

Dear Guests and Delegates

Good Morning

It's my honour to welcome you to this August event.

This congregation is to celebrate the 10 years of our successful settlement in Australia and the achievements we made. We are very thankful to the Australian government. It was in 2008 May 12 that Australian government led by Kevin Rudd welcomed first family for resettlement, giving us a second chance to revive our hopes to live a respectful life.

In a decade, Bhutanese community have established well in every state. Most are now Australian citizens, have bought houses, progressed well in professions and established businesses. Bhutanese resettlement is one of the best resettlement programs Australian has undertaken.

Our wounds of eviction have not healed. Yet we are here not reflecting our past but planning for future. We are charting out strategies and plans for next 5-10 years which will pave way for further advance and progress of the Bhutanese community and our friends. We will discuss about our challenges, success stories and inspirations, and create a vision for community's brighter future.

It will be the collective effort to weigh our weaknesses, strengths, challenges and opportunities.

Vision 2022 focuses on development of strategy and mission for the next five years and beyond, on five major thematic areas. Thanks to every individual members of the organising team who have pioneered in carving those visions and preparing the preliminary strategy papers, communicating interstates, planning and contributing time to make this event successful.

As a host, I Sushil Niroula on behalf of the organisations represented here - Association of Bhutanese in Australian, Sydney; Australian Bhutanese Society of Northern Tasmania; Bhutanese Association of Albury Wodonga; Bhutanese Australian Association of South Australia; Bhutanese Australian Community Support Group Albury Wodonga; Bhutanese Community Association of Southern Tasmania; Bhutanese Community in Australia, Melbourne; Bhutanese Community Melton and Cairns Bhutanese Community, sincerely convey gratitude to the government of Australia, the service providers and support groups who have given us new life.

I welcome all delegates and community leaders to this very important conference. I sincerely hope we will return home with big but practical plans and visions that benefit our community.

On this special occasion, I call on stage Laxman Yogi and Bhanu Adhikari, whose families were the first to arrive Australia for resettlement, for community felicitation.

Thanks