



## HAN Organized Diamond Jubilee Celebration



Hotel Association Nepal (HAN) celebrated a landmark milestone with its Diamond Jubilee and Nepal Hospitality Day 2026 at Hotel Royal Tulip, Kathmandu, on January 16. The day was filled with energy, camaraderie, and pride as hoteliers, policymakers, diplomats, sponsors, and tourism stakeholders gathered to honor six decades of growth and achievements in Nepal's hospitality sector. The accompanying Hotel Expo and Food Fest 2026 added a lively showcase of culinary heritage and industry innovation, making the event both a celebration and a forward-looking dialogue for the country's tourism future.

A highlight of the program was the release of the Nepal Hotel Yearbook 2026 and "Living Flavours" Nepal Heritage Cookbook 2026, featuring recipes prepared using local ingredients, reflecting the growing importance of Nepali food culture in tourism. Guests and participants in exhibition and program, exchanged ideas, celebrated achievements, and explored opportunities to elevate the sector further.

As the chief guest, Rt. Hon'ble Vice President Ram Sahaya Prasad Yadav said the hotel industry has played a vital role in employment generation, economic activity, and strengthening Nepal's international

presence. He emphasized the need for modernization, digitalization, and eco-tourism to keep the sector competitive, while expressing concern over damages to hotel properties during recent protests and the continued financial strain on hotels following the pandemic. He stressed that tourist safety, quality service, and warm hospitality must remain central priorities.

HAN President Binayak Shah said that HAN has consistently acted as the voice of Nepal's hotel industry since its establishment in 1966, advocating for quality standards, hygiene, and environmentally responsible practices. He raised concerns over unlicensed accommodations operating outside the tax system and reiterated HAN's demand of "no license, no accommodation" to ensure fair competition. Shah added that the industry is prepared to welcome two million tourists in the next fiscal year and will continue promoting diverse tourism segments including spiritual, food, wellness, and cross-border tourism.

Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Nepal, H.E. Ruwanthi Delpitiya, praised HAN's six-decade contribution to tourism development and highlighted the deep cultural and spiritual ties shared by Nepal



and Sri Lanka. Drawing from Sri Lanka's tourism experience, she briefly spoke about sustainability, value-based tourism, longer stays, and the importance of cooperation between the public and private sectors in building a resilient tourism industry.

Secretary at the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Mukunda Prasad Niraula acknowledged challenges facing the sector, including low airport utilization and infrastructure gaps. He reaffirmed the ministry's commitment to supporting tourism growth and stressed the importance of focusing on effective implementation of both short-term and long-term tourism policies.

Speaking at the event, Senior Vice President Prabin Bahadur Panday said that on the occasion of Diamond Jubilee, Hotel Association Nepal will conduct a hospitality dialogue across the country to discuss the problems, challenges and opportunities faced by the hotel industry. He clarified that the Nepal Hospitality Council has conceived a strategic initiative with the objective of minimizing the brain drain of the country's hospitality sector and maintaining decent and good labor relations by increasing employment and skills.

In addition, he informed that the goal has been set to advocate for the proposal of the Hospitality Council to be a supporter of the human resource development of the most important formal sector like ours, with the intention of reducing the increasing exodus of skilled manpower to foreign markets and establishing a relationship between employers and job seekers. He said that the green hospitality initiative will enhance the experience of guests and reduce the

environmental impact, promote the sustainable development of the hospitality industry, and encourage hotels and resorts to use eco-friendly materials and operate eco-friendly businesses.

Secretary General Sajan Shakya highlighted the rapid growth of Nepal's hotel sector over the past decade, noting the increase in star-category hotels and rising private investment. However, he pointed out that supporting infrastructure, particularly aviation and sector coordination mechanisms, has not expanded at the same pace.

Similarly, the two-day 'Hotel Expo 2026' organized on the occasion was concluded in a grand manner. Organized with the aim of introducing and experiencing the hospitality sector of Nepal, stalls of various materials and services related to the hotel business were placed at the expo. The expo was attended by a large number of hotel operators, HAN members, tourism sector stakeholders and the general public from all over the country.

Likewise, the two-day 'Heritage Food Fest' was concluded with the aim of preserving Nepali original taste and traditional cuisine. This festival, which has been organized on the occasion of Hospitality Day for the past two years, has concluded this year as well by presenting the diversity of Nepali traditional cuisine.

As HAN marks sixty years of service, the celebration stood as both recognition of past contributions and a forward-looking moment, with industry stakeholders expressing hope for continued progress, stronger regulation, and sustainable growth in the years ahead.



# Glimpses of HAN Diamond Jubilee Celebration



## HAN Attends Election

### Commission's Interaction Program

HAN President Mr. Binayak Shah attended the interaction program hosted by Election Commission, Nepal at its office in Kantipath on 27th January, 2026.

Extending best wishes for the successful conduction of the election, Mr. Shah shared key concerns of the hospitality and tourism sector in relation to the election. Mr. Shah emphasized the need to ensure smooth facilitation for tourists, maintain accessible transportation services and allow businesses to operate without unnecessary disruption. Meanwhile, Election Commission, Nepal has requested the private sector to support the election by fully complying with the 'Election Code of Conduct.'



## HAN Participates at the Cultural Trek and Thon Festival at Kirtipur

On the eve of January 30, 2026, President Mr. Binayak Shah addressed the Thon Festival in Kirtipur, jointly organized by SKAL International Nepal in collaboration with NTB and Kirtipur Municipality.

Speaking on the occasion, President Mr. Shah noted that heritage walks, cultural performances and traditional food experiences are effective and authentic ways to showcase Nepal's typical products to tourists. He emphasized that Kirtipur, being promoted as the "City on the Hills" has strong potential to develop as a cultural and culinary destination. He also assured that HAN would play a constructive role in promoting hospitality within the municipality.

Senior Vice President Mr. Prabin B. Panday and Treasurer Mr. Youb Raj Shrestha also attended the program.



## President Mr Shah Attends Chef Association's AGM

President Mr. Binayak Shah graced the 31st Annual General Meeting of the Chefs Association of Nepal as the chief guest. Addressing the AGM, Mr. Shah emphasized the important role chefs have played in promoting Nepal in the international market through heritage cuisine. He noted that the Heritage Cuisine Festival, organized as part of HAN's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, was successfully held with the support and active contribution of chefs.

On the same occasion, President Shah also released the book "Nepali Chefs' Signature Dishes". He highlighted several landmark initiatives undertaken by Hotel Association Nepal, both within the country and abroad, to promote Nepali hospitality and culinary heritage.



## Hotel Association Nepal (HAN)

Home of Hospitality

National Federation of Hotels/Resorts

P.O. Box: 2151, Subarna Shamsher Marg, Gairidhara, Kathmandu, Nepal,

Tel No : +977-1-4512705, 4510288,

Email: han@ntc.net.np,

Website : hotelassociationnepal.org.np