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## Research Notes from Nepal

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## NEWS AND NOTES

### Research Notes from Nepal

contributed by Nirmal Man Tuladar, CNAS

#### Assessment of Tertiary Education

A HMG/Tribhuvan University/UNDP/World Bank Project on Assessment of Tertiary Education is organizing a series of workshop/seminars on critical issues in higher education in Nepal. The first in the series was held on March 1, 1993 to discuss several aspects of financing of higher education in Nepal. The second was held on May 17, 1993. The theme of this workshop/seminar was the Academic Staff Policies at Tribhuvan University. Six papers were presented by Nepalese experts:

Prof. Harsha Narayan Dhaubhadel's paper on "Professional Ethics of University Teachers" dealt with work ethics and the code of academic conduct, working environment, teacher morale, teacher accountability, teacher evaluation and its use, continuation of status quo, making a compromise, and solidarity and autonomy of the professionals.

Dilli R. Dahal's paper on "The Relevance of the Research Centres in Tribhuvan University" looked at current situation and issues of the research centres, funding for them by Tribhuvan University, manpower in them, output of the research centres, personnel and problems of skilled manpower, lack of plan and programmes at the centres, lack of policies, education and training programmes at the centres.

Prof. Prem R. Uprety's paper on "The Role Definition of Tribhuvan University Teachers: An Assessment and Future Direction" attempted to define the three categories of teachers: the apolitical-technical type, covert-activist type, and overt-activist type. It also reviewed teachers' salary, work-load, and teaching/research issues.

Prof. Govind R. Agrawal's paper on "Sources of Extra Income of University Teachers" suggests teacher productivity and extra shift teaching, systems and norms for consultancy/research, private tuition syndrome, and teacher participation in examination-related jobs for extra income.

Kapil Shrestha's paper on "The Role of the Nepal University Teachers' Association" reviewed the activities and role of the Nepal University Teachers' Association (NUTA) in 1962-70, 1979-90, and 1990 to the present. It also analysed NUTA's roles, responsibilities and challenges as a critique, watchdog and conscience-keeper, network and linkage, alternative and countervailing center of power and a catalyst and change agent. It also dealt with academic freedom versus political activism.

## **Nepal Bhasa Academy**

The inaugural function of the Nepal Bhasa Academy was held on May 22, 1993 at Hotel Blue Star, Kathmandu. The Nepali Congressleader, Mr Ganesh Man Singh, inaugurated the Nepal Bhasa Academy.

Welcome Speech: Mr Chitaranjan Nepali, Vice-Chancellor of the Nepal Bhasa Academy

Presentation of the report: Mr Malla K. Sundar, Member-Secretary of the Nepal Bhasa Academy

The Keynote Speech: Dr Iswar Baral, Vice-Chancellor of the Royal Nepal Academy

Address: Mr Kedar Bhakta Methema, Vice-Chancellor of Tribhuvan University

Address: Prof. Kamal Prakash Malla, Advisor of the Nepal Bhasa Academy

Greetings: Mr Nabindra Raj Joshi, Deputy Mayor of the Kathmandu Municipality

Greetings: Mr Janey D. Cole, Director of the American Cultural Center

Greetings: Mr Nino Cicaarone, Cultural Attache and Director of the French Cultural CenterA

Vote of thanks: Mr Satya Mohan Joshi, Member of the Nepal Bhasa Academy

Address from the Chair: Mr Baikuntha Prasad Lakaul, Chancellor of the Nepal Bhasa Academy

For more information contact: Nirmal Tuladhar, Research Centre for Nepal Asian Studies, Tribhuvan University, P.O. Box 3757, Kathmandu, Nepal ; Tel. 211040.

## **Himalayan and Tibetan Religions Group Established at the American Academy of Religion**

The American Academy of Religion (AAR), the principal organization for the academic study of religion in North America, has granted group status to a new meeting unit: Himalayan and Tibetan Religions. For the next five years, two panel sessions at the Annual Meetings will be reserved for this group. Panel and paper proposals will be solicited through the Call For Papers issued by the AAR to members and reviewed by the steering committee. Participants in AAR meetings must be members of the Academy. (Information on membership given below.) The co-chairs for 1994-5 are Anne Klein of Rice University and Todd T. Lewis of Holy Cross.

*An excerpt from the proposal sets forth the group's intentions and an invitation to NSA members:*

*Although over the past twenty years considerable research has been conducted on the religious traditions of the Muslim, Pahari, and Tibeto-Burmese ethnic groups found across the Himalayan zone, there has never been an effort to organize textual, social scientific, and historical scholars to meet in a regular forum dedicated to the study of religion in this region.*

*The indigenous minority, folk, and non-Buddhist traditions of the Himalayan region have been in dialogue with pluralistic outside religions for more than 1500 years. Some regional traditions are important for their enduring autonomy; others preserve archaic sacred texts and practices; still others are of interest for their striking forms of religious syncretism.*

*Through a group, the organizers intend to identify pan-regional topics for comparative study such as shamanism, healing cults, mortuary rituals, pilgrimage, interactions between religious and political institutions, and the role of religion in the social upheavals now affecting the entire Himalayan region. The diverse background of the proposed group members (textual scholars, anthropologists, art historians) will also promote needed inter-disciplinary collaboration...*

*We are certain that the longer-term perpetuity of a group will provide sufficient lead time for organizing panels that will attract leading international figures in Himalayan and Tibetan studies to participate in upcoming meetings.*

*A Himalayan and Tibetan Religions Group would reflect the geographical focus of an active segment of the AAR while also advancing the study of Himalayan religions. By providing a venue for a group of leading and upcoming American and international scholars, this AAR unit will become the pre-eminent focal point for scholarly exchange and collaboration in this area. It will be a significant factor in further advancing the field, both through the personal interactions it facilitates, and the publications that arise from its panels.*

Themes and Topics in 1994 (Chicago, Nov 19--22):

Panel Discussion: Present state and future directions in Himalayan Studies

Possible panel themes mentioned in the Call for Papers: Shamans, Oracles, and Divination; Rdzogshen traditions; Syncretic movements

Future Meetings:

November 18-21, 1995 in Philadelphia

November 23-26, 1996 in New Orleans

AAR Membership Services:

1703 Clifton Road, NE

Suite G-5

Atlanta, GA 30329-4019

404-727-7920

For further information contact the Co-Chairs:

Anne C. Klein

Dept. of Religious Studies

Rice University

Houston, Texas 77251

713-527-8101 (ext. 2711)

Todd T. Lewis

Department of Religious Studies

College of the Holy Cross

Worcester, Massachusetts 01610

508-793-3436

## First International Symposium on Asia Pacific Architecture

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The University of Hawaii at Manoa School of Architecture and the East-West Center will present the First International Symposium on Asia Pacific Architecture: The East-West Encounter March 22-24, 1995 in Honolulu, Hawaii. The purpose of the symposium will be to discuss the impact culture has on architecture and to identify a useful research agenda to ultimately effect a design environment in the Asia Pacific region that is more contextual in concern and culturally sensitive, reflecting the people and their ideologies.

The symposium will feature speakers from many countries who will discuss a wide range of topics focusing on the culture and architecture of the Asia Pacific region. Professor Edward W. Said of Columbia University, renowned scholar on the interfacing of cultures, will be the keynote speaker at the symposium.

Paper topics will address the following issues:

- Sociological/political/anthropological concerns
- Business practice issues
- History and theory
- Traditional architectural responses to climatic factors
- Architectural and planning case studies from Hawai'i and the Asia Pacific region

Included as part of the symposium will be the Kenneth F. Brown Asia Pacific Culture and Architecture Design Awards Program, sponsored by the University of Hawaii at Manoa School of Architecture, in cooperation with the Architects Regional Council Asia (ARCASIA). The purpose of this program is to identify, recognize and promote the most outstanding examples of contemporary architecture in the vast Asia Pacific region. The program will seek to explore the significant role architecture plays in creating a sense of place and to recognize architecture as one of the most important cultural icons of a particular time, place, and people. Jurors for the Asia Pacific Culture and Architecture Design Awards Program will be Kenneth F. Brown of Hawaii, USA, Charles Correa of India, Ashley DeVos of Sri Lanka, and Fumihiko Maki of Japan.

Further details on the above events are available from:

- Symposium Coordinator  
School of Architecture  
University of Hawaii at Manoa  
1859 East-West Road  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822  
Telephone: (808) 956-7225  
Facsimile: (808) 956-7778

**The Kenneth F. Brown  
Asia Pacific Culture and Architecture  
Design Awards Program**

**Call for Entries:** Entries are now being solicited for the *Kenneth F. Brown Asia Pacific Culture and Architecture Design Awards Program*, sponsored by the University of Hawaii at Manoa School of Architecture, in cooperation with the Architects Regional Council Asia (ARCASIA). The purpose of the program is to identify and recognize outstanding examples of contemporary architecture and to promote the development of sensitive and humane environments in the Asia Pacific region.

**Judging Criteria:** Architectural works will be judged on how well they fit and contribute to the physical, historical, and cultural contexts of their location, reflecting the social, religious, political, economic, technical, and aesthetic ideals of particular cultures and locales.

**Jurors:** Kenneth F. Brown, Hawaii, USA; Charles Correa, India; Ashley DeVos, Sri Lanka; Fumihiko Maki, Japan.

**Prize:** Kenneth F. Brown Architecture Design Award(s)--U.S. \$25,000 cash prize.

**Eligibility:** Any built architectural work completed between January 1, 1970 and January 1, 1994 and located either on the continent of Asia or in any country which touches the Pacific Ocean.

**Registration Deadline:** December 15, 1994; **Entry Deadline:** February 15, 1995.

For further information, please contact: Leighton Liu, Design Awards Program Chair, School of Architecture, University of Hawaii at Manoa, 1859 East-West Road, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822; telephone (808) 956-8311; facsimile (808) 956-7778.

The design awards program is being held in conjunction with the First International Symposium on Asia Pacific Architecture: The East-West Encounter, co-sponsored by the University of Hawaii School of Architecture and the East-West Center, March 22-24, 1995 in Honolulu, Hawaii.