

## Meeting notes of the PHA teleconference

The first meeting of the Philanthropic and Humanitarian Assistance Committee of the NRNA ICC took place on Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> of May, 2014 through teleconference. Attendance in the meeting was as follows:

1. Mr Kumar Panta, General Secretary, NRNA ICC and Chair of the PHA Committee
2. Mr Kul Acharya, NRNA ICC member and co-chair
3. Mr Baburam Sharma (Nigeria)
4. Mr Bishnu Hamal (Australia/Regional Coordinator for Ocenia)
5. Mr Chandra Rokaha, Regional Coordinator, Middle East
6. Mr Hikmat Thapa (Nigeria/Regional Coordinator for Africa)
7. Mr Kapil Dev Thapa, Regional Chair for Asia
8. Mr Nabaraj Rosyara, Member, Task Force
9. Mr Ramesh Pandey, ICC member (Australia)
10. Mrs Sita Sapkota, Regional Chair for Europe

## Apologies:

1. Mr Anup Nepal
2. Mr Basil Panta
3. Mr Mustang Sonam
4. Mr Ram Chandra Basyal
5. Mr Ram Pokharel

## Invitees

1. Mr Bhagirath Yogi (UK)
2. Mr Subash Adhikari (UK)

## Agenda of the meeting

1. Constructing a park at Bagmati-Shankhamul area in Kathmandu

2. Regional committee formation
3. One Person, One Project
4. Miscellaneous

#### Discussions and Decisions Taken:

##### Agenda 1:

1. General Secretary, NRNA and chair of the PHA Committee, Mr Kumar Panta, informed that the government of Nepal has designated the NRNA as one of its four partners and asked NRNA to develop a Park at the 'Shankhamul Ghat' as part of its Bagmati River Cleaning Campaign. He said the NRNA has already accepted the offer and had asked the PHA Committee to coordinate and execute this project. He said it would be one of the most visible and prestigious projects undertaken by the NRNA and called for active participation of all the NRNA NCCs in making this project a success. All members welcomed the idea and assured their full cooperation to make the project a success. Mr Hikmat Thapa suggested that while designing the project, details of different components should be highlighted with estimated costs so that individual NRNA NCCs could adopt any particular component. Mrs Sita Sapkota suggested that NRNA NCCs and interested friends should be involved and informed right from the Project Design stage. Discussions were also held regarding the sustainability of the project. Responding to them, Chair said that a couple of gardeners (Mali) will have to be recruited to take care of the Park and further discussions will be held at the ICC meeting regarding finding resources to hire them and maintain the Park.
2. Eng. Subash Adhikari, who is designing the project, gave brief introduction of the project and said that the project development area covered around 32 ropanis of land. Highlighting the historic and religious significance of the area, Mr Adhikari said it would be one of the best projects undertaken by the NRNA so far. He said the total project cost would be between NRs 15 million to NRs 20 million. He said the design will include a water tap, a 'shankha' (conch), a sidewalk along the banks of the Bagmati River and a beautiful Park. He said he will send the blueprint of the project to the PHA committee soon and welcome comments and suggestions.

## Agenda 2:

3. Chair Mr Panta urged all the Regional Coordinators (RCs) to form Committees within their region and coordinate PHA activities. Co-chair Acharya suggested that all the RCs complete the formation of their Committees by 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2014. The meeting endorsed the proposal.

## Agenda 3:

4. Chair Mr Panta encouraged all to adopt 'One Person, One Project' concept. He said 80 percent of the NCCs had already adopted at least one project in Nepal and that the NRNA ICC aimed to raise it to 90 percent. He said 67 NCCs had spent around Rs 11 crore so far on various charitable projects in Nepal, which is commendable. He, however, said there was a need to be ambitious and raise more funds for the charitable activities in the future. Mr Bishnu Hamal said since most of the NCCs were already doing some projects, it might be difficult to encourage members for 'One Person, One Project' concept. Co-Chair, Mr Kul Acharya, informed that the NRNA UK chapter has asked him to coordinate the construction of a 'Bridhashram' at Galeswore at the cost of Rs eight million. He said friends should be given leadership positions and encouraged to take up projects individually also. Chair and Co-Chair insisted that all the funds raised by the NCCs should first be deposited in the Welfare Account of the NRNA ICC in Kathmandu and disbursed later for individual projects.

## Agenda 4.

5. Mr Kapil Dev Thapa informed that NRNA Japan had someone dozen wheelchairs and would be happy to donate if they got a request. Mr Chandra Rokaha informed that he was coordinating the construction of a Cricket Ground project and was unable to take up another project until it was finished. Mrs Sita Sapkota informed about an 'Akshyay Kosh' being set up by the CAT Belgium so as to support street children in Narayangarh. Mr Bishnu Hamal informed that NRNA Australia had initiated a project to construct a 'Bridhashram' in Biratnagar in partnership with the Biratnagar municipality. He said they were also working on to set up a fund to provide scholarships to poor children in Nepal.

6. Mr Bishnu Hamal said that the objectives in the NRNA statute did not mention specifically about the charitable activities. He said it had posed some difficulties while registering the NRNA Australia chapter with the Charity Commission of Australia. General Secretary Mr Panta said he will raise this issue in the forthcoming meeting of the NRNA ICC.
7. Few names were proposed in the meeting to be included in the PHA committee. Co-Chair Acharya suggested that Regional Coordinators suggest the probable names by 15<sup>th</sup> of June.
8. Co-Chair Acharya also suggested that the PHA Committee publish a booklet and distribute it at the upcoming NRNA Global Conference in Kathmandu by compiling all the charitable activities conducted by various NRNA NCCs. The meeting adopted the proposal and designated Bhagirath Yogi as a coordinator to publish the booklet. Chair assured that the Committee will extend its full support in compiling information and publishing the booklet.
9. It was decided that the meeting of the PHA be convened in every two months. Next teleconference meeting of the PHA will take place on Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> of July, 2014.
10. Chair thanked all for their active participation and concluded the meeting.

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