

Regional Knowledge Conference Recommendations Summary Report

[2020 - Regional Conventions NRNA ICC]

The first regional conferences were organized in 2018 in onsite mode. Due to COVID-19 associated circumstances, they were organized in all online mode this year. NRNA utilized COVID-19 challenges as an opportunity where by Nepali experts also contributed to these conferences via technology-assisted remote participation. Even though these conferences were organized in regional level, they were enriched by global participation. We firmly believe that the outcomes of these conferences will complement the skill, knowledge and innovation transfer to our country of origin. We are incorporating the reports of these conferences in program and abstract booklet of the 2nd NRN Global Convention, and are presenting the summaries in this session. The declarations of these regional conferences will also be integrated in the NRNA's recommendations to the Government of Nepal at the conclusion of the 2nd NRN Global Convention.

Reports of NF	RNA ICO	C Regional Cor	nferences - Reco	ommendations Summ	ary Report		
Regional Coordinator		Regional	Phase	Full Conference Status			
		Coordinator		No. of Sessions	Other Remarks		
Dr. Laxmi Pathak		Americas	Second	08	16 Other sessions		
Dr. Devi Basnet		Asia Pacific	First	12	06 Other Sessions		
Mr. Hom Nath Pandey		Oceania	Second	02	03 Other sessions		
Mr. Raju Aryal		Europe	Second	05	03 Other sessions		
Reports of NRNA ICC Regional Conferences	M A N D A T E	Non-Resident Nepali Association reaches to its constituents through its direct operation in six regions, namely, Oceania, Asia Pacific, Middle East, Africa, Europe and Americas. Prior to organizing the global convention, NRNA also started to organize knowledge conferences at the regional level. In year 2020 conferences were successfully organized in Oceania, Asia Pacific, Europe and Americas regions. These conferences play important role in energizing participation of diaspora experts in these regions.					
Objectives	C O M M O N	Sharing knowledge and experience more effectively can help solve complex problems. In these uncertain economic times, the exchange of knowledge, skills, and expertise (practicality) could be a reasonable basis of collaboration to solve complex problems. However, such a partnership requires close interactions and relationships between experts, problem solvers, and society. Diasporans and organizations like NRNA-ICC can play an essential role in facilitating and strengthening such interactions and networks. By bringing expert communities closer together, they can also help bridge the knowledge and skill gaps and pave the way for future collaborations.					
Report Assembled by		Narayan Ghimire, Scientist, Toronto, Canada.					

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF ALL RECOMMENDATIONS FROM REGIONAL KNOWLEDGE CONVENTIONS:

- The big and medium size industries of nepal is still getting most labor is from outside. NRNA
 can work with government and industries to bridge the skill gaps of domestic workers in
 knowledge, skills and attitude through vocational and ready to utilize skills training.
 Appropriate integration training to return migrant worker is expected to utilize their skills,
 experience and cash on hand toward self employment.
- The wage of skilled labour found not sufficient to cost of living. A joint partnership among
 private sectors, government and NRNA can work togather to accommodate innovative skills
 hire ability of industries following OECD module of R&D incentives to the industries to foster
 the innovation culture.
- 3. NRNA is recommended to start Technical and Vocational Education and Training' (TVET) to start exchange of knowledge and technologies through user friendly television podcast in partnership with development agencies of Nepal.
- 4. NRNA can work with appropriate development agencies of Nepal to develop TVET training package and curriculum that maximizes utilizing local productions using locally available manpower to minimize the domestic import of staple foods, medicines and other basic consumables.
- 5. NRNA is recommended to link overseas professional association for example Nepalese Doctors associations, Nurse Associations, Chef Association etc with similar government accrediated associations of Nepal. The tasks required a setting up of appropriate collaboration mechanism between those associations aiming to exchange knowledge in the subject specific area more effeciently. Similarly, a virtual linkage among Engineering and technicians associations and other areas are recommended.
- 6. A specialized health and nursing related continuous education, curriculum and teaching-learning materials development can be a winning tools if NRNA cocodinated to develop them in collaboration among domestic and overseas stakeholders.
- 7. NRNA is recommended to develop a knowledge sharing hubs among nepali diaspora, Nepal government and other development stakeholders including private sectors to explore potentials of high-value plants and organisms. Keeping focus to utilizing or under utilized land, it is time to collaborate among NAST, JATIBUTI, Privatesectors and Diaspora formally to work towards commercializing them to take benefits from next generation global demands identified globally. Exploration of domestic plant-based healing foods, herbal medicines, ayurbedic, unani and sidha medicines, vaccines and recombinant pharmaceutical products will much beneficial.
- 8. Integrating local/traditional knowledge with innovative technologies, for example, the *Amako Jato*, a tool developed in which IoT and AI (Artificial Intelligence) are used to enhance the efficiency of traditional stone grinder found in remote village need a knowledge sharing hub finregard to IoT and AI-based solutions. In Nepalese socio-economic context an efforts to establish a testing laboratories equipped with qualified resources can be a gate way. Equally to metigate threat from ill-intentioned hackers, a homework to share knowledge in instutionalizing needed novel solutions to cybersecurity threats.
- 9. Government efforts to replace synthetic fertilizers / pesticides insecticides can be supported by linking diaspora knowledge, skills and access to technology that can be substituted by the adoption of environment-friendly organic / biological sources such as microbial inoculants. Experiences of Korea, Canada and the oceania countries like Australia and New Zealand for the high value agricultural products and export can be exploites to utilize such opportunities while increasing the productivity in Agro-forestry sectors.
- 10. A separate collaboration hub among government with local and overseas academics, academic research instutions and industrial organization to exploit countries potential for economic activities is recommended.
- 11. The Diaspora scientists and technologists can connect with development agencies program like NAST's Brain Pooling Program and Science Diplomacy program through NRNA.
- 12. Early STEM (Robotics and Computer Science) Education can turn Nepal's Economy into a

- Knowledge-Based Economy. The Carnegie Mellon University Carnegie Mellon Robotics Academy (CMRA) and (CS-STEM Network) Robotics STEM program focuses on Technology and Engineering, Namely "Robotics Computer Science." We recommend NRNA to request nepal government to review Carnegie Mellon Robotics program for K-12 which looks affordable and implementable in different parts of Nepal.
- 13. There is an urgent need to implement strict regulatory policies to monitor and control air pollution in major Nepalese cities. The government should start experimenting with pollution sucking devices/Smog Tower/ Air pollution purifiers to minimize air pollution in the town or communities. The regional government needs to establish a source apportionment lab in all the regions. Such labs will help identify sources of air pollution in the region.
- 14. Technology transformation from Europe to Nepal IS POSSIBLE in wastewater treatment, Biogas, and waste pretreatment for biogas production
- 15. A timely review and revision of curriculum, teaching methods, teacher motivation, and learning environment that foster adoption or adaptation of new and practical approaches and methods of teaching and learning, consequently enhancing student learning outcomes and competency. Institutionalizing the minimization of corporal punishment in schools to foster a positive student learning environment. Develop new educational institutions or reorient the existing university system (cross-faculty collaboration) that integrate Entrepreneurship development in the learning assessment framework for entrepreneurship movement in the higher education sector is essential. A one-stop-shop and business mentoring and incubation for entrepreneur and start the start up type program will contribute to develop a culture of innovation. Similarly incorporating local / indigenous locally developed content in curriculum will key to foster the production of well-trained human resources fit for local labour market.
- 16. NRNA is recommended to work with nepal government for Smart and digital Nepal through the amalgamation of innovation, R&D, and the latest technologies.

Region Wise Session Tracking

Main Session Tracking						
Session Name	America Region	Asia Pacific	Oceania	Europe		
COVID-19 Impact in Economy	Υ	Υ	Y	Υ		
Public Health and Medicine	Υ	Y	Y	Y		
Natural Sciences	Х	Χ	Х	Y		
Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Technology, and Knowledge Sharing	Y	Х	Х	Х		
Entrepreneurship Development in Agriculture and Allied Sector	Y	Υ	Х	Υ		
Applied Science and Biotechnology	Х	Υ	Х	Χ		
Engineering, Infrastructure Development, and Public Safety	Y	Х	Х	Υ		
Knowledge and Skills in Nursing Practice	Υ	Χ	Х	Χ		
Energy, Environment, Science & Technology	Υ	Υ	Х	Y		
Education, Social Empowerment, and Equitable Development	Y	Х	Х	Х		
Pharma/Nutraceutical and Biomedical Business Opportunity	Х	Υ	Х	Х		
Returnee as Creative Entrepreneur: Opportunities and Challenges for Nepal	Х	Υ	Х	Х		
Smart City and Advanced ICT Trends	Х	Y	X	Х		
Students in foreign nations- a shared perspective of Nepalese students and stakeholders	Х	Υ	Х	Х		

Session Wise Main Recommendations Tracking

1) COVID-19 Impact in Economy

- 1. Defer payments on loans and interests; waive certain taxes and fees; establish better coordination between the local, state, and central governments; and provide other necessary supports.
- 2. Extend time-bound support for a year or two to overcome the situation.
- 3. Provide utility price concessions for a limited period.
- 4. In the big and medium industries, most of the labor is from outside. The government and industries should take initiatives to skill the local labor befitting the industrial requirements.
- 5. Continue productivity improvement drives in cooperation with appropriate agencies like APO.
- 6. Consider increasing wages by considering the need, inflation, and productivity effects.
- 7. Increase synergy and partnership with Local Governments and local NGOs/ CSOs to optimize resources, for better coordination and efficient and effective delivery.
- 8. The support to Returned Migrant Worker, MSMEs can be divided phase-wise into
 - a. Relief: Focusing mostly on psychosocial counseling, cash or in-kind support, and paycheck protection program.
 - b. Recovery: Knowledge enhancement of LGs, MSMEs, and CSOs, providing access to finance, cash or in-kind support for self- employment programs, job search support, connection with the formal economy, implementing government protocol for the COVID epidemic, and in restarting businesses post lockdown.
 - c. Resilience: Building resilience through economic empowerment, especially that of youth, women, and marginalized community, by supporting them in meeting new demands, expanding supply chains, development of a working relationship with financial institutions and open lines of credit, tailored insurance facilities, and working on enhancing the digital economy and supporting policy environment.
- 9. For the exchange of knowledge and technologies, implementing the television knowledge (TVET) through the NRNA network were highlighted.
- 10. Migrant workers with entrepreneurship, and vocational skills should be recognized and provide support for self-employment.
- 11. NRNA should use its wide network and vividness for the exchange of ideas and expertise between the NCC.
- 12. The impacts of pandemic on social-economic and mental health are long-term and we should think about this.
- 13. The diagnosis and treatment of cancers are also affected by COVID-19 so we have to accelerate the services for those patients.
- 14. For the exchange of knowledge and technologies, implementing the television knowledge (TVET) through the NRNA network were highlighted.
- 15. Migrant workers with entrepreneurship, and vocational skills should be recognized and provide support for self-employment.
- 16. NRNA should use its wide network and vividness for the exchange of ideas and expertise between the NCC.
- 17. NRNA can bring a wide variety of experience, expertise and knowledge which could help in various sector of economic development in Nepal.
- 18. Oceania countries like Australia, New Zealand has managed the COIVD-19 very well and those learnings would assist Nepal to combat the COVID-19 both from health and economic perspective.
- 19. Food security is important for many countries and it will even be more important due to COVID-19 as international travel/transport are impacted.
- 20. Nepal Rastra bank is already doing some policy level changes to help for the economic impact and more could be done by closely monitoring the challenges faced by people and business in this pandemic.

- 21. Banking have a very important role to play to assist business and community by assisting to manage their cash flow during this difficult time.
- 22. Banking industry in Nepal would be able to assist the community and business better if they apply some changes that developed courtiers have done to combat the pandemic impact on economy.
- 23. Australia have an association of Nepalese doctors "ANMDA" who have been serving Australian community in both public and private sector. Setting up collaboration mechanism between Nepal and Australia would assist to exchange knowledge in this area effectively.
- 24. Mental health is a big risk which may grow significantly due to health and economic impact due to COIVD-19. Government needs to be prepared and provide necessary support to manage this surge working with both Government and Non-Government agencies.

2) Public Health and Medicine

- 1. Integrate mental health in Primary Health Care and use mid-level health workers to provide care and support.
- 2. Promote and leverage tele-mental health.
- 3. Explore innovative approaches to mitigating and minimizing stigma and providing alternative approaches to mental health counseling and services.
- 4. Innovations in curricula & pedagogy, while maintaining the minimal standards, are the call of the hour. Government should promote, emphasize, and reward innovations in preparing health professionals in higher education training and education.
- 5. Leaderships remains at the center of these ongoing reforms to address Nepal's 21st century needs in the health workforce and professionals.
- 6. The curricula and training need to be dynamic and updated periodically. The public health academic institutions in Nepal should harness public health professionals' expertise from the Nepali diaspora.
- 7. Government should prioritize providing (with budget allocation) 'Primary Burn Care' training to many doctors and nurses working in the emergency department of hospitals in all districts.
- 8. Kirtipur Hospital (Nepal Cleft & Burn Center) has already developed the curriculum and teaching-learning materials in collaboration with the National Health Training Center, Ministry of Health and Population, which could be used by other centers.
- 9. The Nepal Ambulance Service 'central dispatch' center needs to be upgraded with better IT and support staff. This will help make the NAS the 'center for excellence' in providing emergency medical technician (EMT) training to expand ambulance services.
- 10. More emphasis needs to be placed on public-private partnership (PPP) with more effective communication (i.e., regular and better inter- and intra-departmental communication).
- 11. Nepal is far behind in molecular diagnostic technology (COVID-19 PCR) development which was observed at COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has highlighted long-standing problem in chemical reagent production/accessibility required in molecular works, understaffed and under-resourced public healthcare.
- 12. Caesarean section trend rates over two decades has increased in Nepal therefore, successful implementation of safe motherhood program and policies with well equipped with adequate human resources is demanded.
- 13. Different chicken breeds show high prevalence of multidrug resistance by pathogenic bacteria in poultry farms suggesting proper use of disinfectant in farm by the producer.
- 14. The current Nepalese healthcare system is poorly equipped to handle molecular diagnostic technology; Nepal government could channelize NRNA to utilize the Nepalese expertise residing outside Nepal in combating the crisis in future.
- 15. The role of Nepali International charities for wellbeing of Nepali and Nepal are crucial.

3) Natural Sciences

- 1. Planning and decision-making process including transparency, innovation, prioritization is vital to promote the resource/science-based solution and to improve the livelihood and resource management in Nepal. (the motto: Knowledge is Potential and Application is Profit)
- 2. Land, Forest and Water Resource Development in Nepal call for courageous and visionary leadership including Short and Long-run research and Social innovation.
- 3. Advancements of Education, geographical variation and Economic indicators determine the population dynamics and scenarios including migration in Nepal. These factors should be prioritized for the national planning.
- 4. Innovation and exploitation of resources and use of technology with small-scale Pilot project should be focused for adaptive resource management.
- 5. Planning-implementation process and institutional arrangement (Governance, Finance, Power Play, Technocratic Control and Technical issues, Donor's Distrust) is still big questions enhancing resilience and adaptation.

4) Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Technology, and Knowledge Sharing

- 1. Nepali worldwide (both resident and non-resident) should work together to strengthen shortand long-term developmental plans, policies, and implementation frameworks of Nepal.
- 2. Develop synergistic effects of collaboration between Nepali experts living in the homeland and diaspora
- 3. NRNA could play an important role in bringing diaspora communities together and fostering meaningful collaboration between resident and non-resident communities in creating a culture of research, innovation, and development in Nepal.
- 4. Valuable natural resources (e.g., medicinal plants) available in Nepal could be developed into commercially successful products with high economic values so that the country can maximize the benefits from her resources.
- 5. Exploring the country's unexplored lands: about 2/3rd, which is currently covered by forest and other lands, to grow medicinal plants and other living organisms. Such high-value plants and organisms could then be developed into commercially successful products with high economic values so that the country can maximize the benefits from her resources.
- 6. Few innovative efforts being carried out in developing diagnostic kits for different diseases (measles, dengue, etc.), including COVID-19. As reliable diagnostic kits would be critical to control infectious diseases such as COVID-19 and keep the countries well prepared to handle such pandemic situations, local efforts are expected to lead development of test kits that are accessible at a much more affordable cost.
- 7. We now live in threatened every moment by ill-intentioned hackers. A novel solutions to cybersecurity threats is required to fight against those threats.
- 8. Active research and development would be essential for safeguarding personal and nation's interests against Cybersecurity threats.
- 9. Countries like Nepal should also be prepared to fight against such cyberattacks
- 10. A successful entrepreneur in digital age would encourage all innovators and entrepreneurs in the Americas back in Nepal and worldwide..

5) Entrepreneurship Development in Agriculture and Allied Sector

- 1. Business to business trades are prefer to promote trade in agri-food, food processing, energy, and infrastructure areas.
- 2. Quality of life of local residents can be improve by integrating local / traditional knowledge with innovative technologies. For instance, the study introduced *Amako Jato*, a tool developed in which IoT and AI (Artificial Intelligence) are used to enhance the efficiency of traditional

stone grinder found in remote village.

- 3. IoT and Al-based solutions can help in re-defining the vision and concept of Society 5.0 in terms of the Nepalese socio-economic context.
- 4. Testing laboratories equipped with qualified resources.
- 5. Medicinal plant and its' genetic diversity need conserve. Capacity building in ethnomedicinal knowledge while maintaining skills of older generation transfer to the younger generation is required.
- 6. GPP and NPP's science may contributes to the production of wood, herbs, and other plant products in Nepal. More accurate data on TCR night helpful.
- 7. Effective implementation of existing policies/acts and regulations is needed.
- 8. Government policies should encourage and support subsistence, small, and under-privileged /resource-poor farmers.
- 9. The curriculum/syllabus of agriculture teaching/training needs to be updated to make it more practical and professional.
- 10. Nepal has a huge potential to increase the production and commercialization of a wide variety of medicinal herbs and agro-products that could help reduce the trade deficit and boost the national economy.
- 11. Uses of synthetic fertilizers/pesticides could gradually be substituted by the adoption of environment-friendly organic/biological sources such as microbial inoculants.
- 12. Skills and knowledge gained from overseas or within the country can be utilized for the improvement and introduction of new biotechnological services through start-up companies.
- 13. Probably, the only session where all presentations are directly related to Nepal or even the researchers are done in Nepal or in collaboration with Nepal.VC of Gandaki University to be present and spread hands for collaboration is really an important step. The session touched all the components of agriculture session: Animal Science, Dairy Technology, Animal Nutrition, Soil Science, Analytic tools.
- 14. We will surely see collaborations at different levels in one year time from now. That can be in terms of joint scientific publication, new research proposal development and even exchange of students.
- 15. We strongly recommended the Nepal government to prioritize in further strengthening the close cooperation via the knowledge conference between European scientific communities and Nepalese Universities and research organizations.
- 16. Oceania countries like Australia and New Zealand are well known for the high value agricultural products and export in many countries around the world. Nepal could learn from their experience and increase the productivity in Agricultural sector.

6) Applied Science and Biotechnology

- 1. Natural Bio-resources (such as plants, animals, microbial sources) are valuable assets of Nepal which could contribute for the bioeconomy growth of the nation.
- 2. The microbial resources in the Nepal are untouched pool of resources which can be industrialized to produce various microbial bioactive compounds.
- 3. In the context of Nepal, phytochemicals are considered as traditional medicines. Unfortunately, lack of introduction of modern technology for industrial production of these phytochemicals hindered the commercialization of these traditional medicines.

- 4. The introduction of plant-based vaccines and recombinant pharmaceutical products can be another emerging market.
- 5. Biotechnology and next generation technology might play a vital role to commercialization of bioresource available in the country.
- 6. There should be utmost collaboration between government, academics and industrial organization to make optimum utilization of bioresources.

7) Engineering, Infrastructure Development, and Public Safety

- 1. Remarkable progress in expanding the road network need align with sustainable upgrading and creating road assets providing emphasis on efficiency, reliability, and safety at service levels.
- 2. Strategic road network can maintained to appropriate standards most cost-effective manner through capacity building of government and private sector stakeholders.
- 3. Nepal and other developing countries should regularly revise the existing engineering standards and codes to prioritize public safety.
- 4. The project construction report must be prepared by the project manager to identify future projects' improvements at the end of the project.
- 5. The project owner's must-have performance review systems established for both engineering design consultants and contractors.
- 6. Nepal could benefit by testing different ratios of Hempcrete composition suitable for its climate.
- 7. Nepal could implement sustainable water supply operations through a monitoring system, preventative maintenance, condition assessment, collecting quality data, coordination, and knowledge sharing.
- 8. Government of Nepal should provide incentives for cities, municipalities, and village municipalities to invest in research and development to foster smart cities.
- 9. Government also needs to offer tax incentives to encourage private firms to spend more on research and development related to smart city technologies.
- 10. Biosand filter technology is a low-cost household water treatment device that has shown potential in improving the accessibility of clean water for the poor in Nepal.

8) Knowledge and Skills in Nursing Practice

- 1. Nepal Nursing Council should make continuing professional development mandatory for all nurses seeking re-licensure to demonstrate continuing competence.
- 2. Demonstration of continuing competence should cover the knowledge, skills, attitudes, judgment, abilities, experience, and professional ethics necessary for nursing's safe and competent practice.
- 3. Standardized nurse-patient ratio to overcome work overload.

- 4. Provide continuing education for nurses already in practice. Continue education and training on cultural competence, active listening and empathetic communication skills, and emergency/crisis preparedness can boost nurse's morale and confidence.
- 5. Define the scope of practice and formulate policy, protocols, guidelines, and job descriptions applicable to different nursing practice areas.
- 6. Proper monitoring and quality assurance of nursing practice based on the code of conduct and standards outlined by the regulatory body.
- 7. Follow policy, protocols & nursing guidelines and be up to date on knowledge and skills to provide quality health services.
- 8. Be compliant with the guideline and protocol of the institution and the regulatory body.
- 9. Frequent handwashing and consistent use of personal protective equipment (PPE) appropriately and minimize nurses' exposure to COVID patients by clustering nursing services.
- 10. Prepare guidelines, protocol, policy, and procedures and orient staff on time.
- 11. Ensure the availability of PPE, proper cleaning and sanitization of surfaces, and restrict visitors.
- 12. Adequately train staff by holding elective procedures that can be postponed and deploying staff in needy areas.
- 13. Prepare national strategy, guidelines, protocol, policy, and procedures and allocate resources to apply them to prevent transmission and provide services safely in the community and care settings.
- 14. Make testing services for disease identification available everywhere.
- 15. Travel restriction and testing and guarantine of suspicious visitors at the entry point.

9) Energy, Environment, Science & Technology

- 1. In partnership with local and provincial governments, the Nepali diaspora can connect with Nepal and share knowledge, experiences, skills, and other resources.
- 2. The Diaspora scientists and technologists can connect with Nepal through NAST's Brain Pooling Program and Science Diplomacy program.
- NAST is also planning to expand its activities to all the country's seven provinces by establishing a center of excellence for Research of Development on different disciplines. The Diaspora scientists and technologists can connect with such programs in a province of their choice.
- 4. Small satellites can help with Nepal's development. The government should show leadership in promoting small satellite technology made by the Nepali engineers in Nepal and launch into space.
- 5. The SanoSat-1 (Nepal-PQ1) Satellite is complete and ready for launch; however, the projects need about €25,000 of funding to launch it on the space. The government and citizens could help speed the launch of the satellite by contributing financially or through donations.
- 6. ORION Space provides a platform for the next generation to work in space technology in Nepal. Thus, there is a lot of opportunities for youths to participate in this program.
- 7. It is cheaper to cook on electricity than LPG; however, it depends on LPG consumption

- (cylinders per month) and the baseline electricity consumption (kWh/month). Households would not benefit economically from adopting electric induction stoves if there is no subsidy on the electricity. To overcome this, the government should provide some subsidies for the use of electricity for cooking.
- 8. The cost of cooking on commercial fuel or stove depends on thermal efficiency. Allowing high energy-efficient induction cookstoves in the market could save people money and help reduce the consumption of electricity.
- 9. There is an urgent need to implement strict regulatory policies to monitor and control air pollution in major Nepalese cities.
- 10. The government should start experimenting with pollution sucking devices/Smog Tower/ Air pollution purifiers to minimize air pollution in the town or communities.
- 11. The regional government needs to establish a source apportionment lab in all the regions. Such labs will help identify sources of air pollution in the region.
- 12. The NAST could benefit by opening the Pyramid or the Everest-K2 National Research Council (Ev-K2-CNR) center to study transboundary air pollution research in Nepal.
- 13. NRNA should take more initiation to foster collaborative research and funding researches in Nepal.
- 14. Innovation is critical in today's "conceptual economy."
- 15. Competitive advantage relies on insight, imagination, and ingenuity.
- 16. Three-quarters of the fastest-growing occupations require significant mathematics or
- 17. science preparation. By 2018, there could be 2.4 million unfilled (U.S.) STEM jobs.
- 18. Early STEM (Robotics and Computer Science) Education can turn Nepal's Economy into a Knowledge-Based Economy.
- 19. The Carnegie Mellon University Carnegie Mellon Robotics Academy (CMRA) and (CS-STEM Network) Robotics STEM program focuses on Technology and Engineering, Namely "Robotics Computer Science."
- 20. Carnegie Mellon Robotics program for K-12 is affordable and could be implemented in different parts of Nepal.
- 21. Upon completing the course and completing the online test, the participants also get a certificate from CMRA with grades.
- 22. Nepal must target high-value low volume products and engage youth, as the recent data shows that ~ 5% of the global population prefers organic products.
- 23. Competing with large neighbors is difficult in the case of forestry products. So, bioproducts (bamboo, honey, bio-pesticides, etc.) have high potential and are valuable from a business perspective but need good government policies. This can help our country to become a zero-carbon country.
- 24. The integration of laws and policies at all levels for disaster mitigation is vital for a sustainable environment. Force migration, as opposed to voluntary migration, is the only option for the people who are affected by natural disasters.
- 25. In the case of waste also, there is a possibility of entrepreneurship by waste management.
- 26. Technology transformation from Europe to Nepal IS POSSIBLE IN wastewater treatment, Biogas, and waste pretreatment for biogas production.
- 27. There is a great potentials to collaborate with an academic institute like University with European diaspora for funding opportunities of H2020 Europe and others.
- 28. A consortium among the researcher from Aarhus University, Denmark, Technical University of Denmark, and Kathmandu University seeking further funding opportunity for technology transfer on Anaerobic digestion is recommended.

10) Education, Social Empowerment, and Equitable Development

- 1. Identify general and focused goals and objectives with "New Deal" intervention implementation timelines (short, medium, and long term) that prioritize the weaker and target the family or household rather than individual and seek to collaborate and partner with the various governmental, non-governmental, civil society and philanthropic organizations.
- 2. The federal government plays the role of the norm and standard-setting, the provincial government plays the coordination role, and the local government plays the implementation role in government service and program deliveries.
- 3. Enhance public spending on basic goods, social security, and capacity development.
- 4. Integrate public service approach to interventions and program delivery, such as health and education for synergy and effectiveness.
- 5. Enhance proper coordination and policy development and implementation among the levels of government.
- 6. Develop an education system that affords student competency in learning and achievement rather than an academic mark or score.
- 7. Establish government regulation, monitoring mechanisms, and guidelines for the public and private education sectors built on common or shared standards that enable effective and continuous assessment of student learning outcomes and monitoring educational target achievements of the various government levels.
- 8. Enhance equal opportunity and reduce all kinds of discrimination in learning by focusing on universally inclusive education and equitable access to educational infrastructure, learning opportunities, incentives, qualified teachers, and optimal teacher-student ratio.
- 9. Timely review and revision of curriculum, teaching methods, teacher motivation, and learning environment that foster adoption or adaptation of new and practical approaches and methods of teaching and learning, consequently enhancing student learning outcomes and competency.
- 10. Institutionalize the minimization of corporal punishment in schools to foster a positive student learning environment.
- 11. Micro-level research studies at the local levels to understand the challenges and issues and their amelioration.
- 12. The government should initiate a curriculum amendment by instituting high investment in education and involving practitioners from both the public and private sectors.
- 13. Make education innovative that addresses the urgent need to improve the national school education system to make it student empowerment-focused that fosters and promotes skillful and knowledgeable human resources and eminent future leaders.
- 14. Make the teaching profession reputable and respected. The teaching community needs the commitment to update professional knowledge and skills to become better equipped in teaching and make the learning process student-centered and interesting that allows experiential learning without discrimination.
- 15. Involve parents in children teaching and learning process. Parents' involvement in their children's learning and school operation is essential to improve the educational system that

- fosters recruitment of qualified teaching staff members and student learning, enabling them to become critical and analytic thinkers and problem solvers.
- 16. Develop new educational institutions or reorient the existing university system (cross-faculty collaboration) that integrate Entrepreneurship development in the learning assessment framework for entrepreneurship movement in the higher education sector is essential.
- 17. Create a one-stop-shop and business mentoring and incubation for entrepreneur development.
- 18. Provide the government-sponsored loan (like in Canada), and negotiate with donor agencies to address entrepreneurial aspirations.
- 19. Introduce policies to unlock potentials vested with the NRN community is essential.
- 20. National curriculum Design 2019 needs reviews and revisions to provide adequate autonomy to the concerned stakeholders working for provincial/local education boards/governments.
- 21. Institute need-based curriculum reformation that affords autonomy to school boards in certain areas for educational enhancement and post-secondary institutions to develop courses to address the gaps between the national and local levels.
- 22. Incorporate local/indigenous content locally developed curriculum to foster the production of well-trained human resources.
- 23. Overall, given the nascent stage of distance learning and its potential in the Nepalese context, formulation, and implementation of regulations, policies, and programs to address the identified challenges, gaps, and barriers in distance learning are essential to institute the needed paradigm shift and enhance its accessibility, effectiveness, and productivity.
- 24. The rules and regulations that were developed for the conventional higher education must be revised to account for the online teaching and learning methods for fostering and enhancing the distance learning educational system's effectiveness.
- 25. Institutionalized affiliation of faculties with the university is essential to make distance learning an effective way of education for career enhancement, program growth, productivity, and sustainability.
- 26. To address the weak synchrony of higher educational development and economic development of country, it's essential to have political stability and an institutional framework that integrates relevant sectors (such as health and education) for synergy and political stability which are catalytic and foster enhanced returns to education.
- 27. Institute policies that promote attraction (brain gain) of the educated Nepalese diaspora significantly lost to brain drain.
- 28. Prioritize education sector by significantly enhancing the very low government expenditure, measured as a percentage of GDP, on education at all levels, namely, primary, secondary and tertiary.
- 29. Build and strengthen the public-private partnerships to foster capacity building and improving the deprived public education system.

11) Pharma/Nutraceutical and Biomedical Business Opportunity

- The current market of pharmaceutical business by Nepali pharmaceutical industries is escalating.
 However, more efforts are needed to achieve the target for the self-sufficiency of required
 medicines and related pharmaceutical products. The government needs to foster the target through
 suitable pharmaceutical research, innovation, and regulation and by promoting pharmaceutical
 companies for the export-oriented pharmaceutical business.
- 2. Herbal drug and nutraceuticals research and commercialization have a big opportunity. Research through academia, pharmaceutical companies, and public institutions should be optimized. Most importantly, the government should establish its own advanced research laboratory and act as a support center for related companies.
- 3. Innovative pharmaceutical technologies such as the Controlled Drug Release Delivery system have a big application for the development of competent veterinary and human medicines from Nepalese pharmaceutical companies.
- 4. Utilizing wild fruits may create a big market possibility in Nepal. As many fruits are grown up wild, these can be marketed by necessary processing. This may enhance economic development and employment opportunity in Nepal.
- 5. In Nepal, all the raw materials and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) for producing medicines are being imported so far. However, it is time to promote research and production of raw materials and API in Nepal by Nepalese pharmaceutical companies. The government needs to facilitate and support local businesses.
- 6. Integrated Community Pharmacy Network Development and business has challenges and a big opportunity for providing basic health services. If the government will facilitate appropriate regulation. Lots of job opportunity can be created along with quality and reliable health services to the Nepalese community.

12) Returnee as Creative Entrepreneur: Opportunities and Challenges for Nepal

- 1. Many programs for returnees are already there in Nepal but the access to them and the modality of the program do not match with the need for the returnee's resources.
- While programs are there, we can't fit them in course with our need due to the lack of diversity of
 opportunities. Also, data (info) is not reliable, there is a lack of coordination among the stakeholders
 Public-Private partnership is a must for a successful reintegration program both economically and
 socially.

13) Smart City and Advanced ICT Trends

- 1. The session was based around the importance of transformative power of the Science and Technology and its applications for the benefit for the Nepalese society by collaborating with young scientists, youths, and professional experts from various hospitals and universities around the globe to mitigate the spread of CoViD-19. Emphasis was given to make 'Smart and digital Nepal' through the amalgamation of innovation, R&D, and the latest technologies.
- 2. Conversion of villages to a 'smart village' by gathering information from public and civil servants in cooperation with the government in Nepal.
- 3. Importance of integration of online platform like 'Teams' from Microsoft can help during and after COVID19 in the Education sector of Nepal.
- 4. Security issues (higher reliability, transparency, secure storage), in financial institutions such as design, and implementation of distributed ledgers and blockchain technology were highlighted.

- 1. The equivalency of the earned degree from universities abroad by Tribhuwan University is a big hassle to many returnee students and should be tackled immediately by the concerned authorities.
- 2. Despite the willingness of a big number of Nepalese students to return home country, due to lack of better opportunities they are compelled to settle and look for professional career in the foreign countries.
- 3. Cultural and language barrier are the two prime factors affecting smooth acculturation, therefore familiarizing themselves with the language and culture before embarking would ease their living.
- 4. The importance of exchange student programme was highlighted.
- 5. The active role of Brain Gain Centre in recognizing, promoting, connecting, and managing external experts to work for Nepalese society.

The convention observed that some of the ideas and approaches discussed require further research, but many could be implemented immediately. The program could be implemented through the Government, non-government, or private sector. Some programs could also be implemented through NRN Foundation. The convention also acknowledged that Nepal's existing policies might need revision, and many different new policies may require addressing the challenges brought by the pandemic. However, there are ample opportunities for diaspora and NRNA to bring their knowledge, skills, and experiences for Nepal's benefit to deal with post-COVID-19 pandemic challenges. The convention concluded with a call for collaboration as the key to "Prosperous Nepal and Happy Nepali."

In this second convention in most region except Asia, the organizing committee was mostly comprised of NRN and resident Nepali experts. A significant number of GoN's representation were there and threir role in management committee and as expert has aligned the conference theme with current development priorities of Nepal.

ANNEX: REFERENCES

I) Oceania Regional 2nd Knowledge Convention 2020

Both sessions included a one-hour panel discussion with the speakers and participants. In the economy session discussion, overall, the response was the concerns on COVID-19 crises situation in Nepal and difficulties to make the investment and on Government promises Oceania has already invested heavily in Nepal in Hotel, Education, and Agriculture areas and is keen to explore other opportunities and continue to invest amidst COVID-19 concern but cautiously. The health session emphasized that Nepal for innovation in R&D and need for taking a coordinated approach to deal with the crises and learn from Australia and New Zealand examples. The Oceania knowledge conference recommendations will be presented in the 2nd Global NRNA knowledge convention 9-12 the October in Kathmandu, Nepal.

The knowledge convention committee thanked all the presenters, convention team and ICC support for successfully organizing the convention.

1.1 Summary and Recommendations

- 1. NRNA can bring a wide variety of experience, expertise and knowledge which could help in various sector of economic development in Nepal.
- 2. Oceania countries like Australia, New Zealand has managed the COIVD-19 very well and those learnings would assist Nepal to combat the COVID-19 both from health and economic perspective.
- 3. Food security is important for many countries and it will even be more important due to COVID-19 as international travel/transport are impacted.
- 4. Oceania countries like Australia and New Zealand are well known for the high value agricultural products and export in many countries around the world. Nepal could learn from their experience and increase the productivity in Agricultural sector.
- 5. Nepal Rastra bank is already doing some policy level changes to help for the economic impact and more could be done by closely monitoring the challenges faced by people and business in this pandemic.
- 6. Banking have a very important role to play to assist business and community by assisting to manage their cash flow during this difficult time.
- 7. Banking industry in Nepal would be able to assist the community and business better if they apply some changes that developed courtiers have done to combat the pandemic impact on economy.
- 8. Australia have an association of Nepalese doctors "ANMDA" who have been serving Australian community in both public and private sector. Setting up collaboration mechanism between Nepal and Australia would assist to exchange knowledge in this area effectively.
- 9. Mental health is a big risk which may grow significantly due to health and economic impact due to COIVD-19. Government needs to be prepared and provide necessary support to manage this surge working with both Government and Non-Government agencies.

1.2 Plan of Action

- 1. NRNA to work closely with Banking industries of Nepal and exchange knowledge and best practices that have played vital role in reducing the economic impact due to COVID-19.
- 2. NRNA and GoN policy maker to discuss and come up with improvements that can be achieved in Agricultural sector for the food security of Nepal.
- 3. NRNA and GoN to exchange ideas for utilising the automation technologies to improve productivities in manufacturing, transport and agricultural sector.
- 4. NRNA to work closely with GoN and exchange knowledge and best practices that have worked well on developed counties where spread of COVID-19 infections is well controlled.

- 5. NRNA health professional to work closely with Hospitals and health professionals of Nepal and exchange knowledge and best practices that have helped to manage the health and well-being of the patients by providing best medical services possible.
- 6. NRNA health professional specialised in Mental health to work closely with GoN and Non-Government agencies for assisting to minimise the impact to the community due to possible growing mental health issues.
- 7. Nepali diasporas are working in many countries as skilled human resources. They possess high level of skill and knowledge enhanced by their education and involvement challenging projects in the developed countries. NRNA and GoN to create better environment for skill and knowledge investment in Nepal to leverage from this opportunity.
- 8. NRNA to collaborate and identify some tangible projects with various level of government, i.e. Federal, State and Local government and have some tangible work where possible.

II) First Asia-Pacific Knowledge Convention 2020

Summary and Recommendations:

S1: Agriculture and Poverty Reduction

- 1. Effective implementation of existing policies/acts and regulations is needed.
- 2. Government policies should encourage and support subsistence, small, and under-privileged /resource-poor farmers.
- 3. The curriculum/syllabus of agriculture teaching/training needs to be updated to make it more practical and professional.
- Nepal has a huge potential to increase the production and commercialization of a wide variety of medicinal herbs and agro-products that could help reduce the trade deficit and boost the national economy.
- 5. Uses of synthetic fertilizers/pesticides could gradually be substituted by the adoption of environment-friendly organic/biological sources such as microbial inoculants.
- 6. Skills and knowledge gained from overseas or within the country can be utilized for the improvement and introduction of new biotechnological services through start-up companies.

Need for the commercialization of wide variety of medicinal herbs, value-added crops and livestock products using innovative technologies while encouraging and supporting subsistence, small, and underprivileged /resource-poor farmers to reduce poverty and boost the economy of the nation. Encourage organic farming and minimize the use of chemical fertilizers by substituting with biofertilizers, biopesticides for the betterment of human health. There should be proper coordination of three-tier government as well as effective implementation of existing policies. Utilize the shared skills and knowledge among Nepalese and diaspora for the improvement and introduction of new biotechnological services through start-up companies.

S2: Sustainable Environment

- 1. Nepal must target high-value low volume products and engage youth, as the recent data shows that ~5% of the global population prefers organic products.
- 2. Competing with large neighbors is difficult in the case of forestry products. So, bioproducts (bamboo, honey, bio-pesticides, etc.) have high potential and are valuable from a business perspective but need good government policies. This can help our country to become a zero-carbon country.

- 3. The integration of laws and policies at all levels for disaster mitigation is vital for a sustainable environment. Force migration, as opposed to voluntary migration, is the only option for the people who are affected by natural disasters.
- 4. In the case of waste also, there is a possibility of entrepreneurship by waste management.

Nepal must target high-value low volume products and engage youth, as the recent data shows that $\sim 5\%$ of the global population prefers organic products.

If the government policy is favorable, bio-products (bamboo, honey, bio-pesticides, etc.) have high potential and are valuable from a business perspective. Disaster mitigation is vital for a sustainable environment; force migration is a compulsion for the people who are affected by natural disasters.

S3: Applied health and medical science

- Nepal is far behind in molecular diagnostic technology (COVID-19 PCR) development which was observed at COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has highlighted long-standing problem in chemical reagent production/accessibility required in molecular works, understaffed and under-resourced public healthcare.
- Caesarean section trend rates over two decades has increased in Nepal therefore, successful implementation of safe motherhood program and policies with well equipped with adequate human resources is demanded.
- 3. Different chicken breeds show high prevalence of multidrug resistance by pathogenic bacteria in poultry farms suggesting proper use of disinfectant in farm by the producer.
- 4. The current Nepalese healthcare system is poorly equipped to handle molecular diagnostic technology; Nepal government could channelize NRNA to utilize the Nepalese expertise residing outside Nepal in combating the crisis in future.

Nepal's health care system is inadequately equipped to handle different health related problems. Need for the establishment of well-equipped diagnostic laboratories and research institutes with skilled human resources by channeling with NRNA. Strict measures be taken to overcome antimicrobial resistance issues that has adverse effects on human and animal health.

S4: Applied Science and Biotechnology

Based on the expertise presentation and session discussion, we conclude following point as home-take-message from the "Applied Science and Biotechnology" session:

- 7. Natural Bio-resources (such as plants, animals, microbial sources) are valuable assets of Nepal which could contribute for the bioeconomy growth of the nation.
- 8. The microbial resources in the Nepal are untouched pool of resources which can be industrialized to produce various microbial bioactive compounds.
- In the context of Nepal, phytochemicals are considered as traditional medicines. Unfortunately, lack
 of introduction of modern technology for industrial production of these phytochemicals hindered the
 commercialization of these traditional medicines.
- 10. The introduction of plant-based vaccines and recombinant pharmaceutical products can be another emerging market.
- 11. Biotechnology and next generation technology might play a vital role to commercialization of bioresource available in the country.
- 12. There should be utmost collaboration between government, academics and industrial organization to make optimum utilization of bioresources.

Natural bio-resources such as plants, animals, microbial sources be industrialized to produce various microbial bioactive compounds using modern technology that could contribute for the economic growth of the nation. Collaboration between government, academics and industrial organization be strengthened to make optimum utilization of bio-resources.

S5: Pharma/Nutraceutical and Biomedical Business Opportunity

- The current market of pharmaceutical business by Nepali pharmaceutical industries is escalating.
 However, more efforts are needed to achieve the target for the self-sufficiency of required
 medicines and related pharmaceutical products. The government needs to foster the target through
 suitable pharmaceutical research, innovation, and regulation and by promoting pharmaceutical
 companies for the export-oriented pharmaceutical business.
- 2. Herbal drug and nutraceuticals research and commercialization have a big opportunity. Research through academia, pharmaceutical companies, and public institutions should be optimized. Most importantly, the government should establish its own advanced research laboratory and act as a support center for related companies.
- 3. Innovative pharmaceutical technologies such as the Controlled Drug Release Delivery system have a big application for the development of competent veterinary and human medicines from Nepalese pharmaceutical companies.
- 4. Utilizing wild fruits may create a big market possibility in Nepal. As many fruits are grown up wild, these can be marketed by necessary processing. This may enhance economic development and employment opportunity in Nepal.
- 5. In Nepal, all the raw materials and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) for producing medicines are being imported so far. However, it is time to promote research and production of raw materials and API in Nepal by Nepalese pharmaceutical companies. The government needs to facilitate and support local businesses.
- Integrated Community Pharmacy Network Development and business has challenges and a big
 opportunity for providing basic health services. If the government will facilitate appropriate
 regulation. Lots of job opportunity can be created along with quality and reliable health services to
 the Nepalese community.

Government needs to foster medicines and related pharmaceutical products through suitable pharmaceutical research, innovation, and regulation by promoting pharmaceutical companies for the export-oriented pharmaceutical business. Innovative pharmaceutical technologies such as the Controlled Drug Release Delivery system have a big application for the development of competent veterinary and human medicines from Nepalese pharmaceutical companies and hence such technologies be applied as far as possible. Integrated Community Pharmacy Network Development and business be promoted for providing basic health services.

S6: Green Energy, Energy Accessibility and Climate Change Mitigation

- 1. This session has significantly contributed to disseminating knowledge and information related to the promotion of clean energy, increasing accessibility of sustainability of green energy, and contributing greenhouse gas emission that ultimately assists in climate change mitigation.
- 2. Non-fired brick (or eco bricks) can be used instead of conventional fired brick, which will contribute in reducing environment pollution.
 - It has been recommended that the greenhouse gas emission can be mitigated through promotion of clean energy. For the reduction of pollution in environment, non-fired or eco-bricks utilization is recommended instead of conventional fired bricks.

S7: Returnee as Creative Entrepreneur: Opportunities and Challenges for Nepal

1. Many programs for returnees are already there in Nepal but the access to them and the modality of the program do not match with the need for the returnee's resources.

While programs are there, we can't fit them in course with our need due to the lack of diversity of
opportunities. Also, data (info) is not reliable, there is a lack of coordination among the stakeholders
- Public-Private partnership is a must for a successful reintegration program both economically and
socially.

Modality of existing programs to retain the returnees should be modified to match their needs. Proper coordination among the stakeholders is a must - Public-Private partnership is a must for a successful reintegration of returnees with diverse skills for employment and social welfare activities.

S8: Smart City and Advanced ICT Trends

- 1. The session was based around the importance of transformative power of the Science and Technology and its applications for the benefit for the Nepalese society by collaborating with young scientists, youths, and professional experts from various hospitals and universities around the globe to mitigate the spread of CoViD-19. Emphasis was given to make 'Smart and digital Nepal' through the amalgamation of innovation, R&D, and the latest technologies.
- 2. Conversion of villages to a 'smart village' by gathering information from public and civil servants in cooperation with the government in Nepal.
- 3. Importance of integration of online platform like 'Teams' from Microsoft can help during and after COVID19 in the Education sector of Nepal.
- 4. Security issues (higher reliability, transparency, secure storage), in financial institutions such as design, and implementation of distributed ledgers and blockchain technology were highlighted.

'Smart and digital Nepal' through the amalgamation of innovation, R&D, and the latest technologies is a necessity for converting villages to a 'smart villages' through digitalization of information using ICT. Use of ICT for teaching-learning activities, health and security issues (higher reliability, transparency, secure storage), at hospitals and financial institutions were suggested.

S9: Students in foreign nations- a shared perspective of Nepalese students and stakeholders

- 6. The equivalency of the earned degree from universities abroad by Tribhuwan University is a big hassle to many returnee students and should be tackled immediately by the concerned authorities.
- Despite the willingness of a big number of Nepalese students to return home country, due to lack of better opportunities they are compelled to settle and look for professional career in the foreign countries.
- 8. Cultural and language barrier are the two prime factors affecting smooth acculturation, therefore familiarizing themselves with the language and culture before embarking would ease their living.
- 9. The importance of exchange student programme was highlighted.
- 10. The active role of Brain Gain Centre in recognizing, promoting, connecting, and managing external experts to work for Nepalese society.

Proper steps by the Ministry of Education and related university should be taken to ease the process of providing the equivalency of overseas earned degrees. Government should make favorable policy to retain the overseas graduates for contributing their skills and knowledge for the development of the nation. Colleges and universities in Nepal should workout in promoting exchange programs for students' exposure.

S10: Restart, Revive, and Reboot Tourism: Impact of Covid-19 in Nepalese Tourism Industry

 COVID- 19 epidemic highly devastated the Nepalese Tourism Industry of more than 100 billion investment and more than 273 thousand employments hence, to minimize the future effects it is crucial to develop "Post-COVID" strategy to restart, revive and reboot tourism. The domestic tourism boost can be one of the recovery plans for the current context. Additionally, spiritual and agro-tourism need to be emphasized. 2. The collaboration between the government and the private sector is essential.-The government has initiated "Desh Darshan" campaign domestically to promote domestic tourism which focuses on outdoor tourism such as mountain and trekking. This campaign follows the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) guidelines to fight with COVID-19. However, to sustain this kind of tourism campaigns our government needs unified investment from the diaspora (especially NRNA) in the tourism sector like "TOURISM INVESTMENT BOARD".

In the present context of COVID-19 pandemic, tourism in Nepal has been badly affected. To revive the industry, government should take the initiative to provide conducive environment for safe travel of domestic and international tourists through the collaboration with the private sectors such as NRNA.

S11: Pandemic, Social Development and Role of Diaspora

- 1. For the exchange of knowledge and technologies, implementing the television knowledge (TVET) through the NRNA network were highlighted.
- 2. Migrant workers with entrepreneurship, and vocational skills should be recognized and provide support for self-employment.
- 3. NRNA should use its wide network and vividness for the exchange of ideas and expertise between the NCC.

For the exchange of knowledge and technologies, implementing the television knowledge (TVET) through the NRNA network was emphasized. Migrant workers with entrepreneurship, and vocational skills should be recognized and provide support for self-employment. NRNA should use its wide network and vividness for the exchange of ideas and expertise between the NCC.

S12: Research and Development: current status and future perspective in Nepal

- 1. Ongoing research works in Nepal desperately needs potential investment or funding for improving the quality of research.
- 2. The universities, government institutions should provide or share their capability of research facility preset with the concerned sectors.
- 3. NRNs can collaborate and facilitate a different kind of research and development activities.

Ongoing research works in Nepal desperately needs potential investment or funding for improving the quality of research. The universities, government institutions should provide or share their capability of research facility preset with the concerned sectors. NRNs can collaborate and facilitate a different kind of research and development activities.

III) Europe Second Knowledge Conference 2020

The objectives of the NRN Europe knowledge conference 2020 were to strengthen the relationships among the Nepali Scholars/experts in the Europe and to transfer the knowledge & skill from this region for the benefit of Nepal. This conference brought together experts from Europe regions and also from Nepal to share their knowledge and expertise in order to achieve its objectives. A total of 50 experts from Europe and Nepal presented their papers in the conference including moderators in various sessions. Participants all around the world participated the conference online.

The conference covered the following topical areas:

- Health and Medical Sciences including Covid-19 effect
- Agricultural Sciences
- Energy and environment
- Natural Sciences
- Infrastructure development and construction

Based on the knowledge shared through presentations, and expert views on participant questions, following key summary of the program outcome/recommendations from each session are presented.

Health and Medical Sciences including Covid-19 effect

- 1. The impacts of pandemic on social-economic and mental health are long-term and we should think about this.
- 2. The diagnosis and treatment of cancers are also affected by COVID-19 so we have to accelerate the services for those patients.
- 3. The role of Nepali International charities for wellbeing of Nepali and Nepal are crucial.

Agricultural Science Session

- Probably, the only session where all presentations are directly related to Nepal or even the
 researchers are done in Nepal or in collaboration with Nepal.VC of Gandaki University to be present
 and spread hands for collaboration is really an important step. The session touched all the
 components of agriculture session: Animal Science, Dairy Technology, Animal Nutrition, Soil
 Science, Analytic tools.
- 2. We will surely see collaborations at different levels in one year time from now. That can be in terms of joint scientific publication, new research proposal development and even exchange of students.
- 3. We strongly recommended the Nepal government to prioritize in further strengthening the close cooperation via the knowledge conference between European scientific communities and Nepalese Universities and research organizations.

Energy and Environment

Six presentations were presented on the environment, energy, and water highlighted the opportunities and challenges to collaborate with the Nepalese diaspora to advance the innovation and research activities were discussed. Technology transformation from Europe to Nepal, in particular wastewater treatment, Biogas, and waste pretreatment for biogas production, is possible where researchers found potentials to collaborate with an academic institute such as Kathmandu University. Researchers from Nepal could collaborate with the diaspora to seek funding opportunities such as H2020 Europe and others. Immediately after the session, a consortium will be made among the researcher from Aarhus University, Denmark, Technical University of Denmark, and Kathmandu University, Nepal, to seek further opportunity funding and technology transfer on Anaerobic digestion.

Natural Sciences

- Planning and decision-making process including transparency, innovation, prioritization is vital to promote the resource/science-based solution and to improve the livelihood and resource management in Nepal. (the motto: Knowledge is Potential and Application is Profit)
- 2. Land, Forest and Water Resource Development in Nepal call for courageous and visionary leadership including Short and Long-run research and Social innovation.

- 3. Advancements of Education, geographical variation and Economic indicators determine the population dynamics and scenarios including migration in Nepal. These factors should be prioritized for the national planning.
- 4. Innovation and exploitation of resources and use of technology with small-scale Pilot project should be focused for adaptive resource management.
- Planning-implementation process and institutional arrangement (Governance, Finance, Power Play, Technocratic Control and Technical issues, Donor's Distrust) is still big questions enhancing resilience and adaptation.

Infrastructure development and construction

Infrastructure development and construction as one of the sessions of NRN European Knowledge Conference 2020 was successfully conducted. Presentation about tunnel engineering in Nepal discussed on the scope of tunnel engineering and establishment of new Master's program in Nepal. Metro Rail Vision 2040 for the greater Kathmandu valley showcased metro system as a solution of mass transit to address the current traffic congestion problems.

The hydropower potential of Nepal in comparison to Norwegian scenario highlighted the need of important aspects for dam safety rules and regulations in his presentation titled Overview and importance of hydropower and dam safety. The need of new digital tools, technologies and processes like Building Information Modeling (BIM) were acknowledged during the presentation of Digitalization in construction: BIM as a new way of working. He furthermore discussed about different ongoing activities to promote BIM in Nepal. Another presentation about Modular construction and prefabrication industry discussed on the importance and processes of element design and highlighted the benefits and problems of the industry. A short review about the about the ongoing energy and infrastructure projects were discussed.

Infrastructure development and construction session focused on the existing obstacles and opportunities of the Nepalese built environment. Different presenters highlighted the need of new technologies and processes for better results of design and construction of such projects.

As well as, the session also discussed the current approaches undertaken by the presenters like establishment of new master's course in tunnel engineering; collaboration aspects with different public and private organizations in utilization of new technologies and identified capacity building requirements for direct knowledge transfer from.

IV) America's Second Knowledge Conference 2020

Executive Summary

Sharing knowledge and experience more effectively can help solve complex problems. In these uncertain economic times, the exchange of knowledge, skills, and expertise (practicality) could be a reasonable basis of collaboration to solve complex problems. However, such a partnership requires close interactions and relationships between experts, problem solvers, and society. Diasporans and organizations like NRNA-ICC can play an essential role in facilitating and strengthening such interactions and networks. By bringing expert communities closer together, they can also help bridge the knowledge and skill gaps and pave the way for future collaborations.

Building upon the success of the 1st (2019) conference in San Francisco, USA, the Non-Resident Nepali Association International Coordination Council (NRNA-ICC) Americas organized the 2nd NRN Knowledge Sharing Convention on 04-06 September 2020 in Toronto, Canada.

The NRNA-ICC's second knowledge-sharing conference's goal was to bring together a great diversity of people and key stakeholders from the Americas and Nepal and exchange knowledge, experience, skills, and opportunities to strengthen the science and technology, human resources, entrepreneurship, policies, and practices in both regions. The second objective was to build meaningful relationships between scholars, professionals, institutions, industry practitioners, entrepreneurs, problem-solvers, and the for-profit and not-for-profit sectors in Nepal and the Americas. And the third objective was to pave the way for future collaborations to solve some of our most challenging problems in Science and Technology, Health and Medicine, Education, Economy, and Equitable Development (including gender-equitable development), Engineering, Infrastructure Development, Public Safety, and Energy, and the Environment.

The conference centered on sharing applied diaspora knowledge while identifying required suitable and applicable tools, methodology, and concepts. The convention was divided into eight sessions:

- 1. COVID-19 Impact in Economy
- 2. Public Health and Medicine
- 3. Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Technology, and Knowledge Sharing
- 4. Entrepreneurship Development in Agriculture and Allied Sector
- 5. Engineering, Infrastructure Development, and Public Safety
- 6. Knowledge and Skills in Nursing Practice
- 7. Energy, Environment, Science & Technology
- 8. Education, Social Empowerment, and Equitable Development

Fifty abstracts were accepted for discussions, including keynote talks and oral presentations. Each presentation emphasized transferable skills, knowledge, and values as a new piece of take-home information/message for the targeted audiences. This interaction helped to understand the priorities in different sectors. In the current and post COVID-19 pandemic context, the convention also identified new tools and techniques for practical knowledge sharing among all stakeholders.

The conference presenters and attendees were Innovators, Scientific Communities, Academicians, high-level officials from the Government of Nepal, including the Ministry of Education, National Planning Commission, Nepal Academy of Science and Technology, Universities, Research Centers, International Organizations, Private Sectors, Industries, Startups and Knowledge Incubators. Many participants from different countries and diverse sectors also participated by zoom and on the web—Facebook live.

The convention observed that some of the ideas and approaches discussed require further research, but many could be implemented immediately. The program could be implemented through the Government, non-government, or private sector. Some programs could also be implemented through NRN Foundation. The convention also acknowledged that Nepal's existing policies might need revision, and many different new policies may require addressing the challenges brought by the pandemic. However, there are ample opportunities for diaspora and NRNA to bring their knowledge, skills, and experiences for Nepal's benefit to deal with post-COVID-19 pandemic challenges. The convention concluded with a call for collaboration as the key to "Prosperous Nepal and Happy Nepali."

The actual white paper booklet containing program details and presentations have already been published on the convention website at http://bigyabhela.com/cms_menu/call-for-abstract.

Based on the knowledge shared through presentations, panel member inputs, and expert views on participant questions, the convention organizing committee submits this convention report to Non-Resident Nepali Association and the Government of Nepal. It contains the summary of all presentations and detailed recommendations. Below we present those recommendations in the concise form.

1) COVID-19 Impact in Economy

- 1. Defer payments on loans and interests; waive certain taxes and fees; establish better coordination between the local, state, and central governments; and provide other necessary supports.
- 2. Extend time-bound support for a year or two to overcome the situation.
- 3. Provide utility price concessions for a limited period.
- 4. In the big and medium industries, most of the labor is from outside. The government and industries should take initiatives to skill the local labor befitting the industrial requirements.
- 5. Continue productivity improvement drives in cooperation with appropriate agencies like APO.
- 6. Consider increasing wages by considering the need, inflation, and productivity effects.
- 7. Increase synergy and partnership with Local Governments and local NGOs/ CSOs to optimize resources, for better coordination and efficient and effective delivery.
- 8. The support to Returned Migrant Worker, MSMEs can be divided phase-wise into
 - a. **Relief**: Focusing mostly on psychosocial counseling, cash or in-kind support, and paycheck protection program.
 - b. **Recovery**: Knowledge enhancement of LGs, MSMEs, and CSOs, providing access to finance, cash or in-kind support for self- employment programs, job search support, connection with the formal economy, implementing government protocol for the COVID epidemic, and in restarting businesses post lockdown.
 - c. Resilience: Building resilience through economic empowerment, especially that of youth, women, and marginalized community, by supporting them in meeting new demands, expanding supply chains, development of a working relationship with financial institutions and open lines of credit, tailored insurance facilities, and working on enhancing the digital economy and supporting policy environment.

2) Public Health and Medicine

- 1. Integrate mental health in Primary Health Care and use mid-level health workers to provide care and support.
- 2. Promote and leverage tele-mental health.
- 3. Explore innovative approaches to mitigating and minimizing stigma and providing alternative approaches to mental health counseling and services.
- 4. Innovations in curricula & pedagogy, while maintaining the minimal standards, are the call of the hour. Government should promote, emphasize, and reward innovations in preparing health professionals in higher education training and education.
- 5. Leaderships remains at the center of these ongoing reforms to address Nepal's 21st century needs in the health workforce and professionals.
- 6. The curricula and training need to be dynamic and updated periodically. The public health academic institutions in Nepal should harness public health professionals' expertise from the Nepali diaspora.
- 7. Government should prioritize providing (with budget allocation) 'Primary Burn Care' training to many doctors and nurses working in the emergency department of hospitals in all districts.
- 8. Kirtipur Hospital (Nepal Cleft & Burn Center) has already developed the curriculum and teaching-learning materials in collaboration with the National Health Training Center, Ministry of Health and Population, which could be used by other centers.

- 9. The Nepal Ambulance Service 'central dispatch' center needs to be upgraded with better IT and support staff. This will help make the NAS the 'center for excellence' in providing emergency medical technician (EMT) training to expand ambulance services.
- 10. More emphasis needs to be placed on public-private partnership (PPP) with more effective communication (i.e., regular and better inter- and intra-departmental communication).

3) Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Technology, and Knowledge Sharing

- 1. Nepali worldwide (both resident and non-resident) should work together to strengthen short-and long-term developmental plans, policies, and implementation frameworks of Nepal.
- 2. Develop synergistic effects of collaboration between Nepali experts living in the homeland and diaspora
- 3. NRNA could play an important role in bringing diaspora communities together and fostering meaningful collaboration between resident and non-resident communities in creating a culture of research, innovation, and development in Nepal.
- 4. Valuable natural resources (e.g., medicinal plans) available in Nepal could be developed into commercially successful products with high economic values so that the country can maximize the benefits from her resources.
- 5. Exploring the country's unexplored lands: about 2/3rd, which is currently covered by forest and other lands, to grow medicinal plants and other living organisms. Such high-value plants and organisms could then be developed into commercially successful products with high economic values so that the country can maximize the benefits from her resources.
- 6. Few innovative efforts being carried out in developing diagnostic kits for different diseases (measles, dengue, etc.), including COVID-19. As reliable diagnostic kits would be critical to control infectious diseases such as COVID-19 and keep the countries well prepared to handle such pandemic situations, local efforts are expected to lead development of test kits that are accessible at a much more affordable cost.
- 7. We now live in threatened every moment by ill-intentioned hackers. A novel solutions to cybersecurity threats is required to fight against those threats.
- 8. Active research and development would be essential for safeguarding personal and nation's interests against Cybersecurity threats.
- 9. Countries like Nepal should also be prepared to fight against such cyberattacks
- 10. A successful entrepreneur in digital age would encourage all innovators and entrepreneurs in the Americas back in Nepal and worldwide.

4) Entrepreneurship Development in Agriculture and Allied Sector

- 1. Business to business trades are prefer to promote trade in agri-food, food processing, energy, and infrastructure areas.
- Quality of life of local residents can be improve by integrating local / traditional knowledge with innovative technologies. For instance, the study introduced *Amako Jato*, a tool developed in which IoT and AI (Artificial Intelligence) are used to enhance the efficiency of traditional stone grinder found in remote village.
- 3. IoT and Al-based solutions can help in re-defining the vision and concept of Society 5.0 in terms of the Nepalese socio-economic context.
- 4. Testing laboratories equipped with qualified resources.
- 5. Medicinal plant and its' genetic diversity need conserve. Capacity building in ethnomedicinal knowledge while maintaining skills of older generation transfer to the younger generation is required.
- 6. GPP and NPP's science may contributes to the production of wood, herbs, and other plant products in Nepal. More accurate data on TCR night helpful.

5) Engineering, Infrastructure Development, and Public Safety

- 1. Remarkable progress in expanding the road network need align with sustainable upgrading and creating road assets providing emphasis on efficiency, reliability, and safety at service levels.
- 2. Strategic road network can maintained to appropriate standards most cost-effective manner through capacity building of government and private sector stakeholders.
- 3. Nepal and other developing countries should regularly revise the existing engineering standards and codes to prioritize public safety.
- 4. The project construction report must be prepared by the project manager to identify future projects' improvements at the end of the project.
- 5. The project owner's must-have performance review systems established for both engineering design consultants and contractors.
- 6. Nepal could benefit by testing different ratios of Hempcrete composition suitable for its climate.
- Nepal could implement sustainable water supply operations through a monitoring system, preventative maintenance, condition assessment, collecting quality data, coordination, and knowledge sharing.
- 8. Government of Nepal should provide incentives for cities, municipalities, and village municipalities to invest in research and development to foster smart cities.
- 9. Government also needs to offer tax incentives to encourage private firms to spend more on research and development related to smart city technologies.
- 10. Biosand filter technology is a low-cost household water treatment device that has shown potential in improving the accessibility of clean water for the poor in Nepal.

6) Knowledge and Skills in Nursing Practice

- 1. Nepal Nursing Council should make continuing professional development mandatory for all nurses seeking re-licensure to demonstrate continuing competence.
- 2. Demonstration of continuing competence should cover the knowledge, skills, attitudes, judgment, abilities, experience, and professional ethics necessary for nursing's safe and competent practice.
- 3. Standardized nurse-patient ratio to overcome work overload.
- 4. Provide continuing education for nurses already in practice. Continue education and training on cultural competence, active listening and empathetic communication skills, and emergency/crisis preparedness can boost nurse's morale and confidence.
- 5. Define the scope of practice and formulate policy, protocols, guidelines, and job descriptions applicable to different nursing practice areas.
- 6. Proper monitoring and quality assurance of nursing practice based on the code of conduct and standards outlined by the regulatory body.

- 7. Follow policy, protocols & nursing guidelines and be up to date on knowledge and skills to provide quality health services.
- 8. Be compliant with the guideline and protocol of the institution and the regulatory body.
- 9. Frequent handwashing and consistent use of personal protective equipment (PPE) appropriately and minimize nurses' exposure to COVID patients by clustering nursing services.
- 10. Prepare guidelines, protocol, policy, and procedures and orient staff on time.
- 11. Ensure the availability of PPE, proper cleaning and sanitization of surfaces, and restrict visitors.
- 12. Adequately train staff by holding elective procedures that can be postponed and deploying staff in needy areas.
- 13. Prepare national strategy, guidelines, protocol, policy, and procedures and allocate resources to apply them to prevent transmission and provide services safely in the community and care settings.
- 14. Make testing services for disease identification available everywhere.
- 15. Travel restriction and testing and guarantine of suspicious visitors at the entry point.

7) Energy, Environment, Science & Technology

- 1. In partnership with local and provincial governments, the Nepali diaspora can connect with Nepal and share knowledge, experiences, skills, and other resources.
- 2. The Diaspora scientists and technologists can connect with Nepal through NAST's Brain Pooling Program and Science Diplomacy program.
- 3. NAST is also planning to expand its activities to all the country's seven provinces by establishing a center of excellence for Research of Development on different disciplines. The Diaspora scientists and technologists can connect with such programs in a province of their choice.
- 4. Small satellites can help with Nepal's development. The government should show leadership in promoting small satellite technology made by the Nepali engineers in Nepal and launch into space.
- 5. The SanoSat-1 (Nepal-PQ1) Satellite is complete and ready for launch; however, the projects need about €25,000 of funding to launch it on the space. The government and citizens could help speed the launch of the satellite by contributing financially or through donations.
- 6. ORION Space provides a platform for the next generation to work in space technology in Nepal. Thus, there is a lot of opportunities for youths to participate in this program.
- 7. It is cheaper to cook on electricity than LPG; however, it depends on LPG consumption (cylinders per month) and the baseline electricity consumption (kWh/month). Households would not benefit economically from adopting electric induction stoves if there is no subsidy on the electricity. To overcome this, the government should provide some subsidies for the use of electricity for cooking.
- 8. The cost of cooking on commercial fuel or stove depends on thermal efficiency. Allowing high energy-efficient induction cookstoves in the market could save people money and help reduce the consumption of electricity.

- 9. There is an urgent need to implement strict regulatory policies to monitor and control air pollution in major Nepalese cities.
- 10. The government should start experimenting with pollution sucking devices/Smog Tower/ Air pollution purifiers to minimize air pollution in the town or communities.
- 11. The regional government needs to establish a source apportionment lab in all the regions. Such labs will help identify sources of air pollution in the region.
- 12. The NAST could benefit by opening the Pyramid or the Everest-K2 National Research Council (Ev-K2-CNR) center to study transboundary air pollution research in Nepal.
- 13. NRNA should take more initiation to foster collaborative research and funding researches in Nepal.
- 14. Innovation is critical in today's "conceptual economy."
- 15. Competitive advantage relies on insight, imagination, and ingenuity.
- 16. Three-quarters of the fastest-growing occupations require significant mathematics or
- 17. science preparation. By 2018, there could be 2.4 million unfilled (U.S.) STEM jobs.
- 18. Early STEM (Robotics and Computer Science) Education can turn Nepal's Economy into a Knowledge-Based Economy.
- 19. The Carnegie Mellon University Carnegie Mellon Robotics Academy (CMRA) and (CS-STEM Network) Robotics STEM program focuses on Technology and Engineering, Namely "Robotics Computer Science."
- 20. Carnegie Mellon Robotics program for K-12 is affordable and could be implemented in different parts of Nepal.
- 21. Upon completing the course and completing the online test, the participants also get a certificate from CMRA with grades.

8) Education, Social Empowerment, and Equitable Development

- 1. Identify general and focused goals and objectives with "New Deal" intervention implementation timelines (short, medium, and long term) that prioritize the weaker and target the family or household rather than individual and seek to collaborate and partner with the various governmental, non-governmental, civil society and philanthropic organizations.
- 2. The federal government plays the role of the norm and standard-setting, the provincial government plays the coordination role, and the local government plays the implementation role in government service and program deliveries.
- 3. Enhance public spending on basic goods, social security, and capacity development.
- 4. Integrate public service approach to interventions and program delivery, such as health and education for synergy and effectiveness.
- 5. Enhance proper coordination and policy development and implementation among the levels of government.
- 6. Develop an education system that affords student competency in learning and achievement rather than an academic mark or score.
- 7. Establish government regulation, monitoring mechanisms, and guidelines for the public and private education sectors built on common or shared standards that enable effective and continuous assessment of student learning outcomes and monitoring educational target achievements of the various government levels.

- 8. Enhance equal opportunity and reduce all kinds of discrimination in learning by focusing on universally inclusive education and equitable access to educational infrastructure, learning opportunities, incentives, qualified teachers, and optimal teacher-student ratio.
- Timely review and revision of curriculum, teaching methods, teacher motivation, and learning environment that foster adoption or adaptation of new and practical approaches and methods of teaching and learning, consequently enhancing student learning outcomes and competency.
- 10. Institutionalize the minimization of corporal punishment in schools to foster a positive student learning environment.
- 11. Micro-level research studies at the local levels to understand the challenges and issues and their amelioration.
- 12. The government should initiate a curriculum amendment by instituting high investment in education and involving practitioners from both the public and private sectors.
- 13. Make education innovative that addresses the urgent need to improve the national school education system to make it student empowerment-focused that fosters and promotes skillful and knowledgeable human resources and eminent future leaders.
- 14. Make the teaching profession reputable and respected. The teaching community needs the commitment to update professional knowledge and skills to become better equipped in teaching and make the learning process student-centered and interesting that allows experiential learning without discrimination.
- 15. Involve parents in children teaching and learning process. Parents' involvement in their children's learning and school operation is essential to improve the educational system that fosters recruitment of qualified teaching staff members and student learning, enabling them to become critical and analytic thinkers and problem solvers.
- 16. Develop new educational institutions or reorient the existing university system (cross-faculty collaboration) that integrate Entrepreneurship development in the learning assessment framework for entrepreneurship movement in the higher education sector is essential.
- 17. Create a one-stop-shop and business mentoring and incubation for entrepreneur development.
- 18. Provide the government-sponsored loan (like in Canada), and negotiate with donor agencies to address entrepreneurial aspirations.
- 19. Introduce policies to unlock potentials vested with the NRN community is essential.
- 20. National curriculum Design 2019 needs reviews and revisions to provide adequate autonomy to the concerned stakeholders working for provincial/local education boards/governments.
- 21. Institute need-based curriculum reformation that affords autonomy to school boards in certain areas for educational enhancement and post-secondary institutions to develop courses to address the gaps between the national and local levels.
- 22. Incorporate local/indigenous content locally developed curriculum to foster the production of well-trained human resources.
- 23. Overall, given the nascent stage of distance learning and its potential in the Nepalese context, formulation, and implementation of regulations, policies, and programs to address the

- identified challenges, gaps, and barriers in distance learning are essential to institute the needed paradigm shift and enhance its accessibility, effectiveness, and productivity.
- 24. The rules and regulations that were developed for the conventional higher education must be revised to account for the online teaching and learning methods for fostering and enhancing the distance learning educational system's effectiveness.
- 25. Institutionalized affiliation of faculties with the university is essential to make distance learning an effective way of education for career enhancement, program growth, productivity, and sustainability.
- 26. To address the weak synchrony of higher educational development and economic development of country, it's essential to have political stability and an institutional framework that integrates relevant sectors (such as health and education) for synergy and political stability which are catalytic and foster enhanced returns to education.
- 27. Institute policies that promote attraction (brain gain) of the educated Nepalese diaspora significantly lost to brain drain.
- 28. Prioritize education sector by significantly enhancing the very low government expenditure, measured as a percentage of GDP, on education at all levels, namely, primary, secondary and tertiary.
- 29. Build and strengthen the public-private partnerships to foster capacity building and improving the deprived public education system.

The convention observed that some of the ideas and approaches discussed require further research, but many could be implemented immediately. The program could be implemented through the Government, non-government, or private sector. Some programs could also be implemented through NRN Foundation. The convention also acknowledged that Nepal's existing policies might need revision, and many different new policies may require addressing the challenges brought by the pandemic. However, there are ample opportunities for diaspora and NRNA to bring their knowledge, skills, and experiences for Nepal's benefit to deal with post-COVID-19 pandemic challenges. The convention concluded with a call for collaboration as the key to "Prosperous Nepal and Happy Nepali."

In this second convention, the organizing committee was mostly comprised of NRN and resident Nepali experts. A significant number of GoN's representation were there and threir role in management committee and as expert has aligned the conference theme with current development priorities of Nepal.

The convention has exceeded our expectations in terms of quality and quantity of presentations, quality participation and ability to bring everythings in table with great visibility and drawing the conclusion on the table.

V) Reports of NRNA ICC Regional Conferences

Non-Resident Nepali Association reaches to its constituents through its direct operation in six regions, namely, Oceania, Asia Pacific, Middle East, Africa, Europe and Americas. Prior to organizing the global convention, NRNA also started to organize knowledge conferences at the regional level. This year such conferences were successfully organized in Oceania, Asia Pacific, Europe and Americas regions. These conferences play important role in energizing participation of diaspora experts in these regions. The first

regional conferences were organized in 2018 in onsite mode. Due to COVID-19 associated circumstances, they were organized in all online mode this year. NRNA utilized COVID-19 challenges as an opportunity where by Nepali experts also contributed to these conferences via technology-assisted remote participation. Even though these conferences were organized in regional level, they were enriched by global participation. We firmly believe that the outcomes of these conferences will complement the skill, knowledge and innovation transfer to our country of origin. We are incorporating the reports of these conferences in program and abstract booklet of the 2nd NRN Global Convention, and are presenting the summaries in this session. The declarations of these regional conferences will also be integrated in the NRNA's recommendations to the Government of Nepal at the conclusion of the 2nd NRN Global Convention.

Tasks Assigned to Deputy- Coordinator: Mr Narayan Ghimire, Americas Regional Knowledge Conference.

Session:	SP2: Reports from Regional Knowledge Conferences						
Date/Time:	10 October 2020, 17:00 - 18:00 (Nepal Standard Time)						
Room 2:	https://bit.ly/33kL4oe (972 23247938)			Passcode:	nrna2020		
Zoom Support	zoomsuport@nrna.org						
Coordinator/Moderator	Mr Narayan Ghimire						
Time	Contributor	Contribution	Designation	Affiliation	Title of Presentation		
17:00 - 17:15	Dr Laxmi Pathak	Report	Coordinator	Americas Regional Knowledge Conference	Summary and Recommendations of Americas Regional Conference		
17:15 - 17:30	Dr Devi Basnet	Report	Coordinator	Asia Pacific Regional Knowledge Conference	Summary and Recommendations of Asia Regional Conference		
17:30 - 17:45	Hom Nath Pandey	Report	Regional Coordinator, NRNA ICC	Oceania Regional Knowledge Conference	Summary and Recommendations of Oceania Regional Conference		
17:45 - 18:00	Raju Aryal	Report	Coordinator	Europe Regional Knowledge Conference	Summary and Recommendations of Europe Regional Conference		