



MEDIA ADVISORY

16 DECEMBER 2014

Least Developed Countries from Asia and the Pacific meet in Kathmandu to lay foundations for ‘graduation’

What

Ministers and high-level officials, meeting in Kathmandu, will discuss ways in which Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in Asia and the Pacific, can aspire to graduate from the LDC category. The meeting will explore lessons learnt and how this process can be supported by strong national strategies, while mainstreaming graduation into development cooperation strategies and linking effectively with the Istanbul Programme of Action’s midterm review and the post-2015 development agenda.

When and where

The meeting will be held 16-18 December, 2014 at the Crown Plaza, Kathmandu, Nepal

Who

The Prime Minister of Nepal and United Nations High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, Gyan Chandra Acharya, will be joined by government ministers, high level UN officials and experts from Asia-Pacific LDCs, traditional donor countries and emerging economies, as well as participants from international and regional financial institutions and representatives of civil society and the private sector.

Background

Least Developed Countries (LDCs) represent the poorest and weakest segment of the international community. They comprise more than 880 million people (about 12 per cent of world population), but account for less than 2 percent of world’s GDP and about 1 percent of global trade in goods. In the coming years a number of Asia Pacific LDCs are expected to graduate from their status as part of a Programme of Action laid out in Istanbul in 2011, which sets an aspirational goal of enabling half of the LDCs to graduate from their status by 2020.

Press Conference

A press conference will be held at 11am on Tuesday 16 December at the Crown Plaza Hotel. Press are also invited to the opening session, starting at 9.15 am.

Interviews

Please contact Louise Stoddard (Stoddard@un.org) to request an interview with Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya, Under-Secretary-General, High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

Media Contact

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Social Media

The event will be covered on OHRLLS social media. Updates will be placed on Facebook (www.facebook.com/UNOHRLLS) and Twitter (twitter.com/UNOHRLLS) under the hashtag #LDCgrad

Links to further information

Details on the event in Nepal: <http://unohrlls.org/kathmandu-ministerial-meeting-december-2014/>

Further information on Least Developed Countries: <http://unohrlls.org/about-ldcs/>