

ABAN Newsletter: Year 21, Volume ECM 11, Issue No. 09, Month: January- February 2020

ABAN Celebrates 23rd ABAN Day



The Association of British Alumni in Nepal (ABAN) celebrated its 23rd ABAN DAY on 2020 February 04, the day when ABAN was registered 22 years ago in 1998. The British Ambassador Her Excellency Ms. Nicola Kathryn Pollitt graced the occasion as the Chief Guest of the ceremony in Hotel Shangri-la, Kathmandu.

ABAN President Mr. Uttam Prasad Pant and other executive members and past presidents welcomed the British Ambassador HE Ms. Nicola Kathryn Pollitt on the occasion by offering flower bouquet and ABAN hat.

Past President Ms. Namrata Sharma was the master of ceremony of the program, which started with the national anthem of Nepal and the United Kingdom of Great Britain on her welcome speech. Vice president of ABAN Mrs. Padma Vaidya formally welcomed the guest and also highlighted the purpose of ABAN Day. She thanked the three Honorary Members who have contributed to the endowment fund of ABAN.

Chief Guest Her Excellency Ms. Nicola Kathryn Pollitt, the British Ambassador to Nepal inaugurated the event by lighting the oil lamp in *Panas* in the background of *Mangal Dhoon* (auspicious tunes). She also released ABAN Magazine 2019-2020. President of ECAN Mr. Prakash Pant felicitated ABAN and said ECAN would love to work more closely with ABAN in promoting the British education in Nepal. We can create more awareness about the quality of the UK education and promote the British education for the development of Nepal.

First Honorary member of ABAN Dr. Mrigendra Raj Pandey traced his happy memory of the UK visit in 1957 to study Tropical Medicine and he later became the first MRCP in Nepal.



Her Excellency Ms. Nicola Kathryn Pollitt inaugurating the ABAN Day function

Her Excellency Ms. Nicola Pollitt on her inaugural speech said that the UK offers world class education and now students have the opportunity to work for two years after studying. We have two of the three best universities in the world, and 57 current world leaders studied in Britain. The large number of international students educated in UK universities have also helped to build strong people to people relationship in their respective countries. They bring back knowledge they share in international level towards responding greater challenges at home.



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.

ABAN President Mr. Uttam Prasad Pant thanked HE Nicola Pollitt for her gracious presence as the chief guest and for their continued support.



He also thanked the past and present executive members, who made it possible to bring ABAN to the present stage. He said, ABAN has come of age to become a possible bridge between Nepal and the UK in the areas like Education, Social development and Cultural exchange. Other possible areas of cooperation in Education and Examination sectors only to administer the PLAB 1 & 2 exams for the Nepali doctors to be eligible to apply for UK visa. Currently, the UK requires over 5,000 medical professionals to fill the vacuum created after Brexit and some Nepalese are willing to apply.

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HE Ambassador Ms. Pollit and ABAN President Mr. Uttam Prasad Pant released the ABAN Magazine 2019-2020

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Earlier, Immediate Past President Mr. Maheswor Bhakta Shrestha made a ABAN DAY address, tracing the history and successes of ABAN during the past 22 years. He remembered the contributions of the eight visionary leaders, led by Dr. Narayan Bahadur Thapa, who formed an Ad Hoc committee in 1997, framed a statute and got the Association registered at the District Administrative Office on February 04, 1998.



He also acknowledged the contributions of the past eight presidents and the works done by the previous executive committees in fulfilling the objectives of ABAN and bringing the Association to the present stage.

At present the Association has 440 Life Members. The new ABAN Diary 2020, which has just been published, enlists the names of all Life Members in an alphabetical order.

IPP Mr. Maheswor thanked the Honorary Members, Dr. Mrigendra Raj Pandey and Dr. Mahodadhi Pradhan Shrestha for their significant contribution to strength ABAN financially in order to carryout various social service activities. Special thanks were extended to the British Embassy and the British Council in facilitating the various activities and publications of ABAN. Last year, the British Council Country Director Dr. Jovan Ilic had asked us to work on highlighting the contributions of British Alumni in the development of Nepal. The present Executive Committee is working on it, including interviews of leading ABAN members, talk programs to highlight the issue and video coverage of the contributions made.

At the end, a Vote of Thanks was presented by ABAN Treasurer Mr. Madhav Prasad Bhatta, particularly for the presence of HE British Ambassador, Past Presidents of ABAN, Ms. Namrata Sharma, Mr. Lal KC, Dr. Uma Shrivastava, Mr. Shanker Paudel and other Life members.

Talk Program “My Journey from England to Nepal”



Mr. Lee Edward John Domain-Hayes, a British citizen now based in Kathmandu, had his Talk program and a musical presentation in ABAN on January 31, 2020, and again on the “ABAN Day” celebration on February 4, 2020. He sang some English and Nepal songs including a popular Nepali song: यो मन त मेरो नेपाली हो

Nepali musician Ms. Puja Vaidya also played an auspicious *Mangal Dhoon* and other popular Nepali instrumentals which enliven the celebration.



Count on Your Successes of British Education

ABAN Members and others who have studied in the UK are invited to write about their experience and details on how they were able to contribute to the development of Nepal. For publication, please forward your details to mahesworbs@gmail.com

Climate views from the top of the World

Ms. Lisa Honan, Head of DFID and HE Ms. Nicola Pollitt, British Ambassador to Nepal



Nepal is in the top 20 most climate vulnerable countries, with 60% of its population vulnerable to climate impact and its glaciers retreating at up to 60 meters per year, creating risky glacial lakes. Last year Dengue arrived in the Kathmandu valley as temperatures rose at twice the global average and extreme weather became the new normal – with Nepal experiencing its first tornado that tragically killed 35 people. This is the reason work on climate security is so important for Nepal. The UK is helping Nepal improve its early warning system and establish the new Disaster Management Agency. The UK is also supporting Nepal to build more climate-resilient infrastructure and develop better ways of supporting people after disasters.

Nepal provides a unique opportunity to see both the challenges of climate change and test solutions, from community forestry to water management to climate-smart agriculture and, in Visit Nepal Year, ecotourism. Nepal has a lot to teach the world, particularly on how nature-based solutions can preserve its unique landscapes and protect against climate change. The UK has helped develop some of these solutions, from solar water pumping for farmers to Local Adaptation Plan, weather insurance for apple farmers and world class climate modelling support to improve the accuracy of weather forecasting.

Nepal has natural resources that can make it a leader in its climate ambition – with very low emissions, hydropower under development, solar resources on tap and a world class record in forestry. Nepal can lead the region and the world by showing how its green economy can accelerate growth, reduce poverty and even reduce the emission of its neighbors like India. So, the UK is helping Nepal develop its natural resources from Arun 3 and Trishuli hydro projects, to innovate solar programs and set up the Forest Development Fund.

The country is situated at the heart of the Himalayas – the water tower of Asia, feeding rivers that 1.65 billion people rely on. Similarly, regional issues such as air quality, power trade and glacial retreat need regional approaches to be effectively tackled. We are supporting Nepal in its ground-breaking Sagarmatha Dialogue initiative, working across the region and beyond to put the Himalayan Hindu Kush Call to Action into practice.

Nepal has shown that women understand the importance of action on this human problem and as a powerful force for change. So, this year we are committed to adding our voices to those of Nepali women that are calling for increased ambition and action to climate change - through a series of Nepal and UK events that will explore the themes set out in this “first view from the top of the world”.

Tackling climate issues takes money. Public, private, national and international finance is flowing to Nepal for climate investment to build climate security and grow Nepal's green economy. Over \$ 1 billion has been pledged so far, with the UK contributing its fair share with over \$300 million committed to addressing both Nepal's climate challenges and enabling it to make the most of its green economy opportunities. But more needs to be done. So, the UK is helping Nepal attract more support for its ambitious plans

The UK is standing shoulder to shoulder with Nepal to tackle climate change and ensure that the “views from the top of the world” are heard loud and clear at the UK hosted Climate Change Conference COP 26 in November this year.



Education Symposium 2020

The British Council's 3rd Annual Education Symposium, held on 28 January brought together stakeholders from private, government and development sectors to share different perspectives and discuss issues around inclusion in Education in Nepal, South Asia and the UK. It concluded on a positive note highlighting the issues, needs and way forward to promote inclusive education in Nepal.



Public Information Campaign Launched

Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT) launched a four month long Public Information Campaign “With Skills in Hand, Employability is a Change” this month.

The campaign led by CTEVT with technical backstopping provided by the Dakchyata project, funded by the European Union Delegation to Nepal and implemented by the British Council in coordination with EU funded Sakchyamta project, aims at shaping positive public attitudes towards skills for employment and increase public information about TVET.



Some Glimpses of ABAN DAY 2020 Celebration



Chief Guest HE Nicola Kathryn Pollitt, the British Ambassador to Nepal inaugurated the ABAN Day 2020 function in a traditional manner by lighting an oil-fed lamp in Panas and on the closing of the function, she helped cut an ABAN DAY cake presented by Hotel Shangrila on the occasion. February 04 is indeed a memorable Day in the history of the Association of British Alumni in Nepal.



ABAN 11th Executive Members

- President:** Mr. Uttam Prasad Pant
Vice President: Mrs. Padma Vaidya
General Secretary: Mrs. Shiba Devi Kafle
Treasurer: Mr. Madhav Prasad Bhatta
Asst. General Secretary: Mr. Hemanta R Baral
Asst. Treasurer: Mr. Nava Raj Nakarmi
Member: Mr. Uttam Lal Pradhan
Member: Mrs. Mandira Shahi
Member: Mr. Dipak K.C.
Member: Mr. Eureka Ranjit
Member: Mr. Ishwar Man Shrestha
Member: Mr. Prem Raj Khanal
Member: Mr. Bishma Upreti
IP President: Mr. Maheswor Bhakta Shrestha

New Life Members Joining from February 2019

1. Mr. Dinesh Pradhan (ID 528) on Feb.9, 2019
2. Dr. Jovan Ilic (ID 529) on February 9, 2019.
3. Mr. Subas KC (ID 530) on May 14, 2019.
4. Mr. Anup Acharya (ID 531) on May 14, 2019
5. Mr. Surendra Prasad Lohani (ID 532) “
6. Mr. Jagdish Kumar Khoju (ID 533) on May 14
7. Mrs. Indu Tuladhar (ID 534 on May 14, 2019
8. Mr. Kumar Prasad Khanal (ID535) 28 Jul
9. Mrs. Romi Manandhar (ID536) 28 July 2019
10. Mr. Sindhu Lal Shrestha (ID537) 23 Aug.2019

Membership Sub-Committee Chair:

Mrs. Padma Vaidya, Mobile: 9849263815
 Email: padmavaidya2005@yahoo.com

General Secretary:

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

Treasurer:

Mr. Madhav Prasad Bhatta, Mobile: 9841544517
 Email: mbhatta17@hotmail.com

Asst. General Secretary:

Mr. Hemanta Raj Baral, Mobile: 9843067142
 Email: hemanta.baral@gmail.com



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ABAN Activity Report 2020

Month of 2020	Main Activities
January	ECM for ABAN Magazine 2019-20 and ABAN Diary 2020
January 31	Talk program & musical presentation: Mr. Lee Edward John Domain-Hayes
February 04	ABAN Day Feb. 04, 2020 at Hotel Shangrila, Lazimpat, Kathmandu
March	Service to the Senior Citizens of Tapasthali Briddhashram (Old Age Home) Health Camp at Sankhu Talk program on LPG versus Induction Cooking in Nepal: Dr. Jagan Nath Shrestha

Published by

ABAN President

Uttam Prasad Pant

uttampant@gmail.com

Cell:9851020918

Publication Coordinator

IPP Maheswor Bhakta Shrestha

mahesworbs@gmail.com

Cell: 9851094345