

## **Press Release**

His Excellency Mr. Yogendra Dhakal, Ambassador of Nepal to New Zealand, with residence in Canberra, presented the Letters of Credence to His Excellency The Hon'ble Anand Satyanand, Governor General of New Zealand at a credential ceremony held at the Government House in Wellington this morning.

Receiving H.E. Mr. Dhakal as the first Ambassador of Nepal to be accredited to New Zealand from Canberra, His Excellency the Governor General said that it was an important day in the history of New Zealand-Nepal relationship, which, he said, was one of warmth and friendship.

Stating that late Sir Edmund Hillary was truly a son of both countries, H.E. the Governor General said the New Zealand Government has increased its funding from 2009 onwards for the work of the Himalayan Trust so that the Trust could continue to support schools, health clinics and other important social development works. He further said that New Zealand has most recently established a Sir Edmund Hillary Fellowship to facilitate visit to New Zealand by people including from Nepal who have the potential to become leaders or people of influence in parliamentary, academic, business, cultural or other fields.

H.E. the Governor General expressed sincere hope that cooperative economic partnership could be revitalized in the area of hand woven Nepalese carpets. He said that 2008 would be remembered as a very important year in the history of Nepal in view of significant political change.

Presenting the Letters of Credence to H.E. the Governor General of New Zealand, H.E. Mr. Yogendra Dhakal expressed satisfaction at the state of bilateral relations between the two countries and underscored the importance for mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries in the areas of trade, tourism, investment, education and employment.

While noting the immense contribution that late Sir Edmund Hillary made in making Nepal known to the outside world by conquering the Mount Everest together with the famous son of Nepal, Tenzing Norgay, H.E. Mr. Dhakal said that the Government and people of Nepal deeply cherished his contribution also in the socio-economic development and environmental preservation in the Everest region. He said bringing the ongoing peace process to its logical conclusion, writing a new constitution and undertaking sustained measures for economic transformation constituted the key priorities of the new Government and expressed sincere hope for receiving continued support and cooperation from all friendly countries towards these ends.

**Embassy of Nepal  
Canberra  
30 September 2008**

