

## **Press Release**

The newly appointed Ambassador of Nepal to Australia, H.E. Mr. Yogendra Dhakal has today presented the Letters of Credence to the Governor General of Australia, His Excellency Major General Philip Michael Jeffery amidst a special ceremony held at the Government House in Yarralumla, Canberra. Mrs. Ajita Dhakal, spouse of the Ambassador and all the diplomatic staff of the Embassy were present during the ceremony.

Mr. Dhakal is the first residential Nepalese Ambassador in Australia. The Government of Nepal had opened the Embassy in Canberra in March 2007 headed by a Charge' d' Affaires a.i., which was formally inaugurated in September 2007 during the visit of the Foreign Secretary of Nepal.

Also today, Ambassador Dhakal attended the luncheon hosted by H.E. the Governor General and H.E. Mrs. Marlena Jeffrey for the Ambassadors who have presented credentials today and their spouses.

In his opening remarks, the Governor General welcomed the establishment of a residential Nepalese Embassy in Canberra and expressed the hope that relations between the two countries will be further strengthened in coming days. He also mentioned that Australia would continue to provide assistance to support Nepal's development efforts. He expressed the hope that the forthcoming elections to a Constituent Assembly will help resolve the various problems facing Nepal.

In his reply remarks, Ambassador Dhakal touched upon the evolving Nepal-Australia relations and emphasized the need to promote cooperation between the two countries in the key areas of trade, investment, tourism and education. He also called for an enhanced level of Australian assistance to help address the key challenges of reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction in the post conflict situation.

Ambassador Dhakal underlined the importance of holding elections to a Constituent Assembly as scheduled in building a new yet inclusive Nepali state that is stable, peaceful, democratic and prosperous. He called for continued goodwill and support from Nepal's friends and well-wishers in making this historic event a success.

Embassy of Nepal  
Canberra

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