

Issue No. 1391

Date: 12 Magh 2077 / 25 January 2021

<p><u>Today's Programme:</u> Talk Programme by Mr. Sunil Chitrakar on 'Vocational Education'</p> <p><u>Forthcoming Programme:</u> 1 Feb. – Business Meeting and PEEF briefing</p>	<p><u>Congratulatory Events</u></p> <p><u>Birthdays:</u> Nil</p> <p><u>Wedding Anniversaries:</u> Rtn. Bishwa B. Sharma & Dr. Aruna Uprey – 26 Jan.</p>
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Minutes of Meeting No. 1739

Date: 5 Magh 2077 / 18 January 2021

1. President Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang called the virtual meeting No. 1739 to order with 15 seconds of 'Silent Invocation' for world peace, health, and happiness.
2. Guests welcomed by the President: Guest Speaker Mr. Mahabir Pun from National Innovation Centre and Inner Wheels & spouses of RCP members.
3. The last meeting minutes were reviewed and adopted.
4. Pledges of 'Happy News/Sunshine' contribution and to the Operational Fund marked as 'OF':
 - Rtn. Kamal B. Nyachhyon – for 'Happy Birthday' (NRs. 1,000).
 - Rtn. Mahendra B. Thapa – for 'Happy Birthday' (NRs. 1,000).
 - Rtn. Kedar B. Shrestha – for 'Happy Birthday' (NRs. 1,000).
 - Rtn. Pushkar M. Shakya – for having Rtn. Mahabir Pun as today's guest speaker, and his youngest son obtaining a green card in the USA (NRs. 1,000).
 - Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang – for having Mr. Mahabir Pun as today's guest speaker, and for the 'Happy Birthdays' of today (NRs. 1,000).
 - Rtn. Mahendra S. Rawal (NRs. 200), Rtn. Khadak S. Bisht (NRs. 500), Rtn. Maheswari Bisht Rawal (NRs. 500), and Rtn. Shiv P. Khemka (NRs. 500) - for having Mr. Mahabir Pun as today's guest speaker.
 - PDG Rtn. Tirtha M. Sakya – for his talk on 'Literacy' last Friday with Nepal Television (NRs. 500).
5. Rotary News/Information:
 - President Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang:
 - Briefed on the virtual programme of the Rotary Zone Institute during 15 to 17 January 2021, which was very interesting with good speakers including first woman RI President Nominee Rtn. Jennifer E. Jones for Rotary Year 2022-2023.
 - Informed about the signing of the MOU between the RCP and the Rotary District 3292 on the Anandakuti School Reconstruction Project of NRs. 64 Lakh starting this month.
 - Informed about the virtual E-RYLA being held from 27-29 January 2021 wherein Rtn. Siba B. Rajbhandary's grandson will be participating.
 - Rtn. Pushkar M. Shakya proposed to have the Vocational Award Ceremony physically instead of a virtual one. This was discussed and will be further reviewed given the Covid-19 situation.
6. Salutation: By PP Rtn. Kedar B. Shrestha – RC of Valmiera, Latvia; Chartered: 1996; Current President: Rtn. Dans Ciscakovs, and Members: 25. District: 2410 (for Sweden and Latvia), Clubs: 73; and Members: 3188.
7. Before the closure of the meeting by the President, the Secretary announced: total contribution pledges of NRs. 7,200 to the RCP's sunshine fund; and the attendance of 1 Guest Speaker, 4 Inner Wheels and 33 members.
8. **A 'motion of condolence' was passed by the 'House' on the sad demise of Rtn. Chandra P. Maskey, RCP's Past President of Rotary Year 2004-2005.**

Rotary Questions/Answers presented by Rtn. Padam L. Maharjan

- Q.** Rotary International per capita dues for the Rotary Year 2020/21.
A. US\$ 69 and US\$ 1 COL levy. Total US\$70 per member.
- Q.** Name of RI President's Representative for District 3292 Conference in 2020 in Pokhara.
A. PDG from Sweden, Rtn. Anne Bisset Asebol.
- Q.** Name the District 3292 Conference Theme of the Rotary Year 2010/11.
A. Resolve to Serve.

Summary of Talk Programme of Guest speaker: Mr. Mahabir Pun, Nat'l Innovation Centre (Rastria Awiskar Kendra)

President Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang welcomed the renowned and nationally decorated Mr. Mahabir Pun who is also a Rotarian, and Rtn. Maheswari Bisht Rawal introduced him. She mentioned how pleased she was to have the honour of introducing the 'diamond' of the country. Born in Nangi of Myagdi District, Mr. Pun had his schooling there, did his high school in Chitwan, I. Sc at Amrit Science College, and got a bachelor's degree in Science Education from the University of Nebraska, USA. In 2001, he went back to the University of Nebraska and got a master's degree in Educational Administration.

Upon return to his village, Mr. Pun recognised the critical need for sustainable education, and founded a high school to serve as a model for local educational and economic development with a special focus on computer education and other programs with income-generating capacity.

Mr. Mahabir Pun is a teacher, social entrepreneur and an activist known for his extensive work in applying wireless technologies to develop remote areas of the Himalayas, also known as the Nepal Wireless Networking Project. He is a renowned figure in Nepal, and his work has been recognized both nationally and internationally. He is a humanitarian whose work is inspiring many youths to return to Nepal and serve for its development. Mr. Pun led the establishment of the National Innovation Centre (NIC) in 2012 in Kirtipur to foster research and development for the economic development of the country.

Mr. Mahabir Pun, Chairman of National Innovation Centre, made a power point presentation starting with his motivation through his twenty years of work in the rural mountainous areas of Nepal. He recognised that economic prosperity can only come through research and innovation. He elaborated on how NIC helps Nepalese innovators with full financial support and mentoring in all aspects of innovations, such as prototype designs, product development, patent rights/trademark, and connecting with investors.

Mr. Pun was very much inspired by late US President John F. Kennedy's speech of 1962 on the US mission to the moon to establish the NIC. The goal is hard and challenging, but it will provide opportunities to utilise and measure the energies and skills of the most talented and innovative people of Nepal for its economic prosperity.

The NIC is self-funded by people who have already contributed NRs. 12 Crores and welcomes anyone who has innovative ideas that has commercial potential. NIC is always open and provides full support to the innovators for their projects. Currently NIC has 26 teams working on different projects. With photographs, he explained several completed projects including the six projects in its final stages, i.e. baby warmer, coffee roaster, vegetable preservation chamber, medical drone, chicken feed from black soldier fly larva, and monkey chasing device.

NIC has also developed and supported with 13 different protective items against Covid-19 for health care professionals.

NIC can be contacted at <http://nicnepal.org>, mahabir@nicnepal.org or by phone +977 9841592361.

Following an excellent presentation and a Q/A session, as a token of appreciation of the work being carried out by the NIC, the following RCP members pledged to contribute to the NIC:

Rtn. Prakash R. Regmi NRs. 100,000
Rtns. Bijaya and Gabriele Mallapaty NRs. 100,000
Rtns. Ganesh R. and Bijaya Shrestha NRs. 100,000

On behalf of the Rotary Club of Patan family, Rtn. Pushkar M. Shakya gave a 'Vote of Thanks' to Mr. Mahabir Pun for his dedicated work, and President Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang wished him all the success and concluded the session.