

# Craft News

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FEDERATION OF  
HANDICRAFT ASSOCIATIONS OF NEPAL

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## FHAN Institutional Development Workshop

*In a bid to discuss and adopt the future strategies for institutional development, FHAN in cooperation with GTZ/PSP-Chamber Support Program organized two days workshop at Dhulikhel, Kavre during 24 - 25 August. 2007. The workshop had about 45 participants comprising of FHAN officials, Executive Members, Past Presidents, top exporters, best entrepreneurs, best craft persons and representatives of its institutional Member Associations and staffs.*

Welcoming the participants in the program, Mr. Pushkar Man Shakya, FHAN President apprised with the purpose of the workshop. In this regard, stating the important role of FHAN and its past activities in enhancing Nepalese Handicraft trade & industry, he appealed all for sharing valuable inputs for that help FHAN to move ahead in more effective and efficient way. With a view to apprise on present status of FHAN, Mr. Dilip Khanal, Executive Secretary made presentation on Existing Situation of FHAN. The workshop was conducted by two experts Mr. Binaya Maharjan and Mr. Deep Rajkarnikar as facilitators. During the workshop, inputs regarding FHAN's institutional capacity and existing problems were gathered. The problem analysis and capacity assessment through group discussion was a key in identifying FHAN's institutional capacity. This way, the workshop identified possible solutions for bridging of institutional capacity gap and institutional development activities.



Mr. Sagar Samsher J.B.R., Past President, FHAN,  
Presenting views for  
Institutional Development of FHAN



The Participants are on group discussion during the workshop

In course of discussion, Mr. Sagar Samsher JBR, Founder President of FHAN opined that after conversion into federation, FHAN should function effectively for overall and nationwide promotion of handicraft trade and industry. Similarly, FHAN Immediate Past President Mr. Pancha Ratna Shakya, FHAN Past presidents Mr. Indra Bahadur Shakya and Mr. Kalyan Krishna Tamrakar also provided their valuable inputs for moving ahead FHAN as a federation. At the end of the workshop, expressing vote of thanks to all for their valuable time and sharing fruitful

suggestions, Mr. Bikash Ratna Dhakhwa, First Vice President of FHAN assured that workshop inputs will be implemented with high level of commitment for the development of handicraft trade and industry.

### **Regional Interaction with FHAN Members & Local entrepreneurs**

With a view to interact on current business status, existing problems and way outs, FHAN is organizing interaction program in different locations in presence of its members and local handicraft entrepreneurs. For this purpose, FHAN organized such programs in Pulchok, Nagbahal and Ikhachhen of Lalitpur during July and August, 2007. There was active participation of local FHAN members and entrepreneurs in such programs.

These programs were conducted by concerned board members from these localities. Each program had about 50 participants comprised of FHAN members as well as local handicraft entrepreneurs. Such interaction programs were conducted in the presence of FHAN President, officials and executive members. Such programs have been useful to discuss on handicraft's present status, problems and possible solutions. It is found that participants have actively participated and openly expressed their views. After discussion, FHAN president summed up the discussed matters and assured to implement valid suggestions cropped up during such programs. Either First Vice President or General Secretary of FHAN delivered vote of thanks at the end of such programs.

### **Planning workshop for Gold & Silver Jewelry Promotion**

Gold & Silver jewelry is one among major handicrafts being exported to international market. It has important contribution in total handicraft export. With a view to identify the existing problem and way outs for promoting gold & silver handicrafts, FHAN organized half day workshop on Gold & Silver Jewelry on September 28, 2007 in Kathmandu. The program had about 26 participants comprising of entrepreneurs & exporters involved in gold & silver jewelry and products. The program was moderated by Mr. Dilip Khanal, Executive Secretary of FHAN.



Glimpse of Gold & Silver Jewelry Prod. Development planning Workshop

At the beginning, Mr. Yagya Man Shakya, Coordinator of Gold & Silver Product Development Committee welcomed all the participants. Elaborating on the objective of the program, he asked all to express and share their views for the promotion of gold and silver jewelry. On that occasion, apprising with FHAN's role and activities, Mr. Pushkar Man Shakya, President of FHAN also shed light on important contribution of gold & silver jewelry in total handicrafts. In addition, pointing out the existing opportunities and threats in this sector, he asked the participant to set the appropriate direction for long term promotion of the sector. At the end, delivering vote thanks Mr. Bikas Ratna Dhakhwa, First Vice President of FHAN, assured to implement suitable programs identified by the workshop.

## **FHAN participates in World Craft Council, Asia Pacific Region Conference**

With an objective to discuss and exchange views and experiences to formulate the future activities for the progress and well being of craftspeople in the Asia Pacific region, World Craft Council (WCC) Asia Pacific General Assembly is held annually. This time 30th WCC Asia Pacific General Assembly was held with various activities in Bangkok, Thailand during 1-6 September, 2007. In this connection seminars and workshops on Crafts Development for the World Market was also organized. During the seminars presentations were made on 1. Home Textile - Chemical vs Natural Dye 2. Craft packaging in Current and Future Perspective 3. Logistic & Supply Chain Management for Exporting Crafts and Others.



During the Seminar of WCC, APCR FHAN President, Mr. Pushkar Man Shakya Chairing one Session.

From Nepal Mr. Pushkar Man Shakya, President of FHAN participated in the assembly. He chaired one session in the seminar organized in course of WCC-Asia Pacific Assembly and also presented on **Handmade Paper Products Opportunity and Threats in Global Market**. With a view to exhibit the products made in the region, the organizer have also organized "Asia Pacific Crafts & Garment Festival" during the period. After the assembly, the participants also participated in Thailand tour to experience "Crafts and World Heritage in Thailand".

### **Interaction for Market Promotion of Woolen Products :**

With a view to help promote the market and quality enhancement of Woolen products, Woolen Product Development Committee of FHAN and Micro Entrepreneurs Development Program (MEDEP) jointly organized an interaction program on September 7, 2007 in Kathmandu. The program had 18 participants comprising, FHAN Officials, representatives from MEDEP, concerned entrepreneurs and exporters of woolen products.

In the program, elaborating on the role and activities of FHAN, Mr. Bikas Ratna Dhakhwa, First Vice President shared that exploring the market and expanding export of Nepalese handicrafts in Russia and other new possible market has been FHAN's prime concern. Miss Rajju Ranjitkar, Coordinator of Woolen Products Development Committee highlighted on purpose of the program. During the period, the representatives from MEDEP also expressed their views. During the program, special products produced in Rasuwa district were displayed for publicity and obtaining valuable feedbacks in the area of improving quality and design.

### **Formation of Committees:**

The Executive Board has formed various functional and product development committees. So far, 11 functional committees and 11 product development committees are formed. The product development committees have the responsibility to work out programs to develop their sector. The functional committees have the primary responsibility to complete the assigned tasks.

### **Two entrepreneurs nominated in Executive Board:**

In consultation with the board, FHAN President Mr. Pushkar Man Shakya has nominated Mr, Upendra Samsher JBR of Nepalese Traditional Craft Pvt. Ltd and Mr. Bed Raj Gyawali of BAS Traders as Executive Members of the new Board.

### **Lobbying on Monetary Policy & Silver Handicraft promotion:**

With a view to interact for inclusion of the appropriate provision for the promotion of handicraft and SMEs in upcoming monetary policy and seeking cooperation for export promotion of silver jewelry and silver crafts, a team of delegates led by the President, recently had a meeting with Mr. Krishna Bahadur Manandhar, Acting Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank. The delegation also included FHAN officials, coordinator of Gold & Silver Product Development Committee, Export Committee and some exporters. The team apprised the Governor on existing problems and urged for proper amendments in upcoming government policy.

### **News/ Views**

#### **Interaction of New Industrial Policy:**

Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FNCCI) in cooperation with South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics & Environment (SAWTEE) organized an interaction on Economic Development and New Industrial Policy in Kathmandu. On that occasion, opining the need of promoting the productivity as well as international market of Nepalese products, Dr. Ram Sharan Mahat, Honorable Minister for Finance, asked for introducing foreign technology and capital to industrial development in Nepal. Reviewing the present Industrial status of the country, the participants also advised for needful action for industrial and overall economic development of the country. Honorable Minister for Industry, Commerce & Supply, Mr. Rajendara Mahato and Member of National Planning Commission, Mr. Puspa Raj Rajkarnikar also participated in the program. The program had participants from different government and trade related associations. Dr. Shankar Sharma, Formal Vice Chairman of National Planning Commission presented a working paper on the subject. The representatives from Ministry of Industry, Commerce & Supply, FNCCI, Nepal Chamber of Commerce, SAWTEE and FNCSI also made comments on the presented paper. The interaction was successful to generate meaningful suggestions for the industrial and economic development.

#### **Efforts to promote Nepalese Craft and Culture in Canada :**

With a view to Promote Nepalese culture and crafts in Canada, in initiation of The Nepali Canadian Community (NCCS) organized a one day Nepali Culture Festival with title "Nepali Mela: The Himalayan Festival" in Toronto, Canada on August 26, 2007. The event had granted the platform to all the participants to experience and celebrate the rich cultural heritage of Nepal with presenting extensive features of Nepali arts, crafts, food and music to publicize Nepal in Canada. Nice presentation of unique Nepali folk dances Lakhe, Tamang Selos, Newari, Tharu dances and performance of traditional as well as modern Nepali songs could add nice flavor on that occasion. During the festival, they had exhibited Nepalese crafts, paintings and photos with film screenings reflecting on the different spheres of Nepal's every day life. In this connection, they had also organized workshops on Traditional Nepali Musical Instruments and Unique Art Thanka Painting. It has been stated that the event was much successful to attract and divert the mind of Canadians toward Nepal and Nepalese crafts and culture. It is expected that this types of events organized in foreign countries will definitely help promote Nepal. So, It is also asked to concerned all to make their positive effort to this direction.