



NATTA WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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BEAUTY OF NEPAL



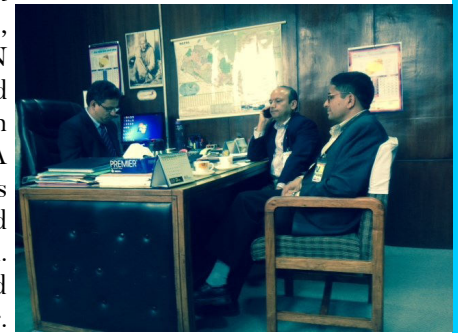
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NATTA MEETS BARN CHAIRMAN

On Thursday, the 14th April, 2016 a high level delegates from NATTA under the leadership of President Mr. Madhu Sudan Acharya called on the Chairman of BARN CA Janak Raj Kalakheti at his office in Nepal Airlines and discussed about three agenda, viz., reissue and revalidation of air-tickets issued, seek concurrence of BARN Executives in changing the seven-day payment cycle to ten days and the third agenda discussed in the meeting was that NA should also take service charges on sale of each and every air-tickets from the NA counter. Chairman of BARN CA Mr. Kalakheti who is also the Director of Commercial department of NA has expressed his very positive concern towards those NATTA raised agendas and has assured that in short course of time, all these points will possibly get through. Also present in the meeting were Secretary General of NATTA Mr. Bhim Prasad Panta, NATTA Secretary Mr. Sudhir Kumar Upadhaya, NATTA Executives Mr. Binay Basnet as well as CEO Prof. Hari Sarmah.

**E-NEWS
OF NATTA**



MEETING WITH NATHM

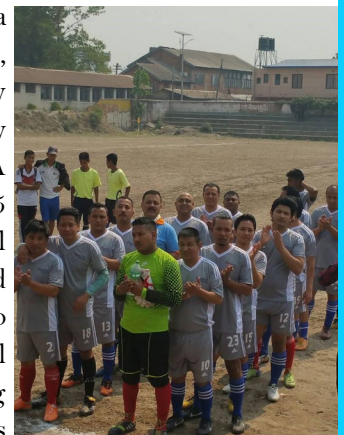
Secretary Mr. Sudhir Kumar Upadhay and Executive Member Mr. Binay Basnet had a meeting with the HOD of NATHM Mr. K. Kharel on 11th April 2016, Monday. The meet was regarding the trainings that NATTA will initiate in coordination with NATHM. NATHM has requested for the support from NATTA to upgrade the curriculum for Tourist Guide Trainings that is going to be commenced in the month of Jestha, 2073.

NATTA IN THE PROCESS OF FORMING CREDIT MONITORING ALLIANCE

A meeting of NATTA officials and some major tour operators held recently in the NATTA Secretariat has finally resolved to form a strong Alliance to monitor the credit flow in the market in view of the huge amount of credits not realized in time. At this stage NATTA 2nd VP Mr. D.K. Sharma will act as a co-coordinator and soon the complete list of members in the Alliance will get the shape.

PARTICIPATION IN FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

NATTA had participated in a friendly Football Tournament, which was organized by Tourism Express, bimonthly Tourism Newspaper. NATTA team comprised of around 25 participants including travel agents, tour operators and Airlines. NATTA entered into Quarter Final in the football tournament by winning against Tourist Bus Association of Nepal by 3-1.



On the very next day, NATTA entered into the semi final round by winning against Rainbow Travel by 1-0.

Tournament was held at Sanogaucharan, Football Ground, Naxal.



Secretary General Mr. Bhim Prasad Panta, Executive Members Mr. Laxman Lamsal, Mr. Ghanashyam Ghimire and Mr. Ram Barakoti attended a meeting with DG of Department of Tourism and apprised him about the hassle being faced by our transporters with their vehicles having green number plates. The traffic police doesn't allow Nepalese tourists to use the tourist vehicles (green-plated) and are unnecessarily fined. NATTA delegation has demanded a prompt solution to the problem.

DESTINATION NEPAL PRESENTATION: PRESS UPDATE FROM CHINA SALES MISSION—2016

Nepal Tourism Board (NTB) and Nepal Association of Tour and Travel Agents (NATTA) jointly organized Nepal Sales Mission 2016 in China. The Sales Mission is being conducted in four cities of China: Beijing, Hangzhou, Shanghai and Chengdu which are major tourism generating markets for Nepal. The Sales Mission has delegates of 25 companies including tour operators, travel agents and hoteliers.

Mr. Sunil Sharma, Off. Director, Nepal Tourism Board made a Destination Nepal presentation and showcased varied products that Nepal has to offer to the audiences in every destinations.

The Sales Missions has the participation of 3rd Vice President Mr. Dilli Prasad Gautam and Executive Member Mr. Varun Mehta. Sales Mission is led by Ms. Shital Sharma Poudel, coordinator of the programme.



BEIJING

On April 11th, 2016, Sales Mission was accomplished in Beijing. His Excellency Dr. Mahesh Kumar Maskey, Ambassador to People's Republic of China graced the event. Also, other embassy officials were present during the occasion. In his opening speech, His Excellency highlighted the importance of tourism in Nepal and also remarked China as a big potential market for Nepalese tourism. He said that during his tenure of four years he witnessed growing number of Chinese tourists in Nepal. During the occasion he informed the media personal and tour operators who were present in the event that Government of Nepal is going to organize Buddha Jayanti, the birthday of Lord Buddha in alumni in Lumbini on May 21st, 2016. He urged media personal and Chinese tour operators to visit Nepal during the occasion.

Also present were Ms. Li Jian, Culture and Tourism Representative from the PR of China, and Mr. Jiang Ming Yang, Chinese actor. Both regaled audiences by sharing their wonderful and memorable experiences in Nepal and have been instrumental in promoting Nepal in China. They were given token of appreciation by Mr. D.K Ghimire, 2nd Vice President of NATTA.

This was followed by a B2B session where Nepalese tour operators, travel agencies and hoteliers had interaction session with their Chinese counterparts. The Sales Mission delegates also visited China Outbound Travel and Tourism Market (COTTM), one of the biggest tourism fairs in China NTB represented Nepal in COTTM along with four tour and travel companies.

The Sales Mission delegates also visited Embassy of Nepal in Beijing where they exchanged views on tourism promotion and joint cooperation between Nepal and China.



HANGZHOU and SHANGHAI

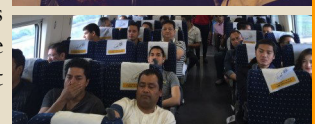
The next destination was at Hangzhou in Best Western Hotel on 14th April 2016. The programme was attended by over 60 participants that includes media and tour operators .



During the session Mr. D.K. Ghimire, NATTA 2nd Vice President, welcome all distinguished guests and media personnel. This was followed by remarks by Mr. Binod Acharya, Minister (Economic) from Nepal Embassy. He highlighted the importance of tourism in Nepal and importance of Chinese tourists for Nepalese market. He announced that Government of Nepal is celebrating 2560th Buddha Jayanti the birthday of Lord Buddha in Lumbini on May 21st, 2016. He further added that the forum has provided good opportunity for friendly interactions and exchange of ideas between Nepalese and Chinese tourism entrepreneurs. Also present on the occasion was Ms. Li Jian, Culture and Tourism Representative, who informed the audience her beautiful and memorable experiences of Nepal. He assured the Nepalese delegates that she will do her best to promote Nepal in China. Ms. Shital Sharma, NATTA Executive Board member and coordinator, gave word of thanks on behalf of NATTA.



After Hangzhou, B2B session was at Shanghai on 15th April 2016, in Mingde Grand Hotel and was attended by over 100 participants including media and tour operators, hoteliers, and travel agencies. After the sessions of remarks, by Mr. D.K. Ghimire, NATTA 2nd Vice President, Mr. Binod Acharya, Minister (Economic) from Nepal Embassy and Ms. Li Jian, Culture and Tourism Representative, the program was followed by question and answer session. Media personnel took deep interest in post earthquake reconstruction of Heritage sites in Nepal. People in the audiences urged that there should be direct flight connectivity between Beijing, Shanghai to Nepal that will help to generate more tourist numbers in Nepal.



Pokhara int'l airport project set to take off



A year after the government started upgrading Gautam Buddha Airport in Bhairahawa as an international airport, it has now started another international airport in Pokhara. Development of yet another full-fledged international airport in Nijgad, Bara has also been under consideration. If all goes well, Nepal is set to have four international airports by 2022.

On Wednesday, Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli laid the foundation stone of an international airport in Pokhara. The \$215.96 million (Rs 22 billion) project is expected to be completed by July 2020. The project which lies at Chinnedanda, 3 km east of Pokhara's domestic airport, has remained on the drawing board for decades.

"The project will be completed on time," said PM Oli. "The international airport will increase the importance of the tourist hub further."

In 1975, the government had acquired over 3,106 ropanis of land for the project. However, the project was put on the back burner. "Pokhara locals' 40-year-old dream of having an international airport is about to come true," said Oli. On March 21 during PM Oli's visit to China, the government signed a \$215.96 million loan deal with China EXIM Bank to build the new facility. The credit request followed the Cabinet's go-ahead in October 2014 to construct the project with Chinese funding.

The bank has agreed to provide 25 percent of the loan without interest. The government will have to pay 2 percent interest per annum on the rest of the loan. The loan repayment period is 20 years, including a seven-year grace period when no interest will be charged. As per the feasibility report, the airport, which will be spread over 200 hectares, will have a 2,500x45-metres runway. It will accommodate medium category jets like Boeing 757 and Airbus 320.

Gautam Buddha International Airport, which will serve as a gateway to the birthplace of Buddha, is being built at a cost of Rs23 billion. It is scheduled to be completed by 2017. Apart from the development of two international airports, the Ministry of Tourism has tabled another proposal at the Cabinet to construct a full-fledged international airport in Nijgad, Bara, which will cost Rs121 billion. The government is also working to review the airspace agreement with India for more entry routes for airlines coming to Nepal. The government has requested India to open three more air entry points at Janakpur, Bhairahawa and Nepalgunj to allow Nepali carriers to link major Indian cities. The cross-border direct routes are expected to facilitate flights between airports in Pokhara and Bhairahawa, and this will save time and money for air travellers and also improve air connectivity between India and Nepal.

OUT OF THE DRAWING BOARD, FINALLY

- In 1975, the government acquired 3,106 ropanis of land for the Pokhara international airport project. But the project had been put on the back burner.
- In October 2014, the Cabinet gave the green signal to construct the airport with Chinese funding
- On March 21 during PM Oli's visit to China, the government signed a \$215.96 million loan deal with China EXIM Bank to build the new facility
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NTB announces 2073 as 'Ghumphir Barsa'

Nepal Tourism Board (NTB) on Monday announced Bikram Sambat 2073 as 'Ghumphir Barsa', which means travel year, in a bid to promote domestic tourism. The initiative is part of the government's preparations to organise International Tourism Year 2017-18.

A minister-level decision had approved the proclamation of Ghumphir Barsa last Friday. Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli will make a special announcement of the programme, the first of its kind, on April 24 to commemorate the first anniversary of the April 25 earthquake.

"As our domestic tourism requires promotion, we have decided to conduct a wide promotional campaign to encourage domestic sightseers to travel in Nepal," said Deepak Raj Joshi, CEO of the NTB. "The programme is part of the preparations to declare 2017-18 as International Tourism Year."

The NTB has allocated a budget of Rs2 million to carry out promotional activities to make the programme a success. The board will encourage the private sector to create special packages targeting Nepali travellers. "NTB will help the private sector to promote the tour packages," said Joshi. As per the plan, a booklet will be published describing the tour packages developed by travel and tour operators, the board said. In a bid to promote new destinations, travellers will be offered schemes and incentives, said Joshi.

"We are not aware of our geography as we have not travelled in Nepal," said *Ambica Shrestha*, senior tourism entrepreneur and president of Dwarika's Hotel. "Let's visit Nepal and let the country move ahead. I believe this programme will encourage Nepalis to explore their country and promote tourism," said Shrestha.

There are no statistics regarding domestic tourism in Nepal, but travel trade entrepreneurs said that the *trend* was on the *rise* owing to young travellers and adventure lovers who are exploring new ways of recreation. They said that places like Pokhara, Chitwan, Muktinath and the Annapurna Circuit, among others, have been receiving a large number of domestic visitors due to a growing middle class.

According to the London-based World Travel and Tourism Council's report entitled Travel and Tourism Economic Impact 2015, domestic travel spending generated 59 percent of the direct travel and tourism GDP in 2014 compared to 41 percent for foreign visitor spending or international tourism receipts.

Domestic travel spending is expected to grow 8.5 percent in 2015 to Rs83.8 billion, the report said.



PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2016

May - 01 Sunday
Labor Day, All Around the World



May - 03 Tuesday
Constitution Memorial Day
Japan



May - 03 Tuesday
Constitution Day
Poland



May - 05 Thursday
Children's Day
Japan



May - 05 Thursday
Children's Day
South Korea



May - 05 Thursday
Ascension Day
France



May - 05 Thursday
Ascension Day of Jesus Christ
Indonesia



May - 05 Thursday
Ascension Day
Germany



May - 08 Sunday
Liberation Day
Czech Republic



May - 14 Saturday
Buddha's Birthday
South Korea



May - 14 Saturday
The Birthday of the Buddha
Hong Kong



May - 20 Friday
Vesak Day
[Thailand](#)



May - 21 Saturday
Buddha Purnima
Nepal



May - 21 Saturday
Vesak Day
[Singapore](#)



May - 21 Saturday
Wesak Day
[Malaysia](#)



May - 21 Saturday
Buddha Purnima (Buddha's Birthday)
[Bangladesh](#)



May - 21 Saturday
Wesak Full Moon Poya Day
[Sri Lanka](#)



May - 22 Sunday
Waisak Day
[Indonesia](#)



May - 22 Sunday
Day following Wesak Full Moon Poya Day
[Sri Lanka](#)



May - 23 Monday
Victoria Day
[Canada](#)



May - 25 Wednesday
May 1810 Revolution Day
[Argentina](#)



May - 30 Monday
Memorial Day

May 2016						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

FUN AND ENTERTAINMENT



WORLD LANDMARKS:: NAME THEM



- ANSWERS:
- 1)Machu Picchu
 - 2)Sydney Opera House
 - 3)Statue of Liberty
 - 4)Moai
 - 5)Pyramids of Giza
 - 6)Great Wall of China
 - 7)Taj Mahal
 - 8)Amsterdam
 - 9)Colosseum
 - 10)Notre-Dame de Paris
 - 11)Tower Bridge
 - 12)Uluru
 - 13)Stonehenge
 - 14)Mosque of Cordoba
 - 15)Singapore
 - 16)Temple of Concordia
 - 17)Statue of Liberty

