



# UGC

A Bi-monthly Newsletter of University Grants Commission (UGC), Nepal

Volume 10, Issue 3/4

Poush-Chaitra, 2077

2021

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Anytime Printing Press  
Ph.: 9851148005

## The Government Appoints Prof. Bhandari as Secretary of UGC

Prof. Shankar Prasad Bhandari has been appointed as the Secretary of University Grants Commission. The Government of Nepal (Council of Ministers) has appointed him as the 6<sup>th</sup> Secretary of UGC on 4<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2021.

The newly appointed Secretary Prof. Bhandari is from management background and with long and rich administrative experience. He is a retired Professor of Management at Tribhuvan University. Prof. Bhandari served at the Faculty of Management for over two and half decades in various capabilities including Subject Committee Chairman. He has also a long experience on higher education reforms. He has more than



eight years of experience as the project coordinator for Higher Education Reforms at TU supported by the World Bank. His key areas of delivery through reforms include: quality assurance and

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## UGC Day Celebration



University Grants Commission celebrated its 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Day on 22 Nov. 2020 which marks the endorsement of UGC Act, 2050 by the Parliament. A special program was organized at UGC Office, Sanathimi, Bhaktapur.

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# The Government Appoints Prof. Bhandari as Secretary of UGC

accreditation, performance-based funding to central departments and campuses, enhancing institutional and academic autonomy of campuses, examination reform, implementation of academic calendar, support for introducing new programs and their implementation, curriculum revision, recruitment and promotion of faculty based on academic excellence, and capacity building. He has many academic publications. His key publication are: Balanced Scorecard, Measuring and Management of Intellectual Capital, Strategic Management Accounting, Status of Activity-Based Costing of Some Dairies of Nepal, and Financial Performance of Dairy Development Cooperation and Nepal Investment Bank Ltd. He has participated in different national and International workshops and seminars, monitoring and supervision, study visits and paper presentation.

Prof. Bhandari is an energetic academician with a strong ability to lead and develop education sector. His propound knowledge and experience is expected to enrich the development of higher education in the country.

The newly appointed Secretary Prof. Shankar Prasad Bhandari assumed office on 11<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021. A special program was organized at the UGC to welcome him. On the occasion, Prof. Dr. Bhim Prasad Subedi, Chairperson,

UGC, welcomed Prof. Bhandari and wished for his successful four year tenure as its Secretary. Prof. Subedi expressed the belief that Prof. Bhandari's vast experience and expertise on higher education reforms would be the great asset to strengthen UGC and higher education sector. He also hoped that the UGC will take the new height and speed as it has received a competent and capable leader.

Expressing his pleasure to join the UGC, Prof. Bhandari said, "I am honoured to be a part of the UGC, which playing a key role for the development of higher education of the nation." He focused on the collaborative effort of all staff and stakeholders to address the challenges and issues prevailing in higher education sector. With mentioning that UGC possesses experienced and capable human resources, Secretary urged the employees to work together for the achievement of the goals and objectives of the Commission. He further expressed his commitment to maintain the image and integrity of the UGC.

Chief Administrative Officer Mr. Subas Chandra Dhungel in his welcome remarks said that the government appointed a person who is capable as well as familiar about the Commission and its administrative system. He further expressed his belief that the administrative activities would be effective since he has a long administrative experience.

## UCC Meeting

A virtual meeting of the University Coordination Committee (UCC), comprised of University Vice Chancellors, was held on 8th December in the special presence of Mr. Giriraj Mani Pokharel, Honorable Minister of Education, Science and Technology. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Dr. Bhim Prasad Subedi, Chairpersons of UGC. Vice-Chancellors of eleven universities participated in the meeting.

The meeting mainly discussed on the impact of Covid-19 in higher education sector due to the coronavirus and updated the latest progress on online teaching learning, research, exam along with other academic and administrative activities at the universities. Honorable Minister urged the university leaders for making the two-year special plan and switching the academic and administrative activities as per the plan. He directed the universities to ensure continuity in learning during the time of university closures and to move to online delivery of lessons.

In the meeting, Vice Chancellors of different universities updated their status of teaching learning, examination and other administrative activities as well as shared their experiences of online learning in the wake of the pandemic and their thoughts for way forward. Mr. Gopi Nath Mainali, Secretary, Ministry of Education, put his views on contemporary issues of higher education along with the challenges arisen due to the corona virus.

# Online Meeting of SAARC Vice Chancellors

The Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan under the Chairmanship of HEC Chairman Tariq Banuri organized a two-day virtual meeting of the Vice-Chancellors and representatives of the University Grants Commissions (UGC)/Equivalent Bodies of the SAARC Member countries from 10-11 December 2020. The meeting was attended by the University Vice Chancellors of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Pakistan and representatives of UGC and equivalent bodies. From Nepal Vice Chancellors of Tribhuvan University, Agriculture and Forestry University, Far Western University, Nepal Open

University and BP Koirala Health Science Academy participated in the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the issues and challenges facing the higher education sector due to corona virus in the SAARC member countries.

The meeting conversed in detail the issues and challenges of the online mode of learning amidst the Covid-19 pandemic. The sessions of the meeting covered topics such as the technological infrastructure for online learning, effective teaching through online, quality assurance and evaluation and assessment for online education. During the two-day meeting, the delegates from all the SAARC States shared

how the universities and other higher education institutions in their respective countries were functioning at that moment and what solutions were being adopted to cope with the multifaceted challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. During the meeting all delegates expressed their commitment to enhancing cooperation among higher education institutions of SAARC countries, especially with regard to the covid-19 situation.

The twelfth meeting of the UGC heads and equivalent bodies of SAARC Member States held in Kathmandu last year had decided to organize the SAARC Vice chancellor meeting in Pakistan.

## UGC Day Celebration

University Grants Commission celebrated its 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Day on 22 Nov. 2020 which marks the endorsement of UGC Act, 2050 by the Parliament. A special program was organized at UGC Office, Sanathimi, Bhaktapur. Prof. Dr. Bhim Prasad Subedi, Chairperson, UGC, presided over the function. Mr. Gopi Nath Mainali, Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MOEST), was the special guest.

Mr. Chairperson in his address emphasized the role and importance of the Commission in enhancing the quality of higher education in the country. He stressed on strengthening regulatory role of the Commission for the wider development of higher education sector. He further focused on the active role of the Commission for coordinating and managing higher education institutions, providing resources and encouraging to them for enhancing quality. He also highlighted the significant policy related activities carried out by the Commission.

Mr. Secretary, MOEST, focused on the need for redesigning the Nepalese higher education system

in view of global higher education trends and practices. He expressed his congratulations to UGC and its staff and wish for the leading role of the Commission for the development of higher education.

In the program, Mr. Subas Chandra Dhungel, Chief Administrative Officer presented the annual progress report of the Commission. Finance Controller Mr. Kedar Prasad Acharya made the welcome address for gathering.

In the program, a number of employees were felicitated for their work performance. Mr. Dul Raj Chimariya, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, received a felicitation as the best employee from the regular staff while Mr. Dinesh Prajapati, Program Officer, was felicitated as the best employee from project staff. Similarly, Mr. Dhan Krihsna Prajapati, Senior Account Assistant and Mr. Hari Rai, Light Vehicle Driver, were also felicitated as the best employees. Prof. Bhim Prasad Subedi handed over a certificate of appreciation and cash prize to the winners for their best performance in the institution.



# Chair's Visit to Different Higher Education Institutions

UGC Chairperson Prof. Dr. Bhim Prasad Subedi paid a visit to Gandaki University to participate on the University Day Celebration as a special guest on 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021. In the program, Prof. Subedi highlighted the status of higher education in Nepal, Gandaki Province in particular along with activities and role of UGC in higher education. Honorable Chief Minister of Gandaki Province Mr. Prithivi Subba Gurung was the Chief Guest in the program. Gandaki University was established in 2019 with an objective of providing world class education keeping in view of most recent trends in University Education. Typically known as the first provincial university of Nepal, Gandaki University is also one of the recently established Universities with programs like MBBS and Bachelor's in Information Technology.

The Chair also attended the building inauguration ceremony of Shree Binduwasini Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, Pokhara as a Chief Guest. Addressing the mass, he highlighted the importance and scope of the Sanskrit language and culture in



Nepali lives from womb to tomb and also the need for application of Sanskrit education. Established as one of the constituent campuses of Nepal Sanskrit University, Vinduwasini Sanskrit Vidyapeeth (Campus) is located at Bhim Kali Patan, Pokhara. The campus offers Bachelor's in Sanskrit Program with altogether 88 students. It is also planning to run Master's degree in near future.

The UGC Chair participated in the building inauguration program of Janajyoti Aadarsha Multiple Campus, Nawalparasi as a Chief Guest on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021. He addressed the gathering in the program and after the program he observed the newly constructed building. Afterwards, he also visited Madhyabindu Multiple Campus and participated in the lighting lamp ceremony of the campus. There, he interacted with the management committee along with the concerned stakeholders of the campus.



# Awards for University - Community Linkage Program

The Commission has awarded two different higher education institutions for conducting university community linkage program. Department of Music, School of Arts, Kathmandu University and Jana Bhawana Campus, Lalitpur have been selected for 'Music Interaction' and 'Pedagogy Skills to Public School Teachers and Training on Enhancing Entrepreneurship Skills to Local Entrepreneurs' respectively. The purpose of the program is to promote the relationship between university and community by involving faculties and students for exploring needs and necessities of the community for its benefit. The program has been designed to narrow down the

gap between the universities and communities and to establish the close relationship by engaging in communities through research and communication.

A special program was organized to sign Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UGC and the selected institutions on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Speaking in the program, UGC Chairperson Prof. Bhim Prasad Subedi said that university itself an entity of the community and it cannot be a center of knowledge by isolating from the community where it belongs to. He further said that this is the initiation of the Commission to bring universities and communities more closely by bridging the gap between them.

UGC Secretary Prof. Shankar Prasad Bhandari said that there is a lack of linkage between universities and communities and it's an innovative program of the Commission to develop and strengthen partnership of universities with communities. He also wished for making this program as a role model.

Chief of Jana Bhawana Campus Mr. Shiva RaJ Sanjel thanked the Commission for awarding such a new project and providing the opportunity to work with the community.

Mr. Binod Bhattarai, Planning and Program Officer, UGC highlighted the concepts, objectives, expected outcomes and financial provisions of the program.

## Scholarship Applications for Children of Martyr and Conflict Victim

University Grants Commission has called application for scholarships for the study of higher education from the children of those declared martyrs and conflict victims by the government. The scholarships has been designed to the sons and daughters of persons who have been martyr, disappeared or wounded during the different political movements between the period of 13<sup>th</sup> February 1996 to 15<sup>th</sup> May 2006. Issuing a public notice on 17<sup>th</sup> March, the Commission called for application for scholarships to the students who are currently enrolled at Bachelor first year/semester. Those eligible to apply for the scholarships should

submit their application through their respective colleges by 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

The students must submit a photocopy of the certificate of martyr and conflict victim issued by the government and its agencies and details of academic certificates along with other supporting documents.

The scholarships will be provided as per the criteria and norms set by the 'Guidelines for Scholarships to the Children of Martyrs and Conflict Victim for the Study of Higher Education, 2076'. The Commission has made the provision of budget in the current fiscal year for the same purpose.



# Four Institutions Receive Accreditation Certificates

University Grants Commission (UGC) awarded accreditation certificates to Central Department of Hydrology and Meteorology, TU; Pashchimanchal Campus, Kaski; Gupteshwor Mahadev Multiple Campus, Kaski and Waling Multiple Campus, Syangja in a ceremony on 26<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021 in the UGC Seminar Hall. UGC Chairperson Prof. Dr. Bhim Prasad Subedi handed over the accreditation certificates to these institutions. The UGC Board meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May 2020 had decided to award the accreditation certificates to these higher education institutions. UGC Secretary Prof. Shankar Prasad Bhandari, PRT Co-coordinators, authorities and staff of the accredited institutions and other staff of UGC attended the ceremony.

Addressing the ceremony, Chairperson Prof. Subedi said that quality assurance for higher education system has become an



important issue worldwide and it can be a driver for institutions to achieve excellence in higher education. He further said the awards placed a greater responsibility on the part of the recipients and advised them to continue the worth of the certificate for ever. He congratulated the institutions for their accomplishments and wished for the future progress of the institutions.

Congratulating the institutions, UGC Secretary Prof. Bhandari said that there is a big challenge of assuring quality higher education and the Commission has been striving to take initiatives to continuously improve the quality in higher education. Wishing for the future progress of the institutions, he thanked the institutions for their commitment made by the institutions for maintaining the quality in the future. Authorities of these institutions expressed their happiness on achieving the certificates and assured that the value of certificate will be maintained as the Commission has trusted them.

Department of Hydrology and Metrology and Paschimanchal Campus are constituent institutes of TU. Gupteshor Mahadev Multiple Campus and Waling Multiple Campus are community campuses affiliated to TU. With this, the total number of accredited institutions has reached 60. Seventy two higher education institutions have







completed the QAA cycle and are in process of accreditation.

Central Department of Hydrology and Metrology is a constituent institute of TU established in 2044 in Kirtipur, Kathmandu. It offers different academic programs at Master's and Ph.D. level. Currently it has 48 students. The campus submitted a letter of intent (LoI) for Quality Assurance and Accreditation (QAA) process in 2018. It submitted a self study report (SSR) to UGC on 2019 and a peer review team (PRT) visit led by Prof. Shiva Kumar Rai was conducted on 26 -28 Dec 2020. It completed the QAA cycle on 29 Dec 2020.

Paschimanchal Campus was established in 2038 as an engineering campus of TU in Pokhara, Kaski. It is a constituent campus of Tribhuvan University and offers engineering programs at Bachelor and Master's level. It has 1705 students and 109 faculties. It entered the process of QAA after the approval of its LoI by the UGC on 25 Jan 2006. UGC approved its SSR in 22 Dec 2019. A PRT Team led by Prof. Dr. Bhola Thapa visited the campus on 16-18 Dec 2020. It completed the QAA

cycle on 23 Dec 2020.

Guptesohor Mahadev Multiple Campus is community campus established in 2064 in Chhorepatan,



Pokhara. It is community campus affiliated from TU and it offers different 5 programs at bachelor and master's level. It has 571 students and 29 faculties. It entered the QAA process on 1 April 2015 and completed the QAA cycle on 24 Dec 2020. An expert team lead by Prof. Dr. Prem Raj Pant made the PRT visit of the campus on 25-27 Nov 2020.

Established in 2037 at Waling

Municipality-9, Syangja, Waling Multiple Campuses is a community-based campus affiliated from TU. It offers programs at bachelor and master's levels in Humanities and Social Sciences, Management and Education. It has 1008 students and 33 faculties. It came into the QAA process from 13 Jul 2012 and completed QAA cycle on 26 Dec 2020. An expert team led by Prof. Dr. Panna Thapa made the PRT visit of the campus on 8-10 Dec 2020. It completed QAA cycle on 26 Dec 2020.

The Commission awards the accreditation to the campuses after the successful accomplishment of the Quality Assurance and

Accreditation (QAA) process that encompasses the detailed evaluation of the campus against the eight different criteria, benchmarks of policy and procedures, curricular aspects, teaching-learning and evaluation, research, consultancy and extension, infrastructure and learning resources, student support and guidance, information system, and public information.

# Results Publication

## M.Phil. Fellowship

UGC has recently published the result of M.Phil. fellowships for the fiscal year 2077/78. Forty students were selected for the fellowships. Among them, 21 students have been selected in faculty category and 19 in young category. This program is targeted to the qualified faculty members and young students who are pursuing their MPhil degree in Nepal's higher education institutions. The faculty members/young students enrolled in M Phil leading to PhD or PhD integrated M Phil or an MPhil degree are eligible for this fellowship.

Fellowship seats are divided equitably between the Faculty category and the Young student category using a mixed proportional method. The selection of candidate is based on the evaluation of candidate's academic and publication records, underprivileged status and interview scores.

## Postdoctoral Fellowship

The Commission has recently selected Dr. Madan Kumar Paudel of Central Department of Chemistry, Tribhuvan University for the postdoctoral fellowship for his research on 'Genetic Characterization of Actinomycetes useful for Antibiotic Production'. Postdoctoral fellowship is a strong support system for promoting research culture in universities and a limited number of postdoctoral fellowships are introduced to

promote the culture of postdoctoral fellowship in the higher education institutions of Nepal.

Initially, the postdoctoral position and fellowship are provided for technical and laboratory-based research among the projects funded under Collaborative Research Grants of UGC. Research projects in the HEIs funded by sources other than the UGC can also be considered for this support.

## Special Scholarships

The commission has recently published the list of recipients of special scholarships for the fiscal year 2077/78 as targeted to the students from low income categories from the educationally disadvantaged dalit communities that include *Dom, Badi, Chamar and Mushahar*. Nine students from these communities have been selected for the scholarships. The provision has been to cover the educational expenses of the students in the field of Engineering and Medicine provided that candidates meet the minimum eligibility criteria for the admission. Tuition including education institution related fees will be paid directly to the institution's bank account and Rs. 5,000/- monthly stipend will be paid to the students' account in two instalment per year. The institution related fee will be of Rs. 35,00,000/- for Medical subjects of the Medical colleges of the Kathmandu valley. In case of the Medical colleges outside the valley additional education related expenses will also be paid to the institution as decided by the Faculty Board. In case of Engineering field maximum amount of Rs. 12,00,000 will be paid to the institution.

## Capacity Development Programs

As every fiscal year the Commission provides financial assistance to conduct different capacity development programs. The Commission has recently selected 186 higher education institutes for capacity development programs in current fiscal year. The Commission selected one institute for international conference, 16 for national conference, 22 for workshop and seminar,

12 for academia industry dialogue, 14 for refresher course, 56 for research methodology training, 12 for laboratory training and 54 capacity development training. To enhance the capability of teachers and academic leaders of the higher education institutes, the Commission has been implementing these programs since a long time.