



Handicraft Promotion Week, 2008

Since inception, Federation of Handicraft Association of Nepal (FHAN) has been involved in various activities for the over all promotion of handicraft trade and industry. In this regard, with a view to publicize the newly produced handicrafts and help promote the market and business link, FHAN organized Handicraft Promotion Week, 2008 during 19 to 25 October, 2008 at FHAN Secretariat. In a bid to accommodate various handicraft products and attract the concerned traders as well as exporters, Buyer Seller Meet was organized with display of one or more different handicraft products each day.



Honorable Minister for Industry, Addressing the function of Inauguration

Honorable Minister for Industry, Mrs. Asta Laxmi Shakya inaugurated the Handicraft Promotion Week, on 19 October, 2008 amidst the function organized at the premises of FHAN secretariat. On that occasion, praising for the meaningful contribution of FHAN, she pointed out the need for over all development and promotion of handicraft trade and industry. Urging the need of effective rural development for national economic development, she assured that government will bring suitable industrial and commercial policy. Highlighting on the importance and the need for promotion of unique Nepalese handicrafts, she also assured to extend possible cooperation to establish Handicraft village soon.

Earlier, welcoming all guests and participants in the event, Mr. Pushkar Man Shakya, FHAN President highlighted on essence of the program. Briefing on FHAN promotional activities and its works and services, he asked the government for extending needful cooperation for the promotion of handicraft sector and establish handicraft village. On that occasion, Mr. Dharma Raj

Shakya, FHAN General Secretary as well as Coordinator of the event elaborated on the objective of the event. Expressing good wishes, Mr. Bhashkar Raj Karnikar, Vice President of FNCCI said that the government should encourage to use Nepalese products for gifts and official use for promotion of handicrafts. At the end of inauguration, delivering vote of thanks to all, Mr. Hem Ratna Shakya, 2nd Vice President, FHAN asked concerned all to visit and observe the different handicraft product each day and publicize about the events.



The participants dealing with visitors during programme

As per event schedule, different handicraft products were displayed by concerned participants. Every day, there was participation of 11 to 18 participants involved in concerned product group. All together, 105 participants attended the program as seller or producer and about 1400 exporters or dealers dealing on different handicraft products visited as buyer and observed the products displayed for future business linkup. Apart from business linkage, there was sale of about NRs. 600 thousand amounts of handicraft products on the spot. During the period, officials, representatives and interested visitors in large number from government, embassy, INGO, NGO and different trade organizations had visited the program.

The participants had exhibited various products made from Gold/Silver, Cotton, wool, Metal, Natural fiber, Stone, Wood, Ceramics, Pashmina and Hand made paper. Furthermore, novel handicrafts and pauva (Thanka Painting) were also exhibited in the program. According to the participants, the program was very helpful to expose and publicize their products and establish business linkage.

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Special AGM FHAN

Federation of Handicraft Associations of Nepal is regularly involved for setting the environment for nationwide promotion of Nepalese handicrafts. For this, FHAN has worked out numerous changes in its charter. With a view to discuss and final approval of proposed amendment in the Charter, FHAN called a Special General Meeting (SGM) on 13 August, 2008. The SGM was postponed due to lack of adequate quorum and called for the second time on 17 November, 2008 in Kathmandu.

Mr. Pushkar Man Shakya, President of FHAN declared open the SGM. He also appealed all to actively participate and share their views. Highlighting on the need of concurrent amendments for mobilizing FHAN to play effective role in the handicraft trade and industry, Mr. President presented the proposed draft of FHAN charter among the members. The participants of SGM discussed on preface, FHAN organization composition, membership rules, AGM, composition of board, its function, right, responsibility, official's work, right & responsibility and others. The discussion continued for next day and finally the proposed amendments were approved with certain changes.

The SGM also formed 7 members working team to prepare final version of FHAN charter merging all views and suggestions as decided during SGM. The team included Mr. Dilip Khanal, FHAN Executive Secretary as a coordinator and Mr. Kumar Thapa, Mr. Dipendra Silpakar, Mr. Chuda Dev Sing Lama, Mr. Kiran Kumar Dangol, Mr. Bivendra Prasad Singh and Mr. Narayan Pradhanga as members. The final charter will be presented to District Administration Office of Kathmandu for approval.

The major amendments made in the charter were:

a) Membership:

- The existing classification of members is revised as to accommodate all types of members.
- New classification of associate member is added
- Various formats and procedures are to be decided by the Board
- Renewal is made more scientific

b) The Board

- The present 21 Members board is enlarged to 23
- Two more Vice Presidents are added

c) Organogram

- A small team led by the President can make decisions on behalf of the board
- Four Vice Presidents chair four councils for FHAN's major areas of activities
- A full time Director General replaces the existing Honorary General Secretary to look after the Secretariat

Above changes in the charter is envisaged to make FHAN more representative in nature and more efficient in its operation.



The Glimpse of FHAN Special General Meeting

Interaction on Industrial & Commercial Policy

For easy access and systematic development of trade and industry, a country needs conducive industrial and commercial policy. With a view to share and accumulate useful suggestions for needful adjustment in upcoming Industrial and commercial policy, FHAN organized an interaction on Industrial & Commercial Policy on December 19, 2008 in Kathmandu. The program had participation of about 30 participants comprising FHAN Officials, Executive Members, Past President, Experts, Representatives from its institutional member association and exporters. Mr. Bharat Bhadur Thapa, former Secretary, Ministry of Industry & Commerce and Mr. Pradeep Janga Pandey, Vice President, FNCCI were also present in the program.



Glimpse of interaction on industrial policy and commercial policy

matters and shared views and suggestions. Participants urged for needful adjustments for over all development of handicraft industry, export facilitation and labor related issues.

Participation in WCC, Asia Pacific Region Assembly

16th World Crafts Council International General Assembly and 31st World Crafts Council Asia Pacific Regional Assembly was held in Hangzhou, China from 5th - 11th November 2008. With an aim to exchange opinion and to formulate activities for the progress of crafts and well-being of the craftspeople in the region, representatives from concerned member countries are gathered every year at pre set venue of host country. The theme of 2008 WCC General Assembly was to promote the arts and crafts in the world, improve and inherit the skills of manual technique, develop the cultural industry and assist the prosperity of the crafts' art. The assembly was over with organizing variety of other activities including an International Arts and Crafts Exhibition, an international forum on crafts, a

designer's seminar, the 2008 "Asia Pacific Region Craft Master" Awarding and Crafts Seminars, and the 2008 UNESCO AWARD of Excellence for Handicrafts in East Asia Awarding Ceremony and Workshop. Eventually, the participants of assembly have also expressed the hope that 2008 WCC General Assembly could further promote the development of the arts and crafts.

From Nepal, on behalf of Federation of Handicraft Association of Nepal, Mr. Bikash Ratna Dhakhwa, 1st Vice President of FHAN participated in WCC, Asia Pacific region assembly. Meanwhile, he had shared with participants from different WCC member countries for promotion of Nepalese Arts & Handicrafts as well as strengthen FHAN in future.

Observation Study Visit on Cotton Production

Handicraft products made of cotton have good market. There is high demand of quality and innovative cotton products. With a view to apprise on modern textile technology, production techniques and process and its current status, FHAN organized observation and study visit on production process of cotton products on September 23 and on October 15, 2008. The team of 9 entrepreneurs led by Mrs. Yasoda Vaidya visited K.R. Textile, Baisali Textile and Bairav Coloring Industry.

During the visit, the team was introduced with application of Modern Textile Machines, process of Weaving, Coloring, Dyeing, Ironing and Dwarfing by concern experts. In the visited industries, different Cotton, Dhaka and Other fabrics are produced which is mostly used for making handicraft products like fashion wears, shawl, cap, bag, Bed & Cushion cover, wall hangers etc. During the visit the team have had interacted on existing problems, needs and expectation on promotion of cotton handicrafts.

Participation in Dilli Haat Trade Fair

Since one year back, in a bid to enhance the capability of handicraft entrepreneurs on preparing and implementing Production Plan, Business Plan and marketing Plan for market promotion of their products, FHAN, PlaNet Finance and FWEAN (Federation of Women Entrepreneurs Association of Nepal) have jointly running SME Link Project. As per plan of project, more than 100 handicraft entrepreneurs dealing on Metal Craft, Silver Jewelry and Pashmina were trained on making Production Plan, Business Plan and Marketing Plan for promoting their business during first year. In this connection, with a view to develop the marketing insight and expose the entrepreneurs to big market, some selected entrepreneurs were brought to participate in Dilli Haat Trade Fair organized by Dastakari Haat Samiti in Delhi during 15 - 30, December, 2008. With involvement in trade fair, in a bid to apart knowledge on practical issues and its consequences dealing with customer, on the spot training workshop was also conducted. During the training the trade fair participants were introduced on Corporate Identity, Branding, Marketing & Export, Presentation & Packaging, Color Forecasting & Fashion Trend, Design Development and Effective Marketing Promotion. In course of participation, with spot sale, the participants had distributed their business promotional material and collected contact addresses from visitors for future business linkage.



The group photo of Dilli Haat Trade Fair participant

The program had granted them to explore market, interact with other entrepreneurs, compare their products and share good ideas for quality enhancement of the products. In this trade fair, 25 entrepreneurs from Nepal participated in. According to the participants, the event was useful to upgrade the marketing and business promotion skill.

Interaction with Taiwanese Delagates

In course of visit to Nepal, a team of Women Rotarians from Rotary Club of Taipei YungFu visited Federation of Handicraft Associations of Nepal (FHAN) secretariat. With a view to establish mutual business link and promote export of Nepalese handicraft in Taiwan, an interaction was held between visiting delegation team and FHAN officials as well as executive members. At the beginning, welcoming the Rotarian Delegates, FHAN President Mr. Pushkar Man Shakya briefed on FHAN objectives, works and activities. On that occasion, apprising that FHAN works and organizes activities as per necessity of its members, he expressed the hope that with

mutual cooperation handicraft trade & industry can be effectively promoted. He also appealed the team for extending possible cooperation for conducting skill and quality enhancing projects in the field of woodcraft, natural fiber products and dyeing. Highlighting on the objective of the visit, team leader of Taiwanese Delegation team, Mrs. PP Susan expressed the hope that this meeting would help promote mutual relation, cultural and trade promotion in days to come. Mr. Dharma Raj Shakya, FHAN General Secretary, Mr. Chris Chao and Mr. Madhur Shrestha had also expressed their views during the program.

SKILL TRAININGS

Natural Fiber Promotion & Development Training

These days, there is high demand of handicraft products made of natural fiber products in global market. Export statistics shows that sum of US\$. 483,058 and US\$. 547,033 natural fiber products were exported during F.Y. 2063/64 and 2064/65. In this regard, with a view to enhance the skill of processing and developing natural fiber from banana plant, FHAN and Institute of Environment Management (IEM) jointly organized training on natural fiber development during 21-24 November, 2008 in Kawasoti, Nawalparasi. The training was conducted by Dr. Riddhibir Singh as a Resource Person. The training had participation of 15 Women entrepreneurs involved in this sector. During the training, the participants were apprised with uses and important application of banana plants. To enhance the skill of optimum production of fiber, the participants were also introduced with cutting of banana plant, weighing, rolling and extracting fiber from plant. The participants were also involved in practical session and asked for producing 5 to 10 kg of banana fiber. The organizer has organized this training as first phase program.



The Resource Person apprising on the topic

Knitting Training

Woolen Product is one of the most promising exportable handicraft product. Expert craftsmanship, quality and design of the product has added high value on woolen products. With an objective to upgrade the quality skill and promote the skilled manpower in the field of woolen knitwears, FHAN has been frequently organizing various skill trainings. FHAN organized woolen product knitting training during 23 November till 22 December, 2008 in Lalitpur. The training was conducted by Mrs. Leela Joshi and had 11 participants involved in production of woolen products.

FHAN PUBLICATIONS

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| 1. The Iconography of Nepalese Buddhism | US\$ 10.00 |
| 2. The Iconography of Nepalese Buddhism (German) | US\$ 15.00 |
| 3. Short Description of Gods & Goddesses | US\$ 03.00 |
| 4. Product Catalogue (8 Sheets per set) | US\$ 03.00 |
| 5. Artistic Heritage of Nepal | US\$ 10.00 |
| 6. Sacred Art of Nepal | US\$ 30.00 |
- (All price include mailing charges)

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Federation of Handicraft Associations of Nepal

P.o. Box: 784, Upama Marg
Thapathali, Kathmandu, Nepal
Tel: 977-1-4245467, 4244231
Fax: 977-1-4222940
Email: han@wlink.com.np
URL: www.nepalhandicraft.org.np

Editor
Dilip Khanal

Co-editor
Dev Raj Bajracharya

To
