

Trade barriers for women discussed

KATHMANDU (REPUBLICA): Pointing out various problems for trade like transport problems, documentation hassles, procedural obstacles in customs points, transit problems and lack of branding, among others, experts and officials have said that a wholesome package was needed to promote women entrepreneurship. Speaking at a national consultation program organized by South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environ-

ment (SAWTEE) in the capital on Thursday, they also emphasized the need for benchmarking the quality of products to increase exports. Sophie Kemkhadze, deputy country director of UNDP, opined that the non-tariff barrier is hindering the prospects of trade within the South Asian region.

Also speaking at the program, Constituent Assembly member Arzu Rana Deuba noted that women-led entrepreneur-

ship was playing important role not only for poverty alleviation but also for wealth creation.

Similarly, Ananda Kesari Pokharel, under secretary at the Ministry of Industry, reiterated the government's commitment to encourage women's participation in industrial sector and said that the government has introduced provisions for collateral-free loan of up to Rs 500,000 at 6 percent interest rate for women entrepreneurs.