

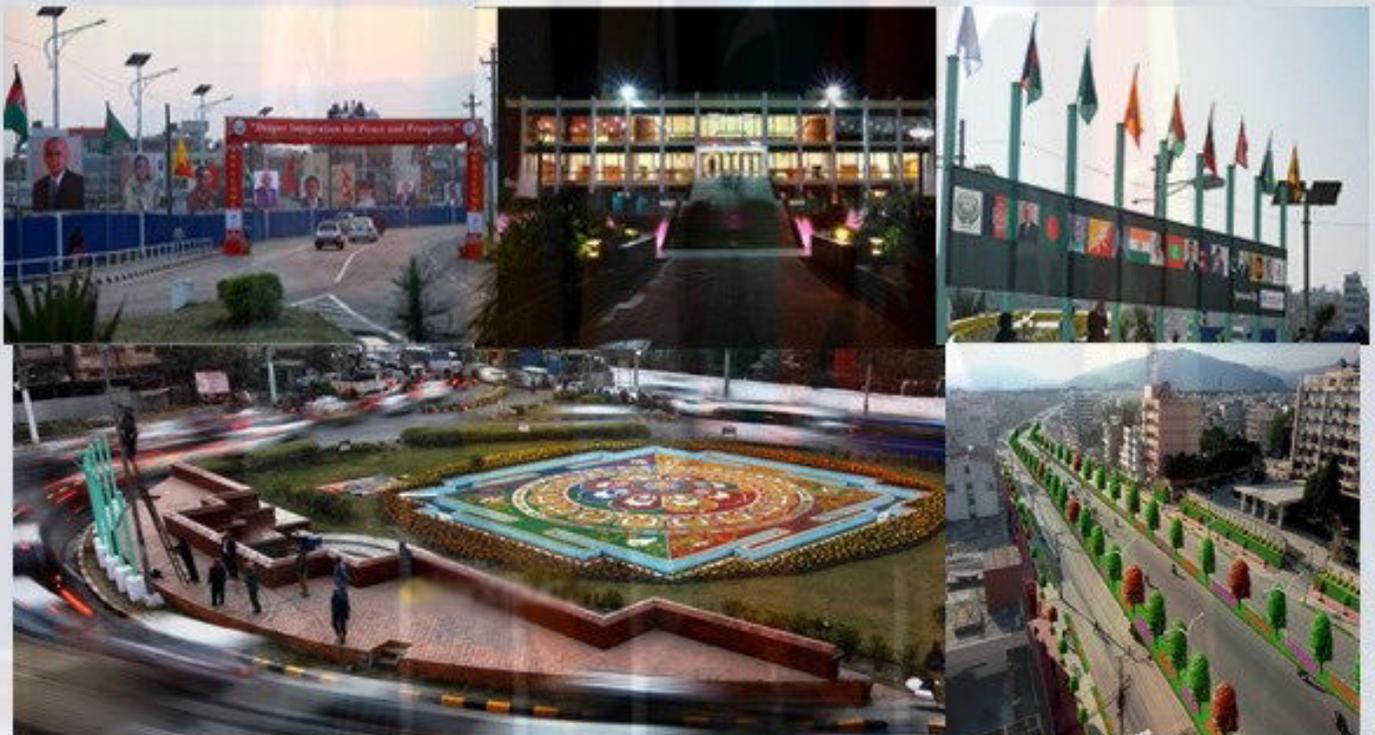
NATTA WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Issue no 37, Date : 28th November, 2014



NEPAL ASSOCIATION
OF TOUR & TRAVEL AGENTS

BEAUTY OF KATHMANDU 18TH SAARC SUMMIT 2014



The 18th SAARC Summit

Kathmandu, Nepal
26-27 November 2014



NATTA SECRETARY VISITS KATA



Mr. Ramesh Thapa, Secretary of NATTA visited Secretariat of Korean Association of Travel Agent (KATA) on 14th November 2014. During his visit, he met with Director of KATA, Mr. Kim Byeong Sam and had an discussion on promotion of tourism, relationship and exchanged the allied membership.

NATTA GETS APPROVAL FROM RASTRA BANK

For all the IATA Accredited NATTA members, we are pleased to inform you that NATTA has managed to get approval from Nepal Rastra Bank for the remittance of IATA Agency fee & BSP Link fee to IATA Singapore for our valued members.

Therefore we request all our IATA accredited members to do the following:

- The letter format to be filled up and printed in the company letterhead signed by the authorized person & stamped.
- The letter along with the amount is to be sent to NATTA Secretariat latest by 5th December 2014.

Thus, we have circulated the email regarding the approval from Rastra Bank to all IATA Accredited NATTA members along with the letter format to be filled up.

If you require any further information, please kindly contact NATTA Secretariat.

We assure our continuous effort to work towards the benefit of our members at all times.



UPCOMING TRAVEL EVENTS



Jan 12

[HORECAVA 2015](#)

January 12-15, 2015 - RAI Exhibition Center, Amsterdam, Netherlands, The

Jan12

[The Hotel School General Managers Program \(GMP January 2015\)](#)

January 12-22, 2015 - Statler Hotel, Ithaca - NY, United States

Jan14

[Hotel Investment Forum India \(HIFI\)](#)

January 14-15, 2015 - The Leela Ambience Gurgaon Hotel & Residences , Gurgaon, India

Jan 15

[HSMIAI Webinar: Revenue Management & Digital Marketing – Convergence or Collision?](#)

Thursday - January 15, 2015

Jan 19

[The Hospitality Show](#)

January 19-21, 2015 - NEC Birmingham, Birmingham, United Kingdom

Jan 23

[The New York Times Travel Show](#)

January 23-25, 2015 - Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, New York - NY, United States

Jan 28

[2015 Travel Industry Executive Women's Network Conference](#)

Wednesday - January 28, 2015 - The Palm Restaurant Downtown, Los Angeles - CA, United States

Jan 28

[Caribbean Travel Marketplace 2015](#)

January 28-30, 2015 - Puerto Rico Convention Center, San Juan, Puerto Rico

Jan 28

[FITUR 2014](#)

January 28 - February 1, 2015 - Feira Madrid, Madrid, Spain

Jan 28

[Smart Travel Analytics North America 2015](#)

January 28-29, 2015 - The New Yorker Hotel, New York City - NY, United States



MEDIA PICK OF THE WEEK



SAARC summit commits to make South Asia a common tourist destination

The 18th Summit of Heads of States and Governments of eight South Asian countries concluded here today endorsing 36 point 'Kathmandu Declaration'. The foreign ministers of eight member countries of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) signed SAARC Framework Agreement on Energy Cooperation (Electricity) at the concluding ceremony of the summit held here today.

Heads of State and Government from eight SAARC member states - Afghanistan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani , Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Bhutanese Prime Minister Lyonchhen Tshering Tobgay , Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Maldivian President Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom, Nepal's Prime Minister Sushil Koirala , Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa attended the Kathmandu summit held three years after Maldives summit in 2011.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal ,the leaders directed the Ministers to hold a meeting within three months to finalize the SAARC Motor Vehicles Agreement for the Regulation of Passenger and Cargo Vehicular Traffic and SAARC Regional Agreement on Railways. The Summit adopted the Kathmandu Declaration with a theme of ' Deeper Integration for Peace and Prosperity' to deepen cooperation in core areas of trade, investment, finance, energy, infrastructure and connectivity. The major elements of the Kathmandu Declaration include:

- Accelerating the process of creating free trade in the region,
- Formulation and implementation of projects, programmes and activities of SAARC in a prioritized, focused and result-oriented manner,
- Launching regional and sub-regional projects in the agreed areas of cooperation, especially in the area of poverty alleviation, infrastructure building, connectivity and energy,
- Strengthening the SAARC Development Fund,
- Effective implementation of the SAARC Action Plan on Poverty Alleviation with a view to making South Asian free from poverty and hunger,
- Enhancing regional connectivity through building and upgrading roads, railways, waterways infrastructure, energy grids, communications and air links,
- Utilizing the youth power for socio-economic development, especially through creation of employment opportunities at home and building collective positions for their security and welfare while on employment outside the region,
- Combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and having effective cooperation among the Member States for preventing the trafficking in persons, arms and drugs and exploitation of children for forced labor,
- Increasing agricultural productivity and ensuring food and nutritional security,
- Providing quality education, eliminating illiteracy, providing vocational education and training,
- Making South Asia an attractive common tourist destination by promoting public-private partnership.

Taken from Travelbiznews.com



FUN AND ENTERTAINMENT



SAARC Special Feature

“Interesting
Facts”

WHILE THE SUPER POWERS AND THE PEOPLE IN THE REGION ARE SETTING THEIR EYES ON THE 18TH SAARC SUMMIT, HERE ARE SOME INTERESTING FACTS OF THE PAST AND PRESENT HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENTS INVOLVED AT SUMMITS OVER THE YEARS.

- Let us begin with Bangladesh’s Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina Wajed who has participated in the Summit highest number of times besides former Nepal Premier late Girija Prasad Koirala.
- Sheikh Hasina has, so far, participated in the Summit three times while late Koirala attended five SAARC Summits during his leadership at different time.
- The then Maldivian President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom also attended the 1st to the 14th Summits continuously but in various capacities besides the Head of State.
- Prime Minister Sushil Koirala, 75, is the most senior Head of Government taking part in this summit whereas Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering Tobgey, 49, is the youngest of all.
- Although Sheikh Hasina, 67, and Mahinda Rajapakshe, 69, are the most experienced leaders in terms of their political stint, Koirala has been the most senior chairman chairing the Summit held so far.
- Sheikh Hasina is no stranger to the hall of power as her father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was the founder and the first President of Bangladesh.
- Interestingly, three leaders of the SAARC countries taking part in this Summit- Pakistan, Afghanistan and Maldives – are of the same age.
- Pakistani President Nawaz Sharif, Afghanistan’s President Ashraf Ghani and Maldives’ President are 65 years old.
- The sixty-four years old India’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi , prior to assuming power, has already served as the Chief Minister of an industrial state of India, Gujarat three times. This is his second official visit to Nepal. However, during his first visit in August this year, he had mentioned that he had been to Nepal as a pilgrim long ago.
- Like Modi, Afghanistan’s President Ghani is also no new to Nepal for the latter has stayed in Nepal for long during his stint with the United Nations Development Programme.



FUN AND ENTERTAINMENT



- Second to Sheikh Hasina, Mahinda Rajapaksa has enjoyed the privilege of representing his country in the SAARC Summit for the highest times. He has attended three SAARC Summits including the one hosted in his chairmanship in Sri Lanka in 2008.
- Besides Hasina and Rajapaksa, this SAARC Summit will be maiden experience to the rest of the Head of States and government.
- Bangladesh, including the first Summit in 1985, has so far hosted the Summit three times.
- Similarly, India, Sri Lanka and Maldives have already hosted the summit the same number of times.
- This Summit is also the third for Nepal. Pakistan has so far held the Summit twice whereas Bhutan has only hosted it once so far.
- Afganistan, the youngest member of the SAARC region, has not got the opportunity to host the Summit yet as it was included in the SAARC forum only in 2007.
- According to the SAARC's practice, the Summit is hosted on rotational basis by the name of the countries in alphabetical order.
- Although the SAARC forum initially agreed to host the Summit annually, and continued consistently for four years since its establishment, the Summits later saw the hiatus of some two to four years.
- Due to tensions between India and Pakistan, the Summit saw the longest gap of four years during the late 90s.
- Nepal had a monarchical system when it held the Summit for the first time. The first Summit in Nepal in 1987 was chaired by late King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah. There was a multi-party system during the second time, chaired by the then Head of the Government Sher Bahadur Deuba.
- Interestingly, from the ruling system point of view, Nepal has hosted the Summit under various systems.
- And this time Nepal is hosting the Summit as a Federal Republic and being chaired by the Prime Minister Sushil Koirala.
- Sushil Koirala is allegedly the poorest leader in the region for he has only two mobile sets as his personal assets, whereas Nawaz Sharif has been ranked as the richest person of Pakistan.
- Ashraf Ghani ranks second in the list of the world's top scholars while Sheikh Hasina comes under the 47th powerful women leader in the world.

Nepal Association of Tour and Travel Agents

नेपाल एशोसियेशन अफ टुर एण्ड ट्राभल एजेन्ट्स
Goma Ganesh, Gairidhara, Naxal

Tel: 4419409/ 4418661, **Email:** mediacentre@natta.org.np, **Website:** www.natta.org.np, **Facebook:** Nepal Association of Tour and Travel Agents (NATTA)