

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***The Embassy of Nepal in Geneva celebrates the Dashain.***

#### **October 10, 2010: Geneva**

The Embassy of Nepal in Switzerland organized a Dashain get together in Geneva.

In his welcome remarks, Ambassador of Nepal to Switzerland, Geneva, Dr. Dinesh Bhattarai highlighted the importance of the great festival for the Nepalese people. A multicultural, multi-ethnic and multi-religious society, Nepal relishes the treasure of its unique unity in great diversity. He added that the Dashain festival is a part of proud heritage of the Nepali people. The festival symbolizes the victory of good over evil, knowledge over ignorance and compassion over arrogance. The festival offers a time for unity of family and pleasure of being together, he remarked. Ambassador Bhattarai thanked all invitees for joining the celebration and wished good health, happiness, prosperity and success to all on the auspicious occasion of Vijaya Dashami. He also highlighted the historic democratic transformation and ongoing tasks of concluding peace process, constitution writing, and socio-economic transformation within the democratic framework in the country.

Embassy officials and their families welcomed the guests in the Nepali tradition. Present on the Dashain celebration program were Deputy Permanent Representatives of India to the UN and WTO Dr. Kheya Bhattacharya, Mr. Ravi Bangar, Deputy Director General of the World Trade Organization Dr. Harsha Vardhan Singh, Mrs. Gayatri Kantha Chief of the Agency for International Trade and Information Cooperation {AITIC}, Senior journalist based in Geneva Mr. Ravi Kanth. Former UNDP Representative in Nepal Mr. Matthew Kahane was also present in the program. Senior officials of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development {UNCTAD}, World Trade Organization {WTO}, and various other international organizations, representatives of NRNs and Nepalese community organisations in Switzerland and Italy, Nepalese nationals working in the UN and various international organizations, Nepali nationals with their families living in different parts of Switzerland, and well-wishers of Nepal were also present in the program. Mr. Sanjaya Mudvary, representative of NRN Switzerland in Geneva highlighted the background and importance of Dashain festival.

Secretary Mr. Pratap Kumar Pathak, and health officials of the Government of Nepal who are in Geneva for an international meeting also attended the

program. The community hall was decorated with items reflecting rich Nepali culture and tourism materials to convey the message of the Nepal Tourism Year 2011.

Dr. Harsha Vardhan Singh extended greetings and best wishes of Vijaya Dashami to Nepalese and Nepal in the process of institutionalizing peace and democracy in the country. Mr. Matthew Kahane referred to the democratic transformation in Nepal, recalled his days in Nepal and great tradition of the country and expressed his best wishes to all present there and wished Nepal all success in consolidating the democratic gains made in the country. Ms. Sahami Massi of the UNCTAD said that the message of Dashain is powerful. She extended her greetings and best wishes to all and urged to live by the message of Dashain that is victory of good over evil, and compassion over arrogance. President of the Swiss Nepal Society Dr. Markus Ruckstuhl also extended greetings on the occasion.

The luncheon get together was followed by a cultural programme to celebrate the great festival of Dashain, 2067. Nepalese artists residing in Switzerland entertained the audience with their scintillating performances.

**The Permanent Mission of Nepal,**

**Geneva.**

**October 11, 2010.**