Parliament) and the 25th Seanad (Upper House of the Irish Parliament) constituted an Ireland-Nepal Parliamentary Friendship Group on 27 June. On the occasion, Speaker of the Irish Parliament Mr. Sean O Fearghail TD, Comhairle stated that the growing links between Ireland and Nepal were formally recognized at the parliamentary level with the establishment of the Friendship Group in the Irish Parliament. Convener of the Friendship Group, Ms. Maureen of Sullivan TD stated that the Group would work actively to promote trade links between Ireland and Nepal, explore areas of collaboration between the two countries, extend parliamentary cooperation and arrange exchange of high level visits.

12. Tourism Promotion Programmes Held

The period under review was marked by various tourism promotion programmes organized by Nepali Missions across Europe. Embassy of Nepal in Geneva held a destination promotion programme in Bern on 1 July, under the theme, 'Mountains: Connecting Cultures and Peoples'. Similarly, Embassy of Nepal in Brussels continued to promote Nepal highlighting Nepal's natural, cultural and religious specialties through promotional posters in thirty different public trams and buses of LIGN COM travelling in Antwerp region, one of the biggest cities in Belgium.

B. MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS

1. World of Work Summit (ILO)

President Ms. Bidhya Devi Bhandari, attended the World of Work Summit, an integral part of the 106th Session of the International Labour Conference which was held in Geneva from 5-16 June 2017.

The President addressed the Summit with the theme "Women at Work" on 15 June and underlined the progress made by Nepal in the front of women's participation and representation in politics as well as in the world of work and highlighted the efforts made to address the challenges in that trajectory. The Rt. Hon'ble President was joined by two other Heads of State from Malta and Mauritius exclusively invited by the ILO for this year's Summit. This was the first time that Head of the State of Nepal had been invited by the ILO to address the summit. Nepal became member of the ILO in 1966.

2. Nepal Elected as Deputy Member of ILO Governing Body

Nepal was elected as a Deputy Member of the ILO Governing body for the period (2017-2020), at the 106th Session of the International Labour Conference which was held in Geneva on 5-16 June. This is the first instance of Nepal's election to the ILO policy making body in 50 years of Nepal's membership in the International Labour Organisation.

3. IAEA Director General Mr. Yukiya Amano Visits Nepal

Director General of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Mr. Yukiya Amano, visited Nepal on 5-9 July.

During his visit, Mr. Amano held a bilateral meeting with Foreign Secretary, Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi. The Nepali delegation was comprised of senior officials from Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Science and Technology, Agricultural Development, Finance, Law and Justice, Health and Livestock Development and related agencies including National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), National Agricultural Research Council and the BP Memorial Cancer Hospital.

During the meeting, both sides reviewed the cooperation between IAEA and Nepal since Nepal joined the Agency in 2008. The meeting also discussed potential future cooperation in the areas of health, agriculture and livestock, non-destructive testing to verify integrity of key infrastructure and cultural heritage sites, education and research, human resource development and capacity building, equipment and technology transfer, nuclear safety, regulatory framework and further strengthening of safeguard regime.

The Director General of IAEA paid courtesy calls separately to the Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Krishna Bahadur Mahara and Minister for Urban Development Mr. Prabhu Sah.

4. High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)

The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development with the theme "eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world" was organized under the auspices of the ECOSOC in New York from 10 to 19 July.

Vice-Chairman of National Planning Commission Mr. Min Bahadur Shrestha presented the Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) on 17 July as the leader of the Nepali delegation at the HLPF's ministerial segment. Nepal's presentation stressed the challenge for Nepal to swiftly complete the unfinished agenda of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and building on that, embrace a much more ambitious

aspiration of fulfilling the SDGs. Nepal also highlighted its natural vulnerabilities, from earthquakes to climate change, that lie unmitigated, and share its aspiration to graduate from LDC category in 2022 and to be a middle-income economy by 2030. Hon. Shrestha also highlighted Nepal's rights-based Constitution as the overarching guide to sustainable development and stated that the country's expected high economic growth of 7 percent in Fiscal Year 2016-17 might be the beginning of a key turnaround for Nepal's development.

Similarly, a national statement was delivered by the Vice-Chairman on 18 July in the plenary of HLPF. In the statement, he highlighted the need to focus on actions that bring qualitative differences in the lives of people as we embark on turning the transformative SDGs into reality. While saying that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development enjoys strong underpinnings of the country's Constitution itself, the Hon. Vice-Chairman underlined Nepal's policy initiatives for mainstreaming and localizing SDGs into its national plans and programmes immediately after the adoption of the Agenda.

Nepal was among the 43 countries to present their VNR during the Ministerial Segment of the Forum (17 to 19 July 2017). VNR is a mechanism through which Member States showcase their progress in achieving SDGs, as well as the gaps and challenges facing them.

On 17 July, Nepal co-hosted a side event on "Fast Tracking Poverty Eradication and SDGs through the Data Revolution", along with Bangladesh (LDC Chair), UNDP and UN Secretariat among others. Speaking in the programme, Dr. Shrestha highlighted the importance of data as well as challenges facing LDCs in this regard.

The Vice Chairman Dr. Shrestha also attended the Ministerial Breakfast on Sustainable Finance meeting organized on 18 July morning by the President of the General Assembly. Similarly, he participated in a side-event entitled "Accelerating Inclusive and Sustainable Development in Landlocked Developing Countries through Structural Transformation: pursuing policy at the nexus of infrastructure and industrialization" organized jointly by Zambia (Chair of LLDCs),

Austria, UN-OHRLLS and UNIDO on 19 July 2017. Speaking in the event, the Hon. Vice-Chairman said that full, timely and effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in synergy and coherence with 2030 Agenda with a focus on industrialization as well as resilient and sustainable infrastructure would ensure structural transformation of LLDCs.

A number of panel discussions were organized throughout the first five days of the HLPF, all focusing on various aspects of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Dr. Swarnim Wagle, Member of National Planning Commission of Nepal, moderated the session titled "Investing in and financing for SDGs; Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world – how it affects countries in special situations: LDCs and LLDC".

Mr. Bharat Raj Paudyal, Joint Secretary and head of the United Nations, International Organisations and International Law Division participated as a member of the delegation along with officials from the Permanent Mission of Nepal to the United Nations, New York.

5. Visit to Nepali Peacekeeping Missions in the Democratic Republic of Congo

A delegation led by Chief of General Staff of Nepal Army Lieutenant General Mr. Baldeb Raj Mahat visited Democratic Republic of Congo in Africa on 4-11 June, 2017. The team comprised of 6 officials from different Government Agencies. The delegation participated in Medal Parade Ceremony organized by Nepalese Peace Keeping Missions in The United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DR Congo (MONUSCO) and confer Peacekeeping Medals to the UN Peacekeeping Nepali Army staffs. There are two Nepali peacekeeping Missions in Democratic Republic of Congo under MONUSCO.

6. Establishment of Diplomatic Relations

During the period under review, Nepal established its diplomatic relations with 4 countries signing Joint Communiqués with Uganda, Côte d' Ivoire, Djibouti, and Antigua and Barbuda on 12 June, 16 June, 14 July and 25 July respectively at separate ceremonies in New York. Ambassador and

Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations Mr. Durga Prasad Bhattarai and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Uganda, Dr Adonia Ayebare, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Côte d' Ivoire to the United Nations, Mr. Claude Bouah-Kamon, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Djibouti to the United Nations, Mr. Mohamed Siad Doualeh and Permanent Representative of the Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations, and Mr. Walton Alfonso Webson signed the Joint Communiqués on behalf of their respective Governments.

The number of countries with which Nepal has established diplomatic relations has reached 148 as of July 31, 2017.

C. REGIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Eighth Meeting of SAARC Ministers of Interior/Home

The Eighth Meeting of SAARC Ministers of Interior/Home was held in Colombo on 13 July 2017 which was preceded by the Eighth Meeting of Secretaries of Interior/Home and the Eighth Meeting of the SAARC Immigration Authorities.



Mr. Janardan Sharma, Minister for Home Affairs and Heads of Delegations of the Eighth Meeting of SAARC Ministers of Interior/Home called on the President of Sri Lanka

During the Meeting, all the Member States reaffirmed their commitment to SAARC process and highlighted the actions taken to counter the acts of terrorism, drug controls and human-trafficking at the national and regional level. The Ministers condemned terrorism in all its form and manifestations and called for collective efforts for countering this menace and eliminating safe havens for terrorists and cross-border terrorism acts.

Similarly, the Ministers stressed the need to implement the SAARC Regional Conventions and its Additional Protocols on Suppression of Terrorism, Drugs, Human Trafficking and Cybercrimes in letter and spirit and emphasized the need for early implementation of SAARC Regional Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters. They called for strengthening of national law enforcement agencies and for regional cooperation to support enacting national legislations and regional Conventions, respectively. The Meeting also recognized the need to operationalize STOMD and SDOMD in order to gain benefits from the two Desks to share the real-time information to counter the organized crimes, human-trafficking and drugs as well as to address the above challenges.

During the Eighth Meeting of Secretaries of Interior/Home on 12 July, Nepal proposed to organize the Eleventh SAARC Conference on Cooperation in Police Matters preceded by the Sixth Meetings of Focal Points of STOMD and SDOMD in September 2017.

The Eighth Meeting of SAARC Immigration Authorities held on 11 July discussed on SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme (SVES) and agreed to review the present “Guidelines and Procedures” for SVES and considered the proposal made by the SAARC Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI), particularly in terms of number and validity period.

The Minister for Home Affairs, Mr. Janardan Sharma, attended the Meeting as the head of Nepali delegation. He also held a bilateral Meeting with his Sri Lankan counterpart during his stay in Colombo.

2. Sixth Meeting of the SAARC Ministers of Health



Sixth Meeting of the SAARC Ministers of Health

The Sixth Meeting of the SAARC Ministers of Health, preceded by Senior Officials/Secretaries of Health was held in Colombo on 29 July. The Meeting adopted the Colombo Declaration “Calling for accelerated progress on key Regional Health Issues” through which the Ministers agreed to conduct activities as individual Member States and also as a region according to the principles and strategies agreed upon in the South Asia Regional Action Framework on Sanitation, to improve the status of sanitation enabling social and economic enhancement of the individual Country and the region.

The Ministers also agreed to follow the guiding principles of the South Asia Regional Action Framework on Nutrition and develop coherent approaches that can be applied across the Region to address malnutrition, focusing on the most vulnerable segments of the population (i.e. children and women). They also agreed to work together to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals through enhanced partnership and collaboration

The Meeting discussed the establishment of South Asian Medical University and welcomed the offer of Sri Lanka to host the University.

Ms. Kiran Regmi, Secretary of the Ministry of Health led the Nepali delegation in the Meeting. In her country statement Ms. Regmi informed about Nepal's remarkable improvement in health sector i.e. reduction in maternal/neonatal/child mortality ratio and reverse trend on TB, HIV/AIDS and Malaria. She also reiterated Nepal's commitment to provide continuous support to strengthen the SAARC TB and HIV AIDS Centre, the only Regional Centre of SAARC hosted by Nepal. Dr. R.P. Bichha, Director of the SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre, also made a brief presentation regarding major activities/initiatives taken by the STAC.

3. First Meeting of the BIMSTEC Network of Tour Operators

The first Meeting of the BIMSTEC Network of Tour Operators was held in New Delhi, India on 07 July 2017. The meeting recommended to formulate a common marketing strategy such as creation of BIMSTEC brand for tourism, developing a common website for promotion, holding annual BIMSTEC

Travel Mart/Conclave, developing and sharing a common safety protocols for adventure tourism, developing common BIMSTEC Buddhist and Temple Tourist Circuits, enhancing public-private partnerships for promotion of tourism in BIMSTEC, promoting tourism in BIMSTEC Member States through cross-publicity at the airports, and holding BIMSTEC Annual Convention on Tourism.

4. *Courtesy Call by the Secretary General of SAARC*

Mr. Amjad Hussain B. Sial, Secretary General of SAARC paid a courtesy call on the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Krishna Bahadur Mahara on 30 June.

The DPM/FM in the capacity of the Chair of the SAARC Council of Ministers stated that the Secretary General's vast knowledge and diplomatic experience would enable him to make an important contribution to the SAARC process during his tenure. He assured the Secretary General of the full cooperation of the Government of Nepal in fulfilling his responsibilities and extended his best wishes for the SG's successful tenure. The DPM also reiterated Nepal's commitment to the SAARC process and stated that the Nineteenth SAARC Summit should take place at the earliest.



Secretary General Mr. Amjad Hussain B. Sial with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs

The Secretary General expressed his commitment to carry out his responsibilities to the best of his capability for achievement of the purposes and objectives of SAARC Charter and hoped for continued support and guidance from the Chair of the SAARC Council of Ministers. He commended the role of Nepal in supporting the SAARC process

as the Chair of SAARC, its founding member and host of the Secretariat.

5. *Interaction with the Sectoral Ministries of BIMSTEC*

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) held an interaction programme with the concerned Sectoral Ministries on 25 July to review the progress made by the sectoral Ministries and expedite implementation of the past decisions. The Foreign Secretary, Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi, chaired the Meeting and shared the Agenda for upcoming Ministerial as well as Senior Officials Meeting and urged all the participants from the line Ministries to fulfill commitments in their respective sectors at the earliest possible.

The interaction was organized in preparation for the Fifteenth BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting and the 18th Session of the BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) to be held in Kathmandu on 10-11 August 2017.

D. POLICY AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. *NRNA Meeting in Frankfurt*

The Tenth Europe Regional meeting of Non-Residential Nepalese Association (NRNA) and Women Conference was held in Frankfurt, Germany on 29-30 July. Mr. Ramesh Khanal Ambassador of Nepal to Germany, Joint Secretary Tirtha Raj Wagle and Under Secretary Dr. Damaru Ballabha Paudel from Ministry of Foreign Affairs attended the meeting.

In an inaugural speech Ambassador Mr. Khanal expressed his best wishes for the success of meeting and also stated that the Embassy would extend necessary cooperation to the NRNs.

On behalf of MOFA, Joint Secretary Mr. Wagle conveyed the good wishes of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Foreign Secretary for the success of the meeting. He also stressed the NRNs' role to help in promoting Nepal's trade and tourism.

The meeting included a session on interaction between government officials and the NRNs. The NRNA representatives raised various questions and Ambassador Mr. Khanal, Joint Secretary Mr. Wagle and Under Secretary Mr. Paudel responded to those questions.

Former presidents of NRNA Dr. Upendra Mahato, Mr. Jiba Lamichhane, incumbent President Mr. Sesh Ghale and many other National Coordination Committee Coordinators, NRNA representatives from different countries of Europe were present in the meeting.

E. PASSPORT AND CONSULAR MATTERS

1. Passport Services

1.1 Interaction and Monitoring Programs

Held:

The Department organized an interaction programme at District Administration Office, Kaski on 22 Jestha 2074. Officials participating in the interaction programme were from DAOs Kaski, Syangja, Manang, Tanahun, Lamjung and Area Administration Offices thereof. Another Similar program was held at DAO, Baglung on 23 Jestha. The participants attending the programme included the officials of DAO Baglung, Parbat, Myagdi, Mustang and the related Area Administration Offices.

An observation and monitoring mission led by the Director General, Mr. Sushil Kumar Lamsal visited DAO Jhapa and Ilam on 9th Ashadh 2074 and provided its inputs to the respective offices.

1.2 Director General Assumes his Duty

Mr. Ramkaji Khadka assumed his duty as Director General of the Department of Passports on 16 July 2017 after his predecessor Mr. Sushil Kumar Lamsal left for China to take up his duties as Minister/Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Nepal in Beijing.

1.3 NS/ISO 9001:2015 Certification

During the period under review, the Department became the first NS/ISO 9001:2015 certified government organization of Nepal. A certificate to this effect was awarded by the Nepal Bureau of Standards and Metrology as per its decision dated 26 Ashadh 2074. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Krishna Bahadur Mahara officially unveiled the certificate amidst a ceremony held at the Department.

1.4 Service Delivery

The status of services delivery of the Department during Jun-July, 2017 is presented hereunder:

S.N	Activities	Number
1	E-mails responded	217
2	Grievances handled	1699
3	Applications received from Districts	55255
4	Applications received from Missions (except live enrolment)	1699
5	Applications received at the Department (except manual forms)	29292
6	Passports dispatched to Districts	48965
7	Passports dispatched to Missions	2534
8	Passports Delivered at Department of Passports	27110
9	Total number of passports issued	85819
10	Lost passports registered in the Interpol	3352

2. Consular Services

The issue-wise details of the services delivery of the Department of Consular Services during June -July 2017 are as follows:

S.N	Details of Services	Number
A	Consular and Legal Counseling Section	
1	Recommendation for Medical treatment, Religious tour, World cycling tour and other	5
2	Recommendation for Indian education certificate, nationality verification and those who are visiting India for study purpose	330
3	Recommendation for Indian pension	6
4	Recommendation for issuing Nepalese driving license on the basis of foreign driving license held by the Nepalese citizen.	1010
5	Recommendation letter to Indian Embassy for character verification report to Nepalese citizens during their period of stay in India.	70
6	Recommendation for procurement of chemicals & explosives	15
7	Recommendation letter to Indian Embassy for issuing vehicle permit for vehicles to enter India.	6
8	Correspondence to the concerned authorities of Nepal regarding the citizenship renouncement of Nepalese citizens as per their application submitted to the Nepalese missions abroad	45
9	Correspondence letter regarding authenticity of Power of Attorney issued by Nepalese missions abroad	146
10	Correspondence to the concerned authorities of Nepal regarding authenticity of documents issued by the Government of Nepal	41
11	POA, VOR, H-Form Request (Malaysia), and correspondence to the District Administration Office for compensation to Nepalese citizens died abroad.	110
12	Correspondence concerning search and rescue of Nepalese nationals to the Nepalese Missions abroad	133
13	Correspondence with regards to repatriation of dead body of Nepalese nationals abroad	63
14	Correspondence to the government agencies in Nepal	42

15	Number of draft received for the compensation from Malasiya.	23
16	Handover of compensation amount from Malaysia to the concerned family	25
B	Visa and Exemption Section	
1	Issuance of diplomatic/official/gratis visa	553
2	Issuance of diplomatic/official ID Card	87
3	Issuance of SAARC visa stickers	36
4	Number of recommendation for exemption	619
5	Number of visa recommendation to the foreign missions on GON's nominations	822
C	Attestation section	
1	Number of attested documents	37335
Total		41568