

**Vote of Thanks by Dr. Madhav Prasad Ghimere, Joint
Secretary, Foreign Aid Coordination Division,
Ministry of Finance**

Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister

Hon'ble Finance Minister

Vice President of the World Bank

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to share my happiness with you that the Nepal Development Forum meeting is organized once again in Nepal with your support and understanding. It is indeed a matter of great pleasure in receiving our valued development partners and eminent guests in Kathmandu. I am greatly honored and privileged to have this opportunity to extend our sincere thanks to this august gathering on behalf of His Majesty's Government.

Nepal Development Forum is a process of interface between Nepal and the development partners where Nepal puts its major policy actions for discussion. We organized a series of consultation meetings involving political parties, academia, private sector, NGOs, and civil society leading to this NDF 2004 meeting. We have immensely benefited from the contributions of all the stakeholders.

Hundreds and thousands of Nepalese who have or have not participated in the pre-NDF meetings are eagerly looking for useful results coming out of this forum. I am confident that there will be extensive and fruitful interactions about our development priorities and challenges. I sincerely hope that we will be able to come up with the aspirations of the Nepalese at large.

The observations and sentiments expressed by Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister, Hon'ble Finance Minister, Hon'ble Vice-Chairman of the National Planning Commission, and Vice President of the World Bank about our development needs, reforms, and priorities provide an indication of what we will be deliberating later today and tomorrow. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of you.

Distinguished delegates! We are confident that your contributions in the discussions on the Tenth Plan/PRSP, Nepal's reform agenda, and aid effectiveness would help make this NDF 2004 a great success. We believe that Nepal will continue to benefit increasingly from the support and cooperation of the international community.

Without taking much of your valuable time, I once thank this august gathering for attending this opening ceremony. I wish all of you a pleasant stay and productive deliberations in Nepal.

Thank you.