

SCIENCE, MEDIA and PEOPLE
One day policy Dialogue
Kathmandu, Nepal
March 31, 2013
(Department of Information, Kathmandu Nepal)

REPORT OF THE PROGRAM

This report is prepared to reflect the participants' common versions and their resolutions for developing the future plans and policies in similar field

नेपाल विज्ञान पत्रकार संघ
NEPALESE SCIENCE JOURNALIST ASSOCIATION(NESJA)

Bagbazar, Kathmandu, Nepal

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This report gathers outcomes of the participants from the program "**Science Media and People one day policy dialogue**" held in the Department of Information Kathmandu Nepal on March 31,2013.This program was organized by Nepalese science Journalist Association(NESJA).an organization working to promote Science Journalism in Nepal. With support from NRN Science Foundation.

The main aim of this program was to Draw the attention of policy makers and stakeholders to show its importance in grassroots level and a necessary tools for the development. Persons from different media houses and key persons from high level government officials attend the program which was a key success of our team. It was an opportunity for them to exchange their views and experiences related in concerned issues. The program was centralized in importance of science journalism and its impact to the society. Participants agree to come in a point that the demand of science journalism is

increasing day by day, at the mean NESJA has taken this initiative- they congratulate the entire tem for further success in coming days and show the ethical and moral support for its initiation.

There has been unprecedented growth of mass media in Nepal but potentials remain yet to be fully utilized for knowledge dissemination about modern attributes of science among people of remote areas and enable them achieve better quality of living through awareness creation on such issues as: environment conservation, safe drinking water, pesticides, sanitation, nutrition, chemical pollution and methods of better living.

While reviewing the past plan and policies of the Nepal government S&t was always in less priority which pushes this sector backwards, resulting to the poor development of Nation and brain drain which became a serious issues now a days . The program was designed to:

- * Develop interest among science journalists to study on issues and problems affecting the lives of common people.
- * Help to identify issues of media interest and news value;
- * Develop required skills and methodology to produce good reports of media acceptance standard;
- * Promote awakening on the application science towards improvement in the quality of living of the people.

Organizational Introduction

Established in 2012, the Nepalese Science Journalists Association (NESJA) is an organization of Nepali science journalists and writers working either for media houses or as free-lance professionals. The organization was established to develop a collective front for the promotion of awakening among people at grass-root level, primarily and among other stake-holders about the attributes of science and its vital link to technology as is prevalent in Nepalese context. Considering that teaching of science in our education system is yet to gain priority in our education mainstream vis-à-vis other sectors and that people are yet to gain full access to knowledge about the myriad applications of science into enhancement of the quality of human lives through the use of informal and formal dissemination channels, NESJA seeks to address these issues by developing health partnership with national media: the newspapers, specialized journals, radio, television and new media as far as practicable.

Subsequently, it seeks to develop a platform of developing professional skills in writing , interpretation and presentation of information over the media about facts on science and technology having bearing on public interest in a more plausible and understandable manners creating thereupon, high degree of public response in terms of awakening and change in the quality of living of the masses by delivering them from the grip of superstitions and dogmas persistent through the ages past.

Global researches have shown that the more a transitional society is exposed to scientifically proven and tested facts affecting the living of the people, the more are the chances of its deliverance from the grips of fundamental religious traits, social stigma and bigotry. During the past, Nepal has undergone a series of political upheavals but none of them have succeeded to promise improvement in neither the quality of people's lives nor the consolidation of democratic values and principles including the standards of good

governance. NESJA believes that these many fold aberrations and symptoms of backwardness can be reformed through proper interpretation of facts about life and social issues from a scientific angle by applying the principles and skills of journalism. Shortly after its launching, NESJA is organizing a skill development and program planning workshop during the month of February, bringing together science journalists and writers working in various media outlets and the development organizations which have a track record of service in the dissemination of scientific information in such areas as public health, environment, climatology, technology innovation, agriculture and rural development

"Inauguration session"

Program begins with the chairmanship of NESJA president Mr. Kapil mani Acharya where Mr.Govinda Dhital Member of NESJA, NTV news reader present the welcome speech from the organizing team where he highlighted the issues concerning to the formation of NESJA and its hurdles to come into this point

The former department head of NAST S&T promotion Dr.Dinesh raj Bhujju enlightened the importance of science and technology and it's complications for dissemination of news in proper manner which sometimes posses the opposite reaction too, where he added few examples due to not having the common knowledge people are giving their life while cleaning dug wells i.e. no idea about checking the oxygen in the dug well by lighting the candle and lowering it to the well. Similarly he emphasis on the fact only science help to dash the superstition ,it could save life and science only could prove that human is equal there shouldn't be racial differentiation cast differentiation. He added the example of naked rally of girls in the bardia district, far western region of Nepal for the sake of rain . he highlighted this issues that only science can throws this type of superstition where Nepalese girls are forced to do such a rally in the name of traditions and culture.

At last he committed that I am devoted in science and ready to support NESJA in coming days

NRN science foundation MR. Gokul pokhrel share his experience in his tenure of service in government media and being the chief of science awareness program at NAST. He added that project has remarkable impacts at that time and encourage to do something in this field . Mr. Pokhrel emphasis that in few years ago people of remote areas force to give up their life due to not having the proper knowledge of sanitation as well as cheaper medicine i.e. Jeevan Jal which was same less for the Nation . if they were aware about this their life could be safe, he said that striking in this mind i lobby it in different forums of NRNA ,and eventually this NRN science foundation was formed and start to doing its activities. he shares about the concept of science media fellowship which could carry investigative report .

NRN member Dr.promod Dhakal also share his experience during his time in Canada ,he force that we must develop our interpretation skills which could lead us in success .and added few examples of his experiences.

Similarly the chief guest of the program Mr. dipendra badhur chettri congratulate for the forming of NESJA in order to fulfill the sector specialization. He focuses on the issues that availabilities in the Nature should be maximized for the sake of humanity ,where he

coins that could be the real Science and hopes that could be in the right path. He emphasizes that NESJA could face the challenges of Science journalism and hoping for its success too. Mr. Chettri highlighted the need of transformation of scientific findings in the journalism field which could change the society. Mr. Chettri also suggested to focus on forecasting of the weather, disaster risk reduction process and in the safety measurement from the various Natural calamities like was the process of raining. At the end of his speech Mr. Chettri committed to do his duties as per necessity from his seat (National Planning Commission)

Another guest Speaker Han Heijnen (Environmental Sanitation Engineer Ex. WHO) focuses that science journalism is the most challenging field, though it was challenging it can create an opportunity to serve the Society and it was tough too. He focuses on the wider collaboration of professional societies on these fields and should have capacity of micro analysis to interpret the actual fact.

Speaker from Nepal Engineering College Mr. Rajesh Shada shares his experiences about the water securities in peri-urban areas of South Asian Countries. Where his team has worked in different cities of these countries including Kathmandu. He highlighted for the focus of NESJA in this issues which has the public interest. The truth finding and actual status should be reported properly. He also shares the experience of news coverage of media in a superficial manner which hides the actual status of that content. He focuses on the investigative reporting and committed for two fellowships in water issues.

Special Guest of the program FNJ President Shiva Gaunle realized the weakness of Journalism. He added the examples of reporting of science related issues where we journalist failed to report cause and consequences behind that issues. and focused on sector specialized Journalism. He added that in the case science journalism Knowledge and Skill are the two important tools where presentation also impact a lot and if it is interpreted in right manner it could overcome the superstition too, he focuses that journalist should consult with the scientists in the concerned field before the reporting of news so that it creates the uniformity in the news of sector specialization. And he also aware that fellowship could slow down the aggressive reporting capacity of a reporter, there should be the proper mechanism. At the same time Mr. Gaunle congratulates the Team of NESJA for the initiation of Science Journalism Wishes for the further Success And continuation of such Programs in the Future too. Similarly he had given the word for the support of NESJA through FNJ and suggest to utilize the physical facilities in near future from under constructing FNJS' new building.

From the Desk of Chair person NESJA President Mr. Kapil Mani Acharya shares his greetings with the participants' for participating in the program and share mission, vision and goal of organization and focused on the role and importance of science journalism and seeks support and collaboration from the respective organizations and Scientists to come together for the betterment of S& T in the Nation

"Technical session"

There were altogether three presentations were held. The presentation details are follows.

1. Role of Journalists in reporting on Science

By:-Mr. Han Heijnen (Environmental Sanitation Engineer)

2. Peoples' Experience and Facts of Changing Climate: Impacts and Responses.

By:-Mrs. Anushiya Shrestha (Nepal Engineering College)

3. Science Journalism- Why and How?

By:-Mr.Gokhul Pokhrel and Dr.Prmod Dhakal(NRN Science Foundation).

"Conclusion and Proposal for Action"

After the concluding of the slides presentations' the participants' discusses on the issue how to develop and strengthening the effort of **NESJA** participant draw the following conclusion on their own language.

१. जनताको जिवनसँग गम्भिर रुपमा सरोकार राख्ने विज्ञान प्रविधी क्षेत्रका उपलब्धी, समस्या र प्रभाव बारे सर्वसाधारणलाई निरन्तर सुसुचित गराइराख्न विज्ञान पत्रकारिताको भुमिकालाई सशक्त र प्रभावकारी बनाउन अभियान जारी राख्ने ।
२. विज्ञान प्रविधी पत्रकारिताको अभ्यासका लागि आवश्यक सिप दक्षता अभिवृधि गर्न विभिन्न सरोकारवाला संस्थाहरु सित सहकार्य गर्दै कार्यक्रम संचालन गर्न ।
३. संचार माध्यमहरूसंग विज्ञान प्रविधी क्षेत्रका महत्वपूर्ण सूचनाहरु एवम् जानकारीहरुलाई सर्वसाधारणहरु समक्षहरु सम्म पुर्याउने अभियानमा सहकार्य बढाउने ।
४. विज्ञान प्रविधी क्षेत्रमा कार्यरत पत्रकारहरुलाई सघन अनुसन्धानमूलक रिपोर्टिङ् गर्न सक्षम तुल्याउन प्रोत्साहनको व्यवस्था गर्ने ।
५. जनहितमा विज्ञान पत्रकारिता र सूचना प्रवाहालाई निरन्तर अभियानको रुपमा जारी राख्न विज्ञान संचारकर्महरुलाई थप दक्ष बनाइ सर्वसाधारणलाई सुसुचित गराउन सक्रिय रहने ।
६. सबै सञ्चार माध्यमहरुमा विज्ञान प्रविधीका सामाग्रीहरुलाई महत्व दिएको प्रतिबद्धताको रुपमा नियमित स्तम्भ राख्न अनुरोध गर्ने ।

"Program Ends"

ANEX-I

ANEX-II



Chief Guest:- Dipendra Bd. Chettri addressing the program



Participants discussing.



NESJA member Govinda Dhital giving the welcome speech



Han Heijnen presenting his paper



Guest attending the session



Participants listening to the lecture.