

**Address by Rt. Hon'ble President of Nepal Dr. Ram Baran Yadav at the
Launch of “State of the World’s Volunteerism Report 2011”
Office of the President, Sheetalniwas, Kathmandu
5 December 2011**

Ladies and Gentlemen!

- **I am very happy to be here amidst you to launch the “State of the World’s Volunteerism Report 2011” commissioned by United Nations Volunteers. The report focuses on the universal values that motivate people all over the world to engage for the common good and a truly human society motivated by the values of trust, solidarity and mutual respect. I would like to thank to the National Steering Committee for Volunteerism Nepal for providing me this important event.**
- **I am happy to know that the first State of the World’s Volunteerism Report will be launched worldwide today and provide some very significant findings about volunteerism.**
- **Nepal has long tradition for volunteerism and voluntary action as the basis of social relations, solidarity, self-help and local capacity, is an integrated part of traditional Nepalese culture. Public goods such as village trails and pathways, temples, inns, water taps and wells used to be built on an voluntary basis. Relief work during disasters such as floods, earthquakes, famine and epidemics are mostly done on a voluntary basis. Many problems in communities are even today solved through voluntary services. Self-help community groups such as Guthi or Dharma Bhakari are examples of traditional voluntary work in Nepali society.**

Ladies and Gentlemen !

- **One of the prominent examples of volunteerism in Nepal initiated a National Female Community Health Volunteer programme in 1998 which has significantly helped to reduce child mortality and for which Nepal has globally awarded.**
- **Through their voluntary actions, millions of people from most societies around the world make significant contributions to economic and social development, especially to meeting the Millennium Development Goals. The first State of the World’s Volunteerism Report promotes a better understanding of volunteerism by demonstrating its universality, scope and reach and by discussing new trends in volunteerism in the twenty-first century.**

- There are innumerable new and innovative examples of volunteerism around the world. They are ways that people can be engaged, that people's action can be made a driving force in helping us achieve our Millennium Development Goals. But now we must focus on how to capitalize on this human asset to achieve a better future.
- It can be hoped that this report will change the perception of volunteerism as an essential component of change and progress. We also hope that volunteers will be recognized as an essential and sustainable asset for making all lives better.
- As we know that the people are the wealth of a nation, and volunteerism is an unacknowledged renewable asset. We cannot ignore this untapped asset that can both be a force for the future of development as well as bringing sustainability to development activities. When you engage people in the development of their own communities there's a sense of ownership, a sense of recognition and a need to sustain development gains.

Ladies and Gentlemen !

- I hope the report will illustrate that volunteerism of today has a modern face. Migration and travel are transforming the way people volunteer and we see new trends as for example the private sector's increasing involvement in volunteerism. And last but not least, information and communications technologies are opening up new means of civic engagement by opening possibilities for on-line volunteer services and other internet based voluntary activities.
- Thank you again to all of you who are gathered here today and to all the members of the National Planning Commission, National Steering Committee for Volunteerism Nepal and to all the organizations who work and support volunteerism in Nepal.
- I wish all the success of this National Volunteer Conference and the 10th Anniversary of International Year of Volunteers on the auspicious occasion of International Volunteer Day 2011 which will recognize and appreciate the contribution of millions of volunteers in a global perspective.

Thank you! Thank you all.

नेपालको जय होस्, सबै नेपालीको जय होस् !

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