




International Seminar on International Relations: Nepal and the World Order

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Neeti Anusandhan Pratishthan, Nepal

International Relations Nepal and the World Order

(A Report of an International Seminar)

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International Relations Nepal and the World Order

(A Report of an International Seminar)

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Neeti Anusandhan Pratishthan, Nepal (NeNAP)

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पृष्ठभूमि

गतिशील चासोहरूले विश्व राजनीति, साभा संस्कृति र साभा आकांक्षाहरूलाई बढ्दो रूपमा मार्गनिर्देशन गर्ने भएकाले नेपालजस्ता देशहरूले द्रुत रूपमा परिवर्तनशील र सधैं विकसित हुँदै गइरहेको विश्वव्यापी व्यवस्थासँग संलग्न हुनु र अन्तरक्रिया गर्नु जरूरी हुन्छ। दोस्रो विश्व युद्ध पछिको विश्व प्रणालीले, विशेष गरी साना राज्यहरूलाई उनीहरूको आवाज उठाउने वातावरण सिर्जना गरेको छ। यसका साथसाथै, प्रविधि र सञ्चार माध्यमको विकाससँगै परिवर्तन र द्रुत भूमण्डलीकरणले विकासशील विश्वलाई आफ्नो सार्वभौमसत्ता र क्षेत्रीय अखण्डता परिभाषित गर्न र राष्ट्र निर्माणका लागि कोष र प्रविधिहरू प्राप्त गर्न अनुमति दिएको छ। यद्यपि आजको विश्व रणनीतिक प्रतिस्पर्धाबाट मुक्त छैन। यस प्रतिद्वन्द्वमा रणनीतिक रूपमा कमजोर धेरै राज्यहरूले प्रोक्सी युद्धहरू देखे पनि आफ्नो सार्वभौमसत्ता र स्वतन्त्रता कायम राख्न सक्षम छन्। विकासोन्मुख देशहरूले साभा चासोका मुद्दाहरूमा आफ्नो आवाज समय समयमा उठाउँदै आइरहेका छन्। यस परिप्रेक्ष्यमा आर्थिक विकास र वृद्धिमा फड्को मार्दै गरेका दुई विशाल देश चीन र भारत बीचमा रहेको नेपाल थप चनाखो हुनु आवश्यक देखिन्छ।

भौगोलिक, सामाजिक-सांस्कृतिक र आर्थिकरूपमा नेपालको भारतसँगको सम्बन्धलाई आत्मसात् गर्दै नेपाल र भारतका विद्वत्त्वर्गबीचको सामिप्यता बढाउने तथा नेपाल र भारतका शिक्षा क्षेत्रमा आवद्ध अनुसन्धानकर्ता एवं विद्यार्थीलाई विश्वका महत्वपूर्ण समसामयिक विषयवस्तु अन्तर्गत बहसमा संलग्न गराउने उद्देश्यले International Relations: Nepal and the World Order शीर्षकमा International Seminar को आयोजना गरेको हो। यस सम्मेलनले कमजोर राज्यहरूको दुविधा र अवसरहरूबारे छलफल गर्न अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय सम्बन्ध (International Relations), मानविकी, सामाजिक विज्ञान, कला र संस्कृति, व्यापार, आर्थिक विकास, वातावरण, लोकतन्त्र र सुरक्षा विषयसँग सम्बन्धित क्षेत्रका विद्वानहरूलाई एकसाथ ल्याउने लक्ष्य राखेको थियो। विकासोन्मुख राज्यहरूले यस परिवर्तनशील संसारसँग कसरी राम्रोसँग मेलमिलाप गर्न सक्छन्? र चीनको BRI को आक्रामक अभियान (साना राज्यहरूमा आर्थिक र पूर्वाधार विकासमा सहयोगको अभियानमा ऋण प्रदान गर्ने) एवं अमेरिकी नेतृत्वमा पश्चिमी देशहरूको बिल्ड ब्याक बेटर वर्ल्ड (B3W) अभियानमा कसको पक्षमा लाग्ने जस्ता द्विविधात्मक अवस्थालाई मध्यनजर गर्दै यस सेमिनारले नेपाल र भारतलाई लक्षित गरी विविध विषयवस्तुमा सेमिनार पेपरहरूलाई स्थान दिएको थियो। परिवर्तित विश्व राजनीतिमा नेपाल, परराष्ट्र नीति, सांस्कृतिक सम्बन्ध, व्यापार र प्रविधि, जलवायु परिवर्तन, डेभलपमेन्ट २.०, डेमोक्रेसी २.०, नेपाल-भारत युवा संवाद लगायतका विषयमा नेपाल र भारतका विभिन्न विश्वविद्यालयका अनुसन्धानकर्ता विद्यार्थी तथा विद्वान प्राध्यापकहरूले सेमिनारमा पेपर प्रस्तुती गरेका थिए।

माथि उल्लेखित विषयवस्तुमा नेपाल र भारतका विद्वान् एवं विश्वविद्यालयका अनुसन्धानकर्ता तथा विद्यार्थीहरूबीच राम्रो अन्तरक्रिया हुनु आफैँमा एक उदाहरणीय पक्ष हो । यस्ता बौद्धिक जमघटले दुई देशबीचको समझदारीलाई प्रगाढ बनाउन मद्दत पुऱ्याउँछ । तत्कालीन सम्माननीय प्रधानमन्त्री शेर बहादुर देउवा, नेपाल कम्युनिष्ट पार्टी (माओवादी)का अध्यक्ष पुष्प कमल दाहाल एवं तत्कालिन उप सभामुख पुष्पा भुषालज्यूको उपस्थित एवं सम्बोधनले सेमिनारको अलग्गै महत्व भएको प्रष्ट्याएको छ ।

नीति अनुसन्धान प्रतिष्ठान, नेपाल (नेनाप) यस्ता सेमिनारहरूको महत्वलाई थप प्राथमिकता दिँदै सेमिनारमा उद्घाटन र समापन समारोहमा प्रस्तुत विचार/मन्तव्यहरूको संगालोस्वरूप सेमिनार प्रतिवेदन पुस्तिका प्रकाशनमा ल्याएको यहाँहरूसमक्ष जानकारी गराउँदछौं । यस अघि सेमिनारमा प्रस्तुत विचार एवं कार्यपत्रहरू एउटै पुस्तिकाकारूपमा प्रकाशन गरिएको थियो । प्रस्तुत पुस्तिकामा भने त्यस पुस्तकको उद्घाटन र समापन सत्रको भाग मात्र समावेश गरिएको छ । अतः पहिलो प्रकाशनलाई हेर्दा यसलाई हामीले दोस्रो संस्करण भन्न सकिन्छ ।

केशवराज पन्थी, पिपेचडी
कार्यकारी निर्देशक, नेनाप

Background

As dynamic interests increasingly guide world politics, shared cultures and common aspirations, it becomes ever more critical for countries like Nepal to find ways to engage and interact with this fast-changing and ever-evolving global order. The post-war world system, in particular, has allowed small states to raise their voices. Simultaneously, the changes and rapid globalisation with the advancement of technologies and communication mediums allowed the developing world to define its sovereignty and territorial integrity and acquire funds and technologies for nation-building programs. Although the world today is not free from strategic competition over the spheres of influence, in this rivalry, many strategically located small-weak states witness proxy wars, yet they have been able to maintain their sovereignty and independence. Amidst this, developing countries find their foothold and significant voice on issues of common concern crucial for them.

Against this background, the seminar engaged scholars in more significant debates. It was successful in bringing together scholars from the interdisciplinary fields of International Relations (IR), Humanities, Social Sciences, Art and Culture, Trade and Economic Development, Environment, Democracy and Security to discuss the dilemmas of weak states and the opportunities brought about by the rapidly changing world order. A few questions raised in this context were: how best can the developing states reconcile with this changing world, including China's aggressive campaigning of BRI, which offers both economic and infrastructure development in many small states, on the one hand, and the US-led western countries' program-Build Back Better World (B3W) on the other. The issue of climate change and the unequal burden of climate sustainability still fall upon developing countries. Developing countries have been demanding the implementation of the climate change pledges adopted by the developed countries at the 1997 Kyoto Summit. In this context, the seminar concentrated on varied topics and themes like Nepal in the new global order; multilateralism,

minilateralism and multi-polarity in new world order, foreign policy contours of developing states, cultural connections: search for old roots, trade and technology: North-South debate, environment, climate change and the burden of developing states, development 2.0: industry, infrastructure and innovation, democracy 2.0: actors and issues and Nepal-India youth dialogue: the way ahead and so forth.

We believe youths have the potential to lead the world. They have enthusiasm and zeal, along with feelings of responsibility. Realizing this power of the youth inspires them to create favorable situations to make the world a better place to live in. We believe the youth can solve contemporary issues. Thus, this seminar aimed to get ideas on international relations from the minds of the younger generation. We believe the new generation's ideas provide us the pathway to draft our international relations in the future, contributing to our understanding of the intent of youth. One of the purposes of the seminar was to provide a forum for our new generation, young people, and their understanding of these issues because the voice and opinion of the younger generation matter much in shaping the path of development.

Likewise, we realized that exposing the experiences of experts in different fields will help them shape their roadmaps for the future. So, the seminar was organized to listen to the expertise of scholars active in the field, not the theory-ridden papers of university professors. We expect that the participants, the young men and women educated in the region's prestigious educational institutions and universities, can develop innovative ideas.

Through this seminar, the young people from Nepal and India came together to discuss the issues collectively on one platform for the first time. We hope this will lead to a positive and creative narrative in the coming days. We hope that new ideas emerge based on nationality, national identity, and the country's status, respecting culture, civilization, ancient and glorious history, and each other's existence in the age of liberalisation.

Discussions and deliberations are not only based on the subject of international relations (IR) but also related conceptually to subjects such as development model, holistic development, sustainable development, merciful development and environment-friendly development, protection of the environment, and promotion of our cultural roots are the basis of mutual interests within international relations. Therefore, the seminar raised connected and complementary issues. All the participants actively participated and presented their original thoughts, contributing to the ongoing discourse as well as generating a new form of discourse from the youth's perspective.

We believe and are hopeful that the ideas presented and voices raised in the seminar will successfully guide the direction and eliminate all kinds of confusion seen in our international relations and all other issues.

Keshav Raj Panthee, PhD
Executive Director, NeNAP

कृतज्ञता

नेपाल-भारतका शुभचिन्तक एवं विज्ञ बिचको लामो प्रयास र संवाद पश्चात् अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय सेमिनारले वैचारिक आधार प्राप्त गर्‍यो र सफलतापूर्वक सम्पन्न पनि भयो । यो सेमिनारको पृष्ठभूमिको सन्दर्भमा केही उल्लेख गर्न उपयुक्त देखिन्छ । नेपालमा पहिले अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय सम्बन्ध विषयमा कलेज तथा विश्वविद्यालयहरूमा अध्ययन अध्यापन हुन थालेको थिएन । तर राजनीतिक शास्त्र विषय भने अध्ययन हुने गर्दथ्यो । त्यसैले अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय सम्बन्ध तथा सुरक्षा विषय अध्ययन गरेर फर्किने नेपालीहरूमा धेरैजसो भारतबाट र थोरै संख्यामा चीन एवं अत्यन्तै नगण्य संख्यामा पश्चिम मुलुकबाट अध्ययन गरेर फर्केका नेपाली थिए । भर्खै मात्र त्रिभुवन विश्वविद्यालयमा अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय सम्बन्ध एवं कुटनीतिक विषयमा अध्ययन अध्यापन हुन थालेको छ । अझै पनि यो त्रि.वि.को पूर्ण विभाग हुन सकेको छैन । यसै सन्दर्भमा उपर्युक्त विषयमा अध्ययन गरेर फर्केका सबै विद्वान्हरूसँग नेनापको प्रत्यक्ष चिनजान र सम्बन्ध भएकाले समय समयमा उहाँहरूसँग संवाद भैरहन्थ्यो । साथै भारतको दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय, जवाहरलाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय एवं दिल्ली स्थित साउथ एशियन विश्वविद्यालयमा अध्ययन तथा अनुसन्धान गर्ने विद्वान्हरूसँग पनि दिल्लीमा समय समयमा संवाद एवं परिचर्चा भइरहने गर्दथ्यो र अहिले पनि संवादहरू यथावत् नै छन् ।

त्यसैले अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय सम्बन्ध विषयमा अध्ययन गरेर नेपाल फर्केका सबैसँग र त्यति नै संख्यामा भारतबाट पनि बोलाएर दुई दिनको एउटा युवा विद्वानहरूको बीचमा औपचारिक संवाद गर्ने शुरूमा हाम्रो मनसाय तथा तयारी थियो । यति ठूलो आकारमा गर्ने र जान्छ भन्ने हाम्रो विचार, योजना तथा अनुमान थिएन । तर गर्दै जाँदा अन्तमा यसले ठूलो आकार लियो । नेपालका तर्फबाट डा. विनय कुमार मिश्रजीले कन्भेनरको भूमिका निर्वाह गर्नुभयो भने भारतको तर्फबाट को-कन्भेनरको रूपमा डा. अभिषेक श्रीवास्तवजीले भूमिका निर्वाह गर्नुभयो । सेमिनारमा नेपाल र भारतका बौद्धिक वर्गको जमघट गराउनमा उहाँहरू दुबैको योगदान अत्यन्तै प्रशंसनीय एवं सराहनीय रह्यो । उद्घाटन सत्रमा सम्माननीय प्रधानमन्त्री ज्यू, परराष्ट्रमन्त्री, माननीय मन्त्री, सांसद, परराष्ट्र मन्त्रालयका अधिकारी एवं विज्ञ, सुरक्षा निकायका प्रमुख, विदेशी राजदूतावासका महामहिम राजदूत एवं पदाधिकारीहरूको भव्य उपस्थिति रह्यो । साथै समापन सत्रमा सम्माननीय पूर्व प्रधानमन्त्री पुष्पकमल दाहाल (प्रचण्ड) तथा माननीय उप-सभामुख पुष्पा भुषालज्यूको प्रमुख एवं विशिष्ट अतिथिको रूपमा उपस्थिति रहेको थियो । साथै यो सेमिनारमा नेपाली समाजका विभिन्न क्षेत्रका लब्धप्रतिष्ठित व्यक्ति, ओपिनियन मेकर्सका साथै सबै क्षेत्रको पूर्ण उपस्थिति रहेको थियो भन्दा यहाँ अत्युक्ति नहोला ।

अतः कार्यक्रममा उपस्थित भई कार्यक्रमलाई सफल बनाउन सहयोग गर्नुहुने तथा प्रेरणा प्रदान गर्नुहुने सम्पूर्ण महानुभावहरू, नेनापका पदाधिकारी, कर्मचारी तथा सम्पूर्ण कार्यकर्ताहरूमा कृतज्ञता प्रकट गर्दछौं । साथै यो प्रतिवेदन तयार गर्ने क्रममा अडियो ट्रान्सक्राइब गर्नुहुने राजश्री मिश्र एवं प्रतिवेदनलाई पुस्तकको रूपमा तयार गर्नमा सहयोग गर्नुहुने सबैमा हार्दिक आभार प्रकट गर्दछौं ।

नीति अनुसन्धान प्रतिष्ठान, नेपाल (नेनाप)

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26 August 2022
Inaugural Session



Dr. Binay Kumar Mishra

Chief Guest, Rt. Honourable Prime Minister of Nepal, Shri Sher Bahadur Deuba, Guest of Honor, Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. Narayan Khadka, Ministers, Members of Parliament, Former Ministers, Senior Leaders of the Parties, Government Officials, Their Excellencies, the Ambassadors of the USA and Israel, Officials from the Embassies, Chief of the Security forces and my humble pranams to all the senior dignitaries on and off the dais.

It is said that when people with good intentions gather in one place and have a cross-border exchange of ideas, it marks the beginning of a good initiative. This international seminar on Nepal and world order will be one such initiative.

Friends!! Nepal is home to an ancient civilization heritage. My country welcomes you all to these two days of intense brainstorming sessions wherein a lot of issues pertaining to the relations between the two great nations of the Asian continent will be discussed. We are confident that the young, ignited brains gathered here from Nepal and India will add another important perspective to the pre-existing narrative on Nepal-India relations, which will create a new opportunity for mutual growth and existence. I hope this stimulation brings a new paradigm to the scheme of things between Nepal and India and their existence in the new world order.

Without taking much time, I welcome all my friends from India, with whom I have had the great opportunity to work in the past and also my fellow citizens and friends from Nepal, with whom my future lies in taking our country on the global map. I thank the leadership under our Rt. Honourable PM Shri Sher Bahadur Deuba for supporting us and his presence in this important engagement.

I thank the MoFA, Dr Narayan Khadka, for his presence at the seminar.

I thank all the Honourable Ambassadors who have shared their views today.

I thank all the dignitaries who are sitting in front of the dais.

I thank all my NeNAP volunteer friends and all the other important organizations that have come together to put this through.

Gratitude to all our friends from the media who have come to cover this event.

Before I conclude my gratitude to all the delegates participating in the seminar for the next two days, I thank everyone present here.

Once again, thank you so much to all the participants !



Deepak Kumar Adhikari

Chair of the Inaugural Session, Dr. Binay Kumar Mishra, Chief Guest, Rt. Honourable Prime Minister of Nepal, Shri Sher Bahadur Deuba, Guest of Honor, Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Narayan Khadka, Ministers, Members of Parliament, Former Ministers, Senior Leaders of Political Parties, Government Officials, His Excellency the Ambassadors of Israel, Officials from the Embassies of India and United States of America (USA), Chief of the Security Forces, scholarly paper presenters from Nepal and India, dignitaries who would chair different technical sessions, delegates participating in the seminar, distinguished invitees, sponsors, friends from the media, brothers and sisters.

On behalf of Neeti Anusandhan Pratishthan, Nepal (NeNAP), I express my immense pleasure in welcoming you to the inaugural session of this premier seminar on International Relations: Nepal and the World Order, which shall last for two days, i.e., tomorrow and day-after, at Nepal Bharat Maitri Pashupati Dharmashala, Tilaganga, Kathmandu. Young scholars below 40 years from Nepal and India will attend the Seminar. These scholars have received higher education from distinguished educational institutions in the region and have served their respective countries in different capacities. We are excited to listen to these scholars and learn from their new, brilliant and innovative ideas. We believe these scholars inherit our rich cultural heritage and lead it to newer heights in the days to come. We are also excited to understand their promises and speculate

visions to shape the order of the upcoming world. We have listened to our seasoned diplomats and their seasoned statements, planners, vision-makers, and leaders and benefited immensely from them. We think it is time to turn our ears to the young minds whose aspirations, ideas and visions will define the world order tomorrow.

You might be wondering what assumptions underpin this seminar and its guiding principles. It is worthwhile to ask what the world order tomorrow will or should look like, looking from Nepal as the point of reference. That makes this business extremely interesting.

Before we move on, we should agree on a common assumption that the image of the world we have conceived so far has been created from the perspective of the bigger economic and military powers. They defined the world and classified it as First, Second or Third world on their parameters, carefully placing themselves under the first category and relegating the other to the subsidiary categories. Smaller nations have, so far, remained stoic, patiently bearing the derogatory libel of being members of the Third World. However, this name does not hold good anywhere except on economic and military fronts. Considering the minor economic and military factors, we foreground cultural and civilizational issues. In that case, the existing world order will likely fall apart, and a completely new order will likely emerge.

When culture and civilization also come into the central scheme of the world order, the overall picture looks different. We often take culture retrospectively, considering things of the remote past. Here, we redefine culture and do those noble practices that make us responsible and dignified, respecting the dignity of others. It includes all those noble acts we do as members of society, which make our thoughts, actions, and conducts noble and worthy of emulating. It cleanses our thought process, makes our foods and clothes healthy and decent, our speeches lucid and respectable, and our imaginations compassionate, noble and humane. It teaches us to take pride in the bigger hallmarks of our civilizations – things that have saved us as a people to this date. Yes, it is in contrast

to some of the prevailing agencies and their ideas— teaching us to take pride in trivial things, and while being proud of those petty things, they make us wrangle over those small, insignificant issues and consequently fractionalize society; bring discord and disharmony. On the other hand, culture inspires us to understand and respect diversity; that diversity is an expression of unity, not of differences. Hence, it teaches us that sticking to narrow and trivial issues and dividing ourselves along petty faultiness is not only wrong but also quite humiliating, disturbing and extremely detrimental to our ‘selves’.

We should be open to pertinent changes. Instead of sticking to old, outdated things, we must go for the best available alternative that currently works. Otherwise, we are likely to be out of fashion in no time. A Sanskrit proverb says:

यस्यास्ति सर्वत्र गतिः स कस्मात् स्व-देश-रगेण हि याति नाशम् ।

तातस्य कूपोऽयम् इति ब्रुवाणाः क्षारं जलं कापुरुषाः पिबन्ति ॥

“This well is of my forefathers,” say the fools fated to drink dirty water from that well. Only the timid do not want to change. If the old things are not relevant in today’s times and space, we should discard them. They should go stock and barrels. The new generation is ready to accept new things from anywhere non fundamentally.

One more thing comes to my mind. Our diversities define our identity as a nation. We have different big and small constituents. We do love each of them, and that is quite natural. However, we must also have the magnanimity to think beyond that and take pride in our bigger achievements and contributions. This thought leads us to have a global outlook, universal belonging and planetary considerations.

Geography and economy alone cannot and should not define the world order. As Chanakya, the great scholar, inspires us saying,

कः कालः कानि मित्राणि को देशः कौ व्ययागमौ ।

कश्चाहं का च मे शक्तिरिति चिन्त्यं मुहुर्मुहुः ॥

What the situation is at present; who my friends and foes are; what the situation is in the country where I reside; my income and expenditure are well balanced; what my present status is; and finally, how capable and powerful I am. We must always consider all these aspects and take appropriate action accordingly. We should consider that many other intangible things should come into play, and we should discover or invent newer parameters to define the world order tomorrow.

When I say Nepal, I am using the name as a representative. Many countries like ours, especially in Asia, Africa and Latin America, are rich cultural and civilizational centers, yet they have been eclipsed by one fog or another. As a result, when we discuss International Affairs at the global level, the voices of these countries are often back grounded. When do our issues, resolutions and decisions become 'global' if we do not take our stakeholders, despite the sizes of their geography and economy?

Before imagining an inclusive world and a just world order, I think it will be worthwhile for us to define International Relations from the perspectives of our youths. What, in the first place, are International Relations for them? Is it merely the political or diplomatic relations among nations? Is it security issues, trade and commerce, import and export of goods, military exchange or migration of citizens? Is it also sharing natural resources, fighting the common evil together, or dealing with common problems like climate change, fossil fuel crisis and dwindling critical resources? Does International Relations also entail culture and civilization? Does it have any room for intangible heritages like art, architecture, music, dance and literature?

The older definitions will not do. Newer thoughts should come up, and undoubtedly, they should come from the younger generation. We should leave it to them to define the world tomorrow. They must respond to the existing divisions and mitigate them so that every nation has a say on the international stage and the world does not get divided among humiliating cleft lines.

This seminar hosts scholars from Nepal and India to understand why Nepal and India matter. There are a couple of reasons, both logistical and strategic. Speaking logistically, Nepal and India do not have much diplomatic decorum to observe. Traveling between Nepal and India is easy, as there are no visa obligations, and not many migratory hassles, including high travel expenses, bother us. Strategically speaking, India, as the biggest democracy in the world, stands as a big ideal and model for emerging democratic nations like Nepal. Over the years, India has emerged as one of the most reliable and decisive international players. Maintaining a neutral and non-aligned stance, India has become the center of hope for all, including conflicting and hostile countries, as they believe that India can show the path ahead and resolve the existing crisis, including wars and other minor disputes. In the wake of these developments, scholars with first-hand experiences from India can be extremely resourceful. Similarly, scholars from Nepal will represent an emerging country that has institutionalized peace, cultivated and nourished democracy, and sent the world the most enduring philosophies of peace and mutual co-existence on the cultural front.

The planned seminar, scheduled to take place tomorrow and the day after, will progress in a partly informal way so that speakers can open up better and discuss the issues with the whole of their hearts. Seasoned scholars with long work experiences on the fronts of mutual relationship and diplomacy will chair the sessions, no doubt, but the entire arrangement will guarantee an ambience of informality, freedom and unrestrained expressions.

We hope the seminar will chart out meaningful ideas to help us define our mutual relationship between Nepal and India and the world order tomorrow. We also believe the discussions help us address the voices, needs and aspirations of smaller countries like Nepal and give them a meaningful and dignified presence in the new emerging world.

I thank the Rt. Honourable Prime Minister of Nepal, Shri Sher Bahadur Deuba, for sparing time and gracing this session as its chief guest despite his extremely busy schedule in the Prime Minister's Office. I also thank the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Narayan Khadka, for being with us this evening as our Guest of Honour. I thank our esteemed guests of honor, their Excellencies, the Ambassadors of India, the USA and Israel, for managing time and kindly accepting our invitations to grace this session. I thank paper presenters from India and Nepal, Chairs of different technical sessions, participants, friends from the media and all our invitees and well-wishers for your presence, goodwill and support.

Thank you very much.



Mark Templer

Acting Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM), USA

धन्यवाद । सभाका सभापतिज्यू, सम्माननीय प्रधानमन्त्रीज्यू, माननीय परराष्ट्र मन्त्रीज्यू, विशेषातिथिज्यूहरू । कार्यक्रममा आमन्त्रण गर्नुभएकोमा धन्यवाद । हामी यहाँ आज किन उपस्थित छौं ? मलाई लाग्छ कि यस कार्यक्रमको उद्देश्य धेरै राम्रो छ । हाम्रा पुस्ताहरूले लोकतन्त्रका लागि धेरै योगदान गर्नुभएको छ । उहाँहरूले देखाउनुभएको बाटोमा अगाडि बढ्ने जिम्मेवारी अब युवा पुस्ताको काँधमा आएको छ । विश्व कै भविष्य युवा पुस्ताको नेतृत्वमा अगाडि बढिरहेको देख्दा हामीलाई खुशी लागेको छ । हामी विश्वास गर्छौं कि नेपालीहरूलाई अवसर दिइयो भने उनीहरूले अद्भूत काम गर्न सक्छन् । नेपालीहरूले यो कुरा बारम्बार प्रमाणित गरेका छन् । अंग्रेजीमा अलिकति व्याख्या गर्न चाहन्छु ।

This week, I had a chance to meet nine Nepali climbers, including Mingma Sherpa (14 Peaks fame), and they reached the top of Mt. Denali in Alaska, United States. It's our highest mountain for us, but for Nepal, it's just a small hill. The greatest mountaineers in the history of the world are all from Nepal. We have seen Nepali-founded companies flourish in both countries. I think of K & A firm. It's run by a Nepali American in America. It has created hundreds of jobs in both countries. It's helping American utilities upgrade their greens to do green power. Similarly, Lifra Technologies, run by a Nepali, helped American cities distribute vaccines during the COVID crisis. Nepali Americans are doing great things all over the world. We think of people like Bishnu Maya Pariyar. Her story is part of the Massachusetts state school curriculum, and she advises the mayor of New Jersey City. Kiran Joshi founded Incessant Rain Studio, which created animation for Kung Fu Panda. Pradip

Humagain just returned from America, and he is the football team's coach. Arthur Gunn, also known as Dibesh Pokharel, was a runner-up in the 2020 American Idol competition. Prabal Gurung designed outfits for Barack and Michelle Obama. Nepali peacekeepers are all over the world. Nepal is the second-largest provider of peacekeeping forces and the largest per capita, and it has a strong tradition of loving peace. Nepal is known for its amazing people and beautiful scenery and its strong commitment to democracy, human rights, and global peace. Everything the United States does here in Nepal is to support this country's amazing people and empower them to do even greater things at home and abroad.

अन्त्यमा, म फेरी अलिकति नेपाली भाषामा व्याख्या गर्न चाहन्छु । जहाँसम्म अमेरिकाको नेपालसँगको सम्बन्धको बारेमा कुरा छ, हामी स्पष्ट छौं र स्पष्ट पार्न चाहन्छौं । हामी नेपाललाई एक बलियो, सार्वभौम, लोकतान्त्रिक र समृद्ध राष्ट्र भएको हेर्न चाहन्छौं । हामी पारस्परिक सम्मानमा आधारित सम्बन्ध चाहन्छौं । हामी नेपाल र आफ्ना छिमेकीसँग पारस्परिक सम्मानमा आधारित बलियो सम्बन्ध बनाएको हेर्न चाहन्छौं । अन्त्यमा पुनः एकपटक भन्न चाहन्छु ।

हामी नेपाललाई pro USA, pro India वा pro China होइन pro Nepal भएको हेर्न चाहन्छौं । अमेरिका नेपालको लोकतन्त्र र मानव अधिकारको संरक्षण र आर्थिक समृद्धिमा हातेमालो गर्न चाहन्छ । यहाँहरूलाई आउँदै गरेको बडादशैंको शुभकामना । आयोजकलाई पुनः एक पटक धन्यवाद । नमस्ते ।



Hanan Goder

His Excellency Ambassador of Israel to Nepal

I apologize; my Nepali is not as fluent as my friend's. मेरो इजरायली नाम हानेन गोदेर हो तर मेरो नेपाली नाम दिल बहादुर हो । This seminar is on international relations; I think the title is Nepal and the World Order. We have an open question: Is there a world order? Is there an order, or maybe there is a disorder? Has diplomacy led the world to achievements and eternal peace, or has it led to conflicts? Unfortunately, there was a different vision in the last 10–20 years; today, the vision is different. However, there must be peace and order that respects all countries.

When we talk about Nepal, whether we talk about the Nepal of 2022 or a few hundred years ago, when it was a tiny kingdom surrounded or even locked and not open, things have changed not only in Nepal but worldwide. Things have also changed in the Middle East. I come from Jerusalem; I come from Israel. It's a small country. The size of Israel is about one of the provinces of Nepal. Many people, when they hear about Israel, they think it's a big country. It is not. Still, we are all equal. One hundred ninety-three members of the United Nations are all equal. We all have the vote and are equal and sovereign in this aspect. Nepal and Israel established their relations very well in 1960. We mark it and celebrate it.

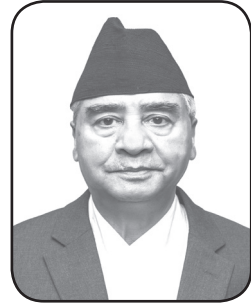
In Sundarijal, in the BP museum, we had a very nice event to remember the courageous step taken in 1960. Israel and Nepal have had excellent relations ever since. Israel will never forget. At that time, Nepal was the

first and, for 30 years, the only country in this part of the world to have relations with Israel. Thank you. I think this is a lovely example of how countries can cooperate over the years. And when countries cooperate, especially when they are small countries, it is for the benefit of both countries. As we look at the global map, we know we have small, small, medium, and big countries. It is a reality, but the importance of countries in this world is not defined by their size or area. In this aspect, we must remember that despite being small, you have your moral views. Prime Minister, your views here are more important than those of other big countries. I don't want to say the name because your international policy is of no interest to me. Your international policy is becoming this way because you view everything as it is. This is an important message that you need to understand. Big or small, we are all the same. Sometimes, when you are a small country like Nepal or Israel surrounded by big forces, the reality is that when big forces conflict, it becomes our problem.

On the contrary, when big forces are allies, it also becomes our problem. In either case, it is a challenge. For small countries, running international policy is always a challenge.

We appreciate your friendship and ensure that it will continue for the first 62 years, the next 62 years, and 622 years. Thank you very much for all the good efforts, good relations, and good work that you are doing.

धैरे धैरे धन्यवाद ।



Shri Sher Bahadur Deuba
Rt. Honourable Prime Minister

Honourable Minister for Foreign Affairs, Distinguished Scholars, Media Persons, Ladies and Gentlemen !

I feel happy to address the inaugural session of this international seminar. I thank the Neeti Anusandhan Pratishthan, Nepal (NeNAP) for convening this event.

In the fast-changing international environment, events like these can help better understand the context and elements of international relations.

Today, the world is witnessing significant events in international politics that will impact the future course of the world order.

It is natural for us to expect that any change in the world order must take care of the needs and aspirations of developing countries like Nepal.

Therefore, Nepal always speaks for a world order that is just, equitable, inclusive, and fair to everyone. We call for a world order that respects the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. We strongly believe in multilateralism with the United Nations at its center.

Dear Friends,

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted lives, livelihoods and economies everywhere. The fallout of economic distress has been more acute in the developing countries, including in our region.

The pandemic revealed the anomalies of the unequal world –where the most vulnerable were the hardest hit.

The economic hardship caused by the pandemic is multiplied by other large-scale crises in recent times.

The prices of fuels, food and fertilizers have surged, supply chains have been disrupted, and international travel costs have risen.

The inflationary pressures have added stress on the economies. The least developed countries, in particular, face the cumulative brunt of the crises.

Such mega crises will impact Nepal's planned graduation process from the status of an Least Developed Country (LDC).

In addition, non-traditional threats, such as climate change, add to the difficulties. Climate change poses an existential threat. As Nepal is a country with high mountains, the impact is more acute.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Nepal's foreign policy is guided by the parameters outlined in our Constitution.

The principles enshrined in the charter of the United Nations, non-alignment, international law and values of world peace make the essence of our foreign policy.

Sovereign equality, territorial integrity, mutual interest and mutual benefits guide our foreign policies.

We enjoy cordial and friendly relations with both of our neighbors.

Our relations with our friends in the extended neighborhood, big powers, development partners, and the countries of destination of our migrant workers have been traditionally friendly and cooperative.

Nepal's contribution to international peace and security through participation in the United Nations (UN) peace operations has been widely acknowledged by the international community. This contribution is unique and distinct, and Nepal has rendered it for the past 64 years in the service of the UN mandate. At present, Nepal stands as the second largest troop-contributing country in the UN peace keeping mission.

We advocate for complete and general disarmament of all weapons of mass destruction and reallocation of those resources for economic development.

We believe in the peaceful resolution of disputes through diplomacy and dialogue, which is morally correct and in the interest of greater humanity.

The maladies that the world is confronting today must be addressed for good. Concerns of the poorest and most vulnerable countries should receive priority both in terms of policies and action. As a peace-loving country, Nepal remains committed to playing its due role in such endeavors.

In this vein, we believe in an inclusive, democratic, and just international order that offers opportunities to all states, big or small, rich or poor, to prosper and thrive.

I am confident that the deliberations of this seminar will be fruitful in assessing the various dimensions of international affairs.

I wish you every success of the seminar.

Thank you!

Closing Ceremony
28 August 2022



Dr. Abhishek Srivastava

Thank you Binay ji. Respected honourable former PM of Nepal Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda ji, honourable deputy speaker of House of Representative, Nepal Pushpa Bhusal ji and Honourable Director of Neeti Anusandhan Pratishthan, Nepal Deepak Kumar Adhikari ji. Let me begin by thanking the organizers for including me as a co-convener from India in this conference. We started on 26 August. The inaugural session was blessed by the honourable Prime Minister of Nepal, Shri Sher Bahadur Deuba ji, honourable Foreign Minister Dr. Narayan Khadka ji, Israel Ambassador to Nepal, his excellency Mr. Hannan Godar, Acting Chief of Mission of the United States, his excellency Mr. Mark Templer. Many social and political personalities were also there.

We had two days of an intense academic discussion that started on 27 August. We presented 26 papers: 15 from India and 11 from Nepal. On day 1st, there were four sessions. The first session was on “Nepal in New Global Order.” In this session, we discussed the role of Nepal in the emerging global order and the role of major external players in Nepal as well. There were four presenters to present this session. The second session was on “Involvement, Climate Change and the Burden of Developing States”. It was an interesting session about the climate change issue, involvement challenges and the mitigation of carbon emissions. These challenges are burdening the developing states and small states daily. The third session was on “Democracy 2.0; Actors and Issues”. In this session, we discussed the role of civil society, how the actors are strengthening our democracy, and how, in the future, democratic countries across the globe can work together to

make the world more democratized. The last session of the first day was on “Foreign policy counters of Developing states”. In this interesting session, there was a paper on the role of Nepal and its contribution to the United Nations. With all these deliberations and discussions, we ended our first day.

We started the second day with a special session about Nepal’s foreign policy and the shape it is turning into. The deputy Executive Director of the Institute of Foreign Affairs, Nepal Mr. Rajendra Pandey, delivered it. Another session was on “Multilateralism, Minilateralism and Multi polarity in New World Order”. There was a very interesting paper on India, Nepal and Japan’s context..... the relationship between countries on different dynamics and different subjects. Another session was on “Countries’ connection over culture and the search for old routes,” in which we discussed our culture, traditions, and routes. Similarly, the next session was on “Development 2.0: Industries, Infrastructures and Innovation”. In this session, we discussed the future programme, challenges and innovation. The last session chaired by Dr. Deepak Kumar Adhikari ji was on “India-Nepal Youth Dialog”. In this way, within two days, we concluded eight sessions. We discussed tradition, technology, energy, education, customs, commerce, and religion to resources.

We have covered almost all areas. All these deliberations come under the four pillars in a few words i.e. सम्बन्ध, सुरक्षा, स्वावलम्बन और संस्कृति . These four words are the key takeaway for the audiences and the speakers as well. In the youth dialogue, we discussed India and Nepal’s mutual engagement and cooperation. In this context, I must say that दोनोका साथ है दोनोका विकास. I humbly request that we need more such conferences and seminars with specific issues to talk about like this one. We can invite eminent personalities from different areas like business, management, law, and medicine to gain deeper insights into India-Nepal relations. This is an opportunity for me to speak in front of Nepal’s great leader. Thank you so much for this opportunity.



Honourable Deputy Speaker Pushpa Bhusal

House of Representatives

Thank you ! Convener of the seminar Dr. Binay Kumar Mishra, Honourable Pushpa Kamal Dahal ‘Prachanda’, Chairman of the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Center) and Former Prime Minister of Nepal, Deepak Kumar Adhikari, Director of Neeti Anusandhan Pratishtan, Nepal.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Namaste, It is my immense pleasure to be a part of this programme. First, I would like to congratulate you on the success of this seminar organized by Neeti Anusandhan Pratishtan. I believe that this international seminar has benefited everyone by allowing the exchange of ideas on different topics by experts and delegates. I look forward to participating in this kind of progressive seminar.

Dear friends, Nepal has made its presence in the world by achieving inclusive democracy through the peace process and political change. Therefore, our responsibility is to preserve our achievements, including geographical and demographic diversity, because they represent our global image.

The new constitution of Nepal guides the nation in formulating and maintaining foreign policies. Our foreign policy is basically directed by ‘panchashil’, which helps to maintain stable and good relations with countries worldwide.

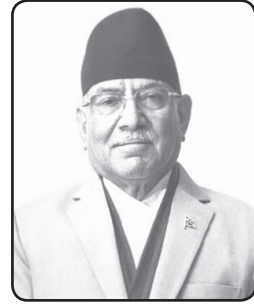
As a member of the United Nations, Nepal is committed to protecting human rights practices and providing everyone with fundamental rights. The state believes in democratic norms and global peace. Thus, Nepal has the second-highest peacekeeping force among countries participating in UN peacekeeping programmes. The world faces various challenges, including a global health pandemic, economic recession, food crisis, refugee crisis, global warming and climate change. There should be a systematic solution to these problems. The effort of one country can't solve these problems but should be addressed globally.

Global problems can only be resolved by improved cooperation and democratic decision-making. The rise of new powers has threatened the old world order. At the same time, complex problems like climate change, poverty, refugee crises, etc., need fresh ideas fostered by rising leaders. As the global front lines of democracy and human rights fall short of their responsibilities, youths must be represented in decision-making bodies and incorporated into global institutions. With a more inclusive international society, the problems of the day can be addressed with an eye on the issues of tomorrow.

The traditional relationship among states has gradually evolved as norms of internal relations have changed. People-to-people relations have increased the significance of non-state actors, their relationships shaped by cultural ties and global connectivity by advancement in technological innovations. This time, young leaders have increasingly occupied high offices in governments and international organizations globally. The increasing role of youth in global decision-making reflects the changing global demography. Diversity entails cohesion.

Dear friends, as an ambassador, engage with a diverse world population, peer learning and then share the knowledge. Learn the processes outside your nation and bring them in. And lastly, I would like to end with a quote by Franklin D. Roosevelt, who once said, "We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future".

Thank you.



Rt. Honourable Pushpa Kamal Dahal (Prachanda)

Chairman of the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre) and Former Prime Minister

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Deputy Speaker, distinguished delegates, friends, ladies and gentlemen.

At the very outset, let me express my profound happiness for being part of this crucial international seminar on such a vital subject, “International Relations: Nepal and the World Order”. Therefore, I sincerely thank Neeti Anusandhan Pratishthan, Nepal for organizing this seminar on such a vital issue concerning Nepal’s international relations and inviting me as a chief guest of the concluding session.

Such programmes serve as important platforms for discussing and exploring the dynamics of international relations in this rapidly changing global world order. The changing dynamics of international relations bring challenges as well as opportunities for us. In this context, our basic focus should be to comprehend such challenges and opportunities better while formulating and implementing policies. The fundamental objective of our foreign policy should be guided towards addressing the present challenges and utilizing the opportunities of the current global system in an effective manner that serves the needs and interests of our country and people.

The seminar is timely and its theme is appropriate which has enthralled me. This seminar is thus expected to have a far-reaching impact and broaden our perspective in looking at newer turns of events in the neighbourhood as well as in the broader international arena and

accordingly conduct our foreign policy and international relations. I am optimistic that the best brains who have gathered here would come up with their innovative ideas, suggestions and recommendations, which would be helpful for all of us in charting out the future course of foreign policy and the conduct of international relations as well as adopt the strategy on how best we can benefit from the developments in the neighborhood and the world.

Our constitution has clearly set forth the objectives and priorities of our foreign policy, which seek to enhance the dignity of the nation by safeguarding sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence and promoting economic well-being and prosperity of Nepal and contributing to global peace, harmony and security.

The Directive Principles of the Constitution says: The State shall direct its international relations towards enhancing the dignity of the nation in the world community by maintaining international relations based on sovereign equality while safeguarding the freedom, sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence and national interest of Nepal, while the State Policy on priorities of foreign policy is defined as to: conduct an independent foreign policy based on the Charter of the United Nations, non-alignment, principles of Panchasheel, international law and the norms of world peace, taking into consideration of the overall interest of the nation, while remaining active in safeguarding the sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence and national interest of Nepal; to review treaties concluded in the past, and make treaties, agreements based on equality and mutual interest.

The constitution also guides the conduct of our foreign policy based on principles of mutual respect, territorial integrity and sovereignty, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, respect for mutual equality, non-aggression and the peaceful settlement of disputes; cooperation for mutual benefit; abiding faith in the Charter of the United Nations; and value of world peace. We conduct our international relations, foreign policy and diplomacy based on the constitutional principles, priorities and guidelines.

Nepal is a vital geographic location, giving a greater geopolitical prominence. With the dawn of the 21st century, international power and geopolitics have significantly shifted. Asia is becoming the epicentre of global power. All predictions have it that the 21st century will be the Asian century, in which Asian countries, especially China and India, will have a more significant role due to their physical size, economy and demographic dynamics. China is already the second-largest economy and India is the fifth-largest. China and India have marched fast and firmly to become key global powers.

The spectacular rise of China and India is a matter of pride for all Asians, including Nepal, as our next-door neighbors are global powers and the center of international attention. This is also an opportunity for Nepal to benefit from the development of our two neighbours in getting rid of abject poverty, mass unemployment and backwardness. Development is a long-term and time-consuming process that requires vision, enduring patience, sustained policy measures and determination. The level of development these two great neighbours have achieved is not an overnight accomplishment. They have achieved this feat through the arduous struggle of the people, visionary leadership, sustained growth and sustainable development policies. During their march to modernization and advancement, both Chinese and Indian people made sacrifices and went through many ups and downs and difficulties. Their trajectory and experiences on the path to prosperity could be a great lesson for all of us; we can and should benefit greatly from their experiences.

A decade ago, I proposed a trilateral framework for peace, development and cooperation among Nepal, India and China. Nepal is not merely a buffer state but can be a vibrant bridge between India and China. We know their core concerns, always pay special attention to them and address them accordingly. If Nepal, India and China build a trilateral framework for development, it will have far-reaching repercussions in the region and the world.

This is the age of globalisation, and we cannot escape from this. In the present era of globalisation, all countries are interconnected. Countries cannot prosper in isolation. This is also the age of cooperation and collaboration. We can prosper only when we cooperate and collaborate with one another. Greater collaboration between nations is fundamental for peace, development and prosperity.

Nepal has no enemies but all friends. We have been receiving goodwill and cooperation from all countries in the world. I am optimistic that we will continue to collaborate in the future. Only through mutual cooperation, we can solve the multiple problems and contradictions and face global challenges. The COVID-19 Pandemic also exposed how vulnerable we are and gave us a strong message for the greater necessity of cooperation and collaboration.

The world order has also witnessed a remarkable transformation. The world is slowly moving from uni-polar to multipolar order. Nepal has always been an advocate of multi-polar order. Our constitution states that we have strong faith in the UN Charter and non-alignment in international relations.

We live in an era of multiple contradictions. Countries in the global south are suffering from poverty, inequality and backwardness. The countries in the global south are yet to reap benefits from globalisation. Now is the time for South Asian countries, including Nepal, to explore all possibilities and reap benefits from the newly developed global scenario and developments for common progress and prosperity. Peace and stability are the basic foundation for the development of prosperity. Nepal is a peaceful country; it advocates peace at home and everywhere. We can only march on the path of prosperity and modernization through peace and cooperation.

Thank you.

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