

<http://www.nusacci.org.np>

Issue : 2

August 2024

## Twenty Third Annual General Meeting

The Nepal-USA Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NUSACCI) held its 23rd Annual General Meeting and Export-Import Award Ceremony on May 3, 2024, at Hotel Radisson, Kathmandu. The NUSACCI AGM was divided into two parts. The first part focused on the business session followed by the Formal Inaugural Session and Export-Import Awards Ceremony. President Kiran P. Saakha delivered the welcome address. He thanked the members for their kind presence at the AGM and for their support in moving NUSACCI forward. He briefly highlighted the



major activities of NUSACCI over the years and shed light on future activities.

General Secretary Prof. Dr. Gandhi Pandit presented the Annual Report, covering NUSACCI activities since the last Annual General Meeting held in March 2022. He also shared plans for future activities across various areas. Treasurer Sanjai K. Agrawal presented the Audited Balance Sheet of NUSACCI for FY 2021/22 and 2022/23 for approval,

highlighting the financial position of NUSACCI.

The business session also included floor discussions. The meeting noted the suggestions and feedback provided by the members, which will be taken into account while implementing programs in due course. Among other concerns raised were: a single country show in the USA, possible collaboration with ECAN, a fashion show with a women empowerment theme, human resources market in the USA, membership drive, and the formation of various committees, among others.

The business session concluded with remarks from the President, who thanked the members for their invaluable comments, suggestions, and participation in the meeting. At the end, the President also presented membership certificates to the members present.



## Nepal Franchise and Distribution Show



and local franchises across various industries, presented their brand concepts and business operations with a primary emphasis on master franchising

in association with FranGlobal, organized the Nepal Franchise & Distribution Show on April 27, 2024, at the Kathmandu Marriott Hotel. On behalf of NUSACCI,



The third edition of the Nepal Franchise & Distribution Show, a distinguished event featuring a diverse array of international

or unit franchising along with a dedicated distributorship aspect. The Indian Small Business & Franchise Association (ISFA),

Vice President Mr. Birendra Rajkarnicar attended the inaugural ceremony and delivered a special address.

## NUSACCI Participation in Nepal Investment Summit 2024

On April 28-29, 2024, the Government of Nepal (GON) organized the Third Nepal Investment Summit (NIS) 2024 in Kathmandu. This summit convened distinguished national and international speakers, dignitaries, sector-specific experts, and high-level representatives from the government, private sector, and development agencies. GON collaborated closely with development partners and the private sector to organize the summit. GON has attached high priority to private sector investment, including foreign direct investment.

On behalf of NUSACCI, four showcase projects were presented at the NIS, including: i) Happy Land Fun Park and Resort Pvt. Ltd., Surunga, Jhapa; ii) Natural Agriculture Farm Pvt. Ltd., Goru Singe, Kapilvastu; iii) Compost Fertilizer, Sindhuli, and iv) Parking System in turn-key system (Stag Parking, Puzzle Parking, and Rotary Parking).

Representing NUSACCI, President Kiran P. Saakha; General Secretary Prof. Dr. Gandhi Pandit; and Executive Committee Member and Hydropower Sub-committee Chairperson Mr. Brindaban Man Pradhanang participated in the summit.





<http://www.nusacci.org.np>

Issue : 2

August 2024

# AGM Inaugural Session and Export-Import Awards Ceremony

The AGM inaugural ceremony began with President Kiran P. Saakha delivering the welcome address. He highlighted NUSACCI's activities over the years and its future activities. He welcomed the chief guest, special guests, guests of honor, dignitaries, guests, and members. He emphasized the role played by NUSACCI in strengthening Nepal-USA economic relations, including contributions to the early ratification of the MCC from the parliament, TIFA dialogue, and encouragement and motivation for exporters and importers, among others.

The Chief Guest of the ceremony, Hon. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, inaugurated the 23rd AGM and Export-Import Awards Ceremony. General Secretary Prof. Dr. Gandhi Pandit moderated the Export-Import Awards Ceremony. He extended thanks to all the winners in the five highest export and one highest import categories respectively.

Hon. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Narayan Kaji Shrestha conferred awards to the highest exporters in the categories of Carpet, Garment, Handicraft, Felt, Pashmina, and the highest import from the USA. The recipients of the 2024 awards are: i) Mr. Nimesh Pradhan, Managing Director, Pulse Fashion Solution Pvt. Ltd. - Garment; ii) Mr. Tsewang Damdul Lama, MD, Third Eye International - Carpet; iii) Mr. Karken Kumar Gurung, Managing



Director, Everest Pashmina Khitting and Weaving Industries Pvt. Ltd - Pashmina; iv) Mr. Maheswor Shrestha, CEO, Everest Fashion - Handicraft and Felt; and v) Mr. Pradeep Rungta, Chairman, Rungtas Group, OCB Foods and Feeds Pvt. Ltd.

The Guest of Honor of the inaugural session, Jason P. Meeks, Deputy Chief of Mission, US Embassy, Kathmandu, extended his heartfelt thanks to NUSACCI for its pivotal role in bolstering Nepal's economy and fostering strong ties with the United States, exemplifying the longstanding partnership between the two countries. He mentioned recent engagements with Kathe Vidal from the US Patent and Trademark Office highlighted critical discussions on Nepal's intellectual property landscape, paving the way for future collaborations. He emphasized the commitment to strengthening Nepal's economy through initiatives like the Nepal Investment Summit, where partnerships with embassies, development committees, and local businesses aim to attract foreign investments, particularly in the information technology sector. USAID support

to Nepal, including \$150 million in loans to NMB and Laxmi Banks for SMEs, and the \$19 million Trade and Competitiveness program underscore our commitment to Nepal's private sector development, enhancing financial access, and technological advancements crucial for tourism, digital services, and agriculture. He mentioned, we look forward to further collaboration with NUSACCI and the Government of Nepal to unlock Nepal's investment potential despite economic challenges, leveraging the rapidly advancing digital infrastructure for future growth.

The Second Guest of Honor of the program, H.E. Sridhar Khatri, delivered a virtual address at the inaugural session. He commended NUSACCI on its 23rd anniversary and congratulated the export-import award winners, stressing Nepal's strides in boosting exports to the United States. Emphasizing the chamber's role since 1995 in fostering bilateral trade and investment, he noted the private sector's crucial role amid political transitions in Nepal. Khatri underscored mutual



trust in democracy and free-market principles, praising NUSACCI for enhancing business and people-to-people ties. He outlined Nepal's export dynamics and highlighted sectors like hydropower, agriculture, tourism, IT, and finance for future growth and foreign investment, citing the IT sector's significant rise.

Special Guest, Hon. Jwala Kumari Sah, Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Development, thanked NUSACCI for inviting her to address the inaugural session and Export-Import Awards Ceremony. She urged the US Government for early renewal of GSP and inclusion of more items in the list of 77 items that have duty-free access to the US market. She highlighted Nepalese agriculture and livestock products (tea/coffee and dog chews) that have demand in the US market and are being exported. She requested US FDI in this sector too. She congratulated all the awardees and also encouraged and motivated Nepali exporters for more exports to the USA, including the agricultural and livestock sectors. In the end, she highlighted the Government of Nepal's priorities in the

agriculture and livestock sector.

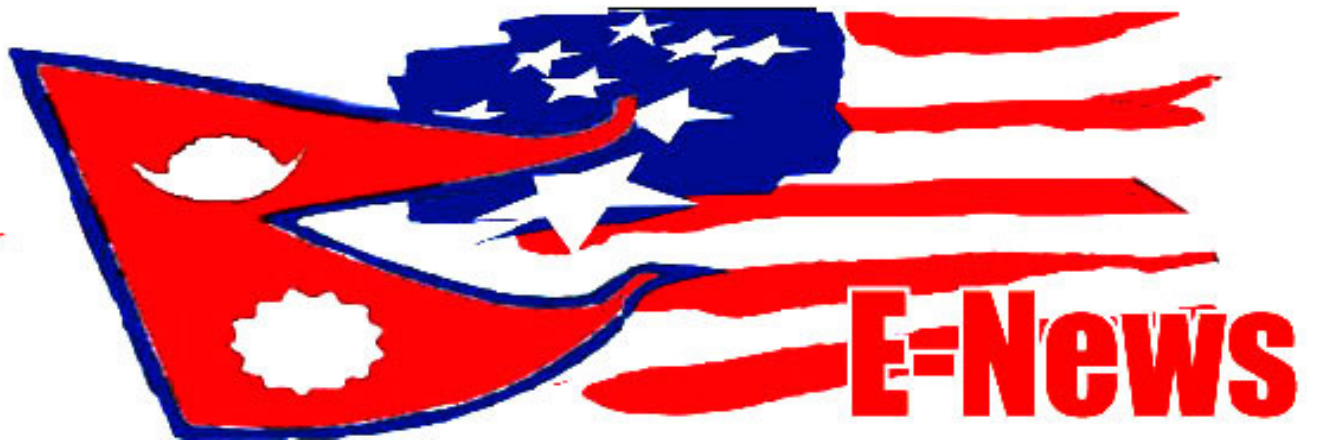
Chief Guest, Hon. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Narayan Kaji Shrestha, in his address, mentioned that he is honored to join President Mr. Kiran Saakha and the Executive Committee in celebrating this occasion. It's a privilege to recognize outstanding Nepali exporters for their significant contributions to US-Nepal trade relations. Nepali products have made a mark in the US market, bolstering our trade balance with the United States. He congratulated all the awardees and commended NUSACCI for fostering economic ties between Nepal and the USA through robust networking. Our bilateral relations thrive on shared values of freedom, democracy, and human rights. The US remains a crucial partner for Nepal, ranking as our fourth-largest trading partner and a major destination for Nepali exports. As we look ahead, initiatives like the US Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015, which benefits 77 Nepali products, are vital. We aim to expand these opportunities and broaden the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)

program. Additionally, frameworks like the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) are pivotal for diversifying trade and attracting investments in sectors such as hydropower, agriculture, IT, and tourism. He encouraged NUSACCI to continue bridging the gap between Nepali and American businesses, fostering fruitful partnerships for mutual prosperity.

Birendra Rajkarnicar, Vice President, NUSACCI, in his vote of thanks remarks, expressed gratitude to the distinguished guests and invitees for attending the event, emphasizing the importance of effort in overcoming challenge. Acknowledging the event's sponsors, including major banks and liquor manufacturers, he reflected on the collaborative efforts of stakeholders in Nepal-USA economic relations, stressing the need to address complex issues together. He outlined NUSACCI's strategy to unite various stakeholders for more effective actions in the future, pledging continued outreach to enhance bilateral economic cooperation.

The inaugural session of AGM and Export-Import Awards Ceremony was attended by distinguished guests from the Government of Nepal, US Embassy, Kathmandu, Private Sectors including Bilateral Chambers, Associations, Academia, Media, Awardees, NUSACCI Executive Board, and members, among others.





<http://www.nusacci.org.np>

Issue : 2

August 2024

# Seminar on Trademark Related Issues of Nepalese Industrial Products

## Introduction :

On June 26, 2024, the Nepal-USA Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NUSACCI) organized a one-day Seminar on Trademark Related Issues of Nepalese Industrial Products in collaboration with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, New Delhi, and the Intellectual Property Protection Society at Hotel Crowne Imperial, Ravi Bhawan, Kathmandu.

The seminar was structured into an opening session followed by four presentation sessions

the government. With support from USPTO and IPPSON, the event sought to prompt governmental action and adherence to international trademark practices.

## Opening session :

The opening session was graced by Chief Guest, Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Mr. Krishna Bahadur Raut. President, NUSACCI, Kiran P. Saakha delivered his welcome remarks, extending a warm welcome to the Chief Guest, USPTO team from New Delhi, moderator, paper presenters, commentators, and

image. He anticipated that this seminar would catalyze the implementation of IP laws in Nepal, fostering ongoing dialogue and cooperation among all stakeholders. US Intellectual Property Counselor for South Asia, John Cabeca, also delivered remarks in the opening session and highlighted the fundamentals of Intellectual Property and trademarks, including the recent signing of an MOU with the Government of Nepal. Intellectual Property Protection Society Nepal (IPPSON), Chairman, Madhusoon Poudyal, shared brief information about IPPSON and highlighted the importance of the seminar. Chief Guest of the seminar, Secretary, Ministry of Industry provided remarks and highlighted the Government of Nepal's role in formulating new IP and Trademark Laws and policy issues of Intellectual Property and Trademark. He also thanked the organizer for convening the seminar on such an important matter.

## Presentation Session :

The presentation sessions were moderated by Immediate Past President, IPPSON, and Former Industry Secretary, Krishna

Gyawali. The first presentation on “Fundamentals of Intellectual Property Rights” was made by Intellectual Property Counselor for South Asia, John Cabeca, and IP Policy Advisor for South Asia, USPTO Shilpi Jha. The second presentation on “Uses and Issues of Trademark of Nepalese Industrial Products” was presented by President, NUSACCI, Kiran P. Saakha. The presentation focused more on the practical dimensions of Trademarks of Nepalese Industrial Products. In both sessions, floor discussions were held and received invaluable comments and suggestions.

The third presentation on “Trademark Law and Practices in Nepal” was presented by Vice-Chairman, IPPSON, Bisu Kumar KC. He highlighted the current status of Trademark Law and Practices in Nepal. The comments, suggestions, queries, and clarifications raised from the floor were taken up by the paper presenter and commentators of the papers, Shanta Marasini, Director, Department of Industry, and Bimal Prasad Baral, Under

Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Supplies, respectively.

The final presentation on “Legislation and Law Enforcement of Trademark and Patent Law in Nepal” was jointly presented by Prof. Dr. Gandhi Pandit, General Secretary, and Advocate, Sikhar Pandit, Gandhi Law and Associates. They highlighted the enforcement mechanism in an international perspective vis-à-vis the Nepalese context. The floor was opened for discussion. The commentators Prof. Dr. Bal Bahadur Mukhia, Professor of Law, Tribhuvan University, and Laxman Rimal, Strategic Advisor, Ramlaxman Group, provided insights and responded to comments, suggestions, queries, and clarifications along with the paper presenter.

## Closing Session :

In the closing session, Director-General, Department of Industry, Yagya Raj Koirala, delivered his remarks. He highlighted the current status of new IP and Trademark Laws, issues associated with its smooth implementation (complaints and workload related to IP and trademark, inadequate manpower, frequent

transfer of staff, and lack of training for staff are major issues for its effective implementation).

Vice President, NUSACCI, Birendra Rajkarnicar, delivered a vote of thanks. He thanked all the distinguished speakers at the opening and closing sessions as well as all the paper presenters, commentators, and distinguished participants of the seminar.

The concluding remarks at the seminar were delivered by President, NUSACCI, Kiran P. Saakha, and he expressed heartfelt thanks to all and also informed that NUSACCI would take an initiative to organize a small group meeting discussing deliberations of the seminar and provide a set of recommendations to GON and various stakeholders for the early implementation of Intellectual Property and Trademark Laws.

The seminar was attended by various stakeholders representing the Government of Nepal, USPTO, US Embassy, AmCham, private sector, associations, academia, companies, non-governmental sectors, consumer rights forums, legal experts, media, NUSACCI Executive Board, and members, among others.



and a closing session.

Four speakers delivered their remarks in the opening session. The seminar aimed to raise awareness among consumers, manufacturers, and

distinguished invitees of the seminar. He highlighted concerns over trademark violations affecting international trademark owners and Nepal's international





<http://www.nusacci.org.np>

Issue : 2

August 2024

## Congratulations Pralhad B. KC

Nepal USA Chamber of  
Commerce and Industry  
(NUSACCI) extends its warmest  
congratulations to Pralhad  
B. KC on his appointment as  
Honorary Consul of Nepal  
to Massachusetts State by  
Government of Nepal. We wish  
him a successful tenure.



## Pictorial Glimpses of AGM and Export-Import Award Ceremony







<http://www.nusacci.org.np>

Issue : 2

August 2024







<http://www.nusacci.org.np>

Issue : 2

August 2024







<http://www.nusacci.org.np>

Issue : 2

August 2024







<http://www.nusacci.org.np>

Issue : 2

August 2024







<http://www.nusacci.org.np>

Issue : 2

August 2024

## Trademark Related Issues of Nepalese Industrial Products : Seminar Highlights in Pictures







<http://www.nusacci.org.np>

Issue : 2

August 2024







<http://www.nusacci.org.np>

Issue : 2

August 2024







<http://www.nusacci.org.np>

Issue : 2

August 2024



For Comments and Suggestions please contact us : Nepal-USA Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NUSACCI), Tinkune, Kathmandu, Nepal, Phone: +977 1 4117594, Email: [info@nusacci.org.np](mailto:info@nusacci.org.np)