

# NATTA WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



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## NATTA HANDED OVER RUPEES FIVE LACS TO PM DISASTER RELIEF FUND

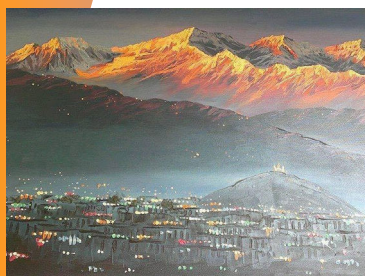


President D.B Limbu along with NATTA Executives handing over the amount to PM

**K**athmandu: 21<sup>st</sup> June, Nepal Association of Tour & Travel Agents (NATTA) has handed over a sum of Rupees five lacs to Prime Minister Disaster Relief Fund. Earlier NATTA had distributed relief materials including food stuff to the earthquake victims of various districts including Patlekhet VDC of Kavre, Raising VDC of Nuwakot, Ghumthang VDC of Sindhupalchok, Kuntadevi VDC of Okhaldhunga and Ranipari VDC of Parbat. All these expenses were met by using the contribution of NATTA members and well-wishers.

The above amount was handed over to Prime Minister Sushil Koirala by NATTA delegation led by President D. B. Limbu. NATTA delegates included 1st VP Shambhu Raj Pathak, Secretary General Mihika Dhakhwa, Secretary Ramesh Thapa, Jt. Treasurer Jiswan Tuladhar Shrestha, Executive Members Sabita Bhattarai KC, Yubaraj Subedi, NATTA member Hari Gopal Pradhan and CEO Prof. Dr. Hari Sarmah.

NATTA President Limbu urged the Prime Minister to initiate construction of an additional runway in the existing Tribhuvan International Airport, guarantee security to the tourists, Tourist Bus Terminal in Kathmandu and expedite revival of tourism.



Beautiful Nepal

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## Two Day Seminar of NTB with Tourism Stakeholders

**Kathmandu:** A two-day long seminar on “Appreciative Inquiry for Tourism Business” was held at Megha Malhar Hall, Hotel Soaltee on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> June ’15. The seminar was organized by Nepal Tourism Board.

The seminar was held for the Tourism stakeholders to help them in capacity building to deal with the present and imminent obstacles caused by the

damage of historical monuments and a few heritage sites in the valley.

Ms. Sabita Bhattarai K.C, Ms. Kamla Gurung and Ms. Phudoma Sherpa participated in the program representing NATTA.



## NATTA Convention and Special Program - Carnival on 25<sup>th</sup> Sept

**Kathmandu:** The 20<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention of Nepal Association of Tour & Travel Agents (NATTA) will be held in Kathmandu on 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2015. NATTA Board Meeting held Thursday, the 25<sup>th</sup> June has finalized the theme for the NATTA Convention. It is, “Building Better Tourism with Renewed Strength”.

This theme has been approved as quite suitable in the wake of our

efforts to restore and rebuild the damages caused by the April 25<sup>th</sup> Earthquake.

NATTA will begin all its preparations to hold this convention with immediate effect although the venue is yet to be fixed.

Nevertheless, NATTA Special Program-Carnival 2015 and NATTA Convention will be held on the same day. Morning session

will be given for the Convention and the late afternoon will highlight NATTA Special Program-Carnival. The same day, we are also planning to have the Board Meeting of South Asian Tourism Federation at the same venue. NATTA President is the Vice Chairman of the Federation. The detail program is under the process and will be updated to NATTA members as soon as it gets finalized.



## \$4.4 bn committed for recovery, reconstruction

The International Conference on Nepal's Reconstruction concluded in Kathmandu, with the country securing funding commitment of around US\$4.4 billion from nations and agencies for recovery and reconstruction in the aftermath of earthquakes. The total funding commitment expressed during the conference — held exactly after two months of the devastating earthquake of April 25 — was almost 66 per cent of the country's total recovery and reconstruction needs of \$6.7 billion.



Of the total commitment secured today, around \$2.2 billion was in the form of grants and another \$2.2 billion was in the form of loans. However, the portion of fresh funding commitments and the portion of pledges made on the basis of potential reallocation of funds from existing portfolio are not known.

Of the funding commitments made during the conference, the biggest (approximately \$1 billion) came from India, which has expressed interest to support areas, such as agriculture, housing, roads and transport, electricity, health, education, cultural heritage and disaster risk reduction.

Another neighboring country, China, pledged financial assistance of RMB 3 billion (approximately \$489.53 million, or Rs 48.95 billion) for a period of 2016 to 2018. All of this assistance would be provided in the 'form of grant', according to Minister Mahat.

Japan pledged financial assistance of \$260 million, while the US and the UK expressed commitment to extend \$130 million and \$110 million, respectively.

The European Union pledged grant assistance of around \$112 million.

Multilateral lending agencies that have been continuously supporting Nepal

also made generous commitment during the conference.

The Asian Development Bank, for instance,

pledged to extend \$600 million, the World Bank pledged to provide \$500 million and the International Monetary Fund expressed commitment to extend \$50 million.

Among others, countries like Germany, Switzerland, Norway, South Korea, Finland, Turkey, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Pakistan also pledged financial assistance to Nepal.

### Countries, agencies' funding commitment

Country	Commitment
India .....	\$1 bn
ADB .....	600 mn
WB .....	500 mn
China .....	\$489.53 mn
Japan .....	\$260 mn
US .....	130 mn
EU .....	112 mn
UK .....	110 mn
IMF .....	50 mn

## CAPTURED SNAPS



A foreign delegate poses for a shot during his visit at the Basantapur Durbar Square in the Capital.



Replica of Dharahara in the night view at Sundhara, Kathmandu.



Locals plant paddy on their fields at Madhyapur Thimi in Bhaktapur. Farmers are busy planting paddy on their fields in the valley with the onset of monsoon.





"I feel like I have a deep connection with this beautiful country," says, **Susan Sarandon**, who was in Nepal to promote tourism which will help rebuild the country. She spoke with **Abhilasha Rayamajhi** on how she is encouraging people across the globe to visit Nepal. Excerpts:



An Academy Award winning actor, **Susan Sarandon**, has starred in films like 'Stepmom', 'Atlantic City', 'The Calling' among many other noted works. She has also worked as the Goodwill Ambassador of UNICEF in 1999 and Food and Agriculture Organisation (UN) in 2010.

### What is the impression that you have of Nepal and Nepali people?

It is an unusual experience. Nepal is still beautiful and alive. I find Nepali people brave and resilient; they are coping with everything with a smile on their face.

It is heartbreaking to see the destruction around. Nepal has suffered a lot but it is not as bad as the media has portrayed. Many businesses are still running, shops and restaurants are still open. I am positive that Nepal will bounce back again.

### How are you connected to Nepal and its people?

His Holiness is a friend and that is how I am supporting Live to Love International. I had nominated Pushpa Basnet for CNN Heroes. I will also meet Pushpa and the children and I am quite excited about it! I had heard a lot about the rich cultural heritage of Nepal and I have always wanted to visit. Nepal has suffered a lot in terms of lives lost, structural damage to cultural heritages, economic regression and I thought that this would be the right time to come to Nepal to lend a helping hand. I know that Nepal is a great place for trekking and other adventures. The traditional wood work, handicrafts and art are

### How do you plan to encourage travel to Nepal?

I plan to use social media as a platform to showcase the beauty that Nepal holds. The resilience with which Nepalis are moving on from this disaster is commendable. I will be posting pictures in the social media of me shopping in Kathmandu hoping to spread the message that life has come back to normal. People are going about their daily chores and business is gradually picking up. I shopped for my granddaughter, sister and friends at Babar Mahal Revisited. The handicrafts, sculptures and the art work on display are praiseworthy and unique. The best way the international community can help is by visiting Nepal as tourism generates significant revenue for the country. I, therefore, request everyone to continue to travel and visit Nepal at least once.

### How has your experience of working with Live to Love, Panchakanya Group and the Kung Fu nuns been?

I am impressed by the way people are working here to help each other. The good thing about this disaster is that people are coming together. You can witness a sense of solidarity among the victims and the ones helping them overcome this catastrophe.

### In your opinion, what recovery path should tourism in Nepal take?

People should help each other at this time of need but they should also try to go back to normal life and get back to their jobs.

Specifically, the tourism industry must work intensively in reconstruction and promotion. It is now time for the country to promote tourism aggressively and send out a positive message to the world. There must be promotional campaigns highlighting what Nepal has to offer to visitors.

### What message would you like to give to the people of Nepal?

Nepalis are known for their courage and bravery; they are also known for their resilience. I know that Nepalis have the ability to take this disaster in their stride. I want to tell each and every Nepali to take this as an opportunity to build a better and prosperous Nepal.

I feel like I have a deep connection with this beautiful country and I hope to come back again. My best wishes are always with Nepal.



# amazing views of Nepal



Nepal Association of Tour and Travel Agents

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