

# Craft News

(Quarterly)

*FEDERATION OF HANDICRAFT ASSOCIATION OF NEPAL*

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## **Pashmina Design Unit**

Pashmina export recorded serious downfall in the last five years. Some of the reasons attributed for such downfall is related with design development effort.

HANDECEN established Pashmina Design and Product Development Unit (PDPDU) with its premises to streamline innovative designs for Pashmina. The unit is equipped with different types of looms, block printing and embroidery facilitations. The PDPDU has been able to prepare 100 designs during February - March 2007. Color and design forecast from the market has been the basis of new designs. Furthermore, imaginative designers blended Pashmina designs with block printing and embroidery works. The PDPDU was inaugurated on January 25, 2007.

On that occasion, President of FHAN Mr. Pancha Ratna Shakya, Director General of Cottage & Small Industry Department Mr. Maheshwor Sharma Poudel, President of Nepal Pashmina Industry Association Mr. Shankar Pandey and Chairman of HANDECEN Mr. Bikash Ratna Dhakhwa shed light on the importance, possibility and cooperation aspect for enhancing the performance of the Unit. PDPDU was also to sell some designs on that occasion. Manufacturers and traders can approach PDPDU and benefit from its service.

## **Natural Fiber Products: High Potential for growth**

Nepal has more than forty types of natural fibers. However, only a few fibers have been utilized commercially. This was disclosed by Dr. Riddhi Bir Singh of Natural Resource Development Center (NRDC) on February 25, 2007 during workshop organized by FHAN in collaboration with Nepal Chamber of Commerce, NRDC, Wean Multipurpose Cooperative and HANDECEN.

He also shared on current status of advantages associated with the plantation of Banana and Ketuki. NRDC President, Mrs. Shyam Badan Shrestha highlighted on market conditions and business promotion aspect of natural fiber products. During the inaugural session, FHAN President Mr. Pancha Ratna Shakya, NCC President Mr. Surendra Bir Malakar, DCSI Director General Mr. Maheshwor Sharma Poudel spoke on the importance of developing such products. Mrs. Malika Shrestha, Coordinator of FHAN Natural Fiber Product Development Committee and Mrs. Sharada Rijal of WEAN Multipurpose Cooperative and HANDECEN President Mr. Bikash Ratna Dhakhwa apprised on the problems associated with such products.

The workshop discussed various issues related with commercializing natural fiber products. More than 50 stakeholders had participated in the workshop followed by demonstration of natural fiber products of Nepal. The workshop was able to identify Banana fiber and Ketuki fiber as an alternative to Nettle fiber.

## **Workshop on Need & Importance of Product Designing**

To aware the concerned entrepreneur with the importance of product designing and help promote the handicraft trade and export, HANDECEN organized one day workshop on Need & Importance of Product Designing in Lalitpur on January 30, 2007. The workshop was conducted by Mr. Sanuraja Silpakar, a design expert as well as coordinator of its Prototype Product Development Committee. During the workshop, participants were introduced with various designing concepts, significance and need for business promotion. There was participation of 20 participants involved in production of various handicraft products. During the workshop, the participants also discussed on existing problems and difficulties in handicraft sector and also identified proper way outs for product designing and quality improvement.

## **Meeting With Tibetan Trade Delegations**

With a view to observe and study the situation for possibility of promoting Tibetan as well as Chinese tourist in Nepal, a trade delegation led by Mr. Wang Songping, Deputy Director General of Tibet Tourism Board recently visited Nepal. During the visit, the Chinese team had meeting with officials of different trade organizations and government authorities and discussed on promotion of tourism and trade between two countries. In this connection, the team also visited the secretariat of FHAN and had discussion on promoting tourism industry in both the countries and Nepalese handicraft in Chinese market. On that occasion, apprising with the role of FHAN and its promotional activities, President of FHAN asked for extending possible cooperation to organize trade fair in Tibet and avail the opportunity to participate in international trade fairs of China.

## **Observation Tour in Chitwan**

*With an objective to enhance and promote the market of the locally produced products of cottage and small industries in Chitawan District, Narayangadh Chamber of Commerce & Industry, District Development Board, Bharatpur & Ratna Nagar Municipality and Ratna Nagar Chamber of Commerce & Industry with support of Nepal Tourism Board, Trade & Export Promotion Center and Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce & Industry, organized Chitawan Mahotsav 2007 at Narayangadh, Chitawan during January 12-21, 2007. With a view to include the participation of handicrafts, Agriculture products, Nepali foods, tourism, communication, , information & technology, cultural activities, the Mahotsav had managed about 300 stalls and suitable environment.*

With a view to observe various locally produced handicrafts and other products exhibited in the fair and gain the insight to enhance the quality of the products for the business promotion, FHAN organized an Observation and Study Tour to Chitawan during 19-21 January, 2007. The team was led by Mr. Purna Raj Shakya, Member of Management Committee, FHAN. The visiting team had 20 members comprising of Management Committee Members and General Members of FHAN. Interacting with officials and other local handicraft traders, the team had acquired relevant information. On that occasion, the visiting team also assessed the status of handicraft industry in Chitawan. FHAN President and General Secretary along with members of Institutional Development Committee also accompanied the study tour.

# Trainings

## Training on Making Canvas

With a view to impart skill and techniques on making Canvas for producing quality Thanka (Paubha) Paintings, FHAN organized Training on Making Canvas during 7 - 9 January, 2007 in Kathmandu. The training conducted by an expert, Mr. Amirman Chitrakar had 14 participants involved in Thanka Paintings. During the training, the participants were introduced with traditional methods and techniques of preparing Nepali Style canvas.

The training was concluded amidst function organized at the premise of FHAN on 9 January, 2007. On the occasion, welcoming all the participants, FHAN President apprised about its various promotional activities. Marking on the importance of skill of making good canvas for quality production of Thanka (Paubha), he asked concerned entrepreneurs and artists to upgrade the necessary skill and apply practically. Mr. Babu Raja Bajracharya, Coordinator of Traditional Product Development Committee highlighted on the importance and objective of the training. Expressing gratitude for organizing the valuable training, the Resource Person of the training briefed on the subject matter of the training. In this course, apprising with the additional information regarding preparing quality canvas, Mr. Lok Chitrakar, an experienced Paubha Artist appealed concerned Artist to effort hard for timely upgrading the skill and transfer the skill to new generation for the preservation and long promotion of this profession. At last, First Vice President of FHAN delivered vote of thanks to all. On that occasion, reminding about FHAN publication on Paubha (Thanka) Painting, he asked concern all to produce quality paintings on basis of religious and principle of Thanka paintings. The participants have found the training useful and relevant.

## Joint Closing of Trainings in HANDECEN

*FHAN has been organizing various promotional activities for the promotion of handicraft trade and industry. During the last six months, FHAN and HANDECEN with support of different organizations and institutions organized about seven skill and export management trainings. The details of the conducted training are follows.*

| S.No. | Name of Training   | Resource Person  | No. of Participants |
|-------|--|--|---------------------|
| 1     | Training on Identification of Precious & Semi Precious Gem/ Stones | Mr. Satya Narayan Jha<br>Miss Niki Joshi   | 41                  |
| 2     | Training on Candle & Incense Making                                | Mr. Bhakta Budhathoki<br>Mrs. Sunita Vaidya                                      | 19                  |
| 3     | Training on Japanese Stitching                                     | Mr. Makiko Miyajaki  | 6                   |
| 4     | E - Marketing Training   | Dr. Bhojraj Aryal, Timila Yami<br>Yanjeeb Maharjan, Jyoti Karki<br>Arun Shrestha | 8                   |
| 5     | Training on Nepalese Fine Art                                      | Mr. Chinikaji Tamrakar<br>Mr. Puspa Ratna Shakya                                 | 10                  |
| 6     | Patina (Metal Coloring) Training                                   | Mr. Amrit Tuladhar   | 19                  |
| 7     | Training on Iconography  | Mr. Deepak Joshi   | 8                   |

On 6 March, 2007, Mr. Bharat Bahadur Thapa, Secretary for Ministry of Industry, Commerce & Supply distributed certificate to the participants of various trainings organized during October, 2006 till March, 2007. On that occasion, pointing out on the uniqueness and superiority of Nepalese handicrafts, he expressed the hope that skill & design upgrading trainings would be helpful to preserve and enhance export trade of Nepalese handicraft. Pancha Ratna Shakya, President of FHAN briefed on its various activities and benefits of skill upgrading training. On that occasion, Tej Ratna Shakya, President of Nepal Gold & Silver Dealers Association, Narayan Prasad Shrestha, Executive Director of Trade & Export Promotion Center and Pranav Shrestha, Director General of Department of Mine & Geology also expressed their views on the promotion of handicraft trade & Industry. At end, delivering vote of thanks, Bikash Ratna Dhakhwa, First Vice President of FHAN and Chairman of HANDECEN said that upgrading skill as well as competitive capability of handicraft entrepreneurs has been the priority area for FHAN. To make the training more effective and useful, the organization has tried its best to avail well known and experienced national and international resource persons. Expressing gratitude to all organizations for extending their kind cooperation, he also appealed all to continue their help in coming days. According to the participants, the trainings are useful for promoting their business.

## **Training on Accounting**

With a view to upgrade the skill of account keeping among handicraft entrepreneurs, WEAN Multipurpose Cooperative Ltd., in cooperation with FHAN, organized Training on Accounting during 26 January till 4 February, 2007 at the premises of FHAN. The training had 13 participants, mostly women. During the training, participants were apprised with importance, implementation of accounting, processes of basic account keeping, profit/ loss account and preparing balance sheet. The training was concluded on February 4, 2007. On that occasion, FHAN president distributed certificates to the participants. Highlighting the need for adoption of proper accounting system for business, he asked the participants to implement the learnt skill practically. In this connection, Mrs. Malika Shrestha, Coordinator of the program and Mrs. Sharada Rijal, President of WEAN also highlighted on the uses and importance of the training.

## *News / Views*

### **SAARC Business Leaders Conclave in Mumbai**

In course of establishing favorably business environment for promotion of mutual trade and investment opportunity, SAARC Business Leaders are meeting for identifying and adopting proper way outs. In this connection, second SAARC Business Leaders Conclave was held on joint organization of SAARC Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry during 17 -18 February in Mumbai, India. There were participation of commerce ministers and renowned business leaders of the perspective member countries. Six members business delegation team of Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce & Industry led by its president, Mr. Chandi Raj Dhakal took part in this conclave. The conclave was over in two sessions. The roundtable meeting of business leader during first session discussed on Regional Trade, Investment and Employment Generation: Creating an Enabling Policy Environment in South Asia. Likewise, during second session, the business leaders of respective countries discussed on capacity enhancement of SAARC regions with special focus on infrastructure development, strengthening trade & economic relations and public private sector cooperation for improving people's living standard. In addition, the meeting also interacted on power trading, development of transmission line, road, regional highway, SAARC Economic Union (SEU) etc.

### **14th SAARC Summit discussed on implementation of SAFTA**

The 14th SAARC Summit was held in the New Delhi, the capital of India during 2-4, April, 2007 and concluded with adopting a 30-points declaration, which includes formation of a modality to fight against terrorism in the South Asian region. The summit urged the need to collectively overcome the challenges of poverty, disease, natural disasters and terrorism. In this regard, the Heads of States or government of member countries during the Summit also confirmed to work together to deal with these challenges in order to secure the region's collective prosperity. They reconfirmed their commitment to implement all international conventions relating to combating terrorism in SAARC Member countries. While urging continued efforts to combat terrorism, the Heads of State or Government also called for urgent conclusion of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism, the Declaration says.

Recognition to the full benefits of an integrated multimodal transport system in the region was also agreed. It was also called for an extension of the SAARC Regional Multimodal Transport Study (SRMTS) to include Afghanistan as well.

The SAARC members also expressed satisfaction at the launching of 2007 as the 'Year of Green South Asia.

This time, the summit was also attended by representatives from People's Republic of China, Japan, European Union, Republic of Korea and the United States of America as Observers to SAARC.

Conceiving the importance of SAARC Development Fund (SDF), the members directed that the SDF be made operational at the earliest. They also agreed that the resources for SDF would be mobilized both from within and outside the region. During the summit, it was also discussed to implement SAFTA effectively in the region for promotion of mutual economic and trade activities. It was announced that the 15th Summit Meeting will be held in Maldives.