

Young Entrepreneur's' summit- South Asia (YES-SA) 2013

The SAARC Chamber of Commerce & Industry in collaboration with the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FNCCI) and Nepalese Young Entrepreneurs forum (NYEF) organized Young Entrepreneur's' summit- South Asia (YES-SA) 2013, under the theme "Engine of the nation" on 19-21st September 2013 in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Aimed at sharing best corporate strategies and empowering positive business thinking, the Summit was organised in partnership with Friedrich Naumann Foundation: fur die freiheit, Regional Directorate, New Delhi. The summit provide youth of South Asia, a platform to create network, exchange of information, share knowledge on best business practices and ethics in view of changes taking place across the world and South Asia.

A 3-day Summit commenced with inaugural session held in the evening of 19th September inaugurated by Chief Guest, Mr Lila Mani Paudel, Chief Secretary Government of Nepal. Mr. Saurabh Jyoti, Chairperson SYEF, Mr Pradeep Kumar Shrestha, Vice President SAARC CCI (Nepal), Mr. Suraj Vaidya , President, FNCCI, Mr. Annisul Huq, Immediate Past President , SAARC CCI, H.E. Mr. Alf Arne Ramslien, Ambassador of Norway in Nepal. Prior to that an introductory video presentation entitled "Chariots of Fire" was made to enthuse the spark of innovation and entrepreneurship followed by welcome remarks of Mr. Samir Thapa, President, NYEF.

The inaugural session was followed by technical sessions held in next two days. The theme of first day was 'Inspire', where successful entrepreneurs not only shared their inspirational stories, but also showcased new, exciting and innovative business ventures and ideas. 'Keeping it real' was the theme for the 2nd day of the Summit, which comprised multiple activities i.e. forum discussions, workshop style presentations and a series of concurrent sessions on various topics. The presenters gave insight into the state of business and art to conduct successful entrepreneurial activities in the prevailing business regime in region.

The technical session "Entrepreneurial ecosystem" chaired by Mr Anil Chitrakar was addressed by Mr. Shekhar Golchha, Mr Sujeev Shakya, Mr Zulfikar Ali Bader and Mr Ejaj Ahmed followed by a networking tea and business discussion while successive session "Going Global" was chaired by Mr Prabhakar SJB Rana. Mr Kiran Bhakta Joshi, Mr Rehan Alaahwala, Mr Biswas Dhakal and Ms Marissa Poinrow joined as the session as panelists.

The others important session of included "Entrepreneurial Journey" which was chaired by Mr Suraj Vaidya- President of FNCCI and paneled by Mr Anisul Haq, Mr Shesh Ghale, Ms Rani Gurung Kashyapati and Mr Kamela Sidiqi. The 2nd day of the summit was concluded with the session "Mission Entrepreneurship" which was chaired by Mr Ranjit Acharya and the panelists included Ms Pushpa Basnet, Mr Prashant Singh, Mr Korvi Rakshand and Mr Robin Sitoula. The participants of the Summit also felicitated the Nepalese Cricket Team.

The third of the conference started with the session "Nepal as an Investment Destination" which was chaired by Mr Rajan Singh and panelists were Mr Radhesh Pant (priority sector), Mr Gyanendra Lal Pradhan (hydropower), Mr Anand Bagaria (Agriculture) and Mr Yogendra Shakya (hospitality). The last session of the summit "Cross Border Learning on Political Economy" was chaired by Mr. Manish Jha, Member, SYEF and was addressed by Mr. Mansoor Chaudhary, President, Youth Wing-PML-Pakistan. Mrs. Shazia Ahmed Langau, District Secretary National Affairs-National Party, Pakistan, Ms.Wangmo Dorjee, Politician- Bhutan, Mr. X Tenzin, Politician-Bhutan, Mr. Tanvir Ahmed, Member Parliament, Bangladesh, Mr. Kaushaly Malgalla, Politician – Sri Lanka and many Nepali's Young Entrepreneurs.

The concluding session of the summit was addressed by His Excellency Mr. Alf Arne Ramslien followed by special remarks from former Finance Ministers Dr. Ram Sharan Mahat & Mr. *Surendra Pandey*. Mr. Ajay Pradhanang, Immediate Former President NEYF offered vote of the thanks to the participants.

The event succeeded in bringing together more than four hundred young entrepreneurs from Nepal and across South Asian region, diplomats and journalists.



(L-R) Mr. Samir Thapa, President, NYEF, H.E. MR. Alf Arne Ramslien, Ambassador of Norway in Nepal, Mr. Padma Jyoti, Former President, SAARC CCI, Mr Lila Mani Paudel, Chief Secretary Government of Nepal, Mr. Annisul Huq, Immediate Past President, Mr Pradeep Kumar Shrestha, Vice President of SAARC CCI (Nepal) and Mr. Saurabh Jyoti, Chairman SCYEF.



Mr. Lila Mani Paudel, Chief Secretary Government of Nepal, while addressing the inaugural session.



Mr. Suraj Vaidya , President, FNCCI while addressing the inaugural session.



(L-R) Mr Sujeev Shakya, Columnist/Writer (Nepal), Mr. ZulfiKar Ali Bader, Entrepreneur & Vice Chairman, SCYEF (Pakistan) Mr. Anil Chitrakar, Entrepreneur (Nepal) , Mr. Saurabh Jyoti, Chairman, SCYEF and Mr Ejaz Ahmed, Entrepreneur (Bangladesh).

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