

# **THIRD NRN GLOBAL CONFERENCE**

**15-17 October 2007  
Kathmandu**

**A Report**

**NRNA Secretariat**

*(Prepared on the Basis of the Notes of the Volunteer Rapporteurs)*

<b>DAY I</b>	<b>INAUGURATION SESSION</b>
<b>Chief Guest</b>	<b>Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister – Mr. Girija Prasad Koirala</b>
<b>Special Guest</b>	<b>Hon'ble Speaker of Interim Parliament – Mr. Subash C. Nembang</b>
<b>Master of Ceremony</b>	<b>Ms. Usha Bhatta</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>International Convention Centre, New Baneshwor, Kathmandu</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>9:15 hrs – 11:15 hrs</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> October 2007</b>

The program started with the Master of Ceremony welcoming all the eminent guests to the inaugural session. This was followed by a soul touching cultural welcome choreography showcasing the plight of mother Nepal and the children showing their commitment to work for a prosperous Nepal. The theme of the cultural welcome was to exhibit the unity in diversity as the strength of Nepal. The Children also sang the National Anthem. The participants overwhelmingly approved and enjoyed the children's show. This was followed by a song dedicated to the efforts of Nepalis living outside of Nepal for the progress and prosperity of the country. The theme of the song was that the heart of Nepalis wherever they may be beats for Nepal. Both the children's choreography and the NRN thematic song was organized by the **Madhurima Nepal Kala Kendra. Ms. Mithila Sharma** was the choreographer where as the words and music were of **Mr. Pradip Bamjan**.

#### Welcome Address by Hon'ble Foreign Minister Mrs. Sahana Pradhan

The main points of the welcome speech are as follows:

- ▶ Hearty welcome to the NRN's, the dignitaries and all the other participants.
- ▶ Gratitude towards those Nepalese who sacrificed their lives in the second *Jana Andolan* for purpose of economic and political prosperity in the country.
- ▶ This forum to be instrumental in bringing together Nepalese all around the world.
- ▶ Nepal is going through a transformational phase. In order to overcome this stage successfully, support from Nepalese not just from within the country, but also from abroad is essential. Because of the affection, sentiment and common interest towards their home country, this NRN association came into existence.
- ▶ The NRN's contribution can be more meaningful by mobilization of capital for Nepali interest to help economic development. NRNs have been important source of remittance. But other important dimensions of foreign trade could be foreign direct investments, technology transfer and foreign employment.
- ▶ Government has taken initiatives to promote economic diplomacy and safeguard the interest of NRNs. Government has shown interest towards working together with them for development of the country.
- ▶ She was optimistic towards achieving a practical output from this conference and lastly wished success to NRNA and FNCCI for this event.

After the welcome address the conference was formally inaugurated by **Right Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Girija Prasad Koirala** by *Lighting of the Panas*

Key Note Speech by Magsaysay Award Winner Mr. Mahabir Pun

The main points of his speech are:

- ▶ The Nation has passed through three revolutionary phases in the last 57 years. The major results expected from these revolutions were still to be fully achieved. The enthusiasm shown by the NRN in nation building process could be positive.
- ▶ I have my own experience of living abroad and coming back to Nepal and contributing to the nation building in my own little ways. Small contributions can mean big to so many people and it was this very message I want to convey to the NRN fellow mates.
- ▶ My developmental contribution are mainly confined three villages namely: Nangi Village, Tikot Village, Paudwar Village where I have been involved in Yak farm, Paper Making, Fish Farm, Bee-keeping, Sewing Training, International volunteer, Health Training etc. Our experience shows if there is a will there is a way. You have to do unexpected works. There was a landslide taking life of people. We had to be involved in rehabilitating the children of Landslide victim. The communication seems to be very important. We were involved in assembling Computers in Wooden Boxes, Wireless Networking Project, repairing of a radio relay station, establishing a Communication Center using Existing Network; currently I am also involved in Makawanpur developing Tourist Lodges.
- ▶ The NRNs can help to build Nepal by
  - Working with communities on partnership basis to set up micro-hydro stations;
  - Promoting tourism program;
  - Promoting Nepalese products in the international market;
  - Helping Nepalese people to find better jobs in the international job market;
  - Bringing in foreign volunteers to the rural areas;
  - Encouraging Foreign Direct Investment.

He ended by quoting a famous statement of Former US President John F. Kennedy, “Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country”.

Address by the Chief Guest – Hon’ble Prime Minister Mr. Girija Prasad Koirala

The Prime Minister in his very lively address first identified himself as the representative of the NRN. He spoke that the demands of the NRNs should be precise and concerning major issues. He was of the view that the Government should recognize the sentiments of Nepalese living abroad. Hence he as an individual favored granting of dual citizenship. He asked the NRNs to focus on poverty eradication because the travelers coming in Nepal only see the superficial beauty of this country but they fail to identify the fact that “beneath the beauty lies poverty”.

He suggested different ways that will help tackle poverty:

- ▶ Joint venture/ investment along with support from FNCCI.
- ▶ Different scopes that are available need to be exploited.
- ▶ Special focus on local business communities
- ▶ All these initiatives by NRNs will help for the development of Nepal.

He also drew attention of the audience towards the role of embassies in national development. He mentioned that the embassies till now have a very narrow focus. They should be involved not only in foreign affairs but also in the economic affairs. Nepal can benefit to a large extent if the NRNs collaborate with the respective embassies for development activities.

He then identified himself as prime minister and assured to take the issues raised by the NRNs to the Government. He as a Prime Minister, had full support in helping the NRNs. He assured political stability in the coming years which will eliminate the prevailing uncertainties among the NRNs.

He mentioned 5 basic principles of B.P. Koirala in building a new Nepal which were Peace, Stability, Full fledged Democracy, Human Right and Independent Sovereign and Prosperous Nepal.

He was hopeful that NRN will help in creation of new Nepal by incorporating different identity existent across the globe and confirmed his support towards this mission.

Remarks by NRNA President Dr. Upendra Mahato

The main points of his speech are as follows:

- ▶ Welcome all the guests and the NRNs in the ceremony. The conference is being held for the first time after the Jana Andolan-2.
- ▶ At present there is an urgent need for peace and prosperity in Nepal, and the NRNs have realized their responsibilities towards achieving this. The feeling of brotherhood has spread among Nepalese all over the world. He thus stressed that if NRNs join hands then development is possible and that individual development is not enough for national development.
- ▶ Thanks to ICC, NCC and NRN officials who have supported the activities of NRNs.
- ▶ On the visit to various countries, I have come across many Nepalese questioning Nepal's contribution in their life. My answer to that is that it's our home country that made us capable of reaching to this stage of our life.
- ▶ The NRNs have helped Nepal in following ways:
  - Unemployment rate has been reduced because of 20 lakh people working abroad.
  - Foreign exchange earnings from remittance
  - Support Poverty eradication
  - Promoting Nepal in other countries.
- ▶ But there are a lot of legal complications and even the existing regulations and facilities are not encouraging the NRNs to invest in Nepal. Hence a lot of improvement has to be done. Government should facilitate proper agreement with countries where Nepalese workers go for employment. Also a proper control mechanism should be implemented to restrict any kind of fraud manpower agencies from operating.
- ▶ The Government should focus more on bringing in skilled manpower and applying them within the country rather than emphasizing solely on remittance. Dual citizenship can be helpful in mobilizing human capital. NRNs have been requesting their participation in the upcoming election. However this has been a controversial issue and thus will take some more time to be implemented.
- ▶ As a representative of NRN I do believe that Nepal will develop only if peace is restored.

Words of Thanks by FNCCI President, Mr. Chandu Raj Dhakal

The main points of his speech are:

- ▶ Thanks to the Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and all the other delegates at the inauguration ceremony of the Third NRN Global Conference.
- ▶ All Nepalese share a common dream of a peaceful Nepal and to realize this dream participation from NRN is very vital. To rescue Nepal from the current crisis, support from NRN is necessary. NRNs have been instrumental in building a positive image of Nepal in international arena. The role of NRNs is not confined to investments only, but they are the ambassadors of Nepal in the social, cultural and economic fields. They have also contributed to certain extent in saving Nepal from being a failed state.
- ▶ Government has also shown appreciation towards their contribution by declaring 11<sup>th</sup> October as the NRN day and bringing in all concerning NRNs.
- ▶ Globalization is the latest issue and NRNs need to work with the private sector.
- ▶ The NRN's participation in the constituent assembly should be encouraged
- ▶ FNCCI expresses solidarity with NRNA to work in the field of agriculture, hydropower, women empowerment, youth promotion, trade promotion and other skill development activities.
- ▶ Despite Nepal being rich in hydropower, until proper development is made, Nepal will be deprived from gaining maximum benefit from this resource.
- ▶ Lastly he thanked all those who have been directly and indirectly involved in making the programme a success.

<b>PLENARY SESSION</b>	<b>FIRST</b>
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Foreign Employment – Gains and Pains</b>
<b>Chairperson</b>	<b>Minister of State for Labor and Transport Management, Hon’ble Mr. Ramesh Lekhak</b>
<b>Theme Paper Presentation by Speakers &amp; Panelists</b>	<b>Mr. Deepak Khadka, NRNA ICC Member/Task Force Coordinator Mr. Sagar Nepal, NRNA VP-Middle East; Mr. L.P.Shanwa Limbu, President-Foreign Employment Association of Nepal; Mr. Hit Man Gurung, ICC Member</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>ICC, New Baneshor, Kathmandu</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>11:30hrs -13:30hrs</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> October 2007</b>

The session was chaired by Minister of State for Labor and Transport Management, Hon’ble Mr. Ramesh Lekhak. He appreciated the presence of speakers/ panelist and invited them to share their thoughts, experiences and findings on Foreign Employment.

Trends and Challenges in Foreign Migration – Mr. Deepak Khadka – NRNA ICC Member/Task Force Coordinator

- ▶ Mr. Khadka spoke about trends in migration where he highlighted the fact that according to Department of Labor and Employment Promotion, the number of Nepali citizens migrating for employment purposes has increased by more than 85% during 1996 to 2006, and 37% of households nation-wide are receiving remittances.
- ▶ Migration as a migrant worker is concentrated in East Asia and the Gulf whereas in Western countries including Australia it is mostly permanent Migration.
- ▶ There are enormous gender differences in rates of migration - more men migrate than women.
- ▶ He pointed out "push" and "pull" factors existing at the micro and macro level as the major reasons for migration.
- ▶ He highlighted a key point that Migration to South East Asia and Malaysia has opened doors for rural and urban areas however the poorest of the poor cannot come up with the money to migrate and at the same time women are less likely to migrate.
- ▶ He further pointed out the benefits of migration such as inflow of huge amount of remittance in the country which has played a pertinent role in reducing the historical imbalance between urban and rural areas.
- ▶ He also presented the data indicating the change in family living standard because of foreign employment. (i.e. 66.87% average increase in annual expenditure of household between 1996 and 2001, 12% poverty reduction in the country from 1996 to 2004)
- ▶ He expressed the needs of exploring new markets like Japan and South Korea.
- ▶ He stated lack of pre-departure information, hefty investment for employment (up to 60% loan interest pay to local merchant) and high rate of accident and incident due to lack of proper safety awareness, low-skilled and amateurish migrants, pre-existing social, cultural and religious differences as major challenges of migration.
- ▶ He also stated employee's reluctance to abide by the contract, inept means of sending remittances and the same being invested in non productive activities has posed a serious challenge to migration.

- ▶ He emphasized the need of appropriate policies to make foreign employment well organized, legally regulated, transparent, improved access to markets, and to protect the rights of Nepali migrants.
- ▶ He informed that bi-lateral negotiations are underway to protect rights of Nepali migrants in receiving countries and highlighted the need of skill development training to be launched.
- ▶ He highlighted the serious loopholes in the existing policies such as low level of sensitization among policy makers and planners on the issue of migrant workers; lack of credible training and pre-departure funding arrangement and lack of insurance coverage to migrant workers.
- ▶ He succinctly described about the institutional, legal and diplomatic issues and challenges.
- ▶ He proposed a Foreign Employment Welfare Administration Board (FEWA Trust) and its objectives.

Mr. Sagar Nepal- NRNA VP (Middle East)

- ▶ He outlined the importance of Foreign Employment as the backbone of Nepalese Economy and stressed how globalization has brought new issues of Migration worldwide.
- ▶ In Nepal persons of different age groups are in a hurry of making passport and then moving out.
- ▶ There is a need of awareness campaign about the working condition abroad and knowledge about skill requirement to minimize problems faced in workplace.
- ▶ He talked about the need to come with policy about how we can earn here, to make youths realize that one can earn more here with better working condition and less working hours.
- ▶ He said that there is an urgent need of better regulating the manpower agencies on the use of money they charge from people applying for jobs abroad.
- ▶ He expressed the need to look for new markets with unified actions and collaboration of Government and manpower.
- ▶ Finally he outlined 19 points proposed in a recent convention of Middle East countries (the points are available in the website of NRNA)

Mr. L. P. Shanwa Limbu – President/Foreign Employment Association of Nepal

- ▶ He informed that currently more than 200 million people live away from their native place in connection of foreign employment, higher studies, and diplomatic mission or as peace keeping force or refugees.
- ▶ He explained about the global net migration.
- ▶ He informed about the top 20 recipients of remittances as of 2003 with India leading the list, China and Pakistan fourth and fifth respectively.
- ▶ He discussed about the top sources of outward remittance as of 2003, USA contributing 34.1 billion dollars and Saudi Arabia 14.9 billion dollars.
- ▶ He further presented the data on top 10 sending countries, details of migrant inflows in USA, foreigners entering to Japan for the purpose of employment as of 1997-2001, inflow of migrants in Canada as of 2000.
- ▶ He presented data on top 15 countries with highest percentage of migrants in total population as of 2000 with UAE topping the charts with staggering 73.8 percent of migrants in total population.
- ▶ He presented the facts on South Asian Migration and remittance in South Asia as of 2003.
- ▶ He stated that currently 107 countries are opened for foreign employment by Nepal Government and approximately 2,000,000 Nepalese citizens are working in different parts of

the world. Everyday in average 600 Nepalese fly away formally through about 700 recruiting agencies.

- ▶ He also discussed about the craze of foreign employment in Nepal and the most preferred destinations for Nepalese workers. USA, Canada and Japan was categorized as "A" similarly European countries, Singapore and Korea categorized as "B" and Gulf countries categorized as "C".

#### Issues of British Gurkhas – Mr. Hit Man Gurung – ICC Member

He talked about the Gurkhas representing the first wave of migrant workers from Nepal. Many serving in the Gurkha force have settled outside of Nepal and were involved in many professions. With the decision of the British Government to allow the former and present British Gurkhas to settle in UK, many families of the British Gurkhas from Nepal were migrating to England. As they were acquiring the British citizenship, the relation with Nepal was being severed. He emphasized the importance of dual nationality as it will bring responsibility along with the choice. He was of the view that if the present trend was allowed to continue, the country was going to loose link with its own people. The dual citizenship will ensure continued flow of remittance, bring in more tourists and in the longer run investment too. He urged the Government and the contemporary Nepali society to be broad minded and not fear from the global trend.

#### Discussions/ Deliberation

There were questions about training, lack of transparency in the work of Government as well as the manpower agencies. Responding to the questions the speakers talked about three main reasons for different problems in this area: lack of appropriate monitoring policy by Government to whether the workers are trained or not, tight scheduling on the job requirements meaning need for urgent response to the job offers the manpower agencies lacking capacity to train every type of workers. Those going for foreign employment were also ready to venture in the uncharted territory.

Concluding the discussion, the Minister of state for Labor and Transport management- Hon'ble Mr. Ramesh Lekhak outlined the course of actions needed to further safeguard Nepalese workers migrating abroad. The most important thing, according to him was to make Foreign Employment Safe through proper implementation of policies and monitoring the involved parties. According to him NRN and Government could work together for identifying new labor markets developing skilled manpower. He suggested to the NRNs to establish a Foreign Employment Bank. He also talked about the need for the Government and relevant stakeholders to work hand in hand to create opportunities in Nepal.

<b>PLENARY SESSION</b>	<b>SECOND</b>
<b>Theme</b>	Contours of "New Nepal" and Role of NRN Community
<b>Moderator</b>	Mr. Yubaraj Ghimire
<b>Participants</b>	Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal-CPN/UML Mr. Sushil Koirala-NC Mr. Amik Sherchan-Jan Morcha Dr. Babu Ram Bhattarai-CPN/Maoist Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda"-CPN/Maoist
<b>Other Dignitaries on the Dais</b>	Dr. Upendra Mahato, President, NRNA Mr. Chandi Raj Dhakal, President, FNCCI
<b>Venue</b>	International Convention Centre, ICC
<b>Time</b>	14:00 – 16:30 hrs
<b>Date</b>	15th Oct 2007

The session started with the opening note by the moderator. He highlighted the object as to reach sort of a common understanding on the contours of 'New Nepal'. He then invited the leaders to make their remarks in turn. The major points of their remarks are given below:

CPN-UML General Secretary Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal

- ▶ Wished for the success of the conference
- ▶ Political transformation going on right now as desired by the people.
- ▶ Everyone trying from their own levels for the transformation
- ▶ The country is in need of new turn in the economic front
- ▶ The leadership has been unable to discuss economic agenda of the country; rather concentrated in the political agendas
- ▶ Welcomed the NRN's desire to contribute to make a prosperous country
- ▶ NRNs are not far away from the country and desired peace to prevail in Nepal.
- ▶ NRNs have always been worrying about Nepal.
- ▶ Mutual commitment and consensus required for ending regression and establishing a commitment to form New Nepal, a Federal Democratic Republic, ending monarchy.
- ▶ Constituent Assembly election stalled due to various circumstances; would have happened if parties were committed to agreements reached earlier.
- ▶ State restructuring required inclusiveness, unity among various indigenous nationalities
- ▶ Two ways to address the economic agenda in the existing globalization scenario:
  - To follow whatever international community prescribe
  - Ignore globalization and stay in isolation
- ▶ Both the ways are not suitable. We have to go with globalization because we cannot sustain alone but we need to find a midway between the two options.
- ▶ Country needs to know its bargaining power and competitive advantage and NRN can help in international lobbying and create international alliances.

- ▶ Growth cannot be attained through international donations only; NRNs should be allowed to make financial as well as knowledge resources investment in Nepal for long term development.
- ▶ There is a huge scope and opportunities where NRN can invest and create employment
- ▶ New law is formulated for NRNs
- ▶ NRNs to help in law making
- ▶ CA election necessary to end all political problems
- ▶ Hard to find a meeting point for the electoral process and declaration of republic.
- ▶ Efforts are still underway.
- ▶ New Nepal should eliminate weaknesses of old Nepal.

Nepali Congress Acting President Mr. Sushil Koirala

- ▶ Historic transformation going on in Nepal.
- ▶ NRNs have a great role in sustaining Nepal economically through remittance without which Nepal would have been a failure state.
- ▶ Remittance is holding the economy of Nepal.
- ▶ All parties in effort to end the transition phase at the earliest.
- ▶ We are committed towards positively solving the issues raised by the NRN.
- ▶ People going abroad for higher education should also get the NRN status,
- ▶ Personally in favour of dual citizenship.
- ▶ Issues pertaining to NRNs discussed in the meeting of seven parties and everyone is committed to solve the problems.
- ▶ Expressed commitments to remove the legal obstacles make it easier for NRNs to be involved in Nepal.
- ▶ Requested Maoist leaders to be responsible to get the country out of the present imbroglio.
- ▶ NC has done everything that it has to do but help from the Maoists was not forthcoming
- ▶ Appealed the Maoists to take back their proposals to declare republic and full proportional election.
- ▶ Assured the NRNs that their demands and problems would be taken into consideration.

Janamorcha Nepal Chairman Mr. Amik Serchan

- ▶ Nepal backward in social, economic and all other sectors
- ▶ Lack of clear vision; cannot tap in the huge natural resource
- ▶ NRNs have got knowledge which should be used in Nepal
- ▶ Our party positive to ideas put up by the NRNs
- ▶ We will continue our effort to make a New Nepal

- ▶ Our party is optimistic and only optimistically we can reach our destination
- ▶ Seven party unity should not be broken
- ▶ PM has expressed doubt whether the Maoists will ever participate in the elections.
- ▶ The principal question is whether to declare republic from parliament or not
- ▶ Problems should be resolved through consensus; if the alliance fails the country will fail
- ▶ Requested the NRNs to pressurize the Government in the peace process

CPN-Maoist Senior Leader Dr. Baburam Bhattarai

- ▶ A new term of RNN – Resident Non Nepalese has emerged. It is those persons who live in Nepal but have no love for Nepal
- ▶ Need to remove RNN and NRNs should help
- ▶ Main agenda is not only financial investment but also contribution of knowledge and ideas gained in developed countries
- ▶ Need of the hour is to adopt new thoughts and ideas
- ▶ Economic development, industrialization welfare, infrastructure development comes after political revolution
- ▶ Old system to be eliminated; Nepal can also be developed within 10-15 years
- ▶ Party welcomes NRNs efforts and investments

CPN-Maoist Chairman Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal (Prachanda)

- ▶ Nepal is standing amidst opportunities and challenges
- ▶ Opportunities: End of monarchy and rise of capitalism
- ▶ Wished grand success to NRN conference
- ▶ Peace has been the agenda for long time but not yet achieved
- ▶ Peace and stability that comes with monarchy is of no use and is a betrayal to Nepali people
- ▶ Peace can be achieved by fighting for it not by silence
- ▶ Peace has been talked much about but there has not been any development in this regard
- ▶ NRNs want to develop Nepal at the earliest and our party welcomes this initiative
- ▶ New history will develop by ending the old history; end of monarchy and start of republic
- ▶ Before federal democracy and republican nation CA election seems impossible for Nepal
- ▶ Peace process more important than electoral process
- ▶ NRNs should visit the cantonments and look how Maoist cadres are facing difficulties
- ▶ Peace process should be ensured first; CA election cannot alone solve all the problems
- ▶ Denied accusation that the Maoist are responsible for the deferral of elections
- ▶ A new direction would be taken if we can reach an agreement on today's meeting

- ▶ Nothing should and can stop the full proportional electoral system
- ▶ Maoist want construction of New Nepal by a peaceful process and not by bloodshed
- ▶ Peace, change and development are interrelated
- ▶ Party supports the international system according to which even students studying abroad can be termed as a NRN.
- ▶ Remittance has saved Nepalese economy
- ▶ Each embassy should have NRN office; New mechanism required for new Nepal
- ▶ NRNs can contribute in Nepal by utilizing their skills learnt in foreign countries
- ▶ NRNs have come to Nepal to give but Nepal lacks skills to accept
- ▶ Give and Take should be the ideal process. Assured that environment will be made for not only give but also to take.
- ▶ Maoists are not the orthodox communist, they are social scientist of new century
- ▶ Great order comes from great disorder
- ▶ We support dual citizenship

#### Questions and Answer

There were questions raised and CPN-Maoist Chairman Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal responded to them.

On the issue why the parties were positive while meeting the NRNs, the promises did not translate into actions, he blamed the old thinking process and mindset of the ruling elite. He responding to the query about NRN's right to vote in CA election he assured that his party was positively oriented towards it. Responding to the request to think of welfare of the entire Nepalis, Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal said that agreement shall be reached in favor of all and not just in favor of an individual. On the question on whether the unelected parliament had the right to make decisions with prolonged implications like proclamation of republic he asked the audience to ask this question to the people.

<b>PLENARY SESSION</b>	<b>THIRD</b>
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Inclusion and Transformation</b>
<b>Moderator</b>	<b>Mr. Bijay Poudel</b>
<b>Panelists</b>	<b>Mr. Upendra Yadav - Chairman Madhesi/Janadhikar Forum, Mr. Pasang Sherpa -Chairperson/Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities, Mr. Binod Pahadi - Convener/Dalit Nagarik Andolan, Mr. Janak Kumar Basnet - Isle of Man</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>ICC, New Baneshor, Kathmandu</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>17:15hrs -18:30hrs</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> October 2007</b>

The session was moderated by Mr. Bijay Poudel. He requested the panelists to present their view points on inclusion and transformation

Mr. Upendra Yadav – Chairman – Madhesi Janadhikar Forum

The main highlights of the presentation are as follows:

- ▶ Madhesis, Muslims, Dalits and Indigenous nationalities were excluded socially, economically and politically.
- ▶ Marginalized groups represent 2/3 of the population and should be brought to the mainstream politics with new policies.
- ▶ Three main points the marginalized groups were asking for:
  - Political Inclusion: Marginalized group will have their right to self determination only through federal system and autonomous state.
  - Participation: Proportional representation in making policies, government administration, and natural resources.
  - Recognition: Recognition of their language, culture and custom along with the guarantee of minorities’ right.
- ▶ Inclusiveness and democracy are connected to each other, without inclusion there can be no democracy.
- ▶ Agreement are made but without implementation, creating major problems.
- ▶ In order to have prosperous Nepal, the marginalization needs to be abolished.
- ▶ National integration is required for new Nepal.

Mr. Pasang Sherpa – Chairperson - Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities

He expressed his gratitude towards the contribution of NRNs and emphasized on the following key points:

- ▶ The existing and old constitution can not uplift Nepali people at par with other countries.
- ▶ Nepal will not be able to develop as long as there is discrimination based on caste and creed, region, and gender.
- ▶ New Nepal needs inclusion and transformation.

- ▶ There should be substantial inclusion (e.g. Out of 100 people 1 indigenous inclusion is not substantial and desirable)
- ▶ NRN should invest considering substantial inclusion and transformation

Mr. Binod Pahadi - Convener/Dalit Nagarik Andolan

He started his presentation with the example of Kapilvastu. He highlighted on the following key points:

- ▶ Dalit are excluded not only when policies are made but everywhere. (E.g. they are deprived to enter into the temple, in the education sector etc.)
- ▶ Even though there are 18 Dalits in the parliament, they are not free to speak without the permission of higher authorities of their affiliated political parties.
- ▶ Proportional representation was required.
- ▶ State has been talking of free education. However, schools are now and still charging for purposes like infrastructure development, which are higher than the earlier school fees.
- ▶ Without education/ opportunities, Dalit will not be able to participate in politics.

Questions raised on inclusion:

On the question that Terai was more productive than other regions and infrastructure was more developed than other parts of Nepal, Mr. Yadav responded that the seemingly well developed infrastructure in Terai was not benefiting the people belonging to Terai. He asked to look in the economic and social indicators of various ethnic groups. He also reiterated the need to have representation in decision making. He called for stopping of Kathmandu centric development activities.

On the observation that one needs to have the merits and nobody can stop his/her progress, Mr. Pahadi asked to be in his position to realize that potential alone can not ensure success. Mr. Sherpa responded that as the country has been divided in indigenous group solution has to be found accordingly. Mr. Yadav was of the view that discrimination was against human rights asked for inequalities to be brought to an end.

On the question poor people of hills origin were being killed in Terai. Mr. Yadav responded that it was the absence of proper law and order that was to be blamed. He told that the criminal elements were taking benefit. He unequivocally expressed he and his organizations were against such activities.

On the issue of practicing politics of differentiation and not unity, Mr. Yadav responded that the difference is so visible and his forum was for opportunity to all. Mr. Pahadi said that it was the society that was forcing them to assert, nobody wanted to be a dalit or known as dalit. Mr. Sherpa was for autonomy to the local people.

After some preliminary discussion, Mr. Janak Kumar Basnet, NRN from Isle of Man was invited to speak. In his very emotional and well liked speech he emphasized on the following

He further stated the following points:

- ▶ One Nepali should not discriminate against another Nepali. This is misdeed, crime, sin.
- ▶ The caste division should be based on work and behavior and not by origin.
  - Brahman: Who learns and teach other people for good work.
  - Kshtriya: Who is a fighter, brave and saves others.
  - Vaishya: Who indulges in business or other craftsmanship.
  - Sudra: who is a service provider, is kind and polite.

Every individual assumes these roles at some point in life

- ▶ We learn the behavior after we are born and groomed up. We do not behave according to the caste system. A successful person should have qualities of all these caste.
- ▶ Unity should be there for the development of country and country people.
- ▶ We should change our country ourselves.
- ▶ Opportunity and Position should be given according to the capabilities and potential.
- ▶ We should use our right to get the right person at the right place.
- ▶ Education is very important for our new future. There should be no obstacles getting education.
- ▶ We need to utilize our skills (right people at the right place) in order to lead our country to better heights.

There was further discussion about capabilities and position. The panelists were of the opinion that the inheriting inequality in opportunities at the beginning was causing friction. The answer was to provide opportunity to all.

<b>DAY II</b>	<b>NRNs FOR SOCIO ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION OF NEPAL</b>
<b>Split Session A</b>	<b>Culture and Tourism</b>
<b>Chair Person</b>	<b>Minister of Culture and Tourism, Hon'ble Mr. Prithvi Subba Gurung</b>
<b>Speakers</b>	<b>Ms. Indra Ban, NRN-VP (Australia)</b> <b>Mr. Satya Mohan Joshi, Senior Culture Expert</b> <b>Mr. Madhav Prasad Ghimire, Secretary, Ministry of Culture Tourism and Civil Aviation</b>
<b>MC</b>	<b>M r. Subhash Niroula</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>Soaltee Crowne Plaza, Kathmandu</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>9:00hrs – 10:30hrs</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> October 2007</b>

Presentation on “Nepali Diaspora Promoting Nepal Abroad” by Ms. Indra Ban, NRN-VP (Australia)

Her paper focused on how Nepalis in Australia are promoting Nepalese Culture and Dignity

- ▶ Australians were not aware of where Nepal was until the Mt. Everest was conquered.
- ▶ In the sixties, Nepal appealed primarily to Hippies because of:
  - Unique cultural and religious diversity
  - Value for money (it was untouched by tourism)
  - Place known as Shangri-la
- ▶ Nepal was the most preferred tourist destination in the seventies and eighties. This is when trekking agencies emerged in Australia and Nepali students went to Australia.

The Nepali students felt the need for a platform to interact with each other and Australian Community. Consequently, the first such association was established in Sydney in the seventies. Australian Diplomats relied on these associations for briefing prior to their departure to Nepal

- ▶ NRNA Australia established in 2005 after the establishment of the global body in 2003
- ▶ In 2006, NRNA along with all the Nepalese Community Associations organized a Nepal Festival to promote Nepal and Nepali culture to Australians and Nepalese alike.
- ▶ Nepal Chief of Mission to Australia acknowledges the contributions made by NRN Australian.
- ▶ NRN organization is committed to act as a bridge between the two nations.
- ▶ Nepalese people living abroad are also the contributors to the tourism industry and promoters of Nepalese goods in their adaptive countries. This has contributed to employments in Nepal.

The suggestions put forward by her

- ▶ Establish a Nepali Tourist Information Center in Australia providing free information about Nepal to the Australians and other foreign visitors.

- ▶ Encourage more International Carriers to operate in Nepal. At the moment only Thai Airways flies internationally. Nepal would benefit with competitive airfares.
- ▶ Other than being a captive market for mountain climbers and trekkers, Nepal has not penetrated to a wider market. Prospective tourists composed of retirees and 50's plus have not been tapped yet. In the Australian case, the population is growing old and constitutes a large potential market.
- ▶ The NTB and the Government should cater to their needs such as tourist police for security.
- ▶ It is well known that pollution is major concern in most countries; this is certainly true for Australia, both among young and the aged. It is therefore important (especially for the aged tourists) to provide pollution free environment. It would be advantageous to try and reduce the level of pollution in Kathmandu.
- ▶ Last, but not the least, as suggested by the Nepali Embassy in Australia, establishing a Chamber of Commerce involving both Nepalis and Australians would be ideal to create opportunities for both countries.

Presentation on “Nepali Culture” by Mr. Satya Mohan Joshi, Senior Cultural Expert

- ▶ In spite of being a small country, Nepal is famous in the world, because of the following.
  - Mount Everest
  - Adarsha Naari Sita's birthplace Janakpur
  - Gautam Buddha's birthplace Lumbini
- ▶ Other attractions of this beautiful place are the Bio-diversity, Cultural diversity, yet the feeling of oneness – Nepali. This provides Cultural Identity to the NRNs. The presence in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Global Conference of the NRNs is a testimony of their cultural identity.
- ▶ Culture plays an important role in nations' upbringing. Culture is the synonym of refined and polished work environment. Each ethnic group has their own way of life and philosophy.
- ▶ There exist two types of cultures: tangible and intangibles. Tangible includes cultural symbols such as temples. Intangible includes cultural symbols such as folk songs, dances, etc.
- ▶ Cultural heritages should be preserved and enhanced.
- ▶ Unique culture events such as *Indra Jatra* and living goddess' *Kumari's chariot-pull* should be promoted because Nepal is the only country in the current era that has been successful in preserving this age old culture.
- ▶ *Indra Jatra* is regarded as a masterpiece of human creative genius with outstanding cultural values. According to UNESCO which qualifies as a cultural heritage.
- ▶ National festivals such as *Dashain* are a key factor in uniting all Nepalese.
- ▶ Despite of the cultural richness and diversity the country does not possess cultural policy to this day, to the extent the Government has thus far failed to create a Ministry for Culture. This is the main pillar upon which the cultural heritages can foster in Nepal.

Presentation on by Mr. Madhav Prasad Ghimire, Secretary Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation

- ▶ There are many tourism products and services in Nepal like mountains, bio-diversity temperate climate, seven World Heritage Sites within the radius of 20 kms, rich cultures and rituals etc.
- ▶ Tourism is one of the highest foreign currency earners in Nepal. It is also source of employment, infrastructure development and promotion of culture and heritage.
- ▶ Tourism Industry is a smokeless industry.
- ▶ Tourism is expected to contribute 3.6% of World GDP. The same for Nepal is expected to be 6.4% of GDP and 500,000 jobs (5% of total employment)

Campaign: “Send Home a Friend” and “Nepal for all Seasons”

- ▶ Objectives of Campaign
  - Motivate NRNs to send their friends to Nepal
  - Increase number of tourists’ arrival
  - Contribute to overall Nepalese economy
  - Build a bond of new relationship between Nepalese and visiting foreign friends to Nepal
  - Promotion of Nepal through ‘Word of Mouth’
  - Promote Nepal as a tourist destination for all seasons
- ▶ Strengths of NRNs
  - Large Nepalese Diaspora around the world
  - Huge network
  - Occupying senior and decision making positions
  - Have strong determination to contribute to the development of Nepal
- ▶ National activities proposed
  - Formal Announcement made by the Government of Nepal during Budget Speech of F/Y 2064/065
  - Presentation and collaboration for the campaign on 3rd NRN Conference in Kathmandu from Oct. 15 to 17, 2007 by the Government of Nepal and NTB
- ▶ International:
  - Conduct various awareness programs regarding ‘Send Home a Friend’ and ‘Nepal for all Season’ Campaign
- ▶ For international campaign, Britain, Germany, and USA selected. The campaign period will be from Jan 1 to Dec 31 2008.
- ▶ The basis of Selection is:

- Accessibility
  - Nepalese Diaspora
  - White collar workers
  - Tourist Generating Markets
  - Students
  - Implementing Partners
  - Coinciding with NTB annual programs
- ▶ Program Partners will be:
- Government of Nepal (Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation and Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
  - Nepal Tourism Board (NTB)
  - Private Sector Tourism Associations and Entrepreneurs
  - NTB PRRs abroad
  - Nepalese Diplomatic Missions Abroad
  - NRN Chapters
  - Online/Offline Carriers
  - Various Nepalese Associations - local and international
  - Individuals
  - Nepalese Students and Friends of Nepal abroad
- ▶ Monitoring and Recognition will be categorized into two groups:
- Individual referral
  - Organizational referral
  - Highest Referrals will be awarded with Memento and Token of Appreciation by GoN and NTB amidst a special function to be organized in early 2009
- ▶ Other features proposed for campaign are:
- Special discount offers in hotels, restaurants, shopping malls
  - Special Privilege Cards will be issued through NRN/Embassies/PRRs of NTB abroad
  - Special Website with hit count will be developed for this campaign
  - Updated Immigration Cards will be made available to the visiting tourists in the airlines and TIA

Discussions/ Suggestions:

After the presentation various participant made the following observations

- ▶ Handicrafts are popular worldwide and are also imported by many countries. But there are no reports on this concern. Handicraft was not included in speech of “Nepali Culture”.
- ▶ While implementing the “Send Home a Friend” and “Nepal for all Seasons” we need to send positive not negative messages of events happening in Nepal in international websites
- ▶ Almost 80% foreigners said that Buddha was born in India while only 8% said that Buddha was born in Nepal
- ▶ They said so because they had learnt this from their text books. Efforts should be made to correct the perception. There are many in other countries, but information Nepali agencies provide to people is not sufficient.
- ▶ Government should focus more on accessibility and information richness rather just on introductory package.
- ▶ In spite of being a desert country, UAE has 10 million tourists while being a naturally and culturally so rich we have only four lakhs fifty thousand tourists. The solutions for this can be development at aviation sector.
- ▶ The NRNs from Middle East are coming up with a proposal for an international airline with investments of \$500 million. They will operate within 100 days of getting license. Civil Aviation is their dream project and they are willing to invest any amount for it.
- ▶ Nepal can be a tourism hub.
- ▶ People are coming to Europe through illegal VISA. The Government should not encourage it.
  - Build Airports
  - Lean Administration
  - Provision of individual identity cards to NRN according to frequency of visits and give reasonable visits
- ▶ Cultural Universities should be established.
- ▶ Promote lake as attraction to tourists
- ▶ Promote trekking as USP of Nepal
- ▶ Nepal is not able to fulfill expectations of tourists.
- ▶ Surveys are not being conducted
- ▶ Improve Standards of Hotels
- ▶ NRN have to pay tax. This made them feel as if they weren't Nepalese.
- ▶ NRNs, tourists are not welcome at airports.
- ▶ Based on a survey, it was found that 85% of people in Korea think that Buddha was born in India while only 7% think that Buddha was born in Nepal.

- ▶ Indian guides guide tourists in Lumbini due to which tourist think that Lumbini is in India
- ▶ Lumbini should be promoted in the world.

In response to the suggestions and questions made by NRNs, Minister Tourism, Culture and Civil Aviation - Mr. Prithvi Subba Gurung made following points:

- ▶ Nepal has Mt. Everest and Lumbini as twin pillar.
- ▶ There are three sectors in Nepal which could be the backbone of our transformation
  - Agriculture
  - Hydropower
  - Tourism.
- ▶ Tourism is more important because of:
  - Key role in creating employment.
  - Generating Foreign currency earnings
  - Good role in Education

At last, he thanked all NRNs for their concerns and suggestions. He also requested all of them to invest in proper area to develop Nepal.

<b>Split Session B</b>	<b>Investment Opportunities in Infrastructure</b>
In the Chair	<b>Minister of State for Ministry of Water Resource, Hon’ble Mr. Gyanendra Bahadur Karki</b>
<b>Speakers</b>	<b>Mr. Purna Prasad Kadariya, Secretary Ministry of Housing and Physical Planning, Mr. Anup Kumar Upadhyay, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Mr. Sharda Jung Thapa, VP – NRNA (N. America), Mr. Anil Bhadra Khanal and Prem Nidhi K.C. from Bagmati Basin Sewerage Project, Mr. Diwakar Golchha, 1st VP/FNCCI, Mr. Rameshananda Vaidya, Former Nepalese Ambassador to Japan</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>Soaltee Crowne Plaza</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>9.00 hrs to 10.30 hrs</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> October 2007</b>

The brief points of presentation are given below:

Mr. Purna Prasad Kadariya

- ▶ At present Nepal has 17 to 18 thousand Km road already under operation
- ▶ The mega projects in infrastructure under his Ministry
  - Outer ring road
  - Inner ring road
  - Kathmandu Terai Fast Track
  - Melamchi Water Supply project
- ▶ Outer ring road project to connect major routes of Kathmandu valley which is yet to be constructed. It is a major project assisting Kathmandu Urbanization Development to prevent haphazard urban growth. 250m either side of the road is planned for organized landscaping and town development.
- ▶ Certain improvements like constructing service road, cycle track and open space are still required in the inner ring road the government is planning to focus on. The road improvement would cost around Rs. 1661 million and the river crossing Improvement would cost Rs. 1354 million
- ▶ Kathmandu Terai Fast track is an ambitious project. As its name suggests, this project seeks to build better connection between Kathmandu and the Terai region. There are four alternatives to this project out of which the most feasible one 3A Road along Bagmati river linking Katmandu with EW Highway is under study.
- ▶ With regard to Melamchi, at present the tunnel construction is going on which is likely to be complete with 2-4 months. The total water production estimated in the first phase was 17 Crore litres per day with total cost of \$464 million.
- ▶ The Ministry is looking for investment from the private sector, particularly from the NRNs in the following projects

Sector	Potential projects
Water Supply and Sanitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Water Production and Sale in Urban Areas</li> <li>○ Water Distribution</li> <li>○ Bagmati Waste Water Treatment Extension</li> <li>○ Waste Water Collection and Treatment</li> </ul>
Urban Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Residential Complex for Member of Parliament</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Tudhikhel Underground Parking</li> <li>○ Truck/Van Terminal</li> <li>○ International Convention Center&amp; Exhibition Hall</li> <li>○ Charkhal Business Complex</li> <li>○ Civil Service Residential Complex</li> <li>○ Bishnumati Riverside Parking Development</li> <li>○ Nilbaharahi Nagar Parking Development</li> <li>○ Jeetpurphedi Public park Development</li> </ul>
Roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sitapahila Dharke Road</li> <li>○ Hetauda By pass</li> <li>○ Biratnagar By pass</li> <li>○ Bharatpur Gaidakot By pass</li> <li>○ Ring road Godavari Alternative Road</li> <li>○ Kathmandu Tarai Fast Track</li> </ul>

Mr. Anup Kumar Upadhyay, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources:

- ▶ The ministry has 2 main targets to be achieved by the end of 2017 and 2027.
  - By the end of 2017:*
    - **2100** MW for Domestic consumption.
    - 50 % Electrification from National Power Grid,
    - 12 % Small Hydro,
    - 3 % Alternative Energy Resources.
  - By the end of 2027:*
    - **4000** MW for Domestic consumption.
    - 75% electrification from National Power Grid,
    - 20 % Small Hydro,
    - 5% Alternative Energy Resources.
- ▶ Various policies and provision formulated to attract investments:
  - BOOT
  - Encouraging Export of Electricity
  - Easier Environmental clearance
  - Clearly defined Water rights
- ▶ One Window services from Department of Electricity Development.
- ▶ Government royalty on the basis of the installed capacity and the energy produced.
- ▶ Energy royalty exempted for the first fifteen years of the commercial production for the rural electrification.
- ▶ Survey license fee and construction license fee according to the capacity
- ▶ Projects suggested - Rahughat Khola, Kabeli 'A', Upper Karnali, Chameliya, Budhi Ganga, Likhu-4, Tamur-Mewa, Rahughat, Andhi Khola, Arun III, Dudh Koshi, Upper Arun, Kankai , Khimti-II, Lower Arun, Kali Gandaki-2, Budhi Gandaki, Upper Trisuli -2, Mai Loop, Tama Koshi-2, Upper Marsyangdi, Tila River 2, Naumare, Tama Koshi-3

Mr. Sharda Jung Thapa

- ▶ The development of infrastructure- primarily the responsibility of the Government and the Diasporas can only act as supporting players.
- ▶ In the past 33 years a lot of development has taken place but still a lot has to be done of which he is quite hopeful about. He then highlighted the various areas of infrastructure which has potential to be developed.
- ▶ **Education:** There are organizations like room to read and many others which are dedicated to help education infrastructure. He stressed the importance of developing human resource capital rather than only physical infrastructure. A level of accountability has to be maintained to have transparency.
- ▶ **Transportation:** This includes both the physical transportation and means to support the transportation like roads. There is a lot of scope and feasibility in road related projects. Railway project that is being considered for development will be successful if there is a sustained effort and thus attract NRNs to invest in these projects.
- ▶ **Power and energy:** As mentioned by many of the speakers, there is a lot of potential in hydropower, but other resources like wind, fossil fuels can also be utilized to produce power and energy. Diaspora is ready to help in every possible way like provide technical assistance
- ▶ **Telephone, cable, wireless technology:** There are technically capable Nepalese in this field throughout the world. The country has to tap these people and induce them to invest in the country. Not only financial but there is a need of knowledge/skill transfer.
- ▶ **Health:** Health is one sector that has lot of involvement of NRNs and this sector has a lot of potential. America-Nepal Medical Foundation to try bringing in medical volunteers, medical suppliers, and raise funds for other medical services in Nepal.
- ▶ **Urban Infrastructure** This includes cleanliness, sanitation, provision of drinking water and sanitation. There is a lot of potential to develop this sector as well.
- ▶ **Legal and Financial Infrastructure:** This category does not fall under the classical categories of infrastructure but holds a lot of importance especially at present context. The laws especially the contract law and taxation law need to be properly enforced in the country. Even the NRN law was recently passed with a lot of areas covered. But still, there is a scope of improvement.
- ▶ **Political Stability:** This is one factor that is essential for systematic development in any country. Political stability acts as a basic foundation for all the other infrastructures to prosper.
- ▶ There has to be better mobilization of the trained Nepali human resource that is scattered across the world. The Government should identify the talents and involving them in various development activities. Maximum benefit can be taken properly utilize the Diaspora fund. Diaspora savings can be used to raise funds to finance different projects. For this purpose, the interested NRNs need to know the viable project to call them in for investment. Diaspora has started the Micro Credit Personal lending project as well. There is also need to address the issue of double taxation and other treaties related to tax concerning NRNs.

Mr. Thapa also took the opportunity to speak on behalf of those NRNs who have not yet reached the position of helping Nepal. They first need to help themselves, in order to help their country. With reference to this, he mentioned that out of a total 150,000 Nepalis in the U.S, only 15000 are professionals and that their income status is as good as that of an average Asian immigrant income. The Government of Nepal needs to reach to these professionals in an effort to help Nepal.

Mr. Anil Bhadra Khanal and Mr. Prem Nidhi K.C.

- ▶ The need to preserve Bagmati river provided investment opportunities with its environmental and aesthetic, cultural and religious importance.
- ▶ The Bagmati river was in dreadful and sorry state at present (presented through photographs) due to mismanaged drainage system and solid waste management, illegal sand removal and land grabbing and haphazard urbanization.
- ▶ High Power Committee for Implementation and Monitoring of the Bagmati Area Sewerage Construction/Rehabilitation Project established in 1995 AD
- ▶ Main objective of BASP - to make the Bagmati River and its tributaries clean and free from contamination and pollution by preventing direct discharge of solid and liquid wastes to the river and conserve the Bagmati civilization.
- ▶ The Government is also working on proposed Waste Water Treatment Plants that covers areas of Sundarighat, Nakhhu, Balkumari, and Madhyapur Thimi. The Gokarna site is under construction. Major Activities necessary for this purpose
  - Demarcation of Water Way
  - Construction of :
    - Trunk Sewer Lines
    - River Training Works
    - Check Dams
    - Green Belts
    - Road Track
    - Waste Water Treatment Plants
    - Public Utilities
- ▶ The total cost for Implementation and monitoring of the Bagmati Area Sewerage Construction/Rehabilitation - is Rs. 145,862,000 and the cost of treatment plants is estimated to be Rs. 1,725,480.
- ▶ Public-Private-Partnership Program (PPPP) could be used in Bagmati river conservation the project is looking for partnership with Nepal Bankers Association, Contractor's Association of Nepal, FNCCI, NRN, NGO and INGOs.
- ▶ Areas of possible opportunities for NRNs
  - Riverside Development
  - Waste Water Management

Mr. Diwakar Golchha, 1<sup>st</sup> VP/FNCCI

- ▶ The conference is a platform to create awareness and how NRNs can help in economic development. The NRNs can participate not only in monetary terms but also in transfer of knowledge and skills.
- ▶ Nepali economy used to be a closed economy once upon a time. Since 1991 the phase of transformation has begun. Many policies were liberalized and licenses were liberalized.
- ▶ The outcome of this change was positive. It led to growth of the economy, progress of sectors like private airlines, banking, media, agro-based sector and the economy has become more self reliant. But it could not continue from mid 90s
- ▶ The country starving for growth. There are a lot of areas where improvement is required. With the help of knowledge and NRN, Nepal can grow. Sectors like aviation, entertainment can be explored
- ▶ The help from NRNs need not be only in form of mega projects but could be in small firms too.
- ▶ At present the demand is more than supply and to bridge this gap, the private sector has a role to play. Nepal still has a long way to go in reforming the economy.
- ▶ He concluded by saying that more of this kind of interactions can help create more awareness about the potential feasible projects.

Speech by Rameshananda Vaidya

Due to time constraint, Mr. Vaidya kept his speech really short. He spoke about the various opportunities and challenges in hydropower projects. Other than the most discussed opportunities and threats, the most underrated threat, according to him was the disaster related to melting of glaciers.

Floor Discussion

The first question was how important is it for Government to focus on those NRN investor who do not follow the basic principals of Corporate Governance. He also asked about the applicability of the concept of Corporate Citizenship and Corporate Social Responsibility of the investors. To this, Mr. Golchha responded by saying that the CORPORATE governance in Nepal is not very transparent and that a lot of improvement is still needed. Earlier the trend was towards a lump sum taxation system, be it on profit and loss or on import and export. Effort has been put in by the private sector to change this trend and they have succeeded to certain extent. Responding to the triangular theory, Mr. Thapa stated that any investment from the NRN is a private investment with their own set of standards as a result of which, forcing them to follow a common policy would be difficult. Instead, he recommended Government to gather funds from those NRNs who have retired and establish an organization to look after the Corporate Social Responsibility in Nepal. If NRNA is involved in investment, it should have their own set of rules and regulations, specially designed for them.

The next question was regarding whether or not the housing development and the building and municipality department prior to granting approval to the concerned builders and constructors

have checked on the fulfillment of facilities like Fire exit, parking, facilities providing access to the disabled and earthquake prevention requirements. Concern was expressed about the adequacy of skills among those people who execute these projects. To this Mr. Kadariya clarified the fact that building code is in the process of implementation and recently the Apartment Act was formulated. Regarding the training issue, he notified that starting right from the VDC level engineers to the KMC level engineers; the Ministry is engaged in providing training to almost 2700 people every year.

Everybody present was requested to pay serious attention to preserve Bagmati River and the historic importance it carried along with it to which Mr. Kadariya accepted that there was a major problem in the urban development planning process. Since 16% of Nepal's total population resides in the urban areas and they contribute almost 65% to the country's GDP, Government has to be very careful in enforcing any kind of strong regulations in these areas..

Concerns over road and bridge capacity were expressed. Mr. Kadariya informed that the Government has set certain road standards and that the minimum requirement for bridges has been established at 30 tons. Heavy vehicle policy has also been formulated.

There was also query regarding the failure of privatized enterprises. To this Mr. Golchha clarified that the failure story is not entirely true. Those who failed are mainly because of lack of proper privatization policies and that the entrepreneurs were not fully aware and acquainted with the problems they had to deal with.

The session was concluded by the Minister by thanking the various participants present today. He agreed with the P.M.'s view on NRN which was expressed at the inauguration ceremony. He expressed his regret that he could not address to everyone's questions and all opinions also could not be attended because of time constraint. He said that Nepal was having a stagnant economy and no particular party or person is responsible for it. According to him with appropriate policies Nepal could become prosperous. He also believed that if talents and resources of Nepalis all around the globe are brought together, Nepal can be made prosperous.

<b>Split Session C</b>	<b>Youth, Education and Sports</b>
<b>Chairperson</b>	<b>Mr. Arjun Bahadur Bhandari, Acting Secretary Ministry of Education</b>
<b>Speakers</b>	<b>Mr. Saurabh Jyoti, President NYEF, Mr. Sagar Onta, NRN Youth Forum Mr. Bal Joshi, NRN Youth Forum, Mr. Nilendra Shrestha, ICC Member, Mr. Rabi Raj Thapa, Vice President Nepal Olympic Committee (NOC), Mr. Jeevan Ram Shrestha, Member Secretary, Sports Council, Mr. Ajad Shrestha, 3rd VP, FNCCI</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>Soaltee Crowne Plaza, Kathmandu</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>9:00hrs - 10:30hrs</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> October 2007</b>

The session started with welcome speech by Mr. Arjun Bahadur Bhandari. He hoped that the session would be a success and stressed that FNCCI and NRN should work together to compliment Government's effort to uplift education and sports in the country. He assured that Government will work for effective planning for the same. The main points of various presentations are given below:

Mr. Saurabh Jyoti

"Are we Land Locked or Mind Blocked? Are we Land Locked or Land Linked? and " How can we take advantage of our strategic location?". The average GDP growth rate of Nepal is 2.4 while that of India and China is 8.2 and 9.1 respectively. Nepal has the advantages of being strategically located between two economic giants, and diverse topography.

The areas of competitive advantage in the sector of Agriculture and related industries, Tea and Coffee, Floriculture, Leather Goods, Woolen and Pashmina Goods, Hydropower, Tourism, Health Services, Readymade Garments, Information Technology, Educational / Training Institutions and Financial Services. Nepal should develop its infrastructure to make it transit point and a hub of information technology. For accelerating growth, we need to reform policies and improve investment climate in the country.

There is a serious brain drain problem in the country and youths need to move to mobilize domestic resources to create job in the country. Nepalese hydropower potential is "white gold" and given the power need of two giant neighbours, there is enough opportunity in hydropower development in the country.

NYEF as a membership based non profit organization established on September 26, 2003. NYEF is promoted by the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) with an aim of creating outstanding entrepreneurs through fellowships, idea exchange, trainings and advocacy among the Nepalese Youth. MoU between NYEF and NRN Youth Forum is expected to promote cooperation in education and internship program.

Mr. Sagar Onta

The goals and objectives of NRN Youth forum is to raise awareness on NRNA movement among the NRN youth, and formulate and implement programs in and outside of Nepal to cater towards the issues raised by the NRN youth

NRN YF Internship Program, Business Incubator and Professional Networking are being contemplated. NRN-YF Internship Program provides an avenue for youths abroad to connect to Nepal; personally and professionally and create an opportunity for the Nepali businesses, institution and society as a whole to benefit from the talent pool of Nepali youths abroad.

The internship program would help people familiarize with the working culture of Nepal and invigorate their interest in their chosen field of study. It would give them a vivid picture of how their academic knowledge would be implemented in the Nepali context. It would also expand their technical know-how and sharpen their professional presentation/communication skills.

Various organizations would benefit from the internship program as well as this would assist them tap the young and bright individuals who are potential future employees. It would further connect different domestic organizations with NRN network worldwide and contribute to “Naya Nepal”.

The approximate cost per internship is \$1000 and their fund raising goal for year 2007 is \$10,000. Himal Media, Mercantile Communications, Kantipur Publication, Sanima Bikas Bank, Jyoti Group, Surya Nepal and Digital Max Solutions have verbally committed to signing of MOU within coming months.

Mr. Bal Joshi

Taking example from India about 23 Billion USD flows in the form of remittances from 30 million Non Resident Indians disbursed in 130+ countries.

While the overseas Indians worldwide produce an economic output of about \$400 billion approximately 30% of India’s GDP, Indians make up roughly 20 percent of the "International Medical Graduates" - or foreign-trained doctors - operating in the U.S. The most interesting fact was that 26 percent of all immigrant-founded companies in the past 10 years by Indian immigrants. This is contributing to the Indian GDP growth of 9%.

"Argonauts"- People, who work in two or more regions, shuttling back and forth, literally carry market and technological knowledge, contacts, business models and capital around the world.

Thamel.com, the example of opening up of new boulevards in the Nepalese commercial world.

Value chain (set of activities which turns inputs to value added outputs) can be applied to migration. We need to identify five broad areas in migration value chain namely money transfers, transportation, telecommunications, tourism and nostalgic trade (activities that a migrant is involved into).

Mr. Nilendra Shrestha

He said sports can be uplifted in Nepal only by the active participation from private sector. He discoursed about Government's role to promote Nepalese sports and said a lot is yet to be done to take Nepalese sports fraternity to the zenith of success.

Mr. Rabi Raj Thapa

Sports make a person healthy to build a healthy society. Five pillars of sports development in Nepal- Nepal Olympic Committee, National Sports Council, National Associations, National Institution of Sports and Private, Social, Community stake holders.

NOC has been providing necessary support to the coaches through various scholarship and training programs. They have been educating coaches within the country inviting experts from abroad for seminars/courses. The potential areas of mutual cooperation between NRN and NOC possible partnership programs during Olympic Games, Asian Games and South Asian Games and other various national and international events.

Mr. Jeevan Ram Shrestha

The sports fraternity has developed ever since its first representation in Olympics.

The Sports council had the vision to add up more facilities in the coming days to meliorate the standard of sports in Nepal. A sports complex to be proposed to be constructed at Tripureshwor.

Mr Shrestha expressed his gratitude to all the players who have contributed to the growth, development and diversification of Nepalese sports with special thanks to Marathon Runner Baikuntha Manandhar, Tae Kwando player Deepak Bista and Hari Rokai. For their contribution in taking Nepal to the global sports map

Mr. Ajad Shrestha

Mr. Shrestha talked about the changing global scenario and need to modernize Nepalese sports. He briefly presented how Nepal could benefit from Sports, Tourism possibility making Nepal a sports tourism destination. He also highlighted how NYEF worked as proponent of peace and its work of training and development works.

Discussion, Question and Answer

On the question of the new challenges under the WTO regime, Mr. Saurabh Jyoti responded that we should be able to work to develop sectors in which we have core capabilities like hydropower, pashmina, woolen products, tourism etc.

On the issue of students being excluded from the NRN definition Mr. Sagar Onta said that the NRNA had serious reservations regarding students going abroad for further studies abroad not being classified as NRNs. He was confident that this will be corrected in the upcoming NRN law.

<b>Split Session D</b>	<b>Role of Global Nepalese Women</b>
<b>Chief Guest</b>	<b>Hon'ble Ms. Chitra Lekha Yadav, Deputy Speaker</b>
<b>Chairperson</b>	<b>Ms. Ranjana Udas, NRNA ICC Women Representative</b>
<b>Key Note Speaker</b>	<b>Mr. Biswa Kant Mainali, President, Nepal Bar Association</b>
<b>Speakers</b>	<b>Ms. Manju Gurung, President, Paurakhi</b> <b>Ms. Pramila Rijal, First Vice President, FWEAN</b> <b>Mr. Gunner F Andersen, Director, Save the Children Norway</b> <b>Ms. Bhawani Rana, Executive Member, FNCCI</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>Soaltee Crowne Plaza</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> October 2007</b>

Ms. Ranjana Udas

- ▶ NRN's priority: Preserving Nepali culture and tradition not only in Nepal but also in foreign countries
- ▶ Women should be promoted not only inside the country but also internationally.
- ▶ Participation of women is important in the peace process; unity is required for peace
- ▶ Nepali women in various parts of the world have formed a network to promote Nepalese women working abroad.
- ▶ Plans are underway for future expansion
- ▶ Nari Nikunja in Russia, for an example, has found a small Nepal in Russia, concentrated in programs for women empowerment
- ▶ Peace and development would be incomplete without women empowerment
- ▶ Plans to establish Nepal House in foreign countries
- ▶ Nepal should learn to respect women for the countries progress

Ms. Manju Gurung

- ▶ Paurakhi:
  - Organization that deals with community of Nepalese women who have come back from foreign employment
  - Deals about on-going women discrimination in the sector of foreign employment.
  - Provides consultations and acts as an information centre to the women going abroad for foreign employment.
  - Hosted a Radio Program that was broadcasted in all zones and districts of Nepal; had 160 listeners club; Target audience: Rural Nepalese women
  - Deals with educating them about the culture of foreign countries, foreign recruitment agencies
  - Involved in various studies and research:
    - SOH (State of Health) in Pokhara, Dharan and Kathmandu
    - CMF (Centre for Micro Finance)
    - HIV/AIDS Migration Women Workers
    - Women Studies
  - Foreign Alliances

- ▶ NRNs can contribute in not only remittance but also knowledge and skills
- ▶ NRNs can help Paurakhi in Kathmandu, Pokhara and Dharan
- ▶ Women are legally prohibited for foreign employment in Gulf countries; but 60-70 thousand women are working illegally in Saudi Arabia alone
- ▶ The legal prohibition has lead to more insecurity and vulnerability to Nepalese women in foreign countries
- ▶ Such law should be amended. New law should be formulated eliminating the sex discrimination in foreign employment.
- ▶ Women have moved for foreign employment to provide basic education for their kids and to ensure other basic needs, to ensure a better future
- ▶ There are opportunities to strengthen the Nepalese women economically and in terms of knowledge and skills
- ▶ Paurakhi neither encourages nor discourages Nepalese women to work abroad
- ▶ Recommendations:
  - Women be well informed before going abroad for employment
  - Enhancing self decision capability and financial knowledge of women
  - Help the women victims in foreign countries
  - Work for immediate rescues for the Nepalese women victims in foreign countries
- ▶ NRN women are ambassadors of Nepalese women in foreign countries
- ▶ The need of the hour is to find a new destination for women foreign employment other than just Gulf countries

Mrs. Pramila Rijal

- ▶ The SAARC Chamber Crafts Village (SCCV) Project was conceptualized at the official launching of SAARC Chamber Women Entrepreneurs Council (SCWEC), in Colombo, Sri Lanka in the year 2001.
- ▶ The SAARC Chamber Women Entrepreneurs Council (SCWEC) is a Sector Council of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI). SCWEC comprises a membership of key Women Entrepreneurs organizations from the SAARC Countries.
- ▶ The SAARC Chamber Crafts Village is focused on exchange of trade information, entrepreneurial skills and building trade links among the Women Entrepreneurs of the South Asian Region.
- ▶ The SCCV serves as the information and marketing resource body by facilitation of trade activities through intra exchange of products and services among rural, semi urban and urban women producer groups, entrepreneurs, manufacturers, professionals and service providers in the South Asia Region.
- ▶ A retail outlet has been establishment to show-case the skills of the Women Entrepreneurs from the SAARC Region. Each country's product is displayed through this outlet.
- ▶ The SAARC Chamber Crafts Village has built up a strong support network with Government and non-government organizations, and aims to work together for entrepreneurship development.

- ▶ **Objectives of SCCV:** Help other women grow and improve their business by creating better market opportunities through sharing of technology, trade information and building linkages for collaborative projects. It also aims to work towards developing social entrepreneurship culture.
- ▶ **Mission:** Reinforcing the visibility of women by empowering them towards financial independence and enhancing their social status in the rural and urban areas.
- ▶ **Vision:**
  - To establish the first women's industrial Estate with the support of the Government of Nepal
  - Replication of the SCCV in other SAARC countries.
- ▶ **Implementing Organization:**
  - This project is implemented by the Federation of Woman Entrepreneurs Associations of Nepal (FWEAN).
  - FWEAN is an Apex Body of Woman Entrepreneurs Associations of Nepal (WEAN) and is a focal point for interaction with not only the Government but also various national and international women's organizations.
  - The overall goal of the Federation is to mainstream women entrepreneurs in national development through establishment of WEAN Chapters in the District level.
- ▶ **Working Partners:**
  - Micro Enterprise Development Programme (MEDEP)- UNDP Programme
  - Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI)
  - Federation of Handicrafts Associations of Nepal (FHAN)
  - Federation of Nepal Cottage and Small Industry (FNCSI)
- ▶ **Proposals**
  - Promotion of Nepalese products through International Annual Events.
  - A joint Project of NRN Women Association and SCCV.
  - Working together for establishing the first women's Industrial Estate.
- ▶ Do not want donations but try to work in a team by forming a network of women and working together

Mr. Gunner F. Andersen

- ▶ Save The Children – established by women considering the aftermath of World War II.
- ▶ Save The Children: a global organization spread in more than 100 countries
- ▶ Value of our organization not in terms of monetary gains but in terms of reputation
- ▶ Nepal has a large non-urban population
- ▶ Rural girls' education should be focused
- ▶ NRNs should contribute in the rural girls' education
- ▶ We are dependent on private sector, Government and individuals to reach our objective

- ▶ 700,000 children are out of school in Nepal. Globally 39 million children are deprived of basic needs and most are in conflict areas such as Nepal
- ▶ Last year Save the Children could reach 140,00 girls and provided them education
- ▶ We have provided financial service to many private organizations in their objective to provide education to children but we did not look at the financial sustainability of these organizations. Now we are working at making these private organizations self sustainable in acquiring resources and thereby help children

Mr. Biswa Kant Mainali

- ▶ As long as we live in a society, problems of male and female should not be treated differently/separately. Such problems are social problems and should be handled accordingly.
- ▶ The problem of sex discrimination and male hegemony is found everywhere in world. There was a time when women were not allowed to vote, Iran has just uprooted the rule.
- ▶ Our society is a male dominated society and this is implanted deep in our culture. It is the culture that defines the role and responsibility of the social participants i.e. males and females.
- ▶ The foundation of this culture lies in the power that the two pillars of the society: Males and Females hold. The imbalance of this power is the cause of all the problems.
- ▶ The power comes from financial, educational and political strength.
- ▶ Out of the total ownership of land in Nepal less than 10% land is owned by females.
- ▶ Even today we have law that allows polygamy culture
- ▶ Women were in a state where they can be property and state less as they had right neither over parental property nor over the husband's property. However, this has ended as the constitution now gives females and males the equal ownership over their parental property and woman will have right over her husband's property
- ▶ The participation of woman is very low in Parliament and Government. The new law safeguards 33% parliamentary seats for females. Now, males cannot have more than 66% parliamentary seats whereas females can have seats from 33% to 100%.
- ▶ Before, Nepalis had to have father's name in their citizenship certificate. Now, one can get their citizenship with mother's name as well
- ▶ First school of any children is Mother. Education is the foundation of any society and so the mother is the bud by where this foundation finds its strength. If mother is not educated, society will suffer.
- ▶ So we have to take woman's problem as social problem and then only we can have the solution
- ▶ Today, we need activist. Women need to come forward and act.
- ▶ Bar has and will always work for women's right.

Ms. Chitra Lekha Yadav

- ▶ NRN women have come here not only for the given topic but to contribute in the growth and construct a New Nepal.
- ▶ We are capable in all way to be as good as and better than male in all sectors
- ▶ Women inheritance bill took 8 years to be integrated in the law
- ▶ Our objective is not just to have one/few women in high position. We want uplift women in the overall quality and equality of women in the society
- ▶ The vision of New Nepal cannot be achieved with the same old thinking of male chauvinism.
- ▶ There is a saying that “If you want something said ask a man and if you want something made ask a Woman”. So to build New Nepal, the inclusion and empowerment of woman is a must.
- ▶ Politics plays the prime role and confirms the way for economic growth.
- ▶ Women are the powerhouse of managing resources. We manage limited resources all the time may it be in managing the kitchen or managing the family. We have this quality and should use in managing and uplifting the status of women and in managing our professional life as well
- ▶ The source of all growth that is meaningful and beneficial cannot move forward without education
- ▶ 80% girls of school going age are deprived of education. If we are to talk of New Nepal we have to invest in education
- ▶ Let us work together to provide education to all children. NRNs will have to help for this cause and its effect will be long term
- ▶ “Democracy is the way to go ahead without leaving anyone of us behind”. The country cannot grow and sustain unless it educates and empowers all
- ▶ If we cannot strengthen Nepali people of all culture and geographical diversity, we cannot ever make the country strong

Ms. Bhawani Rana

- ▶ Gratitude to all the participants
- ▶ Poverty lies within this beautiful country
- ▶ Appreciation to the NRN women who have come to Nepal to help global Nepalese woman
- ▶ We should focus on team work and network building to empower women
- ▶ Need work for positive agenda using the network.

<b>DAY</b>	<b>II</b>
<b>Theme</b>	<b>NRN Law: What is there and what is missing?</b>
<b>Chairperson</b>	<b>Mr. Yagya Murti Banjade, Attorney General</b>
<b>Paper Presentation</b>	<b>Mr. Chiranjibi Dhakal – NRNA Joint Coordinator</b>
<b>Speakers</b>	<b>Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya – Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Dinesh Tripathi – Advocate(USA)</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>Soaltee Crowne Plaza, Kathmandu</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>12:00 – 1:30 hours</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> October 2007</b>

The session was chaired by Mr. Yagya Murti Banjade – Attorney General. He expressed that NRN Law is new for Nepal. The errors of this law will be known only after the implementation of the law. NRN Act may not have addressed all the expectation of the NRNs. The weaknesses of the NRN Act will be realized only after the implementation of the Act. That is why laws are amended from time to time. He invited the panelists to express their views regarding what is there and what is missing in NRN Law.

Mr. Chiranjibi Dhakal

NRN Law passed had given the NRNs some encouragement to do something for the country. There are few points which have to be addressed. They are:

- ▶ The law passed has defined NRN as people living in other countries for two years except those living in SAARC countries. The two year time frame is vague. The international practice is to consider person living majority of the days in any fiscal year as non Resident. Our proposal was also the same.
- ▶ Skill and knowledge is required for the development of the country. Students and Nepalese scholars are not included in NRN. Nepali Students studying in the foreign country should be included as they are involved in different research programs.
- ▶ The definition of 'People of Nepali origin should be clarified.
- ▶ Special provision for the workers going abroad should be declared which should include free custom duty, increase in life insurance amount and fund for the welfare of the migrant workers.
- ▶ Ancestral property: persons of Nepali origin should have the right to their ancestral property. This should be amended in the Act.
- ▶ NRNs should be allowed to keep their property in Nepal. There should be provision for dual citizenship. The absence of dual citizenship is reducing the remittance amount.

These are not the demand but request to the concerned authorities. We request the Government to pass these points in the act.

Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya

- ▶ No concrete management of NRNA. Progressive Development is required in Act and management of NRNA.
- ▶ To coordinate these things a committee has been formed where there is one NRN representative. Inter-ministerial coordination required.
- ▶ There is tangible and intangible side of NRN. Intangible is that NRN is goodwill ambassadors of Nepal. NRNs are Ambassador or Promoter of resource enhancement, resource partners and partners in trade.
- ▶ Education, skill and experience should be shared to strengthen the bond of Nepali and other people in the world.
- ▶ Definition of NRN: whoever is staying abroad for 2 years, they are regarded as NRN. Evaluation of practical difference is being done to declare NRN who are staying abroad since 183 days. In the process of implementation, if problem arises, we can go for amendments.
- ▶ Laborers in the Gulf countries have not been excluded. These issues will be addressed as we implement the NRN law.
- ▶ The students are not included. But the moment he/she finishes studies he/she becomes the NRN. Persons who are from Government or any Nepali organization officials are not regarded as NRN because they are expected to return back.
- ▶ Minimum wage rate, regulation of manpower agencies and welfare fund management has been discussed in the foreign employment Act. This act is expected to safeguard the right of the workers.
- ▶ There should be proper coordination between the NRNA and the embassies of Nepal around the world.
- ▶ NRN Act will strengthen the relationship between Nepali and NRNs.
- ▶ The problem of dual citizenship will be solved only after the amendments in constitutions and other laws.

Mr. Dinesh Tripathi

- ▶ NRNs are being considered only as a source of investment in Nepal.
- ▶ They should be taken as the ambassadors of Nepal who are spreading the name of Nepal in the world.
- ▶ For NRN investment in the country, the rules and regulation should be friendly.
- ▶ There is the need of efficient mechanism for proper regulatory mechanism, legal infrastructure and dispute settlement. For this NRN empowerment is necessary.
- ▶ NRN contribution and participation can be clearly seen in the Jana Aandolan 2.
- ▶ Election laws should be amended. The voting rights of the NRN should be guaranteed in the constitution. This will enhance the economic prosperity of the country.

- ▶ Double citizenship: There is no need of amendment in the current constitution. This constitution does not restrict the double citizenship. Constitution gives the power to the lawmakers of the country to decide on the double citizenship. Hence, this provision can be made effective by adding it in the NRN law.
- ▶ There should be protection of the Nepalese people who are moving out of the country. Treaties between Nepal and other countries regarding protection of Nepalese and avoidance of double taxation should be made.
- ▶ There are still ambiguity and lack of clear definition in the NRN Act. Parliament has drafted only the skeleton. These can be made clear by rules and regulations.
- ▶ The process of law making should be democratized and all the stakeholders should be involved in it. Concerns of NRN should be addressed.
- ▶ Definition of NRN should be amended which will suit the globalizing world. We need to harmonize with the global system.
- ▶ As there is no dual citizenship in the country, capital flight is taking place. In order to build the capacity of the country, citizens of the country should be empowered.
- ▶ The citizen themselves should make the efficient and competent state.

### **Discussions**

There was a question of having more than 50 percent NRN ownership to be considered an NRN company in the Law. In Gulf countries foreigners were allowed to have only 49% share. Responding to this query Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya told that he has noted the issue. But international practice was to have a majority stake to be considered owner.

He also informed that 2 years period was introduced after prolonged deliberation.

On the issue of dual citizenship, Mr. Yagya Murti Banjade said that the issue of dual citizenship is not providing new citizenship but retaining the original one. This issue should be addressed by the Citizen Act not NRN Act.

On the question why there is restriction for Nepalis to invest abroad, Mr. Acharya the issue was being looked by the Finance Ministry taking into consideration Macro economic environment, foreign exchange status etc has being done

On the question about changing the profession details of a person in the passport, Mr. Acharya informed that changing the contents of the passport is a serious issue. The motive of passport is to give the secured identity to the holder. Regarding changing occupation in the passport it was possible with proper documents.

<b>DAY II</b>	<b>NRNA General Body Meeting</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>Soaltee Crowne Plaza, Kathmandu</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>13:30 – 14:00</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> October 2007</b>
<b>Chair</b>	<b>Dr. Upendra Mahato, NRNA President</b>

The General body meeting discussed and adopted various resolutions.

<b>DAY II</b>	<b>Presentation on Various NRNA Projects</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>Soaltee Crowne Plaza</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>18.00 hrs onwards</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> October 2007, extended till 17<sup>th</sup> October</b>

NRN Devghat Briddhashram Project - Mr. Jiba Lamichane, NRN Russia

- ▶ This project - a philanthropic initiative of NRNA at the First Global Conference in 2003. The project has two parts:
  - Kriyaputri Bhawan at Pashupatinath temple area - Completed and in operation since 2005 with the financial contribution of Dr Upendra Mahato
  - Devghat Bridhashram
    - The ICC VP from North America Dr. Shyam Karki signed MoU with FNCCI.
    - NRNA officially adopted the project and Mr. Jiba Lamichhane was given charge to coordinate it in July 2006.
    - The Briddhashram located in Devghat Dham, Chitawan at a confluence of two rivers, Trishuli and Gandaki. The ashram has a total capacity of 59 beds spread across 23 rooms. There are also facilities of 5 supporting rooms.
    - Since construction and management of the entire ashram by the NRNs alone is not possible, so Seven Party body was formed with the following membership
      - > The NRNA
      - > FNCCI
      - > Narayangarh CCI
      - > RatnanagarCCI
      - > Devghat Kshetra Vikash Samitee
      - > Biswasanti Mahayangyasala (donor of the land)
      - > Galeshwar Ashram a reputed non-profit organization of the area

- ▶ Swami Atmananda Giri who is the chairman of the Galeshwar Ashram Trust taking active leadership.
- ▶ He also disclosed the names of people who have contributed financially to the project:
  - German-Nepal Friendship Association: Generous donation to install a 25 Lakh overhead-tank water supply system in the Briddhashram. Exact amount of the contribution will be announced soon.
  - Senior Health Care Inc. USA- Medical equipment and geriatric supply
- ▶ The estimated cost initially would be Rs. 12,000,000.00 along with variation of construction works at the site of Rs. 1,800,000.00 and an estimated total cost of around Rs. 13 650 000
- ▶ He also mentioned contribution for NRN-DB globally with Europe accounting for the maximum contribution of 72.4% and Asia pacific following with 15.1%. Country wise Russia followed by Hong Kong and Isle of Man were the prime contributors.

This was followed by a short speech by Swami Atmananda Giri who appealed for maximum support for running the facility from the NRNs. This resulted in a positive response from those in the audience who started vowing for providing financial assistance generously. The list of the contributors to the construction and donating resources for running are given separately.

#### Daijo Fund by Ms. Usha Sharma, NRN Germany

- ▶ Daijo- a culture whereby the parents of newlywed bride provide gifts to their daughters for their financial and social welfare.
- ▶ This is a very critical culture especially in our society but the increase in gap between the rich and poor has made this a bad culture. Women have been made the scapegoat for acquiring wealth by the in-laws.
- ▶ Daijo fund is an effort to keep intact the true essence of this culture. But here, it is not just trying to provide monetary help but focus more on education that is so much more valuable.
- ▶ There is a high rate of school dropouts among women, especially in the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades. The prime target of this fund would be to educate the women from geographically and economically backward and marginalized areas and make them capable to stand on their own feet and make their own decisions.
- ▶ This fund is a German based foundation adopted by the ICC that seeks to develop not just the male proportion of the society or the female proportion, but tries building an educated society on a whole.
- ▶ Daijo Fund is based on the belief that women education is the right answer to an educated society. She thus appealed everybody to collaborate.

#### Springwood NRN Kathmandu International Marathon 2007 Nilendra Shrestha:

- ▶ As a preparation to the KIM a 3 & 5 Km races were held in 16 cities in Nepal. In Kathmandu, the race routes were that of 5 Km, 10 Km, half marathon, full marathon and business marathon. Other than that, Water Colors Painting Competition in Patan, Pottery Competition in Bhaktapur and Seminars were also held.
- ▶ The Nepal Marathon Pvt. Ltd. which has been registered in Nepal as a commercial Company realizing the vacuum of the private sector involvement in development of sports.
  - Total Participation 6,022
  - International Participation 62
  - Countries Participation 20
- ▶ The cash prize included US\$ of 10,000 to men and 5,000 to women for the 1<sup>st</sup> position holder. An additional cash prize of Nrs. 100,000 to men and 50,000 to women was also declared to encourage more Nepali participants. The details of prizes of other categories were also discussed.
- ▶ There were total of 1460 volunteers and various organizations involved. The total cost of the project was 1 crore and the organizer also ran a deficit of 65 lacs.
- ▶ The next KIM to be conducted on 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2008 with the same enthusiasm and success.

NRN Public Libraries through Nepal Library Foundation by Naresh Koirala, ICC – Canada, Nepal Library Foundation

- ▶ The main objective of Nepal Library Foundation was to enhance educational opportunities.
- ▶ Till now fund has been raised principally through donors, sponsors and sale of coffee (Karma coffee) and blank papers.
- ▶ Partnership agreements have been signed with Society for Kathmandu Valley Public Libraries and Read Nepal and active projects have been undertaken with these organizations.
- ▶ Various targets set for 2007 was achieved and in the future we are hopeful of projects for NRN synergy and more funds. With this support from NRNs, NLF's present capability can be increased.
- ▶ Transparency will be maintained and money reaching the target will be ensured.

NRN 100 Million Dollar Fund - Niley Shrestha

- ▶ This fund is a not charity fund but profit oriented that aims to increase personal wealth as well as to contribute to development of Nepal. Nepal to take benefit from the earning power of \$100 million.
- ▶ The Global NRN population estimated at 2.0 million and even if only 5% of them, i.e; 10000 contribute \$10000 each, the fund can collect \$100,00,000.
- ▶ Important Role of Diaspora examples:
  - Economic growth through remittances.
    - 2005 alone – 167 billion dollars

- Over a billion dollars annually to Nepal
  - Poverty reduction.
  - Technology transfer.
  - Peace building – Irish, Filipinos, South Africans.
- ▶ Philanthropy.
  - Help Nepal Network
  - Nepalese Children’s Education Fund
  - Ama Foundation
- ▶ The whole idea behind NRN 100 Million Dollar Fund is:
  - \$50 million – invest in Nepal’s infrastructure & economic development.
  - \$50 million – invest in public markets outside of Nepal.
  - Registration and listing in tax friendly country.
  - Non Resident and Resident Nepalese - the backbone of the fund.
  - Payout Policy - 40% of net profits distributed to investors, 40% reinvested, 10% donated to Nepali charities, 10% for performance related incentive for the management of the fund.
- ▶ There are however certain challenges ahead. The Global NRN has to invest and set up an “Offshore fund”. US investors may have to pay some taxes in this fund and may require minimum net worth. The potential solutions can be having highly capable leadership on the top with a Master/Feeder Fund Structure. Releasing Diaspora Bonds (through Banks of Nepal) can also provide substantial financial support.
- ▶ The Goals and Next Steps projected for future would be Allow participation by any NRN regardless of net worth.
  - Tax benefits for investors
  - Registration of NRNA in Nepal
  - NRNA board approve the launch of NIF
  - Sign agreement with law firm
  - Raise \$100 million globally
- ▶ He ended by quoting a statement by Mahatma Gandhi that speaks of the much needed changes in the society that states “You must be the change you want to see in the world.”

FNCCI Trade School Programme by Kush Kumar Joshi, Second Vice President/ Chairman, FNCCI Trade School implementation committee

- ▶ Trained human resources is the way to speed up the development process be it economical or industrial sectors
- ▶ A Council for technical education and vocational training (CTEVT) was created in 1989. link between the CTEVT and the private sector need to be strengthened to overcome the problem of skills mismatch.
- ▶ The Trade school concept is being implemented in Nepal as a joint initiative of the Government of Nepal and FNCCI. The concept is essentially to make vocational training programs responsive and relevant to the needs and requirements of the community and the individuals. Trade school offers vocational training in different trades and skills

- ▶ 5 schools were established in 2003 A.D. in the regional concept at Damak, Nuwakot, Nawalparasi, Surkhet, Kanchanpur districts. 3 Schools has been established in 2007 as zonal concept at Dharan, Siraha, Bara districts. 6 more schools are proposed on a tripartite mutual understanding as per (Government, FNCCI, NRN). NRN are free to select district in the Janakpur, Gandaki, Dhawalagiri, Rapati, Seti and Karnali Zones for the school.
- ▶ The main goal of trade schools is Economic empowerment and Poverty reduction in the country through vocational training.
- ▶ Various activities of trade schools:
  - Need Assessment / Demand collection
  - Need based training package
  - Quality training
  - Support local business and industries through consultancy services
  - Placement support
- ▶ Establishment/ Funding Mechanism in the 8 already established schools
  - Government of Nepal - 25 Lakhs each
  - FNCCI - 1 Lakhs
  - Local Chamber - 4 Lakhs
- ▶ Opportunities with Trade School:
  - Strong FNCCI network in the Municipality and district level (FNCCI has 90 local chambers as members in the country)
  - Easy to establish linkages between training and employment.
  - Since it is directly related to poverty reduction, adequate funding support can be acquired from the Government and development partners.
  - Trade school program can be instrumental for “One village one product scheme”
  - Increase in the involvement of business and industrial community in trade school program would be beneficial for other TEVT programs.
- ▶ Challenges related to trade school:
  - Trade school programs will suffer if adequate support is not available from partner organizations
  - Question will be raised on sustainability in the absence of partner
  - Inadequate infrastructure and equipment for quality programs.

<b>DAY III</b>	<b>CONCLUDING SESSION</b>
<b>On the Dias</b>	<b>Hon Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mrs Shahana Pradhan, Newly Re- elected NRNA President Dr. Upendra Mahato, FNCCI President Mr. Chandi Raj Dhakal, Foreign Secretary Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya, FNCCI Vice President and NRN Affairs Coordinator Mr. Kush Kumar Joshi, NRNA Third NRN Global Conference Coordinator Mr. Dev Man Hirachan</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>Soaltee Crowne Plaza, Kathmandu</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>17th October 2007</b>

The session was started by **Mr. Rajendra Bahadur Shrestha**, Rapporteur of the program. He congratulated all the NRNs for the NRN movement and the value addition that had taken place in each conference. He presented the highlights of all three days activities.

**Mr. Jugal Bhurtel**, Spokesperson of the NRNA read out the Kathmandu Resolution. (The resolution is attached separately)

Remarks by: Dr. Upendra Mahato, President NRNA

- ▶ Unity is our strength. NRN who were present at the conference showed their love towards their country.
- ▶ When our country is developed, we will be developed.
- ▶ NRN has the responsibility to develop the country as the Nepali Government has shown respect to the NRNs.
- ▶ Dual citizenship provision is necessary to have a continued bond between Nepal and NRNs.
- ▶ He thanked FNCCI, Government for supporting the NRN movement. He further thanked all the volunteers, NRN secretariat, Soaltee Hotel and the rapporteurs.

Mr. **Saurabh Jyoti**, President of Nepalese young Entrepreneurs' Forum (NYEF) and Mr. **Sagar Onta** from NRNA Youth Forum signed and exchanged the MOU between the NRN Youth Forum and the NYEF

**Mrs. Sahana Pradhan** gave away certificate of appreciation to all the sponsors.

Thank You speech by: Ms. Sahana Pradhan

- ▶ NRN has taken a great leap and has grown very fast.
- ▶ Unity is needed everywhere and NRNA should be the example of such unity.
- ▶ As comparison to NRI, NRP, NRN has gone lot faster.
- ▶ NRN Act will be amended as per requirement from time to time.
- ▶ Government supports NRNs and their movement.

Thank You speech by: Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya

- ▶ Congratulated newly elected president and all the other ICC members.
- ▶ Thanked NRN for their commitment.

Thank You speech by: Dev M. Hirachan

- ▶ Thanked Minister of Foreign Affairs, NRN President, FNCCI President and sponsors, Mr. Kumar Basnet for Souvenirs.
- ▶ Good coordination is required for a good program.
- ▶ He hoped that this program helped the NRNs from different country to get to know each other.

Thank You speech by: Mr. Kush Kumar Joshi

- ▶ Thanked NRNs and members of FNCCI.
- ▶ Special Thanks to Secretariat
- ▶ Thanked Madurima Nepal, Sponsors, Rapporteur Group and every one else involved directly and indirectly.