

BEST WOMAN ENTREPRENEUR-2018 AWARD FUNCTION
KATHMANDU, 11 JANUARY 2019

ORGANIZED BY THE SAARC CHAMBER WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS' COUNCIL-NEPAL

REMARKS BY H. E. MR. AMJAD HUSSAIN B. SIAL, SECRETARY GENERAL OF SAARC

Madam Vice Chair and Office Bearers of Nepal Chapter of the SAARC Chamber Women Entrepreneurs' Council,
Eminent Women Entrepreneurs,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to address this function of women entrepreneurs this evening.

I wish to congratulate Nepal Chapter of the SAARC Chamber Women Entrepreneurs' Council for organizing this event to recognize the Best Woman Entrepreneur from Nepal for 2018.

I am happy to note that established in 2001 in Colombo under the auspices of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, an Apex Body of SAARC, the Women Entrepreneurs' Council has been doing a commendable job in promoting women entrepreneurship across the region.

As we all know, the role and status of women have been changing rapidly due to growing industrialization and globalization, supported by conducive social legislations and legal instruments. With the ever-changing socio-cultural values, and spread of education and awareness, women are increasingly engaging themselves in professional activities, including entrepreneurship.

Besides, more and more women are increasingly occupying higher positions in the Government, judiciary, parliament and political parties. We are proud that in South Asia, we currently have a lady Head of State in Nepal and a lady Head of Government in Bangladesh. Our region also has a large number of ladies occupying positions of Ministers, State Ministers and Members of Parliament, among others.

As you are aware, SAARC is a regional organization created primarily to promote the welfare of the peoples of this region. Convinced that women, who constitute almost 50% of our population, are our strength, our Leaders have underscored the need for bringing them fully into the mainstream of socio-economic development.

To achieve this end, besides the mechanism of Ministerial Meeting on Women, a Technical Committee on Women, Youth and Children, and a SAARC Gender Policy Advocacy Group have been activated. Likewise, regional agreements, such as the SAARC Social Charter and a SAARC Convention, have been introduced.

In essence, since its inception in December 1985, SAARC's focus has been on promoting women's education; protecting their rights; ensuring that they are free from all sorts of discrimination; and above all, empowering them economically.

In concluding my remarks, I wish to congratulate the distinguished recipient and runners up of the Best Woman Entrepreneur Award from Nepal for 2018. I am confident that these Awards will encourage you to work even harder to establish yourselves as role models for other women entrepreneurs. I am highly impressed by immense contribution made by women of Nepal in socio-economic development of the country.

I also wish to highly appreciate the performances and fashion shows this evening.

Lastly, I wish to once again congratulate Nepal Chapter of the SAARC Chamber Women Entrepreneurs' Council for organizing this wonderful function.

I thank you.
