## **Annual Report (2015/16): Synopsis**

#### 1. Bilateral Visits

The Embassy worked at various levels and depths to organize, coordinate and participate various bilateral visits and meetings held between Nepal and Republic of Korea. The Embassy was engaged in preparing speeches, talking points, reports and also extended necessary courtesy and protocol supports and other cooperation to make those visits and corresponding meetings successful.

### Following are the major visits from Nepal to Korea:

- **a.** A delegation led by Hon. State Minister for Labour and Employment Mr. Tek Bahadur Gurung visited Korea from 26-30 August 2015.
- **b.** A delegation led by Hon. Judge of Supreme Court Mr. Gopal Parajuli visited Korea from 24 30November 2015.
- **c.** A delegation led by Chief Information Commissioner Mr. Krishna Hari Baskota visited Seoul from 14 17 December 2015.
- **d.** The former Prime Minister and a Senior Leader of Communist Party of Nepal, Unified Marxist-Leninist Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal visited Korea from 12-17 January 2016.
- e. A delegation consisting 12 Parliamentarians from different 10 political parties of Nepal led by Hon. Minister for Peace and Reconstruction Mr. Ek Nath Dhakal visited Seoul on 12 February 2016 to participate a program organized by Universal Peace Federation in Seoul.
- **f.** Hon. State Minister of Finance Damodar Bhandari visited Korea on 29 March 2016 to participate in the First High Level Follow-up Dialogue on Financing for Development in Asia and the Pacific. The Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank Dr. Chhiranjibi Nepal also joined the same program later.
- **g.** The Foreign Secretary H.E.Shanker Das Bairagi made an official visit to Korea from 07 10 June 2016 and held talks with his counterpart. This visit was a part of regular interaction between two sides.

#### Following are the major visits from Nepal to Korea:

a. The National Assembly Speaker H.E. Mr. Chung Ui Hwa visited Nepal in April 2016 and held talks with Rt. Hon. Onsari Garti Magar, the Speaker of the Legislature Parliament of Nepal.

#### 2. Major Meetings

The Embassy participated in various meetings and discussions between Nepal and Republic of Korea held at various levels and sectors and has also followed up the matters agreed upon during those meetings.

#### Some of the important bilateral meetings held include:

- a. Meeting of Hon. State Minister for Labour and Employment of Nepal
  - with Mr. Koh Youngsun, the Vice Minister for Employment and Labour of Korea on 28 August 2015.
  - with Prof. Dr. Park Young-bum, President, Human Resource Department of Korea.
- **b.** Meeting of Hon. Judge of Supreme Court Mr. Gopal Parajuli and his delegation
  - with Minister of National Court Administration of the Supreme Court of Korea on 25 November 2015.
  - with Chief Presiding Judge of Bankruptcy Chamber of Seoul Central District Court and President of Judicial Research and Training Institute of Korea on 26 November.
- c. Meeting of Chief Information Commissioner Mr. Krishna Hari Baskota
  - with officials of Invest Korea, Korea Development Institute (KDI) and Head of the Creative Government and Organizational Management Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Government of the Republic of Korea.

- **d.** During visit of Minister for Peace and Reconstruction of Nepal in February 2016, the Embassy also arranged a meeting with the Chairman and members of Korea Nepal Parliamentary Friendship Group in Seoul.
- e. Meeting of Foreign SecretaryMr. Shanker Das Bairagi
  - with H.E. Mr. Lim Sungnam, the First Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea on 7 June 2016.
  - with H.E. Mr Yun Byung-se, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea on 8 June.
  - with Mr. Won-Sok Yun, Executive Vice President, Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) on 8 June.
  - with Mr. Park, Jong Gil, Deputy Minister of Planning and Coordination of the Ministry of Employment and Labour on 8 June.
  - with Mr. Sungho Choi, Vice President for Projects and Regional Cooperation of KOICA on 09 June.

### Some of the important multilateral meetings held include:

a. The Embassy participated in the eighth session of the Council and the fourth session of the General Assembly meetings of Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) held in Seoul on 18 – 19 November 2015.

The Embassy also held a meeting with the Institute on 25 January 2016 in the Embassy. Mr. PerBertilsson, Assistant Director General for Country Program and Mr. Marshall Brown, Analyst in GGGI visited the Embassy to brief on GGGI's future plans in Nepal. As decided and endorsed by GGGI's Council's meeting in November 2015, the Institute is expanding its operation in Nepal in the year 2016 under its LDC Expansion Program. The Institute has been urging Nepal to upgrade its engagement in the institute from observer country to a full member of the organization.

b. The Embassy also participated in Policy dialogue on Migration, Remittance and Development held on 26 January 2016 in Seoul by presenting on "The Role of Remittances as Effective Development Finance for Sustainable Development in Nepal". The workshop was organized by International Migration Organization, EwhaWomans University and KOICA.

- c. The Embassy also visited Green Climate Fund (GCF) on 28 January 2016 and held discussion with Executive Director and Director for Country Programming. The Embassy requested GCF to commence their projects in Nepal as it has the mandatory provision to make 50% of their investment in Least Developed Countries and Small Islands Developing Countries. Finance Ministry in Nepal is the National Designated Authority for identification of appropriate areas and submission of project proposals.
- d. The Embassy also participated the First High Level Follow-up Dialogue on Financing for Development in Asia and the Pacific held in Incheon on 29-30 March 2016. Following were the key issues discussed during the dialogue program:
- Regional Tax cooperation, and a role and framework of the proposed Asia-Pacific Tax Forum.
- Addressing illicit financial flows in the region, with a focus on setting up a regional cooperation mechanism.
- Connecting capital markets, in the region, in particular the harmonization of rules and regulations across markets of securities.
- Leverage institutional investors' funds for long term infrastructure investment.
- Enhancing financial inclusion and other forms of innovative financing mechanisms.

## 3. Bilateral Treaties, Agreements and Cooperations

a. Nepal and the Republic of Korea both renewed the MoU on Employment Permit System (EPS) in October 2015 which was the fourth renewal after signing the MoU for the first time in 23 July 2007. The renewed MoU is valid for two years.

- b. As discussed during the visit of Respected Foreign Secretary of Nepal in June 2016, the Embassy has forwarded a draft agreement on "Exemption of Visa Requirements for Holders of Diplomatic and Official (Special) Passports" to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Seoul on 27 June 2016. It is learnt that the Consular Division of Mofa, RoK has been working on it.
- c. The Embassy held meeting with Korea Rural Community Corporation (KRC) that provides technical support in enhancing rural economies conducting the projects under KOICA's assistance and guidance. Both sides agreed to enhance cooperation in future to launch projects and programs for rural development of Nepal. With Embassy's initiation, Nepal participated in the training program held by KRC from 17-22 December 2016 in Seoul.

#### 4. Economic Aspects

- a. The Embassy of Nepal organized and participated in various fairs and programs focussed on promoting Korean tourists to visit Nepal, some of the major being:
- the 18th Busan International Travel Fair held at Bexco, organized by the Busan Metropolitan City and managed by KOTFA from 11 to 13 September, 2015.
- A one-day photo exhibition on "places of Nepal" organized in the Embassy premise on 22 November 2015.
- b. A special session on "Disaster Preparedness and Post Disaster Management: Global Partnership for Nepal" on 17 December 2015 in partnership with the Seoul National University at the auditorium of the University.
- c. With support from Korea Nuclear and Hydro Power (KNHP), OCI Company; Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA); Water and Energy Commission Secretariat of Nepal (WECS); Investment Board of Nepal (IBN); Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) Green Climate Fund (GCF) and other organizations, the Embassy organized one day

investment symposium in Seoul on 02 March 2016 under the theme "Post Disaster Investment in the sector of Water Resource Management in Nepal". Five papers on related themes were presented during the occasion.

d. The Embassy of Nepal organized a one day seminar under the title "Remittance and Secured Investment" on 06 March 2016 in the hall of Suwon Cultural Foundation at Suwon City in Korea. Three different presentations were made on sending of remittance and making investment in Nepal.

During the program, the Embassy also honoured the Korean companies and other individuals, who contributed financially during the earthquakes in Nepal the previous year, by handovering the letters of recognition.

- e. The Embassy of Nepal in Seoul held a meeting with the officials of the National Pension Service of Korea on 14 January 2016 in latter's office to discuss about the possibility of coverage of the benefits of the Korean government's national pension scheme to the Nepalese workers working in Korea. For Nepalese workers to enjoy such benefits, the officials suggested that Nepal government first should make necessary amendment in the national laws and establish the mandatory provision for paying pension benefits to the foreign workers from Korea.
- f. The Embassy also took part in the 14th Tour Expo Daegu Gyeongbuk which was held in Exco in Gyeongbukon 14 17 April 2016. The event was organized by Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and Korea Tourism Organization. Nepal also bagged the best tourism marketing award in the Expo.
- g. The Embassy participated in the 31st World Travel Fair (KOTFA) held in COEX, Seoul from 9 12 June 2016 together with Nepal Tourism Board (NTB). This is the largest international travel fair in Korea.

- h. The Embassy together with NTB also organized a presentation program at the hall of Korea Press Foundation Building on 13 June 2016 on the theme "Nepal: Back on the top of the World". More than 100 participants representing 52 Korean travel and tour operators, 17 tourism entrepreneurs from Pokhara, Nepal and 26 journalists from various media participated in the program.
- i. The Embassy participated the Seminar on "Trade Policy and Market Prospects in Korea" organized by the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE) at COEX, Seoul during KOIMA's Import Goods Fairs 2016. This is the first time Korea has given focus on import trade and highlighted the present situation and future prospects. The Seminar highlighted that Korea has high demand for raw materials for different industries.
- j. The Embassy together with the Society of Nepalese Students in Korea (SONSIK) participated **Nepal Day 2016** event on 26 June 2016 at Seoul Global Culture Centre. The event was also attended by representatives of other embassies, Korean and Nepalese organizations. Various dances, songs and cultural performances were made with presentation of a documentary on Nepal during the program. The program was also supported by Seoul Metropolitan City.

## 5. Other activities carried out by the Embassy:

- a. The Embassy in support with some of the sporting institutions in Korea organized "Ambassador Cup Friendly Running Football Tournament" on 15 November 2015 to mark the Nepalese festival Dashain.
- b. On 26 November 2015, Korea gave a final farewell to former President Kim Young sam amid a function. The Embassy participated in the funeral program.
- c. The Embassy also participated EPS Conference in Ulsan organized jointly by Human Resources Development Services of Korea and Ulsan

Metropolitan City on 26-27 May 2016. Various problems and issues being faced by labour sending countries under the Employment Permit System were discussed in detail in the conference.

- d. The Embassy in cooperation with the Foreign Employment & Migrant Workers Welfare (FEMWW) of NRN ICC and Support Nepal Foundation Korea organized a one day medical consultation program for Nepalese migrant workers in Suwon on 26 June 2016. Neurologists Dr. Raj Kumar KC and Dr. Amit Bahadur Pradhananga associated with Nepal Medical College, Jorpati and Teaching Hospital Maharajgunj respectively greatly cooperated to make the program a fruitful one with their counselings and presentations.
- e. The Embassy also co-organized similar Health Consultation and On-field Consular Service Program on 10 July 2016 in the southern city of Gimhae. Two Korean doctors provided consultation service in the program while the Embassy also provided on-field consular services during the occasion.
- f. Besides, the Embassy attended various programs organized by different ministries of the Government of Korea, diplomatic missions, UN institutions and other multinational companies held ondiverse issues ranging from women empowerment, climate change, right to protect, ODA management, EPS systems etc.

### 6. Nepalese in Korea

a. As of March end 2016, there are 28,010 Nepalese nationals living in the Republic of Korea. Among them, the number of male is 24,855 and the number of female is 3155.

As of March end, the number of Nepalese citizens illegally staying in Korea has reached around 1200 as informed by the immigration office of Korea. The Korea immigration office during the meeting held on 30 March 2016 informed that the authorities are taking strict measures to reduce the number of illegal migrant workers in Korea. Previously there

was an exclusion period for up to 2 years depending upon the length of overstaying. Those not departing voluntarily when detain by the authorities will face a ban from returning to Korea for up to 5 years regardless of the period of overstaying. There would be an enhanced criminal penalty including accusation and increased fines would be imposed as well, as per the Korean authorities. The notice of the immigration office also states that those returning to home country voluntarily should come with a flight ticket and valid passport or travel document and report his/her voluntary return status to immigration offices located at all ports of entry on the departure date.

Currently there are 690 Nepalese students studying various degrees in different universities of Korea. This includes 522 males and 168 females.

In the fiscal year 2072/73, the Embassy has issued Non Resident Nepalese Card to 7 people making the total issue upto now to 21. This includes 4 cards for Nepalese residing abroad and 17 cards for Foreigners of Nepalese origin. The Embassy has received a total of 522 applications and phone calls regarding the grievances and problems of Nepalese workers working under the EPS system in Korea and extended various services and counseling to solve those issues. The embassy dealt with around 40 cases to help workers receive salaries on time and change the employers in other cases. Currently, there are 25,762 Nepalese working under EPS (E9 visa) in Korea.

A total of 20 Nepalese died in Korea in the fiscal year 2072/73. This includes 8 suicides by hanging; 4 industrial accidents; 3 deaths while sleeping; 3 heart-attacks; 1 due to disease and 1 by unknown reason. The Embassy sent the dead body of 17 people to Nepal for last rite and rest 3 are cremated in Korea. The embassy also worked to receive deceased Nepalese's remaining salaries, bonuses, insurance amount, thesicum, condolence money and any balances in the bank accounts. In the fiscal year, the Embassy repatriated a total amount of 341,724,742 KW of 21 deceased Nepalese.

#### 7. Relief Assistance amount sent to Prime Minister Disaster Relief Fund

The Embassy collected and sent a total of USD 131,881.95 amounting to nearly NRs 1,38,47,500 to the Prime Minister Disaster Relief Fund

(PMDF) in the fiscal year 2072/73. This makes USD 1,678,631.27 eqivalent to nearly NRs 17,62,56,283 sent to the PMDF in total from the Embassy.

### 8. Consular Services and Revenue Collected

## I. Passport Applications and Distribution:

SN	Months	Total No. of Passport Applicants (MRP)	Total No. of Passport distribution	Collected Revenue (won)	
1	Shrawan	72	97	14,437,500	
2	Bhadra	45	101	9,375,000	
3	Ashwin	34	61	6,937,500	
4	Kartik	32	50	6,562,500	
5	Mangshir	27	33	6,187,500	
6	Poush	25	44	6,187,500	
7	Magh	14	23	3,562,500	
8	Falgun	16	20	3,937,500	
9	Chaitra	16	19	4,687,500	
10	Baishakh	16	20	3,937,500	
11	Jestha	12	12	2,906,500	
12	Ashar	21	15	5,719,500	
	Total	330	495	74,438,500	

#### II. Visa Issued:

## a. Embassy:

SN	Months		Visa Ca	Collected		
211	Wionuis	15 days	30 days	90 days	Gratis	Revenue
1	Shrawan	190	12	4	3	7,870,000
2	Bhadra	316	22	4	15	1,283,000
3	Ashwin	294	26	5	4	12,420,000
4	Kartik	274	20	8	6	11,810,000
5	Mangshir	300	42	9	12	14,070,000
6	Poush	534	32	10	8	21,850,000
7	Magh	373	40	3	7	15,675,000
8	Falgun	248	10	19	2	11,890,000

9	Chaitra	330	26	10	26	14,380,000
10	Baishakh	194	13	6	6	8,345,000
11	Jestha	249	12	7	7	1,035,000
12	Ashar	514	42	30	12	24,500,000
	Total	3816	292	115	108	145,128,000

## b. Through Honorary Consul:

SN	Months		Visa Ca	Collected		
211	MOHUIS	15 days	30 days	90 days	Gratis	Revenue
1	Shrawan	5	0	0	0	175,000
2	Bhadra	1	0	1	0	195,000
3	Ashwin	24	1	0	0	895,000
4	Kartik	4	2	0	0	250,000
5	Mangshir	7	0	0	0	245,000
6	Poush	5	0	0	0	175,000
7	Magh	1	2	2	0	425,000
8	Falgun	1	2	0	0	145,000
9	Chaitra	3	0	4	0	665,000
10	Baishakh	2	1	0	0	125,000
11	Jestha	0	0	0	0	0
12	Ashar	1	0	0	0	35,000
Total		54	8	7	0	3,330,000

## III. Other Consular Services:

	Months		Collected			
SN		Travel	NRN	Attestations	Tem.	Revenue
		Documents	Cards	Attestations	Passport	IXC VCHUC
1	Shrawan	4	1	46	3	2,555,000
2	Bhadra	3	2 40		4	2,402,500
3	Ashwin	10	0	38	5	2,005,000
4	Kartik	8	0	33	4	1,695,000
5	Mangshir	17	0	37	2	2,280,000
6	Poush	24	0	50	0	3,070,000
7	Magh	23	1	28	0	2,895,000
8	Falgun	19	0	40	0	2,445,000
9	Chaitra	29	1	28	0	3,225,000
10	Baishakh	15	0	31	0	1,910,000

11	Jestha	27	0	48	0	3,165,000
12	Ashar	23	2	57	0	3,260,000
Total		202	7	476	18	30,907,500

# IV. Rescue of Nepalese in Difficult Situation:

	Months	Injuries		Deaths		Death Bodies		
S			Tale Female	Male	Female	Sent to Nepal		Cremated
N		Male				No.	Cost Incurred (Kw)	in Korea
1	Shrawan	3	0	2	0	2	10,560,000	0
2	Bhadra	0	0	0	0	1	4,500,000	0
3	Ashwin	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
4	Kartik	1	0	1	0	1	5,000,000	0
5	Mangshir	1	1	1	0	1	4,300,000	0
6	Poush	10	0	3	0	2	9,100,000	1
7	Magh	2	0	0	1	0	0	1
8	Falgun	1	0	4	0	2	9,330,000	0
9	Chaitra	6	0	0	0	2	9,000,000	0
10	Baishakh	3	0	3	1	0	0	0
11	Jestha	1	0	2	0	5	23,230,000	0
12	Ashar	2	1	1	0	1	4,850,000	0
		31	2	18	2	17	79,870,000	3
	Total	33		20				
			5	3				