

SOLIDARITY FOR SHARED PROSPERITY

HCCN - FICAC REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2019



HONORARY
CONSULAR
CORPS.
NEPAL



13-14 NOVEMBER, 2019 | KATHMANDU, NEPAL





Right Hon'ble President of Nepal Mrs. Bidhya Devi Bhandari posing for a group photo with President of FICAC Dr. Aykut Eken, Dean of HCC-N Mr. Pradeep K. Shrestha, including distinguished members of FICAC and HCC-N during their courtesy call at the President's Office in Sheetal Niwas on November 14, 2019.

CONTENTS

Message from the Minister of Foreign Affairs.....	5
Message from the Foreign Secretary	7
Message from the Dean of HCCN	9
Honorary Consular Corps Nepal (HCC-N) FICAC Regional Conference Inauguration Ceremony: Day 1	11
Session I: Solidarity for Shared Prosperity.....	21
Session II: Gender Equality	27
HCCN-FICAC Regional Conference 2019: Day 2.....	43
Session III: Climate Change & Melting Glaciers	44
Session IV: Connectivity and Prosperity	52
Closing Ceremony of HCCN-FICAC Regional Conference 2019	58
Kathmandu Declaration	62
Photo Gallery	70
Honorary Consuls and consular generals representing various countries in Nepal	86



Right Hon'ble President of Nepal Mrs. Bidhya Devi Bhandari posing for a group photo with Dean of HCC-N Mr. Pradeep K. Shrestha, including former deans and Honorary Consuls and Consul Generals accredited to Kathmandu, Nepal during their courtesy call at the President's Office in Sheetal Niwas on November 14, 2019.



Government of Nepal

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Singha Durbar
Kathmandu, Nepal

Message

I am pleased to know that Honorary Consul Corps-Nepal (HCCN) is publishing 'HCCN Regional Conference Proceedings' Booklet.

I recall with happiness the World Federation of Consuls (FICAC) Regional Conference held in Kathmandu on 13 November 2019 with the main theme "Solidarity for Shared Prosperity". I had the pleasure to address the opening ceremony of the conference. I would like to congratulate the HCCN for successfully organizing the program. The Conference provided a platform to bring the honorary consuls together from abroad to Kathmandu and forge collaborative partnership for shared prosperity.

Needless to mention that honorary consul generals/consuls bridge between the countries they live in and the countries they represent aiding to fill the vacuum of diplomatic presence. Above their conventional consular functions, I would like to underscore their importance in promotion of economic diplomacy encompassing trade, investment, tourism and other business sectors in line with the policy priority of the present Government for economic development.

I wish the booklet may provide the every detail of the Conference so that it will be not only a record but also guideline for similar programs in the days ahead.

Pradeep Kumar Gyawali



HONORARY
CONSULAR
CORPS.
NEPAL





Foreign Secretary

Government of Nepal
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Kathmandu, Nepal

MESSAGE

I am pleased to learn that the Honorary Consular Corps in Nepal (HCC-N) is publishing the proceedings of the "World Federation of Consuls (FICAC) Regional Conference" held in Kathmandu on 13-14 November 2019. I congratulate the Dean Mr. Pradeep Kumar Shrestha and the Honorary Consular Corps in Nepal for this initiative. It was a timely initiative on a pertinent theme. They deserve our sincere appreciation and admiration.

The FICAC Regional Conference, successfully held under the theme of "Solidarity for Shared Prosperity", had participation from many Honorary Consul delegates abroad. The Conference witnessed substantive deliberations under its sub-theme: gender equality, climate change and connectivity for economic prosperity. Being one of the supporters of the conference, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs views such an event as a platform to promote cooperation and collaboration on vital issues across the globe. The Conference served as a forum to showcase Nepal and its distinct treasures from nature to culture, its unique and homegrown peace process and promotional initiatives such as Visit Nepal Year, 2020 to the world. The Ministry stands ready in providing necessary cooperation to the Honorary Consular Corps in Nepal.

Finally, I would like to wish success in all future endeavours of the Honorary Consular Corps in Nepal.

Shanker Das Bairagi





HONORARY
CONSULAR
CORPS.
NEPAL

MESSAGE

Sustainable development, gender equality, climate change, connectivity & prosperity are the new global agendas for shared prosperity, as we enter a new world governed by knowledge and technology. Hence, the HCCN - FICAC Regional Conference 2019 that was held from November 13-14, 2019 focused its discussions and deliberations on how best to implement these global agendas, while giving ample space to inclusive and sustainable economic growth in developing countries and enhance inter-connectivity between them. This is also something that lies at the heart of HCCN's core principles and objectives as it aims to develop friendly relations between Nepal and the Sending States and promote regional economic integration and cooperation in the political, economic, scientific, tourism, consular and cultural fields.



Therefore, the regional conference, which was organized with the theme "Solidarity for Shared Prosperity", intends to convey the message that promoting global, regional and bilateral cooperation is not a only choice but a compulsion to galvanize efforts towards collective development and shared prosperity. Nepal is an ardent supporter of multilateralism, while regional and bilateral cooperation features prominently in her foreign policy priority. And this historic conference, which was organized for the first time in Nepal, also proved to be a great opportunity to promote people-to-people relations, business, investment and trade between Nepal and the countries represented by the Honorary Consuls from across the region in forging collaborative partnership for shared prosperity.

The year 2020 will be celebrated in Nepal as Visit Nepal Year 2020, and I would appeal the delegates from around the world who had come to participate in this historic event to become the 'Goodwill Ambassadors' for promoting Nepal as a tourism destination in their countries.

I am confident that this conference has set new milestone in building connectivity for shared prosperity and cordial diplomatic relationship between the countries for socio-economic relationship. And I hope the good friendship, love and bonding the Honorary Consuls, Consular Generals and delegates from Nepal and other countries developed during the two-day long conference will make all of them more stronger to contribute towards solving the various problems facing their countries and the world at large.

Mr. Pradeep Kumar Shrestha

Dean, Honorary Consular Corps - Nepal (HCC-N)
Honorary Consul of South Africa



Right Hon'ble Vice President of Nepal Mr. Nanda Bahadur Pun (3rd from left) along with Hon'ble Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep K. Gyawali (2nd from left), President of FICAC Dr. Aykut Eken, Dean of HCC-N Mr. Pradeep K. Shrestha and other distinguished participants stand for the national anthem during the opening ceremony of the regional conference on November 13, 2019.



HCCN - FICAC REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2019

INAUGURATION CEREMONY: DAY 1

"Solidarity for Shared Prosperity"

The First Regional Conference of Honorary Consular Corps- Nepal (HCCN) and World Federation of Consuls (FICAC) was inaugurated in Kathmandu by the Rt. Hon'ble Nanda Bahadur Pun, Vice President, Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal on 13 November 2019. The Vice President was received by the Members of HCCN and Members of FICAC Board of Directors.

With the theme, "Solidarity for Shared Prosperity", the conference aimed to share thoughts on how to promote and strengthen understanding, cooperation and solidarity amongst Honorary Consuls and Consul Generals so as to promote prosperity, globally and regionally. While promoting trade, tourism, culture activities amongst the participating countries, the Conference also sought to promote the Visit Nepal Year 2020.



From left: UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Valerie Julliard, Former Minister Ms. Hishila Yami, Former Governor of Bagmati Province and Social Activist Ms. Anuradha Koirala, Honorary Consul of Spain Ms. Ambica Shrestha and other delegates stand for the national anthem during the opening ceremony of the regional conference on November 13, 2019.



Dean of HCC-N Mr. Pradeep K. Shrestha delivers his opening address at the HCCN-FICAC Regional Conference 2019 in Kathmandu on November 13, 2019.

Welcoming the delegates from all over the World, Dean Pradeep Kumar Shrestha expressed HCC-N's great pleasure in hosting the First HCCN-FICAC Regional Conference in Kathmandu and wished the delegates a positive exchange of ideas and a memorable stay in Kathmandu.

Stating that the global agenda of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) is a plan of actions for people, planet and prosperity and that critical objective of this new agenda is to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, Mr. Shrestha said, "We all should decide to take the bold and transformative steps which are needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path so that no one is left behind."

According to the Dean of HCCN, there are many challenges for achieving sustainable development as millions of people across the world continue to live in poverty and deprived of a life with dignity. Rising inequalities and huge disparities in opportunities within and among countries, global health threats, more frequent and intense natural disasters, armed conflicts, radicalism, terrorism and the consequent humanitarian crisis and forced displacement of people are major challenges.

"I am confident this conference will set new milestones in addressing the problems of gender inequalities and changing climate and towards building connectivity and cordial diplomatic relationship between the countries for socio-economic relationship and forge solidarity for shared prosperity," Mr. Shrestha added.

As 2020 is the Visit Nepal Year, Dean Pradeep K. Shrestha also appealed to the delegates to become the 'Goodwill Ambassadors' for promoting Nepal as a tourism destination when they return to their countries.



Right Hon'ble Vice President of Nepal Mr. Nanda Bahadur Pun lights panas lamp to inaugurate the main conference of HCCN - FICAC Regional Conference on November 13, 2019.

Expressing sincere gratitude to Dean Pradeep K. Shrestha and Members of HCC-N for organizing the Conference on "Solidarity for Shared Prosperity" in the beautiful city of Kathmandu, Dr. Aykut Eken, President, World Federation of Consuls (FICAC), remarked that the main objective of FICAC is bridging, connecting and uniting the world through Honorary Consuls, and that FICAC is committed to support the UN Sustainable Development Goals, especially in achieving no poverty, zero hunger and gender equality.



Hon'ble President of FICAC Dr. Aykut Eken addresses the HCCN - FICAC Regional Conference on November 13, 2019.



Participants at the HCCN - FICAC Regional Conference 2019.



Hon'ble Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep K. Gyawali delivers his speech during the first day of HCCN - FICAC Regional Conference 2019.

Speaking at the conference, Mr. Pradeep K. Gyawali, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Government of Nepal, said that Nepal's foreign policy is guided by the principle of Pancha-sheela, Non-alignment, UN Charter, International Law and Norms of World Peace.

"'Amity with all and enmity with none' is our mantra that guides the conduct of our international relations. And based on this cardinal principle, Nepal has established diplomatic ties with 168 members of the UN and our efforts are continuing to cover the remaining members," he said, adding that Nepal has been pursuing an independent and balanced foreign policy by keeping the national interest of the country at the center.

Minister Gyawali further remarked that Nepal is committed to enhance and consolidate its ties with neighbors, development partners, and other friendly countries on the basis of the principles of mutual respect and benefit.

Minister Gyawali also remarked that this gathering of Honorary Consuls in Kathmandu from Asia and other regions assumes a special significance in promoting regional dimension of cooperative endeavours being undertaken in the course of fulfilling each of our duties.

"We stand together in promoting our common agenda of shared prosperity," he said, and asked the Honorary Consuls and other delegates from various countries to help in expanding Nepal's trade relations with the countries they represent and make them balanced and sustainable.

Minister Gyawali also remarked that as Nepal is observing **2020 as the Visit Nepal Year** with the target of welcoming at least 2 million visitors from abroad, the support and cooperation of Honorary Consuls and other international delegates participating in the conference will be crucial to achieving this target.

Hoping that the conference will bring all the delegates further closer and help chart effective and innovative ways of cooperation and interaction among the fraternity in order to better achieve the common objective of solidarity for shared prosperity, Minister Gyawali said, "The Government of Nepal, particularly the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and our diplomatic and consular missions abroad are always ready to cooperate and walk the extra mile for deeper engagement and partnerships with Honorary Consuls in discharging their duties towards achieving the goal of shared prosperity."



Thereafter, Honorable Dr. Aykut Eken, President of FICAC, Mr. Costas N. Lefkaritis, Vice President and Mr. Nikolaos Margaropolous, General Secretary of FICAC, presented the Token of Appreciations to Rt. Hon'ble Vice President Nanda Bahadur Pun and Hon'ble Minister of Foreign Affairs Pradeep Kumar Gyawali.



Hono'ble Dr. Aykut Eken, President of World Federation of Consuls (FICAC) presents the token of appreciation to Rt. Hon'ble Vice President of Nepal Mr. Nanda Bahadur Pun.



Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep K. Gyawali being presented with a token of appreciation by Members of HCCN.



Mr. Pradeep Kumar Shrestha, Dean of HCC-N, presented a token of appreciation to Rt. Honorable Nanda Bahadur Pun, Vice President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal



Rt. Hon'ble Vice President of Nepal Mr. Nanda Bahadur Pun poses for a group photo with President of FICAC, Dean of HCCN and other delegates of the conference.

Likewise, Dean Pradeep Kumar Shrestha presented a Token of Appreciation to Rt. Hon'ble Vice President Nanda Bahadur Pun and Minister of Foreign Affairs Pradeep Kumar Gyawali. Ms. Ambica Shrestha, Honorary Consul for Spain, also presented token of appreciation to Dr. Aykut Eken, President of World Federation of Consuls (FICAC).



Honorary Consul of Colombia Mr. Binaya Man Shrestha presenting his vote of thanks at the end of the inaugural session of the HCCN - FICAC Regional Conference on November 13, 2019.

Presenting Vote of Thanks at end of the inaugural session, Mr. Binaya Man Shrestha, Honorary Consul of Colombia said that there cannot be prosperity, globally and regionally, unless all the countries unite as one, have one voice and work together as one while addressing the problems of gender equality, climate change and connectivity so as to achieve the common goal of sustainable development and shared prosperity.

SESSION I : SOLIDARITY FOR SHARED PROSPERITY



Mr. Basant Raj Mishra (3rd from left), Honorary Consul of Chile, chairing the session titled, "Solidarity for Shared Prosperity" attended by former foreign and finance Minister Dr. Ram Sharan Mahat (2nd from right) during the HCCN-FICAC Regional Conference on November 13, 2019.



Mr. Basant Raj Mishra, Honorary Consul of Chile, opened the 1st session on "Solidarity for Shared Prosperity" by asking what is actually meant by "shared prosperity". He made the following remarks:

I think prosperity is a dream that all of us are constantly working towards. But what is shared prosperity? Can we share prosperity like happiness and grow together? We will discuss all these and more in our very first session.

Basant Mishra said that research was conducted to find out the major global threats in the present context and it was found that the differences between the 'haves and have-nots' was the cause of such threats. Interestingly in another research on how to narrow down the differences, it was found that "Solidarity for Shared prosperity" is the way out.



Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya, former Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Nepal and former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, was the keynote speaker on the main theme titled, "Global Perspectives and Multilateralism" of the Conference. Mr. Acharya's address focused on the following key issues:

Globalization, liberalization and revolutions in Science and Technology have made us all prosperous. Over the last three decades we have made remarkable achievements in terms of prosperity. The rate of extreme poverty among the global population has come down from 36 percent to 8 percent. Child and maternal mortality rates have been reduced by almost 50 percent. Life expectancy across the globe has increased by nearly 20 years. Some of the deadly communicable diseases have been brought under control. And for the first time in human history, 3.9 billion people in the world have been elevated to the status of middle-class.

However, the above-mentioned figures also mask the vast differences existing in the world even today. Despite the reduction in global poverty rate, least developed countries in the world (numbering around 47) continue to have as high as 30 percent poverty rate. There is a vast inequality not only between the nations (developed and underdeveloped ones) but also within a nation (rich and poor). In fact, inequality has become a defining political, social and economic phenomenon of the present time. Ten percent of the wealthiest people share 50 percent of total income in the world.

To lift up the bottom 40 percent of the population is how international communities have been defining sharing prosperity. Ensuring equality through reduction of poverty is one of the major features of the concept of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the UN. In fact, this is also a huge challenge facing the present world. We need to adopt a holistic and collective approach to rise above this challenge.



Former Nepalese Minister of Finance Dr. Ram Sharan Mahat delivering his speech during the HCCN - FICAC Regional Conference on November 13, 2019.

Dr. Ram Saran Mahat, former Foreign and Finance Minister, Government of Nepal, was the next keynote speaker on the main theme titled, "Shared Prosperity in the Modern Context". Dr. Mahat's address was focused on following pertinent issues :

Prosperity is a primary global agenda of the both developed and developing countries. It is essentially an outcome of growth and development which should reach the bottom 40 percent of the population. Need of the hour is a broad-based economic growth of high level so that the living standards of a large section of poor people will be improved. At the same time, it also mandatory to distribute the outcomes of such a growth to the people suffering destitution, and every nation shall make efforts towards this.

In fact, over the last three decades there has been a significant reduction in poverty at the global level. For instance, in South Asian region alone, the rate of poverty came down from 47 percent in 1990 to 12 percent in 2015. Nepal's achievements in terms of poverty reduction and human development index has also been quite remarkable. For instance, the average life expectancy of Nepali people has increased from 53 years in 1990 to 71 years at present. What should be the future strategies

for shared prosperity? In my view, a double- barreled reform is necessary for this. Such type of reform is focused on achieving high, broad-based economic growth to create promising opportunities to uplift the poor people.



Prof. Dr. Pramod Bahadur Shrestha presenting his paper during the HCCN - FICAC Regional Conference on November 13, 2019.

Prof. Dr. Pramod B. Shrestha, an expert in Engineering Management at the Institute of Engineering of Tribhuvan University, started his address with a pictorial presentation focused on the existing anomalies and contradictions in the socio-economic fabrics of developing economies. He made the following remarks:

Mr. Mukesh Ambani, the Indian Industrialist and the richest man in India, owns the most expensive home in the world with a price tag of US \$ 1 billion. And, the same city has one of the world's largest slum areas reflecting extreme poverty - it is a case of extreme inequalities. Development and prosperity over the last few decades has been an uneven process. Some people rise, some people fall. Some get rich, some get poor.

Prof. Pramod Shrestha also presented his four key themes for the New Development paradigm:

- i) Revisit the if and then development mindset. Invest in the process.
- ii) Think and learn globally, act locally.
- iii) Big is also always not better. Small can also be beautiful.
- iv) Empowerment and participation are not only enough. Ownership is also needed.



Former President of Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI) Mr. Hari Bhakta Sharma addressing the HCCN - FICAC Regional Conference on November 13, 2019.

Mr. Hari Bhakta Sharma, Moderator to the Session, Honorary Consul of Serbia and former President of CNI, made the following remarks :

Nepal, no doubt, is one of the poorest countries in the world. So, how can a country like this one can achieve prosperity and share it with the people living below the poverty line. Generating employment opportunities, creating good business environment and huge investment in industries and infrastructure, including social infrastructure are necessary to achieve prosperity.

Similarly, giving priority to three Is i.e., Idea, Innovation and Investment, as pointed out by the previous speaker, is also important in this regard. So, a poor country like Nepal should consider this fact seriously.

Today, the rules of the game are changing. Multilateralism is at the crossroads. Champions of open economic policy are now going for protectionism. Understanding this fact clearly is also important for Nepal to achieve prosperity and share it with the people suffering destitution.

SESSION II : GENDER EQUALITY



Honorary Consul of Spain Mrs. Ambica Shrestha shares her views during a panel discussion on Gender Equality held during the HCCN - FICAC Regional Conference on November 13, 2019.

Ms. Ambica Shrestha, Chair-person of the Session and Honorary Consul of Spain :

Until and unless gender equality is ensured, there is no scope for creating prosperity and sharing it more evenly so as to lift the poor and vulnerable from extreme poverty and destitution. In fact, the notion of gender equality applies for both men and women.



Ms. Shrinkhala Khatiwada, Miss Nepal World (2018):

Today I am speaking here as a representative of the entire youths of Nepal. In 2018, I participated in Miss Nepal beauty pageant. I won the title, which opened the path for me to take part in the Miss World Contest, and I was presented with the prestigious Award of "Beauty with Purpose" for



carrying out humanitarian works for the marginalized Chepang community living at a remote area in Makwanpur district.

These awards have helped Nepal to achieve better recognition at the global level. The identity of Nepali youths is no longer limited to regional perceptions of what Nepal is – they are ready to take lead globally.

Her Excellency Ms. Veronica Cody, Ambassador of the European Union :

I am going to speak on gender equality and the European Union. Equality between men and women is a fundamental value of the European Union and it is also a driver of economic growth. Our major policies and programs are clearly gravitated towards establishing basic rights of women. Without the engagement and contribution of the fairer sex, who constitute 50 percent of total world population, it is very hard to achieve economic growth and prosperity.



Her Excellency Ms. Veronica Cody, Ambassador of the European Union to Nepal

We have adopted a two-pronged approach for gender equality by combining specific measures with gender mainstreaming. Now I want to set out five priority areas in which the EU is engaged to ensure gender equality. Such areas are increasing female labour market participation, reducing gender pay differences, promoting equality among men and women in decision-making, combating gender-based violence and supporting the victims and promoting equal rights for women across the world.



Hon'ble Mr. Anup Raj Sharma speaking during the HCCN - FICAC Regional Conference on November 13, 2019.

Hon'ble Mr. Anup Raj Sharma, Chairman, National Human Rights Commission:

Women constitute 50 percent of the total population of the country. Due to strict constitutional provisions, the representation of women in the parliament is increasing. Now, there is 33 percent representation of women in both the National and Provincial legislatures as provided under the constitution.

However, the level of their participation in political parties, state organs and policy formation bodies still remains meager. Simply, they continue to be deprived of holding leadership position in the country. Social and economic status of Nepali women is still below-the-mark. They continue to get trapped in the vicious cycle of gender-biased discrimination. Despite the prevalence of a number of laws and legal frameworks focused on ensuring the rights of women, the actual situation has been grim. For instance, the cases of violence against women continue to rise though there are clear legal provisions set against such violence.

At the same time, the stereotypical attitude towards the women has not changed in the Nepalese society. In my view, the only way to ensure gender equality in Nepal is through the social, political and economic empowerment of Nepali women. For this, the government must be committed towards promulgating and implementing effective plans and policies.

Ms. Gonul Eken, Honorary Consul of St. Kitts & Nevis, speaks on the topic of "Women in Diplomacy":

As it is very well known, everyone wants to have a purposeful and meaningful life. Good health, good education, productive engagements in socio-economic life etc., are some important factors which lead to happiness and prosperity. Women have another critical role – bringing in a new life in the society. But there are many conflicts, misunderstandings, inconsistencies, injustice, inequalities. Unless these are addressed, there cannot be true prosperity.



Honorary Consul of St. Kitts & Nevis Ms. Gonul Eken speaking during the HCCN - FICAC Regional Conference on November 13, 2019.

Diplomacy is an art and practice of conducting negotiation. FICAC has a primary goal to be actively engaged in advocacy and activities to achieve gender equality and ensure equal rights to women by coordinating with the honorary consuls' networks throughout the world. FICAC has an agenda to contribute to solidarity for common prosperity and has been working with women in diplomatic communities for greater gender equalities, which is one of the major Sustainable Development Goals.



Mr. Lokmanya Golchha, Honorary Consul General of Poland:

The main problem is that we men feel superior than women. As I have observed, 70 to 80 percent of the women also feel they are meant for just producing babies and looking after their homes. They block themselves from coming to the fore and stay at home. The main reason behind this is that men have been taught (at home and in school) that they are superior and better than women from their very childhood.

In work places, there are female staff whose performance is better than that of men. But the former are paid less as compared to latter. What is more worrisome is that women employees never raise their voices against such discrimination. Both men and women must change their stereotype gender perceptions if there is to be gender equality.



Vice Dean of HCCN Mr. Basant K. Chaudhary poses for a group photo after presenting the Token of Appreciation Mementos to the session participants.

Speech by Mr. Nikolaos Margaropoulos, Secretary General-FICAC, Honorary Consul of the Philippines:

The World Federation of Consuls (FICAC) has currently 90 countries from around the world as its members and it is constantly working to expand its membership network. Its mission is to bring together the honorary consuls from around the world under one roof and engage in activities for promotion and development of political ties, trade, including education and cultural relations between the Member Countries of FICAC.



Secretary General of FICAC Mr. Nikolaos Margaropoulos addressing the first day of HCCN - FICAC Regional Conference on November 13, 2019.

And, of course, Solidarity for Prosperity is something FICAC is also committed to.

Our values are honesty, integrity, loyalty, fairness, service above oneself and compassion. We have held meetings and exchanged our beliefs and thoughts with the Heads of States, Prime Ministers and Ministers and worked towards enhancing our bilateral relations and global networks.

FICAC takes great pride in announcing that the FICAC Gold Star, which is FICAC's highest Award of Honour, has been presented to seventeen Heads of States around the world.

I have great pleasure to announce here today that the Rt. Honorable Ms. Bidhya Devi Bhandari, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, has kindly consented to accept the FICAC Gold Star Award in 2019.

Mr. Asif Chaudhary, FICAC Board Director & Honorary Consul of Chili in Bangladesh:

I am speaking on the topic of why foreign countries are appointing more Honorary Consuls than before.



The number of Honorary Consuls and Consul Generals has today grown to more than 2000 in recent years. Many represent small and economically fast growing countries. The 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations gives this option to every country. Honorary Consuls are recognized by international laws and theoretically, they enjoy the same privileges as the diplomats. China, Cuba and North Korea are among the very few nations which neither appoint nor receive honorary consuls.

Honorary Consuls are senior officials, mostly coming from industrial, business and political background, and are engaged and committed to developing and promoting the bilateral political economic, trade, social and cultural relations between the sending countries and receiving countries. They make all efforts to improve relationship between nations by bringing people from all walks of life together. The fact that Honorary Consuls do this without any remuneration or any fee makes them very special and honorable.

Later in the evening the delegates were taken for a guided tour of Patan Durbar Square, which has been listed as the UNESCO World Heritage Site. Mayor of Lalitpur, Mr. Chiri Babu Maharjan and Deputy Mayor Ms. Gita Satyal welcomed Dr. Aykut Eken and other delegates with Dhaka Khada, Nepali Topi and Rato Tika.



Patan Museum is one of the major attractions of Pata Durbar Square.



Deputy Mayor of Lalitpur Ms. Gita Satyal welcoming distinguished delegates and participants with Nepali Topi during their visit to Patan Durbar Square, Lalitpur on November 13, 2019.



Mayor of Lalitpur Mr. Chiri Babu Maharjan presents a handicraft souvenir to FICAC President Dr. Eken during a reception hosted by the Lalitpur Mayor in the honor of the visiting delegates at the Patan Museum on November 13, 2019.

Addressing the gathering, Mayor Chiri Babu Maharjan expressed his great pleasure in welcoming Honorary Consuls and Consul Generals from all over the world in Lalitpur, a beautiful city of fine arts and an UNESCO Heritage site in Nepal, and wished the delegates a very pleasant stay in the country.

"The theme of the conference, "Solidarity for Shared Prosperity" with focus on the importance of actions for gender equality, climate change, connectivity for PROSPERITY is relevant to all the countries in the region and are being duly addressed by the Sustainable Development Goals 2030," he said, adding that Nepal is blessed with a great opportunity to organize this important conference which has also added value to the ongoing preparation for Visit Nepal 2020.

The Lalitpur mayor expressed his utmost pleasure at knowing that the evening function was being organized with the special theme of "Promotion and Preservation of Heritage and Culture" and added, "I am confident that it will help in the efforts to revitalize heritage settlements in the city, including promotion and protection of world heritage sites of the Kathmandu Valley".

Mayor Chiri Babu Maharjan then presented to Dr. Aykut Eken the "Honorary Nepali Identity Card" and a hand-carved window memento. Dr. Eken also presented a Token of Appreciation to the Mayor and expressed his gratitude for warm Nepalese hospitality accorded to him and visiting delegates from FICAC.

Speaking at the event, Miss Nepal 2019 Ms. Anushka Shrestha welcomed the distinguished delegates at the historic courtyard of Patan Museum and urged them to be not only ambassadors of their respective countries but also ambassadors of the cultures and identities of the countries they come from.



Miss Nepal 2019 Anushka Shrestha welcomed the distinguished delegates at the Patan Museum.

A dinner reception was hosted by the Mayor of Lalitpur in the Patan Museum with variety of cultural performances such as traditional dancing, folk singing and music of various ethnic communities of Nepal.



The beautiful settings of the Patan Museum was the perfect venue for the dinner reception hosted by Lalitpur Mayor to honor the visiting delegates.



Delegates and participants of the HCCN-FICAC Regional Conference pose for a group photo.



Delegates were greeted by women wearing traditional Newari dresses and offered *Raksi* to drink.

During their stay, the delegates were taken on a visit to various touristic places in the Kathmandu Valley, including cable car ride in the Chandragiri Hill, mountain flight and Lumbini, the birth place of Lord Buddha.



FICAC President Dr. Aykut Eken and other delegates during their visit to Lumbini.



Delegates of the HCCN-FICAC Regional Conference 2019 pose for a group picture at Chandragiri Hills Resort in Chandragiri, Kathmandu.



Members of HCCN and FICAC during a program organized at Chandragiri Hills Resort in Chandragiri, Kathmandu.



FICAC Board Meeting in progress.



HCCN-FICAC REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2019 : DAY 2

SESSION III : CLIMATE CHANGE & MELTING GLACIERS



Mr. Dawa Steven Sherpa, MD, Asian Trekking Co. and Co-Founder, Himalayan Climate Initiative

Mr. Sherpa, who has scaled Mount Everest and eight of the highest mountains in the world, talked about the rapidly changing climate in Nepal, especially in the mountain regions.



Mountaineer and Environmentalist Mr. Dawa Steven Sherpa talked about how climate change has been affecting the Himalayas during a presentation he gave on the second day of the HCCN - FICAC Regional Conference on November 14, 2019.

Nepal has a diverse climate varying from plus 40 degree Celsius to minus 40 degree Celsius within a range of just 150 kms. The country has tropical, arctic, sub-tropical and alpine environment where one can find snow leopard to Bengal Tigers. Nepal is a country of mountains with eight peaks having altitude of above 8000 meters from the sea level and over 1500 peaks above 6,000 meters from the sea level.

The Himalayas are witnessing melting glaciers, extreme and unpredictable weather patterns, frequent avalanches and rockfalls, making climbing in the Himalayas more difficult and susceptible to major accidents and deaths.

There is garbage piling up in the Himalayas, causing irreparable damages to the mountain climate and environment. Regular clean up campaigns are on since 2007, but these are not sufficient enough.

Her Excellency Ms. Valerie Julliand, UN Resident Coordinator in Nepal

“We Are All Responsible : Fostering Global Solidarity to Combat Climate Change and Its Impact”

Impact of Climate change affects everyone and every human right. The cost of doing nothing is dire, felt on a large scale such as natural disaster and rising sea levels, trickling down to individual levels, affecting their lives and, in many cases, their survival. It is clear that more needs to be done to address the challenges and it requires the efforts of everyone.



Her Excellency Ms. Valerie Julliand said during her speech that the world is seeing extreme weather patterns globally and this requires global response.

Ms. Julliand's presentation acknowledged the various international initiatives and commitments that have been drawn up with the aspiration to combat climate change, while highlighting the need to accelerate the global solidarity and individual action to make a difference.

"Global climate change actions must engage all parties – states, large and small, decision makers, activists, individuals including the youth - to roll back the negative impact of climate change with particular focus on protecting those who are left behind," she said.

Dr. David Molden, Director General, ICIMOD, Nepal.

“Protect the Pulse of the Planet: Solutions for the Threatened Hindu-Kush Himalaya”

The Hindu-Kush Himalaya Mountains and hills, shared by eight countries—Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Nepal, Myanmar and Pakistan – and with its majestic mountains, its immense diversity of life, people, culture and biodiversity and its wealth of water, energy and other natural resources is a global asset. Right now the pulse is in a weakened state, with HKH under threat from environmental and social forces and the impacts of climate change.



Dr. David Molden talked about how the mountains are facing grave environmental threats.

Drawing from the recently released HKH Assessment report, Dr. Molden presented an overview of the resources of HKH and the status of sustainability in the mountains, including the scenario of poverty, food and energy security. He tried to illustrate how this region is highly vulnerable to climate change with temperature rise, melting glaciers, and changing monsoon and how people across the region are impacted owing to this.

Dr. Bindu Lohani, former Vice-President of the Asian Development Bank and Global Head of Climate Change Practice of Centennial Group, USA.

“Climate Change Challenge: Focusing on Resilient Development, Technology and Financing”

It is important to ensure climate risk screening of all development projects, incorporate adaptation and resilience in all economic development planning and opt for "right choice of development" to make development resilient.

Climate Change is probably one of the greatest challenges facing humanity in the 21st century, and now it is moving from being a challenge to a crisis. So we have to make use of the latest applicable technological advancements to avert the threat of climate change. However, technology alone will not be able to do that. Governments around the world should do more to reduce the threats posed by climate change.



Dr. Bindu Lohani said climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing humanity.

Ms. Priya Sigdel, Executive Secretary of HCCN-FICAC Regional Conference and Miss Nepal Earth 2018

“Inter-Generational Equity”

As a graduate of Development Studies and also leading an organization which produces environmentally sustainable products through use of recycled materials, I have always advocated appreciation of the environment and promoted sustainability practices by using resources in a manner that doesn't hamper the access of the future generation to the same resources.



Ms. Priya Sigdel advocated the use of recycled materials.

I am guided by my firm belief that we the youths and the future generations deserve a more sustainable and environment-friendly world and request the older generation who are in the leadership position to help us usher in such a world by changing their mindset and constantly rethinking about their actions and decisions that have adversely affected the environment.

Mr. Ang Tshering Sherpa, Immediate Past President of HCCN and Honorary Consul of Belgium spoke about the multiplier negative effects of climate change. He warned about the severe threat it poses to glacier lakes in the Nepali mountains, which are considered to be the frozen water tanks of Himalayas on which the lives and livelihood of over a billion people in the South Asian region depend.



Mr. Sherpa talked about how the Himalayas need to be safe from the negative impact of climate change.

“A rise of temperature by 4-5 degree Celsius means there will be no more glacier lakes in the Himalayas. Without this reliable and consistent water supply, billions of people will be cut off from a vital source of fresh water in the South Asian region,” he said.

According to him, what happens in the mountains directly affects the world's sea level, which shows the interdependency.

“This is why we should work together to save the fragile ecosystem of the Himalayas from the negative impact of climate change and respect planet earth,” he added.

Concluding the session, Mr. Ang Chiring Sherpa complimented all the speakers for their excellent and knowledgeable presentations and speeches on the very important issue of climate change, global warming and melting glaciers.

Mr. Sherpa said that during his 45-years long career working in the Khumbu region, which is home to Mt. Everest, he has seen the region undergo astonishing changes.

"I have seen the snow-line of the Himalayas recede rapidly within the last few decades. The khumbu glacier area, which was my childhood playground, is also melting fast and is facing the risk of another glacial lake outburst and floods which could take several human lives, destroy houses, farmlands, schools, bridges and undermine years of development works," he said.

"These adverse effects of climate change for which the mountain communities are not responsible are threatening our very land, culture and identity. Therefore, through conferences like these we would like to attract global community's attention on the issues of sustainable mountain development and global cooperation to tackle the effects of climate change."



SESSION IV : CONNECTIVITY AND PROSPERITY



(From left) Honorary Consul of Romania Mr. Narayan Bajaj, former Vice-Chairperson of National Planning Commission
Mr. Shankar Prasad Sharma, Honorary Consul of Portugal Mr. Rajendra Khetan and Foreign Secretary of Nepal
Mr. Shankar Das Bairagi

Mr. Rajendra Khetan, Honorary Consul of Portugal in Nepal and the chair of the session

I am very proud and delighted to share the podium with two wonderful personalities of Nepalese reform, administration and economy, and who have represented and promoted Nepal around the world – Mr. Shankar Das Bairagi, Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal, an ardent supporter of HCC-N, Dr. Shankar Prasad Sharma, former chairman of National Planning Commission and former ambassador of Nepal to the US, and Mr. Narayan Bajaj, a noted Chartered Accountant who has headed CA professional body in Nepal and contributed to bring about economic reform in the country.



Mr. Rajendra Khetan during his speech at the HCCN-FICAC Regional Conference on November 14, 2019.

Thereafter, Rajendra Khetan stressed on the need for a robust South Asian regional connectivity that would help enhance free trade, free flow of people and ideas and free movement of goods, investments and services to break the barriers and bring about economic prosperity in the region.

Mr. Shankar Das Bairagi, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

It was a thoughtful decision of HCC-N to organize a conference on such a pertinent theme, "Solidarity for Shared Prosperity" at a time when the world is witnessing new fault-lines and new divisions.



Foreign Secretary Mr. Bairagi said connectivity is key to prosperity.

So solidarity becomes all the more important as we intend to promote globalization with human face as well as multilateralism to address the contemporary world issues. Although connectivity has become a buzz word these days, it should not turn into a cliché as we sometime tend to overuse this term without knowing as to what exactly it means.

Connectivity underpins the quest for prosperity as it is the major propeller of economic growth, a key backbone of development, a mover of trade and something that has multiplier effect on the economy. In order for an economy to take off, connectivity is of paramount importance as it enables the movement of people from agrarian society to industrial one. It greatly facilitates the movement of goods and connects the market.

Mr. Shankar Prasad Sharma, former vice-chairperson of National Planning Commission

In his speech titled 'Regional Connectivity for Shared Prosperity', Mr. Shankar Prasad Sharma, former vice-chairperson of National Planning Commission, talked about how infrastructure could affect SDGs and economy.



Mr. Sharma said sustainable transportation systems can contribute to poverty reduction.

Inter-modal transport connectivity contribute to increase investment and enhance international cooperation in infrastructure. In particular, providing access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all can contribute to reducing the number of traffic deaths, double the rate of energy efficiency, facilitate sustainable infrastructure and contribute to poverty reduction by helping maintain the momentum of economic growth in the region.

Mr. Narayan Bajaj, Honorary Consul of Romania, said that there are many challenges to "enhance bilateral, regional and multilateral connectivity to bring about economic prosperity in an increasingly globalized world. And realizing infrastructure development through people-to-people and digital connectivity remains one of the most appropriate ways to achieve that goal."



Mr. Bajaj during his speech at the session.

The session concluded with Mr. Rajendra Giri, honorary consul of Ethiopia, presenting token of appreciation to the session's chairperson Mr. Khetan and speakers Mr. Bairagi, Mr. Sharma and Mr. Bajaj.



Thereafter, Hon'ble Mr. Costas N. Lefkaritis, Vice President of FICAC and Honorary Consul of Zambia, heartily thanked the speakers at the morning session of the conference who talked about climate change and how it is adversely affecting efforts to achieve economic prosperity for all. He said it was a very fruitful session in that he and many other participants of the conference were enlightened through latest information and statistics about what adverse impact the world is facing through the dangers of climate change.



Mr. Lefkaritis addressing the HCCN-FICAC Regional Conference on November 14, 2019.

The Vice President of FICAC ended his speech with the pledge that he and many other FICAC delegates present in the conference will from now on be ambassadors of climate change in their own right to talk about the adverse impact the global phenomenon is causing to humans and all other life on earth. "We will advocate change to ensure a world free from the ills of environmental pollution and global warming for the future generations", he said.

CLOSING CEREMONY HCCN - FICAC REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2019



(From left) FICAC President Dr. Aykut Eken, Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Honorary Consul of Chile Mr. Basant Raj Mishra and Honorary Consul of Indonesia Mr. Chandra Prasad Dhakal.

Meanwhile, speaking at the closing session, **Minister for Foreign Affairs Pradeep Kumar Gyawali** said that the first-ever conference of such kind organized in Nepal has concluded with very meaningful, far-sighted and very productive deliberations and concrete outcomes as well.



Foreign Minister Mr. Gyawali speaking at the closing session of the HCCN-FICAC Regional Conference.

"The theme of the conference 'Solidarity for Shared Prosperity' was extremely pertinent as the delegates discussed how the government, the business community, the diplomatic community, honorary consuls, consul generals can collaborate to achieve the goal of sustainable development and prosperity for all," the Foreign Minister said.

In his closing address of the session, **Mr. Gajendra Bahadur Shrestha, former Dean of HCCN and Honorary Consul of Sweden**, quoted Lord Buddha, the apostle of peace: "There is no greater wealth in the world than peace of mind. Peace is not the absence of power but the presence of love. And when the power of love overcomes the love for power, the world will know peace."



Mr. Shrestha lauded the Honorary Consuls representing various countries in Nepal for doing a commendable job.

Mr. Shrestha appreciated Mr. Aykut Eken's gesture of visiting Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha, right after landing in Nepal, adding that this shows he will champion the cause of peace during his tenure as the president of FICAC.

He said the honorary consuls representing various countries in Nepal are doing their jobs to the best of their abilities while promoting cordiality, people-to-people relationship, understanding, goodwill and also promoting economic diplomacy between Nepal and the countries they represent.

Mr. Shrestha also took the opportunity to thank the current dean of HCCN Mr. Pradeep Kumar Shrestha, including past deans and members of HCCN for organizing the marvelous two-day long event, saying that it would have been virtually impossible to ensure its grand success without their tireless work and dedication.

Meanwhile, addressing the closing session, **Mr. Suraj Vaidya, Honorary Consul General of Philippines and National Coordinator of Visit Nepal 2020**, thanked the Dean of HCCN Mr. Pradeep Kumar Shrestha for giving Visit Nepal 2020 a forum to be able to express why this is not the first and last Nepal visit of the delegates who are participating in the 1st HCCN-FICAC Regional Conference and why the country expects them to visit again in the year 2020.



Mr. Vaidya during his speech at the closing session of the HCCN-FICAC Regional Conference, 2019.

"Visit Nepal 2020 isn't just an event promoting Nepal to bring in more tourists into the country. Tourism is all about telling your stories, and the Visit Nepal Year is an opportunity for Nepal to share with the whole world what Nepal has done and achieved after the devastating earthquake of 2015. It is to show the world that the country and its people are resilient and believe in moving forward. Nepal is now back in business and is ready to invite tourists in large numbers to share its rich culture, tradition and natural bounty," he said.

Mr. Vaidya said Visit Nepal 2020 is all about sharing the spiritual values of Nepal, its rich cultural diversity, the country's transition to peace, the multitude of colorful cuisines with their own unique flavor, its fascinating nature and the story of how the country is now set to become the first country to double its wild tiger population.

KATHMANDU DECLARATION



Mr. Pradeep K. Shrestha, Dean of HCC-N, reading out the Kathmandu Declaration after seeking the permission of the President of FICAC

Honorary Consular Corps Nepal (HCC-N) FICAC Regional Conference 2019 "Solidarity for Shared Prosperity" November 13-14, 2019, Kathmandu, Nepal

Kathmandu Declaration

The Honorary Council Corp Nepal hosted the 1st HCC-N FICAC Regional Conference in Kathmandu, Nepal from November 13-14, 2019 with the theme "Solidarity for Shared Prosperity". The regional conference discussed four themes related to "Solidarity for Shared Prosperity" – Gender Equality, Climate Change, Connectivity and Prosperity.

1. The importance of UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030 was greatly emphasized during discussions and deliberations conducted throughout the conference. Therefore, the countries across the world should do more to achieve those goals. There has been lots of progress in the world in reducing the poverty and income standards of the citizens. However, the inequalities in income have widened.
2. Shared prosperity should address the need of bottom 40 percent of the world's population. Therefore, we all should seek to build strong economic foundations of our respective countries. Sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth is essential for shared prosperity. This will only be possible if wealth is shared and income inequality is addressed.
3. Equity issues, in particular gender inequalities, were discussed during the conference. While a lot of progress has been made in mitigating prevalent gender inequalities, there is still a need to do more to bridge the gaps. There should be more emphasis on education of girls, creating economic opportunities and placing women in the leadership position, among other corrective measures to empower women.

4. Climate Change is a global challenge and affects everyone. Hence, the solution will only be possible with collective actions. We note the need for net-zero emission by 2050. All the stakeholders including public, private and the citizens needs to step up actions to reduce the effects of climate change and global warming. The current level of actions is inadequate.
5. We should ensure that all development will be resilient and climate-friendly. Strong commitment from all the countries in the world will be required to address the climate challenge. We hope that financial agreement under the Paris Agreement will be met.
6. Youth representatives of the conference blamed countries responsible for emitting high volume of green house gases of not doing enough to fight global warming and expressed their firm commitment to do their part in addressing the current climate crisis.
7. Connectivity for economic cooperation and shared prosperity was highlighted during the conference. There is an economic, social and diplomatic advantage of connectivity and this should be emphasized. Dialogue and diplomacy between countries is key to resolving persisting problems between them for a win-win outcome.
8. During the FICAC board meeting held during the conference HCCN and FICAC member celebrated what they have been able to achieve so far and identified future issues to be considered
9. The conference also promoted and supported Visit Nepal Year 2020 with promotional videos and site visits and promised continued support to make it successful.



Addressing the conference, **Minister of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Yogesh Bhattarai** said that it was a great honor and privilege to be a part of this historic conference in Nepal and extended his thanks to the organizers for hosting this highly significant event on the eve of the Visit Nepal Year 2020 campaign which aims to bring in at least two million international visitors in Nepal with special focus on value-based tourism and increasing the revenue contribution of tourism to the national GDP.



Hon'ble Minister of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Mr. Yogesh Bhattarai addressing the closing session of the HCCN - FICAC Regional Conference on November 14, 2019.

"This conference has brought us together to share our knowledge and experiences so as to take our multilateral international relations to newer heights. The conclusions drawn from this conference will be instrumental in strengthening our multilateral ties based on diplomacy, tourism, trade and commerce, cultural network and other socio-economic activities," Minister Bhattarai said, adding that Nepal is a popular tourism destination that is prominently visible in the world tourism map for the last six decades. He wished all the delegates to have a pleasant stay in the country and that they continue to come back to Nepal to experience its rich cultural heritage and natural beauty.

In his closing remarks of the conference, Honorable Dr. Aykut Eken, President of World Federation of Consuls (FICAC) & Honorary Consul General of Jamaica praised warm hospitality shown to him and the delegates. Consul Generals and delegates attending this conference are glad to be here in Nepal and will return to their respective countries with happy memories of the land of the Himalayas and Buddha.

"Upon our return home we would all be the goodwill ambassadors of Nepal," Dr Eken said, and recalled pleasant trip to Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha, where he and other delegates learnt about the philosophy of Buddha and his message of peace and compassion.



Former Miss Nepal Ms. Sadikhcha Shrestha, the host of the two-day conference, during the exchange of mementoes and presentations of token of appreciations.

Presenting his Vote of Thanks, **Mr. Basant Kumar Chaudhary, Vice-Dean of HCCN**, expressed his gratitude to the chief guest, Minister of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Yogesh Bhattarai, including other eminent delegates and guests who made the HCCN-FICAC Regional Conference meaningful by their gracious presence.



Vice Dean of HCCN Mr. Basant Kumar Chaudhary presenting his vote of thanks at the end of the HCCN - FICAC Regional Conference on November 14, 2019.

"FICAC has been working to make the world more connected. Working in unison, FICAC members have promoted access and economic inclusivity for people and businesses the world over. Our commitment to the slogan, 'Solidarity for Shared Prosperity' has transformed many lives from the bottom of the pyramid of our society while Honorary Consuls across the world have played a sterling role in fostering this cause," Mr. Chaudhary said.

He asserted that the visit of the Honorary consuls and other delegates on the eve of the Visit Nepal 2020 makes it all the more meaningful for promoting tourism and related businesses in the Himalayan nation, as they would play an instrumental role in spreading the message of the Visit Nepal 2020 in their respective countries as goodwill ambassadors for promotion of Nepal tourism.

Mr. Chaudhary expressed thanks to Rt. Honorable President of Nepal Ms Bidhya Devi Bhandari for receiving all the participants of the HCCN FICAC Regional Conference at the Presidential House and called it "great honour" for the entire HCCN and FICAC community.

Mr. Chaudhary thanked Visit Nepal 2020 Coordinator Mr. Suraj Vaidya for his remarkable speech and heartwarming stories to promote Nepalese tourism and said he firmly believes that Visit Nepal Year will be a grand success and meet its desired goals under the dynamic leadership of young and very energetic Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Yogesh Bhattarai.

He also thanked the President of FICAC Dr. Aykut Eken for his inspiring speech and lauded Dean of HCCN Mr. Pradeep Kumar Shrestha and all the members of HCCN for their hardwork and astute planning which has resulted in this highly successful event.



Distinguished delegates and participants of the two-day HCCN-FICAC Regional Conference pose for a group photo at the end of the conference in Kathmandu on November 14, 2019.

PHOTO GALLERY



Distinguished members of FICAC and HCC-N pay a courtesy call on Right Hon'ble President of Nepal Mrs. Bidhya Devi Bhandari at the President's Office in Sheetal Niwas on November 14, 2019.



Right Hon'ble President Mrs. Bidhya Devi Bhandari being conferred with FICAC Gold Star Award 2019 by FICAC President Dr. Aykut Eken in the presence of Vice President Mr. Costas N. Lefkaritis, General Secretary Mr. Nikolaos Margaropolous and Dean of HCC-N Mr. Pradeep K. Shrestha at the President's Office in Sheetal Niwas on November 14, 2019.



Right Hon'ble President Mrs. Bidhya Devi Bhandari unveiling the HCC-N Hand Book 2019 in the presence of Dean of HCC-N Mr. Pradeep K. Shrestha, Mr. Rajendra Khetan, Honorary Consul of Portugal and Mr. Shree Ram Lamichhane, Honorary Consul of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.



Right Hon'ble President Mrs. Bidhya Devi Bhandari being conferred with a Token of Appreciation by Dean of HCC-N Mr. Pradeep K. Shrestha flanked by distinguished members of the HCC-N.



Dean of HCC-N Mr. Pradeep K. Shrestha speaks during a press meet organized to inform about the HCCN-FICAC Regional Conference 2019 that was going to be held in Kathmandu on November 13-14, 2019. Also seen in the picture are FICAC President Dr. Aykut Eken, Immediate Past President of HCC-N and Honorary Consul of Belgium Mr. Ang Tshering Sherpa, Honorary Consul of Colombia Mr. Binaya Man Shrestha and Honorary Consul of Sweden and former Dean of HCCN Mr. Gajendra Bahadur Shrestha.



Honorable Foreign Minister of Nepal Mr. Pradeep K. Gyawali is welcomed by Dean of HCC-N Mr. Pradeep K. Shrestha together with Honorary Consul of Sweden Mr. Gajendra Bahadur Shrestha and Honorary Consul of Indonesia Mr. Chandra Prasad Dhakal as the former arrives to address the HCCN-FICAC Regional Conference in Kathmandu on November 13, 2019.



Right Hon'ble Vice President Nanda Bahadur Pun is welcomed by Dean of HCC-N Mr. Pradeep K. Shrestha as the former arrives to inaugurate the first HCCN-FICAC Regional Conference 2019 in Kathmandu on November 13, 2019.



Honorary Consul of Bulgaria Mr. Bhola Thapa poses for a picture with General Secretary of FICAC Mr. Nikolaos Margaropolous and FICAC Board Director Mr. Asif Chaudhary after the presentation of Token of Appreciations to them.



Dean of HCC-N Mr. Pradeep K. Shrestha poses for a picture with distinguished participants of HCCN-FICAC Regional Conference 2019.



Honorary Consul of Sweden Mr. Gajendra Bahadur Shrestha poses for a picture with former Miss Nepal winners Ms. Sadikhha Shrestha and Ms. Shrinkhala Khatriwada



Visitors at a handicraft and souvenir stall outside the venue of the HCCN-FICAC Regional Conference 2019.



Delegates and participants of the HCCN-FICAC Regional Conference 2019 pose for a group picture during a culture and sight seeing programme in Basantapur and other tourist places in Kathmandu.



Members of HCC-N and Members of FICAC Board of Directors pose for a group photo while rejoicing at the Chandragiri Hills Resort in Kathmandu after an exciting cable car ride.



Members of HCCN and members of FICAC Board of Directors pose for group photos at the scenic Chandragiri Hill.



During their stay, the distinguished delegates and participants of the HCCN-FICAC Regional Conference 2019 were taken on a mountain flight to provide them a scenic view of Mount Everest and other majestic mountains of Nepal, including a trip to the beautiful city of Lumbini, the birth place of Lord Buddha.



Maya Devi Temple in Lumbini, the birth-place of Lord Buddha.



Inside a monastery in Lumbini.



FICAC President Dr. Aykut Eken and Mrs. Gonul Eken with friends at Lumbini.



Members of HCC-N and FICAC pose for a group photo with Honorable Minister of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Mr. Yogesh Bhattarai.



Dean of HCC-N Mr. Pradeep K. Shrestha presents a token of appreciation to Honorary Consul of Philippines and National Coordinator of Visit Nepal 2020 Mr. Suraj Vaidya during the closing ceremony of the HCCN-FICAC Regional Conference 2019.



Dean of HCC-N Mr. Pradeep K. Shrestha presents a token of appreciation to Honorable Minister of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Mr. Yogesh Bhattarai, as FICAC President Dr. Aykut Eken and Vice Dean of HCC-N Mr. Basant Chaudhary look on during the closing session of the HCCN-FICAC Regional Conference 2019 in Kathmandu on November 14, 2019.



Speakers and participants pose for a group photo after the completion of one of the sessions.



Board members of FICAC and other distinguished delegates during the closing ceremony of the HCCN-FICAC Regional Conference.



Participants of the HCCN-FICAC Regional Conference 2019.



FICAC President Dr. Aykut Eken and Honorary Consul of St. Kitts & Nevis Ms. Gonul Eken during one of the proceedings of the HCCN-FICAC Regional Conference.



Participants rejoicing during a program hosted by the Lalitpur Mayor in Patan Museum.



Distinguished delegates and participants enjoy variety of cultural performances such as traditional dancing, folk singing and musical performances during the gala dinner organized on the last day of the HCCN-FICAC Regional Conference 2019.

HONORARY CONSULS AND CONSULAR GENERALS REPRESENTING VARIOUS COUNTRIES IN NEPAL



Rajesh Babu Shrestha
Austria



Ajeya Raj Sumargi
Belarus



Ang Tsering Sherpa
Belgium



Shahil Agrawal
Bosnia and Herzegovina



Bhola Bikram Thapa
Bulgaria



Buddha Basnyat
Canada



Basant Raj Mishra
Chile



Binaya Man Shrestha
Colombia



Amir Pratap JB Rana
Croatia



Padma Jyoti
Cyprus



Vishnu Kumar Agrawal
Czech Republic



Hari Prasad Dharel
Denmark



Sashi Kant Agrawal
Equador



Nava Raj Dahal
Estonia



Rajendra Giri
Ethiopia



Parash Shakya
Fiji



Shivratna Sharda
Georgia



Bikram Pandey 'Kaaji'
Greece



Ashok Kumar Agrawal
Guinea



Arun Kumar Chaudhary
Hungary



Chandra Prasad Dhakal
Indonesia



Naresh Shrestha
Iran



Manoj Bahadur Shrestha
Ireland



Pratima Pande
Italy



Sulav Agrawal
Kyrgyz Republic



Karan Vaidya
Latvia



Shovakar Neupane
Lithuania



Shree Ram Lamichhane
Luxembourg



Rahul Chaudhary
Maldives



Dinesh Shrestha
Malta



Naresh Dugar
Mexico



Tsetan Gyurman Shrestha
Mongolia



Basant K. Chaudhary
Morocco



Pepijn Trapman
Netherlands



Puna Bhandari
Papua New Guinea



Sumit Kumar Agrawal
Peru



Suraj Vaidya
Philippines



Lokmanya Golchha
Poland



Rajendra Khetan
Portugal



Narayan Bajaj
Romania



Pasang Dawa Sherpa
Slovak Republic



Hari Bhakta Sharma
Slovenia



Pradeep Kumar Shrestha
South Africa



Ambica Shrestha
Spain



Gajendra Bahadur Shrestha
Sweden



Prem Prakash Khetan
Turkey



Kiran Vaidya
Ukraine



Rajesh Kaji Shrestha
Vietnam

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 

HOSPITALITY MORE THAN JUST A WORD

True hospitality comes from the heart.
From a genuine desire to make sure our guests always feel totally at home.



TURKISH AIRLINES