



Press Release

Hon. Minister for Health and Population, Mr. Khagaraj Adhikari led a five member Nepalese delegation to the World Health Organization's thirty-second meeting of Ministers of Health of Countries in the South-east Asian Region held in Dhaka on 9 September 2014. The Ministerial meeting concluded with the adoption of Dhaka Declaration to strengthening coherent, comprehensive and integrated approach in preventing, controlling and eliminating vector-borne diseases.

During the Health Ministers' Meeting, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the elimination of Kala-azar from the Southeast Asia region was signed by the Health Ministers of Bangladesh, Bhutan India, Nepal and the Head of the Thai delegation. Speaking during the signing ceremony, Hon. Adhikari reiterated the Government's commitment to reduce the incidence of Kala-azar in Nepal to less than one case per ten thousand population by 2015. He highlighted the need for joint collaboration and collective efforts in the region to achieve that target and to eliminate the disease at the earliest.

Hon. Minister Adhikari was among one of the panelists at a Special Session on Traditional Medicine held during the Ministerial Meeting. Speaking on the occasion, the Hon. Minister shared Nepal's experiences on the age old health practices of traditional medicine and the high priority attached by the government to integrate and mainstreaming the traditional medicine into its health systems and practices. He informed that the newly launched National Health Policy of Nepal 2014 has prioritized the research and development of Ayurveda and other complementary medicines to improve the health conditions of Nepalese people, and the Second Long Term Health Plan (1997-2017) recognizes Ayurveda and other systems of medicines as a constituent of the Essential Health Care Service at the local level. The Minister also emphasized the need for further development of traditional medicine practices and their institutionalization into the national health system to ensure quality health care delivery for the people.

Earlier, on 8 September 2014, Minister for Health and Population Hon. Mr. Khagaraj Adhikari met with India's Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare H.E. Harsh Vardhan in Dhaka and shared views on matters of promoting bilateral cooperation in the area of public health.

Embassy of Nepal Dhaka
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