

**Issue No. 1441****Date: 10 Magh 2078 / 24 January 2022****Today's Programme**

Talk programme by Dr. Krishna D. Joshi, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) Country Representative in Nepal, on 'Changing landscape of Agri food systems in Nepal'.

**Congratulatory Events****Birthdays:** Nil**Wedding Anniversaries:**

Rtn. Bishwa B. Sharma &amp; Dr. Aruna Uprety - 26 Jan.

**Minutes of Meeting No. 1788****Date: 3 Magh 2078 / 17 January 2022**

1. President Rtn. Mahendra B. Thapa called the regular weekly meeting number 1788 to order virtually by Zoom with 15 seconds of 'Silent Invocation' for world peace, health, and happiness.
2. Guests welcomed by the President: Guest speaker Rtn. Chhatra B. Pradhan, Past President of RC Durbar Marg, and Rotaract Aman Shrestha from the Rotaract Club of Patan.
3. The last meeting minutes were reviewed and adopted.
4. Contributions/pledges for 'Happy News':
  - Rtns. Pushkar M. Shakya and Kamal B. Nyachhyon – for 'Happy Birthday' in absentia (ha.ba.).
  - Rtn. Kedar B Shrestha – for 'Happy Birthday (NRs. 1000).
  - Rtn. Mahendra B. Thapa – for 'Happy Birthday', having Rtn. Chhatra B. Pradhan as today's guest speaker, and a successful handover/inauguration of Anandakuti School Reconstruction Project last Saturday (NRs. 1,000).
  - Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang – for 'Happy Birthday' of four RCP friends, and for the successful handover/inauguration of Anandakuti School Reconstruction Project last Saturday (NRs. 1,000).
5. Other Contributions: Rtn. Preeti Khemka pledged US \$100 each for herself and from her spouse Rtn. Shiv P. Khemka to the Annual Fund of The Rotary Foundation. (Total US \$200).
6. Rotary News/Information:
  - President Rtn. Mahendra B. Thapa briefed on the successful handover ceremony and inauguration of 'Mudhita Bhawan' at Anandakuti school held on 15 January 2022. As the District Governor could not join, PDG Tirtha M. Sakya was the Chief Guest of the event with the participation of Rtn. Rajesh Thapa from the District's ERRRP Committee, and 9 members from the RCP led by President Rtn. Mahendra B. Thapa. The RCP also received a 'Token of Appreciation' on this occasion. A more detailed briefing is planned in another meeting.
  - Rotaract Aman Shrestha informed on the plans being discussed with the RCP's Rtn. Maheswari Bisht Rawal at the Lalitpur Metropolis to have a 'Cycle Rally' in collaboration with the Metropolis, the Rotary Club of Patan, the Rotaract Club of Patan, and the Cycle Society on 8 March 2021.
7. Salutation: By President Rtn. Mahendra B. Thapa - Rotary Club of Burnside, southern Australia; Chartered: 1975; and Members: 32. District: 9250, Clubs: 53, and Members: 1467.
8. Before the adjournment of the meeting by the President, Joint Secretary Rtn. Khadak S. Bisht announced: contribution pledges of NRs. 3,000 to sunshine fund of the RCP, and the meeting attendance of 1 guest speaker, 1 Rotaract, 20 members, and 5 make-ups.

**Rotary Questions/Answers presented by Rtn. Khadak S. Bisht**

- Q:** Who is the chair of the Board of Trustees of The Rotary Foundation **A:** Past RI President John F. Germ
- Q:** What does TEACH stand for? **A:** Teacher Support, E-learning, Adult Literacy, Child Development, & Happy Schools
- Q:** What is the District 3292 Theme of the Rotary Year 2021-2022 **A:** Live to Serve

**Experience sharing and Q/A by Rtn. Chhatra Bahadur Pradhan,  
Chair, District 3292 Senior Citizen Welfare Sub-Committee**

President Rtn. Mahendra B. Thapa welcomed and introduced guest speaker Rtn. Chhatra Bahadur Pradhan, Past President of Rotary Club of Durbar Marg, Chair of District 3292 Senior Citizen Welfare Sub-Committee and President of National Senior Citizen Federation (NASCIF). A postgraduate with law background, Rtn. Pradhan worked in the Police Service for 34 years prior to his retirement from the position of a Senior Superintendent of Police. Since his retirement, he has dedicated his time for the betterment of senior citizens of Nepal, has attended various national and international seminars, and has been involved in policy dialogue with government counterparts in this regard.

Rtn. Pradhan thanked the Rotary Club of Patan for this opportunity to connect with many known seniors of the Rotary Club of Patan in his first talk programme to a Rotary club about senior citizens working in the service of the country. He wished to use this forum to listen to the experience and views of the RCP colleagues.

The United Nations considers 60+ years old people as senior citizens, which is also the same in Nepal. Developed countries consider 65+ and some least developed countries consider 58+ as its senior citizens. With the life expectancy increasing, the number of senior citizens around the world is expected to double by 2030. In Nepal, 8.13% or some 26 to 29 Lakh people are senior citizens according to earlier census, but this number has grown and continues to grow.

Rtn. Pradhan explained that Ms. Lila Devi K.C. initiated a network of senior citizens, which has now been formally registered since 2068 as the National Senior Citizen Federation (NASCIF) and accredited to the United Nations. He first served as its Secretary General and has now been elected as its President. The NASCIF has grown and its spread now covers 74 of 77 districts covering all the three levels of state structure in Nepal.

While there has not been extensive research on this subject, it is recognized that despite the respect for seniors in eastern culture, major issues faced by senior citizens in Nepal are loneliness, lack of respect, and being side-lined by the government and the family/society. As an umbrella organization, NASCIF has been working for the advocacy and in policy formulation with the government very closely.

In its dual role as the Chair of the Sub-committee for the welfare of senior citizens with District 3292 and the President of NASCIF, Rtn. Pradhan has been working lobbying both within Rotary and in the society at large to tackle the issues of senior citizens with relative success. Under the leadership of the current Minister, Nepal has declared 11 Poush as the national 'Senior Citizens Day' and has started to celebrate it every year.

As a first country in the SAARC region, Nepal has decided to give a universal pension allowance for senior citizens and other facilities such as priority seats in public transport. While attempts are made to give the pension allowance directly in the hands of senior citizens, there are many areas of support required for the senior citizens that continues to have difficulties in implementation despite the stipulation of 2063 law for senior citizens. From Rotary, he mentioned the need to advance advocacy efforts further. Work is continuing in this regard at the District level as well as to bring this issue to the attention of Rotary International.

During the Q/A sessions, the RCP members shared ideas and issues faced by senior citizens including gender-based violence, practical use of NASCIF at district levels, possibility of Rotary project dedicated to senior citizens, and membership of NASCIF. Rtns. Padam L. and Kamala Maharjan also pledged to contribute NRs. 11,111.00 to NASCIF for senior citizens welfare. Rtn. Pradhan recognized the need for a lot to support senior citizens and requested all to support and push for this important need of the time.

Past President Rtn. Kedar B. Shrestha, on behalf of the RCP family, gave a 'Vote of Thanks' to Rtn. Chhatra B. Pradhan for his excellent presentation, responses to the questions, and all his efforts towards a happy, active and productive life of senior citizens of Nepal. President Rtn. Mahendra B. Thapa concluded the session adding his own words of thanks.