

MOFA BULLETIN

Current Affairs

16 July - 16 September 2021 | Volume 6, Issue 1



Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Singha Durbar, Kathmandu

www.mofa.gov.np

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A. BILATERAL AFFAIRS

THE NINTH MEETING OF NEPAL-INDIA OVERSIGHT MECHANISM

The ninth meeting of Nepal-India Oversight Mechanism was held in Kathmandu on 16 August 2021. The meeting was co-chaired by Foreign Secretary Mr. Bharat Raj Paudyal and Ambassador of India to Nepal Mr. Vinay Mohan Kwatra. The meeting reviewed the progress of the projects being implemented under bilateral economic and development cooperation.

During the meeting, discussion was held on the status of implementation of all on-going projects related to Terai roads, cross-border railways, hydropower projects, petroleum products pipelines, Pancheshwar multipurpose project, post-earthquake



Foreign Secretary leading the Nepali side in the Nepal-India Oversight Mechanism Meeting

reconstruction, irrigation, power and transmission lines, construction of Nepal Police Academy, integrated check posts, Ramayana circuit, High Impact Community Development Programmes, motorable bridges over Mahakali river, agriculture

and cultural heritage, among others.

Both sides underlined the need for the expeditious implementation of bilateral projects and agreed to timely address the challenges in the course of implementation.

FIFTH MEETING OF NEPAL-THAILAND JOINT COMMISSION

The fifth meeting of Nepal-Thailand Joint Commission was held virtually on 25 August 2021. Foreign Secretary Mr. Bharat Raj Paudyal and Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Thailand Mr. Thani



Foreign Secretary leading the Nepali delegation to the Joint Commission Meeting

Thongphakdi led their respective delegations to the meeting. The two sides discussed the overall state of bilateral relations and exchanged views to further promote the cooperation. While acknowledging

the challenges posed by COVID-19 on the lives and livelihoods of their peoples, both the countries also agreed to work together in combating the pandemic. Foreign Secretary Mr. Paudyal thanked the Royal

Family of Thailand, the Thai Foreign Ministry, the Veerapuchong Foundation, and the Royal Thai Monastery, Lumbini for providing COVID related medical equipment and supplies to Nepal.

MEETINGS BETWEEN NEPAL AND BANGLADESH

The third meetings of the Joint Working Group (JWG) and the Joint Steering Committee (JSC) on Nepal- Bangladesh Cooperation in the Field of Power Sector were held virtually on 13-14 September 2021.

The meeting of Joint Steering Committee was co-chaired by Mr. Devendra Karki, Secretary at the Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation of the Government of Nepal and Mr. Md. Habibur Rahman, Secretary at the

Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Joint Secretary at the South Asia Division in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. Tirtha Raj Wagle participated in both the meetings. The meetings were focussed on utilizing Nepal's hydropower potential for mutual benefit. Both the sides agreed to initiate the power trading process by finalizing the trading modalities, transmission system and regularity issues.

Some of other issues discussed during the meetings include import of 500MW hydropower from Nepal by Bangladesh, need of tripartite arrangement among Nepal, Bangladesh and India for the construction of Nepal-Bangladesh dedicated transmission system, cooperation between Nepal and Bangladesh on renewable energy, especially in the field of Solar Home System, and strengthening the bilateral capacities.

MEETING OF NEPAL - INDIA JOINT PROJECT MONITORING COMMITTEE ON TERAI ROAD PROJECTS

The fourth meeting of Nepal-India Joint Project Monitoring Committee (JPMC) on Terai Roads Project in Nepal was held on 16 September 2021 through video-conferencing. Mr. Keshav Kumar Sharma, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and

Transport of the Government of Nepal and Mr. Anurag Srivastava, Joint Secretary (Northern Division) of the Ministry of External Affairs of India, co-chaired the meeting.

The meeting reviewed the implementation status of Indian Government funded Terai roads project in Nepal while also expressing satisfaction on the completion of 13 out of 14 road packages. Both sides noted that the project is in the final stage of completion.

VISIT OF VICE PRESIDENT, COMPACT OPERATIONS, MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION

A delegation from the U.S. Government's Millennium Challenge Corporation

(MCC) led by Vice President of Compact Operations, Ms. Fatema Z. Sumar, visited

Nepal on 9-12 September 2021. During the visit, she paid separate courtesy calls

on the Prime Minister, Finance Minister and the Minister for Energy, Water

Resources and Irrigation, and exchanged views on \$500 million MCC-Nepal Compact

and its potentials for Nepal's economic transformation.

COVID-19 RELATED COOPERATION

- Nepal received medical supplies provided by Kuwait Red Crescent Society on 22 July 2021. The supplies include Pulse Oximeter, Patient Monitor, Medical Ventilator, Portable Oxygen Concentrator (5 litre) and Portable Oxygen Concentrator (10 litre) among others.
- On 7 August 2021, Nepal received about 1.6 million doses of AstraZeneca COVID vaccines provided by the Government of Japan through COVAX facility.
- Nepal received 13,000 doses of COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccines provided by the Government of UK on 26 August 2021.



State Minister for Health and Population, Mr. Umesh Shrestha and Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, Mr. KIKUTA Yutaka during the hand-over of COVID vaccines

- The Government of Lithuania supported medical equipment and supplies to Nepal on 17 August 2021 that included five breathing machines (mechanical ventilators) and 20 oxygen inhalers. Similarly, Hungary handed over COVID-19 health materials to the Government of Nepal.
- Nepal procured a total of 10 million Vero Cell vaccines from China which arrived in Kathmandu in different batches during July-September 2021. China has pledged to provide a total of 4.4 million Vero Cell and CoronaVac vaccines to Nepal under grant assistance, out of which 1.8 million COVID-19 vaccines have already been received.

RESCUE OF NEPALI CITIZENS FROM AFGHANISTAN

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs initiated the evacuation efforts of Nepali citizens from Afghanistan in view of the crisis situation evolved in the immediate aftermath of the withdrawal of the United States Armed Forces from Afghanistan. An Inter-agency Task Force was formed under

the convenorship of the Chief of Central Asia, West Asia and Africa Division of the Ministry and a Situation Room was established in the Protocol Division. Necessary information was collected from the online portal provided in the official website of the Department

of Consular Services and through other means. With constant coordination among the task force and other relevant government agencies and diplomatic missions within and abroad, a total of 906 Nepali were evacuated from Afghanistan by mid-September 2021.

B. REGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS

NEPAL PARTICIPATES IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CENTRAL AND SOUTH ASIA



International Conference on Central and South Asia: Regional Connectivity, Challenges and Opportunities, 15-16 July 2021

Foreign Secretary Mr. Bharat Raj Paudyal led the Nepali delegation to the “International Conference on Central and South Asia: Regional Connectivity, Challenges and Opportunities” held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan from 15-16 July 2021. The Conference was attended by Heads of State and Government, Foreign Ministers and other high representatives from regional and international organizations.

Addressing the Conference, Foreign Secretary Mr. Paudyal stated that the countries in Central and South Asia regions should improve physical infrastructures and linkages for trade and

transit facilitation and smooth connectivity. He also underscored the need for cooperation to enhance physical connectivity for better market access, and flow of investment and trade.



Foreign Secretary addressing the International Conference on Central and South Asia

MEETINGS OF ASIAN COOPERATION DIALOGUE

Nepal participated in the eighth meeting of the Working Group on ACD Blueprint 2021-2030 held virtually under the Chairmanship of the Islamic Republic of Iran in August 2021. The Working Group concluded the negotiation on the draft ACD Blueprint.

Nepal also attended the virtual informal Senior Official's Meeting (SOM) of Asian Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) held on 15 September 2021 under the chairmanship of Republic of Turkey. Nepali delegation was led by Mr. Ghanashyam Bhandari, Joint Secretary

and Head of the Regional Organization Division in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During the meeting, the Chair pleaded for consensus in adopting 'the Guiding Principles for the Functioning of the ACD Secretariat and

ACD Blueprint 2021-2030' during the upcoming ACD ministerial meeting, scheduled at the margins of 76th Session of United Nations General Assembly. The meeting also decided to discuss the issue of Rules of Procedure with Secretary-Generals of other regional organizations.



Informal Senior Officials' Meeting of Asian Cooperation Dialogue (ACD)

WORKSHOP ON BIMSTEC TRADE FACILITATION FRAMEWORK 2030

Nepal took part in the virtual workshop on the BIMSTEC Trade Facilitation Framework (BTFF) 2030 convened by BIMSTEC Secretariat on 14 September 2021. The workshop was organized with an aim to review the progress

made in the draft BIMSTEC Trade Facilitation Framework 2030. During the workshop, all Member States including Nepal expressed their views on the draft BTFF 2030, that is expected to be adopted later by the 5th BIMSTEC Summit.

Nepali delegation was led by Mr. Narayan Prasad Regmi, Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies (MOICS) and consisted of representatives from MOFA and MOICS.

C. POLICY PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY

INTERACTION PROGRAMME FOR TRADE PROMOTION

With the aim to promote economic diplomacy and enhance the export of goods and services from Nepal, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized a three-day virtual interactive programme on 11-13 August 2021. The event, chaired by Foreign Secretary Mr. Bharat Raj

Paudyal, was attended by the officials from the Ministry, Ambassadors/Heads and Economic Counsellors of the Nepali Missions abroad, representatives from the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies, Trade and Export Promotion Centre, Federation of

Export Entrepreneur Nepal, associations for various trading products along with businessmen and entrepreneurs of exportable Nepali products.

Current status and challenges of Nepali export, new market opportunities



Interaction Programme on Promotion of Nepali Exports

and potentials as well as role of the Ministry and Nepali Missions abroad in facilitating and coordinating export trade were discussed during the programme.

Addressing the programme, Foreign Secretary Mr. Paudyal emphasized the proactive role of missions in promoting Nepal's export and also urged

business associations and entrepreneurs to pay more attentions to products' quality, packaging, labelling, branding and marketing.

PROVINCIAL INTERACTION PROGRAMMES ON PROMOTION OF NEPAL'S EXPORT TRADE, INVESTMENT AND TOURISM

With the objective to extend its economic diplomacy related programmes in all seven provinces, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized interaction programmes on promotion of Nepal's export trade, investment and tourism

at Birgunj in Province No. 2 and Hetauda in Bagmati Province on 23 and 25 August 2021 respectively. Both the programmes were attended by the representatives from concerned District Administrative Offices and

various government agencies, Federations for Chambers of Commerce and Industries, Association of Industries, entrepreneurs, businessmen and other stakeholders.



Interaction Programme in Birgunj (left) and Hetauda (right)

The events were fruitful in exploring the opportunities and challenges related to the promotion of Nepal's export

trade, investment and tourism at the local levels along with the measures to resolve them. The role of Foreign Ministry and

diplomatic missions abroad in facilitating local trade, tourism and investment were also discussed during the occasions.

D. SERVICE DELIVERY

NON-RESIDENT NEPALI RELATED

S. N.	Services (only from the Ministry)	Number
1	Issuance of NRN Cards	19

PASSPORT RELATED

S. N.	Services	Number	Remarks
1	Passports issued	99,106	From Districts, Missions and the Department
2	Total Number of passports issued (According to document type)	98,123	Ordinary
		18	Diplomatic
		130	Official
		818	Gratis Ordinary
		17	Travel Document (TD)
		99,106	Total
3	Emails responded including social networks	2,687	

4	Lost passport registered in the Interpol	6,862	
5	Null and Void Passports	3	
6	Verification of Citizenship records and letter of in-approval	2,309	
7	Revenue collected (From the Department of Passport only in Rs.)	49,11,01,767	

CONSULAR RELATED

S. N.	Services	Number
A	<i>Consular and Legal Counselling</i>	
1	Recommendation for medical treatment, religious tour and others	9
2	Issuance of No Objection Certificate for education	216
3	Recommendation for issuing Nepali driving license	3
4	Recommendation for character verification	120
5	Recommendation for procurement of chemicals & explosives	26
6	Correspondences regarding the citizenship renouncement	10
7	Correspondences regarding the Power of Attorney	57
8	Correspondences to District Administration Offices regarding compensation	102
9	Correspondences concerning search and rescue of Nepali nationals	127
10	Correspondences with regards to repatriation of dead body of Nepali nationals from abroad	71
B	<i>Visa and Exemption</i>	
1	Issuance of diplomatic/official/gratis visa	293
2	Issuance of diplomatic/official ID Card	67
3	Issuance of recommendation letters for exemption	808
4	Other correspondences and recommendations	497
5	Number of visa recommendation to the foreign missions on Government of Nepal's nominations	64
C	<i>Attestation</i>	
1	Number of documents attested	67,994
2	Revenue collected from the Department of Consular Services (in Rs.)	2,08,93,000/-

Patron

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Foreign Secretary

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