

# **Welcome Address by the President of SCAEF, Er. Keshab Man Amatya**

Respectable Chairman of this inaugural session, the President of TCDPAP Mr. Karamat Ullah Chaudry,

The Chief Guest Right Honorable Sri Pushpa Kamal Dahal (Prachanda) the Prime Minister of Nepal,

The key note speaker Honorable Dr. Babu Ram Bhattarai, the Finance Minister of Nepal,

The Guest of Honor Honorable Bijaya Kumar Gachhedar, the Minister of Physical Planning and Works;

Dr. John Boyd, the President FIDIC,

Mr. Akihiro Hirotani, the Chairman ASPAC;

President-Elect Mr. Thomopolus,

The Bureaucratic chiefs of the Government of Nepal;

Mission chiefs of the funding agencies: the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, JICA, DFID, GTZ, NORDIC, FINNIDA, KOICA;

High Officials and the Departmental heads of the Government of Nepal,

Presidents and the Chairmen of different Semi-Government and the private Institutions/Associations;

Distinguished foreign and national delegates and their spouses from the TCDPAP member countries and the FIDIC ASPAC regions;

Invited guests and dignitaries;

Chairmen, Managing Directors and the directors of the SCAEF member firms;  
Representatives of the media and press;

My fellow colleagues and friends, ladies and gentlemen;

Before I proceed I would like to extend my gratitude to the right Honorable Prime Minister for accepting our invitation to grace this inaugural ceremony as a Chief Guest. Additionally, I would like to extend my gratitude to Honorable Finance Minister for accepting to deliver a Key Note Address to this august assembly and I also would like to extend my gratitude to the Honorable Physical Planning and Works Minister for accepting to grace this inaugural ceremony as a Guest of Honor.

It is indeed a great honor to SCAEF, the Society of Consulting Architectural and Engineering Firms, Nepal to get this opportunity to hold this prestigious conference in the heart of the Himalayan country located in between two huge and two fastest growing economy of the world 'China' and 'India'. I feel happy to inform you all that SCAEF had had the opportunity to hold such conference, way back in 1998 with a theme "Consultancy in the Next Millennium", which we cherish today as a memorable event of TCDPAP, the Technical

Consultancy Development Programme for Asia and the Pacific. This year's conference has a special flavor in the sense that we are holding it with the support and in joint collaboration of FIDIC ASPAC, the FIDIC Grouping for Asia Pacific. SCAEF would like to thank FIDIC and ASPAC for their generosity and support.

I, on behalf of the organization committee and on my own behalf, would like to heartily welcome you all in this inaugural ceremony of the TCDPAP FIDIC/ASPAC International Conference Kathmandu 2009. I especially would like to welcome delegates from the institutions of FIDIC, ASPAC, and from the countries of Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, China, Japan, Korea, India, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri-Lanka, Thailand, Iran, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, and of-course from the host country Nepal. I am terming this conference as 'High Importance' because it is being held in a country which will soon be a full member of WTO and be a partner of the Global Village. Soon after this inaugural session, the technical session of the conference will begin when the representatives from the member countries will present their country papers. This conference will be participated by total of 242 delegates, of which foreign delegates constitute 96. SCAEF is grateful to international institutions like FIDIC and ASPAC and all the TCDPAP member countries for accepting our invitation and sending their delegation to participate in this conference.

We, in SCAEF, have exerted significant efforts to promote cooperation with related international and regional institutions for developing the fraternity and the development of the consulting business and the industry at large. We are eager to do more for its development by collaborating with the institutions to organize seminars and training courses and also would like to send the representatives of our member firms to attend seminars and training courses being held at different places. SCAEF would seek support from the Government and other donor agencies in helping SCAEF members in pursuit to their quest for enhancing their technical capability to keep abreast with the situation so that the firms would be able to provide competitive and qualitative services.

The technological advancements in micro-electronics, satellite communications, interactive information corridors and internet ingrained into concepts of emergent economies and liberated societies has helped the world to shrink into one without political borders and preferences and where distance is no longer significant. The universal force termed 'Globalization' has thus become one of the most hotly-debated topics in international business over the past few years. The Conference Theme of "Making Globalization work: the Role of Consultants" has thus been chosen to address the problems being faced by the developing countries. For a developing country like Nepal where the development process is starting to take its root, the effect of globalization has a significant role to play. With the changed scenario in the political set-up of the country, people have an aspiration to taste the fruit of New Nepal in the making. Therefore the country has a challenging task ahead to bring about the economic transformation in the country to help fulfill the aspiration of the people. Talking of Economic Transformation; there is no doubt that building of a robust infrastructure is the backbone of a country's sustainable economic transformation. Acceptance of this conclusion invariably brings in the importance of consulting services related to engineering, architecture, construction and physical planning to the forefront of development activities.

Geographically Nepal is situated in between the two fastest growing economy of the world and this strategic location could provide Nepal an inertial push towards the developing process if the government utilizes the available opportunity judiciously. But failing to cash in

the opportunity and the delayed response will create a detrimental effect to the very process of development. As such, there has been considerable flow of trained manpower from the country to work elsewhere including the neighboring country for better working environment and of-course better remuneration. The opportunity and the facility being provided by other countries including the neighboring countries have attracted a lot of middle level technical manpower of the country to go abroad for work. Couple of years back, we used to experience surplus technical manpower who use to come to our private offices looking for jobs. The situation has been just the reverse now. The flow of trained manpower from the country has created a vacuum in the availability of the middle level technical manpower. We in SCAEF are very much concerned over this situation and are discussing among the members and the related institutions to find ways to curb the flow of valuable and trained technical manpower going elsewhere.

The eminent consulting personalities gathered here in the conference to deliberate on the relevant topic through the papers will use the platform and share the experiences and knowledge to help evolve a strategy for achieving the professional competency to reap out the benefit of globalization. The globalization process evidently increases the connectivity and the interdependence of the world market and business. In general as economy gets connected to other economies, they provide increased opportunity alright but they also create increased competition. Therefore, the domestic consulting industry should be prepared to face the challenges of the globalization. It is but natural that every activity has positive as well as negative aspects. While facing the challenges the professional organizations must try to carve out the positive aspect of globalization and use them judiciously for enhancing their capability and service efficiency. Additionally, the consultants of the region should collaborate and strengthen the relationship among each other and work out a modality to mitigate the otherwise adverse effect of the globalization. I sincerely hope that this conference will help evolve a strategy that will focus to achieve the regional synergies through the networking bring in valuable resolution and suggestion which may help enhance the development of the consulting profession as well as provide qualitative services for the sustainable development of the country.

With these few words, I would like to conclude my welcome address, But before I conclude I once again would like to welcome you all and would also like to thank you for having accepted our invitation. Your presence has really made this inaugural ceremony so lively and interesting.

**Thank You, Thank You All**