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Conclusions and Recommendations of Youth and Science Policy Dialogue Forum

Date: 2-13-2015

1. The one-day Youth and Science Policy Dialogue Forum highlighted to set forth a process of dialogue with various stakeholders at various levels and stages towards the development of a comprehensive S&T policy responsive to the economic development of Nepal during the next decade, namely Vision 2025.
2. The need for broadened and closer cooperation with India at appropriate levels, specifically, S& T institutions including exchanges of scientific professionals, scholars and academia was very aptly emphasized. It was also strongly felt that the exchanges of long-term (1-2 years) university faculties and experts under Colombo Plan between India and Nepal should be renewed, expanded and further strengthened for the benefit of both the countries.
3. NAST personnel informed to the audience of lack of progress on the proposed project on Science Learning Centre to be established with the assistance of Government of India and stressed the need of its revival by reopening dialogue at appropriate levels with the representatives of the Government of India.
4. A total of four theme papers were presented on S&T Media and Communication, existing S&T policy issues, NRN perspective on Skill Knowledge and Innovation by media expert Gokul Pokhrel, IT professional Dr. Pramod Dhakal, NSFT/SKI chair Dr. Raju Adhikari and NAST Vice-chancellor Dr. Jibaraj Pokharel.
5. The forum visualized a big gap in awareness creation among the masses on basic facts of science affecting the quality of living and emphasized the need of forging meaningful partnership with media to streamline better and improved S&T information down to the masses.
6. The forum expressed concern over the allocation of low priority to the development of S&T sector in Nepal including the meager allocation of State Funds which stands comparatively at a very low level.

7. Participants of the Forum emphasized the need of forging multi-sector partnership with various stakeholders including the private sector for expanding the scope of national S&T policy as well as other thematic level dialogues within the country and abroad.

8. The Forum adopted a resolution expressing cordial thanks to Hon. Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Mr. Narahari Acharya, India's Ambassador to Nepal Mr. Ranjit Rae and NRN Founder and patron Dr. Upendra Mahato, Dr Govind Pokhrel, Vice-Chair, NPC for their thought provoking and inspiring address to the Forum and NRNA. The forum acknowledged the encouraging support and message from NRNA president Mr Shesh Ghale, despite his inability to attend due to unforeseen circumstances.

9. The Forum also expressed thanks and gratitude to Mr. Prem Lashkery, President of Nepal Bharat Friendship Society (NBFS) for co-sponsoring the Forum and his participation in the program. It was agreed that the deliberations were very fruitful in unfolding new possibilities of partnership between NAST, NBFS and Nepal Science Foundation Trust (NSFT),NRNA in areas that can have bearing on further strengthening bonds of cooperation among the peoples of Nepal and India at several tiers and levels to the benefit of peoples of both the countries.

10. A road-map plan for further discussion and implementation of S&T program and projects for 2015-2016 to be further discussed and led by NAST in cooperation with NBFS and NSFT/SKI.