

## Issue No. 1398

Date: 2 Chaitra 2077 / 15 March 2021

**Today's Programme:** Presentation by Rtn. Ishwar M. Pradhan, PP RC Lalitpur Midtown – 'Mission Possible' (Climbing of Mt.K2 by 10 brave Nepalese)

**Forthcoming Programme:**

22 March - Guest Speaker: Ms. Kusum Tamang with a talk programme on 'Child Abuse and Prevention'.

**Congratulatory Events**

**Birthdays:** Nil

**Wedding Anniversaries:** Nil

## Minutes of Meeting No. 1746

Date: 24 Falgun 2077 / 8 March 2021

1. President Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang called the virtual meeting No. 1746 to order with 15 seconds of 'Silent Invocation' for Nepal & world peace, health, and happiness.
2. Guests welcomed by the President: IW members and PP of Rotaract Club of Patan Rtr. Peshal Bhattarai.
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. Ramesh L. and Shobha Maskay – for their 46<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary (NRs. 2,000 to OF),
  - Rtn. Nirmal K. and Bijaya Pradhanang – for their 44<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary (NRs. 2,000 to OF).
  - Rtn. Siba B. and Mithila Rajbhandary – for their 51<sup>st</sup> Wedding Anniversary and for the republishing of daughter's article in the first issue of Nepali Times (NRs. 2,000 to OF).
  - Rtn. Lalita Thapa – for good health of spouse Rtn. Kiran Thapa during the follow-up check (NRs. 500)
  - Rtn. Kiran Thapa – for 'Happy Birthday' and for being in good health (NRs. 1,000).
  - Rtn. Gabriele Mallapaty – for today's talk programme of Rtn. Lochan Gyawali (NRs. 500).
  - Rtn. Mahendra S. Rawal – for the successful 'Cycle Rally' of today (NRs. 500).
  - Rtn. Yagya B. Shrestha – for getting the Covid-19 vaccine (NRs. 1,000).
  - Rtns. Matsyendra L. and Chandralekha Kayastha – for getting the Covid-19 vaccine and today's talk programme of Rtn. Lochan Gyawali on Tea, whose factory was designed by them (NRs. 2,000).
  - Rtn. Ganesh R. Shrestha – for getting the Covid-19 vaccine, 111<sup>th</sup> Women's Day Cycle Rally and Rtn. Maheswari Bisht Rawal's efforts, today's talk programme of Rtn. Lochan Gyawali, and near completion of PEEF distribution (NRs. 1,500 to OF).
  - Rtn. Padam L. and Kamala Maharjan – for the above, and for having shaken hands with former US President Clinton (NRs. 1,000).
  - Rtn. Shiv P. Khemka – for the reasons mentioned by Rtn. Ganesh R. Shrestha above, and for having had tea in Rtn. Lochan Gyawali's place (NRs. 1,000).
5. Other Contributions:
  - President Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang announced that he was sponsoring the cost of jackets with the RCP logo for all the RCP members.
  - Rtn. Gabriele Mallapaty announced contributions of US \$25 each for Rtn. Bijaya Mallapaty and herself made to TRF's Polio Plus fund for getting free Covid-19 vaccine as per the appeal by the RI President Holger Knaack.
6. Rotary News/Information:
  - President Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang shared the following information:
    - Grand success of the 'Cycle Rally' sponsored jointly by the Lalitpur municipality, Nepal Cycle Society, and the RCP on the International Women's day on Monday, 8 March 2021 on the theme of Women's Empowerment and Environment. He gave special thanks to Rtn. Maheswari Bisht Rawal, Rtn. Mahendra S. Rawal, and Rtn. Padam L. Maharjan for all their support.
    - Reminded on the 'Resource' magazine that was shared electronically with all members.
    - Reminded about the Rotaract Week during 8 to 14 March. Rtr. Peshal Bhattarai added that he has submitted his candidature for the District Rotaract Representative position for 2022-2023. The RCP is wishing him the best.
    - Rtn. Santa K. Shrestha informed about the installation ceremony of light in the Bandipur market being inaugurated by RI President Elect Sekhar Mehta on 17 March 2021. He has also contributed NRs. 55,000 for this purpose being hosted by PDG Rtn. Rabindra Piya of the Rotary Club of Chitwan.

7. Salutation: By PP Rtn. Bijaya Mallapaty – RC of Conakry, Republic of Guinea, West Africa; Chartered: 1985; and Members: 23. District: 9100 (Comprising of 10 West African countries - Guinea Bissau, Republic of Guinea, Cape Verde, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, the Gambia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Burkina Faso), Clubs: 107, and Members: 2984.
8. Before the closure of the meeting by the President, the Secretary announced: total contribution pledges of NRs. 15,000 (NRs. 7,500 to the sunshine fund and NRs. 7,500 to the OF of the RCP) and the attendance of 1 Rotaract, 3 Inner Wheels, and 25 members.

### **Rotary Questions/Answers presented by Rtn. Mahendra S. Rawal**

- Q.** What is the Rotary Representative Network?  
**A.** A group of Rotarians from diverse backgrounds who represent Rotary at the United Nations and other International Organizations.
- Q.** Who was the first dean of the Rotary Representative Network? **A.** Edwin H. Futa
- Q.** Who is the RI District 3292 District Rotaract Representative for 2020-21? **A.** Rtr. Sanjib Paudel

### **Classification Talk of Rtn. Lochan Gyawali focussing on 'Tea Farming' in Nepal**

President Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang welcomed Rtn. Lochan Gyawali for his classification talk specially focussed on 'Tea Farming' in Nepal. Rtn. Lochan Gyawali started his illustrative power point presentation with his perspective on the making of Nepali High Mountain Tea (2000-2020) at 'Jun Chiyabari' in the Himalayan region of eastern Nepal.

He was very much inspired by the speech of Steve Jobs to do what you love and have a lot of passion for it. Jun Chiyabari started at a time when Nepal's tea export was only a third of its import with a deficit of 4.75 crore Nepalese Rupees in 1999-2000. Their efforts contributed to a surplus of 3.08 billion Nepalese Rupees by 2018-2019 with export (15 million kilos) becoming three times more than the imports.

Nepal did not have its own identity on tea. Everything was copied from Darjeeling in India, which is renowned for its tea. To establish the identity of Nepali tea, they did a 5 M analysis (Material, Machine, Manpower, Methods and Milieu) of industrial processes of tea making. Apart from the Milieu, all the other areas were either done similar to or copied from Darjeeling. Therefore, it was difficult to identify Nepali tea as different from those of Darjeeling.

While Nepal's first systematic planting of tea was as far back as in 1863 from seeds gifted by the Chinese Emperor, it had not developed into a modern tea farming with its own identity. Rtn. Gyawali was encouraged by German and Japanese friends to make good quality Nepali tea instead of copying from Darjeeling as it would have a good market. Jun Chiyabari started to change each of the 5 M (Milieu was already there) progressively to establish its own identity. From the type of tea to the latest machines and modern methods, progress was made with the support of experts from China, Taiwan, and Japan. Jun Chiyabari introduced modern tea cleaning and sorting machines that completely changed its methods.

Wild tea seeds & seedlings were introduced slowly in the tea garden so that future generations may benefit from the genetic diversity and by being different. Nepal has an unique environmental context, i.e. 'terroir' or milieu, which is the major factor giving Nepali tea its character. The non-living factors like mist, clouds, rainfall, sunshine, water, streams, altitude with high snowy mountains in the vicinity, and the slope of the land plays a crucial role in the taste of the tea. Jun Chiyabari has an altitude between 1450m to 2200m, which is much higher than most tea gardens. The high altitude reduces the quantity due to less rainfall, but the fragrance of the mist of the mountains adds special flavour and aroma.

Rtn. Gyawali briefed on the philosophy of Jun Chiyabari for a sustainable and organic farming practice with respect for produce, people and place moving towards 'natural farming' with a distinctive spirit to produce best possible and different tea types. To have a distinct identity of Nepali tea, they also changed the naming conventions making it simple and understandable. Instead of calling the tea with names like first flush, second flush, orthodox, oolong, they call it early spring/spring, early summer, high mountain, and partially oxidised tea.

Rtn. Gyawali summarised all the changes they introduced from 2000 to 2020 to establish the unique name of Nepali tea in growing international market with an attempt to be always at the cutting edge and to slowly establish a tea culture in Nepal following the famous saying of Laozi from China, "a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step". The Nepali tea has already been able to make its niche with the New York Times writing, "Don't call it Darjeeling, its Nepali Tea" in a key article published in May 2019 praising teas from Nepal for its hand-pluck tea leaves to produce unique organic Himalayan teas in the Dhankuta district of Nepal.

Following a Q/A session, President Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang concluded the session thanking Rtn. Lochan Gyawali for this excellent brief on a technical subject and for his contributions to the tea industry of Nepal.