

Issue No. 1396

Date: 17 Falgun 2077 / 1 March 2021

<p><u>Today's Programme:</u></p> <p>Business Meeting</p> <p><u>Forthcoming Programme:</u></p> <p>8 March – Classification Talk of Rtn. Lochan Gyawali</p>	<p><u>Congratulatory Events</u></p> <p><u>Birthdays:</u></p> <p>Rtn. Kiran Thapa – 2 March</p> <p><u>Wedding Anniversaries:</u></p> <p>Rtn. Piyush B. and Ramita Bajracharya – 27 February Rtn. Pushkar M. & Rita Shakya – 27 February Rtn. Bijaya and Rajani Bajracharya – 2 March Rtn. Shiva K. and Tika Pradhan – 3 March</p>
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Minutes of Meeting No. 1744

Date: 10 Falgun 2077 / 22 February 2021

1. President Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang called the virtual meeting No. 1744 to order with 15 seconds of 'Silent Invocation' for Nepal & world peace, health, and happiness.
2. Guests welcomed by the President: Guest speaker Rtn. Gyanendra L. Pradhan.
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. Lila B. Baniya – for 'Happy Birthday' (NRs. 1,000).
 - Rtn. Yagya Bahadur & Mary Shrestha – for 'Happy Wedding Anniversary' (NRs. 1,000).
 - Rtn. Bharat Narsingh & Meera Joshi – for 'Happy Wedding Anniversary' in absentia (ha.ba.).
 - Rtn. Jeevan K. Shrestha – for having his friend Rtn. Gyanendra Pradhan as the guest speaker today (NRs. 500).
 - Rtns. Gabriele and Bijaya Mallapaty – for Rtn. Shiv P. Khemka putting all the available Lalitdhara Souvenirs (from Issue No. 8 to the current issue No. 35) in the RCP website for permanent record, and for the start of the disinfectant shipment container from our partners in Italy (NRs. 2,000).
 - Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang – for having today's guest speaker and for getting Covid-19 vaccine (NRs. 1,000).
 - Rtn. Kamal B. Nyachhyon – for participating in the regular weekly meeting after some time (NRs. 1,000).
5. Rotary News/Information:
 - President Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang shared the following information:
 - Rotary International's 116th Anniversary on 23 February 2021.
 - Cycle rally being held the Lalitpur municipality and Nepal Cycle Society on the International Women's day on 8 March 2021.
 - PDG Rtn. Tirtha M. Sakya briefed on the Rotary Journo Award ceremony of this year held by the District on 19 February 2021. A total of 13 journalists were awarded – 5 in the areas of Rotary, 7 from the regions of Nepal and 1 Rotary District Editor.
 - Rtn. Bijaya Mallapaty informed about the start of the shipment of a container load of disinfectant from our partners in Italy for the Ministry of Health and Population.
6. Salutation: By PP Rtn. Matsyendra L. Kayastha – RC of Chiang Mai International, Thailand; Chartered: 1959; Members: 58; and current President Rtn. Roger Lindley. District: 3360, Clubs: 62, and Members: 1301.
7. Before the closure of the meeting by the President, on behalf of the Secretary, Rtn. Bijaya Mallapaty announced: total contribution pledges of NRs. 6,500 to the sunshine fund of the RCP; and the attendance of 1 guest speaker and 22 members.
8. **A 'motion of condolence' was passed by the 'House' with 15 seconds of silence on the sad demise of Rtn. Prafulla M. Pradhan, past RCP member during 1993-94 to 1995-96.**

Rotary Questions/Answers presented by Rtn. Shiva K. Pradhan

- Q. Where do we report our annual club goals and achievements in My Rotary? A. The Rotary Club Central
- Q. Name three leading countries with the highest number of active Rotary of active Rotary Community Corps (RCCs) in 2017/18. A. India, Philippines, and Brazil
- Q. Under which RI Zone does RID 3292 fall? A. Zone 6

Summary of talk programme of guest speaker Rtn. Gyanendra L. Pradhan on the situation of water and hydropower in Nepal

President Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang welcomed Rtn. Gyanendra Lal Pradhan to the RCP to talk about water and hydropower in Nepal. Rtn. Jeevan K. Shrestha introduced Rtn. Pradhan as a Hydropower Specialist and Entrepreneur who had done his B.E. (Electrical) from Maulana Azad College of Technology in Bhopal, India.

Rtn. Gyanendra L. Pradhan is the Executive Chairman of Hydro Solutions Pvt. Ltd who has successfully established credibility as a hydropower developer with an integrated consulting business. He has partnerships in several hydropower companies and has been playing a significant role in awareness raising and in hydropower sector policy dialogue. He was the Chief Engineer of Nepal Power Engineering and has gained a vast experience in various hydropower sector companies. Well-travelled, Rtn Pradhan is a recipient of several honours and awards and is a member of many professional associations.

Rtn. Pradhan thanked the RCP for this opportunity and humbly presented himself as a student of 'water'. With the support of a PowerPoint, he made an excellent presentation on the situation of hydropower in Nepal. While Nepal was Asia's first to have a hydropower electricity generation plant in 1911, it has not been able to progress well since then. Today, Nepal's number one import is energy, primarily in the form of fuel. In 2018-2019, Nepal spent NRs. 214.48 billion for energy imports. Noting that energy management is a must for the country's development, he flagged that the country is still mostly dependent on its forests (65% of its energy needs). Contribution of electricity is currently only 3.5% of total energy whereas it could be 35%, which would save the country a hundred billion rupees. He also flagged the future of electric vehicles in Nepal as very high.

Rtn. Pradhan emphasised that, for Nepal, hydropower is not an option but a compulsion for water, energy & food security. While Nepal has a huge potential to tap hydropower estimated to be upwards of 50,000 MW - actual electricity generation from hydropower in Nepal is currently around 1,000 MW only. During the decade of 2018-2028, Nepal's hydropower generation plan is to generate 15,000 MW with an estimated budget of US \$37.5 billion. Nepal has a big market in India and Bangladesh as most rivers run from north of Nepal towards India with vast potentials to tap hydropower and electricity export that could hugely contribute to GDP growth.

Rtn. Pradhan mentioned that managing energy peak demand is a big challenge in Nepal, particularly in dry season, when it is still dependent on imports from India. There is also a huge potential for complementarity in hydropower and solar resources. He also outlined the developments in Nepal/India power trade agreement for export of hydropower from Nepal. For the control of floods in India, there must be a good collaboration between Nepal and India. Good dams and its management, during the dry season, are imperative for ship movements in India and therefore collaboration in these areas is increasingly realised.

In concluding, Rtn. Pradhan summarised that investment in hydropower is important to reduce pollution, generate employment, manage adverse effects of climate change and minimise global warming. All in all, hydropower is the best solution for all.

On behalf of the RCP, Rtn. Kedar B. Shrestha gave a 'Vote of Thanks' to Rtn. Gyanendra L. Pradhan for his high-level presentation as a frontline entrepreneur on water and hydropower. He appreciated that Rtn. Pradhan had also given a talk programme to the RCP sometime back. President Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang added his words of thanks and concluded the session.

Rotary Information

To celebrate 75 years of cooperation and a shared history of working together toward a healthier and more peaceful world, Rotary presented the United Nations (UN) and its agencies, the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF, with its highest recognition: The Rotary Award of Honor.

(Source: rotary.org/25 February 2021)