



America-Nepal Friendship Society, Inc.

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NEW YORK CITY COMPTROLLER HONORS A GREAT NEPALI AMERICAN MEDICAL DOCTOR

June 24, 2008, (New York, USA): Dr. Rajendra Pradhan, a prominent Nepali American community leader and physician was one of the six distinguished South Asians community leaders honored by Hon. William C. Thompson, Jr., the Comptroller of the City of New York at a special event organized at the Flushing Town Hall yesterday. The Comptroller as an elected official represents over 8 million residents of New York. Dr. Pradhan received this award in recognition of his nearly 40 years' of distinguished service in the medical field and outstanding leadership and contributions to strengthening Nepali American and South Asian American communities in New York and beyond.

Mr. Thompson presenting the award to Dr. Pradhan said, "In his many years as physician, Dr. Pradhan has never forgotten his roots....He has been a strong advocate for the preservation and promotion of Nepali culture in New York City and beyond....His leadership in promoting better relationships between differing cultural communities, and especially between the people of the United States and Nepal, has remained of paramount importance." He further added that the commendation was presented to Dr Pradhan "for his outstanding work to treat and care for sick and injured; for educating and mentoring generations of young students and physicians; and for his lasting contributions to both the Nepali American community and New York City."

Accepting the award from Honorable William C. Thompson, Jr., Dr. Pradhan said, "Mr. Comptroller, you have been an outstanding leader of this great city; and this event is an example of how much you care and value all communities and their individual and collective contributions for the advancement of this city and the nation that we all love. I am proud to be a member of an ever-growing Nepali American and South Asian community. This community has been making and will continue to make very significant contributions to this great city and nation in socio, economic and political fields". Recalling his initial days in the United States, Dr. Pradhan said, "I came to settle here in USA way back in 1968. Because of my racial background, I could settle in this country only due to noble changes then brought about by the social movement led by Mr. Martin Luther King. I

am grateful to him. This great City and Nation have provided me with the better opportunity to succeed and fulfill my dreams”. This award means a lot to me and I will treasure it forever, Dr. Pradhan concluded.

Delivering his brief opening remarks, Dr. Tara Niraula, former President of the America Nepal Friendship Society and Senior Vice President of the Nepalese Americas Council thanked Mr. Thompson for his outstanding leadership and assured him that the Nepali American community will always stand with him in his efforts to take this city to a next height. He further said, “We are one in many and we value each of our cultural heritage. While preserving and promoting our culture in our adopted land; Nepali Americans and South Asian Americans continue to grow in strength and they continue to make significant contributions to socio-cultural, economic and political affairs of this city and beyond”. When asked about the occasion after the conclusion of the event, Dr. Binod Shah, the Acting President of the America Nepal Friendship said, “To have one of our own highly respected and accomplished leader recognized by the city is a matter of great pride of all Nepalis and South Asian community”. Currently, Dr. Pradhan is a Senior Nephrologists at St. Vincent’s Hospital-Manhattan and founding chair of the America Nepal Friendship Society.

Hon. Helen Marshall, Queens Borough President, and Councilman John Liu were also highlighted the important contributions made by the South Asian Communities. Many South Asian community leaders, including Dr. Binod Shah, Acting President and Ms. Parita Rimal, General Secretary, former President Kamal Karki of the America Nepal Friendship Society also attended the Awards ceremony. The America Nepal Friendship Society, Asia Society, Jackson Heights Merchants Association, and FOKANA also cosponsored the event and representatives of these organizations spoke on the occasion. The Dance Theatre of Nepal, a New York based organization established to preserve and promote Nepali performing arts and culture presented beautiful Nepali dance and music on the occasion.

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