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NEWS LETTER

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National Consultation on Universal Periodic Review Report

Stakeholders provide Inputs



NHRC Officials including the Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma (in the middle) Commissioners Govinda Sharma Paudyal, Com. Sudip Pathak, Com Prakash Osti, UNDP Resident Coordinator Jamie Mcgoldrick, Chief Secretary of GoN Lila Mani Poudyal, Chair of National Women's Commission Sekh Chand Tara and a Member from NWC at the national level consultation on UPR held in the capital.

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

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KATHMANDU: The National Human Rights Commission of Nepal has organized a National level consultation on Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in the capital.

Addressing the program, NHRC Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma has said that NHRC is robustly engaged in UPR process to make the report more participatory, inclusive and concise.

Chairperson also stated that the efforts would be focused on making the report compact with ample space given to all growing and burning human rights issues in the core content of the report.

He also wished the report to be based on the truth so that it serves to be observant for state accountability for the fulfillment of human rights in the country.

Acknowledging the support rendered from the government agencies, human rights organizations, civil society, Chairperson remarked that support and cooperation extended from all is crucial for the protection and promotion of human rights in Nepal.

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COMMISSION GETS THROUGH AUDITING CLEARANCE OF AGO

The National Human Rights Commission has accomplished the Irregularities Clearances up to Rs. 111,96,531.92 (about 63 percent) out of Rs. 178,04,000/- in the current fiscal year from among various fiscal years as settled through auditing by the Auditor General Office (AGO), a constitutional body of Nepal.

Thus, the Commission has been successful to fall in the group of best offices as categorized on the basis of the Irregularities Clearances up to 63% by the Assessment and Monitoring Committee under the Chairpersonship of the Chief Secretary of the Government of Nepal. The Committee has categorized the offices as the Excellent, Best, Average and Low group category on the basis of the percentage wise Irregularities Clearances.

Former NHRC Officials Express Concern on Contemporary Human Rights Issues

KATHMANDU: Former NHRC Officials have expressed their concern on various contemporary human rights issues including transitional justice in a meeting held at NHRC on March 10, 2015.

Welcoming the Supreme Court order dispensed on February 26, 2015 with regard to the process of transitional justice, the former Officials of NHRC have issued a press release asking to implement the SC order without any obliviousness and to advance the process of recently formed Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and the Commission on the Inquiry of Disappeared (CoID) with the participation and support pledged from the conflict victims.

The press release says that the promulgation of basic laws is the first and foremost stride in the process of advancing the activities of the transitional justice process.

The press release further says that the formation of TJ mechanism would be futile unless the laws on the basis of the international conventions and treaties to which Nepal is a party is promulgated to define enforced disappearance, torture, war crime or crime against humanity as a punishable crime. Similarly, the statute of limitation of 35 days for filing the case on rape case should be amended, the press release reads.

The meeting held among the former Officials have reached to the conclusion that the Commission ought to proactively play a lead role in the contemporary HRs issues for the victim centric transitional justice delivery, the press release says.

In the meeting, former NHRC Chairperson Kedar Nath Upadhyay including the Commissioners Gauri Shanker Lal Das, Sushil Pyakurel, Professor Dr. Kapil Shrestha, Ram Dayal Rakesh, Gauri Pradhan and Dr. K.B. Rokaya were present.

Transitional Mechanisms must Confide the Victims of Armed Conflict about Justice: Chairperson



Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma and other Commissioners with newly appointed Officials of the Commission on Inquiry of Enforced Disappearance at a meeting held in NHRC

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

LALITPUR: The NHRC Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma said the Commission on the Inquiry of Disappeared (CoID) should advance its activities so that the victims of armed conflict are provided with justice.

Speaking at a meeting with officials of the CoID on Tuesday, Chairperson Sharma laid his emphasis that the commission needed to win confidence of the victims to succeed in realizing its objectives.

Assuring the CoID officials of full support in the investigations of conflict-era issues, Chairperson Sharma expressed due reservation on certain provisions set forth in the Act to form the CoID.

Also, pointing out certain human rights unfriendly provisions in the Act, he urged to amend them as soon as possible.

Speaking at the meeting, CoID Chairperson Lokendra Mallick expressed expectation about the support and collaborative role of the

NHRC in investigating into cases of rights violation during the conflict and establish the truth.

On the occasion, the Commissioner of the COID Bijul Biswakarma, Professor Dr. Bishnu Pathak, Nar Kumari Gurung and Ai Bahadur Gurung briefed the NHRC about the progress made by the Commission till date.

At the meeting, NHRC Commissioners Prakash Osti, Sudip Pathak, Mohna Ansari and Govinda Sharma Poudyal expressed their curiosity about the work accomplished by the CoID so far.

Similarly, the newly appointed Chairperson and Commissioners of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) had a meeting with NHRC Chairperson and Commissioners at NHRC central Office. On the occasion, Transitional Justice and Human Rights issues were discussed. The Secretaries of both Commissions were also present at the meeting.

Right to Food monitored in Eastern District, Seized Food with Expired Dates disposed



NHRC Officers of the NHRC Sub Regional Office Khotang and the Officials from of the District Administration Office during the market monitoring in Diktel Bazaar, Khotang district.

Photo: Sub-Regional Office, Khotang

KHOTANG: Following the complaint submitted at NHRC by the civil society members about the food stuffs being sold with their manufacturing dates expired and also the media report on the selling of substandard food items in the local market in Diktel, a monitoring mission was launched jointly by the Chief District Officer Govinda Sapkota, the NHRC Sub-Regional Head Lok Natha Ghimire, Assistant Chief District Officer Arjun Rai, Security personnel, representatives of District Treasury Controller Office, representative of Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry including the media persons.

The objective of the monitoring was to obtain information about the situation of the right to food of the people of Diktel Municipality following the inspection of the stuffs such as food and edible oil, to draw the attention of the concerned stakeholders towards the protection of the right to food as per annex (1) of the Consumer Rights Act, 1998, to minimize unethical activities in business and trade, to develop the responsibility and accountability of the industrialists, traders as well as government agencies towards the protection of the consumers rights.

During the monitoring, it was found that the business persons in local Diktel bazaar openly sold the food items with their dates expired. Ironically, a few business persons expressed their

anguish over not informing them prior to monitoring, the report sent from the NHRC Sub-Regional Office, Khotang says.

The monitoring team also found that there was no uniformity in the price of food items. The price of very essential commodities varied from shop to shop. Also, the single shop was found to have been selling the food items, tobacco items, hard liquor and pesticides.

Following the monitoring, the team has suggested the government to conduct regular market monitoring and take legal action against those involved in unethical activities. The team also called on the concerned stakeholders including the Commission to organize awareness raising programs on the right to food and advance the policy-wise recommendations to the government with regard to the protection of the consumers rights in the country.

Meanwhile, the food items seized from the shops of Diktel Market upon finding their dates being expired have been disposed and burnt in the presence of the representatives of District Administration Office, District Police Office, civil society, Diktel municipality office, the District Development Committee Office, Government Treasury Controller Office, Federation of Nepal Chamber of Commerce, National Investigation District Office including Consumer rights Protection Forum among others.

World Consumer Rights Day

Ensure the Rights of Consumers

LALITPUR: The UN Guidelines for Consumer Protection-1985, Consumer Protection Act- 1998, Consumer Rights Guidelines – 2012 issued by the NHRC including national and international instruments have incorporated the issues of consumer rights within human rights.

In recent days, though, the consumer rights have been provisioned in various Acts and Laws, the lack of proper implementation of such provisions have often pushed the consumers towards the whirlpool of crisis. NHRC has been carrying out situation monitoring on consumer rights.

**#Food
Treaty
Now**

The consumers are facing the brunt of the burden due to the problems emerged through the syndicate system in public transport in the country, no sign of decrease in fare of public transport despite the government's order, irregular supply of electricity and clean drinking water, unethical price hike of the public service and daily commodities, lack of easy supply of every essential commodities such as LPG and other services, marketing gimmick of the products through deceptive advertisement, lack of legal remedy for the consumers victimized from injustice.

The Commission has drawn the attention of the Government of Nepal and the concerned stakeholders to make the state monitoring agencies further effective to monitor the quality of essential goods and services, the process for demarcation of appropriate price of commodities.

The Commission has also urged the concerned to investigate or causes to investigate those involved in unethical activities against the protection of consumer rights and drag them to justice.

Prison Monitoring continues in Eastern District Bhojpur

BHOJPUR: A team led by the Head of the NHRC Sub-Regional Office Khotang Lok Nath Ghimire was deployed to carry out the prison monitoring in Bhojpur district on March 17, 2015.

The objective of the monitoring was to inspect the physical condition of the prison cells, overall human rights of the inmates including the duties and functions of the prison administration, security personnel and the inmates serving their terms on various legal offences.

The monitoring also aimed at exploring the implementation status of the directives issued by honorable justices from time to time for the improvement of the prison and the rights situation of the inmates.

During the monitoring, the team had a meeting with the jailor Hari Krishna Dahal, security chief of the prison ASI Tika Bhandari including inmates and had discussions at the prison premises.

Upon monitoring, the jailor Hair Krishna Dahal of the district prison, Bhojpur was issued a directive for seeking the adequate work force for the prison management. It was found that as per the visitors' record, the Chief District Officer hardly visited the prison for monitoring.

During the discussion with the inmates, they came up with the grievances about realizing the concept of open air prison. The inmates of age between 18 and 50 also asked the NHRC to help initiate for the enjoyment of their right of reproductivity. They also put forward their demand in unison to increase daily allowance since the current allowance Rs. 45 was not sufficient to pull on their livelihood, according to the inmates. They also laid their emphasis to build separate prison cells for the mentally ill inmates who have been found kept with other inmates of normal health condition. The inmates were found lacking the health treatment services in the event of their sickness.

Effective Monitoring on Implementation of International Commitments urged



Resource persons and the participants at a program on the effective implementation of the international commitments held in Kapilvastu
Photo: Sub-Regional Office, Butwal

KAPILVASTU/RUPANDEHI: An interaction-cum-consultation program organized by NHRC Sub-Regional Office, Butwal on the Convention on the Rights of Child (CRC) in Kapilvastu district on March 2, 2015.

Yet another prototype program was organized on Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) in Rupandehi district on March 16, 2015.

The participants at a program held in Butwal have stressed on the effective monitoring on the implementation status of the international human rights treaties and conventions to which Nepal is a party and the role of stakeholders.

NHRC Sub-Regional Head Deepak Jung Dhoj Karki presented the working paper on various components of CRC and CERD such as the virtuous lines of provisions as well as state obligations enshrined in the conventions, UN Human Rights Committees including the implementation status of the UPR recommendations provided via UPR sessions in the UN Human Rights Council, and the implementation status of the National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) of the Government of Nepal (GoN) as per

the Vienna Declaration on Program of Action - 1993.

At the program, the participants raised their concerns saying that though Nepal has expressed commitment in international level by way of ratification of various human rights conventions and treaties, the implementation status of such commitments is in a dismal state. They also pointed out the GoN being oblivion in sending the periodic report regularly and even if the report was submitted, they lacked the necessary information and data. The participants also lamented over ineffective monitoring system of the government and failure to make the report public with regard to the implementation status.

On the occasion, HRO Chandra Kanta Chapagain of NHRC Sub-Regional Office, Butwal, Chair of District Child Welfare Committee of Kapilvastu district Hari Raj Sharma, Chair of Dalit Women Association Manu Khadka shared their views and comments on the concerns raised in the program.

Organized in coordination with Jagaran Media Centre and Dalit Women Association, the program was facilitated by Bimala Lakhe of NHRC Sub-Regional Office, Butwal.



Resource persons and the participants at a program on the effective implementation of the international commitments held in Rupandehi
Photo: Sub-Regional Office, Butwal

By-Election Process of CA monitored, Contesting Parties asked to comply with Election Code of Conduct



Rally organized by the political parties before By-election of the Constituent Assembly Election being held in Baglung district.
Photo: Regional Office, Pokhara

BAGLUNG: The NHRC Regional Office, Pokhara has monitored the filing of the candidature nomination for the Constituent Assembly by-election to be held in constituency No. 1 in Baglung district.

Earlier, the election in this constituency was put off due sudden demise of the Nepali Congress candidate Hari Bhadr Khadka in a road accident. The election is, therefore, scheduled to take place on April 11, 2015 as per the Election Commission.

The objective of the monitoring was to find whether or not all the contesting parties had performed the filing of the nomination for by-election in free and fair environment without any undue panic or intimidation.

In the course of monitoring, the team met with the civil society members,

legal professionals, human rights defenders and obtained the information about the ongoing activities including electioneering process in the district.

The team also met with the District Administration Officials, Officials from district based office of the Election Commission, Security Agency including other stakeholders to collect the information about human rights situation in the district prior to holding the election.

During the monitoring, the candidates including the cadres of contesting parties were found to have complied with the election code of conduct.

The commission has urged all the political parties to comply with the election code of conduct by creating an environment for holding the CA by-election in peaceful, free and fair manner to ensure the respect for human rights of all citizens.

Lamjung Folks decry State of Impunity, Call for Human Rights Culture

KASKI: NHRC Regional Office Pokhara organized a one day orientation-cum-workshop in Lamjung district on the periodic report on various thematic human rights treaties and conventions to which Nepal is a party.

At the Program Regional Head Dr. Tikaram Pokharel presented the working paper on 24 human rights related conventions, 11 conventions under International Labor Organizations (ILO-169), 4 conventions under International Humanitarian Law (IHL) including 39 various other international human rights conventions.

The participants representing government agencies including various other stakeholder organizations had comprehensive discussion on the significance about the Nepal Government's various periodic report on the implementation status of the different human rights thematic conventions to which Nepal is a party.

At the program, Dr. Tika Ram Pokharel said that the NHRC, as mandated by the constitution, has held meetings thrice with the government agencies on the implementation status of the National Human Rights Action plan of the Government of Nepal (GoN) and the information being sent to the NHRC Central Office and the Office of the Prime Minister with the interval of three months.

The participants also laid their strong emphasis on inculcating optimum effort to put an end to deepening state of impunity in the country and to develop human rights culture.

Forty seven participants including the chief and representatives of the Government agencies, civil society, human rights defenders and media persons among others participated in the program.

Mentally Ill Person rescued



Mentally ill person Kamala Roka (Sarki) along with her parents after she was rescued from being chained for 28 long years

Photo: Regional Office, Biratnagar



Commissioner Mohna Ansari and the Chief of the NHRC Regional Office Biratnagar Kosh Raj Neupane along with the Officials from the District Administration Office Terhathum at a meeting held on the rescued mentally ill person, Kamala Sarki.

Photo: Regional Office, Biratnagar

TERHATHUM: A mentally ill person Kamala Rokka (Sarki), 28 of Hamjung Village Development Committee Ward 2 of Terhathum district has been rescued by the NHRC team comprising Commissioner Mohna Ansari, Officiating Regional Director Kosh Raj Neupane from the NHRC Regional Office, Biratnagar and HRO Hari Gyawali following the request made by the NHRC Regional Office, Biratnagar. The three member team was on monitoring mission in Terhathum district from February 23rd till March 5, 2015.

The team monitored on the feasibility whether or not the treatment of Kamala Roka (Sarki), who was

unchained and rescued after 28 years, could be performed with the locally initiated efforts.

During the monitoring, the team met with the security agency officials, local level journalists, human rights workers, family members of the victim and obtained the information about the condition of mentally ill Roka. She has an offspring of age 9 who is in 2nd standard at a nearby school. The discussion is going on for emancipating the child by providing shelter either at CWIN (Child Workers in Nepal) or SOS (Save our Soul) Children Village, according to NHRC Regional Director Kosh Raj Neupane.

Following the discussion, Kamala Roka is now undergoing treatment at KOSHISH-Nepal in Kathmandu as per the directive issued by Commissioner Mohna Ansari to provide Rs 10,000/- to the victim through the District Relief Fund established for helping the victims of violence against women; the report quoted Chief District Officer of Terahthum district Umesh Kumar Dhakal as saying.

The rescue mission was stepped up at the joint effort coordinated by of NHRC-Central Office, District Administration Office-Terhathum and Women and Children Office-Terhathum.

Monitoring conducted on Right to Health, Improvement urged

NUWAKOT: The team deployed by the NHRC Central Office has monitored the health rights situation of the people in Rasuwa district.

The objective of the monitoring was to explore the rights to health situation as one of the major Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR), to evoke the sense of accountability of the concerned authorities to promulgate necessary laws and policies in order for the protection and promotion of rights to health of the citizens.

The monitoring mission also aimed at finding out whether or not the health services from the health centers have been provided to the needy with human rights perspective.

The team visited the district based various health centers, consumers, health workers and professionals, including the doctors on duty and filled up the questionnaire during on-the-spot monitoring and collected all the information needed to evaluate overall health services and the right to health of the people.

During the monitoring, the team found the lack of improvement of physical facilities at district hospital, proper management of resources

as well as existing human resource crunch as the major obstacles.

The health workers at the offices operating under the purview of the District Health Office need to be



Human Rights Officer Maya Sharma obtaining information from the victim of uterine prolapsed during the monitoring conducted in Nuwakot district.

Photo: Ram Sharan Shrestha, Central Office

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Right to Health and Education monitored in Jumla

JUMLA: NHRC Sub-Regional Office Jumla monitored the right to health and right to education of the citizens in various VDCs including Kalikakhetu, Badki, Narakota, Berat, Kanakasundari, Pandavagupha and Malikabota.

The team including Krishna Narayan Shrestha of NHRC and Man Dutta Rawal, District Representative of Informal Service Sector (INSEC) met with the school teachers, students, health workers and local residents in course of on-the-spot monitoring.

During the monitoring, the team visited various schools

and had interaction with the teachers and students about the physical condition of the schools, text books, and the teaching-learning process.

The team also conducted monitoring on district based area health posts and met with the health workers in the process of collecting the information about the health rights situation of the citizens. They also expressed their curiosity about the medicines supplied to district based health posts by the government for free distribution.

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Monitoring conducted on Right to Health...

supervised adequately and all the health workers must be provided training on central level health policies, Medico Legal and the subject like domestic violence, the report inclusive of the recommendation reads.

The report further points out the need of installation of the board mentioning the information of the list of medicines, allowances provided after operation conducted in the event of regular uterine prolapsed, the class and community to receive the relief and also the natal period allowance for pregnant women.

Though 70 types of medicines are enlisted for free distribution, only 33 type of medicines were found available drawing the immediate attention of the concerned.

There is only one laboratory lacking necessary apparatus and the lack of transportation resulting in the obstacle in enjoyment of the rights to health of the people.

The report has also points out the need of updating the health rights indicators provided by the Commission and the documentation to be maintained by the GoN which help make laws and policies pertaining to right to health in the country.

The monitoring team comprised of HROs Jiban Neupane and Maya Sharma.



The Staff Members from the NHRC Sub Regional Office Khotang during the inspection at the district hospital, Khotang
Photo: Amber Bahadur Raul, Sub-Regional Office, Khotang

Meanwhile, the NHRC Sub Regional Office Khotang has given impetus to monitoring on economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR) in the district.

In this context, the district hospital was monitored in Bhojpur with the core objective to know the health services provided to the patients and overall health rights situation of the people on March 15, 2015.

On-the-spot surprise inspection also aimed at obtaining the information about the de-facto dilapidated physical infrastructure of hospital, regular health services provided to the patients, and the duties and responsibilities of the doctors, nurses and other staff members of the hospital administration including the necessary supply of medicines to be distributed free of cost.

Earlier, the NHRC Sub Regional Office

had received the information about the inadequate supply of medicines which was to be distributed to the patients free of cost. On top of that, the office had received the information through phone about the substandard medicines being distributed to the patients undergoing their treatment at district hospital.

During the monitoring, the team met with the Officiating Office Head Amar Nath Thakur and asked about the supply of medicines to be distributed free of cost, and right to health enjoyed by the general citizens visiting the hospital for regular treatment.

The team also enquired about necessary lab machines and other necessary apparatus. Similarly, the team met with the district based media persons, relatives and attendant of the patients and had interaction with them.

SLC Examinations Monitored through Human Rights Perspective



NHRC Officer monitoring on the SLE examinees giving her examines sitting on the stretcher in Jumla district.
Photo: Sub-Regional Office, Jumla

inside the examination hall was peaceful, some schools endured the external disturbances. At some centers, the invigilators were more than the required numbers. Even the non-teaching persons were found deputed as invigilators. The center-in-charge was not found delegated with adequate power vested on him. The centers also lack the monitoring by the concerned authorities, the report sent from SRO, Jumla mentions.

Over all, the examinations were found conducted more smoothly as compared to those of the past years from human rights perspective. No untoward incidents were reported except for some attempts of malpractices by the examinees.

There were 1928 examinees appearing as the regular students and 589 from exempted side in Jumla district alone giving their SLCE in a total of assigned 11 test centers.

JUMLA: The NHRC Sub-Regional Office, Jumla conducted monitoring on the SLC examinations held from March -19-27, 2015. Like past years, the monitoring mainly focused on whether or not the examinations were conducted in well-managed, dignified and peaceful manner.

The monitoring team conducted on-the-spot monitoring in all 11

examination centers. During the course of monitoring, the team met with center-in-charge, invigilators, inspected the invigilators' log book and had discussion with them.

The team found inadequate physical facilities such as building, toilet and the surrounding wall at schools used as the exam centers. Very essential desk and benches were also scarce in some schools. Though the environment

KHOTANG: NHRC Sub-Regional Office has monitored whether or not the detainees under trial have got the opportunity to appear in the ongoing School Leaving Certificate (SLC) Examinations in the district prison of Khotang. The inmates Ashish Rai and Sumitra Rai, both serving their terms on the charge of homicide, are appearing in the SLC at the prison.

Similarly, an inmate Yuvak Rai was also found sitting for the SLC. He is detained on the charge of his involvement in alleged dacoit. Inmate Sumitra Rai was found appearing in the exam sitting on the floor due to the lack of space in the prison.

Inmates in Khotang Prison appear in SLC Examinations, Monitoring conducted from Human Rights Perspective.



The female inmate giving her exam sitting on the floor due to the lack of sitting arrangement in the prison found during the monitoring on the SLC examinations conducted in the district prison by NHRC Sub Regional Office, Jumla
Photo: Amber Bahadur Raul, Sub-Regional Office, Khotang

28th International Coordinating Meeting

NHRC-Nepal raises Voice on Contentious HR Issues



NHRC High Level Delegation Commissioner Mohna Ansari, Chair Justice Anup Raj Sharma, Commissioner Sudip Pathak and HRO Shree Ram Adhikari (from left to right)

GENEVA: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has retained 'A' grade in a review by the 28th Annual Meeting of the International Coordinating Committee of the NHRIs (ICC).

Despite a plea from some civil society groups for its downgrading, the Sub Committee of Accreditation of the ICC formally endorsed 'A' status to NHRC Nepal in its last November session. The ICC found

that constitutional and statutory provisions of the NHRC are in full compliance with the Paris Principles.

The 28th Annual Meeting of the ICC was held from 11-13, March 2015 in which the Head of Delegation NHRC Nepal Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma and Commissioner duo Sudip Pathak, Mohna Ansari including HRO of the NHRC Shree Ram Adhikari attended the meeting.

The first day of the meeting was inaugurated by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mr. Zeid Ra'ad AL HUSSEIN. He congratulated all NHRIs for effectively working for the protection and promotion of human rights in their respective countries.

The President of the Human Rights Council Joachim Rucker welcomed the delegates and highlighted the role of the NHRIs for the protection of human rights in national level. Chair Justice Anup Raj Sharma was invited to be a one of the panelists in the session on the rights of elderly persons while the session was chaired by the Chairperson of NHRC Philippines Loretta Ann P. Rosales.

During the session, Chairperson Justice Sharma briefly explained the

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Nepal proposed as the Venue for Annual Meeting of APF-2017

GENEVA: The Asia Pacific Forum of the NHRIs (APF) organized a meeting with its member NHRIs and held discussion on different agenda amid the ongoing ICC meeting taking place in Geneva.

In the meeting, the NHRC-Nepal Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma purposed to host APF Annual Meeting-2017 in Nepal to strengthen the relationship between APF and its member NHRIs of Asia Pacific region. The annual meeting of the APF in 2015 and 2016 is going to be held in Mongolia and Thailand respectively.

The meeting has adopted Nepal's proposal and yet to be formally endorsed in next annual meeting of the APF in Mongolia.

The Annual Meeting is also a governing body of the APF. During the APF meeting, newly appointed Chair and the Commissioners of NHRC-Nepal

were introduced by the APF Director Kiren Fitzpatric to the meeting.

The Commission is the member of the Asia Pacific Forum of the NHRIs since its inception. The APF Director Kiren Fitzpatric briefly explained about the APF past activities and plan for 2015 in the meeting.

The Chair of the Mongolian Human Rights Commission Byambadorj Jamsran shared the upcoming APF Annual Meeting and about the preparation of the meeting which is scheduled to be held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia this year.

The member NHRIs from the Asia



After the meeting NHRC Nepal discussing with APF Director about NHRC ongoing activities for the protection and promotion of human rights.

Pacific were present in the meeting. Representing the NHRC-Nepal Commissioner duo Sudip Pathak and Mohna Ansari including HRO of the International Desk Shree Ram Adhikari of NHRC-Nepal were also present in the meeting.



Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma presenting the memento to DHC of UNOCHR Flavia Pansieri, Commissioner duo Sudip Pathak, Mohna Ansari, National Institution Chief of OHCHR Vladen Stefnov and Asia Chief Rory Mungoven and HRs Officer Shree Ram Adhikari after the meeting
Photo: Umesh Rana Magar, Central Office

NHRC-Nepal's Stance on TJ Mechanism lauded

GENEVA: The Deputy High Commissioner of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioners for Human Rights Ms. Flavia Pansieri (DHC) has welcomed the NHRC-Nepal's stand on certain provisions mentioned in the statute of the TRC.

In a meeting held with the OHCHR, the DHC also congratulated the NHRC for their appointment in the Commission and expressed best wishes for successful tenure. The Chair of NHRC-Nepal Justice Anup Raj Sharma briefed about the NHRC's new strategic plan and ongoing activities for the protection and promotion of human rights in Nepal.

Underling the tenure of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) being short, the DHC expressed her interest to know human rights situation of Nepal in transitional period.

To another query raised, Sudip Pathak responded that NHRC has inculcated efforts for the protection of the conflict victims and refugees.

Similarly, responding to a query

raised by the DHC regarding minority rights and challenges on their identity, Commissioner Mohna Ansari shared some success stories with the DHC.

The High Level Delegation also expressed about the curiosity before the DHC about best practises during the function of the TRC and role of NHRIs for the protection and promotion of human rights.

Chairperson Justice Sharma invited DHC as a guest to attend the APF annual meeting scheduled in 2017 to be hosted by the NHRC Nepal and also shared that both the organizations will collaboratively work together to strengthen the strategic relation between the two entities for the protection and promotion of human rights in the days to come.

During the meeting, Chief of NIRMS/OHCHR Vladen Stefnov and Chief of Asia Pacific/OHCHR Rory Mungoven including Commissioner duo Sudip Pathak, Mohna Ansari and HRO Shree Ram Adhikari were in present.

UNHCR and NHRC discuss on Pervasive Refugee Issues

GENEVA: The High Level Delegation of the NHRC-Nepal paid a goodwill visit and had courtesy meeting with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Refugee (UNHCR).

Chair Justice Anup Raj Sharma led the team in the meeting from the NHRC-Nepal while Excellency Assistant High Commissioner (AHC) Volker Turk led on behalf of the UNOCHR side.

Chief of UNHCR Nepal Representative Craig Sanders and Senior Desk Officer Hinako Toki including Commissioner duo Sudip Pathak, Mohna Ansari and HRs Officer Shree Ram Adhikari were also present in the meeting.

The discussion was held about the current human rights of the refugee and situation of Nepal including the NHRC ongoing efforts for the protection of the rights of the refugee.

In the meeting, Chairperson Justice Sharma shared that the NHRC Nepal is taking up the issues and complaints with regard to refugees on humanitarian ground.

He also raised his query about how NHRIs can work for the protection of the rights of refugees in the absence of the ratification of the Refugee Convention by the respective countries.

The AHC shared this with the High Level Delegation that very soon the Office is going to close the refugee camp in Nepal as there remain very few Bhutanese refugees after they are being settled in third countries.

During the meeting, Commissioner Sudip Pathak mentioned about the Refugee Card which has not been provided to Tibetan Refugee since 1996 who have been eventually facing deprivation of their rights.

Commissioner Mohna Ansari Shared that in the absence of the refugee card the refugees are not entitled the birth certificate and children are deprived of many opportunities such as health and education.

NHRC's Stance on Blanket Amnesty welcomed

GENEVA: The Office of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has welcomed the NHRC-Nepal's opinion not to provide blanket amnesty through newly formed TRC.

During the meeting, Deputy Head Megan Rock expressed his concern about the tenure of the TRC covering a period of just two years. NHRC Chair Justice Anup Raj Sharma said that there is a provision for extension of one more year but legal provisions are almost silent as to how the recommendations would take its course once the TRC's tenure comes to an end.

Commissioner Sudip Pathak responded to the questions and

briefed about the situation of human rights including the exhumation of dead bodies by the Commission in transitional phase.

Commissioner Mohna Ansari, responding to the queries, said that the conflict victim specially women had faced many forms of discrimination during the conflict specially 35 days statute of limitation to file the case against the perpetrator of alleged rape case for justice.

Later Chair Justice Sharma explored the challenges and opportunity of NHRC in the presence of TRC and raised a query on the best practices while ICRC, NHRIs and TRC altogether work effectively for wider protection of human rights of the

people. Meanwhile, the Head of South Asia has shared the ICRC activities for the protection of the rights of the people in South Asian nations.

In the meeting, HRO of the NHRC Shree Ram Adhikari shared about the past collaboration and cooperation between the NHRC and ICRC. He highlighted the key works which was performed together to overcome challenge to identify the numbers of data of missing persons maintained by both the organizations that varied from each other. The Head of Missing Marianne Pecassou shared the best practises regarding the data, tools and techniques to provide transitional justice to the missing.

Stakeholders express Concerns on Implementation Status of ICERD



Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma, Commissioners, staff members and the delegates from the LAHURNIP at a program held on the Implementation status of ICERD
Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

LALITPUR: Stakeholders expressed their concern on the implementation status of ICERD amid an interaction program held during the visit of the ICERD Committee Chairperson Francisco Jose Calitzay together with the delegates from Lawyers' Association for Human Rights of Nepalese Indigenous Peoples (LAHURNIP) at NHRC premises on 3rd March 2015.

ICERD Committee Chairperson Francisco Jose Calitzay raised some concerns on the rights of the Indigenous peoples, Dalit and

Madhesi people's rights. HRO Sarita Gyawali Bhattarai explained NHRC's endeavor for the reduction of racial discrimination and ICERD Implementation status. Mr. Calitzay also expressed his concerns on the statelessness, and the growing crimes related to sexual assault and rape of indigenous people in Chitwan.

At the program, Shankar Limbu, former Chair of IPs UN voluntary trusty fund expressed his concern as to how to make visible the specific issues like Khimti Dhalkebar electricity 220 k.v. high extension line affecting the rural

dwellers in the area and Indigenous People's rights ILO-169. Underscoring the need to have effective monitoring on the development affected issues, Mr. Limbu requested NHRC to embark upon facilitating a dialogue with World Bank and local populace.

ICERD Committee Chairperson Francisco Jose Calitzay also shared his experience of Sudan. Sudan has prohibited the racial discrimination by making laws for 7 years imprisonment if found anybody involved in such crime. Towards the end of the meeting, making a brief remarks, Chairperson Justice Anupraj Sharma gave vote of thanks to the delegates.

PROMOTION

105th International Women's Day

Solidarity expressed against VAW



The U.N.'s 193 member states have to go beyond "paying lip service" towards gender equality. They should "genuinely challenge and dismantle the power structures and dynamics which perpetuate discrimination against women."

—U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights
Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein

NHRC Officials including the Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma, Commissioner Mohna Ansari Acting Secretary Bed Prasad Bhattarai, and Resource Person from Human Rights Film Focus among others during the solidarity program organized on the occasion of the International Women's Day at NHRC
Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

LALIPUR: Internalizing the International theme 'Make it happen' of the 105th International Women's Day-2015, the National Human Rights Commission marked the occasion on March 8th, 2015 by organizing various programs.

On the occasion, a solidarity campaign was organized by the NHRC with a petition to raise the voice against Violence against Women (VAW) in collaboration with the Human Rights Film Focus (HRFFN).

At the Program, Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma, Commissioners, Secretary and other staff members

expressed their solidarity against VAW by providing their palm imprint on the campaign banner displayed at the NHRC Central Office premises.

#MakeItHappen

At the program, a number of women's rights related short films and docu-drama, were screened at the NHRC hall prior to the palm signature campaign. Around 150 students representing various schools in the valley participated in the program expressing their solidarity against

VAW by giving their palm signatures.

Human Rights Film Focus-Nepal prioritized this issue way back in 2013, and began its programs and campaigns which focus on gender violence and youth advocacy. HRFFN's focus has been to educate youth and school children on gender issues, while at the same time supporting advocacy efforts to have ample outreach to other segments in society.

HRFFN invited the NHRC to collaborate in these holistic efforts, first with a program directed towards students on March 8th, International Women's Day. The program entered



Participating students, teachers from various schools in the valley along with the NHRC staff members during the solidarity program on the occasion of the International Women's Day held at NHRC
Photo: Nawin Gurung, Central Office

around a 16 day campaign called the Wall of Hope, which has left deep impact on nearly 20,000 students in Nepal from over 400 schools.

In this regard, NHRC's own report on trafficking estimates a 61% increase in trafficking in a 16 month period. As per the recent media report, there has been drastic increase in the incidents of domestic violence and sexual harassment.

Efforts to eliminate VAW in Nepal have, however, met with limited results. In this context, there is no amendment in law to address the brutal crimes such as rape with the statute of limitation of 35 days for filing the case against the alleged

rapist which calls for immediate attention of the concerned authorities and women's human rights oversight agencies.

Each year International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated on March 8. The first International Women's Day was held in 1911. Thousands of events occur to mark the economic, political and social achievements of women. Organizations, governments, charities, educational institutions, women's groups, corporations and the media celebrate the day.

Meanwhile, on the occasion of International Women's Day-2015, Commissioner Sudip Pathak, Secretary of Peace and Reconstruction

Ministry Khum Raj Punjali including other staff members of NHRC monitored the health condition of Ganga Maya Adhikari at Bir Hospital. She has been on fast onto death demanding for justice. During the monitoring, Secretary Punjali read out the decisions made by the Government of Nepal regarding the compensation, rehabilitation and Justice to Gangamaya and her family. Commissioner Pathak spoke about NHRC's stance on the above issue. On the occasion, Human Rights Activists Charan Prasain, Suresh Bhatta, Journalists and Women activists were also present.

JUMLA: The NHRC Sub-Regional Office Jumla marked the 105th International Women's Day with the slogan 'Gender Friendly Constitution, a Way to eliminate the Violence against Women' by organizing various program on March 7-8, 2015.

The objective of the program was to give meaning to the women's day by evoking the sense of the authority about human rights of the victims of domestic violence and their access to justice. The program also aimed at having discussions on the justice delivery by the state to the victims of VAW.

On the occasion, a sport event 'The Relay Race' covering two hundred meter distance was organized at the ground of Nepal Army on March 7, 2015. The participants of the race comprised the representatives from the government offices, NGOs, media and political parties.

Similarly, another sport event called 'Kurshi khel' was also organized among the women participants to promote awareness on human rights of women. 20 women above the age of 35 representing various cooperative societies in the district proactively took part in the event.

Meanwhile, a human rights rally was organized as one of the major events on the occasion. More than 400 participants representing the government offices security agencies,



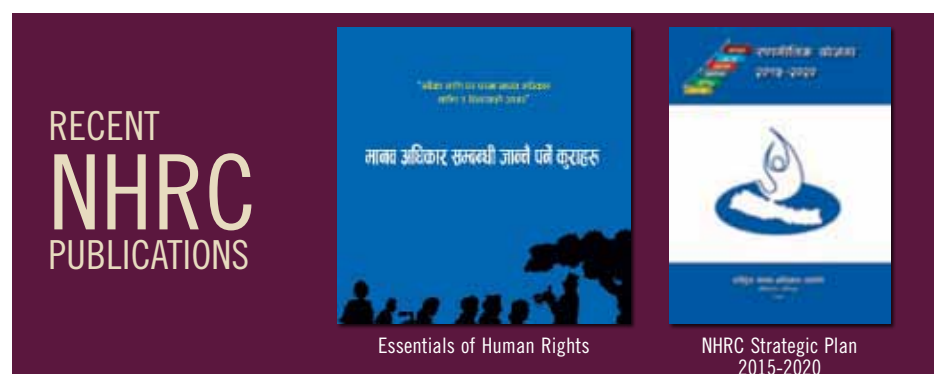
A human rights rally organized held in Jumla on the occasion of the International Women's Day
Photo: Sub-Regional Office, Jumla

woman and children office, human rights defenders, human rights organizations and representatives of the district based political parties and journalists participated in the rally.

Chaired by the chief of the Office of Women and Children District Office Anita Gyawali, the program was attended by the CA Member Goma

Kunwar as the chief guest while CA Members Lalit Jung Shahi, Bal Bahadur Mahat and Dilli Prasad Kafle were also present as special guests of the program.

The program was facilitated by the NHRC Sub-Regional Office Head Rajendra Neupane.



PROMOTION

CHITWAN: With the objective to put women empowerment into practice for humanity, NHRC Sub-Regional Office Butwal observed the 105th International Women's Day in Jutpani, Chitwan district on March 8, 2015.

Various women's human rights related programs were organized to mark the occasion with the slogan, 'Gender friendly constitution, a way of eliminating the violence against women.'

The program included the training about awareness on human rights including women's rights, women's rights movement, and international and national laws with regard to the rights of women. The training was provided by the HRO Charda Kanta Chapagain



Forty five participants including the chair of Jutpani Village Development Committee, chiefs and representatives of political parties, women human rights defenders, representatives of the women's network participated in the program.

Participant and the resource person from the NHRC Sub Regional Office Butwal at a training entitling gender friendly constitution and eliminating violence against women organized on the occasion of the International Women's Day in Chitwan

Photo: Sub-Regional Office, Butwal



A human rights rally organized by various NGOs and government agencies in coordination with the NHRC Regional Office Dhangadhi on the occasion of the 105th International Women's Day in Dhangadhi

DHANGADHI: 105th International Women's day has been celebrated in Dhangadhi with the slogan of 'Gender Friendly Constitution, end of Violence against Women.' NHRC, Women and Children Office, Women's Rehabilitation Center (WOREC Nepal), Nepal Police, Women cell, INGOs, NGOs, government offices, journalists, victims, students and other organizations working for

women's rights actively participated in the rally.

The rally went to different thoroughfares of the down town Dhangadhi and converged into an assembly at DDChall. On the same day, a day long interaction was organized jointly by the NHRC WOREC, NNSW, Mukta Kamaiya Bikash Manch, Dalit Mahila Adhikar Manch and Nepal Police at Dhangadhi on the title

Access to Justice of Women Victims of Violence.

At the program, Nepal Police Women cell presented the status of cases registered on VAW. Similarly, NHRC Officiating Regional Director Mohandev Joshi presented the status of women in far western region and activities of NHRC.

Media Persons trained on Human Rights



The resource person and participating trainees from the radio stations under the purview of the Radio Nepal at a human rights training in Dhangadhi
Photo: Regional Office, Dhangadhi

DHANGADHI: Human Rights training was organized with main focus on news reporting with human rights perspective by NHRC Regional Office, Dhangadhi on 12th and 13th March at District headquarter of Doti and Dipayal.

CA Member from Doti Bir Bahadur Balayar was the chief guest of the program as the Radio Nepal

Dipayal Regional Director Uddhab Singh Dhat was the guest at the program, NHRC Officiating Director Mohandev Joshi took the Chair of the program.

The participants of the program were 25 persons including journalists from all 9 districts of far western region and staffs of Radio Nepal Dipayal. Human Rights and

journalism was facilitated for 2 days by HR Officers Mohan Dev Joshi, Pawan Kumar Bhatta and director of Radio Nepal Dipayal Uddhab Singh Dhat.

The journalists from all 9 districts of far western region affiliated to Radio Nepal were trained about how to make the reporting human Rights friendly, how the programs of Radio Nepal can be made human rights friendly and how they can be connected with human rights issues of the region, and how NHRC and Radio Nepal can coordinate for advancing advocacy of human rights in the region.

HRs Education in Schools urged

KAPILVASTU/CHITWAN: The participants have urged the development of child friendly school environment including the teaching and learning process at a program entitled the “Human Rights education and Child-Friendly Environment in Schools” held in coordination with the respective District Education Offices of Kapilvastu and Chitwan districts on 9th and 12th March, 2015.

The program aimed at helping broaden more knowledge of human rights education for the teachers handling the subject Social Studies from class 6-10 at schools. The participants also debated on the situation of child friendly environment in schools. The participants of the programs were from Gajehada resource center area of Kapilvastu and Shaktikhori Resource Center of Chitwan district.

NHRC Sub Regional Office head Deepak Jug Dhvaj Karki at a program on human rights education organized in Kapilvastu and Chitwan respectively
Photo: Sub-Regional Office, Butwal



The participants at the program held at Shaktikhori, Chitwan said that majority of the Chepang Students have to cover a 3-4 hours distance because of the lack of schools in neighboring villages. Most of the Chepang children are being used as labors to earn livelihood because of low income of their family. Besides, the deplorable physical condition of schools have curtailed the child friendly education in schools. The participating teachers from Gajehada program said about 9% children are deprived of right to education where the students have

to walk long distances because of the lack of secondary schools in 34 VDCs.

Also, owing to the lack of human rights materials including the shortage of audio-visual materials in school curriculum, human rights education was becoming ineffective. The discussion was also held about diminishing degree of discipline among the students and boosting their morale for learning. They urged the concerned authorities to be serious about skills, ability and materials for life-skill knowledge based education in enjoyable environment at schools.

Six Year Strategic Plan of the Commission made Public



Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma releasing the six-year Strategic Plan (2015-20) of the Commission amid a press meet organized at the Commission. Commissioners Mohna Ansari, Sudip Pathak, Praksah Osti and Govinda Sharma Poudyal were also present on the occasion
Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

LALITPUR: National Human Rights Commission of Nepal has made the Strategic Plan for next 6 years (2015-20) public amid a Press Meet held at the NHRC.

Releasing the Strategic Plan formally, Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma said that the annual work plan for the

upcoming fiscal year will be developed in accordance with the Strategic Plan of the Commission.

The Commission has highly focused on a fixed strategic plan for the tenure of 6 years since the term for newly appointed officials is for stipulated six years. Commissioner and

spokesperson Mohna Ansari briefed the media about the highlights of the Strategic Plan while Commissioner Prakash Osti responded to the queries raised by the journalists during the press meet held on the occasion. Commissioner Sudip Pathak, Commissioner Govinda Sharma Paudyal, Acting Secretary Bed Prasad Bhattarai and NHRC staff members and invitee stakeholder representatives were present on the occasion.

Consultation on UPR Report: Government Agencies including Security Agencies provide Suggestions



Commissioner Sudip Pathak responding to the queries raised by the representatives of the security agencies at a program held on UPR process in Lalitpur
Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

LALITPUR: While the NHRC in full swing in preparing the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Report to be submitted to the Human Rights Council, Geneva, a consultation was held with the Government agencies including Nepal Police, Armed Police on the draft UPR report on 1st March 2015.

The objective of the program was to have sharing on the implementation status of UPR recommendations upon

receiving the recommendations via last UPR sessions held in Geneva, transitional justice, peace process, impunity together with recently emerged human rights issues and concerns in the country.

HRO Shyam Babu Kafle presented the draft on UPR while Commissioner Sudip Pathak responded to the queries posed by the representatives of Government Agencies.

Making a brief review on this past UPR recommendation, Commissioner Pathak called on the representatives of civil society organizations and NGOs, human rights organizations to share both specific and general comments preferably in writing so that they could be incorporated in the would-be submitted UPR report.

Commissioner Pathak urged the participants to provide the comments based on the truth with special focus on the implementation of the 9 core conventions to which Nepal is a party. The participant urged the NHRC to take the lead in raising awareness among the local level state actors with regard to the human rights treaties and conventions.

Citing the UPR report presented in the past, he assured that utmost effort would be made to have the report reflect the human rights situation of the past.

NHRC Staffer Late Dayaram Pariyar remembered



NHRC Staffer late Dayaram Pariyar
Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

LALITPUR: The National Human Rights Commission commemorated the 9th death anniversary of its staffer late Dayaram Pariyar at a program held at NHRC on March 29, 2015.

Paying homage to late Pariyar amid an obituary held on the occasion, Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma said that an effort would be made to make late Pariyar known as the human rights defender far and wide by establishing the postal stamp in his name, Dayaram Memorial Park and Memoire in the form of book in profound memory and honor of late Pariyar.

On the occasion, expressing dismay over the reluctance of the Government to declare Late Dayaram martyr despite strong ground, Prakash Chandra Pariyar, elder brother of late Pariyar, urged the Government to provide justice to the family of late Pariyar who sacrificed his life for the protection of human rights.

On the occasion, NHRC office bearers, human rights activists, NHRC staff members, the representatives of various human rights organizations, family members of late Pariyar, representatives from Nepal Police and media among others were present on the occasion.

Meanwhile, Bidya Laxmi Rajbhandari and Matrika Devkota have been selected as the the human rights activists for receiving the “Late Dayaram Memorial Human Rights Award” this year. The awardees will be felicitated with the honour on the occasion of NHRC anniversary day on May 27, 2015. Established in the year 2012 by the Commission, the late Dayaram Memorial Human Rights Award have been so far awarded to human rights activists Durga Ghimire, Chandra Kishore Jha, Tek Raj Baral, Shivamaya Tumbahangphey, Sharada Chand and Karna Bahadur Baniya.

At the program, Hon. NHRC Chair Anup Raj Sharma, Commissioners Prakash Osti, Sudip Pathak, Mohna Ansari, Director Subarna Karmacharya, HRO Lok Bastola, HRO Surya Deuja and elder brother of Late Dayaram Mr. Prakash Chandra Pariyar spoke on the occasion.

Late Pariyar, who was shot by police in Janakpurdham, breathed his last while receiving treatment at TU Teaching Hospital nine years ago. This was the first time a human rights activist succumbed to injury from security forces fire.



NHRC Officials, former NHRC Commissioners, representatives of NGOs, CSOs, Nepal Police, journalists and NHRC staff members among others at an obituary organized commemorating late Dayaram Pariyar
Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

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At the outset of the program, Commissioner Sudeep Pathak welcomed the participating stakeholders and the invitee guests to the program.

Pointing out the dismal state of implementation status of the UPR recommendations by the government, Commissioner Pathak called upon all the participants to provide their inputs on the UPR report that would be instrumental to help sketch the future roadmap for overall human rights system in the country.

At the program, Chairperson of the National Women's Commission Sekh Chand Tara shed light on objective and rationale of the program. She urged to maintain uniformity of the report already in the process of writing jointly by three entities.

She also reminded the past recommendation with regard to the two entities namely National Women's Commission and the National Dalit Commission to be given the constitutional body status as per the Paris Principles.

Similarly, Chief guest of the program, Chief Secretary of the Government of Nepal Lila Mani Poudel, commended the report being prepared with larger consultation held among good number of stakeholders nationwide.

Talking about the UPR report of the Government being in the final phase now upon having 5 extensive consultation with the human rights organizations, Secretary Poudel said that the directives have been issued upon receiving the report prepared by the high level committee to review on the contentious issues of torture, sexual minorities, indigenous nationalities and the citizens under poverty line.

'Since the transitional justice mechanisms are duly incepted now, their primary work to address the armed conflict related cases will advance towards positive direction,' he added.

'I, as the representative of the government, am committed to human rights and will give directives



Participants at the national level consultation on UPR process held in Kathmandu
Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

to all under my purview to remain accountable for the protection of human rights in the country,' he concluded his remark.

On the occasion, UN Resident Coordinator Jamie Mcgoldrik said 'It is commendable that by accepting 96 recommendations, Nepal made its high level commitment to ensure all human rights of all Nepalese.'

Congratulating the NHRC for retaining its "A" status with International Coordinating Committee (ICC of NHRIs) in November 2014, Mr Mcgoldrik said that the NHRC needs to have NHRC Act 2012 amended following the Supreme Court directives.

'Also, there is an urgent need for the adoption of the human rights service bill, so that the NHRC is able to function at its full staffing capacity' he observed.

At the program, the participants from Blue Diamond Society, Janauthan Pratisthan, Red Cross, Paurakhi Nepal, Consumer Rights Protection Forum, Muslim Commission, LAHURNIP, HIV Aids Survivors organization, Nepal Police, Armed Police Force, Nepal Army (Human Rights Cell), CAHURAST, Nepal Jaycees, Poverty Alleviation Fund, Freedom Forum, SIDS, Ministry of Education, Law Ministry, Right to Food Network, Nepal BAR Association, Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers, Supreme Court, Ministry of Home Affairs provided their inputs and suggestions.

The participants provided their inputs and suggestions on various human right issues and concerns which included the transitional justice, impunity, discriminatory practices, domestic violence, women's rights, rights of indigenous nationalities, child rights, rights of persons with disabilities, consumer rights, systemic torture in prisons and detention centers, right to development, rights of migrant workers, rights of senior citizens, caste based discrimination and untouchability, implementation of the provisions laid out in the international human rights conventions and treaties and overall human rights situation in the country.

Delivering vote of thanks, Chair of National Dalit Commission (NDC) Man Bahadur Nepali said that the Dalit issue is acutely shadowed in the country and such a concern should get adequate space in the UPR process.

The NHRC led joint committee of three entities including NWC (National Women's Commission) and NDC was set up to prepare the report. A total of 25 workshops, 5 group and 7 thematic consultations have been organized in various parts of the country for this purpose. The participants comprised the representatives from government and security agencies, political parties, intellectuals, NGOs, CBOs, civil society, media, human rights defenders activists, indigenous nationalities, dalits, Madhesis, Muslims, persons with disability, senior citizens, sexual and gender minorities and HIV survivors from 45 out of the total of 75 districts.

Govt. Agencies, Stakeholders trained on Human Rights



Human Rights Officer Suresh Malla and Samjhana Sharma along with the participants at a training held on the human rights in Rasuwa district

at providing training to local level human rights defenders, women groups, teachers, and other concerned stakeholders.

NHRC-Nepal in coordination with the local HR defenders prepared the preparatory work for conducting training with a view to enhance the knowledge about NHRC, basic concept of human rights including rights of women so that they can engage themselves in the field of human rights and internalize the human rights perspective at all level of their works.

The program was well received by the participants and Local level coordination was also commendable. HROs Suresh Malla and Samjhana Sharma facilitated the program.

At the program, the participants emphasized on the NHRC outreach and development of network with local organizations. They also stressed on the awareness raising program on all spectrum of human rights among the people of all walks of life including women, children, persons with disabilities, indigenous nationalities. They also called on all the stakeholders to be human rights sensitive during the performance of all public service works.

RASUWA: The National Human Rights Commission deployed a team to conduct a one day Human Rights Education Training and Orientation Program for the social mobilizer, FCHV, teachers of informal education, local level HR defenders, concerned stakeholders including the govt. office staff in Dhunche of Rasuwa district on 19 March, 2015.

The objective of the training was to orient the participants on the NHRC, its function, role and mandates, basic concept of Human Rights including rights of women, to promote the mandates of NHRC at the local level and to increase the outreach of NHRC across the remote corner of the country.

At the program, HROs Suresh Malla and Samjhana Sharma facilitated the training session. They made the presentation on the conceptual clarity on Human Rights including rights of women and various aspects of NHRC including its mandates as well as the role and responsibilities, monitoring

and investigation process including the process of complaint handling etc.

At the program, the participants stressed on conducting the similar type of program for enhancing the capacity of local stakeholders on human rights at local level to make the slogan of NHRC effective far and wide.

The participants also laid due emphasis on the need of the NHRC to reach to the grassroots level to enhance complaint facilitation and to decrease the cases of human rights violation.

Also, the training session had larger discussion on the level of awareness raising on human rights including rights of women, children, persons with disabilities, indigenous nationalities including the network building with the local level NGOs in the district.

Similarly, a prototype program was organized at Kalikasthan, Rasuwa on 22 March, 2015. The program aimed

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need and necessities of social security for senior citizens. He rightly pointed out the need and importance of the separate UN Convention of the Rights of Senior Citizens.

Underscoring the crucial role of CRC, CEDAW and CMoW, Chairperson Sharma raised his deep concern about having separate convention to pledge

support for safeguarding the rights of senior citizens. He also thanked the organizer and the NHRC Philippines for organizing the session to discuss about the rights of the elderly persons in the UN.

Chairperson Sharma provided the feedback in the session entitled "The need to amend the organic laws of the NHRI's to fit to the current conditions," facilitated by Mr Omar Lacayo CABEZAS, Ombudsman of

the Republic of Nicaragua through his presentation.

In another session, Commissioner Sudip Pathak provided his comments and gave feedback on the session entitling "National Inquiry into Children in Immigration detention 2014" in the meeting. Commissioner Mohna Ansari also facilitated her comments and gave feedback on session "Violence against Women."

Concern expressed on Bara Incident

DHANUSHA: NHRC is seriously concerned over the incidents taking place following the protest programs in Kalaiya sparked due to the death of a six-year-old girl who was brutally raped in Kalaiya, Bara district.

The Commission has issued a directive to its Janakpur based Regional Office to immediately find out the truth and send in the report on the incidents from human rights perspectives upon consulting the concerned parties and the local human rights defenders.

Protect the Rights of Fire Victims

LALITPUR: The National Human Rights Commission has expressed concern on the incident of fire broke out in Taplejung district based Tokme of Fungling and the situation emerged due to massive damage caused due to fire.

Drawing the attention of the Government of Nepal (GoN), the NHRC has asked to make appropriate arrangement for basic necessities such as the food, clothing and shelter for those rendered homeless.

The Commission has also drawn the attention of the GoN and the concerned authorities towards making special arrangement for disaster hit pregnant women, mother in natal period, children, elderly citizens, persons with disability and the School Leveling Certificate Examinations examinees and also to adopt further precautionary measures to evade such tragedy in future.

Committee on the Prevention and Control of VAW formed

LALITPUR: The National Human Rights Commission has formed a 'Committee on the Prevention and Control of Violence against Women (VAW) on March 25th, 2015 keeping in mind the growing incidents of VAW in the country. Coordinated by Commissioner Mohna Ansari, the Committee comprises of the following members.

Commissioner Mohna Ansari	– Coordinator
HRO Neetu Gartaula	– Member
HRO Kamal Thapa Chhetri	– Member
HRO Jiban Neupane	– Member
HRO Sarita Gyawali	– Member Secretary

Fast-onto-Death by Dr. Govinda KC

Resolve the Problem through Dialogue

KATHMANDU: The NHRC team headed by Commissioner Sudip Pathak has monitored the health condition of Professor Dr. Govinda KC of Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital, Maharajgunj who has been staging fast-onto-death demanding his 10-point demand.

Dr. K.C. is suffering from urine infection, low blood pressure and maximum presence of ketones in his

urine, as per the doctors involved in his treatment. The health condition of the Dr. K. C. deteriorating day by day, according to them.

The Commission has therefore, urged the Government of Nepal and the concerned stakeholders to reach to the logical conclusion to resolve the problem emerged due to hunger strike staged by Dr. KC through dialogue and consensus.



LALITPUR: NHRC Commissioners and staff bid farewell to Yam Bahadur Dura, Communication Officer of NHRC amidst a function. NHRC Chair Anupraj Sharma and Member and Spokesperson Mohna Ansari spoke on Mr. Dura's contribution to NHRC. Giving an emotional farewell message Mr. Dura said that he learnt value of human rights in day to day life from NHRC. He has now joined International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES Nepal) as Media and Communication Officer after serving more than 3 years at NHRC. NHRC wishes all the best for his future undertaking.

Photo: Umesh Rana Magar, NHRC Central Office

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