

Fifth Britain-Nepal Academic Council Annual Lecture

Crisis in Education: Challenges for the Future Government of Nepal

Kedar Bhakta Mathema

**former Vice-Chancellor, Tribhuvan University, and former Nepali Ambassador
to Japan**

SOAS Vernon Square campus, room V111

(off Penton Rise, near King's Cross and Angel tube stations:

See <http://www.soas.ac.uk/contact/location.cfm?navid=1110> for map)

(please note: this is NOT the central SOAS campus near Russell Square)

Thursday, 16th November 2006, 6 p.m.

Graduating from Tribhuvan university (TU) in 1966, Kedar Bhakta Mathema started his career as a lecturer at Tri-Chandra College and the then College of Education in Kathmandu. He served in TU for nine years in various capacities – lecturer, head of department, and the Campus Chief of the central university campus. After he resigned from TU in 1975 he worked briefly in Bhutan for UNICEF and later joined the World Bank Mission in Nepal as a programme officer. In 1990 he left the World Bank and returned to TU as its Vice Chancellor. He resigned from TU in 1994. In 1995 Mathema served as the chairman of a high-level committee on youth affairs. In 1996 he was appointed Royal Nepalese Ambassador to Japan, where he served for a little over six years. After his return, he headed a team of university professors to study students' performance at the school level and recently submitted a report on the subject to the Ministry of Education and Sport. Mathema also briefly served as a member of the high-level task force to review Nepal's foreign policy in August this year. He is currently a member of the Senates of Purbanchal University and the National Academy of Medical Sciences in Nepal.

Mathema has been awarded Honorary Doctors of Letters by Soka University, Tokyo, and Gorkha Dakshin Bahu IInd class. He was also the first recipient of the Hem Bahadur Malla Award for his contributions to Nepal's educational development and management.