

NRN Australia Melbourne Conference Declaration (11th July, 2009)

NRN Australia Third National Conference was held successfully in Melbourne, Victoria on July 11, 2009 with the theme *My Heritage, My Pride*. The conference was attended by large number of enthusiastic participants from all states and was highly successful in meeting the conference objectives.

The conference started with the formal inauguration by His Excellency Mr Yogendra Dhakal, Ambassador, and Mr Dev Man Hirachan, NRN ICC Vice-President lighting the traditional lamps (panas).

After the welcome speech by Mr Rishi Kandel, the Event Coordinator Ms Indra Ban, NRNA ICC Regional Coordinator for the Oceania; Mr Chandra Yonzon, Honorary Consul General for Victoria; Mr Dev Man Hirachan, NRNA ICC Vice President; His Excellency Mr Yogendra Dhakal, Ambassador and Mr Goba Katuwal, the President of the NRNA NCC-Australia and also the Session Chair all spoke about the roles played by NRN Australia.

NRN ICC Vice-President Mr. Dev Man Hirachan, who had come from Japan to attend the conference, praised NRN Australia for its past contributions in shaping the NRNA and hoped the Australian team will continue to play a proactive global role in the future as well.

The inaugural session was followed by a workshop in which 5 papers were presented and discussed. The workshop ended with the passing of the following resolutions. NRN Australia has agreed to take the resolution on board and Mr Hirachan has agreed to take these resolutions to the NRNA ICC.

1. NRN Role in Civic Society: it was agreed that

- There is a potential risk of Nepal failing to deliver a good governance system as different interests are colliding now. The time to act has come. NRN organizations, including NRNA, should also play roles of Nepali civil society actively.
- NRN Australia form a task force to develop and act on a common work program and submit it to the NRNA ICC
- NRN Australia to request NRNA ICC for a time slot in the fourth global conference to present a concept proposal of making NRNA also as part of Nepali civil society, discuss the work program, draw resolutions and act upon them.

2. **NRN and Youth Challenges: it was agreed that**
 - NRN Australia should support youth program and provide help in exploring better career opportunities.

3. **NRN Business Investment – Recent trends and Experience, Opportunities and Constraints: it was agreed that**
 - NRN Australia advocate for updating and continuation of reforms in business acts and regulations for increased flow of NRN investments.

4. **Knowledge Investment- NRN New Platform: it was agreed that**
 - NRN Australia request NRNA ICC to consider formally endorsing the NRN Knowledge Investment Concept Proposal
 - NRN Australia request NRNA ICC for its approval to present the concept proposal in NRN global conference in Kathmandu in October.
 - Further discussions and an appraisal meeting with the new NRN global team and concerned stakeholders (NAST, Ministry of Science and Technology) be held in Nepal after the conference to develop and submit the final detail proposal for follow up action.

5. **Skill Directory**
 - NRN Australia to continue updating skill directory and discuss with NRNA ICC about the progress and its application.

In a closed session following the workshop outgoing president Mr. Goba Katuwal presented financial report of fiscal year 2008/2009. Constitution committee chairman Mr. Bhawani Oli presented recent amendment in NRN constitution for endorsement. Both reports were approved unanimously. Election commissioner Mr. Jog limbu announced unanimously elected President Mr. Dhruva Subedi and 33 out of 41 executive members for the next two year term 2009-2011. NRN Australia has set an unprecedented example of team spirit and approach globally by electing the new executive team through consensus. Mr. Dev Man Hirachan, NRNA ICC Vice-President, administered the oath of office to the newly elected team before the closing of the closed session.



Newly elected NRN Australia executive team taking oath from Mr Dev Man Hirachan NRN ICC Vice-President

On this occasion NRN Australia also honoured various individuals for their outstanding achievements and significant contributions to the community. The awards were presented at the gala dinner and the details of the awards and their recipients are available at www.nrn.org.au

Platinum sponsors of this event were Crown Institute of Business & Technology, 4 Nations International, Gurkhas Institute of Hospitality & Management, Himalayan Masala Pty Ltd, Kandel Enterprises, Melbourne Institute of Technology (MIT), Nepalese Association of Victoria, Oli & Associates, Pacific College of Technology, Professional & Reliable Financial Services, Star Finance & Investment Pty Ltd, Thapa's Pty Ltd, The Integrated Australian Immigration Services Pty Ltd and TWGG International. Similarly, Gold sponsors were Gulmohar Education & Migration Services Pty Ltd, Himalaya Money Transfer, WorldNet and Yeti Travels. Silver sponsors were Australia Education & Career Consultants, Australia Education Pty Ltd, Bagchal Systems, Everest Communications, Himalayan Services Pty Ltd and Buddha Travels.

On top of these sponsors, a special grant was available from Mr. Shesh Ghale.

NRN Australia gratefully acknowledges their generous financial support to make this event great success.

A special souvenir to commemorate the occasion and last two years achievements of NRN Australia is available online on www.nrn.org.au.