

PROCEEDINGS REPORT



A PANEL DISCUSSION

On

THIS MATTER OF CULTURE

Evolving World of Multiculturalism, Globalization, Migration
and Connectivity

Kathmandu , 29 June 2018



Multiculturalism in contemporary accelerated globalization is profoundly different from the past, but cross-cultural relationships are not a guarantee for lasting peace and happiness, with it comes a great deal of understanding, tolerance and acceptance.

These issues raise a question to the rapid acceptance of globalization where on one hand people feel the need to adapt to western cultures and on the other, find it difficult to maintain their own traditions. Hence, it is very important to create a balance between cultural heritages and also protection of one's cultural identity and enriching it with what other cultures can bring to us.



OPENING REMARKS

H.E. Ambassador Yves Carmona, Embassy of France

MODERATOR

Sujeev Shakya, Chairperson, Nepal Economic Forum

SPEAKERS

Akankshya Tyagi
Founder of Social Friendly, India

Alize Biannic
Founder of Solis Performing Arts, Nepal

Sameer Khatiwada
Economist, Asian Development Bank, Philippines

Swosti Rajbhandari Kayastha
Lecturer at Lumbini Buddhist University and curator
at Nepal Art Council , Nepal

OPENING REMARKS

HE AMBASSADOR YVES CARMONA

Nepal has been for all times in contact, if not intricate, with India, China, Tibet, the Muslim world and even Europe making it known for richness in diversity of identities and tolerance. The Himalayan attraction, outstanding religious and cultural heritage and tolerance towards Westerners gave Nepal the opportunity of establishing cross-cultural relationships. Indeed Nepal is a perfect example that preserving cultural identity doesn't mean closing doors to the outside world. Hence, we must strike the right balance between protecting our cultural identity and enriching it with what other cultures can bring to us.





SPEAKER

ALIZE BIANNIC

Multiculturalism is what binds people from different background and opinion together to find a common ground. Understanding culture helps understand people and community; culture is an inspiration that gives identity to people and makes everyone unique. Culture doesn't necessarily have to be based on religion, it can be the place where one lives, be it near the seashore or the mountains. It is a thing that keeps people rooted and connected in any place around the world.





SPEAKER

SAMEER KHATIWADA

Multiculturalism leads to openness and unity among people coming from diverse communities. Since the ancient days, one of the major promoters of multiculturalism and the formation of these diverse communities is migration. People move across countries for various reasons, mostly being economic deprivation and search for a better life. As people migrate so does their culture. In a foreign land, culture and language becomes the anchor that roots one to their identity. For people who flee home to avoid war and conflict, it is their culture that gives them hope and a reason to be together.





SPEAKER

AKANKSHYA TYAGI

In recent days, an important factor contributing to multiculturalism is social media. The advancement in media technology has led to a global transition into a highly connected and interdependent world where one can have the opportunity to learn beyond their culture and ways of life. This interconnectedness is not just allowing people to do financial and intellectual exchanges, but also bringing all forms of identities into limelight. However, social media doesn't come with a filter for intolerance and hatred from the real world. There have been incidents of cyber bullying and harassment in this platform. Hence, it is crucial to harness the social media and build awareness to smoothen this transition.





SPEAKER

SWOSTI RAJBHANDARI KAYASTHA

When we talk about multiculturalism, most of the time, we mistake it with cultural diversity. Multiculturalism is a situation that focuses on inclusiveness, understanding, and respect by looking at unequal powers in a society, whereas, cultural diversity is the difference between people and these differences root from various cultures, caste, economic backgrounds, age, gender, religion and other reasons.

Multiculturalism is an integral part of the modern world that today, is often associated to the idea of modernizing and westernizing. However, there is a gap in understanding, especially of the young generation, that modernizing and westernizing are two completely different set of concepts. Hence, there is a need of creating awareness.





CONCLUDING REMARKS

Sujeev Shakya ended the discussion on the note that culture is a tool that can be used to introspect into people's personal journey and to analyze the connection. In addition, having no prejudice on any culture gives the power of adaptability. Hence, culture and adaptability go hand in hand.

***Nepal Economic Forum** is a not for profit organization aiming to be Nepal's premier private sector led economic policy and research institution. NEF strives to re-define the economic development discourse in Nepal, and works towards strengthening the Nepali economy through various activities that promote the growth of an efficient and inclusive private sector.*

***Alliance Française de Katmandou** acts as the official French cultural center in Nepal, and as such aims to spread the Francophone culture by organizing cultural events with the support of **French Embassy in Nepal**. AFK was created in 1994 and promotes the French language by offering French classes that are open to all. So far, it is the only certified French Institute in Nepal.*