



Embassy of Nepal/Mission of Nepal to the European Union Brussels, Belgium

Press Release

The Embassy of Nepal in Brussels organized a ‘Nepal Promotion Event’ in collaboration with The Consulate General of Nepal in Amsterdam, The Netherlands on 11 July 2016. The Event took place in the legendary Tjgerzaal (Tiger Hall), a historic building within the area of the national Zoo, right in the centre of Amsterdam.

In the Event, speakers made presentations on diverse issues including mountaineering, travel and wildlife in Nepal. In particular, they unfolded their ‘Nepal-experience’ before an audience consisting of Dutch government officials, people from airlines, travel agents, members of the Dutch Mountaineering Association, as well as the general public. Through these presentations, the audience was guided through the majestic and pristine far west of Nepal to the fascinating wildlife in the southern plains of the Terai.

Highlighting the importance of mountains for Nepal, Chargé d’Affaires Mr. Ghanshyam Bhandari said that mountains were the identity markers and promoters of Nepal’s image in the international arena. He underscored the prominence of Nepal’s natural and cultural heritage and stated that those immense, priceless and unparalleled resources within its borders made Nepal an exceptional and unique destination for tourists. Reminding the audience of a quote by Sir Edmund Hillary: “It is not the mountain we conquer- but ourselves”, Mr. Bhandari emphasized not only the adventurous but also the spiritual component of visiting Nepal.

He said that tourism, including with its linkages to other sectors of Nepal’s economy, had been playing a significant role in employment, income generation, and poverty reduction. Mr. Bhandari underlined the reconstruction efforts made by the Government of Nepal after the devastating earthquakes last year and stated that Nepal was still attractive and safe for all forms of tourism. He urged all to ‘stretch the legs out’ and visit Nepal to experience its natural beauty as well as the impeccable hospitality and warmth of its people.

Honorary Tourism Goodwill Ambassador of Nepal to The Netherlands and renowned climber, Mrs. Katja Staartjes, portrayed the pristine ‘West of Nepal’. She shed light on her latest achievements concerning ‘Nepal Traverse’ along Nepal’s northern border- also known as The Great Himalaya Trail.

Mr. Robin Baks, director of The Dutch Mountaineering Association, elaborated the history of the Association’s longstanding connection with Nepal. A considerable number of the Association’s members visit Nepal yearly and they have recently contributed to reconstruction of bridges in Nepal.

Address: 210 Avenue Brugmann, 1050 Brussels, Belgium **Telephone:** 0032 2 346 26 58, **Fax:** 0032 2 344 13 61 **Email:** embn@skynet.be, eonbrussels@mofa.gov.np



Embassy of Nepal/Mission of Nepal to the European Union Brussels, Belgium

Captain Chris Boumeester, leader of the 2016 Dutch Marine Manaslu Expedition, gave a vivid review of the joint efforts undertaken by the Nepalese mountain crew and the Dutch marines during this expedition. Mr. Ram Budhtoki, chairman of the Nepal Netherlands Samaj Association, led the audience into Nepal's cultural heritage by a musical performance.

Mr. Cas de Stoppelaar, Honorary Consul General of Nepal to The Netherlands and Chairman of The Himalayan Tiger Foundation, presented some 'magic glimpses' from wildlife in the Terai region of Bardiya. Through the Foundation several Nepalese and Dutch scientists team up with Nepalese government authorities and WWF for research on wildlife in its broadest sense; aiming not only to doubling the tiger population but also securing the historical co-existence of humans and animals in this vulnerable environment.

Embassy of Nepal /
Mission of Nepal to the EU, Brussels
12 July 2016



Address: 210 Avenue Brugmann, 1050 Brussels, Belgium **Telephone:** 0032 2 346 26 58, **Fax:** 0032 2 344 13 61 **Email:** embn@skynet.be, eonbrussels@mofa.gov.np