

**Inaugural Remarks by
Puspa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'
Right Honourable Prime Minister of Nepal
on the opening ceremony of the 23rd Asian Regional Conference of INTERPOL**

Date: 18th January 2017

Venue: Hyatt Regency, Boudha, Kathmandu

Honorable Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs,

President of the Interpol Mr. MENG Hongwei,

Secretary General of the Interpol Mr. Jürgen Stock,

Chief of Nepal Police and members of the organizing committee whose effort has made this day possible,

Distinguished guests,

Delegates and participating observers,

Friends from Media, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning and Namaste!!!

I am privileged to be here at the inaugural function of 23rd Asian regional Conference of INTERPOL as the chief guest and open up the conference today.

It's a great honour and pride for our country to host such a special event.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to INTERPOL headquarters for selecting the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal as the host of this Regional Conference of INTERPOL.

Much appreciation to the Nepal Police and its leadership for taking such initiatives, because the successful completion of this event is both an opportunity and challenge for us.

My utmost thanks to the ever-dedicated members of the Nepal Police for your generous invitation. I feel honored to express Nepal's perspective on "Law Enforcement in Asia, Current and Future Challenges", the theme around which the conference will be focused for two and half days.

I believe this conference will be one of the most important milestones to unite and strengthen law enforcement networks across the Asia-Pacific region.

Nepal has seen rapid political changes during the last two decades. Our citizens have heroically demonstrated their choice of transformation.

As the political leaders we have enormous liability upon us to make this transformation achieve what it was sought for. Thus, the key challenge of the moment is to make the peace process reach a logical conclusion in line with the aspirations of all class, caste, gender and the suppressed and neglected communities and regions.

Ladies and Gentleman,

The theme of this year's conference sounds usual and ordinary, but in its deepest sense it sheds light on the need for more determination and collaboration from all of us.

New threats and challenges put on every country special demands for strengthening national and collective security. Development in information technology and communication and advancements in transportation have brought the world closer than we have ever imagined. The web of global interdependence is growing complex.

Today, no single country can rely solely upon its own capabilities to address the problem of transnational and organized crimes. The adverse effects of such crimes and criminalities cannot be ignored, because crime knows no boundaries and security can no longer be labelled as the agenda of a single country. Thus, cooperation and multilateralism are indispensable.

I personally hold the view that the current and future challenges surrounding law enforcement can only be addressed if we remain undivided in our thoughts and action as well as share common viewpoint on what is good and what is bad.

Differences between the parts of the world who have limitless access to solve their issues, and the rest of the world who have to rely upon the former needs to be diminished. If we want a safer world, then the cooperation and collaboration between these two parts of the world, the gap between have's and have-not's, should be dismantled.

Distinguished guests and delegates,

Today, with a click of a fingertip, a crime can be committed from any anonymous place with anonymity. The development of social media has accelerated the flow of information.

The dream and vision of bridging the digital divide and providing equitable access to technologies is a praiseworthy step. But what measures we have implemented to control the

manipulation of facts? Who is responsible to restrain the flood of social media with bad information?

Thus, unless the countries and leaders with limitless access view the problems of countries with limited access as shared problems, the challenges will grow day by day.

From this forum of national and international participants, I express my assurance and deep concern that Nepal is always willing and committed to combat various organized and transnational crimes so that our futures generations can breathe in a peaceful world.

I wish INTERPOL a great leap in its vision of establishment. INTERPOL, with its global membership of 190 countries and network is effective and a trustworthy global partner to fight crime.

Regarding the Nepal Police, I must accept that fact that it has always made us proud; both in the global arena with its active involvement as peacekeepers under the United Nations and at the domestic level as an accountable and reliable primary law enforcement agency of the state.

As a developing country, we need to prioritize our priorities. We have to address many issues like better education and good health facilities. Apart from that, the country is in a reconstruction process after the earthquake and we are treading in the path of federalism. At such a fragile and sensitive moment, security agencies and their personnel are the backbone of state policies. We wish to provide them the best we can.

Before I conclude, once again I wish a pleasant and warm stay to the delegates, participants and observers. You all are our messengers to the world that Nepal is rebuilding and it is a safe place to visit again and again.

I am grateful towards the organizing committee, INTERPOL and the Nepal Police for the invitation.

Have a good day and a productive conference.

Thank you, and Namaste.