

Speech delivered by the Minister for Foreign Affairs Hon'ble Sahana Pradhan on the occasion of Third World Conference of Non-Resident Nepalis in Kathmandu on October 15, 2007.

Mr. Chairman

Rt Hon'ble Prime-Minister

Rt. Hon'ble Speaker of the Legislative Parliament

Hon'ble Ministers

Excellencies

NRN Participants, who have come from different parts of the world

Ladies and gentlemen

It is my great pleasure to be here with you in this inaugural occasion of the Third World Conference of Non-Resident Nepalis. At this joyful occasion, I would like to extend my hearty congratulations to all NRNs living around the globe. As the chairperson of the high level organizing committee of the conference, I welcome all the dignitaries and participants present at this Conference.

At present, Nepal is standing at the crossroad of a great transformation. I feel deeply humble to remember those heroes who went to the frontline and lost their lives during the Jana Andolan 2. I would like to take this opportunity to extend sincere gratitude to the Nepali Diaspora for their strong support to defeat the autocratic regime and to establish Loktantra in Nepal making people the real source of state power. Nepali people have been doing their best to ensure a just and fair working environment through political and economic transformation.

We have noticed the trend that Nepali Diaspora is getting larger and wider everyday. It is the fact that every one living far away from their motherland bears the affection and great sentiments to the home country. I hope that this forum would be instrumental to bring them together for the common goal to serve the interest of Nepal and Nepalis.

Nepal, indeed, needs a speedy economic and social development for which meaningful support of the international community including Nepali Diaspora is desirable. Acknowledging the high value to the contributions and enthusiasm of Non-

Resident Nepalis to serve the motherland, the Government of Nepal is committed to work in close collaboration with NRNs. You have set objectives to mobilise human and capital resources for the betterment of Nepal and Nepalese people. I am fully confident that this joint effort along with Nepalese entrepreneurs will give a significant leap in the economic development of Nepal.

We all know that in recent years the Nepali expatriates have also become an important source of remittance for the country. It shows their love and attachment towards Nepal. This may be appropriate to mention here that economic diplomacy with emphasis on foreign trade, foreign direct investment, technology transfer, foreign employment and tourism has been an important dimension of our foreign policy. This has also increased the role and responsibility of our Missions abroad. The government of Nepal is effortful to join the hand with non-resident Nepalis to promote these areas of economic diplomacy on a sustainable basis.

The government has recently promulgated a new act on NRNs, which has opened the door to engage the NRNs in Nepal in diverse activities and a draft regulation on NRNs is also underway to ensure a meaningful implementation of the law. To facilitate the NRNs and safe guard their rights and interest aboard, Nepalese missions are being upgraded and strengthened to cater the services matching the needs of NRNs. The time has come for the government of Nepal, NRNs, business community, as development partners, to play a proactive role to materialise the goal envisaged by the law. I am optimistic that the conference would come out with practical inputs so that bond between Nepal and NRNs would be further consolidated in the days ahead.

I, once again, congratulate Non-Resident Nepalis Association and FNCCI for dedication with which they have contributed to organize such a great event. I would like to seize this opportunity to express the best wishes for the grand success of the conference.

Thank you.