

## Foreword from the High Commissioner



I sometimes wonder if Dr Seuss had a diplomatic career in mind when he wrote the fantastic story "Oh the places you'll go". Every young diplomat dreams of the exotic locations they'll visit as a diplomat, but as Seuss predicts, there's also a fair amount of waiting about for something interesting to happen.

One such opportunity came in May when I headed off to Nepal to commemorate the 65th anniversary of Sir Edmund Hillary's and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay's successful ascent of Mount Everest on 29 May 1953. This visit took me to the stunning Khumbu valley, whose elevation ranges from 3,300 metres to Everest's peak at 8,848 metres. I was able to see Sir Edmund's humanitarian work in this region and learn more about how it has had a profound impact on the lives of generations of local people.

Together, Hillary, his Kiwi friends and Nepali people built classrooms, a hospital and even an airfield here to help the region develop. This visit clearly brought out the legacy created by Hillary's remarkable achievements and how it continues to underpin New Zealand's relationship with Nepal, as well as support its further growth. To be in the mountainous villages where Sir Ed did so much great work, on the 65th anniversary of his ascent, and to feel the genuine warmth which Nepali people continue to hold for New Zealand can only be described as a career highlight.



June brought the happy news of the birth of Neve Te Aroha Ardern Gayford, our Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern's daughter. The PM returns to work after six weeks of maternity leave and is being supported by her partner Clarke Gayford who will take up the role of a stay-at-home dad. This reversal of roles demonstrates how New Zealand continues to lead the world in gender equality since it became the first country to grant women the right to vote 125 years ago in 1853.

It is looking like it will be a busy period ahead, so I hope you and your family have had the opportunity to take some time off work this summer and that you have a productive beginning to the second half of 2018!

### Joanna Kempkers

New Zealand High Commissioner to India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka and Ambassador to Nepal

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## Upcoming Events

- Education New Zealand (ENZ) fair in New Delhi (19 August) and ENZ-supported agent fairs in Mumbai (25 August) and Chennai (26 August)
- 
- Education New Zealand Academic Conclave in New Delhi on 20 August
- 
- New Zealand Trade and Enterprise Beachheads Advisory Board Meeting in New Delhi from 19-20 August
- 
- India New Zealand Business Council Summit in Auckland on 28 September

## Third round of NZEA scholarships launched



Education New Zealand's India Brand Ambassador Kriti Sanon launched the third edition of the New Zealand Excellence Awards on 3 July. These Awards are a unique scholarship program offering meritorious Indian students 34 partial scholarships to study a variety of courses in business, fashion and science, technology, engineering and mathematics at New Zealand universities. These scholarships are applicable for the February 2019 intake and the **deadline for applications** is 28 October. Education New Zealand has also launched a range of 18-month Masters programmes that are targeted at Indian students. These programmes offer global exposure and access to advanced research expertise along with internship and employment opportunities in a safe, open and welcoming environment. All of New Zealand universities are ranked among the top three per cent in the world, ensuring its graduates are sought after by employers. New Zealand has also been declared as the country that best prepares students for the future by the Economist Intelligence Unit.

## 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Everest ascent commemorated

29 May marked the 65th anniversary of Sir Edmund Hillary's and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay's successful ascent of Mount Everest. Ms Joanna Kempkers visited Nepal to attend a series of commemorative events to mark this momentous occasion, beginning with a reception held at the Kathmandu residence of the British Ambassador to Nepal, Mr Richard Morris, on 29 May.



The 1953 expedition was organised and funded by the Joint Himalayan Committee of the Royal Geographical Society in the UK. Besides details mentioned in her foreword for this issue, she handed out prizes at the annual Everest Marathon events in Namche. Ambassador Kempkers was flown in to the Khumbu region by New Zealand helicopter pilot, Mr Andrew Gutsell, who has been flying rescue missions and servicing climbing parties in the Himalayas for several seasons. Ambassador Kempkers also had the pleasure to call on the Foreign Minister of Nepal, Honourable Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, and to discuss the close and warm relationship that New Zealand and Nepal share. Diplomatic relations with Nepal were established in May 1961, eight years after Sir Edmund Hillary's ascent of Mt Everest. Hillary went on to serve as New Zealand's Ambassador to Nepal and High Commissioner to India from 1985 to 1989. Trade between New Zealand and Nepal is valued at \$55.5m, including exports in wool and dairy products.

## NZ Treasury Secretary visits India



New Zealand Treasury Secretary Gabriel Makhoulf visited India in June to attend the third annual meeting of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank in Mumbai. During his visit to India, Mr Makhoulf met with a range of senior officials, parliamentarians and private sector representatives to hear their views on India's fiscal and economic reform programme, and to learn more about how India

is responding to global trade and economic challenges. In addition to discussion on themes such as the ease of doing business, the importance of direct air links to facilitate trade and investment, and new progressive models for economic management, Mr Makhoulf confirmed that New Zealand looked forward to participating in the next India - New Zealand Economic Dialogue, to be held in India later this year. He also spoke at a panel discussion themed on "Rethinking Indicators of Well-Being" hosted at the High Commission and co-run with Brookings India on June 28. The speakers examined how to evolve beyond using traditional economic indicators such as GDP to inform Government Budgets, and to incorporate natural, social, human and financial/physical 'capital' as key indicators of development. The New Zealand Government, led by Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, expects to release its first "well-being" budget using such indicators next year and in doing so, to make a more accurate assessment of New Zealanders' well-being both now and in the future.

## New Kiwi apple variety launched in India



New Zealand's Royal Gala apples have been a favourite for Indian consumers for a number of years now. It has now been joined by another variety, "Diva". Leading Indian importer, IG International, has teamed up with New Zealand apple exporter, Mr Apple, to launch Diva apples in the Indian market. The premium variety is bright red, with a rich, crisp flavour. Diva apples are also sweeter than other varieties from New Zealand. "We are extremely confident that this sweeter-tasting apple is sure to win the hearts of many in the Indian market," said Ben McLeod, retail sales manager at Mr Apple. In May this year, New Zealand was named the world's leading apple industry for the fourth year in a row against 33 other major apple-growing countries. Announcing its decision, the World Apple Review stated that innovations emerging from New Zealand's apple industry will increasingly impact production and marketing throughout the world. New Zealand is sharing its world-class apple-growing expertise with India through a World Bank-funded project in Himachal Pradesh that seeks to boost horticultural productivity and improve the livelihoods of local farmers.



*Victoria University of Wellington, one of New Zealand's eight world-class universities, has a strong reputation for its programmes in law, the humanities, and science.*

## Come and study in Wellington!

Indian students are being invited to study in New Zealand's capital by the Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency through a new online campaign titled 'Create Your Future'. The Agency's Talent, Skills and Education Manager, Brook Pannell, says while India is Wellington's and New Zealand's second largest source of international students, awareness of Wellington as an outstanding education destination remains low among students from the subcontinent. The campaign seeks to change this perception and promote Wellington – the world's coolest little capital – to Indian students. It showcases the city's many creative opportunities, its safe and welcoming environment and the strong work pathways that its institutions offer. Wellington hosts a wide range of educational institutes that are known for their courses in creative and liberal arts, architecture, science and business. Come and create your future in the city ranked No 1 in the world to live in, according to a 2018 Deutsche Bank survey of 50 most liveable cities!

## NZ provides additional \$4 million for Rohingyas



New Zealand is providing a further \$4 million in humanitarian assistance to those affected by violence in Myanmar, including Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh. Of this, \$3 million has been directed to the UN Refugee Agency and the UN Population Fund to provide life-saving protection, nutrition, healthcare and shelter assistance, and to

implement urgently-needed shelter upgrades and disaster preparedness measures in Bangladesh. New Zealand has also contributed \$1 million to the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund, which supports national and local humanitarian agencies to respond to humanitarian needs across Myanmar. This contribution brings the total New Zealand humanitarian support to the Rohingya crisis and Myanmar to \$8.39 million since September last year.

## Developing trade between NZ and Sri Lanka

The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce organised an interactive networking session with New Zealand's Trade Commissioner for Sri Lanka Ralph Hays in Colombo on 18 June. The session featured discussions on opportunities to enhance business with New Zealand and ways to facilitate trade and investment in Sri Lanka. This event follows a successful New Zealand Trade Mission to Colombo in April and provided a great opportunity for the New Zealand and Sri Lankan business communities to further develop their connections. The total merchandise trade between the two countries for the year ending June 2017 was \$367 million.



## NZ's Honorary Consuls gather in Mumbai



The High Commission organised a workshop for its Honorary Consuls from 5-6 June so that they could share their experiences and insights about working for New Zealand in South Asia. Those present included our Honorary Consul from Sri Lanka, Mr Senaka Silva, our Honorary Consul from Kathmandu, Ms Lisa Choegyal, our

Honorary Consul from Dhaka, Mr Neaz Ahmed, and our Honorary Consul from Chennai, Mr L Ganesh. The event was hosted at the Consulate General in Mumbai and was attended by representatives from a range of New Zealand Government agencies including New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, Immigration New Zealand and Tourism New Zealand. Closing the event, New Zealand High Commissioner Ms Joanna Kempkers noted with appreciation, "The work conducted by New Zealand's Honorary Consuls is exemplary, creating a presence and amplifying our effectiveness in the absence of resident diplomatic missions. They are great representatives and show what a difference working collaboratively can make."

## NZ Honorary Consul in Nepal honoured



Congratulations to our Honorary Consul in Nepal, Ms Lisa Choegyal, who was invested as a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit at a ceremony held at the residence of the New Zealand Governor-General, Her Excellency The Rt Hon Dame Patsy Reddy, on 17 May in Wellington. Ms Choegyal was recognised for her services to New Zealand-Nepal relations, including the consular work she has done helping New Zealanders caught in the Everest icefall avalanche, the Annapurna trail storm and the Nepal earthquakes. She was also praised for the work she has done to promote sustainable tourism in Nepal, and for promoting the welfare of Nepalese communities through raising scholarship funds for

education opportunities and promoting the conservation of heritage monuments and ecotourism sites. Congratulations to Lisa for all the great work she has led, and our thanks to Lisa's family and her wider support team for the positive role they have played in promoting New Zealand-Nepal relations!

## Long-serving staff farewelled

We bid goodbye to three long-serving staff members on 6 July – security guards Anil Kumar, J S Gurung and gardener Srinath Maurya. While Mr Kumar and Mr Gurung worked with us for 31 years, Mr Maurya served 33 years. We thank them sincerely for their professionalism and dedication, making the High Commission a safer and more beautiful place to work. We wish them and their families a happy and healthy retired life!



## Asha interns hosted at HC



Kalpana and Sonam, our Asha Society interns for this year, were farewelled on July 6. During their three-week stint here, they gained a first-hand experience of a professional work environment, picked up new skills and developed their confidence to apply for paid work. They impressed everyone with their positive work attitude and professionalism. We wish them the best as they continue with their university education and move on to explore job opportunities.

## About Us



The High Commission advances New Zealand's interests in India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka and promotes greater ties between our countries. Our representation in India includes the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade, New Zealand Trade & Enterprise, Ministry for Primary Industries, Education New Zealand, Immigration New Zealand and Tourism New Zealand. You can email us on [nzhcindia@mfat.net](mailto:nzhcindia@mfat.net).