



Nepali Village Initiatives Association Inc.

29 Blue Mount Road, Trentham, Victoria 3458, Australia
Association No.: A0054301J ABN: 79 892 132 355



Registered as a Public Benevolent Institution by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission
Donations over \$2,00 are tax deductible – pay to BSB 633-000, a/c 149716235, confirm by email.

Administrator of Rotary Australia World Community Service Project 43 / 2009-10

Board:	Peter Hall	Ronda Hall	Web site: www.nepalaid.org.au
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Newsletter No. 6 – June 2016

Your financial support

As the end of the financial year approaches you will no doubt be receiving requests for funding from various charities. With our new status of Public Benevolent Institution, we ask that you consider us among your priorities. We are optimistic regarding a substantial grant from The Rotary Foundation to expand our programs, but this will not help with maintaining regular Refresher Training for those who have already entered training with us.

Over the past twelve months we have delivered two in-school support programs, a 10-day training program and three 6-day refresher programs - all entirely dependent upon the funds that we can raise as an organization. Payments can be made by cheque or by direct funds transfer. If you wish to pay by credit card you can do so via RAWCS. Please refer to <http://nepalaid.org.au/donations.php> for further details.

Rotary Convention, Seoul, May 28 – June 1



Krishna Pun travelled from Nepal to join Ronda and Peter Hall and 44,000 other attendees at the Rotary Convention in Seoul. The **"Quality Education Nepal"** booth in the House of Friendship drew considerable attention, adding to our list of contacts with Rotary clubs around the world that could be interested in supporting future Foundation Global Grant projects to extend our teacher training in Nepal.

For our Breakout Session **"Lifting Education in Nepal"** we had a panel comprising Peter Hall, Krishna Pun and Prem Thapa, a representative of the Rotary Club of Pokhara Fishtail, Primary Host Sponsor of our Rotary Foundation Global Grant application. Rotary International Director Saowalak Rattanavich introduced the session. She says she is *"so proud of you for the great educational project"*, and has indicated she would like our help in promoting Basic Education in the Rotary world. The session attracted considerable interest.

Global Grant application

An application for funding from The Rotary Foundation for a US\$72,000 project to train 75 teachers of schools of the Tatopani Resource Centre was finally submitted in May after delays in obtaining the necessary District authorisations. It is now under review by the Foundation. Foundation Trustee Julio Sorjes of Spain, with whom we travelled on a Highlights of Korea tour prior to the Convention, is assisting this process, having forwarded some material on our behalf to Rotary Grants Manager Abbie McNear. We are hopeful of approval by the end of July to allow LEARN to deliver the first 10-day training course in September or October.



Companions on our Highlights of Korea tour - Rotary Foundation Trustee Julio Sorjes and his wife Carmen together with Betsy and Mike Owen of Florida, USA

We ask anyone interested in visiting Nepal to observe this course (in conjunction with some sight-seeing / trekking) to contact us so that we can keep you informed of developments.

Further Global Grant applications

We are keen to facilitate further Global Grant applications to further extend our training programs. We ask any Rotarians who might be able to interest their clubs in contributing funds to contact us. Even small contributions of a few hundred dollars will be most welcome, as they can be combined with those of other clubs. It would be great to see a project sponsored not just by clubs from different Districts in Australia but from around the world.

We look forward to your emails exploring the possibilities.

Appointment of Chief Training Officer of LEARN

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Dwarika Nath Amgain as Chief Training Officer of LEARN. Dwarika was able to take up his responsibilities quickly, assisting with the delivery of Refresher Training programs for Rima and Shikha/Ghara in May.

Dwarika has degrees of B Sc, B Ed and M Ed. He has been Principal of Edify International School, Kathmandu (a laboratory school of Kathmandu University) since 2009. Previously he was Principal of Araniko Secondary School, Lalitpur and Vice Principal of Ullens School, Lalitpur; before that a mathematics department head.



Dwarika will be working with CEO Krishna Pun and Consultant Kailash Tamang (our former Chief Training Officer) to plan and deliver programs, engaging well qualified local trainers to deliver the best possible programs.

New Board appointment

We are pleased to report that at its meeting on April 10, the Board appointed Simon Cowen to the position of Director. Recently retired after 12 years managing and growing the airport bus company Skybus, Simon now runs a smaller business supplying to the printing industry. Simon is married, has three children and some ageing pets. He has greatly enjoyed trekking in Nepal and interacting with the Nepalese people, wanting to help them.

Simon accompanied Peter Hall to Nepal in January to see first-hand what we have been doing and the opportunities for developing LEARN.

Earthquake Restoration funding

Following the disastrous earthquake in Nepal in April 2015, the Rotary Club of Kyneton entrusted Peter Hall with \$2,000 to pass on to reconstruction works.

He did this during his visit to Nepal in January-February, passing a cheque to President Tej Gurung of the Rotary Club of Pokhara Fishtail. This is the club that is sponsoring our *Global Grant* application. They have also supported a number of post-earthquake rebuilding programs. These include cooperation with The Gurkha Welfare Scheme, the Sahara Football Club, the Rotary Club of Dronfield and the Rotary Club of Bristol (all in the UK). The Kyneton contribution will go to one of these programs.

New Membership rule

When the Association was formed in 2010 membership was made open to anyone expressing interest in its objectives, with no joining fee or subscriptions. This arrangement has served us well, with a growing list of members also serving as a mailing list for newsletters.

The one disadvantage of this arrangement is that we can lose track of who the members really are, as there is no requirement for feedback.

The Board has decided to respond by making membership contingent upon donations (tax deductible) made each year to the Association (minimum \$20). The rules will be:

- Memberships relate to a calendar year. Any donations made during a year will count towards membership to the end of that calendar year.
- Membership is open to individuals, families or other entities. Each membership is entitled to a single vote at general meetings.
- Communications with members shall be by email, with each membership entitled to a single email address.
- Those who choose not to make a donation will remain on our mailing list for receipt of newsletters unless they request otherwise.
- Donations may be paid directly to the Association, either by cheque mailed to 29 Blue Mount Road Trentham, or by direct credit to the Association, BSB 633-000, a/c 149716235. Alternatively you can pay by credit card at www.nominatingrawcsproject43.com, 2009-10.
- These rules take effect from 1 January 2016. Only donations since then qualify for voting at the AGM in November.



Cheque presentation to Tej Gurung



Korean band passing through the House of Friendship



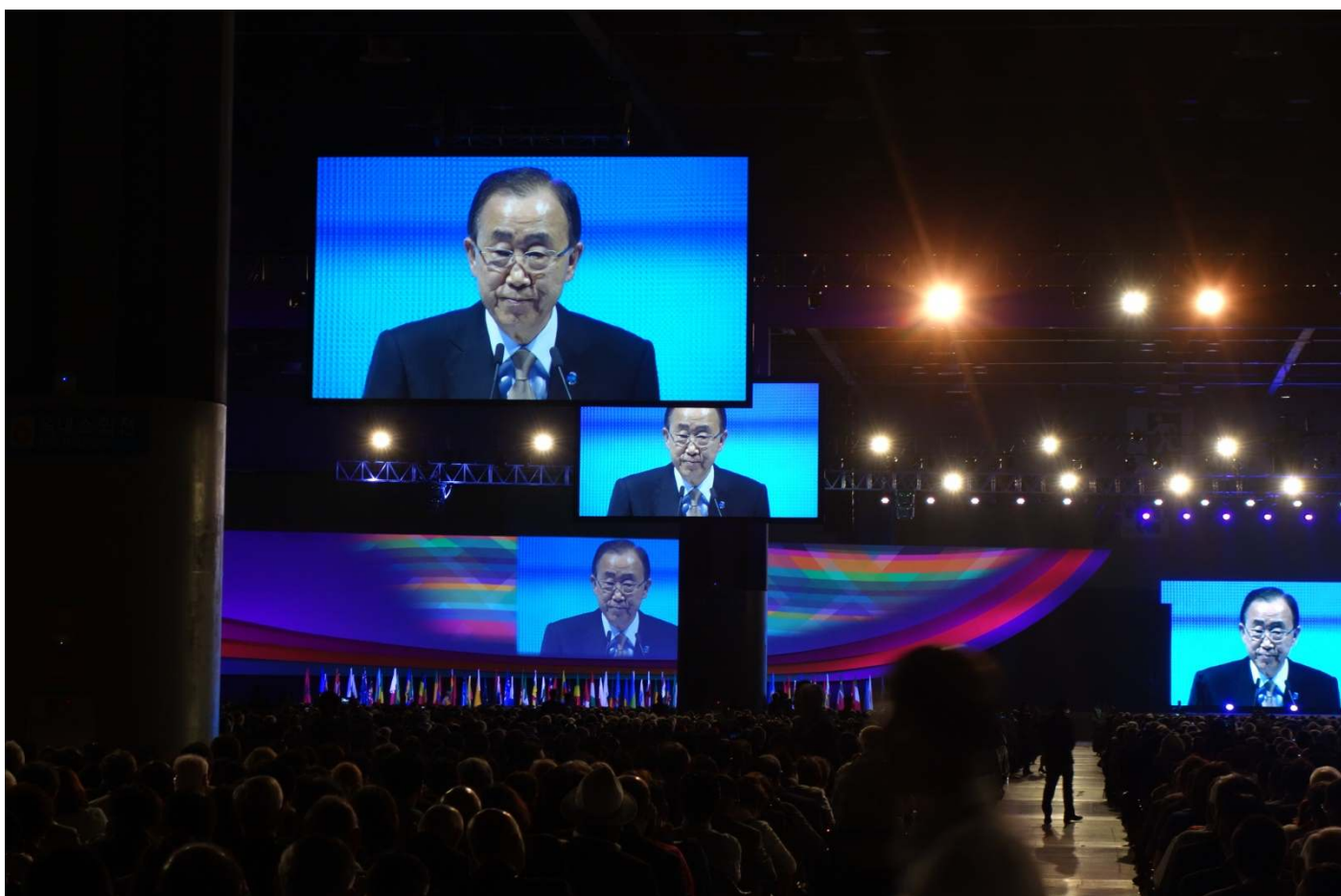
Ronda finds a friend



Krishna in the audience for the Welcome Festival



The Opening Plenary Session - the speaker at the podium barely visible in the distance



Ban Ki Moon addresses the Opening Plenary

Attached below - our Convention flyer

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delivering

Quality Education Nepal

a project to achieve quality education for students of remote rural schools in Nepal by training their teachers

www.nepalaid.org.au

info@nepalaid.org.au

Videos: Search YouTube for Quality Education Nepal

Email us if your Club could be interested in supporting a project



Presentation of teaching materials at closing ceremony of 10-day training course
Ghara (Myagdi District) April 2015

Shifting education from “chalk and talk” - to eager participation in vibrant classrooms”



Yam Shree Tilija Pun was a primary teacher at Paudwar Secondary School with seven years experience, having left school at Year 12 (later than many of her peers). She joined 40 other teachers of Shikha VDC in our first 10-day training program in 2011. In 2012 she was nominated by her peers to attend our Key Teacher Training in Kathmandu, returning

to act as a mentor. Yam Shree has since assisted with training courses for teachers of Ghara VDC, and has progressed her career, gaining a Bachelor's degree and now teaching at Janata Lower Secondary School, Mustang. Yam Shree enthusiastically uses music and dance in her teaching.

Why Nepal?



- 28 million people
- The poorest country outside Africa

Why Teacher Training?

- Educating children is the pathway out of poverty
- It's the teachers that make a school, not buildings and desks
- Many primary teachers in rural Nepal
 - left school at year 10, aged 16
 - started teaching without training
- Would you send your children to a school with untrained teachers?

You can initiate a project

- One club or several – we can help you get together!
- The Rotary Foundation may contribute 60%
- Nepalese clubs are keen to Host projects
- NVIA (Australia) and LEARN (Nepal) will guide you all the way
- Pilot Global Grant Project 1525855
 - 15 sponsor clubs from 4 Districts (three in Australia plus 7 Nepalese clubs)
 - 75 teachers of Tatopani, Myagdi District
 - 3 year budget US\$73,580
 - commencing this year
- Connect with a Nepalese Rotary Club
- Establish a relationship with your own Nepalese community

What's involved?

- Training the teachers of local groups of schools (40 - 80 teachers per group)
- 3 year program
 - Baseline survey to assess needs
 - 16 days training/year + in-school support
 - Nepalese trainers with Masters degrees
 - School communities involved
 - Teaching materials supplied
 - Outcomes assessed
- Delivered by LEARN (Rotary initiated NGO)
- Department of Education involved
- Proven strategies
 - Developed over two decades by Australian Himalayan Foundation, Himalayan Trust NZ, Himalayan Trust UK and others
 - Delivered in Solu Khumbu District by Rural Education and Environment Development (REED Nepal)

Who will benefit?

- The teachers:
 - 150 have entered training since 2011
 - another 75 starting in Global Grant pilot
 - potentially 1,200 teachers in Myagdi District, 100,000 in Nepal!
- Their students:
 - 1,500 current students to date
 - future students throughout the teacher's careers
- Their communities:
 - School Management Committees and Parent Teacher Associations
 - Broader communities as they transition from subsistence agriculture to viable local industries