

Asia Pacific Summit 2018 - Nepal held at the Hyatt Regency, Kathmandu, Nepal

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Kathmandu, Nepal – November 30 – December 3, 2018

The Asia Pacific Summit 2018 – Nepal was held in Kathmandu, Nepal from November 30 to December 3, 2018 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The Summit theme was, "Addressing the Critical Challenges of Our Time: Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity and Universal Values."

This was the seventh and concluding "Summit series" which started in January in Senegal (West Africa) and has been held in various regions of the world throughout the year.



Attending the Summit in Nepal were more than 1,500 participants among whom were 500 international delegates representing 45 nations. The Prime Minister of Nepal, H.E. KP Sharma Oli, welcomed six other Heads of State and Government as well as many former heads of state and government that included:

- E. Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia;
- E. Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar;

- E. Baron Waqa, President of the Republic of Nauru;
- Maria Leonor G. Robredo, Vice-President of the Republic of the Philippines;
- His Highness Vaaleto'a Sualauvi II Tuimalealiifano, Head of State of Samoa;
- E. Sir Iakoba Taeia Italeli, Governor-General of Tuvalu,
- E. H.D. Deve Gowda, Former Prime Minister of the Republic of India; and
- E. Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani, Former Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, 76, co-founder of the Universal Peace Federation and Summit sponsor, attended. Other high-level delegates consisted of 5 current First Ladies, 10 former Heads of State and Government, 1 current Deputy Prime Minister, 7 Government Ministers, and 5 current Speakers of Parliament and National Assemblies.

The principal organizer and sponsor of the summit was the Universal Peace Federation (UPF). UPF has General Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It has active chapters in 155 nations around the world.

Distinguished delegates representing various governments, parliaments, civil society, private sector as well as the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) and the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) were in attendance and contributed to the success of the Summit.

Session topics included:

1. Opening Plenary: Addresses from the visiting Heads of State and Government
2. Session II: Peace, Development, Good Governance and the Role of Parliamentarians
3. Session III: The Role of Faith-Based Organizations and Civil Society
4. Session IV: Climate Change
5. Session V: The Role of Media
6. Closing Session: Peace Initiatives and Peace Projects around the World
7. Peace and Family Festival: Strengthening Marriage and Family



Nepal was selected as the Summit venue to highlight the successfully concluded peace process and the promulgation of the new constitution through the people-elected Constituent Assembly. Nepal's success is a unique example of peaceful and democratic transformation. It is a telling testimony that dialogue triumphs over differences; and the ballot over the bullet.

What Nepal has achieved in conflict resolution and peace transformation can be an inspiring success story

for many people longing for peace in different parts of the world.

Other areas of innovation and models for peace-building found in Nepal comprise: cooperation between government and civil society, the integrity of inter-generational family ties, and efforts to raise awareness of the effects of climate change. The Summit highlighted these paradigms of peace during various sessions.

Choosing Nepal as the Summit venue was designed to encourage tourism and support the government's 'Visit Nepal Year 2020.' In particular, highlighting Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha, as an international tourist destination was encouraged. Delegates, especially from Buddhist backgrounds, visited Lumbini after the Summit.

A particular focus of the Summit was to support the government's vision of "Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali." During the Summit, bilateral and multilateral meetings were held. Dialogue and discussions explored new diplomatic opportunities for Nepal. Foreign investors and business entrepreneurs were part of official entourages of a number of visiting Heads of State and Government. They looked for mutually beneficial business opportunities.

The Asia Pacific Summit concluded with a special declaration on Climate Change as well as the Kathmandu Declaration related to peace and development. Also the International Mayors' Association for Peace (IMAP) was launched. The Kathmandu Declaration drafting committee consisted of a think-tank and diplomats from Nepal, India, the People's Republic of China, Australia, Thailand, the Philippines and America.

The Asia Pacific Summit invitation committee included, in part, the former Prime Minister, Hon. Madhav Kumar Nepal, chair of the committee and senior leader of the Nepal Communist Party; the Chairman of the Universal Peace Federation, Dr. Thomas G. Walsh; and the former Speaker of the Philippine House of Representatives and founding Chairman of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties, H.E. Jose De Venecia Jr.; Dr. Chung-sik Yong, President of UPF for the Asia Pacific Region; Hon. Ek Nath Dhakal, two-time Minister of the Government of Nepal and Chair of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace for the Asia Pacific region, and other prominent figures.

