

Issue No. 1392

Date: 19 Magh 2077 / 1 February 2021

<u>Today's Programme:</u> Business Meeting and PEEF briefing	<u>Congratulatory Events</u> <u>Birthdays:</u> Nil <u>Wedding Anniversaries:</u> Rtn. Lochan & Sangita Gyawali – 30 Jan.
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Minutes of Meeting No. 1740

Date: 12 Magh 2077 / 25 January 2021

1. President Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang called the virtual meeting No. 1740 to order with 15 seconds of 'Silent Invocation' for world peace, health, and happiness.
2. Guests welcomed by the President: Guest Speaker Dr. Sunil Chitrakar.
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. Bishwa B. & Dr. Aruna Uprety – for 'Happy Wedding Anniversary' in absentia (ha.ba.).
 - Rtn. Bijaya Mallapaty – for participating in the Management Board meeting of Manmohan Cardiothoracic Vascular & Transplant Centre (NRs. 510).
 - Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang – For the talk programme of Dr. Sunil Chitrakar on 'Vocation Training and Trade' during Rotary's Vocational Service month (NRs. 500).
5. Rotary News/Information:
 - President Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang informed about the 7th NRCL's monthly meeting held on 24 January 2020 with the participation of the RCP's President and President Elect.
 - Rtn. Siba B. Rajbhandary briefed on the planned Rotary Foundation Seminar with the participation of RI President Elect Sekhar Mehta as the Chief Guest in February 2021.
 - Rtn. Mahendra S. Rawal informed about the selection of a bidder to start the Anandakuti School Reconstruction Project. He also updated on the contacts with schools for the PEEF scholarship distribution. Further briefing on this subject is planned during the Business Meeting next week.
 - Rtn. Shiv P. Khemka announced to join the RCP group in contributing to the National Innovation Centre, Kirtipur led by Mr. Mahabir Pun.
6. Salutation: By Rtn. Lochan Gyawali – RC of Comox, British Columbia, Canada; Chartered: 1974; and Members: 53. District: 5020, Clubs: 88; and Members: 4981.
7. Before the closure of the meeting by the President, the Secretary announced: total contribution pledges of NRs. 1,010 to the RCP's sunshine fund; and the attendance of 1 Guest Speaker and 26 members.

Rotary Questions/Answers presented by Rtn. Ramesh L., Maskay

- Q.** Date of eradication of the Polio Type-3 strain
A. On 24 October 2019. The last case of WPV3 was detected in northern Nigeria in 2012
- Q.** Name of the Manager of the Rotary South Asia Office
A. Rtn. Rajeew Ranjan. He is a member of the Rotary Club of Delhi - South/East
- Q.** Name of the District Treasurer of District 3292 for the RY 2020/21
A. Rtn. Kumud Tripathy, Rotary Club of Thamel.

Summary of Talk Programme of Guest Speaker Dr. Sunil Chitrakar on 'Vocational Training and Trade'

President Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang welcomed Dr. Sunil Chitrakar for a talk programme on 'Vocational Training and Trade' fitting the Rotary's month dedicated to vocational service. Rtn. Preeti Khemka introduced Dr. Sunil Chitrakar. He has a MBA in Industrial Psychology and Human Resource Management & International Marketing and Marketing Research Management, a M. Phil in Management, and a Ph.D. in Management all from the Tribhuvan University.

Dr. Chitrakar has over 20 years of expertise in Private Sector Promotion, Fair Trade, Social Enterprise, Enterprise Development, Management Training, Organizational Development and Strategic planning. Dr. Chitrakar was the CEO of Mahaguthi Crafts, MD of Sana Hastakala Pvt. Ltd., and a visiting Faculty Member of Nepal Open University. Currently, he is a Board Member of Social Entrepreneurship Fund of Social Welfare Council, Nepal; Secretary/Board of Director of World Fair Trade Organization, the Netherlands; Board of Director of World Fair Trade Organization Asia, Thailand; Vice President of Fair Trade Group Nepal; Vice President of Federation of Handicraft Association of Nepal; and Board of Director of Sana Hastakala Pvt. Ltd.

Dr. Chitrakar thanked Rtn. Pushkar M. Shakya for inviting him to the RCP and started his power point presentation with a brief introduction of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2030 related to Vocational Training and Entrepreneurship. He highlighted the importance of vocational and technical training for the creation of youth employment; to earn a decent livelihood; to reduce poverty; for social, economic, and technological development; and to improve quality of life.

Dr. Chitrakar emphasised on the goals under 5 'P's, i.e. **Poverty** – end poverty and hunger to ensure dignity and equality in a healthy environment; **Planet** - protecting it to support the needs of present and future generations; **Prosperity** – so that all may enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives with progress - in harmony with nature; **Peace** – for a peaceful, just, and inclusive societies; and **Partnership** – among Public, Private Sector, Producers and Policy Makers with a spirit of strengthened global solidarity.

He shared the work done in 'Mahaguthi', started in 1984, to provide opportunities in support of Nepalese women in creating market access for artisans and producers, support a foundation to provide shelter to destitute women and creating income generating activities for low income communities. Mahaguthi was established as a 'Brand' for Sustainable Fair Trade Enterprise while promoting its products and services locally and internationally. Success was achieved in several handmade products such as soap, basket weaving, following the World Fair Trade Organisation's principles and practices.

Dr. Chitrakar mentioned that Covid-19 has exacerbated the situation in Nepal specially for girls and unskilled workers and suggested that Rotary could contribute in the areas of vocational training an education - particularly in the new high value skills and for displaced skills. He also emphasised the need for a change of mindset to think about economic value or return on investment when selecting training opportunities. There is a big gap between market demand and skills trained. Often, priority is given for women to learn beads 'pote' work and cloth sewing, whereas there is greater return in coat sewing. Focus of training should be on enterprise with priority to quality control. There is a need to change the ironic situation of a large number of Nepalese going abroad for menial jobs while we are dependent on foreign skilled workers.

Following a Q/A session, on behalf of the Rotary Club of Patan family, Rtn. Mahendra B. Thapa gave a 'Vote of Thanks' to Dr. Sunil Chitrakar for his excellent presentation while highlighting Rotary's work in the area of Literacy and Education in Nepal. President Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang also thanked Dr. Chitrakar for making himself available on short notice and concluded the session.

Rotary Information

The Rotary International Convention, scheduled for 12-16 June 2021, in Taipei, Taiwan, will now be a virtual event in response to the ongoing threat of COVID-19.

Rotary International says: "We are sorry that we will not see you in Taipei this year, but this decision, made by the Rotary Board of Directors, is necessary to protect the health of everyone involved. We will share more details about the 2021 Rotary International Virtual Convention soon. Here is what you need to know now:

Convention, pre-convention, and ticket refunds: RI will automatically cancel and refund all existing registrations. This includes purchases made for Rotaract, Youth Exchange, and Intercountry Committees pre-convention events, and ticketed meal events. We kindly ask that you NOT contact RI Registration to inquire about registration, ticket, or housing cancellations as they work diligently to inform all attendees and process cancellations and refunds. Those who had already cancelled prior to today will receive a refund of the \$50 processing fee."