

Nepal Donor Consultation Meeting, 2008
Kathmandu, NEPAL
Welcome Address by Mr. Vidyadhar Mallik
Secretary, Ministry of Finance

Right Honorable Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala,
Honorable Finance Minister Dr. Ram Sharan Mahat,

Our guest of honor Vice President of the Asian Development Bank Liqun Jin, Right Honorable Chief Justice, Right Honorable Speaker of the Legislative Parliament, Honorable Ministers, Members of the legislative parliament, Leaders of political parties, Honorable Vice Chairman of the National Planning Commission and Members, Chief Secretary of the Government of Nepal, Secretaries of different Ministries and distinguished delegates representing Nepal's Development Partners at this meeting.

A very Good Morning and Namaste! It is my honor to greet and welcome you all in this august opening ceremony of Nepal's Donors Consultation Meeting, 2008.

We are very encouraged by the gracious presence of the Rt. Honorable Prime Minister. Your presence, Sir, will encourage us further to make this meeting more fruitful for the people of Nepal.

We are also grateful for the presence of the Vice President of the Asian Development Bank who accepted our invitations to travel to Kathmandu for attending this meeting. Vice President, Liqun Jin, I welcome you in Nepal.

I also welcome the Rt. Honorable Chief Justice Kedar Prasad Giri, Rt. Honorable Speaker Subhash Chandra Nembang and all the Honorable Ministers, Honorable Members of the Legislative Parliament, Respected leaders of Political Parties, the Chief Secretary and Secretaries of Government of Nepal and other distinguished guests.

I extend heartiest welcome to all the heads of diplomatic agencies, leaders and members of the delegations representing our development partners, many of whom have travelled to Kathmandu to attend this meeting. I am also grateful to the representatives of the development partner agencies based in Kathmandu for sparing time to attend this important meeting. To all who have travelled to Kathmandu for attending this meeting I wish you a very pleasant stay in Nepal.

Finally, I welcome all the stakeholders in Development of Nepal who are present in this meeting including government officials, members of the civil society, the media and Nepal's sovereign citizens whose needs and interests would be the focus of the deliberations.

This Nepal Donor Consultation Meeting, 2008 is an opportunity for representatives of the Government of Nepal to share experiences and discuss new opportunities with representatives of different bilateral and multilateral well-wishers and donors to Nepal. The broad goal is to reinforce our relationship through enhanced communication on the evolving peace process and

to inform our development partners about our development priorities as articulated by the Three Years Interim Plan.

The last time the Nepal Development Forum meetings were held, was in 2004 in Kathmandu. The Government of Nepal believes that such a NDF Meeting is a much-needed forum which gives us opportunity to sit across the table and discuss ideas and development priorities vital for facilitating the Nepali transition. We hope to organize such NDF meeting after the election of Constituent Assembly to pledge support for Nepal's development goals and speed up the process of reconstruction and rehabilitation which we have already initiated and make new investments for attaining broad-based and inclusive economic growth.

We had a number of pre-consultation meetings in the first week of this month on different themes broadly related to socio economic development and evolving peace process, which were actively participated in, both, by development partners and very inclusive cross-section of different Nepali stakeholders. And, what we will be deliberating in the next two days primarily are the outcomes of these preparatory meetings. The meetings today and tomorrow can therefore serve as an important platform for sharing the development aspirations of the Nepali people after the successful political movement of April 2006 and to discuss and come to a common understanding on the emerging need of the country in the context of building a peaceful, just and prosperous New Nepal. The Government of Nepal hopes that deliberations at this meeting would lead to a common "support framework" which would then serve as the starting point of the pledging conference to be held after the election.

Once again, I welcome you all to this meeting.