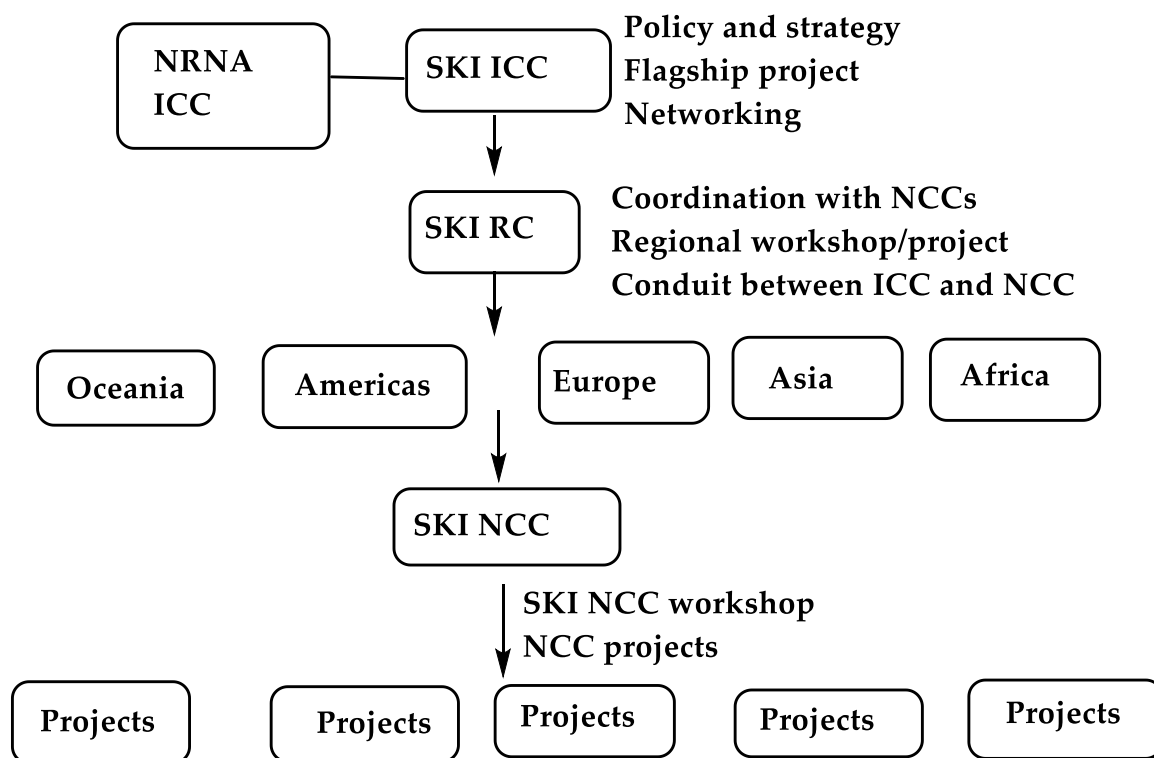




NRNA Knowledge Investment –SKI Activities

**Report from SKI team Raju Adhikari (Chair), P Dhakal, A Adhikari, D Rasali, Hari Dahal, Shree Ram Ghimire, Hem Raj Sharma, Lok Raj Sharma, Devi Basnet, SKI ICC, www.nrna.org.np*

NRNA Skill Knowledge and Innovation (SKI) committee activities for 2015-2016 are summarised in this report. SKI has now a global team of above 100 members and an executive team spearheading the tasks at ICC level. SKI major focus has been on four major initiatives, which include: Open University of Nepal Initiative (OUNI), Nepal Science Foundation (NSF), SKI Inventory, SKI Seminars and SKI scholar exchange program. Through these initiatives, SKI has been able to establish a strong networking and linkages with professional's organisations in Nepal and abroad. SKI had adopted a new structure and introduced 5 regional chairs team from 2016 to coordinate SKI activities between NCC and ICC.



ICC*=International coordination committee

RC* =Regional committee

NCC*=National coordination council

Achievements

The Open University of Nepal (OUN) Initiative

NRNA partnered and collaborated with the Government of Nepal for the past seven years to advance the OUN initiative. This work has come to a significantly advanced

stage after the promulgation of Open University Act 2016. OUN is on the verge of its establishment. Perhaps this might be one of the largest initiative of national significance taken by NRNA that has brought out significant outcome. Between 2009 and 2016, NRNA OUN initiative work through a number of task forces and committees. A number of background papers, business plans, and national and international partnerships were developed in the process. Government tabled a bill for the university in legislature parliament of Nepal first in 2011 and, then again, in 2014; it also formed OUN Infrastructure Development Board (OUN-IDB) with NRNA representation in 2012. Most of lobbying and promotion was done by NRNA Open University Task Force (OUTF). NRNA focused on getting the following tasks completed.

- Mobilizing awareness and support among Nepali academics, diaspora members; developing network of diaspora academics that propelled the OUN mission.
- Mobilizing parliament members, academics, and civil society leaders to actively petition for OUN.
- Persuading the leaders of the major political parties and members of the parliamentary committee to support the OUN cause and pass the bill.
- Creating an informal group of parliamentarians in support of OUN Bill and OUN, and organizing regular interactions.
- Regularly organizing interaction programs on OUN.
- Publication of White Paper, Working Paper, and Conference Papers.

SKI Nepal Science Foundation (NSF)

NSF was involved in supporting major science activities and projects and are listed below,

13th International Quasicrystal Conference, Kathmandu, Nepal

The conference was organised by University of Bristol led by SKI member Dr Hem Raj Sharma. The meeting was a huge success and participated by over 130 scientists from 24 nations, 100 papers and attended by Noble laureate Prof Dan Schectman. SKI (NSF) and NRN Australia were event partners. During the event, Nepalese Physicists/Chemists/Material Scientists/Engineers exchanged scientific expertise and knowledge. The benefits of such program to developing countries like Nepal would be immense with the international community. Such activities are expected to assist Nepal in its efforts to enhance scientific research, joint publications, scholar exchange programs, and enhance collaboration among professional societies of Nepal such as Physical, Chemical, Engineering, Medical, & Biotechnology societies. SKI Scholar exchange program: Five research groups/individuals from Japan, Germany, Israel, USA expressed interest. Two research groups invited students to apply for scholar exchange and Ph. D. programs.



NSF further conducted different workshop activities in partnership with SKI NCC, Biotechnology Society of Nepal (BSN), Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), Department of Physics, TU.

- ✓ Post-Earthquake: Rebuilding Nepal: 31 May, 2015, **Canberra**
- ✓ 8 series of training provided and 280 people students, local farmers, housewives on waste management and organic manure production using earthworms.
- ✓ Open University and SKI workshop, NRNA Global conference, 2015, **KTM**
- ✓ Post-Earthquake: Reconstruction & Recovery in Nepal: 12 July, 2015, **Brisbane**
- ✓ SKI meeting on Earthquake and reconstruction, NRN Regional Meet, April 2016, **NZ**
- ✓ SKI Workshop on Reconstruction work in Nepal: 13 Nov, 2016, **Brisbane**
- ✓ Talk on Technological Entrepreneurship with Prof. Dan Shechtman, Sept 2016, **KTM, Nepal**
- ✓ Brain Drain to Brain Gain Seminar, January 13, 2016, Kathmandu, **Nepal**
- ✓ DNA Day, April 25, 2016, Kathmandu, **Nepal**
- ✓ International workshop ICT in Medicine, June 2016, **Korea**
- ✓ SKI inventory launched on line on NRN website

SK focus remains in improving in following areas

- ✓ Establishment of well-co-ordinated mechanism, SKI team capacity building, OUNI/NSF projects commitments, long collaboration and funded project to address **intra and inter** partners and financial sustainability

SKI strategic interest lies in

- ✓ Collaboratively funded projects with potential public-private partnership in niche areas (e.g. Energy, Manufacturing, Climate)

- ✓ Lobbying GoN for including SKI representation in Nepal Academy of Science and Technology and National Planning Commission to proactively engage in Education and S&T policy matters

- ✓ **Expression of Interest for Laprak Model village**

NRNA commitment to construction of the “Laparak Model village has now commenced. The larpak Project coordination team is now seeking help from all engineers and community members globally to help the project and use this opportunity to utilise NRN expertise to help complete the project in time and in most cost effective way. So SKI invites expression of interest (EOI) globally from different disciplines especially engineers with “site survey expertise” to assist with the initial design and other survey activities initially. Please send your EOI to SKI on following email address:

skinrna1617@gmail.com