

## The First Meeting of Thai-Nepalese Joint Commission

**D**uring 6-8 December 1990, Thailand hosted the first meeting of Thai-Nepalese Joint Commission at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The meeting aimed at promoting bilateral cooperation in the

fields of economics, science, education and exchange of information and experience.

Foreign Ministry's Permanent Secretary, M.R. Kasem S. Kasemsri and his Nepalese counterpart, Mr. N.B. Shah led their delegations to the meeting.

Thailand and Nepal established diplomatic ties in 1959 and began exchanging envoys at ambassadorial level in 1980.

On bilateral cooperation, Thailand and Nepal signed the agreement on air service in October 1981 and the basic agreement on cooperation in May 1989 as a mechanism to expand bilateral cooperation. Moreover, on educational cooperation, Thailand provided scholarships to Nepal under the "Thai Aid Programme" and the "Third Country Training Programme".

On bilateral trade, Thailand has favourable balance of trade with Nepal. For the first six months of 1989, the trade volume of the two countries was approximately 411.2 million baht. Thailand exports textiles, garments, motorcycles, car parts, electrical appliances, sugar, cement and tyre to Nepal, and imports hand-icrafts, paper, carpet and movie film in return. ■

8 Thailand Foreign Affairs Newsletter

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**Summary Record  
of  
The First Meeting of the Joint Commission on Cooperation  
between the Kingdom of Thailand and the Kingdom of Nepal**

**1. Adoption of the Agenda**

The meeting adopted the Agenda which appears as Annex (a)

**2. Regional and International Issues**

2.1 The two sides exchanged views on the work of the regional cooperation organizations in their respective areas. The Nepalese side underscored the commitment of South Asian countries to the activities of SAARC which serves to foster closer political and economic cooperations among member states. It was noted that SAARC is now ready to establish wider contacts with other regional cooperation organizations such as ASEAN. The Thai side welcomed SAARC's new open policy and shared with the Nepalese side experiences of ASEAN.

2.2 The two sides also exchanged views on the Gulf crisis, changes in Eastern Europe and Cambodian issue.

**3. Review of Thai and Nepalese Economies**

Both sides briefed each other on their respective economic situations. It was noted that despite the Gulf crisis, both economies will still continue to expand though at a lower rate than previously estimated. On this basis, they were confident that there will still be many opportunities for both sides to strengthen their economic and commercial ties in the coming year.

**4. Trade**

While the volume of bilateral trade is relatively small and fluctuating, both sides noted that there is good potential for the expansion of Thai-Nepalese commercial tie. They therefore agreed to exchange informations, trade delegations and participate in trade fair to facilitate two-way trade.

The two sides suggested lists of items which have the potential for markets in the two countries. Thailand indicated the desire to supply fresh fruits, vegetables, sugar, pulp and paper products, chemicals and printing ink to Nepal, and to increase the import of gems, hide and raw materials from Nepal. The Nepalese side offered to supply leather, tea, medicine, herb, vegetable oil and gems to Thailand.

## **5. Investment**

The Thai side informed the Nepalese side that Thai businessmen have shown interest in the three projects namely caustic soda, tumbler glass and food processing proposed by the Nepalese side at the First Joint Working Group. And in this connection, the Thai private sector has requested more information regarding Nepalese investment law.

The Nepalese side took note with satisfaction and agreed to send more detailed information.

## **6. Technical Cooperation**

Both sides reaffirmed the importance which their respective Governments attach to technical cooperation between the two countries. The Thai side pointed out that the Thai Government will continue to extend the cooperation under Thai Technical Cooperation Programme as in the past. The Thai side also requested to send technical mission to Nepal on a study tour for 2-3 weeks in the areas of geology, tourism etc. The Nepalese side indicated its readiness to accommodate to the Thai request.

## **7. Air Services**

The two sides welcomed close cooperation in air services which has resulted in more contacts between Thai and Nepalese peoples. The Thai side raised the question of the difficulties faced by the Thai International Airways concerning restriction on the sales of ticket in Nepal and the transfer of the excess of expenditure of the Thai International Airline to Thailand. The Nepalese agreed to refer the matter to the authorities concerned.

## **8. Cultural Cooperation**

The Nepalese side informed the Thai side of the progress made on the Lumbini Park project. The Nepalese side urged Thailand to contribute further to the project.

The Thai side took note of the above and informed the Nepalese side that the World Fellowship of Buddhist has contributed US\$167,000 for the project in 1987. The Thai side would further encourage the private sector to make contribution to the project.

## **9. Other Matters**

### **9.1 The Status of People of Nepalese Origin Living in Thailand**

The Nepalese side raised the issue of granting indentity cards and work permits to the stateless people of Nepalese origin living in Thailand for a long time. The Thai side took note of the matter.

### **9.2 Date and Venue**

Both sides agreed to convene the next Joint Committee on Cooperation in 1992 at the time of their mutual convenience. ■

**AGREED MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING  
OF THE JOINT COMMISSION ON COOPERATION  
BETWEEN THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND AND THE  
KINGDOM OF NEPAL**

1. In pursuance of the Basic Agreement on Co-operation between the Governments of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Kingdom of Nepal, signed in Kathmandu on 29th May 1989 which provides for the setting up of the Joint Commission on Cooperation, the First Meeting of the Joint Commission on Cooperation between Thailand and Nepal was held in Bangkok on 7th December 1990.
2. The Thai Delegation was led by His Excellency M.R. Kasem S. Kasemsri, Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand. The Nepalese Delegation was led by His Excellency Mr. Narendra Bikram Shah, Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal. The list of the Delegations appears as Annex I.
3. During his visit, the Nepalese Foreign Secretary paid a courtesy call on His Excellency Mr. Amnuay Yossuck, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand. Both sides noted with satisfaction the positive development of the Thai-Nepalese bilateral relationship and expressed their desire to further promote the existing cordial ties for the mutual benefit of the two countries.
4. Prior to the First Meeting of the Joint Commission, the Heads of the Thai and Nepalese Delegations held the Second Meeting of the Joint Working Group. Both sides exchanged views on bilateral and regional issues, international situations as well as matters of mutual interest.
5. The Joint Commission dwelt upon the subjects of bilateral relations and reviewed the progress made in those areas since the first meeting of the Joint Working Group, the details of which appear in Annex II. With a view to further expanding the areas of cooperation between the two countries, both sides agreed that the second round of meeting of the Joint Commission should be held in Kathmandu at a mutually convenient time in 1992.
6. The Meeting was held in the spirit of friendship, cooperation and cordiality which reflected the close relationship existing between the two countries.

Done and signed in Bangkok on the 7th on December 1990. ■

**(M.R. Kasem S. Kasemsri)**  
Permanent Secretary,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
The Kingdom of Thailand.

**(Narendra Bikram Shah)**  
Secretary  
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
His Majesty's Government of Nepal