



Tenzing Hillary Everest Marathon 2008

Press Release

Distinguished Members of Tenzing Hillary Everest Marathon 2008
Distinguished leaders of Successful Indian Everest Expeditions 2008,
Joint Secretary - Tourism Industry Division - MoTCA,
Secretary - Ministry of Education & Sports - GON,
CEO Nepal Tourism Board,
President - Nepal Mountaineering Association,
Vice President National Sports Council Nepal,
Officials of Nepal Tourism Board,
Members of Amateur Athletics Association,
Government Officials presents here today,
Industry leaders, Sponsors of the Everest Day Marathon Event,
Media Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you all in this special occasion to celebrate the successful completion of Tenzing Hillary Everest Marathon and successful ascent of two Indian Expedition teams on Mt. Everest. We are happy to note that Tenzing Hillary Everest Marathon has now become a national event which coincides with International Sagarmatha Everest Day on May 29. Apart from its international glory, Tenzing Hillary Everest Marathon now can be termed as a mega-festival for the people of Everest Region who rejoice to be part of it both as athletes and enthusiastic spectators. I am sure Tenzing Hillary Everest Marathon will reach greater height in days to come with your support and suggestion. In Namche, the celebration of International Sagarmatha Everest Day started with Tenzing Hillary Everest Marathon at 7 am and it went on till 1am in the morning with music and dance. In Tyangboche, son and granddaughter of Late Sir Edmund Hillary and the daughter of Sir John Hunt celebrated it with a special function throughout the day. International Sagarmatha Everest Day has rekindled the spirit of all who love Sagarmatha.

It is a great pride for us to witness the ascent of 40 Indian climbers on a single day within a span of two hours. Starting from 1965, putting 9 atop Everest under the leadership of Capt MS Kohli, the climbing of Mt. Everest by Indian climbers has become a regular feature for them.

After 42 years, it has made another historic record this year by putting 40 climbers on the top of Everest in a single day of 22nd May. I wish to congratulate Mr GT Bhutia, the overall Team Leader of SAMA Indian Everest Team for successfully putting 10 of his member & 12 of his Sherpa Team on top of Sagarmatha on May 22nd.



Similarly, I would like to congratulate Colonel Ashok Abbey of Snow Lion Everest Expedition for successfully putting 9 of his member and 9 of his Sherpa Team on top of Everest again on May 22.

This season became the landmark season for the Government of Nepal in the context of Mt. Everest because of the Olympic Torch Expedition to the Everest. The Chinese Government had requested Nepal's Government for special restriction on climbing of Everest till May 10, 2008 which Nepalese Government complied as good neighbour. In spite of all these difficulties, 32 teams attempted Everest from the Nepal route which made it possible to earn over / close to 3 million dollar Peak Fee INCOME for Government of Nepal. The Expedition Agencies, similarly, may have made another 1.6 million dollar Business Turnover on account of Local Ground Handling & Logistical Support Service.

The Olympic Torch difficulties also gained chance for Nepal to work closely with China on Mountain related issues like never before. This has earned a new closeness, element of trust and brotherly friendship and solidarity between the two Nations.

In this season, the Government of Nepal under the leadership of Chief Secretary and Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation have played an important role in making Everest expeditions successful. Seeking the support from tourism industry of Nepal, it took all precautions to avoid the possible disturbance for Olympic torch rally on the top of Everest. We must thank them all for their wise decision to keep vigilance at Everest region which has strengthened the tie between Nepal and China. The role played by Nepal as a good neighbour for China should be lauded, and I am sure it will boost the relationship between Nepal and China. This restriction & difficulty has also given Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation a landmark opportunity to work together with the Tourism Industry Sector so closely

and so reliably as one great team for the larger National Industry interest. Thanks also for 5 associations, NMA, TAAN, NMIA, Nepal Women Mountaineering Association & Sagarmatha Arohi Sangh who worked tirelessly to bring this great understanding between MOT & Tourism Industry Sector.

Thanks, to this Great Olympic Difficulty which has brought so great friendship, so great trust and great neighbour's relationship between 2 Nations experienced never before.

I don't want to say much today as you all are in mood of enjoying the party. Let's celebrate the success of Tenzing Hillary Everest Marathon and Indian Everest Expeditions.

Bikrum Pandey

President - Himalaya Expeditions
President - Tenzing Hillary Everest Marathon
Organizing Committee

Dated: 01June 2008

