

**Issue No. 1605**

**Date: 22 Baisakh 2082 / 5 May 2025**

<p><b><u>Today's Programme:</u></b></p> <p>Business Meeting</p>	<p><b><u>Congratulatory Events</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Birthdays:</u></b></p> <p>Rtn. Shiva K. Pradhan – 2 May Rtn. Chandralekha Kayastha – 4 May Rtn. Jeevan K. Shrestha – 6 May Rtn. Kuldeep R. Tuladhar – 8 May</p> <p><b><u>Wedding Anniversaries:</u></b></p> <p>Rtn. Santa K. &amp; Nirmala Shrestha – 3 May</p>
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**Minutes of Meeting No. 1949**

**Date: 15 Baisakh 2082 / 28 April 2025**

- President Rtn. Preeti Khemka called the RCP's Meeting No. 1949 to order with 15 seconds of 'Silent Invocation' for world peace, health, and happiness.
- Guests welcomed by the President: Guest speaker Dr. Omkar Lal Shrestha, Prof. of Economics, National University of Singapore; and Mrs. Jyoti Dawadi, spouse of Rtn. Gopal P. Dawadi.
- The last meeting minutes of the RCP were reviewed and adopted.
- Happy News Contribution/Pledges:
  - Rtn. Yagya B. Shrestha – for 'Happy Birthday' in absentia (ha.ba.).
  - Rtn. Sandhya Regmi & Dr. Dinesh R. Shiwakoti – for 'Happy Wedding Anniversary' and for the completion of PhD literature review (Rs. 500).
  - Rtns. Padam L. & Kamala Maharjan – for 'Happy Wedding Anniversary' in absentia (ha.ba.).
  - Rtn. Mahendra S. Rawal: for attending Gulf charity competition organised by ADSoN (Rs. 500).
  - Rtn. Prakash R. Regmi – for his Nuwakot visit and Betrawati pilgrimage on Mother's Day (Rs. 500).
  - Rtn. Lalita C. Thapa – for attending the Mother's Day event and award received from 'Lekhan Kunj' (Rs. 500).
  - Rtn. Khadak S. Bisht – for trekking/cycling with Rotary Hiking Group & attending Golf Charity-ADSoN (Rs. 500).
  - Rtn. Rabendra R. Pandey – for having today's guest speaker & for the Golf Charity event of ADSoN (Rs. 1000).
  - Rtn. Preeti Khemka – for having today's guest speaker and the induction of Rtn. Gopal P. Dawadi (Rs. 500).
  - Rtn. Kedar B. Shrestha - for having today's guest speaker (Rs. 500).
- Other Contributions:
  - Rtn. Khadak S. Bisht briefed on the plans to have this year's campaign on animal welfare for public health and requested members for contributions to add to the allocated amount of Rs. 150,000. The following members pledged to contribute:
    - Rtns. Preeti and Shiv P. Khemka – Rs. 25,000
    - Rtn. Rabendra R. Pandey – Rs. 25,000
- Induction of a New Member Rtn. Gopal P. Dawadi: President Rtn. Preeti Khemka welcomed the new member Rtn. Gopal P. Dawadi and his spouse Jyoti Dawadi to the RCP family while Rtn. Maheswari Bisht Rawal presented flower bouquet to Mrs. Jyoti Dawadi. They have two sons - Nishan and Nischal. Rtn. Pushkar M. Shakya introduced Rtn. Dawadi highlighting his contributions in the construction area. Rtn. Dawadi is an engineer and has been the Chairman of Batuk Bhairab Builders as well as of Clay Garden and Eco Bricks. Rtn. Kamal B. Nyachhyon administered the 'Oath of Office' of Rotary and pinned him with the Rotary Pin. Rtn. Dawadi gave an acceptance remarks by greeting and thanking all from the RCP family for the welcome he and his family received. He committed to follow the Rotary policies, the RCP's practices, and learn more about Rotary. Rtn. Rabendra R. Pandey also added on the essentials of becoming a Rotarian, which is a continual learning process with active participation being most important.

7. Before the adjournment of the meeting by the President, Secretary Rtn. Ganga R. Gautam announced: happy news contributions of Rs. 4,500 to the sunshine funds and Rs. 4,100 for attendance to the operational funds of the RCP, and attendance of: 2 guests, 20 members, and 8 make-ups.

**Summary of Talk Programme by Dr. Omkar Lal Shrestha, Professor of Economics, National University of Singapore, on 'From Bottomless Pit to Economic Miracle Case Study of South Korea'**

President Rtn. Preeti Khemka welcomed the guest speaker Prof. Omkar Lal Shrestha and Rtn. Kedar B. Shrestha introduced him. Prof. Shrestha is a renowned expert in Economics and has worked in foreign universities as an academic and as an expert in the UN system with significant contributions in the development areas. He has worked for 27 years with the Asian Development Bank particularly covering China, Vietnam, and Bangladesh. He is currently with the National University of Singapore. He also worked in Nepal at the beginning of his career, particularly in Surkhet, and is a member of Rotary in Singapore.

Prof. Omkar Lal Shrestha's topic was 'from Bottomless Pit to Economic Miracle – the Case Study of South Korea'. He highlighted that South Korea suffered from war (1950-1953) but made remarkable progress due to the visionary leadership of President Park Chung-Hee and people's commitment that started in 1961. The focus was on industrialization and that Germany had helped them with the seed money for industrialization. The period of miraculous rapid economic growth (1961-1981) is largely attributed to the policies implemented under President Park. His policies focused on state-guided industrialization, export-oriented development, and acquiring technical skills leading to significant economic transformation. President Park convinced people and gave them clear head (clarity of vision), clean hand (no corruption), and a compassionate heart with focus on education. Priority was given to Research and Development spending about 5% of the budget for it. The people in South Korea worked really hard (60 hours a week!) and developed rapidly from a 'bottomless pit to an economic miracle – from a \$82 GNI per capita to \$1,000 within a six-year period. Its GDP is now 1.8 trillion US Dollars, it is only the 2<sup>nd</sup> country from Asia as OECD member and has become the 13<sup>th</sup> largest economy of the world and the 4<sup>th</sup> largest of Asia.

Prof. Shrestha constantly drew parallel with Nepal – its size is 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of Nepal and has 52 million people demonstrating that the small size should not be an impediment for economic development.

In terms of issues, Prof. Shrestha highlighted low birth rate (0.7% - one of the lowest in the world), aging (45 is the middle age), and suicide as one of the highest. Life is expensive and complex in South Korea giving a lot of pressure to its citizens. The focus on economic development may have cost South Korea in terms of quality of life and social development.

Following a Questions/Answers session, Rtn. Rabendra R. Pandey, on behalf of the RCP, gave a 'Vote of Thanks' to Prof. Shrestha for the remarkably interesting talk programme. President Rtn. Khemka added her own words of thanks and concluded the session.



**Rotary Information: RI President Elect 2024-2025 Mário César Martins de Camargo, Rotary Club de Santo André São Paulo, Brazil**

Excerpts (Source: Rotary.org) - Mário César Martins de Camargo is a business consultant to the printing industry and former director of Gráfica Bandeirantes, a printing company founded by his father. Under de Camargo's leadership, the company expanded to be a supplier of printed material for clients in Brazil and elsewhere in South America.

De Camargo has received The Rotary Foundation's Distinguished Service Award. He and his wife, Denise, are Major Donors and Benefactors of The Rotary Foundation.