

NEW REPUBLIC OF NEPAL - ITS CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

2nd August 2008

Nepalese Forum for Human Rights and People's Democracy (NEHURIPD), Australia organised a formal Interaction Program to discuss the new Republic of Nepal, its Challenges and Opportunities in Sydney, Australia. Various papers were presented by Nepalese organisation leaders, Business man, Independent Intellectual and Nepalese Ambassador for Australia Mr. Yogendra Dhakal.

The program started by remembering known, unknown martyrs followed by playing Nepalese National Anthem. NEHURIPD members Mr. Hari Lamichane run the program where many volunteers lead by NEHURIPD members Ms. Sima Subha, Mr. Mahendra Oli & Dinesh Pahari welcome the guests and provided a fabulous environment for all to participate in the program with great interest. A summary report of each paper is presented below.

Mr. Ganga Sagar Pant, an Independent, Intellectual presented a paper regarding Sustainable Leadership Issue in Nepal's Politics. He started the program by definition of Leader and General People and discuss in details about skills of a sustainable leadership. He outlined that good communication, creative vision, desire to lead and courage are the key

attributes for such leader. He added that great leader is the one who is charismatic and can lead even without a physical presence. He outlined lack of such leadership in Nepal. He added that the leadership who is out of touch to the people will not be able to survive with an example of Nepal's ex-king. Mr. Sattish Koirala commented on the paper and added that sustainable leadership is a serious issue in Nepal.

President of Nepalese Indigenous Federation, Australia Mr. Ganesh Tamang presented his views about Role of Indigenous people in the new Constitution of Nepal. He outlined that constitution is an infrastructure of a nation therefore all people should be involved. He said, Indigenous people should watch closely for their rights in the development of such constitution and be ready to safeguard this by any means. He criticised the Nepal's newly appointed Vice President for using Hindi language to take his oath and demanded for a formal apology. NEHURIPD, Australia vice President Mr. Chitra Limbu commented on Mr. Tamang's presentation and agreed most of the comment by the presenter and added that Indigenous people are linked with the environment. Therefore natural development of such community should not be interfered.

NRN, Australia President, Mr. Goba Katuwal presented a paper on Role of Non Resident Nepalese in the new Constitution of Nepal. Mr. Katuwal mentioned that 2.2 million Non Resident Nepalese were neglected during CA election. He requested Nepalese Politicians not to forget to involve

NRNs in building of the new constitution. He added that there are many experienced and internationally popular people in NRNs who can contribute significantly in building new constitution and important policies of Nepal. Taking about dual citizen Mr. Katuwal said that there is a lot to gain but nothing to loose for Nepal for bringing dual citizen policy & requested the government to take this seriously. He concluded his presentation vowing NRN, Australia will provide full support to Nepal in building a new Constitution. Deputy coordinator of NRN Oceania, Mr. Deepak Khadka commented on the paper and mentioned that NRN community can contribute significantly in the broader growth of Nepalese economy and society if suitable environment is available.

Mr. Chhring Sherpa, President of Nepalese Democratic Forum (NADF), spoke about National Unity and People's Participation for the Development of New Nepal. He started by discussing recent political development in Nepal. He added that even though People's War brought some positive changes in Nepal it has promoted ethnic clashes due to CPN Maoist's wrong policy. He mentioned that in the Past King was a common figure to glue Nepalese society but in his absence Nepali Language should be a common thing that unite all Nepalese. He showed his distress for Vice President to disrespect this and use Hindi while taking an oath. He mentioned that currently Nepal is adopting quantitative but not qualitative approach in the name of Indigenous representation. President of NAA, Ms.

Indra Ban commented on Mr. Sherpa views and added that national sentiment should be above any ethnics group for national unity.

Local business man & director of Oli & Associates, Mr. Bhabani Prasad Oli, presented a paper on Political Precondition for Economics Revolution in New Nepal. In his paper he outlined Nepali politics and its impact to the economy. He mentioned that political mischief exists anywhere in the world but it is to the extreme in Nepal. This has always been an obstacle for economic growth in Nepal. He added that its pity that Nepal is not able to enter into political revolution even in this 21st century. Political force lead by Rana & King suppressed all people for many years, while Nepali congress adopted wrong policy in the name of democracy and forced CPN Maoists to go to Jungle and to wage People's war for over 12 years. This over shadowed the economic agenda and all political resources was utilised seeking for peace. He discussed new changes in Nepal and suggested that all parties should be united and they should move forward together. In his view, short term political vision is bad for economic growth so a long term stable political vision should be adopted. Such vision is expected by a large number of investors including NRN community which can help for the broader growth of economy. General Secretary of NEHRIPD Australia, Mr. Ramesh Paudel commented on Mr. Oli's paper and mentioned that this is a quality paper & can be further improved and published in media for the benefit of large group of people. He also suggested that Nepalese

Australian community could have a seminar dedicated to the economic model and present to the Nepalese authority for its implementation.

Mr. C. K. Bhusal, secretary of NEHURIPD, Australia presented a details report on behalf of NEHURIPD, Australia regarding Human Rights and its challenges in Nepal. It was a paper which summarised human rights violations in Nepal caused by then Royal Nepal Army & Maoists rebels. His report also included human rights suppression on women and children. He discussed the recent changes in Nepalese politics and added that human right situation in Nepal is still not satisfactory. His view was even though it is late, political stability appears to be on the way and it is somewhat hopeful. Finally he put fourteen recommendations and concluded that whoever committed violation for human rights in the past should be brought to justice. His paper was commented by Ms. Pratigya Adhikari who mentioned that the paper was very well prepared by an expert in this area so she could not disagree with the content. However, she mentioned that human rights in education and health sector could be added in the report.

Nepalese Ambassador for Australia, Mr. Yogendra Dhakal presented a paper regarding Challenges and Opportunities of Republic Nepal. He mentioned that with the dedication of many people who waged People's war for many years, Nepalese people have now overturned monarch and established republic system. In his view this is a new beginning and has opened a door to develop a new Nepal. This is a beginning to change old

economic system, social system and build a new Nepal. He mentioned that we should develop national capitalist, reduce the gap between rich and poor people, and ensure food, shelter, clothing, education and health for all people of Nepal. He mentioned that it is a great challenge to develop good cooperation among all parties and completing new constitution of Nepal within next two years. This paper was commented by NRN, Australia national coordinator Mr. Dhurba Subedi. Mr Subedi mentioned put his personal view about additional challenges of new Republic Nepal and added that the paper was not able to address the possibilities of extreme communist to go back to Jungle again.

NEHURIPD, Australia public officer Mr. Hom Nath Pandey presented the key outcomes of the seminar and addressed the key points presented by the various paper presenters and commentators. He mentioned that the overall program was a great success and provided many thoughts for the Challenges and Opportunities of Republic Nepal.

NEHURIPD, Australia president Mr. Ramesh Pandey expressed many thanks to all presenters, commentators, sponsor and all people who attended the seminar. He mentioned that NEHURIPD, Australia is always working with Nepalese community to address the key issues and challenges of the Nepalese Human rights and People Democracy. He requested other community organisations and leaders to be more active to address such issues. Mr. Pandey congratulated President and vice President of new

Republic Nepal on behalf of NEHURIPD, Australia. He however mentioned that NEHURIPD Australia regrets vice president's decision to use Hindi language for his oath taking ceremony. It is regretful that Maoists are not able to provide leadership to new Nepal despite being a largest part in the constitutional assembly, he added.

- Reported by Mr. Hom Nath Pandey, public officer, NEHURIPD, Australia