



# America-Nepal Friendship Society, Inc.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **NEW YORK CITY HONORS A GREAT NEPALI COMMUNITY LEADER**

**June 28, 2006, (New York, USA).** Dr. Tara N. Niraula, President of America-Nepal Friendship Society (ANFS) and a prominent Nepali community leader was one of the five distinguished South Asian honorees who was honored by the William C. Thompson, the Comptroller of the City of New York at special event organized today. The Comptroller as an elected official represents over 8 million residents of New York. Dr. Niraula received this award in recognition of his leadership and contributions to strengthening immigrant communities in New York and beyond.

Mr. Thompson, presenting the award to Dr. Niraula, said that it was “in recognition of his commitment and patience as a teacher; his dedicated efforts to assist the educational goals of immigrants and refugees; and his willingness to put his knowledge and time in the service of noble public goals.” He further states in the award that this commendation was presented to Dr Niraula “for his distinguished leadership in the academic community; for his commitment to encouraging communication and other productive transactions between Nepali and North American organizations; and for his dedication to preserving and promoting South Asian heritage and culture.”

In his acceptance remarks, Dr. Niraula thanked the friends and members of the America-Nepal Friendship Society and the larger Nepali community for their work in helping to foster the magnificent and ongoing growth of a healthy and mutually beneficial relationship between the peoples of the United States and Nepal through education, collaboration and cultural exchange. He further stated that the award was an acknowledgement of the quiet and steady commitment and contributions of the many Nepali American communities and South Asian Communities in the US.

Commenting on the ethical values of the Nepali community members, Dr. Niraula said, the value of our Nepali culture places great emphasis on hard work, honesty, loyalty, bravery and perseverance.

These are the same personal traits and characteristics embodied by the founding fathers and laid out in the United States Constitution. He further commented that while our cultures can at times appear very different, we are very much the same, and our stories are very similar to the waves of immigrants from different nations who have come before us. “As a man with deep roots in Nepal, I am filled with deep pride upon seeing our community thriving in all professions and making tremendous contributions to the great city of New York’s growth and development.”

Highlighting the important roles Nepali community members have played in their adopted land, Dr. Niraula said, “Nepali community members are making visible differences in all aspects of this city’s life. I am, in my small and humble way, proud to be part of this Nepali community; this South Asian Community and, as importantly, this larger community of immigrants in this most diverse city in the world!”

He pointed out that the Comptroller’s recognition and support of the Nepali and South Asian communities has instilled great pride in our efforts. We have been greatly honored over the years when you have become personally involved in our projects. Praising Mr. Thompson for his support of the immigrant community, Dr. Niraula said, “You have always been a leader in our immigrant community and we appreciate that. I assure you that Nepali community will always stand with you and follow your leadership as greater challenges and greater opportunities lead us to greater heights. We will always stand with you to foster justice and opportunities for all, including my own immediate Nepali American community. Immigrants have been the back bone of the growth and development of this city, this state, and this nation! We, Nepali community members understand the importance of this tradition and respect the policies of openness and fairness that support this tradition”.

The event was attended by many prominent Nepali American and South Asian community members, including His Excellency Madhu Raman Acharya, the Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations, Mr. Murari Raj Sharma, member of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Issues of the United Nations and former Nepali Ambassador to the United Nations. Extending his personal congratulations to Dr. Niraula, Ambassador Acharya said said, “It was Nepal’s as well as all Nepali people’s pride. We are all very proud of this”. Similarly, Mr. Sharma said, “ The recognition of your contributions to Nepali and South Asian Communities is a matter of great pride for friends like me and the Nepali diaspora at large”. Many other Nepali and South Asian community members, including Mr. Mohan Gyawali, President of Ridgewood Nepalese Society, Tek Bahadur Gurung, President of Nepalese Democratic Forum, Chandra Prakash Sharma, Founder of Nepali Mandir and Director and Publisher of Nepali Aawaz and many other local Nepali community members and American friends of Nepal. Dr. Rajendra Pradhan MD, Board Chair, America Nepal Friendship Society summarized the sentiment of the community as the award being appropriate honor to Dr. Tara Niraula and a matter of pride for Nepal and Nepali community and ANFS.

Currently, Dr. Niraula is the Senior Research Scholar and Director of Research Projects with Columbia University’s prestigious Teachers College. A highly respected personality in Nepali and South Asian Community, Dr. Niraula has been one of the strong driving and unifying forces in the Nepali Diaspora’s campaign to support the recent democratic movement in Nepal.

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