



NATTA WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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MERRY
CHRISTMAS





PRESIDENT LIMBU GREETED NEW CEO OF NTB

President Mr. D.B. Limbu along with 1st Vice President Mr. Shambhu Raj Pathak, Executive Member Mr. Sudhir Kumar Upadhyay and NATTA CEO Prof. Hari Sarmah called on the newly appointed Chief Executive Officer of Nepal Tourism Board Mr. Deepak Raj Joshi on Tuesday, the 22nd December 2015 at his office and extended Congratulations and Best Wishes on behalf of Nepal Association of Tour & Travel Agents (NATTA). On the occasion, President Limbu said that NTB should work in accordance with the spirit and principles of Public Private Partnership taking into account the ‘say’ of the private sector associations and enterprises. NTB should focus on promoting Nepal as a destination in the most potential source markets, he added.



WELCOMING OF NEW MEMBERS

NATTA Welcomed its new members at its 78th Board Meeting. They were honored and welcomed by President Mr. D.B Limbu by handing over Membership Certificate and Khada of NATTA.

Welcomed new members are:

1. Lazy Cat Travels & Tours Pvt. Ltd.
2. Everest Vacation Pvt. Ltd.
3. Nepal Big Mountain Travel Company Pvt. Ltd.
4. Mountain Child Adventure Travel & Trekking Pvt. Ltd.

INFORMATION

NATTA Secretariat has been officially informed about the following changes in the names of their company and management.

- Managing Director of Success Travels & Trek Pvt. Ltd. has changed. The new M.D of the company is Mr. Shree Raj Kumar Rai.
- Chairman of Signature Travel & Tours Pvt. Ltd. has changed. The new Chairman is Mr. Sharan Shrestha.
- Managing Director of Tag & Travels Pvt. Ltd has changed. The new M.D of the company is Mr. D.B Rana
- General Travel & Tours Pvt. Ltd has changed its management and assumed a new name, Subham Travel & Tours Pvt. Ltd with Managing Director, Mr. Dinesh Mainali.

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TA, in

junction with NTB is coordinating the participation in the annual fair FITUR 2016 to be held from January 20-24 2016 at Madrid, Spain.

Coordinator for FITUR 2016 is Executive Member, Mr. Sudhir Kumar Upadhyay.

Almost sixteen stake holder companies have registered their participation in the event as exhibitors. They are:

1. Makalu Adventure Travel & Tours Pvt. Ltd.
2. Vista Travel
3. Osho World Adventure
4. Royal Mountain Travel – Nepal
5. BCN Travel & Tours
6. Destination Nepal Trek & Expedition Pvt. Ltd.
7. Outshine Adventure Pvt. Ltd.
8. Asian Adventure Treks & Expedition Pvt. Ltd.
9. Yala Adventure Pvt. Ltd.
10. Palpali Tour & Travel Pvt. Ltd.
11. Sampurna Aventura Travel Pvt. Ltd.
12. Red Carpet Travel
13. Gaama Travel
14. All Nepal Trekking Pvt. Ltd.
15. Vista Adventure Nepal Pvt. Ltd.
16. Bona Treks & Expedition/Hotel Amaryllis Pvt. Ltd.



CHINA'S OUTBOUND TOURISM WORKSHOP HOW TO DEVELOP NEPAL AS A PREFERRED DESTINATION FOR CHINESE TRAVELLERS

AND

CHINESE TOURIST WELCOME (CTW) TRAINING PROGRAM

By Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Georg Arlt, Founder and Director of COTRI



COTRI China Outbound Tourism Research Institute, established in 2004 A.D., is the world's leading independent research institute for information, training, quality assessment, research and consulting relating to the Chinese outbound tourism market.

CTW Training Programme, helps tourism service providers to position themselves at the forefront of the biggest global outbound tourism source market, by understanding the different market segments, learning to successfully adapt products and by communicating the special attention given to the market to Chinese tour operators and self-organised travellers.

This program also offers deep insights into the characteristics, expectations, motivations and needs of Chinese travellers, enabling tourism service providers to deliver high quality the Chinese way.

Program Details:

Workshop

Date: 3rd January 2016
Time: 9 AM

One- Day Training

Date: 4th or 5th January 2016
Time: 9 AM

Venue: Hotel Annapurna, Durbar Marg

Price: Rs. 5, 000/-
(Inclusive of Lunch)

**Register
Now**

For any further information and registration, please contact: (Registration Deadline: 30th December 2015)

+977 -4418661, 4419409 or

mediacentre@natta.org.np

Benefits:

*CTW Chinese Tourist Welcome trainings endorsed, recognized and recommended by international organization

*Offering Welcome Chinese Certification, recognized by China Tourism Academy (CTA), China's main governmental research and promotion institute under the Chinese National Tourism Authority (CNTA)

*After successfully completing the training, participants acquire certification as Chinese Tourist Welcome Quality Host for two years. This include privileges such as three months access to China Tourism Facts, the online China tourism database of COTRI, featuring presentations, papers, surveys, statistics and articles about China's outbound tourism, and the free listing of the participants on COTRI website.

*Companies and organizations can apply for the CTW Quality level if at least two of its employees have valid CTW Quality /Host Certification

Under the initiation of Nepal Association of Tour & Travel Agents (NATTA) and with support from SAMARTH-NMDP, Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Georg Arlt, Founder & Director of COTRI China Outbound Tourism Research Institute will be here in Kathmandu for workshop and training focusing the China market.

Therefore, *China's Outbound Tourism Workshop: How to develop NEPAL as a preferred destination for Chinese Travellers* is scheduled for 3rd January 2016 and *Chinese Tourist Welcome (CTW) training program* is scheduled for 4th OR 5th January 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at Hotel Annapurna, Durbar Marg.

The registration fee for both the workshop & training with lunch inclusive is NPR 5,000 per person.

The registration deadline is 30th December 2015.





FNCCI asks govt to waive visa fees to boost arrivals

The private sector has asked the government to waive visa fees temporarily to keep Nepal's tourism industry alive as it is close to collapsing after being hit by a series of bad luck this year. "A visa fee exemption for at least six months would be an important move to boost tourist arrivals at a time when tourism, one of the major contributors to the economy, has been on a downhill course," said Bhawani Rana, senior vice-president of the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI), speaking Tuesday at an interaction entitled Tourism in the Present Context. The FNCCI has also recommended making Kathmandu's Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) cost-effective or a free port to encourage international airlines to pass through here.

The FNCCI has also asked the government to introduce separate incentive packages for tourism entrepreneurs and schemes to attract domestic and foreign investment during this time of crisis.

Binayak Shah, general secretary of Hotel Association Nepal, said that Nepal's tourism industry was facing its most critical phase in almost a decade. From big hotels to small lodges, from international airlines to domestic carriers and from trekking agencies to handicraft shops, all businesses are bearing the brunt of the April 25 earthquake and the subsequent trade embargo by India. "The last time the industry had suffered such big shock was in 2002-03 when the Maoist insurgency was at its height. The conflict had forced nearly a dozen hotels to close down," he said, adding that the current situation was even worse.

The average occupancy of hotels has nosedived to 20 percent. "Hotels in Kathmandu are suffering losses to the tune of Rs100 to Rs120 million daily due to low occupancy and high operating costs."

The ongoing fuel crisis and extended load-shedding hours have increased the operating costs for hotels by 40 percent. Many hotels and restaurants have laid off staff.

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Various communities across the nation are celebrating different festivals today, coinciding with the full moon day of the month of Mangsir as per the lunar calendar. The day is celebrated as the Dhanya Purnima by communities following the Hindu religion, while Newars celebrate the day as Yomari Punhi (or Jyapu Diwas). Kiranti people observe the Udhauli festival on the same day.



Christian priests offering prayers during Christmas Eve celebrations at Catholic Assumption Church in Lalitpur, on Thursday. Nepal will be celebrating Christmas, the greatest festival of Christians, with much fanfare throughout the country. It is celebrated to mark the birth of Jesus Christ on December 25.

Interesting Facts on Christmas

- Santa Claus is based on a real person, St. Nikolas of Myra (also known as Nikolaos the Wonderworker, Bishop Saint Nicholas of Smyrna, and Nikolaos of Bari), who lived during the fourth century. Born in Patara (in modern-day Turkey), he is the world's most popular non-Biblical saint, and artists have portrayed him more often than any other saint except Mary. He is the patron saint of banking, pawnbroking, pirating, butchery, sailing, thievery, orphans, royalty, and New York City.
- **Xmas" came into general use from the church! X is the Greek letter Chi, which is the first letter of Christ's name in –so "Xmas" is every bit as religious as "Christmas."**
- The traditional three colors of Christmas are green, red, and gold. Green has long been a symbol of life and rebirth; red symbolizes the blood of Christ, and gold represents light as well as wealth and royalty.
- Norwegian scientists have hypothesized that Rudolph's red nose is probably the result of a parasitic infection of his respiratory system.
- Most of Santa's reindeer have male-sounding names, such as Blitzen, Comet, and Cupid. However, male reindeers shed their antlers around Christmas, so the reindeer pulling Santa's sleigh are likely not male, but female or castrati.
- Christmas stockings allegedly evolved from three sisters who were too poor to afford a marriage dowry and were, therefore, doomed to a life of prostitution. They were saved, however, when the wealthy Bishop Saint Nicholas of Smyrna (the precursor to Santa Claus) crept down their chimney and generously filled their stockings with gold coins.
- In Germany, *Heiligabend*, or Christmas Eve, is said to be a magical time when the pure in heart can hear animals talking.
- Did you know that Coca-Cola was the first company to use Santa Claus in a winter promotion?
- Christmas carols began as an old English custom called "wassailing," in which one would toast their neighbors to a long life. So when you sing Christmas carols, you're bringing joy AND wishing good health to everyone you come across!
- "Jingle Bells" was originally written for a Thanksgiving Celebration.
- A spider web found on Christmas morning is believed to bring good luck in The Ukraine.
- In Norway on Christmas Eve, after holiday dinner and the opening of presents, families hide all the brooms in the house. Norwegians believed in ancient times that witches and mischievous spirits came out on Christmas Eve, and would steal their brooms for riding.
- While not widely celebrated in Japan, fried chicken is often eaten on Christmas day. It is the busiest time of year for restaurants such as KFC and people can even place orders in advance!
- The world's biggest Christmas gift is the Statue of Liberty! Given to the US by the French in 1886, it weighs over 225 tons. It's always stood as a symbol of freedom, but who'd have thought of it as an actual gift?
- The world's largest Christmas tree was a Douglas Fir standing 221 feet tall! It was displayed at the Northgate Mall right here in Seattle in 1950. We sure know how to do Christmas right in the Pacific Northwest! Can you imagine all the tinsel?
- The earliest known Christmas tree decorations were apples, used by medieval actors in plays depicting Adam and Eve.



Nepal Association of Tour and Travel Agents

नेपाल एसोसियेशन अफ टुर एण्ड ट्राभल एजेन्ट्स

Goma Ganesh, Gairidhara, Naxal

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