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ཕྱི་འབྲེལ་ལྷན་ཁག།

DEPARTMENT OF SAARC AND REGIONAL  
ORGANIZATIONS  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN

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### Press Release on 18<sup>th</sup> SAARC Summit

The Eighteenth Summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) will be held from 26-27 November 2014 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The member of SAARC countries are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Lyonchhen Tshering Tobgay will lead the Bhutanese delegation which will include Lyonpo Rinzin Dorje, Foreign Minister, Lyonpo D.N. Dhungyel, Minister, Ministry of Information and Communication, Foreign Secretary Yeshey Dorji and other senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Eighteenth SAARC Summit will be preceded by the Thirty-sixth Session of the SAARC Council of Ministers (SMC) on 25 November, the Forty-First Session of the SAARC Standing Committee (SSC) on 23-24 November and the Forty-Ninth Session of the Programming Committee (PC) on 22 November 2014.

The nine Observer countries namely Australia, the People's Republic of China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mauritius, the Union of Myanmar, the United States of America, and the European Union, will also be represented.

The theme of the Summit will be "Deeper Integration for Peace and Prosperity".

It is expected that during the Summit three Agreements on SAARC Motor Vehicles for the Regulation of Passenger and Cargo Vehicular Traffic, SAARC Inter-governmental Framework for Energy Cooperation (Electricity) and SAARC Regional Railways will be signed.

The Eighteenth SAARC Summit is being held after a gap of nearly three years. The Seventeenth SAARC Summit was held in Addu, Maldives in November 2011 and Sixteenth SAARC Summit in Thimphu in 2010.

The Summit is the highest deliberative body of the organization. It provides policy directives and guidance on regional cooperation and epitomizes the political will of the member states to pursue effective regionalism in South Asia.

The Government of Nepal is hosting the SAARC Summit for the third time.

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