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NEPAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION

REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT, Ter Ellingson

To the members of the Nepal Studies Association:

The Nepal Studies Association is creating a new structure to solve our problems with elections, meetings, and communication between members and the NSA leadership. The Executive Committee met in Seattle on March 4-5, 1989, and approved the new structure as an interim plan for the coming year. Formal proposals for constitutional changes and long-term plans of action will be submitted to NSA members for a vote this year.

The Executive Committee has reorganized as the NSA Council, with all members assigned specific responsibilities. We have elected a President and a Secretary-Treasurer, and all other council members are serving on two committees. The Conference Committee is responsible for planning and publicizing annual NSA meetings and conference activities, and the Elections and Policy Committee will supervise the nomination and election of Council members and deal with current questions of NSA policy.

New officers have been selected to fill the vacancies created by Leo Rose's resignation and Terry Cooke's overseas posting, and to assume the responsibilities of the new Committees. Ter Ellingson is President, Barbara Brower continues as Secretary-Treasurer, Todd Lewis is the Chair of the Conference Committee and Nancy Levine is Chair of the Elections and Policy Committee. Linda Iltis of the University of Washington has been invited to rejoin the Council as an interim replacement member to fill one of our vacancies until the next election.

The 1989-90 and 1990-91 meetings of NSA will be held at the Wisconsin South Asia Conference in Madison. We are making plans for a strong resurgence and growth of NSA activities at Madison, AAS, and other conferences in the next few years, and are already beginning to feel the excitement of revitalized efforts by the Nepal Studies Association to promote the growth of Nepal and Himalayan studies. We hope many of you can join in these efforts and share this excitement.

Namaste;
Ter Ellingson

NEPAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION, CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
Todd Lewis, Chair

One clear point of consensus among members of the Nepal Studies Association Council is that all disciplines represented in Himalayan studies need to achieve a much greater presence at annual meetings and in the publications of scholarly organizations.

The newly formed Conference Committee, chaired on an interim basis by Todd Lewis, has taken on this task. We are currently soliciting individuals who will serve as panel organizers for specific upcoming meetings. A panel organizer will communicate with the membership to find scholars who will give papers and submit the necessary paperwork to the respective scholarly organizations. We encourage organizers to think of creating panels that would also aim to have the final papers published in a single volume.

In Seattle, the Council made some preliminary decisions and designated a few panel themes and organizers for meetings in the immediate future. Beyond these, the Committee will seek to have the NSA named as a sponsor for specific panels. Please note the future conferences indicated below and look to future issues of HRB for a listing of additional meetings and the concomitant calls for papers that will appear.

Note that our initial consensus on these NSA panels was that, in distinction from other sorts of thematic panels we might propose as individuals, those coordinated by the Association should deal significantly with Himalayan subjects.

From the outset, those of us on the Conference Committee wish to emphasize the openness of this process and welcome anyone who would like to take up a part in this important endeavor.

A second more long-term objective of the Committee is to periodically convene our own conferences on topics of special interest and relevance to the Association. The Committee would create a subcommittee that would facilitate grant applications to fund the event, secure a suitable location, and issue a call for papers to be posted in this journal. At the Seattle council meetings it was proposed that a bilateral conference, involving both Nepalese and non-Nepalese individuals involved in the research process, be convened on the important topic of "Foreign Researchers and Research in Nepal." We raise this possibility now for your consideration, and will coordinate planning for this at the membership meeting in Madison this Fall.

Regarding this proposal, and concerning anything else appearing in this report, the Committee welcomes your communications. Please survey our first Conference Planning Digest: we call upon all members to help make it more thorough by sending supplemental information. Above all, think about focusing your own scholarly presentations in coordination with the Association's efforts to make Himalayan studies more vibrant and visible.

Correspondence to the NSA Conference Committee should be sent to Todd T. Lewis, Religion Department, Loree 140, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ 08903. Tel: 201-932-9637.

CONFERENCE PLANNING DIGEST

We are seeking panel topics and organizers for the following conferences.

I. 1989 South Asia Meetings (Madison, November 3-5)

Submission Deadline: May 1, 1989

Proposed Panels:

1. Recent Research in Himalayan Studies
Organizer: Krishna Pradhan
2. Studies on Religion and Society in the Kathmandu Valley
Organizer:

II. 1990 AAS Meetings (Chicago, April 6-8)

Submission Deadline: August 4, 1989

Proposed Panels:

1. Creating Cultures
 2. Recent Research in Himalayan Studies
- Organizers are still need for both panels.

III. 1990 American Oriental Society Meetings

1. The Himalayan Region in Indological Studies

An organizer is still needed for this panel.

IV. 1990 South Asia Meetings (Madison)

Submission deadline: May 1, 1990

We are soliciting topics and organizers for two panels.

V. 1990 American Academy of Religion Meetings

Submission Deadline: mid-February 1990

1. Tentative Theme: Recent Studies on Religion in the Himalayan Region

Organizer: Todd T. Lewis, Religion Department, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ 08903. 201-932-9637

VI. 1990 American Anthropological Association Meetings

Submission Deadline: April 1, 1990

We are seeking one panel topic and organizer.

Elections and Policy Committee
Nancy Levine, Chair

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Elections and Policy Committee is seeking nominations for election to the Council of the Nepal Studies Association. Three members will be elected this May as officer-designates, and will take office in September, 1990.

In accord with our constitution, officers must be NSA members. Any NSA member nominated by three or more other members is eligible, and may be reelected for up to two consecutive three-year terms. Under the interim structure adopted by the NSA Council for this year, all members of the Council will serve on either the Elections and Policy Committee or the Conference Committee. Candidates must be available for the annual meeting and committee duties, and upon nomination, must submit a one-paragraph biography to be circulated to the NSA membership with the election ballot.

Nominations should be made only for those who are willing and available to serve. Please include the nominee's address and phone number so that the Committee can verify his or her availability.

Nominations may be sent before May 1, 1989 to the

Elections and Policy Committee
c/o Himalayan Research Bulletin
Southern Asian Institute
Columbia University
420 West 118th Street
New York, NY 10027.