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Post Investment Summit 2019

Nepal Council of World Affairs organized an interaction programme on "Post Investment Summit 2019" on April 7, 2019, at NCWA Hall, Pulchowk. Former Vice-Chairman of National Planning Commission, Mr. Deependra Bahadur Kshetry, and former Member, National Planning Commission, Dr. Posh Raj Pandey, were speakers on the topic. The programme was started with the introductory remarks from the President of NCWA, Mr. Hemanta Kharel.

Vote of thanks was given by Executive Member of NCWA, Mr. Buddhi Narayan Shrestha, at the end of the programme. At the beginning of the programme, the Vice President, Mr. Umesh Bahadur Malla, gave welcome remarks. The programme was conducted by NCWA treasurer, Mr. Rabindra Nath Bhattarai.



Government of Nepal organized Investment Summit in Kathmandu, Nepal during 29-30 March 2019. To further enhance Nepal's standing as a promising investment destination and build on the recent encouraging developments the Summit generated huge interest in the international community, thus helping to create a positive momentum among potential foreign investors. Dr. Posh Raj Pandey stated that attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) was not a walk in the park. Mr. Deependra Bahadur Kshetri said that Nepal, being a least developed country and without much in the way of natural resources, was not an exception. FDI can provide the country much-needed capital, not to mention managerial expertise and technical knowledge. Even to harness Nepal's immense hydro potential, huge capital was needed.

Human Rights and International Relations

Nepal Council of World Affairs organized an interaction programme on **"Human Rights and International Relations"** on April 25, 2019, at NCWA Hall, Pulchowk. Chairperson of National Human Rights Commission-Nepal, and Former Chief Justice of Supreme Court of Nepal, Hon'ble Anup Raj Sharma chaired the session.

At the programme, introductory remarks was given by the President of NCWA, Mr. Hemanta Kharel. Vote of thanks was given by Vice President of NCWA, Mr. Umesh Bahadur Malla. Executive Member, Miss Jaya Sharma, gave welcome remarks. The programme was conducted by the treasurer of NCWA and Associate Professor Mr. Rabindra Nath Bhattarai.

नेपाल विश्व सम्बन्ध परिषदले मिति २०७६ वैशाख १२ गते **"मानव अधिकार र अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय सम्बन्ध"** विषयमा छलफल तथा अन्तरक्रिया कार्यक्रम आयोजना गरेको थियो । कार्यक्रमका प्रमुख वक्ता राष्ट्रिय मानव अधिकार आयोगका अध्यक्ष माननीय अनूपराज शर्माले मानव अधिकार र अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय सम्बन्धका विविध आयामहरूका बारेमा प्रकाश पार्नु भएको थियो । उक्त कार्यक्रमको अध्यक्षता परिषद्का अध्यक्ष श्री हेमन्त खरेलले गर्नुभएको थियो ।



परिषदले आयोजना गरेको कार्यक्रममा बोल्दै राष्ट्रिय मानव अधिकार आयोगका अध्यक्ष अनूपराज शर्माले नेपालको बदलिँदो परिवेश अनुकूलको अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय सम्बन्ध विस्तार गर्नुपर्नेमा जोड दिनु भयो। कार्यक्रममा बोल्दै शर्माले नेपाल लगायतका मुलुकले पञ्चशीलको सिद्धान्तलाई पालना गरे पनि शक्तिशाली मुलुकले भने त्यसलाई उल्लंघन गरिरहेकोमा दुःख व्यक्त गर्नु भयो ।

मानव अधिकार र अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय सम्बन्धको अवस्थाबारे बोल्दै शर्माले वैदेशिक रोजगारीमा जाने नेपाली कामदारको मानव अधिकारको अवस्था चिन्ताजनक रहको बताउनुभयो । वैदेशिक रोजगारीमा जाने नेपालीको मानव अधिकारको अवस्था कसले हेर्ने, यसमा नेपालको अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय सम्बन्ध मार्फत समाधान खोज्नुपर्नेमा जोड दिँदै 'नेपाली कामदारको मानवअधिकारको रक्षाका लागि जहाँजहाँ नेपाली छन्, त्यहाँको सरकारसँग नेपाल सरकारले मानव अधिकारको सम्बन्धमा सम्झौता गर्नुपर्छ,' भन्नु भयो । शर्माले नेपालको संविधान मानव अधिकारका हिसाबले उत्तम भए पनि कार्यान्वयनको हिसाबले यसको मूल्यांकन गर्न सकिने अवस्था सृजना भएको बताउनु भयो । संविधानमानै धेरैजसो मौलिक अधिकारको व्यवस्था गरिए पनि ती कार्यान्वयन हुने नहुनेमा शंका रहेको बताउँदै मौलिक हक जुन दिन उच्चारण गर्नु त्यही दिन कार्यान्वयन गर्नुपर्ने र 'मानव अधिकारका विषयमा संविधानले सबै दिएको तर केही नदिएको अवस्था छ, त्यसको कार्यान्वयनको अवस्थाले यसलाई पुष्टिगर्छ भन्ने भनाइ राख्नु भएको थियो ।

शर्माले नेपालको संविधानको धारा २६ लाई लिएर पश्चिमाहरू सशक्त बनेको बताउँदै धारा २६ मा गहन विषय र खिँएको र यसले धर्म परिवर्तनको विषयलाई अछेरो पारेको भन्दै त्यसप्रति पश्चिमाहरूले प्रश्न गर्ने गरेको जानकारी समेत दिनुभयो । संविधानमा धर्मनिरपेक्षता उल्लेख गरिए पनि उक्त धाराले धर्मनिरपेक्षताको विषय प्रष्ट नपारेको बारेमा पश्चिमाको चासो हुने गरेको बताउनु भयो । कार्यक्रममा बोल्दै शर्माले राष्ट्रिय मानव अधिकार आयोगको भूमिकाका विषयमा सरकारले कडा ढंगले प्रस्तुत भएको बताउने तर मिडियाले कमजोर ढंगले प्रस्तुत गर्ने गरेको आरोप समेत लगाउने गरेको बताउँदै मानव अधिकारसम्बन्धी प्रस्तावित संसोधन विधेयकले आयोगको भूमिकालाई खुम्च्याउने प्रयास गरेको आरोपसमेत लगाउनु भयो । राष्ट्रिय मानव अधिकार आयोगको कार्यक्षेत्र र अधिकार संकुचित पार्ने गरी विधेयकको मस्यौदा ल्याउनु नहुने धारणा रहेको थियो । यदि संसदमा पेश गरेको विधेयक नै पारित भए अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय क्षेत्रमा नेपालको प्रतिष्ठामा आँच आउन सक्छ, विश्वका सय भन्दा बढी मुलुकमा मानव अधिकार आयोग

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छन् जसमा 'ए' ग्रेडमा रहेका ७१ देश छन् । नेपाल २०५७ सालको स्थापनाकाल देखि नै 'ए' ग्रेडमा पर्दै आएको छ । तर समचारहरुमा आए जस्तै विधेयक पास गर्ने हो भने आयोगको 'ग्रेडिड' घटुवा हुनसक्ने बताउनु भयो र यस्तो हुन नदिन कानून मन्त्रीसंग बारम्बार सम्पर्क तथा छलफल चलि रहेकोले यस्तो अवस्था आउन नसक्नेमा आफू ढुक्क रहेको बताउनु भयो । शर्माले विगतमा सरकारको आग्रहमा आयोगलाई कार्यकारिणीको प्रत्यक्ष निगरानीमा राख्ने प्रावधानसहित ल्याइएको मानव अधिकार आयोग ऐन, २०६८ को संशोधन सम्बन्धी विधेयक संसद् सचिवालयमा दर्ता गरिएको तर सरोकारवाला संघसंस्था र विपक्षी दलको व्यापक विरोधका कारण विधेयक सार्वजनिक हुन नसकेको बताउनु भयो ।

कार्यक्रमा अध्यक्षता गर्नु भएका विश्व सम्बन्ध परिषद्का अध्यक्ष हेमन्त खरेलले मानव अधिकार जस्तो गम्भिर विषय सरकार र देशको प्रतिष्ठसँग गाँसिएको बताउनु भयो । छापामा आएजस्तै गरी आयोगले आफ्नो प्रतिवेदन महान्यायाधिवक्तालाई बुझाउने गरी संशोधन विधेयक पारित गर्न सरकारले बलमिच्यायी गरेरै ल्याए त्यसको नतिजा सरकारले नै भोग्नुपर्छ भन्नु भयो । छापामा आएका समाचारको कारणले पीडितहरुलाई समेत अन्योलमा पारेको प्रसंग जोड्दै सरकारलाई विधेयकमा राख्न लागि एका केही प्रावधान सच्याउन आग्रह गर्नु भएको थियो । आयोगका मुख्य सरोकार विधेयकको प्रस्तावनाबाट 'स्वायत्तता र स्वतन्त्रता' शब्द हटाउन लागिएको र यसले संविधानमा गरिएको व्याख्यालाई समेत चुनौति दिएको प्रसंग जोड्नु भएको थियो । खरेलले मानव अधिकार आयोग, दलित आयोग, मुस्लिम आयोग, अख्तियार दुरुपयोग अनुसन्धान आयोग जस्ता आयोगहरु स्वतन्त्र हुनुपर्ने बताउनु भयो । यस्ता आयोगमा सरकारको कुनै हस्तक्षेप हुनहुने कुरा विभिन्न देशको तथ्यगत उदाहरण सहित आफ्नो मन्तव्य राख्नु भयो ।



छलफलको क्रममा उपस्थित व्यक्तिबाट गरिएको प्रश्नको उत्तर दिँदै आयोगका अध्यक्ष शर्माले मानव अधिकारका नाममा पीडितलाई न्याय दिन खोजेको तर सरकारको विरुद्धमा गर्न खोजिएको हैन भन्दै सरकारको मात्र स्वार्थ पूरा गर्न आयोगको स्थापना नभएको इतिहास दोहोर्‍याउँदै यस्ता क्रियाकलापबाट आयोग विचलित हुँदैन भन्नु भयो ।

जिज्ञासाको उत्तर दिँदै शर्माले प्रस्तावित विधेयकमा आयोगले कुनै संस्था वा व्यक्तिलाई मुद्दा चलाउनुपर्दा प्रधानमन्त्रीको कानुनी सल्लाहकारको भूमिकामा रहेको महान्यायाधिवक्ताको

कार्यालयलाई सिफारिस गर्नुपर्ने प्रावधान राख्न लागिएको तर त्यो विषय छलफलमै रहेकाले अहिले नै यसै हो भन्न नसकिने बताउनु भयो । मानव अधिकार अयोगले आफ्नो प्रतिवेदन सरकारलाई पेश गर्ने व्यवस्था भएको र महान्यायाधिवक्ता सरकार होइन सरकारको कानुनी सल्लाहकार हो भन्नुभयो । अर्को जिज्ञासाको उत्तर दिँदै शर्माले मानव अधिकारको उत्तरदायित्व सरकारले लिने सम्बन्धमा आफू ढुक्क रहेको जानकारी दिनु भयो ।

नेपाल विश्व सम्बन्ध परिषद्ले आयोजना गरेको उक्त कार्यक्रममा परिषद्का कार्यसमिति सदस्य सुश्री जया शर्माले स्वागत मन्तव्य दिनु भएको थियो भने उपाध्यक्ष श्री उमेश बहादुर मल्लले धन्यवाद ज्ञापन गर्नुभएको थियो । कार्यक्रमको सञ्चालन परिषद्का कोषाध्यक्ष सह प्राध्यापक श्री रविन्द्र नाथ भट्टराईले गर्नु भएको थियो । कार्यक्रममा परिषद्का विभिन्न क्षेत्रका विभिन्न विषयका विज्ञ सदस्य तथा पत्रकार हरूको उपस्थिति रहेको थियो ।



Nepal-India-China Relations in the Present Context

Nepal Council of World Affairs organized an interaction programme on "Nepal-India-China Relations in the Present Context" on June 27, 2019, at NCWA Hall, Pulchowk. Chief Guest of the programme Former Prime Minister Rt. Hon'ble Madhav Kumar Nepal addressed the topic.

In the programme introductory remarks was given by the President of NCWA, Mr. Hemanta Kharel. Vote of thanks was given by Vice President of NCWA, Mr. Umesh Bahadur Malla. Secretary of NCWA, Mr. Bhuvan Pathak, gave welcome remarks. The programme was conducted by the NCWA treasurer and Associate Professor Mr. Rabindra Nath Bhattarai.



Former Prime Minister Rt. Hon'ble Madhav Kumar Nepal, stated that the theme of the seminar was sensitive as it involved relations between three countries, Nepal-India-China. He opined that since Nepal is located in a crucial geostrategic location highlighted by late King Prithvi Narayan Shah as a "yam between two boulders", it should be very careful in conducting its relations with its immediate neighbors India and China. He pointed out that a country should first be economically strong to play a meaningful role in the international arena and remembered how former Chinese President's Hu Jintao had given him this message back in 1998 while explaining about the present and future of China's foreign policy. Highlighting the role of national unity for a strong foreign policy, he argued that a balanced foreign policy aided by active economic diplomacy would be crucial in Nepal's graduation from the status of Least Developed Country (LDC) to a Developing Country. He also emphasized on the need to treat the agricultural sector as the foundation of Nepal's economy and to modernize agriculture in the country so that it could help in generation of jobs and aid exports. He also identified other two sectors, hydropower and tourism, as the engines of Nepal's economic growth. He lamented on the tendency of the people to earn without working hard and the alarming rise in the level of corruption in the country.

The former prime minister emphasized on the need to have a consensus on the foreign and security policies of the country among the political parties. Similarly, he also stressed on the need to study, update, augment and then implement the recommendations on foreign and security policies that were formulated by committees formed under various governments at different points of time. Elaborating on Nepal's relationship with India and China, he stated relations with the immediate neighbors are age-old and defined by the common linkages such as Sita, Bhrikuti, Hinduism and Buddhism. He suggested that it is better to avoid using the word "equidistance" as Nepal's relations with one of its neighbors could not be compared with another and therefore be treated separately. He added that in spite of two different political and economic regimes in India and China, Nepal should cooperate with both its neighbors and could even act as a bridge between them. He strictly cautioned against using one neighbor against the other.

Commenting that our history is more than five thousand years old, he highlighted the glory of Nepal as being independent throughout history. He mentioned that it was a pride for Nepal that its role in global peace has been appreciated worldwide and its peace process has been taken as a guide in other countries. He told that there were three types of tendencies in Nepal with respect to viewing India, namely, surrendering behavior, criticizing behavior and critical analytical approach. He stated that he has always advised Indians leaders to understand the sensitivities of Nepal and sentiments of Nepali people and deal accordingly. He noted that if Nepal is peaceful and stable, it will be beneficial for the peace and security of both the neighbors. Echoing Nepal's endeavor for peace, he reiterated Nepal's commitment to the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and non-participation in any sort of military alliance. He assured that Nepal is steadfast in not allowing any

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terrorist activities against the neighbors from its soil as India is mainly concerned with movement of terrorists across the open border and China is mainly concerned with activities of the advocates of Tibetan independence movement. He declared that Nepal wants to be friends with all the countries and does not hold enmity with anyone. He also recalled how he had convinced the then Indian Prime Minister Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao in 1994 while meeting him as Nepal's Foreign Minister to open the Bangabandhu route for trade with Bangladesh instead of the India-proposed route of Radhikapur which would not have been feasible for Nepal due to its distance and poor connectivity.



Answering the questions, Rt. Hon'ble Madhav Kumar Nepal stated that development, aided by economic diplomacy, should be our national priority and we should be free from the "small state syndrome". He pointed out that issues related to the constitution are our internal matter and external interference on it cannot be accepted. He also hoped that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi would accept the EPG report at the earliest. He opined that Nepal should take part in China-led BRI mega project based on our national interests. He also assured that he would take up matters related to the committee reports on Nepal's foreign and security policies at the highest level for its successful implementation. He pointed out that the government might have sought some more time to graduate from the LDC status to extract benefits at the moment so that it can be fully prepared to upgrade its status after a few years. He also stated that Nepali people have chosen republicanism and secularism and there was no chance of these systems being reversed. He also highlighted on the need for Nepal to address the issues of global warming and climate change and recalled the cabinet meeting that took place in Sagarmatha's Kalapatthar area to highlight the cause during his tenure as the prime minister.

The former prime minister emphasized on adopting strict measure to discourage religious conversion in the country. He opined that Nepal should promote religious tourism to attract one billion Hindus and Buddhists around the world. He also explained his concept of building a museum in which replicas of all major pilgrimage sites across the country could be accommodated. Similarly, he envisioned the concept of a museum at Narayanhiti Palace where the history of all the dynasties that ruled Nepal could be portrayed as well as all the major political events that have taken place in Nepal's history could be highlighted. He pointed out that the issue related to Pashupatinath Temple need to be dealt sensitively as it involves the role of UNESCO as well as sentiments of the local people. He also pledged to keep on working for the people of Rautahat because of his close sentimental attachment with his birthplace and its people as well as ponder into the issue related to smuggling of alcohol across the Gaur border. Regarding trust deficit with neighbors, he urged that we all should look to the future to build trust and maintain cordial relations by utilizing all tracks of diplomacy rather than delve in the issues of the past.

Dr. Binod P. Bista, Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Tika Dhamala, Former Ambassador Prof. Mohan P. Lohani, Former Vice President of NCWA Mr. Prakash A. Raj, Former Ambassador Dr. Bishnu Hari Nepal, Former President of NCWA Dr. Rajendra Bahadur Shrestha, Dr. Posh Raj Pandey, Dr. Sushma Acharya, Mr. Padam Lal Shrestha, Dr. Bishnu Dev Pant, Mr. Bhash Nath Sapkota, Former Treasurer of NCWA Mr. Prabhu Ray Yadav, Prof. Gopal Pokharel, Mr. Mahesh Kumar Agrawal, Former Vice Chairman of National Planning Commission Dr. Rabindra Kumar Shaky, Mr. Kaladhar Gaire, Mr. Chandra Bahadur Shrestha, and Mr. Badri Das Shrestha, raised questions on the topic presented by the former Prime Minister.

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In his introductory remarks President of NCWA, Mr. Hemanta Kharel, stressed on the need for Nepal's foreign policy to be guided by national interests. He explained that while Nepal and India share ancient and cordial ties, the open border poses both opportunities and challenges. He highlighted the fact that there were 30 lakhs Nepali people in India for seasonal jobs and 40 thousand people served in the Indian Army apart from the 1.25 lakh retired soldiers. He informed that India accounted for 60-70% of Nepal's imports and 55-60% of Nepal's exports were to India. He suggested that Nepal should focus on



economic diplomacy to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from India. Similarly, he also expressed optimism that Nepal could also benefit from huge investments, aid and tourism from its northern neighbor China. Mentioning that Nepal could highly benefit from the Chinese flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), he, however, cautioned that Nepal should carefully select projects under the same so as to maximize the benefits. He pointed out that in spite of having different political systems, China and India are engaging greatly in trade and other economic activities. He cautioned that Nepal should show maturity in conducting its foreign policy and should not play the India and China cards against one another. He reminded that Chinese President Xi Jinping had advised several times to various Nepali leaders to maintain cordial relations with India. He also stressed on the need for the institutionalization of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and stated that diplomats posted at the Nepali missions should strive to pursue national interests and not their personal interests.

In his welcome remarks the Secretary of NCWA, Mr. Bhuban Pathak, stated that the views expressed by former PM Nepal, with his vast experience in foreign policy matters, would definitely be valuable for understanding as well as strengthening Nepal-India-China relations. He stressed on the need for all the political parties to have consensus on Nepal's foreign policy. While stating that Nepal should maintain excellent relations with both its immediate neighbors India and China, he also wondered what sort of impact the ongoing trade war between the United States (US) and China would have on Nepal. He lamented that in spite of the end of a long transition period in Nepal and formation of nearly two-thirds majority government of NCP, its performance has been far from satisfactory considering that it has not been able to make progress towards achieving economic prosperity.



While giving the vote of thanks Vice President of NCWA, Mr. Umesh Bahadur Malla, thanked the former prime minister for his highly insightful views regarding Nepal-India-China relations, and the participants for their thoughtful questions and hoped that the views expressed in the seminar would be beneficial in the foreign policy sector. He lauded the former prime minister's views that agriculture, hydropower and tourism sectors should be the key drivers of Nepal's economy. He opined that the need for Nepal to take benefits from its immediate neighbors India and China and

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seek developmental opportunities by being a land-linked state instead of a landlocked one to promote tri-lateralism. He also emphasized on threats posed by climate change and informed that Nepal was the fourth most vulnerable country in terms of climate change. He echoed the views of most participants by mentioning that the EPG report as well as reports on Nepal's foreign and

security policy should be imple-

mented at the earliest. Finally, he concluded by informing that NCWA had formed five thematic groups to explore and recommend policy action in its endeavor to contribute towards providing impetus to Nepal's foreign policy.



Photo Gallery



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