



*Embassy of Nepal
Paris, France*

Press Release

On the occasion of the National Day of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, the Embassy of Nepal in Paris organized a reception on 18 September 2018 at the Town Hall of the 17th Arrondissement, Paris. The celebration of National Day marks the promulgation of the Constitution of Nepal-2015.

Attended by more than 150 distinguished guests, the Reception featured Madam Veronique Riotton, President of France Nepal Amity Group at the National Assembly, the lower house of the French Parliament; other Parliamentarians, Senators; Ambassador Thierry Mathou, Director at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development of the French Republic; Mr Xing Qu, Deputy Director General of UNESCO; Mr. Philippe Guerre, the Deputy Mayor of 17 Paris; Ambassadors and Permanent Delegates, members of diplomatic community, representatives of the French Government and former French ambassadors to Nepal.

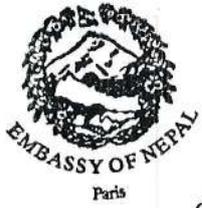
Mr. Ram Chandra Poudel, former Deputy Prime Minister and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Nepal (leader of the Nepali Congress Party) also attended the program. He was on a two day visit to France.

Likewise, Honorary Consul of Nepal in Lisbon, prominent French citizens, business community, NGOs, Nepali community members and Embassy officials and their family members also participated in the National Day celebration.

The Reception programme began by playing the national anthems of France and Nepal. Welcoming the distinguished guests, H.E. Mrs. Ambika Devi Luintel, Ambassador of Nepal to France and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, stated that the new Constitution of Nepal-2015 is the outcome of the long and arduous struggles and huge sacrifices made by Nepali people for democracy. She highlighted that the constitution guarantees liberty, fundamental freedoms, gender equality and justice to all Nepali and that Nepal is a Federal Democratic Republic and a secular country. She went on to state that Nepal successfully completed Federal, Provincial and local level elections, as per the constitution, and the country now has a stable government under Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Mr. Khadga Prasad Oli. The Provincial Governments have also been formed across all seven provinces of the country. She also stated that the country has successfully come out of political transition.

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On economic development, H.E. Ambassador highlighted the current developmental theme of "Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali" and elaborated on the Government's objectives of achieving double digit growth rate and the doubling of per capita income level of Nepali people in the next five years. She also informed the gathering that the government of Nepal aims to uplift Nepal to a status of middle-income country in the next 10 years. She outlined the economic priority areas of the government and the conducive environment for FDI that Nepal has created, inviting the French and other foreign investors and entrepreneurs to invest in Nepal.

Dwelling on Nepal-France relations, Ambassador H.E. Luintel said that Nepal and France have been enjoying excellent bilateral relations since the establishment of their diplomatic relations in 1949. She commented that the relations between two countries, in fact, go back to more than 150 years when the then Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr Junga Bahadur Rana, visited France in 1850. She highlighted that Nepal and France have been co-operating in the fields of education, telecommunications, seismological networking, and civil aviation. Emphasizing on the huge potentials for trade and investments between Nepal and France, H.E. Ambassador informed about a few joint projects between French and Nepali entrepreneurs in the areas of hotels, restaurants, medicine, fabrication of aluminum windows and doors, vehicle industry etc. Recently, French companies have also shown their interest in medicinal and aromatic herbal projects in Nepal as Nepal is rich in these products as a mountainous country, she added.

H.E. Ambassador appreciated the contributions of French NGOs in the socio-economic upliftment of rural Nepali people. She also informed the gathering that the post-quake reconstruction is in the full swing and a lot has already been achieved.

Ambassador H.E., Luintel stated that Nepal has always been one of the most enchanting tourist destinations for many peoples around the world including the French. She informed that the government has declared year 2020 as Nepal-visit-Year and encouraged the French citizens to plan their next holiday in Nepal and enjoy the pristine natural beauty, the breathtaking snowcapped mountains of Nepal and unique Nepali history, culture and hospitality.

H.E. Ambassador applauded the commendable works of UNESCO in education and conserving the cultural heritage sites in Nepal and across the globe. She expressed the readiness of the Government of Nepal to join hands with UNESCO in its every effort to promote peace and security in the world by way of

enhanced collaboration among nations through education, science, culture and communication as enshrined in the Constitution of UNESCO.

On the occasion, Ambassador Thierry Mathou, Director at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development of the French Republic congratulated the Nepali people on the successful promulgation of the new Constitution and added that the exchanges of the visit at people's level from old times have cemented our bilateral relations. He expressed satisfaction at the growing bilateral relations between Nepal and France and expressed his best wishes for the progress and prosperity of Nepal and Nepali people. In 2019, Nepal and France will complete their 70 years of the establishment of diplomatic relations and hence suggested that various programs may be organized in both capitals.

The Deputy Mayor of the 17th Arrondissement of Paris, Mr. Philippe Guerre also congratulated Nepal and Nepali people on the National Day while addressing the programme. He highlighted on the tourism and cultural prospects of Nepal and expressed the readiness of the Mairie du 17^{eme} to support Nepal in the promotion of tourism and culture sectors in future as well.

The Embassy had organised a cultural programme featuring Vajrayogini Dance and other items of Nepali songs and dances performed in Nepali costumes by Nepali artists living in France. Earlier in the programme, Nepali nationals wearing the costumes of various ethnic groups were showcased carrying the national flags of Nepal and France. After the cultural performances, a documentary of touristic places of Nepal was displayed throughout the programme.

The Embassy exhibited various Nepalese items such as cardamom, tea, coffee, leather goods, handmade carpets, paper products, felt items, brass statues, pashmina shawls, woolen products and other handicrafts.

The Embassy served authentic Nepali cuisine to the distinguished guests which was relished with great delight and appreciation.

The Embassy also gave away gift packets with Nepali tea and tourism brochures of Nepal to all distinguished guests.

19 September 2018

