

## **Trilateral Dialogue among Pakistan, China, and Nepal?**

ISLAMABAD: “There could be a trilateral dialogue among Pakistan, China, and Nepal,” said Mr. Ashraf Azim, President of the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) here in Islamabad on Wednesday. He was speaking at a roundtable with a media delegation from Nepal at IRS. Mr. Azim maintained that since Pakistan, and Nepal shared a lot in common with China such as a shared border, a belief in the principles of peaceful mutual coexistence, trade and economic linkages etc. a possibility for initiating a trilateral dialogue could be explored.

Brig. (Retd.) Bashir Ahmed, Senior Fellow at IRS, highlighted the history of cordial relations between Pakistan and Nepal and argued that there is great potential for cooperation in the economic field between the two countries. Mr. Basharat Hussain, Research Scholar at IRS, argued that Pakistan could learn a lot from Nepal in the field of tourism. He maintained that Pakistan’s tourism industry was not performing to its potential because of law and order situation in the country and gaps in infrastructure development. He called for greater cooperation between Pakistan and Nepal in the field of tourism.

Other participants of the roundtable included: Mr Arjun Bhandari, Bureau Chief of The Himalayan Times Daily; Mr. Ramesh Khadka, Editor of Dharahara Times Weekly; Mr. Gokarana Prasad Aryal, Deputy Executive Director Dorkhapatra Daily; Mr. Gopal Khanal, Chief News Section, Kantipur Daily; Mr. Chiran Ratna Shakya, Deputy Editor of Arpan Weekly; Mr. Kishore Kumar Sharma Sedai, News Editor/Reporter of Metro FM 94.6 Khatmandu Metropolitan City; Mr. Narendra Shrestha, Photo Editor of Kandipur Publications; Mr. Pramod Raj Sedhan, News Coordinator of Sagarmata TV; Mr. Bhadra Lal Sharma, Correspondent of Khatmandu Post Daily; Mr. Kamal Paryar, Correspondent of Republica Daily; Mr. Motilal Timalsina, Correspondent of Cheshta Weekly; Mr. Ashim Thapa, Senior Executive Member of Nepal Council of World Affairs; and scholars and researchers from IRS.