

**PRESS RELEASE—Jan 31, 2013, Kathmandu, Nepal**

The Nepal Institute of International and Strategic Studies hosted the first of its kind “China-India-Nepal Trilateral Meeting” in Kathmandu on January 30, 2013. Participants from the People’s Republic of China included Dr. Cui Hongjian, Director of European Studies, China Institute of International Studies, Beijing; Prof. Liu Jiawei, Assistant Director of South Asia-West China Cooperation and Development Studies, Sichuan University, Chengdu; and Prof. Zhang Shubin, Director of the Confucius Institute, Nepal, who presented a paper on behalf of Prof. Che Minghuai, Deputy President of the Tibet Academy of Social Sciences, Lhasa.

Participants from India included Mr. Ravi Bhoothalingam, Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi; Colonel Virendra Sahai Verma, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi; and Ms. Tshering Chonzom, PhD scholar, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

All members of the Board of Director of the Nepal Institute of International and Strategic Studies were present during the event. They included Mr. Krishna Bahadur Mahara, Dr. Shekhar Koirala, Dr. Durgesh Man Singh, Lieutenant General (retd.) Sadip Bahadur Shah, Mr. Ku Man Ghising, Mr. Siddhant Raj Pandey, Mr. Bhaskar Koirala (also concurrently Director of the NIISS). Also present was Mr. Semanta Dahal, Legal Counsel of the NIISS.

The Trilateral Meeting was chaired by Mr. Himalaya Shamsheer Rana, founder and first Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank (Nepal Central Bank) and formerly Chairman of Himalayan Bank Ltd., Nepal.

A consensus was reached at the meeting, that in light of the highly successful outcome of its proceedings, subsequent annual trilateral meetings would be held alternatively in the capitals of the three countries. The next meeting will be held in Beijing. It was also agreed that specific and concrete projects or programs would be initiated at the earliest to give immediate impetus to the concept of China-India-Nepal Trilateral Cooperation. Such projects were identified, among others, as being related to travel and tourism.

Possibilities for cooperation in energy projects was also discussed, one of which centered on the idea of a trans-country power trade agreement in which electricity could be traded freely between China, India and Nepal through a regional grid connected to the three countries.

It was agreed that the rationale for trilateral cooperation centers around the idea that Nepal can play a very important catalytic role in bringing India and China into a collaborative relationship within the bounds of a trilateral framework and thereby among other things, promote and facilitate a discourse of cooperation between two of the fastest growing economies of the world.