

News and Activities

8th Annual Meeting of NAB Concluded

NAB conducts an annual meeting every year. The purpose of the annual meeting is to assess the effectiveness of the program and determine whether it has been functioning as per the guidelines and conduct given under the direction of the general assembly (every three years). As such, Annual Meeting (AM) represents the following members:

- Executive Board Members,
- Imm-past Board Members,
- Founder members and the two delegates along with one woman from each branch.

Objectives of the AM

- To assess one year progress and financial report
- To discuss the plan of action and budget for forthcoming year.
- To discuss any other agenda proposed by the executive committee and delegates as per its constitution.

NAB organized a meeting at 10:00 AM on 24th June, 2008 at the premises of NAB's head office Maharajgunj, Kathmandu. Altogether 48 delegates (including 20 female) from 20 district branches were attained at the meeting. Eleven branches could not take part in the meeting due to strikes (Banda) called by the different interest groups demanding an increase in the transportation fare due to the changing price of petroleum products in the country.

Sessions were divided into inaugural and business. In the business session, four main agendas were discussed. The meeting concluded successfully at 5:00 PM on the same day.

1. Approval of the Progress and financial report of fiscal year 2064/65 B.S. (2007/08)
2. Approval of the Action plan and budget for the year 2065/66 B.S (2008/09)
3. Sale of NAB site (land)
4. Appointment of auditor

Inaugural session:

The inaugural session commenced at 10.00 AM. There were 125 guests and participants at this session. Mr. Ganesh Shah, Secretary General, Nepal Communist Party United (NCPU) as the chief guest inaugurated the session. He was invited for recognizing outstanding work of his party in nominating the deaf person as a member of the constituent assembly. Mr. Limbu, the central president of NAB, presided over the function. The function began with a welcome song performed by the music students of NAB. After welcoming all guests and participants, NAB Vice-President, Mr. Dilli Prasad Giri expressed welcome remarks. On the occasion, he talked about the present condition of the blind with regards to education, employment and accessibility. He urged the political parties to take action in favor of the blind people, particularly through representation in parliament in the 26th vacant seat. After the welcoming remarks, the chief guest inaugurated the function by lighting the seven candles.



Chief Guest Mr. Ganesh Shah
inaugurating the session

Mr. Ramesh Pokhrel, Secretary-General highlighted the main activities carried out by NAB during this period. In the ceremony, the Chief Guest awarded the following selected individuals with appreciation, and either a monetary prize or a membership letter for their outstanding efforts and contribution to the development of NAB.

KAMALA SMRITI PRATIBHA PURSKAR (Kamala memorial award) - this fund was created at NAB in the name of the late Mrs. Kamala Shrestha, Imm-past Vice President through the efforts of the NAB women's committee. It has now accumulated around Rs.107,000. In the interest of this fund, NAB women's committee proposes the candidate. On the basis of recommendation from the women's committee, NAB presents the award with a cash prize of Rs. 5,001.00 every year at its Annual Meeting. In this way, Ms. Saraswati Paudel, a low vision girl got this award for contributing in the income generation activities of Kapilbastu branch.

Mr. Nir Kumar Magar, Braille press operator, and Mr. Chudamani Khanal, office attendant, each received an appreciation letter along with the cash prize of Rs. 2,001.00 among the staffs. Similarly, Mr. Ramesh Pokhrel, Secretary General and Mr. Dronacharya Niraula, President of Jhapa Association of the Blind both were felicitated with an appreciation letter for their outstanding work in developing the branch.

Captain Pawan Ghimire, Mr. Bikram Rana, an Army personnel, Mr. Ammar oli, Mr. Kritan Shrestha and Mr. Kausal Kumar Raymajhi also received appreciation letters for promoting and recognizing the Blind Cricket Association nationally and internationally. The series of cricked text held in Pakistan between Nepal and Pakistan, they were able to earn top score.

On this occasion, Mr. Limbu awarded the Life Helping Membership Certificate to Mr. Bhim Bahadur Shrestha-Rupandehi, Mr. Sandip sapkota, Rupandehi and Ms. Kopila Rai, Lalitpur.

The Remarks delivered by the chief and special guest in the ceremony:

The chief guest Mr. Ganesh Shah expressed his happiness for being invited and honored as chief guest. He underlined the need of unity and solidarity to fight against the superstition and ill thought towards the blindness. He recalled the past that when he was invited at the program of deaf people, he was inspired to work with People with Disability to see their excellent arrangement. This laid him to recommend the deaf person Mr. Ragha Bir Joshi for the member of constituent assembly from his party. Eventually, Mr. Raghav Bir Joshi a deaf leader for the first time has become the member of constituent assembly form not only his community but also the PWDs as a hole. He was also invited in the function as a especial guest. Speaking on the occasion, he urged all the PWD communities to support him for tabling the issues in participants.

Mr. Ramesh Naulakha, chair Association of the parents of mentally retardation, Mr. H.S. Bista, Program Manager NABP-Nepal, Mr. Birendraraj Pokhrel, Chair National federation of the disabled Nepal and Mr. Teknath Neupane, funding chair NAB address the ceremony. The inauguration session was concluded by the president, Mr. Limbu with the vote of thanks to the guest who attended the program despite of strike (Banda) in the valley.

Continues weekly F.M. Radio programme:

This programme focuses on interaction among the activists, policy makers and implementing officers. NAB Secretary Mr. Om Prakash Banjade has been continuously working as an anchor. This programme broadcasts through Metro F.M. every Sunday at 6:30 PM

Minimization of Barriers to Disability Friendly Environment- A guide book, 2065 Publication and Disseminations:

Nepal Association of the Blind (NAB) and Plan Nepal (PN) have developed a national guideline and indicators for creating disability friendly environment in collaboration with national level self-help organization of the Persons With Disabilities (PWD). In connection to this guide lines series of discussion, consultations, workshops, interactions were carried out. Besides this, four regional workshops in four places, four sector-wise workshops (blind, deaf, physical handicapped, and parents of intellectual disability) with the national level non governmental organization serving the four areas of disability were also conducted. Like wise, a national workshop representing Govt. line ministries, UN agencies, I/NGO's and individual persons working in the areas of PWD were involved in developing the guide line. After incorporating ideas, comments, feed back, suggestions and information supplied by the mentioned workshops participants, the guideline was ready except minor editing to make it in the publishable form. The Mentioned activities were carried in 2006 and 2007 as per the project agreement. Further, NAB and PN signed agreement on 14th March, 2008 with the view to conduct following activities in connection to this guide book:

1. Publication of guide book
2. Dissemination:
 - 2.1 Interaction With Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare(MWCSW)
 - 2.2 Book launching in Kathmandu
 - 2.3 Regional level (Nepalgunj, Hetauda, and Biratnagar) dissemination/interaction.

The team of experts again reviewed the book through the series of meetings and consultations within the team and submitted to PN country office for input. The meeting held in the PN office in March decided to request MWCSW to take the ownership as one of the publisher of the book. NAB organized various meetings with the secretary of MWCSW for the same purpose.

"Minimization of Barriers to Disability Friendly Environment- A guide book, 2065" Launching in Kathmandu:

MWCSW, NAB and Plan Nepal- the publishers of the guide book, jointly organized a book launching ceremony in Kathmandu on 2nd June, 2008 at hotel orchid Kathmandu. Mr. Neupane, Secretary for MWCSW, launched the book in the ceremony. Addressing the ceremony, the guests, Mr. Sukla, Country Director, Mr. Adhikari, joint secretary, Mr. Pokhrel, president- National Federation of the Disabled/Nepal, Mr. Kafle, consultant highlighted the importance of the book in national and international context. Mr. Sukla, also committed to disseminate the books in national level and urge the organizations to implements the provisions made in the guide book for empowerment of the PWD,s. Mr. Pokhrel also committed to make it available in DAISY format for accessibility of the print disabled persons. The chief guest Mr. Neupane highlighted the activities implemented by the MWCSW towards PWD's and also urged the participants to adopt the guideline given in the book in their practical life. The Program was chaired by Mr. Nara Bahadur Limbu-president NAB. In the capacity of Chairperson of the program, Mr. Limbu, remarked as: this book is absolutely new not only the context of Nepal but also within the Asia regions. It acts as like as the book "where there is no doctor". This book is the key for the persons and organization that works for disability sector.



Mr. Neupane, Secretary, MWCSW the launching book

Thereafter the book dissemination programme was organized in Nepalgunj, Hetaunda and Biratnagar on 5th June, 9th June and 10th June 2008 respectively. Any interested government organizations, civil society organizations those with involving in planning, implementing and monitoring can also get this book from NAB in free of cost.

Braille Press

NAB has nine years of experience in operation of Braille Press. Currently, the press is equipped with Braillo 200, 4x4 Index and three technical staffs. The press has now become popular in printing of school books for the government. Recently in July 2008, NAB has delivered the following books to the Department of Education.

SN	Subjects	Level/Year	Braille Part	No. of Books
01	Civic and Moral Science	Class-6	N/A	110
02	Civic and Moral Science	Class-7	N/A	115
04	My English Book	Class-1	N/A	50
05	Science	Class-1	N/A	50
06	My English Book	Class-3	N/A	100
Total				425

Similarly, the press has also printed 3000 copies of "Our Rights" books in English and Nepali version for Creative Hands.

Offset Printing Press

NAB runs Offset Printing Press since 2003. The purpose of the press is to generate the income for its sustainability. The press is equipped with Heidelberg machines of 20x30 and 13x18. Professional staffs and other accessories. The press is useful for printing of Books, Calendar, Magazine, Pamphlet etc. This year the press has printed school books for Janak Shiksha Samagri Kendra and Asia Publication while election materials had been printed for Election Commission last year.

Assistive Devices: NAB runs Braille equipment bank in order to supply the Assistive devices on the basis of "no loss, no gain". The following equipments and devices are supplied by this Braille Bank;

- White cane
- Slate & Stylus
- Abacus
- Chess Board

NAB Provides Scholarship

There are about 60-70 blind students who complete high school education yearly. Those students come out of school with the great hope of a college education. However, financial constraints often create an obstacle to fulfilling their ambitions. NAB has a clear vision that no one blind student has to discontinue his/her college education due to the lack of a scholarship. Thus NAB has been working hard to provide scholarships where it can, by requesting from organization, individual donors, and announcing their participation in the campaign for education of the blind. In this respect NAB/NABP has been providing scholarship from 1999. This year, the following students have received scholarship;

Sn.	Names of Students	Level
01	Mr. Rajesh Chapagai	Diploma
02	Ms. Sarita Lamichhane	Diploma
03	Mr. Karnasingh Pali	Intermediate
04	Mr. Ram Prakash Thakur	Intermediate
05	Ms. Shova Gurung	Intermediate
06	Mr. Krishna Pd. Chemjung	Intermediate

Computer Training

NAB provides computer and basic secretarial training to the Blind and Visually Impaired persons in order to make them qualified in performing activities independently. The training aimed at preparing them for job. Initially, the training had been supported by USC Nepal. Later, the project had been continued with the support of Action Aid Nepal from 2004. All together 76 BVIs persons have received computer training from this association. Recently, five students who have completed the course in June 2008 who had been started since January They are Ms. Hira Pokhrel, Ms. Shyam Kumari Limbu, Mr. Sahi Kumar Limbu, Mr. Purushottam Paudel, Mr. Lokraj Ghimire. 2008. The Action Aid discontinued the support to the project. We are now seeking support for its continuation to address the demand of students.

Knitting training

NAB Kailali conducted a Two months long sweater knitting training for the five blind women. The government of Nepal, women development wing under its rehabilitation program has provided financial assistance for the training. Ms. Rupa Rai, central executive board member had worked as instructor in the training which was started from 1st March 2008

Awareness and Advocacy:

Wall Calendar: NAB has published 3000 copies of wall calendar focusing on income generation activities launched by NAB. Such as music training school, girls' hostel, renting of sound system, offset printing press etc. Those calendar are being distributed in free of cost to schools, companies, educational institute, NGO's, GO's etc.

Essay writing competition:

NAB's youth committee organized essay writing competition on the eve of Louise Braille day (4th Jan. 08) among the blind female. The topic of the essay was inclusion of persons with disabilities in all areas of development. Blind girls- Ms. Sajja Koirala, Morang, Ms. Bimala Tamang, Morang and Ms. Sabitri Kafle, Gulmi obtained 1st, 2nd, and 3rd position respectively and obtained the cash prizes of Rs. 1,000.00, Rs. 700.00 and Rs. 500.00 with the appreciation certificates.

List of Teachers Quota in 2008

Sn.	District	Both (Male/Female)	Female
1.	Solukhumbu	-	1
2.	Panchthar	-	1
3.	Ilam	-	1
4.	Dhankuta	-	1
5.	Khotag	1	-
6.	Udayapur	-	1
7.	Jhapa	1	1
8.	Morang	1	-
9.	Sunsari	1	1
10.	Sindhupalchowk	1	-
11.	Kavre	1	1
12.	Nuwakot	1	-
13.	Dhaging	1	-
14.	Mohattari	1	-
15.	Sarlahi	1	-
16.	Bara	1	1
17.	Chitwan	1	2
18.	Lalitpur	1	1
19.	Bhaktapur	-	1
20.	Kathmandu	1	1
21.	Gorkha	1	-
22.	Lamjung	1	-
23.	Tanahun	1	-
24.	Syanja	1	-
25.	Kaski	1	2
26.	Myagdi	1	-
27.	Parbat	1	1
28.	Baglung	1	2
29.	Gulmi	1	1
30.	Palpa	-	1
31.	Arghakhanchi	1	-
32.	Nawalparasi	1	-
33.	Rupandehi	-	1
34.	Kapilbastu	1	-
35.	Jumla	1	1
36.	Piuthan	1	-
37.	Surkhet	1	-
38.	Dang	1	-
39.	Banke	1	1
40.	Bardiya	1	1
41.	Doti	1	-
42.	Daduldhura	-	1
43.	Kailali	1	1
44.	Kanchanpur	1	1
	Total	35	28

Blind Cricket Nepal in Progressing Path

In the patronage of NAB, CAB was formed in 2006 with the technical and financial support of Pakistan Blind Cricket Association (PACB) as an autonomous body. In the beginning, PABC trained our blind friends in cricket. Gradually, with the devotion and the efforts of blind youth this game boomed rapidly in the country. Now it has 7 blind cricket clubs at different parts of the country (Pokhara-1, Rupandehi-1, Chitawan-1, Kapilbastu-1, Birganj-1 Kathmandu-2) who have been actively participating in development of this game in Nepal. As per the constitution of CAB, each club should have 15 minimum crickets' players as members.

CAB has also been affiliated with World Blind Cricket Association (WBC). In 2007, two persons on behalf of CAB participated in the General Assembly of WBC held in London, UK as observers.

Similarly, from 1-18 March, 2008 a national team of 20 members (14 players, 3 referees and 2 officials) participated in the international tournament held in Pakistan in the leadership of CAB. Pawan Ghimire

(also the chairperson of CAB). This tournament was held in different time frame at the different location of Pakistan. Altogether 9 events were organized in the tournament. Of all 9 tournaments held between Pakistan and Nepal CAB Nepal Won 3 tournaments.

NAB Sargam Sargam Music School felicitates the talents

NAB runs music school since 2005 at Maitidevi, on the way to Dillibazar, Kathmandu. The aim of school is to give qualitative education in reasonable fee and to develop integrated society between the blind and sighted. NAB provides full scholarship to eight blind persons across the country on the gender balance. With this scholarship, 24 blind students are in school having vocal and instrument courses. The school also includes the sighted students in reasonable fee. Today, there are 77 students including 24 blind under going musical course from basic to sixth year. The school also provides the platform for the students to show their musical talents. In this respect, the school observed its 3rd anniversary on July 2008 in Russian Culture Centre. In the function, school students performed singing and playing instruments. The school felicitated to Mr. Prakash Timilsina for obtaining excellent award in the South Asian Star 2008 organized by Image Channel Television. School also awarded the letter of appreciation to the organizations and individuals for using sound system run by NAB. The students who completed 3rd and 4th year got the certificate. The function was decorated with popular musician Mr. Suresh Adhikari as Chief Guest and other musicians.

List of S.L.C Passed Students in 2064 (2008)

S.No	School Name	Name of the Student	Passed Division			
			Distinction	First	Second	Third
1.	Ms. Sabatri Poudel	Namuna Machindra , Lalitpur		√		
2.	Ms. Sharmila Bhattari	„ „		√		
3.	Mr. Nawaraj Dhakal	„ „		√		
4.	Mr. Ifran Ahamad	„ „		√		
5.	Mr. Bashanta Maharjan	„ „		√		
6.	Mr. Sujan Thapamagar	„ „		√		
7.	Mr. Deepak Thapa	Amar Singh Sec. School, Pokhara		√		
8.	Ms. Laxmi Adhikari	„ „		√		
9.	Mr. Sher Bahadur Ghirtimagar	„ „		√		
10.	Suan Dhakal	„ „	√			
11.	Ms. Padma Bhatta	„ „		√		
12.	Mr. Sundar Limbu	„ „		√		
13.	Mr. Nirmal Bista	„ „		√		
14.	Ms. Sharwati Bhatta Chettri	„ „		√		
15.	Mr. Mahesh Dawadi	„ „		√		
16.	Ms. Rita K.C	Lab School, Kirtipur		√		
17.	Mr. Chiran Kuwar	„ „		√		
18.	Mr. Kamal Sing	„ „		√		
19.	Mr. Nabin Poudel	„ „		√		
20.	Ms. Shanti B.K	Janata Higher Sec. School, Baglung			√	
21.	Mr. Kumar Pun	„ „		√		
22.	Mr. Suman Karki	„ „		√		
23.	Mr. Sudan Pun	„ „		√		
24.	Ms. Juna Tamang	„ „		√		
25.	Mr. Kedar Nath Dharni	Shree Judha Sec. School, Gaur		√		
26.	Ms. Jasima Khatun	Rastriya Higher Sec. School, Dumbarwana				
27.	Mr. Balaram Regmi	Shree Janasmriti Sec. School, Inaruwa	√			
28.	Ms. Silpa Dhungel	Panchodaya Higher Secondary School, Dhangadi		√		
29.	Ms. Laxmi Darji	Shikshya Niketan, Sunsari		√		
30.	Ms. Fulmaya Rai	„ „		√		
31.	Mr. Mankumar Madan	„ „		√		
32.	Ms. Kamala Adhikari	Amarjyoti higher Sec. School, Luitel, Gorkha		√		
33.	Ms. Sanumaya B.K	„ „		√		
34.	Mr. Anish Neupane	Sanjiwani higher Sec. School, Dhulikhel		√		
35.	Mr. Manil Maharjan	Kathmandu Model School, Khusibhu, Kathmandu	√			
36.	Mr. Birendra Khawas	Damkada Sec. School, Palpa		√		
37.	Ms. Kamala Tharu	„ „		√		
38.	Ms. Ganga Pandey	„ „		√		
39.	Ms. Sita Poudel	„ „		√		
40.	Ms. Mankala Poudel	„ „		√		
41.	Mr. Sandip Bhattari	Shanti Namuna Higher Secondary School, Bhairawa		√		
42.	Mr. Bhoj Raj Pandey	„ „		√		
43.	Ms. Rajita Regmi	„ „		√		
44.	Mr. Madan Bhandari	„ „		√		
45.	Mr. Sunil Subedi	„ „		√		
46.	Mr. Dhan Prasad Neupane	Bhairab Sec. School, Jumla		√		
47.	Mr. Karna Bahadur Karki	„ „		√		

48.	Mr. Nanu Ram Chaudhari	Than Pokhari Sec. School, Udayapur		√		
49.	Ms. Yashoda Khada	Saraswati Sec. School, Jhapa		√		
50.	Mr. Alok Kuruwa	Mangal Sec. School, Nepalgunj			√	
51.	Ms. Somuna Khadka	„ „			√	
52.	Mr. Nar Bahadur Pun	Bhor Bhawani Higher Sec. School, Binauna, Banke			√	
53.	Mr. Uttam B.K.	Shikhar Higher Sec. School, Ramghat, Surkhet		√		
54.	Mr. Govardhan Chaudhari	Guru Jajur Higher Sec. School, Tulsipur, Dang		√		
55.	Ms. Shobha Giri	Shree Sec. School, Purandhara, Dang		√		
56.	Mr. Guru Prasad Lamichhane	Shree Sec. School, Panchakule, Dang		√		
57.	Ms. Bashanta Bhandari	Gaurighat Sec. School, Sisaniya, Dang		√		
58.	Ms. Mina Pawa	B.P.Koirala Sec. School, Shantinagar, Dang		√		
59.	Mr. Dil Bahadur K.C.	„ „		√		
60.	Mr. Basudev K.C.	Aadarsha Higher Sec. School, Lalmatiya, Dang			√	
61.	Mr. Indra Bahadur Budhamagar	„ „			√	
62.	Miss Mira Nepali, Nawalparasi	Narayani Higher Sec. (Int) School, Chitwan		√		
63.	Miss Jennis Neupane, Nawalparasi	Ambar Boarding School, Rajahar, Nawalparasi		√		
64.	Miss Anju Gaire, Nawalparasi	Cannel Boarding School, Rupaulia, Nawalparasi		√		
65.	Miss Parwati Neupane, Nawalparasi	Adarsha Sec. School, Semary, Nawalparasi		√		
66.	Mr. Moti Pd. Gaire, Nawalparasi	Wise Star Boarding School, Nawalparasi		√		
67.	Mr. Tika Paudel, Nawalparasi	Jyoti Sec. School, Sunawal, Nawalparasi		√		
68.	Mr. Bhoj Raj Pandey, Nawalparasi	Shanti Sec. School, Manigram, Rupandehi		√		
69.	Mr. Birendra Khabas, Nawalparasi	Damkada, Sec. School, Damkada, Palpa		√		
70.	Mr. Shishir Dital, Chitwan	Grandi Sec. School, Rampur, Chitwan		√		
71.	Miss Saraswati Bhuiwai, Chitwan	Jan Adarsha H. Sec School, Chitwan		√		
72.	Miss Nabina Gyawali, Nawalparasi	Delhi Girl's School for the blind, India		√		
73.	Buddha Raj Limbu	Durga Sec. School, Jhapa			√	
74.	Bipin Shah	Durga Sec. School, Jhapa			√	
75.	Chandra Magar	Durga Sec. School, Jhapa			√	
76.	Yasodha Khadka	Sawarshwati Sec. School, Ittabhatta		√		
77.	Bhoj Bahadur Limbu	Sawarshwati Sec. School, Ittabhatta		√		