

NEPAL FEDERATION NETHERLANDS CONGRESS 2022

Schedule

09:00 Annual General Meeting of the NFN – only for members

09:30 Reception of all other participants – with coffee & tea

10:00 Opening – by the Ambassador *Gahendra Rajbhandari* and the Consul General *Cas de Stoppelaar*

10:10 Ambassador *Gahendra Rajbhandari* introduces the program and will initiate the formal handover of the chairmanship of the NFN from *Krijn de Best* to *Björn Stenvers*

10:35 History and future of the NFN - *Björn Stenvers*

10:50 Introduction of the new digital platform, Nepal Forum – *Barend Toet*

11:00 Family power, providing a 'safe house' for abandoned children – *Caroline Scheffer* and *Marit van Liere* (The Umbrella Foundation Nepal, Wilde Ganzen, Better Care Network Netherlands, Pledge #EveryChildAFamily)

11:20 Predators, prey, grass and water, how Dutch and Nepalese scientists help to create sensible conservation policies - *Jasper Griffioen* (University of Utrecht)

11.40 Transfer of knowledge - *Liska Scheffers* (Diyalo Foundation)

12:00 Lunch Break and informal Meet & Greet

14:50 100% Girls, a school project in Baglung - *Conny Groot* (Stichting Nepal)

15:10 How to fight plastic pollution – *Johannes Tiedje* (Jhunwani Environment Protection Program)

15:30 Short Break

16:00 Women empowerment - *Debbie Middendorp* and *Gita Pelinck* (6^o Network for Women)

16:20 Breathless in Bakhtapur, Nepalese initiative gets Dutch backing – *Ram Budhatoki* (NFN)

16:40 Closing observations – *Cas de Stoppelaar* (Consulate General of Nepal)

17:00 Drinks – *all together now...*

The second Nepal Congress is jointly organized by the *Embassy of Nepal*, the *Nepal Federatie Nederland* (NFN) and the Consulate General of Nepal Amsterdam

Date: May 28, 2022

Location: Evertshuis, Julianastraat 4, 2411 CV Bodegraven, The Netherlands

Message from the Ambassador

It gives me great pleasure to note that there are many firms and NGOs in the Netherlands that have been engaged in Nepal in activities benefiting the Nepali people. It is equally heartening to learn that dozens of such firms/NGOs have come together to form the Nepal Federation Netherlands (NFN) with primary objective of supporting Nepal in its socio-economic development. These Dutch firms and NGOs are active in Nepal through different ways. While some are engaged in philanthropy or social causes, others are investing in Nepal in sectors which could make real social and economic impact.

The relationship between Nepal and the Netherlands dates long back. We established diplomatic relations more than sixty years ago, in April 1960. Since then, our two countries have always enjoyed friendly, cordial, and cooperative relations. Over the years, the relations have been further consolidated through increasing official as well as people-to-people engagements. The Netherlands has supported Nepal as a partner in its development endeavors ever since the start of the Dutch economic cooperation to Nepal in 1976. We are happy to note that the Dutch support has focused on various important priority areas including health, environment, disaster preparedness and relief, decentralized local governance, biodiversity, and renewable energy. Moreover, the Dutch fellowships provided to Nepali students and professionals to pursue higher studies and trainings in the Netherlands which have contributed to enhancing their skills and knowledge in areas such as development administration, local governance, agro-forestry, and water management. On the other hand, many Nepali expats living in the Netherlands have contributed to the Dutch economy and strengthened our relations at the people's levels.

We believe there is much potential for further enhancing Nepal-Dutch relations and cooperation in various spheres such as trade, investment, and tourism. The Embassy of Nepal in Brussels, which is concurrently accredited to the Netherlands, is always ready and available to play its role in facilitating exchanges and interactions between our two countries and peoples. In this respect, we are happy to associate ourselves with the upcoming annual congress of the Nepal Federation Netherlands (NFN). I believe the congress will be an occasion to discuss and explore avenues for further cooperation and collaboration between us, particularly within the framework of the NFN members' engagements in Nepal. I wish the NFN all success in its endeavors!

Gahendra Rajbhandari
Ambassador of Nepal