

Nepal Donor Consultation Meeting, 2008
Kathmandu, NEPAL
Vote of Thanks by Krishna Gyawali, Joint Secretary
Ministry of Finance

**Right Honorable Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala,
Honorable Finance Minister Dr. Ram Sharan Mahat,
Vice President of the Asian Development Bank, Liqun Jin,**

Right Honorable Chief Justice, Right Honorable Speaker, Honorable Ministers, Members of Legislature-Parliament, Honorable Vice Chairman and Members of the National Planning Commission, Respected Leaders of Political Parties, Heads of Constitutional Bodies, Chief Secretary and Secretaries, Heads and Delegates representing Nepal's Development Partners, Distinguished Participants and Guests, and Ladies and Gentlemen!

I feel honored to express thanks and gratitude to all distinguished invitees and participants of this Nepal Donor Consultation Meeting today on behalf of the Ministry of Finance, and also on behalf of the Finance Minister who is the Official Chair of Nepal Donors Consultation Meeting 2008.

First of all, I would like to express my deep appreciation to the Right Honorable Prime Minister for so kindly accepting our request to be present here today at this Opening Session and encouraging us with his gracious remarks which were full of wisdom and sagacity made in such a plain tone that the common people would easily understand. At a time when he is intensely engaged in sailing the nation through the troubled waters despite his age and health, he readily agreed to spend some of his valuable time with us this morning, boosting our morale to do our job better and with more confidence. We are sincerely thankful to you, Right Honorable Prime Minister!

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to Vice President Liqun Jin of Asian Development Bank who accepted our invitation and traveled all the way from Manila to attend this Session and deliver his address. The Government of Nepal, and the Ministry of Finance in particular, is immensely pleased with your presence today and would like to thank you for showing how much you care and support us at our time of need. Thank you very much Mr Vice President!

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to the Right Honorable Chief Justice, Honorable Speaker, Honorable Ministers, Honorable Members of the Legislature-Parliament, Honorable Vice Chairman and Members of the National Planning Commission, Heads of Constitutional Bodies, Chief Secretary and Secretaries of the Government of Nepal, Heads of Security Agencies, and other distinguished invitees and participants representing a wider spectrum of society for accepting our invitation to attend this Opening Session this morning. This Consultation Meeting has been made most meaningful by your presence and participation.

My profound respect and gratitude also go to the Leaders and Representatives of Political Parties who are proving to be our invaluable assets and allies in this Consultation Meeting in general and one of its proceedings this afternoon in particular, where we will spend around two

hours interacting on the broader theme of peace and development, which is what the country has been so desperately aspiring for some time.

I now turn to those distinguished guests and invitees without whose presence and contribution this whole event would have gone in vain. They are our valuable Development Partners representing various donor countries and agencies. I deeply appreciate their presence today and thank all heads and members of diplomatic missions and agencies for accepting our invitation at a short notice. I know many of you have taken trouble traveling to Kathmandu. This is symbolic of your commitment to Nepal and your affection for us Nepalis.

Finally, I thank all the stakeholders of this Meeting including government officials, members of the civil society, media and Nepal's sovereign citizens who have contributed to organizing this event and on whose continued cooperation the success of this event would very much depend.

As the Finance Secretary indicated in his welcome remarks earlier, this Consultation Meeting has three basic objectives. **First**, we wish to share perspectives on how Nepal can achieve peace and development in tandem, and agree on a consensual path ahead. **Second**, we want to secure broader support and commitment from development partners to Nepal's development based on the Three Year Interim Plan, and **Third**, we intend to rebuild partnership and a fresh framework for cooperation for the "pledging conference" that will be held after the Constituent Assembly elections. We hope we will be able to meet these objectives by tomorrow afternoon when we will have issued a Joint Communiqué to this effect.

On behalf of the Ministry of Finance, I humbly urge you all to help us achieve these objectives, and I thank you once again for your presence and participation in this important Meeting that we are holding at a time of great socio-economic and political transformation in our country. And forgive us please, if we failed in our duty in organizing this opening session properly and caused you any inconveniences in the course of our arrangement despite our best attempt.

Thank you!
