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NOTICES



Background

On January 18, 1992, Nepal Bhasa Parishad organized a symposium of distinguished scholars, intellectuals and writers of Nepal Bhasa (Newar) to discuss a long felt need for an authoritative academic institution which will systematically work towards the preservation and promotion of Nepal Bhasa language, literature and the rich Newar cultural heritage. The participants in symposium unanimously endorsed the idea of an Academy, and an Ad Hoc Committee was formed to draft a constitution and devise a feasible framework of operation.

On September 5, 1992, the constitution was formally approved and adopted in a meeting of Ad Hoc Committee, and a Academic Council with a maximum of 75 members was formed.

The Nepal Bhasa Academy has thus been established as a self-governing corporate body.

Functions and Objectives:

As mandated by its constitution, the Nepal Bhasa Academy performs the following principal functions:

- o Preserves and promotes study and research in the field of Nepal Bhasa language, literature and culture.
- o Establishes links with various communities and nationalities speaking different languages in the national and international arenas, and promotes cultural exchange and dissemination of information.
- o Translates into different languages works of Nepal Bhasa language and literature and publishes them in order to popularize its literature in the international arena, and also translates world literature into Newar language in order to enrich
- o Fosters a spirit of mutual cooperation among different individuals and groups working in the fields of Nepal Bhasa language, literature and culture.
- o Offers due recognition and honour to both national and international scholars, and creative writers who have made significant contributions in various fields of Nepal Bhasa

- o Nurtures and encourages talents hidden in the Newar society.
- o Provides scholarships and grants for creative and research based projects on Nepal Bhasa literature, language and Newar culture.
- o Encourages publication of research works of outstanding merit.

Organizational Structure.

Nepal Bhasa Academy will be a self-sustained and independent organization, comprising of two separate components:

- o Academic Council
- o Executive Committee

Membership:

- o Membership is open to all Nepali nationals who have made substantial contributions in the field of Nepal Bhasa language, literature and culture through the medium of Nepal Bhasa.
- o All membership applications have to be formally approved by the Academic council.
- o Honorary membership will be conferred on all national and international scholars who have made substantial contributions to Nepal Bhasa language, literature and culture.
- o The Academic Council will consist of a maximum number of seventy-five members, which will not include those extra members who have been coopted to function in the Executive Committee.

Activities in Progress:

- o Compilation and publication of a comprehensive Bibliographies of old manuscripts and all books published to date in Nepal Bhasa.
- o Translation of classic works from Nepal Bhasa to other languages e.g. Translation of 'Kavi Keshari' Poet Chittadhar Hridaya's *Sugat Saurava* into English/Nepali.
- o Presentation of Kumari Ballet, a classical dance drama on a mythological theme.
- o Audio Visual documentation of the cultural activities and rituals of Nepal, such as Samek, Bhadrakali dances, etc. With the ultimate objective of establishing a Cultural Archive of Newar Artefacts
- o Symposium on Nepal Bhasa Grammar

Executive Committee

Mr. Baikuntha Lakaul Chancellor Ph. No. 220322; Mr. Chittaranjan 'Nepali' Vice-Chancellor Ph. No. 412342; Mr. Malla K Sundar Member-Secretary Ph. No. 227060; Mr. Laxmi Das Manandhar Treasurer Ph. No. 414835

Executive Members

Mr. Satya Mohan Joshi Ph. No. 526815; Mr. Hem Raj Shakya Ph. No. 523250; Mr. Kancha Buddha Bajracharya Ph. No. 221999; Mr. Rama Pati Raj Sharma Ph. No. 61 0078; Mr. Durga Lal Shrestha Ph. No. 211094; Mr. Rebati Ramanananda Vaidya Ph. No. 524802; Mr. Hitkar Bir Singh Kansakar Ph. No. 224043; Mrs. Dr. Jyoti Tuladhar Ph. No. 212237; Mr. Indra Mali Ph. No. 271295

Regional Representatives

- Mr. Devendra Kumar Malla Ph. No. 22113 (Biratnagar); Mr. Prem Chotta (Baglung)
- Dr. M. N. Dhaubhadel, E-Mail <dhaubade@egr.msu.edu> (USA)

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AAR Establishes Himalayan and Tibetan Religions Group

The American Academy of Religion announces the establishment of a new Himalayan and Tibetan Religions Group. For further information, contact Anne C. Klein, Department of Religious Studies, Box 1891, Rice University, Houston, TX 77251, office phone (713)527-8101, ext. 2711. Because this is our first year of group status, we are considering devoting our session to discussing the present state and future direction of our field and, in view of this, how we might best structure the next few years of our group. For this, we invite relevant papers or suggested reading(s) and a slate of discussants. As an alternative, we also invite paper/panel proposals on: shamanic practices, rDzogs-chen traditions, syncretic traditions or movements, constructions of gender, or Tibeto-Mongolian interactions. Interdisciplinary approaches especially encouraged. Preference is given to papers likely to stimulate discussion.

Computer Bulletin Board Service

More people are using E-Mail these days. Those with access to local computer bulletin boards available on TELNET and INTERNET (via your local University computer host) may want to try the news reader service and search for "soc.culture.nepal". There is also a daily Nepal electronic publication of *The Nepal Digest*. Subscription requests may be sent to the editor, Rajpal Singh <a10rjs1@cs.niu.edu>, and postings are to <nepal@cs.niu.edu>. This is a mixture of current wire news stories and informal political and/or scholarly dialogue. HRB may begin posting notices of upcoming conference information there (in Seattle, I have seen postings from as far away as Australia, Sweden and Japan).

Has anyone heard of a Tribhuvan University TELNET or INTERNET link?

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