

## 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of UGC

UGC celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 23 Nov, 2023, marking the endorsement of the UGC Act 2050 by the Parliament. A special program was organized at UGC office, Sanothimi, Bhaktapur. Prof. Dr. Dev Raj Adhikari, chairman of UGC chaired the anniversary program. Program was facilitated by Mr. Devendra Rawal, Deputy Director of the commission and Mr. Kedar Prasad Acharya, Director of commission cheered all the guests and participants.

The program was attended by member of National Planning Commission, , UGC Board members Vice Chancellors of the Universities, former Vice Chancellor of Universities, Former Secretary of Commission, Coordinators and members of different committees, Professors, Educationists, Under Secretary of Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Journalists and staffs officials from government and non-government organizations of sanothimi.

In the program, UGC Secretary Prof. Shankar Prasad Bhandari presented the 30<sup>th</sup> annual progress report of the Commission. He highlighted the current status of higher education, current FY's budget prepared for the programs to be operated in 2080/81 by including various sources (Nepal government, internal debt (Nepal government), concessional loan support from the World Bank, and capital grants for Madan Bhandari University of Science and Technology from the Chinese government to be paid directly in cash), major achievements of the last year, regular accomplished activity of the commission, as well as the challenges and issues and subject to be improved on the upcoming days in the sector of higher education.

The chairman of the commission Prof. Dr. Dev Raj Adhikari, member of National Planning Commission Prof. Dr. Ramesh Chandra Poudel, Vice Chancellor of Nepal Sanskrit University Prof. Dr. Yadav Prakash Lamichhane, Vice Chancellor of Kathmandu University Prof. Dr. Bhola Thapa and former Secretary of Commission Mr. Bhola Nath Pokhrel were key speakers. Major focuses of the speakers was the access, quality and retention of the students in Higher Education. They unanimously focused on the need of strengthening roles and responsibilities of the Commission, increasing budget of the higher education, increasing enrollment, expanding programs of national priority, emphasizing on research, innovation and investigation and improving quality enhancement of the higher education by improving assessment system and revising curriculums as per changing context.

In the program, three employees were recognized as staff of the year for their work performance. Mrs. Laxmi Shova Hada, Senior Assistant, Ms. Nabina Chaulagain, QAA Assistant, and Mr. Gokul Prasad Sapkota, Peon were felicitated as the best employee. Prof. Dr. Dev Raj Adhikari provided a certificate of appreciation and cash prize to the winners for their best performance in the institution.

Sports like musical chair, futsal (male and female) and bursting the balloon were conducted before annual day and winners were awarded with gift hampers by the Chairman and the Secretary of Commission along with some guests on annul day. Cultural dance and song were performed by some female employee of commission.

On a final note chairman of the commission Prof. Dr. Dev Raj Adhikari spoke about global and national status of higher education and the measures to be taken by the universities to make higher education better. He also highlighted about extension of jurisdiction of commission through a policy for regulating higher education in Nepal. With the appreciation of employees and cheering all the guest 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the commission was formally ended.