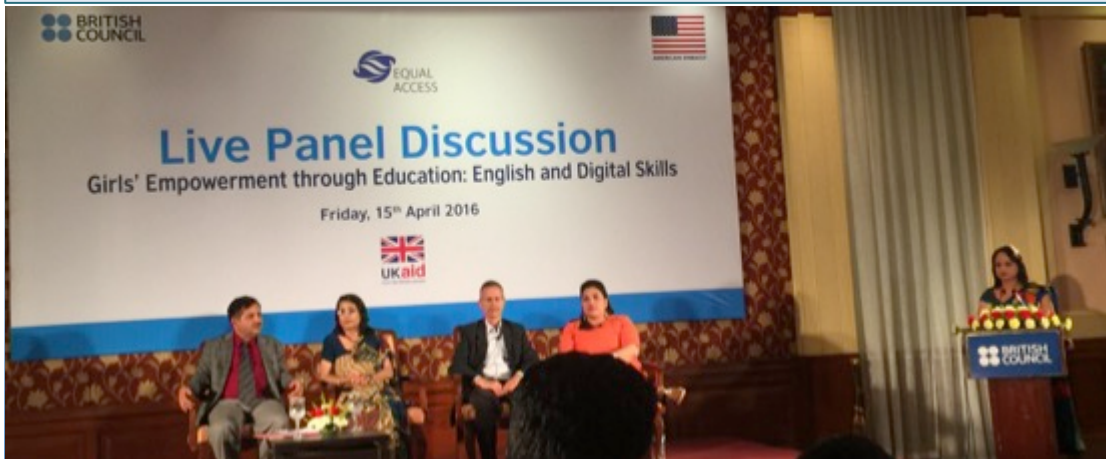


## Girls Empowerment Through Education: English & Digital Skill



*Association of British Alumni in Nepal (ABAN) is a not-for-profit social organization affiliated with the British Council, active for the welfare of the Nepalese, who studied in UK and pursue an interest in the socio-economic development of Nepal. ABAN also works for the cultural and educational exchange between Nepal and Britain.*

ABAN President Mr. Maheswor Bhakta Shrestha attended the EDGE event – Documentary launch and Live Panel Debate organized by the British Council at Radisson hotel on 15 April 2016.

The British Council Nepal launched a documentary – **Bridging the Gap**: English and Digital for Girls Education (EDGE) highlighting how Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) through English language has been changing lives for better for many adolescent girls of Nepal, India and Bangladesh

**EDGE**: English and Digital for Girls' Education is a high-impact, human rights project designed and delivered jointly by the British Council, the U.S. Embassy and Equal Access Nepal.

Researches have shown that learning English can also improve access to ICT, as English is the predominant language of the



Internet. English language skill facilitates to learn how to use ICT materials,' which greatly increases opportunities for employment, peer networking and communication to the wider community.'

The program also hosted a panel debate on Girl's Empowerment through Education: English and Digital Skills. The panel included scholars of Nepal, namely Director General of Department of Education Khagraj Baral, researcher Prof Dr. Bidya Nath Koirala, academician Prof Dr. Susan Acharya and researcher Kajal Pradhan.

The session was aired Live on the Nepal television. It was attended by prominent educationists, senior government Ministry of Education officials, TV and other media journalists a to witness progress made in the EDGE project .The event also exhibited photographs of EDGE project.

Country Director of the British Council Dr. Jovan Ilic highlighted the very significant progress made by EDGE project in educating English to the village girls and their exposure to digital media.





## 5th ABAN EC Meeting Held



ABAN president Maheswor B. Shrestha attended the EDGE program of the British Council program on April 15, 2015 at hotel Radisson.

*Continued from page 1 . . . . .*

With the successful pilot project in Bangladesh, where 100% of participants demonstrated improved confidence in English and ICT skills, the British Council, with its partners, initiated the EDGE project in five districts of Nepal, namely, Kavrepalanchowk, Lalitpur, Gulmi Makawanpur and Argakhanchi during September 2015 to March 2016. The target of the project is 160 peer group leaders, 1920 adolescent girls of the rural area and wider community. The project has created non-formal, community - based English and ICT clubs for girls.



"I have gained a lot from EDGE project. This project helped me understand how English language can help us communicate better and how digital skills are important for girls to prepare themselves for global market"

### **ABAN President**

Maheswor Bhakta Shrestha  
[mahesworbs@gmail.com](mailto:mahesworbs@gmail.com)  
 Cell 9851094345

### **Publication Coordinator**

Punya Prasad Paudel  
[punya.paudel@gmail.com](mailto:punya.paudel@gmail.com)  
 Cell 9841797451

The fifth Executive Committee meeting of ABAN held on April 01 in Lalitpur discussed the following agenda:

**1. Fund Raising:** To finance different activities of ABAN, a proposal would be submitted to the British Council for a contract to channel up to 400 students per month for IELTS test with Rs.800 per students for the services rendered.

**2. Publication of Newsletters:** Six issues of ABAN Newsletter have been published since 2015 to report ABAN activities and to promote networking between members. It was proposed to request British Council for printing and for uploading it in BC Website as was done in the past.

**3. Financial Status:** Ms. Rupa Basnet Prasai briefed financial updates of ABAN with bank balance of Rs.339,723 in three accounts:  
 a) Mega Bank account at New Baneshwor Rs.136,553 (30 March)  
 b) Nepal Bangladesh Bank, Ghantaghar Rs.190,903 (30 March)  
 c) NMB Bank, Babarmahal Rs.12,267.55 ( till 14 Sept. 2015)

Ms. Rupa will prepare bank reconciliation statement with receipt and payments of 2015/16 and handover cheque books, bill, vouchers, receipts etc. to Treasurer Mr. Hariom Dhoj Joshi soon.

**4. Membership Directory 2016** is ready for printing. Ad revenue will cover the cost. The British Council has agreed to support with an ad.

**5. AGM:** In view of July closing of annual accounts, it was decided to hold ABAN AGM in August/ Sept. 2016. Notice for AGM will be issued once audit is completed.

## New Life Members Joining ABAN from August 2015

1. Dr. Nastu Prasad Sharma (ID 491)
2. Miss Sanjivani Shrestha (ID 492)
3. Punya Prasad Paudel (ID 116 Ord. to Life)
4. Mr. Govinda Neupane (ID 493)
5. Mr. Janak Sharma Paudel (ID 494)
6. Mr. Shakti Kumar Golyan (ID 495)
7. Dr. Dhruva P. Acharya (ID143 Ord. to Life)
8. Mr. Ushik Shrestha (ID 496)

For further details, Please contact:

### **Membership Sub-Committee Chair:**

Mr. Tulasi Prasad Upreti, Mobile: 9851035007  
 Email: [t\\_upreti@yahoo.com](mailto:t_upreti@yahoo.com)

### **General Secretary**

Mr. Uttam Pant, ULCI Dillibazar  
 Cell: 9851020918 [uttampant@hotmail.com](mailto:uttampant@hotmail.com)

### **Treasurer:**

Mr. Hariom Dhoj Joshi, Cell 9851088446  
 9841214021 [hariomdjoshi@gmail.com](mailto:hariomdjoshi@gmail.com)

## ABAN President Appointed in KUKL Board



ABAN President Mr. Maheswor Bhakta Shrestha has been appointed as Independent Director in KUKL Board of Directors as decided by its 4th AGM on March 04, 2016 for a term of 4 years.

KUKL is a utility operator owned by the government and private sector for the operation and maintenance of drinking water supply and sewerage system of the Kathmandu valley.

## President & IPP Bereaved

ABAN President Maheswor Bhakta Shrestha has lost his mother Mrs. Tulasi Kumari Shrestha on February 15, 2015 at the age of 92 years. She was a kidney patient for over 12 years.

Immediate Past President Mr. Shankar Prasad Paudel also lost his father Mr. Rishiram Paudel on February 22, 2016 at the age of 95 years.