

Himalayas to Ocean

Year-1, Issue1 (June 2025)



**# Dimensions of
Nepal-Australia
Bilateral
Relations**

**Melbourne Summit
Special Edition**



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Himalayas to Ocean: A Journey of Friendship and Culture

Dear Readers,

It is with great pleasure that we present to you this special edition of Himalayas to Ocean, a magazine dedicated to celebrating the vibrant and growing ties between Nepal and Australia. This edition, published on the occasion of the Melbourne Summit, stands as a symbol of friendship, cooperation, and shared vision between our two nations - one nestled in the lap of the majestic Himalayas, and the other stretching across a continent from the Great Dividing Range to the vast Pacific Ocean.

At its heart, Himalayas to Ocean is more than just a publication. In real sense, it is a testament to the enduring friendship, mutual respect, and shared aspirations that unite our two nations. It is a cultural bridge - connecting histories, people, landscapes, and aspirations.

In recent years, the Nepal-Australia relationship has grown in scope and substance. From diplomatic partnerships to thriving educational exchanges, from collaborative development projects to a steadily increasing flow of tourists and business delegations, our bond continues to flourish in dynamic and meaningful ways. This magazine seeks to honor that progress while offering readers a broader perspective on what makes this bilateral relationship so unique.

This edition offers a compelling blend of narratives. You will find vivid features on some of the most breathtaking tourist destinations and spiritual landmarks of Nepal - including the serene peace of Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha; the bustling cultural heart of Kathmandu Valley; and the trekking routes that wind through the snow-covered Himalayas.

Equally, we showcase Australia's rich cultural diversity and natural grandeur - from the sacred site of The Great Stupa of Indigo to the vibrant multicultural streets of Melbourne and Sydney, and the pristine coastal wonders that draw millions of visitors every year.

But this magazine is not just about places. It

is about people - the students, scholars, artists, entrepreneurs, and everyday citizens who build bridges of understanding across borders. The Nepali diaspora in Australia has played a pivotal role in weaving this fabric of friendship, enriching the social, economic, and cultural life of their adopted home while maintaining deep ties to their roots.

We also take this opportunity to reflect on shared values - democracy, multiculturalism, environmental stewardship, and mutual respect - that provide a strong foundation for continued collaboration in education, tourism, climate resilience, and technology. As global challenges become increasingly interconnected, partnerships like the one between Nepal and Australia become all the more vital.

This special edition would not have been possible without the generous support, insight, and contributions of numerous individuals and organizations for their invaluable guidance and encouragement.

We extend our gratitude to the contributors, artists, photographers, diplomats, cultural experts, and editorial advisors who made this issue possible. Most importantly, we thank you - our readers - for being a part of this journey from the Himalayas to ocean.

To our readers, whether you are a seasoned traveler, a student of international relations, a business leader, or a curious soul discovering these stories for the first time - thank you for embarking on this journey with us. We hope Himalayas to Ocean inspires you to explore, connect, and contribute to the ever-evolving relationship between these two remarkable nations.

Warm regards,



Dan Ghising



Hotel Tradition & Spa is a well-rated boutique hotel in the heart of Thamel, Kathmandu, offering a peaceful and comfortable stay with a touch of traditional Nepali charm. The hotel features clean, air-conditioned rooms with modern amenities and free Wi-Fi.

Guests can enjoy a daily buffet breakfast, and the in-house restaurant is known for its quality Nepali and continental dishes. A complimentary morning yoga class is available for in-house guests, adding a relaxing start to the day. The on-site spa offers massages, a steam room, and a sauna-perfect for unwinding after exploring the city.

With attentive staff, travel assistance, and a quiet location close to shops and attractions, it's a great choice for travelers seeking comfort and convenience in Kathmandu.



Hotel Tradition And Spa

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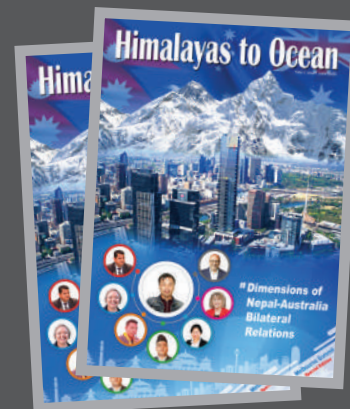
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Himalayas to Ocean

Year-1, Issue1 (June 2025)

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Dimensions of Nepal-Australia Bilateral Relations

- ➔ Even before the formal diplomatic ties, the Australian government and private sector were actively supporting Nepal's socio-economic development in areas such as health, education, hydropower, forestry, agriculture, good governance, civil aviation, and animal husbandry.

Nepal and Australia established diplomatic relations on February 15, 1960. Australia opened its embassy in Kathmandu in 1984 at the chargé d'affaires level, upgrading it to ambassadorial level in 1986. Nepal established its resident embassy in Canberra in March 2007, officially inaugurated in September the same year.

Notably, even before the formal diplomatic ties, the Australian government and private sector were actively supporting Nepal's socio-economic development in areas such as health, education, hydropower, forestry, agriculture, good governance, civil aviation, and animal husbandry.

The Nepal–Australia Parliamentary Friendship Group was first formed in the Australian Parliament in 2009. Currently, the group is actively working for Nepal's interests under the co-chairmanship of Peter Khalil (Labor Party) and Senator Andrew Bragg (Liberal Party). Likewise, a similar group was formed in Nepal's Federal Parliament on October 3, 2023, chaired by Nepali Congress leader Gagan Kumar Thapa.

High-Level Visits

Foreign Minister Narayan Prakash Saud visited Australia from February 8 to 13 last year and participated in the Indian Ocean Conference. Likewise, chairperson of the National Assembly, Ganesh Prasad Timilsina, led a high-level parliamentary delegation to Australia from November 27 to December 2, 2023.

Other dignitaries like former Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal, Deputy PM Gopalman Shrestha, Tourism Minister Yogesh Bhattarai, Energy Minister Mahendra Bahadur Shahi, and State Minister for Finance Udaya Shamsher Rana, among others, have visited Australia at various times.

Speaker of the Australian House of Representatives, Milton Dick visited Nepal from October 3–7, 2023. Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, Tim Watts, paid two day official visit to Nepal from May 16, 2023. In earlier years, dignitaries such as Governor-General David Hurley (2016), MP Bob McMullan (2010), Foreign Minister Bill Hayden (1985), and Governor-General John Kerr (1975) also visited Nepal.

Bilateral Consultation Mechanism (BCM)

An agreement to establish a Bilateral Consultation Mechanism (BCM) between Nepal and Australia was signed in Canberra on July 14, 2017. The first meeting was held in Kathmandu from August 15 to 17, 2018, and the second meeting in Canberra on August 30, 2022. This mechanism has paved the way for regular

discussions on bilateral, regional, and global issues.

Previously channeled through AusAID, Australian aid is now administered through DFAT (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade). Australia's cooperation focuses on three pillars: health security, stability, and economic recovery. Australian support was notably significant during the earthquake and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Aligned with Nepal's poverty reduction strategy, Australian support has focused on health, education, livelihoods, good governance, peacebuilding, and human resource development. Australia has also assisted in HIV reduction, community forestry, peace processes, and micro-enterprise development.

Bilateral Relations

“Nepal–Australia relations have historically been friendly, cooperative, and multidimensional. Diplomatic, economic, educational, development assistance, tourism, and people-to-people ties are growing stronger each day.”

Nepal exports items such as carpets, felt products, tea, coffee, and handicrafts to Australia, while importing petroleum, dairy products, and beverages from Australia. In 2023, Nepal imported goods worth AUD 186 million from Australia but exported only AUD 16 million, reflecting a significant trade deficit.

On February 9, 2024, Nepal and Australia signed the Trade and Investment Framework Arrangement (TIFA), which is expected to strengthen trade and investment cooperation between the two countries.

In 2023, a total of 38,789 Australian tourists visited Nepal. This number had dropped in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but with improved conditions, tourist arrivals from Australia are expected to rise again. According to the 2021 Australian census, 122,515 people of Nepali origin reside in Australia and by mid-2023, approximately 179,000 Nepalese born people were living in Australia. Nepali students make up the third-largest international student community in Australia.



“ Nepal exports items such as carpets, felt products, tea, coffee, and handicrafts to Australia, while importing petroleum, dairy products, and beverages from Australia. ”

Nepal–Australia relations have historically been friendly, cooperative, and multidimensional. Diplomatic, economic, educational, development assistance, tourism, and people-to-people ties are growing stronger each day. Mechanisms like TIFA and high-level visits are expected to deepen and expand this relationship in the days to come.

Economic and Trade Relations

Nepal was Australia's 33rd largest trading partner with two-way trade valued at \$3.9 billion in 2022/023. It ranked as our third largest trading partner in South Asia in 2022/023, behind Bangladesh at \$4.1 billion and India \$45.0 billion.

As Australia's third largest source of international students, Nepal is our seventh largest services exports market with education services valued at

\$3.4 billion in 2022/023. Nepal exported \$160 million worth of goods to Australia in 2022/023, mostly in tourism.

Australia's merchandise trade with Nepal has increased in recent years with trend growth of 19 per cent over the last five years to 2022/023.

According to Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) trade data, Australia's merchandise trade with Nepal was worth \$161 million in 2022/023, with Australian exports accounting for \$145 million. Australia's exports of goods to Nepal, when including re exports via India and Singapore, are estimated to be higher than officially reported.

In 2022/023, goods imports from Nepal were worth \$16 million and included carpets, cereal, and jeweler. Australia was Nepal's sixth largest source of foreign direct investment in 2021/022 and accounted for five percent of Nepal's total foreign investment.

People-to-People Links

Nepal-born people living in Australia are Australia's fastest growing and 9th largest migrant community. Nepali-Australian diaspora communities, students and alumni in Australia make important contributions and play a vital role contributing to the community and bilateral relationship. They make an invaluable contribution back to Nepal at different levels of society.

The Australian Chapter of the Non-Resident Nepali Association (NRNA) is recognized by the Government of Nepal. It helps promotes Nepali culture and supports increasing trade and investment ties between Australia and Nepal amongst other broad objectives. The second largest Nepali diaspora organization is the Federation of Nepalese Community Associations of Australia (FeNCAA).

Development Program

In 2023/024, Australia provided an estimated \$27.2 million in ODA, focused on governance, climate and disaster resilience, gender equality and social inclusion. Australia's development program supports Nepal's development pathways and their graduation from Least Developed Country status in 2026.

The flagship Subnational Governance Program (SNGP) supports Nepal's transition to federalism through institutional capacity building. It clarifies functions among the different levels of government including local, provincial, and federal, facilitates dispute resolution related to the roll-out of federalism, and promotes inclusive decision-making and service delivery.

Through a Memorandum of Understanding on Water Resource Management led by Nepal's Water Energy Commission Secretariat, Australia shares lessons and expertise in areas of mutual interest such as river basin planning and governance, the energy-water nexus, climate change and disaster risk reduction.

Under a partnership with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Australia helps respond to challenges faced by mountain communities in the Hindu Kush Himalayas, complementing the work of other development partners, including the Government of the United Kingdom.

Under the Australian NGO Cooperation Program, Australian NGOs in partnership with local organizations deliver more than 40 projects in Nepal



in areas such as: communicable diseases, disability, disaster risk reduction, economic development, education, eye health, food security, gender, health, human rights, livelihoods, microfinance, inequality reduction and rural development.

In May 2021, Australia provided an additional \$7 million to assist Nepal respond to COVID-19 for medical equipment and supplies; storage and distribution of relief supplies; coordination and other essential services.

The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) and CSIRO are active in Nepal, focusing on improved integration of soil, water, crop, livestock and forestry components of farming systems and river basin management.

Over 1,000 Nepalis have participated in the

Australia Awards program to date, with alumni now in key leadership positions in government and business.

Political Overview

Following a 10-year civil war (1996-2006), in 2008, the then newly elected Constituent Assembly declared Nepal a Federal Democratic Republic, abolishing their 240-year-old monarchy. Nepal now has a President as Head of State and a Prime Minister heading the Government. Their new Constitution was adopted in 2015.

Following their 2022 Nepali general election, Communist Party of Nepal Maoist Centre (CPN-MC) Chairman, Pushpa Kamal Dahal, assumed office as Prime Minister from 26 December 2022. He formed a 10-party coalition government with the Nepali Congress Party. On 4 March 2024, Dahal ended this coalition and formed a new coalition with the CPN (UML) and other smaller parties.

Economic Overview

Nepal has a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of approximately USD40.8 billion and a per capita annual income of USD 1,336 (2022 data). Building on GDP growth of 1.9 per cent in 2022-2023, the economy is projected to grow by 5.1 per cent in 2023-2024, on the back of stronger overseas remittances, tourism recovery and lower inflation.

In 2022, just over 52.3 percent of Nepal's GDP came from its service sector. Agriculture contributed the second largest, and eleven percent came from the industry sector. Nepal's GDP is reliant on overseas remittances. Other key components of their GDP include tourism, carpets, textiles, processed seed oils and small rice.

Nepal has been a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) since April 2004. The WTO membership helps Nepal integrate with the global trading system. The Government of Nepal took steps to attract investment, including from foreign investors. The 3rd Nepal Investment Summit in Kathmandu on 28-29 April 2024 is an example of these efforts.

Tourism and Cultural Relations

Australian tourists are drawn to Nepal for adventure tourism, mountain trekking, cultural heritage, and nature exploration. Nepali handicrafts, traditional dress, ethnic culture, and religious tolerance have brought the two countries closer in cultural ties. The presence of the Nepali community in Australia's multilingual and multicultural society is further strengthening these relationships.

Uniting Nations Through Collaborations

Everest Day Celebration



O

n the initiative of Dhaulagiri Adventure and in collaboration with Himalayan Outreach International Australia, the 71st International Everest Day was celebrated with grandeur on 29 May 2024 at Ascot Vale, Melbourne, Australia. The event commemorated the historic moment when humans first set foot on the summit of Everest, and aimed to promote Nepal's tourism. The program saw significant participation from representatives of the Non-Resident Nepali Association (NRNA), Australians, Americans, and African guests.



Peter Khalil

Federal MP, Australia

Nepal–Australia Relations: A New Chapter of Cooperation

My connection with Nepal is not just diplomatic; it is emotional and historical. I have always felt privileged by the beauty of Everest, but more importantly, by the humanity, humility, and cultural richness I encountered in Nepal. Today, Nepal–Australia relations go beyond diplomacy and are evolving into genuine people-to-people partnerships.

I believe we can work more concretely in areas such as climate change, education, tourism, and social collaboration. Events like the Everest Festival here in Melbourne help build a bridge of humanity and friendship between our two nations.



Dan Ghising

Director
Dhaulagiri Adventure

The Land of Himalayas, A Story of Possibility

Everest is more than a mountain-it is identity, inspiration, and nature's calling. Celebrating Everest Day here in Melbourne reminds me of the fragile nature of the Himalayan region, the local way of life, and the profound impact of climate change. We need a new perspective on tourism-creative, inclusive, and responsible. Dhaulagiri Adventure is committed to promoting environmental conservation, cultural heritage, and social entrepreneurship in Nepal. With our Australian partners, we aim to launch projects based on 'Responsible Tourism'.

Nepali Community: The Cultural Soul of Our City

Lambros Tapinos

Deputy Mayor, Maribyrnong City Council

The Nepali community is not just part of our population-they are the cultural heartbeat of our city. Their music, dance, festivals, and communal spirit have made Maribyrnong more inclusive and vibrant. That's why we are preparing to establish a 'sister city' relationship with a municipality in Nepal, which will allow us to collaborate directly on education, culture, youth exchange, and small business development.

Everest Is Speaking- Are We Listening?

Raju Adhikari

Climate Scientist

The first warning of climate change is coming from Everest itself. The glaciers are melting, biodiversity is at risk, and communities are facing displacement. We are not just dealing with statistics-we are protecting human lives. Nepal-Australia cooperation can transform this challenge into opportunity-through research partnerships, educational initiatives, and innovation. Our duty is not only to talk-but to act meaningfully.

Nepali Talent on the Global Stage

Bom Yonjan

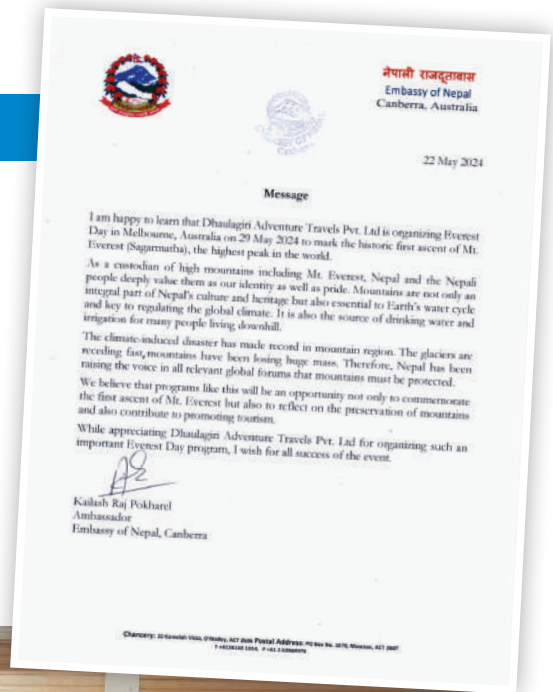
President, FINCA Australia

FINCA Australia has been empowering the Nepali community through small businesses and social enterprises. We believe Nepal's youth are full of energy, ideas, and entrepreneurial spirit. Our mission is to connect them to the world through resources, training, and networks.

Documentary, Photos and Cultural Performances

During the Everest day celebration, Speaking at the event were Mani Ratan Sapkota, Vice President of NRNA, Keshav Kandel, former President, and social leaders such as Ram Kumar Shrestha and Binita Sharma, alongside many socially active Nepali community members.

The event also featured a Nepal documentary screening, photo exhibitions, and cultural performances. Contributors and donors were awarded certificates of appreciation by Chairperson Thomas Kepler. The event was efficiently managed by Dambar Singh Kafle and Hamza Wariyo, and hosted by Doma Tamang. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Urmila Lama, President of Himalayan Outreach International Australia.



Maulik Films Pvt. Ltd., established in 2023, is a dynamic private company dedicated to preserving and promoting Nepali Maulik Sanskriti-Nepal's authentic cultural heritage. It serves as a creative platform for emerging and established artists, supporting musicians, dancers, folk performers, dramatists, and Filmmakers in expressing traditional art forms.

Led by renowned singer and Chairman Kumar Karki, Maulik Films organizes cultural events both in Nepal and internationally, including music concerts, dance festivals, and folklore showcases. Through its global outreach, the company highlights Nepal's rich traditions, strengthens cultural connections, and inspires future generations to take pride in their heritage.

In a rapidly changing world, Maulik Films remains committed to protecting Nepal's cultural identity by blending authenticity with creativity on the global stage.



Maulik Films Pvt. Ltd.
Celebrating Nepal's Cultural Heritage

CEO : Kumar karki
Artist : Anita Basnet

Kathmandu Summit



Nepal–Australia Leadership & Innovation Convention 2024: Kathmandu Summit for Sustainable Futures

The Nepal–Australia Leadership & Innovation Convention-2024 successfully concluded on August 2024 in Kathmandu, marking a historic milestone in bilateral cooperation between Nepal and Australia. The summit, held at Hotel Yak and Yeti under the theme 'Innovation for Sustainable Development', united government officials, innovators, experts, and cultural leaders from both countries to explore sustainable, inclusive partnerships.

Jointly organized by Dhaulagiri Adventure Pvt. Ltd. and Himalayan Outreach International Australia, and supported by the Foreign Employment Board, the Ministry of Labor and Social Security, and 11 municipalities from across Nepal, the event provided a dynamic platform for dialogue on urban-rural development, technology transfer, agricultural innovation, education, and cultural diplomacy.

According to the summit coordinator Dan Bahadur Ghising, the summit wasn't just about policy-it was about people. "We aimed to transform shared values into concrete partnerships, addressing real-world challenges with innovative solutions," he said.

Nepal Must Shift Toward a Knowledge Economy



Rajendra Giri

Honorary Consul of Nepal
to Ethiopia

It is the time to shift Nepal towards a knowledge economy and I think the strategic ties with Australia will play a key role for that transformation.

In today's world Nepal should not evolve beyond its traditional economic structures. The economy heavily reliant on remittances should be transformed to one powered by innovation, entrepreneurship, and digital capacity.

We must invest not only in infrastructure, but in human capital. Our youth must be equipped with 21st-century skills-technological literacy, critical thinking, and global citizenship. That is how Nepal will secure its rightful place in the global economy.

Nepal's future must be built on ideas, not just remittances; on innovation, not just tradition. Strategic diplomacy, such as what we are witnessing today, is no longer just about politics-it is about shaping the economic destiny of our people.



Basant Kumar Shrestha

Mayor
Baglung Municipality

Rural Nepal is Our Ecological Heart

Empowering rural municipalities as hubs of ecological stewardship and innovation is very much important. I want to call upon for partnerships that prioritize capacity-building and knowledge transfer over traditional donor-recipient models. Baglung's unique biodiversity and cultural heritage, I want to propose the collaborative projects in renewable energy, waste management, and climate-smart infrastructure to position it as a model municipality for green development.

Nepal's Agriculture Must Evolve

Sujata Tamang

Agricultural Innovation
Expert

As a leading voice in agro-research, I want to emphasize the urgent need for transforming Nepal's traditional farming systems into sustainable, resilient agro-enterprises. We can use the Australian expertise in climate-resilient agriculture to fulfill the Nepal's need for localized innovation. Forming joint research initiatives and farmer exchange programs that can introduce precision farming, irrigation technology, and seed innovation across Nepal's diverse terrains.



Kunsang Lama

Mayor
Namobuddha Municipality

Development Must Reach To The Grassroots

I want to give you the entire powerful message that the real development is only possible with inclusiveness. Municipalities like Namobuddha rich in cultural heritage and natural beauty can become living laboratories for innovation when supported with the right tools and partnerships. By investing in agritech, clean energy, and youth-focused vocational training, he believes Nepal and Australia can co-develop models that reduce rural poverty and empower local communities.



Hamza Wariyo

Author & Social Entrepreneur,
Australia

My Book is A Tribute to Nepal's Cultural Soul

I try to reflect my deep connection with Nepal, which inspired me to launch a book 'Nepal Hidden Treasure: A Journey Beyond Everest'. The innovation must not just be about technology or economics, but also about preserving what makes societies human-their culture, spirit, and values. My call resonated with cultural leaders, urging them to embed creativity and empathy into all development agendas.

About the Book

Nepal Hidden Treasure: A Journey beyond Everest is a deeply moving literary tribute that goes beyond the snowcapped peaks to explore the soul of Nepal-its people, culture, resilience, and quiet revolutions. Written by Australian author and social entrepreneur Hamza Wariyo, the book takes readers on an immersive journey across Nepal's diverse landscapes, revealing untold stories of rural innovation, spiritual depth, and cultural harmony.

While most narratives about Nepal begin and end with Mount Everest, Wariyo's work dares to go further. Through vivid storytelling, personal encounters, and philosophical reflection, he uncovers the "hidden treasures" of Nepal: its unsung heroes, grassroots changemakers, timeless traditions, and the extraordinary beauty of everyday life.

This book serves as both a literary bridge and a call to action, urging readers-especially from the global South and diaspora communities-to look beyond stereotypical representations of Nepal. It invites global citizens, development professionals, and cultural enthusiasts to appreciate the depth, dignity, and dynamism of Nepalese society. The book was officially launched during the Nepal-Australia Leadership & Innovation Convention 2024 in Kathmandu, symbolizing a powerful moment of cross-cultural dialogue and collaboration.



Andrew Gason

Motivational Speaker
Australia

Youth from Kathmandu to Sydney Must Co-create the Future

I always speak passionately about the role of youth in shaping sustainable futures. As a mentor and motivational speaker working with marginalized youth, I want to encourage both Nepalese and Australian youth to take ownership of their future. I am always looking forward for a youth innovation exchange, where young people can work on cross-cultural solutions in areas like climate justice, social entrepreneurship, and digital learning.



Mohan Krishna Shrestha

President of CDD Organisation,
Former Ambassador

Diplomacy Today Lives Through the People

The real diplomacy today lives through our people. This summit shows how community leaders now shape international cooperation. Because of the evolving nature of diplomacy, people-to-people ties, municipal alliances, and grassroots leadership are becoming critical in shaping global partnerships.

Summit like these always provides platform to local leaders and civil society voices, stating that such forums lay the foundation for a more engaged and responsive bilateral relationship between Nepal and Australia.

About the Speaker

Shrestha began his diplomatic career in 1983 and served for 31 years, with postings in Bangkok, Tokyo, and Abu Dhabi, including as Chargé d’Affaires a.i. He was appointed Ambassador to France in 2010, also serving as Non-resident Ambassador to Greece, Monaco, Portugal, and Spain, and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO.

At the Foreign Ministry, he worked in key divisions and served as Chief of Protocol, helping introduce Machine Readable Passports and managing high-level visits. He represented Nepal at major international forums, including three NAM Summits and several UN General Assemblies.

He visited 74 countries and speaks seven languages. His book, *Kutniti Ma Teen Dashak*, based on his diplomatic experience, is available in multiple languages. In 2018, he co-founded the Center for Diplomacy and Development (CDD), a Track II think tank. He remains committed to Nepal’s progress and international engagement.)

Participating Municipalities

Each municipality presented local development priorities and proposed collaborative initiatives reflecting Nepal’s rich geographic and cultural diversity.

- Kohalpur municipality
- Chhedagad municipality
- Lamki municipality
- Baglung municipality
- Tarakeshwar municipality
- Shivsachi municipality
- Mechi municipality
- Dodhara Chandani municipality
- Arjundhara municipality
- Dhorpatan municipality
- Namobuddha municipality

Melbourne Summit



“Melbourne Summit, 2025 Concludes with Emphasis on Innovation and Sustainable Development”

Embracing the core values of "Innovation, Collaboration, and Inclusive Leadership," the Melbourne Summit 2025 was successfully held on 23rd February at the Church of Scientology Hall in Ascot Vale, Melbourne. The event was organized by Himalayan Outreach International Australia and marked a historic milestone.

The summit brought together parliamentarians, mayors, councilors, entrepreneurs, educators, climate experts, sports professionals, social activists, and media representatives from Nepal, Australia, the USA, and other countries. It transcended traditional diplomatic boundaries, advancing a people-to-people framework for cooperation, development, and building a shared future between Nepal and Australia.

'The Nepali community is a cherished part of our society. Their hard work, cultural pride, and social contributions are truly inspiring.'

Prakash Jwala

Former Minister and MP
Nepal



'This summit fostered a collective approach to sustainable development. Challenges lie ahead, but through partnership and dialogue, solutions are within reach.'

Urmila Tamang

Summit Chairperson

'The Melbourne Summit is just the beginning. We plan to host similar global summits in the USA and Nepal, spreading the wave of innovation.'

Dipendra Bista

Member, National Sports Council, Nepal



'The Melbourne Summit is not just an event-it is a vision, a purpose, and a commitment to a shared future. Together, through innovation, we are opening new doors to sustainable partnerships between Nepal and Australia.'

Dan Ghising

International Liaison Officer, HOI, Australia.



'The Nepal–Australia relationship is now emotional and cultural, not just economic or social. We proudly represent Nepal's heritage and identity in a multicultural Australia!'

Maniratna Sapkota

Vice President, NRNA Australia

'Sports education and youth exchange can be a strong foundation for Nepal–Australia collaboration. This opens doors to fitness, leadership, and intercultural dialogue.'

Om Krishna Prasai
Nepal Sports University



'South Asian countries must collaborate on cross-border trade, women's empowerment, and innovation. Nepal holds vast potential in agriculture, tourism, and cultural exports.'

Sharmin Mishu
Journalist & Entrepreneur
Bangladesh



'Local governments must put innovation into practice. Priorities should include youth entrepreneurship, green infrastructure, and digital governance.'

Hari Prasad Kandel
Chief Administrative Officer
Baglung Municipality

'Mountainous regions like Dhorpatan face climate change, migration, and livelihood challenges. These summits amplify the voices of the unheard.'

Khim Gharti Magar
Ward Chair, Dhorpatan Municipality



'It is merely a great discussion about the importance of global peace and harmony, resonating with the summit's inclusive vision. Discussions spanned sports diplomacy, rural-urban planning, cross-border trade, and STEM-driven youth empowerment. The event concluded with a strong commitment to expand such impactful collaborations in Nepal and the USA.'

Kashi Adhikari
President, Global People Alliance (GPA),



'The Melbourne Summit 2025, held in Ascot Vale, was a landmark event highlighting innovation, AI, STEM education, and sustainable development. Organized by Himalayan Outreach International Australia, it brought together lawmakers, mayors, entrepreneurs, and experts from Nepal, Australia, the USA, and beyond. The summit beautifully celebrated Nepalese cultural heritage while fostering global partnerships.'

Pradip Bastola
General Secretary, Global People Alliance (GPA)

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Located in Shankharapur-09, Sanagau, Kathmandu
Contact: 9849323589 | 9803214546, Email: tilaklama2001@gmail.com

Chairman-Tilak Man Tamang



Kathleen Matthews-Ward

MP, Victoria State, Australia

A Tribute to the Nepalese Community in Victoria

represents the best of Victorian multicultural life and so I'm proud to be a part of the Allen Labor Government, who truly value all the different cultures that make up our wonderful state.

Victoria's greatest strength is our diversity. Our multicultural communities make us a better state and we are very proud that so many young people from Nepal choose to complete their studies here in Australia.

Victoria is stronger because of the contributions of our Nepalese community. I often brag about having the biggest Nepalese population in Victoria. With your strong work ethic and values of compassion, respect, kindness and generosity you are a shining example of what makes us one of the most successful multicultural and multifaith societies in the world and I thank everyone here for the enormous contribution you have made to our country.

You bring a wonderful sense of family, community

and social values that can be celebrated within the wider Australian community. Nepali people are kind, warm, hospitable, resilient, and always lots of fun. You bring unique perspectives, carried down through traditions and cultural connections.

But what I admire most is your sense of responsibility for the welfare of others and I having worked in aged care during the pandemic I will be forever grateful for all that our Nepalese community contributed to our health system during this time.

Supporting Victoria's multicultural and multi-faith communities remains a key priority for the Victorian Government. I am also very excited for the book launch of Dan Ghising's English version of "Winning Psychology in Sports," and encourage you all to get your copy signed by our very special author here.

Thanks for your hospitality, and the invitation to join you today, it's always an honour to be with you!

I would like to start by acknowledging the traditional owners of this land, the Wurundjeri, and I pay my respects to their Elders past and present. I also acknowledge the elders of the Nepalese Community here today and thank you for everything you do, for your wisdom and for the sacrifices you have made for the next generation. And the enormous contribution you have made to Australia and your assistance to your children to help them contribute.

The Nepalese community's commitment to building a strong community and the love and support you offer to those around you,

Documentaries and Cultural Shows

Documentary screening on 'Nepal and Innovation', Cultural performances – showcasing Nepali music, dance, and traditional attire and Panel Discussions – focused on climate justice, women-led enterprises, technology, and leadership development were the major attractions of the Melbourne Summit, 2025.

President of Film Producers Association of Nepal Nawal Khadka, President of the Lions Club of Werribee Raymond Lo, Vikram Gurung, Ram Kumar Shrestha, Binita Sharma, Suman Lamichhane, and other dignitaries were present during the summit.

At the conclusion of the summit, all participants expressed a united commitment to move forward with innovation, leadership exchange, youth empowerment, climate-resilient infrastructure, and international partnerships.

Nepal-Australia Felicitation Program

Celebrating the enduring friendship, cultural exchange, and shared values between Nepal and Australia, the 'Nepal–Australia: Cultural and Felicitation Program 2025' was successfully held on April 9, 2025 at Nepal Tourism Board.

The event was organized by Dhaulagiri Adventure Pvt. Ltd., with Maulika Films Pvt. Ltd. as co-organizer. The ceremony brought together distinguished guests, municipal leaders, entrepreneurs, media professionals, and social activists from both countries, highlighting the growing partnership in areas of culture, spirituality, and sustainable development.

The event was chaired by Ang Kami Sherpa, President of Dhaulagiri Adventure Pvt. Ltd., with Ian Green OAM, Chairman of The Great Stupa of Universal Compassion in Australia, attending as the Special Guest. The Chief Guest for the program was Hon. Rupa Bishwakarma, State Minister for Environment, Government of Nepal.

Vice Chairperson of Lumbini Development Trust Dr. Lharkyal Lama, Former Ambassador of Nepal to Australia Kailash Raj Pokharel, Bhikshu Tapassi dhamma of Charumati Buddha Vihar and Bhante Sumangalo of Sariputra Foundation participated the program as the distinguished guests.

Mayor of Baglung Municipality Basanta Shrestha, Acting Mayor of Dhorpatan Municipality Dhan Bahadur Kayat, Chairperson of Gharapjhong Rural Municipality Mohan Singh Lalchan, Chairperson Malika Rural Municipality Bed Prasad Garbuja, Chairperson of Ichha Kamana Rural Municipality Dan Bahadur Gurung and Chief Administrative Officer of Baglung Municipality Hari Prasad Kandel were presented as the guests.

Likewise, Social Activist and Politician Devi Ghyawali, Honorary Consul of Ethiopian Consulate Nepal Dr. Rajendra Giri, Chairperson of Peace and Friendship Foundation Vijay Lama, Promoter of made in Nepal Expo Australia Rachana Shrestha and Renowned Artist Kumar Karki attended the program.

The program marks the felicitation of the renowned personalities. Ian Green OAM, founder and Chairman of The Great Stupa of Universal Compassion in Bendigo, Australia was felicitated for his extraordinary contributions to Buddhism, interfaith harmony, and cultural preservation.

Similarly, Tony Steel OAM, David Andrews, and Brian Ashton honored for strengthening Nepal-Australia spiritual and cultural ties and Nabin Shrestha for his outstanding community service. Journalist duo Rajan Pokhrel (The Himalayan Times) and Buddhi Sagar Marasini (Kantipur Daily) was also awarded for excellence in journalism.

The event concluded with closing remarks from Chief Guest Hon. Rupa Bishwakarma and Chair Ang Kami Sherpa, followed by a cultural finale involving active participation from the guests.





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Cultural, Spiritual and Identity

Connected Ties Between Lumbini and Australia



Ram Kumar Shrestha

Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha, is not only a UNESCO World Heritage Site but also a symbol of peace and spiritual heritage that connects nations across the globe. Lumbini, therefore, has attracted contributions from Buddhist communities, international institutions and governments worldwide, transforming it into a global hub of Buddhist heritage and architecture.

Australia's support for Nepal, including Lumbini, stems from its multicultural ethos, diplomatic engagement, and development priorities. While not explicitly Buddhist-focused, these efforts contribute

to preserving Nepal's cultural heritage and improving livelihoods in regions tied to Buddhism.

Australia, while not a Buddhist-majority country, has demonstrated support for Nepal, particularly in the development and preservation of Lumbini, the birthplace of Buddha. This assistance aligns with Australia's multicultural values and its broader development and humanitarian efforts in Nepal.

Diplomatic and Cultural Engagement

Australia's Ambassador to Nepal, HE Peter Budd, visited Lumbini in January 2018, paying homage at the Mayadevi Temple and observing archaeological remains. During his visit, he was briefed on Lumbini's history and development projects. This visit highlights Australia's interest in Nepal's cultural and religious heritage, particularly its connection to Buddhism.

Deputy Prime Minister and that time Australia's Federal Shadow Minister for Defense Richard Marles highlights Nepal as magical country and country of Buddha's birthplace and Mt. Everest in a meeting on Visit Nepal 2020 with Lumbini-Kapilvastu Global Campaign Global Coordinator Ram Kumar Shrestha. Director of the Great Stupa of Universal Compassion Ian Green has been felicitated by Lumbini-Kapilvastu

Global Campaign in May 2022 for correcting the delusional information about the birthplace of Gautam Buddha.

In 2024, Australia's new Ambassador to Nepal, Ms. Leann Johnston, expressed eagerness to experience Nepal's natural beauty and culture, emphasizing the strong bilateral ties reinforced by the Nepali diaspora in Australia. The two countries celebrated 65 years of diplomatic relations in 2025, with cultural and parliamentary exchanges further deepening connections.

Both nations recognize Lumbini's potential as a "Fountain of World Peace." Proposals to enhance Lumbini's global profile include branding it as a center for peace dialogues, meditation retreats, and spiritual tourism - a vision aligned with Buddhist teachings of compassion.

Economic and Developmental Partnerships

Trade and Investment

A Trade and Investment Framework Arrangement (TIFA) was signed in February 2024 to boost economic ties, with Nepal exporting garments, carpets, and tea to Australia while importing technology and agricultural products. However, trade remains imbalanced, with Nepal importing 10 times more from Australia than it exports. Initiatives like the TIFA aim to bridge this gap.

Australia's development assistance to Nepal (\$27.2 million in 2023-24) includes governance and climate resilience programs, indirectly supporting heritage conservation. Australia has allocated significant development aid to Nepal, including \$9.1 million in bilateral funding for 2025-26, focusing on health security, stability, and economic recovery.

Programs include support for governance, women's leadership, and infrastructure, which indirectly benefit regions like Lumbini by strengthening Nepal's overall development framework.

Tourism and Pilgrimage :

Lumbini attracts over 1 million visitors annually, including Australian tourists and pilgrims. Improved air connectivity via Gautam Buddha International Airport (opened 2022) could further boost travel. Australia's Nepali diaspora (over 180,000 people) plays a key role in promoting cultural and religious tourism, including pilgrimages to Lumbini.

Future Collaborations: Preserving Heritage and Fostering Exchange

Infrastructure and Conservation :

UNESCO has urged Nepal to address conservation issues in Lumbini, including water damage to the Mayadevi Temple. Australia could contribute expertise in heritage management.

Proposed projects like digital branding (e.g., VR tours of Lumbini) and international Buddhist conferences could elevate Lumbini's global stature with Australian support.

Educational and Spiritual Diplomacy :

Over 62,000 Nepali students study in Australia, making them the third-largest group of international students, creating opportunities for academic exchanges on Buddhist studies and different other disciplines. Joint initiatives, such as installing Buddha statues in Australian diplomatic missions, could strengthen cultural diplomacy.

A Shared Vision for Peace and Prosperity :

From diplomatic visits to economic agreements and spiritual tourism, both nations are leveraging Lumbini's legacy to foster mutual growth. As Ambassador Johnston noted, the vibrant Nepali Australian community is a bridge for deeper collaboration - one that could see Lumbini emerge as a global beacon of peace, supported by cross-cultural understanding and shared reverence for Buddha's teachings.

Humanitarian Support for Nepal :

Following the 2023 earthquake in western Nepal, Australia provided Rs. 51 million (approximately \$600,000) in relief through the World Food Programme and UNFPA for emergency supplies and reconstruction. This reflects Australia's commitment to assisting Nepal in times of crisis, ensuring stability in regions with cultural significance like Lumbini.

Buddhism in Australia's Multicultural Landscape :

Although Buddhism is a minority religion in Australia (2.4% of the population), it is the fourth-largest faith, with strong ties to Asian immigrant communities.

Australia's multicultural policies foster respect for diverse religions, including Buddhism, which may influence its diplomatic and developmental engagements in Buddhist-majority regions like Lumbini.

Writer is a Global Coordinator of Lumbini-Kapilvastu Global Campaign and Global Advisor of International Nepalese Artist Society 'INAS'



Celebrating Unity and Leadership

Jennie Barrera

Councillor and Former Mayor, Wyndham City

It is with great pleasure that I celebrate the launch of **'Himalayas to Oceans'**: Melbourne Summit Declaration Book 2025. The Nepali community in Australia has long been a beacon of resilience, cultural richness, and meaningful contribution. Their dedication to strengthening ties between Nepal and Australia-whether through business, academia, or community leadership; exemplifies the spirit of innovation and cooperation that this book embodies.

Leadership is not just about guiding others; it is about fostering unity, encouraging diverse perspectives, and striving for collective progress. This book reminds us that true success comes from working together across borders, cultures, and disciplines.

Congratulations on bringing this important work to life. I hope 'Himalayas to Ocean' inspire readers to embrace new ideas, collaborate with purpose, and lead with integrity.



A Journey of Unity, Purpose, and Shared Vision

Jasmine Hill

Councillor, Wyndham City

From the quiet strength of the Himalayas to the boundless embrace of the oceans, the Melbourne Summit brought hearts together across distance and difference. It was a privilege to witness conversations that stirred hope, and voices that spoke with purpose- for Nepal, for Australia, and for the paths we walk together. In a world often too busy to pause, this summit was a moment of stillness and meaning, a gathering of those who carry both memory and vision.

'Himalayas to Oceans' captures more than just events. It holds stories, aspirations, and a shared commitment to something greater. I am grateful to play a small part in this journey, and I look forward to the pages still to be written.

The Living Tradition of Thakali Community



The Thakali are an indigenous Himalayan community from Mustang Nepal, known for their rich culture, trade heritage, and distinct traditions. With a population of 11,740 (as of 2013/14), they follow various life-cycle rituals (Sanskar) from birth to death. Among these, religious practices like Thom, Tungba, and Lama rituals are central. One of the most important traditions is the Thom ritual, a spiritual practice rooted in nature and ancestor worship. The Thom serves as traditional priests, also referred to as a Jhakri. Historically tied to the ancient Bon tradition of Tibet, the Thom ritual is essential to Thakali identity. Thom worship their ancestral masters—such as Narapunju, Chave Thom, and Prive Thom. Their duties include life-cycle rituals from birth to death, clan deity worship, spirit calling, and purifying bad omens. Once divided into four ritual roles, modern Thom often perform all. Despite a decline in numbers, Thoms remain guardians of sacred Thakali traditions. There are only seven active Thoms including Thom Nabin Sherchan, who was born in Baglung and ordained in 2061 BS. He lives in Kathmandu. This tradition is now on the verge of extinction, and Thom Nabin Sherchan has been deeply dedicated to keeping it alive. Nabin is one of the seven active Thoms (spiritual leaders) of the Thakali community. Among the three children of Rikprasad Sherchan

and the late Chandrakumari Sherchan, Nabin is the eldest and has two younger sisters. Currently, he resides in Kathmandu with his wife Manisha Gauchan, their two daughters, one son, and his father. So far, Thom Nabin has initiated two disciples (chela) into the Thom tradition. At present, he is also guiding another disciple in the Thom practices with the support of Thakali Sewa Samiti, Tokyo, Japan. With over two decades of dedication since being initiated into the Thom tradition, Thom Nabin has played a leading role in preserving the customs and culture of the Thakali community. A striking example of this is the fact that approximately 70 per cent of birth and death rituals conducted in various sectors of the Thakali community are performed according to the Thom tradition—clearly demonstrating his influence and commitment. However, Thom Nabin also expresses concern about the potential erosion of the Thom tradition and the unique identity of the Thakali community. Factors such as globalization, the increasing trend of migration among Thakalis, declining cultural awareness among the younger generation, and the weakening transmission of traditional knowledge from older to younger generations contribute to this worry. He strongly urges all Thakalis to become aware and take timely action to preserve their cultural identity for generations to come.



Bendigo City: The Great Stupa

The Great Stupa of Universal Compassion, located in Bendigo, holds the distinction of being the largest Buddhist stupa in the Western world. Modeled after the Gyantse Kumbum, Tibet's largest stupa, whose construction commenced in 1427, our Great Stupa follows a long-standing artistic and architectural tradition. Historically, Newar artisans from Nepal were instrumental in the decoration and artwork of the Gyantse Stupa. In keeping with this heritage, nearly 600 years later, we have also engaged Nepalese artists to craft much of the external ornamentation of the Great Stupa.

Their work includes the gold-plated parasol and the sertok atop the stupa, as well as the 280 prayer wheels that encircle it. Within the stupa, twelve massive thangkas, depicting the life story of the Buddha, have been specially commissioned from Nepalese artists, further contributing to the preservation of Nepal's rare and exquisite artistic traditions.

As Buddhists, we hold Nepal-and particularly Lumbini-dear in our hearts as the sacred birthplace of Gotama Buddha. From these foundations in Lumbini, the Buddha's teachings spread across both southern and northern Asia, and in recent years, have reached the Western world. Today, Buddhism stands as one of the four great faith traditions globally.

The Great Stupa is an esteemed member of the Foundation for the Preservation of the Mahayana Tradition, with its principal center located at Kopan Monastery in Kathmandu. As one of the major pilgrimage sites for Buddhists in Australia, we wholeheartedly encourage followers of the Buddha to



visit and pay homage at Lumbini.

The Spiritual Director of both the Great Stupa and Kopan Monastery, Lama Zopa Rinpoche, was himself of Nepali origin. He has consistently encouraged his students to travel to Nepal for teachings, initiations, and pilgrimage. In alignment with this vision, the Great Stupa is committed to promoting and facilitating these spiritual journeys to Nepal.

Acting upon the guidance of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the Great Stupa also serves as a center for interfaith harmony. Our Peace Park, situated at the entrance of the stupa, houses a Nepalese temple dedicated to Ganesh and Shiva. This space hosts Nepalese cultural ceremonies, including the lhi ceremony for girls and the Brata bandha ceremony for boys, ensuring that Nepali cultural traditions remain vibrant and accessible to those who have made Australia their home. Such ceremonies play a vital role in preserving and strengthening cultural identity within the Nepali diaspora.

We take immense pride in our close and enduring relationship with Nepal, its people, and its culture.

Congratulations
“Himalayas to Ocean”
Special Edition: Melbourne Summit

Best wishes for the grand success of the magazine publication.
May this excellent initiative contribute significantly to
strengthening Nepal–Australia relations.

Bipul Gyawali President Chitwan Samaj Melbourne	Mohansing Lalchan Mayor Gharapjhong Rural Municipality Jomsom, Mustang, Nepal	Maya Prasad Suwal President Newa Guthi Melbourne
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Australian Council of Multicultural Entrepreneurs, Inc. ABN: 91679237268
www.acme.asn.au

Melbourne Summit 2025
Dhaulagiri Adventure Pvt. Ltd.

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate the organisers of Melbourne Summit 2025 on behalf of the Australian Council for Multicultural Entrepreneurs Inc.

This year 2025, Australia and Nepal will celebrate 65 years of diplomatic relations which is built on a long-standing history of development partnership and close people-to-people links. These include the entry of nearly 39,000 Australians to Nepal making Australia the fifth largest source of foreign visitors. Nepal on the other hand is the third largest source of international students in Australia with around 40,752 students from Nepal and Melbourne universities and educational institutions account for a large percentage of that.

The Melbourne Summit 2025 is designed to further strengthen that growing and dynamic relationship. Together with the Werribee Business and Tourism Association Inc, we look forward to the visit of the Nepalese delegation in June 2025 and work with the team to map out future activities including delegations both ways and business matching events.

Once again congratulations and we look forward to a mutually rewarding exchange of ideas and new business created.

Yours truly,

Walter Villagonzalo
Interim President
Australian Council for Multicultural Entrepreneurs Inc
Mob +61422452019 email: wv@tpg.com.au

27 May 2025



Destinations and adventures

Nepal is real, raw and ready for you

Lumbini : Birth Place of Lord Buddha



Lumbini is a sacred site in Nepal, believed to be the birthplace of Siddhartha Gautama, the historical Buddha. It's a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a pilgrimage destination for Buddhists worldwide. The area features a sacred garden, Maya Devi Temple, and various monasteries built by Buddhist communities from around the world. Lumbini holds immense cultural and spiritual significance as the birthplace of Buddhism.

Chitwan National Park Jungle Safari

Chitwan National Park is a renowned UNESCO World Heritage Site located in southern Nepal. It is famous for its rich biodiversity, including endangered species like the Bengal tiger, one-horned rhinoceros, and Asian elephant. The park offers opportunities for jungle safaris, elephant rides, birdwatching, and canoeing along the Rapti River. Visitors can immerse themselves in the park's natural beauty, diverse ecosystems, and cultural experiences with the Tharu



community. Chitwan National Park is a must-visit destination for nature enthusiasts and s- lovers.

Mustang : Unique Culture, History, and Geography



Mustang, including Jomsom and Thak Khola Valley, is a remote and culturally rich region in northern Nepal. It's known for its rugged Landscapes, ancient Tibetan culture, and as a gateway for trekkers exploring the Annapurna Circuit. Manang is a scenic village in Nepal, situated along the Annapurna Circuit trekking route. It offers stunning mountain views, Tibetan-Nepalese culture, and serves as an important stop for trekkers acclimatizing to higher altitudes.

Pokhara : City of Lakes and Mountains



Phewa Lake is the largest and most famous lake in Pokhara, Nepal. Surrounded by lush hills and the Annapurna mountain range, it offers stunning reflections and is perfect for boating and leisurely walks along the lakeside promenade.

Rara : Largest Lake of Nepal

Rara Lake, nestled in the pristine wilderness of the Mugu District in western Nepal, offers more than just its size. Surrounded by snow-capped peaks, dense forests, and vibrant meadows, it's a haven for nature enthusiasts and trekkers seeking solace amidst untouched beauty. The lake's azure waters reflect the majestic landscape, creating a mesmerizing sight.



Additionally, Rara National Park, surrounding the lake, harbors diverse flora and fauna, including rare species like the red panda and musk deer, adding to the allure of this remote paradise.

Durbarmarg - Narayanhiti Durbar



The Narayanhiti Palace Museum, located in the heart of Kathmandu, Nepal, was once the royal residence of the Shah Kings. Constructed between 1963 and 1969 under the design of American architect Benjamin Polk, the palace blends traditional Nepali and Western architectural styles. It features 52 rooms, each named after a district of Nepal, and is adorned with intricate woodwork, chandeliers, and royal artifacts. The museum offers visitors a glimpse into the opulence and history of Nepal's monarchy, including the tragic 2001 royal massacre. Converted into a public museum in 2008, it now serves as a significant cultural and historical landmark.

Swyambhunath : Holiest Buddhist Stupa



Swayambhunath, also known as the Monkey Temple, is an ancient religious complex atop a hill in Kathmandu, Nepal. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and holds both Buddhist and Hindu significance. The stupa's iconic white dome with a gilded spire is surrounded by prayer flags, shrines, and colorful icons. Monkeys freely roam the area, hence its nickname. Pilgrims and tourists alike visit Swayambhunath for its spiritual atmosphere, panoramic views of Kathmandu Valley, and cultural heritage.

Patan Durbar Square



Patan Durbar Square is a historic palace complex located in the city of Patan, Nepal. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site renowned for its stunning architecture, intricate wood carvings, and ancient temples. The square is surrounded by royal palaces, temples, statues, and courtyards, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the Malla dynasty. Visitors flock to Patan Durbar Square to admire its architectural marvels and experience its vibrant atmosphere, which is often bustling with local life and religious activities.

Bhaktapur Durbar Square



Bhaktapur is an ancient city in the Kathmandu Valley, Nepal, known for its well-preserved medieval architecture and vibrant culture. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and famous for its intricately carved temples, palaces, courtyards, and narrow streets. Bhaktapur's Durba Square is a focal point, featuring the 55-Window Palace, Nyatapola Temple, and

Golden Gate. The city is also renowned for its pottery, traditional crafts, and festivals, making it a must-visit destination for travelers seeking to experience Nepal's rich cultural heritage.

Ghorepani View Point



Ghorepani Poon Hill is a popular viewpoint in the Annapurna region of Nepal, offering stunning panoramic views of the Annapurna and Dhaulagiri mountain ranges. It's accessible via a trekking route from Nayapul or Pokhara and is renowned for its breathtaking sunrise vistas.

Annapurna Base Camp



Annapurna Base Camp (ABC) is a renowned trekking destination in Nepal, offering stunning views of the Annapurna mountain range. It's situated at an altitude of around 4,130 meters (13,550 feet) and provides trekkers with breathtaking panoramic vistas amidst the Himalayas.

River Rafting



River rafting in Nepal offers thrilling adventures through stunning Landscapes and challenging rapids, including the Trishuli, Seti, and Bhote Koshi rivers. With expert guides and breathtaking views, it's an unforgettable experience for adventurers seeking adrenaline and natural beauty combined.

Tenzing Hillary Lukla Airport- Mt. Everest



Tenzing-Hillary Airport, commonly known as Lukla Airport, is a vital entry point to the Everest region in Nepal. Renowned for its short runway and precarious location, it's named after the legendary climbers Tenzing Norgay and Sir Edmund Hillary. Despite its challenges, the airport facilitates access for trekkers and climbers embarking on journeys to Everest Base

Camp and other Himalayan destinations, offering breathtaking views amidst its daunting reputation.

Pokhara Paragliding



Pokhara is renowned for its thrilling paragliding experiences, offering breathtaking aerial views of the majestic Himalayas and Phewa Lake. Paragliding in Pokhara involves tandem flights with experienced pilots, allowing adventurers to soar through the sky and experience the exhilarating freedom of flight. The paragliding takeoff point is Sarangkot, a scenic hilltop location just outside Pokhara, known for its stunning sunrise and panoramic vistas. With favorable weather conditions year-round, Pokhara is considered one of the best paragliding destinations in the world.

Actress, Activist, and Everest Summiteer Championing Sherpa Heritage



Chhiring Sherpa is a trailblazing Nepali actress, model, event organizer, and social activist, originally from Solukhumbu and currently based in Kathmandu. She is proud to be the **first female actor** from the Sherpa community and serves as the **Founder President** of the Sherpa Film Association Nepal. She also holds key roles as the **Vice President** of the Federation of Indigenous Nationalities Film Nepal and **Treasurer** of Charity Nepal Foundation.

Her notable achievements include winning **Dancing Stars Nepal 2022**, setting a **Guinness World Record** for the highest altitude choreographed dance at Kala Patthar, and **summiting Mount Everest** on May 19, 2024, to honor Sherpa climbers. Chhiring has starred in the national award-winning film *Tinchhen Phama*, participated in several cultural events, and actively advocates for youth empowerment, inclusivity, and mental health awareness through various social initiatives.



Made in Nepal Expo

Australia is a dream country because it is a safe and fun city for Nepalese. Made in Nepal, Australia was conceived while envisioning the goal and objective were to create a comprehensive list of handloom and cotton fabrics, designer dresses, handicrafts, and daily-use items produced primarily in Nepal.

In addition, the items required for Hindu temples, monasteries, stupas, sculptures, murals, paintings, artistic objects, pashmina, silk fabrics, especially handmade items made by women workers using hand tools, were listed in the world market as reflecting Nepali art and culture.

Targeting the market in demand in Australia, Nepali entrepreneurs were able to introduce Nepali art and culture to the world, to fulfill their international trade dreams, and to closely understand how services can be exchanged in a manner that respects the demand and interest of the Australian market, as well as its modernity, culture, customs, and technology. The Made in Nepal Expo Australia was held for the first time in Australia on April 27-28, 2024 in Brunswick, Melbourne.

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The Made in
Nepal Expo
Australia was held
for the first time
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April 27-28, 2024
in Brunswick,
Melbourne.

After a grand success of the first event and encouragement from all involved the second event was planned and organized on December 14-15, 2024 in Brunswick, Melbourne. Various communities and the Nepalese diaspora who had settled in Australia were encouraged to participate in the expo. This time the exhibition was successfully conducted in collaboration with the Women's Federation of Nepal and NEPCO Entertainment.

This time, acting mayor of Dhorpatan Municipality Mr. Dhan Bahadur Kayat, Mr. Pradeep Tiwari, Mayor Marybrong Council, Sue Bolton Counselor, as special guests, industrialist Shesh Ghale and Mrs. Jamuna Ghale, and other distinguished personalities were welcomed. Under the chairmanship of Shobha Gyawali, President of the Federation of Nepalese Women (FWEAN), a grand exhibition of products of Nepali entrepreneurs was presented, including Nepali entrepreneurs living in Australia.

In line with the objective, in the coming days, there is a plan to continue supporting women entrepreneurs and hold Expos in various countries including Australia, as an encouragement to entrepreneurs who have not got the opportunity. I also request your support for this.

Early Beginning Starting with different leadership



and practical training during college life, and being associated with the social sector had helped shape her career in fashion design. After many years of experience and a zeal to do something different in the Nepalese fashion industry, Red Orchid Fashion was born. Rachana Shrestha, as a coordinator of expo, aims to expand her training programs nationwide and launch an eco-friendly clothing line that promotes sustainable fashion and using locally made fabrics local human resources.

She has envisioned a future where Nepalese fashion is globally recognized while remaining rooted in traditional craftsmanship. She has been involved in promoting local Nepali products in Australia for few years now and plans to go global in the future.

Yogini Arts

Established in 2018, Yogini Arts is a family-run business dedicated to celebrating and sharing the rich traditions of Nepalese and Tibetan craftsmanship. At the heart of their work is a commitment to support skilled artisans across Nepal through fair trade practices, long-term partnerships, and deep respect for cultural heritage. They believe in honoring age-old techniques while bringing these incredible art forms to new audiences around the world.

Led by Prathana Shrestha and Chris Kumar Belbase, Yogini Arts continues this artistic legacy. Their passion for Himalayan art and culture has taken Yogini Arts across borders, with participation in major exhibitions throughout the United States, Europe, China, Australia, Singapore, Korea, and Vietnam. Through these global efforts, they've helped shine a light on the spiritual and



artistic depth of Nepal's living traditions.

Among their most cherished offerings are their handcrafted thangkas and singing bowls. Although initially, Yogini Arts primarily focused on thangkas, with the recognition of a growing interest and market for singing bowls, they strategically expanded their offerings to include these resonant instruments. This success paved the way for the gradual introduction of other Nepalese and Tibetan handicrafts, as they saw the broader potential and demand for these authentic artisanal creations.

Each thangka is carefully painted by master artists using natural stone pigments, 24k gold, and precise spiritual iconography. These sacred works, often taking weeks or even months to complete, carry deep symbolic meaning and are treasured as both devotional items and cultural artifacts. Alongside them, their singing bowls are made at their own

workshop using a traditional seven-metal alloy.

Each bowl is hand-hammered, shaped, and tuned by ear to produce rich, resonant tones, perfect for meditation, healing, and spiritual practice. Because they work directly with the artists and manage their own production, they're able to ensure the highest quality and authenticity in everything they offer.

Beyond their renowned thangkas and singing bowls, Yogini Arts presents a rich tapestry of

Himalayan craftsmanship through a diverse array of handmade goods, each embodying cultural heritage and artisanal skill. Their collection features luxurious pashmina shawls and scarves, prized for their exceptional softness and warmth, woven from the fine undercoat of Himalayan goats. Beautifully woven rugs and carpets display traditional Nepalese and Tibetan patterns, infusing any space with warmth and vibrant cultural expression.

Lucky Thangka

Lucky Thangka is a proud family-run business founded in 1983 by Narayan Krishna Shrestha in Kathmandu, Nepal. With a deep love for Nepalese art and culture, Narayan's mission was to support local artisans and promote the rich traditions of Tibetan and Newari thangka painting. What began as a small initiative has grown into a respected name in the world of Himalayan handicrafts, known for its commitment to authenticity, cultural preservation, and social impact.

Over the past four decades, Lucky Thangka has become a trusted manufacturer, wholesaler, and retailer of genuine Nepalese and Tibetan handicrafts. Our collection includes intricately painted thangkas, hand-hammered singing bowls, statues, pashmina, and other sacred Buddhist crafts, all created by skilled artisans using time-honored methods. We work with over 200 artists from various regions of Nepal, particularly the Himalayan and mountainous areas, ensuring that each product we offer carries the spirit, symbolism, and beauty of its origin.

At the heart of our business is a strong commitment to fair trade and artist empowerment. Lucky Thangka ensures its artisans are paid fairly and treated with dignity, valuing the immense skill, devotion, and time each piece requires. Founder Narayan Shrestha has developed lifelong relationships with artists and monasteries across Nepal, and his dedication to community welfare led him to establish the Asha Foundation, a nonprofit that supports disadvantaged



Nepalese children through education and development projects, funded in part by proceeds from Lucky Thangka.

Today, the legacy continues with Narayan's son and daughter, Prateek Shrestha and Prathana Shrestha who have taken the family vision global. Based in Australia, Prateek, alongside his partner Susan Shrestha, manages the online presence of Lucky Thangka. They've made it possible for customers around the world to access and appreciate the beauty of Tibetan and Nepalese craftsmanship. While Prathana, based in Kathmandu, Nepal, collaborates directly with

Thangka artists to safeguard this intricate Buddhist art form.

Their mission focuses on three pillars: preserving traditional techniques and knowledge, continuing the practice by supporting current artists and training new generations, and promoting Thangka's cultural significance locally and globally through exhibitions, workshops, and ethical market access. This ensures the ancient tradition thrives sustainably. Together, they aim to bring these sacred, handmade pieces to a wider audience while continuing to support the communities and traditions behind them.

Whether you're seeking spiritual art for your practice or a meaningful gift, Lucky Thangka offers more than just beautiful products, it offers a connection to culture, compassion, and craftsmanship. With every piece, you support a story that spans generations, bridges continents, and uplifts the hands that bring it to life.

Raymond Loh



Raymond Loh is a seasoned entrepreneur, property developer, and founder of multiple successful ventures both locally and internationally. With a wealth of experience across business, education, training, and IT, Raymond has made significant contributions to both the corporate and community sectors. His dedication to service has earned him numerous accolades, including the prestigious Lions Clubs International Highest Award and recognition as a District Fellow Club Member, alongside many other community and leadership awards.

Driven by a deep passion to make the world a better place, Raymond is committed to empowering people to live extraordinary lives through what he calls SMART Innovations and Philosophy—a vision for a sustainable future and quality lifestyles for generations to come. This philosophy is shaped by decades of hands-on experience in business leadership, life coaching, team building, and strategic investment and project management across the Asia-Pacific region.

Raymond's unique multicultural background enriches his global perspective, enabling him to forge strong, collaborative networks and build high-

performing, innovative teams within Australia and beyond. His expertise spans all facets of marketing, business development, and community engagement.

As the current President (2024–2025) of the Lions Club of Werribee, Raymond also serves as the project sponsor for the Lions Community Book – Sustainable Stewardship Success. Demonstrating his unwavering commitment to community service, he has generously donated 500 copies of the book to the Werribee Lions Club. Proceeds from online sales will be fully allocated to community initiatives: 50% to the Lions Eco Club, and 50% to WynTREE Friends Group, managed by Canopy Accelerator Co-operative Ltd with the support of Parks Victoria and Wyndham City Council.

Business and community growth with WBTA



Deborah Dickinson

President, WBTA

The Werribee Business and Tourism Association (WBTA) is a not-for-profit organization supporting local businesses, and community groups within Werribee and the broader Wyndham region in Victoria, Australia. We are proud to be a voice for all of those in our community.

Our Mission is to foster economic growth, build

business connections, and promote Werribee as a vibrant destination for commerce, tourism, and cultural exchange.

Basically we work in different areas. We provide Business Support & Networking with Regular events, workshops, and networking opportunities designed to uplift and empower local entrepreneurs.

Likewise, we engage ourselves for tourism advocacy by showcasing the abundance of tourism destinations that Wyndham has to offer, such as the Werribee Open Range Zoo, historic Werribee Park Mansion, and Scenic River precincts.

We welcome delegates and visitors seeking to connect with local business leaders and entrepreneurs, Explore partnership opportunities in tourism, education or trade, participate in community events and cultural exchanges and learn about regional economic development models.

Strategically located between Melbourne and Geelong, Werribee is one of Australia's fastest-growing corridors. It's a city rich in heritage, innovation, and diversity, offering both opportunity and hospitality.

Growing Beyond Borders: Outlook on Global Business

In today's hyper-connected world, the future of entrepreneurship lies in thinking beyond local limitations and embracing the boundless potential of global markets. International trade and business development are no longer reserved for large corporations—they are essential pathways for entrepreneurs and businesses of all sizes seeking sustainable growth, diversification, and innovation.

Expanding beyond borders enables businesses to access new customer bases, tap into regional strengths, diversify revenue streams, and build resilience in increasingly dynamic markets. It opens doors to new ideas, partnerships, and resources, encouraging innovation and competitiveness across industries.

But successful global expansion is not just about entering new markets—it's about strategic readiness. Businesses need to align their operations, supply chains, and brand identity with international standards while remaining adaptable to local cultures and consumer expectations.

Smooth international operations begin with understanding market needs, building strong cross-border relationships, and investing in scalable infrastructure. This includes reliable logistics networks, digital integration, and a workforce that understands the nuances of diverse markets. A global mindset is not just about where you sell—it's about how you operate, collaborate, and deliver value consistently across regions.

Digital transformation has further empowered small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to globalize without massive overheads. From e-commerce platforms to cloud-based supply chain systems and virtual collaborations, the tools to go global are more accessible than ever. Entrepreneurs can now launch from anywhere and reach everywhere—with agility and impact.

As someone deeply engaged in business and community empowerment, I believe that fostering a culture of global readiness is key. Whether you're a startup or a growing enterprise, your ability to expand beyond borders depends on how prepared you are to meet international demand while staying true to your core values.

Here are a few guiding principles I advocate for entrepreneurs pursuing global growth:

- Build with intention, not impulse: Research markets, test your value proposition, and ensure scalability.
- Think partnerships, not just transactions: Success abroad often depends on who you work with, not just what you offer.
- Adapt without compromising identity: Tailor your approach, but keep your mission and brand purpose intact.
- Invest in systems and people: Operational efficiency and a culturally aware team are your greatest global assets.
- Stay agile and open to learning: Every market brings new lessons. Embrace them as part of your evolution.

Ultimately, international business development is about more than numbers—it's about building bridges across cultures, economies, and communities. When businesses think globally, they don't just grow—they inspire transformation. And in doing so, they become part of something far greater than commerce: a connected world of shared opportunities.

The writer is an Australia based entrepreneur and media personality originally from Bangladesh.

Sharmin Mishu



Entrepreneur in-sights

Nabin Sherchan

A Dynamic Entrepreneur & Cultural Leader

Nabin Sherchan is a dynamic and multifaceted professional based in Kathmandu Valley, originally from Burtibang, Baglung, Nepal. Born on December 11, 1987, he has built a reputation as a dedicated insurance agent, successful entrepreneur, and an active leader in both financial cooperatives and cultural organizations.

Nabin began his professional journey Nabin founded Brothers Burtibang Jadibuti Supplier in Baglung in 2012, which focuses on the distribution of herbal products. In 2022, he expanded his entrepreneurial footprint by becoming a co-owner of The Burger House & Crunchy Fried Chicken of Baglung, one of the most successful food franchises in Nepal. His leadership and innovative approach have helped the franchise thrive in a competitive market.

Parallel to his success in the field of herbs and foods, he stepped into the insurance industry, where he has worked full-time from the very beginning of his career. His role as a Senior Agency Manager and Chairman Club Member at Prabhu Mahalaxmi Life Insurance since February 2020 and MDRT since 5 years, stands as a testament to his excellence in the field. Affiliated with the renowned Prabhu Group, he has continually exceeded company goals, participated in multiple in-house and external marketing workshops, and established himself as one of the top-performing professionals in the industry.

In addition to his business and insurance pursuits, Nabin plays an active role in Nepal's cooperative financial sector.

He is a shareholder in several institutions, including Dhorpatan Saving & Credit Co-operative Limited in Samakhusi, which primarily serves customers from Dhorpatan and the Bagmati Province. He also holds shares in Timchan Tomphobe Saving & Credit Co-operative Limited in Sundhara-formed by a team of experienced professionals in the financial sector-and in CYC Saving & Credit Co-operative Limited, reflecting his deep belief in community-based financial empowerment.

Beyond the business world, Nabin is a highly respected figure in his community and cultural circles. He holds the prestigious title of Senior Thakali Guru (THOM), having completed rigorous training and examinations under the supervision of senior authorities. In this role, he is entrusted with conducting all cultural and religious ceremonies for the Thakali community, from birth to death.

His commitment to social service is also reflected in his active involvement with Lions Club International. He served as President of the Lions Club of Kathmandu Myagdi for the year 2022/2023 and went on to

become Zone Chairperson for

2023/2024. He also served as

a District Officer for the year

2024/2025. Sherchan is also

serving as GST Coordinator,

contributing significantly to

humanitarian efforts and

community development

projects. Sherchan is not just

a successful professional-

he is a devoted leader and

community advocate whose

life and work continue to

make a meaningful impact

across multiple sectors in

Nepal. Nabin is also serving as

a Municipal Executive member

of Dhorpatan Municipality of

Baglung.





Dalbir Bhandari

Bridging Nepal's Heritage Globally

Born in 1990 in Dhorpatan-home to Nepal's only hunting reserve-Dalbir Bhandari embodies the spirit of bridging Nepal's rich heritage with global opportunities. With 14 years of entrepreneurial leadership in Kathmandu, he has become a driving force in Nepal's workforce and tourism sectors while championing international collaboration.

As Vice President of the Progressive Forum of Foreign Employment Association Nepal and a Central Member of the Federation of Nepalese National Industry & Enterprises (FNNIE), Dalbir advocates for ethical labor practices and economic empowerment. His agency, Advanced Management Consultants, is a trailblazer in connecting Nepali talent to global markets, earning recognition as Nepal's top workforce agency in 2020/2021.

Through Twins Travels & Tours, Dalbir actively promotes Nepal's natural and cultural wonders worldwide. Leveraging his global perspective from repeated travels to Europe, Japan, China, Malaysia, Singapore, the UAE, and Qatar, he fosters partnerships to boost tourism and provide seamless travel experiences. The agency also delivers premium ticketing services, further cementing Nepal's connectivity to the world.

Dalbir's vision extends to the hospitality sector, where he is investing in HORECA (Hotel/Restaurant/Café) ventures with a focus on professionalism and innovation. His ambition is to expand cross-border partnerships, resource exchange, and sustainable tourism, ensuring Nepal's global footprint grows while empowering local communities.



Rachana Shrestha

Empowering Women and Showcasing Nepali Culture

Rachana Shrestha, based in Mahalaxmi-4, Lalitpur, Nepal, is a passionate fashion designer, entrepreneur, and international event coordinator dedicated to promoting Nepal's rich cultural heritage through fashion and community empowerment. As the founder of Red Orchid Fashion, she specializes in custom-made clothing that blends traditional Nepali handloom fabrics with contemporary styles.

Her journey began with leadership training and community involvement during her college years, which shaped her commitment to women's empowerment and sustainable fashion. Rachana has conducted numerous tailoring and design

workshops across rural Nepal, training women in sewing, pattern-making, and small business skills to help them achieve financial independence.

Rachana's work has gained recognition both nationally and internationally, with her designs featured in exhibitions in Nepal and Australia. She is also the key organizer behind the successful Made in Nepal Expo held in Melbourne, aiming to promote Nepali handicrafts, fashion, and handmade products to the global market. Her vision is to expand her impact by launching an eco-friendly clothing line and continuing to promote Nepali artistry and female entrepreneurship on an international scale.



Kailash Raj Pokharel

A Veteran Diplomat Shaping Nepal's Economic Diplomacy

Kailash Raj Pokharel is a distinguished diplomat and civil servant from Nepal, with over four decades of experience in international relations, economic diplomacy, and public administration. Born in Okhaldhunga, Nepal, he has held pivotal roles in various national and international institutions, contributing significantly to Nepal's foreign policy and international engagements.

His international diplomatic journey began in 1992 with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in Tokyo, Japan, where he worked on investment promotion. In 2000, he joined the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET), assisting in building civil administrative services in the newly formed nation. From 2004 to 2006, he served as an Advisor to the

Executive Director at The World Bank Board of Directors in Washington, D.C., USA. Between 2015 and 2019, he was the Economic Counsellor at the Embassy of Nepal in Washington, D.C., promoting bilateral economic cooperation with the United States.

In June 2022, Pokharel was appointed as Nepal's Ambassador to Australia, a position he held until August 2024. During his tenure, he worked to strengthen Nepal-Australia relations, focusing on areas such as trade, investment, and the welfare of the growing Nepalese community in Australia. He also served as Nepal's non-resident Ambassador to Fiji, Papua New Guinea, and New Zealand, reflecting his commitment to enhancing Nepal's diplomatic presence in the Pacific region.



Vijaya Lama

Champion of Child Rights and Social Justice

Vijaya Lama is a committed social worker and child rights activist from Nepal. Born and raised in Doramba Ward No. 2, a remote village in Ramechhap District, he experienced firsthand the challenges of limited opportunities. Despite these hardships, he pursued his education with determination, completing his Intermediate level studies using whatever resources were available.

After moving to Kathmandu, Vijaya Lama was blessed with the opportunity to work at the Light House Foundation Nepal. He served the organization for 15 years in various roles, primarily as its chairperson. During his tenure, the foundation expanded its work to 50 districts across the country, focusing on education, health, and child protection. Under his leadership,

the organization directly benefited more than 10,000 individuals, mostly children and women.

The organization was actively involved in rescue and relief efforts during the 2015 earthquake and the COVID-19 pandemic. They worked closely with both local and central governments to deliver essential services—such as food, shelter, drinking water, school buildings, and medical support—to disaster-affected communities in remote areas. Currently, he serves as the Chairperson of the Peace and Friendship Foundation, which operates nationally in the sectors of inclusive education, youth sports and development, health, and women's empowerment. Additionally, he is the President of the Child NGO Federation of Nepal, a role he's held for the past five years.



Ang Kami Sherpa

A Legendary Mountaineer & Tourism Pioneer

Ang Kami Sherpa is a prominent figure in Nepal's mountaineering and tourism sectors. Born on July 26, 1960, in Lukla, Solukhumbu District, Nepal, he has dedicated his life to the promotion of adventure tourism and social service in his homeland.

Throughout his illustrious career, Ang Kami Sherpa has conquered numerous peaks, including some of the world's highest mountains. Notably, he has achieved successful ascents of Dhaulagiri, Makalu, Cho Oyu, and the crowning glory of them all, Mount Everest. As a seasoned mountaineer, Ang Kami has demonstrated exceptional skill, resilience, and determination in tackling the challenges posed by these formidable peaks.

Currently, Ang Kami Sherpa serves as the Chairman

of Hotel Sherpa Boutique, a renowned establishment known for its hospitality and personalized service. Under his leadership, Hotel Sherpa Boutique has become a preferred destination for travelers seeking comfort and authenticity in the heart of Nepal. Additionally, Ang Kami is deeply involved in various philanthropic endeavors, focusing on education, healthcare, and environmental conservation.

Widely regarded as a senior figure in Nepal's tourism sector, Ang Kami Sherpa is admired for his contributions to the industry and his unwavering commitment to excellence. He is respected not only for his mountaineering feats but also for his dedication to promoting sustainable tourism practices and fostering community development.



Chayan Gurung

A Symbol of Public Service and Dedication

Chayan Gurung serves as the elected Ward Chairperson of Ward No. 14 in Jeetpursimara Sub-Metropolitan City, Bara District, Nepal. Her leadership transcends the official title, as she is deeply committed to the welfare of her community. Recognized for her visionary thinking, honest approach, and transparent working style, Gurung's leadership is rooted in a belief that development extends beyond infrastructure to include social justice and humane society.

Under Gurung's leadership, Ward No. 14 has implemented several exemplary programs aimed at improving the well-being of its residents. These initiatives reflect her commitment to public service

and community development.

Gurung is not only a planner but also a skilled implementer who ensures community coordination in every initiative. Under her leadership, the ward has redefined social inclusion, civic participation, and accountability. Her journey demonstrates that with determination, the light of possibilities shines bright. Gurung is not just a public representative but also a catalyst for societal transformation.

The leadership, vision, and dedication of Chayan Gurung have uplifted the stature of local governance. Her presence assures that democracy becomes more people-oriented and development-focused, making her a true symbol of public service and dedication.



Damodar Ghimire

Pioneer in Shaping Nepal's Tourism Services

Damodar Ghimire is a visionary entrepreneur and community advocate with over 25 years of experience in Nepal's tourism industry. As the sole shareholder and Chairman of Great Nepal Travels and Tours Pvt. Ltd. and Great Nepal Holidays Pvt. Ltd., both esteemed IATA-accredited companies, he has been instrumental in shaping Nepal's outbound and inbound tourism services.

Beginning his career in 2000, Ghimire steadily rose through the ranks of the tourism industry, ultimately establishing and leading his own group of companies. His enterprises offer a range of services, including international air ticketing, visa consultation, and tailor-made holiday packages, serving thousands of clients annually.

Committed to giving back to society, Ghimire

founded the Great Nepal Foundation, the CSR wing of his organization. The foundation focuses on education, community development, and environmental responsibility, reflecting his dedication to sustainable travel and social impact.

Under his leadership, Great Nepal Holidays Pvt. Ltd. has become a trusted name in the tourism industry, known for its personalized services and commitment to client satisfaction. The company's offerings include trekking, cultural tours, heli tours, mountain biking, and more, catering to diverse traveler interests.

A native of Khotang District, Ghimire moved to Kathmandu to pursue higher education and earned a Bachelor's degree in Economics from Tribhuvan University.



Narayan Krishna Shrestha

Preserving Himalayan Art

Narayan Krishna Shrestha is a passionate cultural advocate, social entrepreneur, and the visionary founder behind Lucky Thinka, a renowned Nepalese handicraft enterprise established in 1983. Born and raised in Kathmandu, Nepal, Narayan developed a deep appreciation for traditional Himalayan art from an early age. With limited resources but boundless dedication, Narayan began working directly with thangka painters and handicraft makers across Nepal, especially in the mountainous regions where these crafts are deeply rooted in spiritual life. Over time, his efforts evolved into Lucky Thinka, a business committed to fair trade, ethical sourcing, and high-quality handmade products.

Narayan's work has always extended beyond

business. As president of the Asha Foundation, he has devoted much of his life to supporting underprivileged children in Nepal. He has led initiatives focused on free education, healthcare, and environmental sustainability. His work reflects a deep belief in using art and commerce as tools for community upliftment and social change.

Over the decades, Narayan has built strong personal relationships within Nepal's artistic and monastic communities. These connections have helped establish Lucky Thinka as a trusted name in authentic, spiritually meaningful craftsmanship. His life's work is a testament to the power of passion, purpose, and perseverance, and to the enduring value of preserving culture through compassion and craft.



Narayan Kandel

Bridging Cultures Through Art

Narayan Kandel is a self-taught artist originally from Nepal, now residing in Melbourne, Australia since 2008. His artistic journey began in his childhood in Nepal, where he developed a deep appreciation for the country's breathtaking natural beauty. Inspired by the snow-capped mountains, lush green hills, rivers, lakes, wildlife, birds, and rural lifestyle of Nepal, Kandel has focused on creating landscape paintings that reflect the richness of Nepalese nature and culture.

As the founder of Narayan G Art Gallery, Kandel currently exhibits around 100 of his artworks. Through his gallery, he aims to bridge Australia and Nepal by introducing the story of Nepal—the land of Mount Everest and the birthplace of Gautam Buddha—to

the younger generation of Nepali-origin youth born in Australia. His goal is to foster a connection between the two cultures through the medium of Nepalese art and heritage.

In addition to his artistic endeavors, Kandel is actively involved with Himalayan Outreach International, regularly participating in programs that promote cross-cultural understanding and heritage through art. Through his paintings, he strives to preserve the essence of Nepal and inspire pride in the identity, heritage, and culture of the Nepalese community. Narayan Kandel's work exemplifies the power of art to transcend geographical boundaries and cultural differences, fostering a deeper appreciation for the shared human experience.



Om Krishna Prasain

Pioneering Sports University for Global Impact

Om Krishna Prasain is a dedicated sports education advocate and leader based in Kathmandu, Nepal. With a deep commitment to advancing sports science and education, he is currently involved with the Nepal Sports University Board Secretariat, working toward the establishment of Nepal's first dedicated Sports University. This initiative aims to elevate Nepal's sports sector by aligning it with international standards in education, research, and global collaboration.

Recognizing the absence of a specialized academic institution in Nepal for sports science and physical education, Dr. Prasain has championed the creation of a university that addresses the needs of the country's diverse sports landscape, which includes 19 indigenous, 68 national, and 118 international sports.

The proposed Sports University will consist of four main faculties: Physical Education, Sports Science, Arts, Culture, Yoga and Beauty, and Military Science and Security. These faculties will offer education, training, and research opportunities in various fields such as sports medicine, law, management, psychology, and engineering.

He advocates for international educational tours, including to countries like Australia, to study effective operational models and foster collaboration. Through transparent governance and cooperation with educational institutions, sports organizations, and the government, he envisions a sustainable and successful Sports University that will transform Nepal's sports landscape.

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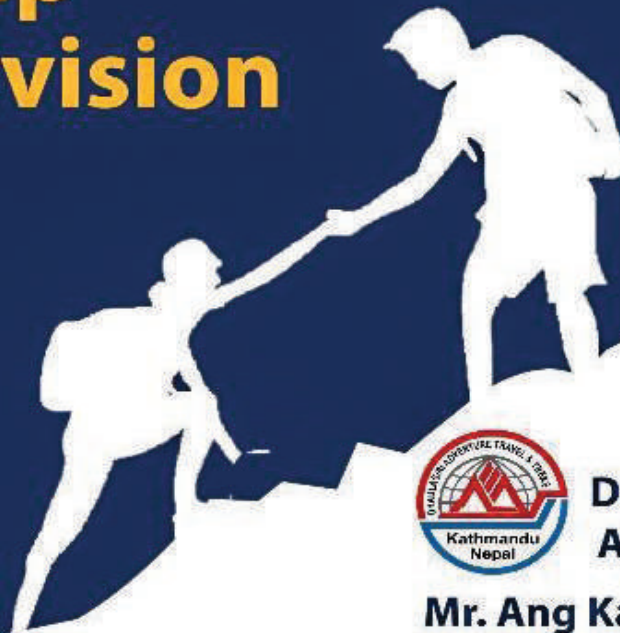
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