

MOFA BULLETIN

Current Affairs

Oct-Nov 2016

Vol 1, Issue 3



Ministry of Foreign Affairs
**Policy, Planning, Development Diplomacy
and Nepali Diaspora Division**

Singha Durbar, Kathmandu, Nepal
Tel. 4200182-185, Fax: 4200061, 4200160
Email: ppdo@mofa.gov.np
Website: <https://www.mofa.gov.np>

Chief Patron:

Hon. Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat,
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Patron:

Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi
Foreign Secretary

Editorial Team

Mr. Mani Prasad Bhattarai,
Joint Secretary
Dr. Damaru Ballabha Paudel,
Under Secretary

Inside this Issue

- A. Bilateral Affairs
- B. Multilateral Affairs
- C. Regional Affairs
- D. Protocol, Passport & consular Activities

A. Bilateral Affairs

1. Nepal-Korea Third Bilateral Consultation Meeting Held in Kathmandu

Nepal and the Republic of Korea (RoK) held the 3rd Bilateral Consultation Meeting between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Nepal and RoK in Kathmandu on 21 October 2016. Mr. Jhabindra Prasad Aryal, Joint Secretary and Head of the Northeast Asia Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and his Korean counterpart H. E. Mr. Ryu Jeong-hyun, Director General for South Asia and the Pacific Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea led their respective delegations for the meeting. During the meeting, both sides discussed the issues of mutual interests and reviewed all the matters of bilateral cooperation. The delegations shared views on the various aspects of Nepal-Korea relations so as to take them ahead in a forward-looking manner.



Jhabindra Aryal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal, and H. E. Mr. Ryu Jeong-hyun, Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea

The Nepali side appreciated the Government of the Republic of Korea for its continued support and cooperation in the overall socio-economic development of Nepal. The Korean side expressed its readiness to continue cooperation in the socio-economic

development efforts and priorities of the

Government of Nepal. Both sides agreed to enhance cooperation and maintain regular contacts at different levels and also agreed to work together to further strengthen the Employment Permit System (EPS) for mutual benefits, promote tourism, trade and investment between the two countries, and cooperate at regional and global levels on the matters of mutual interests.

2. Fourth Meeting of Nepal-India Joint Commission

The fourth meeting of Nepal-India Joint Commission was held in New Delhi on 26-27 October 2016. The meeting was co-chaired by Hon'ble Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat, Minister for Foreign Affairs, from Nepali side and His Excellency Mr. M. J. Akbar, Minister of State for External Affairs, from Indian side.

The meeting made a comprehensive review on all aspects of Nepal-India relations under five broad clusters namely political, security and boundary; economic cooperation and infrastructure; trade and transit; power and water resources; culture and education. The meeting adopted Agreed Minutes as its outcome.



Hon. Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal and H.E. Mr. M. J. Akbar, Minister of State for External Affairs of India

The fifth meeting of the Joint Commission will take place in Nepal at a mutually convenient date.

Formed in 1987, the Joint Commission is a bilateral mechanism at the Foreign Ministers' level with a mandate of reviewing the entire spectrum of Nepal-India bilateral relations. The third meeting of the Joint Commission was held in Kathmandu in 2014.

During his stay in New Delhi, Hon. Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Mahat had a meeting with His Excellency Shri Rajnath Singh, Minister for Home Affairs of India. Mr. Ajit Doval, National Security Advisor of India paid a call on the Hon. Minister.

3. State Visit of the President of India to Nepal

At the friendly invitation of the Rt. Hon. President Bidya Devi Bhandari, President of the Republic of India His Excellency Shri Pranab Mukherjee paid a three-day State Visit to Nepal from 2 to 4 November 2016.



Rt. Hon. President Bidya Devi Bhandari, President of Nepal, and Her Indian counterpart H.E. Shri Pranab Mukherjee

Rt. Hon. President Bidya Devi Bhandari received His Excellency the President of India at the Tribhuvan International Airport on 2 November 2016. The visiting dignitary was accorded a ceremonial reception.

His Excellency Shri Mukherjee met Rt. Hon. President Bhandari at Shital Niwas. The President of Nepal hosted a State Banquet in honour of the President of India. Rt. Hon. Vice President Mr. Nanda Bahadur Pun and Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda" called on His Excellency Shri Mukherjee. Rt. Hon. Prime Minister also hosted a dinner in honour of the visiting dignitaries.

On 3rd November, President of India, Shri Mukherjee, visited Pashupatinath Temple and performed *Puja*. Kathmandu University conferred an honorary degree on His Excellency Shri Mukherjee on the same day. He attended a civic reception in Kathmandu held in his honour. The Indian President delivered a speech at a seminar of Niti Anusandhan Pratisthan Nepal and India Foundation. Leaders of political parties also called on His Excellency Shri Mukherjee during his sojourn.

On 4th November, His Excellency visited Janakpur and performed *Puja* at Janaki Temple, and attended a Civic

Reception hosted in his honour. He also visited Pokhara.

This was the first visit by the President of India to Nepal 18 years of time. The then Indian President K. R. Narayanan had visited Nepal in May 1998.

4. Meetings on Utilization of Highways and Protocol of Transit Transport Held in Lhasa

Nepalese delegation comprising official of relevant ministries participated in the negotiation meeting for the amendment of the Protocol on the Utilization of Highways in Tibet, China by Nepal for Cargo Transport and Protocol of Transit Transport Agreement held in Lhasa, TAR on 17 to 18 November 2016. The Protocol on the Utilization of the Highways in Tibet was signed in 2005 between Nepal and China. As per the Protocol, Nepal is entitled to utilize only Khasa-Tatopani Port for transporting cargo to the different northern districts of Nepal. Following the April 2015 Earthquakes, Tatopani port is not in operation. Against this backdrop the Government of Nepal has proposed to allow the Khasa and Rasuwa Ports and appropriate routes of the Tibetan Highways for delivering cargo to the northern bordering districts of Nepal. Both sides have agreed to amend the Protocol by incorporating the changing needs through mutual consultation.

Similarly, officials of Nepal and China held first preliminary meeting to share ideas on the development of the Protocol of Transit Transport Agreement. The meeting agreed on the outline of the protocol and agreed to hold the next round of consultation meeting in Nepal in mutual consultation. Mr. Ganesh Prasad Dhakal, Joint Secretary and head of the Northeast Asia Division of Ministry of Foreign Affairs participated in the meeting on the behalf of the Ministry.

5. Condolences to the Chinese President and Premier

Rt. Hon. President Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari and Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda" sent separate messages of condolences to His Excellency Mr. Xi Jinping, President and His Excellency Mr. Li Keqiang, Premier of the State Council of the people's Republic of China respectively on the loss of lives of 67 Chinese citizens and injury of some others in the accident occurred at a cooling power construction site in Jianxi Province of China on 24 November 2016. While sending the condolence messages the Rt. Hon. President and the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister have expressed their heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the Government of the People's Republic of China and bereaved family members and have also wished for the speedy recovery of those injured.

6. First Meeting of Nepal-India Oversight Mechanism

The first meeting of Nepal-India Oversight Mechanism was held in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kathmandu on 29 November 2016. The meeting was jointly led by

the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi, on the Nepali side and the Ambassador of India to Nepal, H.E. Mr. Ranjit Rae on the Indian side.

The meeting made a comprehensive review of the progress made in cross-border rail projects, Integrated Check-Posts, cross border transmission lines, Arun III and Upper Karnali Hydropower Projects, Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project, Postal Roads, projects under various Lines of Credit including Mahakali Bridge, and reconstruction projects under Government of India's cooperation. The meeting identified the measures to be taken by the respective Governments to ensure the timely and successful implementation of the projects.

It may be recalled that the two countries had agreed to constitute the Oversight Mechanism during the State Visit of the Prime Minister of Nepal, Rt. Hon'ble Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' to India in September 2016 in order to review the ongoing economic and development projects on regular basis and take necessary steps to expedite their implementation.

B. Multilateral Affairs

1. UNGA Concluded in New York

The 71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) opened on 13 September and concluded in December 2016 in New York. Nepali delegation actively took part in the meetings of committees of the UN General Assembly. The Permanent Representative of Nepal to the UN, His Excellency Mr. Durga Prasad Bhattarai, was one of the 21 Vice-Presidents for the 71st Session of the General Assembly.

2. Nepal Ratified the Paris Agreement on Climate Change

Nepal has ratified the Paris Agreement on 4th of October 2016. The Paris Agreement entered into force on 4th of November 2016 after achieving the threshold of minimum deposits of 55 instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession by Parties of the UNFCCC accounting in total for at least 55 percent of the total global greenhouse gas emissions. Nepal is in the threshold. The Paris Agreement on Climate Change has recognized that "climate change is posing an irreversible threat to human societies and the planet". The Least Developed, Mountainous and Small Island countries including Nepal have negligible role in increasing the greenhouse gas emissions but are adversely affected by the impacts of climate change. As a Himalayan country of Mount Everest sharing water towers of Asia, Nepal has always stood firm for enhanced and effective legal framework to decelerate the rate of global warming. Paris Agreement is expected to contribute to the mobilization of support for the coping capacity-building, technology development and transfer squarely to the vulnerable group of countries and societies in the spirit of joint action.

3. LLDC Ministerial Meeting on Sustainable Road Transport

Hon'ble Mr. Ramesh Lekhak, Minister for Physical Infrastructure and Transport, led a Nepali delegation to the High-level meeting on sustainable transport of landlocked developing countries held in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, on 13-14 October 2016. The high-level meeting was organised by the Government of Bolivia, in coordination with United Nations Office of High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS (UN-OHRLLS) with the view of reviewing the progress and addressing the challenges on the implementation of the Vienna Program of Action for the Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) that was adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on LLDCs at Vienna in November 2014.

4. UN Day Program Organized in Kathmandu

On the Occasion of the 71st Anniversary of the Founding of United Nations, Hon'ble Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat, Minister for Foreign Affairs, addressed a Talk Program in Kathmandu organized by the United Nations Association of Nepal on "United Nations: Custodian of Peace, Development and International Understanding" on 24 October 2016. He reiterated Nepal's abiding faith in the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. He said that Nepal greatly values the institution of multilateralism universally represented by the United Nations and that the one and only alternative to the United Nations is a stronger and more effective United Nations dedicated to the cause of world peace, human welfare and dignity. The Hon. Foreign Minister noted that over 126,000 Nepali peacekeepers have already completed tours of duty in 42 different peacekeeping missions around the world and 73 of them have made ultimate sacrifice for the cause of international peace and security. He further mentioned that currently Nepal is the 6th largest troops contributing country in the UN Peacekeeping operations with current deployment of over 5,000 peacekeepers. He expressed commitment on implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the UN General Assembly and mentioned about the challenges faced by the least developed and climatically vulnerable countries like Nepal for effective implementation of the SDGs.

5. Ministerial Meeting on Peacekeeping Held in Paris

A Nepali delegation led by Honorable Mr. Bal Krishna Khand, Minister for Defence, participated in the Ministerial Conference on Peacekeeping Operations in Francophone Environment, organised by the Government of France, in Paris, on 26-27 October 2016. In the Conference, Nepal highlighted its contribution to the UN peacekeeping operations since 1958. Nepal expressed its readiness to serve at the call of the United Nations including in challenging environments

but underlined that the commitments and constraints of troops and police contributing countries must be acknowledged and their voices heard while deciding and reviewing the mission mandates.

6. Nepal Ratifies the Biological Weapons Convention

Nepal ratified the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction. Nepal became the 177th State Party of the Convention after formally depositing the Instrument of Ratification in Washington D.C. on 4 November 2016. The Governments of the United Kingdom, United States of America, and the Russian Federation are the depositories of the Convention. Nepal had signed the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) on 10 April 1972. The Legislature Parliament, upon discussing and considering the proposal tabled by Hon'ble Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat, had decided to ratify the Convention on 23 October 2016. Earlier, on 1 January 2016, the Council of Ministers had decided to proceed with ratification of the BWC in accordance with national laws. The Ratification of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) represents the expression of Nepal's strong belief in general and complete disarmament of all weapons of mass destruction including biological, chemical, nuclear and radiological weapons in a time-bound manner.

7. COP-22 Held in Morocco

The twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties (COP-22) and the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 12) were held in Marrakech, Morocco, from 7 to 18 November 2016. A Nepali delegation led by Hon'ble Mr. Jay Dev Joshi, Minister for Population and Environment, participated in the Conference. The Conference was successfully concluded issuing "Marrakesh Action Proclamation for our climate and sustainable development", signalling a shift towards a new era of implementation and action on climate and sustainable development' and affirming commitment to the full implementation of the Paris Agreement.

8. Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention

The Eighth Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) was held at Geneva, Switzerland from 7 to 25 November 2016. Nepal for the first time took part in the Review Conference as State Party. The Nepali delegation was led by His Excellency Mr. Deepak Dhital, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations Office at Geneva. In the conference, Nepal reiterated its commitment to remain constructively engaged with the international community in the national and international

implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention.

9. Relocation of the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific in Kathmandu

The UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific was relocated to Kathmandu from 21 November 2016. The new UNRCPD office premises was jointly inaugurated by Hon'ble Foreign Minister Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat, and Mr. Kim Won-soo, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs. The UN General Assembly had decided to establish the UNRCPD in Nepal in 1987 with the mandate for promotion of regional efforts in peace and disarmament. The Centre started functioning from Kathmandu in August 2008; but it had been temporarily shifted to Bangkok after the 2015 earthquake. The relocation of the UNRCPD to Kathmandu represents testimony of Nepal's commitment to peace and disarmament.

10. First Global Sustainable Transport Conference

The First Global Sustainable Transport Conference, convened by the United Nations Secretary-General was held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, on 26-27 November 2016. A Nepali delegation led by the Secretary of Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport, participated in the Summit.

C. Regional Affairs

1. ACD Summit Held in Thailand

The Second Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Summit was held on 8-10 October 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand with the theme of 'One Asia, Diverse Strengths'. Hon. Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat, Minister for Foreign Affairs led the Nepalei delegation in the Summit which was attended by the Heads of State and Government, and other high-ranking government officials of 34 Member States. The Summit Meeting was inaugurated by H.E. General Prayut Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand which adopted three Outcome Documents; ACD Vision for Asia Cooperation 2030, Bangkok Declaration along with ACD Blue Print 2017-2021, and ACD Statement on Reigniting Growth through Partnerships for Connectivity.



Inauguration ceremony of the 2nd ACD Summit, Bangkok

While addressing the Summit, Hon. Foreign Minister underlined the importance of connectivity in all modes; road and rail networks, air links, waterways and

transmission ways as the key enabler to connect the countries of Asia, especially the landlocked countries like Nepal. Hon. Minister Mahat noted the role being played by migrant workers in connecting peoples and societies in Asia and emphasized that their rights, safety and security must be guaranteed recognising their contribution to economic growth and development in both origin and recipient countries. He underlined that development of Nepal's hydropower would provide source of green energy not only for Nepal but also for neighbouring countries, greatly contributing to energy security in the region. Hon. Minister Mahat informed the ACD Member States that Nepal is at its crucial phase of post-earthquake reconstruction and development, and also invited the investors from the region to invest in tapping the huge development potentials of hydro resources, tourism and cultural treasures of Nepal. Nepal offered to assume a leading role as co-prime-mover in promoting regional cooperation in energy, and culture and tourism in ACD.

Among three outcome documents, the ACD Vision for Asia Cooperation 2030 reflects the shared vision and aspirations of the Members for Pan-Asian cooperation, thereby contributing to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 while Bangkok Declaration is the proclamation of the leaders of the Members to further enhance cooperation in the six priority areas such as; a) connectivity b) culture and tourism c) science, technology and innovation d) education and human resource development, among others. The ACD Statement on Reigniting Growth through Partnerships for Connectivity aims to foster multi-stakeholder partnerships to strengthen and improve regional infrastructure connectivity in finance, transport, information and communication technology etc.



Hon. Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and other Delegates

Meanwhile, the ACD Connect 2016 Business Forum was also held on 9 October 2016 with two sub-themes 'Driving Asian's Economies with Financial Technology' and 'Financing Infrastructure in Asia' with a view to exchanging the best entrepreneurial ideas among the business communities of the Members, and then proposing concrete actions to the Summit for a prosperous Asia.

2. BRICS-BIMSTEC Outreach Summit/BIMSTEC Leaders' Retreat

The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' led the Nepali delegation to the BIMSTEC Leaders'

Retreat and BRICS-BIMSTEC Outreach Summit was convened in Goa, India on 16 October 2016. The BIMSTEC Leaders' Retreat was organized in the context of the 8th BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) Summit hosted by India. Hon'ble Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat, Minister for Foreign Minister, and high-ranking officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers and the Ministry of Finance also presented in the Nepali delegation.



BIMSTEC Leaders during the BIMSTEC Leaders' Retreat 2016

The Outreach Summit Meeting provided the opportunity for the BIMSTEC leaders to interact with BRICS Leaders as well as discuss matters of mutual concern and explore the possibility of boosting cooperation between BIMSTEC and BRICS. It also became the platform for the leaders to further discuss on important areas of mutual benefits in the evolving regional and global politico-economy and partnership for shared prosperity.

BIMSTEC Leaders' Retreat provided the much-needed political momentum to take the BIMSTEC processes forward in realising its socio-economic development goal as was outlined in the Bangkok Declaration, 1997. The Retreat concluded along with the adoption of BIMSTEC Leaders' Retreat 2016 Outcome Document which is a milestone in reorienting and revitalizing the BIMSTEC processes and activities.

As stated in the Outcome Document, the leaders of the BIMSTEC Member States expressed their firm commitment and resolution to enhance mutual cooperation in all areas of cooperation including fight against terrorism, conclude BIMSTEC Free Trade Area, signing of the BIMSTEC MOU on Grid Interconnection and celebrate the 20th anniversary of the BIMSTEC.

3. International Forum of the SCO on Legal Service for the Silk Road

The International Forum of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) on Legal Service for the Silk Road was held on 23-24 November 2016 in Yiwu, Zhejiang Province, China. The Forum was convened by the Ministry of Justice of the People's Republic of China with the participation of representatives from

the Member States, observers and dialogue partners of SCO. The Forum aimed to strengthen the exchange and cooperation in the field of legal services under the Belt and Road Initiative and also to implement the outcomes of the Meeting of Ministers of Justice of the SCO Members held in Almaty in October 2016. The Forum discussed on legal services in the countries involved in Belt and Road (B&R) Initiative, establishing a sound legal service linking mechanism to create a good environment of rule of law for B&R Initiative and promoting legal coordination and convergence of legal principles among SCO states, among others.

4. Meeting of the Governing Board of SAU

The Ninth Governing Board Meeting of the South Asian University (SAU) was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 28 November 2016. The Meeting was chaired by Dr. Parashar Koirala, Chairman of University Grants Commission of Nepal, and the Governing Board Member from Nepal. The Meeting approved both the operational budget estimates and capital budget estimates for FY 2017. Besides, the admission and appointment policies of the University were also discussed. In the capacity of the Governing Board Member of Nepal, Mr. Mani Prasad Bhattarai, chief of the Regional Organizations Division and the National Focal Point of SAARC, also attended the meeting.

D. Protocol, Passport and Consular Activities

I. Protocol Activities

1. State Visit of President of India

At the friendly invitation of the Rt. Hon. President Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari, President of the Republic of India His Excellency Mr. Pranab Mukherjee paid a three-day State Visit to Nepal from 2 to 4 November 2016. The Rt. Hon. President extended a warm welcome to the distinguished guest at the VVIP Lounge of Tribhuvan International Airport on 2 November.

The Rt. Hon. President bade farewell to the distinguished guest amid a special farewell ceremony at the VVIP Lounge of Tribhuvan International Airport on 4 November. The visit was arranged and coordinated by the Protocol Division.

2. Official Visit of Rt. Hon. Prime Minister to India

The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' paid an official visit to Goa, India to attend BRICS-BIMSTEC Leaders' Outreach Summit from 15 to 16 October 2016 at the invitation of Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi. The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister left Nepal for Goa on 15 October and returned Kathmandu on 17 November. All the logistic arrangements, departure and arrival ceremonies and other preparatory works and

budgetary arrangement for the visit were arranged and coordinated by the Protocol Division.

3. Credential Presentation of the New Chinese Ambassador



New Chinese Ambassador H.E. Ms. Yu Hong presenting credentials to Rt. Hon. Ms. Bidya Devi Bhandari, President of Nepal.

Her Excellency Ms. Yu Hong, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Nepal presented her credentials to Rt. Hon. Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari, President of Nepal at a special ceremony in Sitwal Niwas on 10 November 2016. During the ceremony Hon. Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Chief of Army Staff and other high level dignitaries were present.

4. Other Credential Presentations

The Rt. Hon. President Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari received the Letters of Credence from H.E. Mr. Yousuf Bin Mohamed Ahmed Mohamed Al-Hail, H.E. Dr. Jorg Giovanni Frieden, H.E. Ms. Yu Hong and H.E. Mr. Oscar Israel Martinez Cordoves, Ambassadors-designate of the State of Qatar, the Swiss Confederation, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Cuba to Nepal respectively on 10 November 2016.

Likewise, H.E. Mr. Joao do Carmo Ataide Da Camara, H.E. Mr. Fahad Ahmad M.M. Alawadhi, H.E. Mr. Igor Polikha and H.E. Mr. Gonchig Ganbold, Ambassadors-designate of Portuguese Republic, The State of Kuwait, Ukraine and Mongolia to Nepal respectively presented their Letters of Credence to the Rt. Hon. on 30 November 2016.

Ambassador of the State of Qatar, Ambassador of the Swiss Confederation and Ambassador of the Peoples' Republic of China are the residential Ambassadors, other Ambassadors are based in New Delhi with concurrent accreditation to Nepal.

5. Tenure Extension of Honorary Consuls General of Mongolia

Government of Nepal has granted concurrence for extension of tenure of Mr. Chhetan Gyurman Shrestha as Honorary Consul General of Mongolia to Nepal till 31 December 2018 with the consular jurisdiction over Kathmandu Valley.

II. Passport Activities

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has appointed Mr. Sushil Kumar Lamsal, Joint Secretary, as the Director General of the Department of Passport. Mr.

Lamsal took charge as the Director General of the Department of Passport from November 13, 2016.

- Mr. Prakash Mani Poudel, Director and Ms. Anu Khanal Aryal, Audit Officer, participated in a program titled 'Trim Symposium on MRTDs and Traveler's Identification Management' program organized by ICAO in Montreal, Canada from 15 to 17 November 2016.
- Following number of passports have been issued in the month of October and November 2016

| Month | Diplomatic Passport | Official Passport | Ordinary Passport | Travel Document |
|--------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| October | 53 | 79 | 33,503 | 9 |
| November | 47 | 137 | 53,298 | 15 |
| Total | 100 | 216 | 86,801 | 24 |

III. Consular Activities

The Department of Consular Services delivered the following services during October-November 2016:

| S.N. | Details of Services | Number of Works Performed |
|----------|--|---------------------------|
| A | Consular and Legal Counseling Section | |
| 1 | Recommendation for Medical treatment, Religious tour, World cycling tour and others. | 46 |
| 2 | Recommendation for Indian education certificate, nationality verification and those who are visiting India for study purpose. | 343 |
| 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. | 404 |
| 5 | Recommendation letter to Indian Embassy for character verification report to Nepalese citizens during their period of stay in India. | 51 |
| 6 | Recommendation for procurement of chemicals & explosives. | 20 |
| 7 | Recommendation letter to Indian Embassy for issuing permit for vehicles to enter India. | 5 |
| 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. | 9 |

| | | |
|--------------|--|---------------|
| 9 | Correspondence letter regarding authenticity of Power of Attorney issued by Nepalese missions abroad. | 174 |
| 10 | Correspondence to the concerned authorities of Nepal regarding authenticity of documents issued by the Government of Nepal. | 43 |
| 11 | POA, VOR, H-Form Request (Malaysia), and correspondence to the District Administration Office for compensation to Nepalese citizens died abroad. | 35 |
| 12 | Correspondence concerning search and rescue of Nepalese nationals to the Nepalese Missions abroad. | 28 |
| 13 | Correspondence with regards to repatriation of dead body of Nepalese nationals abroad. | 28 |
| 14 | Correspondence to the government agencies in Nepal. | 29 |
| 15 | Number of draft received for the compensation from Malasiya. | 22 |
| 16 | Handover of compensation amount from Malaysia to the concerned family | 14 |
| 17 | Correspondence to the Nepalese Missions on various subjects including insurance and compensation enquiry. | 20 |
| 18 | Correspondence to the foreign missions based in Nepal | 24 |
| 19 | Telephone and e-mail enquiries about insurance and compensation with the Nepalese Missions abroad. | 26 |
| B | Visa and Exemption Section | |
| 1 | Issuance of diplomatic/official/gratis visa | 580 |
| 2 | Issuance of diplomatic/official ID Card | 63 |
| 3 | Issuance of SAARC visa stickers. | 8 |
| 4 | Number of recommendation for exemption. | 481 |
| 5 | Number of visa recommendation to the foreign missions on GON's nominations. | 456 |
| C | Attestation section | |
| 1 | Number of attested documents. | 22,691 |
| Total | | 25,604 |