



संयुक्त राष्ट्रसंघका लागि नेपालको स्थायी नियोग
PERMANENT MISSION OF NEPAL
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Press Release

VIENNA

Hon'ble Mr. Giriraj Mani Pokharel, Minister for Education, Science and Technology addressed today the *IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology: Addressing Current and Emerging Development Challenges* at the headquarters of International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna.

Hon'ble Minister said that though use of nuclear science and technology is still very limited in Nepal, the areas it covered already include radiation safety, productivity of agriculture and live stocks, food safety, uranium and thorium deposits prospecting and exploration, radiation monitoring, non-destructive testing, environmental monitoring, ground water level and quality determination, energy planning, nuclear education etc. He added that apart from our strong need to acquire advanced technologies in identified areas, especially in health and agriculture sectors, we equally need to expand its application in sectors that are new for us, industry and combat against pollution and climate change.

Stressing the need for enhanced international cooperation Hon'ble Minister said that this Conference is in itself a reiteration of the commitment of the international community to work together to bridge the gaps in the field of nuclear science and technology and applications among the Member States. A country like Nepal, that is lagging behind in financial and human resources, needs external support for properly utilizing the benefits of nuclear science and technology.

Referring to Nepal's commitment to global peace, he reiterated Nepal's firm belief that Nuclear Science and Technology should only be used for the peaceful purposes within recognized safeguard framework of IAEA. He threw light on various policy measures the Government of Nepal has adopted in the field of nuclear science and technology, and added that Nepal recently ratified the Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology for Asia and the Pacific (RCA)-2017. He also informed the gathering that Government of Nepal has approved the draft of the Nuclear Bill to be tabled in the Federal Parliament in its forthcoming session

The ongoing Conference, that started today and ends on Friday November 30, 2018, is the first IAEA Ministerial conference of Nuclear Science and Technology. Her Excellency Ms Epsy Campbell Barr, Vice-President and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, and His Excellency Mr Kiyoto Tsuji, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, are Co-Chairing the Conference.

Hon'ble Mr. Giriraj Mani Pokharel, Minister for Education, Science and Technology reached Vienna yesterday evening leading the Nepali delegation. The Nepali delegations also includes His Excellency Mr. Prakash Kumar Suvedi, Resident Representative of Nepal to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Permanent Mission of Nepal
Vienna

November 28, 2018

