

# GURKHA INTERNATIONAL GROUP

Website: [www.gurkha.com.hk](http://www.gurkha.com.hk)

## Newsletter

Issue 295 – March 2022



### Shipping Companies And Ships Linked To Us

We are working with 11 shipping companies, and have 435 men and 67 women, a total of 502 crew and staff, under management.

### GI (HK) Business

We are providing security services for 24 Hong Kong Clients and have 84 security staffs employed.

### We welcome:

Nil

In March, 12 crew rejoined ships. We have another 63 scheduled to go back to work during the next month or so.



### ***SUPERSTAR AQUARIUS***

We publish this month a photograph of SUPERSTAR AQUARIUS of Star Cruises.

If you have pictures or postcards of your ship, please send them in to us for future Newsletters.

I have earlier commented on the bankruptcy of Genting Hong Kong, which continues its sad course at the moment. Our crew on board the ships of Star and Dream Cruises are all returning home now. Many are already in Nepal. It seems that Genting's ships will not be operating in whole or in part. V Ships has taken on managing repatriation, but is not, as far as we are aware at the moment, hired to manage the ships for other owners.

We are sorry indeed to see the end of our twenty-five years with Genting. Initially for Star's ships, then later for those of Dream Cruises, we have established a proud record of service wherever their ships sailed. We have been proud to work for the lines that first established Asian cruising all those years ago. On behalf of all of us at GIMS and BGOS, I thank all of you who have ever worked for Star and Dream Cruises for your dedication to duty and the success you achieved. It has been remarkable and you can be very proud of what you have done.

We will do our best to find vacancies for those who have been made redundant.

### Editor of Newsletter:

➤ Mamta Gurung Tamang



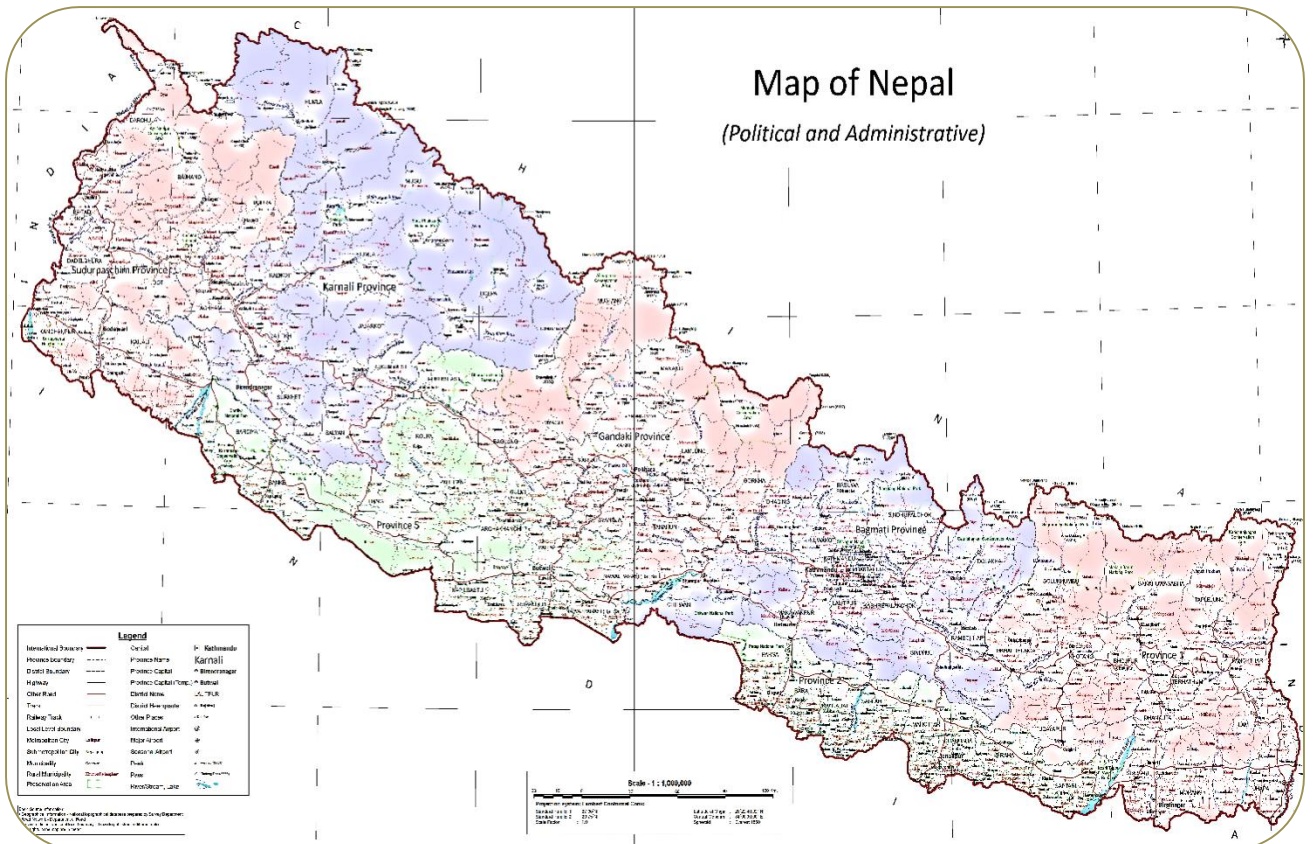
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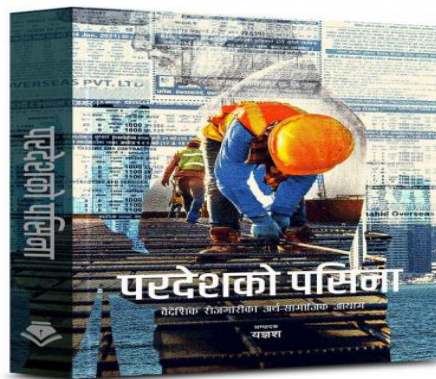
# World Security

We are all watching online and in the media the horrors being inflicted upon the people of Ukraine by the Russian invasion and destruction of their country. This reckless Russian aggression will destabilize the whole of Europe for many years to come. The security situation across the world is now in a very more delicate position than it has been for decades. The possibility of a spark igniting a wider conflict will not go away until this aggression is defeated.

The response of the rest of the world has so far been inadequate to deter Russia from continuing its atrocities; Europe continues to buy Russian energy sources in huge quantity. Only the bravery of the Ukrainian resistance is pushing back the invaders. We can only wish them well.

# Nepal News

## **‘Paradesh Ko Pasina’, a book on socio-economic dimensions of foreign employment, launched**



The book authored by journalist Yangesh is published by Kitab Publishers.

According to a press statement released by the publisher on Thursday, the book talks about foreign employment and remittance that have had a great impact on the Nepali economy and the wider effect it continues to have on Nepali society.

The book discusses the history of foreign employment and government policies on foreign employment and the importance of remittance in Nepal, and questions the established beliefs and concepts about the use of remittance. It also touches upon the status of those in foreign employment including women, and the role remittance plays in the economic upliftment of the Dalit community, according to the statement.

The book contains seven articles prepared through studies, research and available data as well as interviews with experts like Maina Dhital, Raja Ram Gautam, Tula Narayan Sah, Ramesh Kumar, Sajna Baral, Ram Chandra Shrestha and Janak Raj Sapkota.

“There is a need to discuss many dimensions of foreign employment and how it greatly affects socio-economic development,” said Yangesh, the author and editor of the book. “The book attempts to present an analysis on these aspects.”

## Tourism is reviving, March data show



Nepal received 42,006 foreign tourists in the month including 15,013 from India, nearly matching pre-pandemic levels.

Hotels and restaurants in the tourist hub of Thamel are jumping back to life after two years of deathly quiet as the tourists return. Adventure seekers are putting the pandemic behind them, and are once again ready to pound the Himalayan trails, insiders said.

It's spring in Nepal, and the high season has begun. On a sunny Sunday morning, trekkers and mountaineers could be seen swarming over hotel lobbies strewn with colourful trekking gear, making last minute preparations before flying to mountain airstrips which will be their staging point into the Himalaya.

Lukla airport, one of the busiest in the country, is the gateway to Everest. Other popular Himalayan destinations are Annapurna, Dhaulagiri and Manaslu.

“It seems the tourists are back,” Bijay Amatya, CEO of Kora Tours, told the Post.

Nepal received 42,006 foreign tourists in March, the highest monthly arrivals in almost two years.

“This shows signs of tourism recovery to pre-Covid figures,” said Deepak Raj Joshi, former chief of the Nepal Tourism Board, the country’s official tourism promotional body.

According to the [Department of Immigration](#), Nepal welcomed 15,013 tourists from India, the country's largest source market, followed by 4,029 from the United Kingdom and 4,896 from the United States.

Arrivals in March 2022 were up 2.8 times the figure in March 2021. Insiders say arrival numbers are getting closer to pre-pandemic levels.

Source: [The Kathmandu Post](#)

# Hong Kong News

## **Coronavirus: Hong Kong to cut 14-day flight suspension rule to 7, convert 13 isolation hotels back into quarantine facilities for travellers**



Hong Kong will reduce a 14-day suspension for flights carrying in passengers infected with Covid-19 to a week with the trigger for this ban kept at three cases, a move the city's leader has justified as striking a balance between contagion risks and public tolerance without straining the healthcare system.

Authorities will also convert 13 hotels previously designated as isolation facilities for coronavirus patients or close contacts into quarantine premises for arrivals.

At her daily press briefing on Sunday, Chief Executive Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor dismissed calling changes in the suspension mechanism a “relaxation”, adding that prevention of imported infections was still “a fundamental pillar” to the city's anti-epidemic policy.

“The government considered it timely and necessary ... to lift the ban in respect of these nine countries but it doesn't mean that we will loosen all the necessary anti-epidemic controls as far as importation of cases is concerned,” she said, referring to another measure that will also take effect from April 1.

Starting from April 1, if a flight is found to have three or more passengers who test positive for Covid-19 upon arrival, the airline will be banned from operating that route into Hong Kong for seven days.

[Source: South China Morning Post](#)

## Hong Kong finance chief expresses ‘firm confidence’ in city’s future despite predicted economic downturn in first quarter



Hong Kong’s finance chief has predicted that the economy contracted in the first quarter of the year, putting an end to previous growth, but has expressed confidence in the city’s ability to recover.

In a blog post on Sunday titled “The first quarter in wind and rain”, Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po also predicted the unemployment rate would rise further in what was a “stormy” three months.

The unemployment rate for the three months ending in February rose to 4.5 per cent, the highest in nearly five months, as the city’s toughest social-distancing measures took a heavy toll on the catering and retail industries.

Retail sales in February would fall for the first time in a year, while growth in exports was expected to slow down, he forecast.

Chan attributed the economic downturn to a variety of internal and external factors, including the fifth wave of coronavirus infections in the city, tensions in international geopolitics, China-US relations and rising inflation.

Therefore, Hong Kong’s economy will inevitably contract in the first quarter, interrupting the previous four consecutive quarters of recovery,” he wrote.

Hong Kong’s gross domestic product (GDP) grew 6.4 per cent in 2021, with Chan previously saying the year was one of “recovery” due to strong exports, a stabilised pandemic situation and a consumption voucher scheme that boosted local spending.

Despite the challenges ahead, he still expressed “absolute and firm confidence” in the city’s economic prospects.

Source: South China Morning Post

# Conclusion

Despite the war in Ukraine and the continued threat from Covid, the cruise industry is getting back on its feet again. Our clients are beginning to operate their full fleets. It is going to take a while to get everyone back to work, but we shall be working to do so as soon as we can over the next few months. Wish us luck!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Collett', written in a cursive style.

Nigel A. Collett  
Managing Director