

NRNA Public Libraries Task Force (TF) Teleconference #1

Conference Notes

Date of Conference: April 14, 2012

Attendees: Doleswar Bhandari, DB (USA)*

Ai Bahadur Gurung, AG (Canada)*

Naresh Koirala, NK (Canada) **

Ram Babu Nepal, RB (The Netherlands)*

Sapila Rajbhandari, SR (Russia) ***

Kishore Sapkota, KS (U.K)*

Kapil Dev Thapa, KT (Japan)*

Apologies: Anil Bhattarai (Italy)*

Deepak Khagda, DK (Australia)*

Badri Pandey, BP (Qatar)*

*Task Force Members; **Task Force Chair and NRNA Public Library Project Champion; *** NRNA Charity Coordinator

Conference Notes

Serial #	Description	Action
1 <i>Introduction of attendees</i>	All attendees introduced themselves and looked forward to making NRNA Public Libraries Project (the Project) a true success story	Info
2 <i>NRNA/ NLF (History and Progress)</i>	NK briefed the attendees on the history of NRNA's Public Libraries Project and the relationship between Nepal Library Foundation(NLF) and NRNA. (i) NLF is a charity organization registered in Canada and is subject to Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA) audit. Copies of its annual tax return to CRA are posted in CRA website. (ii) In the last five years since NRNA adopted the Public Libraries Project, as NRNA's agent in implementing the Project, the NLF has assisted development of 35 school/community libraries across the country and have distributed over 150 computers to different schools and community libraries (iii) NLF's work involves upgrading existing School/ community libraries; providing books and computers; training librarians; setting up libraries; cataloguing books ;	Info

	starting Reading Clubs; installing servers to access NLF funded e-pustakalaya and monitoring and auditing the supported libraries. (iv) We have established the first e-pustakalaya (a digital library) in Nepal. The library can be accessed on-line free of cost by any one with high speed computers. (v) NK recommended TF members to visit NLF website (nepallibrary.org) for more information. (vi) NLF has a small office in Kathmandu headed by Sharad Babu Shrestha. The operating cost of this office is about NRs.320, 000 yearly. (vii) All NLF Directors are volunteers. Only one staff in our Kathmandu office is paid (current salary: Rs 15,000 per month)	
3 Discussion	A numbers of questions related to NLF's current operational policy in selecting projects for support and implementation strategy came up during the discussion. The salient points of the discussion and NK's response are summarized below. NK emphasized that one of the many responsibilities of the TF will be to critically review these policies and steer improvements so that our policies lead to development of libraries which serve the needs of its users and are sustainable in the long term. (i) <i>Selection of Libraries for Support:</i> Pursuant to our belief that a library will not be sustainable without local involvement, no request for support will be considered until there is a commitment from local stakeholder to pay for 25 % of the cost for establishment of the library. This could be the cost of the accommodation for the library and its basic furniture. (ii) <i>The Selection Process:</i> The selection process follows the following steps: NLF receives a request for support as per its format (see Annex1); the request is evaluated by NLF Kathmandu office (the evaluation will, at the minimum, include interview with the requesting agency; reviewing the libraries sustainability program and the credibility of the local project champions) and their recommendation is sent to NLF Office in Canada; if authorized by NLF, Canada, an on-ground appraisal of the requesting library will be made by NLF staff before deciding whether to support the request. (iii) NLF monitors and audits its supported libraries. (iv) Once the library is set up, it is managed by a local committee. The management committee will include managers trained by NLF. The management committee is required to provide a six monthly user report to NLF. (v) The cost of establishing typical library with books worth US\$ 1500 and three computers and a printer and a server to access e-Pustakalaya is approximately US\$6,000. A recent proposal written by NLF for Rotary Club of Folkstone, UK includes typical cost details. KS to circulate this to all members of TF. TF members not to circulate these proposals to others without KS's authorization.	Info Info Info Info Info

	(vi) Donors can support a library in the following ways: • Donate a sum of money which goes to NLF general fund and the fund is used for providing library materials to libraries selected for support by NLF and to defray NLF's Kathmandu Office operating costs. • Donate funds for specific libraries (e.g. the donor's school). The funds will be spent exclusively to establish the designated library; there will be 10% overhead to pay the trainer and his expenses ; (vii) NLF encourages donors to get involved in the establishment of their selected library and provide them with a report on the development. The report will include statement on financial expenditures.	Info/KS Info
4 Task Force Members Duties and Responsibilities	As the work of NRNA Public Libraries Project becomes known, the NLF is under increasing pressure to meet community demands for support of their libraries. We have currently over 12 requests for new support. These demands cannot be met without stable financial resource. To date much of the funds for the Project has been raised by NLF Directors in Vancouver. About 40 percent of the funds have come from bulk donation by a few NRNs. The purpose of the Task Force is to make the Project an example of NRN's synergy at work for the good of our country. To this end the TF members are expected to: (i) Promote the Project and NLF amongst NRNs by actively participating in local NRNA/NCC conferences and presenting our work. The presentation materials can be downloaded from NLF website. NK can help. (ii) Plan and implement fund raising strategies (iii) Review Library projects and comment. (iv) Our target is to register a minimum of 500 Public Libraries supporters from around the globe who are willing to contribute \$50 per year every year. Start a campaign to meet this target. Be a project Champion in your region. (v) Convince the NCCs in your region to support a minimum of one \$ 6 000 project every two years. (vi) Help develop standardized libraries monitoring and auditing policies. (vii) Look for donors to create an endowment fund to defray Kathmandu office operating cost.	
5. New commitment/ Promotion	(i) KT assured the meeting that he will support five libraries in the year 2012. NK advised KT to visit a NLF supported library in Srikhandapur, Banepa and also visit NLF Nepal Office (ii) KS will look into the possibility of seeking support for targeted funds from the UK. (iii) Request Deepak Khagda to present our works in the coming Regional Conference in Australia.	KT KT RB DK

	(iv) RB/ NK to present our works in the coming Regional Conference in the Netherlands and Canada respectively. (NK will provide slides and other material for presentation; presentation materials are also available on NLF website)	
5 Nest Teleconference in August	There will be three teleconferences in a year. The next conference will be on August 31, 2012	

Notes: Prepared by Naresh Koirala

Please advise if there are omissions or inaccuracies