



3RD BIMSTEC NETWORK OF TOUR OPERATORS

Nepal successfully hosted the 3rd BIMSTEC Network of Tour Operators (BNTO) Meeting, a significant platform bringing together key tourism stakeholders, government representatives, and private sector leaders from BIMSTEC member countries. The event focused on strengthening regional tourism cooperation, fostering new partnerships, and identifying opportunities to enhance cross-border tourism.

Representing Nepalese tour operators, NATTA President, Mr. Kumar Mani Thapaliya, was the sole speaker invited to present tourism-related challenges, potential partnerships, and the roadmap for advancing BIMSTEC tourism. In his address, he emphasized the importance of developing a BIMSTEC-affiliated passport-style document, which would serve as a unique recognition tool for travelers visiting the Buddhist circuit across BIMSTEC nations. This initiative aims to

TOP NEWS

- 3RD BIMSTEC NETWORK OF TOUR OPERATORS
- MAHA KUMBH 2025 SESSION HELD IN KATHMANDU
- FAM TOUR TO INDIA BY UTTAR PRADESH TOURISM
- CHANDRAGIRI HIKING PROGRAM 2025
- CHANDRAGIRI HIKING GALLERY
- NATTA PPC MEETING APPOINTS NEW LEADERSHIP
- DISCUSSION ON THE DRAFT OF TOURISM POLICY 2081
- NATTA PARTICIPATION AT SATTE 2025
- SESSION ON RETHINKING NEPAL'S TOURISM
- NATTA'S PARTICIPATION IN KEY INDUSTRY PROGRAMS

MAHA KUMBH 2025 SESSION HELD IN KATHMANDU



facilitate seamless travel, enhance cultural exchange, and promote heritage tourism within the region.

Key Highlights of the Meeting:

- Operationalization of the BIMSTEC Buddhist and Cruise Circuits
- Promotion of Sustainable Tourism Practices
- Establishment of the Annual BIMSTEC Travel and Tourism Mart
- Strengthening Cooperation between Public and Private Sectors in Tourism

The meeting laid a strong foundation for strategic initiatives and enhanced cooperation, reaffirming BIMSTEC's commitment to unlocking the region's full tourism potential. With Nepal taking an active role in shaping the future of BIMSTEC tourism, the discussions paved the way for collaborative efforts to make the region a more integrated and attractive travel destination.



On 3rd February 2025, the Embassy of India in Kathmandu hosted an interactive session on Maha Kumbh 2025: "A Blend of Spirituality and Modernism", highlighting the significance of the grand spiritual gathering and its impact on tourism and cultural exchange.

The event brought together key tourism stakeholders, including representatives from the Nepal Tourism Board (NTB) and various tourism professionals. NATTA Executive Member Mr. Bijaya Rijal and Mr. Sudarshan Paudel participated in the session, contributing to discussions on strengthening Nepal-India tourism collaboration. The session provided valuable insights into the spiritual, cultural, and logistical aspects of Maha Kumbh 2025.



FAM TOUR TO INDIA BY UTTAR PRADESH TOURISM



The FAM Tour to India, organized by UP Tourism in collaboration with the Nepal Tourism Board, featured participation from NATTA Naxal Executive Members, Mr. Sudarsan Poudel and Mr. Bijaya Rijal. Additionally, delegates from Lumbini NATTA Province and representatives from the Nepal Tourism Board were also present on the tour.



CHANDRAGIRI HIKING PROGRAM 2025



NATTA successfully organized the Chandragiri Hiking Program in celebration of World Cancer Day, bringing together tourism professionals and enthusiasts for a refreshing outdoor experience!

The hike started from the base of Chandragiri Hills and ended at Chandragiri Hills Resort, offering breathtaking views along the way. The program was coordinated by NATTA Senior Vice President, Ms. Jiswan Tuladhar Shrestha.



Following the hike, a formal event was held at Chandragiri Hills Resort under the leadership of NATTA President, Mr. Kumar Mani Thapaliya. The event was hosted by NATTA Secretary, Mr. Bishnu Pandey, and attended by presidents of various associations. Guest speakers Dr. Saujanya Karmacharya and Dr. Aagon Krishna Shrestha from the field of Oncology shared their valuable insights.

A special thank you to our hiking guide, Ms. Priyanka Shrestha, for leading the way!

Heartfelt gratitude to our sponsors for making this event possible:

Title Sponsor: Hilton Kathmandu

Co-sponsors:

- SriLankan Airlines
- Cathay Pacific
- Osho World Travel Nepal Pvt. Ltd.
- Amadeus Nepal Pvt. Ltd.
- Air Dynasty Heli Services Pvt. Ltd.
- Bodhi Suites Boutique Hotel and Spa
- Gallery Park Hotel
- Mountain Buddha Holidays Pvt. Ltd.
- Buddha Land Tours & Travels P. Ltd.
- Baba Adventure Travel & Tours Pvt. Ltd.

Thank you to everyone who participated and contributed to making this event a grand success!







NATTA PPC MEETING APPOINTS NEW LEADERSHIP



The NATTA Past President Council (PPC) meeting was held on 10th February 2025 at the NATTA Secretariat under the chairmanship of the existing NATTA PPC Convener, Mr. R. M. Singh Pradhan. During the meeting, NATTA Past President Mr. Bholu Bikram Thapa was appointed as the new Convener, with Mr. Rabi Nath Poudel designated as the Joint-Convener for the upcoming tenure of the NATTA PPC.

NATTA President Mr. Kumar Mani Thapaliya presented the organization's progress report and outlined upcoming plans. The Council provided valuable suggestions and feedback during the discussion.

DISCUSSION ON THE DRAFT OF TOURISM POLICY 2081

On 24th February 2025, NATTA Secretary General Ms. Yubika Bhandari, along with NATTA CEO Mr. Raghunath Bidari, participated in a discussion program on the draft of the Tourism Policy 2081. The event was held at the Policy Research Institute in Narayanhiti.

During the session, key stakeholders in the tourism sector came together to discuss the proposed policy changes and share their insights.

NATTA PARTICIPATION AT SATTE 2025



NATTA proudly participated in South Asia's Travel & Tourism Exchange (SATTE) 2025, held from February 19 to 21, 2025, at the Yashobhoomi Convention Centre in Dwarka, New Delhi. With strong representation from our board members and industry stakeholders, NATTA engaged in valuable discussions, explored new collaborations, and showcased Nepal's tourism offerings to a global audience. This participation marked another milestone in NATTA's efforts to position Nepal as a leading tourism destination on the world stage.

As South Asia's largest travel trade show, SATTE provided an excellent platform for networking, business growth, and knowledge exchange. Our team connected with international travel professionals, tour



operators, and industry experts, forging new partnerships that will help promote Nepal's diverse attractions. The event allowed for insightful discussions on the latest trends and innovations in the tourism industry, aligning with NATTA's vision for sustainable and inclusive tourism development.

The event was also highlighted by a presentation ceremony, where NATTA President Mr. Kumar Mani Thapaliya delivered a speech on the destination briefing program, emphasizing Nepal's unique cultural heritage, natural beauty, and hospitality. The ceremony was graced by distinguished guests, including Nepal's Ambassador to India, Nepal Tourism Board CEO Mr. Deepak Raj Joshi, and the Uttar Pradesh Minister. Their presence underscored the importance of Nepal's growing role in South Asia's tourism landscape, strengthening ties and cooperation with regional partners.

NATTA's participation in SATTE 2025 reaffirms our commitment to enhancing Nepal's presence in the international tourism market, fostering sustainable industry development, and continuing to build Nepal's reputation as a premier tourist destination.

SESSION ON RETHINKING NEPAL'S TOURISM



A special session on "Rethinking Nepal's Tourism" was held on 28th February 2025 at the Radisson Hotel. The event, attended by NATTA President Mr. Kumar Mani Thapaliya, Senior VP Ms. Jiswan Tuladhar Shrestha, and other board members, focused on adapting to changing trends for sustainable growth. Professor Kaye Chon from Hong Kong presented on global tourism trends and their implications for Nepal. Organized by the Society of Economic Journalists - Nepal (SEJON), the session provided a platform for discussions on transforming Nepal's tourism industry.

NATTA'S PARTICIPATION IN KEY INDUSTRY PROGRAMS

- NATTA was invited as the Chief Guest at the 10th Annual General Meeting of the Tanahun Tourism Promotion Society.
- NATTA was invited to participate in a discussion and interaction program on current issues related to the Thamel area, organized by the Thamel Tourism Development Council.
- NATTA was invited to provide necessary support and participate in the Heritage Walk Program organized by Rotary International District 3292.
- NATTA was invited to provide hospitality on the occasion of the International Mountain Museum Foundation Day, organized by the Nepal Mountaineering Association.

