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News Letter

CNI 10th AGM Concludes



Dr. Bhattarai, Chief Guest and Prof. Yunus Guest of Honor in a photo session with CNI officials

Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI), the apex body of the country's manufacturing and service industries held its 10th annual general meeting (AGM) in Kathmandu on December 21-23, 2012. The ceremony, which elected new executive body of the confederation, was inaugurated on 22nd December by Rt. Honorable Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai and Nobel laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus from Bangladesh was the guest of honor. Like wise, the program was attended by former Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa, current and former ministers and most of the top government officials as well as senior business people of Nepal.

The AGM, which conducted various business sessions, interaction and workshops-- where Professor Yunus delivered key note speeches-- with a view to share learning from his experiences in micro finance and social business in Bangladesh, had been able to draw some crucial conclusions on the issues like; role of micro credit and private sector in poverty reduction, business with social responsibility and role of youths in social upgradation, among others. At the same time, the event also forwarded the suggestions on the same based on the conclusions obtained from the interaction, work shops and business sessions.

Addressing the AGM, PM Baburam

Bhattarai said that there was no better option to the present business model to be instrumental in the upliftment of the society and enhancement of people's lives through higher growth and employment. He also said that the government was devising plans to offer social protection and security to help the business leaders to adopt social business. Urging the business leaders to lend their full support, Bhattarai said that the private sector should not worry about what sort of an economic policy the government would adopt in future. "Any effort that the government needs to make for reducing unemployment and bring social prosperity would be the economic policy," said PM, stating that the government has already made every attempt to facilitate the private sector; therefore the private sector should now concentrate on national development through economic prosperity rather than charging the government.

At the mean time, Nobel laureate and pro-founder of micro-finance Professor Muhammad Yunus recommended the Nepali business community and people in general to pursue social business, a non-loss and non-dividend company, designed to address the social needs and objectives, as government has little capacity to solve people's problems by itself.

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Message

The recently concluded 10th AGM of CNI (Dec 21-23) marked the next phase in CNI's Journey, with the induction of new leadership. Subsequently the newly appointed office bearers have shared a broad perspective on areas of focus for CNI, and how they will continue CNI's decade long legacy to strengthen Nepal's Industrial Sector, and promote a Investment Friendly Environment in the country.

Nepalese Economy continues to face significant headwinds with challenges such as the Power Crisis, High Cost of Business, Political Fluidity, and an overall deteriorating Investment Climate. The new leadership emphasized that CNI would continue its core focus on bringing a positive socio-economic impact to the country, through revitalizing and strengthening the Industrial Sector of Nepal.

While there is still a lot of work to be done on existing CNI's projects such as Industrial Policy, SEZ Act, Sick Industry Rehabilitation, Hydropower Recommendations etc., CNI will also need to address new opportunities and challenges that are before the economy today. For example as the country moves towards a Federal System it is imperative that an Economic Model which equally complements this massive change is developed. CNI will continue to focus on all such areas as well as our long standing focus on promoting Nepalese Exports, attracting Foreign Investment etc.

If there is one lesson we have all learnt is that no single institution, party or sector can work in isolation to drive economic change. CNI recognizes this and will look to work even closer with the Government, Political Parties Private Sector, Civil Society, Development Partners and all such stakeholders who share a common goal and vision which is to have a prosperous Nepal and wherein this prosperity reaches across the country to all our citizens.



New Leadership at CNI



The 10th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI) held on December 21-23, 2012 cooperatively elected new executive body in the presidency of Narendra Kumar Basnyat. Basnyat was senior vice president in the retiring executive committee of the confederation. Basnyat is also the chairman of the Bank of Kathmandu and president of Nepal USA Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

In the mean time, as per the constitution, the 10th AGM has accredited the founder president of CNI Binod K Chaudhary as the president Emeritus of the confederation, who was actively leading the apex body of country's manufacturing and service industries since last 10 years. Similarly, the AGM also elected new vice- presidents as well as National Council Member of the confederation unanimously.

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Seminar on Social ‘Business and Youth’

CNI Young Entrepreneurs Forum (CNI-yef), a forum for young entrepreneurs under the Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI), in association with Nepalese Young Entrepreneurs’ Forum (NYEF), Nepal Economic Association (NEA) and Samridhhi-The Prosperity Foundation has organized a seminar on ‘Social Business and Youth’ in Kathmandu on December 22, 2012. The program was chaired by Prof. Bishwombhar Pyakuryal--president of NEA and the Nobel Laureate Prof. Mohammed Yunus from Bangladesh was the key note Speaker. Likewise, the program was moderated by Amb. Ashraf Ud Doula from Bangladesh and Mr. Gagan Thapa from Nepali Congress, Ms. Sapana Pradhan Malla from CPN-UML, Pradeep Maharjan from UCPN-Maoist, and Ms. Lamiya Morshed from Yunus Centre were the panelists.

Around 300 promising entrepreneurs along with more than 50 management students across the country were gathered in the program to gain the ideas, knowledge and experiences of Novel Laureate Prof. Yunus’ vision of social business to exploit the untapped potential of youths in solving social problems such as unemployment and poverty. Mr. Amit Begani convener of CNI-yef, while giving welcome speech, state that the seminar aims at creating a platform for aspiring young entrepreneurs to explore business opportunities within the country through the means of social business. “Thus we have invited novel laureate Prof. Yunus as the key note speaker to enhance the skills social business and give inspirational inputs to the young participants during the conference with the theme ‘Social Business and Youth’, said Begani.

Novel Laureate Prof. Yunus, giving key note speech in the occasion, urged students and young entrepreneurs to create a world of their dreams by using all the resources that they have, especially technology, to chart a brand new future for the



Prof. Yunus and Prof. Pyakuryal (Center) with other participants in the dais

world. He also highlighted the importance of young entrepreneurs as well as students in leading the country to economic prosperity. “Don’t try to be a job seeker rather always think about how to create job for others,” said Yunus, adding that every young have a specific power to create new idea and those who can materialize the idea would be successful

I inspired by the positive vision and enthusiasm of the Nepali young generation and entrepreneurs that Nepal can hopes on.

entrepreneur and can contribute in solving social problems. I inspired by the positive vision and enthusiasm of the Nepali young generation and entrepreneurs that Nepal can hopes on, he adds. “The concept of social business would play constructive role to build new Nepal by expanding the number of self employed youths and reducing the poverty as well as inequality,” said Yunus.

In the mean time, NEA President Prof. Pyakuryal while summing up the seminar advised the young students and entrepreneurs to concentrate on innovation, the only way to be successes in their respective areas. Many youths, in the program, echoed the call of the Novel Laureate Prof. Yunus and panelists that not to be job seekers rather try to be a job provider. However, they criticized government policies, programs and the bureaucracy for the failure of developing an entrepreneurial mindset among the youths. Finally, CNI vice president Anuj Agrawal closed the seminar with vote of thanks to the guests, participants as well as the organizers.

Industrialists Awarded

Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI), an umbrella organization of the country’s medium and large scale industries of manufacturing as well as service sectors, on the occasion of its 10th Annual General Meeting (AGM) has awarded industrialists who have continuously been contributing to the national economy as well as establishing CNI. In this occasion, altogether 21 industrialists and members were awarded.

The chief guest of the CNI 10th AGM Rt. Honorable Prime Minister Dr. Baburam Bhattarai had distributed the award to the industrialists. While distributing the awards PM Bhattarai expressed happiness over the efforts and success of industrialists in being able to establish CNI as a think-tank and indispensable force in the Nepali private sector. At the same time, novel Laureate Prof. Yunus acknowledged the CNI for commencing such practice of awarding industrialists who have

been contributing to national economy through the means of investment promotion, industrial development and employment creation.

CNI president Binod K Chaudhary said he was glad for awarding the industrialists who have been contributing the national economy as well as CNI to play its due part in advancing the agendas of economic growth and prosperity, but lamented over political instability and other disturbances that affected the country from realizing its goals. Chaudhary also expressed his disappointment over the government’s apathy toward nurturing and facilitating the development of the country’s private sector. Coordinator of CNI governing council Chirinji Lal Agrawal praised the awardees and urged them to keep their job up for positive change in the socio-economic fronts of the country. But he expressed sadness over red-tape and unresponsive nature of the bureaucracy even in times of political instability.

List of the Awardees:

Name of Awardees	Affiliation
Mr. Chiranji Lal Agrawal	Coordinator- CNI Governing Council
Mr. Binod K Chaudhary	Founder President- CNI
Mr. Shreedhar Acharya	Member- CNI Governing Council
Mr. Tek Chandra Pokhrel	Member- CNI Governing Council
Mr. Atmaram Murarka	Member- CNI Governing Council
Mr. Bijaya Kumar Shah	Member- CNI Governing Council
Mr. Purushottam Lal Shanghai	Chairman- Triveni Group
Mr. Diwakar Golchha	Vice Chairman- Golchha Organization
Mr. Banwari Lal Mittal	Chairman- Shree Airlines
Mr. Trilok Agrawal	Vice Chairman- Bishal Group
Mr. Shiva Ratan Sharada	Chairman- Sharada Group
Mr. Parmeshwor Lal Chachan	Chairman- Chachan Group
Mr. Satish Kumar More	Chairman- Lucky Group
Mr. Moti Lal Dugar	Chairman- TM Dugar Group
Mr. Pawan Kumar Golyan	Managing Director- Reliance Spinning Mills
Mr. Sandip Agrawal	Managing Director- Shiva Shakti Group
Mr. Manoj Kedia	Managing Director- Kedia Organization
Mr. Bikash Dugar	Managing Director- K.L Dugar Group
Mr. Rajesh Agrawal	Managing Director- Rajesh Metal Craft
Mr. Sulav Agrawal	Managing Director- Shankar Group
Mr. Min Bahadur Karki	Former Director General - CNI

Workshop on Enabling Investment

Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI), the umbrella organization of Nepali industrialists, had organized a workshop on 'Prospects and Challenges on Enabling Investment in NEPAL' at Kathmandu on December 23, 2012-- the second day of its 10th AGM, which was mainly focused on ways to develop country's industrial sector and establish good industrial relations. On this occasion CNI appealed both local as well foreign investors to raise their investment in Nepal as it holds immense potentials for investment.

Speaking in the program, CNI president Binod K Chaudhary urged the government and all the political parties to come up with a common minimum economic agenda at the earliest so as to give a boost to economic activities. "We need to raise the annual investment from present level of Rs 250 billion to Rs 700 billion in order to have accelerated double-digit steady economic growth accompanied by conducive business environment and healthy industrial relation," said Chaudhary, adding that though more than 70 percent of the investment in the country had been injected by the private sector, the government is not serious about upgrading the status of the sector. He



CNI officials and guests including former Fin. Min- Surendra Pandey, Secretary at MoI Krishna Gyawali in the workshop

also asserted that the recommendations given by the private sector with respect to the economic development of the country have been ignored and that the political intervention in all areas of the economic sector had grown.

In the program, which is also a special business session of 10th AGM, CNI vice president Hari Bhakta Sharma presented a paper on 'Prospects and Challenges on Enabling Investment in NEPAL' and said it is the right time to invest here and reap maximum benefits. Given the increasing demand for energy within Nepal as well as in India, Sharma said hydropower is one of the best sectors for investment in the country. "The country has the

capacity to generate 83,000 MW, of which generation of 43,000 MW is feasible technically," Sharma said in his working paper adding that farming of high value agriculture products and agro-processing industries also hold immense potentials in Nepal.

Speaking on the occasion, former finance minister Surendra Pandey said Nepal has been failing to attract investment despite having high potential in different sectors. "Deteriorating industrial relation and rise in labor costs are the major factors hindering the development of industrial sector," said Pandey, stating that the common minimum economic agenda among major political parties is a

must to lure investment and also keep the nation's economy buzzing. We have to strengthen formal economy and discourage informal economic activities," said Sharma.

In the program industrialists and CNI members raised various policy issues and obstacles faced by the industries and the major impediments for industrial development of Nepal. Responding the quarries and issues raised by industrialists, secretary at Ministry of Industry (MoI) Krishna Gawanli said although there are various issues to be addressed and problems to be solved, the government of Nepal is ready as well as committed to promote the industrial sector of the country.

Interaction on Healthy Industrial Relation



CNI officials, former ministers of labour respectively Ramesh Lekhak and Mukunda Neupane including secretary at MoLE, trade union leaders and guests in the program

Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI), had organized a workshop on 'Healthy Industrial Relation & Promotion' in Kathmandu on December 23, 2012. In the workshop, which was chaired by CNI president Binod K Chaudhary, CNI members as well as industrialists from diverse sectors, former ministers for labour, secretary at Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE) and leaders of major trade unions were participated. On this occasion CNI president Binod K Chaudhary appealed both the government and trade unions to work together for healthy industrial relation, higher productivity, more employment and socio-economic development of the country.

In the program, CNI vice president Raj Kumar Agrawal and vice president of Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) Pashupati Murarka presented papers on the issues of industrial relation and promotion. It is emphasized, in their respective papers that the politicization of labour unions by major political parties is the biggest impediment for healthy industrial relation in Nepal. They urged respectively the government and the political parties to come up with scientific labour laws and not to motivate the trade unions for working as their political arms. "Employers are ready to revise the salaries and benefits of employees according to the official rate of inflation and cost of living, but that should be relative to the productivity of laborers," said Agrawal, adding that in this connection CNI has already set its vision to raise the minimum monthly salary to Rs 12,000 accompanied by double digit

economic growth. "The problem of the day is that trade unions are not ready to comply with the agreement at enterprise level on which they agreed in national level," said Murarka, explaining the reason for demanding single authorized trade union and mechanism of arbitration as well as monitoring.

At the same time, trade union leaders argued that the employer's organization and trade unions should work hand in hand for the healthy industrial relation, better salaries and higher productivity. President of General Federation of Nepalese Trade Union (GEFONT) Bishnu Rimal said that this is not a time to blame each other rather to be united and attain win-win situation for both the employers and employee. "As the industrial relation has become the global issue we need to follow the provisions of international labour conventions on which Nepal is also a signatory and that can not be endorsed properly by the single efforts of either government or trade unions or employers," said Laxman Basnet president of Nepal Trade Union Congress (NTUC), stating only the salaries, benefits and job security are not the matter for healthy industrial relation. He further argued that there are various issues including decent work station, issue of health hazard, social security, work force diversity, environmental safety, corporate culture, professional integrity of managers and employers among others, on which Nepal is far behind from international standards. "So why not to move towards the international best practices of industrial relation rather than hovering only on the issues of salaries and perks," Basnet added.

Former labour ministers suggested both the employers and trade unions to be united and work together leaving no place for political parties to play. Former minister of labour Ramesh Lekhak said that as the government of Nepal has been failing to address the issues related to investment, industrial development, labour relation, employment generation as well as economic development, no alternate remains for employers as well as trade unions to work jointly for themselves. "We never overheated by taking class of politics but never interested even to be seated in the class of economics so the issues of industrial development and economic growth could not fall under the priority of our rulers," said Lekhak. Similarly another former minister of labour Mukunda Neupane advised the industrialists not to donate the political parties rather to be focused to gain confidence of the employee. At the same time, Neupane also urged the trade unions not to work as a wing of political parties rather to be concentrated on the capacity enhancement of their members and contribute for higher productivity. "Industrialists should treat the staffs as their family members and employees should respect the industrialists as their guardians, then only industrial relation can improve and the productivity go up," Neupane said.

In the program CNI senior vice president Narendra Kumar Basnyat expressed that industrial relation is a multi facet issue, which needs tripartite collaboration including government, employers and trade unions. "In this issue the government should play proactive role as the facilitator and arbitrator for healthy industrial relation," Basnyat said. Responding the quarries and issues raised by industrialists, trade unions and expert's secretary at MoLE Som Lal Subedi said although there are considerable improvements in industrial relation of Nepal since some year back the government, employers and trade unions need to do more for further improvement. "Government of Nepal has been working proactively to promote the industrial development of the country through healthy industrial relation," Subedi said.



Newly Elected CNI President, President Emeritus, Governing Council and National Council Member



CNI Officials with Prof. Yunus at Hotel Soaltee



Participants of the inaugural session CNI 10th AGM



CNI President Chaudhary in a Discussion with PM Bhattarai at Baluwater



Prof. Yunus and President Chaudhary Signing a MoU to Create CG Social Business Fund of \$ One Million



Prof. Yunus, NPC VC Chhetri, NRB Governor Dr. Khatiwada and CNI President Chaudhary Waiting for PM Bhattarai at Hotel Yak and Yati



CNI President Binod K Chaudhary Giving Welcome Speech in the Inaugural Session of 10th AGM



PM Bhattarai inaugurating the CNI 10th AGM



President Dr. Rambaran Yadav Receiving Prof. Yunus at his official Residence Sital Niwas



Novel Laureate Prof. Yunus in a Smile after Wearing Nepali Cap by PM Bhattarai



Chiranjil Lal Agrawal-Coordinator of CNI Governing Council Receiving Award from PM Bhattarai



Prof. Yunus Giving Key Note Speech on Social Business and Corporate World



Prof. Yunus Addressing a Program 'Social Business and Youth' Organized by CNI-yef



President and vice President of CNI-yef Respectively Amit Begani and Amit More Offering Token of Love to Prof. Yunus



PM Bhattarai Heading Towards the Inaugural Session of CNI 10th AGM at Hotel Soaltee



CNI president Chaudhary Receiving Prof. Yunus at VVIP way in TIA

Seminar on Microfinance and Social Business

Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI) in association of Rural Microfinance Development Centre (RMDC) has organized a seminar on "Microfinance and Social Business" at Kathmandu on December 21, 2012, which was also the earliest day of CNI 10th AGM. In this program, Rt. honorable Prime Minister Dr Baturam Bhattarai was the chief guest and Nobel Laureate Prof. Yunus, vice chairman of National Planning Commission (NPC) Dipendra Bahadur Chhetri, Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) Dr. Yubraj Khatiwada including high ranked government officials and business leaders were participated.

Addressing the program, Prime Minister Dr Bhattarai thanked Prof Yunus for his contribution in building microfinance in Nepal, where around 200 organizations undertaking the business reaching more than 1.8 million families. The operating Nepal Microfinance Vision- 2015 has targeted to reach out to 3.22 million households by the end of 2015. According to the statistics of RMDC, most of the microfinance institutions of Nepal have been following the



PM Bhattarai and Prof. Yunus (Center) among other participants in the seminar

Grameen system with the support from Grameen Trust, promoted and leading by Prof Yunus. The Prime Minister also thanked Prof Yunus for his innovative concept of social business as an effective way to tackle social problems and CNI as well as RMDC for organizing the event.

Professor Yunus recommended taking microfinance to the next level in Nepal; by broadening the work include social business, non-dividend companies which solve social problems. He stressed particularly the role of public especially young people in championing social business to

tackle with the every kind of social evils in Nepal. "Making money is happiness, but making other people happy is a super happiness," said Yunus, adding that the private sector should move towards the social business gradually replacing the charity.

CNI president Binod K Chaudhary who received the Prof. Yunus at Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) in the afternoon, speaking in the program appreciated the father of social business for his Nepal visit accepting the invitation of CNI to be participated as the guest of honor in its 10th AGM. "Today we are pleased

to have Nobel Laureate Prof. Yunus here in Nepal to be participated in our ceremony and to strengthen the Nepal's microfinance initiative as well as to launch the social business as an instrument of poverty reduction strategy," said Chaudhary, adding that Nepal, one of the least developed countries have one fourth of total population below absolute poverty line, was in a grate need of such innovative strategy to reduce its poverty and inequality. "Keeping this in mind, we are agreed to work with Yunus Center in the field of social business in Nepal," he added.

Program on Microfinance and Poverty Reduction

Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI) in association with South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Secretariat held a talk program on 'Microfinance and Poverty Reduction in South Asia' at Kathmandu on December 22, 2012. In the program, secretary at SAARC secretariat Ahmed Saleem, vice-chairman of National Planning Commission (NPC) Dipendra Bahadur Chhetri, governor of Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) Dr. Yubraj Katiwada, Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus and CNI president Binod K Chaudhary highlighted on the dynamism of poverty in South Asian and forwarded suggestion on the same.



CNI president Chaudhary addressing the program at SAARC secretariat

During his remark Yunus urged that redesigning the current system will help change society and reduce poverty. "Poverty is not created by the poor, it is imposed on them by the system, the policy framed by us, and the governments, which are all external factors," said Yunus, "Thus we have to fix them, and put a system in place." Unemployment is a global problem like poverty, and every nation has a history of poverty but those who put a system in place have prospered, he said. Prof Yunus was of the view that poor people have done nothing wrong, they are born shy but they

have equal rights to grow tall. "However, we have created two systems — one for the rich and the other for the poor — which have to be redesigned and integrated," Yunus who is also profunder of microfinance and social business said, adding that the current system prefers the privileged only and making the rich richer, and the poor poorer.

By giving power to the poor, that is access to finance, microcredit is trying to create entrepreneurs not job-seekers, he explained about the concept of social business, stating that linking social business with traditional ones will help to solve most of the social ills. "Governments cannot solve problems as they cannot be creative like people and it is only people who can solve problems," said the Nobel Laureate, whose Grameen Bank in Bangladesh has been involved in solving problems of health, education and women empowerment through social business.

NPC vice chairman and NRB Governor laid emphasis on the importance of microfinance to the poverty reduction of Nepal, which has been getting momentum and exerting some positive changes in the rural areas of Nepal. They also honored Prof. Yunus for coining the concept of microfinance and social business in Bangladesh, which now has been climbing the ladder of success in every corner of the world.

CNI president Binod K Chaudhary focused on the role of microfinance as well as social business for social empowerment, employment generation and poverty reduction. "Now, as the responsibility of employment generation and poverty reduction rests on the shoulders of private sector, we need to switch on the microfinance and social business," said Chaudhary, adding that the poor not only lack enough income to meet their basic needs but are deprived in social, economical and political means, which can be tackled with social business.

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CNI 10th...

Professor Yunus further urged the corporate houses to use the money spent for corporate social responsibility (CSR) into social business. "The CSR activities go unnoticed, while money spent for social business help to create many entrepreneurs in the society," said Yunus, adding that I never intended to do business for making profit, but tried to solve the problems in society with whatever ways feasible for me. "My efforts eventually turned to be what it is called micro finance these days," Yunus said, adding that the corporate banks lend money only to the rich who already had so much of money with them. But, according to him, the microfinance covers the poor people who despite having potential were unable to do something on their own. "I inspired to those people to started business instead of begging in Bangladesh," said Yunus, now there are 55,000 entrepreneurs who is advocating for social business.

Addressing the AGM, CNI President Binod K Chaudhary urged the government not to give a higher priority to the politics than focusing on economic issues, if they really want to see the prosperous and self sustained country. "Despite CNI's repeated suggestions and efforts to achieve a double-digit economic growth, the major political parties are hauling on with their agendas, which have been considering as an obstacle for attracting big investment in Nepal," Chaudhary said. He further argued that Nepal needs far sightedness vision, political commitment, proactive administration, clear strategy and readiness to implement them in order to achieve a double-digit economic growth. Chaudhary also demanded the government to allow the CNI equal right to issue Certificate of Origin in the export of goods to India and China as in the case of other countries.

Like wise, CNI senior vice president Narendra Kumar Basnyat while giving vote of thanks to the participants, said CNI with the slogan, "Social Business and Corporate World" has given much emphasis to conducive business environment, investment promotion fro industrial development and employment generation as well as social business to attain double digit economic growth and to uplift the social well being of the people.

President Yadav Received Prof. Yunus



Prof. Yunus and CNI leaders at Sital Niwas with president Dr. Yadav

Dr. Rambaran Yadav, first elected president of federal republic Nepal had received a delegation of Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI) including Professor Yunus at his official residence Sital Niwas on December 21, 2012. In the delegation, Novel Laureate Prof. Yunus, CNI president and senior vice-president Binod K Chaudhary and Narendra Kumar Basnyat respectively including CNI members and delegates from Bangladesh were presented.

On the occasion, President Yadav welcomed and thanked Professor Yunus for coming to Nepal, and for sharing his experience on microcredit and social business as ways to help Nepal overcome some of its problems. Dr. President pledged to work with government to change any laws needed that would help

microcredit and social business grow faster. Professor Yunus, in the mean time, assured the president promote the microfinance and social business in Nepal because it can help to the government initiative of employment generation and poverty reduction.

At the same time, President Dr. Yadav interacted with the CNI officials as well as members industrialists about the contemporary situation of Nepalese Manufacturing and Service sectors. During the discussion President Yadav revealed that there is no other way for prosperity and development with out leading role of the private sector in economic activities of the nation; and suggested the industrialists to further widen their contribution for socio-economic development of the country.

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New Board...

Newly elected vice-presidents of CNI include Hari Bhakta Sharma, Anuj Agrawal, Satish Kumar More, Manoj Kedia and Basudev Golyan. Among them, Sharma and Agrawal were working as vice-president in the outgoing executive body as well but More, Kedia and Golyan are new comers.

The newly elected president expressed

his commitment that there won't be major departure from CNI's current strategies and programs to accomplish the set vision and mission. "My main priority will be working to attract more investment in the country and lobbying with the authorities concerned to create favorable investment climate," said Basnyat.

The new National Council members are as follows:

Mr. Birendra Kumar Sanghai	Mr. Bal Krishna Shrestha
Mr. Raj Kumar Agrawal	Mr. Vishnu Kumar Agrawal
Mr. Rajesh Kumar Agrawal	Mr. Gunachandra Bista
Mr. Subodh Todi	Mr. Guru Pd. Neupane
Mr. Sulav Agrawal	Mr. Yogeshwar Lal Shrestha
Mr. Upendra Poudel	Mr. Basanta Raj Mishra
Mr. Kamal Kumar Begani	Mr. Rajendra Aryal
Mr. Shiva Ratna Sarada	Mrs. Barsha Shrestha
Mr. Sashi Kant Agrawal	Mr. Naresh Das
Mr. Vikas Dugar	Mr. Azaj Alam
Mr. Kamal Jain	Mr. Madhav Adhikari
Mr. Ramesh Gupta	

CNI Delegation to PM Residence



Prof. Yunus and CNI delegation at Baluwatar with PM Dr. Bhatrai

A delegation of Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI), the think tank of country's industrial sector received by Rt. Honorable Prime Minister Dr. Baburam Bhatrai at his official residence Baluwatar on December 22, 2012. The delegation was headed by President Binod K Chaudhary and CNI member industrialists, Novel Laureate Prof. Yunus who, the guest of honor at CNI 10th AGM as well as foreign delegates from Bangladesh and Turkey were participated.

The chief executive of Nepal Dr. Bhatrai hosted a reception especially to greet Novel Laureate Prof. Mohammed Yunus at his official residence. In the interaction, PM Bhatrai and his wife Hilsila Yami had a fruitful discussion with CNI President Binod K Chaudhary and member industrialists. During the discussion, PM Bhatrai was keen to hear the current situation of Nepalese industrial sectors, its prospects and problem as well as the way forward in the same.

In the mean time, PM Bhatrai and his wife Yami had an exclusive discussion with Professor Yunus and his delegation to get a deeper understanding of the process of launching social business in Nepal. In particular they were interested to learn how Grameen Bank and social businesses created by Professor Yunus had impacted the lives of the poor in Bangladesh. More interestingly PM Bhatrai was interested in housing program for the poor implemented by Grameen, as well as the program focused on beggars.

CG and Yunus Center ink MOU



President Binod K Chaudhary and Prof. Yunus in a smile after signing the MoU

Chaudhary Group (CG), the conglomerate of Nepal's private sector and Yunus Center, the Dhaka based world's first think tank institution working in the field of poverty alleviation and sustainability through the means of social business, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for working together in social business in Nepal on December 21, 2012.

Professor Muhammad Yunus on behalf of Yunus Centre and Binod K Chaudhary, President of Chaudhary Group, inked the MoU to create a US\$ 1 million social business fund in Nepal for creative social businesses that will tackle some of the problems facing Nepal, such as energy, healthcare, empowerment of women, environmental protection and others. Under this scheme, ideas for social businesses will be invited from young people, and the best business plans will be financed by the fund. Chaudhary Group and other CNI members will invest in the fund. The Yunus Centre will provide technical support in this initiative.

CNI New Policy and Strategies

The newly elected executive body of Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI) has announced its policy and strategies in a program organized at Kathmandu on December 30, 2012. In this announcement, CNI promised to help create an investment-friendly environment to attract investment in the country and to achieve double-digit growth. "We will continue to promote investment, both from foreign as well as domestic sources to generate more employment opportunities and accelerate the growth," said newly elected president Narendra Kumar Basnyat, addressing the press conference.

CNI will work towards acting as a catalyst to build an environment which will stimulate industrial growth and to also ensure that the benefits of industrial growth percolate to all parts of the country, as well as to all tiers of the population, CNI Vice-president Anuj Agrawal said while presenting a paper in the gathering. The country has to set an investment target of Rs 700 billion per year as against the Rs 250 billion at present, he said, adding that CNI under new leadership will continue to help the government in synchronizing economic

policy with the socio-political changes of federalism.

Another Vice-president of CNI Hari Bhakta Sharma said that the new leadership will encourage competitive industrial environment and continue to help the government as a policy think tank. "The private sector though an engine of growth has been neglected

Industrial Enterprises Act, and Foreign Investment and Technology Transfer Act — to create an investment-friendly environment, Sharma said. Like wise, another Vice-president Satish Kumar More supplements that with a focus on employment generation and healthy industrial relations; CNI, as it enters into the next phase of a decade-long journey,

to allow Nepalese to invest abroad. "In this age of globalization, the Nepal government should permit local investors to expand their businesses to the international level to benefit from wider opportunities," CNI governing council member Bijay Shah, adding that as the Nepali investors can compete globally the government should not confine them within local boundaries. Shah added permitting Nepali investors to diversify abroad would benefit the country in terms of revenue collection and controlling capital flight. He said that CNI is ready to support the government to introduce effective laws to regulate investors who wish to extend their operations abroad.

CNI also stated that it would focus in promoting good governance, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and to encourage social businesses. CNI is planning to further expand the Citizen Relief Fund, which had previously been set up in the CNI in association with Maha Sanchar, to contribute more to the needy people. The CNI would also play a constructive and proactive role in developing research programs in a bid to facilitate foreign trade and promote exports.



CNI new leadership announcing its policy and strategies in a press meet

and economic agendas has been put in the back burner," he said, adding that due to prolonged political transition, the economy has been suffering. Thus the CNI prescribes some of the key policy changes — like immediate approval of Special Economic Zone Act, New

will work with government to provide consistent value added inputs to help develop national economy and promote industrialization.

At the same time, the new leadership of the CNI has vowed to continue lobbying with the government

Ind. Min. Congrats the New Executive Body

Honorable industry minister Anil Kumar Jha received a delegation of CNI at his office in Singha Darbar and passed on good wishes to the newly elected executive body on January 3, 2013. Newly elected CNI President Narendra Kumar Basnyat and his team members had reached Ministry of Industry (MoI) on the day to pay a courtesy call to Minister Jha, and in the course, requested for the enactment of long-pending bills related with the industrial sector to boost investment confidence and improve industrial environment.

The CNI delegation had also expressed its disappointment with the minister over the government's apathy to industries' concerns such as poor industrial climate, rigid labor law and power crisis. "The industrial sector is reeling under problems such as acute power shortage and labor disputes," CNI president Basnyat said, adding that government also don't has policies that guard our investment and get some relief package from the state. The delegation also stated the Minister to take some initiatives to normalize the situation of industrial sectors. "We know that lack of parliament and the long-running political deadlock are major concerns,



CNI president Narendra Kumar Basnyat handing over the agenda to honorable Industry Minister Anil Kumar Jha

but we still request the government to put in place basic requisites for economic development," said Hari Bhakta Sharma, vice president of CNI. During the meeting, industrialists also asked for a separate power grid for the industrial clusters.

Addressing the delegation, Minister Jha said that the government is seriously working to provide necessary support to the industrial sector. "Your demands such as subsidy on diesel consumed by industries and enactment of new acts are genuine.

But the truth is we are not in a position to fulfill them," Jha said. He also cleared that the enactment of new laws related with the private sector such as Industrial Enterprises Act (IEA) and Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Act is not possible anytime soon, as the priority of government for now is to put in place laws that would enable it to hold elections and end the long-running political deadlock. "In the absence of parliament, we can enact laws only through ordinance," said Minister Jha.

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- CNI