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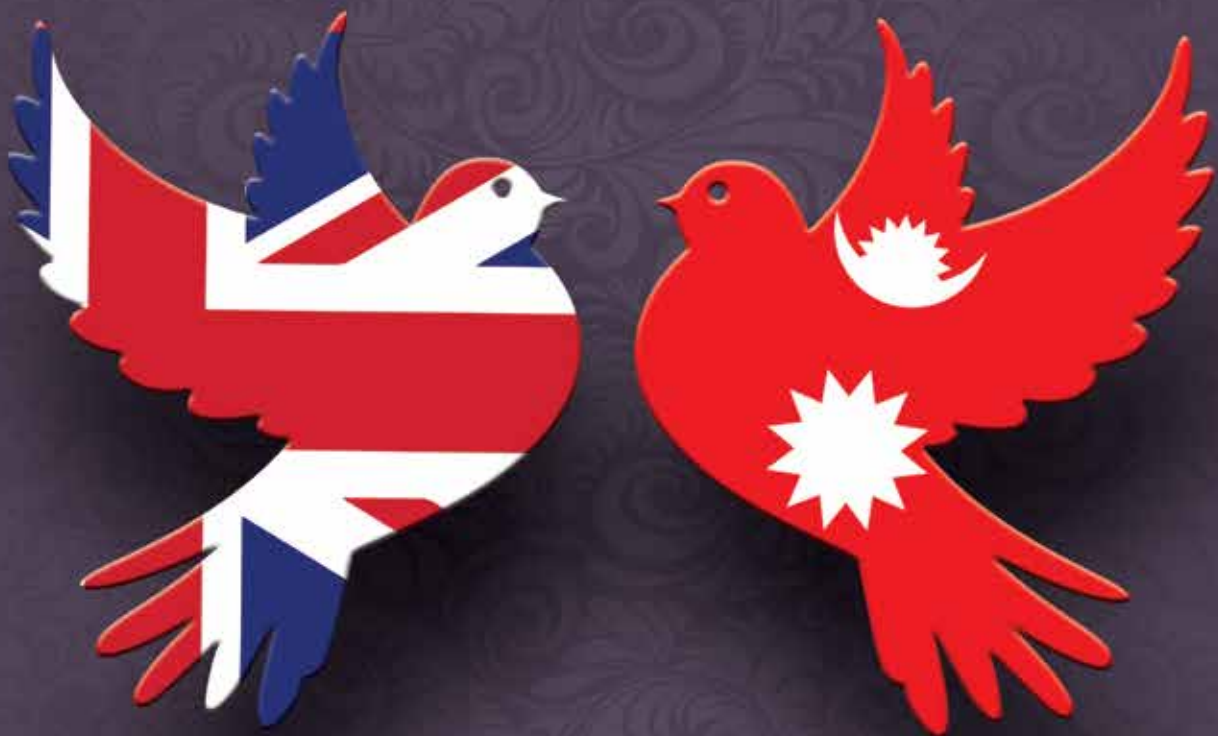
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ASSOCIATION  
OF  
BRITISH  
ALUMNI  
IN NEPAL



## MAGAZINE 2018

FEBRUARY 04, 2018



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Christmas carol on  
December 14, 2017 at the  
British Embassy garden.

10<sup>th</sup>

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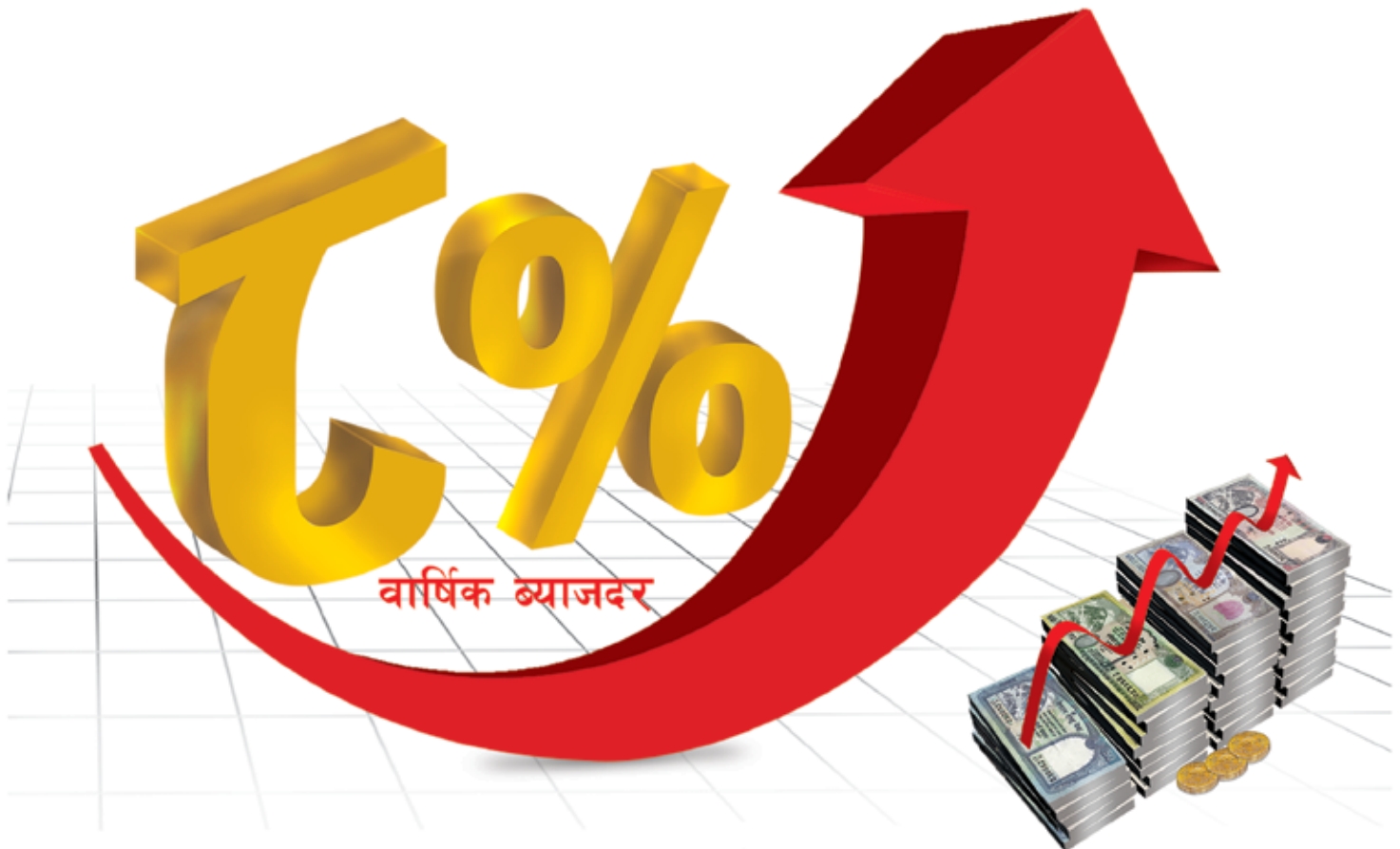
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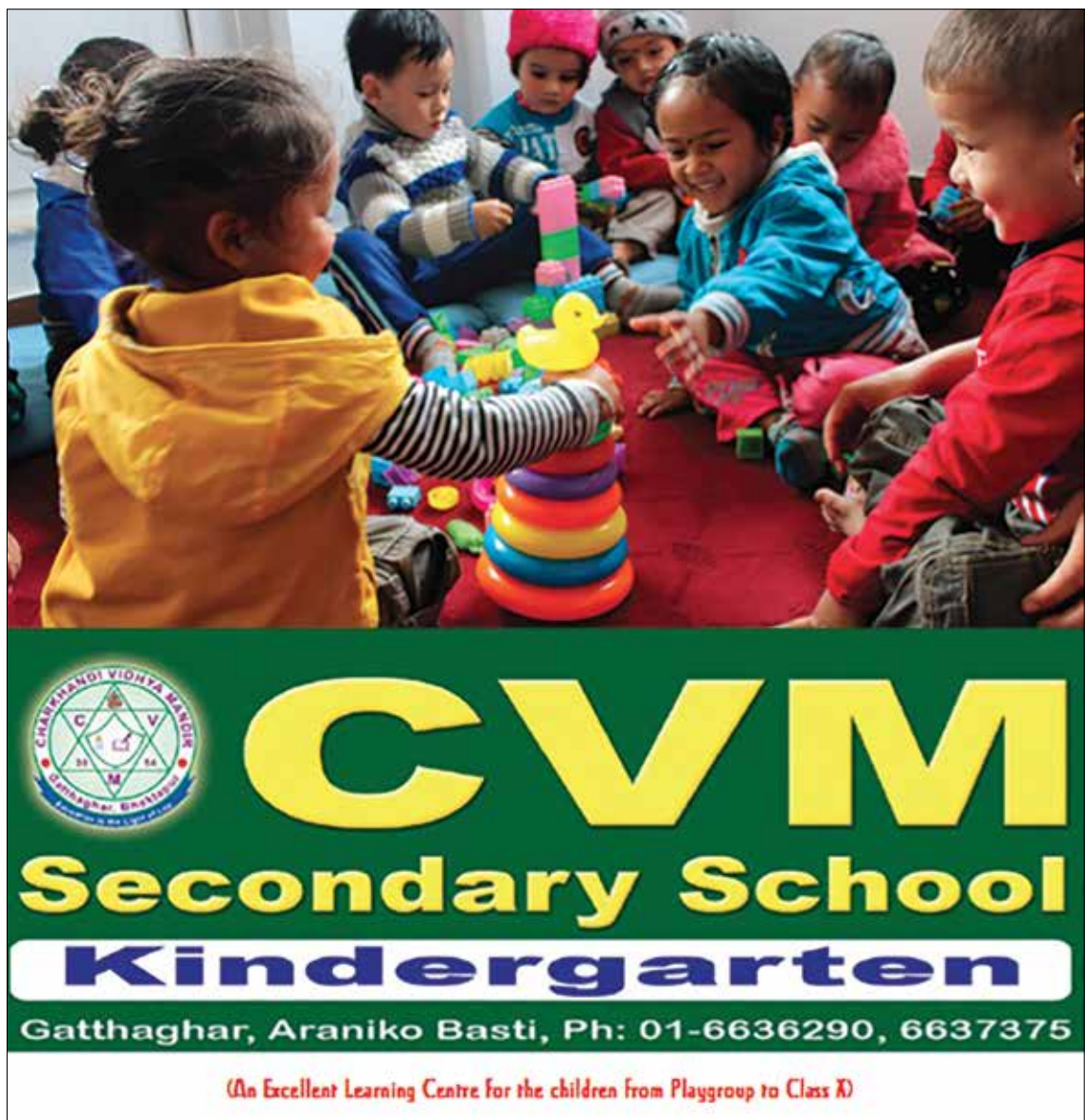



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
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## FOREWORD

FROM THE  
BRITISH AMBASSADOR

*I regularly meet ABAN members who look back fondly on their time in the UK, and who are now using what they have learned in Nepal.*



I am pleased to know the Association of British Alumni in Nepal (ABAN) is publishing the ABAN Magazine 2018.

The relationship between Britain and Nepal is two centuries old. It is a relationship that has many elements. Our security and defence relationship, embodied in the Gurkhas, is perhaps the most famous. The development partnership is strong, with Britain one of the most active partners in Nepal. We work hard to promote the commercial relationship, and brands like GSK, Standard Chartered and Unilever are well known here. But it is the people to people pillar of our relationship that finds expression in this magazine and one that is growing from strength to strength. This includes not only ABAN members and others who have studied in the UK, but also the tens of thousands of Nepalese undertaking UK qualifications each year, the 50,000 Britons who visit Nepal annually and the large Nepali diaspora in the UK.

I regularly meet ABAN members who look back fondly on their time in the UK, and who are now using what they have learned in Nepal. I hope you will all continue to work with us to build a modern productive, partnership between our countries in the years ahead.

Subhakamana, best wishes and  
Dhanyabad, thank you.

**RICHARD C MORRIS**  
HM Ambassador

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018

## MESSAGE

# FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR BRITISH COUNCIL NEPAL

*We celebrated 200 years of relations between our nations... British Council is celebrating 60 years of operations in Nepal, but for now let us quite rightly focus on the achievements of ABAN, so please do join me in helping them celebrate 20 years.*



We are delighted that ABAN will be completing 20 years since its formation on February 4, 1998. This is a significant milestone, which quite rightly should be celebrated. The Association of British Alumni in Nepal (ABAN) was formed by a group of budding enthusiasts who were given a home by the British Council. It was formed to link professionals working in different sectors in Nepal who had the common bond of having studied in the United Kingdom. ABAN fosters cultural, educational and academic interaction between Nepali and British professionals. There are now several hundred British alumni working in Nepal.

But why is ABAN and this relationship still so important? Well, primarily it enables returned scholars to establish contact with each other and to network more effectively thereby using the professional training and knowledge gained in the UK for the greater benefit of Nepal, and it is also of value to the UK business community. Perhaps you want to further develop contacts with Nepal and are looking for someone who has access to this local knowledge. Perhaps you need a highly trained and skilled individual to help develop your business or to exploit commercial or investment opportunities or are searching for someone with particular skills or experience that are hard to come by in Nepal. ABAN through its Membership, and specifically its Directory, is just such a collection of information.

From a very humble beginning, membership is healthy, communications, such as through its newsletter are





▲ British Council Country Director Dr. Jovan ILIC with ABAN president Maheshwor B. Shrestha and General Secretary Mr Uttam Prasad Pant

informative, and interesting and engaging events with guest speakers take place on a regular basis. The association and its rich bed of talent that all the returned alumni represent, provides a wonderful resource for the development of Nepal.

By sponsoring ABAN publications and by supporting ABAN events, the British Council continues to celebrate and to document all that is great about UK and Nepal relations. This is of vital importance for developing trust through cultural relations, and it is precisely cultural relations that the British Council was set up to do. In 1959 we began our formal relationship with Nepal

with the aim of helping Nepal become a more creative, open and inclusive society, with strengthened friendly knowledge and understanding between the peoples of Nepal and the UK. This hasn't changed, nor will it.

Through cultural relations we reach out to young people in education to provide them with skills and qualifications in order to prepare them to participate in society, to gain employment, and to develop as citizens; we also provide access to high quality knowledge and learning resources and the arts, and we engage with existing and emerging leaders, including the disenfranchised segments of Nepali society who are critical

to building resilient and open societies.

The future is bright. We celebrated 200 years of relations between our nations last year, the British Council is celebrating 60 years of operations in Nepal next year, but for now let us quite rightly focus on the achievements of ABAN, so please do join me in helping them celebrate 20 years.

Happy Anniversary ABAN.

Kind regards,

**JOVAN ILIC**  
Country Director  
British Council Nepal

## MESSAGE

# FROM THE FOUNDER PRESIDENT OF ABAN

***ABAN members ... have received training in the UK aimed at furthering Nepal's development... I have been gratified by the progress ABAN has made so far and wish for great success of the 20th AGM and beyond.***



Dear Maheswor Ji,

At the formation of the Association Of British Alumni in Nepal, the Ad-hoc Committee worked long and hard in the office space provided by the British Council which also contributed towards the logistics. We formulated a set of objectives we thought would confer unique benefit to the country, taking into account the diverse skills the proposed membership would have acquired while training or studying in UK in the decades past. To the usual medley of social, educational and economic aims such organizations have, we added a significant one, development. After all many of ABAN members were likely to have received training in the UK aimed at furthering Nepal's development.

It has been disappointing to me that over the years the subject of development took the back seat, except as a subject of a talk program. It is possible that the idea itself may have appeared to be too difficult to the members of an organization with no provision for funds for such purpose. Moreover, to some that would appear to be outside the scope of an NGO like ABAN.

However, as I explained vigorously at the time and subsequently our members would only propose and take part in pilot projects covering various aspects of development and funds would be solicited from any INGO or Embassy interested in Nepal's development. Thus a template will be provided on which further work could be planned.

This could still be done providing a significant course correction for ABAN and I urge the membership to give it serious consideration. I have been gratified by the progress ABAN has made so far and wish for great success of the 20th AGM and beyond.

**DR. NARAYAN BAHADUR THAPA**

Founder President

January 12, 2018



## PREFACE

## FROM THE PRESIDENT OF ABAN

*Please join me in celebrating the joyous moment of 20th anniversary of ABAN. While acknowledging support from the british embassy and the council, and cooperation from ABAN members, i venture to claim that ABAN is now more active and is strongly placed than ever before.*



Greetings to all Members of the Association of British Alumni in Nepal and to all organizations and agencies who have helped ABAN to come of age to Celebrate the 20 glorious years of its existence with invaluable fellowships, service to the needy people and contributions for the overall development of Nepal. We in ABAN are trying to strengthen and enrich people to people relations between Nepal and Britain at different levels.

To celebrate this joyous moment this edition of ABAN Magazine 2018 has been published to record some memorable events in the past 2 decades. ABAN members as British alumni are professional leaders highly placed in government offices, banks, best of schools and hospitals, thus indicating an enormous contribution of British education in the overall development of Nepal.

The year 2017 has become very significant in the ABAN's history with the establishment of two endowment funds of Rs. 500,000 each contributed by two Honorary members, namely Dr. Mrigendra Raj Pandey on January 27 and Dr. Mahodadhi Pradhan Shrestha on October 27 for the service of senior citizens and to enhance ABAN's other activities. ABAN has joined hands with the prestigious Mrigendra Sanjhana Medical Trust for the support of old age homes annually.

ABAN Magazines and Membership Directory, funded by the British Council Nepal, are tools of effective communication and networking between members and the society at large. In this context, active support of the members and executives of ABAN is gratefully acknowledged, while claiming that ABAN is now more active and is strongly placed than ever before.

**MAHESWOR BHAKTA SHRESTHA**  
President 2015-2019

## EDITORIAL

# FROM THE EDITOR'S PEN



***With all these activities ABAN is putting all its efforts to deliver something tangible to the community we live in, be it in a small way, apart from the activities related to the welfare of its own members.***

I take pleasure to bring to you the new issue of ABAN Magazine 2018 published to mark its 20th Anniversary. This issue is the Ninth in the series of its publication. Like in the past, we have put every effort to incorporate scholarly articles and information from experts in their respective fields to enrich your knowledge on the subjects. Despite a number of obstacles, we have walked through twenty glorious years since the day we realized the need for having an Association that can bind us together for a common cause of protecting and promoting the professional rights and interests of individual members; utilizing the knowledge and skills acquired in Britain to the development of the country; promoting the already existing friendly relations between our two countries specially the social, cultural and educational relations between our peoples; Sharing knowledge and experience through, meetings, social media and conduct of speaker's programs on the contemporary topics; and promoting British education in the country.

ABAN is engaged in philanthropic activities by extending its helping hands to those vulnerable groups of society that really needed some kind of support. As the manager of the trust fund received from Mrigendra Samjhana Medical Trust, ABAN helps out elderly peoples at Tapasthali, Budhanilkantha twice a year with essential items including medical supplies. It has received a similar fund recently which will be managed in a similar way for the benefit of yet another vulnerable group soon to be decided.

With all these activities ABAN is putting all its efforts to deliver something tangible to the community we live in, be it in a small way, apart from the activities related to the welfare of its own members. But since all these activities could not be carried out by few people all the time I would call upon all our dignified members to come forward with renewed interests and support ABAN in every possible way to make it a better organization

**PUNYA PRASAD PAUDEL**

*Publication Sub-committee Coordinator*







# ABAN CALENDAR OF EVENTS DURING 2017

## MONTH OF 2017

## MAIN ACTIVITIES

<b>January 21</b>	ABAN executives participate in the 18th annual general meeting of Association of Nepalese Alumni from Australia as special guest
<b>January 27</b>	15th ECM meeting of 9th ECM. 14th issue of ABAN Newsletter
<b>January 30</b>	MOU with Mrigendra Samjhana Medical Trust for an endowment fund of Rs.500,000/- in ABAN account to serve senior citizens
<b>February 04</b>	19th AGM and ABAN Day held at the British Council hall. ABAN Magazine 2017 released by the chief guest. ABAN formed 8 Sub-Committees to achieve its objectives, Tenth Executive Committee formed with most of the 9th ECM members continuing for a second term.
<b>February 16</b>	ABAN got tax clearance from Internal Revenue Department until Fiscal year
<b>February 21</b>	2072/73 after five years pending dues clearance 1st ECM meeting of the 10th ECM held and 15th ABAN Newsletter issued Four new Life Members inducted in the Association
<b>March 02</b>	Service to senior citizens of Tapasthali Bridhashram, Chapali. 24 senior citizens provided with food items as requested. New website <a href="http://www.aban.org.np">www.aban.org.np</a> launched in dynamic format
<b>March 30</b>	16th Issue of ABAN Newsletter published
<b>April- May 23</b>	2nd Executive Committee meeting
<b>May 28</b>	17th Issue of ABAN Newsletter published
<b>July 14</b>	3rd Executive Committee meeting. Group mail of ABAN Executives formed
<b>July 30</b>	18th Issue of ABAN Newsletter published
<b>August 06</b>	27 Nepali students in a cultural exchange program met with Nepalese Ambassador HE Dr. Durga Bahadur Subedi, who later joined ABAN
<b>August 11</b>	ABAN executives met with the British Council Director Dr. Jovan Ilic
<b>August 12</b>	18th Issue of ABAN Newsletter published
<b>August 26</b>	Service to senior citizens of Nisahaye Sewa Sadan, Shantinagar. 40 senior citizens there were served with medicine, food items and dry food stuffs as demanded by them. Mrigendra Samjhana Medical Trust donated the required fund for this service.
<b>August 31</b>	19th Issue of ABAN Newsletter published

## MONTH OF 2017

## MAIN ACTIVITIES

<b>September 08</b>	4th Executive Committee Meeting (ECM) held. Two new Life Members inducted in the Association
<b>October 27</b>	5th ECM held and 20th issue of ABAN Newsletter published. Four new Life Members inducted including one Honorary Member Dr. Mahodadhi Pradhan Shrestha. She contributed an endowment fund of Rs.500,000/- in ABAN's fixed deposit account.
<b>November 12</b>	Talk Programme on "Development priorities of Nepal in the changing context"- by Dr. Prabhu Budhathoki, Member National Planning Commission
<b>December 13</b>	Meeting with the British Ambassador HE Mr. Richard C. Morris
<b>December 14</b>	ABAN executives participated in the Christmas Carol Service at the British Embassy gardens
<b>December 17</b>	ABAN president attended the 19th AGM of the Association of Nepalese Alumni from Australia as special guest
<b>December 23</b>	6th Executive Meeting of the 10th Executive Committee
<b>December 26</b>	21st issue of ABAN Newsletter Nov.-Dec.2017
<b>2018 January 7</b>	One new Life Member inducted in the Association
<b>2018 January 8</b>	ABAN Executives and 52 students leaving for UK in cultural exchange program met with British Ambassador HE Mr. Richard C Morris.

## SEASON'S GREETING AND HAPPY NEW YEAR 2018



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## UK - NEPAL RELATIONS

*Britain and Nepal have a 200 years long relationship, longer than any other country's formal relationship with Nepal. This relationship has many pillars: political; development; military; and, of course, educational and cultural too. We very much value all elements of this relationship and want to keep it vibrant. Often, because of our long history, people want to talk to me about our shared past: about Jang Bahadur's visit to the UK in the 1850s, or the first hydro in Nepal built by the British in Pharping in 1911, or the British led expedition that reached the Summit of Everest in 1953. But I'm always keen to point out that this is a relationship that builds on those foundations to have a strong present and future.*

Today, the British government is working to help build an even more stable and prosperous Nepal. We are one of the biggest development partners, spending around £100m a year on development assistance (not counting the £143m we have committed to post-quake reconstruction). To give just a few examples of the depth of our cooperation: we fund organisations like the Investment Board of Nepal to help develop the hydro sector; we organise training to support Nepal's federalism agenda; and we work with the Foreign Ministry on issues such as climate change, modern slavery and UN reform. Working together to address global matters of shared concern will be a building block of our future relationship.

This broad and wide-ranging partnership is underpinned by a deep and enduring cultural relationship, especially in the field of education. The British Council organises thousands of exams every year so that Nepali students can gain UK-recognised qualifications. Separately, since it was started 32 years ago, more than a hundred Nepalis have gone to the UK to study for a Master's degree as Chevening scholars. We have expanded the Chevening programme in Nepal in recent years, enabling an increased number of Nepalis to study at UK universities every year. It is heartening to see Nepalis who have studied in the UK come back to Nepal and contribute to the development of their country.

The Association of British Alumni Nepal is a living example of the strong ties that exist through education, representing, as it does, the hundreds of Nepalis who have studied in the UK. I am proud the UK regularly tops the international university charts, with the two best universities in the world, as well as enjoying a fantastic reputation for scientific research. We top the charts for our contribution to science and technology, for example; and produce a disproportionate amount of research for a country of our small size. As such, it is great to see Nepalis choosing to study in Britain, and that British Universities like the University of the West of England and Leeds Beckett University, are offering courses in Nepal. Both institutions have deep roots, with Leeds Beckett going back to the 1820s, and UWE tracing its roots back to 1595. But both are forward-looking institutions offering a great range of cutting edge courses to students. It is great to have them represented in Nepal.

I hope you, like me, feel a proud and active part of the UK-Nepal relationship in all its facets – one with deep roots, but also one that is vibrant and growing.

**RICHARD C MORRIS**  
HM Ambassador





**EMBASSY OF NEPAL**  
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**Message from the Ambassador of Nepal to the United Kingdom,  
His Excellency Dr. Durga Bahadur Subedi**

The United Kingdom has occupied a very special place in the affection of the Nepali people. Nepal also holds a very special place in the hearts of the British people. Ever since the establishment of their diplomatic relations, friendship, mutual understanding, cordiality, cooperation and respect for each other's national interests and aspirations have guided their relationship.

Relationship between Nepal and the United Kingdom can be traced back to 1792 when the two countries signed a Treaty of Commerce. With the Treaty of Sugauli concluded in 1816, the formal diplomatic relation was established between the two countries.

The United Kingdom is the first country in the world with which Nepal had established diplomatic relations. The United Kingdom is also the first country in the world which established its Embassy in Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal. This is the country where Nepal had established its first diplomatic mission (Legation) in 1934, which was elevated to the Ambassador level in 1947 A.D.

The United Kingdom has been one of the biggest bilateral development partners of Nepal. It has contributed significantly to improve socio-economic conditions of the Nepali people. It has continued to provide substantial development cooperation to Nepal. The United Kingdom's valuable assistance has been utilized, in line with the priorities of the Government of Nepal, in critical sectors of development including vital infrastructures, health, education, transport, and telecommunications.

The United Kingdom is one of the major trading partners of Nepal. Nepal's trade with the United Kingdom is increasing. However, the trade balance is not in favour of Nepal. It is heartening to note that the annual British aid is on an increasing trend. Over the years, the close and cordial relationship between Nepal and the United Kingdom has grown manifold to cover diverse fields.

Growing people to people ties have contributed to make the relationship deeper and dynamic.

Besides the cooperation for development, the United Kingdom has also been a highly valued partner in Nepal's efforts for the institutionalization of democracy. The Nepali people value the moral and substantial support received from the British Government and people for their efforts towards strengthening democratic foundation and institutions. The government and people of the United Kingdom have welcomed the historical transformation in Nepal, taking place in recent years as a milestone in Nepal's history.

The Nepali people respectfully recall the historic state visits of Her Majesty the Queen to Nepal in 1961 and 1986. The Nepali people also recall the visits of Prince Charles to Nepal in 1986 and the recent visit of Prince Harry in March 2016. These state and official visits were taken by the Nepali people with high interest and in high esteem. Her Majesty the Queen's state visits and those of members of Royal family have left lasting memories among the Nepali people. These visits have helped enhance the close and cordial relationship between the two friendly countries and helped raise more goodwill and brotherhood towards Nepal and the Nepali people among the friendly British people.

The foundation of relationship between the two countries was not laid overnight. It took two hundred years. Their friendly relations have thus traversed through different eras and withstood the test of time. Celebrating two hundred years together is a momentous milestone for any bilateral relation in the case of Nepal and United Kingdom something for greater because these two countries hold close, cordial, cooperative and mutually rewarding relations.

The Embassy of Nepal in London organized a special ceremony comprising a week-long series of events including Nepali photo and painting exhibition, Nepali culture, food, music and literary festivals, Nepali trade exhibition and a special event in the honour of Gurkha veterans in March 2017 to commemorate the bicentenary of the establishment of bilateral relations between Nepal and the United Kingdom.

As Nepal and the United Kingdom entered the new era of their close, cordial and cooperative bilateral relations after celebrating two hundred



anniversary, the historic bond and cordial ties of friendship will gain a new height in the future.

I had a distinct honour to present my Letters of Credence as Ambassador of Nepal to the United Kingdom on the first day of December 2016 at the Buckingham Palace amidst a special ceremony with renowned and respected British tradition, decorum and style. It was truly a memorable day for me, and I would say, a great achievement of my life and diplomatic life. As Nepal's new Ambassador to the United Kingdom, I now have the privilege of serving to further promote the rich bilateral relations between Nepal and the United Kingdom.

My connection to the United Kingdom is old. Back in 1993, I arrived in this wonderful country as a student of Leeds University in the beautiful city of Yorkshire to pursue my Masters Degree in International Relations. My stay and study in this country not only enabled me to acquire a quality degree but also offered me an excellent opportunity to know its rich civilization and kind people. I now have responsibility to get Nepal and Nepali people more known in this great country.

I will use over three decades of my experiences and expertise in Nepal's Foreign Service in London and will try to work diligently and do everything I can to make sure Nepal is visible, noticed, remembered and respected in Great Britain.

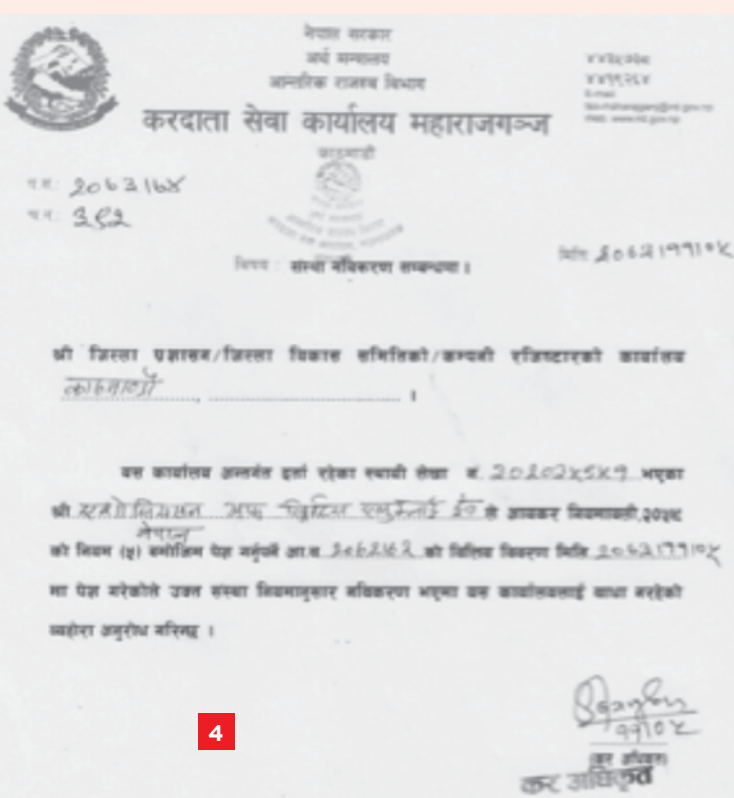
Having said these few words, I wish to convey my greetings and best wishes for every success of the ABAN and for the health, happiness and continuous progress of all the members of ABAN.

Dr. Durga Bahadur Subedi  
Ambassador of Nepal  
to the United Kingdom.



## ACTIVITY REPORT OF ABAN DURING 2017





1. MOU WITH MSMT

2. 19TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

3. SERVICE TO SR. CITIZENS

4. RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION

5. MEETING WITH BRITISH COUNCIL DIRECTOR  
AND THE AMBASSADORS

6. HONORARY MEMBERS

7. TALK PROGRAM





## 1. MOU WITH MSMT

A memorandum of Understanding was signed with Mrigendra Samjhana Medical Trust on January 30 to create an endowment fund of Rs.500,000/- for serving the senior citizens on annual basis.

## 2. 19TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The nineteenth annual general meeting of ABAN was held on February 04 at the British Council hall, where Chief guest Dr. Jiba Raj Pokhrel, VC NAST inaugurated the AGM by lighting panas and released the ABAN Magazine 2017.

## 3. SERVICE TO SR. CITIZENS

ABAN, in cooperation with Mrigendra Samjhana Medical Trust, served the 22 old aged ladies plus 4 staffs housed in the Tapasthali Bridhasram in Chapali, Budhanilkantha, on March 2. Association and MSMT also served 40 senior citizens of Nisahaye Sewa Sadan at New Baneshwor on August 26 with medicines, food items as requested. Dr. Mrigendra handed over the items.

## 4. RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION

Registration certificate of ABAN has been renewed after several years on July 14 after complying with the required audit reports and tax clearances.

## 5. MEETING WITH BRITISH COUNCIL DIRECTOR AND THE AMBASSADORS

ABAN executive met the British Council Nepal Country Director Dr. Jovan Ilic on August 11, and the British Ambassador His Excellency Mr. Richard Morris on December 13. ABAN executives were also invited in the Christmas Carol Service program on December 14 at the embassy ground.

The British Ambassador to Nepal again met with ABAN vice president Mr. Tulasi Prasad Uprety and general secretary Mr. Uttam Prasad Pant on January 8, 2018 in an interaction with 52 Nepalese students visiting UK on cultural exchange program. Earlier, a group of 27 Nepali students and teachers, on a Cultural exchange program in UK, led by ABAN General Secretary Mr. Uttam Prasad Pant met with Nepalese Ambassador in London on August 7.

## 6. HONORARY MEMBERS

ABAN has conferred on Dr. Mrigendra Raj Pandey as the first Honorary Member of the Association on January 27 in recognition of his significant contribution to the Association. On October 27, 2017 second Honorary Membership was awarded to Dr. Mahodadhi Pradhan Shrestha for her significant contribution to support the activities of ABAN.

## 7. TALK PROGRAM

Dr. Prabhu Budhathori, Life Member of ABAN and currently honorable member of the National Planning Commission of the Government of Nepal, delivered ABAN Talk on "Development Priorities of Nepal in the changing context" on November 12, 2017 amidst a gathering of members and guests. The current and relevant issues of Nepal attracted lot of questions and suggestions from the floor.





# TWENTY YEARS *of* ABAN

ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH ALUMNI IN NEPAL



***The year 2017 has become very significant in the ABAN's history with the establishment of two endowment funds of Rs. 500,000 each contributed by two Honorary members...***

**- MAHESHWOR BHAKTA SHRESTHA**  
*President 2015-2019*

## 1. THE BEGINNING

The Association of British Alumni in Nepal (ABAN), having been duly registered on February 04, 1998 with the District Administration Office, Kathmandu under registration number 547/05/55 as a non-government organization, has successfully completed 20 years of its existence, serving the alumni members and the people of Nepal. ABAN is an autonomous body, having the authority to acquire properties, collect funds etc. with rights to protect its name and property.

ABAN is now celebrating its 20th Anniversary on February 4, 2018. So, it is time to look back on the journey so far in retrospect. Here is how the founders of the Association had conceived of ABAN in the beginning of the millennium:

**Founder President Dr. Narayan Bahadur Thapa** wrote in August 2000: "ABAN came into being with well thought out objectives.....we wished to foster cultural, academic and economic ties between Nepal and the UK. We wanted to help our members in their quest for fruitful careers while working towards national development... we specifically wanted to develop a social network of the potentially huge membership. In the first 1000 days, the members have interacted socially

on a number of occasions. .... We have bettered our relationship with the British Council and the British Embassy. We have learnt the ongoing development process of Nepal through Talk program. We have had some inputs in the ongoing activities of the British Council providing British education for Nepalese students. I have little doubt for ABAN to make an impact, the future lies in exploring new ideas and pushing them forward. We have the talent, we have the ambition and diversity and I am certain that ABAN will make an impact".

**British Ambassador to Nepal H.E. Mr. Ronald P. Nash wrote:** "Since its inception in 1997, ABAN has been working steadily to develop its role in providing a forum for the networking of a vast number of Nepalese professionals trained in the United Kingdom. Various talk programs on the issues and topics of national importance and interest have been held and those have been well attended. There appears to be no dearth of talent among the ABAN members. I would like to assure ABAN of British Embassy's continued support and cooperation in fulfilling our common goals."

**The British Council Director Barbara Wickham said:** "The British Council believes that ABAN

is a very important organization in fostering mutual understanding and benefit between our two countries. This key group of individuals plays an important role in strengthening existing relationship and developing new ones – partnership no less important in development community than in the world of business”.

The situation now is aptly summarized by the present **British Ambassador HE Mr. Richard C. Morris** as he wrote in January 2017: “Britain-Nepal relationship has many pillars: political, military/ Gorkha, development assistance, people to people cultural. But one important pillar that we must not forget is the educational pillar- a really important link between our two countries. Thousands of Nepalese have completed UK qualifications in Nepal. We have provided development assistance in the field of education. And, importantly, various Nepalis have studied in UK, I am delighted, so many want to maintain their connections with Britain and each other..... Nepalis who studied in UK have risen to positions of influence and contributed substantially to Nepal....”

At the same time, the **British Council Country Director Dr. Jovan Ilic** wrote.... It (ABAN) was formed to link professionals working in different sectors in Nepal, who had the common bond of having studied in the United Kingdom. ABAN fosters cultural, educational and academic interaction between Nepali and British professionals. There are now several hundred British alumni working in Nepal”. He further adds on “why is ABAN and this relationship so important? Well, primarily it enables returned scholars to establish contact with each other and to network more effectively thereby using the professional training and knowledge gained in the UK for the greater benefit of Nepal, and it is also of value to UK business community. Perhaps you want to further develop contacts with Nepal and are looking for someone who has access to this local knowledge. Perhaps you need a highly trained and skilled individual to help develop your business or to exploit commercial or investment opportunities or are searching for someone with particular skill or experience that are hard to come by in Nepal. ABAN, through its membership, and specially with its Directory is just such a collection of information”.

An Ad Hoc committee, with the following members was formed in 1997 to establish this association:

**Dr. Narayan Bahadur Thapa as President, Mr. Ram Shakti Maskey as Vice president, Mr. Ujjyal Pradhananga as General secretary, Mr. Ramesh Shanker Palikhe as Treasurer and Mr. Chandi Prasad Bhatta, Mr. Dilli Raj Joshi, Mr. Rabi Jung Pandey and Mr. Abin Bhakta Pradhan as Members.**

## 2. ABAN OBJECTIVES

The Association was established to achieve the following basic objectives:

- 1) To strengthen Professional, Educational, Cultural and other relations between ABAN members and the British Professionals,
- 2) Take up necessary steps for proper use of special knowledge and skills acquired by ABAN members in UK for the professional activities in Nepal,
- 3) Promote the knowledge of British education for its proper use in the important sectors of Nepal's development,
- 4) Create opportunities for discussion on issues of national interest like environment protection, regional and international cooperation,
- 5) Ensure that the relevant government agencies of Nepal recognize and grants due status and privileges to the qualifications and trainings gained in the United Kingdom, and
- 6) Represent and protect the professional interest of ABAN members.

## 3. ABAN STATUTE

ABAN Statute 2054, subsequently amended by its annual general meetings in 2064 B.S and later amended again in 2068 B.S provides for:

**General Body** as the highest authority, including all members of the Association and the general body will elect 13-member Executive Committee body,

**Executive Committee** consisting of a president, vice president, general secretary, assistant general secretary, treasurer, assistant treasurer and 7 members elected for a term of two years.

Annual General Meeting (AGM) of ABAN is conducted on the date and place as decided by the Executive Committee. Past AGMs are listed below:

**Annual General Meetings (AGMs) Held**

SL. NO	YEAR & DATE	VENUE	PRESIDENT
1st	1998	The British Embassy Hall	Dr. Narayan Thapa
2nd	1999	The British Embassy Hall	
3rd	2000	The British Embassy Hall	Dilli Raj Joshi
4th	2001	The British Embassy Hall	
5th	2002	The British Embassy Hall	Narmada Sharma
6th	2003 November 23	The British Council courtyard	
7th	2004	Hotel Shanker, Lazimpat	Rabi Jung Pandey
8th	2005 December 10	SOS GH School, Sano Thimi	
9th	2007 January 6	The British Council Hall	Raghu Pant
10th	2008 February 8	The British Embassy Hall	
11th	2009		Lal K.C.
12th	2010 March	The British Council Hall	
13th	2010 December 20	Indreni Complex, Baneshwor	Dr. Uma Srivastava
14th	2011 January 28	The British Embassy Hall, Lainchour	
15th	2012		
16th	2014 March 15	SOS GH School, Sano Thimi	Shankar Prasad Paudel
17th	2015 April 11	The British Council Hall, Lainchour	
18th	2016 June 25	Universal LCI, Dillibazar	Maheswor Bhakta Shrestha
19th	2017 February 4	The British Council Hall, Lazimpat	
20th	2018 February 4	The British Council Hall, Lazimpat	

**The main office bearers of ABAN in the ten Executive Committees are listed below:**

ECM	YEAR	PRESIDENT	VICE PRESIDENT	GENERAL SECRETARY	TREASURER
1.	1997-2000	Narayan Bahadur Thapa	Ram Shakti Maskay	Dilli Raj Joshi	Rabi Jung Pandey
2.	2000-2002	Dilli Raj Joshi	Namrata Sharma	Lal K.C.	Rabi Jung Pandey
3.	2002-2004	Namrata Sharma	Rabi Jung Pandey	Raghu Pant	Prem Ratna Sthapit
4.	2004-2006	Rabi Jung Pandey	Raghu Pant	Maheswor Shrestha	Prem Ratna Sthapit
5.	2006-2008	Raghu Pant	Maheswor Shrestha	Shanker Paudel	Prem Ratna Sthapit
6.	2008-2010	Lal Krishna K.C.	Uma Shrivantava	Deepak Chalise	Hari Shanker Shrestha
7.	2010-2012	Uma Shrivantava	Madhuri Karki	Prabhu Budhathoki	Binaya Hari Maskey
8.	2013-2015	Shanker P. Paudel	Tulasi Prasad Uprety	Mahendra Khanal	Rupa Basnet
9.	2015-2017	Maheswor Shrestha	Tulasi Prasad Uprety	Uttam Prasad Pant	Hariom Dhoj Joshi
10.	2017-2019	Maheswor Shrestha	Tulasi Prasad Uprety	Uttam Prasad Pant	Hariom Dhoj Joshi

**4.ABAN MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

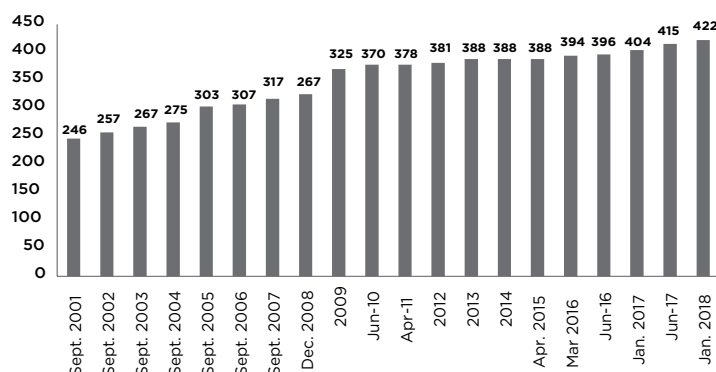
Membership is the main strength of any Association and so is the case of ABAN. Membership of ABAN is open for persons having completed at least 12 weeks long under-graduate, graduate or post- graduate studies or training in UK. The eligible candidate can become Ordinary or Life Member.

ABAN MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT			
DIRECTORY PUBLISHED IN	TOTAL MEMBERS	LIFE MEMBERS	ORDINARY MEMBERS
2001	246		
May 2005	302	210	92
June 2010	378	283	95
March 2016	394	314	80
June 2017	415	335	80
January 2018	422	342	80



ABAN Membership Directory published in 2001 listed 246 members. Membership increased to 302 by March 2005, and to 378 by June 2010. The new Membership Directory March 2016, listed 394 members, including 314 Life members and 47 lady members. They studied 76 different specialties in UK.

## ABAN MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



YEAR	MEMBERSHIP TYPE			TOTAL MEMBERS	GROWTH	REMARKS
	LIFE	ORDINARY	ASSOCIATE			
<b>Sept. 2001</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>128</b>		<b>246</b>		
Sept. 2002	146	111		257	+11	
Sept. 2003	163	103	1	267	+10	
Sept. 2004	171	103	1	275	+8	
<b>Sept. 2005</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>+28</b>	
Sept. 2006	210	96	1	307	+4	
Sept. 2007	220	96	1	317	+10	
Dec. 2008	229	96		325	+8	
2009	261	109		370	+45	
<b>June 2010</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>95</b>		<b>378</b>	<b>+8</b>	
April 2011	294	84		378	0	
2012	299	82		381	+3	
2013	306	82		388	+7	
2014	306	82		388	0	
Apr. 2015	306	82		388	0	
<b>Mar 2016</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>80</b>		<b>394</b>	<b>+6</b>	
June 2016	316	80		396	+2	
Jan. 2017	324	80		404	+10	1 Honorary
June 2017	335	80		415	+11	
Jan. 2018	342	80		422	+7	2 Honorary

By June 2017, ABAN membership has increased to 415 (including 335 Life members). This includes 27 new Life members plus 2 Ordinary members converted into Life member category during August 2015 to June 2017.

ABAN MEMBERS	APRIL 2015		JUNE 2017		JANUARY 2018	
	MEMBERS	LADIES	MEMBERS	LADIES	MEMBERS	LADIES
Total Members	394	47	415	50	422	52
Ordinary members	80	18	80	18	80	18
Life members	314	29	335	32	342	34

Despite huge potential for recruiting new members from the large pool of British trained people in the country, ABAN's membership growth has stagnated in the recent past. Many ABAN members are out of Kathmandu on assignments and are not available for ABAN's activities.

Nepalese students are returning home after their study in UK every year. So, a concerted

effort is needed to attract new members in the Association in order to enrich its professional and financial strength. British government is now offering Chevening scholarship for some 30 persons annually, administered by the British Embassy, and a new Chevening Alumni Association in Nepal is also operational.

Some nine of the listed members of the Association have expired.

ABAN Statute has a provision for Honorary membership by the decision of the Executive Committee for any person who has donated cash or equivalent worth more than Rs.100,000/- (Rupees one hundred thousand) to ABAN or any person who has made a special contribution to the Association.

ABAN has conferred the first Honorary Membership to Dr. Mrigendra Raj Pandey on January 27, 2017 for contributing an endowment fund of Rs.500,000 for the support of senior citizens. Second honorary membership of ABAN was conferred to Dr. Mrs. Mahodadhi Pradhan Shrestha on October 27, 2017 for her contribution of Rs.500,000/- for the welfare activities of ABAN as decided by its executive committee.

## 5. FINANCIAL SITUATION

The Association is not a very resourceful organization as its funding sources are limited to nominal membership fee, their contributions, donations, surplus of advertisement revenue in its various publications, grants from sponsors and other fund- raising activities. Financial strength is needed to support the various activities and support projects, annual general meetings and for its sustainability. The membership fee is so low (Rs.1600 for life membership) that some contribution/ donation is sought from its members to strengthen the Association. ABAN's audited balance sheets of the past one decade reveal that the Association had the highest cash/bank balance of Rs.496,381 in July 2011, and since then the cash/ bank balance has gradually diluted in the subsequent four years to Rs.289,340 by July 2015.

The financial situation of ABAN has been reversed since fiscal year 2015/2016 to Rs.334,628 by July 2016 , Rs.930,674 in July 2017 and Rs.1.53 million by January 2018.

The Association has forged cooperation with other social organizations to undertake support projects jointly. One such organization is Mrigendra Samjhana Medical Trust, which has provided an endowment fund plus Rs.30,000 in January 2017 to undertake annual support to senior citizen homes in Kathmandu. The Trust has also set aside another fund of Rs.500,000/- for supporting ABAN activities from its annual interest income. Another philanthropist Dr. Mahodadhi Pradhan Shrestha has kindly offered ABAN a fund of Rs.500,000/- in October 2017 for

supporting its good works. ABAN is now financially more stable than ever before also because of the strong support of the British Council and the honorary members.

The British Council has greatly supported ABAN in its publication of Membership Directory 2016 and annual Magazines 2016, 2017 and 2018 by covering its printing costs, so that any advertising revenue collected has added up to ABAN's reserve. The Council is also providing meeting hall for meetings and talk programs.

ABAN is very grateful for the British Ambassador HE Mr. Richard Morris and British Council Country Director Dr. Jovan Ilic, and his team of officials: Ms. Julen Pradhan, Mr. Nischal Oli and Ms. Suchita Shrestha for their continued support, instant response and attitude of cooperation for facilitating ABAN wherever possible. The blessings of the British Embassy and the Council are equally important for the further progress of the

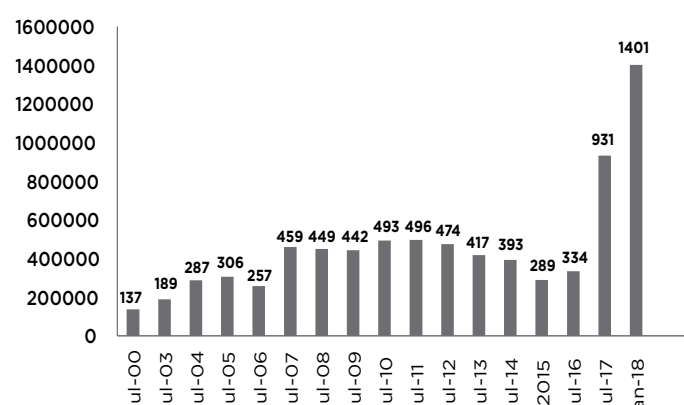
### ABAN CASH/BANK BALANCE

As per audit balance sheet

FISCAL CLOSING	CASH/BANK BALANCE	CHANGE
July 2007	458,501	
July 2008	448,901	-9,600
July 2009	441,998	-6,903
July 2010	493,100	+51,102
July 2011	496,381	+ 3,281
July 2012	474,337	- 22,044
July 2013	417,049	-57,288
July 2014	392,724	-24,325
July 2015	289,340	-103,384
July 2016	334,628	+ 45,288
July 2017	930,674	+596,046
Jan. 2018	1,530,674	+600,000

### ABAN CASH/BANK BALANCE (RS,000)

As per audit balance sheet



Association. Positive and spontaneous response and support of the British Ambassador HE Mr. Richard C. Morris and embassy officials, namely Mr. Dinesh Wagle and Mr. Kapandra Neupane are really praiseworthy.



▲ Meeting with the British Ambassador HE Richard Morris at the British Embassy on 2017 December 13.

The Association is registered with the Office of Chief District Office, Kathmandu in 1998 and with Internal Revenue Department for PAN (Permanent Account Number 302035951) in May 2005. The Association has also obtained Tax Free Certificate from Internal Revenue Office, Kathmandu 1 August 2008. Recently the Association is registered also with the office of Kathmandu Metropolitan City Ward no. 29 on September 01, 2016.

After submission of audited annual statements and audit reports for the past three years and payment of fines for non-renewal, the Association has received Tax clearance with recommendation for renewal of its registration with the District Administration office, Kathmandu. The legal status of the registration has thus been renewed till July 2073 (July 2017). Now, the audit report for fiscal year 2073/74 BS is ready and once it is ratified by the annual general meeting on February 4, 2018, the registration document of ABAN will be further renewed till July 2018.

## 7. CREDENTIALS

The Association is registered with the Office of Chief District Office, Kathmandu in 1998 and with Internal Revenue Department for PAN (Permanent Account Number 302035951) in May 2005. The Association has also obtained Tax Free Certificate from Internal Revenue Office, Kathmandu 1 August 2008. Recently the Association is registered also with the office of Kathmandu Metropolitan City Ward no. 29 on September 01, 2016

## 8. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TEAM

I feel very lucky to have active executive committee members supporting every step of ABAN's activities spontaneously and the greater strength of a stronger team has given an opportunity for continuing its good works for a second term of two years during 2017 to 2019 as well.

The 9th Executive Committee (2015-2017) was extended a second term of two more years in order to continue the good works done by the team and to ensure seamless continuity of thoughts and priorities of the Association. The 10th ECM for 2017- 2019 is gender balanced (3 lady members), and has 5 new members as listed below.

SL	NAME	POSITION	CONTACT NUMBER
1	Mr. Maheswor Bhakta Shrestha	President	9851094345
2	Mr. Tulasi Prasad Uprety	Vice President	9851053007
3	Mr. Uttam Prasad Pant	General Secretary	9851020918
4	Mr. Hariom Dhoj Joshi	Treasurer	9851088446,
5	Mrs. Shiba Devi Kafle	Asst. Treasurer	9841295472
6	Mr. Madhav Prasad Bhatta	Member	9841544517
7	Mr. Punya Prasad Paudel	Member	9851126901
8	Mrs. Padma Vaidya	Member	9849263815
9	Dr. Prem Ratna Sthapit	Member	9841205127
10	Mr. Uttam Lal Pradhan	Member	9851240007
11	Mr. Bishma Upreti	Member	9841306432
12	Mrs. Kalpalata Dahal	Member	9849305265
13	Mr. Nava Raj Nakarmi	Member	9751097910
14	Mr. Shankar Prasad Paudel	Immediate Past President	9851049814





## ABAN SUB-COMMITTEE PLAN 2017-2019

The 10th Executive Committee has formed eight sub-committees and an Advisory Committee to ensure smooth functioning of the Association and to achieve the stated objectives:

SL	OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES	SUB-COMMITTEES	COORDINATORS
1	Strengthen professional, educational, cultural and other relations between ABAN members and British professionals	Fellowship dinner Picnic, Vocational training, Cultural activities,	Cultural and Social	Ms. Padma Vaidya Dr. Prem Ratna Sthapit Ms. Shiba Kafle Ms. Kalpalata Dahal
		Health camps, Blood donation, Service to Senior citizens	Health and Medical	Dr. Nastu Sharma Upendra Shrestha
2	Promote the use of special knowledge and skills acquired by ABAN members in UK for the development of Nepal	Seminar, Debate Workshop, Interactions, School / student support, Essays	Educational	Ms. Kalpalata Dahal Maheswor Bhakta Shrestha
3	Promote the knowledge of British education in the important sectors of Nepal's development			
4	Create opportunities for discussion on issues of national importance like environment protection, regional and international aid	Talk programs, Minutes, AGM, ABAN Day, Group Mails, Social media, Registration Renewal	Program	Uttam Prasad Pant Nava Raj Nakarmi
5	Protect professional interest of ABAN members and coordinate with government agencies for due recognition of the qualification & training gained by members in UK	ABAN Newsletters, ABAN Magazine, Why ABAN booklet, Press/ Media Releases/ relations, Skill Roster of members	Publication	Punya Prasad Paudel Bhisma Upreti
6	Develop relations with regional agencies and British institutions Embassy, Nepal Britain Society, CAAN	Exchange visits, Link with British institutions: BC,	Networking	Shanker P. Paudel
7	Membership and Development their interest, Directory, Skill Roster,	New members, Safeguard Development	Membership Uttam Lal Pradhan	Tulasi P. Uprety
8	Fund Raising ways to raise fund	Organize events, ads,	Fund Raising Madhav Bhatta Ms. Shiba Devi Kafle	Hariom Joshi
9	Promote the image of ABAN with outside agencies and the public at large	ABAN Strategies, Bi-annual reviews, Public Image and Relations with outside agencies, 200 years celebration	Advisory Council	Maheswor Shrestha Dr. NB Thapa, Dilli Raj Joshi, Namrata Sharma, Rabi Jung Pandey, Raghu Pant Lal KC, Uma Shrivastava, Shanker Prasad Paudel

## NEW LIFE MEMBERS OF ABAN SINCE AUGUST 2015

APPROVAL DATE	SL. NO.	NAME OF LIFE MEMBER	MEMBERSHIP ID	REMARKS
2015 Sept. 22	1	Dr. Nastu Prasad Sharma	492	Converted from Ordinary
	2	Miss Sanjivani Shrestha	116	
	3	Mr. Punya Prasad Paudel	491	
2015 Dec. 17	4	Mr. Govinda Neupane	493	Converted from Ordinary
	5	Mr. Janak Sharma Paudel	494	
	6	Mr. Shakti Kumar Golyan	495	
	7	Dr. Dhruba Pd. Acharya	143	
2016 June 21	8	Mr. Ushik Shrestha	496	
	9	Miss. Pratigya Thapa	497	
	10	Mr. Laba Prasad Tripathi	498	
2016 Oct. 23	11	Mr. Subin Man Pradhan	499	Honorary Member
	12	.Dr. Mrigendra Raj Pandey	500	
2016 Nov. 15	13	Mr. Prateek Man Singh	501	
	14	Mr. Rabindra Mananda Bajracharya	502	
2016 Dec. 16	15	Mr. Ramesh Maskey	503	
	16	Mr. Tirtha Bahadur Joshi	504	
	17.	Mr. Moti Prasad Thapa	505	
2017 Feb. 21	18	Dr. Prem Singh Basnyat	506	
	19	Mrs. Rama Dahal	507	
	20	Eurek Ranjit	508	
	21	Mr. Saraju Baidya	509	
2017 Sept. 8	22	Mr. Prafulla Man Singh Pradhan	510	
	23	Dr. Durga Bahadur Subedi	511	
2017 Oct. 27	24	Dr. Mahodadhi Pradhan Shrestha	512	Honorary Member
	25	Mr. Suman Kumar Wagle	513	
	26	Mr. Ram Thapa	514	Associate Member
	27	Mrs. Reshma Rajthala	515	
2018 Jan. 7	28	Mr. Bijendra Bade Shrestha	516	

# 9<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Members *of* ABAN (2015 - 2017)



**MR. MAHESHWOR BHAKTA SHRESTHA**  
President



**MR. TULASI PRASAD UPRETY**  
Vice - President



**MR. UTTAM PRASAD PANT**  
General Secretary



**MR. HARIOM DHOJ JOSHI**  
Treasurer



**MS. SHIBA DEVI KAPHLE**  
Assistant Treasurer



**MS. PADMA BAIDYA**  
Executive Member



**MR. MADHAV PD. BHATTA**  
Executive Member



**MR. MAHENDRA KHANAL**  
Executive Member



**MS. RUPA BASNET**  
Executive Member



**MR. NARAYAN PD. SHARMA**  
Executive Member



**MR. PUNYA PD. POUDEL**  
Executive Member



**MR. UMESH B. MALLA**  
Executive Member



**MR. SHANKHAR P. POUDEL**  
Immediate Past President



## 8<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Members of ABAN (2013-2015)



**SHANKER PRASAD PAUDEL**  
*President*



**TULASI PRASAD UPRETY**  
*Vice-President*



**MAHENDRA KHANAL**  
*General Secretary*



**RUPA BASNET**  
*Treasurer*



**TAPASI BHATTACHARYA**  
*Assistant Secretary*



**BRAHAM DEO RAY**  
*Assistant Treasurer*



**MADHU SUDAN BISTA**  
*Executive Member*



**BODH PRASAD  
PARAJULI**  
*Executive Member*



**RUPAK RAJ BHANDARI**  
*Executive Member*



**OM RAJ DHAKAL**  
*Executive Member*



**KALPALATA DAHAL**  
*Executive Member*



**BINAYA HARI MASKEY**  
*Executive Member*



**USHA SINGH**  
*Executive Member*



**UMA SHRIVASTAV**  
*Immediate Past President*

## SEVENTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF ABAN 2010-2012



Dr. Uma Shrivastav  
President



Mrs. Madhuri Karki (Thapa)  
Vice President



Mr. Upendra Bahadur Shrestha  
(General Secretary)



Mr. Rupak Rajbhandari  
(Asst. Genrel.S.ecretry)



Mr. Binaya H. Maskey  
(Treasurer)



Mr. Nani Ram K.C  
(Asst. Treasurer)



Dr. Vishwa P. Shrivastava  
(Executive Member)



Mr. Tulasi Pd. Uprety  
(Executive Member)



Ms. Kalpalata Dahal  
(Executive Member)



Mr. Nani Ram K.C  
(Executive Member)



Ms. Padma Vaidya  
(Executive Member)



Dr. Bodh Prasad Parajuli  
(Executive Member)



Mr. Puspa Kamal Subedi  
(Executive Member)

## SIXTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF ABAN 2008-2010



Mr. Lal Krishna K C  
President



Dr. Uma Shrivastav  
Vice President



Mr. Dipak Nath Chalise  
General Secretary



Mr. Upendra Bdr. Shrestha  
Asst. Gen/Secretary



Hari Shankar Shrestha  
Treasurer



Ms. Padma Vaidya  
Asst. Treasurer



Ms. Madhuri Karki Thapa  
Executive Member



Mr. Dipendra Han Singh Pradhan  
Executive Member



Mr. Sadhu Ram Sapkota  
Executive Member



Mr. Mandira Shahi  
Executive Member



Mr. Narayan Pd. Sharma  
Executive Member



Dr. Rama Basyal  
Executive Member



Ms. Shanta Prabha Chaudhary  
Executive Member

### Invitees



Mr. Raghu Panta  
Immediate Past President



Ms. Paula Middleton  
Country Director/BC



Mr. Sudeep Khanal  
Office/BC

## FIFTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF ABAN 2006-2008



**MR. RAGHU PANTA**  
President



**MR. MAHESWOR B. SHRESTHA**  
Vice President



**MR. SHANKER PRASAD RAJDEL**  
General Secretary



**DR. PREM RATNA STHAPIT**  
Treasurer



**DR. SWOYAMBHU MAMATYA**  
Asst. General Secretary



**MR. NANDAN HARI SHARMA**  
Assistant Treasurer



**MR. SADHU RAM SAKOTA**  
Executive Member



**MR. DIPAK NATH CHALISE**  
Executive Member



**MS. MAYA GIRI**  
Executive Member



**MR. UPENDRA B. SHRESTHA**  
Executive Member



**MS. MANDIRA SHAHI**  
Executive Member



**MR. HARI KRISHNA SAJU**  
Executive Member



**MR. RABI JUNG PANDEY**  
Immediate Past President



**MS. NAMRATA SHARMA**  
Past President



**MR. DILLI RAJ JOSHI**  
Past President



**DR. NARAYAN B. THAPA**  
Past President



**MS. PAULA MIDDLETON**  
ish Council Country Director



**MS. PADMA VAIDYA**  
Executive Member



**MR. SUKARNA LAMA**  
Special Invitee



**MR. NGWANG TAMANG**  
Education Promotion Off



# FOURTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF ABAN 2004-2006



**Mr. Rabi Jung Pandey**  
President



**Mr. Raghu Pant**  
Vice President



**Mr. Maheswor Bhakta Shrestha**  
General Secretary



**Dr. Prem Ratna Sthapit**  
Treasurer



**Mr. Shanker Prasad Paudel**  
Asst. Gen. Secretary



**Mr. Nandan Hari Sharma**  
Asst. Treasurer



**Mr. Tulasi Prasad Uprety**  
Executive Members



**Mr. Devi Prasad Dahal**  
Executive Members



**Mr. Upendra Bdr. Shrestha**  
Executive Members



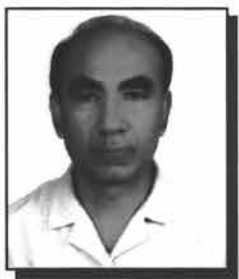
**Mr. Hari Shankar Saiju**  
Executive Members



**Ms Usha Singh**  
Executive Members



**Mr. Narayan P. Sharma**  
Executive Members



**Mr. Biswa Nath Prajapati**  
Executive Members



**Mr. John Fry**  
Sepcial Invitee



**Ms Archana Sharma**  
Sepcial Invitee



**Pranay Rai**  
Sepcial Invitee



**Mr. Sukarna Lama**  
ABAN Assistant



**Mrs. Namrata Sharma**  
Immediate Past President



**Mr. Dilli Raj Joshi**  
Past President



**Mr. N. B. Thapa**  
Past President

# THIRD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF ABAN 2002-2004



**Mrs. Namrata Sharma**  
President



**Mr. Rabi Jung Pandey**  
Vice President



**Mr. Raghu Pant**  
General Secretary



**Dr. Prem Ratna Sthapit**  
Treasurer



**Mr. Shanker Prasad Paudel**  
Asst. Gen. Secretary



**Mr. Griha Man Singh**  
Asst. Treasurer



**Mr. Tulsi Prasad Upreti**  
Executive Members



**Mr. Devi Prasad Dahal**  
Executive Members



**Mr. Maheswor Bhakta Shrestha**  
Executive Members



**Mr. Jagan Kumar Sharma**  
Executive Members



**Mrs. Tapasi Bhattacharya**  
Executive Members



**Dr. Amritesowori Rajbhandari**  
Executive Members



**Ms. Shanta Prabha Dhoubhadel**  
Executive Members



**Mr. Dilli Raj Joshi**  
Immediate Past President



**Ms. Barbara Hewitt**  
Sepcial Invitee



**Ms. Archana Sharma**  
Sepcial Invitee



**Pranay Rai**  
Sepcial Invitee



**Mr. Sukarna Lama**  
ABAN Assistant

## SECOND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF ABAN 2000-2002

SL	NAME	POST
1.	Mr. Dilli Raj Joshi	President
2.	Ms. Namrata Sharma	Vice President
3.	Mr. Lal Krishna KC	General Secretary
4.	Rabi Jung Thapa	Treasurer
5.	Mr. Swoyambhu Man Amatya	Assistant General Secretary
6.	Mr. Raghu Pant	Assistant Treasurer
7.	Mr. Chandika Bhatta	Member
8.	Mr. Ujwal Pradhanang	Member
9.	Ms. Jana Thapa	Member
10.	Mr. Tulsi Prasad Uprety	Member
11.	Mr. Narayan Prasad Sharma	Member
12.	Dr. Prem Ratna Sthapit	Member
13.	Mr. Devi Prasad Dahal	Member

## FIRST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF ABAN 1997-2000

DESIGNATION	NAME	TELEPHONE(O)	TELEPHONE (H)	FAX	EMAIL
President	Dr. Narayan Bahadur Thapa	412018, 422756	373735		
Vice President	Mr. Ram Shakti Maskey	330847	331228		
Gen. Secretary	Mr. Dillip Raj Joshi	522619	352255	547713	Dillijoshi@hotmail.com
Asst. Gen.					
Secretary	Ms. Sudha Shrestha	521620 ext.227	543618		
Treasurer	Mr. Rabi Jung Pandey	263773	412638		
Asst. Treasurer	Mrs. Namrata Sharma	414430, 419412	494418	413256	namratas@ceci.org.np
Member	Mr. Chandika Bhatta	352716	356806		
Member	Mr. Ujwal Pradhanang	221305	226484	226484	ujwal.pradhanang@bc-nepal.wlink.com.np
Member	Mr. Lal Krishna K.C	411780	434550		Lalkc@hotmail.com
Member	Mr. Swoyambhu Man Amatya	220671	270623	226944	
Member	Mr. Laxmi Prasad Gupta	350447, 350818	473527		
Member	Dr. Prabhu Prasad Joshi	222867, 247032	482259,94		
Member	Mr. Bishwa Nath Prajapati	371637, 371670	372455		
Sp. Invite	Ms. Barbara Wickham	221305		224076	barbara.wickham@bc-nepal.wlink.com.np
BC Liaison	Mr. Rajendra Rai	221305		224076	rajendra.raai@bc-nepal.wlink.com.np

श्री १ को सरकार  
गृह मंत्रालय  
जिल्ला प्रशासन कार्यालय  
काठमाडौं

द. नं २४७/०२४/२२

मिति २०७४/१०/२२

श्री १ को सरकार  
गृह मंत्रालय  
जिल्ला प्रशासन  
**प्रमाण पत्र**

श्री अध्यक्ष ज्यू,

एशोसिएशन अफ ब्रिटिश एन्जुअर्ज इन नेपाल

... .. काठमाडौं ... ..

एशोसिएशन अफ ब्रिटिश एन्जुअर्ज इन नेपाल नामक सङ्घ सस्था दर्ता ऐन २०३४ को  
दफा (४) बमोजिम मिति २०५४।१०।२२ गते दर्ता गरी यो प्रमाणपत्र दिइएको छ।

स्थानीय अधिकारीको सही

पूरा नाम:- प्रधु विलास पण्डित

दर्जा:-

कार्यालय:-

मिति:- २०७४/१०/२२

स्थानीय अधिकारीको सही

द्रष्टव्य:- यो प्रमाणपत्र हरेक आर्थिक वर्ष भित्र नवीकरण गर्नु पर्ने छ।





श्री ५ को सरकार  
अर्थ मन्त्रालय  
आन्तरिक राजश्व विभाग



## स्थायी लेखा नम्बर (PAN) दर्ता प्रमाण पत्र

पान: ३०२०३५९५९  
आन्तरिक राजश्व कार्यालय: काठमाण्डौ ३

मिति: ०९ ०२ २०६२  
मू.अ.क. दर्ता मिति: 

०९	०२	२०६२
दिन	महीना	साल

करदाताको नाम: एशोसियसन अफ ब्रिटिस एलुमनाई ईन नेपाल

आयकरमा मात्र दर्ता

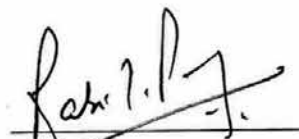
करदाताको प्रकार: गैर सरकारी संस्था

ठेगाना: वडा नं. २९, लैनचौर

महानगरपालिका: काठमाण्डौ

काठमाण्डौ

व्यवसाय कारोबारहरू: अन्य सामाजिक तथा सामुदायिक सेवाहरू,



करदाताको दस्तखत

  
०९/०२/२०६२  
कर अधिकृतको दस्तखत  
कर अधिकृत

यो प्रमाण पत्र देखिने गरी कारोबार स्थल / मुख्य कार्यालयमा राख्नु पर्ने छ ।



फोन नं. : ४४१५९७०

४४२८९९९

४४२८९२०

४४२८९२९

Fax : ४४१०२८५

## आन्तरिक राजस्व कार्यालय, काठमाडौं क्षेत्र नं. ३

पत्र संख्या :-

चलानी नं. :- ११०

मिति :- २०६२/११/२९

विषय :-

आयकर छुट हुने संस्था दर्ताको प्रमाणपत्र ।

आयकर ऐन, २०५८ को दफा २ (घ) को प्रयोजनका लागि देहायको संस्थालाई आयकर छुट हुने संस्थाको रूपमा दर्ता गरी यो प्रमाण पत्र दिइएको छ ।

१. निकाय/संघ/संस्था नाम सिद्धोसियसन अफ ब्रिडिग रिलिजियस इन् नेपाल
२. ठेगाना काठमाडौं, काठमाडौं, २९ लैनचौर काठमाडौं
३. स्थायी लेखा नम्बर ३०२०३५५९
४. उद्देश्य साभाजिक कार्य
५. कृयाकलाप संचालन गर्ने स्थान नेपाल आदि राज्य

*(Signature)*  
२९/११/६२  
कर अधिकृत

### कर छुट पाउने संस्थाले ध्यान दिनुपर्ने कुराहरु :

- आयकर ऐन, २०५८ बमोजिम भुक्तानीमा कर कट्टी गर्नुपर्ने भए कट्टी गरी ऐनमा तोकिएको म्यादाभित्र सम्बन्धित आन्तरिक राजस्व कार्यालयमा दाखिला गर्नु पर्दछ । कर कट्टीको विवरण म्याद भित्र पेश नगरेमा वा कर कट्टी गर्नुपर्नेमा कट्टी नगरे वा म्यादभित्र दाखिला नगरेमा अग्रिम कट्टी गर्नुपर्ने रकम संस्थाबाट असुल गर्नुका साथै शुल्क, व्याज तथा सजाय समेत हुन्छ ।
- कर छुट हुने संस्थाको लेखा परिक्षण भएको पार्षक वित्तिय विवरण अनिवार्य रूपमा आर्थिक वर्ष समाप्त भएको मितिले ३ महिनाभित्र सम्बन्धित आन्तरिक राजस्व कार्यालयमा पेश गर्नु पर्दछ । पूर्वादेशद्वारा एक आर्थिक वर्षभन्दा कम अवधिको लागि कर छुट पाउनेको हकमा कर छुट अवधि समाप्त भएको मितिले १ महिनाभित्र त्यस्तो विवरण पेश गर्नुपर्छ ।
- कुनै व्यक्तिद्वारा कर छुट हुने संस्थालाई प्रदान गरिएका सम्पत्ति वा सेवा वापत कुनै भुक्तानी गर्दा मात्र कर छुट उपभोग गर्न पाउछ । सो बाहेक सो संस्थाको सम्पत्ति र सो संस्थाले प्राप्त गरेको रकमबाट कुनै व्यक्तिले कुनै फाईदा प्राप्त गरेको अवस्थामा कर छुट उपभोग गर्न पाउदैन ।
- संस्थाले आफ्नो उद्देश्यदेखि बाहेक अन्य गतिविधि संचालन गरी कर योग्य आय आय आर्जन गरेमा त्यस्तो आयमा कर छुट हुदैन ।

## ABAN Treasurer's Report of Fiscal Year 2073/74 (2016-17)

I, Hariom Dhoj Joshi, Treasurer of ABAN present before you the financial and Audit report of ABAN for fiscal year 2073/74 for your review and ratification. Financial health of ABAN is reflected by its bank balances at the end of each fiscal year: The financial strength of ABAN has improved significantly over the last 3 years (bank balance has increased from Rs.289,340 in July 2015 to Rs.1,530,674 in Jan. 2018). Life Membership of ABAN has also increased by 27 new members during the past 3 years to 417 from the stagnant period of 2013-2015 at 388 members only.

ABAN Statute requires that the annual accounts and financial statements Association of British Alumni in Nepal (ABAN), are audited by an independent statutory auditors annually and is ratified by the Annual General Meeting (AGM), which is the apex body of the Association. Accordingly, the annual accounts of fiscal year 2073/74 have been duly audited independent auditors M/s H.R. Bhatta & Associates and was submitted on 2074 Poush 08.

The statutory auditors have audited the accounts of ABAN in accordance with the generally accepted auditing standards, Nepal Auditing Standard and the directives of Income Tax Act. The highlights of the audited financial statements of 2073/74 are:

■ The Balance Sheet of this year showed total source of fund of ABAN have increased from Rs. 313,143.48 to Rs.945,073.45 during the year. The sources of fund include reserve, surplus and deposits of the year.

Fiscal closing	Bank Balance	Change	Membership	Change
July 2011	496,381		378	
July 2012	474,337	- 22,044	381	+ 3
July 2013	417,049	- 57,287	388	+ 7
July 2014	392,724	- 24,325	388	0
July 2015	289,340	- 103,384	388	0
July 2016	334,628	+ 45,288	399	+ 11
July 2017	930,674	+ 596,046	415	+ 16
15 Jan.				
2018	1,530,674	+ 600,000	422	+ 7

■ This year, current assets, comprising bank balance, receivables and fixed deposits have reached to Rs. 967,095.18 from Rs.347,104.76 of the previous year, indicating a substantial increase in current assets of the Association.

■ Current liabilities have been reduced during the year from Rs.33,961 to Rs.22,021.

■ During the year, total income from membership fee, bank interest, donations and Magazine income have crossed Rs.1 million from Rs. 225,531.41 of the previous year.

■ Total expenditures during the year also increased to Rs.369,064 on printing/publication, social service refreshments and AGM expenses from Rs.183,364 in the previous year.

■ Income during the year has exceeded expenditure, and thus created a surplus of Rs.631,929. In this way, the cumulative surplus has reached to a all time high of Rs. 945,0734. The Association has maintained bank account with Mega Bank Ltd. (balance Rs.175,804.61) and Nepal Bangladesh Bank Ltd (balance Rs.4,869.09), and as of today the Association has a interest bearing fixed deposits of Rs.1,350,000 (Rs.850,000 with Mega Bank and Rs.500,000 with Central Finance Company). This includes cash contribution by the two honorary members of Rs.1 million during the year 2017. Further details of the financial position can be observed in the published financial statements of the audit report of fiscal year 2073/74.

Now, I invite you all for any queries to be clarified in this report. And if there is no more queries, may I propose this AGM to adopt this Audit Report as passed by applause, please. Thank you.

The second item in the Agenda is the appointment of statutory Auditors for fiscal year 2074/75. In view of the satisfactory performance of the Auditors in FY 2073/74, may I propose to reappoint M/s. HR Bhatta and Associates as statutory Auditors also for FY 2074/75 and approve an audit fee of Rs.10,000 including VAT. Thank you for your kind approval.

# **HR BHATTA & ASSOCIATES**

ICAN Regd. No. 4805

PAN 300342064

Registered Auditor

Thamel, Kathmandu.

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

### **TO THE CHAIRPERSON & THE MEMBERS OF ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH ALUMNI IN NEPAL**

We have audited the accompanying Financial Statement of **Association of British Alumni in Nepal**, as on 31<sup>st</sup> Ashad, 2074 (15<sup>th</sup> July, 2017) and *Income & Expenditure Statement* and *Cash Flow Statement* annexed there on that date. These Financial Statements are the responsibility of the management/committee of the Association. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on audit and in accordance with Nepal Standards on Auditing.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the generally accepted auditing standards, Nepal Auditing Standard and the directives issued by the Income Tax Act. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidences supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluation the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the *Income & Expenditure Statement* gives a true and fair view of the said financial statements referred to above, read together with the notes attached thereon give a true and fair view and has complied with all the provisions of *Income Tax Act of Nepal*.

We would like to express our sincere thanks for your kind co-operation in accomplishing the audit work.

Date: 2074.09.08

Place: Kathmandu



**Registered Auditor**  
**HR Bhatta & Associates**



# Association of British Alumni in Nepal

Kathmandu, Nepal

## Balance Sheet

As at 31st Asadh 2074 (15th July 2017)

Source of Fund	Sch	This Year	Previous year
<b>1. Reserve &amp; Surplus</b>			
a. Surplus (Deficit) upto previous year		313,143.48	270,976.07
b. add: Surplus (Deficit) of this year		631,929.97	42,167.41
c. Accumulated Surplus (Deficit)		945,073.45	313,143.48
<b>2. Other liabilities</b>			
<b>Total Source of fund</b>		<b>945,073.45</b>	<b>313,143.48</b>
<b>Application of fund</b>			
<b>1. Fixed Assets</b>		-	-
<b>2. Investment</b>		-	-
<b>3. Current Assets</b>		<b>967,095.18</b>	<b>347,104.76</b>
a. Bank balance	1	180,673.60	334,627.63
b. Receivables	2	16,421.58	12,477.13
c. Prepaid, advance & deposit	3	770,000.00	-
		<b>967,095.18</b>	<b>347,104.76</b>
<b>Less: Current Liabilities</b>		<b>22,021.73</b>	<b>33,961.28</b>
a. Payables	4	22,021.73	33,961.28
b. Other Payable		-	-
		<b>22,021.73</b>	<b>33,961.28</b>
<b>Net: Current Assets</b>		<b>945,073.45</b>	<b>313,143.48</b>
Expenditures to the extent not written off		-	-
<b>Total application of fund</b>		<b>945,073.45</b>	<b>313,143.48</b>

Schedules 1 to 4 form integral part of this statement

As per our report of even date

*H. S. Joshi*

Treasurer

Camp: U.S.A.

General Secretary

*M. B. Bhatta*

President



*H. R. Bhatta*

H. R. Bhatta & Associates  
Registered Auditor

# Association of British Alumni in Nepal

Kathmandu, Nepal

## Income & Expenditure Statement

For the period from 1st Srawan 2073 to 31st Ashadh 2074 (2016/17)

Particulars	Sch.	This Year	Previous Year
<b>Income</b>		<b>1,000,994.83</b>	<b>225,531.41</b>
Membership fee & other income	5	1,000,994.83	225,531.41
<b>Expenditure</b>		<b>369,064.86</b>	<b>183,364.00</b>
Administrative expenditure	6	369,064.86	183,364.00
Surplus (Deficit) for the year		<b>631,929.97</b>	<b>42,167.41</b>
Surplus (Deficit) upto previous year		313,143.48	270,976.07
Surplus (Deficit) upto previous year transferred to Balance Sheet		<b>945,073.45</b>	<b>313,143.48</b>

Schedules 5 & 6 form integral part of this statement

## Cash Flow Statement

For the Period ended on 31st Asadh, 2074 (15th July 2017)

Particulars	This Year	Previous Year
<b>1.Cashflow from Operational Activities</b>	<b>631,929.97</b>	<b>42,167.41</b>
Excess of Income or (Expenditure)	631,929.97	42,167.41
<b>2.Cashflow Before change in Changeable Capital</b>	<b>(785,884.00)</b>	<b>115,597.15</b>
(Increase)/Decrease in Current Assets	(773,944.45)	99,999.87
Increase /(Decrease) in current Liabilities	(11,939.55)	15,597.28
Operational Cashflow		
Net Cashflow from Operational Activities (1+2)	<b>(153,954.03)</b>	<b>157,764.56</b>
Increase/(Decrease) in net Cashflow	(153,954.03)	157,764.56
<b>Opening Balance</b> of Cash and Bank Balance	<b>334,627.63</b>	<b>176,863.07</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b> of Cash and Bank Balance	<b>180,673.60</b>	<b>334,627.63</b>

As per our report of even date

*H. S. Joshi*

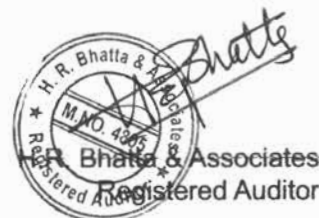
Treasurer

Camp: U.S.A.

General Secretary

*M. B. Bhatta*

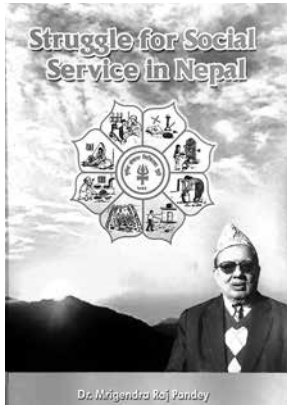
President



# Dedication VS Commercialization in Health Sector

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*(Extracted from chapter 16 of the Book Struggle for Social Service in Nepal)*



*Christina Hoffman, a young German girl, came to Nepal with the dedication to help the sick people with medicines. She founded Christina Trust. She used to live in a simple room provided by the hospital and used to eat very simple food. She devoted her whole time for trying to help the poor and needy people. In our discussion about the possible recipient of our distribution of medicine worth 2 to 3 million rupees every year with funds it receives from its donors in Germany.*

► **DR. MRIGENDRA RAJ PANDEY**  
*First Honorary Member of ABAN*



It is possible to get the medicine but to ensure that the medicines reach the really poor and needy ones is not that easy. Some people pretend to be poor just to get the free medicine. You need people working with full devotion to the poor as was done by Christina. Some people inspired by her are still continuing the good work.

Because of vested interest and exercise of undue influence, even the organization founded by late Tulsi Meher Shrestha, a true Gandhian and a man of unquestioned integrity and total dedication, was engulfed into controversy. There is a real dearth of people who honestly and selflessly dedicate themselves to help the poor and the needy.

Perhaps more serious than this are the growing unhealthy practice in some health related sectors. With no intention whatsoever to offend or malign any person or institution, I deem it my duty as a medical practitioner to point out such trend with the hope that there will be efforts from concerned quarters to rectify the situation. First, medical education. It was indeed a welcome development for the entire health fraternity when the first medical college was established in the country under the Institute of Medicine of Tribhuvan University in the form of a teaching hospital (TUTH) in the year 1978. For many of us in the profession, it was a dream come true situation. At a time when opportunities for aspiring Nepalese students to study medicine in medical college in our neighboring countries were severely limited coupled with the fact that the country was facing a serious dearth of medical human resources, it was indeed great news that we had such facility at home. I have been associated with the TUTH in its early years as a Visiting Professor and being a coordinator of continuing medical education program for postgraduates in collaboration with Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh in Bir Hospital and in collaboration with World Heart Foundation through Cardiac Society of Nepal even after my retirement from Government service has given me personally a great sense of satisfaction. The latter responsibility involved lot of paper work and coordination for which the Trust had provide secretarial and logistic help.

Over the last one decade or so, a number of private medical colleges have been established in the country and many more are in the pipeline. In a way, one may take it as a positive development. But if one goes a bit deeply into the issued involved in the whole process, one will find

enough grounds to question its overall impact in the health sector.

First of all, all these colleges are charging fees that the guardians of the students find it difficult to afford. So what they do, they would take it as an investment, which needs to be recovered by whatever means. As soon as they qualify, they either go abroad or join private institutions charging lucrative fees. The most distressing fact is that even those medical students who had the privilege of free scholarship under government quota do the same, violating the bond. As a result, even with so many medical colleges producing hundreds of doctors every year, a large number of hospital in outlying districts, are without any qualified doctors. This is a great irony, which merits serious attention from all concerned sector, including the civil society.

At hindsight, I sometimes wonder had I agreed to comply with the requested= to be associated with the medical colleges I would have certainly contributed to enhancing the quality of medical education by sharing my knowledge with the would-be doctors. In return, I would also have made some financial gains. If the Trust was involved along with me at that time, the Trust would have now been in a sound financial position. May be, I was not just to my profession or to medical education or to financial interest of the Trust. I sometime wonder whether I should feel guilty about it. But given the far from acceptable practices with which many of these medical colleges are operating and the stories that one hears about them in the medical fraternity, I feel that I was not wrong in my decision. At lease my conscience is clear. And I have no regrets about it.

Next, the private hospital and nursing homes. True, they have been greatly helpful in meeting the ever-growing demands of the growing population, specially in the urban areas of the country. Treatment I such private institutions is naturally more expensive. There is no denying the fact that private nursing homes and hospitals have been established as business cum service enterprises. But there should be some elements of ethics in every business, especially in a vital sector as health. Ideally, health care should not be commercialized. So, there is an obvious need for stronger emphasis on ethics in health care services. It is high time that doctors thought of themselves as someone more than mere service providers to consumers. If a jeweler manipulated



the quality of gold for profit, the customer may lose some money, but if the health professionals prescribe all kind of unnecessary tests and drugs with a profit motive, the patient may lose not only money, but also a great deal in terms of their health itself. When health care professionals start their service as commercial cum social enterprise, there should be a great sense of responsibility towards the patient and society in general. Let us not make the oath of Hippocrates a big joke.

Thirdly, it will not be out of place to mention a few words about the price of medicine. Not many people realize the price of medicine they pay to the drug stores is many times higher (in some cases up to 20 to 25 times) than the cost of production. One of the reasons for such exorbitant price of medicine is that various companies produce the same medicine with different brand names. Then they spend a large amount of money in marketing and paying commission and other benefits to concerned people that matter, as a result of which the prices of their products go high. If a good system of production and distribution of medicine could be put in place, the cost can be drastically reduced. One way to do this is to produce drugs with a generic name. In that case they do not have to resort to aggressive and questionable marketing strategy to sell their brand names. If we have proper mechanism for quality control, the drugs will be good and effective. Even in rich countries like United States, the drug stores invariably ask the customers whether they want brand names or generic -name medicine. The latter are almost half as expensive as the former. But there is no difference in quality. Recently in our own region, India has started manufacturing generic drugs, although on a limited scale. Nepal Drugs Limited, a government company, should be able to implement our suggestion. At the beginning, the company was doing a good job of producing quality drugs at reasonable price. Its products met almost 50% of Nepal's need. I was one of the directors in those days. The Trust (Mrigendra Samjhana Medical Trust) also used the company drugs for distribution in Jumla and other places. We used to buy cotrimaxazole syrup from Nepal Drugs in bulk packets and used to sell it for use of the sick children at nominal price. That helped in saving hundreds of lives of infants and children suffering from pneumonia in Jumla. They were very effective and cheap and therefore popular. So, if we manage Nepal Drugs Limited well, we can supply many drugs less expensively. Unfortunately, the company, which had been producing such essential service like supply of

medicine at reasonable cost, is now collapsed, must be salvaged at all costs. So, it is only natural that it is difficult to find people inspired by the ideals of selfless service in this environment of excessive commercialization.

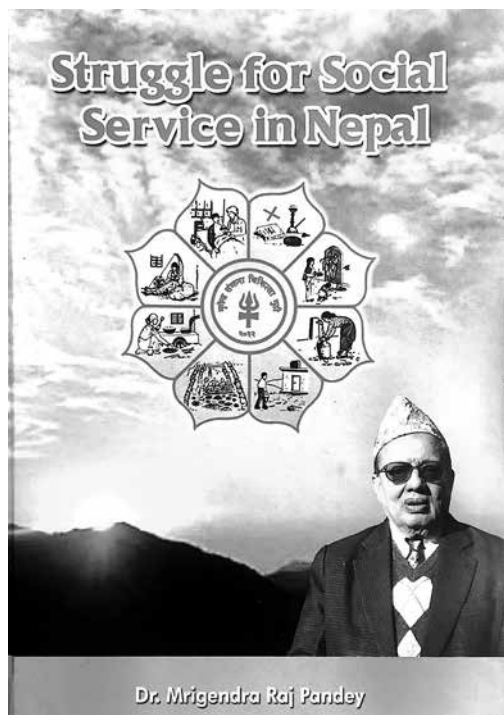
This is the age of business and commerce, which dominates everything. The business and commerce can influence even the government and its leaders. Today, they have good hold on our political parties. Yesterday, even during the Panchayat days, this sector was quite influential. They could manage access even to the level of the king. Who can change this now? We probably need Lord Buddha or Lord Rama to come again to this world to do this in a fundamental way. Or there should perhaps be a revolutionary transformation in the philosophy and culture of the society as a whole.

For these reasons, in spite of many efforts, I choose not to be involved in any private medical college or nursing home. I also stayed away from the tempting sponsorships from pharmaceutical companies to travel abroad and stay in luxury hotels.

Let it not be misunderstood that I am against market economy, which should be encouraged for rapid economic progress that we badly need. My only plea is that strict pro-poor regulatory measures designed to protect the poor from the adverse effects of the market economy specially in health sector and social sector, may be in order in our country. An approach that imbibes private-public partnership with considerable dose of philanthropy may be an option worth considering by all concerned quarters. Let us use the expertise that is in abundance in the country to suggest how we can proceed in this direction.

At a time when we see all around a mushrooming growth of private sector initiatives in health and education with far from ideal track record. Coming as it does from someone not associated with any of them, my plea may sound like a cry in the wilderness. They may be divorces from the ground reality. But I have been raising my concern about moral pollution and erosion of values in society in general for many years. Sometimes in the eighties, while addressing an international conference on environment pollution at the East West Center, Hawaii, I had said that environment pollution soil erosion are serious issues that need to be addressed, but to me, the erosion of values and moral pollution in society perhaps are more

important as they impact all human activities. It was greatly appreciated by the audience. But sadly, the same sentiment was considered objectionable in some influential quarters in Nepal and I was similar vein at yet another conference organized right in Kathmandu by the CEDA of Tribhuvan University soon after.



### Struggle for Social Service in Nepal

Book review by Kul Chandra Gautam, former Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF

Nepal is now blessed with many competent and committed medical doctors and physicians, including our President, Rt. Hon Dr. Ram Baran Yadav. While many Nepali doctors provide good medical care and serve the people, only a small number have made large-scale impact on public health nationally and globally. Among those few, Dr. Mrigendra Raj Pandey has been a shining star.

Actually, I personally do not know Dr. Pandey very well, except through his reputation. In Nepal I had heard about him as a famous cardiologist, who treated royalties and important personalities like the late BP Koirala.

When I was a senior official at UNICEF, working closely with WHO, in formulating some global policies for maternal and child health, I used to come across research findings of physicians and public health specialists from around the world

which influenced our global policies. Dr. Pandey's name came to my attention in that context.

A senior WHO colleague brought to my attention a fascinating report that in a community-based health care programme in the remote Jumla district of Nepal, under-5 mortality rate had been reduced dramatically from 330 deaths per 1000 live births to 85 within a period of just a few years. This had been achieved largely through some simple but effective interventions against acute respiratory infections. The Jumla project had also shown the serious health consequences of indoor air pollution, and how it could be tackled partially through smokeless cooking-stoves. I was happy to learn that this innovative action-research programme was the brain-child of a Nepali physician named Mrigendra Raj Pandey.

I had never heard anyone I met in Kathmandu talk about this project in Jumla. But it was big news in Geneva. The evidence gathered by this project gave us the confidence that if such progress can be made in Jumla, we should be able to make similar progress in the rest of Nepal, Asia, Africa and beyond, using the same methodology. So we actually used the findings of this project as an important basis in developing program guidance by WHO and UNICEF for the control of ARI and promotion of child survival – globally.

It was a real pleasure for me to read this fascinating book, chronicling Dr. Pandey's long journey in public health and social service in Nepal under the auspices of the MSM Trust, of which he was the visionary founder and remains an active promoter. The book contains first-hand account of Dr. Pandey's innovative and effective work in promoting anti-smoking campaign, raising awareness of hypertension and diabetes and other health and social issues.

His caution against excessive commercialization of medical education and unethical practices in some private hospitals and nursing homes in Nepal deserves our policy-makers' special attention. His advocacy for greater availability and use of generic drugs is right on the mark, not only for Nepal, but globally.

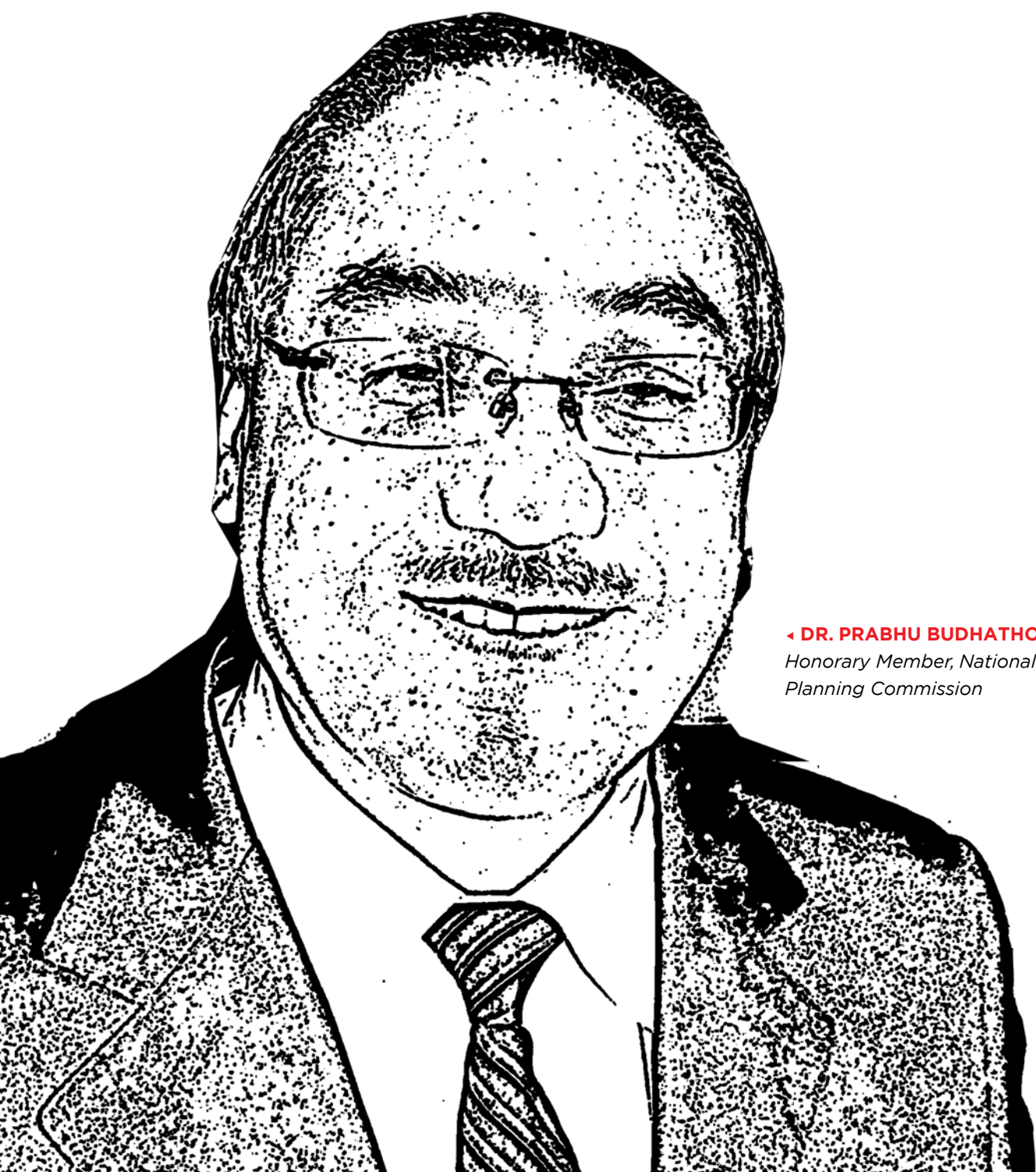
We owe a great debt of gratitude to pioneering health leaders like Dr. Pandey for blazing the trail for such success. I thank Dr Pandey for sharing his account and giving me an opportunity to preview his book.

Kathmandu, 27 July 201

# DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES OF NEPAL IN THE CHANGING CONTEXT

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*Life Member of ABAN, Dr. Prabhu Budhathoki, currently honorable member of the National Planning Commission of the Government of Nepal, delivered ABAN Talk on November 12, 2017 on “Development Priorities of Nepal in the changing context”.*



◀ **DR. PRABHU BUDHATHOKI**

*Honorary Member, National  
Planning Commission*

An abstract of his presentation is reproduced below:

## 1. What Changes are Taking Place?

### Political landscape

- Nepal is progressing from Unitary to Federal setup of governance, divided into 7 different provinces.
- New Constitutional is so liberal, it provides for people: Rights to food, health service, clean environment, employment, housing etc.
- Regional and ethnicity – monarchy to marginalization
- Political Stability

### Social and cultural landscape

- Migration: Over 4 million people are out of country and about 3.18% of people are migrating from rural to urban centers every year. As a result, we are importing food items worth Rs.100 arabs (billion).
- Changing demography and family: youth population between 16-14 years is as high as approx. 41% of total population
- Social and ethnic dynamics
- Occupational change from agriculture to service sector

### Economic landscape

- Role of private sector is very critical as this private sector is gradually rising to 54.7% of the economy, while public sector is shrinking to 39.4% and the cooperatives to 5.9%.
- External aid is gradually decreasing from 45% in 2048 BS to 15% in 2073 BS. It means national resource is contributing to 85% of our expenses.
- Whole economic landscape is changing as the new constitution aims at ending Poverty and Zero hunger.
- Environmental context
- Impact of Climate change in the Himalayas and other regions is causing loss of GDP by 2-4%.
- Occurrence of Natural disasters, river flooding, forests and biodiversity degradation are other serious issues in the environmental context.
- Global development context
- Changing scenario of external funding
- Two growth poles
- Towards green economic pathways
- Globalization in question as nationalist forces are active worldwide.

SDGs: Nepal is signatory to UN's Sustainable development goals of achieving 17 SDG targets by 2030, like eradicating poverty, hunger etc. This is a major challenge for Nepal.

## 2. Development Priorities

Poverty and hunger to be reduced from 23.7% (in 2015) to 4.9% by 2030). People are living below \$1.25 a day.

Reduce \$2 a day from 36% of population in 2015 to 8% by 2030, Prevalence of under nourishments from 36.1% in 2015 to be reduced to 3% of population by 2030.

Employment: Achieve employed people below \$1.25 a day from 22% in 2015 to 1% in 2030.

Develop Energy and power from 782 MW of Hydro power to 15,000 MW. Provide access to safe drinking water to 90% of population from what it is now at 15%.

Tourism development, Develop infrastructure and industries for greater employment, income and import substitution,

Accessibility and transportation: Increase road density from 0.55 km/ sq. km to 1.3 km/ sq. km

Mobilize 7 assets (7Js) – jal, jamin, jangal, jadibuti, jaibik kethi, jibant culture and bhu-drishya, Javan (youth).

## 3. Development Issues

Trade deficit to the scale of \$ 1 export to every \$15 import, due to massive import of fuel and transport goods (almost 70 - 80% of total imports). We must try to replace fossil fuel by renewal energy.

Time and cost over run of the project  
Corruption: Corruption Perception Index: 29,  
Doing Business Index: 105

Unemployment  
Growing female headed families  
Regional and social inequity

## 4. Transition to Transformation

- Business as usual not enough
- Per capita energy consumption: 160kw/hr to achieve mid income country level we need at least 700kw/hr
- Hindu growth and Buddhist economy not enough
- Double digit growth
- Resilient economy

## 5. Aspirations & Milestones

- Equitable and inclusive society – welfare state
- Graduation from LDC to mid income country by 2030
- Geographical benefits - Bridge between India and China
- Demographic dividend



# TRANSFORMATION IN EDUCATION WITH THE CHANGING CONTEXT OF NEPAL —

*The term 'Transformation' has been so popular, pleasing and appealing in almost all walks and fields of life. According to the Oxford Dictionary, 'A marked change in form, nature, or appearance' is transformation. It indicates any changes in substance not in surface. When it comes combined with society, culture, politics and economy, it makes social transformation, cultural transformation, political transformation and economic transformation respectively. The field of education is also not an exception so as to form 'Educational Transformation'. As the write-up is entitled and concerned with education, main focus is apparently on this area.*



◀ **SHANKER PRASAD PAUDEL**

*Immediate past president, ABAN  
Founder Principal  
Charkhandi Educational  
Foundation (CVM) Madhyapur  
THIMI - 3 Gathghar*

## THREE VIEWS OF TEACHING

Good education begins with good teaching and good teaching starts with an operational definition of teaching. There are three common views of what constitutes teaching: teaching as transmission, teaching as transaction, and teaching as transformation (Miller, 1996). Teaching as transmission is a general and traditional approach of teaching learning. From this perspective, teaching is the act of transmitting knowledge from teacher's head to students' heads. This is a teacher-centered approach in which the teacher is the dispenser of knowledge, the arbitrator of truth, and the final evaluator of learning. Whereas Teaching as transaction is the process of creating situations whereby students are able to interact with the material to be learned in order to construct knowledge. Constructivism is an educational philosophy consistent with this view. Here, knowledge is not passively received; rather, it is actively built up or constructed by students as they connect their past knowledge and experiences with new information (Santrock, 2004).

In a more advanced perspective Teaching as transformation is creating conditions that have the potential to transform the learner on many different levels like cognitive, emotional, social, intuitive, creative, spiritual, and so on. Transformational teaching invites both students and teachers to discover their full potential as learners, as members of society, and as human beings. The ultimate transformational goal is to help develop more nurturing human beings who are better able to perceive the interconnectedness of all human, plant, and animal life (Narve, 2001). Holistic education is an educational philosophy consistent with the transformative view (Miller, 1996). Learning is said to have occurred when these experiences elicit a transformation of consciousness that leads to a greater understanding of and care for self, others, and the environment.

### OUR LIMITATION:

In Nepalese context, though we claim to have been using modern methodology in teaching, we are still far to get rid of the deep rooted view 'Teaching as transmission'. Exam oriented teaching-learning and that too basically paper-pencil test has predominantly hindered from being out of the traditional thinking and doing. Nepalese schools are basically categorized as Public (community) schools and Private

(institutional) schools. The education provided in the private schools are regarded better mainly on the basis of the board exam results. To compare with the huge investment, the public schools, at large, are in a sorry state with only a limited number of schools performing well at the national level. Lack of professional ethics, absenteeism of teachers and students, poor teaching practices, delayed or non-availability of textbooks, poor and insufficient infrastructure, lack of basic requirements like pure drinking water and hygienic school environment; high drop-out rates, lack of modern teaching-learning practice etc. are a few things that burden the public education system in Nepal. To surpass all these factors, political interference reigns the supreme to ruin these schools. The results of national board examinations go on to show that the quality of education provided in public schools is dismal as compared to that in private schools. The gap becomes wider when compared to schools in rural and urban areas. The statistics of Ministry of Education 2016 shows that there are 144,212 community schools and 34,065 private schools in Nepal with a total enrolment of 7,446,098 students. Among the total enrolment, community schools consists of 82 per cent students and rest 18 per cent are in private schools. This ratio stamps the fact that the future of more than 80 per cent students is bleak in regards to receiving quality education in the country.



***The education provided in the private schools are regarded better mainly on the basis of the board exam results. To compare with the huge investment, the public schools, at large, are in a sorry state with only a limited number of schools performing well at the national level.***



### CHANGING SCENARIO :

We are now in the process of implementing new constitution in Nepal. The Constitution of Nepal (2015 A.D.) in Article 31 has guaranteed right to education as fundamental rights of every citizen which include right to access to education, right to compulsory and free basic education, and free education up to the secondary level. Under the Constitution of Nepal and the federal structure of governance the responsibility to operate and manage basic and secondary education now falls on local government. This shift in governance can work in favour of public schools which will be run under the scrutiny of locally elected representatives. Though the shift of responsibility of regulating school education system to the local level government has stimulated the expectations of many, the new government with newer responsibilities is likely to face challenges in getting immediate positive results. The responsibility of operations up to the secondary level has now been given to the local levels but it is a new working area for them. It is not an easy task to start smooth operations immediately. The expectation of sudden reformation in the public education system must have a practical underlining to it. Even the federal governance system is still in its transitional phase with unclear shift of rights and responsibilities so it is too early to foresee its success or failure.

Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development has recently introduced Local Level Governance Act 2017 (A.D.) under which the local representatives can make rules and regulations under the criteria set within the act. This ensures that the local levels can also make relevant educational plans and policies by themselves. The federal level law is already made and provincial and local level laws are to be made. Once all these

laws are in place a well-managed structure will definitely be created. Once the Parliamentary and Provincial elections are complete and respective laws and regulations are in place with clear division of working areas, each level will perform respective duties accordingly. It is assumed the education sector will be managed gradually better.

### THINKING FORWARD:

All the scenario we have been undergoing is in fact a paradigm shift and truly saying - a bi-product of the political transformation. Implementing phase may look difficult but it is not impossible. As it is well said - Good start is half done, all the stake holders of education should be oriented about the changing shift of authority and responsibilities. There should be a cordial environment whereby all the stake holders of education could trust each other and be trustworthy.

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# SKY AND THE DEVIL



**TULASI UPRETY**

*Vice President of ABAN*

Cloudy sky over beautiful Nepal

Oh what's that figure ?  
It's visible some time and some time suddenly  
vanishes,

Forms again and again  
Oh god that looks like a devil

Over our beautiful Nepalese sky  
Thought the uncertain clouds ended but...

Why this again and again ?  
Is this devil caestiest ?

or;  
Is this regionalist ?

Or this one is socio-political ?  
Questions come and go;

So does the figure of devil.  
I questioned myself:

Is it in the sky or in our mind ?  
Mostly devils are found in people's mind rather than,  
on the forest, darkness or the sky;

But this time it has entered in the minds of,  
the so called societal Leaders;  
Hope this will clear as soon as we think;  
We are the people of such a beautiful country.  
Let save our beauty by being humble,  
first to ourselves;

..... and then to every one'  
with nature and surroundings

and show to all observing us;  
We can and will defeat the devil:

that may appear time to time;  
and which has shown,  
the ugly face in the sky now;  
But will never ever be able to,  
show its face again:



# TRADITIONAL FOOD AND RURAL TOURISM INITIATIVES \_\_\_\_\_

*Tourism has continued to be a critical sector in both advanced and developing economies for economic development, poverty alleviation and sustaining employment. A strong tourism sector contributes in many ways to development and the economy contributing to employment, raising national income, and improving a country's balance of payments. It makes both direct contributions, by raising the national income and improving the balance of payments, and indirect contributions, via its multiplier effect and by providing the basis for connecting countries, through hard and soft infrastructure—attributes that are also critical for a country's general economic competitiveness. Over the past decades, many new destinations have emerged, challenging the traditional ones of Asia, Europe and North America. For many developing countries including Nepal, tourism has been the main sources of foreign exchange income and the number one export category, creating much needed employment and opportunities for development.*



**◀ RABI JUNG PANDEY**

*MSC Tourism Management  
(University of Surrey)  
Past President ABAN, Director,  
Nepalese Tourism Research and  
Service Center (NTRSC)*

*[pandeyrabijung@gmail.com](mailto:pandeyrabijung@gmail.com)*

## RURAL TOURISM, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND TRADITIONAL FOOD PRODUCTIONS

Tourism being the world's largest industry, is flourishing in recent decades with increasing concentrations of affluence within the leisure class and increasing ease of travel for many (Honey 2008). Experiential types of tourism such as ecotourism, adventure tourism, community based tourism, and agricultural tourism—that typically take place in amenity-rich rural settings—offer urban visitors an opportunity to experience rurality, both as culture and landscape (Bessiere 1998). Demand for experiential types of tourism has increased in recent years, presenting rural communities with a novel and promising source of additional income and job creation. Increasingly, culinary tourism has emphasized local food systems (Smith and Xiao 2008). Many tourism destinations have been developing the phrase “local food tourism network” while emphasizing cooperation across economic sectors and the spatial and social dimensions of local food tourism. Thus local food tourism network is defined as the spatially arranged web of relationships and resources necessary to integrate food products and farm culture as a single commodity and bring this commodity to market locally for consumption by visitors. Some key actors in these networks include small farms, food processors, agricultural cooperatives, farmers' markets, community supported agriculture, cooperative grocery stores, local restaurants, and specialty food shops. We find that local food tourism networks confer multiple community development benefits—principally by increasing stocks of social and human capital and expanding markets.

Agritourism, perhaps the most common form of rural tourism in Western Europe and the United States, has represented a meaningful source of income by allowing farmers to add value without adding acreage, thereby incentivizing the preservation of traditional farms. Besides agritourism, culinary tourism with an explicit emphasis on traditional (local) food systems—what we call traditional (local) food tourism—is gaining popularity. This is largely due to interest over the past decade in tying foods to their rural places of origin, an activity embodied in the emergence of geographical indications or labels of origin (Barham 2003; Bowen 2010). Traditional food tourism potentially represents

a greater contribution to rural community economic development than agritourism because it emphasizes linkages among multiple sectors of the local economy, whereas agritourism enterprises are often self-contained, private endeavors (Green and Dougherty 2008; Renting, Marsden, and Banks 2003). With these trends experiential types of tourism and their community development implications link between traditional food systems and community economic development by evaluating the potential of traditional food tourism networks.

Although rural tourism is not a new phenomenon (Kastenholz and Figueiredo, 2007), it has been acquiring during the last decade, a complete new dimension both in social and institutional terms. In the first case, this new dimension is related to the growing urban demands for rural areas, in the second case this new dimension is often translated in the formulation that rural tourism can act as the panacea for rural areas development problems.

Despite the difficulties and problems in the connection between traditional food production and rural tourism activities, taking into account the attraction of urban populations by rural areas and rural tourism activities, it is to be expected a preference for typical and traditional food productions that could be translated in the amplification of their markets. The another relevant dimension of traditional food production stress the fact that these productions are not perceived only as food, but also as part of the overall tourism experience in which cultural aspects (mainly associated to gastronomy) are of paramount importance (DuRand and Heath, 2006). In this sense, traditional food production as essential raw materials in a genuine local gastronomy became central in the touristic experience, as well as in the attractiveness of a tourism destination. As Boyne, Hall and Williams (2003: 132) refer “highquality food and beverage products can enhance the overall tourism product and tourists' experiences, while tourism related spending on these locally produced goods provides economic stimuli to maintain or reinvigorate the viability of the local primary production and processing sectors”.

Tourism is thus intimately linked to local food production. Tourists, just like local people, need to eat. If their demands can be met from local resources this can provide an important boost to the local economy. If not, tourism can add to

the demand for imported foods, harming local agriculture, increasing imports and reducing the economic benefit of tourism. Strong linkages between tourism and local food production can create considerable added value; but poor linkages can be fatal.

In recent years, Food Tourism has grown considerably and has become one of the most dynamic and creative segments of tourism. Both destinations and tourism companies are aware of the importance of gastronomy in order to diversify tourism and stimulate local, regional and national economic development. Furthermore, Food Tourism includes in its discourse ethical and sustainable values based on the territory, the landscape, the lake, local heritage and culture, local products, authenticity, which is something it has in common with current trends of cultural consumption.

Because local/traditional food production depends on agriculture, and other local products, the appropriate development of linkages with tourism can aid the stimulation of indigenous entrepreneurial activity and stimulate the 'bottom-up' development of community-based tourism initiatives. Tourism not only provides a market for the final products of agriculture, but also offers the potential of further income generation through developing experiences for tourists in the form of 'agritourism'. In some cases, however, the preference of tourists for familiar foods can be a major drain on the economy. This is a particular problem for areas with a limited capacity for agricultural production, such as many small village destinations.

## OPPORTUNITIES

In the old literature of tourism, food has been considered at a prospective destination as an attraction. Fresh seafood in beach resorts, traditional cookery, the famous restaurants in expensive hotels, on the cruise liners or in the major commercial centers all and all are built for this purpose. In fact, all the countries and even cities expand their unique culinary attractions to engage more travelers (Dann, 1996).

Food takes a major part in opting for destination. The findings of a study conducted by Enteleca Research and Consultancy (Enteleca Research and Consultancy, 2000) indicates that the food plays a main role in making half of the tourists stay and shop. "Food Tourists", compared to other tourist groups, have been the most faithful group to destination (host). In their decision making for selecting the destination of travel, local meals perform a crucial role (Okumus, 2007). It is believed that food holds the fourth position in perceiving a destination as an attractive place.

In a similar investigation, seeking for the reason of tourists' reference to Turkey, food was identified as the fourth factor of tourists' satisfaction feeling and their prime reference motive. In another study food has been found as the second attraction in Hong Kong, the fourth in Bangkok and the fifth in Singapore (Enright, 2005). Such investigation is lacking in Nepal. However, local food has been identified as the major motivating factor for domestic tourism especially in rural tourism areas together with the Homestays accommodation facilities.



In addition to significance of food in choosing destination, it is also of sizable effect in the tourist expenditure share. As Hudman asserts, food is an important part of tourism industry which comprises 25% of total tourist's expenditures (Hudman, 1986). Today, this amount is even larger. The noteworthy point about the posture and prominence of food is that tourists most often than not don't choose their destination based on their expected food, but they terminate their satisfaction of holidays and travel memories discussing over food. The issue illustrates that despite most of tourists opt for destination resting on some perceived aspects or expectations (such as attractions, accommodation etc), but their real satisfaction is obtained through other aspects (i.e. food) which is usually not taken into the initial consideration. A great deal of respondents in Sparks and Beverly's study put emphasis on the key role of food in deriving their general satisfaction of a destination. Therefore, the promotion of variety of food products and the restaurants of an area give rise to attractiveness of that location (Sparks, 2000).

Today, travellers are more experienced, have more disposable income and more leisure time to travel. Thus tourism allows them to escape the daily routine of their usual environment and immerse themselves in a world of freedom and novelty. Consequently, more and more tourists in the world are looking for concrete learning experiences, and in this endeavour the gastronomic experience, in highly diverse ways, is playing an increasingly prominent part.

As indicated, food tourism is an experiential trip to a gastronomic region for recreational or

entertainment purposes, which includes visits to primary and secondary producers of food, gastronomic festivals, food fairs, events, farmers' markets, cooking shows and demonstrations, testing of quality food products or any tourism activity related to food. In addition, this experiential journey is related to a particular lifestyle that includes experimentation, learning from different cultures, the acquisition of knowledge and understanding of the qualities or attributes related to tourism products, as well as culinary specialties produced in that region through its consumption. Thus, the experience of gastronomic tourism is considered as such, provided that everything mentioned above constitutes the main reason or motivation to travel for visitors to a particular destination or at least one significant reason.

## PROBLEMS AND ISSUES

Another important aspect of food production in the modern 'risk society' is the extent to which our food is safe to eat. In the 1970s food safety fears in the developed world often related to unprocessed foods, such as unpasteurized milk, which almost disappeared as a result. The development of modern factory farming methods and food processing has now created a situation in which the risks associated with mass-produced processed food have actually increased, and the demand for 'safer' foods, such as organic or unprocessed foods have grown as a result. This is in turn likely to increase the demand for gastronomic tourism in regions which can show that their food products are 'safe' and/or rely on traditional production methods. This may become



***key role of food in deriving their general satisfaction of a destination. Therefore, the promotion of variety of food products and the restaurants of an area give rise to attractiveness of that location (Sparks, 2000).***







increasingly important in peripheral areas where farmers apparently at a disadvantage through lack of mechanization and modernization may actually be able to turn their 'old-fashioned' production methods into an advantage. The increasing awareness of food risks will also strengthen calls for labelling and quality schemes that guarantee the origin and production methods of foods, which is already an important element of marketing strategies in many of the regions.

Supplying food without incurring in health hazards is a crucial factor in tourism industry. In 2001, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) announced its concern with foodborne illnesses, and in prevention announced an estimated 76,000 cases of such diseases in the United States of America, leading to 325,000 hospitalizations and 5,200 deaths in that country. Similarly, in Brazil, the Ministry of Health presented data under Hospital Information System (HIS) from 1999 to 2004 that showed 3,410,048 hospitalizations related to foodborne illness, averaging 568,341 cases per year.

For emerging and major tourism relying countries lacking in fitting measures to reverse such situation could jeopardize the economic situations. There clearly need to interfere positively in food production. Several specific legal statutes and standards for certifications need to be developed and produced, as per the guidelines set or suggested or overseen by many countries.

Despite traditional food productions are increasingly recognized as important assets to rural development, particularly in remote areas, they continue to present several weaknesses which make difficult their placement in the market mainly when compared with mass productions.

Likewise, connecting local producers with the tourism sector is a common difficulty. It can be attributed to a number of variables such as:

- Many local producers are micro-businesses that do not want to grow and/or farmers are reluctant to diversify;
- Producers often do not see the value-added in entering the tourism sector;
- Producers lack knowledge and/or available knowledge is confusing about tourists and the tourism industry;
- It is difficult to reach producers as they are widely spread geographically;
- There are differing needs between small and large producers;
- There is a lack of guarantee in quantity and quality in local supply;
- The lack of economies of scale result in higher local food prices;
- There is a lack of information to hospitality providers on locally produced options;
- Food service establishments are extremely stretched and use price as a point of difference;
- Tourism sites are not well packaged or promoted; It is difficult to find the unique selling point of local food.

## CONCLUSION

This paper has discussed the evidence related with the traditional food practices and rural tourism in many countries. Starting with a theoretical discussion on the history, importance and economic benefits within international, regional and local tourism pattern, the potential benefits deriving from the connection between traditional food productions and rural tourism activities has articulated. It has also mentioned that several advantages and mutual benefits can be identified in the relationship between regional and local traditional food productions and rural tourism initiatives and activities, including a stronger contribution to local development. However, based on the empirical evidence discussed, it has concluded that there is a strong relationship between traditional food productions and rural tourism with several problems and issues to be addressed to a more fruitful liaison including: – the small scale of production; the higher prices of products; the social and economic characteristics of producers; the lack of association ability and the insufficient commercial organization capacity which are reflected both in the scarcity of information on traditional food and in its unavailability in the markets commonly used by tourism industry.

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# WOMEN IN POLITICS

## HOW WILL LEADERSHIP IN NEPAL FARE?

*All of a sudden Nepal now has women leaders in all sections of Nepal's Governing bodies. The number of women holding political offices in Nepal increased significantly in the first local elections of the Federal Nepal. In the First Past the Post (FPTP) elections for the House of Representatives and the Legislative Assembly of Federal Nepal, the number of elected women leaders are negligible. However, due to the provision in the new Constitution, there has to be 33% presence of women in the parliament. Therefore, this ratio has to be maintained by taking women from the Proportionate Representation (PR) election held simultaneously with the FPTP elections. This is indeed a leap in Nepal's quest to reach gender equality. Even while looking at the so called largest Democracy in the world, even though the number of women holding political positions in the USA grew substantially in the last two decades, men still outnumber women by more than 5-to-1 ratio.*

◀ **NAMRATA SHARMA**

Past President ABAN  
Chairperson,  
Center for Investigative  
Journalism





Historically, women all over the world faced disadvantages in running for office and winning voter approval. Experts say these barriers are lower today. In Nepal, as elsewhere, female lawmakers have highlighted the issues affecting women, their families and children. The sad truth is that partisanship within the country have thwarted such initiatives. Although we now will have 33% women representatives in the parliament and Nepal has had women in the three top positions in the country including the President, Speaker of House of Representatives and the Chief Justice, Nepali women leaders still have a lot of gender hurdles to cross.

Even in the US, having a woman as president is still considered as a distant reality. Hillary Rodham Clinton, the former First Lady, waged one of the most formidable presidential campaigns by a female candidate in U.S. history. Many of her supporters voiced concern that her campaign was hurt by sexism in the media coverage of the race.

Julia Gillard, the first Australian woman Prime Minister and leader of the Labor Party, is a perfect example of a politician who had to basically terminate her position due to gender discrimination and sexist behavior from the opposition. She is a politician who worked herself up the ladder and led her party and became Prime Minister from 2010 to 2013. She was the first woman to hold both the positions as leader of her party and Prime Minister of Australia.

Women like Indira Gandhi, Margaret Thatcher, Benazir Bhutto and a few others left their mark in their respective countries and were considered great statespersons. However, even today, men still dominate the topmost political positions all over the world. Although the understanding and acceptance of both genders in leadership positions is increasing, men are still the preferred choice and women still have to struggle more to achieve the same positions.

Such patterns could in some ways be attributed to the fact that various theories have been generated since centuries on beliefs related to hierarchy in the power structure, especially the 'traits' that are attributed to leadership, and linkage to "men" as leadership guardians.

The "Great Man" theory by Thomas Carlyle (1841) was the first systematic attempt to benchmark a "Trait theory" whereby Carlyle focused on the innate qualities possessed by great social, political

and military leaders like Mohandas Gandhi, Abraham Lincoln, and Napoleon. There are similar theories where political leadership is attributed to male charisma, intelligence, and capability. There are hardly any theories working on women leadership based on their gender-constructed roles.

Women still face numerous obstacles in getting fair representation in governance. Their participation has been limited by the assumption that the women's proper sphere is still the "private" sphere. While the "public" domain is one of political authority and contestation, the "private" realm is associated with the family and the home. By relegating women to the private sphere, their ability to enter political arenas is curtailed. Gender inequality within the families, inequitable division of labor within households and cultural attitudes about gender roles further subjugate women and serve to limit their representation in public life.

Societies that are highly patriarchal often have local power structures that make it difficult for women to contest and win elections. Even after being elected, women mostly get ministerial portfolios which are seen as "soft" or subsidiary positions. The more powerful portfolios like finance, defense and home are seen as masculine. These are the reasons that politically elected women face a lot of discrimination and violence at home and the workplace.

Women politicians are always under the scrutiny of the media. They are either "overexposed" or "dumb"! More focus is given to their private lives than their political careers. The media is very quick in pointing out if their fashion choices and looks are either too feminine or masculine. The woman political leader's romantic life is a subject of much interest to the general public rather than her political responsibilities and stances.

If the woman political leader is married and has children, then the question arises as to how she balances her work and family, something that a male politician would never be asked about. Unlike their male counterparts, the female candidates face barriers like sex stereotyping, political socialization, lack of preparation for political activity and work and family balance.

The work-life balance is invariably more difficult for women as they are generally expected by society to act as the primary caregivers for children and the elderly as well as for the



maintenance of the home. Due to the demands of work-life balance, it is assumed that women choose to delay political aspirations until their children are older, or remain unmarried or childless. For this, too, they will be “blamed” by the society for not maintaining the traditional gender-constructed values.

However, it is a fact that women politicians in Nepal have always been participating equally to bring Nepal to its aspired-to republicanism. Right from the Panchayat regime, women like Sahana Pradhan, Shailaja Acharya, and many more – both well known and numerous unknown – have contributed significantly in their fight against autocratic monarchy and restoring democracy in 1990 and then championing for a republican state. Women combatants, too, have played significant roles in the Maoist uprising against the state. There are several Maoist women leaders who have combated with new-born babies clutched in their arms and have been subjected to war crimes like rape, molestation and other hardships.

The stereotyped role of women and their struggles to attain top political positions still continues. They still face the stigmas of gender discrimination and roles that they need to fulfill while their male counterparts go scot-free. Now, at the dawn of Nepal as a Republic Country and

the newly elected people in place, there needs to be a strong emphasis to help the elected women leaders to perform their roles well and bring about a social change in the country.

In the local election, the constitutional provision dictates that one of the two top positions of the Mayor/Deputy mayor and Village Chair/ Vice Chair needs to be one of each gender. This proactive provision of having one gender each on the top positions in the Municipality and Village Council has suddenly created 50% representation of women in the top governing bodies all over the country. However, all the political parties field men as Mayor/Chair and Deputy as female in most of the places. Therefore, a trend that women’s position is deputy has been established. The positive fact of this situation is that women are in leadership place and have the opportunity to participate in important decision-making process. This will bring about a social realization and challenge to the patriarchal norms. However caution needs to be given in how the trend is taken forward.

*(excerpts of this article are taken from Namrata Sharma’s article published in Republica)  
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## NEPAL UK BICENTENARY POSTAGE STAMP RELEASE CEREMONY

On the occasion of 200 years of friendship between Nepal & Britain, a commemorative postage stamp was released on Dec 29th, 2016. A function was hosted by the Chamber at Amrapali Banquet for officially unveiling the first day cover of the stamp. In presence of Rt. Hon'ble Vice President of Nepal Nanda Bahadur Pun, Hon'ble Minister of Information & Communications Surendra Kumar Karki (Ram Karki) unveiled Postage Stamp to mark the bicentenary friendship between Nepal & UK.

## NBCCI ACCA SCHOLARSHIP

A MOU for the sponsorship of worthy Nepalese candidate for ACCA course was signed in the attendance of officials from the British Embassy, Laxmi Bank (sponsor), ACCA and Nepal Britain Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Following up on the MoU, scholarship was awarded to Ms. Rejika Maharjan who scored highest in the competition. On the occasion of Nepal UK bicentenary postage stamp release ceremony held on 29th Dec 2016, scholarship was awarded to Ms. Maharjan by the hands of Rt. Hon. Vice President of Nepal, Nanda Bahadur Pun.

## NBCCI ACCA SCHOLARSHIP

As a part of celebrations of bicentennial relationship between Nepal & the United Kingdom, NBCCI organized a get together function for its members at Laxmi Bank Complex,

Hattisar on August 12, 2016. A short speech was delivered by HE Mr. Richard Morris, British Ambassador on "Brexit" at the gathering.

A cheque worth NPR. 100,000 (One Hundred Thousands Nepalese Rupees) was handed over to The British School as sponsorship for "Briti -Rock". Brit Rock is a musical event being organized by The British School to celebrate 200 years of friendship between Nepal & Britain coinciding with the 50th Year Anniversary of the school itself.

## UK Trade Delegation to Nepal

A trade delegation from UK visited Nepal from 13-17 March, 2016 to celebrate 200 years of Nepal Britain friendship & promote bilateral ties related to trade & investment between Nepal & Britain. The delegation was led by Hon. Mr. Richard Pelly, Chief Executive, BNCC. More than 10 companies from different sectors participated in the delegation. On 16th March, a cocktail reception was jointly held by NBCCI & BNCC at Hotel Annapurna where UK delegates made good interaction with other invites from different business, service & social fields.

Talk Show on "Trade Perspective" addressed by H.E. Mr. Richard Morris, HMA, British Embassy as Key Note Speaker. To start off the 200th year celebration of relations between Nepal & Britain, NBCCI organized a talk show on the topic "Trade Perspective" on 11th January, 2016 at Laxmi Bank Complex, Hattisar. The function was addressed by HE Mr. Richard Morris, British Ambassador as a key note speaker. The main motto behind organizing this show was to highlight on the trade and investment related issues between Nepal & Britain.



# BENEFITS OF RAP APPROACH IN ROAD CONSTRUCTION

*The road networks are the major modes of transportation in Nepal because of mountainous terrain. Poverty is linked to the lack of road connectivity because the majority of settlements in hilly and mountainous areas are not accessible by motorized vehicles and face constraints of limited access to food supplies, health and education facilities, and other essential services. The rural transport is largely based on foot trails, mule tracks, and trail bridges. Past experiences in the rural roads sector in Nepal include the following: (i) lack a maintenance culture and limited fund for road maintenance; (ii) supplementary infrastructure is not aligned and with the project (iii) skills training are not focused and market-driven; (iv) transport services are unreliable and expensive; (v) more works tend to be allocated to contractors than to communities; (vi) planning and works procurement are too slow; (vii) weak implementation capacity (viii) attention is lacking regarding the needs of poor and excluded groups and (ix) access of the rural poor to microfinance is lacking.*



◀ **INDU SHARMA DHAKAL**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

DFID of United Kingdom funded Rural Access Programme (RAP) is a pro-poor, pro-livelihoods innovative road development project to reach the most disadvantaged groups in the hills of Nepal. Its goal is to secure sustainable rural livelihoods for poor and disadvantaged people through improved access to goods, markets and services in targeted hill areas. Rural Access Programme began in 1999 with a design phase followed by implementation of RAP, RAP2 and RAP3. The intended Outcome of RAP-3 is 'Improved incomes and resilience through employment, sustainable access to markets and improved access to economic opportunities in the rural transport infrastructure. RAP3 covers 8 core districts Jumla, Kalikot, Mugu, Humla, Achham and Bajura of mid-west & far west region and 6 pilot districts country-wide viz. Jhapa, Morang, Sankhuwasabha, Sindhupalchok, Parbat and Dadeldhura.

## 2. ENGINEERING APPROACH

### 2.1 ALIGNMENT SELECTION

The alignment selection in RAP roads was prioritised during the District Transport Master Plan. The objectives was to select technically, environmentally and socio-economically the most feasible route among the alternatives. Due attention was given to maximise mass balancing horizontally as well as transversely during field survey and design. Preference for alignment

selection is to place the road centre line at or as near as possible to the hill slope surface to maximize mass-balancing within the cross-section in order to minimize excess cut or fill. The combination of good alignment and good mass balancing has led to the construction of road with less damage to the biophysical environment. Following factors were duly considered:

- Most favourable alignment was selected out of number of alternatives
- Information were collected during design time to ensure no likely damage to public/private utilities; religious, cultural sites and landslides were avoided
- Ensured adequate haulage provision and minimisation of borrows requirements by avoiding wasteful side tipping
- Minimized major earthwork during the rainy season

### 2.2 LABOUR BASED APPROACH

Labour-based approach is aimed for reducing the rural poverty through employment generation and retention of benefits within the immediate area of the road. The policy to hire labour from local area is intended to provide them extra income opportunity through working in the road construction. This will also generate an ownership feeling of the road among the people. This approach is also appropriate in fragile hill environment resulting in a reduced environmental impact spread over a longer period of time, and in turn allows the new construction to settle better into the landscape.

▼ Figure 1: Road Building Group (RBG) in Bhojpur.





RAP has adopted the Green Road Approach with a number of refinements and revisions based upon a critical review of previous experience. The key features are participatory methods using appropriate labour-based technology using communities and shall be limited to:

- Earthworks
- Drains and side drain structures
- Retaining walls and breast walls. and
- Bioengineering

Road alignment, bridges and piloting for road maintenance were the strong elements of the programme.

### 2.3 PHASED CONSTRUCTION

Roads have been planned and constructed in a phased manner to minimise environmental disturbance. Width of road is opened only 1m wide at the beginning. It is gradually widened to 4.5 m after two or three rainy season. The road is then upgraded to all weather gravel standard. The tipping of surplus spoil is done properly only at approved sites. The mass disposal of spoil on even short slope sections can be very damaging to both the slope and the road itself. Construction spoil likely to be transported down the valley are protected against heavy monsoon storm and rainfall with the help of check walls and vegetation.



***RAP Approach has been successful to deliver poverty reduction through road construction. The labour based construction has worked well to reach the poorest and disadvantaged through direct employment, income generating trainings, and community-based development management.***

## 3. ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) or Initial Environment Examination (IEE) study was performed as necessary to assess the likely impact on the environment and to offer recommendations to make the road environmentally and socially sound and sustainable. These reports cover various aspects of the physical, biological and socio-cultural-economic environments. The reports include:

- documentation of environmental baseline information of the project area
- analysis of positive and negative impacts
- recommendation of preventive and curative mitigation measures; and
- environmental and Social Management Plan to implement the mitigation measures

The main environmental impacts envisaged during road construction were:

- permanent loss of the agricultural land, forest and grazing land
- earthwork and cut-slopes, change in land use, spoil disposal, stockpiling of the construction material, operation of quarries, disruption of drainage
- dust nuisance, road safety issues, slope instability and erosion from drainage
- land and property loss, community infrastructures, places of religious importance and cemeteries
- dropout from school for working
- accidents during construction work
- increased alcoholism and prostitution due to increased income from construction

The Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) developed addressed the problems with suitable mitigation measures. Following mitigation measures were implemented as recommended in ESMP:

- provision of adequate side drainage works, in area where khet land and spring water existed
- implementation of appropriate bioengineering measures to suit site requirements (i.e. brush layering and direct grass seeding in most of fill slopes; jute/coir netting with grass planting on cut slopes)
- land acquisition & compensation paid as necessary
- avoided disposal of cut spoil on water sources, irrigation canals, settlement areas, and religious and culturally important sites
- provision of toilets, health safety and insurance
- involvement of local community in

- reinstatement of cultural and religious sites (e.g. graveyard/buried ground sites, temple of god and goddess, chautara
- reinstatement of trails; irrigation channels; water supply system and religious sites

As an environmentally compatible and cost-efficient alternative for roadside management, bioengineering has become increasingly important and attractive. Bioengineering uses live plants and plant parts as building materials for engineering solutions to erosion control, slope stabilization, landscape restoration, and wildlife habitats. Bioengineering treatments are cost savings, along with other environmental benefits, as compared to traditional roadside geotechnical solutions. Bioengineering methods could be adopted to produce equal or better economic and environmental results because it is an efficient and environmentally beneficial tool for roadside management. RAP is using extensive bioengineering since it was incorporated in the design stage.

#### 4. SOCIAL BENEFITS

Employment creation was very significant in RAP roads and was direct benefit from road construction. Other benefits include:

- development of sustainable, environmentally sound and perennial cropping system

- better access to goods, services
- involvement in Saving Credit Schemes and Socio-Economic activities

RAP Approach has been a successful to deliver poverty reduction through road construction. The labour based construction has worked well to reach the poorest and disadvantaged through direct employment, income generating trainings, and community-based development management.

#### 5. CONCLUSION

The RAP approach was found environmentally friendly in comparison with other approaches with use of heavy machines and equipment. Labour based approach with the involvement of local community in construction greatly helps to keep the environment less disturbed. The Road Building Groups are local people including the ones who lost their land and property, feel higher level of ownership of the road and put effort that support to minimize side casting of excavated materials, reduce in felling of trees and clearance of vegetation. The use of local poor and project-affected households supported to maintain social values and culture of the community intact. The environmental mitigation measures found to be effective in keeping the natural environment within acceptable limits.

▼ Figure 1: Road Maintenance Group (RMG) in Sindhupalchok



## TRAVEL

# WHAT WILL HAPPEN AFTER TWENTY YEARS?

*My eyes were open early in the morning, but I stayed in my bed for awhile. Then I thought it had been a week since I left Kathmandu, as that day was the 8th of October 2009. It had been a week since radio, FM, newspapers, or TV had reached us. The news network doesn't let a person live freely. The buildings are there —narrowing and squeezing the way. Top floors of houses seem to press one down while walking on the way. The vehicles beyond control seem to go over even the footpaths, making respiration extremely troublesome with an excess of smoke and dust. Really, we survive under the reign of fear every moment, but this week I survived, far away from such terror and fear, in my own way. What fun!*



◀ **BHISMA UPRETI**

Executive Member , ABAN

For breakfast we had tea and Pancakes, loaded our luggage onto our backs, and left. The way was along an open field. The larger tree groves thinned and small pine trees appeared. In both the northern and southern sides of the path, high hills were to be seen. In the southern part, Annapurna the First majestically stood with its snow-capped hair, like the grandfather of the remaining peaks. Other peaks stood alongside.

I have always come to see the White Mountains in the northern part till this age of forty, but that day I was walking across the high hill. There had to be a higher hill across one high hill. In the high hills there had to be more snow. This static mentality that had lasted till now was smashed into pieces and I was feeling less certain at that moment. Many high mountains, capped with white snow, lie in the northern frontier of Nepal. Beyond these mountains, lies Tibet, the autonomous region of China. However, beyond the Annapurna mountain range, there is still land of Nepal, which was where we were headed.

Therefore, Manang and Mustang are sometimes referred to as the districts beyond the mountains. With a veil of illusion completely receding, my firmament had opened up clean and azure, and the overwhelming sublimity of the landscape had enthralled and intoxicated me. Experiencing various peculiarities one at a time I moved ahead. Manang has various peculiarities. I experienced only a few of them.

We reached Yungji after crossing a small stream. There were some houses and restaurants. A Gurung lady from one of those restaurants immediately gave a respectful salutation and then called to the doctor when she saw him. We went to the yard of the restaurant and sat down. She heartily handed us two cups of tea. The doctor asked, "How is the business?"



"It's good this year," she said. The state was in ceasefire. The country was comparatively peaceful.

"The tourists have increased this year."

We got a glimpse of the peace and protection in the state.

She refused to accept money for the tea. That was a fine example of the popularity of the doctor. If you have to travel in Manang, do go with the doctor! If he is with you, you will be felicitated in several places. Thanking him, I said "Sister, now we shall move."

"Okay Bhairaru (brothers, a word used to address a younger boy/man), keep coming. I feel very happy when you visit."

She said it all partly from her heart and partly for business. I thought so. However, she had said a really soothing thing, at a time when racial disharmony was at its ebb.

A large red monastery could be seen partially, a little way away, further uphill from Yungji. That was Sher monastery. A very big monastery, indeed! Many girls from different parts of the country came to become Anis there.

"They are blessed and come to be Anis after three years, three months and three days without going into the sun, and without looking at any male while in complete meditation and studying the doctrines of Buddhism," the doctor informed us.

"What if they fall sick in the middle?" I asked.

"I am their doctor," he said. "There is a special liberty for the girls to see me as I am a doctor."

"You are a lucky fellow," I said gazing into his eyes. He gave me a broad smile without saying anything.

"How many girls are studying now?" I asked again. "There are nine."

As he said males were not allowed, I intended to go and see the girls there. The doctor said, "But in vain. You won't be allowed to get in." The doctor's words forced me to desert the idea of going there and, instead I took some photos. I thought of those nine girls would surely be there inside the monastery whose picture I was taking.

The doctor had been working in Manang for the last twelve years. As Mani and Thakur showed interest in going ahead, I chose him for company. I asked, "Even after staying for so long, you don't care about these hills, do you?"

"Of course not. Whenever I go towards the mountain, I don't see it," he said it with ease. When someone says anything very easily, he says it from the heart. The doctor said it from his heart. This truth might



be applicable to those Manangese who have experienced more sorrows than the beauties of the mountain.

"You have been watching this mountain for the last twelve years. In your opinion, has the snow been getting thicker or thinner?" I asked again.

"The glacier is moving upwards every year. I really feel pity when I see it. This is the direct effect of global warming. What will happen after twenty years? What will happen if these rivers go dry?" he became very sad.

I also felt quite saddened. I had seen the Marsyandi River flowing from the snow frozen in Annapurna II, Gangapurna and Tilicho mountains and melted at Tilicho Lake. The doctor's words were really serious and directly linked with human civilization. The heart saddened and even got scared.

As we were about to reach the entrance of Manang we met two men and two young girls coming back from the village along a stream-swept pathway. The girls knew the doctor, and they began to talk.

That was the team of health workers. They were coming back after running a health camp in an upper village of Manang. They looked like urban dwellers, from their attires.

I asked one of them, "Are you from Kathmandu?" "No, I work in Numde' Health Post," she said with a smile. In her smile she looked like a flower blooming amidst thorns. These eyes really identify good things quickly. I turned to a man next to her; both of them were doctors. One of them worked at the Manang District Hospital and another was from Kathmandu. They said the stay was good. The girls were health workers, working with maternity, childbirth and pediatrics.

As we departed from them, the doctor expressed his dissatisfaction, "Just see! They returned quickly after running a health camp. And the remaining I have to finish. Did they not have to inform me that they were running a health camp? I know who is suffering from what sort of disease in the village. I also have to be in the camp. Only then I will be at ease with my job, even after they leave."

The doctor was right. I nodded. He continued as I agreed with him. "They come for a few days, do some work superficially, and run away. They leave all the problems to me. How can I work in such a condition?"

Though he was totally correct I had nothing to say. All doctors working in rural areas might be facing similar problems.

As we moved on over conversations, we entered the Manang Entrance. There were a lot of pictures carved in stone, it was Buddhist art, with prayer wheels. We rotated the prayer wheels from our right. We went to the Annapurna conservation Area Project (ACAP) office situated in the middle of the bazaar, thereafter.

"This is my and Mailadai's office," the doctor said. The office was clean and attractive. Some employees were working in the two-tiered building. We introduced ourselves to them. The job of ACAP was highly praiseworthy as it was not merely limited to the conservation of nature in Manang Lamjung, Mustang and Kaski districts, but also showing deep concern with the health of the people of the remote areas by managing regular health assistants. Similarly, another commendable job was to provide purified water to the trekkers just for five rupees a litre to refill their own bottles.

Manang Bazaar located at 3540 meters above sea level was the main settlement of the remote Manang. This information was hanging on the notice board of the ACAP office.

After that we went to the Himalayan View Hotel that belonged to Michung Gurung, whom we had met that morning at Humde'. In spite it being the busy fertile season of tourists, Michung Gurung managed his hotel well, and he had also told the employees in two other hotels where we were to stay, how to take care of us. This really comforted us. As we were guests to Michung Dai, the employees took special care of us.

We knew that there were hot water facilities available due to the use of solar energy. We each took a nice bath the first after five days. It was quite refreshing.

We had arrived at our destination, and half of the day was still with us. After our meal we were completely free.

The Gurungs and the Ghailes are the tribes known as Mananges in Manang. There are Lama settlers too, who have migrated from Tibet, Dolpa and Mustang, though Manangese are in the majority. Similarly most of the workers in hotels and restaurants were found from the northern part of Gorkha district.

We couldn't stay long at the hotel. There was the beautiful Gangapurna Lake with clean water located a little farther, behind the hotel. Gangapurna hill wearing its cap of snow was standing at its head as a guardian. That lake had originated from the melting of the ice of Gangapurna hill. How could we confine ourselves in such a small hotel room when such a luring beauty drew us out every moment?

We came out of the hotel quickly and reached the Gangapurna Lake skating along the way downhill.

We were excited to dive into it and feel its beauty or quench our thirst for beauty by drinking it. So we went there running and splashed its water on one-another's faces taking it on our palms. The water was extremely cold and sharp. It felt as if it cut my hand and blood coagulated into snow. The water was from melting ice, so I stepped back.

All beauties are not consumable. Many beauties are enjoyed from a distance. Mani had a similar conclusion, perhaps.

We returned after some time spent viewing ourselves in Gangapurna Lake water. We met a middle-aged man on the way.

"Are you back from viewing the lake?" he asked. The conversation began. I said, "Such beautiful and clean water it has!"

"Is it so beautiful?" he said.  
"Was it much more beautiful than this before?" I asked again.

"Of course! It was really attractive. The glacier used to come floating up to the lake." And pointing towards the bare stiff, black stones he said, "Such bare black stones were never seen. All were covered by snow."

"How did it happen then?" Mani asked.  
"I don't know how it happened. Maybe the Gods became angry or the hill is damaged. It happened just in front of our eyes," he said changing his countenance.

It was another effect of global warming, I thought. What will happen to the future of humans if global warming is not checked? Once again I was scared. The evening in Manang was quite cold. Cold increased as evening deepened. Some friends were talking in the room and a thirst for drinking coffee arose in all of us. ShreeOm and Samba didn't want to go out. So Mani and I went out hunting for coffee shops.

We found a neat and clean coffee shop after walking nearly a hundred and fifty meters. We had coffee and some cookies there.

"Are you poets from ACAP?" the shopkeeper asked.  
"Yes!" we had a short answer.

We thanked him.

The cookies in his shop were made by himself. We had some. They were extremely delicious. He said that his business was good.

I wanted to converse with him further. I asked,  
"Manang has these many high mountains. Besides

tourism and the hotel business, what jobs do the people of Manang seek?

"Farming, he said. "Manang has a good yield of rice, wheat, pulses, potato, maize, millets etc. We can also try commercial farming, and herbal plantation," he added.

"Do they have herbal plantation too?" I reiterated.  
"Yes, they have started at places, but not on a commercial scale. It would be good, if they could do so, but who would help them with technology and money? See, how such a promising field of apple farming too has not been successfully managed here?" he added.

I contemplated for a while: like these high mountains, Manang has high potential for agriculture. However, viewed from Kathmandu, these potentials are not evident. Only the lofty mountains are seen. The complaints would transform into prosperity if such potentials were addressed at the time of framing policies and programs. People's faces then, would be embellished with smiles of contentment, instead of being clouded by dust and dirt.

On our way back we could hear someone singing over the strings of a guitar in a house. I stood and listened. It was Ramesh.

"Ramesh is singing a song," I said.

"Is it so? Mani asked. As I claimed it was so, he said,  
"Let's go and peep through the window."

We went to the window slowly and peeped through it. Really, Ramesh was playing the guitar. There was a white lady sitting next to him, enjoying the melody. Govinda, Kiran, Baba, Ujjwal and Yagya were around him. The Pokhareli team was near the fire with the white lady enjoying the music and the drink. The friends might have been tired. We had to walk again the next day. In that day's short stay they might have decided to have some fun. They might have wanted to forget the sorrow along the way and might have decided to enjoy setting aside the problems of life in a different style.

"Are you also going?" I asked Mani.

"No, I won't go. We are already prepared for tomorrow's journey, aren't we?" he said.  
We returned to the hotel.

# UK AID: FOUNDATION FOR THE NATION

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*Nepal and Great Britain are two close allies. Nepalese are playing safeguard role in favor of Great Britain for more than a hundred years. Great Britain has been offering various types of help at different times of need for Nepal.*

*History of Nepal Administrative Staff College (NASC) dates back to late King Birendra's vision. While addressing to 32nd National Panchayat Assembly, the late king raised an idea to establish a national level training institute to strengthen government of Nepal. To shape this idea, Administrative Management Department (now the Ministry of General Administration) prepared a project plan.*



◀ **KALPALATA DAHAL**

*Executive Member of ABAN  
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The objectives of such national level training institute were for fulfillment of the gap of:

- The role of co-ordination among training institutions and their activities in country
- The necessity of trainer's capacity building institution
- Taking an advisory role to the government in formulation of training policy
- Bridging role between national and international training institutions

In 1980, the action was implemented after the visit of King Birendra Bikram Shah Dev and Queen Aishwarya of Nepal took place in the United Kingdom (UK). At that time, both countries agreed to establish a higher-level training institute in Nepal. UK was ready to assist the Nepalese government on its objective. Following the objective, study teams were exchanged and was decided to help NASC in the areas of:

- Human resource development
- Provide training materials in the initial period of NASC establishment
- Build and repair training buildings for NASC

To regulate the training activities, an Executive Director (ED) was appointed by the Government of Nepal for NASC in 1981 (2038/09/15BS). The first ED, Mr. Gorakshya Bahadur Nuchhe Pradhan visited various training institutions in UK. He made an agreement with UK to support NASC with providing training experts, scholarships, logistics and vehicles.

An Executive Committee also was formulated to regulate the activities in 1982. Among the members, two experts were nominated by the president of NASC (ED) and rest of the members were secretaries from different Ministries. They represented Ministry of General Administration (MoGA), Law and Justice, Finance, Public Service Commission and National Planning Commission.

From the day Ashwin 11, 2039 B.S. (27th September 1982) NASC Act, 2039 was published in Gazette and NASC was formally established as a national level autonomous training institute. Since then, it is running under the direction of two committees: (a) The apex committee -Governing Council- It is under the Presidential leadership of the Ministry of General Administration (MoGA). It consists of eight members including the ministers and secretaries. (b) The eleven-member committee-Executive Committee- represents secretaries from different ministries like Public Service Commission, Planning Commission and some experts that are nominated.

NASC has its distinct vision which is- to strengthen and enhance administrative and managerial capacity

of government and public enterprises. Likewise, the objectives are as follows:

- Manage trainings per need of government and public enterprises
- Take measures and assist to make strong administrative and management sectors of government and public enterprises
- Produce more information from problem-oriented research, consultancies to make training more effective and efficient

To meet these objectives, NASC had set policies such as, to integrate training as an

- Integral part of personnel management
- Part of development of government and public enterprises and organizations
- Part of professional development of staffs

NASC is stepping forward fulfilling its objectives. Till now, some value additions are seen in its span of developmental activities. We can also see some challenges for organizational development. Some of the challenges are as follows:

- Need more infrastructure development for wide expansion of activities to cover all public organizations.
- Need to allocate, develop and retain capable human resource.
- Expansion on national and international network, widening its activities, collaboration, co-operation with likely national and international organization's and their activities.

Being an institution of "Center of Excellence", NASC is following its own professional values and ethics according to its Five Years Strategic Plan (1972/73-206/77). NASC has been working hard to build a team of effective and efficient public servants, to make them capable of possessing professional ethics and values, to make them accountable and responsible towards their assigned roles and duties via training, research and consultancy services. Twentyseven NASC staffs ran programs for 11 groups for 26 weeks at the beginning and 245 trainees were successfully trained. Till now, about fifty thousand officers have been trained through long and short training programs. (NASC Yearly Report 2039-40, 2073/74).

With the help of British government, a foundation for strengthening Nepalese government was established. NASC is an example of heart to heart relation between Nepal and Great Britain where great interest was taken by both leaders of the nation for the sake of Nepalese people. Some photos below depict the truth.



# NATIONAL PROSPERITY: MYTH AND REALITY

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*There has been increasing concern expressed over current status of the country and way forward to achieve national prosperity. Citizens and all those who love Nepal are constantly asking why this country could not achieve prosperity, whether there are opportunities to build a prosperous Nepal, why we failed to bring changes in social economic front as compared to those countries which were in almost same footing with Nepal half a century ago. Countries like South Korea and Thailand have now achieved prosperity through in high level of development.*



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Constant failure to overcome socio-economic backwardness of the country and to provide a sense of satisfaction is pinching us for a long time? All these questions and quest to find viable solutions and measures to implement them sincerely reveals our ambition to make Nepal a prosperous country. We all expect to achieve prosperity in our generation. It is not impossible but not easy if we continue with current mindset which is detrimental to productivity and cohesive working environment. We definitely need to change our current system of thinking, system of governance and resource utilization and measuring performance among others.

This article is an attempt to discuss the concept of national prosperity, its main aspects, challenges and prospects in the context of Nepal.  
Concept and Aspects

National prosperity is a multidimensional concept. It depends mainly on human and physical capital formation, preservation, efficient and effective use of such capital. Prosperity makes direct impact to human well being and its sustainability. It is mainly the state of health, happiness, dignity and economic, social and family situation supporting it. Prosperity demands growth together with fair distribution of income, property and opportunity which requires increase in investment. National and foreign investors expect good governance and security of their property and investment. Cordial and cooperative working relationships between social, economic, cultural, administrative and political sector is crucial to achieve prosperity.

People are deprived of exercising their basic human rights if they are financially weak, socially backward and politically excluded. Therefore, focus should go on strengthening and empowering economically backward people to enable them to make best use of their talent. Prosperity can be viewed from personal and national perspective. From a personal perspective, prosperity is the availability of basic amenities and resources that provides reasonable assurance and access to development opportunities and protection at the time of crisis. From national perspective, prosperity assumes economic social and technical capacity to address changing aspirations of people, visible changes (improvement) in the living standards, social cohesiveness, development of entrepreneurship, equity and fairness in the opportunities of growth and development and overall satisfaction (happiness) on the quality and responsiveness of the institutions of governance.

Strategy designed to achieve prosperity should focus on reducing inequities and exclusion. The main objective of prosperity is to provide dignified life to all sections of society irrespective of their caste, creed, color and geographical location. Statistical measurement of prosperity shall have no value if a large section of population feels neglected, exploited and victim of discriminatory behavior. Let us move our discussion ahead with the economic objective of state as mentioned in the Constitution of Nepal, 2015.

The economic objective of the state shall be to achieve a sustainable economic development, while achieving a rapid economic growth, by way of maximum mobilization of the available means and resources through participation and development of public, private and cooperatives, and to develop a socialism-oriented independent and prosperous economy while making the national economy independent, self reliant and progressive in order to build an exploitation free society by abolishing economic inequality through equitable distribution of the gains.

This objective seems to be very broad encompassing a number of interrelated objectives and measures to achieve them. It has recognized cooperative as one of the three pillars in achieving and economic objective of the state. This has paved way to determine economic policy and set performance indicators for monitoring and performance indicators for evaluation of achievements. People are curious to know why we need to mention a specific political philosophy in the constitution. Our ultimate objective is to achieve national prosperity with fair and equitable distribution of dividend of national growth and development.

## INDICATORS OF PROSPERITY

We talk about national prosperity in an elusive term. In most cases prosperity is understood as increase in per capita income and gross domestic product (GDP). But prosperity much more than increase in income and which has not been taken into consideration adequately. In this context, it would be useful to look at the indicators developed by Legatum Institute ([www.li.com](http://www.li.com)). This institute has been ranking countries since 2009 on the basis of eight indicators until 2008 and one indicator (Quality of Natural Environment) was added in 2016. We can also examine the relevance of these indicators and apply them to assess our prosperity.

S. NO.	INDICATORS	ELEMENTS
1.	Economy	1.1 Economic openness 1.2 Macroeconomic indicators 1.3 Foundations of growth) 1.4 Economic opportunity 1.5 Financial sector efficiency
2.	Governance	2.2 Effective Governance) 2.3 Democracy and political Participation 2.4 Rule of Law
3.	Education	3.1 Access to education 3.2 Quality of education 3.3 Human Capital
4.	Health	4.1 Basic Mental and Physical Health 4.2 Health Infrastructure 4.3 Preventive Care
5.	Safety and Security	5.1 National Security 5.2 Personal Safety
6.	Personal Freedom	6.1 Basic legal right, 6.2 Personal Freedom 6.3 Social tolerance
7.	Business Environment	7.1 Entrepreneurial environment in country, 7.2 Barriers to Innovation, 7.3 Business Infrastructure, 7.4 Labour Market Flexibility
8.	Social Capital	8.1 Strength of Personal Relationships) 8.2 Social Network Support 8.3 Social norms and citizen participation
9.	Natural Environment	9.1 Quality of natural resources, 9.2 Environmental pressure, 9.3 Preservation efforts

Norway has been ranked number one in all these years except in 2016. Countries ranked from 1 to 10 in last three years (2015-2017) include Norway, New Zealand, Finland, Switzerland, Sweden, Canada, Denmark, Netherlands, Australia and United Kingdom. Ten nations that ranked in the bottom are Yemen, Central African Republic, Sudan, Afghanistan, Chad, Mauritania, Congo (Democratic Republic), Iraq, Angola, Burundi.

Institute's ranking revealed that all four Nordic countries and western European countries. Out of

seven G7 countries only United Kingdom featured in tenth rank. Nations that are ranked at the bottom were mainly suffered from violent, conflict and bad governance.

Two member states (Bhutan and Maldives) of South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) were not included in ranking. Sri Lanka has been in better situation than other five SAARC nations. The ranking of other states were as follows from 2009 to 2017.

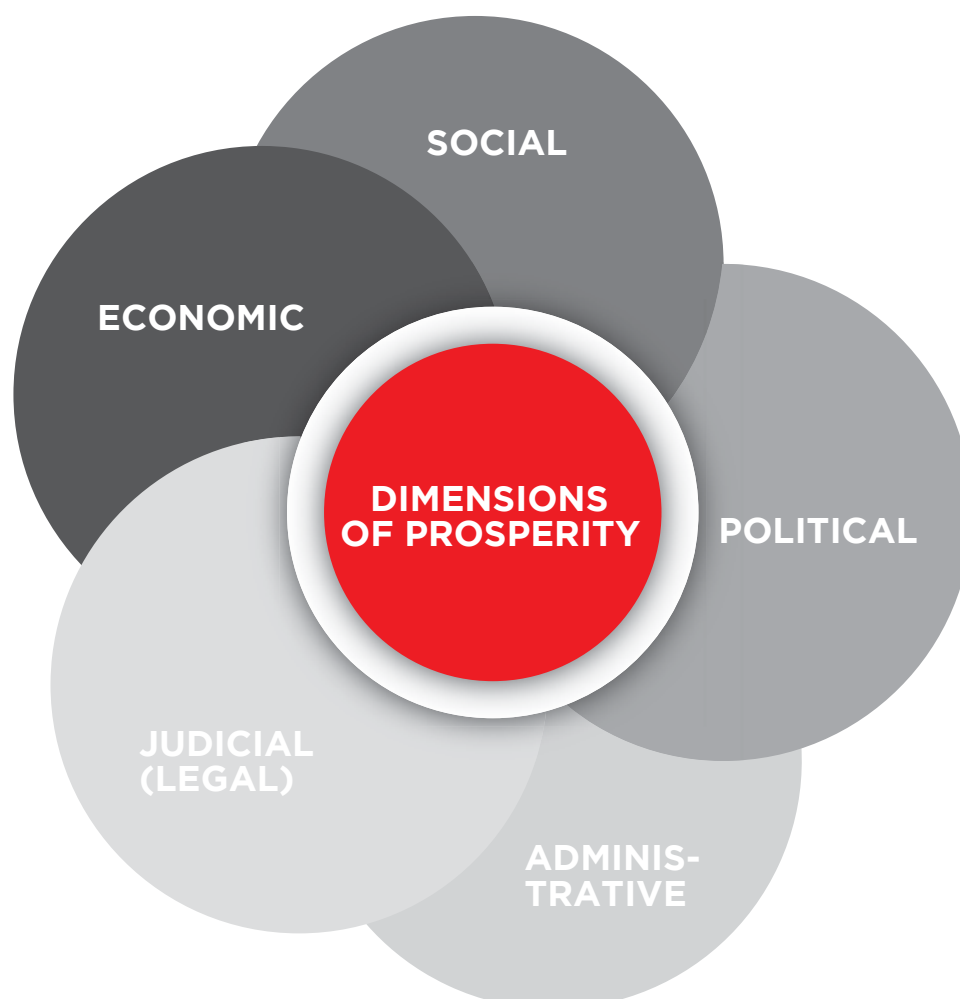
COUNTRY	YEAR								
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Nepal	88	91	93	108	102	96	89	94	89
Sri Lanka	68	59	63	58	60	62	61	56	53
India	78	88	91	101	106	102	99	104	100
Bangladesh	95	96	95	103	103	104	103	114	111
Pakistan	107	109	107	132	132	127	130	139	137
Afghanistan	-	-	-	140	139	140	140	148	146

Source: Legatum Prosperity Index 2015, 2016 and 2017, Legatum Institute

## DIMENSIONS OF PROSPERITY

Prosperity been widely understood as an economic phenomenon. Although economy is one of the leading elements but should not be limited in this. Manifesto of political parties show that their understanding on prosperity is limited. They are focusing prosperity as a simple outcome of increased investment on infrastructure that contributes in boosting economic activities. They all claim that we have addressed political issues and set its own course and now it is

opportune time it is for economic revolution that brings prosperity. It is necessary to understand different dimensions of prosperity and their interrelationships to ensure its sustainability. National prosperity is the positive outcome of coordinated efforts to address economic and social challenges through a democratic and participatory governance system that fosters fairness and justice in the opportunity and growth. Elimination of any form of discrimination in all parts of the country is one of the prerequisite of prosperity. Its dimensions can be presented as follows:





## ECONOMIC

We cannot expect assume prosperity without addressing basic economic concerns of people (food, clothing and shelter together with primary health care and basic education). It is largely influenced by the plan and the capacity to use talent, optimum use of national resources, advancement of technology, equitable distribution of resources and opportunities. “A country’s prosperity and the welfare of its people are determined by the pace of accumulating physical and human capital, by how efficiently the capital is used, and how equitable access is to opportunities that growth and development generate”<sup>2</sup>. The key elements of prosperity are gradual improvement in income level, logical use of income, business innovation and entrepreneurship, competitive capacity, sound and self-sustained economic base. It can be broadly assessed in the light of the following:

- People’s wellbeing – Meeting basic needs, reasonable coverage for social protection and fair treatment of people and avoidance of undue pressure to weaker sections of society and elimination of all forms of exploitation;
- Human capital – Building human capital that is capable to address current development challenges, their retention and continuous updating of knowledge and skill.
- Economic growth – Prosperity depends to a great extent on the capacity to promote growth which requires (a) increase in the means of production, (b) improvement in the distribution of means of production to more demanding economic activities, and (c) skill enhancement to make best use of available means of production.
- Fair and equitable access – Prosperity should ensure fair and equitable access to the opportunities created by development and growth to people living different parts of the country. Sometimes the benefits of growth may not accessible to people in certain sections of society because of government’s policy and neglect.

## SOCIAL

Prosperity demands social system that is civilized, tolerant, caring, minimum social disparities together with willingness and capacity to promote human competence and understanding. Social system should be cohesive and non-discriminatory so that every individual can feel a sense of belongingness to the measures taken to address social issues. The Constitution of Nepal, 2015 outlines social and cultural objective of the state as follows:

*The social and cultural objective of the State shall be to build a civilized and egalitarian society by eliminating all forms of discrimination, exploitation and injustice on the grounds of religion, culture, tradition, usage, custom, practice or any other similar grounds, to develop social, cultural values founded on national pride, democracy, pro-people, respect of labour, entrepreneurship, discipline, dignity and harmony, and to consolidate the national unity by maintaining social cohesion, solidarity and harmony, while recognising cultural diversity.*

This objective is definitely comprehensive and pro-prosperity. However, current social practices need to be reviewed to effectively respond the needs of a prosperous society.

## POLITICAL

Prosperity cannot be achieved and sustained without a democratic political system and participatory governance. The role of political system in fostering prosperity is to create a positive environment which enables enthusiasts to undertake business activities that make economy sound and sustainable. In Nepal, our political system had never paid attention on providing policy assurance to investors. The Constitution of Nepal, 2015 has set very broad political objectives. However, the history of political parties reveal that they do not sincerely follow or implement what has been said. As a result, there has always been situation of mistrust between politics and business community.

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<sup>2</sup> Country Diagnostic Studies – Nepal Critical Development Constraints Highlights – ADB, DFID and ILO, p.3

### ADMINISTRATIVE

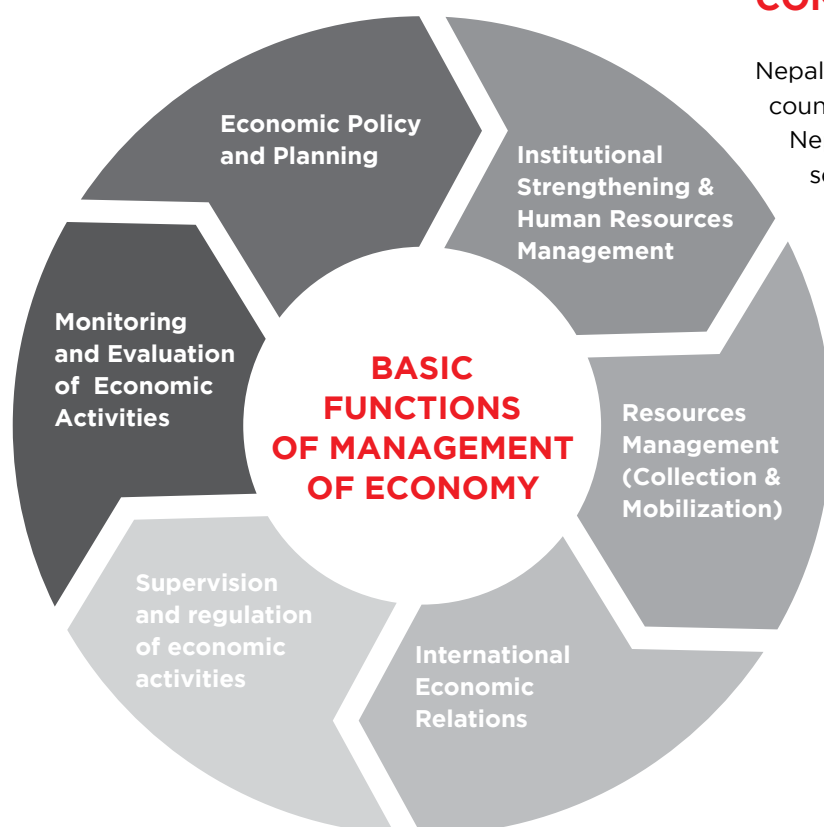
Prosperity is largely influenced by the capacity to mobilise resources and capital. Administration should be capable, ready and willing to adopt changing values, committed to non-discriminatory implementation of legal provisions (respect to rule of law) and service oriented. Our administrative culture has not been favourable to boosting economic activities because there is serious lack of service orientation.

### JUDICIAL (LEGAL)

A nation cannot achieve prosperity without a sound legal and regulatory framework which is crucial for providing reasonable assurance to investors and business community on the security of their investment and property and to provide the basis of regulation to protect interest of consumers.

## MANAGEMENT OF ECONOMY FOR PROSPERITY

Efficient and effective management of economy which comprises production, distribution, consumption, exchange functions is crucial to provide clear direction to the measures that contributes in achieving prosperity. The author considers that the following tasks needs to be managed in coordinated and objective manner.



Sound policy making and planning guides economic activities to the right direction. Stakeholders should be actively engaged in policy making and planning so that they provide active support in implementation. Our institutions have long history but they are not strong enough to carry out their mandate. Political and administrative leadership has not been serious in making economic institutions sound and effective. Our public financial management system has to be bold to avoid misuse of resources. In modern world, international economic relationship needs to be made dynamic and all efforts should be focused to promote national economic interests. Support received from bilateral and multilateral institutions must be utilized wisely so that value for money is ensured from rupee we spent. We seriously lack attention in making our money worth.

Our regulatory mechanisms have to be strengthened so that limited businessmen could not exploit mass population. In recent years, business community has shown strong resentment over the regulation and monitoring of their business practices. Such practice cannot provide reasonable assurance to citizens that they are getting value for money spent. Evaluation of economic activities and results achieved should be widely disseminated.

## CONCLUSION

Nepal cannot afford to remain a least developed country any more. We have to act boldly to make Nepal a prosperous country and provide a sense of pride and dignity in real sense to Nepali people. Therefore, our political leadership in consultation with other section of society should develop plan and strategy for national prosperity and implement them in active participation of business community, financial sector and entrepreneurs.

## WHY ARE INTERNATIONAL CURRICULUMS BECOMING INCREASINGLY POPULAR?

All parents want the best for their children – in their health, family experiences, friends and, of course, in their education. Many parents today – especially those who have experienced higher education abroad – now have high expectations when choosing a school for their child. They recognise that the world of education is changing, and they know that the education they experienced simply won't meet the needs of the 21st century child.

The result is the worldwide recognition that a more international approach to learning is needed to meet these new demands – and nowhere is this more apparent than in Asia where a growing middle class want an education for their children that they didn't have. In 2012 there were an estimated 190 million people in Asia who could be defined as middle class – people with disposable income of \$16-\$100 a day. But, according to a Nielsen consumer survey for ASEAN, that number will more than double by 2020 to 400 million people.

So what does this desired approach to education look like? There are three key elements, all essential components of popular curriculum programmes like those offered by Fieldwork Education (the International Early Years, International Primary and International Middle Years Curriculum programmes: IEYC, IPC and IMYC). The first element is all about providing an international perspective within the curriculum. It's perhaps best summarised by Fieldwork Education's view – “that developing a sense of international mindedness is a personal quality and learning disposition that is central to the lives of students today.” This reflects a world in which it is more important than ever to develop “an understanding of the independence and interdependence of peoples, countries and cultures.” The



***More and more people are becoming self employed too – perhaps as part of the so-called ‘gig economy’ or as directors of their own independent companies ...Yes, we’re all becoming digital global citizens.***





Fieldwork belief is that this can start very young: there are strong international elements even within their curriculum for the youngest learners, the IEYC, designed for children aged 2-6 years. They've even mapped the IPC curriculum against the 2015 United Nations Global Sustainable Development Goals, developed by countries working together to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all.

The second element is a focus integrating a series of personal goals into the learning process. At the very heart of the IPC is a clarity about what children should learn. Of course, there are learning goals, or standards, for all of the subjects of the primary curriculum but there are also goals for children's personal development – for example, enquiry, respect and morality. Why? Simply because 21st century learning is as much about how we learn as what we learn. After all, the internet and social media have made information and how we share it so ubiquitous that it's now more important than ever to choose and discriminate what we know. And that focus on learning together is why three more personal goals are essential too – cooperation, communication and respect. These innovative new curriculums have an altogether more rounded approach to education – and they all start with understanding that students of whatever age need to be aware of why they are learning what they are learning.

Linked to this is the third element – an essential requirement that all children need to really understand how they can move forward in their learning. As John Hattie – one of the most influential educators working today – has

said, It's about showing students upfront what success looks like. Hattie describes it like the popular video game Angry Birds: it's so addictive because we are shown exactly what we need to do to move forward to the next step. You may remember what it was like when you were in school: not understanding what the teacher wanted you to produce, whether an essay in history, an experiment in science or that math problem that was just baffling. All learners need to have some clear idea of what the finished product should look like. So these international curriculums provide success criteria for students in language that they can understand – and for every subject.

So, if we put these three elements together it's no wonder that parents, teachers and children all enjoy this approach to learning. We're all aware of the pressures that can be placed on young learners in a competitive academic environment, where examination success appears to signify everything. Whether it's the gaokao in China or the suneung in South Korea, parents are becoming increasingly concerned that this level of pressure isn't what education should be about. It starts young too: each year, Korean parents will spend over \$18 billion on private tuition for their children – or, to put it another way, the equivalent of the gross domestic product of Nepal. We began by talking about 21st century skills – so what exactly do we mean by this phrase? Well, knowledge – about life, the world around us, school subjects and more – will always be important, but there's now an understanding that some key skills are just as essential to your child's learning. Think about it this way: what kind of job do you think today's 10 year olds will be doing



when they grow up? What will the new world of work look like?

Of course, we all know about the growth of technology in our everyday lives. As long ago as 2013 Andrew McAfee discussed this in a TED talk. He noted that “Our machines are getting more clever – they demonstrate new skills like understanding, speaking, hearing, seeing, answering, writing...” and now in 2017 we can see this all around us. So what on earth will machine technology look like ten years from now, when the new generation is thinking about some of those major life choices?

More and more people are becoming self employed too – perhaps as part of the so-called ‘gig economy’ or as directors of their own independent companies – and these freelancers are often working all over the world, whether on location or virtually from home. Yes, we’re all becoming digital global citizens.

But the gap between the skills people are learning now and the skills people will need in the future is growing. We need to educate for a changing world, and this means thinking about those 21st century skills that are needed to survive and prosper in this new world. So what are these skills we hear so much about? In 2016, the World Economic Forum redefined their top 10 ten skills needed for working successfully in 2020. That’s

just two years round the corner, so we haven’t got long to ensure that our young people can learn and use these skills. Have a look at the list (right) and ask yourself two questions: Did you have these skills when you were starting work and do you think that schools today teach them?

One of the first things you might notice is that the new digital technologies don’t feature in this list. But surely knowing our way around the digital world of computers, the internet, social media and

Skype is essential? Well, it is – but the simple truth is that our children are digital natives. As soon as any new technology comes along, they quickly master it enough to make it work for them. Meanwhile, we are hurriedly consulting the instruction manual hoping that this will help. In the end, technology is simply a tool that today’s students can use to improve their learning opportunities.

Instead, we need to focus on what are sometimes called the soft skills – and all of the top WEF Top 10 would fit into this category. They’re essentially people skills, and we need to arm our learners with the skills they need to face a very different future – and that’s where the new focus on communication, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking (sometimes called the 4Cs) comes from. Communication is about sharing thoughts and ideas through the many different channels now available while collaboration requires the systematic development of skills that encourage groups to generate and develop these new ideas in creative new applications. And critical thinking? Well, generating these new ideas needs careful, objective analysis and evaluation – solving problems that we may not even have a context for at the moment. Throughout all of these approaches is a core of creativity – not just the generating of new ideas, but finding successful applications that work and help to solve some of the problems created by these new challenges of living and working.

Of course, all this doesn’t mean that we should forget or diminish the value of those more traditional educational skills – the ones we all recognise and regard as essential foundations for learning. These include reading for meaning, writing accurately, speaking confidently and, of course, developing good mathematical knowledge. Being able to negotiate our way round the internet minefield is essential too, but it’s been pointed out many times that being able



to Google is no substitute for understanding – and that’s a clear component of many elements in the WEF Top 10.

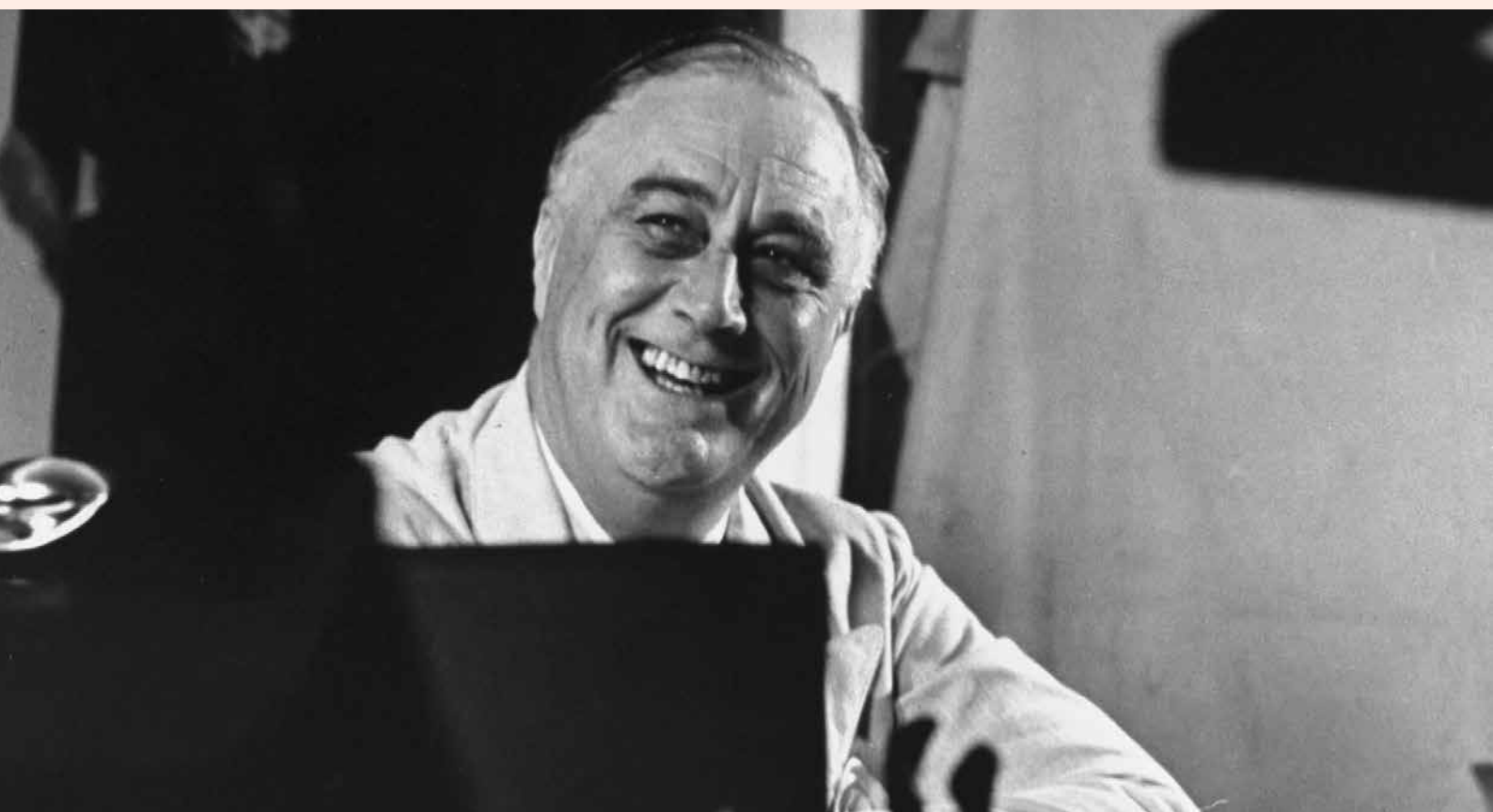
What the next generation really needs from their teachers is how best to acquire these skills and tools. After all, young people today are going to encounter jobs and life events that we can’t even imagine, so it’s all about trying to prepare them for this uncertain future.

So what is happening in schools to address this skills gap? The answer is that right now, in schools around the world, young learners are busy engaging every day with those curriculum programmes through enquiry based learning that deepens their understanding through investigations and builds up their personal attributes – important skills like resilience, thoughtfulness, co-operation and adaptability. And, of course, while this is going on many of these curriculum programmes are also promoting that international understanding we’ve just been talking about. It’s perhaps something in short supply in some parts of the world, but these approaches are excelling in ensuring our youngsters are growing up with attitudes of tolerance, understanding and mutual respect for all races, cultures and religions. I’ve seen it for myself in the enthusiastic comments from parents observing their children in a Model United Nations activity. The extended presentations and detailed knowledge of the ten year olds about key issues

around the environment and pollution simply astounded their open-mouthed parents. They just couldn’t believe the depth of understanding their children were expressing. “I’ve never had conversations like this with my daughter,” one parent told me with a broad and enthusiastic smile.

So, as parents, how do you know if your children are learning 21st century skills? One simple way is to ask them about what they are learning. Avoid saying “So what did you do today?” and instead ask questions like “What are you learning? What are you working on?” Children engaged in these active approaches to learning will be able to articulate their thinking and share their understanding.

American president Franklin D Roosevelt once said that “We cannot build the future for our youth – but we can build our youth for the future.” It sounds like the most important job that educators (and parents) can do. And, of course, Roosevelt was right. Education is so much more than knowledge – as American educator and psychologist William Glasser told us “Education is the process in which we discover that learning adds value to our lives”. The best education is about understanding our place in the world and using our personal skills and attributes to ensure that it’s a better place for the next generation. We simply owe it to them to make this happen.





▲ Sgt. Santosh on a reporting assignment for Gurkha Radio. Pic: British Forces Broadcasting Services (BFBS)

## WORLD-WIDE WAVES

July 31st, 2017 By **SHREEJANA SHRESTHA**

*Sixty-five years after it first started broadcasting, Gurkha Radio that connects Nepali soldiers in the British Army with families back home, remains the most listened to of the 18 stations in the British Forces Broadcasting Services (BFBS).*



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Although many families of retired soldiers are now with them in Britain, serving soldiers and others still have relatives back home and the radio links them with news, current affairs and entertainment. And despite social media its radio programs are required listening for ex-Gurkhas and their families settled all over the world.

Gurkha Radio keeps soldiers updated on events in Nepal with a staff of 18 reporters country-wide contributing to news bulletins aired from its Kathmandu station from 5:45am to 11:45pm on weekdays. It also broadcasts from Brunei and the United Kingdom and its programs are re-broadcast through 10 UK radio stations.

The British Army sets up a receiving unit when Gurkha soldiers are deployed in Afghanistan or other war zones so that the servicemen can keep in touch with what is happening in Nepal and around the world, and even to keep in touch with families. The unit is dismantled once the mission is over.

Gurkha Radio's first broadcast was in 1952, when the service was set up within Dharan camp, one of the Gurkha recruiting centres in eastern Nepal. The first live broadcast from Kathmandu took place in 1986. The British Army also brought out the magazine *Parbate* written in Roman Nepali script, and which is now published in English from Sandhurst.

"Gurkha Radio is a low-profile radio with a very specific target audience," says Kathmandu news editor Suman Kharel. "We mostly focus on the activities of the British Gurkha Camp in Lalitpur and the British

Gurkha Camp in Pokhara. The credibility of the service is very high among the family members of British Gurkhas. Its integrity has hardly been questioned during the last 65 years."

Kharel joined Gurkha Radio after 22 years with BBC Nepali in London, and says his work hasn't really changed because it is still mostly broadcasting news and current affairs. Although his target audience today is much smaller, he says the work is equally exciting because it is a cohesive and niche listenership. The only two challenges he faces are fulfilling listeners' requests, because the station broadcasts from three different time zones, and enticing the younger generation to tune in.

Gurkha Radio averages 2.5 million connections from 165,000 unique devices in a month. Most listeners are in the UK, US, India, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong and Malaysia. The station's most popular Nepali show is *Pardeshi Ko Sandesh*, where serving Gurkhas send messages to their family members and vice-versa. It's followed by *Kathmandu Ko Saugat* and *Swarnim Sangam*.

Because families now prefer to keep in touch through Skype or Facebook, one would think that Gurkha Radio may soon become obsolete, but Kharel doesn't seem to think so: "The future of radio journalism is as bright as it was in the past. Radio will still remain the most popular medium in Nepal for many years to come because of our topography, low literacy level and lack of access to the Net and its relatively high cost."

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# ABAN

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## NEWSLETTER

No. 21: Nov.-December 2017

[www.aban.org.np](http://www.aban.org.np)

ABAN Newsletter: Year 20, Volume ECM 9-10, Issue No. 21, Month: Nov.-Dec. 2017

### Development Priorities of Nepal in the Changing Context

By Dr. Prabhu Budhathoki, Honorable Member, National Planning Commission



Dr. Prabhu Budhathori, Life Member of the Association of British Alumni in Nepal (ABAN) currently honorable member of the National Planning Commission of the Government of Nepal, delivered **ABAN Talk** on November 12, 2017 amidst a gathering of members and guests at ULCI hall, Dillibazar. His topic "Development Priorities of Nepal in the changing context" was very relevant to the current issues of Nepal and attracted lot of questions and suggestions from the floor.

#### What Changes are Taking Place?

##### ► Political landscape

- Nepal is progressing from Unitary to Federal setup of governance, divided into 7 different provinces.
- New Constitutional is so liberal, it provides for people: Rights to food, health service, clean environment, employment, housing etc.
- Regional and ethnicity – monarchy to marginalization
- Political Stability

##### ► Social and cultural landscape

- Migration: Over 4 million people are out of the country and about 3.18% of people are migrating from rural to urban centers every year. As a result, we are importing food items worth Rs.100 arabs (billion) annually.
- Changing demography & family: youth population between 16-14 years is as high as 41% of total population
- Social and ethnic dynamics
- Occupational change from agriculture to service sector

##### ► Economic landscape

- Role of private sector is very critical as this private sector is gradually rising to 54.7% of the economy, while public sector is shrinking to 39.4% and the cooperatives to 5.9%.
  - External aid is gradually decreasing from 45% in 2048 BS to 15% in 2073 BS. It means national resource is contributing to 85% of our expenses.
  - Whole economic landscape is changing as the new constitution aims at ending Poverty and Zero hunger.
- ..... continued on page 2



Association of British  
Alumni in Nepal (ABAN)  
is a not-for-profit social

organization, registered with District Administration office on February 04, 1998 and is affiliated with the British Council. The Association is actively engaged 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 cultural and educational exchange between Nepal and Britain.

### British Ambassador Meets ABAN Officials



The British Ambassador His Excellency Mr. Richard Morris met ABAN officials on December 13, 2017 at the embassy. ABAN team led by its president Mr. Maheswor Bhakta Shrestha included immediate past president Mr. Shanker Prasad Paudel and general secretary Mr. Uttam Prasad Pant.

The ABAN team briefed HE Ambassador about the 20th Anniversary and annual general meeting of ABAN on 4th February 2018 and other activities of ABAN. The team also highlighted the support of the British Council Nepal in the activities of ABAN by sponsoring the publication of Membership Directory, ABAN Magazines, and by offering the use of Council halls for its regular talk program, annual general meetings etc.

**ABAN is publishing  
ABAN Magazine 2018**  
Please contribute your valuable  
write-up and advertising support  
by January 15, 2018



**Association of British Alumni in Nepal**  
C/o. The British Council, Lainchaur, P.O. Box 640, Kathmandu, Nepal



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Membership Approval Date: ID Number:

#### 1. Membership Type and Eligibility:

Anyone who has been to Britain for academic, professional or vocational training or studies at post-graduate or undergraduate level of 12 weeks or more will be eligible for ABAN Membership.

2. **Membership fee: Life Membership:** Rs. 2,000 (One time deposit in Association of British Alumni in Nepal, Nepal Bangladesh Bank, Saving account no. 103831 S or Mega Bank Nepal account no. 0050010084585), including fee plus contribution.

**Associate Member:** Any person who has been of particular help to ABAN may be granted Associate Membership by the Executive Committee. Any expatriate who is a British Alumni can become an Associate Member.

3. **Honorary Member:** Any person who has donated cash or equivalent worth more than Rs.100,000 (Rupees one hundred thousand) to ABAN, or any person who has made a special contribution to the Association can be given Honorary Membership.

4. **Attach:** Evidence of eligibility (copy of Degree/Diploma /Certificate), 2 ID size photos, and fee, citizenship certificate, or, license photocopy, or ID photocopy or passport photocopy



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