



# MOFA BULLETIN

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**A. BILATERAL AFFAIRS**

**1. PRESIDENT VISITS THE STATE OF QATAR**

Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari, President of Nepal, paid an official visit to the State of Qatar on 29 October-1 November at the invitation of Mr. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Amir of the State of Qatar.

The President held bilateral meeting with Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar at the Amiri Diwan in Doha on 30 October. On the occasion, two heads of state exchanged views on further strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries. Promotion of investment, trade, tourism, infrastructure development, agriculture and the matters pertaining to the migrant Nepali workers figured during the discussion. The President also invited the Amir of the State of Qatar to pay a visit to Nepal at the latter's convenient time, which the Amir gladly accepted.

Following the official meeting, the President and the Amir witnessed the signing of two important bilateral documents. The Agreement on Abolishing Visa Requirements for the Holders of Diplomatic, Special and Official Passports between the Government of Nepal and the Government of the State of Qatar was signed by Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal and Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar. Similarly, the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture and Food Security between the Government of Nepal and the Government of the State of Qatar was signed by Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal and Mr. Mohammed bin Abdullah Al

Rumaihi, Minister of Municipality and Environment of

the State of Qatar. President was also participated in the luncheon hosted by the Amir of the State of Qatar at the Amiri Diwan.

During the President's visit, a Letter of Intent on Security Cooperation between the General Directorate of Public Security of the State of Qatar and Nepal Police was also signed.

The President addressed Nepal-Qatar Business Forum organized by the Qatar Chamber on 30 October and invited the businesspersons and investors to invest in Nepal. The Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali also addressed the Forum highlighting the policy and institutional framework of the Government of Nepal for further improving the business climate in the country.

The President visited the Qatar Foundation, an institution playing a leading role in the advancement of education, science and research, and community development in the State of Qatar, and discussed with its Co-Founder and Chairperson Ms. Sheikha Mozabint Nasser the prospects of cooperation between relevant Nepali agencies and the Foundation. President Bhandari also paid a visit to Qatar Library and the Museum of Islamic Arts on that occasion.

The President also met with Nepali community members living in Qatar followed by Qatari business delegates including the Chief Executive of Qatar Airways Group, CEO of Rayyan Water, CEO of Doha Bank, and Chief Executive Officer of Nebras Power during her stay in Qatar. During the brief meetings, potential cooperation in sectors of drinking water, organic food, hospitality management, construction of hotels, hydropower, air connectivity, information and communication technology etc. were discussed.

The President also attended a reception hosted by the



Ambassador of Nepal in Doha on 29 November and addressed the Nepali community members.

During the course of the President's visit, Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali held a separate meeting with the Minister of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs of the State of Qatar Dr. Issa Al Jafali Al Nuaimi and discussed matters pertaining to labour migration and Nepali migrant workers in Qatar.

During the visit, the President was accompanied by Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Minister for Foreign Affairs; Mr. Madhav Sharma, Expert to the President; Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi, Foreign Secretary; Mr. Binod KC, Secretary of the Office of the President; senior government officials; a business delegation and the representatives of the media.

## 2. PRIME MINISTER VISITS COSTA RICA

Prime Minister, Mr. K P Sharma Oli paid an official visit to Costa Rica on 1 October. Prime Minister, Oli was accompanied by Mrs. Radhika Shakya, spouse of the Prime Minister; Mr. Bishnu Rimal, Chief Advisor to the Prime Minister; Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi, Foreign Secretary; Dr. Arjun Kumar Karki, Ambassador of Nepal to the United States and other senior officials of the Government of Nepal.

Prime Minister, Oli held official talks with Mr. Carlos Alvarado Quesada, the President of the Republic of Costa Rica in San Jose on 1 October. During the meeting, the status of Nepal-Costa Rica relations was reviewed and the ways to further strengthening bilateral cooperation between two countries were discussed. The two leaders discussed on the issues such as poverty reduction, sustainable development, agriculture, women empowerment, peace and disarmament, good governance, environmental protection, and clean energy, among others.



*Prime Minister Mr. K P Sharma Oli meeting with the President of Costa Rica*

The Prime Minister highlighted the major priorities of the present Government of Nepal and the long term goal of 'Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali'. Mr. Alvarado Quesada, the president of Costa Rica stated that Costa Rica's goodwill and support would continue in Nepal's development endeavors.

This was the first ever official visit to Costa Rica by a Nepali Prime Minister after the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1977.

Coinciding the occasion, Prime Minister Oli addressed a special programme organized by the University for Peace in San Jose, Costa Rica on 1 October. The Prime Minister shared his thoughts about peace, democracy and socio-economic development and underlined the need of education that inculcates tolerance and compassion, respects diversity and accommodates differences while unleashing the infinite potential of human mind among distinguished audience of erudite scholars, professors and students, among others.

The Prime Minister was conferred an Honorary Doctorate by the University for his contributions to establishing peace and resolving conflict. He perceived this honour as an acknowledgement of Nepal's successful peace process and appreciation of peace-loving Nepali people and as a recognition which is bestowed on a citizen of the country that gave birth to Buddha—an apostle of peace.



*Prime Minister Mr. K P Sharma Oli being conferred an Honorary Doctorate*

The Prime Minister also commended the University for its immense Contribution as a center of learning and research to promoting the culture of understanding, tolerance and peace around the world.

The Prime Minister further shared that Nepal has become a party to an agreement establishing the University which is a reflection of our deep commitment to universal peace.

Addressing the programme, the Prime Minister said "Peace is not a mere absence of war. Nor should it be

understood as suppressed calmness, forced silence, and circumscribed tolerance. It is a state of mind, way of living and has much broader dimensions-individual, political, economic, social, and cultural- which are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. At individual level, freedom with responsibility towards greater good of society is the foundation of peace. At political level, meaningful participation in political process and logical power sharing contributes to sustaining peace. A perfect mix of rights and duties fosters an environment conducive to peace. Likewise, in economic realm, for ensuring peace, the disparities between haves and have-nots and the condition of extractive economic exploitation should be abolished. Joblessness must end. Physical and biological human needs that are basic and justifiable must be met. At socio-cultural level, tolerance and compassion in society and interfaith and civilizational harmony and unity in diversity are the catalyst for peace.”

### **3. CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES SENT**

President Bidya Devi Bhandari sent a message of felicitations to Mr. Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, President of the Republic of Maldives on his assumption of office on 17 November. Similarly, Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Minister for Foreign Affairs sent a congratulatory message to Mr. Abdulla Shahid, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Maldives on his appointment.

Likewise, Mr. K P Sharma Oli, Prime Minister of Nepal and Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Minister for Foreign Affairs sent separate messages of felicitations to their respective Bhutanese counterparts, Prime Minister Dr. Lotay Tshering and Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Tandi Dorji on their assumption of offices on 7 November.

### **4. FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS JAPAN AND THAILAND**

At the invitation of Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Mr. Taro Kono, Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali paid an official visit to Japan on 17-21 November, leading a Nepali delegation. The members of the delegation were comprised of spouse of the Foreign Minister, Ambassador of Nepal to Japan, and senior officials of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Finance, Investment Board Nepal and the Embassy of Nepal in Tokyo.

During the visit, the Minister held delegation-level bilateral meeting with his Japanese counterpart Mr. Kono on 19 November. The overall gamut of bilateral relations was discussed. Both leaders expressed their commitment to further deepen and expand bilateral cooperation for mutual benefit. Prior to the meeting, the two Foreign Ministers witnessed the signing of Exchange of Notes for

grant assistance of 350 million Yen to the Government of Nepal for carrying out the food assistance programme in Nepal. Ambassador of Nepal to Japan and Ambassador of Japan to Nepal signed on the Exchange of Notes on behalf of their respective governments.

The Foreign Minister met with Mr. Takamori Yoshikawa, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. During the meeting, the Minister requested for Japanese assistance and technology transfer in agriculture sector. The Minister also had a meeting with Mr. Toshihiro Nikai, President of Nepal-Japan Parliamentary Friendship League and Secretary General of Liberal Democratic Party of Japan. The Foreign Minister also met Dr. Shinichi Kitaoka, President of JICA. Several matters pertaining to strengthening of bilateral cooperation were featured in the meetings.

The Foreign Minister delivered a keynote speech in Nepal Investment Seminar jointly organized by Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), UNIDO Investment and Technology Promotion Office and the Embassy of Nepal in Tokyo. In his keynote speech, Foreign Minister highlighted the recent political development in Nepal, priorities of the Government and the policies of the Government of Nepal for attracting foreign investment in Nepal. He urged the Japanese investors and businessmen to invest in Nepal in the sectors of development and modernization of agriculture, hydropower generation, infrastructure building, IT, tourism, and service among others. He assured the investors of the Government's full support in their ventures in Nepal. He also requested the Japanese tourism entrepreneurs to publicize about Nepal's tourism prospects among Japanese people and encourage them to visit Nepal on the occasion of Visit Nepal Year 2020 successful.

In the Seminar, Mr. Maha Prasad Adhikari, CEO of Investment Board Nepal gave a presentation highlighting the prevailing laws, regulations, procedures and potential projects in various sectors for investment in Nepal. On the occasion, Ambassador of Nepal to Japan Mrs. Prativa Rana, Executive Vice President of JETRO Mr. Naoyoshi Nobuchi and Deputy Head of UNIDO ITPO Tokyo Mr. Ferda Gelegen also made their remarks. Mr. Hideaki Hachiya, CEO of EIKEN CO. Ltd. also shared the experiences of his ongoing business in Nepal.

More than 150 prominent Japanese investors, businessmen, tourism entrepreneurs and media people attended the Seminar.

During his visit to Japan, the Foreign Minister attended an interaction on “Nepal Japan Diplomatic Relations” and Luncheon program hosted by NRNA NCC Japan. On the occasion, the Minister urged the Non-resident



Nepalis to be a partner of the Government for economic development of the country to realize the motto “Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali”.

He also attended a welcome reception and dinner programme hosted by the Embassy in honour of the Minister and his delegation.

During the visit to Osaka city on 20-21 November, the Foreign Minister observed the historic places and also attended the dinner hosted in his honour by Mr. Kunio Imanishi, Honorary Consul General of Nepal to Osaka.

On his way back from Japan, the Foreign Minister and his delegation also visited Thailand on 22 November. During the visit, the Foreign Minister visited the Embassy of Nepal and also held discussion with Nepali Diaspora representing various organizations including international bodies.

The Foreign Minister and his delegation returned Kathmandu on 23 November.



*Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal and Japan*



*Foreign Minister during his meeting with Minister of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries Takamori Yoshikawa of Japan*



*Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal and Japan during the joint Press Briefing*

## **5. OFFICIAL GOODWILL VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER OF CAMBODIA**

At the invitation of Mr. K. P. Sharma Oli, Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr. Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia paid an official goodwill visit to Nepal on 29-30 November. The Prime Minister of Cambodia was accompanied by Prak Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia; other high level Ministers and Officials of the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia and delegates of Cambodia Chamber of Commerce.

Prime Minister of Cambodia had a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Mr. K P Sharma Oli on 29 November. A wide range of issues pertaining to Nepal-Cambodia relations were discussed on the occasion. The two Prime Ministers expressed happiness on friendly relations existing between the two countries. Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Minister for Foreign Affairs; Mr. Rabindra Adhikari, Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation; Mr. Bishnu Rimal, Chief Advisor to the Prime Minister; Dr. Rajan Bhattarai, Foreign Affairs Advisor to the Prime Minister; Foreign Secretary Mr. Shankar Das Bairagi, and other officials of the Government of Nepal were present during the meeting.

The two Prime Ministers witnessed the signing of following Memorandum of Understanding and Agreements.

- Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of Bilateral Consultation Mechanism between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Nepal and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia.
- Agreement between Government of Nepal and the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia on Exemption of Visa Requirements for Holders of Diplomatic

and Official/Service Passports.

- Air Service Agreement between the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation of the Government of Nepal and the State Secretariat of Civil Aviation of the Government of Kingdom of Cambodia.
- Agreement on Cultural Cooperation between Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation of Government of Nepal and Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts of Cambodia.

## **6. OFFICIAL GOOD WILL VISIT OF THE STATE COUNSELLOR OF MYANMAR TO NEPAL**

At the invitation of Mr. K P Sharma Oli, Prime Minister of Nepal, Ms. Daw Aung San SuuKyi, State Counsellor and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar paid an official goodwill visit to Nepal on 29-30 November. The State Counsellor of Myanmar was accompanied by U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation; U Min Thu, Deputy Minister in President's Office and U Aung Htoo, Deputy Minister for Commerce and other high level officials of the Government of Union Republic of Myanmar.

State Counsellor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar had bilateral official talks with Mr. K P Sharma Oli. A wide range of issues pertaining to Nepal-Myanmar relations were discussed on the occasion. The Prime Minister and the State Counsellor noted with satisfaction the growing engagements between the two countries. Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Minister for Foreign Affairs; Mr. Bishnu Rimal, Chief Advisor to the Prime Minister; Dr. Rajan Bhattarai, Foreign Affairs Advisor to the Prime Minister; Foreign Secretary Mr. Shankar Das Bairagi, and other officials of the government of Nepal were present during the official talks.

The Prime Minister and the State Counsellor witnessed the signing of Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation on Trade and Investment between the two countries. The MoU was signed by Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal and U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister, Ministry of International Cooperation of Myanmar.

## **7. NINTH MEETING OF JCKGP BETWEEN NEPAL AND INDIA**

The ninth meeting of Nepal-India Joint Committee on Kosi and Gandak Projects (JCKGP) was held on 28-29 November in Kathmandu. The Nepali delegation was led by Mr. Saroj Pandit, Director General, Department of Water Resources and Irrigation, Government of

Nepal. The Indian delegation was led by Mr. Tripurari Sharan, Additional Chief Secretary, Water Resources Department, Government of Bihar, India.



*Ninth Meeting of JCKGP between Nepal and India*

The Meeting discussed the issues related to operation and maintenance of Kosi and Gandak Projects and related infrastructure and agreed to enhance better coordination to address the outstanding issues for the benefit of people of both countries.

## **8. NINTH MEETING OF SURVEY OFFICIALS COMMITTEE**

The Ninth meeting of the India-Nepal Survey Officials' Committee (SOC) was held in Dehradun, India on 11-13 October. The meeting finalized the detailed work plan and schedule for field season in 2018-2019 for the remaining boundary works. The Committee directed the respective field teams to jointly inspect riverine (Small River) pillars constructed during field season 2017-18 and prepare a report on the present condition and stability of these pillars.

## **9. 19TH DG LEVEL TALKS BETWEEN NEPAL AND INDIA ON CUSTOMS MATTERS**

The 19th Director General Level Talks on Customs Co-operation between Nepal and India were held in Kathmandu on 19-20 November. Mr. Toyam Raya, Director-General, Department of Customs, Ministry of Finance, Government of Nepal led the Nepali delegation. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Debi Prasad Dash, Director-General, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Government of India.





*19th DG level Talks on customs matters between Nepal and India*

Matters related to optimum use of ICT for better coordination, mutual efforts for controlling cross-border illegal trade, and new infrastructure development and up-gradation of existing facilities were discussed and agreed. Regular engagement in the form of Director General Level Talks has been effective in ensuring collaboration between the two administrations.

## **10. JOINT INSPECTION OF INUNDATION PRONE AREAS IN WESTERN PART OF NEPAL BY SUB-GROUP OF JCIFM**

The Sub-Group of Nepal-India Joint Committee on Inundation and Flood Management (JCIFM) conducted joint inspection of the inundation prone areas along western part of the Nepal-India border on 19-23 November.

The Nepali delegation was led by Mr. Pradeep Thapa, Deputy Director General, Department of Water Resources and Irrigation (DWRI) and the Indian delegation was led by Mr. Ajay Kumar, Director, Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC).

The team observed seven different locations along Nepal-India border and interacted with local people. The Sub-group has also identified problems and suggested possible solutions.

## **11. SECOND MEETING OF JOINT TECHNICAL TEAM (JTT) OF CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY OF NEPAL (CAAN) AND AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA (AAI)**

The Second Meeting of Joint Technical Team (JTT) of Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN) and the Airports Authority of India (AAI) was held at AAI headquarters in New Delhi on 11-12 October.

The meeting reviewed the progress made on the understanding reached during the first JTT meeting held in Kathmandu on 15-16 June 2018. The meeting also discussed in detail the matters related to aviation safety assessment done by the Indian side.

## **12. TRAINING PROGRAMME ON 'ORGANIC FARMING AND CERTIFICATION'**

As agreed during the State Visit of the Prime Minister of Nepal to India in April 2018 regarding cooperation in agriculture research and organic farming, the first batch of twenty Nepali participants, comprising ten officials and ten farmers, left for India on 15 November to participate in a 30-day training programme on 'Organic Farming and Certification' at the National Centre of Organic Farming, Ghaziabad. India has offered a similar training programme for the second batch in February next year.

## **13. FORMATION OF JSC AND JWG ON ENERGY COOPERATION BETWEEN NEPAL AND BANGLADESH**

As envisioned by the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation in the Field of Power Sector signed between Nepal and Bangladesh on 10 August 2018 in Kathmandu, a Joint Steering Committee (JSC) at the Energy Secretary level and a Joint Working Group (JWG) at the Joint Secretary level have been constituted to promote and facilitate cooperation in the identified areas of power sector between the two countries. Both sides have communicated the composition of JSC and JWG and have agreed that the first meetings of the mechanisms would be held in Kathmandu at a mutually convenient date.

## **14. NEPAL AND MONGOLIA HOLD FIRST MEETING OF BILATERAL CONSULTATION MECHANISM**

The first Meeting of Bilateral Consultation Mechanism between Nepal and Mongolia was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kathmandu on 31 October.

During the Meeting, both sides deliberated on various aspects of bilateral relations as well as cooperation in regional and multilateral forums on issues of mutual interest. The two delegations agreed on further strengthening and expanding the bilateral cooperation in various areas including trade, tourism, culture and people-to-people contacts. The two sides also discussed on working together in various global forums to promote the interests of Landlocked Developing Countries.

Mr. Ganesh Prasad Dhakal, Joint Secretary and Head of the North East Asia Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal and Mr. D. Davaasuren, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia led their respective delegations in the Consultation Meeting.

Other members of the Nepali delegation included officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies and Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation. The Mongolian delegation consisted of Non-resident Ambassador of Mongolia to Nepal and other officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia. Following the Meeting, Joint Secretary Mr. Dhakal hosted a luncheon in honour of State Secretary Mr. Davaasuren and his delegation.

The Bilateral Consultation Mechanism between the Foreign Ministries of Nepal and Mongolia was established on 12 June 2018.



*The first meeting of Bilateral Consultation Mechanism between the Foreign Ministries of Nepal and Mongolia*

## **15. 16<sup>TH</sup> NEPAL-CHINA'S TIBET ECONOMIC AND TRADE FAIR**

The 16th Nepal-China's Tibet Economic and Trade Fair was organized in Lhasa, Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) of China from 25-29 October. The Fair is alternately organized by the Government of Nepal and the Government of TAR of China in every two years in their respective territories. A total of 59 Nepali enterprises representing handicrafts, carpets, ornaments, herbal products and 103 enterprises from TAR, China participated the Fair.

## **16. MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM OF CHINA VISITS NEPAL**

Minister of Culture and Tourism of China Mr. Luo Shugang visited Nepal on 12-15 November to participate in the 8th China Festival and Exhibition of China's Cultural and Creative Products in the New Era held in Kathmandu. During the visit, Mr. Shugang paid a

courtesy call on Mr. KP Sharma Oli Prime Minister of Nepal and held bilateral talks with Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Mr. Rabindra Adhikari. During the meeting, matters related to further promoting cooperation in cultural and tourism sectors between the two countries were discussed.

## **17. ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN NEPAL AND SURINAME**

Nepal and Suriname established formal diplomatic relations on 11 October 2018. The two countries have been working closely at the United Nations and other intergovernmental processes, including the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77.

Mr. Nirmal Raj Kafle, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Nepal to the United Nations and Mrs. Kitty Sweeb, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Suriname to the United Nations signed the Joint Communiqué.

The number of countries with which Nepal maintains diplomatic ties has now reached 163.

## **18. NEPAL AND CANADA HOLD FIRST MEETING OF BILATERAL CONSULTATION MECHANISM**

The first meeting of Nepal-Canada Bilateral Consultation Mechanism was held at the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development of Canada in Ottawa on 4 October.

Foreign Secretary Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi and Assistant Deputy Minister of Global Affairs at the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development of Canada Dr. Donald Bobiash led their respective delegations in the meeting

The two sides reviewed the status of Nepal-Canada bilateral relations and deliberated on the issues of mutual interests. They agreed on the need to enhance Nepal-Canada relations with more engagements in the areas such as trade, investment, tourism, agriculture, migration, education, climate change, technology transfer, and visa and consular matters, among others.

Both sides agreed to maintain regular contacts at different levels with a view to further strengthening the bilateral relations. They also discussed the need for exchanging high level visits in the days ahead.



Also present at the meeting from Nepali side were Ambassador of Nepal to Canada Mr. Kali Prasad Pokhrel, Joint Secretary and Head of Europe and the Americas Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. Ghanshyam Bhandari, Counsellor at the Embassy of Nepal in Ottawa Mr. Prakash Adhikari and Section Officer at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ms. Aruna Ghising. The Canadian delegation consisted of, among others, Director-General Mr. David Hartman, Executive Director Ms. Gillian Frost, and Deputy-Director Ms. Kathy Bunka, all from South Asia Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development of Canada.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) establishing the Bilateral Consultation Mechanism between the two countries was signed by the Prime Minister of Nepal Mr. K P Sharma Oli and Prime Minister of Canada Mr. Justin Trudeau in New York on 24 September 2018.

The next meeting of the Mechanism will be held in Kathmandu.

## **19. NEPAL AND UK HOLD FOURTH MEETING OF BILATERAL CONSULTATION MECHANISM**

The Fourth meeting of the Bilateral Consultation Mechanism (BCM) between Nepal and the United Kingdom was held at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London on 15 November.

Foreign Secretary Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi and Permanent Under Secretary and Head of the British Diplomatic Service Sir Simon McDonald led their respective delegations to the meeting.



*Fourth Meeting of Nepal-UK Bilateral Consultation Mechanism*

Both sides took stock of the existing Nepal-UK bilateral cooperation and deliberated on the ways to further

consolidate and promote mutual cooperation in future. They agreed to enhance bilateral relations with an increased focus on economic engagements especially in the areas of trade, investment and tourism, among others. Exchange of high-level visits, cooperation on education and culture, air safety and people-to-people contacts also featured during the discussion. They also shared views on finding solution to the concerns of the Gurkha Veterans.

The two sides agreed to work collaboratively at the multilateral forums in order to promote rules-based international system.

Following the BCM meeting, Mr. Bairagi had a meeting with the Mr. Mark Field, Minister of State for Asia and the Pacific at the latter's office and discussed wide ranging matters pertaining to long-standing partnership between the two countries.

On 14 November, Mr. Bairagi had a meeting with Mr. Mark Lancaster, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, at the Lancaster house in London. Issues concerning the grievances of Gurkha Veterans were discussed in the meeting.

While in London, the Foreign Secretary also had a meeting with Mr. Matthew Rycroft CBE, Permanent Secretary of Department for International Development; Mr. Kitack Lim, Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO); and Mr. Moin Ahmed, Director General of International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO).

In all meetings, Mr. Bairagi was accompanied by the Ambassador of Nepal to the UK Dr. Durga Bahadur Subedi, Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies Mr. Ravi Shanker Sainju, Joint Secretary and Head of Europe and the Americas Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. Ghanshyam Bhandari, Counsellor at the Embassy of Nepal in London Mr. Sharad Raj Aran, Under Secretary at Ministry of Finance Mr. Yuga Raj Pandey and other officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy of Nepal in London.

## **20. FOREIGN SECRETARY MR. BAIRAGI VISITS FRANCE**

Foreign Secretary Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi had a bilateral meeting with Mr. Maurice Gourdault-Montagne, Secretary General of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Paris on 12 November.



*Foreign Secretary with Secretary General of the French Foreign Ministry*

On the occasion, diverse issues of Nepal-France relations were discussed. The two sides reviewed the areas of existing cooperation and explored the ways to further promote cooperation including through exchange of high-level visits and enhancement of economic engagements. They agreed to observe the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Nepal and France next year with programmes befitting the long-standing friendship.

During the meeting, Mr. Bairagi was accompanied by Ambassador of Nepal to France Ms. Ambika Devi Luintel and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Embassy of Nepal in Paris.

The Foreign Secretary visited France on 10-12 November to participate in the commemorative event of the Centenary of 1918 Armistice and Paris Peace Forum (11-13 November) hosted by the French President. He participated in the commemorative event as well as the inaugural session of the Paris Peace Forum.

## **21. NEPAL AND POLAND HOLD BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS IN KATHMANDU**

Bilateral Consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Nepal and Poland were held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kathmandu on 20 November. The Nepali delegation was led by Head of Europe and Americas Division Mr. Ghanshyam Bhandari whereas Head of the Asia and Pacific Department of the Ministry

of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland Mr. Pawel Milewski led the Polish delegation.

Both sides discussed the whole gamut of bilateral relations and stressed the need for further strengthening and deepening the existing relations, especially in the areas of trade, tourism, investment, technology transfer, and people-to-people contacts. The two sides also discussed the potential employment opportunities in Poland for Nepali migrant workers as well as facilitation of visa services to each other's nationals.



*Nepali and Polish Delegations after the Meeting*

The Polish delegation consisted of Polish Ambassador to Nepal Mr. Adam Burakowski, Ms. Monika Krzewicka from the Asia Pacific Department of Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Honorary Consul General of Poland in Kathmandu Mr. Lokmanya Golchha. The Nepali delegation included Mr. Deepak Dhakal, Under Secretary at the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security; Mr. Lakshuman Khanal, Under Secretary and Ms. Aruna Ghising, Section officer at Europe and Americas Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## **22. NEPAL AND THE UK HOLD FIRST ROUND OF DTAA NEGOTIATIONS IN LONDON**

Nepal and the United Kingdom held first round of negotiations on draft Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income in London on 26-30 November.

The delegation of the United Kingdom was led by Mr. Thomas Matthews from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and the Nepali delegation was headed by Mr. Bishnu Prasad Nepal, Director General at Inland Revenue Department of Nepal.

During the negotiations, the two sides shared their viewpoints on the draft texts of the Agreement.



Discussions were based on the drafts of the Agreement proposed by both sides. The delegations agreed that follow-up work would be needed on the proposed clauses and provisions. They also agreed to continue negotiations with a view to reaching an agreement on the outstanding points.

The Nepali delegation consisted of Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Nepal in London, Under Secretaries from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance; Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs; and Director from Inland Revenue Department. The UK delegation included officials and senior policy advisors from HMRC.

The second round of negotiations will be held in Kathmandu.

## **B. MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS**

### **1. FOREIGN MINISTER ADDRESSES NELSON MANDELA PEACE SUMMIT**

Foreign Minister, Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali addressed the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit organized at the UN Headquarters during the high-level week of the 73rd session of the General Assembly on 2 October. This high-level event was convened by the President of the General Assembly to mark the birth centenary of Nelson Mandela.



*Foreign Minister addressing the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit*

The Foreign Minister offered sincere tributes to a statesman extraordinaire of our time. In his statement, the Foreign Minister shed light on the inspiring political journey of the late leader Mandela, whose ideals will continue to inspire humanity. The Foreign Minister further said “we stand ready to share experiences of our successful peace process.”

In his Address, the Foreign Minister stated that the strength of unity; power of discipline; influence of humility; and result of diligence are the lessons we learn

from his life. He taught the importance of reconciliation, forgiveness and compassion, even by forgiving those who had taken his everything away.

Shedding light on Nepal’s firm belief in peace, the Foreign Minister said “Truth eventually emerges triumphant, no matter how strong the adversaries are. The sense of fortitude and sacrifice defeat even the most invincible. His ideals will continue to inspire humanity.”

He recalled Nepal’s service as a member of the UN Special Committee against apartheid and as a vice chair for 25 years. Nepal, the birthplace of the apostle of peace, Buddha, has unwavering faith in peace. Our long contribution to the UN peace operations testifies it. The home-grown, nationally owned and led peace process successfully transitioned the country to a state of stability and peace after the peaceful democratic elections were held under the Constitution adopted by people’s representatives. Nepal reaffirms its faith in the values of world peace. We stand ready to share experiences of our successful peace process.

### **2. THE DEPUTY-SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS VISITS NEPAL**

The Deputy-Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ms. Amina J. Mohammed paid a courtesy call on the President Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari on 16 November at Shital Niwas. Matters pertaining to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals and further strengthening Nepal-United Nations cooperation figured during the call on.



*The Deputy Secretary General paying a courtesy call to the President*

Ms. Amina J. Mohammed also paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Mr. K P Sharma Oli on 15 November. She appreciated Nepal’s significant contribution in UN Peacekeeping Operations. The philosophy of right to development, ‘living no one behind’, the importance of energy connectivity were discussed during the call on.



*The Deputy Secretary General paying a courtesy call to the Prime Minister*

Similarly, the Deputy-Secretary-General called on Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali at the office of the Minister for Foreign Affairs on 15 November.



*The Deputy Secretary General paying a courtesy call to the Foreign Minister*

Deputy General Secretary Ms. Mohammed was in Kathmandu in connection to attending The Sixth World Assembly of the Global Campaign for Education that was held on 16 November.

### **3. UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, ITS CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES VISITS NEPAL**

At the invitation of the Government of Nepal, Ms. Dubravka Simanovic paid an official visit to Nepal from 19-29 November. The objective of the visit was to evaluate the situation of violence against women in Nepal. Upon the completion of her visit, Ms. Dimanovic submitted the statement to the Government of Nepal containing her preliminary findings and recommendations. She will present her final report to the United Nations Human Rights Council in June 2019.

During her stay, Ms. Simanovic had meetings with various Government representatives. She also met

with Supreme Court Judge, Sapana Pradhan Malla and with representatives of statutory human rights agencies including the National Human Rights Commission and the National Women's Commission. In addition, she also met with Government representatives and relevant stakeholders in Dhangadi (Province 5) and Nepalgunj (Province 7). She went to Nakkhu correctional facility, as well as the women's section of the Central Prison in Kathmandu.

She congratulated Nepal on its role as an active member of the UN Human Rights Council. She noted as positive increased political participation of women and the appointment of the country's first female President.

### **4. DIRECTOR AT THE UNHCR REGIONAL BUREAU FOR ASIA AND PACIFIC VISITS NEPAL**

Mr. Indrika Ratwatte, Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific (RBAP), visited Nepal from 13-16 November. The main purpose of the visit is to conduct a field-based operational review of UNHCR's programme for refugees from Bhutan in cooperation with UNHCR Nepal.

During his stay, Mr. Ratwatte paid courtesy calls with Home Minister, Mr. Ram Bahadur Thapa, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, and with Mr. Prem Kumar Rai, Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs. During the meetings, cooperation between UNHCR and Nepal in third country resettlement programme of Bhutanese refugees, and issues of Tibetan Refugees in Nepal, among others.



*UNHCR Regional Director paying a courtesy call to the Foreign Minister*

He also visited UNHCR Sub-Office Damak on 14 November and discussed with the mayor of the Damak Municipality on the Bhutanese refugees issues.

### **5. IOM REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC VISITS NEPAL**

Dr. Maria Nenete A. Motus, IOM Regional Director



for Asia and the Pacific paid courtesy call to Foreign Minister, Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali.

During the meeting, the role of IOM in the protection of the migrant workers, IOM's successful operation of voluntary third country resettlement of Bhutanese refugees, IOM's role as the lead coordinators in the implementation, review and follow-up mechanism of Global Compact for Migration, increasing human smuggling and trafficking in the name of the foreign employment were discussed.



*IOM Regional Director paying a courtesy call to the Foreign Minister*

## C. REGIONAL AFFAIRS

### 1. THE 21<sup>ST</sup> MEETING OF THE BIMSTEC TRADE NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE (TNC)

The 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the BIMSTEC Trade Negotiating Committee was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 18-19 November. Mr. Tofail Ahmed M.P., Minister of Commerce of the People's Republic of Bangladesh inaugurated the Meeting as the Chief Guest. The delegates from all the BIMSTEC Member States: the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Kingdom of Bhutan, the Republic of India, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Nepal, the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Kingdom of Thailand participated in the Meeting. The Nepali delegation to the Meeting was led by Mr. Nabaraj Dhakal, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies. The Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of Nepal in Dhaka, Mr. Dhan Bahadur Oli was also present in the meeting.

The 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the BIMSTEC TNC made significant progress in finalizing the draft texts of three important agreements relating to BIMSTEC FTA, namely Agreement on Trade in Goods, Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters,

and Agreement on Dispute Settlement Procedures and Mechanisms. The Meeting also made progress on developing texts of three other agreements relating to Investment, Services and Trade Facilitation.

### 2. TENTH MEETING OF THE BIMSTEC SUB-GROUP ON ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING AND COMBATING THE FINANCING OF TERRORISM (SGAML-CFT)

The Tenth Meeting of the BIMSTEC Sub-Group on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (SGAML-CFT) was held in Kathmandu on 19-20 November. The Delegates from all the BIMSTEC Member States i.e. the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Kingdom of Bhutan, the Republic of India, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Nepal, the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Kingdom of Thailand attended the Meeting.

The leader of the delegation of Nepal, Mr. Ram Krishna Subedi, Joint-Secretary at the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Government of Nepal stressed that combating money laundering and financing of terrorism requires our continuous and collective actions, including, among others, sharing of best practices and information.

Member States presented the views of their respective countries on "Sanitized Version of the National Risk Assessment Report". Similarly, they presented cases on the subject "Corruption and Bribery related to Money Laundering" that were identified through Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs). In the Meeting, Member States discussed on drafting an Action Plan to prevent the Illicit Flow of Funds (IFF) among the BIMSTEC Member States. Nepal made a presentation on the subject "Need of Action Plan to Control Illicit Flow of Funds (IFF) among the BIMSTEC Member States".

The Kingdom of Thailand will host the next Meeting of the BIMSTEC Sub-Group on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism in 2019.

### 3. SEVENTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF SAARC STANDARDS ORGANIZATION (SARSO)

The Seventh Meeting of the Governing Board of SAARC Standards Organization (SARSO) was held on 22-23 November in Kathmandu, Nepal. The Meeting was hosted by Nepal Bureau of Standards and Metrology. The meeting discussed and deliberated on the Report of the SARSO Activities for the year 2018, review of progress in the implementation of recommendations/directives of the Sixth Meeting of Governing Boards (New Delhi,

8-9 March 2018), budget, reports of previous meetings held under SARSO activities, approval of the guidelines for adoption and implementation of SAARC Standards, interaction with international and regional partner organizations like International Electro-technical Commission, European Standards Organization, and PTB-Germany.

#### **4. TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT BOARD (TMB) OF GOVERNING BOARD OF SAARC STANDARDS ORGANIZATION (SARSO)**

The Sixth Meeting of the Technical Management Board (TMB) of SARSO was held on 21 November in Kathmandu, Nepal. The Meeting was hosted by Nepal Bureau of Standards and Metrology. The Meeting discussed and deliberated on review of reports of the SARSO activities and its previous meeting, approval of the reports and update of the SARSO Sectoral Technical Committees (STCs), consideration of the SARSO STC Meeting calendar, approval of the New Work Item Proposal (NWIP), and review of Guideline for adoption and implementation of SAARC Standards.

### **D. MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES, NON RESIDENT NEPALIS, PASSPORT AND CONSULAR MATTERS**

#### **1. UNITAR TRAINING WORKSHOP ON CONFERENCE DIPLOMACY, MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Government of Nepal and United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) jointly organized a training program entitled "UNITAR Training Workshop on Conference Diplomacy, Multilateral Negotiations and Human Rights" on 29 October-2 November in Kathmandu. The training program, which focused on three core areas of multilateral diplomacy-conference diplomacy and multilateral negotiations, effective writing in multilateral diplomacy and international human rights protection and promotion, was attended by 22 Foreign Service Officers and 13 Officers from other Government agencies.

Two Speakers from the UNITAR, Mr. Lars Tillfors instructed on conference diplomacy and multilateral negotiations and effective writing in multilateral diplomacy and Mr. Youssef Hamdan instructed on international human rights protection and promotion. The two Speakers were assisted throughout the

workshop by Mr. Philippe Aubert, Associate Program Officer, Division for Multilateral Diplomacy, UNITAR. Speaking at the closing session, Foreign Secretary, Mr. Shankar Das Bairagi, highlighted the significance of the training program of this kind in building capacity and updating the knowledge of the government officers for discharging their duties more effectively. The entire program was coordinated by Policy, Planning, Development Diplomacy and Nepali Diaspora Division of MOFA.

#### **2. MEETING OF COLOMBO PROCESS**

As the chair of the Colombo Process, the Government of Nepal organized the Fifth Senior Officials' Meeting and the Sixth Ministerial Consultation of the Colombo Process in Kathmandu on 15 and 16 November 2018, respectively. "Safe, Regular and Managed Migration: A Win-Win for All" was the theme of the Sixth Ministerial Consultation. The Ministerial Consultation adopted the Kathmandu Declaration on 16 November which, among others, recommends various suggestions on way forward to continue working on the five thematic areas of the Colombo Process, i.e. Skills and Qualification Recognition Process; Fostering Ethical Recruitment; Effective Pre-departure Orientation and Empowerment; Reducing the Costs of Remittances Transfer; and Labour Market Analysis. It also mandates the Senior Officials' Meeting to continue working on the incorporation of the proposed four additional crosscutting thematic areas, i.e. Migrant Health; Operationalization of the Migration-related Elements of the Sustainable Development Goals; Promotion of Equality for Women Migrant Workers; and Consular Support for Migrant Workers, into the existing five Thematic Area Working Groups.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the Ministerial Consultation on 16 November, Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali said that protection of migrant workers at every stage of the migration process is a matter of common concern for all the countries of the Colombo Process. He further added that migrant workers empowered with the right information and knowledge about the destination and workplace, and having requisite skills for the jobs on offer can contribute more efficiently for the benefits of both the sending and receiving countries and the respective communities.

Mr. Bharat Raj Paudyal, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, also made remarks as Officiating Foreign Secretary at the opening session of the Senior Officials' Meeting on 15 November. The Permanent Mission of Nepal in Geneva remained active in coordinating the Geneva-based Missions of the Colombo



Process member countries to prepare for these meetings.

The Colombo Process is a regional consultative process on overseas employment and contractual labour for countries of origin in Asia. It has twelve member States. Nepal has been the Chair of the Colombo Process since March 2017.

### 3. NON RESIDENT NEPALIS (NRN) RELATED SERVICES

The status of services delivery to Non Resident Nepali (NRN) during October-November is presented below.

S. N.	Services	Number
1	Issuance of NRN Cards	16
2	Processing of Land Purchase Approval to NRN	2

### 4. PASSPORT SERVICES

The status of service delivery of the department of Passport during the period is presented below:

S. N.	Activities	Number	Remarks
1	Applications received	53490	Excluding Live Enrollment Counters
2	Passports Issued	31946	From districts
		886	From Missions
		19912	From the Department
		52744	Total
3	Total Number of passports issued (According to Document Type)	134	Diplomatic
		138	Official
		126	Ordinary (Gratis)
		12	Travel Document (TD)
		53154	Total
4	Passports+TD dispatched	53154	

5	Emails responded including Social Networks	1770	
6	Grievance handled	1896	
7	Lost PP registered in the Interpol	2310	
8	Official Error	50	
9	Null and Void Passports	0	
10	Feedback Forms Collected	1772	
11	Revenue Collected	22,66,60,000/-	

### 5. CONSULAR SERVICES

The numerical details of the service delivery of the Department of Consular Services during the period 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	9
2	Recommendation for Indian education certificate, nationality verification and those who are visiting India for study purpose	314
3	Recommendation for Indian pension	4
4	Recommendation for issuing Nepalese driving license on the basis of foreign driving license held by the Nepalese citizen.	367

5	Recommendation letter to Indian Embassy for character verification report to Nepalese citizens during their period of stay in India.	93
6	Recommendation for procurement of chemicals & explosives	20
7	Recommendation letter to Indian Embassy for issuing vehicle permit for vehicles to enter India.	4
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	31
9	Correspondence letter regarding authenticity of Power of Attorney issued by Nepalese missions abroad	71
10	Correspondence to the concerned authorities of Nepal regarding authenticity of documents issued by the Government of Nepal	56
11	POA, VOR, H-Form Request (Malaysia), and correspondence to the District Administration Office for compensation to Nepalese citizens died abroad.	76

12	Correspondence concerning search and rescue of Nepalese nationals to the Nepalese Missions abroad	157
13	Correspondence with regards to repatriation of dead body of Nepalese nationals abroad	50
14	Correspondence to the government agencies in Nepal	141
15	Number of draft received for the compensation from Malaysia	1
16	Handover of compensation amount from Malaysia to the concerned family	5
<b>B</b>	<b>Visa and Exemption Section</b>	
1	Issuance of diplomatic/official/ gratis visa	430
2	Issuance of diplomatic/official ID Card	62
3	Issuance of SAARC visa stickers	11
4	Number of recommendation for exemption	598
5	Number of visa recommendation to the foreign missions on GON's nominations	296
<b>C</b>	<b>Attestation section</b>	
1	Number of attested documents	24,240
Total		27,036