



EMBASSY OF NEPAL

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008

Press Release

Nepal and the United States of America have agreed to widen and deepen seven-decades long partnership to take their relationship to the next level.

Minister for Foreign Affairs Hon. Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali and the U. S. Secretary of State H.E. Mr. Michael Richard Pompeo had a productive bilateral meeting at the State Department in Washington D.C. this afternoon.

During the meeting, the overall state of bilateral relations and cooperation between Nepal and the United States of America was discussed. Hon. Mr. Gyawali highlighted the priorities of the Government of Nepal in line with its goal to graduate from LDCs status at an early date and become a middle-income country by 2030. Views were also exchanged on enhancing political relationship through exchange of visits and the ways and means for promoting economic cooperation between the two countries, with the particular focus on the areas of trade, investment and development assistance. The Foreign Minister and the Secretary of State also underlined the importance of early implementation of Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Compact to realize the benefit it offers.

Prior to the Ministerial Meeting, Nepal-US political consultation was held at the State Department. The meeting was co-chaired by Foreign Secretary Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi and Acting Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs Ambassador Ms. Alice G. Wells.

The agenda for discussion in the consultation meeting included policies and development priorities of Nepal, implementation of bilateral agreements, updates on MCC Compact, peace process of Nepal, development cooperation, trade and investment issues as well as matters pertaining to regional and global affairs.

Hon. Mr. Gyawali arrived in Washington D.C. yesterday leading a Nepali delegation to participate in the bilateral meeting with Secretary of State H.E. Mr. Pompeo. This was a first major official visit at the Ministerial level in recent years.

The other members of Nepali delegation include Ambassador of Nepal to the United States of America H.E. Dr. Arjun Kumar Karki, Joint Secretary at Ministry of Finance Mr. Shreekrishna Nepal, Joint Secretary at Ministry of Home Affairs Mr. Mahadev Panth as well as officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy of Nepal in Washington D.C.

The delegation of USA comprised Ambassador of USA to Nepal H.E. Randy W. Berry and senior officials from Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs at the State Department as well as senior officials from Department of State, Department of Commerce, USAID and Office of Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Hon. Mr. Gyawali is scheduled to hold meetings with Chief Operating Officer of MCC as well as with senior officials from Office of the Secretary of Defense and National Security Council tomorrow.

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Washington D.C.

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