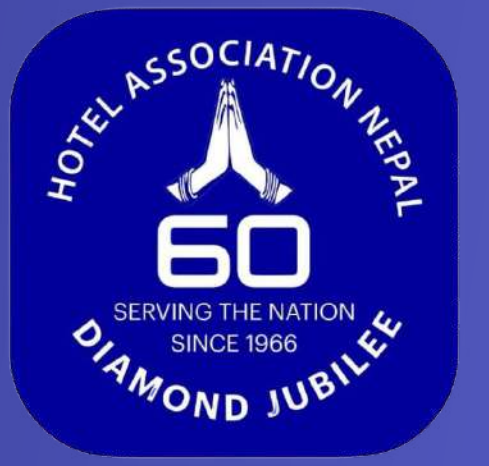




Monthly E-Newsletter

SATKAR

October, 2026



National Gundruk Workshop Concludes

With a focus on Arogya Year 2027, Hotel Association Nepal (HAN) organized National Gundruk Workshop in Kathmandu on 1 October 2026. The workshop was organized by Hotel Association Nepal in collaboration with the Nepal Academy of Tourism, Hotel and Mountaineering (NATHM), with technical support from the Department of Food Technology and Quality Control (DFTQC).

Welcoming at the event, Mr. Binayak Shah, President of Hotel Association Nepal, delivered the welcome remarks and highlighted Gundruk as an authentic and indigenous Nepali food product. He emphasized the need to promote Gundruk, expand its commercial use, and establish its identity at both the national and international levels. President Shah stressed the importance of enhancing the identity and marketing of Gundruk, ensuring food safety, improving storage practices, expanding international markets, and exploring the possibility of observing a national day dedicated to Gundruk.

At the workshop, Bhim Pulami, Senior Research Officer at the Department of Food Technology and Quality Control, presented a paper covering various aspects of Gundruk, including its production, quality, nutritional value, and food safety.

The paper was commented by writer and food analyst Sharada Gyawali, Senior Chef Govinda Narasingh KC, and Consulting Chef Shyam Bahadur Tamang. Following the presentation and comments, participants engaged in an extensive discussion on the production, processing, quality, preservation, commercial utilization, and promotion of Gundruk in the hotel and tourism sectors. Senior Research Officer Bhim Pulami and Consulting Chef Shyam Bahadur Tamang



responded to the questions raised during the discussion.

Representing the hotel sector, Kedar Pandey of Royal Tulip Kathmandu described the national workshop on Gundruk as an important initiative and expressed a commitment to promoting Gundruk by incorporating it into hotel dishes and menus.

Divya Raj Pokharel, Executive Director and Principal of the Nepal Academy of Tourism and Hotel Management, expressed the view that Gundruk could also be incorporated into academic and professional curricula to promote it at both national and international levels.

The chief guest of the event, Ram Krishna Lamichhane, Director General of the Department of Tourism, encouraged hotels to effectively implement the provision of including authentic and indigenous Nepali dishes on their menus and to incorporate Gundruk into hotel and tourism-sector menus. He stated that promoting authentic Nepali cuisine could further enrich the overall tourism experience in Nepal.

Mohan Katuwal, Member of the CTEVT Council and Vice President of the Federation of Nepal Cottage and Small Industries, Sangharsha Bista, President of the Restaurant

and Bar Association Nepal (REBAN), and Narendra Bhatt, President of the PATA Nepal Chapter, also highlighted the significance and value of Gundruk as an indigenous Nepali food.

Concluding the program, Sajan Shakya, General Secretary of the Hotel Association Nepal, stated that the key issues and recommendations raised during the workshop would be documented and taken forward for implementation. He further informed that continued discussions and collaboration would be carried out with relevant stakeholders on matters related to Gundruk's production, quality, commercial utilization, and promotion in the tourism and hospitality sectors.

Hotel Association Nepal stated that, with a focus on Arogya Year 2027, it will continue organizing such initiatives with the objectives of promoting indigenous and authentic Nepali food products, fostering a culture of healthy eating, and establishing Nepali cuisine as a recognized culinary identity at both the national and international levels.



HAN Urges Immediate Steps to Revive Nepal's Hotel Industry

HAN President Mr. Binayak Shah, accompanied by Senior VP Mr. Prabin B Panday and Secretary General Mr Sajan Shakya, met with the Finance Minister at his office this afternoon.

At the meeting, HAN President briefed the FM on the financial, material, logistical, employment and support initiatives for the families of missing tourists mobilized by HAN and its member hotels under the Bhotekoshi Flood Relief Program. He highlighted the hospitality industry's collective commitment to supporting the nation during this hour of grief !

Meanwhile, the delegation also discussed a wide range of key concerns collected from the hospitality industry and urged the minister to introduce timely monetary, fiscal and policy-related interventions to help sustain, revive and promote the hotel industry.

HAN holds lamp lighting ceremony to honor Bhotekoshi Flood Victims

Hotel Association Nepal (HAN) this evening commemorated a lamp-lighting ceremony and paid tribute to those who lost their lives in the devastating Bhotekoshi Flood at Maitighar Island on 27 September 2026.

The ceremony was attended by HAN President Mr. Binayak Shah, Vice President Mr. Dinesh Tuladhar and Secretary General Mr. Sajan Shakya, who offered a heartfelt tribute.

The event was also attended by Officiating CEO of NTB Mr. Santosh Panta, KMC Police Chief, representatives of Tourist Police, and members of tourism and hospitality fraternity.



Asian Professional Achievement Award 2026 conferred to HAN President Binayak Shah For Outstanding Leadership and Contribution to Tourism Development



Discussion with Nepal Oil Corporation on the Types and Capacities of LPG Gas Required for the Hotel Sector.

A discussion was held at Nepal Oil Corporation regarding the types and capacities of LPG cylinders required by hotels. The meeting was attended by HAN Secretary General Sajan Shakya, Treasurer Youb Raj Shrestha and representatives of other concerned organizations.

During the discussion, Nepal Oil Corporation ensured that the smooth and convenient supply of LPG to the hotels, with a view to addressing their operational requirements.



HAN Prepares Wellness-Focused Activities for World Tourism Day.



President Mr. Binayak Shah attended the Main Organizing Committee's Meeting held this afternoon in preparation for World Tourism Day at MoCTCA.

This year's theme, 'Digital Agenda and Artificial Intelligence to Redesign Tourism,' highlights the role of technology, innovation and digital mode in redesigning the tourism industry.

HAN proposed promoting wellness tourism activities with a focus on displaying and serving 'Wellness Cuisine' on the occasion.

A special discounted package will also be offered for tourists arriving on World Tourism Day.

Likewise, Digital promotional campaigns such as [#NepalCalling](#) and [#NepalNow](#) will be promoted as part of the digital campaign.

Policy Dialogue on Strengthening Apprenticeship in the Hospitality Industry Concludes



Hotel Association Nepal (HAN) organized a Policy Dialogue on Strengthening Apprenticeship in the Hospitality Sector on September 21, 2026, with the objective of expanding and strengthening apprenticeship programs and ensuring their effective implementation in the hospitality industry.

The program was chaired by Mr. Binayak Shah, President of Hotel Association Nepal, and attended by Mr. Anoj Bhattarai, Member Secretary of the Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT), Mr. Khubiram Adhikari, Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Social Development, Bagmati Province, Principals of CTEVT Schools, Principals of private hospitality colleges, Human Resource heads of hotels and representatives from the hotel and hospitality industry.

Addressing the program, HAN President Mr. Binayak Shah stated that the rapid expansion of hotels across the country has also created increasing employment opportunities and, consequently, a growing demand for skilled human resources. He emphasized the need to initiate apprenticeship programs at the diploma level without delay.

Mr. Shah further highlighted the need to increase the quota for pre-diploma-level apprenticeship programs and to enhance the recognition, quality, and effectiveness of such programs by allowing the private sector to obtain affiliation to operate apprenticeship-based programs. He also stressed the need to implement the provision under Rule 16(A) of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Council Regulations, 2083, which allows eligible industries to conduct apprenticeship programs.

He also informed the gathering that 19 apprenticeship students from Post Bahadur Bogati Polytechnic Institute, Nuwakot, an area affected by recent disasters, would be provided employment opportunities in the hotel industry in accordance with their interests and areas of preference.

HAN Secretary General Mr. Sajan Shakya emphasized that the growing number of hotels in the country has resulted in an equally increasing demand for skilled employees and workers. He called for an expansion of the apprenticeship quota to address the industry's growing human-resource requirements.

Mr. Shakya recalled that Hotel Association Nepal has been participating in apprenticeship initiatives for the past four years and has been supporting the placement of trainees in hotels to provide them with practical skills and workplace experience. He also emphasized that the private sector should be permitted to independently operate such programs at the earliest.

Speaking on behalf of the hospitality industry, Mr. Bishnu Shrestha, Head of Human Resources at Hotel Himalaya, noted that trainees placed in hotels often show interest in working across different departments rather than limiting themselves to a single area of specialization. However, they may not always possess the necessary skills for the departments in which they wish to work. He suggested that educational institutions should conduct regular assessments and monitoring of students during their apprenticeship to improve the effectiveness of the program.

Similarly, on behalf of the Hospitality Colleges Dr. Basant Joshi, Head of AIMT College stated that although the number of hospitality colleges in the country is increasing, students continue to show a strong preference for pursuing education and career opportunities abroad. He emphasized the need for the government to develop an

appropriate modality to address and reverse this growing trend.

He further noted that while the apprenticeship program could help address the country's widening employment gap, it alone would not be sufficient. Joshi also presented statistical data highlighting the current employment situation in the country.

Mr. Mohan Katuwal, Vice President of the Federation of Small and Cottage Industries, stated that apprenticeship programs have made a significant contribution to industries by enabling students to acquire practical skills and become job-ready. He urged the government to create an environment where graduates of apprenticeship programs are encouraged or required to gain at least two years of industry experience. He also called for more flexible policies and regulations to make apprenticeship programs more effective. He informed the participants that a TVET Council has recently been established to facilitate the provision of recommendations and suggestions to the Government of Nepal.

During the open session, Dr. Jiwak Bajracharya, Dean of GATE College; Ms. Samjhana Basnyat, Principal of IST-NCTTM College; Mr. Rohit Dahal, Principal of Nepal Banepa Polytechnic Institute; Ms. Abha Shah, Managing Director of Silver Mountain School; Ms. Ashlesha Karki, Executive Committee Member of Hotel Association Nepal; Mr. Narayan Paudel, Head of Human Resources at Everest Hotel; Mr. Amir Pradhanang, General Manager of Hotel Mulberry; and Mr. Niraj Pudasaini, Principal of Madan Ashrit Memorial Polytechnic Institute, shared their respective views and suggestions on strengthening apprenticeship programs in the hospitality sector.

Speaking at the program, Mr. Khubiram Adhikari, Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Social Development, Bagmati Province, stated that the existing quota of 100 trainees should be increased in the coming days to address the growing demand for skilled workers from industries. He noted that the provincial government has been making substantial investments in education and emphasized the importance of collaboration with the private sector to make apprenticeship programs stronger and sustainable in the long term.

Mr. Anoj Bhattarai, Acting Member Secretary of CTEVT, appreciated the significant role played by the private sector in the apprenticeship program. He stated that the relevant regulations are being amended to further strengthen the apprenticeship system and assured that the diploma-level apprenticeship program would also be introduced and advanced soon.



The Policy Dialogue provided an important platform for government agencies, CTEVT, educational institutions, hotels, industry representatives, and other stakeholders to discuss practical measures for expanding apprenticeship opportunities, improving industry-based learning, increasing the participation of the private sector, and developing skilled and job-ready human resources for Nepal's growing hospitality industry.

Hotel Association Nepal forms HAN-Koshi Province

Hotel Association Nepal (HAN) has formally formed the Hotel Association Nepal – Koshi Province with the objective of strengthening the hospitality industry and promoting tourism development in Koshi Province.

Speaking as the Chief Guest, Hon. Tourism Minister Linu Langwa (Limbu) stated that the formation of Hotel Association Nepal – Koshi Province would mark a significant milestone and contribute substantially to the development and promotion of tourism in the region. He expressed his commitment to supporting initiatives aimed at strengthening the tourism and hospitality sector of Koshi Province.

As the Special Guest, President of Hotel Association Nepal (HAN), Mr. Binayak Shah, called upon the Koshi Province Government to facilitate appropriate policies, regulations, and institutional mechanisms for the protection, promotion, and sustainable development of the hospitality industry, particularly in view of the rapid expansion of hotels and tourism-related businesses in the province.

President Shah emphasized that HAN Central is always committed to supporting the promotion of tourism across the provinces. He also highlighted the need to address the difficulties faced by tourists at border entry points and called for the establishment of modern Tourist Assistance Centres at major border crossings to provide efficient information, facilitation, and support services to visitors.

On the occasion, President Shah congratulated the newly elected provincial executive committee members and presented them with certificates and



the Hotel Association Nepal logo.

Similarly, Secretary General of Hotel Association Nepal, Mr. Sajan Shakya, extended his best wishes on the formation of the Koshi Province Association as part of HAN's initiative to establish provincial associations across all seven provinces of Nepal. He urged the newly formed provincial association to focus on tourism promotion, strengthening the hospitality industry, protecting the interests of hotel entrepreneurs, and enhancing coordination among tourism stakeholders in the province.



The newly elected office-bearers and Executive Committee members of Hotel Association Nepal – Koshi Province are as follows:

- Newly Elected Office-Bearers
President: **Mr. Rajan Shrestha**
Senior Vice President: **Mr. Bhawish Kumar Shrestha**
Vice President: **Shanti Shrestha**
Secretary General: **Jeewan Parajuli**
Secretary: **Punya Bhattarai**
Treasurer: **Khem Oli**
Executive Committee Members:
Pramesh Shrestha
Rajiv Shrestha
Anjali Rai
Suresh Limbu
Bijay Rai
Khagendra Bistha
Aakash Dulal
Advisor
Motilal Dugar
Deepak Nepal
Dinesh Amatya
Tulasi Pokharel

The formation of Hotel Association Nepal – Koshi Province is expected to further strengthen coordination among hotels, tourism entrepreneurs, government agencies, and other stakeholders, while contributing to the sustainable development and promotion of Koshi Province as a leading tourism destination.

HAN Secretary General Meets KMC Acting Mayor to Discuss Tourism Promotion and Collaboration



Secretary General Mr Sajan Shakya held a meeting with the Acting Mayor of KMC Ms Sunita Dongol this afternoon at her office.

The meeting dealt with the tourism promotion, joint collaboration regarding upcoming Kathmandu Film Festival and other related issues of the tourism and hospitality industry.

HAN Submits Recommendations on Financial Facilities to Nepal Rastra Bank

Hotel Association Nepal (HAN) Treasurer Mr. Youb Raj Shrestha held a meeting with Mr. Ramu Poudel, Executive Director of Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) on 2 October 2026. During the meeting, Mr. Shrestha submitted HAN's recommendations regarding financial facilities and support measures for the hotel industry.

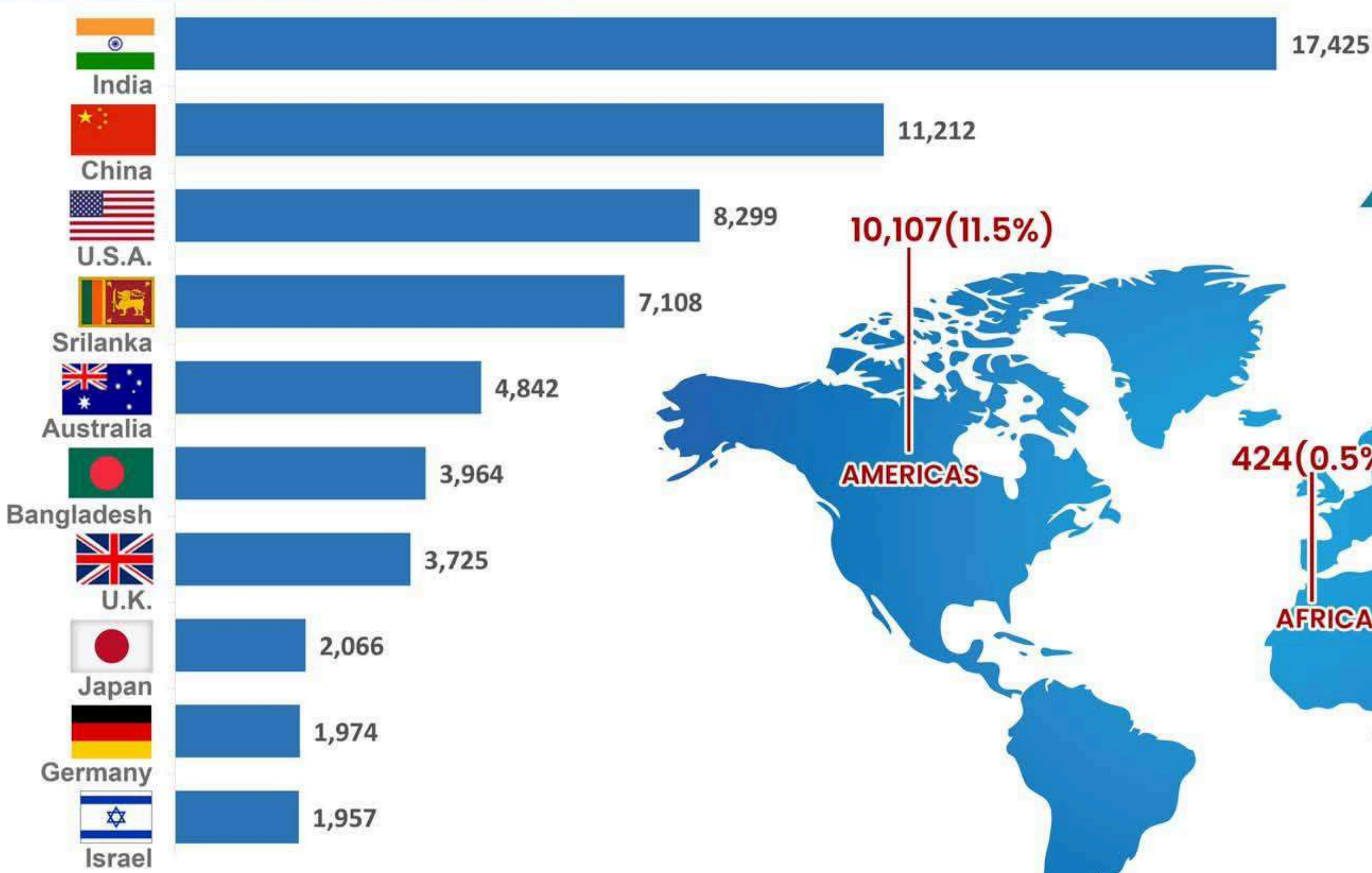
The discussion focused on facilitating access to financial services and addressing the financial challenges faced by hotels and resorts.



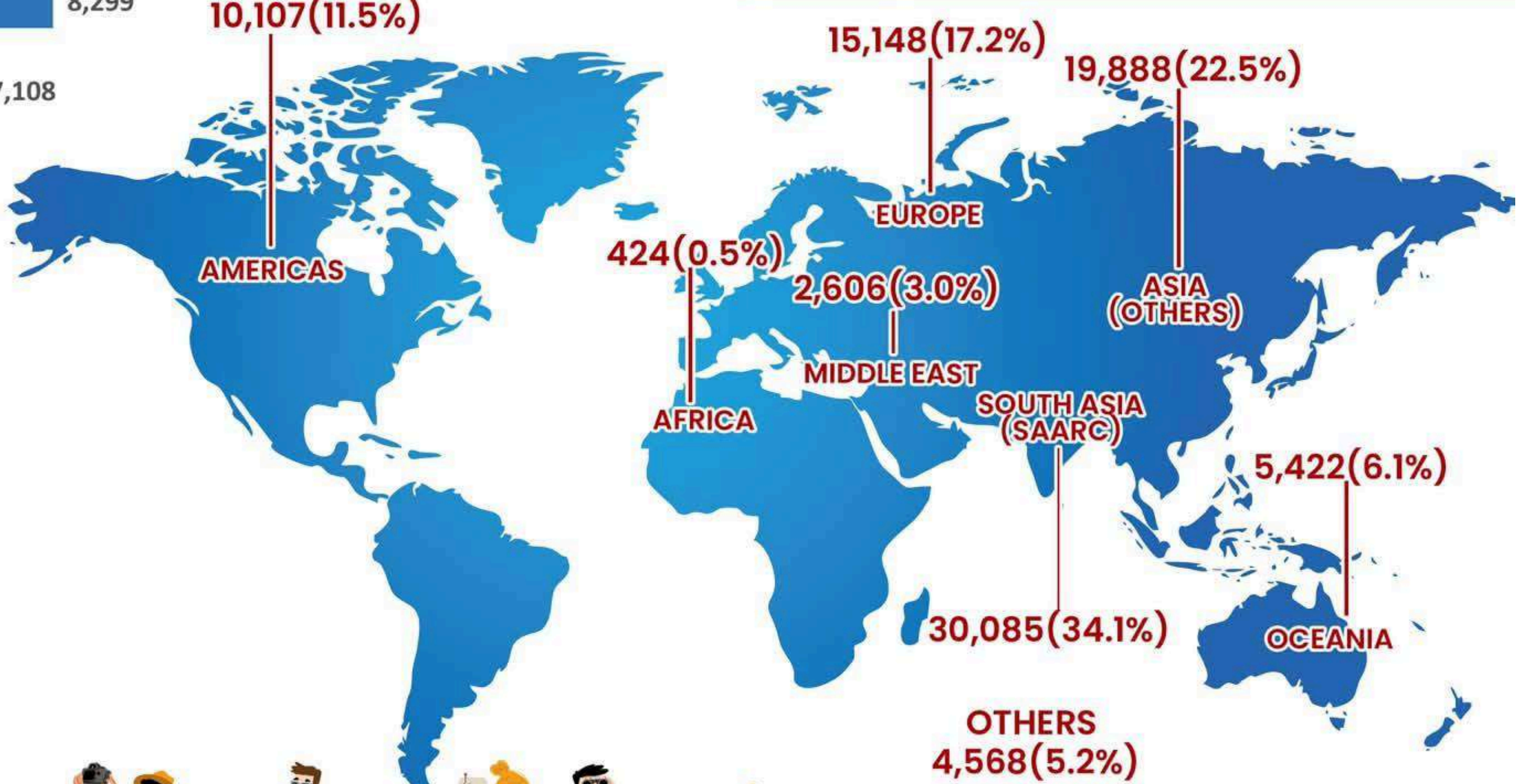
INTERNATIONAL VISITOR ARRIVALS SEPTEMBER 2026 88,248



TOP 10 Source Market Countries



Regionwise Distribution of Arrivals



Source : Department of Immigration
Prepared by : Nepal Tourism Board
* This report is based on preliminary monthly raw data provided by Department of Immigration



Hotel Association Nepal (HAN)

Home of Hospility | Since 1966
(National Federation of Hotels/Resorts)



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