Geriatric Center Nepal
The First Anniversary Celebration
6th August 2010
Kathmandu
Happy

Birth Day to

Geriatric Center Nepal

6th August 2010
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Message from Rt. Honorable Vice-President of Nepal  
Mr. Parmananda Jha

I am pleased to be here today on the occasion of the first anniversary of Geriatric Center Nepal. It is an opportunity for me to get acquainted with you and your work on ageing in Nepal. It is my pleasure to have the opportunity to confer awards and distribute prizes to achievers who have made significant contributions for the welfare of old people in our society.

Your effort to re-establish and strengthen the core value of our eastern civilization: “MAATRI DEVO BHAVA PITRI DEVO BHAVA” in the present context is highly commendable. Today’s active youths are tomorrow’s senior citizens. Your efforts of today will serve all of us tomorrow.

Some of you are honored and rewarded today because your work have honored and rewarded Nepali society as a whole through your work. Each one of you has proved that every citizen can make valuable contributions towards nation building and societal development. I congratulate again to those who are honored with decorations and awards today.

The population of senior citizen is increasing throughout the world due to the progress made in development and extension of health services and effectiveness of family planning programs. Because of this trend, the 21st century is also recognized as the century of senior citizens. In our country also the rate of increase in population of senior citizens is higher than the rate of increase in total population.

It is the right of senior citizens to get necessary support from the younger generation and the responsibility of offspring or descendents to provide necessary support. It is possible to expedite the pace of social development only with the proper use of knowledge, experience and skill of senior citizens coupled with the strength and spirits of youth.

I wish the initiatives taken by Geriatric Center Nepal on raising awareness, conducting research; developing literature and providing other services to senior citizens may further develop and expand in the future. I thank you all and wish success in the future.

6th August 2010
Message from the Founder Chairperson

It goes against our dignity to not try to return what we enjoyed for free. We learned to say “thank you” from our parents and seniors. When they get old, we have to ensure that they too get the reasons to express hearty “THANK YOU” to their children and juniors.

We chose to return to our senior citizens all the care and love that they bestowed upon us when we were young and helpless. GCN has taken up the mission to promote a society where people take pride as they grow old and ultimately enjoy the dignified status of a senior citizen.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to GCN family and friends for the hard work that each one did in making it possible to achieve so much for senior citizens in the first 365 days of GCN life. A sense of satisfaction in working for those who made us what we are today has been the main source of motivation.

Many individuals, families and organizations of Nepal and abroad have made valuable contributions to the success of GCN. Starting from the Right Honorable President of Nepal Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, and Right Honorable the Vice-President of Nepal Mr. Parmananda Jha to the concerned Ministers and related government personnel, social organizations and individuals - all have played their role in supporting GCN in its various undertakings and we are deeply obliged to them.

We at GCN are confident that we will be as lucky and hard working as we have in this first year and we will bring about desired changes in cooperation with our friends in Nepal and abroad alike.

If the beginning has been so good, I am sure, the future will be much better than what we experienced so far. Along with our friends, we look forward to better services and opportunities for our senior citizens.

Thank you

6th August 2010

Krishna M. Gautam
Message from Executive Director
Mr. Bharat Raj Poudel

I welcome you all to join the pioneering journey that GCN has started in serving the senior citizens. We aim to create a society where old age comes as a blessing to enjoy all beautiful aspects of life that somehow we all miss to make use of while young.

I am proud that GCN gained so much of appreciation and support from national and international organizations in different activities initiated in its first year of operation. We have made significant achievements in raising awareness, conducting research, supporting government in developing policies and programs, producing literature, and availing services – all for improving the quality of life of senior citizens. I am deeply obliged to all families and friends who made all this possible in so short a time of one year.

GCN firmly believes in all the good that can be done for all humanity by inculcating and strengthening the core values of our civilization, i.e., “Matri Devo Bhava: Pitr Devo Bhava:” meaning “accept mother as god: accept father as god:” – in all individuals. I invite you all to join this crusade.

6th August 2010
1. Introduction
Every day under the sun is equally important but some days become more important when we add values to it through our work. 6th August is one of such more important days because Geriatric Center Nepal (GCN) was formally inaugurated on the day in 2009. GCN as an organization had formally started to work for senior citizen by worshiping about 300 senior citizens on the day. Vedic civilization equates an old person to god; hence they qualify to be worshiped. Therefore, 6th August is an important day not only for GCN but for all senior citizens who it aims to serve. This report presents activities that marked the first anniversary and gives a brief on works completed in the first year.

2. Objective
GCN dedicates all its efforts for the cause of ageing population. To live with this value, even the celebration of its first anniversary was used as an event to contribute towards attaining its institutional objective of awareness building and motivating people to join this campaign.

3. Invitees
GCN had invited senior citizens from all walks of life in Kathmandu. They included political leaders, social leaders, industrialists, businessmen, literary figures, lawyers, professors, and representatives of organizations working for elderly in Nepal including the media. More than 200 such dignified citizens attended the program.

4. Arrival of the Special Guest
Rt. Honorable Vice-President of Nepal Mr. Parmananda Jha was invited to grace the occasion as the Special Guest and he kindly accepted the invitation. He arrived at GCN at 11:10 am.
Rt. Honorable Vice President of Nepal Mr. Parmanada Jha entering GCN complex to grace the occasion as the Special Guest

The Special Guest was well received by GCN staff by garlanding him at arrival at GCN. Seen in the photo below are GCN Chairperson Mr. Krishna M. Gautam, Priest of GCN Swami Narayan Prapannacharya, and CEO Mr. Bharat Raj Poudel garlanding the Special Guest. The Special Guest was taken to GCN hall where other invitees had gathered for the program.

GCN Family welcoming the Special Guest
5. Inauguration and Welcome Music
After the guests took their appropriate seats, Mr. Tej Parsad Giri, a retired Director of Agriculture and currently working as the Chief of Research and Training wing of GCN gave his welcome speech and briefed activities of the day. The Special Guest then marked the program inauguration by watering sapling of Parijat plant pot. Parijat is a flower plant with religious and cultural values. A noted musician of Nepal Mr. Jeevan Aale played flute on the occasion supported by Tabla. Swami Narayan Prapannacharya (seen in white dress in the left corner of third picture below) chanted Vedic verses (mangala charana) on the occasion.
6. Book Release
The Special Guest released a book titled “Sammanit Byaktitwaharu” (honorable personalities) at the auspicious moment of mid day as advised by GCN astrologer. The book is a collection of life history of all individuals and organizations that received awards on the day.

Special Guest releasing book “Sammanit Byaktitwaharu”

7. Conferring Honors
Mr. Bharat Raj Pudel, CEO of GCN conducted the program. The Special Guest was requested to confer medals, handover certificates and cash prizes to this year’s winners.

7.1 Aadrasha Santati Samman (Ideal Descendants Award)
This honor or award was instituted by GCN for sons and daughters or any other family member who provide exemplary service, as judged by the local community, to their ageing seniors in the family. For this year 2010, Seti Devi Village Development Committee (VDC), located 25 km south of Kathmandu city was selected for its rural nature and easy access by road from GCN head office. A VDC is the lowest administrative unit below district which is further divided into 9 wards. Location of Seti Devi VDC in Kathmandu district is shown below.
Location map of Seti Devi VDC, Kathmandu

GCN started working with local leaders of the VDC in June 2010. To begin with, a village meeting was called where GCN staff explained the objective and process of selecting the Best Five Families from the entire VDC. The village meeting formed 11 members Selection Committee for the purpose. They included representatives from each of the nine Wards and two social leaders. Following is the group photo of Selection Committee members.

Eleven Member Committee for selection of Adarsha Santati Samman (Ideal Descendant Award)

The village meeting unanimously selected Mr. Prem Bahadur Bista as the Coordinator of the Selection Committee. Other members of the committee are:
The committee members spend one full month visiting each household in the village, taking neighbor’s opinions on the possible candidate for the award. Finally the committee recommended five persons to GCN for the award. GCN then fielded its staff to visit the recommended families and interviewed them to prepare their Bio-data or the life history. Thus history was written of people who served their elders in the family. A compilation of these life-histories was published in a book form by GCN with the title “Sammanit Byaktitwaharu” meaning the “Honorable Personalities” in English. This book also included life history of others who received awards on the day.

Each of these five awards comes with a cash prize of Rs. 5000, a medal made of pure silver and the certificate. The design of the medal is shown below. Aadarsha Santati Samman (Ideal Descendants Awd) is engraved on one side of the medal in bold letters with GCN logo, and the year in Bikram Sambat (B.S). On other side is the name and address of the recipient. The size of the medal, quantity of silver used and the amount of cash prize vary for different awards.
The Special Guest conferring Aadarsha Santati Samman 2067.

Following are the five winners of Adarsha Santati Samman 2067 from Seti Devi VDC, Kathmandu District.

Mrs. Pukuli Sarki, Seti Devi VDC – 8

Mr. Sanubhai Khatri, Seti Devi VDC - 2
7.2 Jestha Nagarik Mitra Samman (Friend of Senior Citizen Award)
Mr. Govinda Pokhrel is a senior journalist of high professional standing. His writings in vernacular dailies and weekly are read with great interest by commons, policy makers and political leaders alike. Since the establishment of GCN, he has been constantly raising the issues of ageing society through his writings in vernacular dailies and weeklies. He has voluntarily assumed the role of being a spoke person of GCN in the media. GCN instituted this award to honor him and people like him for their commitment to educate the mass on different aspects of ageing through their writings. This award with a silver medal carries a purse of Rs. 5000.
7.3 Jestha Nagarik Kriti Samman (Senior Citizen Book Award)
GCN reviewed all books published last year in Nepali language on different aspects of ageing. Mr. Rabidra Prasad Pradhan’s book on Gerontology (Briddhatva Bigyan) was judged to be the best of all available. He published this book after his retirement as a pilot. Fusion of theories and practices related to ageing in eastern and western civilizations make the book unique and a must read for all students and academia of Gerontology. This award with a silver medal carries a purse of Rs. 5000.
7.4 Jestha Nagarik Seva Samman (Senior Citizen Service Award)
Mrs. Dambar Kumari Regmi has been voluntarily serving senior citizens since she retired from her government job 12 years ago. She is one of the most active ladies in her early 60s always seen taking lead role in all programs related to the welfare of senior citizens. She is the Chairperson of Mata-pita Sadan (Father-Mother House) at Siphal, Kathmandu. This award with a silver medal carries a purse of Rs. 5000.

Ms. Dambar Kumari Regmi (fourth from left with yellow Saree)
smiling after receiving Jestha Nagarik Seva Samman 2067

8. Cultural Dance
A professional dancer Mrs. Subhima Shrestha presented cultural dance on the occasion. In Hindu mythology this dance is related to the goddess of learning and wisdom, i.e., “Saraswati”.

The first anniversary of Geriatric Center Nepal, 6th August 2010
After the dance, the Special Guests conferred following awards. Winners of these awards were announced in presence of the Rt. Honorable President of Nepal Dr. Ram Baran Yadav on 18th May 2010 at Rastrapati Bhawan, Kathmandu.

9. Senior Citizen Media Award
Evaluation committee found that Annapurna Post daily- a vernacular broadsheet- had allotted much space for news and views on ageing issues in the year 2009 compared to other national newspapers. Therefore, this publication was honored with a cash prize of Rs. 20,000, a silver medal and certificate.

Mr. Sashikant Aryal, Assistant Editor receiving award for the Annapurna Post Daily publication. Swami Narayan Prapannacharya is offering garlands.
10. Senior Citizen Columnist Award
Ms. Kalpana Ghimire had published the most number of columns in Kantipur daily in the last year on issues of old people. She was honored with a cash prize of Rs. 50,000, a silver medal and the certificate.

Ms. Kalpana Ghimire receiving Senior Citizen Columnist Award 2067

11. Narayan Gautam Senior Citizen Award
Contribution of Prof. Leela Devi KC, (PhD) was judged to be the most significant for the cause of ageing population of Nepal. She not only introduced the subject of Gerontology while she was the Principal of Padma Kanya Campus but also founded the National Senior Citizens Organization’s Network Nepal or Sanjal in short. Even after the retirement more than a decade before, she is continuously working for the cause of ageing population. She is honored with the highest award instituted by GCN for her pioneering work in Nepal. The award comes with a cash prize of Rs. 100,000, a silver medal and a certificate. Ms. KC took the award and handed over the Cash prize to Sanjal.

This award is named after Mr. Narayan Parsad Gautam, father of Krishna M. Gautam, who is now 83 and suffering advanced stage of dementia. He has been the main source of inspiration for establishing Geriatric Center Nepal in the first place. He was present on the occasion with his sons and grandson.
Ms. Leela Devi KC receiving Narayan Gautam Senior Citizen Award 2067

Mr. Narayan Prasad Gautam attended the program as guest
12. Prem Bahadur Bista, Coordinator of Selection Committee
Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Bista thanked GCN for selecting Seti Devi VDC and honoring people from the village. He expressed his commitment that from next year onward, the VDC will give continuity to the program with its own budget. He assured that the VDC will honor five families every year who provide exemplary service to their elders in the family.
13. Mr. Rabindra Prasad Pradhan
Mr. Pradhan, who was honored with the Senior Citizen Book Award briefly presented the main content of his book and informed the gathering on why he got interested on the subject. Many journalists present got interested to write book review. Thus more people came to know about the wonderful contribution already made by Mr. Pradhan through his book.

Mr. Rabindra Prasad Pradhan, author of “Bridhatwa Bigyan” (gerontology), speaking after receiving the Senior Citizen Book Award 2067

14. Key Note Address by the Special Guest
Rt. Honorable Vice President gave a key note speech where he commended the efforts of GCN and wished success in the future. He also assured that he will do all in the capacity of his office to incorporate issues and concerns of senior citizens in the coming Constitution and the government annual plans.

Rt. Honorable Vice President Mr. Parmananda Jha Delivering Key Note Address as the Special Guest
15. Vote of thanks
Chairperson of GCN Mr. Krishna M. Gautam thanked all participants, summarized outcome of the day and invited all to join for light snacks.

16. Tour of GCN by the Special Guest
After the formal program described above, Rt. Honorable Vice President of Nepal was taken to a tour to GCN facilities and was briefed on different activities of GCN. Following are glimpses of the event.

Briefing on services available at GCN
Briefing on GCN Library
Briefing on GCN Publication and Research Works
17. Media Coverage
The events of the day were well covered by all national TVs and radios in their evening news. All national dailies printed news on the following day. Some of the news as printed is given below. It is reasonably estimated that more than 15 million people were informed of the day's event and the concerns of senior citizens in Nepal.

Above is news as printed in Annapurna Daily of 7th August 2010. Its daily circulation is estimated at 85,000 copies.
Ms. Kalpna Ghimire receiving Senior Citizen Columnist Award from Vice President and the news as printed on 7th Aug. Circulation of Kantipur daily is estimated at 280,000 copies.

News printed in Kathmandu Post Daily of 7th August. Its daily circulation is estimated at 75000 copies.
News given in Gorkhapatra Daily of 7th Aug. This is the government paper and oldest in Nepal. Its daily circulation is estimated at 60,000 copies.

News as printed in Rajdhani Daily of 7th Aug. Its daily circulation is estimated at 20,000 copies.
News as printed in Samachar Patra of 7th August. Its daily circulation is estimated at 40,000 copies.

News as printed in The Himalayan Times Daily of 7th August. Its daily circulation is estimated at 80,000 copies.
List of Activities of Geriatric Center Nepal (GCN)
From 21 Shrawan 2066 to 21 Shrawan 2067
(5 Aug 2009 to 6 July 2010)

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<tr>
<th>SN</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Summary of activities</th>
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| 1  | 21/4/2066  | GCN was inaugurated by the chief guest Honorable minister Dr. Minendra Rijal. Books on "Budhyoli Jiwan" and "Sammanit Byaktitwaharu" were released on the occasion. Good wishes and felicitations were expressed by: National Poet Madhav Prashad Ghimire, Professor Dr. Lila KC, Mrs Angoorbaba Joshi, Professor Dr. Mrigendralal Singh, Mr. Deepak Gurung, Dr. Prasanna Gautam, Mr. Narayan Prasad Gautam including other guests. GCN announced following three types of annual prizes:  
• Narayan Gautam Senior Citizen Award (With Rs 100,000)  
• Senior Citizen Columnist Award (With Rs 50,000)  
• Senior Citizen Media Award (With Rs. 20,000)                                                             |
<p>| 2  | 31/4/2066  | Initiated free health camp for senior citizens                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 3  | 5/5/2066   | Stakeholders of GCN together with senior citizens in group had pooja and get-together at Karyabinayak                                                                                                                   |
| 4  | 6/5/2066   | Organization of senior citizens poetry workshop, Mr. Pushpa Nath Sharma as coordinator.                                                                                                                                  |
| 5  | 9/5/2066   | Organized interaction program at GCN with Brinda Pandey, the Chair Person of the Committee for Fundamental Rights of Constitution Assembly, together with CA members Dhirendra B. Shrestha, Dharmaraj Niraula, Mahalaxmi Upadhyaya <code>Dina</code>, Tilak B Thapamagar, Arbinda Shah, Urmila Shah, Chandrika Prasad Padhya and Ramesh Lekhak. GCN presented a working paper on the state of senior citizens in the constitution of 26 countries. |
| 6  | 10/5/2066  | Started Shivamahapuran by Acharya Narayan Prasad Rimal                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 7  | 19/6/2066  | Poetry reading by 75 poets on <code>Phuleko Jawani</code> (Grey youth)                                                                                                                                                             |
| 8  | 31/6/2066  | Inauguration of <code>Phuleko Jawani</code>. Good wishes and felicitations by National Poet Madhav Ghimire and Surya Prasad Shrestha, Under Secretary Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare.                                        |
| 9  | 4/7/2066   | Interaction between the representatives of GCN and Siddhidatri temple operators on building <code>housing for senior citizens</code> at Mukundapur of Nawalparasi district.                                                          |
| 10 | 12/7/2066  | Organised workshop on Reki treatment for senior citizens. Started Reki treatment from the center on daily basis.                                                                                                       |
| 11 | 15/7/2066  | Completion of Shivamahapur and started Bhawishyapur.                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 12 | 20/7/2066  | The participants of workshop on <code>Umerido Samajka Sambhawana ra Chunauti </code> (Prospects and Challenges of elderly society) in South Korea organized workshop on the same topic at GCN                                                                 |
| 13 | 29/7/2066  | Imparted training to students of Utrerana Mahila Vidyalay, Tinkune on                                                                                                                                                |</p>
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>5/8/2066</td>
<td>Three months classes on Shukla Yajurved started for senior citizens.</td>
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<td>15/8/2066</td>
<td>Lecture on ‘Sanatan ra Ved’ by Former education minister and senior citizen Modnath Prasit.</td>
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<td>17/8/2066</td>
<td>77th Birthday celebration of Mr. Balram Lohani, GCN stakeholder senior citizen.</td>
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<tr>
<td>19/8/2066</td>
<td>Conducted training for students of Utrerana Mahila Vidyalaya Satdobato, Lalitpur on caring for senior citizens in the family.</td>
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<td>27/8/2066</td>
<td>Organized poetry workshop of senior citizens on ‘Omkar ma chhaun Sab’ (we all are within Om) under the chairmanship of Dr. Ramananda Giri.</td>
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<td>10/9/2066</td>
<td>Honourable minister for Women, Children and Social Welfare Mr. Sarbadev Prashad Ojha visited GCN and had interaction program.</td>
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<td>15/9/2066</td>
<td>Conducted discussion program on ‘Pusta bich sambhandha ra bhinnata’ (Inter-generation gaps and relations) between youth group of ‘Tannerid dot com’ and senior citizens of GCN</td>
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<td>10/10/2066</td>
<td>Initiated weekly Bhagwat puran for the eternal peace of first Religious martyr Late Shri Narayan Pokhrel.</td>
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<td>11/10/2066</td>
<td>Famous astrologer Mr. Basudevkrishna Shastri started astrological services at GCN.</td>
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<td>12/10/2066</td>
<td>Concerns of senior citizens were presented to Fundamental Principle Rights Committee of Constitutional Assembly.</td>
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<tr>
<td>17/10/2066</td>
<td>Conducted workshop on ‘Samriddha jiwan kalagi Sanatan Yogsadhana’ (yoga for prosperous life). Mr. Modnath Prasit, Dr. Tikaman Baidhya, Dr. Hari Prasad Mansagni and Dr. Chintamani Gautam presented working papers and almost all the yoga centers of the valley were represented in the workshop.</td>
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<td>16/11/2066</td>
<td>Mr. Andreas Bruce of Aberdeen University from Scotland visited GCN and had interaction.</td>
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<td>1/12/2066</td>
<td>Orientation was given to members of Rotary club of Baneshwor concerning different aspects of senior citizens</td>
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<td>17/12/2066</td>
<td>Three week long yoga training was completed for 20 women of Maiti Nepal and certificates were distributed.</td>
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<td>11/12/2066</td>
<td>Book on “Yugpurush Swami Vivekananda” was published. Swami Chandresh and Padam Prasad Pandey gave their remarks on the occasion.</td>
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<td>15/12/2066</td>
<td>Susan B. Somers, General Secretary of International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse visited and had interaction with GCN.</td>
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<td>15/1/2067</td>
<td>Ms. Fabinne Bigger, a student of Social Psychology of Zurich University, Switzerland started volunteer work through GCN in Pashupati Old Age Home and return after nine days.</td>
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<td>6/4/2067 (22/7/2010)</td>
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<td>9/4/2067 (25/7/2010)</td>
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<td>41</td>
<td>14/4/2067 (30/7/2010)</td>
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<td>42</td>
<td>21/4/2067 (6/8/2010)</td>
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Miscellaneous and ongoing

- Interviews for creating public awareness relating to different aspects of senior citizens are being broadcasted through Radio Nepal and various FM stations.
- Articles concerning senior citizens are being published in many vernacular dailies and weeklies for mass awareness building.
- Continuation of coordination, networking and developing relationship with national and international organizations working for senior citizens.
- Conducting training and preparing training materials for care of senior citizens.
- A national level study is being planned in collaboration with Aberdeen University, Scotland
- A base-line study on elder abuse is under progress
Some lighter moments of the day, 6th August 2010

“May be to him” ! Krishna M. Gautam with Prof. Dr. Leela KC.

Some side talks are important!
Prof. Dr. Leela Devi KC sharing special concerns with the Special Guest.
“You mean me?” Ms. Rita Pant, Secretary of Sanjal with Ms. Damber Kumari Regmi, winner of Senior Citizen Service Award 2067.

Meeting an old friend after so long a time is always a pleasure for all, except for Ms. Sushila Shrestha who preferred to close eyes for the moment! The Special Guest with his old friend Dr. Kedar Karmacharya, a well known physician.
An age old mystery! Why can’t everybody look at the same direction?
There is always one with closed eyes and other looking at different direction!!

I am talking to you and you are busy with snacks!

After all, the taste of snacks provided is .......well!!