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Important National Issues

GOVERNMENT, MAOISTS SIGN PEACE AGREEMENT

The signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the Government and the Maoists on 21 November 2006 has formally ended 11 years long internal conflict. The agreement has set an example in conflict resolution and attracted the eyes of the whole world into a new Nepal. The 11-page long accord, which contains 10 sub-headings including a preamble, has declared the end of armed conflict that claimed the life of over 13,000 people, and left thousand wounded. Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala and CPM-Maoist Chairman Prachanda affirmed their commitment to implement the historical Peace Accord and said the nation has entered into a new era. The United Nations, India, United States, and other countries have hailed the peace agreement. People overwhelmingly welcomed and celebrated the signing of the Agreement by lightning candles.

CHANGE IN THE INTERIM CONSTITUTION

After the promulgation, the new constitution 2063 violence erupted in the eastern wing of Nepal, Terai, demanding more autonomy and proportional representation system in the constituent assembly polls. The Terai movement took an ugly shape and culminated to the death toll of more than two dozen citizen along with the massive destruction of infrastructure and physical property.

The seven party alliance government and CPN Maoists leadership held several round of serious discussions and displayed their political acumen ship, and as a result, Rt. Hon'ble P.M. Koirala's recent statement addressing the country men, more particularly, the agitating groups, has proved to be solacing event and hence, is a historical declaration in the annals of modern Nepalese history. In reference to this a ministerial level committee under the convener ship of Mahanta Thakur, Minister of Agricultural is constituted to hold dialogue and consultations so as to find lasting solution to the ongoing agitation.

Major Highlights

INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO NEPAL

Foreign Minister of India, Pranav Mukherjee, paid one day visit to Nepal on 31 December 2006. He visited Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala and gave invitation to the forthcoming SAARC summit to be held in India. Minister Mukherjee also paid a courtesy visit to Hon'ble DPM and Minister of Foreign Affairs K. P. Sharma Oli and discussed the matters of mutual interests at the latter's Office.

CHINESE DELEGATION TO NEPAL

A 20 member Chinese delegation led by Vice Chairman of the Chinese National Congress, Standing Committee Li Tiejing arrived Nepal on 13 January 2007. The team paid a courtesy call to Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala and, on behalf of the Chinese Government, extended the message of sustainable peace and prosperity in Nepal. The team also paid a courtesy call to Rt. Hon'ble Speaker Subash Nemwang at the parliament building and discussed several aspects of Nepal-China relations. On the occasion, Li Tiejing the leader of the delegation gave invitation to Speaker Nemwang to visit China within 2007.

VISIT OF UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

On her six days long visit, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Louise Arbour, arrived Nepal on 19th January 2007. She met Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala and discussed human rights situation and expressed her satisfaction to the improving human rights situation after the Janaandolan II. She paid special concern on achieving sustainable peace, safety and sustainable return of the displaced people. During the visit, she met human right activists and also visited different parts of Nepal for knowing the actual situation of the displaced people and human rights situation.

VISIT OF MS. ULLA TORNAES, DANISH DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION MINISTER TO NEPAL

The Development Cooperation Minister of Denmark Mrs. Ulla Tornaes visited Nepal from 19 to 22 September 2006. During her visit, she called on Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala and discussed current political situa-

tion of Nepal including election of constituent assembly. She reiterated that Denmark would continue to support Nepal's development activities. She emphasized on the need for the establishment of lasting peace and expressed Danish government's willingness to support for on going peace process.

She also called on Rt. Hon'ble Speaker of the House of Representatives Mr. Subhash Newang and Hon'ble Minister for Education and Sports Mr. Mangal Siddhi Manandhar. She also called on General Secretary of Nepal Communist Party (UML) Madhav Kumar Nepal. During her stay in Nepal, she visited different projects in Nepalgunj, Surkhet and Pokhara supported by the Danish government.

BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Belgian Federal Government Mr. Karel De Gucht paid a private visit to Nepal on 4th-5th November 2006. The purpose of visit was to strengthen the existing bilateral relations and support the ongoing peace process in Nepal. During the visit Mr. Gucht met Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Girija Prasad Koirala, Hon'ble. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. K. P. Sharma Oli, and Former Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba. Mr. Gucht pledged Nepal that for 2007 the Federal Government of Belgium would provide 4 million Euros for reconstructing school buildings, social welfare activities and strengthening of democracy. Mr. Gucht is the first Belgian Foreign Minister to visit Nepal.

VISIT OF H.E DR. KIM HOWELLS, MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

H.E Dr. Kim Howells, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of United Kingdom visited Nepal from 25 to 28 September 2006.

During his visit he called on Rt. Hon'ble. Prime Minister Mr. Girija Prasad Koirala, Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Health and Population Mr. Amik Sherchan and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon'ble Home Minister Mr. Krishna Prasad Sitaula, Chief of Army Staff of Nepal Army Mr. Rukmanghad Katuwal and Chief of the Peace Committee. He expressed willingness of the Government of the United Kingdom to support for the ongoing peace process and preparation of the Constituent Assembly election. He was the first high-ranking British Official to visit Nepal after the restoration of democracy after *Janaandolan II*.

RICHARD BAUCHER'S VISIT

US Assistant Secretary to South and Central Asia Mr. Richard A. Boucher paid a 3 day second official visit to Nepal from 15th to 17th November 2006. During his visit to support

the ongoing peace process in Nepal, Baucher met Hon'ble Prime Girija Prasad Koirala, Prime Minister of Nepal, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Hon'ble K P Sharma Oli and other members of civil society. On Nepal's request to give duty-free and quota-free market access to garment products of Nepal to the US market, Mr. Boucher promised to have a written response on the request.

FRENCH DELEGATION'S VISIT

A four-member delegation from the French Senate led by Mr. Yvon Collin, who is also the Chairman of France Nepal Amity Group in the French Senate, visited Nepal from 24 September to 1st October with the message of peace for the people of Nepal. Senator Mrs. Christiane Kammermann, Member of Nepal-France Group, Senator Mr. Thierry Repentine, Member of Nepal-France Group and administrator of the Senate Mr. Philippe Brault were the other members in the delegation. Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Girija Prasad Koirala expressed happiness over the delegation's Nepal visit and lauded the French assistance in the development of Nepal. The delegation also called on Rt. Hon'ble Speaker Mr. Subhash Newang, Hon'ble DPM and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. K P Sharma Oli, Hon'ble Home Minister Mr. Krishna Prasad Sitaula, Members of the Peace Committee and the then National Monitoring on Code of Conduct for Ceasefire. Leader of the delegation appreciated the unprecedented courage exhibited by the people of Nepal in reestablishing democracy.

EU TROIKA VISIT

A European Union Troika visited Kathmandu from 15-17 November 2006. It was led by Mr. Pekka Metso, Director for

Asia and Oceania in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland (current EU Presidency) and has representatives from the next EU Presidency (Germany), European Commission and EU's High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy. This was the third Troika Mission to Nepal. The first and second EU Troika mission came to Nepal in December 2004 and October 2005 respectively. During the visit, the Troika met the Rt. Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. KP Sharma Oli, Hon'ble Minister for Finance Dr. Ram Sharan Mahat and Chief Election Commissioner among others. The EU Troika expressed full support to the efforts of the UN in helping the parties to make progress in the peace process and to implement their commitments. It also expressed its willingness to provide such assistance as it may in support of the Government of Nepal. The Troika was of the view that the people of Nepal are entitled to live by the rule of law and that impunity should end, law and order be maintained and the civilians live without fear. It was also in favour of an early signing of the Comprehensive Peace Accord as foreseen by November 8, 2006 Agreement.

VISIT OF MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF DANISH PARLIAMENT

A three members delegation comprising Mr. Steen Gade, Mr. Eyvind Vesselbo and Ms. Kirsten Brosbol, Members of the Foreign Affairs Committee of Danish Parliament visited Nepal from 27 November to 1st December 2006. The delegation visited various projects supported by the Danish government in Nepalgunj, Bardia and Kavrepalanchowk. They had a meeting with Rt. Hon'ble Speaker of the House of Representatives and Hon Minister for Education and Sports.

Hon'ble DPM and Minister for Foreign Affairs Addressed the 61st UN General Assembly in New York

Address by Hon'ble Mr. K.P. Sharma Oli, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Leader of the Delegation of Nepal to the sixty-first session of the United Nations General Assembly at the general debate of the session in New York, 25 September 2006

Madame President,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I warmly congratulate you, Madame President, on your election as the chair of this session and assure you of

my delegation's full cooperation in discharging responsibilities entrusted to you. I am fully confident that, we will be able to bring the business of this session to a successful conclusion under your leadership.

His Excellency Mr. Jan Eliasson, the outgoing President, deserves our sincere appreciation for the job well done.

I join the previous speakers to heartily welcome the Republic of Montenegro as a fellow member in this world body. The continued expansion in the membership underlines the importance of the UN as an organization truly of global character and its centrality and indispensability in global affairs.

Madame President,

It is, indeed, a great opportunity for me to represent the voice of the democratic Government and the sovereign people of Nepal in this august Assembly. I have brought with me greetings and best wishes from the Government and the people of Nepal for the success of this session.

I wish to inform this august Assembly that Nepal is undergoing fundamental transformation following the restoration of democracy through peaceful People's Movement in April this year. The people of Nepal have become, for the first time in history, the real sources of sovereignty and state authority. The historic Parliamentary Proclamation of May 18, 2006 and its subsequent decisions have made real contributions in safeguarding and consolidating the gains of the People's Movement. We are currently engaged in institutionalizing an edifice of a democratic and inclusive Nepali state through the reinstated parliament.

The people and Government of Nepal are thankful to the international community for their strong support during our struggle for democracy. We are hopeful of even greater support and solidarity in our transition towards full-fledged democracy and lasting peace.

This momentous change in Nepal has also led to conversion of a protracted conflict into a peace process, which we are confident to bring to a successful conclusion. I take this opportunity to sincerely appreciate the UN Secretary General for his assistance to the peace process, including in monitoring of human rights, assistance in ceasefire monitoring, arms management and observation of elections to the Constituent Assembly at our request. Successful resolution of our internal conflict will set a worthwhile example to the rest of the world that democracy is indispensable and brightens the prospect for resolution of all kinds of conflicts.

Now, we have pressing post-conflict reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction needs. Meeting these challenges necessitates an enhanced level of international support and assistance.

Peace, security, stability, democracy and development constitute global public goods. It is critically important that newly emerged democracies are safeguarded and protected, allowing them to develop further and flourish. With this vision in mind, we strongly support the newly established Democracy Fund in the United Nations.

Madame President,

The United Nations today confronts with numerous challenges such as international terrorism and transnational

crimes, threat to use the weapons of mass destruction, narcotic drugs and human trafficking, money-laundering and other financial crimes, regional conflicts and low-intensity wars, extreme poverty and hunger, human rights abuses, recurring natural disasters, threats of pandemics such as HIV/AIDS and avian flu.

These challenges call for new wisdom founded on the principles of collective security, well-being and prosperity. The United Nations is uniquely placed to muster much-needed philosophical underpinning because of its standing as a global body wielded with legitimacy. New wisdom alone will not be enough to deal with these problems if new strategy, new tools and new resources do not match it.

Nepal firmly believes that multilateral solutions are required to address problems and challenges of global nature. Multilateralism is the key to promote global participation in problem solving and to ensure collective ownership of outcome.

Madame President,

Today, old and new threats to peace and security exist side by side. While the military threats to security are diminishing gradually, new sources of threat have emerged and are likely to disturb international peace and security in more than one way.

Growing menace of international terrorism characterizes the post-cold war world security scenario. It has been the consistent policy of Nepal to unequivocally condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. It is disheartening to note that no international consensus has yet emerged paving the way for an early conclusion of a comprehensive international convention against terrorism. In this context, we welcome the adoption of the global strategy to combat terrorism.

We are concerned by dismal progress in disarmament. After failure to agree on non-proliferation last year, we could not produce an agreement during the review of the regime of the control over small arms and light weapons. We are also constantly reminded of deadlocks in efforts of the peaceful means to resolve nuclear issues.

Nepal stands for general and complete disarmament of all weapons of mass destruction, including biological, chemical, nuclear and radiological weapons, in a time-bound manner. The demand of the time is that we compete for peace but not war, for development but not armaments.

We have offered to host the UN Regional Center for Peace and Disarmament for Asia and the Pacific in Kathmandu.

Despite our long-standing commitment and sincere efforts, the Center is yet to be relocated. I wish to reiterate that the Government of Nepal is ready to sign the host country agreement as per this Assembly's resolution as soon as the UN Secretariat provides it with a draft. We urge the Secretariat to conclude necessary procedure for the relocation of the Center to Nepal without any further delay.

Madame President,

Recent upsurge in violence in Lebanon has left unbearable human tragedy and huge destruction of material property. We welcome the ongoing ceasefire and express our support to UN resolution 1701 on strengthening the UNIFIL in Lebanon. We have committed to contributing a battalion of our troops for the cause of peace there.

Nepal's profound interest and continued participation in the UN Peacekeeping missions underscores her contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security. Even when it had its own internal conflict, Nepal never gave up sending its troops to UN peacekeeping missions. The Nepalese blue helmets have been serving in various missions, including many troubled spots, in an exemplary manner, earning international repute for them and for the country. Currently, Nepal has over 3,500 troops in various UN Missions. Many of them have sacrificed their precious lives in the service of peace and humanity. Nepal will continue to uphold this noble cause and participate in future missions when asked.

It is unfortunate that the UN peacekeepers have increasingly become the target of senseless attacks. This world body must explore innovative ways and means to ensure the safety and security of the peacekeepers while on duty. Equally important is to promote ethics and the culture of discipline among peacekeepers to avoid possible sexual harassment and other abuses by peacekeepers.

The United Nations is being increasingly asked to play an active role in the areas of peace-making, peace-building, post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction as well as nation-building in some cases. We should encourage the United Nations system to work in coherence to lift such countries from conflicts. We welcome the establishment of the Peace building Commission as an innovative mechanism to deal with the complex issues of peace and security.

Madame President,

Nepal's commitment to human rights is total and unflinching. Nepal firmly believes that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing. We have welcomed the establishment of the Human Rights Council with the belief that this body would prove effective in protecting and promoting human rights

across the globe based on the salient principles of universality, objectivity and non-selectivity.

The present Government of Nepal has given top priority to the protection and promotion of human rights with a view to translating Nepal's international human rights commitments and obligations into a reality. We have been working closely with the United Nations Human Rights bodies, including the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal, to create an environment in which full enjoyment of human rights by all is guaranteed.

Return of democracy and the start of peace process have led to big improvement in the protection of human rights in Nepal. We highly appreciate role played by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Nepal in improving the human rights situation in the country.

We are determined to bring to an end the culture of impunity, which was so pervasive during the autocratic regime. Our belief is that no one is above the law and that those who violate and abuse human rights must be brought to justice. We are fully committed to protecting human rights in all situations and creating a framework for bringing to justice those who have abused human rights in the past.

Madame President,

Opportunities arising out of globalization, such as that from global migration, have been stifled by unfriendly policy regimes around the world. The rights of migrant workers must be protected in all situations in accordance with international norms. Nepal's experience shows that the benefit of remittances generated by the migrant workers count a lot to developing countries. But this cannot in any way substitute development assistance, debt relief and concessions in trade

Benefits of trade liberalization are not distributed equitably. Multilateral trading regime must be made responsive to the needs and requirements of developing and least-developed countries. Enhanced trading opportunities coupled with productive capacities are critically important to achieve sustained economic growth and poverty reduction in the least developed countries. The agreed commitments for duty free and quota free access of the products of the least developed countries need to be complemented with favourable rules of origin. We are concerned at the suspension of WTO talks on the development round and urge for an immediate revival of the talks to complete the Doha Development Agenda.



Madame President,

Our development agenda has been advancing rather slowly. We are realizing that many countries, given the present pace, will not be able to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. It reminds us the urgency to sincerely implement all the agreed commitments in various global compacts in recent years, including the Monterrey Consensus, Millennium Declaration, Johannesburg Plan of Action and the Brussels Programme of Action for the LDCs.

A mid-term review this year of the program of action for the least developed countries showed that most of the least developed countries cannot achieve the agreed targets within the time frame defined previously unless we accelerated the pace of implementation.

The least developed countries need a better policy on aid, trade, investment, debt relief and capacity building and timely reforms in the international financial institutions. We call on the international community to take a holistic approach combining these policies to support the LDC development agenda. The least developed countries need substantial flow of external aid and investment to meet these goals. Investment in poorer countries is not just a moral responsibility; it is investment in the collective security of the world.

Many least developed countries are handicapped by landlockedness, which significantly reduces their competitive edge in the regional and multilateral trading regimes. This state of affairs continues to frustrate their development efforts. We urge the international community to pay greater attention to the plight of these countries and make serious efforts to implement internationally agreed commitments.

Madame President,

It is a scar on our conscience that hundreds of millions of our peoples are living as refugees in various parts of the globe. The international community must take it as its bounden duty to address their concerns in a non-selective manner.

I regret to inform this assembly that more than 100,000 refugees from southern Bhutan have been painfully remaining in camps in Nepal for over a decade and half, despite some bilateral agreements reached between Nepal and Bhutan. In absence of no sight of an early and lasting solution, the refugees are showing increasing signs of frustration and desperation. In essence, this is a problem between the Government of Bhutan and its citizens. Nepal has come

to the picture simply because it has provided shelter to fleeing refugees on humanitarian grounds. The issue cannot be resolved in the absence of a genuine willingness to resolve this problem on the part of the Government of Bhutan. The international community must assert positive influence to break the impasse. We stress that the Bhutanese refugees must be given the right to return to their home country with dignity and respect and that any solution must be acceptable to the refugees. Nepal also supports the democratic aspiration of the people of Bhutan and urges Bhutan to accommodate the plight of the refugees in their political dispensation.

Madame President,

Our Organization has made great strides, especially in the adoption of reform measures endorsed by the world leaders here last year. The Government of Nepal welcomes remains committed to support all reform initiatives that aim at addressing the concerns and aspirations of all the member states.

The strengths of the United Nations lie in its democratic decision-making, impartiality, neutrality and efficiency. The General Assembly, which is the only global body to represent the voice of the peoples in the world, must be placed at the forefront of all decision-making within the United Nations. The organs dealing with socio-economic issues must be strengthened and enabled to take a lead role in the fulfillment of international development objectives.

The contemporary realities dictate that the United Nations undergo fundamental transformation without undermining the founding principles and objectives upon which it is built. The reform of the United Nations will be incomplete without the commensurate reform in its principal organ responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security. The Security Council must be democratized to provide it with greater legitimacy and credibility. There is a genuine need to increase membership of the Security Council in both permanent and non-permanent categories to make the Council more representative, including two permanent seats from each Asia and Africa region and one from each Latin American and Western Europe. We also need to improve its working methods.

This year, the member States will elect the next Secretary General of our Organization. In accordance with the principle of equitable geographical representation and that of rotation, Nepal reiterates that the next Secretary General should come from Asia. We also subscribe to a greater role of this Assembly in the appointment of the Secretary General. I commend the role played by outgoing Secretary

General, Mr. Kofi Annan, during his tenure in office. He steered important reforms at the United Nations and made genuine efforts to establish the central role of our Organization in solving the global problems and debating the international issues.

Madame President,

Nepal has submitted its candidature for a non-permanent membership of the Security Council for the period 2007-2008. We think that we rightly deserve it after a gap of nearly two decades since we last served the Council in 1988-89. This world body is fully aware that Nepal has been making substantial contributions in the maintenance of international peace and security by regularly providing its troops in various peacekeeping missions for a long time. Moreover, we feel that Nepal's election to the Council this time will be a great recognition to its democratic credentials in the changed context. The people of Nepal deserve due recognition from the international community for their unprecedented courage and determination with which they have defeated autocracy and restored democracy. I make a sincere appeal to the fellow members to extend their valuable support to Nepal's candidature, allowing it to serve the Council with renewed confidence in fulfillment of its fundamental responsibilities.

Madame President,

The purposes and principles of the United Nations contained in its Charter, including that of sovereign equality of nations, peaceful resolution of all disputes, non-interference in the internal affairs of states, and no threat or use of force are sacrosanct to Nepal. I solemnly reiterate Nepal's profound commitment to the founding objectives and principles of the United Nations as enshrined in its Charter.

The United Nations today is fraught with lack of credibility, inability to arrive at important decisions, weak implementation of its own declarations and decisions, and slowness in responding challenges that require its most pressing attentions. We need to change this situation. Together, we can make our organization better equipped to respond to these challenges.

I thank you!

Fourteenth NAM Summit in Havana

Statement delivered by Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. K.P. Sharma Oli in XIV NAM Summit held in Havana, Cuba.

(16 September, 2006)

Mr. Chairman,

Acting President Comrade Raul Castro Ruz,

Their Excellencies the Heads of State and Government,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, let me felicitate President Fidel Castro Ruz for his unanimous election to lead the NAM for the next three years. I also wish for the speedy recovery, good health and long life of President Fidel Castro.

The Government of Cuba deserves our sincere gratitude for the warm reception and generous hospitality accorded to my delegation and for the meticulous arrangements made for this meeting.

His Excellency Dr. Badawi, Prime Minister of Malaysia deserves my delegation's unreserved appreciation for the exemplary manner in which they led the Movement.

Let me also take this opportunity to welcome the Saint Kitts and Nevis and Haiti as new members of the Movement.

Mr. Chairman,

This meeting offers NAM members a splendid opportunity to work concertedly towards generating new impetus and fostering greater unity and solidarity within the ranks of the Movement in our avowed commitment to revitalize it. This was one of the major highlights of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration adopted during the 13th NAM Summit held in Malaysia.

The questions about the Movement's relevance and adaptability have been settled now. Soon after its inception, the Movement galvanized its effort to end colonization and apartheid. It has survived the demise of the bi-polar world and adjusted to the post-cold war era. Given the new challenges, the Movement should now focus on addressing them.

Those challenges include coming to grips with ethnic strife, war, international terror, persistent deadlock in disarmament matters, the environment, migration, intolerance, digital divide, HIV/AIDS and other pandemic diseases. The Movement will have to wrestle with these problems in the midst of shortage of resources and lack of a unified approach on priorities among its members.

Nepal is deeply troubled by various conflicts around the world and calls for their peaceful resolutions. We believe that outstanding political issues that exist around the world should be resolved through dialogue. In the Middle East, while appealing to all sides to restore calm, we support the two-state formula to be pursued through negotiations and oppose terrorism against innocent civilians and excessive use of force against the population.

The most enduring challenge for the Movement would be to liberate its members from the clutches of poverty and deprivation. To achieve this objective, it should work concertedly with the Group of 77 to persuade the North to meet official development assistance targets, open up their markets for developing countries' products, allow a systematic movement of labor from developing nations, disallow non-trade issues to emerge in the WTO trading regime and make globalization just and equitable.

In particular, least developed countries should have concessionary access to markets in developed nations as well as in those developing nations that have the capacity to provide such access. To overcome their geographical constraints, landlocked developing countries also need better transit facilities and effective trade facilitation measures.

Terrorism has menaced the peace and security of many NAM members and should be stamped out in a collective manner. There is also the imperative to promote both civil and political rights as well as economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development without prejudice.

To ensure such changes, the Movement needs increased unity and cooperation amongst its members that will generate synergy and cohesiveness in their action. NAM must strive to present its common position on various issues of global concerns consistent with its principles and ideals. Particularly, the Movement needs to pursue vigorously the issues of United Nations reforms, change in the international financial architecture, and greater cooperation to deal with terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

Nepal, as one of the founding members of NAM, believes that we should not depart from the core principles. As a matter of fact, the principles of non-alignment have become an article of faith in our foreign policy endeavors. We see a greater role for the Movement to fostering a culture of peace, including dialogue among civilizations, complemented by regional initiatives.

At the same time, NAM should evolve a workable modality to galvanize South-South cooperation, in view of the huge potential and vibrancy existing in a number of countries from the South. The NAM heads of state and government should ask experts to explore the possibility of such cooperation without delay. Moreover, in view of the need for evolving such common position and the growing responsibilities, the Movement would require a proper institutional mechanism for better coordination of and follow-up to NAM resolutions and decisions.

Mr. Chairman,

Democracy remains a rising tide around the world. The people of Nepal through a peaceful People's Movement a few months ago demonstrated that people and only the people are an invincible power. With people at the center of governance, we are engaged in strengthening and institutionalizing democratic process. We believe that democracy provides us ground to work for bridging differences, and developing peace, prosperity and system of honoring human rights.

Nepal's experience with its internal peace process has been unique. Besides, we have also accumulated significant experience in international peace and security as one of the largest troop contributors to UN peacekeeping operations. We would like to bring these experiences to bear on UN policy making in the peace and security sector. With these considerations, we have fielded our candidature for the election to be held next month for the non-permanent membership of the UN Security Council for 2007-2008.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to conclude by urging ourselves to take bold strides — from indolent passivity to proactive engagement — in our shared pursuit of combating poverty and backwardness and safeguarding our vital interests. Mr. Chairman, you can count on our support to you in this endeavor.

Thank you.

Bimstec and Nepal

BIMSTEC is basically a sub-regional economic grouping. It was established on June 6, 1997 following Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand signed a declaration establishing 'Bangladesh-India-Sri Lanka-Thailand Economic Cooperation', to be known as 'BIST-EC'. Myanmar joined the grouping on 22 December of the same year and the name of the grouping was changed to 'BIMST-EC'.

Nepal was an observer of BIMSTEC from 1998 to July 2004 since the sub-regional organization had moratorium for new membership. Taking into account the fact that Nepal and Bhutan also share contiguous land or sea boundaries with the present members in BIMSTEC, they were granted full membership of the grouping on 31 July 2004 during the first BIMSTEC Summit. With the entry of Nepal and Bhutan, BIMSTEC has been renamed as 'Bay of Bengal Initiatives for Multisectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation'. BIMSTEC is considered as a bridge between ASEAN and SAARC.

OBJECTIVES

BIMSTEC essentially aims to create an enabling environment for paid economic development and accelerate the economic growth and social progress. It promotes active collaboration and mutual assistance on matters of common interest in the economic, social, technical and scientific fields. It also provides assistance in the educational, professional and technical fields in the form of training and research facilities. It seeks to maintain close and beneficial cooperation with existing international and regional organizations with similar aims and purposes. It also extends cooperation in most productive sub-regional projects with the best use of available synergies.

AREAS OF COOPERATION

Major areas of cooperation identified under BIMSTEC and countries that coordinate each specific area are as follows:

AREAS OF COOPERATION

1. Trade and Investment
2. Technology
3. Energy
4. Transportation and Communication
5. Tourism
6. Fisheries
7. Public Health
8. Agriculture
9. Poverty Alleviation
10. Cultural Cooperation
11. Terrorism and Transnational Crime
12. Environment and Disaster Management
13. People-to-people Contacts

COORDINATING COUNTRIES

Bangladesh
Sri Lanka
Myanmar
India
India
Thailand
Thailand
Myanmar
Nepal
Bhutan
to be identified
India
Thailand

The coordinating country will lead the agreed area of their responsibility for a period of approximately three years.

INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM

- Summit Meetings, which are held at the level of head of states/government biannually.
- Annual Ministerial Meetings at the level of foreign ministers.
- Senior Officials Meeting (SOM), which meets at the foreign secretary level twice a year before the meeting at foreign ministers' level. It reviews all BIMSTEC activities under identified areas of cooperation.

- BIMSTEC Working Group (BWG), which is represented by the ambassadors from the member states stationed in Bangkok, meets every month to coordinate and monitor various BIMSTEC activities and acts as a mini secretariat with the support provided by the Foreign Ministry of Thailand.
- Meetings at Ministerial, Senior Official, and Expert Group Levels are also held at various sectors under BIMSTEC. Specialized task forces and other mechanisms can be created under BIMSTEC, as may be agreed/deemed necessary.

Diplomatic Relations with Vanuatu, Congo and Andorra

Nepal and Vanuatu have established diplomatic relations on 19 September 2006. Hon'ble K.P.Sharma Oli, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal and H. E. Sato Kilman, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Vanuatu signed an agreement at the Permanent Mission of Nepal in New York.

Similarly Nepal and the Democratic Republic of the Congo have established diplomatic relations after signing an agreement between Hon,ble K.P. Sharma Oli, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal and H.E. Mr. Raymond Ramazani Baya, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo on 22 September 2006.

Likewise Nepal and the Principality of Andorra have established diplomatic relations on 22 September 2006. Hon,ble K.P. Sharma Oli, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal and H.E. Mr. Juli Minoves, Minister

for Foreign Affairs of the Principality of Andorra signed an agreement to this effect.

After signing the agreements Hon'ble K. P. Sharma Oli Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal and H. E. Sato Kilman, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Vanuatu, H.E. Mr. Raymond Ramazani Baya, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and H.E. Mr. Juli Minoves, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Principality of Andorra shared their views on the issues of common interest in different meetings organized separately. They expressed their commitment for further promoting and strengthening bilateral cooperation in the fields of socio-economic, tourism and cultural development in the days to come.

The Number of countries with which Nepal has established diplomatic relations has reached 125 to date.

Nepal strongly opposes North Korea Nuclear Test

Government of Nepal expresses its grave concern over the nuclear test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 9th October 2006 in defiance of global opinion.

The Government of Nepal views this as unfortunate and uncalled for incident as it will aggravate the delicate situation in the Korean peninsula and the region and will have adverse ramifications for international peace and security.

As an ardent advocate of general and complete disarmament of all weapons of mass destruction, Nepal strongly opposes proliferation of weapons and race for armaments irrespective of their locations and motives. Nepal believes in and urge for the peaceful resolution of all international disputes.

REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON EXPANSION OF SAARC: Challenges and Opportunities

Organized by Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA)
and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES).

A two days regional conference was organized by the Institute of Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, on the challenges arising from, and opportunities available with, the expansion of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation in Kathmandu from 29 to 30 June 2006. The decision by SAARC, taken during the 13th summit in Dhaka, to induct Afghanistan as its new member and China and Japan as observers has indeed thrown open the gates of speculation as to the future of a regional organization that houses one-fifth of humanity. Participants from all the SAARC member nations, except Maldives, attended the seminar at this timely discussion on this important topic. The Afghan participant, although did make his working paper available for discussions, could not attend the conference because of unavoidable circumstances at home. Given the important role that the TRACK II process has played in the decisions of this regional organization, it was expected that the discussions would identify new areas of cooperation, look at the implications of the addition of new members and observers in the organization and last but not the least buttress TRACK II.

The opening session, attended by foreign policy experts, political luminaries and diplomats including the American ambassador to the Kingdom of Nepal James F. Moriarty, laid the foundation for what was to follow for the next two days. IFA acting executive director Harishchandra Ghimire highlighted the objectives of the seminar during his welcome address.

During his keynote, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister K.P. Sharma Oli, the chief guest, listed some of the gains made by SAARC since its inception both at the people-to-people level contacts and core areas of cooperation such as fighting terrorism and promoting economic cooperation. He said that although the achievements of the organization over the past two decades do not match with the popular aspiration, he expressed his optimism that its expansion would infuse new spirit to the task of alleviating the socio-economic plight of the people.

Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives Chitra Lekha Yadav, who chaired the inaugural, said that it is time to assess the achievements of the regional organization and that the participants must discuss the issues that are there for a proper future course. She said that while doing so the participants must bear in mind that SAARC's future development will be demand driven, rights based and highly politicized. Only an inclusionary process can make SAARC's future bright, she said.

In his vote of thanks to the participants at the opening session Dev Raj Dahal, the FES representative in Nepal, expressed his doubt about whether the inclusion of Afghanistan and other observers would make the organization more cohesive or further polarized. He said that Afghanistan's inclusion has made the organization truly reflect the South Asian geography apart from serving as a bridge between South Asia and the Middle Eastern countries. Dahal wished that SAARC's opportunities for cooperation should better defined and policy coordination made more impressive. Still, the civil society groups have already created a South Asian public and that their aspirations must be institutionalized, he said.

The business sessions began after the inaugural, the first of which was chaired by Sridhar Khatri, former executive director of IFA. The first presentation from Pakistan was of Ms Huma Baqai's titled, "Emerging Trends in International Security: Approaches to Peace and Cooperation". The second presentation was on "Strategies for Enhancing Comprehensive Security in South Asia: Areas of Collective Action in Multilateral Forum" by Smruti Patnaik which was followed by Madhukar Shumsher Rana's "Comprehensive Security for South Asia: Conceptualization Towards a Regional Strategy".

The second session chaired by Keshav Raj Jha saw presentations by Prof Dr. Khalida Ghaus on "The Changing Security Spectrum of South Asia: Consequences for SAARC" and of Mr. Sugeeswara Senadhira on "China and South Asia: Possible cooperation between Shanghai Cooperation Organization and SAARC".

In the second day of the seminar, the first and second session was chaired by Dr. Bhekh Bahadur Thapa, former foreign minister. Shafi Sami's titled "SAARC: Future Directions" was the first presentation of the day followed by Mahendra P. Lama's "SAARC: Dynamics of New Regionalism". Harischandra Ghimire presentation was titled, "WTO and Regionalism with special reference to SAFTA". Dr. Posh Raj Pandey made his presentation on "Roles of Business Community and Administration for the Implementation of the Treaty Obligations of BIMST-EC, SAFTA and WTO on Free Trade" was followed by Gautam Ghosh's "Private Sector and Conflict Management".

The last session of the seminar was chaired by Dr. Dinesh Bhattarai, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Prof. Sayed Anwar Hussein presentation "Afghanistan in SAARC: Challenge more than Opportunity" was followed by Bishal Rai's "Expansion of SAARC: Bhutan's Perspective". The last paper of the seminar was Chandra Dev Bhatta's "Role of Civil Society in Peace building in South Asia".

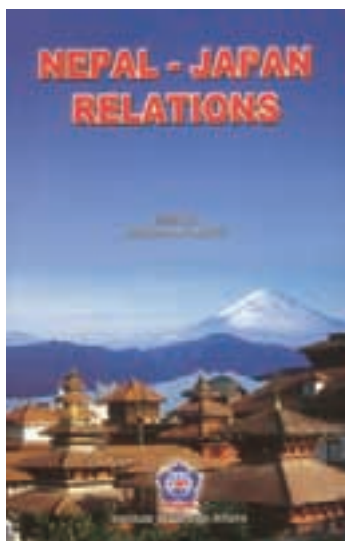
Chairperson Bhattarai was given the responsibility to wrap up the two-day conference and he thanked all the participants for their active involvement in the discussions.

BOOKS DONATED TO IFA

On the occasion of the Independence Day of India His Excellency Shiv Shankar Mukherjee donated books to the Institute of Foreign Affairs. Simultaneously on the occasion of the Independence Day of Pakistan, Embassy of Pakistan donated 147 books of various subjects to the Institute.

NEW PUBLICATION

The IFA has brought out a new publication on "Nepal-Japan Relations". It has 8 thoughtful provoking papers by Dr. B.P. Shrestha, Zenji Kaminaga, Prof. Biswo Pradhan, Mohan Krishna Shrestha, Prof. Dr. Mahendra K. Nepal, Prof. Ram Kumar Pandey, Pushpa Raj Pradhan and Dr. Bishnu Hari Nepal on themes such as economic cooperation, historical perspectives, education and tourism, Japanese assistance, etc. This book is a proceeding of a seminar that the IFA organized.



NEW LEADERSHIP IN THE INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



Nepal government recently appointed Prof. Dr. Gopal Pokharel as the new Executive Director of Institute of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Pokharel, professor of political science, T.U, is from eastern terai and is involved in teaching and research activities related to political science and rural development subject for more than three decades.

Prof. Pokharel as research scholar at the University of Delhi, India in the early 90's.

Prof. Pokharel has many publications in local dailies and weeklies to his credit. Prof. Pokharel was one of the founding member of Political Science Association, Nepal of which, he later became the President. Until recently, Prof. Pokharel acted as a Vice-President, Nepal Council of World Affairs for its two consecutive terms.

Prof. Pokharel has very keen interest in International Relations and more particularly on Foreign Policy issues. Under the decentralized scheme of Nepal's university system, Prof. Pokharel, a member of management and Executive Committee of Patan Multiple Campus, T.U, currently. About a decade ago, Prof. Pokharel was associated with International college, Colorado, USA.

DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Likewise, a dynamic lady Mrs. Anjan Shakya is holding the responsibilities as a Deputy Executive Director. She is one of the emerging women entrepreneurs and is currently Chairperson of Women's Entrepreneurs Committee and an Executive Member of Nepal Chamber of Commerce. Apart from her involvement in teaching

relating to management in Padma Kanya Multiple College, media related activities, social activities but also she was the coordinator of publicity sub committee & member of High Level Committee Golden Jubilee of Nepal-Japan diplomatic relationship. In this accordance, recently she has published a souvenir as a coordinator of this committee, in continuance of the celebration of Golden Jubilee of Nepal - Japan diplomatic relationship to commemorate the historic year. She has been taking overwhelmingly interested in foreign policy & foreign related matters and she had presented the papers in various workshops & seminars such as poverty reduction, women employment, gender issues, international trade relations & foreign policies.

She has participated in Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister's state visit in India as leading the women entrepreneurs. She has

participated in Hon'ble Dy. Prime Minister's state visit in China as leading the women entrepreneurs.

GOLDEN JUBILEE OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NEPAL AND JAPAN

Last year we have commemorated the golden Jubilee of the establishment of Diplomatic Relation between Nepal and Japan.

A High Level Committee was formed under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister & Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. **K. P. Sharma Oli** to celebrate the **Golden Jubilee of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relationship between Nepal and Japan**.

In continuance of the celebration of the Golden Jubilee the publicity Sub-committee of the High Level Committee has published a Souvenir commemorating the historic year.

The Souvenir contained the valuable articles which were related with the Japanese Cooperation on various fields as well as the interaction at the people to people level. To commemorate Golden Jubilee celebration of Nepal-Japan relations, highlighting cooperation, collaboration at political, economic, social, cultural and technical level, Nepal-Japan Friendship Golden Jubilee Celebration Committee was constituted.

In the context of the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the establishment of Diplomatic Relations, the Publicity Sub-Committee of the High Level Committee has organized the inauguration programme and released Souvenir on December 29, 2006.

The Unveiling Ceremony was inaugurated by the Chief-guest Honorable Deputy Prime Minister and foreign minister Mr. K.P. Sharma Oli.

On this occasion, a Letter of Appreciation, the Souvenir and token of love was handed over by the Chief-guest Honorable Deputy Prime Minister and foreign minister Mr. K.P. Sharma Oli to those who have contributed their valuable time and efforts for that august ceremony, which was organized at Hotel Mall, Lainchaur at 2:00.

Further Highlighting the Nepal-Japan relations, he said Japan has been helping Nepal in different priority sectors like communication, information's and economic, social and cultural and technical fields along with the development of



Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister Mr. K. P. Sharma Oli releasing the souvenir, commemorating Golden Jubilee Celebration of the establishment of Diplomatic Relationship between Nepal and Japan.

physical infrastructure. He expressed happiness and satisfaction, commending the role of publicity committee for its zeal, enthusiasm and devotion to mark the occasion.

At the end the Deputy Prime Minister Oli, while talking to Journalists expressed the determination to take action against those found guilty to suppress the Jana Andolan II as per the recommendation of Rajmajhi commission.

As regards a query of the Journalist, pertaining to Bhutanese refuses problem, DPM asserted the problem was of the Bhutanese Government and its people. Bhutan has the option in taking back its citizens with dignity and honour.

Stating that the bilateral talks scheduled some times ago had to be postponed due to the internal problem of Nepal. He however, disclosed that another date for dialogue would be fixed soon.

Highlighting the Nepal-Japan relations and praising the programme, Special Guest, **Pradip Ghyawali**, Minister for Culture said Nepal had waive visa fee to Japanese visitors to Nepal for four months to mark the golden jubilee celebration of the diplomatic ties. He hoped Nepal would witness the arrival of more Japanese tourists in 2007.

Japanese Ambassador to Nepal Tsutomu Hirawoka commended the role and efforts made by both Nepalese and Japanese to further strengthen the existing bilateral rela-

tionship by exploring the further possible avenues of cooperation in the days to come. He expressed his jubilation for being able to participate in different activities to boost the Nepal–Japan friendship in a new height.

Co-ordinator of publicity sub committee of high level and deputy executive director of Institute of foreign affairs Mrs. *Anjan Shaky*a has praised the stronger bilateral relationship between Nepal and Japan which was initiated and established many years ago having a deep social and cultural roots. The grow up of intimate relation between Nepal–Japan is marked by a warm feeling, courtesy and good wishes. The diplomatic relationship is not only limited to official relationship between two governments The relationship is blooming as Rhododendron and Lily flower in the heart of the people of both countries. The altitude of relationship between Nepal and Japan is resembling the height of Mount Everest and Fuji mountain.

Member of publicity sub-committee and deputy executive director of Radio Nepal Mr. *Rabin Sharma* has reviewed the souvenir on the occasion. The programme was organized to release the commemorative issue of the 50th golden jubilee year of the establishment of Nepal-Japan diplomatic relations.



The commemorative issue contains interviews of Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister K.P. Sharma Oli and the Japanese ambassador The interview has been placed in the souvenir as a special informative content and articles related to Nepal-Japan relations both in Nepali and Japanese. The book also contains the chronology of the relations between Nepal and Japan dating back to 1899 when the Japanese monk Ekai Kawaguchi came to Nepal establishing the first people-to-people contact.

NASO AWARD DISTRIBUTION

In the first week of February Deputy Prime minister K.P. Sharma Oli had left for Bangkok, Thailand for a week-long private visit in connection with his health check-ups.

Upon his return from Thailand DPM Oli, on February 26in- augurated a symposium, organized jointly by “NASO” and Tourism Promotion Board titled “Exploring Japanese Tourism Market” in Nepal.

On the occasion, DPM Oli distributed the NASO Golden Award for 2006, to the Late Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto posthumously for his outstanding contribution to promote Nepal-Japan friendship to a new height. Similarly Japanese Ambassador Tsutomu Hiroka was facilitated with NASO diplomatic Award 2006 for his commitment effort to boost Nepal-Japan Relations. Like wise, NASO Award 2005 was given to renowned tourism entrepreneur and expert in development plan Takawhi Myadora for his outstanding contributions. In the programme, Kohichiro ohmori, who under took extensive research on rhododendron, was facilitated with NASO Award 2006 and professor of Tokyo University Emeritus Jiro Kawakita with NASO Award 2007 for his hand able contribution.

Addressing the ceremony the chief guest, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, K.P. Sharma Oli landed the contribution of the people and government of Japan to further consolidate bilateral friendly relations and expressed his confidence, existing friendly relations would further be strengthened in the days to come. Slating that Japan has been helping Nepal in different sectors including economic, social sectors, he expressed expectation that the help would be continued in the time of transition and even after the formation of Interim government including CPN (Maoists). He disclosed that Nepal-Japan friendship and cooperation is gradually becoming people-centric.

Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Pradeep K. Gyawali praised the Japanese government and people for their growing interest in Nepal. He seemed quite optimistic in receiving growing number of Japanese Tourists to visit Nepal in the days to come and informed that the government is preparing a new Tourism policy and comprehensive plan to revitalize tourism in Nepal.

On the occasion, Japanese Ambassador to Nepal Tsutomu Hiroka, expressed his satisfaction over the different activities undertaken to mark the golden jubilee celebration and opined the ongoing interaction and contact could be further beneficial to both the peoples. He assured all possible help from Japan in Nepal’s development endeavors.

MoFA/IFA Activities

SPECIAL ORIENTATION PROGRAMME FOR NEPALESE FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICIALS WORKING IN DIFFERENT MISSIONS ABROAD

INTRODUCTION

The Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA) founded in 1993 came into operation under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) of Nepal Government. IFA has the objectives, of preparing knowledgeable and skilled manpower for the promotion of foreign affairs, and developing professionalism in dealing with relation with other nations in the world. It has been carrying out training activities, seminars, interactions, discussions, conferences etc as and when necessary.

The Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA), organized a short-term Special Orientation Programme for nine days with a view to enhancing the professional skills and competence of the personnel while discharging their duties in their respective positions. And as such there have been different sessions - opening session, working session and closing session.

OPENING SESSION

Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA) in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), conducted the programme in the meeting hall of MoFA, at Shital Niwas, Kathmandu from February 20th February to 2nd March, 2007. In order to make the programme relevant, meaningful and effective, the experts and consultants (See Annex- I A) from diversified fields, as required, were invited. The programme was formally inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Mr. Bhagirath Basnet, Acting Foreign Secretary, MoFA in a ceremony chaired by Prof. Dr. Gopal Pokharel, Executive Director, IFA.

The programme included 25 participants (See Annex I B) who were under different categories to be deputed by MoFA in different missions abroad.

Opening the orientation programme the Chief Guest, **Mr. Bhagirath Basnet, Acting Foreign Secretary, MoFA**, expressed his dismay apparently since a large number of human resources have been going out, it would create a vacuum and might even cause difficulty in efficiently running day to day administration. He however, sounded optimistic about the existing personnels working in different mission, as Nepalese representatives would leave no stone unturned while promoting the cause of national interest. In spite of the limited resources and numerous challenges, he pointed out with full confidence that the existing officials would be effortful in delicately handling the affairs in a balanced way and try to maximize the outputs.

Concluding his remarks, he expressed his good wishes for the success of the participants who would be shortly leaving to take charge of their responsibilities bestowed on them in different embassies. He also lauded the efforts made by IFA for organizing such orientation programme for the purpose of enhancing skills, competence and professional ability of the officials by providing knowledge and skill in diversified field for their day to day activities. He extended a lot of thanks to Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director of IFA for taking initiative.

Before concluding the opening session, **Prof. Dr. Gopal Pokharel, Executive Director, IFA**, shed light from the chair that the programme would be relevant and rational of such orientation would certainly pave the way for preparing professionalism, career enhancement and leadership quality of personnels working in different missions abroad. As the foreign policy is the rational explanation of international behaviour, he stressed on promoting Nepal's overall national interest in the foreign countries in a changed context. Despite many limitations, personnels, as representatives of the nation should display their acumen even when encountering many baffling questions of the day. At this juncture, momentous changes have taken place and people have taken their destiny in their own hand for the first time in the history of Nepal. He added that all the personnels must be cautious and vigilant to the best of their competence to manage the high expectations of Nepalese people by providing good services at home and abroad.

Mr. Pokharel, Executive Director, however, reminded that nothing has objectively changed the reality of the people in terms of improved livelihood and basic services. He suggested that there should be a paradigm shift in our approach to development and try to evolve a suitable model of diplomacy- preventive; Track-II, sometimes even back channel, private one, apart from the formal diplomacy. Mr. Pokharel further added that with the limited source at our disposal, efforts always should be made to minimize the risks and optimize the benefit.

Speaking earlier while welcoming the Chief Guest, distinguished guests, participants and journalists, **Ms. Anjan Shakya, Deputy Executive Director, IFA**, highlighted the need and rational of organizing such activities. She was

very much delighted to inform that IFA founded in 1993 is an integral part of the MoFA for the purpose of working closely with the member staff of MoFA. Initially, IFA was engaged in catering needs of professional training for the Nepalese Foreign Service personnels by way of providing knowledge, information and professional skills to them and to serve as a catalyst for generating national consensus on foreign policy issues through deliberations, discussions and interactions. She highlighted the objectives of the programme which would enlighten the participants about the existing foreign policy priorities, developing knowledge and skill on operation of embassies effectively and efficiently and enable participants to deal with foreign relation issues and international issues.

Ms. Shakya also opined that there would be interaction between and among the officials themselves on the one hand and the intercourse with the experts on the other would help in removing the doubts and confusions on various aspects and issues to a considerable extent while performing their respective tasks. She added that the programme would enrich the firm understanding and lead to refinement and precision in the concerned issues. She expressed that a small country like Nepal, has to play a significant role in the international arena so as to safeguard its territorial integrity, national sovereignty and independence which eventually would help promote its national interest. Nepal has to adopt a paradigm shift in operational style of its foreign policy in the interest of Nepal.

She shed light that embassies are being operated in the various countries and it is necessary to run them effectively and efficiently. To create conducive environment officials have to play a significant role. They have to undertake the personnels, financial administrative jobs and diplomatic activities simultaneously. They need to be oriented on the job assigned. Therefore, nine-day orientation programme was organized for them to sharpen their knowledge, skill and competence while discharging responsibilities abroad.

Ms Shakya felt that increasing global integration, or globalization creates a challenge. It is now increasing interaction between countries on economic issues including reduced barriers of trade and capital flows and increased reliance on international prices and markets. She observed that the globalized situation opens up the free market, technologies and resources and creates a potential world market where comparative advantages can be sought. To acquire such opportunities people working in the foreign affairs should improve their competence for competitiveness.

She emphasized that intensive efforts should be made to grow country's economy through the industrialization, expansion of quality production and exploration of new market and extension of trade beyond the national market, but

for such activities adequate support is required for the national traders who have at present not much experiences in dealing with international market. In such circumstances, the embassies stationed in the foreign countries may provide necessary support as facilitators for exploring the potential market for the quality national products. She believed that the participants of the programme would endeavor to achieve objectives of the programmes.

WORKING SESSION

Following the opening ceremony of the programme, some of the participants who were in need of fair knowledge on theory and practice of Accountancy and Book-keeping, being a resource person **Mr. Dev Raj Pathak, Joint-Financial Controller, Comptroller General's Office** expressed happiness to provide necessary support for the training programme. He said that the topic included would be very much helpful for the participants and help a lot in their day to day activities.

On request of some of the participants, **Mr. Dwarika Acharya, Under-Secretary, MoFA**, who dealt with fiscal management, administration and maintenance of official record as per their demand. He emphasized that any concerned officials should avoid risk and duplication when they maintain official records. He suggested that the procedure should be strictly followed by them for making their job systematic and undisputable as far as possible.

To give a fair idea and better understanding on policies of the Nepal Government on trade related issues, **Mr. Prachanda Man Shrestha, Joint-Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies**, explained government's policies and programmes which would help to avoid ambiguous and misunderstanding of concept and terms. He touched on the different aspects of government policies & actions being contemplated for improving the overall economic situation of the country.

Experts and Consultants from Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) and Nepal Chamber of Commerce (NCC), **Mr. Rajendra Bahadur Shrestha and Mr. Shankar Man Singh** respectively from the private sectors gave an overview of the country's trade and commerce scenario and pointed out the need for harmonizing policies and activities with the government and for establishing rapport with the private sector related to diplomacy for taking into account the national interest on the top priority.

Likewise, other resource person was **Mr. Dinesh Adhikari, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation**, who enlightened the participants, and gave many interesting information on the policies and programs being undertaken currently so as to make them effective and result-oriented. He disclosed a new tourism policy which

aims at boosting the effectiveness of tourism. He also clarified many of the queries raised by the participants.

Mr. Prakash Shrestha, President, Hotel Association of Nepal (HANS), was of the view that in a changed global context, both public and private sector should join hands together to promote tourism industry complementing the needs of each other. Apart from sound policies, co-ordination and adequate infrastructural requirements for attracting tourists, there is a need for modernization and creating tourist-friendly environment. Inconveniences for the visitors should be done away with. Though, at present, accommodation for the tourists visiting Nepal is not inadequate, still steps must be taken for making policies on tourism much credible and trust worthy. He sounded optimistic, and offered suggestions to provide necessary information to the officials to be deputed abroad so that the sector would be improved.

Likewise, **Mr. Tek Bahadur Dangi, Chief Executive Officer, Nepal Tourism Board**, on the basis of his long experience in the tourism sector gave many noteworthy examples, highlighting the rational and relevance of economic diplomacy. In reference to this, he noted that coordination is lacking between and among different line agencies e.g Trade, Tourism, Trade promotion and suggested that concerned major sectors, require team spirit. Infact, traditional diplomacy at present, is not adequate, specific job description along with many other attractive steps should be taken into consideration. He further opined that Nepal has diversified areas that could easily attract tourist coming from different parts of the globe. It's a suitable place for nature lovers, picturesque scene lovers and adventurous people. But we have to wisely and judiciously manage it, which could be an additional attraction for the visiting tourists. At the end, he expressed that he was optimistic on tourism industry which if managed properly, has enormous potential and as such, could prove to be a viable source for promoting economic diplomacy.

The officials going to different foreign countries, as representatives somehow conferred on understanding of Nepal's legal framework. They felt a sort of missing links for harmonious work. To dispel such state of ambivalence, **Mr. Kedar Poudel, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Law & Justice**, was involved in the orientation programme. In course of his presentation, he gave many examples related to international law and gave comparative perspective befitting Nepal's needs. He, however, felt that inter-ministerial coordination can avoid many of the confusions that exist today.

Likewise, **Mr. Keshar Baniya, Director, Ministry of Labour**, to some extent disagreed with the stand by the Law Ministry and Private Sector's Perspective and offered suggestions that the agencies involved should work unitedly for

creating functional understanding and coordination between and among themselves.

Mr. Madan Mahat, Vice-President of Foreign Employment Federation, disagreed with many ideas and proposals put forwarded by Mr. Baniya and proposed statistics to substantiate his arguments. He further clearly suggested that the perceptual policy gaps between different agencies should be avoided.

Being a resource person, **Mr. Madhav Ghimire, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance**, delivered lecture on the orientation programme and admitted many lapses while working at different missions abroad. In fact, unless effective mechanism is developed to bridge the policy-gap, and perceptual differences in the achievement of policy objectives, no noteworthy achievement is possible. He, however, suggested the frequency and relevance of such orientation that could dispel many of the misgivings and difficulties. He said that the effective use of information technology (IT) would facilitate investment and other capital-related issues, in which the Foreign Ministry personnel could play decisive role.

Another expert **Dr. Omkar Shrestha, Deputy Country Director, Head of Economics and programming Unit, Vietnam, Resident Mission, Asian Development Bank**, initiated lively discussion citing many relevant and helpful examples that Nepal could emulate while charting out its course of economic diplomacy. He offered suggestions to the participating officials that for effective implementation of every project, it is high time that they have to derive maximum advantage through the IT revolution. In addition, he opined that identification of problem needs to set priority, followed by constant review, assessment, monitoring and evaluation is a pre-requisite for the success of economic diplomacy.

He drew the parallel example from Vietnam's case, and reminded that Vietnam has initially passed through a crucial phase, but now, many noteworthy development projects have given the desirable yields to different sectors of its economy, concomitantly, brought about a qualitative change in the life of the people. He advised the participants to be innovative, if possible, it is within their reach, they represent the country. It may be possible that Vietnam's case has immensely been helpful in their case. Giving the willingness and commitment, they can effectively articulate the Nepal's case abroad. He shared his experiences with the participants and pinned high hopes that all the dignitaries posted to assume respective job are capable enough to accomplish the target. As, Vietnam currently, applauded its achievements in different fronts of its national economy, similarly, Nepal could prove its success within shortest possible timeframe, if policies are nationally based and if implementation is honestly pursued.

Dr. Mohan Man Saiju, former Vice-Chairman, National Planning Commission and former Ambassador, gave an overview of economic situation of Nepal, and offered his suggestions to the officials to be deputed in foreign countries to present themselves in a positive manner taking utmost care for the overall national interest. He shed lights on the theme of economic diplomacy while trying to explain the important variables pertaining to this course. He expressed his optimism, despite difficulties at the home fronts, a diplomat representing the country could do better to provide relief measures, if one tries to ponder over one's responsibilities meticulously. In order to mitigate the sufferings of the masses of the people Nepalese representatives working different missions abroad can be of great help in disseminating message of home front to the international community in creating better image.

He, however, advocated that foreign policy in itself does not deliver in isolation. A number of pertinent ingredients are required to achieve the goal. He cautioned the participating officials not to be carried away with excitement alone, caused by the political quagmire. Based on his own experience, over the last many years in different fields of development including diplomatic one, he suggested the participating officials to positively present country's image that would ensure effective performance on the part of the officials working in different missions, abroad. The essence of foreign policy, obviously, takes into account the national interest to tackle complex problems in the political, economic and social fields. On the whole his presentation was highly appreciated by the participants.

Another expert was **Dr. Shankar Prasad Sharma, former Vice-Chairman of the National Planning Commission**. He gave an overview of national economy at the present juncture unfolding the emerging trends. He highlighted the important features of the current economic and developmental and other policies being enforced in the transition phase. He presented current trends of overall economic situation drawing examples from different fields. However, he intended to be specific. He emphasized that 8% national growth could be expected if situation would improve.

The growth rate of Nepal is currently 2.2% only and 3.6% security expenditure has eclipsed development expenditure. Human development index, he suggested that every year, 3 lacks youths need additional jobs. 14% unemployment currently in Nepal is seen. Anomalies are noticed in different fields. Macro-economic stability, are better even while comparing with India and other countries, which is of course a positive sign of economic situation. He also noticed the lack of coordination and as such the Nepal Development Forum seemed to be difficult for 2007. Dr. Sharma suggested taking stock of the post-conflict situation that mas-

sive infrastructural development is seriously taken into account as a result progress, to a large extent satisfactory.

Mr. Keshav Raj Jha, Former Ambassador, helped the participant pertaining to protocol related issues. Basically, protocol relates the convenience of the country concerned. Besides it, the situation of a country might some time dictate the term. He referred the case of Late Ganesh Man Singh, in which, former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court highly refuted while attending a state function. Any way, he gave many of the tips to the officials taking their responsibilities soon in different embassies and prescribed some of the valuable literature for guidance when policies are being handled.

Another expert on protocol related issue was **Mr. Madhav Prasad Khanal former Joint Secretary, MoFA**. He gave a comparative perspective citing many interesting examples. He opined that the practice concerning protocol may vary from country to country, despite certain universally expected norms. However, he admitted that handling the business under MoFA needs careful scrutiny and utmost caution for maximizing national interest and the observance of protocol related issues could create lasting and result-oriented impact in the approach to foreign policy.

Prof. Lila Prasad Sharma, Former Joint Secretary and former Ambassador, gave an overview of Nepal's foreign policy. He felt the need of retrospection, particularly in the changed context. He noted that the MoFA needs to do a lot for making its policies and programme up to the marks. In his opinion, even the lofty ideas with which IFA was established was forgotten soon. He further added that in a changed context, the ministry needs to be revamped, to meet the growing challenges. He observed that adhocism principle and lack of seriousness would not give a desired result. He particularly drew the attention of the participating officials on this chronic problem.

Last expert involved in the orientation programme was **Mr. Gyanchandra Acharya, Joint Secretary and former Ambassador**. He started his argument with a clear tone with a positive note. He gave an account of Nepalese foreign policy, highlighting many of its basic features. He asserted that foreign policy of Nepal clearly spelled out its goals, taking into account the overall national interest. He opined that Nepal needs to draw a line between its interest and the international norms. Nepal has to make distinction between the interest of foreign partners and interference. He suggested to gather all possible help from different fields and try to gather information, support from its development partners which would make its task easy. Nepal should not allow the partners to have a negative outlook for indefinite period of time. On the whole, he asserted to play a proactive role while dealing with international community.

The interaction, in fact, was not a one-way traffic but followed by questions, comments and observations from the participants and admitted that the interaction was highly encouraging. Indeed this type of exercise gave opportunities to exchange ideas and learn more from each other.

CLOSING SESSION

The closing session of the orientation programme organized by IFA was held in the meeting hall of MoFA, at Shital Niwas, Kathmandu on March 2nd, 2007 in collaboration with MoFA. Honorable Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mr. K. P. Sharma Oli was chief guest for the closing session of the orientation programme and similarly Foreign Secretary of Ministry of Foreign affairs as guest of honor. The ceremony was chaired by Prof. Dr. Gopal Pokharel, Executive Director, IFA.

At the closing ceremony of the special orientation programme, **Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. K P Sharma Oli** was the chief guest. Addressing the participants, media persons and the guests, he appreciated the initiative taken by IFA, which aimed at improving of the skill and competence of officials of MoFA when they discharge their responsibilities at different missions abroad.

Hon'ble DPM Mr. Oli referred many issues that immediate attention of the ministry was drawn and thus the job, at the time of transition is on the shoulder of the personnels associated with MoFA. Though, for some people, the current state of affairs may not look very smooth and easy, the DPM remarked, by and large the situation is heading towards normalcy gradually, showing positive sign of improvement. For those, posted in different embassies abroad, current situation at home may be somehow difficult, for mustering meaningful cooperation and support from international community, the DPM gave direction to the officials, to look at the problems positively and assured all the present state of political quagmire would soon come to its end and soon the apparently gloomy picture would no longer be there and it would become investment friendly.

Mr. Oli laid emphasis on the different aspects of Nepal's foreign policy for the well-being of Nepali people at all fronts – be it the domestic or beyond by exploring all avenues possible, and for expediting the process of rapid socio-economic and political transformation. At this juncture, he admired the Nepalese people and their leadership for charting out a process of national reconstruction ensuring inclusion and proportional representation in the constituent assembly polls. He recalled, and added that there was an easy way during Panchayat regime to satisfy the interest of a few in a coterie, but after the restoration of multi-party democracy in 2046 BS, the aspiration of the Nepali people had gone considerably high, and as such it is

incumbent on the part of the officials taking charge in the ministries would have to put extra efforts to satisfy the interest of the people even in a such a time of uncertainty.

Hon'ble DPM Mr. Oli, highlighting the essence of Nepalese foreign policy, went on to suggest, “ The officials should be willing in protecting our national's interest and emphasized to promote their genuine grievances at all cost. For improving our relations with our friends, we need to be innovative, and are trying to have a provision of labour attaché in different missions abroad. The ministry is contemplating the schemes to improve the skills and competence of our labour forces so as to derive desired benefit.”

Mr. Oli, however, remarked,- “ Mostly Nepalese youth, leave their home without having adequate information and as a result may at times, find themselves in trouble. Even under such condition, whatever is possible ought to be done to facilitate our nationals wherever they are. Thus, our officials could play an assuring role in relieving our compatriots, whenever they are in difficult situation.”

Referring the Bhutanese refugees problem Hon'ble DPM Mr. Oli asserted,- “ It was a problem of Bhutan and its government, and added that all Bhutanese refugees should have the opportunity to go back home with dignity and honour. So far Nepal is acting as a facilitator and as a good neighbour. We can think of even third party involvement, but the other side namely, the Bhutanese government should also realize the need. In fact, this chronic problem is the product of the lack of democracy and human rights situation in Bhutan. Nepal's view in resolving this crisis is well-calculated is quite consistent and in conformity with international law and practice.”

Dwelling on the security dimension of Nepal's foreign policy, the DPM asserted that able and conscious citizens alone could be a best guarantee to national security. Exploring the relevance of economic diplomacy, he observed as other democratic countries,- “ Our diplomacy transcends formal boundary of state-to -state relations. To emphasis the essence of economic diplomacy, numerous important variables (components) need to be taken into consideration. For example eco-tourism, remittance, FDI, AID, trade, employment, investment etc. deserve our attention to make our diplomacy result-oriented.”

Hon'ble DPM Mr. Oli, cited an interesting case of “Andora” island, situated between France and Spain, whose total population is tiny 80,000 as compared to the number of tourists who visit the island every year (1.3 millions). Apart from giving, timely instruction, to the officials, Hon'ble DPM Mr. Oli concluded with a positive note that the ministry is aware of its duties, stands firm, united, solidified and concrete with its clear perception to discharge its responsibilities.



Delivery Speech by Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister
Mr. K. P. Sharma Oli on the special orientation programme.



ties with resolute determination that have been entrusted to them. He gave advises to the participants not to carry on unhealthy complexes whether superiority or interiority. Mr. Oli opined that there is no limit of knowledge and wisdom. He expressed his confidence at the capabilities of all members working at different missions, and assured them to provide all possible help, needed to run the embassies efficiently.

Mr. Oli, disclosed,- “ The review and evaluation process is being initiated to know current situation at different mission abroad. He thanked all for their valuable cooperation in realizing and executing the goals of Nepalese foreign policy, which seeks to optimize our national interests even at the time of great transitions.”

Hon'ble DPM Mr. Oli appreciated all for receiving cooperation in fulfilling his ministerial responsibilities and expressed his displeasure for the cynical allegation made in a small circle. He compared those critics with that of the black-crows. At the end, for initiating an interesting and fruitful

orientation programme, he thanked IFA, notably, to the Executive Director and the Deputy Executive Director, and wished all the participants to succeed in their newly assigned jobs.

Appreciating their active participation **Mr Bhagirath Basnet, Acting Foreign Secretary, MoFA**, thanked to the participants. He believed that they had acquired some knowledge and skill. They had been familiar with the ground realities, and would act wisely in a present state of transition. He, however, endorsed the proposition put forward by Mr. Dhananjaya Jha one of the participants about the issue of security dimension of foreign policy which would be seriously taken into consideration and assured this issue would be included in the future programme.

At the end, Mr Basnet appreciated the enthusiastic involvement of all participants and commendable efforts made by the Executive Director and the Deputy Executive Director of IFA and wished all for every success in the days ahead.

During this session, speaking on behalf of all the participants, **Mr. Dhananjaya Jha, Under Secretary, MoFA**, and currently designated as Charge' d Affairs to Denmark, thanked IFA for organizing such a wonderful programme that was richly rewarding and equally alluring. He disclosed that in his long career of 27 years, the orientation was the first of its kind. He expressed deep appreciation to both of the Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director for taking such personal

initiative.

He expressed opinion that the programme succeeded in meeting the expectations of the participants and added that the manner through which the programme was handled by IFA was highly commendable and exemplary. He, however, suggested one specific area on Security Dimensions, to be added for future deliberation. Rest of the programme was well-balanced, highly relevant to meet the requirements of the personnels when they discharge their duties in the different Nepalese Missions abroad.

Speaking from the chair, **Prof. Dr. Gopal Pokharel, Executive Director, IFA** gave an overview of the whole scheme relating to orientation programme. He explained the rationale of organizing the programme with a view to enhance the skill and competence of the dignitaries going abroad shortly to assume their responsibility in different embassies. He, however, suggested to have perceptual clarity, take stock of the existing situation, prioritize the needs, assess the resources needed and, proceed ahead with cour-

age and conviction and the participants will be able to achieve their targets.

Prof. Pokharel added the types of diplomacy whether preventive; track II, back-channel or even private (if needed) is the prerogative of officials taking into consideration of the national interest on the top. The Executive Director, expressed his deep appreciation and gratefulness to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs for his magnanimity, who, despite of his weak health, graced the concluding ceremony. At the end, he thanked all for the interest and cooperation shown to the interaction programme.

Since the beginning of the programme, most of the participating officials put their queries and made comments and suggestions to the lecturers in each of the sessions. Thus, the orientation programme initiated with a certain specific purpose, to a significant extent, seem to have attained its objectives. Infact the nature of the programme followed by the orientation-cum-interaction, is relatively more fruitful than it was initially expected.

Speaking earlier in welcoming the chief guest, distinguished guests, members of the committee, participants and journalists, **Ms. Anjan Shakya, Deputy Executive Director, IFA**, expressed her happiness that Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mr. K. P. Sharma Oli graced them with his presence in spite of his busy schedule. She said that since Nepalese embassies are being

operated in the various countries, it is necessary to run them effectively and efficiently. She highlighted that the officials appointed in the various embassies have to perform the various activities relating to personnel, financial, diplomatic sectors within the given framework effectively with the available limited resources. They have to make maximum utilization of the resources and get maximum outputs even in the adverse situation. For this, they needed to be thoroughly oriented in different aspects.

She said that the nine-day orientation programme became successful to facilitate or sharpen skill and competence of participants. She pinned high hope that helped participants to develop the sense of responsibilities and to remove some of the anomalies. She lauded that IFA has received fruitful co-operation and coordination through active participation by all the participants in a very amicable environment during the orientation period. She was highly encouraged and assured that IFA would organize such programmes in the days to come.

She observed that by how much the orientation would achieve the objectives, the future would prove. At last, she extended sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Chief Guest Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Guest of Honor, Foreign Secretary and all distinguished participants for their gracious presence and contribution that made the function successful. She ensured that the suggestion given by the participants would be seriously taken into consideration in the days to come.



Hon'ble Deputy prime Minister & Foreign Minister Mr. K. P. Sharma Oli with Ministry of Foreign Affairs, officials and Executive Director & Deputy Executive Director, Institute of Foreign Affairs on the special orientation Programme.

ANNEX - IA

LIST OF THE RESOURCE PERSONS

1. Mr. Dev Raj Pathak, Joint-Financial Controller, Comptroller General's Office
2. Mr. Dwarika Acharya, Under Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (MoFA)
3. Mr. Prachanda Man Shrestha, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies
4. Dr. Rajendra B. Shrestha, Senior Consultant, Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industry
5. Mr. Sankar Man Singh, Project Director, Nepal Chamber of Commerce
6. Mr. Dinesh Adhikari, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation
7. Mr. Prakash Shrestha, President, Hotel Association of Nepal
8. Mr. Tek Bahadur Dangi, Chief Executive Officer, Nepal Tourism Board
9. Mr. Kedar Poudel, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Law
10. Mr. Keshar Bahadur Baniya, Director General, Ministry of Labor
11. Mr. Madan Mahat, Vice-President, Foreign Employment Federation
12. Dr. Madhav Ghimire, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance
13. Dr. Omkar Shrestha, Deputy Country Director, Head of Economics & Programming Unit, Viet Nam Resident Mission, Asian Development Bank
14. Dr. Mohan Man Sainju, Former Ambassador
15. Dr. Sankar Prasad Sharma, Former Vice-Chairman, National Planning Commission
16. Mr. Madhav Prasad Khanal, Former Chief of Protocol, MoFA
17. Mr. Keshav Raj Jha, Former Ambassador
18. Prof. Dr. Lila Prasad Sharma, Former Ambassador
19. Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya, Joint Secretary, MoFA

LIST OF THE INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (IFA) MEMBERS

1. Prof. Dr. Gopal Pokharel, Executive Director, IFA
2. Ms. Anjan Shakya, Deputy Executive Director, IFA

HELPING HANDS

1. Mr. Mahendra Joshi
2. Mr. Subhash Lohani
3. Ms. Binita Nepal

ANNEX - IB

LIST OF THE PARTICIPANTS UNDER MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MoFA)

1. Mr. Madhuvan Poudel, Joint-Secretary
 2. Mr. Dhananjaya Jha, Under-Secretary
 3. Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi, Under-Secretary
 4. Mr. Jhabindra Prashad Aryal, Under-Secretary
 5. Mr. Durga Bahadur Subedi, Under-Secretary
 6. Mr. Kali Prasad Pokharel, Under-Secretary
 7. Mr. Yadav Khanal, Under-Secretary
 8. Mr. Yagya Bahadur Hamal, Under-Secretary
 9. Mr. Ganesh Prasad Dhakal, Under-Secretary
 10. Mr. Narayan Prasad Mainali, Section-Officer
 11. Mr. Dor Nath Aryal, Section-Officer
 12. Mr. Dhan Bahadur Oli, Section-Officer
 13. Mr. Sushil Kumar Lamshal, Section-Officer
 14. Mr. Ram Kaji Khadka, Section-Officer
 15. Mr. Netra Bahadur Tandon, Section-Officer
 16. Mr. Rameshwor Poudel, Assistant-Officer
 17. Mr. Chakra Kumar Subedi, Assistant-Officer
 18. Mr. Hakim Bahadur Bhandari, Assistant-Officer
 19. Mr. Krishna Thapa, Assistant-Officer
 20. Mr. Than Prashad Sharma, Assistant-Officer
 21. Mr. Rajan Prashad Dhungel, Assistant-Officer
 22. Mr. Shivaji Kumar Gupta Rauniyar, Computer Operator
 23. Mr. Jitendra Kumar Lav, Computer Operator
 24. Mr. Yadav Koirala, Junior-Officer
 25. Mr. Prem Baral, Junior-Officer
- NewYork
 - Denmark
 - Australia
 - London
 - Japan
 - America
 - South Korea
 - China
 - Germany
 - Australia
 - Denmark
 - Delhi
 - Hong Kong
 - Qatar
 - Myanmar
 - Russia
 - Germany
 - South Korea
 - Japan
 - Sri Lanka
 - Australia
 - Malaysia
 - Abu Dhabi
 - Denmark
 - Qatar

ANNEX - II**PROGRAMME SCHEDULE**

Institute of Foreign Affairs, Tripureshwar
Special Orientation Programme for MoFA

DATE	TIME	ORIENTATION PROGRAMME	EXPERTS
20 th Feb,07	1:30-2:30 pm 2:00-2:30 pm 3:00-5:00 pm	Inaugural Programme Break Orientation on Accountancy and Book Keeping (Policies and Practices)	by Mr. Dev Raj Pathak, Joint-Financial Controller, Comptroller General's Office
21 st Feb,07	3:00-5:00 pm	Accountancy and Bookkeeping	by Mr. Dwarika Acharya , Under Secretary, MOFA
22 nd Feb,07	3:00-5:00 pm	* Nepal Government's Policies on Industry and Commerce * Private Perspectives	by Mr. Prachanda Man Shrestha, Joint Secretary, MOICAS by Mr. Rajendra Bdr. Shrestha, FNCCI by Mr. Shanker Man Singh, NCC
23 rd Feb,07	3:00-5:00 pm	* Nepal Government's Policies on Labour Issues * Nepal Government's Policies on Legal Issues * Private Perspective on Nepal Government's Policies on Labour Issues	by Mr. Keshar Baniya, Director General, Ministry of Labour by Mr. Kedar Poudel, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Law by Mr. Madan Mahat, Foreign Employment Federation
25 th Feb,07	3:00-4:00 pm 4:00-5:00 pm	*Nepal Government's Policies on Tourism and Culture *Private Perspectives on Nepal Government's Policies on Tourism and Culture	by Mr. Dinesh Adhikari, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Tourism & Civil Aviation by Mr. Prakash Shrestha, President, Hotel Association of Nepal by Mr. Tek Bdr. Dangi, Chief Executive Officer, NTB
26 th Feb,07	3:00-5:00 pm	An Overview of Economic Situation of Nepal with Particular focus on Economic Diplomacy	by Dr. Madhav Ghimire, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance by Dr. Omkar Shrestha, Deputy Country Director, ADB
27 th Feb,07	3:00-5:00 pm	Emerging Challenges and Recent Development in Socio, Economic and Political Fields	by Dr. Mohan Man Sainju, Former Ambassador by Dr. Shankar P. Sharma, Former Vice-Chairman, NPC
1 st March,07	3:00-5:00 pm	An Overview of Foreign Policy of Nepal in the Changed Context	by Prof. Lila Sharma, Former Ambassador by Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya, Joint Secretary, MoFA
2 nd March,07	3:00-4:00 pm 4:00-5:00 pm	Protocol Related Discussion Concluding Programme	by Mr. Madhav P. Khanal, Former Chief of Protocol, MoFA by Mr. Keshav Raj Jha, Former Ambassador