



# **FOURTH NRN REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2010**

**May 28-30, 2010**

**Houston, Texas, USA**

## **BACKGROUND:**

The meeting of the International Coordination Council (ICC) held immediately after the Fourth NRN Global Conference in Kathmandu in 2009, decided that the Fourth Regional NRN Conference (the “Conference”) would be held in the USA pending the consent from the Oceania Region which had earlier proposed to held the meeting in Australia. NRNA General Secretary Mr. Ratan Jha was given the task of recommending a proper place and date for the conference. In its Cyber Meeting on December 20, 2009, the ICC, after due consultation with representatives from Oceania, approved the proposal of the members from North America in the ICC to host the Fourth Regional Conference in Houston, Texas, USA from May 28 to 30, 2010. The same meeting of also decided that Mr. Ratan Jha, General Secretary of the NRNA ICC, to be the Coordinator of the Conference.

Although the conference id termed regional as is being held in North America, it will have representation of the NRNs from around the globe. The past three regional conferences were held in Doha (Qatar), Bonn (Germany) and Bangkok (Thailand) in 2005, 2006 and 2008, respectively. Such Regional NRN Conferences, ranked second only to the Global NRN Conference in attendance and significance, are mandated by the NRNA constitution - which stipulates that a Regional Conference be organized outside of Nepal in between the global conferences. The Global Conferences is held every two years in Nepal.

## **CONFERENCE DATE:**

The Conference will be a two day event to be held on **29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of May 2010**. However, a number of pre-conference workshops will be organized on **28<sup>th</sup> of May, 2010**.

## **CONFERENCE VENUE:**

Houston in Texas USA has been selected as the location for the 4<sup>th</sup> Regional NRN Conference. The exact conference venue is:

### **Westchase Marriot Hotel**

2900 Briarpark Dr.,

Houston, TX 77042, USA

Tel- 1-713-978-7400 Fax – 1-713-735-2726

Toll Free – 1-800-452-5110

Web-site: <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/houwm-houston-marriott-westchase/>

## **CITY OF HOUSTON:**

Houston is the largest city in the state of Texas and 4<sup>th</sup> largest city in the United States. Ranked number one city in the USA for economic growth and job opportunity, Houston is home to National Aeronautical and Space Agency (NASA), the world famous Rodeo, world's largest Medical Centers, and all major oil & gas companies. Gulf of Mexico is barely an hour drive from Houston which has plethora of amenities to offer for visitors of all ages. Recently, Houston was selected as the site of a prestigious World Bank Group post.

Houston is well connected within US and Canada and also internationally. There are daily direct flights from Houston's Intercontinental Airport (IAH) to all major European cities, including London, Paris, Amsterdam, Frankfurt and Moscow; to Middle East (Doha & Dubai), and to Asia Pacific (Tokyo, Tai Pei, Singapore). IAH is the main hub for US based Continental Airlines.

There is also Hobby Airport (HOU) which serves many domestic cities on Southwest Airlines within USA. The conference hotel is almost equidistant from IAH and HOU. For more information please visit: <http://www.fly2houston.com/>.

## **CONFERENCE FOCUS:**

North America – home to the numerous world class universities and advanced research institutions - has been the dream destination for scholars, scientists and innovators from all over the world. Nepalis started to come to the North American universities during the sixties and seventies for higher education, and subsequently many permanently settled here. Many Nepalis of subsequent generations have followed similar tracks in various scientific, technological, medical and social science fields, often excelling in professional and academic pursuits. In addition, several Nepalis in North America have begun to embrace entrepreneurial and business endeavors, realizing that in a market economy business is an even better route to achieve economic independence. As a result, the North American Nepali Diaspora can boast of many members who have achieved success in professions, academia and businesses.

To best utilize the strength of the Diaspora in the region , the conference focuses on knowledge and skill exchange, collective investments, and charitable contributions for a prosperous Nepal. NRNA believes that such efforts are key to help Nepal achieve multidimensional development goals including in economy, science, and technology. Accordingly, the theme of the conference is:

***“Channeling Knowledge and Investments for Nepal’s Rapid Development”***

Diversified sessions will revolve around the conference theme of mobilizing knowledge and investments for a prosperous Nepal. The conference sessions will address critical topics such as, foreign investment, knowledge exchange, and charity. It will specially emphasize how to increase the participation of youth and women in the Diaspora to support NRNA's initiatives in Nepal's development.

## CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES:

The following are the objectives of the conference:

- ▶ Provide a forum for the North American Diaspora to present and discuss the specific issues and challenges faced by them;
- ▶ Explore how the Diaspora can contribute in improving access to higher education in Nepal especially in rural areas;
- ▶ Discuss an action plan to make NRNA sustainable;
- ▶ Suggest concrete policy and action measures to the Government of Nepal and other stakeholders;
- ▶ Devise specific suggestions for channeling skill, knowledge, innovation and technology (SKIT), as well as financial investments and charitable contributions to support Nepal's development efforts; and
- ▶ Create ways to mobilize the passion and power of women, youth and other groups in the Nepali Diaspora to solidly support the NRNA initiatives in Nepal.

## CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION:

- ▶ Each NCC from the North America region is expected to participate with a delegation. Although it is a regional conference focusing primarily on North America region, it is open to NCC delegations from around the globe. It is expected that there will be participation from at least 30 countries
- ▶ Individual NRNs can also participate in the conference.
- ▶ There will be an ICC meeting during conference.
- ▶ Friends of Nepal – "Participants from foreign countries" and Nepalis who are interested in working with the NRN community for promoting NRNA's mission and objectives are also invited to participate.

## REGISTRATION:

The participation is based on registration. The registration fee for all international participants for 3 days is fixed at **US\$ 100** and **US\$ 75** for the local participants who wish to participate just on the main conference day only. The electronic registration forms are available at the official website of the NRNA – ([www.nrn.org.np](http://www.nrn.org.np) and [www.nrnusa.org](http://www.nrnusa.org)) or can be obtained through the NRNA Secretariat ([nrn@nrn.org.np](mailto:nrn@nrn.org.np)).

The registration will include conference kit, lunch and dinners. (For Local Participant's - Conference kit, Welcome Dinner and One Lunch and For International Participant's - Conference Kit, 2 Lunches and 2 Dinners). The registration fee will not cover lodging and transportation.

The registration will be open until **Friday, May 14, 2010**. The intending participants can either send the money to NRNA account or pay directly at the venue.

*(Note: Only cash will be accepted at the venue).*

## **VISA, ACCOMMODATION and TRANSPORTATION:**

Nepali nationals need visa to travel to the United States. PNOs holding foreign passports should check with the US States Department (or relevant US mission) if they need visa to enter the United States. The visa for USA can be obtained from US Embassies or US Visa Consulates which are located in many cities of the world. All intending participants needing US Visa should immediately contact:

**Mr. Mukesh Singh**

**Chair, Invitation, Travel & Visa Facilitation Committee**

**Email: [ilesingh@gmail.com](mailto:ilesingh@gmail.com)**

**Phone: (+1) (614) 370-9652 (Preferred Time Weekends or after 6:00 P, EST Weekdays)**

The accommodation for the delegates has been arranged at the conference venue itself, i.e., Marriott Hotel Westchase, for US\$89 per person per night rate. Participants are encouraged to book the hotel room in advance. The cut-off date for reserving the room at this special rate is **Friday, May 14, 2010**. The online hotel reservation can be made at:

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/HOUWM?groupCode=foufoua&app=resvlink&fromDate=5/27/10&toDate=5/31/10>

The accommodation and transportation as well as other expenditures except those covered under the registration package will be on self paying basis. The transport arrangements from airport to the hotel have to be made by the participants themselves. However, if you send your itinerary in advance, volunteers of the Local Hospitality Committee will be able to pick you at the airport. Please contact Dr. Rajendra Shrestha, Chair of the Local Hospitality Committee at [rajshrestha01@hotmail.com](mailto:rajshrestha01@hotmail.com) for assistance with airport pick-up.

## **CULTURAL PROGRAM:**

A Nepali cultural program is being organized by the Local Hospitality Committee on Friday, May 28, 2010. The cultural program will be performed by the local Nepali talents as well as Nepalese artists and singers from other cities of Texas.

## **BUSINESS DELEGATION:**

A business delegation from Nepal is invited. The delegation will have interaction with local business community as well.

## **SOUVENIR:**

A souvenir will be published dedicated to the 4<sup>th</sup> Regional NRN Conference. For ads and article, please contact Chair of the Souvenir & Articles Committee, Dr. Naveen Vaidya, via email at [nvaidya.anyol@gmail.com](mailto:nvaidya.anyol@gmail.com).

## **FINANCING:**

Every NRNA conference needs to be self sustaining. The NCCs and Nepali owned businesses can become partners of the conference. For the NCCs to be partner of the conference, the fee has been fixed at **US \$1,500**. For the companies/ businesses the fee is fixed at **US \$ 5,000 for Platinum Partner, US \$3,000 for Gold Partners and US \$2,000 for Silver Partner**.

### ***Benefits for the partners:***

- ▶ Opportunity to show case their business or organization among the global Nepali family.
- ▶ The logo of the partner will appear in the back drop of the conference.
- ▶ The logo will also appear in the NRNA website.
- ▶ The partners will be allowed to have a complimentary one page advertisement in the Souvenir publication. Partners will be acknowledged during the inauguration session
- ▶ Promotional material (should be handy and of small size – brochure, pen, calendar) of the sponsor can be included in conference kit.
- ▶ Partners name will be incorporated in the conference report and materials.
- ▶ The partners will be allowed registration of 2 persons free of charge (Kit, 2 Lunches and 2 Dinners).
- ▶ The partners will be provided with a Token of appreciation at a proper function during the conference

## **CONTACT:**

For additional information or queries, please contact:

**Mr. Ratan K. Jha**

**Coordinator**

4<sup>th</sup> Regional NRN Conference, Houston, Texas, USA

Email: [ratanjha@gmail.com](mailto:ratanjha@gmail.com)

URL: [www.nrnusa.org](http://www.nrnusa.org)

**Dr. Hemant Dabadi**

**Executive Director**

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