

Nepal Council of World Affairs



Annual Journal 2014-015

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Published by

The Nepal Council of World Affairs

NCWA Building, Harihar Bhawan

Pulchowk, Lalitpur

G.P.O. Box: 2588, Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: 5526222

Fax: 977-1-5010047

Email: info@ncwa.org.np

Website: www.ncwa.org.np

February 2015

Price : Rs. 500.00 NC in Nepal

: Rs 350.00 IC in India

: US\$ 20.00 in SAARC Region

: US\$ 50.00 in Others Countries

Layout:

Yuba Raj Adhikari (NCWA)

9841 111200

Cover Design

Jyoti Khatiwada

Printed in Nepal at

Heidel Press Pvt. Ltd.

Tel: 977-1-4439812, 4441712

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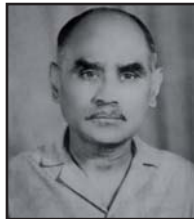
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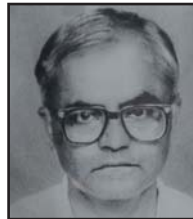
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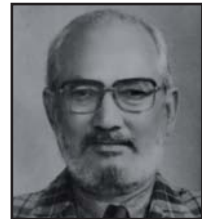
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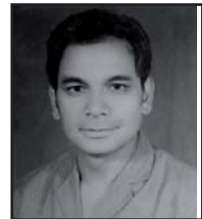
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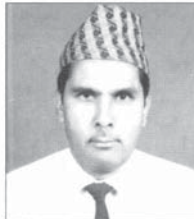
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9th February 2015

Message from the Right Honorable President, Nepal


Right Honorable President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav is pleased to know that Nepal Council of World Affairs (NCWA) is celebrating its 67th anniversary on 18th February 2015. On this happy occasion, Rt. Honorable President extends his warm greetings and best wishes.

Rt. Honorable President further expresses his confident that NCWA will play a greater role in strengthening Nepal's relations with friendly countries of the world.

Rt. Honorable President is hopeful that NCWA will be a prominent national think-tank organization in contributing to formulate Nepal's foreign policy deliberations and other key issues of global concerns. NCWA's role will also be a vital in especially encouraging people-to-people relations and cooperation.

Rt. Honorable President wishes to have a greater role of NCWA to promote Nepal's interests among friendly countries of the world. Right Honorable is confident that NCWA will have remarkable role in developing understanding between Nepal and other countries across the world in coming days.

As instructed,


Anup Kumar Upadhyay
Secretary



Government of Nepal



Dr. Ram Sharan Mahat
Finance Minister

Message

I am happy to know that Nepal Council of World Affairs (NCWA) is celebrating its 67th anniversary on 18th of February 2015. I extend my warm greetings to all its members on this auspicious occasion.

Today, we are living in a competitive world which has become practically a global village with new developments in science, technology, aviation and communication in particular. Opportunities are residing everywhere. Our country is no exception. Despite tremendous potentialities, Nepal is still a least developed country. The present government has set a target to upgrade the country to the developing country status by 2022. We need huge resources to mobilize specially in infrastructure with hard work, dedication and innovativeness to achieve the target.

Nepal cannot remain a mere spectator without linking it to the globally connected modern world. International relation is very important to share knowledge, mobilize resources, transfer technology, and promote peace and prosperity.

In a democratic system, there are various ways of promoting leadership in concerned field which can play leading role in their respective areas together with the government. NCWA is such an organization which can play a leading role in connecting Nepal with the outside world. As a leading organization of Nepal with long and illustrious history, I wish to see the greater role in foreign policy deliberation and other key issues of global concerns. I am confident that NCWA will play a leading role in promoting understanding between Nepal with countries and institutions across the world in coming days.

Once again, I would like to congratulate NCWA members on this auspicious occasion and my best wishes to all the members involved in preparing the special journal.

February 6, 2015

Dr. Ram Sharan Mahat
Minister of Finance

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Minister for Foreign Affairs

Government of Nepal
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
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Message

I am very happy to learn that Nepal Council of World Affairs (NCWA) is going to publish its Annual Journal by including various aspects and issues of national as well as world affairs to mark the sixty-seventh anniversary of the establishment of the Council.

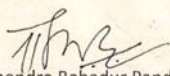
First of all, I would like to congratulate the Council for the successful completion of sixty-seven years of journey. I would also like to congratulate on this special occasion all the distinguished teams of NCWA who have really worked hard in developing Council into an academic as well as scholarly organization. I appreciate all those who have contributed to the Council, be it through direct involvement or through contributing articles to its journals or through expressing good wishes for the Council.

I would also like to thank the Council for organizing various programmes such as seminars, talk programmes, discussions from time to time on various pertinent issues of common concern. The outcomes of such promotions of debates and interactions have been extremely useful in guiding the foreign policy priorities of the Government of Nepal. The journals of the Councils, such as this, feature valuable articles from various scholars, professionals, diplomats and academicians and enlighten its readers about various facets of current world affairs and their implications to Nepal, and more importantly contribute to the knowledge in the field. It is also worth noting that the Council has enriched its outreach by establishing friendly and cooperative contacts with similar organization in various countries. I hope that the Council will pay more attention to research based activities and support the Government with adequate information and knowledge on current issues.

I am fully confident that the Council will play even more constructive roles in the days to come and continue to prove a trusted companion of the Government in its foreign policy priorities. I express my good wishes for the Council. I also hope that the intellectuals involved in the activities of the Council will play even more active roles to fully realize the cherished goals of the Council to contribute to Nepal and Nepalese society as an independent, non-profitable and effective national forum for deliberations and interactions.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Council for publishing such important and useful journal.

08 February 2015


Mahendra Bahadur Pandey

**Message from
President of NCWA**

Time Tested Foreign Policy of Nepal

*Rt. Hon'ble Khil Raj Regmi**

I am happy to attend this program organized to mark the 66th Anniversary of Nepal Council of World Affairs (NCWA). At this moment, first of all, I would like to extend my congratulations to all the members of NCWA, and wish for the continued success in its future endeavors. It is a matter of satisfaction to note that the Council has come a long way and has completed 66 years of its journey through its continued engagement with the foreign policy experts and practitioners in shaping the trends of international relations. I would like to thank the organizer for organizing this program to mark its anniversary. It is my pleasure to be with all distinguished personalities from home and abroad in this program. I am hopeful that the discussions and deliberations in this program will provide useful inputs in adapting our policies to the changing times on the basis of national consensus.

Sovereign equality, territorial integrity, political independence, non-interference, and peaceful settlement of international disputes have become the bedrock of inter-state relations in the contemporary times. These principles, enshrined in the UN Charter more than six decades ago, represent the highest ideals of contemporary international relations. In fact, they provide the basis for a smooth and harmonious conduct of international relations among States which are sovereign, independent and interconnected. As we march ahead towards increasing interdependence through globalization, these well-established principles and norms of interstate relations assume even greater relevance for us.

The Interim Constitution of Nepal, 2007 has incorporated the provision that the State shall pursue the foreign policy of Nepal based on the principles of Charter of United Nations, non-alignment, the principles of *Panchasheel*, international

* Rt. Hon'ble Regmi, Former, Chairman of the Council of Ministers, Addressed the 66th anniversary of the Council on August 18, 2013

law and the norms of world peace. This is a very good illustration of Nepalese stance in foreign policy. Another important aspect of Nepalese foreign policy is that we emphasize on promoting cooperative relationships with neighboring and all other countries of the world on the basis of equality, mutual respect, friendship and understanding. On the bilateral level, our diplomatic relations are being gradually expanded and deepened. At present, we have formal diplomatic relations established with as many as 138 countries around the globe.

It is one of our features that Nepal nurtures friendship with all and has established and sustained excellent relations with most of the countries of the world. Our outreach with the countries in Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America has been strengthened through our engagements at the multilateral forums such as the United Nations, Non-alignment movement, Group of 77 and other forums of international or regional nature. We continue to work together with these countries in such multilateral forums on matters of shared interests.

In a democratic country like ours, we need a consensus-based foreign policy in order to cater to the needs and aspirations of its own people on the one hand and to meet the obligations arising out of being a responsible member of the international community on the other. We believe that regional cooperation would be instrumental in promoting regional fraternity, mutual trust and cooperation among the countries of the world. The complementarities available in the region can best be harnessed through the mechanism of regional cooperation. In today's competitive and globalized world, economic issues have received due prominence in all the countries because economic progress and prosperity buttress peace and political stability. Our missions abroad stand ready to facilitate trade, businesses, fairs and exhibitions and other related activities to promote economic diplomacy. The Non Resident Nepalese (NRN) is another important dimension of our interactions, which could play a significant role in the economic development of Nepal.

We note with satisfaction that our regional association has made a steady progress towards attaining various socio-economic goals. In our view, economic integration is the key to regional prosperity. Deepening of trade, expansion of connectivity and transport networks, and frequent and easy movement of people across the region are prerequisites for such integration. Economic diplomacy has assumed an increasingly important role in our foreign policy. Foreign trade, foreign direct investment, technology transfer, foreign employment and tourism constitute the main dimensions of our economic diplomacy. We have strived

to increase the volume of resources for the programs of economic diplomacy while effectively mobilizing our diplomatic missions abroad.

It is noteworthy that peace is the cherished goal in present world. Nepal advocates general and complete disarmament, realizing it as the only sound basis for sustainable peace in the world. We condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations anywhere in the world.

Moreover, we are also equally concerned by the problem of climate change. We have been collaborating with the international community to take effective measures to protect the environment from being irreversibly degraded to the long-term detriment of humanity as a whole. The threat of climate change has emerged as a serious concern for countries like Nepal. We strongly urge the international community to heed this common problem of humanity which disproportionately affects countries like ours which have contributed least in creating this threat.

At present, we have been walking in the political transition. The success story of Nepal's transition to peace and stability may serve as a best example to be replicated in other similar situations around the world. Thus, for now, our main mission has become the accomplishment of Constituent Assembly elections scheduled for November 19, 2013. A free, fair, credible and inclusive election is our prime objective. A stable democracy would certainly help to project Nepal's foreign policy at a much higher level of international recognition, respect and support. It is well known to this forum that the present government was formed at special context, with an aim to hold the CA elections. The government is fully committed to hold the CA elections in a free and fair atmosphere so as to usher Nepal into a new era of democratic stability, peace and prosperity. I took over the responsibility of this government with full consent of the major political parties to fulfill the historic responsibility of holding CA elections for drafting the new Constitution by Nepali people themselves. The government is fully committed to fulfill this responsibility with the best of its ability and capacity. In this purpose, I thank and appreciate for all positive support of international community to the government of Nepal. We urge the international community to take part in the observation of the elections by sending sufficient numbers of elections observers during the elections programs.

Finally, I would like to thank the *Nepal Council of World Affairs* for being able to successfully organize this program. I am of the belief that today's program

will facilitate all participants to be familiar with the Nepal's foreign policy and diplomatic relations. I congratulate the NCWA family once again for being able to mark 66th Anniversary of this organization, and wish for further progress and prosperity of the organization.



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Foreign Policy of Nepal and International Relations

*Hon'ble Madhav P. Ghimire***

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the president and other office bearers of Nepal Council of World Affairs for the kind invitation extended to me to participate in the 66th anniversary celebration of the Council. On this happy occasion, while extending warm congratulations to all the past and current members of the Council, I would like to recognize the contributions you have made since 1948 in elaboration and dissemination of the issues in foreign affairs and international relations for understanding of the Nepalese people. As you can see, international relations have undergone tremendous changes not only in the range of subject matters and complexities but also in their operational modalities. This entails that public forums like this will have to reenergize with increased engagement in debates and discussion on more substantive and pertinent aspects of our foreign policy so as to better place our issues and concerns in the international arena to optimize the benefits.

We have to bear in mind that Nepal has been a nation-state since 1768, which places it on 21st position in the world history of modern states formation. That is why national sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity are so close to our hearts. Our country has a long history and experience of implementing an independent foreign policy to safeguard the vital national interests. The core values of our foreign policy have been very eloquently expressed in the interim Constitution of Nepal. The reason why we attach great values to non-alignment as a foreign policy tool, good neighbourliness and equal distance relationship with immediate neighbours, the relationship of respect and cooperation with all countries of the world, the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and

** Hon'ble Mr. Ghimire, Former Minister for Foreign Affairs, addressed the council on August 18, 2013.

international law, and the centrality and indispensability of the UN system in the maintenance of international peace and security as well as shaping the global agenda for development, equality and freedom, can be explained from historic perspectives as they are the products of our common wisdom.

We uphold the principles of sovereign equality of states, peaceful settlement of international disputes, non-use of threats or force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any other state, and non-interference in the domestic affairs. We have also acknowledged that peace and security in the neighborhood and the world at large is a prerequisite condition for an inclusive advancement in the development path. We pursue the objectives of regional cooperation to enlarge the scope of development through synergy and achieve greater economic integration with countries in the neighborhood for common benefits.

Accumulated knowledge from the geostrategic location, geopolitical realities, emerging scenarios in the international environments, prospects for economic growth and trade and, moreover, people's aspirations for development influence our foreign policy choices. All of these are lofty policy goals to be achieved, which need to be reflected in the 'foreign policy behavior' of not only the elites who define and implement foreign policy, but also in the conduct and behavior of each and every citizen of the country. I therefore stress on the elaborating and sharing of the knowledge on foreign policy and international relations for the benefit of the masses.

Nepal has already established bilateral relationship with 138 countries of the world so far and it will continue to expand in the future with all friendly countries of the world. In an interdependent and globalized world, expanded and diversified relationship and cooperation would provide us more scope and choice in the international arena.

Historically in excellent relationship with both India and China, we have to work hard to take full advantage from the phenomenal economic growths both these immediate neighbors have achieved over the decades. There is a need to address each others' mutual concerns, taking both countries in confidence through constructive engagements and creating an environment where enhanced cooperation results in the development of economic and social infrastructure, increased investment and trade for mutual benefits. Tapping regional complementarities of social, political, geographic and economic proximities and achieving the synergy of benefits of cooperation through

mechanisms such as SAARC and BIMSTEC are also in our immediate concerns.

Our cooperative relationship with major powers of the world have expanded and diversified over the years. We are opening new diplomatic missions in the territories of friendly counties as far as resources allow. We are also strengthening the institutional capacity of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the missions abroad. Nepal is a beneficiary of development cooperation from many countries of the world, including US, UK, EU and its Member countries, Japan, Korea, Australia and so on. We have been receiving assistance and cooperation in needy areas from multiple development partners from both the Global North and South. United Nations and its specialized agencies, other international organizations and the international and regional financial institutions are also playing their important parts in extending much-needed development cooperation to Nepal. This is an encouraging trend and there is a need to persuade for strengthened and enhanced partnership in the context of implementation of the Istanbul programme of Action (IPOA) for the LDCs in Nepal.

Nepal has a strong ownership in the IPOA as it was negotiated with multiple partners and stakeholders and finalized under the umbrella of the UN as an international programme for the LDCs during Nepal's chairmanship of the Global LDC Bureau in 2011. Its goals of graduating around 50 percent of the 49 LDCs from the current status into developing countries is ambitious yet achievable, provided concerted efforts are directed in latter and spirit is its implementation by all partners by mainstreaming the eight priority areas specified in the document. The IPOA is meat for poverty eradication, removing structural constraints of the economies and multiple vulnerabilities suffered by the LDCs, ensuring socio-economic transformation and environmental conservation. In other words, it is the global sustainable development agenda for the LDCs covering all three pillars of sustainable development, namely economic development, social development and environmental protection and, more importantly, their balanced integration in the implementation.

As you are aware, we have embarked upon the ambitious goal of graduating Nepal from LDC category by 2022 and are in the process of putting in place requisite policies, plans and programmes and strengthening the institutional mechanisms. Mainstreaming the IPOA priorities in our national and sectoral plans and programmes and asking all international and bilateral development partners to do so in their development assistance framework is extremely

important at this juncture. Systematic implementation of the priority areas set by the IPOA is a national responsibility, but the same time, bolstering support for its implementation is an international responsibility as well as.

We have emphasized on IPOA implementation because enhanced development process and durable peace have strong and mutually-reinforcing correlation in our context. The main objective of the current Government is to hold free fair and credible elections to the Constituent Assembly so as to pave the way for reaching logical conclusion to the ongoing peace process by promulgating a constitution as desired by the people. By embracing on the internationally set IPOA goal, we have been preparing grounds for the success of the future government. It is an area where the assurances of strengthened international cooperation have already been promised.

In order to attract more foreign investments, enhanced level of ODA, transfer of technology and knowledge, we need to create a conducive environment back home by ensuring good governance, the rule of law and control of corruption.

I emphasize that Nepal should world with the international community to champion the cause of the LDCs in all possible areas. We need deeper involvement with the international community to define and integrate the interests and concerns of the LDCs in the post-2015 development agenda as well as greater access to resources, technology and knowledge in the taking proper adaption and mitigation measures in fighting climate change and building resilient societies. With more voice and representation, we can articulate our genuine concerns and achieve more from the international community. It is necessary to ensure a sustained, sustainable and inclusive development for all, especially for those living in the poor and vulnerable situations, to achieve the ultimate goals of global sustainable development.

To conclude, I once again congratulate Nepal Council of World Affairs for being the oldest living institution of its kind spanning over the last 66 years. As foreign policy connects the domestic contest to the international arena, it is always challenging to adjust and readjust our national interests in relation to the changes taking place in the outside world. We have tried to connect our economic interests with partner counties and international organizations and enhance them more effectively through the conduct of economic diplomacy, which presupposes a culture of working together by involving all stakeholders. We need to strengthen our political, economic and social ties with the neighbors

and the rest of the world by increasing the level of interactions and sharing of knowledge and information. I am very hopeful that the Council will work with more dynamism by catching up with the modern trends in the days ahead. We need more effective and strengthened think tank like the Council to ensure more effective foreign policy choices.



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Nepal's Foreign Policy in the Global Context

*Hon'ble Mahendra Bahadur Pandey****

It is a pleasure and honour for me to be amidst you this afternoon and share my thoughts on contemporary efforts in reforming foreign policy and the way it is conducted to serve the interests of Nepal. I thank the organizers for extending me invitation to attend this programme. Since my appointment as Minister of Foreign Affairs in February this year, my attention has been drawn towards holding a series of consultations with stakeholders. I had several rounds of consultations involving former foreign Ministers, former foreign secretaries and ambassadors, business communities and the serving diplomats themselves. I have been personally enlightened by their rich personal experience and keen observations. All the proceedings of these consultations process are kept in record and will form important ingredients for the reform and strengthening of Nepal's foreign policy initiatives and efficient conduct of diplomacy for the achievements of objectives and results.

In this context, I take this gathering as another opportunity for sharing insights and experience in the conduct of foreign policy. You are the oldest civil society organization, established in 1948, dedicated to the cause of promoting national interests in the international field. You have been working with the Government providing inputs for foreign policy adjustments from time to time, focusing your attention to our relations with the neighbours, other countries of the world, the United Nations and regional organizations. I ask you to be more active in catching up with the phenomenal changes taking place in the outside world

***Hon'ble Mr. Pandey, Minister for Foreign Affairs, addressed the council on May 5, 2014.

and suggest changes, or adjustment in the foreign policy from time to time.

When we conduct our foreign policy in the international arena, we need to go with coherent and consistent voice of the State, reflecting the real interests and concerns of the people. There are certain fundamental elements of the foreign policy which are expected to provide a sense of direction and thrust in its conduct and guide the overall behavior of the people in such activities. These core values of the foreign policy enshrined in the constitution do not change with the passage of time, or change in power dispensation, though their nuances may need fine-tuning in the wake of certain big changes in international affairs. The non-aligned movement, for example, has undergone some transformation following the collapse of the Soviet Union and the cold war rivalry.

The rise of China and India as important powers of Asia with increased capacity to influence the world politics and economy is an interesting phenomenon and a great opportunity for Nepal to move ahead on the path of development and prosperity. We have traditionally close and cooperative relationships based on mutual trust with both the neighbors. Our policy of true non-alignment is keeping us on right balance without temptation to tilt to any side, but allowing us to speak our mind in the issues relating to international affairs on the basis of merit. I think that we need to pursue this policy with meticulous care.

The principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter establish fundamental grounds for international relations based on sovereign equality of nations, big or small. It has created space for sanctity of nation states, their independence and territorial integrity. Its emphasis on maintaining peace and security in the world, defining global agenda for development, promoting freedom and justice for all humankind are noble ideals which give protective umbrella to poor and less powerful countries like us. We therefore repose unflinching faith in the Charter of the United Nations. For us, the United Nations is central and indispensable in seeking multilateral solutions to all global problems, and ensuring the avenues of peace and prosperity to all mankind. We have been contributing to global peace and security through peacekeeping operations, which is believed to be a flagship activity of the United Nations. I believe that Nepal should maintain its leading position in the contribution of peacekeepers.

The Istanbul Programme of Action for the LDCs (IPOA) and Almaty Programme of Action for the LLDCs were formulated and designed under the umbrella of the United Nations. We must emphasize their implementation by the global

community in good faith. We have taken ownership and leadership in the implementation of the IPOA, and have already expressed our desire to graduate Nepal from LDC status by 2022. Since the priority areas delineated by the IPOA constitute sustainable development agenda for the LDCs, more enhanced cooperation and partnership to implement this programme in the national context is necessary. We also need to make sure that the interests and concerns of LDCs like us is reflected and incorporated in the post-2015 development agenda that is going to replace the MDGs within the next two years.

Regional cooperation and growth in economic activities and trade brings win-win situation for all participating countries. It fosters good relationships and mutual trust, promotes peace and security, on the other hand. Regional cooperation enlarges the scale and scope of economies and collective welfare. Nepal is a founding member of SAARC and also an active member of BIMSTEC, both of which represent the most populous parts of the world. As chair of BIMSTEC and upcoming chair of SAARC, Nepal must play an important role in instilling new dynamism and direction in these regional groupings. We need more to do in harmonizing relevant policies, developing infrastructural connectivity, promoting peoples level contacts, and more importantly, stimulate more trade, tourism and investment activities for the benefit of the people of the region.

We in Nepal must be fully cognizant of the opportunities provided to LDCs under various trade regimes under WTO and other regional and bilateral arrangements and develop strategies to stake a claim on these opportunities.

We value the generous support provided by our development partners through the difficult times. Their contribution to poverty reduction, social and human development has given results, and we are appreciative to this noble gesture. There is a need to persuade them that Nepal as a vulnerable country not only from the perspective of poverty and low economic, human and social development, but also from the point of view of climate change, deserves continued and enhanced support in terms of aid, transfer of technology, and facilitation of investment flow. The international civil society organizations have also been contributing to the social and economic development of Nepal at the grassroots level. We should create more space for them to work in an accountable and transparent manner bringing them under a clear regulatory policy framework.

We cannot achieve the cherished goals of our foreign policy if we cannot

make substantive reforms in the diplomacy for more effectiveness and results-orientation. Nepalese diplomats of all ranks and file must be well versed in the economic interests of this nation and actively promote them in collaboration and cooperation with all stakeholders in the countries of accreditation and areas of jurisdiction. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is developing country specific strategies to guide the diplomats in their actions. We want to ensure adequate resource availability for the promotion of economic diplomacy in view of the fact that it is an investment in the future of the nation. Training and grooming of diplomats and providing them proper orientation to carry on activities based on field reality is extremely important. An ambassador going to take up a position abroad is going to be provided with a terms of reference of what he/she is supposed to do, and the Ministry will develop a mechanism of periodic evaluation of the performance of the ambassadors based on the TOR. The missions would be run in such a manner that the diplomatic and other staff serving there are responsive to the service-seekers and to the overall situations around their duty stations. They will analyze and present opportunities available in their areas of responsibilities and also keep vigilance on any challenges or threats to Nepal's genuine interests.

It was a great pleasure to launch a book by veteran diplomat Professor Bishwa Pradhan. I don't need to introduce former foreign secretary and former ambassador Prof. Pradhan, who has around a dozen books on foreign affairs and diplomacy to his credit. I hope that this book entitled 'A Sense of Nepalese Diplomacy' will be very useful to all those working in this field. I congratulate Prof. Pradhan on his zeal and passion for creativity and professional advancement. And, hope that it will inspire other veteran diplomats also to write in this important field.

Finally, I would like to appreciate the President and all office-bearers of Nepal Council of World Affairs for the honour and respect you have bestowed on me. I believe that it is an honour to the Nepalese foreign policy and diplomacy, and all those players in this field. Traditional approach to diplomacy is not going to bring results on the ground. We must understand the changing international situations, including the changing scenarios of economic growth and prosperity in the neighborhood, and subsequently design and adjust our foreign policy to address the changing needs. I am clear in my mind that diplomacy that promotes our economic interests abroad and contributes to developing bridges of our relationships with the outside world is what we need today.

Recent trends in Nepal-EU relations and the Future Perspective

*H.E. Ms. Rensje Teerink*****

I am extremely delighted to be here amongst eminent personalities whose contributions to foster Nepal's diplomatic ties with the European Union and other friendly nations are worthy of praise.

I would like to thank the NCWA for inviting me to share my thoughts on the recent trends of Nepal-EU Relations and the future perspective. I am happy to state that EU-Nepal ties have always been cordial ever since their inception in the early nineties with the areas of bilateral cooperation expanding gradually over the years

The increasingly growing partnership between the two focuses on mutual respect and cooperation on international issues of common concern. The biannual joint commissions are the most visible feature of an ongoing dialogue following the entry into force of an EU-Nepal cooperation agreement in 1996. During meetings of joint commission, the Government of Nepal and the EU counterparts exchange views on issues of common concern such as peace and stability, human rights and trade.

They also take the opportunity to review current projects being implemented through EU assistance as well as any new ones being considered. Political relations are further strengthened through regular contacts between the authorities and EU HoMs in Kathmandu and visits of EU parliamentarians to Nepal and the visit of high ranking officials and political personalities from Nepal to the EU headquarters. Former Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal had participated in the EU's Development Days in Brussels on 6 & 7 December

**** H.E. Teerink, Ambassador, Head of the European Union Delegation to Nepal, gave talk in the Council on December 4, 2013.

of 2010.

An EU Election Observation Mission (EOM) also visited Nepal in 2007 to ensure free, fair and impartial elections during the country's critical transition from a monarchy to a democracy. In keeping with its firm belief that election observation can strengthen democratic institutions and build confidence in electoral processes and help dissuade fraud, intimidation and violence, the European Union deployed an election observation mission to observe the second Constituent Assembly elections held on 19 Nov, 2013.

The preliminary report of the EU EOM made public on 21 November, 2013 revealed that voting was conducted in an orderly and generally calm atmosphere. The EU EOM will come up with a final report within the course of the next couple of weeks.

The European Union along with its Member States have been one of the major contributors of funds to take ahead the peace process in Nepal, which has achieved significant gains in the recent years, the completion of the integration of the ex-Maoist combatants into the Nepal Army being one of the major highlights. The EU has provided EUR 22 million to the Nepal Peace Trust Fund. Of this amount, EUR 4.5 million was spent for the holding of the second elections to the Constituent

Assembly The European Union has made substantial contribution of funds to the UNDP amounting to EUR. 10.8 million for the implementation of the Electoral Support Project (ESP). The project, which will conclude in 2016, has been working in close coordination with the Election Commission of Nepal to bring about electoral reforms. The development cooperation initiative of the EU Delegation to Nepal has been mainly focusing on three sectors a) Education b) Peace & Stability and c) Economic Capacity Building.

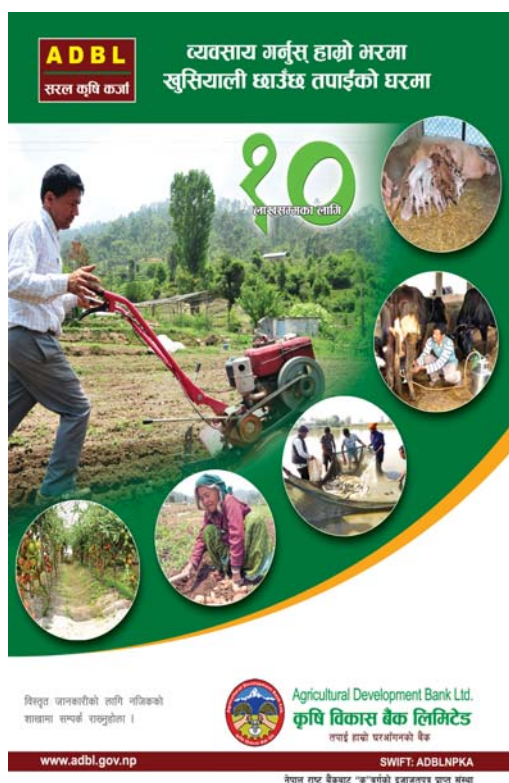
Besides the EU has also forged partnerships with International Non-Government Organisations and the UN together with many Non State Actors and launched projects on human rights promotion, mitigation of the adverse impacts of climate change, protection of environment, food security and nutrition, safe migration, development of sustainable production and consumption practices together with facilitation of trade and assisting the Government of Nepal to ensure effective public finance management through an annual endowment of EUR 40 million for all the programmes.

The EU intends to double this amount in the coming years and to focus strongly on governance, rural development and education. The EU is committed to assist Nepal in its efforts to draft an inclusive and democratic constitution through the recently elected Constituent Assembly elections.

I am eager to see that the local elections that are very important towards consolidating democratic institutions at the local level are held at the earliest so that the development works at the grassroots level are carried out with a high level of accountability and transparency.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Nepalese people for showing the much appreciated enthusiasm in exercising their voting rights there making the elections to the Constituent Assembly a big success.

Lastly, I look forward to continuing my discussions with the NCWA members in the coming weeks and months on issues of mutual interests and concerns to build a prosperous and democratic Nepal.



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Recent Trends in Nepal-Bangladesh Relation

*H. E. Ms. Mashfee Binte Shams******

Let me begin by saying how honoured I am feeling today to be able to address such a distinguished gathering on “Nepal-Bangladesh relationship: Future Perspectives”. The Council is a highly respected platform that enables diplomats to reach out to the policy makers and thinkers in Nepal and I deeply value the interest of the Nepal Council of World Affairs in Bangladesh and Bangladesh-Nepal relations. I hope that through today’s interaction we will be able understand each other better which will help us to further strengthen the excellent relations existing between our two friendly countries.

Before I go into the details of today’s subject, I thought I would begin by speaking a little about Bangladesh since that may help to get many of the issues into a correct perspective. I am sure there are some in the audience who are very familiar with Bangladesh; indeed, I am continuously surprised by the familiarity of many Nepalese with Bangla, our mother tongue or who come to me and say that they have so many friends in Bangladesh. But I am also sure that some of you would like to hear about recent developments in one of your closest neighbors but about whom there appears to be very little known in the public domain. Then I would like to share some thoughts on Bangladesh-Nepal relations and finally, I would like to touch on what I feel our future perspective should be.

About Bangladesh

Next to India and China, Bangladesh is Nepal’s closest neighbour – the distance

***** H. E. Ms. Shams, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Nepal, gave a talk in the Council on December 23, 2014.

from Kakarvitta in Nepal to Banglabandha, the nearest Bangladesh border point is, as the crow flies, about 40 kms. Kathmandu and Dhaka are the two closest capitals in the region, roughly 1,000 kms. apart, and taking just about an hour to fly from one to the other. But though the two countries are so close to each other, Bangladesh is very different from Nepal. So what is today's Bangladesh like?

- Bangladesh today has achieved per capita income of US\$ 3,385/- at PPP or US\$ 1,180/- at constant price. Though this may not seem very high, just think that immediately after her independence in 1971, the per capita income in Bangladesh was less than US\$ 80/-.
- Despite gloomy predictions by World Bank and IMF every year about economic slowdown, its GDP has been growing at a steady rate of over 6% per annum for the last 18 years. Even with political disturbances in 2013, the economy grew at a rate of 6.2% in the fiscal year 2013-2014. This year the GDP growth rate has been projected at 7.2 %.
- Today Bangladesh is the 36th largest economy in the world and its GDP at PPP is US\$ 535.65 billion (estimated 2014).
- From very modest beginnings in the late 80s, Bangladesh has turned into the world's second largest manufacturer and exporter of Ready Made Garments and Knitwear, exporting apparels worth almost US\$ 25 billion around the world. The RMG industry today in Bangladesh is going through many changes as it is trying to adjust to the demands of labour and safety standards while maintaining competitiveness. Growth in the RMG sector, including weaving and textiles, was around 10% in the last two years.
- This manufacturing boom has enabled Bangladesh to transform itself from an aid dependent country in the 70s and 80s. when foreign aid comprised more than 80% of the Annual Development Budget and significantly reduce its aid dependence to a minimal of less than 1% of the budget in the fiscal year 2012-2013. Total foreign aid component in the GDP this year is less than 0.5%.
- Bangladesh is also producing and exporting other products such as, leather products, pharmaceuticals, fine ceramics, agro-products, frozen electronics goods, frozen fish and other marine products, jute and jute products and many other non-traditional items such as light and medium sized sea vessels. Many people here know that Bangladesh is the second largest producer and

exporter of RMG, however, a lesser known fact is that Bangladesh is at the top of the combined ship breaking and building industries in the world today.

- Bangladesh is today self sufficient in food, which, considering our population of more than 160 million people, is a huge achievement.
- Though there has been remarkable growth in the agriculture sector to support this self sufficiency in food, agriculture is no longer the largest contributor to our economy. In fact, in 2013-2014, agriculture (with fisheries) contributed approximately only 15% to the GDP, well behind 50% services and 35 % manufacturing and others. Industrial growth rate in the last five years was consistently more than 11%.
- One point I missed while talking about our trade, is that today we have a current account surplus of more than US\$ 1.6 billion, with imports of almost US\$ 39 billion and exports US\$ 35 billion. Interestingly, our capital machinery import has increased by 33% last year, which has contributed to the trade deficit, but is symbolic of the increasing production capacity of the economy.
- Like Nepal, Bangladesh has a large number of expatriate workers working in various countries—their remittance is a major source of foreign exchange for us. Today our earnings from remittance is almost US\$ 16 billion.
- This has helped the foreign exchange reserve for the first time to cross US\$ 22.4 billion in 2014, making it the second highest reserve in South Asia.
- In the social sector, ladies and gentlemen, Bangladesh has achieved commendable results that has been recognized the world over.
- Our life expectancy has increased from 55 years in the 80s to 70.7 years. Child mortality has reduced to 4.4% for under 5 years, maternal mortality rate is 0.24%. Immunization coverage is around 95%. Access to safe drinking water is 98.2%. Sanitation has reached 63.6% of the population. For your information, the population growth rate today stands at 1.56%, almost half of the population growth rate of 3% at the time of our independence.
- Literacy rate has significantly increased to reach 64%. The net enrolment in primary education is 98% and a number of measures to tackle school dropout has been taken to bring the primary school dropout rate to 28.5%. Various measures to encourage girls' education have also resulted in females making significant strides in completing education. Adult literacy rates has also increased and reached 59.82 %.

- Bangladesh is now positioned at 142 in the HDI index. In another index, the Global Competitive Index, Bangladesh ranks 109.
- One sector that is seriously hampering our development efforts, in fact pulling it backward is the chronic power shortage in the system. Though almost 5,000 MW has been added to the national grid in the last five years to increase power production to more than 11,000 MW, yet that has been hardly enough to meet the basic demand for power. Even growth of 12-15% in the last five years in the power sector has not been able to keep up with the ever increasing demand for power. It is estimated that by 2021 Bangladesh will require 30,000 MW power to fuel her development needs.
- It may be mentioned that Bangladesh has an extremely vocal, vibrant and dynamic media, both print and electronic. The introduction of the Right to Information in 2009 has significantly contributed to instilling a sense of transparency in the society. Bangladesh also has a vibrant civil society and a very active NGO community who have been partnering the government in its development efforts.

Foreign Policy of Bangladesh

Since its emergence as an independent nation in 1971, Bangladesh has maintained a policy of “friendship to all, malice towards none” as enunciated by the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as her primary foreign policy philosophy. Bangladesh has always been active, often in contrast to her size or economic clout, in the international arena, multilaterally, regionally and bilaterally. Our role at the UN peacekeeping missions has been acknowledged globally – we are currently the second largest troops contributing nation with more than 8,000 personnel helping peace-keeping operations in the most challenging parts of the world. Bangladesh has always been extremely vocal on issues of development, climate change, WTO and access of developing countries into the markets of the developed countries, migration, human rights, etc. Our membership in various international organizations such as the NAM, OIC, the Commonwealth, IORA, the D-8, ACD, ARF, ASEM, etc. are all aimed at complementing our efforts at the UN.

Regionally, ladies and gentlemen, you all know that Bangladesh can justifiably claim to have initiated SAARC. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the government and the people of Nepal for successfully hosting

the 18th SAARC Summit last month. The Summit has given fresh direction to the countries of this region to work together to combat the manifold challenges that they face.

An idea similar to SAARC, but geared to take regional cooperation outside the South Asian region, prompted Bangladesh to join the trans-regional organization BIST-EC in 1997, which was subsequently renamed BIMSTEC. The last BIMSTEC Summit in Myanmar in March this year witnessed the formalization of setting up the BIMSTEC Secretariat in Dhaka and there is great potential that the Kathmandu and Dhaka, as hosts of the two regional Secretariats, will complement each others' work and be the twin engines for faster regional integration and development.

Bangladesh is also an active participant of another trans-regional concept, the BCIM-EC, the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Cooperation, which would tie up the two most dynamic economies of the world. A natural expansion of Bangladesh's membership to these organizations was its joining ARF, and also the ASEM to which we joined in 2012. On the other geographical end of the region, we have expressed our interest to join the Shanghai Cooperation Organization as an Observer, logically linking the two silk routes.

A policy of Intensified Relations with Neighbours

Bangladesh attaches highest importance to its relations with its neighbours. This relationship is based on historical, cultural, linguistic, religious, ethnic and social ties that date back to millennia. The countries are physically contiguous, share common rivers and eco-systems and these geographical features often influence the politics of the relationship between the countries of South Asia. These relations are multi-faceted, multi-dimensional and ever evolving.

An important factor for all policy makers who have been involved in the handling of Bangladesh's relations with its neighbours, particularly with India, is the fact that it occupies a major space in the public domain and is seen to be a very 'sensitive' and 'emotive' issue which is often exploited for scoring political points against rival parties. This more often than not makes it difficult to take decisions that would appear to be rational or make economic or strategic sense.

The Bigger Regional Picture

Happily, in Bangladesh we seem to be overcoming these myopic and phobia

induced attitudes towards forging our foreign policy and moving ahead in building relations that are based on rationality and understanding of mutual benefits. Additionally, the recent forward movement in the relationship between Bangladesh and its neighbours should also be viewed in the context of the larger regional developments. Since 2008/2009, the South Asian region has witnessed a refreshing change in leadership and installing of democratically elected governments in all of countries in the region. This people centric movement has enabled the governments to take initiatives that are pro-development and forward looking, not only on domestic issues, but also when working on relationships with other countries, particularly neighbours.

Initiatives in widely divergent areas which would have appeared impractical even five years ago, such as purchase of power from India, granting additional rail transit routes to Nepal, establishing coastal shipping arrangements between Chittagong/Mongla-Haldia/Paradeep/Vishakapatnam-Colombo/Trincomalee, granting duty free access to Bhutanese products, training of nurses from the Maldives in Bangladesh and signing of a Trade Agreement between Bangladesh and Afghanistan are only a few of these new initiatives.

As I mentioned earlier, we in Bangladesh have given a thrust to developing relations with all its neighbours, this is born out of the firm belief that we must all work together to fight the common enemy of poverty and deprivation.

The regional thrust naturally takes advantage of Bangladesh's unique geographical position in the region – sitting at the cross of South Asia and South East Asia, offering itself as a gateway to landlocked Nepal, Bhutan and the northeastern States of India.

Thus, drawing concentric circles, with Bangladesh in the centre, one could conceive of connecting the eight SAARC countries, with the six BIMSTEC countries, and connect it to the four BCIM countries in the east and the SCO countries in the west, with the core of Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and northeastern India.

As has been stated many times, Bangladesh is in a position to offer itself as a hub of connectivity – not just physical connectivity of roads, rails, waterways and air linkages, but for power transmission, transportation of natural gas, telecommunications, services, investment, education, etc. This would be not only physical connectivity, but a connectivity of minds, ideas and people for mutual benefit. This hub of connectivity would also be the hub of regional growth and development.

Rationale for Cooperation

As Bangladesh pursues its domestic policies of attaining food security, energy security, water security, environmental security, employment security, etc. for its nationals, it firmly believes that it has to pursue a policy of cooperative, forward looking and mutually beneficial relationship with its neighbours for its own national interest. In an increasingly competitive world, unless we can cooperate and harness the available synergies, the countries of the South Asian region run the risk of being left behind.

Why Bangladesh and Nepal should Pay Attention to Each Other

It is a sad but true state of affairs that Bangladesh and Nepal have not paid as much attention to each other as we should have despite excellent understanding at the highest political levels. Bangladesh has never forgotten the support extended to her by the people of Nepal during her war of liberation and in recognition, has honoured 11 distinguished Nepalese as Friends of Bangladesh in 2012 and 2013.

On the ground however, the picture is rather gloomy – the last high level visit from Nepal to Bangladesh was in 2003 and there has never been a bilateral high level visit from Bangladesh to Nepal; the JEC, chaired by the Finance Ministers of the two countries, has not met since 1987; Commerce and Foreign Secretaries, scheduled to meet every year, have not met since 2012 and mechanism established for cooperation in the water resources sector has not met since 2008. Practically, there are so many areas where we can cooperate for mutual benefit and so many aspects of the relationship, which, if properly nurtured could yield huge dividends for both our peoples.

Some of the Areas on our Bilateral Agenda

Trade issues: Bangladesh is Nepal's fifth largest export destination, after India, China, USA and Germany. In 2012-13 we imported US\$ 31.02 million worth of goods from Nepal, and exported US\$ 24.7 million that is a deficit of US\$ 6.32 million. I may mention here that among the more than 40 countries that Nepal has trade relations with, Bangladesh is the only country with which you have a trade surplus, and we have no problem with that. We would be very happy if more Nepalese would take an interest in the huge market of 160 million people

in Bangladesh and explore export of more diversified products to our country. Happily for us, exports from Bangladesh are picking up at a healthy rate of 15-20% per year, which indicates that entrepreneurs in Bangladesh are realizing the importance of the Nepalese market. We have observed that one of the biggest impediments to bilateral trade is the lack of information among the business people of each others' products.

Connectivity related issues: When we talk of enhancing our bilateral trade, we immediately note that the connectivity between our two countries needs to improve drastically. The only active route, the Kakarvitta/Panirtanki-Chengrabandha/Burimari route needs a detour of Siliguri, which means that an extra 80 kms. is added to the distance, increasing the the cost of trade. The alternate Fulbari/Banglabandha route is not fully utilized because of lack of facilities including lack of immigration facilities. The other connectivity offered, by rail through Birol-Radhikapur and Rohanpur-Singabad is also not being utilized because we are told that Nepal needs to sort out some issues with India.

Transit issue: Bangladesh has offered Nepal transit facilities through use of ports of Chittagong and Mongla. While we still need to develop our infrastructure on our side, part of the problem is also that we have not received any concrete proposal from the Nepalese side about the expected volume and frequency of traffic and there is a need to sort out the various administrative and logistic aspects of the issue for its implementation.

Water resources management: The Ganges contributes about 30% to the total water resources of Bangladesh and about 70% of the Ganges water that flows into Bangladesh originates in Nepal. As two countries most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, Bangladesh and Nepal must cooperate in the areas of water resources management with a view to flood control and mitigation of the effects of floods. Hydro-power generation would be a natural benefit of this water-resources management.

Power trade: As I have mentioned before, Bangladesh is an energy starved country. We have time and again offered to Nepal that we would like to be a partner in Nepal's power sector either as joint venture partners, or on equity sharing, or simply as a buyer. We have also proposed that since it would not be realistic to discuss power sector cooperation without some form of cooperation with India, there could be some trilateral cooperation between Bangladesh-India-Nepal. We need to have exploratory discussions without any commitments, to

see what are the expectations and deliverables on each side. A very positive development has been the visit to Bangladesh by the Hon'ble Minister for Energy in August this year. Needless to say this has been the first time that the two sides have sat down across the table and discussed cooperation in this vital sector.

Defence exchange: Military relations between Nepal Army and Bangladesh Army are increasing every year. In the year 2013 total 34 Bangladesh Army personnel have visited Nepal to attend various courses, seminar and workshops. In return 22 Nepali Army personnel have visited Bangladesh. We have just had a delegation from the National Defence College on their Overseas Study Tour from Bangladesh. Chief of Army Staff of Bangladesh is expected to visit Nepal next week. Beside this, Bangladesh Army is preparing for a Joint expedition of Mount Everest with Nepal Army in 2016.

Cultural Exchange: There is tremendous interest in the cultures of each others' countries, but this needs to be brought under the aegis of a formal Cultural Exchange Programme, for a more structured approach.

Education and human resource development: Bangladesh welcomes hundreds of Nepalese students to study in the MBBS, engineering and other subjects in Bangladesh at both under graduate and post-graduate levels. We are very happy to do this and would like to encourage this more, because we firmly believe that each one of these Nepalese students is an Ambassador of Bangladesh once they return to Nepal.

Tourism: Nepal is an extremely attractive destination for tourists from Bangladesh and last year more than 25,000 tourists from Bangladesh visited this country. We were in fact, the fifth tourist sending country to Nepal. However, Nepal can do more to encourage more tourists from Bangladesh, because the high mountains are indeed a novelty to the Bangladeshis who are used to a flat terrain. Similarly, Nepalese can go to Bangladesh to enjoy the beaches of Cox's Bazaar and the mangrove forests of the Sunderbans. The Buddhist circuit is another aspect of tourism that our two countries can explore for promoting tourism.

Summing up:

- Bangladesh is a growing economy with huge potentials that are waiting to be tapped by Nepalese entrepreneurs.

- Bangladesh is a huge market for Nepalese exporters to exploit right at your doorstep.
- Bangladesh is also an economic and cost effective source of products for Nepalese importers.
- Bangladesh can be an alternative source of access to the outside world for Nepal.
- Nepal can use Bangladesh as a staging point for producing goods for export to third countries.
- Bangladesh is a huge untapped source for Nepal's tourism. As Bangladeshis become more affluent, they will seek destinations for quick weekend visits, Nepal is ideally located to offer that to Bangladesh.
- With increasing numbers of Nepalese students studying in Bangladesh, there is a good reason why Nepal should be interested in Bangladesh's prosperity.

Future Perspectives:

- We need to strengthen institutional relationship between our various Ministries to supplement the excellent political relations. We urgently need to hold long pending Secretarial level meetings and conclude long pending MoUs/Agreements which will pave the way for high level visits.
- We need to create an enabling environment for the private sector to have more frequent exchanges so that there is no gap in information. We should encourage the Chambers to exchange visits, participate in trade fairs, hold round tables so that both sides are aware of the available opportunities.
- Stronger bilateral ties between Nepal and Bangladesh can help the two countries identify synergies for working together in fighting the common challenges of under development – as an example, both Bangladesh and Nepal are working very closely together on development issues as LDCs – our State Minister for Foreign Affairs led the Bangladesh delegation to the LDC Conference held in Kathmandu last week on “Graduation and Post 2015 development agenda”, on climate change issues – for example both are members of the Climate Vulnerability Forum, migration related

issues in the Colombo Process and trade related issues in the WTO.

- Stronger Nepal-Bangladesh ties will also help to boost regional integration in areas of trade, connectivity and transit which should have significant impact on the economies of both the countries.
- Stronger ties will also help the two countries work together in strengthening the two regional forums of SAARC and BIMSTEC.

**On the occasion
of
the 67th Anniversary of
the Nepal Council of World Affairs
We offer our heartiest felicitations
and best wishes**



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18th SAARC Summit: An Assessment

*Prof. Dr. Mohan P. Lohani******

Nepal successfully hosted the 18th SAARC summit in Kathmandu on November 26-27 last year. The 3rd and 11th summits had also been hosted by Nepal in 1987 and 2002 respectively. The 18th summit, despite initial misgivings, concluded on a happy note on November 27 by adopting a 36-point Kathmandu Declaration focused on social, economic and cultural issues of overriding concern and interest to the region and also by signing a Framework Agreement on Energy Cooperation. South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation or SAARC, which was launched 30 years ago in December 1985 with a view to promoting the welfare of the peoples of South Asia and improving their quality of life, has witnessed 30 years of its existence during which 18 Summits have been held and 18 Declarations unanimously approved by Heads of State or Government have been issued. One of the key objectives of SAARC, as enshrined in its Charter, has been 'to accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region and to provide all individuals the opportunity to live in dignity and to realize their full potentials'. This important objective, critics of SAARC point out, has not been fully achieved, despite the unequivocal political commitment of South Asian leaders to implement, in letter and spirit, the SAARC objectives and the subsequent summit declarations adopted and issued by them over the years.

The initial years of SAARC known as the first cycle of cooperation (1985-1992) were mostly of a symbolic nature as the Association concentrated more on building its institutional infrastructure, such as the establishment of the SAARC secretariat, and the setting up of regional centers dealing with specific areas like meteorological research, tuberculosis, documentation, agricultural information

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and human resource development. In other words, the establishment of the SAARC secretariat entrusted with the responsibility of coordinating SAARC activities and monitoring more effective implementation of its programs and projects as well as the setting up of regional centers within the SAARC framework was an important event or a positive development in strengthening the institutional framework of regional cooperation in South Asia. Some regional centers have been recently streamlined, some merged and some abolished to make them more efficient and cost-effective.

The 2014 Kathmandu Declaration with its theme of 'Deeper Integration for Peace and Prosperity', not only reaffirms the commitment of South Asian leaders to the principles and objectives of SAARC for ensuring the welfare and quality of life of the peoples of South Asia but also recognizes the need for, and stresses the importance of, reinvigorating regional cooperation and revitalizing SAARC 'as an effective vehicle to fulfill the developmental aspirations of the peoples of South Asia'.

Inhabited by over one fifth of the world's population, the countries of South Asia which share a common geography, a common eco-system and common values rooted in their social, cultural, ethnic and historical traditions and with varying levels of development (5 out of 8 member states belong to the category of LDCs), continue to be faced with formidable challenges posed by poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, low levels of production, unemployment, population explosion, environmental degradation and the threat of terrorism in diverse forms and manifestations.

The Kathmandu Declaration focuses on wide-ranging issues (some past issues like poverty alleviation and terrorism which call for intensified cooperation in resolving them), such as connectivity, energy, poverty alleviation, agriculture and food security, environment, SAFTA and trade facilitation, strengthening the SAARC Development Fund and making it fully operational, and important social issues like health, education, youth, including women and children, social protection, migration and the importance of developing and promoting South Asia as an attractive common tourist destination.

The menace of terrorism continues to cause concern to the countries of South Asia. All SAARC Declarations, including the recent one, have unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Terrorism, indeed, is not only a challenge to South Asia but also a threat to international peace and

security. The recent horrendous massacre of 140 innocent school children in a Pakistani army school by some militant extremists reinforces the urgency of combating terrorism in a concerted manner. South Asian leaders have once again called upon respective authorities to 'ensure full and effective implementation of the SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism and its Additional Protocol, including through enacting necessary legislations at the national level to root out terrorism. This Convention, it may be noted, was adopted by the 3rd SAARC Summit in Kathmandu in 1987. Owing to the failure of some member states to adopt necessary 'enabling legislation' at the national level the Convention remained non-ratified and could not come into force for a longer period. It is strongly believed that a UN Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism would complement and reinforce the SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism. Nepal had supported an UN-sponsored global coalition against terrorism following terrorist attacks on the US in September 2001, particularly the twin towers of New York's World Trade Center and the Pentagon in Washington.

Economic integration in South Asia is the cherished goal of all member states and the backbone of prosperity in the region. The Group of Eminent Persons (EPG), in their Report "SAARC Beyond 2000", had envisaged the establishment of South Asian Economic Union (SAEU) by 2020. It is now certain that this deadline cannot be met considering difficulties and constraints even in making South Asia as a Free Trade Area (SAFTA) fully and effectively operational. Member states have yet to reach agreement on both Sensitive and Negative Lists of items for intra-regional trade with provision for special concessions to the LDCs in the region. South Asian leaders have reiterated their commitment, at the recently concluded SAARC Summit in Kathmandu, to implement and achieve SAEU in 'a phased and planned manner through a Free Trade Area, a Customs Union, a common Market and a common Economic and Monetary Union'. SAARC will have to pass, quite obviously, through several phases before SAEU is achieved in the next 15 years. SAFTA Ministerial Council and SAFTA Committee of Experts have been directed by the summit leaders to expedite and 'accelerate free trade in the region' by adopting and implementing all necessary measures, such as simplified and transparent rules of origin, non-tariff and para-tariff barriers and smooth and efficient transit and transport facilities. These are preliminary but essential steps paving the way for achievement of SAEU in a planned and phased manner.

Finally, it is gratifying to note that South Asian leaders realizing the importance of enhancing the role of the SAARC secretariat have expressed their commitment to enhance its institutional capacity. It can fulfill the responsibilities entrusted to it in an effective and efficient member only when the secretariat is authorized or empowered to take certain initiatives to oversee and expedite the implementation of major decisions endorsed by the summit meetings in the past. It is high time the secretary-general's status was upgraded to the Ministerial level so that he/she can have easy access to the Heads of State of Government for promoting and strengthening the regional organization in pursuance of SAARC objectives as enshrined in the Charter. ASEAN secretary-general enjoyed such status immediately after the launching of the Association in 1967. Besides, professionalization of the secretariat will go a long way in making it efficient and effective, while retaining the present practice of nominating directors, mostly from respective foreign ministries, by the governments of member states.

To conclude, SAARC can evolve into a dynamic instrument for realizing its goals and objectives and can catch up with other regional organizations if all member states sincerely work together to carry out their political commitments. Unlike some pessimists who see no future for SAARC, the future of SAARC, in my opinion, is bright as there is no alternative to cooperation in the region. Since conflict is an anathema, the only alternative to SAARC, precisely speaking, is a much stronger SAARC which is capable of meeting or fulfilling the needs and aspirations of the peoples of the region.

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Enhancing Economic Cooperation between China, Nepal and Beyond

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New Foreign Policy of China

A new era is dawning in Chinese foreign policy as the country's economic growth enables it to move from past timorousness in declaring itself a global leader. China is close to meeting all the measures of what defines a global great power: political, economic, and military might with a global reach. But it still does not appear to act like a great power in terms of its contribution to international leadership during conflict situations such as in Ukraine. Instead we repeatedly see Beijing being assertive only when it comes to defending its own interests.

Yet it has pledged to deepen friendly relations with the neighbors, actively participate in cooperation mechanisms, and deepen regional cooperation in creating an environment of peace, stability, equality, mutual trust, cooperation and benefit.

Comrade Xi Jinping (2013) underscores the need to adopt the right approach to upholding justice and seeking interests in growing relations with these countries. He emphasizes that as a guiding principle, China, should uphold justice and fairness politically and must pursue mutual benefits and common development economically. In promoting relations with neighbors and other developing countries that have long been friendly towards China but face daunting challenges in development, it will accommodate their interests rather than seeking benefits at their expense or shifting troubles on to them.

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China's economic model requires new markets and privileged access to resources and this will be a moderating factor in their foreign policy approach. For example, Beijing can't afford to offend its neighbor Russia for a complex range of reasons, ranging from internal and external security and access to new sources of energy supply.

The competitive and contentious external environment China faces in its immediate neighborhood requires Beijing to take a relatively cautious and tactful national security approach in the short to medium term. At the same time it is strengthening its external environment, especially on the periphery, whenever it can.

Economic diplomacy is a central aspect of new Chinese foreign policy. During its remarkable economic rise, it has used economic diplomacy primarily through trade, and the use of carrots as a means to accumulate or attract soft power. This was a part of the broader strategy formulated by think tanks in the PRC during the 1990s as a new security concept.

On the economic front, China has introduced a plethora of new bilateral and multilateral initiatives, particularly in its immediate neighborhood. The most ambitious projects are the Silk Road Economics Belt and the corresponding Maritime Silk Road each of which includes smaller pieces such as the China-Pakistan economic corridor and the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) economic corridor. China has also been actively trade pursuing free agreements with its neighbors, including Australia, South Korea, and India.

As the largest and most prosperous developing nation, China often sees itself as the leader of the developing world—meaning more input from developing countries would likely translate to more Chinese leadership on the international stage. Accordingly, the three requirements for Chinese diplomacy are “confidence,” “backbone,” and “generosity.” Each of these concepts is tied up with confidence and pride in China's power. It will never bully smaller countries; yet will never accept unreasonable demands from smaller countries (Xi Jinping. 2013)

China will be more active in playing the role of a responsible, big country especially on the international stage. Specifically, Wang (2014) mentioned that China “will advance and protect the legitimate rights and interests of developing countries and make the international order more just and reasonable.” Xi emphasized that the basic tenet of diplomacy with neighbors is to treat them

as friends and partners, to make them safe and help them develop. He also emphasized that China should expand regional financial cooperation by establishing an Asian Investment Bank for Infrastructure and improving the regional financial safety net (Wang, 2014).

He also called for public diplomacy and people-to-people exchange between China and neighbors for a long term development of relationships. Such exchange should involve tourism, technology, education and sub-regional cooperation.

Bearing in mind both the domestic and international interests of the country and maintaining the continuity and consistency of its major diplomatic policies, it has promoted innovations in diplomatic theory and practice. They include efforts at actively promoting relations with the major countries such as Russia, the USA and European Union. With Russia it strengthened bilateral cooperation in the economy, trade, energy and strategic security and consolidated the basis of the China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination.

With the US, it agreed to work together to build a new model of major-country relationship based on mutual respect and win-win cooperation, thus charting the course and drawing the blueprint for growing China-US relations in the future based on principles of non-conflict and non-confrontation.

With other European leaders, China has worked steadily to open up new areas of mutually-beneficial and pragmatic cooperation between China and Europe. China's relations with its neighbors such as Vietnam, ROK, Pakistan, are, on the whole, moving towards a more favorable direction. It has been able to consolidate good-neighborly friendship and cooperation with them through dialogue and negotiation.

Comrade Xi Jinping's successful visits to Africa and Latin America have fully reflected the great importance China attaches to developing countries. It has enhanced China's political trust and results-oriented cooperation with them and brought China's overall cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean to a new height.

China is also Engaging in and Shaping Processes

China is committed to helping other countries, developing countries and neighboring countries in particular, with their development while achieving

development of its own. Hence China's basic tenet of diplomacy with neighbors is to treat them as friends and partners, to make them feel safe and to help in their development. It calls for more public diplomacy and people-to-people exchange between China and its neighbors in the region multilateral diplomacy through its commitment to the advocacy and practice of multilateralism. It places great value to the important role of the United Nations and other international organizations.

Economic Diplomacy

China is pushing ahead with win-win economic diplomacy that aims to boost domestic prosperity as well as share opportunities with the rest of the world. It strongly believes that any country should accommodate the legitimate concerns of others when pursuing its own interests and should promote common development of all countries when advancing its own development.

As a first pillar of its new economic diplomacy, it highlights trade, investment, infrastructure and finance with high-level support. The second pillar of China's economic diplomacy is a win-win cooperation, which guarantees two-way benefits for China and the rest of the world.

The world needs China's development experience, technology and capital. In particular, China's vast foreign reserves could be a rare source of financing for infrastructure projects in many developing countries and emerging markets amid towering debt situations in many rich countries.

China also needs the world to expand its markets and investment destinations. The "go global" initiative would boost economic growth and add jobs back in China. It would also help ease overcapacity in some industries and upgrade China's economic structure.

Along with the "go global" strategy, China's economic diplomacy also emphasizes a "bring in" policy to make better use of advanced foreign technology and quality products in order to improve the national economy and people's lives.

The third pillar for China's economic diplomacy is to tap the full potential of the market. To this end it considers enterprises as the starting point and the main participant in China's economic diplomacy. Against the background of economic globalization, China's new leadership has pledged that its diplomacy will serve the national economy through more exports, outward investment

and jobs. China's growth will make the country, now the world's second largest economy, and a closer partner to other countries. Its economic diplomacy is essentially a process of creating win-win prosperity with the rest of the world.

Among China's economic diplomacy agenda items next year, priorities will be given to the development of a Silk Road economic belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, bilateral and multilateral free trade zones, and a greater say in establishing standards.

Yan Xuetong (Jayadeva, 2014) suggests that with the "New Silk Road" with Central Asia, "Maritime Silk Road with South East Asia and the economic corridor through India, Myanmar, and Bangladesh, countries in these regions can expect considerably increased willingness by China to underwrite substantive economic, security, and other benefits in exchange for political support for China's regional objectives.

Under these scenarios, further efforts will be made for better political and economic relations with neighboring countries, for closer security cooperation and people-to-people contact.

Closeness, earnestness, mutual benefits and inclusiveness are identified as the four basic principles of 'peripheral diplomacy'. China envisions a trade network where "goods are abundant and trade is more high-end." Beijing expects the economic contact along the Silk Roads to boost productivity in each country. As part of this vision, China has repeatedly stressed its economic compatibility with many of the countries along the planned route, and offered technological assistance to countries in key industries

China's unique development model and advocacy of political values, patterns of social development and foreign policies would have a growing influence on the international community.

Nepal China Economic Cooperation

Nepal China relation has always remained very friendly and based on mutual trust and unconditional cooperation. With neighborhood first policy adopted by the new leadership in Beijing, economic cooperation with Nepal is growing even stronger as evidenced by the United Front Work Department (UFWD)'s growing profile in Nepal and direct involvement in Lumbini, Lord Buddha's birth-place.

Beijing has decided to revise upward the quantum of foreign assistance to developing countries in its neighborhood and that Nepal and Pakistan will particularly be beneficiaries of this. He said development of the 'New Silk Road Economic Belt' would benefit Nepal. Talks are separately underway for extending the 1200 kilometer Qinghai-Lhasa-Shigatse railway to Kathmandu, as agreed to by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao during his unannounced visit to Nepal in 2012. Once completed, it will alter the geostrategic balance in the region. The CCP CC's International Department and UFWD have both stepped up activities in Nepal.

Recent statement by the Finance Minister of Nepal that "We see China's state and private capital as sources of Nepal's development particularly in infrastructure, social entrepreneurship, tourism, agro-based industries and hydropower" endorses this. This is also further substantiated by the statement of Chinese Ambassador to Nepal Wu Chuntai that China's new leadership has accorded high priority to relations with Nepal and sought a win-win policy with Nepal.

Ambassador Wu also called on Nepal to join the China-initiated Economic Belt and 21st Century Silk Road. The new Chinese leadership, particularly President Xi Jinping, has proposed to build an economic belt along the ancient Silk Road that brings Asia and Europe together and the Maritime Silk Road to connect with neighbors in South East and ultimately to South Asia to boost common development.

China's Potential Economic Cooperation in South Asia (SAARC)

The Vice Foreign Minister and the Head of Delegation of China at 18th SAARC Summit in Kathmandu confirmed that China will seek deeper ties with South Asia, especially on the economic front (Tiezzi, 2014). According to him "China has put forward a series of initiatives that include increasing trade between South Asia and China to 150 billion U.S. dollars and investment to 30 billion U.S. dollars in the next five years". The \$30 billion will go for road construction,

Liu further said. China's offer of increased trade and infrastructure development is an off-shoot of the Silk Road Economic Belt, China's plan for an integrated trading network that will stretch from western China to Central Asia, South Asia, the Middle East, and Europe.

Many of the SAARC members (including Afghanistan, Pakistan, Maldives, and Sri Lanka) have already expressed interest in joining either the Silk Road

Economic Belt or its oceanic equivalent, the Maritime Silk Road. In addition, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka have joined China's Asian Investment Infrastructure Bank, which is expected to act as a major source of funding for Silk Road infrastructure projects along with proposed BRICS Development Bank.

India is especially wary of increased Chinese influence over its near neighbors. In part, as a response to increased Chinese attention to the region, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made a special effort of reaching out to the South Asian nations (Diplomat, 2014). This regional outreach includes a new vision for SAARC, a point Modi made clear from the very beginning of his term by inviting all the SAARC leaders to his swearing-in ceremony in May 2014.

Given this, India will look askance at China's own goals for SAARC, which tie so neatly into China's larger foreign policy vision for the entire Eurasian continent, a vision that puts China back at the center of the world. On their face, China and India share common goals for SAARC: increasing regional integration, through infrastructure connections and increased economic ties. The issue, of course, is that both India and China ultimately want to be at the center of this regional integration process.

Unfortunately for India, many of the other SAARC members are eager to accept the benefits that come from buying in to China's projects. With SAARC remaining fractured due to ongoing India-Pakistan tensions, it may have trouble implementing its own strategy of turning SAARC into a unified trading and diplomatic bloc. Meanwhile, China's own plan works just as well on an individual, bilateral basis, a strategy China has already been successfully pursuing with investment deals in Sri Lanka, the Maldives, and Afghanistan.

Conclusion:

China's emergence as the "Factory of the World" based on its focus on exporting labor-intensive manufactures is well-known. Less known is the role that infrastructure played in this strategy. In the short run, infrastructure development boosts investment and economic growth. In the longer run, quality infrastructure boosts productivity of a country and enhances the competitiveness of its exports. China spent 8.5 percent of its GDP on infrastructure between 1992 and 2007, well over the developing country norm of 2-4 percent.

China's push for infrastructure development within its borders picked up pace

with the “Go West” policy implemented in 2000. Prior to this policy, China’s development was confined to the eastern coastal region of the country. Its success in attracting investment into the coastal special economic zones made China the fastest growing country in the world. But it also led to widening economic disparity between the coastal regions and the rest of the country, especially the inner western part. The “GoWest” policy sought to address this disparity by building basic infrastructure towards the country’s hinterland and by attracting investment in the western region.

Last year, China came up with the New Silk Roads policies to enhance connectivity with neighboring countries. These policies have a number of components. First, Xi Jinping, the President of China, made a call for a Silk Road Economic Belt with Central Asia. Second, a 21st Century Maritime Silk Road is also to be developed to connect China with ASEAN countries initially and ultimately with South Asia as well. Third, projects under the One Belt, One Road policy are to be financed, among others, by the New Development Bank set up by the BRICS and the recently established Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, both financed mainly by China.

China’s actions have led to the revival of the Northern Silk Road. Cities in inner provinces, such as Kunming, Chongqing, Chengdu, Xi’an, and Xining have emerged as major metropolitan cities with urban infrastructure projects paralleling those in the coastal areas.

Together with India which is actively implementing its “Look East” policies, China is building the BCIM Economic Corridor to connect the Yunnan province of China with Myanmar, Bangladesh, and India. This is an important segment of the less known Southern Silk Road of the bygone era.

Nepal should now seek to enhance the country’s role as a land-bridge between India and China by proposing Trans-Himalayan Economic Corridors especially when China and India and countries in the SAARC are willing for grater connectivity in the region. These corridors would lead to a win-win situation for the countries concerned, especially Nepal, which is a land-locked country and has the potential to be a-land bridge between India and China since distance between Indian cities and the inner cities of China would be greatly reduced if the land route through Nepal is used.

India, under Prime Minister Modi is pursuing a similar approach in its foreign policy of economic cooperation in the neighborhood, the region and beyond. The

fact that China and India are among the fastest growing, trading partners and largest economies in the world and the region, Nepal can benefit tremendously by taking advantage of the situation and exploring economic diplomacy based on its comparative and competitive advantages, as the core of its foreign policy.

In June this year, the Chinese Ambassador in New Delhi, Wei Wei, proposed a China and India Trans-Himalaya Economic Growth Region (THEGR) so that the two countries could interconnect and prosper. This proposal is a welcome as it addresses an important missing link in attempts to promote the old Silk Roads.

Economic corridors between India and China through Nepal would be one component of the recent Chinese proposal on Trans-Himalaya Economic Growth Region (THEGR) since the extension of the Beijing-Lhasa railway to Shigaste, a Chinese city close to the Nepal border, would open soon.

The proposed THEGR offers a big opportunity for Nepal to benefit from being the land-linked state between the two Asian giants. It must look forward to benefitting from PM Modi's "neighbor first" diplomacy and China's push for connectivity in the neighborhood by proposing further studies on the Trans-Himalayan Economic Corridors. Mistrust of the past and complains about old deals will not get the country far. A new beginning based on national interest must be made (Rana, 2014).

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Nepal China Relation: Past and Present

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China is a country with one of the four ancient civilization of the world. China is our next door neighbor as well as the second largest economy of the world. China still considers itself as a developing nation despite having emerged as an economic power in Asia particularly, and in the world in general. So, it is natural for us to know about the basic instrumental factors behind china's rapid economic development diplomatic and relationship with various countries in all continents. Foreign policy is certainly one of the measurements of a country's overall status, including the economic one. Only a country with an independent foreign policy can achieve such a tremendous growth role within three decades of the initiation of the economic reforms.

China has consistently followed its foreign policy of peace and harmony with other countries with a view to giving focus on its economic development at home. Today it has been able to earn the respect as well recognition from several countries around the world because of its arduous efforts to raise China's status from a poor and backward country to a new country with prosperity and potentials. We understand that China would not have achieved today's success if it had not adhered to the policy of peace and harmony with other countries.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1955, the friendship and cooperation between China and Nepal has opened a new chapter. This owes much to the commitment and dedication of several generations of Chinese and Nepalese leaders. Such friendship is a great asset of our two peoples. The leaders of, both past and present, have brought about the flowering of China-Nepal friendship with their wisdom, vision and unremitting efforts. Thanks to their untiring efforts made over half a century, exchanges and cooperation between China and Nepal in political, diplomatic, economic and trade, cultural,

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educational and other fields have borne rich fruit. Indeed, China-Nepal relations have become a model of friendly cooperation for countries of different social systems and neighboring countries to live in friendship and harmony.

We are also glad to see that the people-to-people contacts between our two countries have unfolded rapidly and smoothly over the past years. In 2001, the two countries signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Tourism Cooperation, including Nepal into the list of the tourism destination for outbound Chinese travelers. Later on, the two countries signed "Air Service Agreement", according to which, Air China opened a direct air link between China and Nepal in 2004, by route of Chengdu-Lasha-Kathmandu. In addition, the China Southern Airline has also started operating air service between Guangzhou and Kathmandu since February, 2007. Likewise, the Nepal Airline is also supposed to operate air service between Kathmandu and Shanghai, Kathmandu and Hongkong. China and Nepal have also maintained sound coordination and cooperation in regional and international affairs such as peace, development, human rights and UN reform. We share the common views on many issues related to our mutual concern.

The relations between the two armies are an important component of the overall relations between China and Nepal. In the past years, the military relations and cooperation between China and Nepal have experienced continuous development. Nearly all the former Army Chiefs and Defense Secretaries of Nepal have visited China. The Defense Minister and the General Chief of Staff of China have also visited Nepal. The two armies have conducted good cooperation in personnel training as well. Since 1998, the Nepal Army has sent officers and soldiers to study in Chinese military universities. In the academic year of 2006/2007 in particular, 21 officers and soldiers of the Nepal Army went to China for training. China has also sent military officers to participate in the adventure trainings organized by the Nepal Army since 2002.

As looking across the globe, it is easy to come to the conclusion that peace, stability, cooperation and development are the calling of the times and the common aspiration of the mankind. Both China and Nepal face a historical opportunity to develop. By seizing this opportunity, the two neighboring countries should build on past achievements and push ahead to bring China-Nepal good-neighborliness, friendship and cooperation to a new height. The Chinese Government seems committed to pursuing cooperation with Nepal in all areas. As developing countries, China and Nepal are both faced with

the arduous tasks of economic and national development. Strengthening cooperation of mutual benefit and promoting common development are our shared aspirations and serve our mutual interests.

Chinese Economic Assistance to Nepal

From the mid-80s, the Chinese Government has been pledging grant assistance to the Government of Nepal under the Economic and Technical Cooperation Programme in order to implement mutually acceptable development projects. The grant assistance has been increased from 150 to 200 million Yuan. China is also providing a grant assistance equivalent to RMB 6 million for security equipment to Nepal Police. Similarly the Export Import Bank of China provided a loan of RMB 154 million for the implementation of Kathmandu 220 KV Transmission Line and 132 KV Bay Extension Works Project of the Upper Trishuli 3A Hydroelectric project. During the visit of H.E. Mr. Yang Jiechi, State Councilor of the PRC, a few documents were including, Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation, Exchange of letters on China-Aided Project of Nepal National Armed Police Force and Exchange of letters on Logistic Materials of Office Supplies for the Constitution Assembly Election. [RMB 10 million]

The basic direction of China's foreign policy has not changed. The description of foreign policy in the 2012 and 2014 government reports both followed the logic of "diplomacy with neighboring countries; diplomacy with developing countries; diplomacy with major powers; (and) multilateral diplomacy." This indicates certain continuity between the two administrations in foreign policy. In china, there is a saying that in foreign policy " the neighboring countries are of first importance and the major powers are the key". Prior of Premier Li's work report, there were some voices questioning this conventional wisdom. According to the explanation in Li's report, the basic principle of diplomacy will be continued. This indicates that in spite of the importance of relations with major powers and the urgent desire to develop that relationship, major power relations will not surpass the fundamental importance of diplomacy with neighboring countries.

The explanation of diplomacy with neighboring countries is different, and the government led by Li keqiang has paid more attention in this respect. Wen's 2012 report, when referring to diplomacy with neighboring countries, said, "we will continue to deepen friendly relations with our neighbors; actively participate in cooperation mechanisms with them; deepen regional

cooperation; and work with them in creating a regional environment of peace, stability equality mutual trust cooperation and mutual benefit." The wording emphasized stability and peace. The 2014 government report elaborated on this concept pledging to "comprehensively promote diplomacy with neighboring countries, consolidate friendly relations with neighbors and depend mutually beneficial cooperation. We will safeguard the victory of the Second World War and the post war international, and will not allow anyone to reverse the course of history." In fact, the wording of "comprehensively promote" echoed the high standard of the central committees' October 2013 "conference on diplomatic work with neighboring countries." Li's work report is an external reflection of the diplomatic guiding ideology of the central committee. It can be seen that diplomacy with neighboring countries will continue to prosper in future.

With its emerging status as an economic superpower a global political heavyweight, China has started to extensively engage the regional groupings around it and beyond. It has extensive engagement with Southeast Asia, in which it is a "strategic partner" with ASEAN, as opposed to "observer" status with the SAARC. China's partnership in the ASEAN ranges from political to economic security cooperation, though the relations are becoming challenging owing to new tensions in issue of South China Sea. China also has a free trade pact with the ASEAN. China also holds summits with Africa regularly.

China has strong bilateral relations with all of five of South Asian countries which have borders with it, (Afghanistan, Bhutan, Nepal, and Pakistan), stretching nearly 5700 Km. China is hoping to enter into strong partnership with these countries bilaterally and regionally through the SAARC. Recently, China hosted the South Asian Exposition in Kunming inviting high level delegates from South Asian countries. Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang chose to make India his first official visit, showing how much importance China wants to attach to South Asia.

On the basis of the five Principles of peaceful Co-existence, Nepal is strengthening her solidarity and cooperation with China. China and Nepal have enjoyed all-round development. China resolutely supports Nepal's Sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, national security and national dignity. Total equality, mutual respect, sincere treatments and mutual support are the prominent characters of our ties. China Constantly attaches the importance to develop good-neighborly ties and cooperation with the countries surrounding her and never interfere in their internal affairs. We insist that all countries big or

small should be equal. China's policy is not conducive to the peace and security in South Asia.

Nepal can play an important role in peace and development in the 21st century in the region. In recent years, the Sino-Nepali cooperation is becoming richer than before. The political dialogue and negotiations at various levels have got active results. The common views in international and regional affairs of our two countries are increasingly becoming harmonious. We can have in-depth exchanges on economy, science and technology culture and so on. Looking forward to the future, the development for the Sino-Nepali relations has a bright future. The condition for strengthening our friendship and cooperation will be beneficial to both sides. China and Nepal are both the important forces in Asian regional peace and common development. Both of our countries can join hands in creating a new, peaceful and prosperous century.

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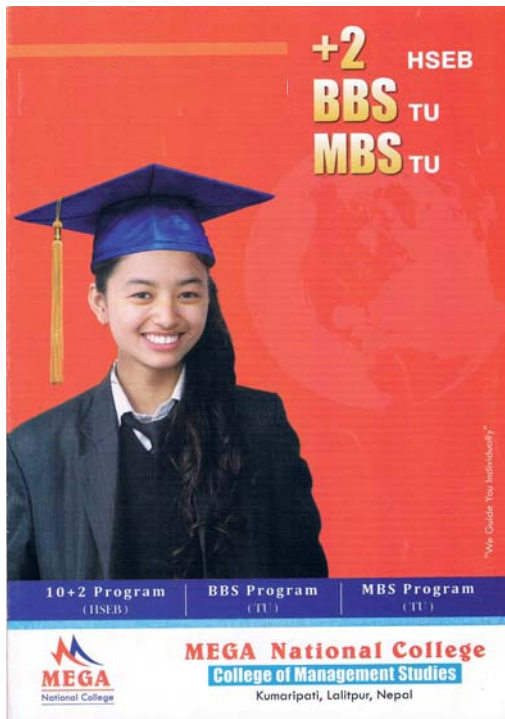
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**On the occasion
of
the 67th Anniversary of
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We offer our heartiest
felicitations
and best wishes**

Mahesh Agrawal
Former President
Nepal Chamber Commerce
Khicha Pokhari, Kathmandu

How Transparent are INGOs in Nepal?

Prakash A.Raj*****

Several columnists and news items have expressed concern on the activities of INGOs in Nepal in recent years, especially post-2006 years when Nepal became a republic. Such concern was expressed by both foreign and Nepalese. Nihar R.Nayak of Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis , Delhi writes “China has expressed concern about the activities of INGOs that have received funding from western countries as they have been promoting ethnic federalism”. (Nayak, Nihar R, *Strategic Himalayas, Republic Nepal and External Powers*, 2014, DSA, Delhi) . *Daily Rajdhani* in Nepali language (12/3/2012) wrote about large amount of illegal funds sent to Nepal for anti-Chinese activities in the name of monasteries and also for mosques and *Madrassas* and churches. The newspaper added that such funds were brought by INGOs for social inclusion. Weekly *Drishti*, considered close to CPN (UML), the second largest party in the country, wrote that large amount of funds were given to Maoist party in Nepal by INGOs for religious conversion (*Drishti*, 11/1/2001). The same weekly had published a news item (*Drishti*, 18/1/2011) that proselytization was going on vigorously utilizing funds given by European countries and INGOs. A reliable source is reported to have told the weekly that it had provided RS 50 million by EU during strikes in 2010. It added that several embassies of countries of EU and INGOs from these countries were actively involved in such task including one INGO called United Mission to Nepal. Most of squatters in Kathmandu valley are reported to be converts to Christianity. Although the Maoists are supposed to oppose foreign intervention, it is inviting precisely that by conversion.

Daily Kantipur (11/10/2012) stated that 140 INGOs working in Nepal recruit their candidates on the basis of ethnicity. The recent statement by Minister of Women, Child Welfare and Social Affairs has stressed the importance of transparency in the working of INGOs. INGOs working in Nepal bring an estimated Rs 10 billion in the economy of the country. According to recently

published working plan of Fiscal Reforms, BS 2069, all INGOs working in Nepal must give information about their annual budget, completed projects and manpower employed in co-operation with Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Women, Child Welfare and Social Welfare. Point 14 of Working Plan states that all of the assistance should come under “one door system” (*Spotlight*, November 2012).

After publication of Foreign Assistance Policy, AIN (Association for International NGO in Nepal) have supported transparency and responsibility stated in the document. Nepal Government had organized an interactive training seminar for two years from July 2012 to June 2014 (*Spotlight*, 23/7/2014). An article published in daily *Kantipur* (Bishal Kumar Bhandari, 23/7/2012) writes about prejudice of some INGOs towards an ethnic group of Nepal. *Weekly Tarun* (23/7/2012) states a Swedish INGO named International IDEA has found that obstruction faced by Nepal as stated in a seminar had ethnic and communal roots. This weekly has also accused this INGO of having assisted caucases against certain ethnic groups. International IDEA isn't registered in any government body according to the weekly. It has also invested for single identity state federalism. The chief of IDEA (Institute of Democracy and Electoral Assistance) Rikila stated on an interview with the *Kathmandu Post* (22/8/2014) that the main objective of her organization was to assist the constituent assembly, by telling what was happening in other countries, to survey Nepalese citizens and for dialogue between different groups. Such an objective shouldn't be a matter of controversy. However, another weekly in Nepali language, *Sanghu* (15/10/12) stated that this organization had suggested formation of political parties based on ethnicity.

Nepal has been a signatory to several treaties and conventions of the United Nations. This has included ILO 169 advocating rights of the indigeneous peoples. However, only twenty-two countries have ratified it and Nepal is the only Asian country to have done it. India and China neighbouring Nepal and the US and Russia haven't ratified it in spite of having large indigenous people within its borders. Many western countries assisting Nepal haven't done so either. The Organization of International INGOs in Nepal, AIN has made ILO 169 as basis of assistance in diversity and inclusivity for their aid programmes in Nepal. Organizations which have committed to assist Nepal according to such guidelines have included Canadian International Development Agency, AUSAID from Australia, DANIDA from Denmark and DFID from Britain.

None of these countries have approved ILO 160. It may be remembered that Canada and Australia have large indigenous people. This shows duplicity and double standards under which many INGOs in Nepal operate.

A recent news item published in *Weekly Tarun* (12/1/2015) alleges that funds amounting to Rs 100 crores was made available for ethnic federalism in Nepal since October 2014. According to the news report, this amount was given to ethnic movement leader who is an activist who had alleged that banning eating beef, in the then Hindu kingdom of Nepal in the 1990's was violating human rights. Prof. Hari Bansh Jha found that three decades earlier, there were no Christian churches in Chitwan district but there are around 400 at the present time. He adds- "some INGOS in the pretext of development activities are suspected to be deeply involved in religious conversion" (The Kathmandu Post, 10/1/2015). Gilles Henry of European Union asked the Nepalese Government for right to conversion. British Ambassador Andrew Sparkes sent a letter to members of constituent assembly requesting them to ensure that right to conversion should be included in the new constitution being promulgated in Nepal. As Britain is one of the major donors to Nepal and DFID a major partner in development co-operation with Nepal such statement is bound to have its impact. Nepal is signatory to Universal Declaration of Human Rights and several conventions of the United Nations that are in favour of freedom of expression including right of propagation of religion. On the other hand, there are grounds to believe that financial factors may have influenced much of conversion activities in Nepal in recent years. The letter sent by the British Ambassador is unbecoming of diplomatic norms and could be considered an interference in Nepal's domestic affairs.

Conclusion

Nepalese media has enjoyed freedom of expression since the advent of democracy. Some of the news regarding activities of INGOs in Nepal could be published by some newspapers having a reputation of being "tabloid". On the other hand, it'd be wrong to brand all of the news regarding activities of INGOs as false. Advocacy of guidelines based on ILO 169 when Nepal is the only country in Asia that has ratified the convention and the INGOs and aid agencies of the donor countries that haven't ratified the convention themselves is not only an example of double standards but may also represent a hidden agenda. What is needed is better government regulation of INGOs.

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and best wishes

**Kathmandu Model College
Balkumari, Lalitpur**

ललितपुर उप-महानगरपालिका कार्यालय

१. उप-महानगरपालिका क्षेत्र भित्रका करदाताहरूले आफूले बुझाउनु पर्ने मालपोत, घरजग्गा कर, बहाल कर, व्यवसाय कर, सवारी कर लगायतका करहरू चालु आ.व. भित्र बुझाउनु होस् । दण्ड जरिवानाबाट मुक्त हुनुहोस् ।
२. आफ्नो उद्योग, व्यवसाय तथा संघ(संस्था निर्वाद रूपमा संचालन गर्न उप- महानगरपालिकाको कार्यालयमा अनिवार्य रूपमा दर्ता तथा नविकरण गर्नुहोस् ।
३. घर, पर्खाल, टहरा निर्माण गर्दा नक्सा पास गरेर मात्र निर्माण गर्नुहोस् । साथै भुकम्प सुरक्षित प्रविधि अपनाउनुहोस् ।
४. जथाभावी फोहोर नफाली फोहोर मैला व्यवस्थापनमा सहयोग गर्नुहोस् ।
५. पुरातात्विक महत्त्वका मठ, मन्दिर, पाटी पौवा, कला संस्कृतिको संरक्षण जगेर्ना गरौं ।
६. सडक पेटी मिचेर मसल नराखौं ।
७. बाल-बालिकालाई श्रममा नलागाऔं, बालश्रम मुक्त नगर बनाऔं ।
८. कुनै खाद्य पदार्थमा अखाद्य वस्तु मिसावट नगरौं ।



Indigenous and Minorities Rights Insured through Inclusive Democracy

Dr.Chandra Kanta Gyawali*****

Concept of Indigenous People

The concept of indigenous people defines these groups as particularly vulnerable to exploitation, marginalization and oppression by nation states that may still be formed from the colonizing populations, or by politically dominant ethnic groups. As a result, a special set of political rights in accordance with international law have been set forth by international organizations such as the United Nations, the International Labour Organization and the World Bank. (Douglas, 1999).

Indeed, **indigenous people** are people defined in international or national legislation as having a set of specific rights based on their historical ties to a particular territory, and their cultural or historical distinctiveness from other populations that are often politically dominant.

Although no definitive definition of "indigenous peoples" exists, estimates put the total population of indigenous peoples from 220 million to 350 million. (Bodley, 2008:2)The adjective *indigenous* is derived from the Latin etymology meaning "native" or "born within". (Klein, 1966, p.787)

The United Nations has issued a Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to guide member-state national policies to collective rights of indigenous people—such as culture, identity, language, and access to employment, health, education, and natural resources.

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According to its meaning in English, any given people, ethnic group or community may be described as *indigenous* in reference to some particular region or location that they see as their traditional tribal land claim. (Mario, 2004, p.53)

The use of the term *peoples* in association with the indigenous is derived from the 19th century anthropological and ethnographic disciplines that Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines as "a body of persons that are united by a common culture, tradition, or sense of kinship, which typically have common language, institutions, and beliefs, and often constitute a politically organized group". (Silke, 2004, pp.130-131)

However, during the late twentieth century the term *Indigenous people* evolved into a legal category, which refers to culturally distinct groups that had been affected by the processes of colonization. Other terms used to refer to indigenous populations are: aboriginal, native, original, first, and hereditary owners in indigenous law as well as now being so called them-self, they are indigenous people.

Define by International Labour Organization

The concerning the rights of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, 1989 in Article 1 contains a statement of coverage rather than a definition, indicating that the Convention applies to:

- a) tribal peoples in independent countries whose social, cultural and economic conditions distinguish them from other sections of the national community and whose status is regulated wholly or partially by their own customs or traditions or by special laws or regulations;
- b) peoples in independent countries who are regarded as indigenous on account of their descent from the populations that inhabited the country, or a geographical region where the country belongs, at the time of conquest or colonization or the establishment of present state boundaries and who irrespective of their legal status, retain some or all of their own social, economic, cultural and political institutions. (ILO, [169](#))

Define by Working Group on Indigenous Populations

In 1972 the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations (WGIP)

accepted as a preliminary definition a formulation put forward by Mr. José R. Martínez-Cobo, Special Rapporteur on Discrimination against Indigenous Populations. This definition has some limitations, because the definition applies mainly to pre-colonial populations, and would likely. In particular **Article 33** is used by many national lawmakers in producing indigenous definitions based on

- Indigenous peoples have the right to determine their own identity or membership in accordance with their customs and traditions. This does not impair the right of indigenous individuals to obtain citizenship of the States where they live.
- Indigenous peoples have the right to determine the structures and to select the membership of their institutions in accordance with their own procedures.

Understanding the term Indigenous

Considering the diversity of indigenous peoples, an official definition of “indigenous” has not been adopted by any UN-system body. Instead the system has developed a modern understanding of this term based on the following:

- Self- identification as indigenous peoples at the individual level and accepted by the community as their member.
- Historical continuity with pre-colonial and/or pre-settler societies.
- Strong link to territories and surrounding natural resources.
- Distinct social, economic or political systems.
- Distinct language, culture and beliefs.
- Form non-dominant groups of society.
- Resolve to maintain and reproduce their ancestral environments and systems as distinctive peoples and communities.

Meaning of Minorities

Minorities means, the smaller in number of two groups that together constitute a larger entity.(Webster Dictionary, 1946-1972). Similarly, a small group of people differing from the rest of a community in ethnic-origin, religion, language, or culture; a member of such a group (Oxford Dictionary, 1993).

Indeed, wider meaning is a group differing from the predominant section of a larger group in one or more characteristics, such as: ethnic background, language, culture, or religion and there must be discrimination on the basis of the above.

Similarly, the term minority rights embodies two separate concepts: first, normal individual rights as applied to members of racial, ethnic, class, religious, linguistic or sexual minorities, and second, collective rights accorded to minority groups. The term may also apply simply to individual rights of anyone who is not part of a majority decision. Civil rights movements often seek to ensure that individual rights are not denied on the basis of membership in a minority group.

There are many political bodies which also feature minority group rights. This might be seen in affirmative action quotas, or in guaranteed minority representation in a consociation state.

Development of Minority Rights in International Law

The first minority rights were created by Diet of Hungary in 1849. Minority rights, as applying to ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities and indigenous peoples, are an integral part of international human rights law. Like children's rights, women's rights and refugee rights, minority rights are a legal framework designed to ensure that a specific group which is in a vulnerable, disadvantaged or marginalized position in society, is able to achieve equality and is protected from persecution. The first post-war international treaty to protect minorities, designed to protect them from the greatest threat to their existence, was the U.N. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

Subsequent human rights standards that codify minority rights include the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR, 1966) the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, two Council of Europe treaties (the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, and the OSCE Copenhagen Document of 1990.

Minority rights cover protection of existence, protection from discrimination and persecution, protection and promotion of identity, and participation in political life.

To protect minority rights, many countries have specific laws and/or commissions or ombudsman institutions (for example the Hungarian Parliamentary Commissioner for National and Ethnic Minorities Rights).

While initially, the United Nations treated indigenous peoples as a sub-category of minorities, there is an expanding body of international law specifically devoted to them, in particular Convention 169 of the International Labor Organization and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (adopted 14 September 2007).

Attempts to codify the rights of sexual minorities in international human rights law have met with strong opposition from a number of member states of the United Nations.

National Minorities in the Law of the EC/EU

The direct role of the European Union in the area of protection of national minorities is still very limited. The EU has relied on general international law and a European regional system of international law and in a case of necessity accepted their norms. But the “de-economization of European integration”, which started in 1990s is changing this situation. The political relevance of national minorities’ protection is very high. Although a protection of the national minorities has not become a generally accepted legally binding principle of the EU, in several legal acts issues of national minorities are mentioned. In external relations protection of national minorities became one of the main criteria for cooperation with the accession. (EU ,2009)

Protection of Minority Rights

Minorities frequently find democratic, majority rule processes to be extremely threatening. The danger is that the majority will simply use its power to win elections, and then take away the rights of the minority. Minorities e.g. may be defined on religious, racial, ethnic, gender, or political differences which arise among all groups. This is why effective mechanisms for protecting minority rights are essential to the success of any democratic dispute resolution process.

Usually, these mechanisms involve constitutional protections of rights of all citizens. Parliamentary systems, which give minority groups representation, rather than giving complete power to the group that wins 51% of the vote is also a way to increase the power of minority groups. Another important mechanism

for protecting minority rights is the use of political subdivisions. Here the idea is to divide the larger society into a number of highly homogeneous political subdivisions without significant minority groups. These divisions are then granted as much autonomy and home rule as possible. In theory, this does much to eliminate the minority group problem. Unfortunately, it only works in situations where there is a clear geographic separation between groups who are involved in serious conflict. In most cases, contending groups are so intermingled that the subdivision approach is not workable. In these cases other measures are needed to protect minority rights.

Basic Principles of Minorities

There are eight basic principles as follows:

- 1) Principles of Equal concern and Respect
- 2) Principle of Equality
 - a) Formal Approach
 - b) Substantive Approach
- 3) Principle of Non-discriminatory
- 4) Principle of Collective Identity
- 5) Principle of Participation in Public Life
- 6) Principle of Proportional Representation
- 7) Principle of Inclusion
- 8) Principle of Special Protection
 - a) Positive Discrimination
 - b) Reservation

If we have followed to these principles in the restructuring of the state through promulgation of the new constitution by Constituent Assembly , it will be called inclusive democracy.

Nepal

The rights of indigenous and minorities peoples have come to the forefront in Nepal recently and are hotly debated, in particular in the context of drafting

the New Constitution. It has become an increasingly politicized issue. There is considerable ethnic diversity within the population of Nepal, with more than a third of the population belonging to indigenous peoples. There is a history of exclusion and marginalization, and the socio-economic differences among various national groups are stark.

Nepal is one of the 20 countries (and the only one in Asia) to have ratified the above primary International legal instrument on these subjects. (ILO, 2007).

The debate about indigenous or minorities people rights also must be included a general call for as follows:

- a) More participation,
- b) Self-governance
- c) Empowerment in many segments of society.

The debate is how the Constitution should best guarantee the widest possible degree of autonomy for Nepal's indigenous communities and what mechanism can be ensure effective implementation, while preserving a balance with interests of the whole population at large, with general standards of human rights and democracy, and with the goals of establishing an integrated, and governable and prosperous Nepal.

Inclusive Representation in the Constituent Assembly

Constitutionally, the CA has 601 members, of whom 240 are elected from single –member constituencies based on the FPTP system, 335 through PR system with the country being the a single constituency, and 26 nominated by the cabinet. To make the CA inclusive as well as representative of all communities and groups, the following quota was set for the closed list of candidates in the PR race.

Distribution of Proportional Electoral System to Indigenous People

| S.N | Population | Population Denominator | Difference | Percentage | Explanation |
|---------------------|------------|---------------------------|------------|------------|--|
| Dalit (22 Group) | 2,946,652 | 22,736,934 | 0 | 13.0% | Population denominator is the actual population counted by the census. |

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|------------|---------|-------|--|
| Indigenous/ Ethnic (59 Group) | 8,496,135 | 22,505,293 | 231,641 | 37.8% | Population denominator excludes unidentified caste/ethnic group population, as their group identity cannot be ascertained. |
| Backward Districts | 951,044 | 23,151,423 | 414,489 | 4.1% | Population denominator uses projected, not actual counted, population in the insurgency affected districts. |
| Madhesi | 6,975,464 | 33,326,633 | 410,301 | 31.1% | Population denominator excludes population of the three groups, namely, adibasi/janajati, unidentified dalit, unidentified caste/ethnic group, as their madhesi or pahadi identity cannot be ascertained |
| Other | 6,855,478 | 22,736,934 | 0 | 30.2% | Population denominator is the actual population counted by the census. |

Backward districts: Achham, Kalikot, Jajarkot, Jumla, Dolpa, Bajhang, Bajura, Mugu, Humla

Source: Central Statistics Bureau, 2008, Human Right Development Report, 2008 Human Poverty Report and Indigenous/Ethnic & Dalit Report

| Population | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Districts | Actual Count | Projected | |
| Dolpa | 22,071 | 29,545 | 7,474 |
| Jumla | 69,226 | 89,427 | 20,201 |
| Kalikot | 11,510 | 105,580 | 94,070 |
| Mugu | 31,465 | 43,937 | 12,472 |
| Bajura | 100,626 | 108,781 | 8,155 |
| <i>Total 5 of 9 District</i> | <i>234,898</i> | <i>377,270</i> | <i>142,372</i> |
| Total 75 Districts | 22,736,934 | 23,151,423 | 441,489 |

Nepal has identified and recognized 59 nationalities of Nepal. Indigenous refers

to those ethnic groups or communities who have their own mother tongue and traditional customs , different cultural identity, different social structure and written or oral history. 59 indigenous nationalities are 1) Bara Gaunle 2) Bhutia 3) Byansi 4) Dolpo 5) Mugali 6) Sherpa 7) Thakali with 18 mountain indigenous people. Similarly 1) Bankari 2) chepang 3) Dura 4) Gurung 5) Kusunda 6) Rai 7) Sunuwar 8) Tamang 9) Magar 10) Surel 11) Newar 12) Limbu etc with 24 are hill indigenous peoples. Inner Terai indigenous peoples are 1) Bote 2) Kumal 3) Raute 4) Darai 5) majhi 6) Danuwar 7) Raji . Terai indigenous people are 1) Dhanuk 2) Dhimal 3) Meche 4) Kissan 6) Tharu 7) Satar 8) Jhagad 9) Tajpuria 10) Rajbanshi.(Prof. Santa Bahadur Gurung, 1994) . Now The Indigenous Act, 2001 has recognized to above nationalities are indigenous people, those peoples are also recognized minorities of Nepal.

In comparison to the national average, the majority of indigenous nationalities in Nepal are lagging behind in terms of economic advancement and other human development indicators. Over half of the population of the indigenous falls below the poverty line, structural discrimination, manifested in low levels of political representation, lack of access to education, training and empowerment opportunities and empowerment has perpetuated and deepened poverty of indigenous peoples. In terms of political representation, indigenous nationalities traditionally ranked above Dalit but under others caste groups.

Indigenous peoples inhabit rural areas and are engaged in agriculture. Traditional occupation continues to be practiced by many indigenous peoples like hunter and gathers, production of porters, traders and carpet weavers.

Similarly, Nepal has identified and recognized 24 Dalits of Nepal. They are Kami, Sarki, Damai, Lohar, Poda, Chamar, Dom, and Badi etc.

Madhesi are also indigenous and minorities. But they are so called themselves 56 madhesies such as 1) Tharu 2) Yadav 3) Musalman 4) Tatma 5) teli 6) Koiri 7) Mushahar 8) Hajam 9) Dhobi 10) Jhagar 12) Satar etc

Closed list of candidates in the PR race in 2008 and 2013 of CA election was held.

| Groups | Representation% | Every group must be included 50% women an overlap within some groups has made the total more than 100% |
|---------------------|-----------------|--|
| Madhesi | 31.2 | |
| Janjati | 37.8 | |
| Dalit | 13.0 | |
| Backward Region | 4.0 | |
| Brahman and Chhetri | 30.2 | |

Source: Election commission, 2013.

On 25 April 2008, the political parties were informed how many of the 335 proportional seats they have respectively won. Complicated and at times controversial negotiations proceeded within the parties to determine which of their nominated candidates should take their respective seats. By 8 May 2008, the Election Commission had received and verified the selected candidates and could finally declare the names of winning candidates from the proportional race. The most remarkable feature of the result was that the for in the quotas, as called electoral law, were largely implemented and have resulted in a much higher representation of minorities than ever before in Nepal's history.

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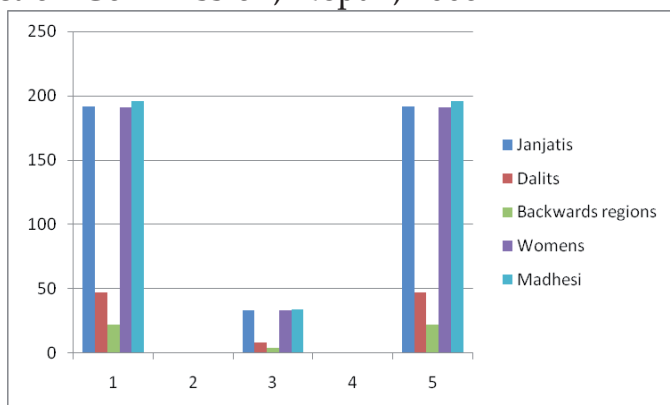
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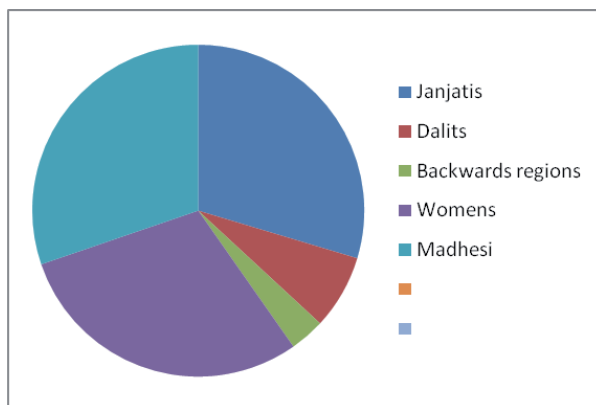
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| Minorities | Seats | % | Totle Seats |
|------------------|-------|----|-------------|
| Janjatis | 192 | 33 | 192 |
| Dalits | 47 | 8 | 47 |
| Backward regions | 22 | 4 | 22 |
| Women | 191 | 33 | 197 |
| Madhesi | 196 | 34 | 196 |

Source, Election Commission, Nepal , 2008





It was estimated that out of the current 575 elected seats 34% or 196 candidates were Madhesi, 33% or 192 were Janajatis, 8% or 47 were Dalits, 4% or 22 were from backwards regions and, may be the most impressive figure of all, 33% or 197 were women, making Nepal one of the countries in the world with the highest percentage of women in Parliament or Constituent Assembly. The Cabinet had appointed the remaining 26 Constituent Assembly members, out of which six were women.

In second time election of CA was held on November 19, 2013, it is estimated that out of the 575 elected seats 29% or 172 are women and Dalit are 39 seats.

On the occasion of constitution making by the Constituent Assembly for the first time in Nepal, the new constitution will be the crucial to establish an equitable state by ensuring the rights of women, who have been kept backward for centuries. Therefore, we *have* prepared these recommendations on women, Ethnic Group, Madhesi, Dalit, Muslim, Backward Region and others to be included in the New Constitution of Nepal to support the Constituent Assembly. It includes the recommendations related to the states responsibilities in guaranteeing the rights relating to special privileges for women

empowerment along with equal right of men and women to citizenship, assurance of women's human rights, respect of diversity between women and the right of proportional participation of women in decision making level.

First CA of Legislative Body Committee had proposed to the Federal Legislature for total 151 members of House of Representatives and 76 shall be elected First Past the Post electoral System and 75 shall be elected closed electoral System under the Proportional Electoral system on the basis of population of women, Dalit, Madhesi, Disadvantage group, Muslim, Adibasi Janjati, Minorities Group and other groups. One third women of total Representatives shall be elected on the basis of law.

Similarly, for of National Assembly, total representatives shall be 51, 38 Members shall be elected equal basis of in each every state. 13 Members shall be elected by the House of Representatives through single transferable vote system .They shall be, Minority groups, Religious Groups, Linguistic groups, Caste groups, and Distinguished Persons.

Another hand Chief Speaker and Vice Speaker, One woman must be Chief Speaker or Vice Speaker in the federal Parliament. In the State Legislature, there shall be one Cameral Legislature, there shall be total 35members and among them 18 Members shall be elected on the basis of Adult Franchise (FPTPS), 17 members shall be elected by closed electoral System under the Proportional Electoral system on the basis of population of women, Dalit, Madhesi, Disadvantaged group, Muslim, Adibasi Janjati, Minorities Group and other groups. One third women of total Representatives shall be elected on the basis of law.

There shall be also formed Local Courts or Alternative Dispute Resolution Courts for resolution of the disputes related with

domestic violence, Child rights, un-touch ability disputes with the related to Adibasi Janjati, Madhesi, Muslim ,Minority community and their socio culture, traditional customs.

Appointment of the every tier of the judges shall be adapted to proportional and inclusive theory on the basis of their population.

Any appointment on the basis of proportional and inclusive theory, must included women, Adibasi Janjati, Madhesi, Dalit, Muslim and minorities. This proposed by first CA, now second CA has taken ownership.

Conclusion

There is need for extensive discussion to ensure the rights of indigenous or minorities peoples while drafting the new constitution. It would be equally important to take inspiration from international human rights law and other relevant international standards. The most important aspect is the need for a continuous effort to make constitutional provisions for an appropriate mechanism so that indigenous or minorities peoples are empowered to enjoy the rights in practice as mentioned in the new constitution.

It is important not to expect the text of the constitution itself to solve all possible grievance of indigenous or minorities groups and respond to their aspirations. A commitment to indigenous or minorities people's rights must go beyond the constitution and into laws, policies and funded the government programme to ensure their implementation. There should constructive relationship between the state and indigenous or minorities' peoples can only emerge if ways are found to resolve differences through partnership and cooperation.

Similarly, there should be conducive environment for minorities so that their representation and access to each and every level and

agencies of the state should be at least proportional on the basis of their population. Further, there should be a positive discrimination to address their upliftment to political and economic mainstream of the state as well as social and cultural development.

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Nepal - State of Qatar Relation

Dr. Salahuddin Akhtar Siddiqui *****

Following the principal charter of United Nations, non-alignment, panchasheel, international law and the norm of world peace, Nepal has been developing its foreign policy for keeping institutionalizing peace in Nepal through international norms by promoting cooperative and harmonious relation to neighboring friendly countries and other countries of the world. *****

To achieve the objectives of foreign policy, Nepal established diplomatic relation with state of Qatar, a serious and influential player of Arab world, on 21 January 1977. To bolster the diplomatic ties between both the countries, Nepal set up its embassy at Doha, capital city of state of Qatar on July 11, 2000 AD. Since that then Nepal Qatar relation are cordial and friendly on the basis of mutual trust, understanding, respect and cooperation.

Nepal is independent and sovereign country for long but state of Qatar achieved full independence on September 3, 1971. Arab states were among the first to recognize it. Its political system is democratic and foreign policy is based on the principle of international peace and security by means of encouraging peaceful resolution of international disputes; and shall support the right of the people to self-determination; and shall not interfere in the domestic affairs of state and shall co-operate peace loving nations. ***** Emir represents the state internally and externally and in all international relations. ***** Qatar's preferred foreign policy method is mediation. Al-Jazeera, television channel, set a template for Qatari public diplomacy. That television channel has also become popular among the intellectual throughout Nepal. The key feature of Qatar's foreign

***** Dr. Siddiqui is Honorable Judge of Court of Appeal, Nepal and Board Member International Research Committee of Sociology of Law.

***** Article 35(21,22) The Interim Constitution of Nepal, 2063 (2007)

***** Article 7, Constitution of state of Qatar.

***** Article 66, Ibid

policy is its role as mediator and negotiator in matter of conflict in Middle East and elsewhere. Being independent and sovereign country, it has often tried to bridge the gap between Muslim and non-Muslim countries. It is member of Organization of Islamic countries (OIC), OPEC and founder member of Gulf cooperation council (GCC). And Nepal is the founder member of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

Nepal and Qatar share similar views on many international agendas in United Nation, Non-Aligned Movement etc. Both countries play active role for the cause of peace, security and development in the world.

State of Qatar established has residential embassy at Kathmandu since 14 May 2012 with the appointment of residential ambassador HE Ahmed Jasem Al-Hamer. Hoping that, Kathmandu embassy shall play as catalyst for opening new opportunities in trade, commerce and investment and resolving problems to implement bilateral agreements.

Several ministerial level visits from Nepal to state of Qatar and from Qatar to Nepal have taken place for strengthening bilateral relation. Rt. Honorable Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, president of Nepal, had made state visit to state of Qatar from 10-13 Oct.2013. His visit has boosted the energy of bilateral relation to move ahead. He cordially invited the Emir of the state of Qatar to visit Nepal. That invitation is yet to be honored by Qatar side. Hoping that, The Emir's visit to Nepal shall setup a new dimension in bilateral relation between both the countries.

Nepal and Qatar are blessed by natural resources. Qatar is speedy in utilizing its resources for its all-round national development, but Nepal is still in the process. Both countries can share their ideas increasing interactions and visits, which may open new doors of cooperation and investment in Nepal.

Qatar is global energy leader and its aim is to establish itself as modern business oriented state to build a solid foundation for economic growth. It introduced open door market policy with low taxes. Nepal and state of Qatar have trade relation but to explore more opportunities in trade and commerce needs to develop strategic interactions between business communities of both the countries. At present Nepal, imports petroleum products like Polyethylene, Polypropylene, VCRs and its parts etc. and export readymade garments, textiles fabrics, vegetable, CD cassettes etc.

To enhance the economic diplomacy the government of Nepal has developed the policy to send its citizens for serving the national developments of friend countries. State of Qatar is a preferred destination for it. At present about 500,000 Nepalese are serving there. State of Qatar provides work visa to Nepalese citizens without any quota and restrictions. But sometimes unpleasant news about Nepalese workers in Qatar come out in media. Analyzing the news and issues is coming out show malpractice of labor contract agreements, poor security measures and unhealthy environment at work place where Nepalese work in Qatar. Now it has become important to develop new strategies for careful monitoring of the job security, safety and welfare of Nepalese workers by governmental also at nongovernmental level of both the countries. We can be develop alternative mechanism for the protection of rights and welfare of foreign workers in Qatar.

To tight the knot of bilateral relation between Nepal and state of Qatar, many bilateral agreements have been signed i.e. Labor agreement, Legal protection agreement, Air service agreement, MOU on Tourism cooperation and many others are in the process. Both countries are trying their best to strengthen their bilateral relation, but non-state actors like NGOs can also play a vital role in facilitating economic diplomacy between the two countries. Education, commerce and development are potential areas for it. Nepal and state of Qatar can also become a development partners in future.

Qatar is a peninsula located in the Middle East and it is classified as a hot sub-tropic desert. So the healthy environment, natural beauty and mountain, river, forest adventures of Nepal can attract Qatari tourists for leisure and business travel. But it needs to develop awareness about the hospitality of Nepalese people and opportunities in Nepal through interaction between people to people they are less aware about it. Mountain adventure had attracted His Excellency Sheikh Mohammad Bin Abdullah Al Thani for successful ascent of the world highest peak Mount Everest on November 23, 2013A.D. His Excellency made a record of first Qatari national to climb Mt. Everest.

Air connection has made Doha, state of Qatar as transit hub for Nepalese tourist and officials visiting Africa, Europe and United States of America and for the European, African, American tourists and around the world. That air connection

has also created prospect of attracting Qatari tourist in Nepal. State of Qatar is Muslim country and more than million Nepali Muslims live in Nepal. ***** So both countries can move forward to develop cultural relation too.

State of Qatar is trying to become player of global peace team. It provides inter faith dialogue forum of different religions to enhance tolerance and maintain harmony.

State of Qatar has developed world class facilities in sports and stepped in Sports diplomacy. It sends its national teams abroad to strengthen friendship. Now it is participating in public sports diplomacy being the organizer of “World Cup 2022”. Developing relation in sports is also a potential area to develop friendship among youngsters of Nepal and Qatar. That may open new door which will facilitate and develop the bilateral relations.

Treaties and agreements are important component of diplomatic relation. Culture, economics, political factor influence such relationship. Friendly countries, whatever, its location can make strong bilateral relation. If they move forward with real sprit of friendship and keep in mind the benefits, and dignity of both the countries then they will strengthen friendly relation in real sense.

***** National Population and Housing Census 2011, Volume 1, Central Bureau of Statics, Kathmandu Nepal, page 184

China, India and Nepal Trilateral Cooperation From Transport Corridors to Economic Corridors

*Madhukar SJB Rana******

When we speak of Nepal as a 'transit economy', we have in mind the provision of land transport infrastructure providing various modes of transportation such as railways, highways, waterways, rope ways, pipelines, gas lines, electricity grids and fiber optic cables.

Further, such transit transport corridors may also include transshipment infrastructure such as warehouses, container depots, cold storage, weighing machines, material handling equipment, including food and lodging facilities for transport operators.

Transport corridor's purpose is to provide for efficient means of carriage of goods and services in transit with minimal damage to the goods and their quality. Where there is damage, it provides facilities for insurance surveys as well as for lodging claims. Having done so, the transit economy collects transit fees for services rendered.

The limitation of such an economy is that it deprives the transit state with the possibilities of value adding and creating supply chains to reap multiplier benefits to its economy. To override this constraint, we call for 'economic corridors'. The purpose of economic corridors is to integrate the economies sub regionally by creating growth triangles, quadrangles and so on between two or more nations. It does so by creating SEZs, FTZs, EPZs, industrial parks, dry ports, Export Promotion Villages (EVPs) and so on in order to attract FDI.

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China leads the way with such innovations. But the most illustrious example of sub regionalism is the ADB's Greater Mekong Sub Region Economic Programme (GMS-ECP). Economic corridors in Nepal that I have in mind are those that are aligned to the great rivers of Nepal and sub regional cooperation between its immediate neighbours in Tibet and India. For example, the Kosi Economic Corridor that will integrate parts of Tibet with Sikkim, North Bengal with Nepal's Eastern Development Regions; or the Karnali Economic Corridor will integrate the economies of parts of Uttarakhand and North Uttar Pradesh with the Far West Development Region of Nepal and so on. Similarly, with the Bagmati Economic Corridor and Gandhaki Economic Corridor could be linked to the contiguous regions in Tibet, Bihar and UP.

Globalization is giving way to Glocalization through the process of devolution in nation states. One such trend is to call for Public-Private-Partnership (PPP). And so it is fashionable for each state in a federal set up or each region or metropolitan city to undertake regional planning by creating growth centres, growth hubs and spokes and so on. The best example of a vision for trilateralism that I have come across is the research by Prateek A Anand, which appeared in The Bihar Times in 2012 under the heading "Bihar Needs an Economic Corridor".

It is an impressive piece of work that creates links with not only Nepal and through Nepal to Tibet but also links up with the Delhi- Mumbai Industrial Corridor by linking it with the Industrial Corridors of Jharkhand and Odisha with Paradeep as the gateway seaport.

It may be underscored that the beauty of his idea is that it respects the alignments of the Trans Asia Highway and Tran Asia Railway and also captures possibilities for river transportation given the vast mineral resources of the sub region.

In short, it is a vision to uplift almost all the BIMARU (underdeveloped) states of India with the subsidiary linkages to Gorakhpur, Varanasi, Rewa and Katra in Uttar Pradesh. He believes that, at a cost of just \$ 2 billion to be borne by the Central and State Governments, it may be the world's most lucrative infrastructure project for FDI and PPP. Furthermore, it allows huge potential for novel strategies of development in the tribal States of India with incorporation of one more 'P' to PPP--namely People-Public-Private-Partnership (PPPP).

Is Nepal-India-China Trilateral Strategic Partnership Possible?

*Yuba Nath Lamsal******

The concept of Nepal-India-China trilateral partnership/cooperation is a recent phenomenon, which is still in embryo and yet to be materialized. Until recently, such a proposition used to be a taboo in the foreign policy lexicon of both India and China mainly due to their deep-seated animosity after 1962 border war. The era of Hindi-Chini Bhai Bhai (India and China are two brothers) that had brewed and developed following their national liberation almost around the same time came to an abrupt end. Since then, China and India began to perceive one another as enemies, rivals and competitors. History, geography, civilization, cultural bonds and economic relations always demand cooperation, interaction, and partnership between these two Asian giants. But their positional and strategic divergence and perceptual variance especially in their international alliance and relations with the two rival super powers of the Cold War era coupled with contrasting political considerations and security sensitivity made India and China susceptible of one another. Security took a central stage, while historic and other considerations took a back seat in relations with these two Asian neighbors. This was exhibited in their relations with Washington and Moscow, which led the two rival power blocs of the Cold War era. Despite their half-baked stance and policy of non-alignment that prophesized not siding with any of the two power blocs, both China and India had sometimes tacit sometimes open alliance with either of the two super powers. At the same time, the rivalry and cynicism prevailing in the mindset of these two states paved the way for extra-regional and extra continental powers to make inroads into our

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neighborhood in varied forms and manifestations. India leaned towards Russia and entered into a long-term security deal while China tacit understanding with Washington to checkmate Russian adventure in Asia was more than visible.

Asia became a new flashpoint of proxy wars between the United States and Russia during the Cold War as the two super powers aggressively pursued with their agenda for domination in Asia. The wounds inflicted by super power rivalry and their proxy wars have not yet been healed in Afghanistan and countries of the Middle East, while Vietnam war and Cambodia ugly civil war are not very distant history.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Cold War came to an end and a new international situation emerged. India that had heavily relied on Russia for the supply of military hardware had to readjust its relations with other countries including US and China. At the same time, China, which has now emerged as world economic giant, is desperately looking for its new role and space in the changed international politics, for which it felt the need for better and congenial relations with its neighbors including India. The new international dynamics are bringing these two Asian giants closer. Geographical barriers are being overcome with the advancement of newer technology. China used to be eastward and northward looking country due to geographic constraints to move to the south west, whereas India looked west. Now China is looking south-west for that matter South Asia whereas India has adopted east policy for which China could be a bridge. South Asia huge market is attracting China, while India wants to penetrate into Chinese market. These are new economic dynamics that require India and China to cooperate and build a strategic partnership in areas of mutual convergence putting aside their other differences.

There has been a marked paradigm shift in the international power politics. Asia is going to be a new powerhouse in the 21st century. Europe was the center of power in the 19th century and power shifted to the United States in 20th century. Now it has been projected that 21 century will be the Asian century. There are some strong indications and bases for Asia to substantiate this projection. Asia is definitely rising as a new international center of power, of which China and India are key factors. China is already a largest economy whereas India is one of world ten largest economies. Without their cooperation and partnership, the concept of Asian century is not likely to be materialized. Both India and China are aware of this fact. Against this background, China and India appear to be more enthusiastic to build cooperative partnership in economic front. Situated

between these two countries, Nepal role could be important in this new situation arising in Asia particularly in our own neighborhood. With focus on connectivity with neighbors and more particularly countries of South Asia, China has been vigorously building roads and railways in its south-west part mainly in Tibet and Xinjiang. China has already extended railways almost close to Nepal border and is desirous to extend it further as far as Nepal Lumbini, if Nepal agreed. India, too, has sought permission from Nepal to allow Indian cargo carriers to China via Nepalese territory. These developments have, therefore, opened up prospects for Nepal-India-China trilateral cooperation and partnership. Nepal is keen to develop itself as a vibrant bridge between China and India furthering the possibility of trilateral cooperation among these three Asian neighbors. Now Nepal, China and India have new leadership with fresh mandate and more commitment to spearhead their countries to greater prosperity through mutually shared cooperation and exchange of experiences among neighbors and friends. In China, Xi Jinping has risen as a powerful leader who has come up with a new vision of Chinese Dream focusing on neighborhood diplomacy under which he wants greater cooperation among neighbors enabling them to share benefits of prosperity and collectively tackle common problems. Indians are pinning greater hopes on newly emerged leader Narendra Modi, who has already signaled for a cozy relations and bonhomie with South Asian neighbors and partnership with China in areas of economic development. Xi and Modi have one thing in common that they are committed to do everything possible for the development of their own countries and peace in the region and abroad. These developments are the call of hours as Nepal, India and China are destined to cooperate with one another to tackle the common and identical problems facing them. It is therefore expected that these two leaders may be willing to go extra miles for greater cooperation between India and China.

Despite skepticism of some countries on Modi tract records mainly on handling communal issues, Chinese leadership, however, appears more enthusiastic in building meaningful economic relationship with India and working more closely with Modi. The Indian Prime Minister also seems to be highly impressed by China economic and development model and he may try to replicate this model in India. Analyzing possible scenario of China India cooperation, Hu Shisheng, a South Asian expert at the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations, said conomic ties will enter a new phase due to Modi's admiration for China's economic development and his achievements in developing Gujarat

into one of India's most prosperous states through close cooperation with countries including China.

As China and India are likely to move closer and cooperate with one another in a more meaningful manner, Nepal, a close friend and neighbor of both these countries, is expected to reap substantial benefit from this newly emerged scenario in the region. Like Xi of China, Modi, too, seems to have realized that India could be a global power only if it wins trust of neighbors, for which he has exhibited good gesture. Modi is trying to build more cooperative and friendlier relations with South Asian countries including Nepal, which could be perceived as a good omen for developing South Asia as a cozy and common South Asian union.

Connectivity and cooperation are the new buzzwords for development in the 21st century, which both India and China have realized. China has proposed the idea of reviving the old Silk Road and also Maritime Silk Route of the 21st century to physically connect the countries of Asia and Europe. Nepal Araniko Highway, which is currently serving as a vital surface link between Kathmandu and Tibet of China, and other highways and railways that are being proposed, could play catalytic role in building partnership among these three countries. Visualizing, perhaps, this newly emerging scenario way back in 2004, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) included Nepal Araniko Highway as a part of greater Asian Highway Network.

Nepal is in vital geo-strategic location between China and India. China and India have realized that without Nepal participation and support, their cooperation may not be as meaningful and effective as had been expected. Thus, the trilateral partnership and cooperation among these three countries is a win-win proposition not only for the common interest of these three countries but also for peace, prosperity and cooperation in the entire South Asia. Now Nepal is required to pursue with shrewd and pragmatic diplomacy not only to act as an important thread to bring China and India together for a new kind of cooperative relations shedding hangover of the Cold War era and effectively create atmosphere for trilateral partnership.

Nepal-India-China trilateral partnership is possible and also necessary given the present delicate international and regional balance of power and newer trends developing in the world. Some extra-regional and extra continental powers may try to dissuade these two countries from coming closer, which is

natural as partnership between China and India will definitely pose formidable challenge to the hegemony of Anglo-American power. Herein lies Nepal role and diplomatic acumen to make it a reality of Nepal-India-China trilateral partnership.



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State Collapse is a Consequence of State Building

Maj.Gen, (Retd.) Tika Dhamala *****

When we argue that state collapse is a consequence of state building, we should know what state is and what is state building. As encyclopedia Britannia says, “the state is the body politic as organized for supreme civil rule and government; the political organization, which is the basis of civil government; hence, the supreme civil power and government vested in a country of nation.” Generally, the state's basic elements are defined as territory, population, government, and sovereignty. It can also be defined as one of the territorial and political units constituting a federal government, as in the United States of America or India. In this article I discuss how the process of building a new state can lead in some cases to state collapse.

New state building occurs when there is a decision- either internally agreed or externally informed (Iraq)- to create new structures and organization designed to penetrate the society in order to regulate behavior in it and draw a larger volume of resources from it. It is a regulative and extractive capability of the political system for the overall development of a state.

State building is a fairly technical matter. As Professor Fukuyama says: ‘State building is the creation of new government institution and the strengthening of existing one. It is one of the most important issues for the world community because weak or failed states are source of many of the world’s most serious problems from poverty to ADIS, drug and terrorism.’

***** Mr. Tika Dhamala is Member of the Council, Retired from Nepal Army. He has done his MA in International Studies from University of London King’s College and has successfully completed a one year course at the Royal College of Defense studies Seaford House London in 2004.)

State building is a long process, as Joseph R. Strayer says “In the process of State building it took four to five centuries for European states to overcome their weakness and to remedy their administrative deficiencies.” However, state building requires following supporting environments:

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------|
| •Supportive | political | environment. |
| •Strong | civil | society. |
| •Supportive | economic | environment. |
| •Supportive | regulatory | environment. |
| •Supportive | informational | environment and |
| • Supportive | cultural | environment. |

It is also important to understand how states are categorized in the process of state building. At present the world has been divided into four categories. There are strong states, weak states, failing or failed states and collapsed states.

Strong states are those, where states deliver a high quality of political goods (education, public health, law and order etc) to their citizens. High levels of security from political and criminal violence are maintained, impose political freedom and civil liberties. Countries in the north like USA, Britain, France, Germany, etc are good examples of strong states. Weak states harass civil society and ruled by tyrannical government whether it is elected or not. Those characters can be easily seen in North Korea.

Failing or failed states cause more problems for themselves. They create what Miron Winner called “Bad Neighbors” Failed states are characterized by

- A rise in criminal and political violence.
- A loss of control over their border.
- Rising ethnic, religious, linguistic, and cultural hostilities.
- Civil war.
- The use of terror against their own citizens.
- Weak institutions.
- High level of corruption, and so on. Afghanistan, Angola, Burundi, Liberia,

Sierra Leone are the examples of failed states.

Collapsed states are tense, deeply conflicted, dangerous, and bitterly contested

by warring factions. In most collapsed states, government troops battle armed revolts led by one or more rivals. Collapsed States are the extreme version of failed states. In a Collapsed state, security is considered as the rule of the strong and it exhibits a vacuum of authority. Political goods are obtained through ad hoc means. Somalia is the model of a collapsed state. In Afghanistan and other failed or collapsed states following characteristics can be easily seen. The civil wars have roots in ethnic, religious, linguistic, or other inter-communal enmity. The fear of each other drives so much ethnic conflict and may stimulate and fuel hostilities between ruling entities and subordinate and less-favored groups. Criminal violence is increased, gangs and criminal syndicates assume control over the streets of the cities. Arms and drug trafficking becomes more common.

Ordinary police forces become paralyzed and anarchy becomes more and more the norm. For protection, citizens naturally turn to warlords and other strong figures who express ethnic or clan solidarity.

Collapsed states can no longer deliver positive political goods to their people. Their governments lose legitimacy and in the eyes and hearts of citizens, it becomes illegitimate. Only a handful of the world's nation-states can now be categorized as collapsed, which is the end stage of failure. Several dozen more, however, are weak and serious candidates for failure to collapse. Collapsed states are hospitable to and harbour non-state actors, warlords and terrorists.

The rise and fall of nation states is not a new phenomenon. If a nation-state fails it poses dangers not only for oneself but also their neighbors and to the people around the world. States fail when they lose their credibility among their people, their government loses legitimacy, on the economic side living standards falls rapidly, influential leaders deliver financial rewards only to favored families or small groups, citizens see their medical, educational and logistical entitlements melt away and corruption flourishes. On the political side leaders and their limited supporters ruin democratic norms, coerce legislature and bureaucracies for personal interest and seek control over security and defense forces. They usually patronize ethnic groups, clans, classes of kinds. Other groups feel excluded or discriminated and they are incapable of providing effective governance at all.

The cause of state failure differs from state to state. Sometime it is misadministration by the indigenous elite so-called states builders. Failure is sometime a legacy first of interference by outside powers, and their abandonment. Afghanistan

is a good example. Most important, failed or failing states are poor and have suffered from corruption, bad planning, poor governance, or ideological dogma.

State collapse is man-made, not merely accidental. Leadership decisions and leadership failures have destroyed states and continue to weaken the fragile politics that operate in the cusp of collapse.

Somalia, a nation-state with a strong history, a common language, a common religion and a shared history of nationalism failed and then collapsed by destructive leadership predomination. In 1969 the first elected, proto-democratic, post independence civilian government of Somalia was overthrown by General Mohammed Said Barre, Commander of the Army. He claimed that the politicians were spoiling the country, so he took over the power suspending the constitution banning political parties, and promising an end to corruption. However, in 20 years, Said Barre destroyed the institution of government and democracy, abused his citizens and human right while enjoying the maximum resources of the state for himself and his sub clan.

The collapse of the Said Barre regime was seemingly inevitable, and when he fell in 1991, the clans fought to take his place. There was no foreign champion available to help the people of Somalia to restore their state. The civil war destroyed what was left, and Somalia collapsed into itself in 1991.

Normally, authoritarian governments are the causes of state collapse. As professor Fukuyama says that "The last quarter of the 20th century has been the revelations of enormous weakness at the core of the world's seemingly strong dictatorships, whether they be the military authoritarian Right, or the communist totalitarian left" In Soviet Union, the totalitarianism government sought to destroy civil society in its entirety, in its search for "total" control over the lives of its citizens. They attacked political parties, the press, the trade unions, private enterprises, and the churches. It has been proven that liberal democracy is the political system for the stability of the nation-states.

Stability in any state can be maintained by economic globalization, political democratization, particular belief systems and the role of international law and institutions. In the process of state building democratization is a difficult process that can go terribly wrong. In a country, the interim period when the old system is breaking down, but the new one has not yet taken root, has proved to be a time of suffering, violence and political extremism. Most of

the new democratic countries in the developing world are affected from that difficulty. Nepal, some of the east European countries and African countries are good examples. The Soviet Union took its bold step in 1989 by abolishing the communist system, freeing the press and media, legalizing opposition parties, introducing parliamentary rules, making Rouble into a convertible currency, and liberating the Soviet Empire.

In sum, survival through security, stability, and prosperity are the basic national interests of the nation state. If state building is done on the ground of loyalty and the commitment of the people to the state building's mission through the penetration and integration, there is no possibility of state collapse due to the state building. In the process of state building, state collapse entirely depends upon the driver of the states and the institutional development.

State collapse is not new, but recently it has become more dangerous than ever. Weak state threatens not only themselves but also their neighbors, even global security. Preventive state collapse is thus strategic and moral imperative. Only a handful of the world's nation states can be categorized as collapsed. Collapsed states, and even failing states can be a breeding ground for terrorists. The fight against terrorism or to eradicate terrorists from the world, state building process should be started from the entire sector. Preventive diplomacy, targeted financial assistance and other methods have to apply for all the weak states to prevent failure and collapse. International organizations, regional organizations, global and regional Actors (Power) can play a very impotent role. Cambodia, East Timor and the NATO-UN interim administration in Kosovo all indicate that successful state building is possible if there is sufficient political will and targeted external assistance. In the 21st century, the role of the UN, regional organizations and other international institutions can play a very effective role in state building as well as maintaining peace and harmony in the world.

**On the occasion
of
the 67th Anniversary of
the Nepal Council of World Affairs
We offer our heartiest felicitations
and best wishes**

**Bindraban Man Pradhanang
Life Member, NCWA**

Aid of Citizens

A Prime Agenda on Public Affairs: Local Democracy in Nepal

Rajeev Kunwar*****

Since there are many priorities of the state, government and political society in the management of public affairs, no one can deny that the prime agenda is to be set in local governing authorities-civic relations. This nexus is instrumental, functional and operational needed in democracy - civil rights, civil freedom and civil liberties to be exercised at local levels. These issues are to be addressed first in order for local democracy to take root and consolidate it within the Nepalese territory for many eons to come. These pair of notions are not emphasized enough to reap the local dividends of change, trends and transformations at national level which is currently embroiled in satiated and saturated politics in the capital city only.

The expansion of democracy and fundamental rights - horizontally, vertically, top-down, bottom-up, cross dimensional and sideways to cross check and balance would bode well for the future of the Nepalese political system. Nepal's rapid conceptual political introductions requires astute management of change, rationalization of dynamism and breathtakingly speed of conscience which would enhance the quality of governance and public and civic accountability that are being shaped in political *tour d'horizon*.

The overall state of affairs of Nepal would improve if adequate attention is paid to the establishment of social security and welfarism and promotion of inclusive and sustainable economy. It will unlock the genuine potential of human capital irrespective of equality or inequality aiming for placing self-reliant human living standards and regional benchmarks in the country.

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The political, social and economic engineering can be adopted and adapted by translating the bundle of principles into norms and values which are the ethical foundations of building an intact bonding of society, economy, culture and politics. Hence it must allow especial space in encouraging the local democracy and local participation as well as fostering local solutions to local problems at utmost.

The foreign expatriates know very well that the environment for civil society organizations (CSOs) to functionally operate in Nepal is conducive for democracy to jell. Even though credibility of CSOs has become highly questionable when in some quarters of the Nepalese society the general perceptions towards the activities of CSOs are getting mixed reactions as and when they become demonstrative in political sphere spearheading the donor-driven knowledge society.

Actions and activities such as nurturing knowledge of local democracy within the global context and renovating thinking of local people can mend and bend relations on equity, justice and peace. At the present moment a regular, free and fair democratic elections is a prime requisite which could bolster the bedrock of good governance, personal and national integrity and civic accountability in Nepal.

The capacities of CSOs to work in tandem by reinforcing governance and domestic accountability can be underlined by continuous engagement and dealings with target communities and stakeholders and mobilizing public opinion in the civil interests in the country. If they are weak and docile in participatory governance, then enabling and catalyzing a role of activists of CSOs can impart right thinking and just questions to them which would be an incremental in the raising the standard of governance of CSOs. This would resolve the problems so far encountered and which surfaces as the democratization of state and society takes momentum in this old country with yet immature politicians in political upbringing.

However the level of participation of CSOs in policy dialogue in social sectors is at a better position than two decades ago. Though CSOs have a substantial presence and increasing numerical figure in the country's non-governmental map, public policy appraisal has become increasingly tempting for them to try and prescribe alternative views and opinions to bring them noticeable to the government of Nepal.

CSOs can be listening posts and vocal platform of the concerned individuals and civic activist. The filling up gap between law and practice are inadequate in oxygenating behavioural exercise in policy action and propel a dynamic activity to resuscitate from asphyxiating life in the integrity health check-up which has worsened direly. Therefore, CSOs ought to be in continuous touch, contact and connection with public officials and authorities as well as keeping abreast of national plans and policies in social development areas. CSOs activities in service delivery will be better coordinated with public authorities to prevent duplication, overlap and parallel systems.

For the social sectors there is no neat and clean importance to support advocacy and policy dialogue or service provision tangibly and with *force majeure*. But the prime importance of CSOs is to support the civil activism to make the state and governance responsive to the needs of the people and to make them comply with public service delivery promptly, without any hassles, complications and procrastination. A type of actions that would improve the human conditions in the working field particularly in areas of poor vulnerable and socially excluded groups (PVSE), is through CSOs initiatives and incentives is by encouraging and mobilizing micro-finance and soft loans to generate self-reliant income works.

Apart from the focus on the government for intervention to enable these groups, CSOs must ensure local governance of local population inclusive as well. For the promotion of inclusiveness and sustainable economy it is crucial for CSOs to take part in advocacy and policy dialogue service provision by continuously engaging civic groups and public authorities in innovating public policy and emphasizing consistently on its reform, adjustment and enforcement.

Last but not the least, the most critical issues in democracy to be addressed in Nepal is to start the second phase of completing peace building that is social reconciliation and appropriate reparations to the conflict-affected victims amicably. The immediate conduct of local elections can bridge the legitimacy gap between the people and political parties and ending the legal impunity and burdensome economic stagnation.

Human Rights in Global Politics

Keshav Sigdel*****

The unhindered operation of human rights, and, in this connection, democratic regulation of political and legal life, has become standard criteria of legitimating modern states. Only with the presupposition of respect of human rights is the effective working of a true pluralist-parliamentary democracy possible. Otherwise, what we shall have is a formal legal simulation and a permanent postponing of democracy. The subversive element of natural law which insisted on delimitation between society and the state ("freedom *from* the state") has nowadays given way to positive law, to the operation of human rights within the state's legal order ("*through* constitutional law"). As Habermas suggests, "the revolutionary moment of turning natural into positive law has been worn out during the long process of democratic integration of the basic rights" (cited in Savic). This change led to the creation of both political space and a legal framework for citizens' participation in democratic decision-making procedures.

The former Yugoslavia (FRY) is an example that depicts the situation of a "state" for not complying with international human rights obligations. The crisis of implementation of human rights in the FRY was sharpened by the fact that this state has been excluded from nearly all international institutions. Systemic and massive violation of human rights in the FRY has turned out to be one of the principal obstacles to return into the international community and to possible future integration into the European Union. Strong pressures on the state – which must improve legal and constitutional protection of the individual – have come from the sector of civic organizations, associations and movements. These initiatives contain a potential threat to the legitimacy and sovereignty of a state which is indifferent and cynical to the question of human rights. The process of subversion of state sovereignty is also possible through human rights

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although individual citizens of a country are not subject to international law. Only in the courtroom and in the language of law are rights defended and represented as the achievable rights of individuals, which citizens may litigate. In that respect, realistic conditions still do not exist for an individual to win in court proceedings against his/her state in an international court.

Expanding the scope of human rights protections has not been easy. While some important changes emerged out of religious belief and duty, compassion, or a sense of responsibility to others was the outcome of war, persecution, slavery, territorial conquest, state terror, torture, the exploitation of women and children, ethnic cleansings, and mass exterminations of persons. Furthermore, each attempt to create new visions of rights has been met with powerful opposition and enormous resistance. Sixty-five countries, for example, have not ratified the Convention against Torture, including Angola, the Congo, Liberia, Pakistan, Iraq, Nicaragua, Thailand and Syria. And although 191 countries (including all major European allies) have ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the United States has still not done so. Winning the protection of rights continues to be a major global struggle in the race against war and oppression.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Setting Standards

As Michel Ignatieff has suggested, without the Holocaust, there is no *Universal Declaration*. But while the absolute brutality of the mass industrial killing of Jewish people served as the occasion and wellspring for the great performative event known as the *Declaration*, other specters were present, even if less well recognized. The haunting presence of these specters registers, however dimly, in the preamble to the UDHR: "Whereas it is essential, if a man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law." What is this curious figure of "rebellion against tyranny and oppression" against which human rights "should be protected"? What was this unnamed and unmarked haunting figure against which the new alliance of global powers had come to develop and deploy the new weapon of international human rights?

About this other, the westward turning and fine-tuning of the rights question via the UDHR would say little. A formal and explicit registering of the challenge(s) of decolonization at the level of United Nations international decrees occurred only with the 1960s the General Assembly's "Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples," which was an important

departure that represented the “rebellion against the tyranny.”

If we were simply to assume the continuity of this history into the present, we might suppose the human rights has a representational structure directly related to that structure of political representation instituted across Europe over the course of the 19th century. In the new scene of “post-coloniality” and international cosmopolitanism the exceptionalized specter of violence may now be subject to witness owing to, among other factors, the rise of discourse of human rights. In contrast to the Cold War context of silence surrounding Setif, Madagascar, Kenya, the West now may come to hear of genocidal violence in East Timor, Rwanda, the Sudan (with varying degrees of timeliness and urgency). But despite the presence of such instruments of visibility at the transnational level this has only served to further spectralize the “nonexceptional everyday situations of exploitation and oppression” (Cheah, *Spectral*, 231).

The political utility of international human rights practice is a critical question for our time. Can human rights serve to advance progressive politics in the contemporary world? Can human rights deliver any real social and political change in the world of global politics? The intellectual left (communist, socialist, liberal, social democrat, anarchist) has been weighing in on this question with increasing frequency and urgency. The range of disagreement is pronounced. On one hand, human rights are seen as an answer to the search for an oppositional framework capable of contesting the globalized force and world devastations of contemporary capitalism. In these scenarios, contemporary globalization is understood as having created new, objective conditions for progressive, even radical, opportunity which confers to ‘rights practice’ an unprecedented power and imbues it with heavy doses of hope (Harvey 2000). On the other hand, human rights are believed to provide a convenient cover for the extension of capitalist-democratic uneven relations of power by reinforcing imperialist hegemonic control (Hardt and Negri 153). In these scenarios, human rights are not a sign of hope, but a part of an ominous trend toward the extension of a neo-liberal, global capitalist hegemony. In short, the question of the political value of human rights in the contemporary period has generated theoretical debates that are wildly divergent in their assessment of international human rights.

No singular text has done more to shape the contours of the contemporary discourse of human rights than the UDHR. The UDHR set forth an impressive array of human rights that all persons would receive “without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other

opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status" (Article 2). The enumerated rights include:

the right to life, liberty and the security of the person; to recognition as a person before the law; to equal protection before the law; to effective remedy; to be presumed innocent; to freedom of movement...within the borders; to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country; to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution; to a nationality; to marry [men and women of full age]; to own property; to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; to freedom of opinion and expression; to freedom of peaceful assembly and association; to take part in the Government of his country; to social security; to work; to equal pay for equal work; to just and favourable remuneration insuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity; to form and join trade unions; to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay; to a standard of living adequate for health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing, and medical care and necessary social services, ...to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood; to education; to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits; to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author. (UDHR, Articles 3-27)

According to Michael Ignatieff, however, the real importance of the UDHR, beyond any of its specific content, lay in the fact that "before the Second World War, only states had rights in international law" (37). With the passage of the UDHR of 1948, however, "the rights of individuals received international legal recognition [and] for the first time, individuals—regardless of race, creed, gender, age or any other status— were granted rights that they could use to challenge unjust state law or oppressive customary practice" (37). The codification of the individual as a right-bearing subject in international law constituted, in Ignatieff's terms, the onset of an "international rights revolution" (5). Or as Michel Foucault, to whose criticisms we will later turn, said of this revolution of the individual: "Amnesty International, Terre des Hommes, and Medecins du Monde are initiatives that have created this new rights— that of private individuals to effectively intervene in the sphere of international policy and strategy" (Foucault 475). Indeed for the first time in the annals of history, a

large coalition of nation states (the number was 48 then) signed onto a single document that promised, among other things, “equality without distinctions.” Human rights, as codified in the *Declaration* were to be applied without limits, evenly, thus without insiders and outsiders.

Unfulfilled Promises

The *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* came as a great “promise” for people in the midst of intense despair resulted by the devastating two World Wars. Given the ambitious scope of the promise, it is not at all surprising that the concept of human rights has not fulfilled its declared mission. The yawning gap between the promise and the record, the hope and the reality is palpably evident. On this fact everyone is agreed, allowing of course for differences of opinion over how successful human rights practice has been since 1948 even if inadequate to its highest aspirations. There is no consensus, however, over either the causes for this relative failure or the possible means of improvement. What can be said for certain is that the specter of failure hovers over the practice of international human rights animating human rights practitioners and critics alike. As David Harvey has written, “The question of the application of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights now hovers over the world as a contested set of universal principles looking for application.” Such a question, Harvey suggests prompts us to inquire further: “What, then, do we make of these principles under contemporary conditions of globalization” (42)?

Human rights activists tend to use the failures to develop new strategies of application and redouble efforts to achieve the Great Promise, while critics point to the realities of continuing widespread violence, inequalities and genocides to question whether human rights is up to the task of realizing its own stated principles (let alone realizing principles and goods which some critics believe are absent from the *Declaration*). Philosopher-advocates tend to use the failures as an occasion to raise anew the question of universality, and the paradoxes of the universal and the particular. Critics have claimed that this historic gap between the Great Promise of Human Rights and the realities of violence in the second half of the twentieth century and into our present is best understood in terms of the colonial deformations and contaminations which attend to the discourse of human rights in “the international frame of their invocation” (Cheah 233).

Question of Universal Applicability

One of the principal problems, long recognized by advocates and critics alike, stems from the historical origins of the concept of human rights. The universal scope of applicability claimed by international human rights is troubled by the cultural specificity of their conceptual origins. As the French philosopher Jacques Derrida has written, "The norms, charter, and definition of the human rights mission depends on a certain historical culture" and they are "indissolubly wedded to certain European philosophical concepts" (85). Despite significant attempts to lessen the cultural boundedness of the concept of human rights in the formulation of a new universality, even stalwart advocates acknowledge that the UDHR is a decidedly Western product. During the drafting of the *Declaration* differences and debates "were framed essentially within the European philosophical tradition" and "non-European traditions of law and philosophy ...rarely intruded into deliberations" (Johnson and Symonides 46). In addition to a Western-dominated Commission chaired by Eleanor Roosevelt, NGO involvement was almost exclusively from U.S. based organizations, including the American Law Institute, the American Federation of Labor, the American Jewish Committee, the Women's Trade Union League, and the American Bar Association. This is no small fact for a document that portended to speak for everyone, everywhere.

According to critics Pollis and Schwab, human rights is a "Western construct of limited applicability...a 20th century fiction, dependent on the rights traditions of the United States, Britain and France...and therefore inapplicable in cultures that do not share this historical matrix of individualism" (cited in Ignatieff, fn.7). Advocates, on the other hand, tend to assert that the cultural specificity can be overcome and that the spread of human rights to non-Western cultures in contemporary globalization has greatly diminished the force of this contaminating source. In the most nuanced and suggestive of such formulations, Cheah has argued,

The globalization of market mechanism and production requires the creation of a technologically educated labouring and administrative class in the South. But the requisite globalization of education also leads to the formation of a strata of activists. These human right NGOs...make claims that are provisionally against the interests of global capitalism. Yet...these provisional points of resistance are also reinscribed into the text of global capitalism.... (290)

While the historical origins of the concept of human rights are decidedly European, the discourse of human rights, since at least World War II, has been largely controlled by the reigning imperial power, the United States. As cultural theorist Edward Said says, “so completely has the power of the United States – under which in some measure we all live – invested even the vocabulary of universality that the search for “new ideological means” to challenge it has become in fact more difficult...” (45).

Challenges, Defenses

Despite the general and widespread ‘abuse’ of human rights discourse by numerous governments, it is further (mis)used by imperialist states to legitimate military adventurism in the post-Cold War era that has contaminated the field of international human rights. And this type of imperialist instrumentalization, operating under the guise of humanitarian intervention to protect, among other things, the human rights of citizens, has become all-too-typical of the powerful nations. And this is a dangerous trend for the future of human rights practice, as even staunch advocates like Michael Ignatieff have argued: “as the West intervenes ever more frequently but ever more inconsistently in the affairs of other societies, the legitimacy of its rights standards is put into question” (19-20). While double standards and gross hypocrisies are not new to imperialist practice, human rights discourse has become a privileged figure in the ideological arsenal of contemporary imperialism.

In the *Specters of Marx*, Derrida poses a number of interesting challenges for human rights and international institutions more generally. He advances the idea of a “New International” emerging out of the very inadequacies of the current international system. Derrida figures such inadequacies of human rights as fundamental incapacities:

A “new international” is being sought through [the] crises of international law; it already denounces the limits of a discourse on human rights that will remain inadequate, sometimes hypocritical, and in any case formalistic and inconsistent with itself as long as the law of the market, the ‘foreign debt,’ the inequality of techno-scientific, military, and economic development maintain an effective inequality as monstrous as that which prevails today, to a greater extent than ever in the history of humanity. (85)

The practice of international human rights operates within conditions defined

by the uneven economic development of the modern world-system as produced through the history of colonial capitalism. The insertion of formal equalities into conditions of extreme inequality tends to be distorted in their dispensation because of the differential access to the means and resources required to use such forms. Therefore the uneven geographies of world power have a transformative effect on the abstract equality promised by human rights.

A defining feature of contemporary human rights practice is the activists and organizations cultivating strategies to raise the practice above the conflictual politics of the global order onto the plane of neutral principles. And these “universalizing operations” place human rights discourse above or beyond politics of human rights at work. Thus, while the discourse is invested with certain “universal” qualities, accounting in part for its liberal allure, the politics of human rights can be gleaned through an examination of the various ideological practices designed to overcome the historic contaminations – inequality, partiality, non-neutrality, etc.– that have inextricably attended to international human rights practice since the *Declaration*.

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पहिलो पटक

निःशुल्क जीवन तथा दुर्घटना मृत्यु बीमा सुविधाका साथ प्रस्तुत



जीवनमा बचत गरौं... जीवन नै बचत गरौं

नेपाल इन्भेस्टमेन्ट बैंक लि. मा सुरक्षा बचत खाता खोली तपाईंले निःशुल्क रु. १ लाखको जीवन बीमा तथा रु. २ लाखको दुर्घटना मृत्यु बीमा सुविधा पाउन सक्नुहुनेछ ।

| हाल लाई १८ - ४० वर्षका ग्राहकहरूमा मात्र लागू हुने |

| न्यूनतम मीज्दात - रु. ४,००० | घर, हायर पर्चेज, शिक्षा तथा सुन-चाँदी कर्जामा विशेष छुट |

| निःशुल्क इन्टरनेट बैंकिङ सुविधा | निःशुल्क मोबाइल बैंकिङ सुविधा |

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Lumbini- The Birth Place of Lord Buddha

*Om Ratna Tamrakar******

Introduction

Lumbini is the birthplace of Lord Gautam Buddha, the light of Asia-the enlightened one. Nepal has celebrated 2558th Birth Anniversary of Lord Gautam Buddha on May 14, 2014 i.e. Baishakh 31, 2071 Wednesday in a grand manner all over the country mainly at Lumbini and Kathmandu Anandakuti Bihar. On the morning of the Anniversary program a General Buddha Meeting was organized on that occasion, Dharma Deshana Sabha was taught to the followers of Buddha.

Concept

The Lumbini is the quaint essential Buddhist heritage not only of Nepal but of the whole world. The sacred garden of Lumbini is the centre of attraction for the pilgrims and tourists which is spread over 8sq.kms. It possesses all the treasures of the historical areas. The site of Mayadevi Temple is equally important site. Mayadevi was the mother of Siddhartha Gautam Buddha. Lumbini is the place where the Buddha was born in 623 B.C. It is now being developed under the master plan of the Lumbini Development Trust, a non-governmental organization. It is also one of the world heritage sites of Nepal. Pilgrims pay homage to the apostle of peace on the auspicious occasion of Baishakh Poornima (Full moon day of Baishakh). It is a place of pilgrimage which is known and very popular in the Buddhist World.

We can travel there with a direct flight from Kathmandu to Bhairahawa and from there (Bhairahawa), is direct bus service to Lumbini which takes half an

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hour. There are many good hotels such as Lumbini Hokke Hotel and Nirvana. You will find good guest houses to stay over there as a tourist of pilgrims or pleasure trip.

Birth anniversary of Lord Siddhartha Gautam Buddha is called 'Buddha Jayanti' or 'Baishakh Poornima' or 'Swanya Punhi'. Buddha Jayanti is the special occasion for Buddhist, Hindus and all those who believe in Buddhism. People celebrate this day of Lord Buddha's birth, enlightenment and death (Nirvana). Lord Buddha's birth place Lumbini Grove is in the Terai Region of Nepal and is crowded with the follower of Buddhists from around the world. In Kathmandu, Buddhists of all persuasions as well as pilgrims from abroad, honour the Buddha at the two great stupas Swayambhunath and Boudhanath. Activity at main Buddhists stupas and shrines begins at dawn. Swayambhunath and Boudhanath of Kathmandu are the busiest sites on the day of Buddha Poornima (Jayanti). The day is also celebrated in various parts of the world to spread the message of peace, harmony and non-violence.

Thousands of devotees throng Boudhanath Stupa, Swayambhunath Stupa and other Buddhist shrines in the Kathmandu Valley to pay homage to Lord Buddha. Similarly, rallies are also organized to spread the message of peace and non-violence.

The government of Nepal has declared Public Holiday to observe the day. On the Occasion Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, the President, wished all Buddhists and Nepalese and abroad by saying "I'm confident that this day will inspire all Nepalese to maintain peace and religion." He further added that the message of Lord Buddha was as relevant as it was then. As messaged on the auspicious occasion of 2558th Buddha Jayanti by Dr. Yadav the president of Nepal is very confident that this day will inspire all Nepalese at home and abroad to maintain peace and harmony. He further added that the message of Lord Gautam was as relevant in these days as it was then. These messages should be carefully used in dealing with all kinds of good business i.e. home, office, school, college, academy, institution etc where we deal frequently in our day to day life for peace keeping forever.

Prime Minister Sushil Kumar Koirala also wished all Nepalese people for peace and happiness "The Nepali Society, which experienced unheard violence and conflict, is now heading to the path of peace shown by Lord Buddha. Only peaceful and enabling environment can help us achieve happiness and prosperity through socio-economic development in the country." Koirala

said in a message. On the occasion, Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr. Koirala says that the Nepali Society which experienced unbearable violence and conflict is now heading to the path of peace as shown by Lord Gautam Buddha and only peaceful and enabling environment can help us to achieve happiness and prosperity through socio-economic development in the country. As stated by Our Prime Minister of Nepal, we should not involve in unbearable violence and conflict at any cost. We must be head towards the path of peace as taught by Lord Gautam Buddha and only after that we can observe happiness and prosperity of our life peaceful and enabling environment.

Lumbini is the Buddhist's Birthplace whereas Bodhgaya in India is the place where he attained enlightenment. But India is claiming the birthplace of Lord Gautam Buddha was in India not in Nepal. This type of controversies should be avoided permanently through proper channel by the Government of Nepal. The government had first declared Buddha Jayanti Day as Public Holiday on May 22, 1951. The United Nations has also been observing Buddha Jayanti Day as Public holiday at its various bodies since 2002.

Conclusion

We should follow the teaching of Lord Gautam Buddha for peace, harmony and non-violence on reality not only on words, in our day to day life. Then, we can feel peace in our mind and all over the country as well as world.

**On the occasion
of
the 67th Anniversary of
the Nepal Council of World Affairs
We offer our heartiest felicitations
and best wishes**



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Gradual Developments of Socio-Educational Services

- Dr. Mahabir Prasad Yadav*****

Introduction: A Glimpse On The Life Of Physically Challenged In Ancient Times-

Ever Since the dawn of human civilization, disability has been part of human society in all ages.

The history of the life of persons with disabilities may be divided into three phases :

Annihilation or rejection-

The phase of Annihilation or rejection witnessed most ruthless annihilation of the visually impaired babies by such centres of human societies as Sparta and Athens, chucking them into rivers or from peaks of mountains, denying them existence.

II. Emancipation

The traditional countries and the magnanimous elements dwelling therein motivated people to grant the disabled persons at least the right of existence, thus saving the blind, mute / deaf and dumb and orthopedically disabled babies from decimation.

However the sightless remained alien to the society, ostracised in isolation.

Disabled obtained opportunity to exhibit their innate talents. They attained great credit and an enviable position in theology, music & literature. The sighted and

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the abled bodied humane elements were tremendously influenced in this way, the synthesised forces of human compassion, affirmative imprints engendered by the disabled self-savior in variegated sectors, religious considerations and minimal state assistance vibrated the social conscience leading the intellectual elites to speculate about liberating and emancipating persons with disabilities from alienation with the view to integrate them with the society through the process of imparting education in the special residential schools, as well as the integrated educational schemes.

III. Integration:-

Subsequently the phase of integration which may more appropriately be termed as semi social integration began.

1 France:-

The chronological records of history reveal that 18th century philosopher and educationist namely Diderot rendered sober considerations on educating the blind, although it was merely on the philosophical plains.

The stimulus of Diderot's thought is said to have been a visually impaired lady who had attained a commendable intellectual glory due to her own persistent pursuit of knowledge under the sagacious guidance and counseling of her beloved mother.

the destiny had indeed, allotted the responsibility of inception and establishment of formal education of visually disabled children to another philosopher called Valentine Haüy. It is he who is supposed to be eulogised for the transformation of Diderot's ideas into reality.

Having interacted with a Blind musician, he established the first ever school of its kind for the visually challenged children in Paris in 1784.

Thus, new chapter of formal education for visually handicapped children began in the history of the world.

Valentine Haüy is no doubt the father of the formal education for blind.

2 Vienna—

The foundation of the first ever school for the formal education of the sightless in Paris was followed by the establishment of a number of institutions in various

European Countries for imparting formal education & shelter bearing the title of "asylum/industrial homes for the blind".

Such institutions provided shelters for the blind initially but later on with the passage of time they qualified themselves to be addressed as schools for the sightless. A school of this nature was founded by Johan Wilhelm Lei of Vienna in the year 1806. He made his best endeavour to base the education of the visually impaired on the sound pedagogical principles, to a large extent under the prevalent social milieu during these days.

Lei met the ruler of Vienna personally and entreated him earnestly for issuing his decree and laying down such legal provisions which could grant education and shelter to the blind.

3 United Kingdom—

The first seeds of formal education for Visually impaired were sown in their germinal forms in United Kingdom when first school was setup in 1786 and the second in 1791. The process of educating blind continued and from 1834-1836 the experiments were carried out in Edinburgh to educate the visually impaired children through integrated education programme and the same process of experiments was repeated in Greenock and Scotland in 1868.

4 United States of America —

By the year 1900 both the schemes, Special Schools as well as the Integrated Education Programme were launched in the United States of America. The parents of the visually disabled children demanded the education for their wards and the "Day-Class" was immediately started for them.

Frank H. Hall, the Superintendent of Illinois School For The Blind, Edward J. Nollan, a former graduate of the State School For The Blind and John B. Curtis, former student of the Illinois School For The Blind and a graduate of the Chicago University formed an informal group to persuade the local board of education to experiment with the "Day-Class" for visually handicapped along with their sighted counterparts. In the year 1909 in Cleveland such classes for visually disabled came to bear the title of the Braille classes. Robert B. Irwin who headed this programme with a view of combining the virtues of the special residential schools with those of the Integrated Education Programme, called his pupils even on holidays in the pursuit of the instructions in music,

crafts and mathematics for overcoming the drawbacks elsewhere. The teachers not only imparted education to their pupils but also supervised their table manners at lunch and dinner, took them on the week-end hikes and above all, encouraged them to accept and face the most formidable challenges of their life. The Education For All Act (Efa.) of 1975 furnished education to visually handicapped without any hindrance.

This Act grants full liberty to visually impaired for primary, secondary and tertiary education. The opportunities have been equalized and the laws have been framed to protect such values of life as awareness, health and medical care, rehabilitation, support services, equal participation, accessibility, education, vocation, social security, income maintenance, family life and personal integrity, religion, recreation, sports and culture.

Americans With Disability Act (Ada) has such legal provisions by which the public will have to abide by its own responsibility of integrating the disabled persons and those violating the laws will be subjected to the stringent chastisement within the cantonment of the American Judiciary.

5 India:-

In India the applause for initiating the process of education for the visually challenged people must be showered on Miss Annie Sharp, a Christian missionary.

A critic Margaret E. Ross, has rightly called her the "Mother of education for the blind in India.

Ross again goes on to emphatically assert that founded by Miss Annie Sharp in 1887 the first ever school for the visually impaired persons was officially registered with the then government and well established in the compound of Saint Catherine's Hospital Amritsar & it was known as North India Industrial Home For The Christian Blind.

It makes evident that the persons with their visual disability were provided with shelter & they were instructed in the pursuit of religious training; although, some trainings in the handicrafts & Braille script were also imparted to them.

However, the secular form of education still remained a distant dream for such people as with their visual impairment.

Miss Sharp conducted the training courses, earnestly served the institution with

a very humane, holy and philanthropic spirit, & inspired another compassionate educationist namely, Dr. Chatrapati to start one more school for the blind at Ahmedabad in 1895.

Miss Sharp's aspiration was to move her school for differently abled persons from Amritsar to a more tranquil, healthy & climatically congenial environment.

Her cherished dream was fully realized when she procured a property of plotted-land at 229, Rajpur Road Dehradun.

In 1903 this school was shifted from Amritsar to delightful Dun Valley.

We learn from the pamphlet of 1902 by Margaret E. Ross, former superintendent of the sharp memorial school for the blind, that "The work for the blind in northern India was initiated by Miss Hewlitt & commenced by Miss Sharp.

"Deepawali" were circulated to the institutions & visually disabled individual readers in 1953.

In the year 1952 India participated in the conference of the World council for the Welfare of the blind and International Council for the education of the visually handicapped.

Since then onwards the Government of India started providing financial assistance to voluntary organizations & the individual blind students for their education, rehabilitation, vocational trainings and social upliftment so as to ensure their full participation in the mainstream of the nation.

Disabled persons required legislation for the elimination of militating social prejudices, superstition, apathy, and start initiating the process of upliftment through their integration into the mainstream of the nation. They actually needed the laws as weapons to fight for rights of equality, justice, protection of rights and full participation in government services.

The year 1981 was designated as the international year for disabled persons by the United Nations under the theme of "Full Participation, Equality for the disabled."

During the international year for disabled persons 1981 the World Programme of Action was also launched, which was reviewed at the Global Meeting of the member states in 1987.

The United Nations Decade for the rights of the disabled persons was held at

The institution was renamed as Sharp Memorial School For The Blind.

Thus, the seeds of formal education for visually disabled were sown in there Germinal & the yielding form as a consequence of which several special residential schools were set up in the different parts of the country.

It was for the first time that the Government Of India appointed a Committee in the year 1941 under the chairmanship of Sir Clutha Mackenzie himself a war blinded person, to assess the miserable plight of the war-blinded people and consider the rehabilitation and the welfare measures for the visually impaired persons.

In the subsequent year 1942 the government appointed another Committee to work out the details of a common Braille code based _{on} the phonetic system and submit the report and its recommendations for the education of the blind in India.

In 1944 a survey was conducted and the report of the aforesaid committee on blindness was submitted to the government, and by 1944 around 50 voluntary organizations & institutions began to operate for the education and welfare of the visually challenged people.

In 1950 the Braille Printing Press was established for the first time at Presidents Bodyguard Lines Dehradun & the first ever printed Braille magazine in Hindi called the "Primer" and Stockholm in 1987 in which it was emphatically stated that opportunities for the persons with disabilities should be equalized & the suggestion were made to evolve a "Guiding Philosophy indicating the priorities for action" in the forth coming years, the foundation of which should be the recognition of rights of all disabled persons.

Subsequently, as the result of persistent endeavour and a strenuous strife of Persons With Disabilities, their perpetual battle for right to education and gainful employment was won when a comprehensive legislation was passed on 22nd December 1995 by both the houses of Indian parliament.

Friday the 22nd December 1995 must be written in the Golden Letters in the history of the Disability Movement for education, Employment & Welfare measures.

This law being assented by the President of India & gazetted on 01.01.1996 was enforced on 07.02.1996 by the Central Govt. though very unfortunately, it tarried and remained for too long merely on papers.

This law guarantees to Physically Challenged persons equal opportunities, Social security, & full participation in education & employment by providing Three Percent reservation.

"Govt. institutions and the Govt. aided institutions receiving grants will have to reserve vacancies not less than Three percent for Persons With Disabilities."

6 Nepal:-

Nepal has just taken a step forward in this direction so far, and simply witnessed the dawn.

Allot more is needed to be rendered in the socio-educational services of physically challenged community.

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**On the occasion
of
the 67th Anniversary of
the Nepal Council of World Affairs
We offer our heartiest felicitations
and best wishes**



**ICTC Group Pvt.Ltd.
Kathmandu**

Bilateral Labor Agreements on Migrant Workers

*Rudra Sharma******

The government of Nepal has opened 109 countries for sending Nepali workers and the government is stilling seeking for better countries for sending Nepali workers. The government is supposed to provide approval to send workers on the basis of an agreement singed with the country of destination. However, the government of Nepal has till date signed such agreements or Memoranda with only a few countries and the government is preparing draft with some more countries. The following is an account of the same.

Memorandum of Understanding Between the Government of Nepal and the Government of United Arab Emirates in the Field of Manpower dated July 3, 2007.

Agreement Between His Majesty's Government of Nepal and the Government of the State of Qatar concerning Nepalese Manpower employment in the State of Qatar dated March 21, 2005

Memorandum of Understanding in the area of labor and occupational training between the government of the kingdom of Bahrain and the government of Nepal dated 29th April, 2008.

Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Labor and transport management of Nepal and the Ministry of the Republic of Korea on the sending of workers to the Republic of Korea under the employment permit system dated 18th January 2010.

***** Mr. Sharma is a Member of NCWA

Memorandum of Understanding between Japan International Training Cooperation Organization (JITCO) and His Majesty's Government of Nepal, Ministry of Labor and Transport Management (MOLTM) on training industrial workers in Japan.

Agreement on Workers Recruitment between the ministry of social affairs and labor of the Government of Kuwait and the Ministry of Labor and employment, government of Nepal dated

Agreement on Domestic Service Workers' Recruitment between the Ministry of Labor of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Ministry of Labor and employment of the government of Nepal dated ...

Agreement on Workers Recruitment between the Ministry of Human Resources Malaysia and the Ministry of Labor and employment, Government of Nepal dated

The above account mentions that Nepal has signed agreements on migrant worker with only one country Qatar and has signed Memorandum of Understandings (MoU) with three countries UAE, Bahrain and Korea. Korea is under permit system. Another MOU is signed with Japan for the purpose of training industrial workers. Agreements with Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Malaysia are still in draft phase. However, it is said that Nepal has opened 109 countries for foreign employment. It is reasonable to say that Nepal should have labor agreements with all 109 countries which are opened for foreign employment.

Government of Nepal should take the matter of foreign employment seriously since almost 25 percent of the population of Nepal is said to be outside Nepal as migrant workers. Nepal is a country of 28 millions populations out of which more than 7 millions have gone out of Nepal as a migrant workers. More than 34 hundred thousand people (basically youth men and women both) have gone to work outside Nepal with government permission. However, this figure does not include migrant workers who have gone to India from Nepal and this figure also does not include who have gone to work outside without having permission of the government of Nepal. The number of Nepali migrant workers to India is expected to be 3 to 5 millions. As such, more than 25 percent of the population of Nepal has gone out of the country as migrant worker. This scenario has changed the traditional identity of Nepal as an agricultural based economy and has made the identify of Nepal as remittance based economy.

Basically, it is the law of contract that governs the relationships related to migrant workers. However, there may be several forms and aspects of the law of contract we need to dig into it for the purpose of providing answers of the assigned questions. A young Nepali guy from village of Nepal goes for foreign employment to Gulf countries, Malaysia or any other countries signing contract with his employer which is basically a company or individual in those countries. Actually, it is the relationship between the worker or employee or a young guy from village of Nepal and the employer or a company or individual in the country of destination. A contract between employee and employer is supposed to govern all the terms and conditions of the employment. However, there are many other actors that are involved in the process before the employer and employee finally enter into a contract formally or informally. The actors are as follows.

The local Agent who Brings a Young Guy from Village to Manpower Agency

The manpower agency who has obtained order of the worker from the country of destination and manpower agency is supposed to discharge responsibilities under laws. The Companies which are supposed to provide training to the workers before flying to country of destination. The government which has responsibilities to protect rights and interest of its people in home and abroad. The government is also responsible to implement several laws related to this matter. International community which concerns with international laws and bilateral as well as multilateral agreements on protections of rights and interest of migrant workers.

Human Rights organizations which act nationally and internationally are also actors for this. Such institutions concerns with basic human rights of any individual in any condition or any place and also access to justice to any person.

It seems that Nepal has entered into labor agreement with only one country till date. Nepal has MOUs with some other countries and draft MOUs or agreements are being drafted. MoUs are not binding documents like agreements. MoU merely mention intention of the signatory parties. The government should decide prudently with respect to individual countries what to choose between MoUs and agreements and the government should have established at least some legal instruments before allowing manpower recruitment to any country.

Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya: A Visionary Humanist

*Prabhu Yadav******

The 153rd Birth Anniversary of Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya organized by Mahamana Malaviya Mission Nepal, was held at the Everest Hotel New Baneshwor, Kathmandu on 25th December 2014. Prof. Dr. Mrs. Chandrakala Padia, the vice chancellor of Maharaja Ganga Singh University, Bikaner, Rajasthan, who was the chief guest of the anniversary function, expressed the view that both cultural and traditional relations between Nepal and India would flourish in the days to come. When India was ruled by the British, foreign missions were very much active in India. They exploited the values and integrity of Hindustan. Malaviya's mission has enlightened the people all over the world even today.⁽¹⁾

On the same occasion of the 153rd anniversary of Pandit Malaviya, His Excellency Mr. Ranjit Rae, Ambassador of the Republic of India to Nepal, opined that Pandit Malaviya worked to bring independence and modern education system to raise the dignity of Indian people. He remarked that "Nepal – India relationship would grow for ever with Baba Bishwanath and Pasupatinath's grace. There is no need of rhetoric in relation to Nepal and India friendly relations, including the Arun III hydropower project and other mutual cooperation and understanding between Nepal and India". Actually, Malaviya founded the development of several institutions, like School, College, University, Hospital, Inn, Road and Communication with the money collected from the people of India. His Excellency further remarked that "Pandit Malaviya was an example of simple living, high thinking, and bodily beauty". At a public sphere Pandit looked like a beggar, but his courage was higher than that of a warrior".⁽²⁾

Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya was one of the courageous educationists and

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humanists of India during the British Raj. He was also a veteran social worker for the sake of positive change in Indian society. When the English Judge heard the case for Chourichaura massacre of English people, he wanted to award death penalty to the culprits. Pandit Malaviya advocated in the court to release them from jail. He bravely encountered the evils and obstacles that came in the path of the development of the country. He encouraged people to live independently, peacefully and happily in their own territory. Pandit was such a kind and humble person that he could influence and inspire rich person easily to donate for the social, educational and charity works. He had a pure heart as well as deep interest in social change. He would say: "we should not hide our knowledge for the progress of society". He had an intense zeal for social integrity. For example, an engineer should have an honest plan to construct a solid and strong bridge, road, building and other infrastructures for social development. The engineer should have knowledge about the proper budgetary allocation and its use. Likewise, a doctor should rescue sick people from all sorts of nightmare diseases. According to him, the very duty of a doctor is precious for the sick and frail people. The teacher also must be devoted to his or her students to empower them with knowledge for the development of society.

Pandit Malaviya had opined: "the duty of a diligent teacher, doctor and engineer is to enhance the nation's capability".⁽³⁾ He was a true follower of honesty, diligence and spirituality, so he remains one of the finest minds in India. Pandit Malaviya was a sincere and devoted man and he wanted to enlighten the life of human beings. Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya knew that education would obviously promote the multi –disciplinary knowledge of Indian people. The Pandit has given us a lesson that we should learn skills like weaving, cooking, gardening and such other works during our study period. The Pandit founded the Kashi Hindu University as a place of learning for multi –disciplinary subjects. The Pandit completed this task founding and developing of Kashi Hindu Vidyalaya \ Viswavidyala before the end of British ruler from the land of Hindustan.

Pandit Malaviya took lesson from our ancestors too. He believed that we must learn a lesson from our scattered materials around our social surroundings. So, we must be proud of our parents in their own life time. Their old age is similar to a green shadow of our house. Our parents are no less valuable than the beauty of nature, though today the youths are destroying the harmony of

society due to their ignorance. Education today does not fulfill the basic needs of human beings.

Likewise, we know that a doctor's job is to restore or serve the helpless people who cannot survive without medicine treatment. Pandit Malaviya knew clearly that our youth must be aware of the importance of service for the sake of the nation and its people. For instance, we should remove the waste of the house; otherwise, the house will be dirty and one day it will turn into a jungle.

The age of Malaviya was marked by the people- to- people relations. Pandit Malaviya developed Hindu culture as a 'green container' of love, grace, kindness and cooperation. Once, a friend of Pandit Malaviya came to share his misery at his door. Pandit Malaviya was sitting at his door and doing his work in the light of a lamp. The Pandit said to his friend: "please wait for a moment until he fetches another lamp to him at the door". The Pandit entered his house and came soon with another lamp to his friend. His friend curiously him why he changed his lamp. He answered to his friend: "the lamp which I removed from there was the lamp of government. The lamp which you see now is the lamp of our house". Malaviya used money by begging from the local people for a constructive purpose. He never misused the money which he got from begging. He used to say: "a language should be used in character, nature, and behavior. Language should not be used in mind, instead of using it in character and behavior".⁽⁴⁾ People today give speech by using rhetoric from books, oral sermons, examples, and the events of their lives. They read the sermon from great books like the Bhagawat Geeta, the Quran, the Bible and other books of great authors and thinkers. But seldom do they utilize and apply those sermons or knowledge in their daily dealings.

The books written by Pandit Malaviya were praised by Mahatma Gandhi. Commenting on the books of Pandit Malaviya, the Mahatama said they seemed like the flows of the Ganga River. Gandhi several times visited Kashi Hindu Vidyalya\ Viswavidyalya during the movement of independence. Gandhi also learned from the principle of Pandit Malaviya. Bapu also used to call him elder brother (Bade Bhaiya, Big Brother).⁽⁵⁾

Today, Pandit Malaviya is a symbol of inspiration for all of us. His education encourages us to purify our heart and it will produce skillful engineers, doctors and scholars. Educationists are awarded degrees for their knowledge at Kashi Hindu Vidyalya\ Vishwavidyalaya, founded by Malaviya. There

is also women's college at Kashi Hindu Vishwavidyalaya. There is no such discrimination between the low, middle and upper caste people at Kashi Hindu Vidyalaya \ Vishwavidyalaya. People feel honoured while studying different disciplines in that university. May the Almighty bless us with the reincarnation of Malaviya to uplift the human race again and again.

Notes and References

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Activities of NCWA (2014-2015)

Activities Photos

Activities of NCWA (2013/2015)

66th Anniversary of the NCWA was held on August 18, 2013 (Bhadra 2, 2070) at Amrapali Banquet, Baluwatar, Kathmandu. Chief Guest Rt. Hon'ble former Chairman, Council of Ministers Mr. Khil Raj Regmi addressed the Council on the occasion. Similarly Guest of the honour Hon'ble former Foreign Minister, Mr. Madhav Prasad Ghimire addressed the Council on "Nepal's Foreign Policy". The programme was opened by the Chief Guest by lighting the traditional lamp. On the occasion the Chief Guest released Council's Annual Journal 2013. Former President of NCWA Mr. Tika Jung Thapa, gave introductory remarks, Former Vice President Mr. Hemanta Kharel welcomed the guests and Secretary General Prof. Dr. Shreedhar Gautam gave a presented vote of thanks on the occasion.

Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Council was held on August 18, 2014(Bhadra 4, 2071) at Kupondole Banquette, Kupondole. The meeting passed the annual budget and proposed programme for the fiscal year 2014/2015. Secretary General Prof. Dr. Shreedhar Gautam presented his annual report 2070. The report was unanimously passed by the meeting. Similarly Treasurer Mr. Prabhu Ray Yadav presented financial statement and annual budget for the next Phisical Year 2071/72. It approved auditor's report and financial report for 2013/2014 and appointed an auditor for the next fiscal year. The meeting passed a proposal to propose Rt. Hon'ble Presient of Nepal to be the patronage of the Council. The meeting was concluded with the speech of Chair by the President Dr. Rajendra B. Shrestha.

NCWA organized a programme to launch a book entitled "Maharaj Chandra Shumsher ko Jivani" (Biography of Prime Minister Chandra Shumsher) written by Mr. Prakash A Raj, Writer and Former Vice President, NCWA on Tuesday, July 23, 2013 (Shrawan 8, 2070), at NCWA Seminar Hall, Pulchowk, Lalitpur. The Chief Guest of the programme Mr. Satya Mohan Joshi released the book. He highlighted Nepalese history during the Rana too period. The writer too spoke on the various aspect of the book.

A talk programme was organized by the Council on "Human Rights and Foreign Aids with Reference to Nepal" on September 5, 2013 at NCWA Seminar Hall, Pulchowk, Lalitpur. The Chief Guest H.E. Mr. John Montague, Sitting Member, Britain's House of Lords spoke on the occasion.

A talk on "Recent Trends of Nepal-EU Relations and Future Perspective" was held on Wednesday, December 4, 2013, at NCWA Hall, Pulchowk, Lalitpur. The Chief Guest H.E. Ms. Rensje Teerink, Ambassador, EU Delegation to Nepal spoke on the topic.

A talk programme on "Recent Trends of Nepal-China Relations: Future Perspective" was organized by the Council on Tuesday, January 7, 2014 at NCWA Hall, Pulchowk, Lalitpur. The Chief Guest H.E. Mr. Wu Chuntai, Ambassador of The People's Republic of China to Nepal spoke on the occasion.

The Council hosted a Dinner in honour of the Resident Ambassadors based in Kathmandu on Thursday, 29th January 2014 at Hotel Shangri-la, Kathmandu.

A talk programme on "Recent Trends of Nepal-India Relations: Future Perspective" was held on Friday, February 7, 2014 (Magh 24, 2070), at NCWA Seminar Hall, Pulchowk, Lalitpur. The Chief Guest H.E. Mr. Ranjit Rae, Ambassador of the Republic of India to Nepal spoke on the subject.

An Interaction and a book release programme entitled "Hand Book: Lifestyle and Non-communicable Diseases" Written by Dr. Rajendra Bahadur Shrestha, Int. Health Consultant and Economist, and Dr. Prakash Raj Regmi, MD (Consultant Cardiologist) was held on Friday, February 7, 2014 (Magh 24, 2070), at NCWA Seminar Hall, Pulchowk, Lalitpur. The book was released by Mr. Tika Jung Thapa, former president, NCWA.

The Council organized a talk on "Recent Trends of Nepal-Norway Relations: Future Perspective" on Monday, February 10, 2014 (Magh 27, 2070), at NCWA Seminar Hall, Pulchowk, Lalitpur. Chief Guest H.E. Mr. Kjell Tormod Pettersen, Ambassador of Norway to Nepal spoke on the subject.

The Council organized a talk programme on "Situation in Afghanistan and its Implications for Pakistan and the Region". The Chief Guest Mr. Sajjad Ashraf, former High Commissioner of Pakistan, spoke on the occasion on Sunday, April 6, 2014, at NCWA Hall, Pulchowk, Lalitpur.

The Council organized a programme in honour of the newly appointed Foreign Minister Hon'ble Mr. Mahendra Bahadur Pandey on Monday, May 5, 2014 at NCWA Hall, Pulchowk, Lalitpur. A book entitled "A Sense of Nepalese Diplomacy" written by Prof. Bishwa Pradhan, Former Secretary and former Nepalese Ambassador to USA was released by the Chief Guest on the occasion. Chief Guest Hon'ble Foreign Minister spoke Nepal's Foreign Policy of Nepal on the occasion.

Nepal Council of World Affairs organized a talk programme on "ADB's Economic Cooperation in Nepal: Future Perspective" on Friday, May 16, 2014 (Jestha 2, 2071) at NCWA Seminar Hall, Pulchowk, Lalitpur. Chief Guest Mr. Kenichi Yokoyama, Country Director, Asian Development Bank (ADB) spoke on the subject.

NCWA organized a talk programme on "Recent Trends of Nepal-Japan Relations: Future Perspective" on Wednesday, July 2, 2014 at NCWA Hall, Pulchowk, Lalitpur. Chief Guest H.E. Mr. Masashi Ogawa, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal spoke on the subject.

The Council organized a talk programme on "Recent Trends of Nepal-Sri Lanka Relations: Future Perspective" on Thursday, July 31, 2014 (Shrawan 15, 2071) NCWA Hall, Pulchowk, Lalitpur. Chief Guest H.E. Mr. W.M. Senevirathna, Ambassador of Sri Lanka spoke on the subject on the occasion.

A book launching programme on "Rastra Sebak Prem Nnanda Vaidya ko Jivani" written by Prof Dr. Jagadish Chandra Regmi was organized by the Council on August 31, 2014 at NCWA Seminar Hall, Pulchowk, Lalitpur. Dr. Rajendra Bahadur Shrestha the NCWA President released the book. The writer highlighted about the book during the occasion.

A talk programme on "South Asia-China Relations in the Age of Globalization" on August 31, 2014 (Bhadra 15, 2071) at NCWA Hall, Pulchowk, Lalitpur. Chief Guest Prof Dr. Imtiaz Ahmed, Professor of International Relations, University of Dhaka spoke on the subject.

The Council organized a one day workshop on "Strengthening Nepal-India Cooperation: Post Modi Visit" on September 12, 2014 Hotel Radisson, Lazimpat, Kathmandu. Three Papers were presented respectively by Dr. Purshottam Oja, Former Secretary, Ministry of Trade on "Trade, Transit and Investment", Dr.

Programmes Photos Caption



Ambassadors of Germany, Israel, Sri Lanka, Norway, and other diplomats are seen in the front row on the occasion of the 66th Anniversary of NCWA on August 18, 2013

Chief Guest, Chairman, Council of Minister of, Mr. Khil Raj Regmi, Guest of Honour Mr. Madhav Ghimie Minister for Foreign Affairs with Executive Committee Members on August 18, 2013



Chief Guest, Chairman, Council of Minister of, Mr. Khil Raj Regmi, addressing the Council on the occasion of the 66th Anniversary of NCWA on August 18, 2013



Chairman, Council of Minister of Nepal, Mr. Khil Raj Regmi, lighting a traditional lamp to inaugurate the 66th Anniversary of NCWA on August 18, 2013

Executive Committee Members in the Annual General Meeting of NCWA on August 18, 2013



A section of Members participating in the Annual General Meeting of NCWA on August 18, 2013



Mr. John Montague, Sitting Member, Britain's House of Lords, responding to the queries at a talk on "Human Rights and Foreign Aids with Reference to Nepal" on September 5, 2013

H.E. Ms. Rensje Teerink, Ambassador, EU Delegation to Nepal responding to the queries at a talk on "Recent Trends of Nepal-EU Relations and Future Perspective" on December 4, 2013



A section of participants in an interaction on "Recent Trends of Nepal-EU Relations and Future Perspective" on December 4, 2013



H.E. Mr. Wu Chuntai, Ambassador of The People's Republic of China in an interaction held on January 7, 2014

A section of participants in an interaction on "Recent Trends of Nepal-China Relations: Future Perspective" on January 7, 2014



Participants at a programme in honour of the Resident Ambassador on January 29, 2014



Participants at a function in honour of the Resident Ambassador on January 29, 2014

H.E. Mr. Ranjit Rae, Ambassador of The Republic of India in an interaction held on February 7, 2014



Dr. Rajendra Bahadur Shrestha highlighting the book entitled "Hand Book: Lifestyle and Non-communicable Diseases" on February 10, 2014



H.E. Mr. Kjell Tormod Pettersen, Ambassador of Norway giving talk on February 10, 2014

A section of participants in an interaction on "Recent Trends of Nepal-Norway Relations: Future Perspective" on February 10, 2014



From Left Mr. Sajjad Ashraf, former High Commissioner of Pakistan Mr. Tika Jung Thapa, H.E. Mr. Arshed Saud Khosa Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Prof. Shreedhar Gautam in an interaction on "Situation in Afghanistan and its Implications for Pakistan and the Region" on April 6, 2014



A glimpse of function held in honour of the Foreign Minister Hon'ble Mr. Mahendra Bahadur Pandey on May 5, 2014

A section of Participants at a function in honour of the Foreign Minister Hon'ble Mr. Mahendra Bahadur Pandey on May 5, 2014



Mr. Kenichi Yokoyama, Country Director, Asian Development Bank, Nepal, in an interaction on May 16, 2014



A section of participants in an interaction on “ADB’s Economic Cooperation in Nepal: Future Perspective” on May 16, 2014

H.E. Mr. Masashi Ogawa, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal giving talk in an interaction on July 2, 2014



A section of participants in an interaction on “Recent Trends of Nepal-Japan Relations: Future Perspective” on July 2, 2014



Executive Committee Members in the Annual General Meeting of NCWA on August 20, 2014

A section of members participating at the Annual General Meeting of NCWA on August 20, 2014



H.E. Mr. W.M. Senevirathna, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Nepal giving talk in an interaction on July 31, 2014



A section of participants in an interaction on "Recent Trends of Nepal-Sri Lanka Relations: Future Perspective" on July 31, 2014

Hon'ble Mahendra Bahadur Pandey Minister for Foreign Affairs addressing the workshop on "Strengthening Nepal-India Cooperation: Post Modi Visit" on September 12, 2014



H.E. Mr. Ranjit Rae addressing the workshop on "Strengthening Nepal-India Cooperation: Post Modi Visit" on September 12, 2014



H.E. Mr. Choe Yong-jin, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Nepal spoke on programme on September 24, 2014

A section of participants in an interaction on “Nepal- South Korea Relations in the Age of Globalization” on September 24, 2014



Dr. Sashanka Koirala CA Member spoke on Federalism and Good Governance on October 30, 2014



Maj. Gen. Dipankar Banerjee, Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, spoke on the issues related to 18th SAARC summit on November 24, 2014

H.E. Ms. Mashfee Binte Shams, Ambassador of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to Nepal giving talk in an interaction on December 23, 2014



A session of participants in an interaction on "Recent Trends of Nepal-Bangladesh Relations: Future Perspective" December 23, 2014



Workshop on "Federalization in Nepal: Prospective and Challenges " on December 29, 2014

A session of participants in a Workshop on December 29, 2014



A round table discussion with Chinese Association of International Understanding (CAFIU), Beijing on October 25, 2014



A group photo with Chinese delegation from Institute of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR), on December 20, 2014

