



NEWSLETTER

YEAR 2024 NO. 3

Nepal's President and Prime Minister Send Congratulatory Messages on Egypt's National Day



The Rt. Hon. President of Nepal, Mr. Ramchandra Paudel sent a congratulatory message to H.E. Mr. Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, President of Egypt, on the occasion of Egypt's National Day and Revolution Day on July 23. In his message, President Paudel extended heartfelt felicitations and best wishes to President Al-Sisi for his good health and happiness as well as for the continued progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Egypt.

President Paudel said that Nepal and Egypt enjoyed fruitful bilateral relations based on trust and friendship, and expressed the hope that the levels of people-to-people exchanges and bilateral cooperation would continue to grow in the future.



Similarly, on the same occasion, the Rt. Honorable Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr. KP Sharma Oli sent warm congratulations and best wishes to the Egyptian Prime Minister His Excellency Mr. Mostafa Madbouly.

In his message, Prime Minister Oli said that both Nepal and Egypt were supporters of the Non-Aligned Movement, and had worked closely together in international forums on matters of common concern.

"There is ample scope for promotion of economic exchanges between Nepal and Egypt through trade, investment and tourism, and further enhancement of cooperation in the fields of education and agriculture," Prime Minister Oli said in his congratulatory message.



Nepal's DPM & Foreign Minister Congratulates Egypt's New Foreign Minister



On July 5, Hon. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Narayankaji Shrestha sent a congratulatory message to the new Minister for Foreign Affairs and Emigration and Expatriate Affairs of Egypt, H.E. Mr. Badr Abdelatty.

H.E. Abdelatty was sworn in as the Foreign Minister in the cabinet of Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly on July 3.

In his message, the Deputy Prime Minister noted the friendly and cordial relations between Nepal and Egypt, and expressed Nepal's willingness to work together with Egypt in further enhancing bilateral cooperation in trade, investment and tourism sectors.

DPM Shrestha said in his message:

"The bilateral relations between Nepal and Egypt are marked by friendship, cordiality and mutual trust. Both our countries have benefitted from bilateral cooperation in sectors such as agriculture and education.

There is a growing scope for further enhancing mutually beneficial co-operation between our two countries, especially in the areas of trade, foreign investment and tourism.

I look forward to working with Your Excellency in further strengthening and enriching our mutually beneficial bilateral relations for the common good of our two countries and peoples."



"Curves & Wires: Depiction of Nepali Faces by Egyptian Artists"

The Embassy of Nepal in Cairo hosted an Art Exhibition titled "Curves & Wires: Depiction of Nepali Faces by Egyptian Artists" at the chancery hall on Thursday, June 27, 2024, as part of efforts aimed at promoting cultural collaboration between the two nations.

The exhibition featured an array of artworks from 21 Egyptian artists, including the wire, wood and stone artist Galal Goma, and distinguished photojournalist and documentary filmmaker Ashraf Talaat. The works of photographer Yasser Alaa Mubarak and eighteen prominent cartoonists were also showcased during the event. Ashraf Talaat's works included photographs taken during his trips to Mustang Valley and Lumbini, respectively in March and May this year, and Yasser Alaa's of Pashupatinath Temple during Shivaratri in March.

The exhibition presented a diverse collection of artworks, highlighting the intricate wire sculptures of Galal Goma, caricature art by Fawzy Morsy, and other cartoonists. The Egyptian cartoonists created special caricature art dedicated to prominent Nepali faces, including Rajarshi Janak, Pasang Lamu Sherpa, and Sanduk Ruit, adding a unique and heartfelt touch to the event. The event began with a welcome speech by the Ambassador of Nepal to Egypt, Sushil K Lamsal. The Ambassador appreciated the photographers and artists for vividly depicting the diverse faces, landscapes and cultural heritage of Nepal and said that their creative work would contribute in promoting cultural ties and artistic collaboration between the two countries.

Ambassador Lamsal felicitated the participating artists by presenting tokens and certificates of appreciation. Photojournalists Ashraf Talaat and Yasser Alaa spoke about their recent trips to Nepal, and expressed their happiness over growing people-to-people level exchanges between the two countries. Around 100 participants including diplomats, art enthusiasts, journalists, students as well as members of the Nepali community and the general public attended the event.



Ambassador Meets with Matrouh Governor



Ambassador Sushil K Lamsal paid a visit to Matrouh Governorate from July 7-11, 2024 and met with Governor of Matrouh, General Khaled Shoeiab on July 10. During the meeting, the ambassador highlighted the importance of the tourism sector in the economies of both Nepal and Egypt, and said that there was ample scope for promoting bilateral cooperation in tourism. He said that as an important tourist hub in Egypt, there was much to learn from Matrouh's tourism industry.

Governor Shoeiab welcomed the ambassador to Matrouh, and said that the Governorate welcomed the proposal to deepen people-to-people linkages between the two sides, and would lend all necessary support and cooperation in that regard.

Earlier, the ambassador visited Siwa, an oasis town close to the Libyan border. The oasis is 10 km by 8 km, and has about 200 springs.

The oasis is inhabited by Berber-speaking people living in mud-brick houses. The local tourism industry had built on the traditional lifestyle of the Siwan people, with high-end ecological hotels and lodges without electricity and modern amenities.

The eco-tourism industry of Siwa has attracted visitors from around the world, and is a good example of environmentally, socially and culturally sustainable tourism.



FAM Trip for Egyptian Travel Companies



The Embassy organized a familiarization trip for Egyptian travel companies and tour operators to Nepal from May 14-22, 2024, in collaboration with Nepal Tourism Board and Kuwait-based Jazeera Airways. The week-long trip took the participants to Kathmandu, Pokhara and Chitwan, providing orientation on the local tourism attractions and the international tourism market in the country. On 21 May, an interactive meeting was held between the participants and officials of Nepal Tourism Board at the Landmark Hotel in Kathmandu. Both parties engaged in dynamic discussions to strengthen tourism ties between Nepal and Egypt. The meeting focused on sharing insights and strategies to enhance mutual tourism opportunities, and emphasized the importance of organising cultural exchange and collaborative promotional activities.

The Egyptian participants expressed their admiration for Nepal's natural beauty and the exceptional destinations of the three cities. Key challenges such as improving infrastructure, improving road connectivity and finding Halal restaurants for Muslim tourists in Nepal were discussed. Both sides committed to overcoming these obstacles to promote and enrich the tourism experiences in their respective countries.

The team of participants from Egypt included Travel Agencies (Wonder Travel, Satguru Travel, Mohager Travel, Al-Shuhala Travel, Diyar Makkah Travel, and MAK Travel), and representatives from the Embassy of Nepal in Cairo and Jazeera Airways.





**Promotion of Lumbini: FAM
Trip on the occasion of
Buddha Purnima**



In order to promote Lumbini as a tourism destination, the Embassy, in cooperation with Jazeera Airways, organized a FAM Trip to Lumbini for veteran Egyptian photo-journalist and filmmaker Ashraf Talaat from May 20 – 25, 2024.



Mr. Talaat covered events and activities on the occasion of Buddha Purnima on May 23, as well as the daily life and culture in and around the town during his sojourn in the town. The photographs and films taken during the occasion will be displayed in exhibitions in Egypt and abroad.





Ambassador Lamsal Speaks at IOM Regional Conference on Addressing Child Trafficking



On August 1, Ambassador Sushil K Lamsal spoke at a panel in a regional conference on "Addressing Child Trafficking: Promising Initiatives and Best Practices" organised by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and National Coordinating Committee for Combating and Preventing Illegal Migration and Trafficking in Persons (NCCPIM&TIP).

Sharing Nepal's experience in reducing child trafficking, Ambassador Lamsal highlighted the government's response to trafficking dynamics by addressing individual-, community- and society-level factors that contribute to vulnerability to child trafficking.

He discussed the importance of putting in place screening systems especially at border points to identify potential victims of trafficking, and said that government agencies working in collaboration with civil society organizations in Nepal had prevented many likely cases of trafficking in the country.

Participants at the conference included government officials from institutions in charge of combating trafficking and protection of children in Africa, Middle East and the European Union, as well as UN agencies, academia, and civil society,

They discussed comprehensive and coordinated approaches for the protection of and assistance to children victims of trafficking, and efforts to enhance coordination of the trafficking response mechanism, especially for children.

Recommendations by the speakers emphasized the need for collective mitigation response initiatives, with governments, civil society, and the private sector working together to address the root causes of child trafficking.



Ambassador Lamsal talks about the dynamics of Nepal-Egypt relations



Ambassador Sushil K Lamsal recently gave an interview to the Egyptian Gazette, a leading English-language daily. The interview was published on June 24. In the interview, Ambassador Lamsal spoke about the historic ties between Nepal and Egypt, and outlined the Embassy's efforts in deepening bilateral exchanges in various fields such as people-to-people relations, tourism, and trade.

Excerpts:

"Both Nepal and Egypt are countries of ancient civilizations and rich cultural heritage. They are major tourist destinations globally. I see great potential for leveraging our unique respective strengths for mutual benefit through the exchange of each other's expertise and best practices in the tourism sector, especially eco-tourism."

"People-to-people relations are an important aspect of our bilateral relations and there is plenty of scope for expanding them further. A major priority of the Embassy is to bring our peoples together by organizing various kinds of activities and events."

"In April and May 2024, we organized familiarization trips to Nepal for noted Egyptian photographer Mr. Ashraf Talaat. Another FAM trip was hosted in May 2024 for a group of representatives from Egyptian travel and tour companies, in collaboration with Nepal Tourism Board and Jazeera Airways."

"In February 2024, we organized an event with summiteers of Mt. Everest. The title of the event was 'Himalayan Heights: Exploring Nature and Adventure in Nepal'. Around 70 participants including v-loggers and influencers, artists and foreign diplomats as well as representatives of airlines, TV channels and other media attended the program. Also in February this year, we organized a painting competition for Egyptian children under the theme 'Nepal in the Eyes of Egyptian Schoolchildren.'"



Interaction with Travel and Tour Operators



The Embassy organized an interaction program in Cairo on June 3 with representatives of the travel and tour companies who participated in the FAM Trip to Nepal in May.

The event was held with a view to synthesize the impressions of the participants, and to help build suitable packages for Egyptian tourists interested in visiting Nepal.



The participants expressed their impression that Nepal was likely to become a favored destination for Egyptian tourists for its natural beauty.

The affordability of tourism products and services of Nepal (compared to other destinations in the region) was highlighted during the discussions as an important factor in this regard.

Participants pointed to the lack of direct connectivity between the two countries and the difficulty of finding halal restaurants especially outside of the capital city as relevant issues to resolve in the days to come. They also called for more FAM Trips (especially for celebrities and influencers) in the coming days to promote tourism exchanges between Nepal and Egypt.





**Samples of Art at 'Curves and Wires:
Depiction of Nepali Faces by Egyptian Artists' held at the Embassy on
June 27, 2024**

