

annual
report 2006

Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists



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It gives me great pleasure to inform our members and well-wishers that Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ) has completed 20 years of its service to the nation. Since its inception in 1986 as a non-profit making organisation, NEFEJ has played a crucial role in creating awareness among the general public on issues related to environment and sustainable development.

With a democratically-elected executive committee from print and broadcast journalists and conservation experts, NEFEJ remains one of the very few transparent NGOs which have been working to make Nepal the country of environmentally conscious people. Challenges have been many and difficult to meet, but NEFEJ has always concentrated on its primary objective of advocating, lobbying and putting pressures at the policy level.

With Radio Sagarmatha, the first community radio station in South Asia, and *Aankhijhyal*, one of the most popular video magazines on Nepal Television, on its fold, NEFEJ has made important contributions in making general people aware on environment and development issues. Radio Sagarmatha even won a solidarity award at the regional assembly of World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC) held in Amman, Jordan for its contribution in the development of community radio in Nepal.

Time has changed and new challenges have come forward too. Thus, NEFEJ has taken up new issues to work on – like social inclusion, peace and development. During this year, Community Radio Support Centre (CRSC) continued to lead the movement for freedom of broadcasters apart from supporting and developing dozens of new community radio stations throughout the nation.

Time has now come to demonstrate ingenuity, initiative and drive in sustaining peace and protecting natural heritage for future generation. Besides continuing existing activities, NEFEJ would now work towards making a New Nepal through its commitment on peace, environment, and development.

Sahaj Man Shrestha

President
NEFEJ

NEFEJ elects new executive committee

The 21st General Assembly of Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ) was held at its office on October 14, 2006.

At the function, founder president of NEFEJ Krishna Prasad Sigdya released a book entitled "Two Decade Conservation Commitment." Written by the organisation's ex-president, Aditya Man Shrestha, the book highlights the activities of NEFEJ since its inception two decades ago.

General Secretary Bhupendra Basnet presented the organisation's annual report and several decisions were taken on the basis of his paper. The Assembly decided not to have any official working relations with an organisation called Wildlife Watch Group (WWG).

The Assembly also decided to form a committee to formulate policies regarding the distribution of new membership to journalists and technicians already working in the organisation and directed the executive committee to work towards improving the participation of its members and associate members in the organisation's regular activities.

The Assembly approved the financial report presented by its treasurer Madhu Acharya.

It also approved the report presented by Dhurba Basnet, coordinator of Finance Committee. The new Finance Committee was also formed with Krishna Murari Bhandari as coordinator and Nirmala Sharma and Bal Krishna Chapagain as members.

The Assembly appointed Sujan Kafle and Company as its auditor for the year 2063/64.

The Assembly concluded with an election of new executive committee of NEFEJ which has following office-bearers and members:

President	Sahaj Man Shrestha
Vice President	Chandra Kishor Jha
General Secretary	Sangita Lama
Secretary	Dilip Kafle
Treasurer	Tikaram Rai
Members	Abdullah Miya
	Subodh Gautam
	Govinda Pokharel
	Laxman Uprety
	Bharat Raj Pokharel
	Siddhartha Kumar Shakya
	Surya Man Shakya
	Dr. Mukesh Kumar Chalise

Shakya and Dr. Chalise were elected from among the associate members. Founder president Krishna Prasad Sigdya was the chief election commissioner.

Fact File

NEFEJ has come out with a book, "Two Decade Conservation Commitment," to highlight the activities of the organisation since its inception two decades ago. NEFEJ Ex-president Aditya Man Shrestha wrote the book.



Sahaj Man Shrestha
Chairman



Chandra Kishor Jha
Vice President



Sangeeta Lama
General Secretary



Dilip Kumar Kafle
Secretary



Tika Ram Rai
Treasurer

Members



Abdulla Miyan



Subodh Gautam



Govinda Pokharel



Laxman Upreti



**Bharat Raj
Pokharel**



**Siddartha Kumar
Shakya**



Surya Man Shakya



Mukesh Chalise



NEFEJ

CRSC leads Save Independent Radio Movement

After the royal takeover and imposition of the state of emergency on February 1, 2005, FM radio stations across the country were asked to shutdown news bulletins and current-affairs based programmes. The ban continued even after the withdrawal of the state of emergency after three months and it was estimated that up to 1,000 radio journalists lost their jobs due to restrictions on Nepali media.

This led radio journalists to constitute Save Independent Radio Movement (SIRM) to launch street, on air and legal protests against the government's decision. CRSC played a vital role to unite community radio broadcasters, commercial radios and the member of the civil society and CRSC coordinator Raghu Mainali was selected as chairman of the movement.

The Movement had launched unique type of protest programmes against the government's decision including prayers at the Pashupatinath Temple,

offering coconut to monkey at Buddha Stupa at Swoyambhu, news on the streets (casting news through loudspeakers in the public gathering), holding opinion polls and referendums in the streets and sending dilapidated radio to the Ministry of Information and Communications by post, among others. The Movement also filed cases against the government's order and the new media ordinance at the Supreme Court.

The new government formed after the April Uprising has contributed positively to make the situation encouraging for the media including independent radios. The government has cancelled entire ordinance and laws imposed by the autocratic royal government that has reduced and cordoned the freedom of expression and media related rights. In this flourishing environment, the media including the independent radios has been exercising full freedom of expression. The new government seems to be liberal in giving permission to open the new independent radios and that has helped to increase the number of independent radio stations in the country. CRSC/NEFEJ has played major role to make the government attitude positive towards the independent radios.

This liberal approach of the government has helped to open 90 new radio stations including 50 community radio stations in Nepal since April 2005. The numbers of radio stations which have got the license for the broadcasting have reached more than 140 in the end of 2005.

Contribution of CRSC

During the autocratic rule of King Gyanendra, all media related organisations were geared towards safe guarding the freedom of expression in the country. The CRSC/NEFEJ was one of the leading organisations, which energised the civil society and media

persons to stand against the autocratic rule and its decision to cordon the freedom of expression and censorship.

CRSC has functioned under very trying times since the beginning of the project. The implementation of the project was delayed by almost two months due to a targeted attack on independent broadcasters by the state that sought to cripple the radio stations. Such a situation necessitated radio stations and all of their supporters to come together to strategize and work to counter the government's attacks. Even though this is a constantly evolving situation the independent radios have handled the situation with much success and CRSC has gone out of its way to support that.

In spite of the difficult times, CRSC, with the support of its partner radio stations across Nepal, had implemented the project and had achieved encouraging results.

The aim of CRSC has been to give continuity to media development in Nepal despite the discouraging social, political and economic situation. It has aimed at encouraging survival mechanisms among radios and to sustain the minimum level of growth of the stations. It has acted as the guardian of community radios in Nepal and had coordinated the flow of information, had organised workshops and seminar and encouraged growth in order to help the radios sail through the present oppressive and violent times.

After April uprising CRSC has been involved in three ways (i) facilitating peace building initiatives in the country; (ii) mounting lobbying and advocacy to make the government and concern authorities liberal towards the community radios (iii) encouraging and facilitating communities to get the license and establishing community

Fact File

Reporters Sans Frontiers (RSF), a Paris-based global press freedom monitoring group, gave press freedom award to Save Independent Radio Movement (SIRM) for its fight for freedom of radios in Nepal. SIRM is an action team of independent radio stations around the country initiated by CRSC.



Free Voice team in Radio Palung

Photographs: Bhupendra Basnet

radios and (iv) capacity building of newly established and as well as the existing community radio stations.

Waiving the annual fee

After continued lobbying by CRSC, the members of the re-established parliament raised their voice against the annual license renewal fee of the community radios. CRSC and Federation of Nepalis Journalists (FNJ) threatened the government to go to the street if it did not waive the annual renewal fee. In response, the government was forced to waive the fee by revising the annual budget of the government.

SIRM receives RSF award

In recognition of its work, Save Independent Radio Movement (SIRM), an action team of independent radio stations around the country initiated by CRSC, was awarded press freedom award by Reporters Sans Frontiers (RSF), a Paris-based global press freedom monitoring group.

The RSF awarded SIRM under the 'Defender of Press Freedom' category for its role in uniting dozens of radio stations around the country to press for resumption of broadcasting of news over the FM radio stations.

CRSC renews cooperation with Free Voice

CRSC's cooperation with Free Voice Netherlands was renewed in 2006 and decided to begin the Phase II of the project. The main objective of the Phase II of the project has been to further promote community-based radios in order to widen and deepen their role in community uplifting, thereby contributing to enhance access to information, freedom of information and democratisation process.

In specific terms, it aims to consolidate and build on the gains achieved during the first phase in respect of making radio even more accessible to communities.

The second phase of the project also aims to further expand community radio movement by strengthening its capacities in the most crucial aspects, including in their capacity to lobby and struggle for lifting media restrictions.

Under Phase II, the technical grants received from Free Voice Netherlands were to distribute to community radios throughout the country to strengthen them. The technical grant extended to community radio stations by CRSC/Free Voice is the continuation of the first phase project. Altogether 12 radio stations had received a total grant of US\$ 100,000 during the first phase of the project.

In the second phase, a total grant of US\$25,000 was available to support with technical infrastructure of five different community radio stations nationwide for the year.

Under this activity, a series of consultations took place among NEFEJ and non-NEFEJ community radio enthusiasts as to the formation of a

Grant Committee to advice on the administration of the Grant Fund.

A Steering Committee of following members was constituted to assist CRSC in selecting recipients for the grants: journalist Bhairab Risal, NEFEJ Executive Director Om Khadka, NEFEJ General Secretary Bhupendra Basnet and Raghu Mainali, CRSC coordinator.

Based on the decision of the Steering Committee, CRSC published a brochure, a poster and application form as a part of publicity material. It also published advertisements in national newspapers to publicise the grant.

Five stations receive grants

Altogether eight community radio stations submitted proposals for grants. The community radios that had submitted the proposals were: Radio Swargadwari (Dang), Radio Himchuli (Kaski), Palung FM (Makawanpur), Solu FM (Solukhumbu), Radio Bheri (Surkhet), Bijay FM (Nawalparasi), Shypal FM (Bajhang) and Radio Madanpokhara (Palpa).

The Steering Committee members visited all the community radio stations before finalising the grants.

The grants worth US \$ 5,000 each were finally given to following radio stations: Radio Swargadwari (Dang) to buy studio mixture, Radio Himchuli (Pokhara) to buy FM stereo exciter, Palung FM (Makawanpur) to buy studio mixture, Solu FM (Solukhumbu) to buy live broadcast equipment and field recorders and Radio Bheri (Surkhet) to buy a transmitter of 500 watt.

As per the agreement between CRSC and Free Voice, a peer monitoring committee was formed with NEFEJ vice president Tikaram Rai and and Suman Basnet, Asia

Fact File

CRSC, alongwith Free Voice Netherlands, gave US \$ 5,000 assistance each to five community radio stations - Radio Swargadwari (Dang), Radio Himchuli (Pokhara), Palung FM (Makawanpur), Solu FM (Solukhumbu) and Radio Bheri (Surkhet) – in 2006.

Pacific Coordinator of AMARC, as the members.

Capacity building

One of main objectives of CRSC is to carry out capacity building programmes to enhance production and journalistic skills of those working in community radio stations.

Training manual on reporting conflict

CRSC published a training manual on “Reporting Conflict and Violence on air” to help radio journalists work towards attaining lasting peace in the country. The training manual is also expected to be helpful for radio journalists in covering the issues related to conflict and violence.

Journalists Mohan Mainali and Binod Bhattarai jointly prepared the training manual.

The manual was published after having it tested among 300 journalists during 15 training sessions since 2002 and is expected to fill the void of the related document on conflict reporting.

Training on conflict and radio journalism

To enhance the capacity of broadcasters and help radio stations report on conflict-related issues, CRSC held a week-long training in Butwal and Nepalgunj.

Radio journalists from Rupandehi, Palpa, Nawalparasi and Makawanpur districts participated in the training organised in February in Butwal.

Similarly, a weeklong training on conflict reporting, organised in Nepalgunj in March, was participated by journalists from Bajhang, Surkhet, Dang and Banke.

During the training, a separate interaction was also held where station managers, trainers and participants discussed on how issues of violent conflict have been covered on air.

Newly-developed “Training manual on Issues of Violent Conflict” was pre-tested during the training. Prateek Bhandari and Bharat Bhusal conducted both the training.

Digital Editing Training

CRSC also organised a week-long digital editing training for technicians and producers of 10 newly-established community radio stations. The training was organised from February 26 to March 3 at Radio Sagarmatha, Kathmandu.

The main objective of the training was to share local knowledge on audio editing, advance features of audio editing and basic skills on sharing information.

The participants were from Radio Palung, Rupandehi FM, Radio Bheri Awaj, Radio Tulsipur, Muktinath FM, Vijay FM, Ghodaghodi FM, Radio Bheri and Solu FM.

On-the-job training

To enhance production and journalistic skills of broadcasters working in community radio stations, CRSC supported five people to receive on-the-job training.

The participants were from Ghodagodi FM (Kailali), Himchuli FM (Kaski), Bijay FM (Nawalparasi), Solu FM (Solukhumbu) and Muktinath FM (Palpa). They were trained for a month at Radio Lumbini, Radio Madan Pokhara and Radio Sagarmatha.

Fact File

CRSC published a training manual on “Reporting Conflict and Violence on air” to help radio journalists work towards attaining lasting peace in Nepal.



Photographs: Jitendra Raj Bajracharya

Brainstorming meeting and focal point selection

To enhance lobbying and advocacy capacity of community radio stations as well as to provide them skills to deal with challenges posed by 'unfriendly' local administration, CRSC organised a day-long brainstorming session for community radio stations of mid and far western regions of the country.

The meeting formed a nine-member management committee, under the chairmanship of Dadiram Subedi of Sworgadwari FM, to operate the focal station and its services. It identified Bheri FM of Nepalgunj as a focal station for mid west and far western regions and

Radio Lumbini of Rupendehi for western region. A separate six-member management committee was formed under the chairmanship of Gunakar Aryal of Radio Madan Pokhara in western region.

The third focal point was established in Kathmandu.

Networking at international level

To represent radio movement of Nepal in international forum, CRSC supported Raghu Mainali, coordinator of CRSC and Mohan Bista, station manager of Radio Sagarmatha, to represent CRSC in the regional assembly of World Association

Fact File

In recognition of its contribution to develop community radios in Nepal, the government selected CRSC coordinator as a member of High-Level Media Commission which later submitted its report to the Prime Minister. CRSC has also been represented in taskforce to draft the law related to electronic media and broadcasting, taskforce to draft the regulation on the distribution of government advertisements, and another taskforce to draft communication strategy for education.

of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC) in Amman of Jordan in November 2005.

The assembly elected Raghu Mainali the vice-president, South Asia, in the regional board of AMARC.

Lobbying, Advocacy and Networking

Apart from existing community radios, CRSC supported all potential community radio broadcasters. CRSC is also part of the Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (ACORAB) which it helped set up in 2001. CRSC also remains a think-tank of Save Independent Radio Movement (SIRM).

Fact Finding Mission

CRSC supported a fact-finding mission for Save Independent Radio Movement (SIRM) aimed to investigate attack on Paschimanchal FM in Palpa and assess the damage incurred in the cross-firing between security forces and Maoist rebels in the wake of the 11th anniversary of insurgency in Nepal on February 1, 2006.

Programme Exchange

CRSC supported production and exchange of series of radio programme *Sanjeevani*. Altogether 16 programmes were exchanged through this initiative. Key issues covered by this agenda were women's rights and their empowerment.

Strategy plan for joint marketing and fund-raising

To promote joint marketing and fund-raising initiative to generate resources for a number of community radio stations, CRSC organised a three-day workshop. Experts prepared this plan after studying and analysing the existing situation for three months.

Preparation of action plan for community radios

CRSC organised a day-long national consultation to chalk out an action plan for community radio stations in Nepal. Station managers of 14 community radios and representatives of AMARC, ACORAB and NEFEJ participated in the seminar.

Coordinator of Community Radio Support Center Raghu Mainali pointed out the need for formulating guidelines for community radio stations with a sense of urgency so that they could use it as a blueprint in seeking international support to propel the community radio movement in Nepal. Suman Basnet of AMARC and Jacob Thorsen, MS volunteer at Radio Lumbini facilitated the session.

After a thorough discussion, the participants of the National seminar drafted a national action plan for the next year.

National conference of ACORAB

As part of lobbying, advocacy and networking, CRSC supported Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (ACORAB) to hold its third national conference. The conference held under the chairmanship of Raghu Mainali discussed the activities of ACORAB in the past year.

CRSC supported ACORAB to organise a national seminar of community radio stations and for institutional development of ACORAB to influence positively the development of community broadcasting.

The conference elected new executive committee of ACORAB with Min Bahadur Shahi of Karnali FM as its chairman. Others in the committee are Dilip Rai of Himchili FM as vice

chairman, Mohan Bista of Radio Sagarmatha as general secretary, Nima Pakharin of Solu FM as treasurer. Members of the committee are Chiranjibi Baral of Rupendehi FM, Sambhu Sing Karki of Palung FM, Mohan Chapagain of Radio Lumbini, Dipak Acharya of Paryabaran Chakra, Tara Khanal of Bheri Aawaj and Arjun Giri of Radio Tulsipur.

High-Level Media Commission

To recognize the work of CRSC/NEFEJ during the autocratic rule of the King, the newly-formed government selected Raghu Mainali, coordinator CRSC/NEFEJ, as a member of High-Level Media Commission which has already submitted its report to the Prime Minister of Nepal.

The government also recognised the work of CRSC by selecting its representative in three task forces namely;

1. Taskforce to draft the law related to electronic media and broadcasting in Nepal,
2. Taskforce to draft the regulation on the distribution of government advertisements, and
3. Taskforce to draft communication strategy for education.

Publications

As part of lobbying, advocacy and networking, CRSC published one media calendar which comprised the media movement after the royal coup in February 2005.

It also published a brochure, an annual report and four newsletters. The brochure was part of CRSC campaign to circulate the information of the project whereas the annual report comprises the activities of CRSC and the community radio movement in Nepal. The newsletters continued to be the voice of the community radios in Nepal.

In-house radio journalism training

CRSC organised three in-house journalism training in three newly-established community radios. The main objectives of the training were to give the advance knowledge to the radio operation team with the management, technical and journalism skills.

The in-house training was organised in Radio Rupakot in Diktel, Khotang from November 27 to December 2, in Radio Banglung in Banglung from December 15 to December 18 and in Radio Janakpur from December 15 to December 18.

A similar in-house training was held in Radio Purbanchal, a newly-established radio initiated by 33 community-based organisations which is completely run by women staffs.

Radio programme production training

CRSC organised radio programme production training for the team members of newly-established community radios of mid western region from December 7 to 11 in Ghorahi, Dang.

Altogether 17 participant from Radio Pyuthan, Radio Deukhuri, Radio Madhyapaschhim, Radio Rapti, Radio Rolpa, Radio Swargadwari and Radio Salyan took part in the training.

Radio Sagarmatha gets AMARC solidarity award

World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC) awarded Radio Sagarmatha an international solidarity award at its international general body meeting held in Amman, Jordan in November.

Radio Sagarmatha was recognised for its continued struggle against the royal regime and fight for freedom of expression and development of community radio stations in Nepal.

Radio played a crucial role in fight against the royal regime and had to bear the brunt of the regime. Armed personnel attacked the station at Bakhundole and ransacked the studio and took away equipment. Radio



Sagarmatha remained one of the most vocal stations in fighting against the regime.

Radio Sagarmatha, the first South Asian community radio station, has been running more than 70 different programmes on sustainable development, environment, gender, good governance, education, rule of law, anti-corruption and recently awareness on constituent assembly election.

Radio Sagarmatha, in cooperation with USAID ARD-Rule of Law project, began broadcasting a programme in March on Nepal's legal sector to disseminate legal information to the general public. This is the first such programme aired on any radio in the country. The programme generally raises legal issues prevalent in the legal system and worked in favour of maintaining rule of law in the country.

Another programme, in cooperation with REMEC Nepal, has been running in Radio Sagarmatha to delve on the issues of good governance. The programme, aired every week, highlights issues related to various aspects of improving governance.

A programme focussing on natural disasters is running to create awareness on natural disasters like landslides, fire, and other natural disasters. This 15-minute interview-based programme has been broadcasting since February.

Radio Sagarmatha produced and broadcast programme on vocational and technical education in cooperation with Nissan Media Centre and TLF. This programme has been useful to the students who aspire to gain information on technical and vocational education.

Radio Sagarmatha also produced 18 programmes on the importance of

conserving the World Heritage Sites dealing primarily on the sites in the Kathmandu Valley. This was produced in cooperation with UNESCO Nepal.

As tens of thousands of Nepalis are going abroad for employment, Radio Sagarmatha felt the need to delve on the pros and cons of going abroad. The programme is useful to those aspiring to go abroad as it deals with issues, legal provisions and government rules and regulations on foreign employment.

To reduce domestic violence, in cooperation with OXFAM GB Nepal, three public service announcements were made and broadcast on Radio Sagarmatha.

Radio Sagarmatha presently runs for 18 hours everyday from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. on 102.4 MHz.

Fact File

Radio Sagarmatha, the first South Asian community radio station, has been running more than 70 different programmes becoming one of the most popular radio stations in the Kathmandu Valley.



Photographs: Jitendra Raj Bajracharya

Aankhijhyal the trademark video magazine of NEFEJ audio visual department being aired on Nepal Television every week, is on the verge of celebrating its 500th episode early next year.

Since its inception in 1993, *Aankhijhyal* has managed to carve a niche in Nepal's video journalism sector with its special focus on issues of environment and sustainable development. It has not only become one of the most-watched programmes on television, it has also been in the forefront to raise awareness on environment and development.

Aankhijhyal has become so popular that it has now been aired simultaneously on other television channels as well. A Nepali television in the United Kingdom, run by the Nepalis living and working in the UK, aired several episodes of the magazine while a local television channel in Bharatpur also aired the programme regularly.

Besides this, various organisations showed different episodes of *Aankhijhyal* during programmes held for awareness on the environmental issues.

Audio visual department also joined hands with different non-governmental organisations to raise different issues

Some other programmes produced in 2006 were the following:

- * Documentary titled “Alternative Transport” for Practical Action Nepal in Nepali and English. Another agreement was reached with Practical Action to produce a documentary on natural disaster preparedness which is under production.
- * About 10-12 reports on post-conflict situation in cooperation with Forum for Peace and Development. One report has already been broadcast and others are in the pipeline.
- * Documentary titled *Doodhpokhari Ko Yatra*, a travelogue highlighting the Doodhpokhari Mahatsobh held in Lamjung.
- * Documentary on women on youth migration in cooperation with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), which has already been broadcast.
- * Language versioning of Global Family Series III which included 10 episodes depicting life cycle of animals and their conservation. These series are popular around the world and Aankhijhyal produced them in Nepali enabling Nepali viewers to understand the importance of animal conservation. The programmes were produced with the assistance from Television Trust for Environment (TVE), Japan.
- * Video report on WWF Nepal’s working area in Dolpa.
- * Three video Public Service Announcements (PSAs) were produced for United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on fallen womb.

through *Aankhijhyal*. One such collaboration was done with Federation of Community Forest Users, Nepal (FECOFUN) with the latter providing financial assistance to produce 22 reports on community forest movement in Nepal. This was one of the major cooperation in 2006 and NEFEJ expects a similar cooperation in the days ahead.

Such cooperation was done with CARE Nepal. *Aankhijhyal* produced and broadcast three different reports for the latter. CARE Nepal is implementing Strengthened Action for Governance in Utilisation of Natural Resources (SAGUN) programme in partnership with WWF, RITI and RIMS for sustainable and equitable management of natural resources in 18 districts. These three reports, being broadcast in December, were based on Khimti, Madhya Marsyangdi and Upallo Modi hydropower projects.

NEFEJ signed another agreement in May with International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) to produce four programmes on access benefit sharing issues, one

of which was aired on *Aankhijhyal*. Other three reports are being aired soon.

Nine different reports on inclusion were produced in cooperation with Enabling State Programme (ESP), five of which were produced with the support from Centre for Investigative Journalism (CIJ).

Similar programmes on inclusion were produced in cooperation with SNV Nepal. Altogether six programmes were produced and were broadcast on *Aankhijhyal*.

Tapes sale

Audio visual department has been distributing its production to different organisations. Some received them for free while the department charged minimum amount to those who can afford. This helps the department to produce *Aankhijhyal*.

In 2006, the department sold 182 VCD, four DVD, seven VHS and 47 Mini DVD while the number of these distributed for free were 354 VCD, 16 DVD, 14 VHS and 25 Mini DVD.

Fact File

Video Resource Centre (VRC), situated at audio visual department of NEFEJ in Thapathali, is being widely used by people interested in environment and development issues. Most of these include the students who are studying the subjects. The VRC is open to public on weekdays except public holidays.



Photographs: Jitendra Raj Bajracharya

Sharing knowledge on environment, development

Publication of a regular magazine, newsletters, wall newspapers, books and periodicals has been one of the primary activities of NEFEJ.

A separate publication department has been established in NEFEJ to undertake the publication of these materials. NEFEJ published many materials in the year 2006 which are mentioned below.

Celebrating 20 years of NEFEJ

To mark 20 years of the organisation's existence, NEFEJ published a book called "Two Decades of Conservation

Commitment.” Former president of NEFEJ, Aditya Man Shrestha wrote the book.

Besides giving thorough details about the organisation’s earlier years, the book highlights the activities of NEFEJ and its objectives.

During 20 years of its existence, NEFEJ has emerged as the leading environmental group for advocating, lobbying, public awareness and policy pressure, it is written in the introduction of the book. “Through its long history, NEFEJ has been spearheading public cause and welfare in the field of environment and its related development areas.

There had been difficulties and dissensions among the members pertaining to many administrative and financial decisions leading to, at times, acrimonious debates, but, at no time in its 20-year history, had there been a serious threat to the organisational unity and integrity, it is further stated in the book. “It is something NEFEJ can take pride on its past and look forward to a secured and dynamic future.”

Community Radio - Joint Marketing Strategy

Publication Department helped Community Radio Support Centre publish a book entitled, “Community Radio - Joint Marketing Strategy,” which aims to help growing number of community radio in the country to adopt a marketing strategy to sustain them. This book has special significance in light of the community radio stations facing financial difficulties and helps them get out of the crisis. Coordinator of Community Radio Support Centre

Raghu Mainali wrote this book jointly with Bikram Subba and Yadav Chapagai.

Community Radio Support Centre (CRSC) of NEFEJ prepared first baseline surveys on need assessment and situation analysis prior to the establishment of Radio Karnali and Radio Palung which helped them to prepared set up their radios.

It also published several issues of Radio, a newsletter in Nepali, highlighting the activities of CRSC and the overall community radio development in Nepal. These newsletters were published with financial assistance of Free Voice of The Netherlands.

Hakka-Hakki

Hakka-Hakki, a premier Nepali monthly magazine on environment and development, has remained one of the primary publications of NEFEJ which continued in 2006 too. Though it could not be published every month due to financial constraints, the Publication Department managed to bring out five issues of the magazine and was widely distributed among the stakeholders working to better the environment and sustainable development.

Some of the cover stories published in *Hakka-Hakki* dealt with global warming and people’s right to information regarding the freedom movement of radio stations, especially community radio. Another cover story was on the age-old practise of *Chhaupadi* where women in remote western Nepal are forced to live in a cow-shade during the menstruations. Growing demand and need for the *Janajatis* to involve in mainstream of development was yet another issue gracing the cover of the

magazine. Another cover story was on the genetic source falling into crisis.

Others

Other publications include sustainability watch report of 2006 published by National Network for Sustainable Development (NNSD) of NEFEJ.

An issue of Bio-Diversity, a feature service, was also published in 2006.

A wall newspaper called *Hamro Batabaran* was also published. This wall newspaper is very popular in the remote areas where people can not afford magazines or newspapers. NEFEJ distributes this wall newspaper free of cost to all the villages and schools in the country.

Fact File

Hakka-Hakki, a premier Nepali monthly magazine on environment and development, remained one of the primary publications of NEFEJ in 2006.



Photographs: Jitendra Raj Bajracharya

NEFEJ Environmental Journalism Award

Journalist Ramesh Kumar Poudel of *Chitwan Post* daily published from Chitwan district bagged the Environmental Journalism Award for the year 2005. Former president of NEFEJ Rajendra Dahal gave away the prize. (In the picture)

The award was given to Poudel for his outstanding reporting on environmental and development issues. He was chosen for his investigation, innovation and presentation of different issues throughout the year. Twenty-eight year-old Poudel, who has been involved in journalism for the last six years, is the 19th recipient of this award.

NEFEJ has been giving this award, worth Rs. 25,000, since two decades on the occasion of World Environment Day which is held every year on June 5.

The selection of the award recipient was done by the award committee comprising Binod Bhattarai, Mohan Mainali and Dr. Mukesh Chalise.

Media campaign on Western Terai Landscape Complex Project

Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ) and Western Terai Landscape Complex Project (WTLCP) worked together to organise a workshop for journalists and production of wall newspaper and a features package.

The overall objective of the project was to motivate the general public to actively participate in the conservation of nature and natural resources. It also aimed to sensitize the mediapersons in boosting the public awareness on landscape level conservation, to facilitate WTLCP in reaching the general public and to encourage people to actively participate and support the activities of the project.

A day-long workshop was held in Kathmandu for journalists, Kathmandu-based media organisations and journalists working in WTLCP programme districts.

Similarly, a special issue of Hamro Batabaran (wall newspaper published by NEFEJ) was produced with special focus on WTLCP objectives and activities. The

newspaper was disseminated to various stakeholders, high schools and non-governmental organisations throughout Nepal.

A package of five feature articles was also produced with the focus on project activities which was also widely distributed to the target groups.

Training for journalists from conflict-hit areas

NEFEJ organised a training programme on “Biodiversity and Livelihood” from December 24-27 for journalists from conflict-hit areas.

The training was held to enhance the capacity of journalists on issues of biodiversity and livelihood, to sensitize the role of journalists to protect biodiversity and to sensitize the role of journalists to raise livelihood in the conflict affected areas.

Altogether 20 journalists participated in the training. NEFEJ general secretary Sangita Lama coordinated the programme.

Photojournalism training

Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalism (NEFEJ) and International Institute of Journalism, Berlin (IIJB) of Germany organised photojournalism training for professional and amateur photojournalists from September 16 to 28.

IIJB director Dr. Rudiger Claus was the resource person while senior Nepali photojournalists Chandra Shekhar Karki and Jagdish Tiwari shared their experiences during the training.

Altogether 15 journalists from different media in Kathmandu and three other journalists from Biratnagar, Nepalgunj and Pokhara took part in the training. The participants were taken to a field visit to Nagarkot in Bhaktapur for three days.

A re-preventative embassy of Germany in Nepal handed over the certificates at the end of the training.

Those participating in the training were photojournalists Kiran Pandey of Himal Khabarpatrika, Bhaswar Ojha of Samay weekly, Bikash Karki of Nepal weekly, Shruti Shrestha and Shaligram Tiwari of Kantipur daily, Biju Joshi of Nepal Samacharpatra and Man Bahadur Basnet of Kathmandu Today weekly.

Jitendra Raj Bajracharya of NEFEJ, Chandra Bahadur Majhi of News Nepal, Ajaya Joshi of Nepal Traveller, Raghunath Pandey of Ukali monthly and M.D. Kulung of Mukta Paila monthly also took part in the training. Bhim Ghimire of Biratnagar, Shailendra Kharel of Nepalgunj and Ishwari Neupane of Pokhara were the other participants.

Fact File

Twenty-eight year-old Ramesh Kumar Poudel, a journalist associated with *Chitwan Post* daily, became the 19th recipient of the prestigious Environmental Journalism Award. The Rs. 25,000 award for 2005 was given to Poudel for his outstanding reporting on environmental and development issues.



Haka Haki

Rhinos in crisis

The year 2006 turned out to be the year of the rhinos, as these endangered species fell into further danger due to an alarming increase in poaching.

In Chitwan National Park (CNP) alone, 30 rhinos were killed in 16 months with 20 of them killed by poachers and 10 others dying a natural death. And out of 72 rhinos translocated from Chitwan to Bardiya Valley, only three of them could be found, according to the latest survey conducted by World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

This data indicates a serious setback to Nepal's conservation efforts, as almost 1,000 rhinos existed in Nepal in the early 1950s. The number came down to as low as 100 in the mid-sixties but after the establishment of Chitwan National Park in 1973 and successful conservation

strategies, the number went up to 612 in 2000.

But, after 2000, the number of rhinos continued to decrease due to poaching and the latest survey conducted in 2005 found out that only 372 of them existed in Chitwan. Seven rhinos have been found in Shukla Wildlife Reserve and 26 of them are in Bardiya, as per the government data. Even after the survey, 40 rhinos have been killed till now.

Conservation of these rare one-horned rhinos has remained one of the main objectives of Wildlife Watch Group of NEFEJ and it has been actively involved in raising awareness on the importance of preserving this animal.

Apart from hosting interaction programmes on the subject, WWG organised a field trip for journalists to get the first-hand information on the plight of these rhinos and to get the attention of concerned sector, including the government, on the growing incidents of poaching. It also aimed to put pressure on the concerned people to implement short and long-term steps to control poaching.

Ten journalists from Kathmandu joined hands with seven local journalists in Chitwan for a field study from December 7 to 11 which was financially supported by WWF. The team interviewed almost 300 people in and around Chitwan National Park to study the actual state of rhinos in the CNP.

The study revealed that the existing conservation mechanism and entities failed to meet their prescribed objectives due to a rift between the local administration and park management. And lack of coordination between the concerned stakeholders has further aggravated the problem.

If the present trend continues, the journalists feel that the crisis could go out of hand, further damaging Nepal's image as one of the prime habitat of the endangered species.

Earlier in September, WWG of NEFEJ organised an interaction to delve on the diminishing rhino population.

Several parliamentarians at the programme accused the Nepalis army of failing to control poaching even as they had the responsibility for the security in and around the national park.

Member of Parliament Ananda Prasad Pokharel said the army could no more save the rhinos inside the park, while chairman of parliamentary committee on natural resources management Prakash Jwala alleged the palace of being responsible for killing the rhinos, as it controls the army.

Coordinator of WWG Subodh Gautam has been in the forefront in organising the interaction and the field trip.

Fact File

NEFEJ' Wildlife Watch Group was active against the rising incidents of poaching.

Number of endangered one-horned rhinos came down from 529 in the year 2000 to as low as 372 in 2005, setting an alarm bells ringing among the die-hard conservationists.



Photographs: Jitendra Raj Bajracharya

NNSD continues to make impact on meeting MDGs

Sustainability Watch of NEFEJ has been playing the role of National Network for Sustainable Development (NNSD) and continued to be one of the primary projects of NEFEJ in 2006 as well.

NNSD has the main objective of increasing public participation and civil society networks' advocacy in order to influence and enhance implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation at national, regional and international levels. Sustainability Watch aims to meet the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG, focusing on Goals 7, 1 and 8) to promote sustainable development in favour of the poor.

Participating Southern CSO networks have prepared analysis and begun to publish national Sustainability Watch reports, assessing their governments' performance in meeting their agreed commitments on pro-poor sustainable development. A range of proposals have been put forward by the

networks, fostering public awareness and debate, leading to advocacy on issues related to environment, poverty, governance, and trade.

Participating Southern CSO networks in Africa, Asia and Latin America have undertaken lobbying and advocacy aimed at influencing regional and international institutions concerning follow-up to the WSSD Johannesburg Summit, in particular by preparing and publishing an international Sustainability Watch Report.

The participating CSO/NGO networks have begun to improve their internal capacity to analyse and monitor key national policy instruments related to sustainable development. Additionally, some networks have widened their networking, thus boosting their legitimacy and transparency.

MDGs and Sustainability Media Fellowship 2006

NNSD announced the MDGs and Sustainability Media Fellowship 2006 for media professionals to investigate feature writing in development and environmental areas. The priority areas for the media fellowship were macroeconomic development, regional development, environment, energy, aid and trade effectiveness, mountains, terai, tourism, causes of conflict, health, water and sanitation, forest and biodiversity, urbanization and environmental justice. Ten research fellowships were provided to media fellows to analyse the implementation barriers, policies' failure, alternatives and policy gaps of respective priority areas. The fellowship grantees were trained in development issues. The research articles and features were published in "Haka Haki," a monthly Nepali newsmagazine published by NEFEJ.

International Sus-Watch Report 2006 and workshop on foreign aid

NNSD organized a national level launch programme of International Sus-Watch Report (ISWR) 2006 "Implementation Barriers to Sustainable Development: A Civil Society Assessment in 15 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America" on September 20, 2006.

Renowned conservationist Dr. Praladh Yonzon of Resources Himalaya launched the report. Babina Kharel of NNSD presented the report. Dr. Madan Koirala presented the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) statistics and discussed the scenario of MDG achievements along with the implementation barriers in case of Nepal. Tirtha Koirala, Dr. Chaitanya Mishra, Dr. Dwarika Nath Dhungel, Dr. Shankar Sharma, Dr. Mukesh Chalise and Dr. Binod Bhatta commented on the report.

With about 40 participants in the programme representing several government organizations, NGOs, INGOs and media, the other dimension of the programme included a workshop on Foreign Aid in Relation to Sustainable Development in Nepal. Dr. Shankar Sharma, former vice-chairman of National Planning Commission made the presentation on scenario, trend, challenges, and prospects of foreign aid in relation to sustainable development in Nepal. President of NNSD Steering Committee Jiwan Bahadur Shahi chaired the programme.

Local networking and advocacy to strengthen media, CBOs and NGOs

NNSD organised a two-day training on November 29-30 in Biratnagar to strengthen the local level capacity in the MDG process. The major objective of the training was to introduce the

Fact File

In order to update Nepal Sustainability Watch Project and highlight activities of National Network for Sustainable Development, a website www.devnepal.org has been launched by the name of Development Nepal. It is an online resource centre with information updates on development issues.

participants with MDG and PRSP, to emphasise and make them understand the role of civil society in meeting the MDGs, to build local capacity and make them understand the basics of media, advocacy, and networking. Resource persons in the training were Jiwan Bahadur Shahi, Tirtha Koirala, Sahaj Man Shrestha and Babina Kharel.

Launching of www.devnepal.org

In order to update the Nepal Sustainability Watch Project and activities of NNSD, a website was launched by the name of Development Nepal - www.devnepal.org

Broadly defining, Development Nepal is an online resource center with information updates on development issues. Development Nepal is a common platform for development professionals, INGOs, NGOs, youths and all those who seek information on development issues. It also provides wide range of opportunities for information exchange and dissemination. NNSD team is responsible for updating the website.

Briefing paper on energy

A briefing paper was published with lessons learnt from lighting Humla village with solar energy. A team of experts - Dr. Pitamber Sharma, Dr. Chaitanya Mishra, Kunda Dixit, Bhairab Risal and Arjun Dhakal - visited Humla from June 16-19 to review the solar energy lighting project in Humla.

The briefing paper was published describing the solar energy use scenario and its prospects in Humla. It is basically an evaluation study, attempting to identify social, economic, gender and environmental impact of the solar lighting system in Humla. The report also attempts to show the linkage between the project and MDGs in

Humla, which remains as an important part of localisation of MDGs.

Nepal Sustainability Watch Report 2006

NNSD published a monitoring report on behalf of the civil society. The drafting of the monitoring report completed at the end of the year.

The report has attempted to assess and evaluate the efforts of Nepal in meeting the MDGs as a party to Millennium Declaration (2000). Country policies, legislations, plan documents; MDG progress reports have been intensively reviewed in the process of coming up with the monitoring report. Institutions and their strengths, weaknesses, perceptions and prospects of civil society has also been scrutinised to assess the existing MDGs achievement status in the context of achieving MDGs by 2015.

Newsletter

NNSD was regularly involved in publishing articles in newsletter published by International Network Secretariate (INS). The activities of NNSD were also updated on NEFEJ website.

NNSD has wide relations with other organisations related to livelihood and food security, trade, climate change, biodiversity such as NAFOS (National Alliance for Food Security), NCC (Network for Climate Change), Nepal Network for NTFP (NNN), Federation of Community Forest Users' Group (FECOFUN), Nepal Environmental Lawyers Association (NELA), Water and Energy User's Federation-Nepal (WEUF).

Media Training on Biodiversity and livelihood

Due to lack of understanding of linkage of biodiversity with livelihood, and lack of proper reporting skills among journalist, the issue of biodiversity and livelihood has fallen in shadow.



Haka Haki

Thus, sensitising media people on the importance of biodiversity and their relation to livelihood is itself very urgent because the country can no longer tolerate any more depletion of resources after paying a heavy cost of conflict. With this realization, NEFEJ conducted a 4 days long media training program to build the capacity of journalist to report in the issues of biodiversity and livelihoods especially from conflict affected areas.

The general objective of the program was to enhance the skills and knowledge of media personals on the issues of Biodiversity and livelihood in order to upgrade the livelihood and protect the biodiversity in the conflict affected areas by means of effective information dissemination.

The training program was held on 24-27 December 2006, in Hotel Paradise Plaza in Kathmandu. There were in total 20 participants (50% female) from conflict-affected areas. The course of training included: news sensing, conflict sensitive journalism, biodiversity and its relation with society, effect of conflict in livelihood in relation with biodiversity, biodiversity and its relation with livelihood, environment and its relation with livelihood and biodiversity, role of journalists to protect biodiversity, improve role of journalists to improve livelihood in conflict affected areas. There were 8 dynamic resource persons from the related field. Embassy of Finland, Kathmandu, funded the training programme.



Haka Haki

Journalists get info on forest conservation

Forest Watch Group of NEFEJ gave a field reporting opportunity to mediapersons working in print, radio and television to make them aware about the issues related to forest conservation in Nepal.

The programme was organised in cooperation with Federation of Community Forest Users' Group (FECOFUN), Nepal to support community forest users' effort to stop timber smuggling by sensitizing the journalists and make general public aware about deforestation and its environmental impact through the media.

Journalists working online, in radio, television and newspapers participated in the week-long field trip coordinated by Sushil Mainali, member of Forest Watch Group of NEFEJ. Rajendra Lamichhane, member of FECOFUN, coordinated on behalf of his organisation.

The interaction programme was later organised in Kathmandu between the journalists, who visited various sites to get first-hand information on forest conservation, and the policy-makers in the capital who do not get the actual information from the districts.

Journalist Bhairav Risal of NEFEJ was on hand to welcome the participants at the programme chaired by Bhim Prasad Shrestha, chairman of FECOFUN.

Journalist Rajendra Basnet, Ghamshyam Pandey, coordinator of Pairavi programme and parliamentarian Ananda Prasad Pokharel presented their papers for discussion. Basnet shared his experiences after a field trip while Pandey shed light on various aspects of forest conservation. Member of Parliament Pokharel, who also went on a field trip, alongwith journalists, spoke on the growing incidents of timber smuggling.

The speakers demanded to scrap all legal provisions, directives and decisions which were against the Forest Act 2049. Parliamentarians Anand Prasad Pokharel, Kashi Poudel, Krishna Prasad Jaisi and Pashupati Chaulagai expressed their commitment to raise these demands in the parliament.

Dr. Udayraj Sharma, director general of Department of Forest and Dr. Keshav Kadel, chief of Community Forest Division, assured the participants to release the bank accounts of community forest users.

NEFEJ a bridge between govt and forest users

Forest Watch Group organised an interaction between intellectuals, community forest users and Forest Ministry to delve on the eight-point natural resources management agreement and its implementation.

The main objective of the programme was to act as a bridge between the government and Federation of Community Forest Users, Nepal (FECOFUN). It also aimed to facilitate the sharing of experiences between the stakeholders on the proper utilisation of forest products and guarantee people's rights on the management of natural resources.

Experts at the programme stressed on the need to implement the eight-point agreement reached between the ministry and community forest users and make sure that local communities get the maximum benefit from local natural resources. They also said that there should be equal distribution of forest products among the communities and users.

Those speaking at the programme were Keshav Badal, parliamentarian from CPN-UML, founder chairman of FECOFUN Hari Prasad Neupane, Prakash Jwala, chairman of parliamentary Committee on Natural Resources Management, Dr. Bharat Pokharel of Swiss Communist Forest Project and representatives from the Forest Ministry and community forest users.

Fact File

About 45 percent of Nepal's land was covered with dense forest in 1963 which came down to almost 29 percent in 1980 due to political instability. The forest cover continued to deplete after that.

Private investment in Upper Tamakoshi

The advocacy unit of NEFEJ organised an interaction on November 5 to discuss the private investment in Upper Tamakoshi hydropower project which has been termed as one of the most viable energy projects to meet Nepal's growing energy demand.

Nepal, despite having enormous water resources, has not been able to harness even a small portion to provide enough electricity to her people. This has no doubt brought forward the importance of constructing hydropower projects in the years ahead. And what better than the investment from the Nepalis private sector instead of spreading arms towards the donors.

NEFEJ managed to bring together host of experts, politicians and community representatives to discuss the private investment in Upper Tamakoshi project which is situated in Dolakha district.

The project is expected to generate 309 megawatts (MW) of energy and is estimated to cost Rs. 3.29 billion, according to Arjun Kumar Karki, executive director of Nepal Electricity Authority. He said that the project needs investment from Nepali private sector to make it cost-effective.

Presenting his working paper, CPN-UML lawmaker from Dolakha Ananda Prasad Pokharel said it is possible to garner enough resources through private sector, district development committee and village development committees to construct the project. He also suggested merging Rolwaling River into Tamakoshi River to produce 404 MW of electricity instead of pre-estimated 309 MW.

Another UML lawmaker and former water resources minister Pradip Nepal stressed the need for national

commitment in big projects like Upper Tamakoshi while Member of Parliament Raghu Pant of the same party said enough money could be raised if the political leadership calls for investment. Prakash Jwala, chairman of the parliamentary natural resources management committee, too agreed with Pant saying that the political commitment is a must to kick-start the project.

Minister of State for Water Resources Gyanendra Bahadur Karki expressed his commitment to finalise the project with private investment.

Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank Bijayanath Bhattarai and Bholanath Chalise, chairman of Rastriya Banijya Bank informed that commercial banks and finance companies have expressed their willingness to invest in the project.

Others speaking on the occasion were Dr. Dwarika Dhungel of IIDS, Kailash Karanjit of Employees' Provident Fund, Hari Bairagi Dahal, Murari Sharma of Rastriya Beema Sansthan, Subarna Das Shrestha of Sanima Hydropower Company and Sandip Shah of Independent Energy Producers' Association.

Ram Prasad Bhandari of Care Nepal, Jitbir Lama, Parbat Gurung, Bharat Sharma and Dibyadwoj Karki also expressed their opinion at the programme chaired by NEFEJ president Sahajman Shrestha and coordinated by Bhairav Risal.

Environment in politics

NEFEJ organised an interaction on July 25 on “Environment in Political Issues” to discuss the importance of addressing the environmental issues while formulating policies.

The programme was held with an objective of putting pressure on the political parties and leaders to give utmost importance to the conservation issues in the interim constituency and during the election of the Constituent Assembly.

NEFEJ believed that whenever the country is in crisis, the fragile environment comes under intense pressure. For example, upto 45 percent of Nepal’s land was covered with dense forest in 1963 but came down to almost 29 percent in 1980 due to political instability. Despite stringent legal provisions, the forest cover continued to deteriorate as the political changes created an unstable environment and the successive governments failed to enforce the law.

The pristine environment continued to bear the brunt of the mankind during the 11 long years of Maoist insurgency which created political instability as well. For example, the number of endangered one-horned rhinos came down from 529 in the year 2000 to as low as 372 in 2005, setting an alarm bells among the die-hard conservationists.

This clearly shows that the conservation efforts turned futile during the political changes and there is a need for the political parties to give due importance to this issue as well.

During the discussions, central member of the Maoists Dinanath Sharma said that politics has been the main

reason for the environmental degradation but the first priority is to solve the political problem which ultimately affects all the sectors of the society.

Conservationist Dr. Tirtha Bahadur Shrestha expressed his concern over the lack of knowledge to keep the traditions alive. “We are making fun of traditional values and knowledge in conservation rather than preserving them,” he said.

Dr. Tirtha Man Maskey, Former Director General of Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, said there is a need for people’s participation in both management and policy formulation in the conservation sector.

Conservationist Dr. Bharat Pokharel was of the opinion that the State’s failed policy was the reason behind depleting forests in the country. He expressed the need to formulate law guaranteeing the people’s supremacy in conservation and should be clear on the roles of government, private sector and the communities.

Dr. Gopal Shivakoti Chintan said that environmental issues are the human rights which must be ensured in the constitution itself.

Dr. Ravi Sharma Aryal and Apsara Chapagain of Federation of Community Forest Users, Nepal also spoke at the programme coordinated by Bhairav Risal.

Fact File

NEFEJ organised a programme to promote private investment in Upper Tamakoshi hydropower project which is expected to cost around Rs. 3.3 billion and could generate 309 megawatts (MW) of energy to meet growing energy deficit in Nepal.

Exchange between NEFEJ and FIVH continues

The professional exchange programme between Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ) and Framtiden I Vare Hender (FIVH or Future In Our Hands) of Norway continued this year with two journalists each working in respective organisations. This is the third year of the exchange programme. Earlier, one journalist each used to work in the respective organisations for a year. The programme is financially supported by Fredskorpset, the government-funded Norwegian Peace Corps.

‘There is much to learn’

Solveig Holmedal Ottesen

I am a 33-year-old anthropologist and social worker from Norway. I grew up in a small town in the east of Norway, but I have been living in capital Oslo for the last 14 years.

After getting my education in anthropology, I worked in an NGO in Oslo at a centre for female sex workers, giving legal advice, support and counselling to them. Most of the women were foreigners and victims of trafficking. My other work experiences include transit home for youngsters, psychiatric treatment for children and psychiatric rehabilitation centre.

My first eye-opener to Nepal was in 2002 when I came here to do my field research for my master thesis in anthropology. The issue was about young urban women drinking alcohol in public. During my six months of stay in Kathmandu, I had focussed on young students and waitresses in cabin restaurants.

As an exchange fellow, I am working at NEFEJ as a campaigner in the Sustainable Watch programme. My tasks



here include information campaign, awareness building and write reports on the UN Millennium Development Goals (especially goals 1, 7 and 8).

My first impression of Kathmandu was, "Oh my god is it so noisy?" I had forgotten the intense atmosphere and busy streets I had experienced

during my earlier visit. The traffic has become even busier and more people have thronged the city.

At NEFEJ, I was a bit confused at first, trying to find out who were working here and who were just visiting. I also tried to find my role in the organisation. I am still confused, but the situation is getting better. I just need to be patient.

I now hope I will be able to contribute to the Sus Watch programme and to NEFEJ. I have knowledge, understanding and ideas I would like to share with NEFEJ, at the same time there is much for me to learn as well.

‘It is difficult to understand Nepal’

Matias Nordahl Carlsen

This is my first visit to Nepal. Although I had read about the country and spoken to some Nepalis before I came here, I had no idea what was expecting me. Everything was new to me and the first impressions were many. A new culture, new people, new language, new religion, new ideas, everything was new to me. The political situation was perhaps the single thing that was most new to me despite getting acquainted through the western media. Now, I believe I am in Nepal in an important time.



Coming from a country with totally different political and social structure, it is difficult for me to understand some parts of the Nepali society. For example, the existence of cast system and different ethnic groups was a big surprise to me and is so difficult to understand. We have one ethnic minority in Norway too but it shocked me that Nepal has more than one hundred different ethnic groups.

In NEFEJ, I have made some new friends who are very friendly and are helping me adjust in Kathmandu. I am really looking forward to work with Aankhijhyal team as it is a unique opportunity for me to explore different environmental issues in Nepal. Just experiencing the Kathmandu air made me feel that scope for such a programme is really big here.

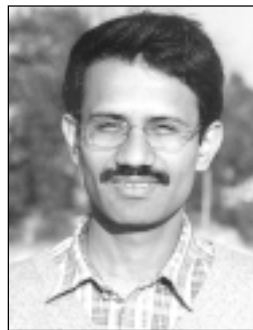
During my stay here, I hope I'll be able to understand both Nepali culture and language better. By doing so, I hope I will be able to contribute in making Aankhijhyal better as well. The knowledge I will get about Nepal will also make me able to come back and make documentaries in the future.

Fact File

The professional exchange between NEFEJ and Norwegian NGO Framtiden I Vare Hender (FIVH or Future In Our Hands) has entered third year and it would have not been possible without the support from Fredskorpset, a Norwegian Peace Corps.

FIVH gets audio visual unit, thanks to two Nepalis

Sushil Mainali and Anand Shrestha have been representing NEFEJ in Norway and are working hard to establish an audio-visual unit at Framtiden I Vare Hender (FIVH - Future In Our Hands).



As FIVH has no experience whatsoever in the audio visual production, the two experienced reporters at NEFEJ' audio visual department are working together to set up an audio visual unit at FIVH. This, according to Mainali and Shrestha, is a difficult task as they have to start from a scratch.

After buying necessary equipment for filming and editing with the limited budget in the exchange programme, they managed to set up the unit and are beginning to start production. "Though budget constraints remained an obstacle, we have managed to set up the unit with second-hand equipment," Mainali said.

"We are privileged to work with FIVH, the largest environmental non-governmental organisation in Norway with almost 23,000 members," said Mainali and Shrestha. "But its a challenging task as well, which we would try our best to accomplish."

After setting up the unit, the two would then start training the Norwegians on the filming and editing early next year. They have also produced two news reports to be aired in Aankhijhyal programme and is in the process of filming a programme on enable ecological speech and put that on FIVH website.

Mainali and Shrestha plan to produce many reports for the Nepalis audience back home, but, according to them, "It all depends on the equipment." The produced material can also be viewed on www.fivh.no the official website of Framtiden I Vare Hender.

Its quite surprising that the two reporters from Nepal are helping the largest NGO in the richest Norway in setting up an audio visual unit, but that is what exchange of experience is all about.

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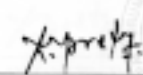
Audit Report


NEPAL FORUM OF ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISTS
THAPATHALI, KATHMANDU
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST ASHAD 2063 (JULY 16, 2006)


<u>SOURCES OF FUNDS</u>	<u>SCH</u>	<u>31/03/2063</u>	<u>31/03/2062</u>
1 TOTAL FUND:		<u>NRS.</u>	<u>NRS.</u>
a. CAPITAL FUND		1,715,000.00	1,715,000.00
b. ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISM TRUST FUND		360,333.80	342,129.00
c. OFFICE BUILDING TRUST FUND		1,546,678.46	1,481,107.86
d. EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		18,663,387.58	22,505,231.36
TOTAL SOURCES OF FUND		<u>22,285,399.84</u>	<u>26,043,668.22</u>
<u>APPLICATIONS OF FUND</u>			
1 FIXED ASSETS			
a. COST PRICE	A	16,360,953.34	16,076,113.91
b. ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION		5,473,198.26	4,846,510.16
c. WRITTEN DOWN VALUE		<u>10,887,755.08</u>	<u>11,229,603.75</u>
2 CURRENT ASSETS:			
a. CASH & BANKS	B	7,531,236.79	11,127,155.13
b. RECEIVABLES, ADVANCES & DEPOSITS	C	4,187,789.01	3,949,086.09
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS (A)		<u>11,719,025.80</u>	<u>15,076,241.22</u>
LESS: CURRENT LIABILITIES			
a. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	D	321,361.04	262,576.75
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES (B)		<u>321,361.04</u>	<u>262,576.75</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS (A-B)		<u>11,397,664.76</u>	<u>14,813,664.47</u>
TOTAL APPLICATION OF FUND		<u>22,285,399.84</u>	<u>26,043,668.22</u>
NOTES TO THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS	O		


SCHEDULE 'A' TO 'L' ARE FORMING PART OF THIS FINANCIAL STATEMENT


AS PER OUR ATTACHED REPORT
OF EVEN DATE
For: SUJAN KAFLE & ASSOCIATES
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS


 (LAXMAN UPRETI)
 PRESIDENT


 (BHUPENDRA BASNET)
 GENERAL SECRETARY


 (MADHU ACHARYA)
 TREASURER


 (R.K. SHRESTHA)
 FINANCE OFFICER


 (SUJANA KAFLE & ASSOCIATES)
 CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

PLACE : KATHMANDU
DATED : 26 BHADRA, 2063

NEPAL FORUM OF ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISTS
THAPATHALL, KATHMANDU
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR 2062/2063

<u>INCOMES</u>	<u>Sch.</u>	<u>31/03/2063</u>	<u>31/03/2062</u>
		NRS.	NRS.
GRANT/DONATION	E	6,560,373.28	7,394,806.81
SERVICE INCOME	F	1,513,088.00	2,630,403.71
BOOK & BOOKLETS/PUBLICATION		184,933.00	986,510.56
AUDIO VISUAL	G	3,336,806.02	3,883,056.40
INTEREST INCOME		193,012.34	201,433.43
PROGRAMME SURPLUS		80,478.00	364,566.80
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME		6,686.48	42,300.00
TOTAL INCOME NRs.		11,878,377.12	15,506,079.71
EXPENSES			
PROGRAMME EXPENSES	H	3,094,680.67	4,361,782.61
AUDIO VISUAL PROGRAMME	I	3,829,414.59	4,883,880.41
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	J	2,103,131.05	1,832,288.87
DEPRECIATION	A	626,688.10	669,516.54
PEACE & DEVT. INITIATIVES		-	1,343,981.04
CRSC-FREE VOICE	K	4,541,215.89	4,362,246.40
RIO PROGRAMME	L	1,522,090.60	1,022,829.38
TOTAL EXPENSES NRs.		15,717,220.90	18,476,525.45
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR			
DURING THE YEAR		(3,841,843.78)	(2,971,445.74)
UP TO PREVIOUS YEAR		22,505,231.36	25,476,677.10
TOTAL TRANSFERRED TO BALANCE SHEET NRs.		18,663,387.58	22,505,231.36

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

O

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