

ABAN Newsletter: Year 20, Volume ECM 9 –10, Issue No. 23, Month: February 2018

HE British Ambassador Inaugurates 20th Anniversary of ABAN



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.

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ABAN website is now featured in
www.britishcouncil.org.np

Twentieth anniversary and annual general meeting (AGM) of the Association of British Alumni in Nepal (ABAN) was inaugurated by the British Ambassador HE Mr. Richard C. Morris by lighting oil-fed lamp in panas with auspicious *mangal dhoon* in the background on February 04, 2018 at the British Council hall Lazimpat amidst a colorful gathering of over 50 members and guests.

Earlier Master of Ceremony Mrs. Namrata Sharma, past president of ABAN invited dignitaries to the dais. Immediate Past President Mr. Shanker Prasad Paudel welcomed guests and members to the 20th annual general meeting and informed about an advance public notice in the Himalayan Times daily newspaper of January 17, 2018 inviting members to attend the AGM. Mr. Paudel welcomed the chief guest HE Mr. Richard Morris, guests of honor Dr. Jovan Ilic, Country Director of the British Council, special guest Dr. Badri Bastakoti, President of Chevening Alumni Assn of Nepal, Dr. Mrigendra Raj Pandey, President of Mrigendra Samjhana Medical Trust, ABAN members and guests present in the AGM.

Chief guest British Ambassador HE Mr. Richard Morris released **ABAN Magazine 2018** and also handed over certificates to the new members and special Certificate to the first two Honorary Members of ABAN, namely Dr. Mrigendra Raj Pandey and Dr. Mahodadhi Pradhan Shrestha in recognition of their significant contribution to the Association. ABAN President Maheswor Bhakta Shrestha honored them with *pashmina Doshallas*. HE Ambassador congratulated members of the Association for successfully completing 2 decades of service and assured full support of the British Embassy to the Association.

Dr. Badri Bastakoti, president of Chevening Alumni Association of Nepal felicitated ABAN and wished for the success of its AGM. Dr. Mrigendra Raj Pandey, first honorary member of ABAN expressed his gratitude to the chief guest HE Mr. Richard Morris and the Association for honoring him. He remembered his time in UK back in 1957 and relished the opportunity of fellowship and recognition as ABAN Life Member since 2017. Past President Mr. Dilli Raj Joshi gave a historical account of ABAN from its inception in 1997, remembered the significant contribution of founder president Dr. Narayan B. Thapa and appreciated the good works of the 10th executive committee for reinvigorating the Association also by involving past presidents in its activities and for financially strengthening the Association through fund raising activities.





Nepal Bangladesh Bank Ltd, and as of today the Association has a interest bearing fixed deposits of Rs.1,350,000 with Mega Bank and Central Finance Company.

The financial reports and reappointment of M/s. HR Bhatta and Associates as statutory Auditors also for FY 2074/75 at an audit fee of Rs.10,000/- including VAT was passed by the AGM by applause.

The British Council Country Director Dr. Jovan Ilic congratulated ABAN members for

General Secretary's Report: General Secretary Mr. Uttam P. Pant reported the main activities of ABAN during 2017:

- a) MOU with MSMT: A memorandum of understanding was signed with Mrigendra Samjhana Medical Trust in January for providing an endowment fund of Rs.500,000/- to serve the senior citizens on an annual basis,
- b) 19th AGM of ABAN conducted on February 4 at the British Council hall,
- c) Tax clearance of past 4 years and renewal of ABAN registration with CDO office till July 2017,
- d) Service to senior citizens of Tapasthali Bridhashram in Chapali on March 2 and 42 senior citizens housed in Nishahaye Sewa Sadan, Baneshwor on August 26 was done jointly with MSMT,
- e) Meetings with the British Council Country Director Dr. Jovan Ilic on August 11, and with HE Ambassador Mr. Richard Morris on December 13 and January 8, 2018 with students leaving for UK on cultural exchange,
- f) Talk program on Development Priorities of Nepal by Dr. Prabhu Budhathoki, ABAN Life member,
- g) Publication of ABAN Magazine 2017 and 2018 issues, and Newsletters no. 16 to 21 issues. ABAN website has been redesigned in dynamic format and also issued new Membership IDs.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Mr. Hariom Dhoj Joshi presented financial statements and audit report of the Association and said the financial strength of ABAN has improved significantly over the last 3 years, as the bank balance has increased from

Rs.289,340 in July 2015 to Rs.1,530,674 in Jan. 2018. Statutory auditors M/s H.R. Bhatta & Associates have audited the accounts of ABAN for fiscal year 2073-74 in accordance with generally accepted Nepal Auditing Standard and the directives of Income Tax Act. The highlight of the audit report submitted on 2074 Poush 08 are as follows:

- The Balance Sheet showed total source of fund (reserve, surplus and deposits) increased from Rs.313,143.48 to Rs.945,073.45 during the 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.
- 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 on publications, social service, refreshments and AGM expenses increased to Rs.369,064 from Rs.183,364 of the previous year.
- Income during the year has exceeded expenditure, and has created a surplus of Rs.631,929. The cumulative surplus has reached to an all time high of Rs.945,0734.

The Association has maintained bank account with Mega Bank Ltd. and



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ABAN president Maheswor hands over a Token of Appreciation to British Council Director Dr. Jovan Ilic

successfully completing 20 years of service and wished for success of the AGM. He reiterated the cordial relations between British Council and ABAN, and extended support for ABAN publications and space for its activities. He said he would be happy to host 21st AGM of ABAN next year also in the Council hall. He considers ABAN as a great source of local talents and expertise for any British institutions to take good use of when needed.

Presidential Notes: Mr. Maheswor Bhakta Shrestha thanked the chief guest, guest of honor, special guest and the gathering of life members, guests and well wishers for their support and cooperation that helped ABAN achieve some success in four key areas of Membership, Service activities, Financial strengthening and participation in programs:

1) Membership Growth: since August 2015 ABAN Life Members have increased by 28, including Nepali Ambassador to UK HE Dr. Durga Bahadur Subedi and two Honorary Members in 2017, namely Dr. Mrigendra Raj Pandey and Dr. Mahodadi Pradhan Shrestha who contributed significantly to the Association. Total membership has reached 422 by January 2018, including 341 Life members, 1 Associate and 80 Ordinary members.

2) Activities: Some of the activities carried out during 2015-2016 included:

Service to 22+ 42 senior citizens of Tapasthali Briddhashram and Nishahaya Sewa Kendra, Baneshwor, jointly with MSMT, Talk program, Publication of **ABAN Newsletter** and **ABAN Magazine 2017** and 2018, Tax clearance and renewal of registration, and updated **ABAN Website:** www.aban.org.np, which is now linked to www.britishcouncil.org.np

3) Financial Situation: The audited accounts showed the bank balance of Rs. 289,607 in July 2015. The financial situation of ABAN had a net positive addition of Rs. 596,046 by July 2017, and by 16th January 2018, the bank balance has reached an all-time high of Rs.1.4 million, including interest bearing fixed deposit of Rs.1.35 million in the banks.

4) Participation: ABAN has participated in the programs of British Council and British Embassy, including the Christmas Carol Service on December 14. The British Ambassador met some 52 Nepalese students visiting UK in cultural exchange on January 8 and they met Nepalese Ambassador in UK HE Dr. Durga Bahadur Subedi at London in January 2018 and earlier in August 06, 2017. ABAN president participated in the 19th AGM of Association of Nepalese Alumni from Australia (ANAA) on January 21, as special guest.

The AGM was telecast in TV Today on March 5. ABAN is working hard to make a difference in the course of it's journey into the future. It is now geared for speedy growth, with positive trends in membership and financial situation. Positive response of the British Embassy and the Council is encouraging to make ABAN more effective and strong in the coming days. ABAN has played its important role to strengthen Nepal- Britain relations and 20 years of its efforts have contributed in the socio-economic agendas of Nepal.

The president expressed sincere gratitude to British Ambassador HE Mr. Richard C. Morris, British Council Country Director Dr. Jovan Ilic for their gracious presence in the 20th AGM. The success of this historic 20th anniversary and AGM of ABAN owes a great deal to their support, and notably of Mr. Dinesh Wagle and Kapindra Neupane from the embassy and Mrs. Suchita Shrestha, Julen Pradhan and Mr. Nischal Oli of the British Council.



Service to Senior Citizens of Tapasthali Briddhashram



As part of ABAN's 20th anniversary celebration, the Association supported the senior citizens of Tapasthali Briddhashram in Chapali, Kathmandu on March 03, 2018 as a regular annual activity since last year with the support of Mrigendra Samjhana Medical Trust (MSMT), which has provided an endowment fund of Rs.500,000/- to fund this activity on regular basis.



Founder president of MSMT Dr. Mrigendra Raj Pandey and ABAN president Mr. Maheswor Bhakta Shrestha jointly handed over a submersible Servo water pump (1") with coil of 1" pipe, some clothes, fresh fruits and dry food items to the 20 senior mothers housed there as was demanded by the Ashram (old-age home). ABAN Vice president Mr. Tulasi Prasad Upreti and Mrs. Punam Upreti provided a long mattress for use in the Ashram.

Founder president of the Ashram Mrs. Bhargavi Sharma, treasurer Mrs. Bharati Adhikari received the items offered and expressed gratitude for the regular support provided by ABAN and MSMT.



Why Join ABAN?

1. Rare opportunity to **network** with fellow ABANians, who also studied in UK,
2. Share the expertise and experience gained in UK for Nepal's development,
3. Meet and greet British scholars and authorities for mutual enrichment,
4. Be in touch with British events, activities and openings for shared happiness.
5. Identify as a British Scholar.

Life Members Joining ABAN from July 2017

1. Mrs. Rama Dahal (ID 507)
2. Mr. Eureka Ranjit (ID 508)
3. Mr. Saraju Baidya (ID 509)
4. Mr. Prafulla Man Singh Pradhan (ID 510)
5. Dr. Durga Bahadur Subedi (ID 511)
6. **Dr. Mahodadhi Pradhan Shrestha (ID512) Hon**
7. Mr. Suman Kumar Wagle (ID 513)
8. Mr. Ram Thapa (ID 514)
9. Mrs. Reshma Rajithala (Associate ID 515)
10. Mr. Bijendra Bade Shrestha (ID 516)
11. Dr. Badri Prasad Bastakoti (ID 517)

Membership Sub-Committee Chair:

Mr. Tulasi Prasad Upreti, Mobile: 9851035007
Email: t_upreti@yahoo.com

General Secretary

Mr. Uttam Pant, ULCI Dillibazar
Cell: 9851020918 uttampant@hotmail.com

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Assistant Treasurer:

Mrs. Shiba Devi Kafle, Cell 9841295472
Email: shibakafle@hotmail.com



ABAN Calendar of Events during 2018

Month of 2018	Main Activities
January 07	7th Executive meeting of the 10th ECM. 22nd issue of ABAN Newsletter issued
February 03 February 04 February 27	Support the Senior Citizens of Tapasthali Briddhashram, Chapali 20th AGM of ABAN at the British Council hall, Lazimpat. 23rd Issue of ABAN Newsletter published
March	ABAN Talk Program 8th Executive meeting of 10th ECM 24th Issue of ABAN Newsletter
April	ABAN Talk Program 9th Executive meeting of 10th ECM 25th Issue of ABAN Newsletter

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