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Courtesy Call to Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister

On February 21, 2025, NUSACCI President Mr. Kiran P. Saakha and Mr. Pralhad KC, NUSACCI Honorary Representative to USA and Honorary Consul of Nepal to

Saakha briefed the Prime Minister on NUSACCI's activities, highlighting the Chamber's ongoing efforts to strengthen traderelations between Nepal and the United States. He emphasized contribution that

item, and the importance of renewing the Nepal Trade Preference Program (NTPP), which is set to expire in December 2025.

In the meeting Mr. Pralhad KC, NUSACCI Honorary

State of Massachusetts that includes Town of Plymouth, Massachusetts Auditor and House of Representative of Massachusetts as a gesture of appreciation during his



Massachusetts, paid a courtesy call to Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli at Prime Minister official residence, Baluwatar.

During the meeting, President

NUSACCI has made in the series of TIFA council meeting, provided suggestions in expanding the list of Nepali potential goods for export to the U.S. under the 77-item duty-free

representative to USA and Honorary Consul of Nepal to Massachusetts, presented citations to Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister Oli on behalf of the

visit to Boston last year in September 2024. The meeting was also attended by Nepalese Ambassador to USA, H.E. Lok Darshan Regmi.



Meeting with H.E. Lok Darshan Regmi, Nepalese Ambassador to USA

On February 27, 2025, NUSACCI organized a meeting with H.E. Lok Darshan Regmi at

Trade Delegation/ Trade Show in USA, issues and challenges faced by the exporters.

two countries. President, Kiran P. Saakha highlighted the current scenarios Nepal-USA

capacity development under TIFA. Mr. Pashupati Dev Pandey and Sunil Rajbhandari

behalf of NUSACCI, President, Kiran P. Saakha; Treasurer, Pratil Man Singh Pradhan;



the secretariat. The meeting discussed on strengthening Nepal-USA trade relations, TIFA, NTPP, GSP,

Ambassador also stressed the importance of economic diplomacy for further strengthening the relations between

trade, NUSACCI recommendation on inclusion of fast moving items in the list of 77 items, utilization of technical/

highlighted the prospects and challenges of readymade garments and pashmina exports to USA respectively. On

Executive Committee Member, Pashupati Dev Pandey and Sunil Rajbhandari attended the meeting.





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Introductory Meeting between NUSACCI and Global Compact Nepal (GCN)

An introductory meeting was held on May 28, 2025, between the Nepal-USA Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NUSACCI) and Global Compact Nepal (GCN). The purpose of the meeting was to sharing of information on the activities and initiatives of respective organizations and to explore potential areas of collaboration.

Key points discussed in the meetings includes: Environmental concerns in Nepal's steel industry, a proposed trade delegation



to the United States, Potential funding support through GCN

for innovative projects focussing on environmental sustainability

and sustainable development

Representing NUSACCI at the meeting were Mr. Kiran P. Saakha, President, and the Chief Executive Officer. From the GCN side, the delegation was led by Mr. Krishna B. Shah, Executive Director of Global Compact Nepal, along with members of his team. The meeting marked the beginning of a dialogue between NUSACCI and GCN, with both sides expressing strong interest in pursuing collaborations in areas of mutual interest.

Framing Nepal's Economic Diplomacy

Institute for Integrated Development Studies (IIDS)—a Nepali think tank institution organized a discussion program entitled “Framing Nepal's Economic Diplomacy-A Policy Roundtable” on May 2nd 2024, in Kathmandu. This event was organized as a part of a broader initiative commissioned by Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) to assess and strengthen Nepal's Economic Diplomacy. As part of this initiative, IIDS facilitated evidence-based

dialogue around Nepal's international economic engagement and identify policy directions that can strengthen the country's global economic engagement through strategic economic diplomacy. Two speakers from IIDS were Dr. Biswash Gauchan, Executive Director and Mr. Akhilesh Upadhyay, Senior Fellow, IIDS. On behalf of NUSACCI, President, Kiran P. Saakha attended and contributed in the dialogue session highlighting the issue of transshipment.

Meeting with US Embassy Officials

On March 20, 2025, NUSACCI board members hold meeting with US Embassy official and discussed on extension of NTPP beyond 2025, current US government tariff policies and its possible implication to Nepal and upcoming activities of NUSACCI. The meeting was very fruitful and productive. US officials also agreed to meet on a regular basis. On

behalf of NUSACCI, President, Kiran P. Saakha; General Secretary, Sanjai K. Agrawal and Treasurer, Pratil Man Singh Pradhan attended the meeting. From US Embassy, Katherine Kaetzer-Hodson; Economic/Political Counselor; Laura Simkiss, Economic Associate and Ananda Gurung, Economic and Commercial Specialist attended the meeting.

Round Table Discussion on US Tariff Policy

On April 21 2025, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE) organized a roundtable discussion with relevant stakeholders to discuss Nepal-US trade in a vastly changed trade landscape and ways to navigate the uncertainties to safeguard Nepal's exports to the US. On behalf of

NUSACCI, Kiran P. Saakha, President attended and contributed in the roundtable discussion. He highlighted on likely implications to Nepal's export to USA and competitive advantage for Nepal in view of the high tariff to Bangladesh, China and India. He also raise the issue of transshipment regarding third country export.

Participation in NCMEA 7th AGM

President, Kiran P. Saakha & Exporters' Association held the 7th Annual General Meeting in Kathmandu. NUSACCI for their successful Manufacturers also extends

congratulation to all the newly elected office bearers and executive members of NCMEA for their successful tenure.

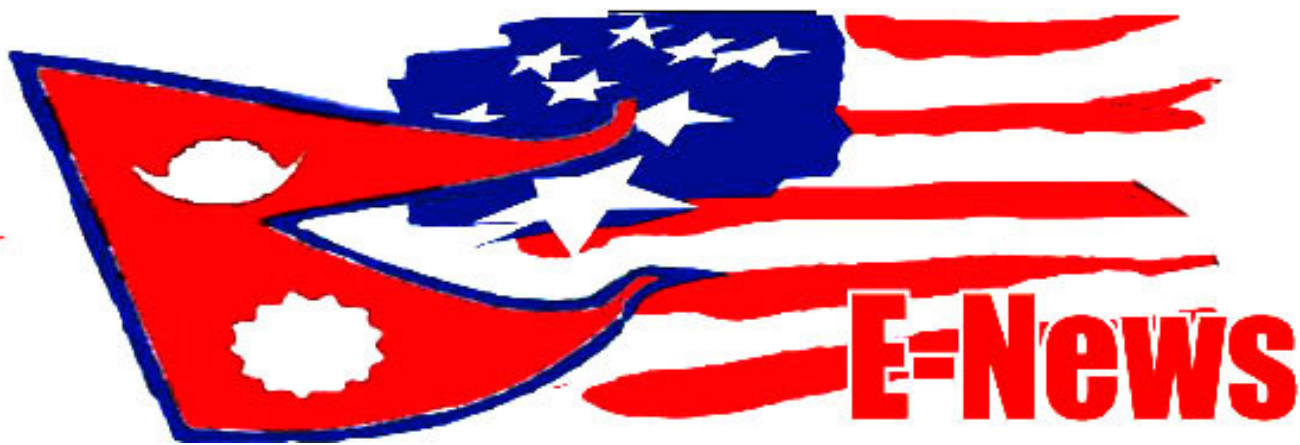
Opening Ceremony of Ambassadors Club and International Relations and Global Diplomacy Dialogue (IRGDD)

An opening Dialogue (IRGDD) ceremony of held on May 18, 2025 at The Soaltee Hotel, The program was attended by Birendra Rajkarnicar, General Secretary, Sanjaya K. Agrawal and Treasurer, Pratil Man Singh Pradhan. Vice-President,

Non-Resident Nepali Association Global Conclave 2025

On behalf of NUSACCI, General Secretary, Sanjaya K. Agrawal, attended the NRNA Global Conclave 2025 held on

May 14, 2025 organized by Non-Resident Nepali Association (NRNA) at Hotel Yak and Yeti, Durbarmarg.



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Meeting with Nepal Carpet Manufacturers and Exporters' Association (NCMEA) and Garment Association Nepal (GAN)

NUSACCI organized a meeting with NCMEA and

was to discuss issues in the context of current US tariff

inclusion of fast moving goods in NTPP list, issue of

to jointly organize a half day roundtable discussion



GAN on May 21st, 2025 at its secretariat. The main objective of the meeting

policy. The meeting discussed on NTPP which is due to expire in December 2025,

transshipment, IPR, Nepal graduation from LDC in 2025. The meeting also agreed

program on "US Tariff Policy: Challenges and Opportunity for Nepal"

Meeting with Dadhiram Bhandari, Nepalese Consul General to New York

On May 25, 2025 NUSACCI organized an introductory meeting with Mr. Dadhiram Bhandari, Nepalese

Bhandari is a senior career member (Joint Secretary) of Nepal Foreign Service and recently served

Council of Ministers. The meeting discussed various dimension of Nepal-USA trade, Opportunities and

Bhandari remarked that he is always ready to facilitate private sector concerns regarding Nepal-USA

Vice President, Birendra Rajkarnicar; Secretary General, Sanjaya K. Agrawal and Executive



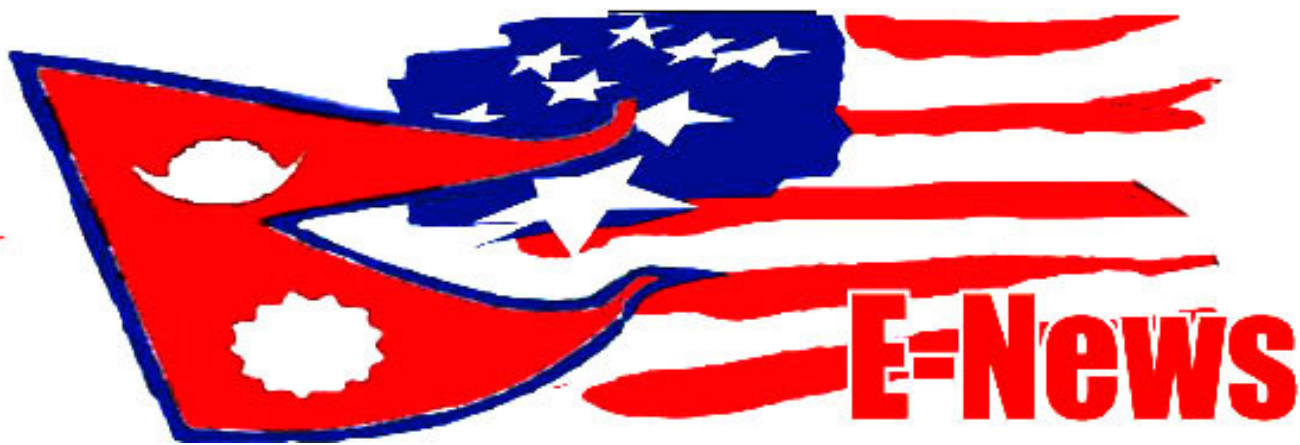
Consul General to New York who has been recently appointed by Government of Nepal in this position. Mr.

a member of the Sagarmatha Sambaad (Everest Dialogue) Secretariat, Office of the Prime Minister and

Challenges for Nepal in view of the recent US tariff policy and proposed NUSACCI delegation to USA. Mr.

trade as well proposed trade delegation to USA. On behalf of NUSACCI, President, Kiran P. Saakha;

Committee Members, Brindaban Man Pradhanang and Sunil Rajbhandari attended the meeting.



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Welcome to Our New Members!

On behalf of the Nepal-USA Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NUSACCI), we are delighted to extend our warmest welcome to our new members. Your decision to join NUSACCI strengthens our shared mission to foster business collaboration, growth, and opportunities between Nepal and the United States.

We proudly welcome:

1. Education First Pvt. Ltd.
2. United Cargo of South Asia Pvt. Ltd.
3. NP Rugs Industries
4. Everest Loom
5. Formation Carpets Pvt. Ltd.

We look forward to closely working together

Warm regards, Nepal-USA Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NUSACCI)

Congratulations ! Ms. Mridula (Jolly) Rajbhandari

Ms Mridula Rajbhandari, though most people know her as Jolly, she is a co-owner of Tara Oriental, a luxury cashmere brand proudly based in Kathmandu. For over 25 years, her husband and she have been dedicated to showcasing Nepal's incredible craftsmanship to the world through handcrafted, high-quality cashmere.

Tara Oriental had the honor of collaborating with global brands such as Prabal Gurung, Ryan Roche, Brandon Maxwell and many more. Their products have reached some of the most discerning clients around the globe. Beyond business, she serves as the Vice President of the Zonta Club of Kathmandu, Board Member of the Burns Victim Survivors

organization, and a proud member of the British Chamber of Commerce in Nepal—roles that reflect her commitment to women's empowerment, community development, and international partnerships. She truly believes that Nepal has so much more to offer than just natural beauty—a land of refined, ethical, and sustainable artistry.

Through platforms like NUSACCI, she looks forward to building stronger bridges between Nepal and the United States—expand trade opportunities, and create meaningful, long-term collaborations.

On behalf of NUSACCI, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to Ms Rajbhandari on her appointment as an Executive Board



Member. We are confident and active involvement that as a well-known woman entrepreneur, NUSACCI's mission and her insight, experience, objectives.

Congratulations! Mr. Bala Ram Gurung

The Nepal-USA Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NUSACCI) is pleased to announce the nomination of Mr. Bala Ram Gurung as an Executive Board Member of NUSACCI, in accordance with its constitution, following the recently held meeting on May 30, 2025.

Mr. Gurung is a proprietor of Everest Loom and a distinguished entrepreneur in the carpet manufacturing industry, with over three decades of experience. He currently serves as the President of the Nepal Carpet Manufacturers and Exporters' Association (NCMEA), where he continues to demonstrate exceptional leadership and dedication to the associations.

On behalf of NUSACCI, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Gurung on his appointment as an Executive Board Member. We are



confident that his insight, experience, and active involvement will greatly contribute to the advancement of NUSACCI's mission and objectives.



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Nepal-US Trade: Challenges and Opportunity

On June 11, 2025, the Nepal-USA Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NUSACCI), in collaboration with the Garment Association Nepal (GAN) and the Nepal Carpet Manufacturers and Exporters Association (NCMEA), organized a significant half-day interaction on “Nepal-US Trade: Opportunity and Challenges” at Hotel Dusit Princess, Kathmandu. The core objective was to engage key stakeholders in evaluating the implications of the recent U.S. tariff policy declared on April 2, 2025, and the subsequent 90-day pause initiated on April 9. The program sought to generate insights and recommendations to the Government of Nepal (GoN) in future trade negotiations with USA.

The chief guest of the program was Hon. Damodar Bhandari, Minister of Industry, Commerce and Supplies. The program was chaired by Mr. Kiran P. Saakha, President, NUSACCI.

Pashupati Dev Pandey, President, GAN, delivered welcome remarks, emphasized Nepal’s trade scenario with the U.S., which is its major trade partner after India. U.S.-bound exports account for 11% of Nepal’s total exports. With the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) active and the Nepal Trade Preference Program (NTPP) nearing expiry in December 2025, the interaction focused on challenges and opportunity posed by the new reciprocal U.S. tariffs.

Mr. Kiran P. Saakha, President of NUSACCI, highlighted the program theme and stated the need for Nepal to use the 90-day pause as a window for proactive dialogue with the U.S. government, stressing that Nepal’s marginal trade deficit with US in 2024 does not suffice reciprocal tariffs. Mr. Saakha highlighted the April 2 Executive Order by U.S. President Donald J. Trump that invoked the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) and National Emergencies Act to implement reciprocal tariffs. Citing examples like U.S.-India negotiations over value

addition criteria, he recommended Nepal develop an appropriate strategy to negotiate with US. He also stressed for renewal of NTPP which is due to expire in December 2025 and inclusion of fast moving such as garments, felt, and shoes which NUSACCI has been strongly advocating.

Mr. Saakha also raised the issue of transshipment as this was witnessed during the boom period of garment exports to USA. He also requested GON for the fulfilment of commitment made in the TIFA Council Meeting held in Kathmandu last year. USA has been raising concerns regarding IPR protections, issue of trademark related to international company and counterfeited labels. This need to be duly addressed by GON.

Dr. Paras Kharel, Executive Director of SAWTEE, presented a detailed paper titled “Nepal-US Trade in Uncertain Times.” He analyzed global trade disruptions following geopolitical tensions and the April 2025 U.S. Executive Order (“Liberation Day”), which imposed 10–30% tariffs on many countries, including Nepal. Nepal, which once held a trade surplus with the U.S. (2003–2018), has experienced a deficit since 2019. Key exports like carpets and felt (58%), agriculture (19%), and garments (9.2%) are all affected. With the expiration of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) and uncertainty around the NTPP, almost all exports now face additional duties.

Dr. Kharel opined that the new tariffs could reduce Nepal’s U.S. exports by 2%, and that only 13% of Nepal’s export potential is currently tapped through NTPP. He recommended prioritizing products with Revealed Comparative Advantage (RCA) and diversifying exports beyond traditional goods. He also urged Nepal to prepare appropriate trade strategies to deal with the tariff issue, promote bilateral trade agreements, and engage diplomatically as over 70 countries are already negotiating with the U.S.

Dr. Yuba Raj Khatiwada, Economic and Development Advisor to the Prime

Minister, stated that non-reciprocal tariffs should be Nepal’s focus, given its size and upcoming LDC graduation in 2026. He advocated for a Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) to attract American FDI and improve Nepal’s position in value chains. Dr. Khatiwada also highlighted the need for inter-agency collaboration and compliance with FATF guidelines to improve trade facilitation and exit the grey list.

Dr. Bal Ram Gurung, NCMEA President, reflected on the carpet industry’s historical significance and present challenges due to the likely shift from zero tariff to 10% tariff, which poses a significant challenge for carpet manufacturers and exporters.

The representatives from export-oriented commodity associations shared their views on the U.S. tariff policy. Mr. Naresh Lal Shrestha, President of the Nepal Wool Felt Producers’ Association, highlighted the high production and shipping costs—approximately \$2,000 and 15 days to reach the Calcutta port—and called for a revision of the Nepal Trade Preference Program (NTPP) list to better reflect Nepal’s current export potential. Mr. Kiran Kumar Dongol, President of the Nepal Handmade Paper Association, whose exports to the U.S. constitute 50–60% of total volume, advocated for lobbying efforts to reduce current tariffs of 1.6–5.5%, noting that competing countries like the Philippines and Thailand face only 0.1%. He justified this by pointing to the high value addition, eco-friendliness, and cultural uniqueness of Nepalese handmade paper. Mr. Deepak Prakash Banskota of the Himalayan Orthodox Tea Producers Association noted that while the U.S. is a relatively small market for their tea, exports to Europe remain stable and largely unaffected. Mr. Resham Pokharel, President of the Dog Chew Association, emphasized the global success of Himalayan Dog Chews, which support 20,000 farmers, and U.S. tariffs ranging from 0–10% pose challenges despite the product’s quality and non-competitive nature

in the U.S. market. Lastly, Mr. Rudra Neupane, President of the Footwear Manufacturers’ Association, pointed to the heavy 47% total duty on shoe exports to the U.S. He urged the need to differentiate between natural fiber and leather products and raised concerns over piracy—especially in the garment sector—calling for immediate government intervention and policy support.

Govinda Prasad Ghimire, President of FEEN, outlined key strategies to boost Nepal’s export potential. He stressed focusing on two to three priority areas like premium-quality production and market linkages. Traceability, especially for indigenous products, was highlighted as crucial for gaining international credibility. He emphasized the value of collective trademarks in branding Nepal’s unique offerings globally. These efforts aim to make Nepali products more competitive in the international market.

Birendra Raj Pandey, Senior Vice President of the Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI), highlighted the complex geo-political environment Nepal currently faces and emphasized the need to honor commitments under the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA). He proposed organizing trade fairs and B2B meetings as strategic solutions to emerging challenges, signaling CNI’s commitment to actively support such initiatives for fostering sustainable trade partnerships. Santosh Pandey, Vice President of the Nepal Chamber of Commerce (NCC), echoed the urgency of expanding Nepal’s exports to the U.S., recalling a past boom in readymade garment exports as proof of potential. He stressed the need to effectively harness current opportunities to ensure long-term gains for Nepalese producers and exporters.

Meanwhile, Hem Raj Dhakal, Vice President (Commodity) of FNCCI, acknowledged government support for special economic zones (SEZs) and highlighted recent foreign direct



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investment in garment industries in Bhairahawa and Simara. He recommended appointing trade experts in Nepal's embassies and proposed the creation of a special desk to monitor U.S. trade developments. Anjan Shrestha, Senior Vice President of FNCCI, emphasized the importance of U.S. tariff policy and economic diplomacy in enhancing trade relations. He advocated for unified national branding through a collective trademark, and urged attention to transit and freight logistics while calling for a constructive review of reciprocal tariffs to strengthen bilateral trade.

Hon. Minister Damodar Bhandari, the Chief Guest, emphasized

economic diplomacy, internal policy reforms, and fostering public-private collaboration. He assured that some private sector concerns have been addressed in the new budget and committed to continued cooperation.

Former Secretary Purusottam Ojha reaffirmed Nepal's need for non-reciprocal arrangements, as its exports are negligible in global terms. He stressed enhancing value-added niche products, like herbal and aromatic goods, and aligning IPR laws with global norms. He recommended reactivating TIFA mechanisms for regular trade dialogue.

Dr. Prakash Kumar Shrestha, National Planning Commission

Member, called for impact assessments, inter-ministerial coordination, and strategic global engagement, warning that vague statements risk weakening trade positions. Hon. Ganesh Parajuli, Member of Parliament, emphasized improving governance and resolving payment-related issues, particularly in light of Nepal's FATF grey listing.

The event concluded with closing remarks and a vote of thanks from Dawa Sherpa, Senior VP of NCMEA. He reiterated the challenges posed by U.S. tariffs and called for government incentives, better tax policies, and a unified approach to trade promotion. He thanked all participants and

underscored the need to strengthen Ease of Doing Business in Nepal.

Overall, the interaction reflected that Nepal must act swiftly, strategically, and collectively to address the challenges, optimize its U.S. market presence focusing on value added goods, and turn current challenges into long-term opportunities through diplomatic engagement, internal reform, and private sector collaboration. The interaction program was attended by GON representatives, FNCCI, CNI and NCC representatives, FEEN, Commodity Associations representatives, experts, members of NUSACCI, GAN, NCMEA and media.

Interaction Program on Nepal-US Trade: Challenges and Opportunity in Pictures



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