

NEPAL INVITES MODI, IMRAN FOR SAGARMATHA DIALOGUE

Relevant for: Environment | Topic: Environmental Degradation - GHGs, Ozone Depletion and Climate Change

Pradeep Kumar Gyawali

Nepal has invited the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan, along with several other heads of governments and states, for the Sagarmatha Dialogue, officials said here on Thursday.

The three-day event from April 2 will be the biggest diplomatic dialogue in Nepal's recent history that will be attended by many global figures apart from the leaders of the SAARC countries.

"Invitations have been sent to over 150 foreign guests including heads of government and heads of states, Ministers, business leaders, media, members of multilateral organisations, think tank experts, academics, civil society leaders and activists," said a source aware of the work of the Sagarmatha Secretariat of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal.

The official also confirmed that other leaders of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) have been invited.

The Ministry, headed by Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, has been spearheading the preparations for the event, which is expected to focus on the threat of climate change to the modern world. Given the large number of global leaders, the event is expected to emerge as a venue for bilateral interaction among leaders.

India and Pakistan have been caught up in a cycle of hostility which has prevented Islamabad from hosting the SAARC summit since 2016.

The Kathmandu dialogue aims at drawing all the SAARC leaders and providing an opportunity to break the ice.

Earlier last week, the External Affairs Ministry announced that India had invited all heads of governments of SCO member countries for the heads of government council later this year.

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