



ललित धारा

RI District 3292

Club No. 23126

Chartered: 29 August 1985

Past President & Editor: Bijaya Mallapaty Past President & Assistant Editor: Chandralekha Kayastha Secretary: Preeti Khemka

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Date: 17 Jestha 2078 / 31 May 2021

<p><u>Today's Programme:</u> Regular Weekly Meeting</p> <p><u>Forthcoming Programme:</u> 7 June – Business Meeting</p>	<p><u>Congratulatory Events</u> <u>Birthdays:</u> Rtn. Kamala Maharjan – 29 May Rtn. Bishwa B. Sharma – 2 June</p> <p><u>Wedding Anniversaries:</u> Nil</p>
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Minutes of Meeting No. 1756

Date: 10 Jestha 2078 / 24 May 2021

1. President Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang called the virtual meeting No. 1756, to order with 15 seconds of 'Silent Invocation' for Nepal & world peace, health, and happiness, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Guests welcomed by the President: AG for 2021-2022 Rtn. Preeti Shah, current year AG Rtn. Dinesh Manandhar, Guest Speakers Dr. Sagar Rajbhandari and Dr. Rinjan Shrestha, Rotaract Club of Patan President Kritika Sharma, Rtr. Peshal Bhattarai, Rtr. Ankit Basnet, Mr. Shivaji Roy Yadav, Mr. Anuj Pokharel, and two Inner Wheel 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. Matsyendra L. Kayastha – for 77th 'Happy Birthday' (NRs. 7,700).
 - Rtn. Rabendra R. Pandey (NRs. 1,000) and Rtn. Prakash R. Regmi (NRs. 500) – for the contributions of NRs. 1,150,000 raised within a week from the RCP family to support the frontline health workers.
 - Rtn. Jamuna K. Tamrakar – for incoming new member, grandson, in his family (NRs. 1,000).
 - Rtn. Mahendra B. Thapa – for the participation of Rtn. Preeti Shah, AG for Rotary Year 2021-2022 (NRs. 500).
 - Rtn. Chandralekha Kayastha – for spouse Rtn. Matsyendra L. Kayastha's birthday (NRs. 1,000).
 - Rtn. Pushkar M. Shakya – for recovery of son and daughter from COVID-19 (NRs. 1,000).
 - Rtn. Kedar B. Shrestha – for excellent participation of over 30 members in today's meeting (NRs. 1,000).
 - Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang – for having two guest speakers today (NRs. 500).
 - Mr. Shivaji Roy Yadav – for participating in the RCP's weekly meeting (NRs. 1,000).
5. Rotary News/Information:
 - President Elect Rtn. Mahendra B. Thapa requested all Directors/Club Officials to join the District Training Assembly as per communication already made by e-mail. A grant management seminar will also be held during the same time with the schedule forthcoming.
 - AG for 2021-2022 Rtn. Preeti Shah introduced herself briefly and mentioned that she was honoured to be the AG of the RCP with many senior members and looked forward to working with us. She has been the Charter President of RC of Jawalakhel Manjushree and was named the best president in her first of the two years as its president.
 - **RCP's and Nepal Heart Foundation's immediate support worth two million Nepalese Rupees (20 Lakh) to frontline health workers during the current wave of COVID-19 pandemic:** Rtn. Prakash R. Regmi briefed on the status of the above. As a token of appreciation, support of essential health safety supplies including PPEs/Masks will be given on 26 May 2021 (Buddha Jayanti) to health workers of Sukraraj Tropical and Infectious Disease Hospital, Patan Hospital, Civil Hospital, Khwapa Hospital, and Heart Clinics in Kathmandu valley. In addition, dried fruit packets for 400 frontline health workers will be provided. At Civil Hospital, fifty COVID-19 patients will also receive support for one and a half month's free meals.

Funding of NRs. 1.2 million will be from the RCP family and .8 million from Nepal Heart Foundation. As of now pledges from the RCP family has reached 1.15 million. PDG Rtn. Tirtha M. Sakya pledged to contribute any shortfall to reach 1.2 million from the RCP Family.

Interested members to join the distribution on 26 May are requested to contact Rtn. Prakash R. Regmi for coordination.

6. Before the closure of the meeting by the President, the Secretary announced: total contribution pledges of NRs. 15,200 to the sunshine fund of the RCP, and an attendance of 5 guests including 2 Rotarians, 2 IW members, 3 Rotaracts and 34 members.

Summary of briefing by Dr. Sagar Rajbhandari, Executive Director, Sukraraj Tropical and Infectious Disease Hospital

Dr. Sagar Rajbhandari gave a brief introduction to Sukraraj Tropical and Infections Disease Hospital established due to 1990 B.S. earthquake, which is currently a dedicated hospital for COVID-19 pandemic care. He described the tragic situation in the country due to the second wave where hospitals are lacking beds and critical supplies. The Sukraraj Hospital which had 60 beds has been expanded to 124 beds and is doing its best to serve the increasing number of COVID-19 patients.

Dr. Rajbhandari briefed on the new mutation found in Nepal after genome sequencing done abroad, which is more virulent with airborne transmission. As no medicine for its treatment has been found yet, only symptomatic treatment is done. Therefore, preventive measures such as vaccine, social distancing, use of mask and frequent hand-washing are extremely important. While the government is working on the supply of oxygen/ventilators and vaccines, planned support for the frontline health workers from the RCP is very much appreciated. He mentioned that cases seem to be slowly reducing but there is a need to be prepared for another wave and everybody needs to be extremely careful as even vaccines do not provide 100% protection.

Following a brief Q/A session, President Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang thanked Dr. Rajbhandari on behalf of the RCP family for making some time during this busy period for this briefing.

Summary of talk programme by Dr. Rinjan Shrestha, WWF Canada, on 'Tigers of Nepal'

President Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang welcomed and introduced Dr. Rinjan Shrestha joining from Canada for a talk on the interesting topics of 'Tigers of Nepal'. He did his Masters and PhD in Wildlife Biology from Norway and is currently working as the lead specialist on Asian big cats with WWF, Canada. He had worked with a NGO in Pokhara, is associated with IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), and has been WWF's deputy head in Nepal. His specialization has been on big cats and has also done a detailed study on snow leopards.

Dr. Rinjan Shrestha made an elaborate power point presentation on the wild tigers of Nepal, which is a success story of conservation. His topics covered the introduction of tiger, why should we care about them, how have tigers fared over the years, how did we achieve the success, can we maintain/upscale the ongoing conservation, and how can one help.

Tigers are largest cats of the world whose night vision is six times better than humans. Their presence is an indicator of health of the landscapes they inhabit. Tiger population had been reducing by 97% over 100 years, which reached its lowest level in 2009, i.e. from 100,000 to only 3,200. From the global tiger summit held in 2010 and its declaration to double tiger numbers by 2022, there has been much progress reaching an estimated 3,900 in 2010. Tigers are found in India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Russia, China, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and Myanmar with numbers reducing further in the last three countries. In Nepal, tiger numbers have been increasing from 121 in 2009 to 235 in 2018. The goal by 2022 is to reach 250, which seems to be on track. Tigers are found in the national parks of Nepal in Parsa, Chitwan, Banke, Bardia and Shuklaphanta.

Use of new approaches and cutting-edge conservation technologies combined with political will and community collaboration have been the major causes of success in increasing the tiger population. Dr. Shrestha mentioned that the momentum can be maintained if these factors continue. He suggested supporting ongoing eco-tourism in and around tiger habitats, spreading the message to reduce demands of products derived from tigers, and supporting conservation campaigns.

Following an interesting Q/A session, Rtn. Jamuna K. Tamrakar gave a 'vote of thanks' to Dr. Rinjan Shrestha on behalf of the RCP family for his excellent talk and responses to questions, and President Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang concluded the session adding his own words of thanks.