



**NEPAL ASSOCIATION
OF TOUR & TRAVEL AGENTS**



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Photo: Music of Nepal

Music is associated with every event in Nepal, be it birth, marriage, festivals or National events. Various songs, musical instruments and dances are connected with various religious, social and cultural life of the Nepalese. Music of Nepal is the heartbeat referring to the various musical genres heard in Nepal. With many ethnic groups, the music of the country is highly diverse with lots of unique musical instruments being played. Genres like pop, rock, Nep-hop, folk, and Classical music, western are widely found, and some other genres are yet to be cataloged. Nepal has so many forms of music of its own to share with the rest of the world. However, nothing can beat the Nepali traditional, folk and classical music adding the instruments played with it. Its rhythm, beats, bounce are completely mesmerizing and spiritual enough to sooth and entertain and cheer you.

NATTA enews

NATTA meets Dy. Governor of NRB



A NATTA delegation led by President Mr. Madhu Sudan Acharya met Mr. Chintamani Shivakoti, Deputy Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank on Thursday, the 4th August and urged the Central Bank to amend the provision of depriving the agent from bill purchase showing enough practical reasons. NATTA Chief of the delegation also requested NRB not to confiscate the Guarantee amount deposited by the agent in favor of NRB to obtain the license for foreign exchange dealings, in case of the failure of the agent to renew the license in time. Dy. Governor has been quite positive about both the above grievances of NATTA and NATTA has also sent a letter to the above effect to NRB. The other members in the NATTA delegation were 1st VP Mr. CN Pandey, Secy. Gen. Mr. Bhim Prasad Panta and Treasurer Mr. Chitra Bahadur Gurung.



NATTA-SOTTO Joint Meeting

A joint meeting of NATTA & Society of Tour & Travel Operators-Nepal (SOTTO) was held at NATTA Secretariat on Wednesday, the 03rd August, 2016 to reflect on the common issues and the joint strategies to overcome the problems faced by members of the associations. President Mr. Madhu Sudan Acharya welcomed the SOTTO President Mr. Yam Bahadur Khadka and the SOTTO Executive Committee in the meeting and also hinted on the possibilities of working in tandem together. The meeting concluded by taking two major resolutions. The first being that SOTTO representatives be included in the NATTA Tax & VAT Committee chaired by 1st VP Mr. CN Pandey and the second major resolution was that a Joint Committee of NATTA & SOTTO be formed to undo the problems mainly concerned with airlines' and GDS.



Meeting with Presidents of Regional Associations

Chairman of NATTA Regional Co-ordination Committee Mr. D.K. Sharma convened a meeting of the Presidents of NATTA Eastern Regional Association and NATTA Far Western Regional Association on Wednesday, the 03rd August at NATTA Secretariat. Both the Presidents Mr. Hem Raj Bastola and Mr. Maya Prakash Bhatta were requested to table their grievances in regard to how NATTA should proceed further with the regional associations. The meeting was attended by NATTA Treasurer Mr. Chitra Bahadur Gurung, Secretary Mr. Sudhir Kumar Upadhyay and Executive member Mr. Binay Basnet. CEO Prof. Hari Sarmah was also in the meeting.

Face to Face with Tourism Minister, MOCTCA

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Tourism Minister Mr. Ananda Prasad Pokhrel confessed that he couldn't complete all his anticipated work during his tenure. Speaking at the Face to Face Program organized by JAT-Nepal at NTB on 2nd August 2016, Minister Mr. Pokhrel crack down also on the things that was accomplished such as dissemination of the message Buddha was Born in Nepal and success of 2560th Buddhist Conference, 10 yearly plan for the development of tourism, appointment of NTB CEO etc. The programs major matter was to review the incumbency of Tourism Minister and it had the participation of Mr. Bal Bahadur Mahat, State Minister MOCTCA, Tourism Secretary, Director General, Presidents and Executives of associations, entrepreneurs, media. NATTA Secretary General Mr. Bhim Prasad Panta, Executive Members Mr. Ghanashyam Ghimire, Mr. Ram Kumar Barakoti participated in the meeting.





Documentary Showcased on Far Western Region

Tourism Development Society (TDS) organized a program at Nepal Tourism Board, Auditorium Hall where a documentary was showcased displaying various locations as an aid of promoting and uplifting Far Western Region of Nepal. Khaptad, Rara, Badimalika as well as Trekking trail of Far Western, Adventure tourism, wildlife, rafting were some of the touristic possessions that were showcased in the documentary. The program held on 1st August 2016 had the participation from tourism industries, media, and various other associations. President Mr. MadhuSudan Acharya represented NATTA in the documentary program.

Amendment in the Tourist Transport Operation Rule

Department of Tourism (DOT) has issued a circular stating that there has been third amendment in the Tourist Transport Registration & Operation Rules of the government. A few of NATTA's demands have also been addressed in the new amendment, viz., the tourist transport must be of 1000 cc, the fuel used can be electric, petrol, diesel, gas, solar or and any other environmental friendly energy, the green-plated vehicles can be changed into other types after one year, all tourist vehicles must have First Aid Box, Fire Extinguisher and Seat Belts installed in the vehicle, everything related to tourist transport including the change of stations, change in the name of shareholder, follow-up of matters pertaining to tourist transport, report, instructions and monitoring would be done by the DOT and not by the Ministry as was the case earlier. Moreover, the renewal of the license of operating tourist vehicles can be done even after three months of the expiry date by paying three thousand rupees or within another nine months by paying nine thousand rupees as penalty. The renewal date has been extended to one year whereas in the past it was only six months.



NATTA in Promotion of WASH in Nepal



Secretary General Mr. Bhim Prasad Panta participated in an Interaction program with private sector on promotion of WASH in Nepal held at Hotel Himalaya on 31st July, 2016. The plight of the denizens of Kathmandu caused due to scarce water supply in Kathmandu was highlighted by almost all the speakers in the meeting. Only 25% of the total population is served and the remaining 75% people are deprived of the use of water supply although Right to water and sanitation is defined as human rights by UN General Council was one of the prime focus of the interaction. 80% diseases are related to water and sanitation, as such private sector needs to be quite aware of such facts and build up a pressure to the government to invest in WASH programs. Only a healthy nation can aspire to become wealthy in terms of happiness of the people, was the gist of the discussion.

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