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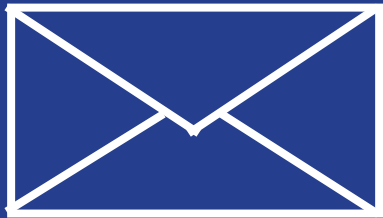


# **CECI Nepal's Newsletter**

**January-April  
2019**



# MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the CECI Nepal's Newsletter "REFLECT"!

I am delighted to present you the latest edition of CECI Nepal's newsletter "REFLECT". In this edition, you will get a glimpse of our major activities carried out between January to April, 2019.

In this quarter, we are almost at the end of Livelihood Promotion for Earthquake affected Population in Nepal (PUNARNIRMAN) project and wrapping up its activities. The most exciting part of PUNARNIRMAN project is the local government has shown their willingness to support further and beneficiaries are linked to the local institutions. At the same time, we are looking forward to the year ahead as we build on our commitment to capacity building of CSOs for good governance, gender equality and social inclusion.

I would like to thank all our partners, including government agencies, Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Global Affairs Canada (GAC), INGOs and civil society organizations for their continued cooperation and invaluable work with us.

Everyday, I see the team moving forward with their full commitment in achieving CECI's mission and I would like to offer my sincere thanks to the CECI Nepal team and volunteers for their support and dedication.

Enjoy reading!

Sita Ram Bhatta  
Country Director  
CECI Nepal

# CECI NEPAL AGM: FOR REFLECTION AND TOGETHERNESS



CECI Nepal conducted its Annual General Meeting (AGM) from 28 February to 01 March, 2019 at the Pataleban Vineyard Resort. This year's AGM theme was "Gender Equality and Social Inclusion and Youth". The objective of the AGM was to reflect and learn from achievements and lessons of the past year and share future actions to accomplish CECI's goals. The AGM also provided a platform for CECI staff (Nepal and Canada), National Volunteers and Canadian Volunteers to share learnings and reflection and an opportunity to understand the diversity within cultures. In addition to this, a guest speaker, Mr. Anil Pant, was invited to present

a paper entitled “Current political Transformation and Civil Society Environment in Nepal” to provide an overview of the current political transformation the international scenario and new government policies followed by a discussion on the civil society space in the current context and way forward for CECI.



Sita Ram Bhatta, Country Director CECI Nepal



Dilip Chinnakonda, Asia Regional Director



Hiking: a team-building exercise



Guest speaker Anil Pant



Volunteers work presentation



Nepali Cultural performance

# Open Data Day:

## CELEBRATION FOR TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Open Data Day (ODD) is an annual celebration of open data all over the world marked on the first Saturday of March. This year, 26 Rural/Municipalities of Nepal marked the day with various awareness raising and interactive activities among which 12 events were jointly celebrated by the local governments and CECI/SUSASAN project. Since 2009 AD, ODD calls for countries to be open, accountable and transparent towards the citizens and Nepal started to celebrate this event from 2018.

The practice of Open Data ensures the access, use and re-use of data of the public institutions, which promotes citizen state engagement to maintain accountability, transparency and responsiveness.

CECI Nepal has been promoting the culture of practicing Open Data, Budget Transparency, Citizen Reporting and Grievance Reporting since 2017 through its SUSASAN: Sustainable use of Technology for Public Sector Accountability in Nepal project which is funded by Global Affairs Canada (GAC). SUSASAN project provides the local governments online and offline platform to share information.



Rally in Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City

This year, the local governments proactively initiated the events and all the project partners, local leaders and women and people from marginalized groups participated in the events with great enthusiasm in Konjyosom Rural Municipality of Lalitpur District, Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City of Kailali District, Barhabise Municipality of Sindhupalchowk and Amargadhi Municipality of Dadeldhura District.

Celebrating the events, Mayors and Deputy Mayors of the respective governments showed their commitment to be transparent and accountable in public service delivery. Moreover, they committed towards ensuring optimum openness in their service delivery. They also encouraged citizens to engage with them in the decision making process of local governance.

Mr. Karna Bahadur Kathayat, the Chairperson of Masta Rural Municipality was enthusiastic in celebrating the International ODD for the first time. On the day, he also made commitments to the public to make information easily accessible using both electronic and print medium.



Mobile set distribution to Women Health Volunteers in Bajhang

Inaugurating an Information Techno-Hub on ODD, Gopilal Singtan, Chairperson of Konjyosom Rural Municipality, said the openness of data and information of the local government is a key to improve public service delivery. Vice-Chair Ms. Mingma Lama said, “I am very happy to be a part of this International ODD celebration. We commit to maximum utilization of the Tech-Hub. Data and information will be made accessible to all through both electronic and printed mediums. Further, she requested everyone to be curious on the performance of the Municipality and provide feedback for further improvement.



SUSASAN project Team Leader Hem Tembe addressing the mass in Konjyosom Rural Municipality, Lalitpur



Street drama played on the occasion of ODD in Lalitpur



# NATIONAL ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN

To amplify voice for better participation of Women and Marginalized Groups (WMGs) in the decision-making process and systems with the use of integrated technology in the local government, CECI/SUSASAN project's National partner Freedom Forum organized a National Advocacy Campaign on February 18, 2019. The event brought together a total of 49 people, including members of Parliament (member of state affairs and good governance committee), public policy-makers and shapers, experts, media professionals, participants from project districts, representatives of SUSASAN project partners and staff and practitioners whose role will be imperative to position WMGs in decision-making systems.



CECI Nepal Country Director Sita Ram Bhatta Speaking at the workshop

Three themes were primarily opened up for discussion that were: roles and responsibilities of elected representatives from WMGs in local government; meaningful participation of WMGs in the local government's plan, budget implementation and monitoring process; and effective engagement of WMGs in different service delivery in the local government. Participants took active participation and the policy makers committed towards ensuring WMGs significant role in all levels of activities.



6 Workshop participants

## LGBTIQ+ Sensitization Workshop



CECI Nepal organized LGBTIQ+ sensitization workshop on 30 April, 2019 in coordination with Blue Diamond Society (BDS) to broaden the knowledge of its staff members on LGBTIQ+ concepts; heteronormative practices; and issues. The main topics for discussions included at the workshop were: a brief introduction to the contemporary LGBTIQ+ issues that are tied with multiple identities and variations within the LGBTIQ+ community; its history; a solid foundation on why and how gender is not binary; how social norms and cultural practices, social biases, social structure and institutional forces marginalize this community; challenges; and achievements made through the campaign in Nepal. The workshop was able to build understanding and capacity of CECI staff to think on the issues independently, explore the topics on their own and engender inclusive practices at work and home.



# CREATING jobs THROUGH SKILLS DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

The Livelihood Promotion for Earthquake Affected Population in Nepal (PUNARNIRMAN) project funded by Global Affairs Canada trained 75 youth in various vocational skills under the Skill Development / Vocational Training component of the project in Sindhupalchowk, Kavrepalanchowk and Lalitpur Districts. The main purpose of the training is to produce technical workforce to address the demand of labour market in the project districts. Among these 75 training participants, 7 have already got job in their own place and other 8 have establish their own business.

## VOICE OF THE TRAINING PARTICIPANTS

Anita Basnet of Barabise Sindhupalchowk successfully completed a three month basic training of beautician provided by the PUNARNIRMAN project. She states, “ In order to sustain life, only having a formal or academic certificate is not enough in this era, we need vocational skills as well, so I took this training for my future career in the beautician profession. This training is very important and effective. The trainer made us focus not only on the training courses but also provided knowledge of cosmetics and practical skills of customer dealing. Further, I’m planning to take advanced courses and run a beauty parlour. This is my dream”.



Sushila Yonjan, a Montessori trainee from Bethanchowk Kavrepalanchowk, says “After completing final exam of class twelve, I was wondering about utilizing leisure time of waiting for the results to invest in some productive cause. So, I was learning tailoring locally, however, my great interest was in Montessori Training. I wanted to teach in a primary school in my village and earn for the family. One day I got an information that CECI/PUNARNIRMAN project is providing basic level Montessori Training. Fortunately, I got the opportunity and joined the training. This training provided me both the theoretical and practical knowledge on child centered teaching/learning techniques. I’m indebted to the project. This training will definitely help me get a job in my place, with which I can continue my education and financially support my family.

It has been my dream since grade 9 to become a great beautician. But due to poverty I was not able to take any trainings. Now I got the opportunity to enrol in a basic level beautician course. I am thankful to the organization for the support. This training will help me to make my dream come true, states Sunita Parajuli.





Ujjawal Sapkota Electrician trainee testifies “ After my higher secondary level education, I looked for a job, but without having any vocational skills I couldn’t get it. I was wasting my time and wondering for the job. One day I came to know that CECI/PUNARNIRMAN project is providing electrician training. I applied for the same, and luckily I got enrolled in the training. It is a great initiative of the project that it has created the platform to increase employment opportunities for unemployed youths and I’m among those luckiest youths who got this opportunity. Now I can use this skill in my own place and can earn for my livelihood”.

Bhagwan Khatri of Kavrepalanchowk articulates “ I got the chance to get an electrician training. It will help me fulfill my dream of helping my community which was devastated by the earthquake of April 2015. Now, I will support those houses with electric wiring which are recently built in a reconstruction support of Nepal Government. I will utilize my skills in my own community”.



Anjali Limba resident of Bagmati Municipality, Lalitpur received three months basic level cook training provided by the PUNARNIRMAN project. She expresses “I was thinking of starting restaurant business but without practical knowledge it was not possible. Now I got training. I will start my own restaurant business in my village.



Ratna Prasad Bajgain of Mahankal, Kavrepalanchowk states “this cook training is very fruitful, it encouraged me to establish my own business and earn for the livelihood. My confidence and self esteem level has increased now.”



Kabita Dhungana of Bethanchok got job in Hitkari Montessori School Banepa immediate after completing Montessori training. She says” My family has a very low income. Now, I can do some financial contribution”.



# VOLUNTEER COOPERATION PROGRAM

The Volunteer Cooperation Program is one of the CECI's core areas. CECI manages the Canadian Volunteer Cooperation Program (Uniterra) and Australian Volunteers Program (AVP) in Nepal. AVP is funded by Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Uniterra Program is funded by Global Affairs Canada. Over the past 30 years, more than 600 volunteers have worked in Nepal. The volunteer program is mainly focused on building the capacity of partner organizations through the transfer of technical skills and knowledge. Volunteers work in both governmental and non-governmental organizations. During this period, CECI welcomed seven Australian and ten Canadian volunteers in Nepal.

## NEW UNITERRA VOLUNTEERS

**uniterra**  
A WUSC & CECI PROGRAM



**Michelle Han**

Michelle Han is a data analyst with expertise in marketing analytic, market research and consumer insights. She is currently working as a Management Information System (MIS) Advisor at Pokhara Technical School in Pokhara, where she is helping the school to implement a learning management system to allow easier information sharing between students, lecturers and administrative staff.



**Georges Clement**

Georges Clement is a horticultural advisor and a landscape architect consultant with expertise in garden conception and landscape design. Currently Georges is supporting Amargadhi Municipality in Dadeldhura on garden designing as a Floriculturist.

**Mahesh Kumar KC**



Mahesh is supporting Nepal Agricultural Cooperative Central Federation Ltd. (NACCFL) as a Horticulture Adviser. Before joining CECI as a Uniterra Volunteer, he was working for the Government of British Columbia, Canada, under the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development, as a Rangel and Agrology Expert

## LONG-TERM

**Jonathan Oldenburg**

Jonathan holds a bachelor's degree in environment and international development. His expertise are event planning, marketing, sales promotion, and social media expert. He is working as an event management advisor at Federation of Women Entrepreneurs Association Nepal (FWEAN).



**Christian Fortin**

Christian Fortin is a trained agronomist who has more than 28 years of experience of working in agriculture sector with various organizations. Currently he is working with Nepal Agricultural Cooperative Central Federation Limited (NACCFL) as a Plant Protection Advisor. He is working on phytoprotection and other related activities of partner.



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### **Arun Dhanota**

Arun Dhanota is a Professor in the Faculty of Social and Community Services at Humber College, Toronto, Canada. She has worked as a counsellor for both youth and adults involved with the criminal justice system, in criminal court and community environments throughout the Greater Toronto Area. She is working as a Leave for Change volunteer at the National Youth Council as a Youth Council Advisor.

### **Sophie Desjardins**

Sophie is a Senior Clinical Project Manager at Abbvie Canada with an Animal Health management background. She worked as an Animal Health Advisor for Himalayan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (HICAST) in Kathmandu as a Leave for Change (L4C) volunteer.



## **Leave for Change**

## **National Volunteer**

### **Julie Charbonneau**

Julie Charbonneau works for an AbbVie Canada Pharmaceutical as a Senior Clinical Regional Associate. She worked with Bhaskar Herbaceutical in Birgunj as a Clinical Research Advisor as a Leave for Change (L4C) volunteer.



### **Chanda Sunar**

Chanda Sunar is a National Volunteer for Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) and she is working with multiple partners of CECI. She has been working closely with partners like Central Dairy Association Nepal (CD-CAN), Prerana, Lalitpur District Milk Producers' Cooperative Union (LDMPCU) and Himalayan Grassroots Women's Natural Resource Management Association (HIMAWANTI).



### **Rama Sharma**

Rama Sharma worked as a National Volunteer for Volunteer management Advisor at Uniterra. She holds a master's degree in Gender studies along with seven years of working experience in the development field.



## Emily Newton



As an Environment and Sanitation Officer, Emily Newton is working with Kamalamai Municipality, Sindhuli. She is supporting in the development of strategies to implement environmental sanitation and hygiene and education programs to the municipality.

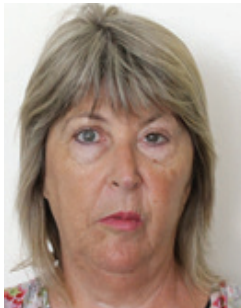
## Ram Kumar Shrestha

Mr. Ram Kumar Shrestha as a Senior Structural Engineer is working with Kusma Municipality, Parbat. He mainly provides support to improve existing building construction systems and practices, as well as assists in the updating of building codes based on international experiences, best practices and reduction of hazards inside the Municipality.



## Vicki Hannam

Ms. Vicki Hannam works with School of Arts, Kathmandu University. She helps to develop grant proposals in the areas such as disability, inclusive economic development



and other relevant development issues and establishes relations with international university and funding agencies.

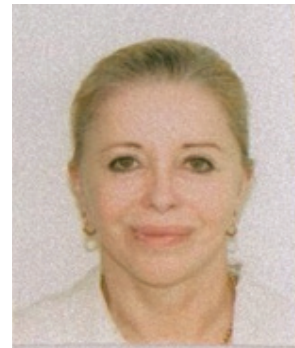
## Mick Sides

Mr. Mick Sides came to Nepal with his family for a year mandate to work with Kamalamai Municipality. He mainly supports the municipality in land use planning through providing training to the technical staff.



## Susanne Kristy

Ms. Susanne Kristy is working as a Coordinator of Diploma of Nursing in Sindhuli Community Technical Institute (SCTI). She mainly trains nursing-teaching staff on international concepts and best practice in teaching and supports Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVET) in curriculum development of nursing course.



## Athena Chan

Ms. Athena Chan is providing support to the Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) Department, Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital. In consultation with relevant stakeholders, she is creating awareness amongst professionals regarding swallowing difficulty and the role of speech-language pathologist (SLP) in assessment management of dysphagia.



## Kashi Samaraween



Mr. Kashi Samaraween is an IT Officer in Kritipur Municipality. In consultation with his line manager, he leads the architecture design, software development and solution management, ensuring that these are aligned to municipality objectives and priorities.

# Uniterra Towards Fostering Partnership

## MOU Between CDCAN and Premier Insurance Company Limited

Uniterra/CECI Nepal facilitated to establish partnership between Central Dairy Cooperative Association Nepal (CDCAN) and Premier Insurance Co. Ltd. Nepal (Premier) to work together for “Livestock Insurance” Project. CDCAN and Premier agreed that CDCAN will be responsible for field management, policy issue, collecting and depositing premium amount, field work and claim assessment related activities. Both parties signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) This agreement will improve Premier’s access to the rural farmers and vice versa. Nepal Government has taken two different paths to ensure the security of livestock farmers. It provides subsidy for the cooperative to run “Pashu Dhan Surkhcha” program, which in case of mass destruction is not sufficient to address the problem. On the other

hand the government has contracted with private insurance companies to insure the livestock. However, these companies do not have access or means to reach to the farmers living in remote areas of Nepal. In order to address this issue, Uniterra played a crucial role to establish a partnership between CDCAN and the Premier which will be win win situation for farmers, CDCAN and Premier.

## MoU Between Prerana and Uniterra

Uniterra Strategic partner Prerana signed a Memorandum Of Understanding with Uniterra to implement a pilot project “Women’s Entrepreneurship Development Project” in Kaudena, Godaita and Chakraghatta Rural/Municipalities of Sarlahi. In the same context, Uniterra/CECI Nepal and Elam/Helvetas agree to have a strategic partnership for supporting this pilot project. This project aims to create more than a hundred women entrepreneurs in Sarlahi district.



## Regional Meeting for Common Understanding



Uniterra/CECI Nepal hosted Uniterra Asia Regional Meeting in Pokhara from 4 to 8 March, 2019. The meeting was a part of the ongoing WUSC-CECI joint implementation of the Uniterra Volunteer Cooperation Program. The event brought together Uniterra staff from Canada, Vietnam, Sri Lanka and Nepal and acted as a catalyst to share experiences achieved in the region over the past four years of programming, to plan for the final year of activities, and share accomplishment and concerns.

## Partner Organization Workshop

With the additional responsibility and authority for local development delegated to the Local Governments, Municipalities that have come in contact with the Australian Volunteers Program have sought support from the Program in Urban Planning and Tourism Development. In order to provide a basic understanding on these topics to the local governments, The Australian Volunteers Program organized a workshop to share knowledge and experience on Urban Planning and Tourism Development in Local Governments On April 3, 2019 in Kathmandu. The workshop was led by Australian Volunteers – Ms. Lucinda Peterson, working as an Urban Planner for the Dhulikhel Municipality and Mr. Stephen Clark, who is working as the Tourism Development Officer at the Budhanilkantha Municipality. The Mayors, Deputy Mayors, CAOs and officials from 19 different municipalities found the workshop very informative and wanted the support of Australian Volunteers for their Municipalities at the earliest possible time.



## CPAC Meetings



The first Central Project Advisory Committee (CPAC) meeting on CECI's Sustainable Use of Technology for Public Sector Accountability in Nepal (SUSASAN) project was held on the 28th of January 2019 in Kathmandu. The meeting was chaired by the Social Welfare Council (SWC) Member Secretary Rajendra Kumar Poudel and cochaired by the SUSASAN project Team Leader Hem Tembe and participated by the representatives of different line ministries, including National Planning Commission, SWC and project implementing partner NGOs. The meetings opened up the forum to receive recommendations and suggestions from the participants for the effective implementation of the project activities, where some of the participants provided constructive feedback for the smooth running of the project.

The second Central Project Advisory Committee (CPAC) meeting of CECI's Livelihood Promotion for Earthquake Affected Population in Nepal (PUNARNIRMAN) project was conducted on 17 April 2019. The meeting was chaired by the SWC Member Secretary Rajendra Kumar Poudel and cochaired by CECI Nepal Country Director Sita Ram Bhatta. The meeting participants included Joint Secretaries and Under Secretaries of line ministries, representative of National Planning Commission, SWC Directors, representatives of the project implementing partner organizations and CECI staff. The project was appreciated by all the participants as it has created opportunities to the youth in the labour market as well as supported the rural farmers to revive their livelihood.



# The Status of Women in Nepal is not Easy: Through the Lens of Volunteer

Siobhan Pickering

Being a woman in Nepal is not easy. According to the United Nations, one in four Nepalese women in their lifetime, experience physical or sexual violence from their partner. Within a calendar year, an estimated one in ten women report similar acts of violence from their partner.

Last month I had the opportunity to talk to a number of women in the Dang Valley. Dang Valley is a farming region 500 km north of Kathmandu. After 14 hours of riding in a car, my counter part, Binayak, and I arrived at the Centre of Sakshyam Mahila Samuha (a self-help women's group) to visit these women and learn about their business and their lives. The Centre was founded by Rachana Subedi 15 years ago to help women who have been physically and/or sexually assaulted. The Centre is comprised of twenty-eight members who have set up a business that is supported by bank loans and the profits made from selling handmade sweaters, headbands, and reusable pads. Three years ago, a rich and prominent woman in the Dang area donated a house on three acres of land to the Centre for members to use. Four of the women were interested in farming the land and live in the house, and the remaining members use the house as a meeting spot.

With the exception of the donated land, the women were very excited to tell me that this Centre is their self-made business; no other donations or grants have been acquired.

Abused women join the Centre to gain independence. One woman commented on her past abuse, telling my counter part, who in turn translated for me, that she was married at the age of 16 because her parents could no longer care for her. She had limited education as she worked on her family's farm before marrying and participated in unpaid domestic work at her in-law's house after marriage. At the age of 21, she divorced her husband because he was abusive, and she subsequently became a member of the Centre.

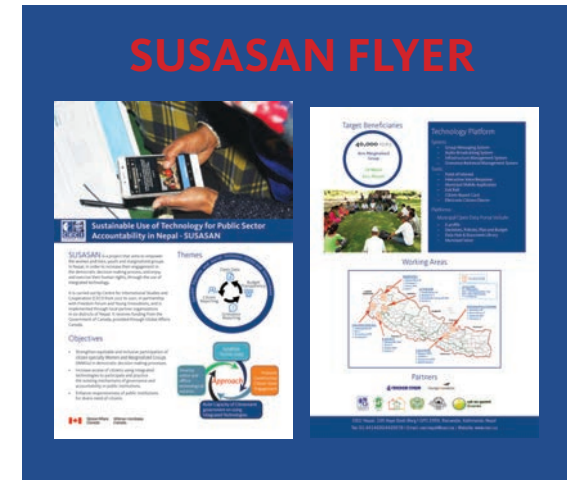
In Nepal, it is difficult to obtain a divorce as it is expensive and time-consuming. The Human Rights Watch wrote that as a child bride you are able to divorce from your husband if no child has been produced by the time the child bride reaches the age of 18. If it was not a child marriage this process becomes more difficult because not only are there legal stipulations, there are also the social stigmas associated with divorce.

The Centre of Sakshyam Mahila Samuha's main goals are to help its members by providing a source of income and be a supportive community. However, with the donated three acres of land, it has become much more than that. When I asked women at the centre what gaining this land meant to them, they said, owning land provides security, independence, and confidence, and enables women to be active in social and political areas. Similar stories have been recorded by Oxfam; one woman and her husband, after 43 years of marriage, co-registered their land, and her response to how she feels was, "I feel bolder".

\* Permission was given before talking openly about her experience, and names left out to protect her identity.







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