

## 18th Annual General Meeting of ABAN Held



Chief Guest Dr. Jiba Pokhrel



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

Eighteenth Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Association of British Alumni in Nepal (ABAN) has been successfully completed on June 25, 2016 at the ULCI Hall, Dillibazar, Kathmandu.

ABAN president Mr. Maheswor Bhakta Shrestha welcomed Dr. Jiba Raj Pokhrel, Vice Chancellor of Nepal Academy of Science & Technology (NAST) as chief guest of the AGM. Past presidents of ABAN Mr. Dilli Raj Joshi, Mrs. Namrata Sharma, Dr. Uma Sribastava and IPP Mr. Shanker Prasad Paudel also graced the event along with other members of ABAN. Members present did their self- introduction enthusiastically.

ABAN Vice president Mr. Tulasi Prasad Uprety welcomed the members, guests and participants of the AGM. General Secretary Mr. Uttam Prasad Pant presented annual report of the Association. He proposed the replacement of Assistant General

Secretary Mrs. Preeti Karki, who did not attend any meeting for the whole year. The AGM authorized the 9th Executive Committee to appoint suitable replacement.

Treasurer Mr. Hariom Dhoj Joshi presented Auditor's Report of FY 2071-72 and proposed auditors Ms. H.R. Bhatta & Associates for FY 2072-73. The treasurer also proposed to revise Article 7 of ABAN Statute relating to membership fee to Rs.1,000/- for ordinary membership and Rs,3,000/- for Life membership from Swaran 1, 2073 (16 July 2016). The proposals were approved by the assembly with applause.

Chief Guest Dr. Jiba Raj Pokhrel addressed the gathering and traced the beginning of first Alumni in 1791 in a US university. In UK, the first school set up in 597 AD was the School of Canterbury, a time of Amshu Barma of Lichhavi dynasty in Nepal, when a school in Lele is said to have attracted students from Nalanda and Takshasheela. First university in UK is the University of Cambridge set up in 1096 AD, followed by Oxford University in 1209 AD. In Nepal Durbar School was established in 1854 AD, followed by Tri-chandra College later.

Dr. Pokhrel lauded the relations between Nepal and Britain especially in the field of education and noted that the British degree is highly respected in Nepal. After his Ph. D. from the University of York in Architecture in 1995, he felt himself transformed in life.

As Vice Chancellor of Nepal Academy of Science & Technology, Dr. Pokhrel offered awards of Rs.20,000/- for any resourceful article in science and technology published in a journal. He also handed over **Token of Appreciation** to Dr. Jovan Ilic, Country Director of the British Council (not present) and two past presidents of ABAN, namely Mrs. Namrata Sharma and Mr. Shanker Prasad Paudel for their invaluable support to the cause of ABAN extended during 2015-16.

The chief guest also released the newly published ABAN Membership Directory 2016.

ABAN president Mr. Maheswor Bhakta Shrestha highlighted the past, present and future of the Association and sought active support of its members and past presidents to strengthen the Association and for uplifting the image of ABAN in this 200th year of Nepal-Britain relations since 1816.

A gist of his speech is presented in pages 3-4.



**Please Log on to:**  
[www.aban.org.np](http://www.aban.org.np)



## Dr. Prem Singh Basnyat on Bicentenary of Anglo-Nepal War for Peace and Friendship

A British Chevening scholar and a Nepal Army Officer, Dr. Prem Singh Basnyat addressed a gathering of eminent personalities including professors, historians, past ambassadors, patron of Nepal Britain Society on June 8, 2016.

Dr. Basnyat, who did PhD in Military History in UK, presented an analytical review of the Bicentenary of Anglo-Nepal War that concluded in a Treaty of Sugauli on 2 Dec. 1815 and ratified on 4 March 1816.



Brave Soldier Gambhir Singh Rayamajhi

### Important dates of Anglo- Nepal War:

1767: Battle of Sindhuli against Captain Kinloch,

1770: Nepalese Gurkha military assistance to the British in Kaansi.

1814 November 1: Formal declaration of Anglo-Nepal War

1816 March 4: Sugauli Treaty ratified.

The border dispute arose since 1806 AD between Nepal and British India and climaxed in 1814. Nepalese were ready to handover the captured 22 villages in Saran districts, but the Company under British India Governor General Marquess of Hastings was determined to extend the British sovereignty over the lands in India controlled by the East India Company. In the Anglo-Nepal War of 1814-16, English troops were badly defeated in the battle of Parsa, Butwal and Jaithak fronts but they were victorious in the battle of Kumaon and Garhwal. Thus, Nepal lost its territory beyond the Mahakali river. The English were able to capture Kathmandu 10 days before the Sugauli Treaty, which has protected the present Nepal.

Main reasons for the defeat of Nepal were:



- Shortage of war instruments,
- Lack of proportional logistic support
- Compulsory recruitment of Kumaun-Garwal area,
- Unbalanced military leadership,
- Difficult line of communication,

### Main Effects of War

- Establishment of strong and permanent diplomatic relations,
- Military lessons and cultural awareness
- Lahure culture and recognition of Best fighters



### New Life Members Joining ABAN from August 2015

1. Dr. Nastu Prasad Sharma (ID 491)
2. Miss Sanjivani Shrestha (ID 492)
3. Mr. Punya Prasad Paudel (ID116 Ord to Life)
4. Mr. Govinda Neupane (ID 493)
5. Mr. Janak Sharma Paudel (ID 494)
6. Mr. Shakti Kumar Golyan (ID 495)
7. Dr. Dhruva P. Acharya (ID143 Ord. to Life)
8. Mr. Ushik Shrestha (ID 496)
9. Miss. Pratigya Thapa (ID 497)
10. Mr. Laba Prasad Tripathi (ID 498)
11. Mr. Subin Man Pradhan (ID 499)

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#### General Secretary

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## British Embassy Celebrates HM The Queen's 90th Birthday

The British Ambassador His Excellency Mr. Richard Morris and Mrs. Alison J. Morris celebrated the 90th Birthday of Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth the Second on June 15, 2016 amidst a gala event attended by the high ranking government officials, diplomats and luminaries of Nepalese society including ABAN President and the General Secretary. Chief Justice Hon'ble Mrs. Sushila Karki was the chief guest of the ceremony at the British Ambassador's residence at Lainchour.



On the occasion HE Ambassador Mr. Morris highlighted the Anglo-Nepal relations and said:

"This year is particularly special as it is the 90th birthday of Her Majesty the Queen. Its also particularly special year for relations between Britain and Nepal as this is the bicentenary of relations between Britain and Nepal.

"Amongst the many special events to celebrate this year, we were delighted to have His Royal Highness prince Harry in Nepal in March. The pictures and stories that circulated showed the world. Thanks to everyone here to make this visit such a success. As our prime minister said rarely has anyone in public life served for so long, served so brilliantly, worked so hard and got so many people together.

"I am sure the many friends of Britain will join me in wishing Her Majesty happy birthday and many happy returns. In this bicentenary year, with so many friends of the two countries here, I also would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who works on that relationship. 200 years of relations helps to understand each other well. But it is our responsibility to be the custodian of the relationship.

"Today we are brought together by Her Majesty's birthday. Thanks for joining us on this special day, thanks for all those who made it possible, particularly the Nepalese army band for playing so well. ....Can I now ask you to join me in a toast for Her Majesty the Queen and the Britain - Nepal friendship".

## ABAN President Maheswor Addresses the 18th AGM on 25 June 2016

“Respected Chief Guest Dr. Jiba Raj Pokhrel, Vice Chancellor of Nepal Academy of Science & Technology (NAST), ABAN Past Presidents Mr. Dilli Raj Joshi, Ms. Namrata Sharma, Dr. Mrs. Uma Shrivastava and IPP Mr. Shanker Prasad Paudel, ABAN members, guests, ladies and gentlemen.

ABAN has successfully completed 18 years and has entered into the 19th year from February 4, 2016. Among the 9 presidents who headed the ABAN Executive Committees, two lady presidents, namely Ms. Namrata Sharma and Dr. Uma Shrivastava are both present here with us.

I wish to remember the main objectives of ABAN:

- To strengthen the professional, educational and cultural relationships between its members and British professionals and educational institutions, the British Council and the British Embassy,
- To promote British education and expertise gained by its members in Britain in different areas of importance to Nepal's development,
- To promote debate on areas of national interest like international and regional security, cooperation and environment protection, and
- To ensure that the relevant authorities of the government of Nepal recognize and grant due status and privileges to the qualifications obtained from UK and to represent the professional interest of the Alumni members.

“To achieve these objectives, we have 8 different sub-committees for Cultural and Social activities, Health & Medical, Educational, Program, Publications, Membership development, Networking and Fund-raising. An Advisory Council of all Past Presidents will meet annually to provide a strategic direction for the future growth and development of the Association.



“Success of any organization like ABAN depends on four main factors, namely, Membership development, Activities to fulfill the stated objectives, Financial strength and Participation in events and fellowships.

1. **Membership** is the main strength of any Association. 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 2016, released today, lists 394 members, including 314 Life members and 47 lady members. More ladies are welcome in ABAN. Miss Pratigya Thapa has become Life member on June 21. Mr. Laba Raj Tripathi and Mr. Subin Man Pradhan have today filed the documents and paid fee for Life membership of ABAN”.

The number of ABAN Members had remained stagnant for some years. From August 2015 to June 2016, 9 new life members have joined ABAN and two Ordinary members have been converted to Life member. As a matter of policy, ABAN will recruit only Life Members and no Ordinary members any more.

One of our Life members Ms. Usha Singh (ID 127) has expired in 2015. 30 seconds of silence (*mounbrat*) was observed to wish eternal peace for the departed soul.

2. **Activities:** “Besides the devastating effects of the Mega Earthquake of April 2015 and trade blockade, the year 2015 has not been very eventful in ABAN also

because I was away to Americas for two months (June-July). The few activities carried out during the year include:

- a) Visit to Nishahaya Sewa Kendra, Baneshwor on December 26, 2015 to service 42 Senior Citizens there with required medicines and food items,
- b) Organized 3 talk programs: On Human Trafficking by Dr. Ruchira Gupta on Aug. 29, Support to E/Quake Victims by Dr. Tsering Sherpa on Sept. 24, and Happy Living by VP Tulasi Uprety on January 17.
- c) Published 8 issues of **ABAN Newsletters** from April 2015, circulated by email and also featured in [www.aban.org.np](http://www.aban.org.np) to share information about ABAN activities, calendar of events, decisions of ECM etc.
- d) Some concluding works of **ABAN Magazine 2015** done that generated a surplus of Rs.43,000/- to ABAN fund.
- e) New **Membership Directory 2016** is published with the financial support of the British Council and three advertisers, namely Nepal Bangladesh Bank, ULCI and Nagarik Lagani Kosh (CIT). The Directory includes **Alphabetical** listing, **Membership ID-wise** listing and **Expertise-wise** listing.
- f) **Renewal of ABAN Registration** since 2069/70 is taken up. Approval of Audit Report for 2071/72 in this AGM will facilitate this renewal process.
- g) **ABAN Website:** [www.aban.org.np](http://www.aban.org.np) has been updated for mass communication. A new 15 minutes long TV program on ABAN activities is under preparation and the date for broadcast on NTV Plus will be announced shortly.

3. **Financial Situation:** ABAN's sources of fund are limited to membership fees, their contributions, interest on bank deposits and surplus of advertising revenue on its various publications. Audit reports showed the highest cash and bank balance of Rs.496,380 in July 2011. Since then, the balance has been depleting every year to Rs.289,607 in July 2015.

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"In fiscal year 2015/16 we are able to reverse the financial situation with a net surplus of Rs.33,835 that raised the bank balance to Rs.323,442 on June 24, 2016.

Member's contribution is the main source of ABAN fund. Last year three members (Treasurer Mr. Hariom Dhoj Joshi, Mr. Upendra Shrestha and myself) voluntarily contributed Rs.16,500. This year again, I pledge to contribute Rs.10,000/- (cheque handed over to the Treasurer and five other members contributed Rs.7,500 in cash).

4. **Participation:** "We are invited in various programs of British Council and British Embassy, like the EDGE program of the British Council on April 15, 2016 to promote English and Digital education for girls in 5 districts of Nepal; Chevening Bicentenary reception on May 18 with His Excellency the British Ambassador Mr. Richard Morris, and the celebration of 90th Birthday of Her Majesty the queen Elizabeth II on June 15 at the Embassy".

Participation in **Britain-Nepal 200 Years** programs also included a presentation on Bicentenary of Anglo-Nepal War for Peace and Friendship by Dr. Prem Singh Basnyat on June 8, 2016.



"Chief Guest Dr. Jiba Raj Pokhrel is kindly requested to handover **Token of Appreciation** to **Dr. Jovan Ilic**, Country Director of British Council, Past President **Mrs. Namrata Sharma** and Immediate Past President **Mr. Shanker Prasad Paudel** for their invaluable support for the cause of ABAN in the year 2015-16.

**Future Prospects:** "ABAN is now geared for speedy growth, as most of the constraints have been resolved. Membership growth is gaining momentum. Positive trend is seen in financial situation. We need more funds to support more activities. A fund raising proposal is in consideration of the British Council.

"Very positive response of the British Ambassador HE Mr. Richard Morris and keen interest of the British Council Country Director Dr. Jovan Ilic in ABAN affairs is very encouraging to make ABAN more effective in the coming days".

**Vote of Thanks:** "Let me now thank you all for giving your valuable time to the success of this AGM and for approving the proposals. I thank the chief guest Dr. Jiba Raj Pokhrel for consenting to be our chief guest and for his inspiring speech. This sets a new trend of honoring our distinguished members to be the chief guest in our functions. We express our heartfelt thanks to British Ambassador to Nepal HE Mr. Richard Morris, British Council Country Director Dr. Jovan Ilic and Chief of Programs Ms. Rhona Brown for their positive response and support to ABAN in whatever way possible, although they could not attend this event. They have sent their best wishes for the success of this AGM".

"Among the many people to be thanked for the help they have extended, Mr. Ramesh Chhetry of ULCI and Life member Mr. Upendra Bahadur Shrestha deserve special thanks. Mr. Sumit Amatya, Ms. Suchitra Shrestham, Ms. Dibya and Ms. Asha Manandhar from the British Council and Mr. Dinesh Wagle and Mr. Kapindra Neupane from the British Embassy deserve special thanks for the help extended to us. All Past Presidents of ABAN, who have invested their valuable time to be here, also deserve special thanks".

"I thank you all for being here to support ABAN and to display your solidarity. You are our biggest asset. PP Mr. Raghu Pant and Life Member Mr. Dwarika Prasad Shrestha have wished for success of this AGM from Canada and USA".

"Thank you Treasurer Mr. Hariom Dhoj Joshi for doing a remarkable job for this AGM even by postponing your visit to USA. General Secretary Mr. Uttam Prasad Pant deserve special thanks for offering this beautiful hall for AGM as British Council hall got occupied for exam purpose".



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