

Brief Resume of Hon'ble Member Dr. Surya Dhungel (Visiting Professor/Senior Advocate)

(Dr) Surya Dhungel is a Senior Advocate and Professor of Law. Currently, he is a Member of the National Human Right Commission of Nepal. He is academically associated with the Kathmandu University School of Law as visiting professor of law and as a Member of the Planning Advisory Committee. He is also a Chairman of the Management Board of the National Law College, affiliated with Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu.

As senior practising **Attorney at Law**, Dr. Dhungel headed until recently a corporate consultancy firm, LawMan Inc. (for legal solutions and management services) as Chairman in Kathmandu. As Senior Advocate and Member of the Bar, he contributed to the Advisory Committee of the Nepal Bar Association. And as Constitutional Expert and Senior Adviser, he is associated with the Forum of Federations, a think-tank Organization and global network of federal governments based in Ottawa, Canada. He has also served as Legal Adviser to the President of Nepal between 2008 and 2015.

Except the period between 1999 and 2006 when he took up a job with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNOHCHR) to serve in **Cambodia** (as Chief of Legal Unit), in **Liberia** (as Rule of Law Adviser) and in **Thailand** (as Constitutional Expert), Dr. Dhungel was simultaneously engaged in teaching and law practice since 1977. Initially, he practiced law at the lower courts and later at the Supreme Court in Kathmandu.

While in Liberia (2004-2006) where he was **seconded to the United Nations Mission** (UNMIL) for two years, his job was to act as the **Rule of Law Adviser** and ensure effective observation of Human Rights. On his return from Liberia to Kathmandu on 'special leave without pay' in June 2006, he contributed to the constitution building support program of the UNDP Nepal as Senior Project Manager for 18 months before he was asked by the first President of Nepal to serve as his Legal Adviser (2008-2015).

In the academic sector, Dr. Dhungel's career at the Faculty of Law, Tribhuvan University, in Kathmandu lasted for over 22 years as Professor until he voluntarily took retirement in 1999, as stated earlier, to join the United Nations OHCHR as Chief of Legal Unit in Cambodia. During his active years of teaching and law practice, he contributed to the constitution-making of both 1990 Constitution and the new 2015 Constitution (promulgated on 20 September 2015) in his capacity as constitutional expert and civil society leader. As civil society leader, he played a significant role at the policy making level for constitution building (as Coordinator of Nepal Constitution Foundation's Project and Consortium of Constitutional Experts-CONCOE) and strengthening the parliamentary process (as President of the Society for Constitutional and Parliamentary Exercises (SCOPE), a national NGO, and also fought public interest cases at the Supreme Court in areas of

resource conservation, human rights and the rule of law (as President of LEADERS-Nepal, a legal and environmental NGO).

Dr. Dhungel holds LLM and PhD degrees in constitutional law, and has received advance training (Diploma) in the areas of human rights, water law and conservation management from Italy, Netherlands and USA. He has co-authored two leading books on the **Nepalese Constitution (1990)** and **legal system of Nepal** (1985) in English, and published several articles on contemporary legal, social and human rights issues. He has contributed papers in many national and international events and traveled widely to more than 35 countries. He is married and has two daughters.