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LDN Liberal Democracy Nepal

उदारवादी लोकतन्त्र नेपाल

<http://www.liberaldemocracynepal.org>

Workshop on Opportunities and Challenges For Nepali Political Parties

Organized by
National Democratic Institute
Liberal Democracy Nepal
at
Washington D.C.

October 20-24

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Introduction

On behalf of the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and the Liberal Democracy Nepal (LDN) forum, we welcome distinguished delegates from Nepal and out of town participants to the greater Washington DC metropolitan area. The LDN project evolved into a productive collaboration between the Nepal Study Center (NSC) of the University of New Mexico (UNM) and some members of the North American Nepali diaspora. The academic focus of the Center and its intellectual assets and research base at UNM has helped LDN become a dynamic forum for thoughtful exchanges on the issues of development and democracy. LDN derives its scholarly strength from its affiliation with these academic entities and from participation by various scholars and policy makers.

This NDI/LDN joint workshop program in Washington D.C. has been made possible by the contributions of NDI, LDN, and NSC. NDI has assisted by arranging meetings with U.S. policy makers on Thursday and Friday, by providing meeting space on Saturday and Sunday, and by covering some of the transportation and event expenses. The Washington Nepali community has generously supported part of the program, while many LDN members have personally provided financial support. LDN is thankful for the generosity of Mr. Aditya Jha in supplementing the resources for this program, and would also like to express its gratitude to the Baltimore American-Nepalese Association (BANA), the Washington D.C. events coordination committee.

LDN will be compiling the proceedings of this workshop and will include them in the Liberal Democracy Bulletin, published by the Nepal Study Center of the University of New Mexico.

This packet provides a detailed itinerary of the events that are scheduled in the Washington DC area. A list of local contacts and other logistical information are also included.

We look forward to welcoming you all in this important program. We hope your participation will be pleasant and productive.

On behalf of LDN,

Dr. Alok Bohara
Dr. Anup Pahari
Dr. Ambika Adhikari
Mr. Girija Gautam

On behalf of NDI,

Mr. Blair A. King, PhD
Mr. Terence Hoverter
Ms. Allison Lince-Bentley

LOGISTICS IN WASHINGTON

Namaste and welcome to Washington, DC! Our staff at the NDI office in Washington will be available throughout your visit to assist you in any way possible, so please do not hesitate to contact us with your questions and concerns. We hope you have a wonderful stay in our nation's capitol.

ARRIVING IN WASHINGTON

When you arrive at the Ronald Regan Washington DC airport (DCA), you will be received by an NDI representative, Allison Lince-Bentley, who will escort you NDI's office in downtown Washington. A separate van will deliver your belongings to your hotel.

<u>You will be staying at:</u> Hawthorn Suites 467 Herndon Parkway, Herndon, Virginia Ph: 703-437-5000 Ph:1-800-527-1133 Fx: 703-464-5808	<u>All events will be held at NDI office:¹</u> National Democratic Institute 2030 M Street NW Fifth Floor, Washington, DC Ph: 202-728-550 Fx: 202-728-5520
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Local contacts -

Allison Lince-Bentley Senior Program Assistant, South Asia Team Work: (202) 728-5626 Cell: (202) 236-9460 Fax: (202) 728-5564 alince-bentley@ndi.org	Dr. Anup Pahari ² Independent Consultant and Theme Editor Liberal Democracy Nepal Cell: (703) 589-6511 apahari@comcast.net
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SECURITY

While in Washington, be sure to carry a photocopy of your passport and visa at all times. Make sure that you are aware of your surroundings. In the case of an emergency, please contact NDI Senior Program Assistant Allison Lince-Bentley at 202-728-5626 (wk), or 202-236-9460 (cell).

CLIMATE

Washington's weather has been known to be unpredictable with quick changes in the temperature. Fall weather is usually chilly but bright, sunny days. Sudden rain is possible

¹ BANA (Baltimore Area Nepali Association) organized event will be held at Baltimore. NDI office is about 23.5 miles from the hotel.

² Please feel free to contact Puru Subedi: 703-930-2598, Bishal KC: 202-281-8211, or Sugandha D. Tuladhar: 703-309-7211 for logistical information or any other assistance.

so please remember to bring an umbrella. Daytime temperature in Washington at this time of year is approximately 67° F (19° C), with occasional rainfall. Nighttime temperatures are expected to average 42° F (7° C).

ATTIRE

Business/professional attire is recommended for official meetings. Comfortable shoes and casual attire are appropriate for other activities.

EXPENSES

Please note that NDI and LDN will be covering only your lodging, meal, and group transportation costs. You are expected to personally pay for any long-distance phone calls, laundry, mini-bar, and other expenses.

CURRENCY

United State's currency is the U.S. Dollar. There are approximately 73 NR to 1 U.S. dollar.

GETTING AROUND WASHINGTON DC

NDI will have a bus available which will shuttle you to and from meetings.

Thursday, October 20, 2005
Arrival of Nepali Guests and LDN Participants

- 12:10pm Nepali guests Arrive from Boston at Washington (DCA), Delta Flight # 5346, LDN participants arrive on their own by different flights.
- 12:45pm An NDI representative will greet the delegates at the airport and escort them in a van to NDI's office in Washington DC. A separate van will deliver the delegates' luggage to the Hawthorn Suites Hotel.
- 1:30pm - 2:30pm Welcome Lunch and Orientation with NDI Director for Asia, **Peter Manikas**
- 3:30pm - 4:15pm Meeting with **Tim Rieser**, Clerk for Senator Patrick Leahy; **Lisa Curtis** and **Jonah Blank**, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
123 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6031
- 4:30-5:00pm Congressman **Jim Walsh**
Rayburn Building Rm. 2369
Washington, D.C. 20515
- 5:30-6:30pm **Michael Green**
Senior Director, National Security Council
Office of East Asian Affairs
(Meeting will be at NDI)
- Evening Free

Friday, October 21, 2005
Program Day-1: NDI Events and Dinner Reception

8:15am	Shuttle pickup at hotel
9:30am - 10:30am	Meeting with Sen. Thomas Daschle Alston & Bird LLP 601 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW North Building - 10th Floor Washington, DC 20004
11:00am - 12:00pm	TBD
12:30pm - 1:30pm	Lunch with Ivan Doherty NDI Director for Political Party Programs NDI Boardroom
2:00pm - 3:00pm	Meeting with Assistant Secretary Christina Rocca U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street NW Washington, DC 20520
3:30pm - 4:30pm	Meeting with USAID Officials Eric Picard , Nepal Desk Officer; Kay Freeman , Assistant Administrator, ANE; Cheryl Jennings , USAID Nepal Program Officer; Naren Chanmugam , Economic Growth Officer, USAID Nepal U.S. Agency for International Development Ronald Reagan Building, conference room 4.9-32 Washington, D.C. 20523-1000
6:30pm - 9:30pm	Dinner Reception hosted jointly by NDI and LDN, Welcome remarks from NDI, LDN and leader of the Nepali delegation. NDI Main Board room, fifth floor

Saturday, October 22, 2005
Day-2: LDN organized thematic sessions

7:45am	Shuttle pickup at the hotel
8:30am - 9:00am	Welcome and opening remarks, introduction of participants. Dr. Anup Pahari, Dr. Alok Bohara, Mr. Aditya Jha and leader of the Nepali delegation.
9:00am - 11:00	<u>Dealing with the Monarchy and Royal Nepal Army</u> ³ Moderators: Dr. Gaury Adhikary Assistant Professor, School of Medicine, Univ. of Michigan Dr. Shiva Gautam Assistant Professor, Harvard Medical School Time manager and Q & A moderator Dr. Mukti Upadhyay, Associate Professor, Eastern Illinois University
11:00am - 11:15am	Coffee break
11:15am - 1:15pm	<u>Dealing with the Maoists</u> Moderators: Dr. Mahendra Lawoti Assistant Professor, Western Michigan University Dr. Anup Pahari Independent Consultant Time manager and Q and A moderator, Dr. Vijaya Sharma Asst. Professor, University of Colorado
1:15pm - 2:30pm	Lunch break
2:30pm - 3:00pm	Wrap-up session with closing remarks, Representatives from the Nepali delegation and LDN (Dr. Vijaya Sharma)
3:15pm	Depart for Baltimore
6:00pm - 8:00pm	Town hall meeting with the Nepalese community

³ All thematic sessions will include 30 minute guest presentation, 60 minute moderator probed questions to the guests and their responses, and 30 minutes Q & A with participants. Shorter sessions will have reduced times.

organized by (BANA).⁴

8:00pm - 9:30 pm Dinner at Kumari Restaurant, Baltimore, and socialization

9:30pm Shuttle leaves for the Hawthorn Suites, Herndon

⁴ . Opening remarks will be provided by the BANA and DC area representative (15 minutes). This session will be moderated by Mr. Girija Gautam and Mr. Puru Subedi from LDN and representatives from BANA and Washington area community. Nepali delegates have 45 minutes to speak which will be followed by an hour of Q and A.

Sunday, October 23, 2005
Day-3: LDN organized thematic sessions

7:45am	Shuttle pickup at hotel
8:30am - 8:45am	Welcome
8:45am - 10:00am	<u>Managing the Movement for Democracy</u> Moderators: Dr. Ambika Adhikari Planner, City of Phoenix & Faculty Associate, Arizona State University Mr. Suman Timisina Senior Project Manager, MBNA America Time manager and Q and A moderator Dr. Vijaya Sharma Asst Professor, University of Colorado
10:00am - 10:15am	Break
10:15am - 11:30 noon	<u>Parties Managing Themselves</u> Moderators: Dr. Alok K. Bohara Professor, Univ. of New Mexico Dr. Mukti Upadhyay. Associate Professor, Eastern Illinois University Time manager and Q and A moderator, Dr. Tara Niraula Senior Research Scholar and Research Director Columbia University Expert observer Nepal expert from NDI
11:30am - 11:45am	Coffee break
11:45am - 12:45pm	Resources for conflict resolution and democracy in Nepal: A brief presentation on Nepal Study Center by Dr. Alok Bohara (15 minutes). Remarks by Mr. Murari Raj Sharma on the current Nepali crisis (10 minutes). Presentation by Mr. Aditya Jha on Knowledge economy in Nepal (15 minutes).

	<p>Remarks by Dr. Shyam Karki on the views of the Diaspora (10 minutes).</p> <p>Comments and closing remarks.</p> <p>Moderators</p> <p>Dr. Anup Pahari and Dr. Ambika Adhikari</p>
12:45pm - 2:00pm	Lunch break
2:00pm - 4:00pm	<p><u>Analysis of the Nepali crisis and possible UN role</u></p> <p>Keynote speech: "What might the political parties do to create conducive environment for peace, reconciliation and democracy?"</p> <p>Mr. Kul Chandra Gautam</p> <p>Assistant Secretary-General of the UN and Deputy Executive Director of the UNICEF</p> <p>Opinion: UN's experience in conflict resolution, lessons learned, and how the UN might be helpful in Nepal's situation"</p> <p>Tamrat, Samuel</p> <p>United Nations Head Quarters, New York</p> <p>Speaker introductions and moderation</p> <p>Mr. Girija Gautam</p>
4:00 - 5:00pm	<p>Possible workshop declaration (Dr. Anup Pahadi)</p> <p>Vote of thanks (Mr. Aditya Jha)</p> <p>Summary of the workshop by Dr. Alok Bohara</p> <p>Closing remarks by LDN representatives and representative of Nepali delegation.</p>
6:00pm	Dinner (by invitation) hosted by Mr. Kul Gautam for the delegates

Monday, October 24, 2005
Departure

9:00am	Hotel shuttle pickup
11:05am	Nepali delegates depart by Delta Flight # 1897 at Washington National (DCA)
12:49pm	Nepali guests arrive at Atlanta
Morning/afternoon	LDN participants depart by various flights

Short introduction of the Nepali delegates

Chakra Bastola

Affiliation: Nepali Congress (NC)

Varsha Gyawali:

Anil Jha: Nepal Sadbhawana Party - Anandidevi (NSP-A)

Jhala N. Khanal: Communist Party of Nepal - United Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML)

Dr. Prakash C Lohani: Rastriya Janshakti Party (RJP)

Dr. Ram S Mahat: Nepali Congress (NC)

Bimalendra Nidhi and Anamika Nidhi: Nepali Congress - Democratic (NC-D)

Dhruba Pradhan: Rashtriya Prajatantra Party (RPP)

Ashok Rai: Communist Party of Nepal - United Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML)

Dr. Minendra Rijal: Nepali Congress - Democratic (NC-D)

Vivek Shah: Former military secretary to King Gyanendra

Duman Thapa:

Pari Thapa: National Peoples' Front - Rastriya Janamorcha

Padma R. Tuladhar: Human rights activist, former member of parliament, and former facilitator for peace dialogues between the government and Maoists.

Description of the thematic sessions

The principal challenges facing the parties can be summed up under the following thematic headings. These four themes will be addressed in separate sessions of the workshop.

1. Dealing With the Monarchy and the RNA

The monarchy in Nepal is a looming political force that derives most of its power from the Royal Nepal Army (RNA). The recently assertive monarchy has shifted the balance of power and its current actions have delivered a major setback to democratic process in Nepal. The parties must devise strategies to effectively deal with the monarchy, with a view to bring the monarchy completely and irretrievably within the bounds of the constitution. Due to the new behavior of monarchy, the Nepali elites, students and civil society are gearing more and more towards a system with ceremonial monarchy or even republicanism.

This session will explore various ways to influence and pressurize the monarchy to agree to a well defined constitutional role in a democratic Nepal. Adequate guarantees, and checks and balance must be built in the system to ensure that such a contract between the monarchy and the people remains valid and enforceable. In the recent past, all democratic forces have converged in the belief that the RNA should be solidly under the control of an elected government and parliament, and not under the king. To advance this agenda, the parties may also need to explore direct dialogues with the RNA on political matters.

This thematic session will involve the delegation members presenting their individual party as well as seven-seven party collective views on dealing with the monarchy. A round table discussion will follow the presentations.

2. Dealing with the Maoists

Through their violent means and para-military resources, the Maoists have, unfortunately, displaced the political parties as the primary political force in the Nepali countryside. The Maoists are armed, organized, and have already changed the political landscape of the Nepali state, squeezing the political space for parties and other actors. As the Maoists have taken effective control of a vast portion of the country, dealing with the Maoists, whether through dialogues, pressures or force is a critical issue at present.

In this thematic session the delegation members will be asked to present the seven-party position on dealing with the Maoists, including the special events that have emerged on the political landscape after Feb.1, 2005 (party-Maoist alliance, cease-fire etc.). One or more

insurgency experts may be invited to participate in this roundtable session to make the discussion more comprehensive and contextual.

3. Managing the Movement for Democracy

The timetable for the restoration of full democracy in Nepal depends on the success of parties to organize a non-violent movement that harnesses the national aspirations and international resources. In this session the delegation will brief the participants on the nature, scope and limitations of organized democratic agitation in Nepal in the post Feb. 1 era. They will further discuss the strength and weaknesses of their own movements and highlight the reasons why the movement has not picked up expected momentum. This will also be a time to review the gaining strength of the civil society movement in favor of democracy and republicanism in Nepal, and how the parties and civil society can collaborate to build synergy in the movement.

There will also be a special discussion between the delegation and LDN members about cooperation and coordination of pro-democracy activism between North America based Nepali Diaspora and those on the ground in Nepal.

4. Parties Managing Themselves

The inability of political parties to address the issues related to operational and internal party democracy has cost the parties dearly in lost legitimacy and stature. This failure was also provided a fertile ground for the rise of extremism in Nepal, both to the left and to the right. A principal objective of LDN is precisely to urge the democratic political leadership and structures in Nepal to engage with these often overlooked issues, which ultimately determine the success of democratic movement. Some external experts on political parties in the developing world may be invited to inject comparative and contextual grounding to the roundtable discussion.

Proceedings

Dr. Pramod Mishra (Assistant Professor, Augustana College), Dr. Bed Giri (Assistant Professor, Dartmouth College) and Dr. Gyan Pradhan (Associate Professor, Westminster College) will join as guest editors Dr. Ambika P. Adhikari and Dr. Alok K. Bohara to publish the proceedings as a special issue of the Liberal Democracy Nepal Bulletin journal.

Hotel information

Hawthorn Suites 467 Herndon Parkway, Herndon, VA

Here is the information on the hotel near DC for the above workshop. Please call the hotel directly and book your rooms. Many of us are arriving on Thursday departing DC on Monday and are sharing rooms.

Please note below that you have two options, either an individual room for one two persons or a two room suite for four persons. The two room suite for 4 persons is the most cost effective, and it is a bargain.

As you will note, the rooms are 2 bedroom suites with one queen bed in each room, common sitting room and a small kitchen. These rooms can house up to 4 persons. The hotel can also provide extra cots to those in need.

The hotel has free shuttle to public transportation, free breakfast, snacks, dinner, drinks (wine and beer) etc. The location is Reston/Herndon, Virginia, about 6 miles from Dulles International airport.

Dulles International Airport is the closest to this hotel. Free shuttle is available to the airport; please call 703 437 5000 once you are at the airport.

We have blocked 10 2 bed room suites for \$89+tax. Mention NDI/LDN meeting and Dr. Anup Pahari's name for the discounted rate. Room is blocked for 4 nights arriving on October 20th. Simply mention your name under group reservation. They have to guarantee it with the credit card. Go online to see what they offer www.hawthorn.com Regular room rate is \$205+tax.

Hotel contact info

703-437-5000 Phone

1-800-527-1133 Phone

703-464-5808 Fax

sshrestha@capitalhospitality.com