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 Hooverter
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.

You will be staying at:
Hawthorn Suites
467 Herndon Parkway,
Herndon, Virginia
Ph: 703-437-5000
Ph: 1-800-527-1133
Fx: 703-464-5808

All events will be held at NDI office:
National Democratic Institute
2030 M Street NW
Fifth Floor, Washington, DC
Ph: 202-728-550
Fx: 202-728-5520

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
Independent Consultant and
Theme Editor
Liberal Democracy Nepal
Cell: (703) 589-6511
apahari@comcast.net

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.

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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 Dealing with the Monarchy and Royal Nepal Army

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 Dealing with the Maoists

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).  

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

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

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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 Managing the Movement for Democracy
Moderators:
Dr. Ambika Adhikari
Planner, City of Phoenix & Faculty Associate, Arizona State University
Mr. Suman Timisina
Senior Project Manager, MBNA America
Dr. Vijaya Sharma
Asst Professor, University of Colorado

10:00am – 10:15am Break

10:15am – 11:30 noon Parties Managing Themselves
Moderators:
Dr. Alok K. Bohara
Professor, Univ. of New Mexico
Dr. Mukti Upadhyay.
Associate Professor, Eastern Illinois University
Dr. Tara Niraula
Senior Research Scholar and Research Director
Columbia University
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).
Remarks by Dr. Shyam Karki on the views of the Diaspora (10 minutes).
Comments and closing remarks.
Moderators
Dr. Anup Pahari and Dr. Ambika Adhikari

12:45pm – 2:00pm  Lunch break

2:00pm – 4:00pm  Analysis of the Nepali crisis and possible UN role
Keynote speech: “What might the political parties do to create conducive environment for peace, reconciliation and democracy?”
Mr. Kul Chandra Gautam
Assistant Secretary-General of the UN and Deputy Executive Director of the UNICEF

Opinion: UN’s experience in conflict resolution, lessons learned, and how the UN might be helpful in Nepal’s situation
Tamrat, Samuel
United Nations Head Quarters, New York

Speaker introductions and moderation
Mr. Girija Gautam

4:00 – 5:00pm  Possible workshop declaration (Dr. Anup Pahadi)
Vote of thanks (Mr. Aditya Jha)
Summary of the workshop by Dr. Alok Bohara
Closing remarks by LDN representatives and representative of Nepali delegation.

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.
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.
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