



Nepal and Australia Strengthen Ties with Trade and Investment Framework Agreement Signing

Perth: In a significant move showcasing the deepening relationship between Nepal and Australia, the two nations signed a trade and investment framework arrangement on Friday. The signing ceremony, held in Perth, Australia, saw the participation of key officials including Kailash Raj Pokharel, Nepali ambassador to Australia, and Tim Watts, Australian assistant minister for foreign affairs. On an Official Visit to Australia Foreign Minister NP Saud and his Australian counterpart Penny Wong also graced the event.

The agreement signifies a commitment to enhancing bilateral trade and investment opportunities between the two countries. Australian Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs,

Signing event occurred in the margins of the Seventh Indian Ocean Conference, held in Perth, Australia



Kailash Raj Pokharel (left), Ambassador of Nepal to Australia, and Tim Watts, Australian assistant minister for foreign affairs, sign trade and investment framework arrangement in Perth, Australia on Friday. Also in the photo, Foreign Minister NP Saud with his Australian counterpart Penny Wong. Photo: Courtesy of Foreign Ministry

Tim Watts, expressed optimism about the prospects, stating, "The signing of the agreement is just another demonstration of our strong ties. I'm looking forward to watching our economic relationship grow."

Highlighting the significance of the Nepali diaspora, Watts emphasized the deep people-to-people links between Australia and Nepal, noting

that Nepali Australians represent the fastest-growing migrant community in Australia. The signing ceremony underscores the mutual commitment to fostering closer economic cooperation and leveraging the potential for further collaboration in various sectors.

Foreign Minister NP Saud's visit to Australia coincides with his participation in the 7th Indian Ocean Conference, where he is scheduled to address the theme of

'Towards a Stable and Sustainable Indian Ocean.' Additionally, bilateral meetings with heads of delegations from different countries are planned, further enhancing diplomatic ties and cooperation.

Following the visit to Australia, Minister Saud is scheduled to visit Wellington, New Zealand, for bilateral discussions with Minister of Foreign Affairs Winston Peters. These engagements underscore Nepal's commitment to strengthening

regional partnerships and fostering cooperation for mutual benefit.

Accompanied by his spouse and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Minister Saud's visit aims to deepen diplomatic ties, explore avenues for collaboration, and promote Nepal's interests on the global stage. The visit is expected to conclude on February 15, marking a productive step forward in Nepal's foreign relations strategy.

Foreign Minister NP Saud Receives Letter from NRNA Australia, Addressing Nepali Diaspora Concerns and Interests

Melbourne: During his visit to Australia, the Honorable NP Saud, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal, was handed a letter by the Non-Resident Nepali Association (NRNA) Australia, highlighting the concerns and interests of the Nepali diaspora residing in Australia.

Anil Pokhrel, President of NRNA Australia, extended a warm welcome to Minister Saud and emphasized the significant contributions made by the Nepali diaspora to both Australia and Nepal. The letter underscored the diaspora's role in economic investments, cultural exchanges, and overall development efforts in their homeland.

The letter addressed several key issues faced by the Nepali diaspora in Australia:

Consular Services: The letter acknowledged the commendable efforts of the Nepali embassy in Canberra but highlighted the pressing need for

improved consular services, particularly regarding passport renewals. NRNA Australia urged the Foreign Ministry to allocate additional resources to address these issues effectively.



NRN Citizenship: While expressing gratitude for the NRN Citizenship bill, the letter pointed out limitations in its implementation, particularly regarding property rights and visa exemptions. NRNA Australia urged the government to address these concerns promptly.

Investment Environment: The letter advocated for an investment-friendly environment for NRNs by minimizing administrative burdens and enhancing economic security.

Lobbying for an Australian Visa Office in Kathmandu: NRNA Australia called for the reopening of the Australian visa office in Kathmandu to facilitate smoother visa processing for Nepali applicants.

Advocacy for Recognition of Nepal's Contribution to the Australian Economy: The letter highlighted Nepal's significant contribution to Australia's economy, particularly in the education sector. NRNA Australia urged the Nepali government to lobby for recognition from the Australian government and to explore opportunities for mutual cooperation.

Increased Scholarship Opportunities: NRNA Australia encouraged collaboration between the Nepali

government and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to increase scholarship opportunities for Nepali students wishing to study in Australia.

The letter expressed gratitude for the ongoing support from the Nepali government and reiterated the commitment of the Nepali diaspora to contributing to the prosperity of their homeland. Minister Saud assured that the concerns raised would be given due consideration, and efforts would be made to address them effectively.

The letter from NRNA Australia reflects the strong bonds between the Nepali diaspora and their homeland, emphasizing the importance of addressing their concerns to strengthen bilateral relations and foster mutual prosperity.



NRNA Australia Celebrates Nepali Cultural Festivals with Vibrant Programs

Melbourne: Nepali communities across Australia celebrates various cultural festivals, organized by the NRNA Women Forums in Western Australia (WA) and South Australia (SA).

In Western Australia, the NRNA WA Women Forum hosted a Teej Program aimed at celebrating the festival for all Nepali women in the region. The event, attended by approximately 800 individuals, served as a platform to foster community spirit while supporting charitable causes such as the Perth Nepali Mandir Project and aiding women in rural Nepal suffering from uterine prolapse. The program featured photo stations and heartfelt acknowledgments to volunteers, journalists, and sponsors for their contributions to its success.

Meanwhile, in South Australia, the NRNA SA Women Forum organized a Teej Program with similar objectives of celebrating the festival and fostering a sense of community among Nepali women in the area. The event featured free Teej Dar, an open dance floor, a delightful feast, and various activities aimed at highlighting the cultural richness of the occasion. Like their counterparts

in WA, the organizers expressed gratitude to volunteers, journalists, and sponsors for their support.

Additionally, NRNA SA organized a cultural meet and greet program encompassing Dashain, Tihar, New Vintuna, and Chat Parva celebrations. The event aimed to unite Nepali community members in South Australia, celebrate and preserve cultural traditions, and provide a platform for social interaction and networking. Traditional rituals and ceremonies associated with Dashain and Tihar, festivities marking the Nepali New Year (New Vintuna), and joyful celebrations of Chat Parva were among the highlights of the event.

The overarching goals of these programs were to foster unity, celebrate cultural heritage, and strengthen community bonds among Nepali diaspora members in Australia. As the festivities concluded, organizers expressed a commitment to continuous improvement and transparent communication regarding their objectives, ensuring the meaningful celebration of Nepali culture for years to come.

NRNA QLD's Remarkable Impact on Community Welfare

Queensland: Since their election in 2023, NRNA QLD has been tirelessly working to support and uplift the Nepalese community in Queensland. With over 850 volunteer hours dedicated to various initiatives, their efforts have significantly impacted the lives of many.

Here are some highlights of their activities:

Assistance in Missing Student Case: When a Nepali student went missing in Sydney and was later found in Brisbane, NRNA QLD provided essential support to the student's family, including accommodation for 21 days. Despite challenges, they liaised with authorities and provided continuous assistance to the family during the search.

Addressing Mental Health Challenges: NRNA QLD intervened in cases involving mental health issues among Nepali students, facilitating hospital admissions, visa applications, and financial support for treatment. Their efforts have positively impacted the lives of those struggling with mental health issues.

Successful NRNA QLD Teej 2023: The Teej celebration organized by NRNA QLD was a resounding success, promoting Nepali culture and generating significant funds to support QNCC. The event showcased their commitment to preserving and celebrating Nepali traditions.

Supporting Those in Substance Abuse and Financial Hardship: NRNA QLD provided assistance to Nepali students facing substance abuse and financial difficulties, ensuring access to healthcare and financial support to improve their quality of life.



QNCC Go Fund Campaign: The organization initiated a Go Fund campaign to assist QNCC with building assistance, raising substantial funds that were transferred to QNCC's account, demonstrating their dedication to community development.

Support for Multiple Myeloma Patient: NRNA QLD raised funds and provided support for the treatment of a patient diagnosed with multiple myeloma, highlighting their commitment to supporting individuals in need during challenging times.

Advocacy and Interaction: NRNA QLD facilitated interactions with notable sports personalities to promote Nepali players and add value through interactions, fostering community engagement and pride.

NRNA QLD, under the leadership of Coordinator Sambhu Gaishe, has demonstrated exceptional dedication and commitment to community welfare. With numerous plans for the future, they continue to make a significant impact on the lives of Nepali migrants in Queensland.

Message from the President



Dear Members and Friends of NRNA Australia,

As we look back on the achievements and progress of NRNA Australia I am pleased to share with you an important milestone in our organizational journey. In response to the valuable feedback from our members, we initiated the production of customized quarterly reports, aiming to keep our community informed about the activities and initiatives undertaken by our organization. The positive reception of these reports among our members encouraged us to further enhance our communication efforts.

Today, I am delighted to announce that NRNA Australia has committed itself to releasing half-yearly activity reports, and it is with great pleasure that we present to you Volume One of this series. While we celebrate this accomplishment, it is important to acknowledge that Volume One may not capture the entirety of the outstanding work carried out by our NCCs, states, and forums teams over the past six months. However, we are dedicated to making future reports more inclusive and comprehensive, reflecting the full spectrum of our endeavors. The purpose of these reports goes beyond mere documentation; it is a testament to the tireless dedication and unwavering commitment of our volunteers. It is a platform for us to showcase the remarkable contributions made by individuals across our organization and seek your valuable feedback to continually improve ourselves.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Spokesperson Babin Mishra for his extraordinary commitment in compiling information from states and territories and finalizing the report. I also acknowledge the hard work of Dilip Prakash Karki, whose talent and dedication in layout and design have brought our report to life. Additionally, I extend a special thank you to all NRNA associates who have been actively involved in volunteerism, philanthropy, and humanitarian acts over the past six months. Your contributions are the backbone of our organization, and we are immensely grateful for your selfless dedication.

As we embark on this journey of transparency and accountability, we invite your feedback and suggestions. Your insights will guide us in creating more in-depth and insightful activity reports in the future.

In closing, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to each and every one of you for your continuous support and commitment to NRNA Australia. Together, let us strive to make a positive impact and uphold the values of our organization.

Sincerely,
Anil Pokhrel
President, NRNA Australia

Youth Empowerment in Focus: Expectations from NRNA Australia



Tasmania: The Youth Leaders Tasmania Meet Up 2024, held on February 17, centered around the theme of “Youth Empowerment and Expectations from NRNA Australia.” Young leaders gathered for a day filled with networking opportunities and insightful discussions aimed at empowering the next generation. President Anil Pokhrel and Coordinator Jagadish Khadka, along with team members Suman Bohara, Punam Panta, Uttam Adhikari, and Bishnu Thapaliya, provided invaluable support and guidance, fostering

an environment conducive to meaningful dialogue. The event also recognized the efforts of individuals like Arjun Shrestha, whose dedication contributed to its success. Special appreciation was extended to Queensford College RTO 31736 for their generous support in providing necessary resources. As participants engaged in discussions, they shared their expectations from NRNA Australia in terms of youth empowerment initiatives. The event emphasized the importance of collaboration between youth leaders and organizations like NRNA Australia to create opportunities for growth, development, and empowerment. With a focus on nurturing leadership skills and fostering a supportive environment, the Youth Leaders Tasmania Meet Up 2024 highlighted the crucial role of youth empowerment in shaping the future, while setting expectations for continued support and collaboration from NRNA Australia.

NRNA SA Youth Forum Organizes Mt Lofty Walk for Welfare

Australia: In a unique celebration of the Tihar festival, the NRNA SA Youth Forum organized the Mt Lofty Walk for Welfare, combining physical activity with cultural festivities to promote a healthy lifestyle and community engagement. The program, held amidst the scenic beauty of Mt Lofty, aimed to encourage a healthy and active lifestyle among Nepali youth while celebrating the cultural significance of Tihar in a distinctive manner. Participants embarked on a scenic hike, enjoying breathtaking views of the surroundings while immersing themselves in the festive spirit of Tihar.

The hike was not only an opportunity for physical activity but also a platform for raising awareness and funds for welfare projects benefiting the community. Throughout the event, participants

engaged in cultural performances and rituals, incorporating elements of the Tihar festival into the experience. Following the hike, participants had the chance to network and build connections with fellow Nepali youth, fostering a sense of community and camaraderie. Communal celebrations were held, featuring traditional Tihar elements, further enriching the experience and strengthening bonds among participants. The Mt Lofty Walk for Welfare during Tihar successfully achieved its objectives of promoting a healthy lifestyle, celebrating cultural traditions, and raising awareness for community welfare projects. The event received positive feedback and enthusiastic engagement from the youth community, highlighting its significance in fostering a sense of unity and pride among Nepali youth in South Australia.



National Youth Forum, NRNA Australia Launches Safer Summer Campaign

The National Youth Forum (NYF) of NRNA Australia has taken a proactive stance on community safety by organizing the Safer Summer Campaign. Running from December 16, 2023, to March 29, 2024, the campaign aims to raise awareness on critical issues such as water safety, domestic violence, and mental health. Through a combination of social media initiatives and events, the campaign seeks to educate and empower individuals within the community. By leveraging various platforms, NYF NRNA Australia aims to disseminate information, share resources, and facilitate discussions around these important topics. The Safer Summer Campaign underscores NYF’s commitment to promoting safety and well-being among the Nepali diaspora in Australia. By addressing key issues affecting the community, the campaign endeavors to create a safer and more supportive environment for all. With the support of volunteers and community members, NYF NRNA Australia is dedicated to making a positive impact and fostering a culture of awareness and support. Stay tuned for updates and events throughout the duration of the Safer Summer Campaign.

Have news to share?
Write to us!
Subject line "For Quarterly Bulletin".

Warm Regards,

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NYF NRNA Australia Launches TikTok Competition to Promote Awareness on Critical Issues

The National Youth Forum (NYF) of NRNA Australia has initiated a TikTok Competition with a noble objective: to raise awareness on mental health, domestic violence, and water safety. Running from December 18, 2023, to February 29, 2024, the competition targets younger Nepalese migrants and students, harnessing the power of social media to address pressing societal issues.

By leveraging the widespread popularity of TikTok, NYF NRNA Australia aims to engage the youth community in meaningful conversations surrounding these important topics. Participants are encouraged to create short, creative videos that highlight the significance of mental health awareness, combatting domestic violence, and practicing water safety.

Through this innovative approach, NYF NRNA Australia seeks to amplify awareness and understanding among young Nepali migrants and students, empowering them to become advocates for positive change within their communities. The TikTok Competition represents a proactive step towards fostering a culture of awareness, support, and advocacy for critical societal issues.

With the competition underway, NYF NRNA Australia looks forward to seeing the creative contributions of participants and the impact they will have in spreading awareness and driving meaningful dialogue on mental health, domestic violence, and water safety.



Toowoomba Nepalese Football Club, Supported by NYF NRNA Australia, Hosts Toowoomba Khukuri Cup

Served as a platform for community bonding and cultural exchange



On December 17, 2023, the Toowoomba Nepalese Football Club, with support from the National Youth Forum (NYF) of NRNA Australia, organized the Toowoomba Khukuri Cup, a thrilling football tournament aimed at promoting community sports and engagement among the youth of regional Queensland.

The event, held with the objective of fostering camaraderie and healthy competition, brought together young football enthusiasts from the region to showcase their skills on the field. With the support of NYF NRNA Australia, the tournament provided an opportunity for youth to participate in organized sports activities, promoting physical fitness, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

The Toowoomba Khukuri Cup not only celebrated the spirit of football but also served as a platform for community bonding and cultural exchange. Participants and spectators alike enjoyed a day filled with exciting matches, cheering on their favorite teams and players.

By supporting initiatives like the Toowoomba Khukuri Cup, NYF NRNA Australia continues to demonstrate its commitment to promoting community engagement and providing opportunities for youth development. The success of the tournament underscores the importance of sports in bringing communities together and fostering a sense of belonging among youth in regional Queensland.

NRNA SCC WA and NRNA SYF WA, with Support from NRNA NYF, Host Information Session for New Nepalese Students in WA

On January 20, 2024, the Nepalese Student Coordination Committee (NRNA SCC) WA and the Nepalese Student Youth Forum (NRNA SYF) WA, supported by the National Youth Forum (NYF) of NRNA Australia, organized an informative session aimed at assisting new Nepalese students in Western Australia.

The session, held with the objective of empowering students with essential knowledge and resources, covered various aspects of student life in Australia. Participants were provided with valuable information regarding their rights as students, including insights into mental health awareness, domestic violence prevention, and workers' rights in Australia.

By collaborating with NRNA NYF, NRNA SCC WA, and NRNA SYF WA facilitated an engaging and informative session tailored to the specific

needs and concerns of new Nepalese students. The event not only aimed to equip students with essential information but also provided a platform for networking and community building.

Through initiatives like the Information Session for New Nepalese Students, NRNA Australia continues to demonstrate its commitment to supporting and empowering the Nepalese diaspora in Australia. Such events play a crucial role in easing the transition of new students into Australian society and ensuring their well-being and success in their academic pursuits.

NRNA QLD's Active Involvement in Community Welfare

Since its election in 2023, NRNA QLD has been actively engaged in various initiatives aimed at supporting the Nepalese community and promoting welfare causes. Here's a glimpse

of their activities:

Missing Student Case: NRNA QLD extended support to a Nepali student who went missing in Sydney and was later located in Brisbane. The team accommodated the student's family for 21 days, liaised with authorities, and provided continuous support during the search.

Addressing Mental Health Issues: The organization intervened in cases involving mental health issues among Nepali students, providing assistance with hospital admissions, visa applications, and financial support for treatment.

NRNA QLD Teej 2023: The Teej celebration organized by NRNA QLD was a grand success, promoting Nepali culture and generating significant funds in support of QNCC.

Substance Abuse and Financial

Hardship: NRNA QLD provided support to Nepali students facing substance abuse and financial difficulties, ensuring access to healthcare and financial assistance.

QNCC Go Fund Campaign: The organization initiated a Go Fund campaign to assist QNCC with building assistance, successfully raising funds to support the cause.

Support for Multiple Myeloma Patient: NRNA QLD raised funds and provided support for the treatment of a patient diagnosed with multiple myeloma, facilitating access to necessary medical care.

Domestic Violence Support: The organization offered support to female victims of domestic violence, providing consultation and directing them to relevant services for assistance.

Support for TNFC Football: NRNA QLD supported TNFC football activities, contributing to regional sports development

in Toowoomba.

Interaction with Sports Personalities: NRNA QLD facilitated interactions with South Asian Games gold medallists Mandey Kaji Shrestha and Bir Bahadur Mahara, promoting Nepali athletes and fostering community engagement.

Assistance with Passport Applications: The organization provided assistance with filling Nepali passport applications in person, ensuring accessibility to essential documentation services for community members.

NRNA QLD's dedicated efforts and proactive approach have significantly contributed to the welfare and support of the Nepalese community in Queensland. Through their various initiatives, they continue to uphold their commitment to serving and empowering community members in need.