

Issue No. 1519

Date: 22 Shrawan 2080 / 7 August 2023

Today's Programme:

Business Meeting on Zoom

Congratulatory Events

Birthdays & Wedding Anniversaries: Nil

Minutes of Meeting No. 1865

Date: 15 Shrawan 2080 / 31 July 2023

1. President Rtn. Mahendra S. Rawal called the RCP's Meeting No.1865 to order with 15 seconds of 'Silent Invocation' for world peace, health, and happiness.
2. Guests welcomed by the President: Rtn. Bishnu P. Sigdel's family – spouse Ausura, daughter-in-law Sarita, daughter Abina and son-in-law Mukunda; President Bal Ram Neupane, General Secretary Bal Govinda Bista and senior members/cardiologists from Nepal Heart Foundation, Mr. Sunil Kushwaha, and Prof. Krishna Hachhethu.
3. The last meeting minutes were reviewed and adopted.
4. 'Happy News' Contribution Pledges:
 - Rtns. Shiv P. Khemka (NRs. 500), Prakash R. Regmi (NRs. 500), Khadak S. Bisht (NRs. 500), Preeti Khemka (NRs. 500), Ganesh R. Shrestha (NRs. 500), and Mahendra S. Rawal (NRs. 500) – for the induction programme of Rtn. Bishnu P. Sigdel, presentation of Rtn. Prakash R. Regmi on RHD with the participation of the management and senior colleagues from Nepal Heart Foundation.
 - Rtns. Bijaya and Gabriele Mallapaty – for the above, and for hosting of the RCP's Past Presidents' fellowship dinner (NRs. 500 each).
 - Rtn. Lalita C. Thapa – for the above, and for participating in the launch of the documentary film on 'Brain Death Organ Transplant' by Madan Krishna's daughter Sarana Shrestha & Team. The documentary is available in YouTube in which both Kiran and Lalita were also included (NRs. 1,000).
 - Rtn. Suraj Pradhan – for 'Happy Landing' from Cambodia (NRs. 500).
 - Rtn. Piyush B. Bajracharya – for good news received on the use of the RCP donated orthopaedic equipment by the Mirge hospital (NRs. 500).
 - Rtn. Kedar B. Shrestha – for good attendance today (NRs. 500).
 - Rtn. Bishnu P. Sigdel – for his induction in Rotary Club of Patan in the presence of his family today (NRs. 1,000).
5. Other Contributions:
 - Rtn. Ramesh L. Maskay contributed US \$100 to The Rotary Foundation PolioPlus Fund.
 - Rtn. Kamal B. Nyachhyon pledged to contribute NRs.50,000 to support the RCP's Global Grant Project on RHD.
6. Rotary Information:
 - Rtn. Ramesh L. Maskay briefed on his participation and a talk given to the Rotaract Club of Patan including an induction of two new Rotaracts during their last regular meeting.
7. Salutation: By Rtn. Santa K. Shrestha - RC Riga Hansa, Latvia; Chartered: 1996; & Members: 35. District: 2410, Clubs: 73, & Members: 3188. He also gave some highlights about Latvia.
8. Induction of Rtn. Bishnu P. Sigdel:

President Rtn. Mahendra S. Rawal welcomed Rtn. Bishnu P. Sigdel his spouse Mrs. Ausura Sigdel and members of their family while Rtn. Shiv P. Khemka coordinated the induction programme. Rtn. Khadak S. Bisht gave a brief introduction of Rtn. Bishnu P. Sigdel. Born in Hetauda, Rtn. Sigdel worked for some time in the government and became self-employed in 'Sigdel Art' because of his interest in arts. Rtn. Sigdel has been very active in art and

social work and has been engaged in various social organisations. He is a life member of Nepal Heart Foundation, Nepal Cancer Relief Society and Amnesty International. He is also a member of Nepal Chamber of Commerce, and a founding member of Commercial Artists' Association of Nepal including as its President of Makawanpur Chapter.

Rtn. Kamal B. Nyachhyon, Membership Chairperson, welcomed Rtn. Sigdel with 'Khada' and Mrs. Ausura with a flower bouquet. Rtn. Kedar B. Shrestha administered the Rotary 'Oath of Office' and pinned him with the 'Rotary Pin' welcoming him and his spouse to the family of Rotary around the world. In his acceptance speech Rtn. Bishnu P. Sigdel appreciated the honour to be welcomed in the Rotary family, which provides him the opportunity for social work and thanked his friend Rtn. Rawal and fellow Rotarians of the RCP for their welcome.

9. Before the adjournment of the meeting by the President, Secretary Rtn. Shiv P. Khemka announced: happy news contribution pledges of NRs. 7,500 (50% or NRs. 3,750 each for the Sunshine Fund and the Operational Fund) plus NRs. 6,600 for attendance to the Operational Fund), and the meeting attendance of, 12 guests, 28 members and 8 make-ups.

Summary of presentation by Rtn. Prakash R. Regmi on the RCP's recently approved Global Grant Project on Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD)

President Rtn. Mahendra S. Rawal introduced the subject and welcomed Rtn. Prakash R. Regmi to make his presentation. Rtn. Prakash R. Regmi welcomed again the RCP's implementing partners of this global grant project, the Nepal Heart Foundation (NHF), and thanked for the presence of its President Mr. Bal Ram Neupane, General Secretary Bal Govinda Bista and several of its very senior cardiologists and members including Dr. Prem Raj Vaidya, Dr. Urmila Shakya, and Dr. Ram Kishor Shah.

He made a comprehensive presentation on 'a new approach in Rheumatic heart disease prevention in Nepal' with the support of a power point giving an excellent background and elaborating on the RCP's global grant project and what it intends to achieve. He explained the medical tragedy of low-income countries due to delay in detection resulting in extremely high mortality despite it being preventable if detected early.

Rtn. Regmi explained the technical character of the disease that starts from throat of the children and leads to damage to the heart valves. Most of the RHD cases in the community are latent and undiagnosed. Currently some 1,000 children below 18 years die every year in Nepal from RHD despite prevention being simple and not expensive at only US \$5 for an entire year. He also gave the status of RHD in the world at 32 million cases with over 350,000 deaths every year. Some 2 billion children live in RHD endemic regions. The global target of WHO and WHF is to decrease the premature mortality under 25 years by 25% by the year 2025, which may not be achieved.

In the current situation, it is very important to change the strategy for RHD prevention. 'Task shifting' is one of the new strategies advocated by WHO, which is a process of delegation of tasks from experts to less specialised health workers such as nurses under the supervision and care of cardiologists. It is in this context that the RCP's Global Grant project has been formulated for an expanded RHD diagnosis and care through echocardiography screening. The Echocardiographic screening is considered the gold standard for the diagnosis of RHD and has been tried in several countries with proven good results.

Rtn. Regmi elaborated on the Global Grant project implementation plans with Nepal Heart Foundation to procure portable echocardiography machine (Edge II Sonosite, USA), train two nurses, screen 5,000 children (half in the RCP's PEEF supported schools and half elsewhere in the country) and register positive cases for treatment. The positive results of the project should have a multiplier effect in terms of policy formulation and further expansion of the programme in Nepal and in other RHD endemic countries.

The project's international sponsor is Rotary Club of Livingston, New Jersey, USA with Gift of Life, New Jersey as a partner and Nepal Heart Foundation as the implementing partner in Nepal. In the RCP, the primary contact of the project is Rtn. Gabriele Mallapaty, with Rtns. Preeti Khemka and Khadak S. Bisht as the secondary contacts. Total approved budget for the project is US \$43,262, which includes contributions from the RCP and several of its members. Rtn. Regmi also received additional local funds from interested friends. These funds, together with other contributions being received, will be managed by the RCP on behalf of the 'RHD Project Well-wishers'. He implored for additional individual contributions that will support local costs for project implementation.

Following an interesting Q/A session and comments, on behalf of all the participants, President Rtn. Mahendra S. Rawal thanked Rtn. Prakash R. Regmi for his excellent presentation and leadership of the RHD project and concluded the session.