

ABAN Newsletter: Year 25, Volume ECM 13, Issue No. 1, January 2023

Ms Padma Vaidya Elected 11th President of ABAN



Twentyfifth Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Association of British Alumni in Nepal (ABAN) was held on January 07, 2023 at ULCI, Dillabazar, Kathmandu, with Dr. Badri Raj Pandey as the chief guest. The meeting was chaired by the outgoing president of ABAN Mr. Uttam Prasad Pant.

ABAN Past Presidents Mrs. Namrata Sharma, Mr. Lal Krishna KC, Mr. Shanker Prasad Paudel and Immediate Past President Mr. Maheswor Bhakta Shrestha were present along with the 12th Executive committee members, Life Members, media advisor and guests. Assistant General Secretary Mr. Hemanta Baral conducted the program and Vice President Ms. Padma Vaidya welcomed the participants and guests to the meeting. In the absence of General Secretary Mrs. Shiba Devi Kafle, Mr. Hemanta Baral presented the annual report (details in the page 4). Treasurer Mr. Madhav Prasad Bhatta presented the financial and Auditor's Report.



Chief Guest Dr. Badri Raj Pandey shared his experience of travel to and education in the UK during early 1960s. He also shared his experience of working in the health sector of the government, particularly in the family planning program. His contributions in the Nepali health sector is exemplary. His expertise and experience, gained through training and work in the UK, have been instrumental in making a positive impact in the health sector of Nepal.

ABAN president Mr. Uttam Prasad Pant made his concluding remarks and IPP Maheswor Bhakta Shrestha gave the Vote of Thanks to conclude the AGM. In the election, Mrs. Padma Vaidya was declared the 11th president of ABAN for 2023-2025.



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. It promoted the interest of the British alumni in Nepal and supports them to contribute to national development.

ABAN works for cultural and educational exchange between Nepal and Britain.

Introducing Newly Elected ABAN President Padma Vaidya



Mrs. Padma Vaidya has been serving ABAN since 1998 as executive member and during 2019-2022 she served as Vice President.

She holds M.Sc. in Chemistry from the Tribhuvan University in 1978. Padma was a British Council Scholar for advanced post graduate studies in the field of Organic Geochemistry back in 1986-87. She did other advance studies in Canada, Italy, Norway, Israel, Iran, India and China for relevant courses in petroleum technologies, geochemistry, energy management, preventive conservation and heritage management.

Padma worked as senior chemist (Under Secretary) at the Department of Mines and Geology for 22 years and as Chief Conservator for 10 years at the Department of Archaeology, Ministry of Tourism. She has active interests in preservation of social and cultural heritage and restoration.



Welcome Address by Vice President Padma Vaidya



On behalf of the Association of British Alumni in Nepal, I would like to take this opportunity, with honor and pleasure, to welcome you all to this 25th Annual General Meeting today. I would like to thank all those who have spent their crucial time to pursue advanced studies in the Great Britain in order to contribute to the development of Nepal. And therefore, I am very fortunate to welcome you e to make this AGM a grand success.

As you know, ABAN was established in 1998 as an autonomous body. Our main activities include strengthening professional, educational and cultural relations between ABAN members and the British scholars. The year 2021-22 has been successful in inducting new members, carry our service activities, talk and discussion programs despite Corona disturbances. It is due to sincere and active participation and cooperation of our Executive members and past Presidents. In addition, we also organized some social activities to support the helpless students and needy senior citizens of old age home from endowment funds provided by Dr. Mrigendra Raj Pandey and Dr. Mahodadhi Pradhan Shrestha.

We were also able to further strengthen relationship with British Council and the British Embassy in Nepal during this period. With these few words, I once again welcome you all to this gathering and expect your full support and participation in the activities of ABAN in the coming years as well.

I also thank president Uttam Prasad Pant for providing the logistic support to ABAN for the past several years. Thanks to all the executive members of ABAN executive committee for the kind cooperation during my tenure as Vice President and wish you all in your best endeavors.



Concluding Remarks by President Uttam Pant

First and foremost, I would like to extend a warm welcome to our esteemed chief guest Dr. Badri Raj Pande, as well as to the members of the executive board, Past Presidents, and all the members of ABAN who have joined us here today. Your presence here is a testament to your commitment to the ABAN community. We are all united by our mission of promoting and sharing of knowledge, expertise, and experience among Nepali citizens who have studied in the UK, and of using these insights for the betterment of Nepal.

It gives me great pleasure to report that 2022 has been a successful year for ABAN. Our members have had numerous opportunities to share their knowledge, expertise, and experience with the wider community, and to engage in meaningful discussions and debates about how these insights can be used to benefit Nepal. I am also happy to say that our relationships with the British Embassy and the British Council have continued to strengthen, and we have numerous shared events and discussion sessions for further collaborations. ABAN is very grateful to both the British Embassy and the British Council for their continued support to the organization.

I am happy to share that ABAN's financial and operational situation remains healthy. We are grateful to our members and donors for their consistent support to our organization.



I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that 2023 marks a special year for ABAN, as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of our organization. We will be holding ABAN Day celebrations on February 4, 2023, and I hope that you will all join us in marking this important milestone. Additionally, I am pleased to announce that the ABAN Magazine and Membership Directory for 2023 are almost ready and will be published soon. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the contributors who have made this possible, and I look forward to sharing these publications.

Serving as the President of ABAN for two consecutive terms has been an experience that I will treasure for the rest of my life. I am deeply grateful to all members for their constant support, guidance, and encouragement. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Past Presidents and executive board members with whom I have had the privilege of working so closely. The achievements of ABAN during my term is the result of team effort, and I am fortunate to have such a dedicated team by my side.

I would like to extend my advanced congratulations and best wishes to the incoming President and executive board. I have every confidence in their abilities to make this organization great and to increase its impact on the Nepali community at all levels. I am confident that, under their leadership, ABAN will continue to thrive and to make a positive difference in the community.

Vote of Thanks by IPP Maheswor B. Shrestha



Thank you for being with us to celebrate the 25th Annual General Meeting of the Association of British Alumni in Nepal. I am deeply humbled to extend this Vote of Thanks to you all.

The Association has completed 24 years, and 10 past and present Presidents have served and contributed greatly in the 12 Executive Committees for the success, growth and development of ABAN to the present stage. I extend respectful thanks to all of them.

ABAN activities, as reported by the general secretary, have been quite notable despite the difficulty and challenges of corona pandemic. We must thank the 12th Executive team led by president Mr. Uttam Pant for their appreciable efforts for the cause of ABAN. The team has maintained ABAN's financial strength with Rs.16.7 lacs in bank balance. The Association has consolidated its activities, membership growth and financial strengthen to a more comfortable situation now.

Directory Periods	ABAN Life Members	Executive Committee	Financial Bank Balances
		ECM 5 / 2008	Rs.4.48 lacs
2001	154	ECM 6	Rs.4.93 lacs
May 2005	210	ECM 7	Rs.4.96 lacs
June 2010	283	ECM 8	Rs.2.89 lacs
March 2016	314	ECM 9 & 10	Rs.15.3 lacs
Jan, 2019	353	ECM 11	Rs.15.73 lacs
Jan. 2023	381	ECM 12	Rs.16.70 lacs

New life members are added continuously. Thanks to membership committee coordinator Mr. Gobinda Neupane for inviting 9 new life members on March 26, 2022. ABAN is now preparing to celebrate 25th Silver Jubilee and ABAN Day on February 4. I am working on new issue of ABAN Magazine and Membership Directory 2023 to commemorate the occasion.

The Association is very grateful to Ms. Shahida MacDougall, Country Director of British Council Nepal for her online meeting with ABAN on February 17, 2021 and her visit to ABAN for physical meeting on November 11, 2021 when we discussed areas of mutual cooperation. Similarly, ABAN is indeed very thankful to British Ambassador Her Excellency Nicola Kathryn Pollitt for her support, involvement of ABAN officials in Embassy functions and for her visit to ABAN discussion program on Nepalese Nurses to work in UK on September 22, 2022.

Our special thanks to the first two Honorary Members, namely Dr. Mrigendra Raj Pandey and Dr. Mahodadi Pradhan Shrestha for their significant contribution to create endowment funds for service to the senior citizens and medical health camps. An Endowment Fund will also be created soon for educational support activities as well. Special thanks to the Chief Guest of this AGM Dr. Badri Raj Pande for gracing this occasion and for his valuable suggestions. Thank you, all once again for your valuable participation in this AGM. Your support and good wishes means a lot for the success of ABAN.

Treasurer's Report for Fiscal Year 2021/2022

Rich in academic qualifications and experience, ABAN is weak in financial position. Due to lack of any regular and reliable source of income, most of the programs, events and activities have been carried out through contributions or donations. One time life membership fee and donations from honorary members have been the main source of income so far. For financial sustainability, there is a need to explore new income generating activities.

During 2021-22, ABAN earned totaled Rs.164 thousand, relative to previous year's Rs 184 thousand from membership fees, interest on bank balances and donations. On the expenditure side, the total administrative and general expenses were Rs 79 thousand on audit fees, bank charges, office expenses, printing & stationery and website expenses. There was a net surplus of Rs 85 thousand this year. By the year end, bank balances was Rs 1.67 million compared to Rs 1.529 million last year.

On behalf of the executive committee, I as Treasurer, request you all to generously contribute towards augmenting ABAN fund. I also request all to suggest measures towards making the Association financially more sustainable.

I thank Sandeep Shrestha, CA, for auditing ABAN accounts and propose for your approval to appoint him to audit the accounts for the coming year as well on the existing terms and conditions. I also thank president Mr. Uttam Pant for the continuing logistic support to ABAN for the last several years. Thanks to all the executive members of 12th ABAN committee for the kind cooperation during my tenure as Treasurer and wish the new Treasurer all the best in his endeavors.

ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH ALUMNI IN NEPAL

KTM, Regd No.: 147/1994-23/11
Pan No.: 102013

January 07, 2023

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION

An Election Committee consisting of the Coordinator and a Member have conducted a formal election for the 13th Executive Committee of the Association of British Alumni in Nepal this day at the Universal Language & Computer Institute, Dillibazar, Kathmandu, Nepal.

This is to certify that the following Office Bearers and Members have been elected unanimously in the Annual General Meeting today for the 13th Executive Committee of the Association of British Alumni in Nepal for a period of three years from the date of election:

1. President	Mrs. Padma Vaidya (ID 51)
2. Vice President	Mrs. Shiba Devi Kafle (ID 171)
3. General Secretary	Mr. Gobinda Neupane (ID 493)
4. Treasurer	Mr. Uttam Lal Pradhan (ID 305)
5. Asst. General Secretary	Mrs. Meenu Shrestha Hada (ID 524)
6. Asst. Treasurer	Mr. Madhav Prasad Bhat (ID 68)
7. Member	Dr. Nastu Sharma (ID 491)
8. Member	Ms. Sanjivani Shrestha (ID 492)
9. Member	Mr. Subin Man Pradhan (ID 499)
10. Member	Mr. Rabintra Manand Bajracharya (ID 502)
11. Member	Mr. Purna Bahadur Chermjong (ID 548)
12. Member	Dr. Ghana Shyam Khadka (ID 556)
13. Member	Dr. Lok Bhattarai (ID 557)
14. Immediate Past President	Mr. Uttam Prasad Pant (ID 144)
15. IT Advisor	Mr. Hemanta Baral (ID 527)

Honorary Members as Advisors:

1. Mr. Maheswor Bhakta Shrestha	PP & Honorary Member (189)
2. Dr. Mrigendra Raj Pandey	Honorary Member (ID 500)
3. Dr. Mahodadi Pradhan Shrestha	Honorary Member (ID 512)

Congratulations to you all for being elected to 13th Executive Committee of ABAN. I wish you great success in achieving the objectives of ABAN.

Maheswor Bhakta Shrestha
Coordinator, Election Committee

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- Mr. Uttam Prasad Pant**
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Annual Report presented in 25th AGM of ABAN



Assistant General Secretary Hemanta Baral presented the Annual Activity Report 2022 on the 25th AGM on January 7, 2023 as summarized below:

1. Executive Committee Meetings

The 12th Executive Committee of ABAN conducted 8 meetings physically during the year,

2. Activities during 2021/22

Following programs were organized during the review year:

- 2.1. 24th ABAN Day was celebrated on 4th February 2022,
- 2.2. ABAN Website had been updated,
3. Video biographies of following ABAN Past Presidents, Life Members and Guests have been prepared and released on YouTube:
 1. Honorary Member Dr. Mrigendra Raj Pandey
 2. Past President Dr. Narayan Bahadur Thapa
 3. Past President Mr. Raghu Pant
 4. Past President Mr. Maheswor Bhakta Shrestha
 5. Life Member Dr. Badri Raj Pandey
 6. Guest speaker Dr. Ram Prasad Pokhrel
 7. Guest speaker Mr. Purushottam Shamsher JB Rana,
 8. Guest Speaker Dr. Min Bahadur Shrestha

4. Progress on IELTS Exam Registration by ABAN

ABAN has started registering candidates for International English Language Testing System (IELTS) examination since April 11, 2019 following an agreement with the British Council. During 2020, ABAN registered 104 candidates for IELTS exam candidate and more than 200 candidates have registered for this exam in 2022. This activity has generated some service fee for ABAN financially.

5. **Social Activities** – Health camp, medicine/food/medical equipment supply to the old age home and child care home at Budhanilakantha, Kathmandu,
6. **Meetings with the British Council:** ABAN had meetings with the British Council and agreed to web base reporting and publications.
7. **New Life Membership:** 18 new Life Members have joined ABAN during 2021-2022.
8. **Talk Programs:** Five talk programs and weeklong Yoga and Wellness program were organized physically and online, during the year.



WHO Can Join ABAN?

- Rare opportunity to network with fellow ABANians, who also studied in the UK,
- Share the expertise gained in the UK for Nepal's development and gain mutual benefits,
- Meet and greet British scholars and authorities for mutual enrichment, and building trust,
- Be in touch with British events, activities and openings for shared happiness.
- Opportunities to serve others who need our help, guidance and network links, and
- Identify as a dignified British Scholar.
- More people have more reasons to join and be a part of ABAN .
- Person having studied in the UK for 12 weeks or more is eligible for membership of ABAN by application together with educational certificate, ID photo and fee. It is never too late to be part of this growing organization.

New Life Members

Joining ABAN from January 2023

1. Dr. Lok Bhattarai (ID 557) on Jan 05, 2023

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Treasurer:

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Immediate Past President:

Uttam Prasad Pant Mobile: 9851020918 Email: uttampant@gmail.com



ABAN Activity Report 2023-2025

Month of 2023	Activity Details
January 05	ECM Meeting
January 07	25 th Annual General Meeting and Election of 13 th Executive Committee
January 17	1 st Introductory Executive Committee Meeting
January 22	Service to Senior Citizens of Taspasthali Briddjhashram, Chapali
January 28	Mega Health Camp at Dhunibesi – Bhanjyang Pokhari
February 04	ABAN Day and Silver Jubilee Celebration

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