

Issue No. 1403

Date: 13 Baishakh 2078 / 26 April 2021

<p><u>Today's Programme:</u></p> <p>Regular Weekly Meeting</p> <p><u>Forthcoming Programme:</u> 3 May: Business Meeting</p>	<p><u>Congratulatory Events</u></p> <p><u>Birthdays:</u> Rtn. Yagya B. Shrestha – 29 April</p> <p><u>Wedding Anniversaries:</u> Rtns. Kiran and Lalita C. Thapa – 29 April Rtns. Padam L. & Kamala Maharjan – 29 April</p>
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Minutes of Meeting No. 1751

Date: 6 Baishakh 2078 / 19 April 2021

1. President Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang called the first meeting of 2078, the virtual meeting No. 1751, to order with 15 seconds of 'Silent Invocation' for Nepal & world peace, health, and happiness.
2. Guests welcomed by the Vice President: Guest Speaker Dr. Dibesh Karmacharya and spouse of Rtn. Jamuna Tamrakar - Mrs. Meera Tamrakar.
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. Jamuna K. and Meera Tamrakar – for their 46th 'Happy Wedding Anniversary' (NRs. 1,000).
 - Rtn. Lila Baniya – for handing over a tourism strategic plan for Tanahunsur and surrounding area of Vyash Municipality with the Mayor (NRs. 1,000).
 - Rtn. Khadak S. Bisht – for today's wedding anniversary and having a friend as guest speaker (NRs. 500).
 - Rtn. Rabendra R. Pandey – for the approval of a Project Cooperation Agreement of the RCP's KPAD project by all the three partners (NRs. 1,000).
 - Rtn. Bijaya Shrestha – for representing Nepal in the virtual flag march during the Inner Wheel's 18th Int'l Convention (NRs. 500).
 - Rtn. Kiran Thapa – for the start of the 'Seto Matsyendranath Jatra' (NRs. 500 to OF).
 - Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang – for best wishes of 2078, today's wedding anniversary, and Dr. Dibesh Karmacharya's talk programme (NRs. 1,000 to the OF).
5. Other Contributions: Following the announcement of Rtn. Rabendra R. Pandey (See point 6, bullet 2 below), the following pledges were made for the RCP's KPAD Fund:
 - Rtns. Bijaya & Gabriele Mallapaty – NRs. 100,000
 - Rtns. Lalita and Kiran Thapa – NRs. 100,000
 - Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang – NRs. 50,000
 - Rtns. Matsyendra L. and Chandralekha Kayastha – NRs. 100,000

With the one-to-one matching pledge of Rtn. Rabendra R. Pandey of NRs. 350,000, today's pledges totals to NRs. 700,000 to the KPAD Fund.
6. Rotary News/Information:
 - President Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang informed:
 - on the planned District public image and membership seminar at Aloft Hotel in Thamel on 1 May 2021;
 - the good progress in the Anandakuti school reconstruction project with completion of about 40% of work and expectation of full completion within 3 to 4 months; and
 - progress on talks with Sneha's Care for the rabies vaccination plan from the RCP's Animal Welfare for Public Health project sponsored by Dr. Mukti Narayan and Praveena Foundation.
 - Rtn. Rabendra R. Pandey informed on the launch of the first project of the RCP's KPAD Fund. He recalled the target to raise one crore rupees within three years of launch of this second flagship project of the RCP, which has been slow due also to the COVID-19 pandemic. To encourage this Rotary Year's fund-raising efforts, he announced a pledge to match, one-to-one, all new contributions pledged by the RCP family till 30 June 2021.

7. Salutation: By PP Rtn. Pushkar M. Shakya - RC of Kelaniya, Wester Province, Sri Lanka; Chartered: 1997; and Members: 29 with current President Rtn. Wasantha Arambewala. District: 3220, Clubs: 65, and Members: 4524.
8. Before the closure of the meeting by the President, on behalf of the Secretary, Rtn. Bijaya Mallapaty announced: total contribution pledges of NRs. 5,500 (NRs. 1,500 to the OF and NRs. 4,000 to the sunshine fund of the RCP), attendance: 1 guest speaker, 1 spouse and 27 members.

Rotary Questions/Answers presented by Rtn. Maheswari Bisht Rawal

- Q.** Name the first country to receive a \$2 million Rotary Foundation Grant for “Programs of Scale Grants”, which is awarded to one large project per year.
- A.** Zambia - for a Rotarian-led Malaria-Free Zambia programme that aims to reduce malaria cases over time by 90% in 10 target districts.
- Q.** Who is the first women Charter President of District 3292 with the name of her club that she started?
- A.** Rtn. Kanti Giri of RC Jawalakhel. She was a member of RC Patan before starting this club.
- Q.** Who is the first woman District Secretary of District 3292?
- A.** None. District 3292 did not have a woman as District Secretary as yet.

Summary of Talk Programme by Dr. Dibesh Karmacharya on DNA research of COVID-19 in Nepal

President Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang welcomed the guest speaker Dr. Dibesh Karmacharya and Rtn. Khadak Singh Bisht introduced him. He has a Conservation Biology degree from Wayne State College, USA and a PhD on Conservation and Microbiome Genetics from Griffith University, Australia. He has worked extensively in the US and Canada.

Dr. Karmacharya is the founder chairperson/executive director of Centre for Molecular Dynamics Nepal – a wildlife genetics and clinical epidemiology research centre; Intrepid Nepal Pvt. Ltd. - a molecular diagnostics-based Biotechnology company with a leading cancer diagnostic laboratory; and BIOVAC Nepal Pvt. Ltd. - a vaccine research, development, and manufacturing company. He has done a lot of research work including building Nepal's first genetic database of wild tigers through Nepal Tiger Genome Project and as the principal investigator of PREDICT Nepal project - an emerging pandemic threat project.

Dr. Karmacharya gave an elaborate power-point presentation on a wide range of his scientific work focussing particularly on the last ten years of his research accomplishments in Nepal. The ‘One Health’ research in Nepal has been recognised internationally. His work involves all three stages of - information collection, diagnostics, and product development. He was the first to detect Coronavirus (SARS-2) in the open sewage system of Kathmandu, which led to the first SARS-2 Whole Genome Sequencing in Nepal. His COVID-19 research team also started many firsts including SARS-2 community surveillance and SARS-2 antibody detection in Nepal. He elaborated on the various variants of Coronavirus, first countries of their detection, their mutations, transmissibility, severity of illness, types of available vaccines and their efficacy. His research included Typhoid bacteria in several wards of Lalitpur District and their spatial mapping. His team is also doing community-based disease surveillance (including for SARS Cov-2) using samples from public toilets.

His work has been funded by various international organisations such as USAID, INGOs, and donor countries. Dr. Karmacharya is also working with the department of Epidemiology of the government of Nepal to implement what have been learnt from his ten years of experience.

Following an interesting Q/A session, on behalf of the RCP, Rtn. Bijaya Mallapaty appreciated the scientific research work of international repute Dr. Karmacharya has been doing in Nepal and gave a ‘Vote of Thanks’ to him for his comprehensive presentation to the RCP. President Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang added his words of thanks and concluded the session.



May the Laugh Bug Bite You 😊😊😊😊😊

My old aunts would come and tease me at weddings, “Well Maiyan? Do you think you’ll be next?” We settled this quickly once I started doing the same to them at funerals.