



**NEPAL ASSOCIATION
OF TOUR & TRAVEL AGENTS**



NATTA WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Issue: 108, Date: 20th May 2016



Mayadevi Temple, Lumbini

Nepal is a wonder land, truly gifted by nature.

It is a country where Lord Buddha was born. Lord Buddha was born in Lumbini, Nepal in 543 B.C. Buddha Jayanti, the auspicious Full Moon Day when Buddha was born is celebrated in the month of Baisakha of the Buddhist calendar and the Hindu calendar, which usually falls in April or May of the Western Gregorian calendar. Buddhist Pilgrims come from all over the world to Nepal to attend the Buddha Purnima celebrations in the Sacred Gardens of Lumbini. The day is marked with prayer meets, sermons on the life of Gautam Buddha, religious discourses, continuous recitation of Buddhist scriptures, group meditation, processions, worship of the statue of Buddha and symposia.

Here in Nepal, Buddha Jayanti is one of the great celebrations and this year we are celebrating 2560th International Buddha Jayanti.

NATTA enews

International Buddhist Conference

20th May, 2016

The inauguration of International Buddhist Conference was held on 19th May 2016 at Soaltee Crowne Plaza, Kathmandu, as a part of the celebration of Buddha Jayanti, the 2,560th birth anniversary of Lord Buddha. The conference is being held with the

theme 'Lumbini, Nepal: the Birthplace of Lord Buddha and Fountain of Buddhism and World peace'.



Government representatives, Buddhist religious leaders, monks and nuns and scholars on Buddhism from 28 various countries are participating in the conference hosted by the government and will conclude today.

President Bidya Devi Bhandari is scheduled to inaugurate the Buddha Jayanti main celebration function in Lumbini on May 21. A Lumbini Declaration will be issued at this function, incorporating the conclusions drawn from the seminar. Lumbini Day will also be celebrated in Lumbini on Saturday.

Prime Minister Mr. K.P Oli had inaugurated the conference by reciting the Peace Prayer. Representatives of various countries had shed light on different aspects, practices and religious sects of Buddhism in the conference that kicked off.

Religious gurus of the three sects of Buddhism – Theravada, Mahayana and Vajrayana – were present on the occasion. Singer Ani Choying Drolma presented songs about the deliberations on Buddhist philosophy.

NATTA President Mr. Madhu Sudan Acharya and Mr. Varun Mehta, Executive Member also participated in the Conference. Mr. Acharya is one of the members of the Organising Committee formed by GON, MOCTCA whereas Mr. Mehta is the coordinator for Conference logistics.

On the occasion, NATTA had built a Welcome Banner and built a Welcome Gate in the very heart of city welcoming the foreign delegates to Nepal.

NATTA's main role in the program has been to look after the logistics including Air – ticket and surface transportation and receiving the guests at the airport.

View News in Website (<http://natta.org.np/news/international-buddhist-conference-kathmandu>)

Qatar Country Manager Nair visits NATTA Secretariat *18th May, 2016*



Country Manager of QA Mr. J.P. Nair called on NATTA Secretariat and met President NATTA Mr. Madhu Sudan Acharya, 1st VP Mr. C.N. Pandey, 2nd VP Mr. D.K. Sharma, Treasurer Mr. Chitra Bahadur Gurung, Secretary Mr. Sudhir K. Upadhyay, and Executive members Mr. Binay Basnet, Mr. Ghanashyam Ghimire, Mr. Laxman Lamsal, Mr. Varun Mehta and CEO Prof. Hari Sarmah

on Wednesday, the 18th May, 2016 before noon.

NATTA President Mr. Madhu Sudan Acharya welcomed the guest Mr. J.P. Nair and Leena, his accompanying staff and spoke in appreciation of the praiseworthy contributions being made towards the development of Nepal's tourism generated trade and economy by the prestigious world airline Qatar Airways. And he added that NATTA Executive Board was more than happy to find Mr. Nair in Nepal once more in the capacity of Country Manager.

Mr. Nair in response to President's welcome note said that the issues with the airlines and the agents are common if looked at from the perspective of the benefit of both. Tourism is a vast area and has been offering benefits to all in this sector. So, it needs to be protected. Protection of tourism industry is a must for the sustenance of airlines and people in tourism, Mr. Nair said. Mr. Nair also expressed his opinion on the concept of Free Tickets issued to the foreign employment goers. He said that the concept was not bad but the tickets need to be issued locally otherwise the practice of receiving air-tickets from the country of employment was sure to hamper the ticketing business. He also proposed that a 'Clean Kathmandu Campaign' be launched under the aegis of Nepalese Travel Trade and Int'l Airlines' in conjunction with other stakeholders of tourism.

NATTA President Mr. Acharya thanked Mr. Nair for his suggestive remarks and revealed about NATTA's plan to set up a new Secretariat building with all amenities for meetings and trainings etc which could also be a Secretariat for BARN if all the airlines extend their helping hands to erect it. He said that NATTA was currently looking for a suitable land for the project.

View News in Website (<http://natta.org.np/news/qatar-country-manager-nair-visits-natta-secretariat>)

First Meeting of Media & Publicity Committee

13th May, 2016



The first and introductory meeting of NATTA Media and Publicity committee was held at NATTA Secretariat chaired by Secretary General and Chairman of the Committee Mr. Bhim Prasad Panta.

The meeting basically focused on what NATTA and the newly formed committee can perform in development of tourism by developing the strategies.

The committee comprises of Mr. Devi Prasad Panta, Mr. Shiva Adhikari, Mr. Sarad Pradhan, Mr. Mukunda Dhungana, Mr. Suman Kattel, Mr. Subas Khatiwada, Ms. Sharada Thapa, Mr. Raju Baskota, Mr. Bikash Lohani and Mr. Sangam Prasai.

View News in Website (<http://natta.org.np/news/first-meeting-of-media-and-publicity-committee>)

NATTA Delegates Meet HE Mr. Choe Yong Jin

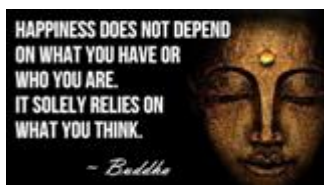
13th May, 2016



Keeping the flag flying, NATTA delegates are all set to go on a promotional tour of South Korea. The tour will coincide with KOTFA 2016 one of the major int'l travel fairs being held in Seoul. The NATTA delegates will also visit the fair and then proceed to Busan where they will organize a formal meeting with the tour operators. This promotional tour of NATTA, organized in conjunction with Nepal Tourism Board, will start from 06th June and will end up on 17th June, 2016. It is in this reference that the NATTA Central Committee President Mr. Madhu Sudan Acharya led a delegation to the Embassy of South Korea and held discussions with Ambassador His Excellency Mr. Choe Yong Jin regarding this effort of NATTA to promote Nepal in S. Korea. South Koreans mostly visit Nepal for mountain adventures and trekking. 2nd VP of NATTA Central Committee Mr. D. K Sharma, President NATTA Western Regional Association Mr. Dilli Prasad Gautam, NATTA Advisor (Regional Ass.) Mr. Shantosh Pokhrel, NATTA Advisor (Regional Ass.) Mr. Vijaya Gurung, IPP (Regional Ass.) Mr. Pom Narayan Shrestha, Secretary General (Regional Ass.) Mr. Subash Bhandari were also in the delegation.

On the occasion, speaking on behalf of NATTA, CEO Prof. Dr. Hari Sarmah thanked H.E Mr. Choe for his untiring goodwill towards Nepalese tourism.

View News in Website (<http://natta.org.np/news/natta-delegates-meet-he-mr-choe-yong-jin>)



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