

# **COMBATING CORRUPTION : NEPALI CONGRESS PARTY IN PERSPECTIVE**

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Mr. Chairman,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all I want to express my sincere thank to the Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats (CALD) and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) on behalf of my party Nepali Congress and myself for providing this opportunity to speak about the Ethical Standards, Evaluation and Discipline initiated by my party to combat corruption in its organizational setup.

This is indeed a matter of great common concern for all of us to have comparative research, study, sharing of experience and ideas to explore the challenges poses for political parties and party strategies to reduce corruption. I am sure this forum will provide us the opportunity to learn each other to share our experiences, practices and modalities which will help us to build strategies and mechanism to promote transparency, democracy and accountability within respective political parties.

Mr. Chairman,

*Corruption is generally termed as the socioeconomic phenomena that involve some kind of bribery between two or more than two parties that ultimately lead to the decomposition of the morality of participant – that could be a person or an institution. It, at bottom, not only destroys the image and morality of individuals but also erodes the strength of democratic institutions, saps the development potential and exerts corrosive effects on international trade system.<sup>1</sup> Especially, corruption is a very pervasive problem in developing nations of Asia where economies are in transition and democratic institutions are relatively fragile. It has indeed posed a threat to the new democracies and stability of societies in the region.*

The concept of corruption, as we all know, encompasses a wider range in political economy and measures to eradicate or mitigate it are several. However, as is mentioned in your TOR for panel presentations, Mr. Chairman, I prefer to dwell upon the issues of *Ethical Standards, Evaluation and Discipline*. Before I embark on the main issues of ethical standards and discipline of my party, in the mean time, it would be worthwhile to throw, in

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<sup>1</sup> Alan Larson, US Under Secretary's briefing on 14<sup>th</sup> of February 2000, at state department.

## **Political Party Strategies to Combat Corruption**



**NDI-CALD WORKSHOP 2002**  
**JANUARY 14-16, 2002 BANGKOK, THAILAND**



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