

PHILIPPINE EMBASSY PRESS RELEASE

Ambassador Allarey makes his farewell calls on President Yadav, Prime Minister Bhattarai and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Shrestha of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal

Ambassador Ronald Allarey in his farewell calls on **Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Narayan Kaji Shrestha 'Prakash'** on 11 March, **Prime Minister Dr. Baburam Bhattarai** and **President Ram Baran Yadav** on 12 March mentioned that Nepal and the Philippines could explore other areas of cooperation and in this regard, proposed the visit to Manila of the Nepalese non-resident Ambassador (based in Kuala Lumpur) to inaugurate the Philippines-Nepal Policy Consultations as soon as possible to pave the way for a future Ph-Nepal Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation. With the Nepal-Philippines air services agreement, Amb. Allarey urged for more people-to-people exchanges.

Deputy Prime Minister Shrestha said both countries have very good relations. He urged the visit of bilateral business and trade delegations, since 2012 is *'Invest in Nepal Year'* and Nepal wishes to invite Philippine investors. Filipino students are also welcome to study in Nepal, he said. Policy Consultations should begin soon, he said, and that both countries must increase their bilateral trade. **Prime Minister Dr. Bhattarai** congratulated the Ambassador for *"strengthening bilateral relations which has been cordial and consistent."* There are many commonalities and scope for cooperation, he said, since many areas have been identified. Prime Minister Bhattarai noted that Southeast Asia has a fast-developing and fast-expanding market. *"We want to investigate this, why it happened,"* he said. *"The Asian century calls for cooperation,"* he added. Amb. Allarey also urged for the formulation of concrete projects between SAARC and ASEAN, and as part of ASEAN, the Philippines will support this. On the Nepali peace process, the Ambassador said that both countries share the same democratic values. Prime Minister Bhattarai noted that Nepal benefits from ADB loans in the power sector.

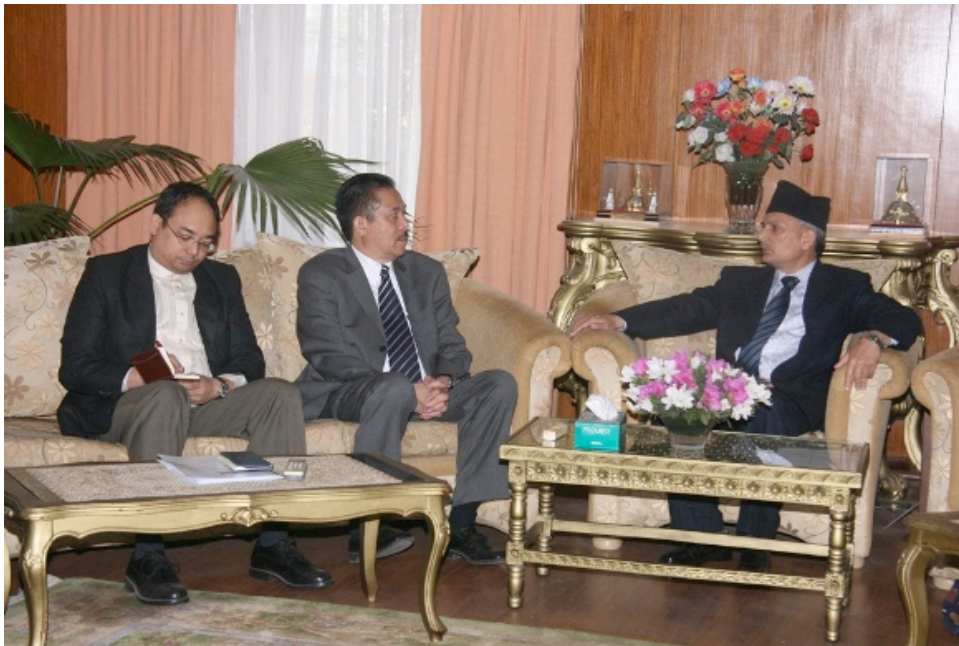
President Yadav, who is a medical doctor, received Ambassador Allarey on March 12, noted that he met with the Department of Health delegation in Nepal last year. He mentioned the other key areas of possible enhanced cooperation such as in manpower training, agriculture and hydro-power. He said all these can proceed simultaneously. *"Now is the right time for the private sector to be involved,"* he added. Ambassador Allarey said that the Philippines is monitoring the peace process in Nepal and that the Philippines looks to Nepal for lessons learned in their reintegration of former Maoist rebels. *"We also look up to you,"* President Yadav said. Ambassador Allarey said the Philippines is fast developing its tourism sector and is already no.1 in the voice IT sector. Nepal and the Philippines should study each other's experiences. The Philippines was not as affected by the current economic crisis as the other countries, he added.

President Yadav also extended his personal greetings to the Filipino people, President Aquino and to the Philippine Government. Finally, Ambassador Allarey conveyed the best wishes of President Aquino III and the Filipino people.

In all these calls, Allarey highlighted the Philippines' experiences with OFWs, the shipping sector, and medical tourism. During the Ambassador's official visit, he also called on the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Nepal, German Ambassador Verena Gräfin Von Roedern at the German Embassy, and was interviewed during a meeting with the Federation of Nepali Chambers of Commerce and Industry which was featured in the March 14 issue of the Kathmandu Post.



President Yadav receiving Amb. Allarey at the Rastrapati Bhawan (Presidential Palace), in Kathmandu.



Amb. Allarey makes his farewell call on Prime Minister Bhattarai (far right). He was accompanied by First Secretary Robert Ferrer (left), Defense and Armed Forces Attaché Col. Rolando Acop and Honorary Consul General to Nepal, Mr. Suraj Vaidya (not in picture).



President Yadav with Ambassador Allarey and his delegation.



Amb. Allarey, Honorary Consul General Vaidya meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Shrestha (2nd from right).