

CNI's 11th AGM Concludes



CNI officials on the occasion of CNI's 11th AGM at Hotel Soaltee

Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI) held its 11th Annual General Meeting on March 25, 2014 at Soaltee Crowne Plaza, Thachal. The ceremony was inaugurated by Rt. Honorable Prime Minister, Sushil Koirala. Likewise the program was attended by Industry Minister, Karna Bahadur Thapa and Finance Minister, Ram Sharan Mahat and most of the top government officials, international delegates as well as senior business people of Nepal.

The AGM included various business sessions and interactions where Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI) demanded the government to come up with "Vision-2024" (Vision 2080) to ensure prosperity in the country. The

private-sector body urged the government to devise a strategic roadmap to achieve double-digit economic growth at a time when the country is struggling to achieve sustainable growth and attract investment. "As Nepal cannot remain isolated from open economy and liberal economic policy, there is a need to adopt liberal economic model and guarantee double-digit economic growth by drafting a strategic roadmap of the country's economy," said CNI President Narendra Kumar Basnyat, addressing its 11th annual general meeting. CNI has also demanded the government immediately endorse pending bills like Industrial Enterprises Act, Special Economic Zone Act, Foreign Investment and Technology Transfer Act and Labour Act.

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President of CNI awarded 'Commercially Important Person' Title

The government has recognized 34 business organizations and individuals as Commercially Important Person (CIP) for their remarkable contributions in the field of trade and commerce.

The President of CNI, Mr. Narendra Kumar Basnyat was also awarded with the title 'Commercially Important Person' for his contribution in promoting export and commercial sectors.

Rt. Honorable Dr. Ram Baran Yadav conferred the CIP certificates and logos on the representatives of 34 business firms under different 15 categories at a function organized at the President's Office, Sital Niwas on Monday, January 27, 2014. The



CIP recognized personalities at the ceremony

Message

With the peaceful holding of the constitutional election last December, Nepal is now geared up for a new constitution with greater emphasis on rapid economic growth underpinned by the greater impetus on infrastructure development. The upcoming political parties in the government have already pledged their commitment to scale up Nepal's development. In the context of the government's efforts to qualify the country's status to the developing country, conducive investment climate is being consolidated. Nepal has been an experimental lab to prove that political instability is the greatest threat to economic development. Nepalese history has seen many events, from political chaos to Maoist war, whose backgrounds brought a halt to excitement in economy, pace of economic reforms and belief of the private sector. Now that the Government is planning to launch second tier economic reforms, it is important that we learn from our harsh political past. We are readier than ever to trace the path of economic development, given that we have an effective political system. The private sector is excited by the formation of a new constitution at this decisive and crucial time of history and believes that this will pave

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Common economic agenda must for economic growth: Former finance ministers.



CNI officials with Former Finance Ministers at the program

Former finance ministers have acknowledged that political instability and eroding business climate took toll on economic growth over the past two decades. They also stressed the need to forge consensus on common economic agenda to propel economic growth. Speaking at an interaction on 'Roadmap for Economic Prosperity of Nepal' organized by Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI) on January 5, 2014, Sunday at Thapathali Trade Tower, they underlined the need to develop key sectors of economy like agriculture, hydropower, roads and tourism for greater prosperity. Former finance minister, Dr Ram Sharan Mahat said political parties lost precious time on political wrangling instead of putting focus on the much needed economic agenda over the past two decades. "We squandered our valuable time on political disputes, putting the economic issues on the backburner. This affected our economic performance," he said, adding, "Now, we have no option but to concentrate on economic agenda by forging common understanding among

political parties." Mahat, who is also a senior leader of Nepali Congress, also stressed the need to increase capital investment to spur economic growth. "We need to increase capital spending, which stands at around 25 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), to around 35 percent of GDP to enhance economic efficiency. For this, political stability is the cornerstone," added Mahat. He also explained how the inability to strictly enforce law and order has made adverse impacts on economy. "We have been confronting of problems in acquisition of land for infrastructure development; industrial unrest is inflicting huge loss on economy. But the government is still not in a position to tackle it," Mahat said. "We can't expect investment friendly environment unless the government gets stronger in enforcing law and order to do away with such problems." Surendra Pandey, another former finance minister, said the focus should be on economic growth by ensuring smooth development of crucial infrastructure such as roads and energy by restoring political

stability in the country.

"We wasted most of our time only on political agenda; time has come to focus on energy, roads and other sectors of infrastructure that accelerate economic growth and generate employment," Pandey, who is a leader of CPN (UML), said. He also underlined the necessity for scientific land-use policy to ensure optimum utilization of land. Barsha Man Pun, who is also a former finance minister from UCPN (Maoist), said most of the targets set by political parties in their election manifestoes can be achieved only if political stability is established in the country. "We can achieve significant rise in per capita income and growth in infrastructure if become successful in restoring investment friendly environment and political stability in the country," added Pun. Speaking at the program, Finance Minister Shankar Koirala said economic issues are getting sidelined by political agenda. Koirala, however, expressed hope that the country will lay high priority on economic agenda in the coming days as most of the political parties have already incorporated economic issues with high priority in their election manifestos.

"As political parties are narrowing down their differences on economic issues, we can forge common understanding among them for economic growth in the coming days," said Koirala. Presenting an economic roadmap for Nepal, Hari Bhakta Sharma, Senior Vice President of CNI, said the upcoming governments need to restore investment climate with the target of achieving per capita income of Nepalese people to US\$ 4,000 in the next ten years.

CNI's President Emeritus Binod Kumar Chaudhary and CNI President Narendra Basnyat also stressed on political stability and favorable business environment for greater economic growth.

Hari Bhakta Sharma selected as the Senior Vice President of CNI



Hari Bhakta Sharma, Senior Vice President, CNI

Mr. Hari Bhakta Sharma has been selected as the

CNI's 11th AGM Concludes Continue...

Responding to CNI, Industry Minister Karna Bahadur Thapa said the government is ready to bring any bill as asked by the private sector within a month. "If the pending bills are hindering development activities, they should not be stopped from being endorsed. Hence, the government will accord top priority to the passing of such pending laws."

Addressing the AGM, Prime Minister Sushil Koirala said the government has taken steps to create a positive environment to attract domestic and foreign investment. Stating political instability hindered the country's development in the past years, Koirala said: "Although we are still struggling to maintain a stable government, there are some rays of hope with current political developments." Koirala said a number of good initiatives have been taken and work is in progress to make the country an ideal investment destination.

Finance Minister Ram Sharan Mahat said it's high time that Nepal designate the energy sector as an essential service by putting it into the Essential Service Act, which guarantees restriction against strikes. He said the sector has become a victim of politicking. "It's unfortunate that Nepal's politics is not development- and investment-oriented," he said, citing an example of Pancheshwar and Sapta Gandaki projects, which failed to take off due to political meddling.

Referring to his recent meeting with European Union (EU) officials in Brussels, Belgium, Mahat said the EU was positive on diversifying its investment in Nepal's economic sector, as in the past years, the block was aiding human rights and other sub sectors. "We urged the EU that unless the rural economy, road and infrastructure are prioritised, it

Senior Vice President of CNI. He was formerly the Vice President of CNI. The Governing Council Meeting held before the 11th Annual General Meeting of CNI recommended his name to the National Council for Senior Vice President and thus, was selected with everyone's consent. As per the constitution of CNI, the Senior Vice President would be the next President of the organization. Mr. Hari Bhakta Sharma is the Managing Director of Deurali Janta Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd.

argued the EU that unless the rural economy, road and infrastructure are prioritised, it will not guarantee overall prosperity of the country and they (EU states) are positive to pour funds into the economic sector."

"The European Investment Bank is also coming in a big way," he said. The lender has assured Rs 12 billion (\$120 million) for commissioning the Kali Gandaki Corridor (220/400 kV double circuit transmission line project) and Marsyangdi Corridor (220kV double circuit line). CNI President Emeritus Binod Kumar Chaudhary said learning from the "bitter experience" over the last 20 years, the government should make some concrete efforts to reduce growing depression among the people. "We have remained idle for the last two decades and to compensate this loss, there is a need to accelerate the economy at a faster rate," he said.

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MONITOR

CNI Meeting

PM to uphold free market economy



CNI President handing over the bouquet to Rt. Honorable Prime Minister Sushil Koirala

Prime Minister Sushil Koirala has said that the country will continue to uphold the principles of a free market economy. He made the comment during a meeting with a delegation of the Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI) on March 11, 2014, Tuesday at the PM's Residence. Led by CNI president Narendra Kumar Basnyat, the high level delegation of the private sector handed over a memorandum to Prime Minister Koirala of the issues plaguing the business sector. A meeting held at the Prime Minister's Residence discussed about the load shedding, strikes, insecurity, labour problems, good governance and the global recession that have been paralyzing the business and industrial sectors. The delegation included members of the CNI and general members.

Receiving the memorandum, Prime Minister Koirala said, "the problems of instability that we are facing today are due to the delay in institu-

tionalization of democracy in the country. But we do not intend to give any concession to those who want to further destabilize the situation and put the future of the nation and upcoming generation at stake. "There is no question to reverse from economic liberalization," said Prime Minister Koirala.

He further mentioned that the main responsibility of the new government was to draft a new constitution. "But equally important is maintaining peace and order so that investment and economic activities can be further expanded," he added. CNI president urged the prime minister to take proactive measures in resolving issues related to economic development. "Economic and industrial growth is only possible if the government is able to build the private sector's confidence by ensuring peace, stability and good governance," President said, presenting a memorandum to the PM.

MEET WITH THE FINANCE MINISTER



CNI President with the Finance Minister Ram Sharan Mahat during the meeting

Finance Minister Dr. Ram Sharan Mahat emphasized that for the economic development of the country, regeneration and revitalization of the economy is needed. The delegations of Confederation of Nepalese Industries led by the President, Mr. Narendra Kumar Basnyat met the Finance Minister on 13th March, 2014 at Ministry of Finance, Singha Durbar.

During the meet, the Finance Minister said that though the first phase of economic reform in Nepal took place in the decades of 90s, there hasn't been enough progress. So, he recommended on working together for the upliftment of Nepalese economic situation to pave our way to the second phase of economic reform and for this, he sought for new ideas and suggestions from the private sector. The President of CNI expressed the current problems being faced by private sector in the current market and recommended some solutions to the Finance Minister. "Since the country's future lies in the hands of the newly elected government, the economic, industrial and business development of the country should not be affected by any other unwanted political issues", the President said. Economic growth should start gaining a certain pace and solid footsteps should be taken immediately for the development of the economy so that the private sector could work confidently without any constraints.

Interaction with German Ambassador, H.E. Frank Meyke



man Government has positively supported the ongoing peace process of Nepal including the formation of government following the historic elections of the Constituent Assembly in 2008", he said.

He also requested the German Government to explore the possibility of large scale investment in Nepal especially in the industrial sector so as to encourage Nepalese export to our neighboring countries like India and China who have big market. "We have considered your Excellency's this visit to CNI as an opportunity for fostering bilateral ties between two



German Ambassador, H.E. Frank Meyke with the President at CNI Secretariat

Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI) conducted a meeting with the German's Ambassador to Nepal, Frank Meyke, on, January 5, 2014. The meeting, held at CNI Secretariat Thapathali, Kathmandu, was concentrated in strengthening the economic and business relationship between Nepal and Germany. During the interaction, President Narendra Kumar

Basnyat highlighted about the improving political condition of Nepal creating a favorable investment climate in the nation. He also pointed out the objectives of CNI as well the activities that were being carried out by CNI so far. During the meet, CNI President Basnyat emphasized about the contribution and substantial support of German Government to Nepal. "The Ger-

countries. I am confident that this cooperation will definitely be able to enhance the development initiatives taken by CNI for the overall development of Nepalese Private Sectors", he said.

Similarly, Ambassador Frank Meyke also stressed that German investors were interested in investing in Nepal. He also said that the German Government is looking forward to developing and investing in various sectors of Nepal including agriculture, handicrafts, tourism and waste management. However, concerns over corruption, governance and business climate were the impeding factors.

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CNI Activities

"Increasing investment and creating healthy investing atmosphere": Main objective of Ministry of Industry



CNI President with the Industry Minister, Mr. Karna Bahadur Thapa during their meet.

The delegations of Confederation of Nepalese Industries led by the President, Mr. Narendra Kumar Basnyat met the Industry Minister, Mr. Karna Bahadur Thapa on 18th March, 2014 at Ministry of Commerce and Supplies at Singha Durbar, Kathmandu. During the meet, Mr. Thapa strongly emphasized that the foremost goal of the ministry is to increase the investments in the nation and also develop the industries by creating healthy environment. He also informed that the ministry is preparing the working plans to pass five acts from the assembly within a month and create healthy atmosphere which would

definitely encourage the healthy competition among national players leading to improvement in the industrial sector. During the interaction, CNI President Mr. Narendra Kumar Basnyat on behalf of the private sector requested Minister Mr. Thapa to play a strong leading role for the development and amendment of the act and policies related to the industrial sector. Similarly, the various problems, bottlenecks and complexities faced by the Nepalese Industrialists and their possible solutions were also firmly discussed in the meeting.



Continued...

ways for prioritizing the two decade long hindered economic agendas. The private sector, involved in economic, industrial and business prospects is still in the state of insecurity and indifference. Failure to publicize positive opportunities on the global platform has resulted in the detainment of investments. So, it is necessary to establish the image of Nepal as peaceful and investment-friendly in the eyes of global investors

In coherence with the growing industrial transformation and commercialization in the world, Nepal's foreign policies should be drafted by keeping economic diplomacy at the epicenter. There should be a proper system of prioritizing short term, interim and long term projects based on the value of a subject relating to a particular field. Energy, agricultural commercialization, infrastructure and tourism should be given more emphasis and Special Economic Zones should be prioritized.

Now, in the change context, it is necessary to move the stalled reform programs forward to attain steady and high economic growth rate in Nepal.

The industries, along with the government, should work hand-in-hand for development. It is time to start eliminating ineffective political plans. Determination from the side of Government would bring great results. Along with global economic competency, political competency should also be built hand in hand.

CNI NC Meeting Concludes





CNI Officials during the NC Meeting at CNI Secretariat

Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI) held its National Council (NC) Meeting on March 24, 2014. The meeting was organized in the chairmanship of President Mr. Narendra K Basnyat at CNI secretariat Thapathali, Kathmandu. In the meeting, CNI Office Bearing Council members, National Council Members and the Conveners of local chapters as well as representatives from district industry association were present.

In the meeting, CNI Director General Megh Nath Neupane presented the major activities carried out

by CNI after the previous meeting of the National Council. In the mean time Neupane proposed some new projects to be carried by CNI in the near future. He also detailed out the program schedule for CNI's AGM to be held on March 25, 2014. CNI president Basnyat, office bearers and other participants provided some inputs on the DG's presentation and forwarded valuable guidelines to make the future course of actions more effective and to make CNI more vibrant. CNI President Anuj Agrawal presented the financial report of CNI stating the total in-

come and expenditures of CNI during the year. Dignitaries also provided suggestions and inputs to the presentation in order to make their activities more effective in their respective areas. President Basnyat urged the NC members as well as local representatives to come up with the issues or problems faced by industries and exporters on which CNI is ready to help through lobby and advocacy with the government as well as other concerned authorities.

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**11th AGM
SPECIAL**

AGM Speeches

“The current demands of the private sector are drafting of the constitution, Political Stability and Economic Development.” -Narendra Kumar Basnyat, President, CNI



-Narendra Kumar Basnyat, President, CNI

The President of CNI, Mr. Narendra Kumar Basnyat, in his welcome speech during CNI's 11th AGM at Hotel Soaltee, expressed that the program has added to the vigor and motivation of the confederation in following the expedition of industrial development. He expressed his deep gratitude for all the support and direction that the Confederation has received from the Government of Nepal, political parties, policy makers, Democratic agencies/policies surrounding the fact that appropriate development of the private sector is the only key to possibilities in the nation's economic, industrial and business development. Directed by these policies, CNI has in-

troduced and implemented programs at a national level to develop the competitive capacity of financial institutions of the country. He assured that the Confederation is equally aware and responsible of its social responsibilities. Also he informed that the Confederation has expanded its network on national levels by including and opening chapters in areas of economic corridors and internationally by prioritizing networking with industrial and financial institutions of nations with investment and trade expansion opportunities.

Comprehending the fact that all of this is impossible without political stability and good governance, Mr. Narendra Kumar Basnyat drew the attention of the Nepal Government towards the following points:

- The lack of favorable and reliable environment for investment has hindered development process and increased the disparity between the rich and the poor. The Government should introduce timely programs and action plans, including Vision 2080, for national prosperity.
- The common economic programs introduced recently by the Nepal government should be made time bound for its proper implementation.
- Keeping in mind the globalization of open markets, Nepal should implement a Liberal Economic Model to ensure a two-digit growth rate, and also introduce strategies for regional level economic path maps.
- It is suggested that the Government ensures that the change and rotation of Governance; and ministers do not alter the prevailing tactical provisions.
- The main problem of investment and industrialization in Nepal is the energy crisis. A special package for hydropower development should be introduced

so that within 3 years, load shedding is not an issue and we can export energy.

- Economic Relief Programs should be introduced, and tax and capital provisions should be reduced to create an investment-friendly environment in Nepal.
- The pace of economic growth should be given momentum by increasing development costs and reducing transaction costs. A timely budget and no compromise on development provisions in any situation should be implemented.
- Laws that have yet to be approved such as the Industrial Commerce Act, special Economic zone Act, Foreign Investment and Technology Transfer Act, Labour Act and financial circulars should instantly be passed and legal provisions for commercialization and economic growth should be ensured.

Through the development of internal production and import transposition industries, and introduction of programs focused on Export Promotion, the balance of trade deficit should be reduced to 10% of total gross production. Mr. Basnyat also commented that the current wants of the private sector are

- a) Drafting of the constitution
- b) Political Stability and
- c) Economic Development.

With these requests, along with expressing the Confederation's commitment that it will collaborate with the present Government and all the political parties to our best efforts for drafting Nepal's economic development view, Mr. Basnyat conveyed his humble gratitude and welcome to everyone present.

“Nepal has been an experimental lab to prove that political instability is the greatest

threat to economic development"- Binod Kumar Chaudhary, President Emeritus, CNI



- Mr. Binod Kumar Chaudhary, President Emeritus, CNI

Mr. Binod Kumar Chaudhary, President Emeritus, CNI spoke at the 11th AGM of Confederation of Nepalese Industries as the keynote speaker. He focused mainly on the theme, "Economic Prosperity: Recouping the Lost Opportunities" and appreciated the Government's preparation in launching the "second generation economic reforms". He took the opportunity to present issues and points that he suggested would assist in creating reliable grounds for implementing the new Government's economic reforms agendas.

-Nepal has been an experimental lab to

prove that political instability is the greatest threat to economic development. Nepalese history has seen many events, from political chaos to Maoist war, whose backgrounds brought a halt to excitement in economy, pace of economic reforms and belief of the private sector. Now that the Government is planning to launch second tier economic reforms, it is important that we learn from our harsh political past.

-It is a matter of grief that in the past twenty years, while the world around us transformed their economic identities, be it our neighbors India and China or Singapore and Thailand, we could not stand above the reputation of a poor country despite our indefinite natural resources, which would theoretically make Nepal the hotspot target for prospective investors. We are readier than ever to trace the path of economic development, given that we have an effective political system.

-If the question of what could be the solution for creating employment to 5.5 million youths annually arises, the only answer will be: Investment. Investment creates opportunities, knowledge, technology and capital, and utilization of natural resources.

However, problems faced by prospective internal and external investors, for approval at state levels and for implementation, at employee levels, have blocked investment opportunities in Nepal. It is important for the perceptions of employees involved in approval and implementation levels to change for strengthening the process of economic reforms.

- CNI has always been keen to believe that it is possible to take the slow growth rate of Nepal to two digit figures and so, introduced "Economic Summit" to publicize the same in a positive way. It is a proud fact for the private sector that even during the period of insurgency, it was

the private sector that kept trying and contributed to the national economy.

-Another mistake of this period has been our negligence in infrastructure development, which is why there still needs preparation for building investment friendly environment in Nepal. Time to time energy crisis is one added issue in the nation's problems. We are compelled to live in 16 hours of daily load shedding, when on the contrary; we have enough water resources to produce electricity sufficient for the whole of South Asia. Unless there exists monopoly of Nepal Electricity Authority in the production, transmission and distribution of electricity, there are no possibilities of development in this sector.

-The roads, as evident to all, are a mess. Different projects like Kathmandu-Terai fast track and the second international airport have not yet been materialized due to the very problem in foreign investments. The introduction of "BOOT" law for such infrastructure development has not added to the process either. It is crucial now to evaluate why we could not get the desired benefits and are still living with weak infrastructure today.

-The fact that we have not been able to understand that economy is an integral part of present world politics, also explains the self-centered behavioral trend of Nepalese politics. We have failed to materialize the common belief that economic development would be at the centre of political parties after the political transformation of 2062/63.

-In compensation of the twenty years, most of which has gone wasted in terms of development, it is now time to take concrete steps to speed up the process of economic prosperity, which is possible only from the group effort of all.

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CNI's 11th AGM Special

"Photo Gallery of CNI's 11th AGM"



▼ CNI Office Bearers and Governing Council Members at the 11th AGM



▼ CNI officials enjoying tea



▼ Rt. Honorable Prime Minister Sushil Koirala attending the Annual General Meeting



▼ Participants at the AGM showing respect to National Anthem

▼ CNI Officials with the guest at Hotel Soaltee



▼ Finance Minister Ram Sharan Mahat with Senior Vice President Hari Bhakta Sharma of CNI at the program



▼ CNI President Narendra Kumar Basnyat addressing the ceremony



▼ Honorable Prime Minister receiving token of love from the CNI President

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CNI's 11th AGM Special



▼ President of CNI with distinguished guests at the ceremony



▼ Rt. Honorable Prime Minister Sushil Koirala inaugurating CNI 11th AGM





▼ Senior Vice-President of CNI with the guests



▼ Honorable Prime Minister receiving token of love from the CNI President



▼ Senior Vice President and Director General of CNI with the Working Team of the AGM



▼ CNI Officials welcoming the guests



▼ CNI President welcoming the guests

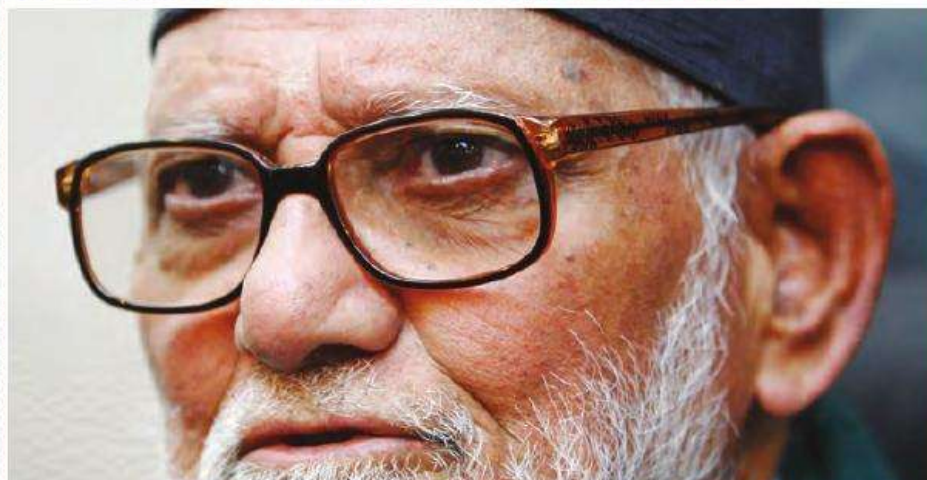


▼ CNI President and President Emeritus with Rt. Honorable Prime Minister, Finance Minister and Industry Minister at the ceremony

NI MONITOR

AGM Speeches

"The only reason for our slow development is the absence of peace and stability".-Prime Minister Mr. Sushil Koirala



11th AGM SPECIAL

"Economic Reforms are not the function of Government or the private sector alone, but both sides should understand each others' mutual dependence"-Ram Sharan Mahat, Finance Minister





-Prime Minister Mr. Sushil Koirala

Rt. Honorable Prime Minister, Mr. Sushil Koirala admitted that it is not that we lack development projects and policies at CNI's 11th AGM at Hotel Soaltee. The only reason for our slow development is the absence of peace and stability. A hope of revival is obligatory in all politicians and industrialists of the nation though there are many hindrances for the development of the country. One important issue is that the youth power is getting scarce as most of them are getting outsourced.

He mentioned that recently, in a meeting with the Indian Prime Minister, he admitted that India is also facing shortage of electricity. If Nepal is able to utilize its rich water resources, it is going to work wonders for the Nepalese economy and others as well. As of now, we should be ashamed of our inability to do the same. The problem lies in the Nepalese

way of believing in immediate results- there is no concept of long-term investment.

Mr. Koirala insisted that the scenario, however, has to change now. He guaranteed that the Constitution will be drafted within a year and a complete transformation of the nation will be made possible within the next ten years. Any cause challenging this fact will not now be forgiven by the people of the country. All this is possible primarily by guaranteeing good governance, which is at a shortage recently. Accountability and Transparency should be the two pillars of good governance, so that we can establish and maintain a corruption free system.

He was determined that we should now be focused in identifying and optimizing our prospects in tourism, hydropower and other possible sectors,



Ram Sharan Mahat, Finance Minister

The speech of Mr. Ram Sharan Mahat during the ceremony of CNI's 11th AGM was mainly focused on positive reforms of the past and positive opportunities of the future. He explained that after the start of the 1st tier reforms in Nepal from the year 1990-2000, the favorable environment for businesses to function was created in the form of various acts and policies.

Dr. Mahat emphasized on the need of 2nd tier reforms which, according to him, is not the function of Government or the private sector alone, but both sides should understand each others' mutual dependence. Much of the economic development till date is owed to the private sector; however the ground to do the same had been created in the 1st tier reforms by the Government.

He explained that today, the private sector comprises the major share of the economy. The progress of the same sector can also be proven by the fact that 1,900 MW license for hydropower and 25% of electricity supply is accredited to the private sector. Other sectors with prominent role of the private sector are: telecommunications, civil aviation, education, banking, and media.

One important fact that Dr. Mahat shared was that Nepal, being one of 3-star performers in Human development, in terms of increase in literacy and specifically female literacy along with increased life expectancy, does not reflect the characteristics of a post-insurgency nation.

He also elaborated the challenges and possibilities for investments in the country despite the real villain being politics, which is neither development friendly, nor investment friendly. The interest and initiations by global investors such as the IFC and European Development bank in the energy sector of Nepal are possibilities we need to grasp through the applications of internal corrections and good governance. Dr. Ram Sharan Mahat signaled that it was high time that we show that we are a peaceful country by declaring industries and all areas as peace zones to attract foreign investments.

"The process of self evaluation should start with getting results rather than just defining processes"- Karna Bahadur Thapa, Industry Minister



Karna Bahadur Thapa, Industry Minister

Industry Minister, Mr. Karna Bahadur Thapa, at the 11th AGM of CNI started his speech with thanking for the invitation at the 11th AGM of Confederation of Nepalese Industries. He said that the process of self evaluation should start with getting results rather than just defining processes. We have enough

policies and laws in the country, actions are lacking. According to him, resistance to change is one of the problems we face as a nation. Another problem is the lack of determination which further results in the lack of coordination between policies and implementation.

Mr. Thapa admitted that rational and wise decisions are not possible without individuals with self dignity. One weakness we have as citizens, he said, is that we tolerate and that as a nation is that we fail to prioritize. However, policies and laws are of no weight if they fail to score on the scale of implementation and behavior. To recognize and utilize the true power, materializing the same in behavior is must. He stated that responsible attitude, determination, and curiosity are some prerequisites; and the dignity to accept the truth and stand against wrong are the crux of nation building.

He suggested that CNI identifies and utilizes the treasure of opportunities in the economic and industrial sector. Amending laws in favor of businesses is not an issue and lack of laws and policies cannot be claimed as the reason of country's downfall. He insisted that all of us, industrialists, citizens, Government, discuss and identify the right agendas and integrate our efforts towards achieving the same.