



# MoFA BULLETIN

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

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**A. BILATERAL AFFAIRS**

**1. NEPAL AND THE PHILIPPINES ESTABLISH BILATERAL CONSULTATION MECHANISM**

Nepal and the Republic of the Philippines signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish Bilateral Consultation Mechanism (BCM) between the Foreign Ministries of the two countries in Kathmandu on 01 December 2019.



*Joint Secretary Mr. Tapas Adhikari with Ambassador of the Philippines Mr. Ramon S. Bagatsing Jr. after signing of the MOU on establishing Nepal-Philippines BCM, Kathmandu, 1 December 2019*

Joint Secretary and Head of South East Asia and the Pacific Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal Mr. Tapas Adhikari and Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines to Nepal Mr. Ramon S. Bagatsing Jr. signed the MOU on behalf of their respective Ministries. The establishment of the BCM has paved ways to hold regular consultation and identify and expand areas of mutually beneficial

cooperation to strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries. Nepal and the Philippines established diplomatic relations on 12 February 1960.

**2. NEPAL AND FRANCE ESTABLISH BILATERAL CONSULTATION MECHANISM**

Nepal and France established a Bilateral Consultation Mechanism (BCM) on 13 December 2019. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) establishing the Bilateral Consultation Mechanism between Foreign Ministries of Nepal and France was signed at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kathmandu. Joint Secretary of Europe America Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. Nirmal Raj Kafle and Ambassador of France to Nepal Mr. Francois Xavier-Leger signed the MoU on behalf of their respective Ministries. Foreign Minister Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Foreign Secretary, Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi and the Director for Asia and Oceania of the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs of France Mr. Thierry Mathou, witnessed the signing of the MoU.



*Signing Ceremony of the MoU Establishing Nepal-France Bilateral Consultation Mechanism, Kathmandu, 13 December 2019*

Following the signing of MoU, the first meeting of BCM was held on the same day in Kathmandu. Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi, Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Thierry Mathou, Director for Asia and Oceania of the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs of France led their respective delegations to the meeting.

During the meeting, the two sides took stock of all aspects of bilateral relations and exchanged views on further promoting cooperation between the two countries, including enhancing economic partnership in the areas of trade, tourism and investment, and promoting people-to-people contacts. The French side expressed readiness to provide cooperation towards making the Visit Nepal Year 2020 a success.

Matters of regional and international importance were also discussed during the meeting. The two ministries agreed to further engage in several areas of common interest such as Climate Change and the UN Peacekeeping. With regard to the first edition of *Sagarmatha Sambaad* scheduled to be held in Kathmandu on 2-4 April 2020 and high-level participation from France, the French side assured to consider its meaningful participation in the global dialogue forum dedicated to the important issues related to Climate Change and its effects on mountains and the future of humanity.

### 3. PROGRESS MONITORING THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCES

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, according due priority to the utilization of information technologies, has started holding regular video-conferences with its diplomatic missions abroad to get progress updates and to monitor the mission activities. During the period, video-conferences were held between the Ministry and the Embassies of Nepal in Islamabad, Yangon, Kuala Lumpur and Canberra respectively on 30 December 2019, 06 January, 27 January and 11 February 2020.

The Ambassadors in the respective countries apprised the Ministry on the works, priorities and activities of the Embassies. Similarly, Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali instructed the Ambassadors and Embassies to work hard to achieve Nepal's foreign policy goals and promote Economic Diplomacy. The Foreign Minister also instructed the Ambassadors to work towards making Visit Nepal Year 2020 a success,

and to put their best efforts to ensure high-level participation in the first edition of *Sagarmatha Sambaad* from the respective countries.

### 4. COURTESY CALL ON MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Mr. Thierry Mathou, Director for Asia and Oceania of the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs of France paid a courtesy call on the Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali on 13 December at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During the meeting, various matters of mutual interest, including enhancing bilateral cooperation in areas of trade, tourism, investment and technology transfer were discussed.

During the call on, views were shared on the important contributions made to the bilateral relations between the two countries by the visit of Prime Minister Mr. K P Sharma Oli to France in June 2019. Foreign Minister Mr. Gyawali highlighted the need and importance of *Sagarmatha Sambaad* and its first edition to be held in Kathmandu on the theme of climate change. Discussions were also held to further enhance Nepal-France partnership and cooperation.



*Foreign Minister Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali with Mr. Thierry Mathou, Director for Asia and Oceania of the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs of France at MoFA, Kathmandu, 13 December 2019*

### 5. HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS ASTRID VISITS NEPAL

Princess Astrid, the younger sister of the King of Belgium, visited Nepal from 19 to 25 January 2020.

While in Nepal, she paid courtesy call on President of Nepal Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari on 21 January. She also met separately with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Mr. Ishwar Pokhrel,

Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, and Minister for Health and Population Mr. Bhanu Bhakta Dhakal.

Princess Astrid visited Kailali, Nawalparasi and Chitwan districts. In Kailali, she participated in the opening ceremony of a new Tuberculosis Centre and met with the leprosy and tuberculosis affected people. She also visited the Midpoint Hospital at Nawalparasi, which is provincial referral center for MDR tuberculosis and leprosy.

Princess Astrid is the honorary Chairperson of Damien Foundation, a Belgium-based NGO which is supporting tuberculosis and leprosy affected people in Kailali and Nawalparasi districts.



*President Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari with Princess Astrid of Belgium at the President's Office, Kathmandu, 21 January 2020*

## **6. GERMAN FIRST LADY H. E. MS. ELKE BÜDENBENDER VISITS NEPAL**

Ms. Elke Büdenbender, First Lady of Germany and Patroness of German Committee for UNICEF, visited Nepal from 03-07 February. During her visit, she paid a courtesy call on President Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari on 03 February. She also met with Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali. During the meeting common areas of interest, including climate change, peace, globalization and counterterrorism were discussed.

Ms. Büdenbender visited Lalitpur, Kavrepalanchowk and Janakpur where she observed UNICEF supported programmes. While in Janakpur she held meetings with Chief Minister of Province No. 2 Mr. Lal Babu Raut, and other dignitaries.



*President Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari with Ms. Elke Büdenbender, First Lady of Germany at the President's Office, Kathmandu, 03 February 2020*

## **7. LUXEMBOURG MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS VISITS NEPAL**

Mr. Jean Asselborn, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, visited Nepal from 29-30 January 2020 and held a bilateral meeting with Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali on 30 January.

During the meeting, both Foreign Ministers discussed various matters, including promotion of trade, tourism and investment between the two countries, and the ways and means to further promote collaboration and cooperation between the two sides. Discussions were also held on matters of regional and global importance, including climate change, connectivity and migrant workers. The two Foreign Ministers agreed to continue collaborating in multilateral forums on shared agendas.

Foreign Minister of Luxembourg Mr. Asselborn also called on the Prime Minister Mr. K P Sharma Oli on the same day and exchanged views on the importance of expanding cooperation between

Nepal and Luxembourg in the areas of trade, investment, tourism and transfer of technology.



*Foreign Minister Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali with Mr. Jean Asselborn, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs of Luxembourg, Kathmandu, 29 January 2020*

## **8. SPEAKER OF THE SENATE OF CANADA VISITS NEPAL**

A Parliamentary Delegation led by Mr. George J. Furey, A.C., Speaker of the Senate of Canada, paid an official visit to Nepal on 10-11 February and held bilateral meeting with Chairperson of the National Assembly Mr. Ganesh Prasad Timilsina.

Speaker Furey also met with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Minister for Education, Science and Technology separately. During the meetings, various areas of mutual interest between Nepal and Canada, and means of strengthening cooperation between the two Parliaments were discussed.

## **9. CHAIRMAN OF THE PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT OF THE TIBET AUTONOMOUS REGION OF CHINA PAYS OFFICIAL VISIT TO NEPAL**

At the invitation of Chief Minister of Gandaki Province Mr. Prithvi Subba Gurung, Chairman of the People's Government of the Tibet Autonomous Region of China Mr. Qizhala, paid an official visit to Nepal on 02-06 December 2019. He was accompanied by Mr. Zhu Qiang, Secretary-General, the General Office of the People's Government of Tibet Autonomous Region, Ms. Baimanyangzong, Director-General, Foreign Affairs Office of the Government of Tibet Autonomous Region and other senior officials from the Government of the TAR, China.

During the visit, Chairman Mr. Qizhala met with the Chief Minister of Gandaki Province Mr. Prithvi Subba Gurung and Governor of Gandaki Province Mr. Amik Sherchan on 3 December. He also met with the Chief Minister of Province No. 3 Mr. Dormani Poudel on 05 December. During the meetings, both sides exchanged views on various aspects of mutual interests including identifying new areas of cooperation and collaboration between the two sides.

Mr. Qizhala also had a meeting with Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali on 05 December. On the occasion, both sides discussed various aspects of bilateral relations between Nepal and TAR and recalled the historic visit of Chinese President to Nepal in October 2019. They also emphasized on the expeditious implementation of agreements and understandings reached between the two leaders during the high-level visit.



*Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali and Chairman of People's Government of TAR Mr. Qi Zhala, Kathmandu, 05 December 2019*



*Chairman of TAR Mr. Qi Zhala with the President at President's office, Kathmandu, 5 December 2019*

The Chairman of TAR also paid courtesy calls separately on President Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari, and Prime Minister Mr. K P Sharma Oli, on 05 December.

## **10. MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS VISITS CHINA**

Minister for Home Affairs Mr. Ram Bahadur Thapa “Badal” paid an official visit to the People’s Republic of China on 05-10 January at the invitation of Mr. Zhao Kezhi, State Councilor and Minister of Public Security of China. During the visit, Home Minister held bilateral meeting with his counterpart in Beijing on January 06 and discussed matters pertaining to mutual interests. Home Minister Mr. Thapa also visited Shanghai and Lhasa after the visit of Beijing.

## **11. MEETING OF NEPAL-JAPAN BILATERAL CONSULTATION MECHANISM**

The third meeting of Nepal-Japan Bilateral Consultation Mechanism was held on 07 February in Kathmandu. Mr. Kali Prasad Pokhrel, Joint Secretary and the Head of North East Asia Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal and Mr. Hiroshi Ishikawa, Director-General of the Southeast and Southwest Asian Affairs of the Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan led their respective delegations in the meeting.

The two sides discussed various ways of enhancing cooperation in the areas of trade, tourism, investment, agriculture, infrastructure, hydropower, education, human resources as well as culture and people-to-people contacts. Regional and international matters of mutual interests were also discussed during the meeting.

## **12. PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION OF REPUBLIC OF KOREA VISITS NEPAL**

A four-member delegation of National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, led by Mr. Won Hye visited Nepal from 15 to 18 January 2020. The delegation paid a courtesy call on Mr. Ganesh Prasad Timilsina, Chairman of the National Assembly of Nepal on 18 January and discussed matters on further strengthening parliamentary cooperation between the two countries.

## **13. VISIT OF PARLIAMENTARY VICE-MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF JAPAN**

Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Mr. Norihiro Nakayama paid a two-day visit to Nepal from 16 to 17 January. Vice-Minister Norihiro paid separately calls on President Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari, Prime Minister Mr. K P Sharma Oli, Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali and Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Mr. Yogesh Kumar Bhattarai. During the meetings, matters related to ways of strengthening bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries were discussed.

## **14. VISIT OF MR. GIL HASKEL TO NEPAL**

At the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal, Ambassador Gil Haskel, Head of MASHAV (Israel’s Agency for International Development Cooperation) visited Nepal from 08 to 12 December 2019.

He called on the Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali at the Ministry. Various aspects of bilateral relations including the ongoing as well as potential areas of cooperation between Nepal and Israel were discussed during the meeting. Mr. Haskel also held separate meetings with Mr. Barshaman Pun, Minister for Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation, Mr. Ghanashyam Bhusal, Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Development, Dr. Yuba Raj Khatiwada, Minister for Finance, Mr. Bhanubhakta Dhakal, Minister for Health and Population, and Mr. Giriraj Mani Pokhrel, Minister for Education, Science and Technology on 09 December. During the meetings, matters of bilateral relations as well as additional areas of cooperation between Nepal and Israel including establishment of agricultural centers of excellence in Nepal were discussed.

## **15. VISIT OF WORKING GROUP TO MALAYSIA, SAUDI ARABIA AND KUWAIT**

A six member working group led by Mr. Harishchandra Ghimire, Joint Secretary, Central Asia, West Asia and Africa Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs visited Malaysia from 10 to 16 December 2019, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,

and Kuwait from 5 to 18 February 2020, respectively. The working group has the mandate to develop an operational guideline for Nepali Diplomatic Missions that will act as a tool to standardize the missions' functions and services related to migrant workers.

## 16. JOINT REMOTE INAUGURATION OF INTEGRATED CHECK POST, BIRATNAGAR

Prime Minister Mr. K P Sharma Oli and Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi jointly inaugurated on 21 January 2020, through Video Conference, the Integrated Check Post (ICP), Biratnagar and the Post-earthquake Reconstruction of Private Housing in Gorkha and Nuwakot Districts under the financial support of the Government of India.

While making his remarks, Prime Minister Mr. K P Sharma Oli stated that the timely completion of the ICP, Biratnagar and the Post Earthquake reconstruction of Private Housing in Gorkha and Nuwakot Districts symbolize the close friendly relations between Nepal and India. The Prime Minister further said that the operationalization of ICP, Biratnagar with customs, quarantine, immigration and other facilities under one roof would bring positive outcomes by facilitating trade and cross border movements of people. He also expressed happiness on the reconstruction of quake affected private houses in Gorkha and Nuwakot Districts under the grant assistance of the Government of India.



*Prime Minister Mr. K P Sharma Oli and Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi during the Joint Remote Inauguration of ICP Biratnagar and Post Earth-quake Reconstruction of Private Housing in Gorkha and Nuwakot, 21 January 2020*

## B. REGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS

### 1. MESSAGE BY PRIME MINISTER ON THE OCCASION OF 35<sup>TH</sup> SAARC CHARTER DAY

Prime Minister Mr. K P Sharma Oli extended warm greetings and best wishes to all the Member States and the South Asian People on the occasion of the Thirty-fifth Charter Day of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

Through the message issued on the occasion of SAARC Charter Day, the Prime Minister underscored that the South Asian people are connected together by their common linkages, socio-cultural ethos and geographical contiguity. The collective journey of 35 years of cooperation has given the people of South Asia Region experiences and insights in handling the pressing problems of the region and to better engage in the areas of cooperation such as agriculture, environment, education, trade, tourism and human resource development.

As the hope for collective rise of over 1.7 billion people of this region hinges on the effectiveness of this regional organization, the Prime Minister expressed his belief that the Member States would place top commitment to make this regional body dynamic and result oriented. Nepal is the current Chair country of the SAARC.

### 2. 57<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE OF SAARC

The 57<sup>th</sup> session of the SAARC Programming Committee was held on 19-20 December in SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu. The Programming Committee comprises of the Heads of the SAARC/Regional Organization Divisions from the Foreign Ministries of SAARC Member States.

Foreign Secretary Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi addressed the inaugural session. In his address he appreciated the regular convening of Programming Committee and highlighted that it has made the SAARC process active, vibrant and fully functional due to its mandate to deliberate on the important issues of administration and financial matters within SAARC process.

The Foreign Secretary reiterated Nepal's unflinching commitment to the principles and objectives of SAARC, which has become a well networked, a widely recognized and an established regional body in its 35 years of operation. He also expressed his hope that the Member States will display requisite

political will and arrive at consensus to convene the 19th SAARC Summit at an early date.

The Programming Committee reviewed the administrative and financial matters of SAARC. It also discussed on the wide ranges of issues such as Tourism, Agriculture, Rural Development, Food Security, Bio-technology, Environment and Natural Disaster, Economic, Trade and Financial Cooperation, Social Development, Energy Cooperation, Education and Culture, progress of Regional Centers and SAARC specialized bodies, etc. The Charter Body Meeting was chaired by Joint Secretary and Head of the Regional Organization Division in the Ministry Mr. Ram Prasad Subedi.

### **3. THIRD MEETING OF THE BIMSTEC TASK FORCE ON TRADITIONAL MEDICINE**

The Ministry of Health and Population, Government of Nepal organized the Third Meeting of the BIMSTEC Task Force on Traditional Medicine in Kathmandu on 04 and 05 February. The meeting was inaugurated by Minister for Health and Population Mr. Bhanu Bhakta Dhakal as the Chief Guest. In his special remarks at the inaugural session of the Meeting, the Minister highlighted that BIMSTEC region is a region with abundant herbs, medicinal plants and microcosm of varieties of flora. He expressed the hope that the platform would serve as an excellent venue to forge broader consensus among the Member States in the field of traditional medicine.

In the working session, the meeting discussed on the development of BIMSTEC TM Portal, common BIMSTEC Pharmacopeia of Traditional Medicine, priority areas for technical and research collaboration among BIMSTEC Member States, capacity development of the Member States in traditional medicine among others. The meeting also made review of the draft Plan of Action for Development of Traditional Medicine and finalized it.



*Third Meeting of BIMSTEC Task Force on Traditional Medicine (BTFTM), Kathmandu, 04-05 February 2020*

### **4. OTHERS**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs facilitated and coordinated with the Line Ministries and Embassies the Inauguration Ceremonies of 13<sup>th</sup> South Asian Games, and the Visit Nepal Year 2020 organized on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019 and 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 respectively. Both ceremonies were graced by the High Level Dignitaries from various countries.

### **5. NEPAL JOINS COALITION OF DISASTER RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE (CDRI)**

Nepal decided to join the Coalition of Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) as its founding member on 27 January 2020.

CDRI is an initiative of the Government of India for global partnership of national governments, UN agencies and programmes, multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms, the private sectors, academic and knowledge institutions. CDRI aims to promote the resilience of infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks, thereby ensuring sustainable development. Its objective is to promote research and knowledge sharing in the fields of infrastructure risk management, standards, financing and recovery mechanisms.

CDRI was launched by the Indian Prime Minister Shree Narendra Modi at the 2019 UN Climate Action Summit in September 2019. The Secretariat of the CDRI is located in New Delhi, India.

### **6. NEPAL PRESENTED CANDIDATURE TO THE NON-PERMANENT MEMBERSHIP OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL**

The Government of Nepal has decided to present its candidature for a non-permanent seat of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) from Asia-Pacific Group for the term 2037-2038, the election for which will be held during the 90th General Assembly in 2036.

The decision has been circulated to all the Permanent Missions of the Member States of the Asia-Pacific Group of the United Nations from the Permanent Mission of Nepal in New York. Earlier, Nepal had successfully served as the non-permanent member of the UNSC twice in the period 1969-70 and 1988-89.

## 7. NEPAL MENTIONED IN THE “HONOR ROLL” OF THE UNITED NATIONS

In an honor of paying of annual contribution to the United Nations as per its financial rules and regulations, Nepal has been mentioned in the “Honor Roll” of the world body for the year 2020. Nepal was among the twenty five countries in the Honor List this year which paid regular budget assessment in full. Previously, Nepal was in the Honor List in the year 2018 as well. Nepal has been fulfilling its financial obligations as a member of the UN and other international organizations timely on the regular basis.

## 8. COURTESY CALL ON BY THE MEMBER OF UN COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Mrs. Mikiko Otani, member of UN Committee on the Rights of the Child paid courtesy call on Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Minister for Foreign Affairs on 15 December. Matters related to the protection of children as well as the achievements made by Nepal in the area were discussed during the meeting. Mrs Otani was in Nepal to participate at the High Level Dialogue on Child Rights Situations and Relevance of third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (OP3CRC) held in Kathmandu.

## 9. NEPAL PARTICIPATED IN THE COP 25 HELD IN MADRID

A Nepali delegation led by Minister for Forests and Environment Mr. Shakti Bahadur Basnet participated in the twenty-fifth Conference of the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP25) held in Madrid, Spain from 02 to 13 December.

The COP 25 discussed on developing the guidelines on how international carbon markets will work along with other issues such as adaptation to climate impacts, loss and damage suffered by developing nations due to climate change, finance for de-carbonization etc. Delivering his statement, Minister Basnet highlighted Nepal’s attempts to implementing climate change agendas and urged the international community for more coherent efforts in mitigating the effects of climate change.

## 10. NEPAL PARTICIPATED IN THE 2019 MEETING OF THE STATE PARTIES OF BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

The 2019 Meeting of the State Parties of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) was held in Geneva, Switzerland from 03 to 06 December. The Nepali delegation was led by the Ambassador/ Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations Office at Geneva.

Delivering the statement during the General Debate, Nepal reiterated its commitment to remain constructively engaged with the international community in the national and international implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention.

### C. PROTOCOL, NON RESIDENT NEPALI, SAGARMATHA SAMBAAD, SERVICE DELIVERY INCLUDING PASSPORT AND CONSULAR MATTERS

#### 1. PROTOCOL MATTERS

During the period, the Ministry facilitated, coordinated, prepared and arranged high level visits, ceremony for presentation of Credentials, Letters of Credence and Recall in favour of Nepali Ambassadors, Letters of Commission for Nepali Honorary Consuls and official Luncheons and Dinners.

The following Residential and Non-residential Ambassadors presented their letters of Credence to President Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari at Sheetal Niwas on 04 December.

1. Ms. Nicola Kathryn Pollitt, Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Nepal
2. Ms. Katrin Kivi, Ambassador of the Republic of Estonia to Nepal
3. Dr. Falah Abdulhasan Abdulsada, Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to Nepal
4. Mr. Rabie Narsh, Ambassador of the Republic of Lebanon to Nepal

Foreign Secretary Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi hosted a luncheon to bid farewell to the outgoing Ambassador of Republic of India Mr. Manjeev Singh Puri on 12 December.



*Ms. Nicola Kathryn Pollitt, Ambassador of the United Kingdom presenting her letters of credence to the President, Kathmandu, 04 December 2019*



*Mr. Rabie Narsh, Ambassador of the Republic of Lebanon presenting his letters of credence to the President*



*Ms. Katrin Kivi, Ambassador of the Republic of Estonia to Nepal, presenting her letters of credence to the President, Kathmandu, 04 December 2019*



*Dr. Falah Abdul Hassan Al-Saadi, Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to Nepal, presenting his letters of credence to the President, Kathmandu, 04 December 2019*

## 2. NON RESIDENT NEPALI (NRN) RELATED SERVICES

S. N.	Services (Only from the Ministry)	Number
1	Issuance of NRN Cards	18
2	Processing of Land Purchase Approval to NRN	05

## 3. SAGARMATHA SAMBAAD

### REGIONAL CONSULTATION ON SAGARMATHA SAMBAAD IN POKHARA AND JANAKPUR

The *Sagarmatha Sambaad* Secretariat, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in partnership with the Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA), and the Policy Research Institute (PRI), organized *Sagarmatha Sambaad* regional consultations in Pokhara and Janakpur on 11 December 2019, and 16 January 2020 respectively. The objective of the consultations was to collect views, ideas and feedback from various stakeholders at the provincial level for the preparation of global edition of the *Sagarmatha Sambaad*. The first edition of the global dialogue is scheduled for 2-4 April 2020 in Kathmandu on the theme of ‘climate change, mountains and the future of humanity’. The consultation seminars were attended by representatives of various political parties, leaders and officials from provincial and local-level governments, private sector, experts, academia, youth, civil society, media and broader

stakeholders working in the cross-cutting areas of climate change, mountains, biodiversity and livelihood.

## SAGARMATHA NATIONAL SAMBAAD

*Sagarmatha Sambaad* Secretariat, Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized *Sagarmatha National Sambaad* in Kathmandu on 9 February 2020. The objective of the national *Sambaad* was to share views and ideas among national stakeholders on the theme of the planned global dialogue.

The *National Sambaad* was inaugurated by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defense Mr. Ishwar Pokhrel, in the presence of Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for General Administration and Federal Affairs, and Minister for Finance, by planting the saplings of *Bar* and *Pipal*. The programme was also attended by ministers, political leaders and representatives from province and local-level governments, senior government officials, foreign policy experts, environmentalists, and representatives from security forces, civil society, media, and academia, among others.



*Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Mr. Ishwar Pokhrel inaugurating the Sagarmatha National Sambaad*

The national dialogue was held in four thematic sessions and a plenary session: Adaptation, Resilience and Livelihoods; Green Economy and Energy; Transformational Solutions; Global Partnership and Regional Cooperation; and Ambition for 1.5 degree Celsius: Urgency for Action in Mountains and beyond.

## 4. SERVICE DELIVERY FROM DEPARTMENTS:

### PASSPORT SERVICES

#### 1. INTRODUCTION OF ONLINE PAYMENT SYSTEM

The Department of Passports has introduced an online payment system through 'Connect IPS', which has been interlinked with Revenue Management Information System (RMIS) software of the Government of Nepal. With this development, interested applicants will be able to electronically pay their passport fee through the system.

#### 2. PASSPORT REGULATIONS, 2076

With the coming into effect of Passport Act, 2076, the Department of Passports, in order to define and regulate the provisions set forth in the Act, has prepared a draft Passport Regulations, 2076 in accordance with the decision of the Ministry.

#### 3. DRAFTING OF INFORMATION GUIDEBOOK ON E-PASSPORT AND MRP

The Department of Passports has prepared a draft of Information Guidebook on MRP and e-Passport. The draft covers introduction of Nepali passport, existing Machine Readable Passport (MRP), its features, and guidelines for application process, reasons for shifting from handwritten passport to MRP, and plans for introducing e-Passport along with its features and characteristics. Upon its publication, the Guidebook will be distributed to all Nepali Missions abroad, District Administration Offices (DAO) and Area Administration Offices (AAO) that could be instrumental in enhancing MRP and e-Passport literacy among concerned officials.-

#### 4. ORIENTATION AND INTERACTION PROGRAMS

The Department organized orientation and interaction program on Machine Readable Passport (MRP) and e-Passport in Pokhara, provincial headquarters of Gandaki Province, inviting around 25 officials working at Passport sections of District Administration Offices and Area Administration Offices under the province.

## Service delivery from the Department:

S. N.	Activities	Number	Remarks
1	Applications received		Excluding Live Enrollment Counters
2	Passports issued	1,26,639	From districts, Missions and the Department
3	Total Number of passports issued (According to document type)	1,25,186	Ordinary
		82	Diplomatic
		217	Official
		893	Gratis
		26	Travel Document (TD)
		1,26,639	Total
4	Emails responded including social networks	3,512	
5	Grievance handled	4,094	
6	Lost passport registered in the Interpol	8,813	
7	Feedback Forms Collected	948	
8	Revenue collected (From the Department only)	46,97,28,500/-	

## CONSULAR SERVICES

S. N.	Details of Services	Number
<b>A</b>	<b>Consular and Legal Counseling Section</b>	
1	Recommendation for Medical treatment, religious tour and others	11
2	Recommendation related to India education No Objection Certificate	196
3	Recommendation for Indian pension	2

4	Recommendation for issuing Nepali driving license	65
5	Recommendation to Indian Embassy for character verification	85
6	Recommendation for procurement of chemicals & explosives	43
7	Recommendation to Indian Embassy for issuing vehicle permit	6
8	Correspondence regarding the citizenship renouncement	32
9	Correspondence regarding the Power of Attorney	68
10	Correspondence regarding authenticity of documents issued by the Government of Nepal	103
11	POA, VOR, H-Form Request (Malaysia), and correspondence to the District Administration Office for compensation to Nepali citizens	119
12	Correspondence concerning search and rescue of Nepali nationals	153
13	Correspondence with regards to repatriation of dead body of Nepali nationals abroad	62
14	Number of draft received for the compensation from Malaysia	19
15	Handover of compensation amount from Malaysia to the concerned family	10
16	Correspondence to the government agencies in Nepal	319
<b>B</b>	<b>Visa and Exemption Section</b>	
1	Issuance of diplomatic/official/gratis visa	387
2	Issuance of diplomatic/official ID Card	65
3	Issuance of SAARC visa stickers	8
4	Number of recommendation for exemption	815
5	Number of visa recommendation to the foreign missions on GON's nominations	227
<b>C</b>	<b>Attestation section</b>	
1	Number of Registered documents for Attestation	70,888