

## **Press Release**

### **I**

1. Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister of Government of Nepal Honorable Mr. Bharat Mohan Adhikari held meeting with Ms. Maria Otero, Undersecretary for Democracy and Global Affairs of the US State Department at and discussed issues of common interests, including issues relating to consolidating democracy and human rights in Nepal. Matters relating to environment, health and science; refugees, and migration; and combating trafficking in persons also figured at the meeting.
2. During the meeting, Honorable Mr. Adhikari also apprised Undersecretary Otero of the progress on the constitution drafting and the conclusion of the ongoing peace process, including the integration and rehabilitation of the Maoist combatants.
3. Honorable Mr. Adhikari also thanked the US Government for its continued cooperation for Nepal's development endeavors and inclusion of Nepal as one of the priority countries for Feed the Future Initiative, Global Health and climate change.
4. Honorable Mr. Adhikari also expressed Government of Nepal's appreciation to the US Government for taking the lead in jointly organizing the Conference in Washington D.C. on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia, especially focusing on Nepal. He expressed the hope that the Conference would be able to devise coherent strategies including galvanizing donors for the funding arrangements to cope with the impending risks of earthquakes in Nepal and in the region through implementing programs focusing on preparedness, relief and rescue operations.
5. During the meeting Honorable Mr. Adhikari also urged the US Government for the preferential market access to the Nepalese products including the textiles and pashminas, and expressed the hope that with the signing of the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) with the US Government, the trade and investment relations between the two countries would further expand and deepen in the days to come.

### **II**

6. Honorable Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Honorable Mr. Bharat Mohan Adhikari attended an Energy Roundtable organized by the US State Department in Washington D.C. and shed light on the energy scenario in Nepal and Government's vision and plans to address the energy woes in the wake of recent declaration of the period of emergency in the energy sector.
7. During the roundtable, Honourable Mr. Adhikari also invited US investors to invest in Nepal. Many investors attending the round table thanked Mr. Adhikari for his initiatives and indicated their interest for investing in the development of hydropower sector of Nepal. The round table was attended by some 20 representatives of various companies, and official of the US Treasury, Trade and Commerce, other offices of the US Government, EXIM Bank and the State Department.

### **III**

8. Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Honorable Mr. Bharat Mohan Adhikari visited US Peace Corps' Head Quarters and held a meeting about the Peace Corps's works

in Nepal. During the meeting with the Director of Peace Corps, Honorable Mr. Adhikari appreciated the contribution of Peace Corps Volunteers especially in the health, education and agriculture sector. Mr. Adhikari also requested the US Government to resume the services of Peace Corps Volunteers in Nepal which was withdrawn in 2006.

9. Director of Peace Corps appreciated Government's role in facilitating the work of Peace Corps Volunteers, and also assured Mr. Adhikari of their continued interest in re-dispatching Peace Corps Volunteers to work in Nepal.

#### IV

10. Ms. Helen Clark, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme also paid a courtesy call on Honorable Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Mr. Bharat Mohan Adhikari.
11. During the meeting, various aspects of UNDP cooperation in Nepal were discussed. Other subjects discussed during the meeting included: Disaster related conference, Nepal's roles as Chair of the Least Developed Countries, upcoming LDCs conference to be held in Turkey this year. Ms. Clark appreciated for the active leadership of the Government of Nepal as a Chair of LDCs.

#### V

12. Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Honorable Mr. Bharat Mohan Adhikari is in US, and is leading a nine member delegation consisting of Mr. Madhab Paudel, Secretary of the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Dr. Govinda Prasad Kusum, Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Mr. Purushottam Ojha, Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Supplies, and Mr. Shital Babu Regmee, Secretary of the Ministry of Energy, and Joint Secretaries of the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Home Affairs, and the Ministry of Commerce and Supplies.
13. In all events, Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Honourable Mr. Bharat Mohan Adhikari was accompanied by Dr. Shankar Prasad Sharma, Ambassador of Nepal to the United States and other officials of the Embassy of Nepal to the United States.
14. In the evening, Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Honorable Mr. Bharat Mohan Adhikari attended a reception hosted in his honor by Ambassador of Nepal to the United States Dr. Shankar Prasad Sharma in his residence. The reception was attended by high ranking officials of the US Government, Officials of the World Bank, IMF, IFC and UN.

**14 April 2011**  
**Embassy of Nepal**  
**Washington DC**