

*“There is nothing noble about being superior to some other man. The true nobility is in being superior to your previous self”* – This Hindi proverb so simple but yet to true and effective. Everything that we at Chaudhary Group have accomplished in the last few decades is an example of how **determination** and **perseverance** have made us beat our own best and reach greater heights.

My warm regards to Prime Minister of Singapore, Mr. Lee Hsien Loong, The President of Singapore, His Excellency Mr. SR Nathan and Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong. It is an honor and pleasure to be standing beside all you eminent figures who have accomplished the unachievable and who have made a difference in life of millions of people around the world. I feel proud to be speaking on behalf of all my countrymen back in Nepal, the newest Federal republic which is also famous for the mighty Gurkhas and house of Mt. Everest, the tallest Mountain in the world!

Let me recall my speech in June 2009 is this same platform where I had spoken about **“Can anyone do business in Nepal”**, a country that had just come out from the insurgency then. I had mentioned then that the stage is all set for the economy to move in the right direction. However, the speed of the progress gets impeded because of the divergent politics which Nepal was trying to sort out. I had also mentioned that need of the hour was to write a Constitution that creates a positive environment to address the aspirations of 30 Million Nepalese people.

It has been more than 2 year since then and now when I look back, there is still much to do, much more to accomplish, much more challenges ahead of the road – either you face it or hide from it. – Every challenge comes with an opportunity – Choice was ours and will always be ours. South Asian Diaspora Convention has today brought together intellectuals, business and industry leaders and policy makers under one roof and I hope I would be able to make some level of contribution to this initiative by sharing my experience and views.

I have no hesitation to admit that we come from a very humble background. My grandfather, my father, my brothers and my entire organization have struggled over the last 140 years and have grown from strength to strength. The task was made more difficult by series of political conflicts from time to time and the unstable environment as a result of the same. Coming from a country which featured nowhere in the global map when it comes to business was another challenge. But as you all know, **Entrepreneurs do not wait for the right time to come; they work to create right environment; therefore they are called dreamers; and if their dream is credible resources follow! Environment turn for better. They create opportunities out of crisis**

Like any other business personalities here with us, I was a small businessman from a small country with Big Dreams – dream to make it to the international arena, dream to develop our small business house into a multinational. There were lots of questions floating around - Can a Nepalese business house be developed into a multinational? Can Nepalese capital fund the creation of a multinational? The answer was clearly a NO. But our obsession was too strong to drop the process. But when I look back now, I realize there was always an alternative to “NO, I can’t” and that was “Yes, I can”. Our continued network with YPO, GLT/WEF including in Davos, Forbes and the various Forums of FNCCI and CNI, with the backdrop of many successes, with the distinction of having brought in international conglomerates such as Matsushita to Suzuki to LG to Nepal, having learned the organizational issues and how the multinationals function in Japan – not as a student but as a small time business man who used to travel there for months, having created reverse migration of number of FMCG products from biscuits to noodles to India, and subsequently having created a reasonably big brand like Wai Wai, now present in 40 countries .

While Chaudhary group was building stronger hold in various industries in Nepal, we put in equal effort to understand the global market and look for unprecedented opportunities for growth in the international market. More than money, our capital was our entrepreneurship, commitment, conviction, faith in ourselves and love and blessing of friends and family. Every such conferences and opportunity came with a liability – a liability to do justice to the investments that other have put into me. Our credibility of Nepal as an organization and as an entrepreneur and various success stories that we have been able to create became and still is the back bone of our businesses.

Our perseverance, commitment and credibility managed us to partner with well-known companies across the world such as TAJ, where we managed to them to Asian market instead of just being restricted to India, Europe or USA. We have tied up with LVT, Manipal, Coastal India, ICICI, Western Union and many more. We hope we could leverage on our goodwill and get into more strategic partnership – because SKY is the Limit.

Today I feel proud to have made the world recognize Nepal in some way the other in the business arena. I personally am convinced that Nepal has a huge future. Nepal being in between two of the world's largest economic power houses in the making – India and China, cannot go wrong. Both countries are poised to become the 1st and 3rd largest countries in the years to come. A country which has one of the highest hydro power potential and huge and hungry markets in our backyard, a country with two-third of our landmass covered by forest, agro, medicinal herbs, a country whose tourism survived even during the armed struggle, obviously has something to offer! Opportunities are built on challenges, hopes emerge out of crisis, solutions come out of problems – Yes! Nepal as a country has been going a difficult time at present and with political instability we have many challenges to face to build a sound business environment; But people of Nepal have realized and have seen the worst; now what lie ahead are untapped opportunities.

CNI (Confederation of Nepalese Industries), a professionally led manufacturing and service sector industry centered apex body of the large and medium scale industrial community of Nepal, have taken many initiatives to bring the economic agenda back to the centre stage and putting the economy back on track and organized a series of interactions and workshops to advocate it amongst the political and government wings. As a President of this confederation, I would like to take this opportunity to mention that CNI is committed towards expanding its present global linkages and network in order to promote and facilitate inward investments into Nepal. My Fellow CNI Members who is present here with me would agree that if only the issues in the political front is resolved which we are in the conclusive phase of doing so, We believe there is nothing in the world which will stop Nepal from being positioned as fast growing economy than Vietnam, Cambodia or even faster growing economy of Malaysia or Thailand in the 80s.

As said by Mahatma Gandhi – **“Be the change you wish to see in the world”**, my commitment as also the Member of Parliament will always be towards helping the government build the new constitution and put an end to this uninvited game of power and seat.

Living the odds for opportunities, beating your own best – is how you extract diamond out of coal; because to give anything less than your best is to sacrifice the gift.

Thank You.