

Looking back the past year,
NRN Australia, 2007

From the President.

As many of us would remember that the NRNA ICC had given birth to its Australia chapter in 2005. A very wide effort was made to involve all the Nepalese individuals and organisations in this theme. As a result, we had very successful Second NRN National Conference in Sydney on 7 July 2007. In the representation process for National Coordination Committee, as much as we tried to involve all streams of the community, we did not leave any untouched corners to remain very close to the heart of our own theme; first of all, we all are Nepalese. That has always worked. We wanted our Australian Chapter of NRN Network to be most representative in its structure, views and activities by inviting all states, social streams, all organisations and individuals. We had enormous response to this theme from the true believers. As a result, there is a wide support and enthusiasm from the public to the NRN theme.

Contribution to the philanthropic projects in Nepal, advocacy in favour of the NRN Bill and NRN rights, connecting NRNs, flood victims donations and other public awareness campaigns were some of the activities NRN Australia has been able to accomplish during the last year. There is a long way to go. The team was very cohesive and some members have put tremendous time and effort in accomplishing the NRN Australia activities. All NRNs have always been of tremendous support to carry out its activities. Business community, community organisations, social leaders, intellectual community, all individual NRNs, Nepal consulate, Nepali Embassy Canberra and other stakeholders in Nepal, are just a few names that have encouraged us in supporting the NRN Australia cause over the past one year. I truly believe this will foster, as it develops to give full coverage to all Nepalis residing globally and in any given country.

The Nepali Parliament passed NRN Act and NRN Rules are expected to be released by the end of January 2008, which was the greatest achievement of NRNA ICC globally. Some of the highlights of the NRN Act are 10 years visa for People of Nepali Origin (PNO) /who hold a foreign passport will be able to enjoy the privileges of inherited property to keep in his/her name. They will be able to purchase land for residential housing and unrestricted business rights similar to Nepali people residing in Nepal.

Now we are formally recognised and have got the NRN status back in Nepal. These were the outcome of our united voice, which has created pressure groups and has lobbied Nepal Government to prioritize in executing the NRN Act.

The successful outcome of the third global conference of NRN ICC was the positive signal from the all-political parties, community members for dual citizenship.

The chief guest and the honourable Prime Minister Mr. Girija Prasad Koirala initially spoke as a representative of the NRN community and later as a PM. As a NRN

representative, he advocated the Government to award dual citizenship to the NRNs which generated a big round of applause from the audience. Prime Minister assured his full support and expressed his full commitment towards helping NRNs.



Prime Minister addressing the conference

Remember, there is no they and I at NRN; there is only us and ours, that is why it says, **“By Nepali, for Nepali”**.

NRN Australia carried out the following activities during 2007

- ❖ January 2007 Donated \$1000.00 to NRN Library Kathamandu Nepal
- ❖ February 2007 - Released 200 Nepal Festival 2006 DVDs.
- ❖ February 2007 – Published Preliminary Feasibility Study Report on the Construction and Operation of Nepali Community Centre in Sydney.



Workshop participants

- ❖ June 2007 -Donated US\$1,000.00 to NRN Devghat Briddhashram Project Nepal
- ❖ July 2007 - staged Second Bi Annual National Conference represented by all walks and patterns from NRN Global and NRN Australia families.

- ❖ July 2007 - NRN Australia formally recognised the outstanding performers and/or achievers in the Nepalese Community under several different categories.
- ❖ August 2007 - Prepared Second National Conference report which can be viewed in NRN Australia website.
- ❖ August 2007 - Prepared discussion paper on how to accommodate interested NRNs in to NRN activities for the next two years which was approved by the NRN Executive meeting held on 12 August 2007 at Pacific College of Technology. We forwarded it to NRN registered members for their expression of interest to get involved.
- ❖ August 2007 - formed a committee to prepare a skill database of Nepalese people residing in Australia “**Who is who in Australia**”.
- ❖ August 2007 - formed a committee to investigate how we can do a video or tele- conferencing of NRN Australia across Australia in order to get active involvement and interaction within all states.
- ❖ August 2007 - organised an interaction program on NRN Act addressed by the following high level delegates from Nepal Government
 - Mr. Suresh Prasad Pradhan Joint Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
 - Mr. Suresh Man Shrestha Joint Secretary of Ministry of General Administration
 - Dr Badri Pokharel, Ministry of Finance
 - Mr. Umakanta Parajuli, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- August 2007 – collected donation on behalf of NRN to Nepalese world cyclist **Mr. Dhakeshewar Chetri** over \$500.00
- September 2007 - Prepared country profile of NRNs Australia for NRN Third Global Conference which was held on 15 to 17 October 2007 in Kathmandu “
- ❖ September 2007 - prepared a fact sheet on “ Before deciding to come Australia for study, you should review and reconsider the following issues” which was circulated to members for their comments. After the consultation of the stakeholders, it will be posted through our websites and will be forwarded to Nepal
- ❖ September 2007 - released an official appeal to Nepalese community residing in Australia for the contribution of Flood Relief Fund, which was sent to NRN ICC Kathmandu. Total collected to date was A\$ 3,212.50 and NRs 200,000
- ❖ September 2007 - Helped Sunrise Club for Fund raising programme to help Nepal, which was organised in Sydney.
- ❖ September 2007, NRN Australia forwarded a 15 Pages comments and suggestions on the Revised NRNA ICC Constitution.
- ❖ September 2007 Contributed Approx. \$2,000 NRN membership fees to ICC Kathmandu
- ❖ September 2007 - NRN Australia has sought an Expression of Interest from Nepali Community Businesses for Membership privileges “ **NRN Australia and Nepali Community Business Partnership Programs**”
- ❖ September 2007 - organised an interaction program on NRN Act with the high level visiting delegates from Nepal Government, that included:
 - Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya Foreign Secretary
 - Mr. Shanker Bairagi Charge D’affaires Nepali Embassy Canberra
- ❖ October 2007 - collected expression of interest to attend the third Global conference, which will was held on 15 to 17 October 2007.

- ❖ October 2007 – NRN Australia team participated in the Third Global Conference, which was held on 15-17 October 2007 in Kathmandu (over 25 people from Australia). The following Australian representatives to the Third Global Conference contributed the following during the third global conference, which was seen as one of the well-united teams amongst others from more than 40 countries.



NRNA Third Global elected NRN ICC team for next two years

- ❖ Mr. Deepak Khadka NRNA ICC Member from Australia presented theme paper on “Foreign Employment – Gains and Pains”



Mr. Deepak Khadka presenting the theme paper

- ❖ Ms. Indra Ban NRNA ICC Vice President from Australia spoke on “NRNs for Socio Economic Transformation of Nepal – Culture and Tourism”



Ms. Ban raising queries on the Contours of “New Nepal” and “role of NRN Community”

- ❖ Mr. Bhabani P Oli was a member of the revised NRNA ICC Constitution. He played a significant role to finalise the revised constitution of NRNA ICC



Mr. Oli and his team answering the questions regarding NRNA ICC revised Constitution

- ❖ Mr. Shamsher S Thapa Coopted Member ICC from Australia was a member of 15 Points Kathmandu Declaration Committee which was published on 17 October 2007. He demonstrated his legal and professional expertise in the Kathmandu Declaration Statement making his Australian team proud.
- ❖ Mr. Kiran Chalise NRN Australia Adviser - Member of the Souvenir Editor Board of Third Global Conference 2007. Who played a vital role to publish 187 pages Third NRN Global Conference 2007 Souvenir.
- ❖ Mr. Goba Katuwal NRN Australia President spoke on NRN movement: problems, prospects and road ahead and presented the NRN Australia activities and the future direction.



Mr. Katuwal addressing the conference

The following representatives were elected from the Australia

- ❖ Ms. Indra Ban Regional Coordinator -OCEANIA
- ❖ Mr. Deepak Khadka Joint Regional Coordinator - OCEANIA
- ❖ Mr. Chandra Yonzon ICC member from Australia
- ❖ Mrs. Ranju Thapa Deputy ICC Women Representative
- ❖ Mr. Shamsher S Thapa Coopted Member (Australia, YTC)
- ❖ Mr. Shree Napit Coopted Member (Australia, YTC)

- ❖ October 2007 NRN Australia sponsored banners worth A\$450 to NRN Third Global Conference in Kathmandu.
- ❖ October 2007 - the following representatives from Australia during the Third Global Conference in Kathmandu pledged donations to the Devghat Briddhashram Project Nepal day-to-day administrative expenses, which is approx. NRs 10,000 per day.
 - Mr Ganesh KC 5 Days
 - Mr. Goba Katuwal & Mrs. Bishnu Kala Katuwal 2 days
 - Mr Pradip Dhakal 2 days
 - Mr. Hari Gopal Shrestha 1 day
 - Mr. Yuba Raj Bhattarai 1 day



Swami Atmanand Girijee Maharaj from Devghat addressing the conference regarding the day-to-day operation of the Briddhashram.

- ❖ November 2007 - updated all our registered members' database to send the communication promptly.
- ❖ Our IT volunteer team is working to update our websites.
- ❖ November 2007 - organised an interaction program on Foreign Employment Opportunity for Nepali skilled worker in Australia and New Zealand with the high level visiting delegates from Nepal Government, that included:
 - Mr Shyam P Mainali, Secretary for Ministry of Labour and Transport Management
 - Mr. Krishna Hari Baskota Joint Secretary of Ministry of Finance
 - Mr. Udhav Baskota Joint Secretary of MoL&TM
- ❖ December 2007 - NRN Australia sent the comments and suggestion on Draft NRN Regulation 2064 BS from Nepal Government. Most of our concerns were included in the final comments forwarded by the ICC Kathamandu to Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- ❖ December 2007 - NRN Australia IT team is designing on an E Newsletter. The main focus of this bimonthly newsletter will be to communicate on NRN Australia, wider Nepali community and Global NRN activities to wider public.
- ❖ **400,000.00 rupees contributed to Jiri Multipurpose High School, Jiri, Dolakha District for the construction of conference hall as a part of one**

district one project programme of NRNA (contributed by Mr. Deepak Khadka, NRN ICC member, Australia). Which was NRN Australia one district one-project programme.

Overall, the year 2007 has given us some fruitful achievements and more challenges greater than ever before. Achievements that are at the door did not reach us overnight; we all as a global family have worked hard enough to persuade the lawmakers, the public and the wider community, the NRN family is strong stakeholder in the process of rebuilding New Nepal. Along with the wider public in Nepal, we all NRNS should continue to see our strengths in the unity. Unity within diversity is our strength. Regardless of where we are, we all have always been there when it comes to supporting the NRN cause, the motto that keeps us together and relates back home.

Thank you to those who, on top of working day jobs, caring for loved ones or perhaps raising children, availed their time to read emails and give hand on important issues helping take the NRN movement to a new level. Thank you to those who have volunteered their time and believed in its cause.

Thank you to the candidates who were brave enough to put their hands up for NRN office, and to those who worked across a diverse range of organizations to lead important campaigns on the burning issues despite they weren't always the easy ones.

I look forward to working with you in taking NRN movement and NRN Australia to a new height.

In 2008, well, it will give us what we put in. With our sights on the stars, we move forward to an exciting and constructive new year.

Right now, I just want to wish everyone a memorable holiday full of well-earned rest, celebration and peace.

At last but not least, I would not forget to thank Mr. Mana Khatri (former NRN Australia President & Adviser for present team) and his team for their energetic leadership, high level of energy and vision in taking NRN Australia to current shape in the benefit of the wider Nepalese Community!

Thank you everyone!

I wish you and your family a safe and happy Christmas and New Year 2008. I look forward to working with you again next year.

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