



# TAAN Joint Lhosar Cultural Program



स्थान : होटल हायात, बौद्ध, काठमाण्डौ  
मिति : ११ फेब्रुअरी, २०१८

**आयोजक : ट्रेकिङ एजेन्सिज् एसोसिएसन अफ नेपाल (टान)**

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We Wish You Happy Lhosar!

Trekking Agencies'  
Association of Nepal  
(TAAN)



### Message from President

All Respected Members of TAAN

Namaste and warm greetings to all.

I have been elected as President of Trekking Agencies' Association of Nepal (TAAN) and I am very pleased to be appointed to this position. I am highly privileged and very grateful to you all for trusting our team to lead TAAN for the tenure of 2 years. We look forward to the year ahead and we hope that, with the support of Executive Members and staff, we can strengthen and promote the tourism industry. We look forward to bringing you events featuring tourism critical topics over the course of the year. Our goal remains to take advantage of the early signs of economic growth and work together to build tourism promotion for all our agency members.

We hope all the board members, general members and stakeholders will provide invaluable and constructive connects guideline, support and suggestion for the promotion of tourism in Nepal. We will work together, we will face the situation with confident and optimism. Our team will definitely bring some positive remarkable changes in tourism sector.

The value proposition of taking a stand to promote trekking business is an opportunity not to be missed. Please feel free to contact us. We would be very interested to hear from you if you have a suggestion for an event that you would like us to organize or a trekking business topic you would like to see addressed at one of our events. Your suggestions would be very welcome.

Thank You

**Nava Raj Dahal**

*President*



### Message from General Secretary

Dear Members

Namaste and warm greetings.

With boundless gratitude for the confidence placed in me by the Member Agencies, and with an unswerving resolve to honor that trust, I humbly accept the appointment as the 18th General Secretary of this great Organization. I wish to extend my deepest respect and appreciation to all the Member Agencies for their strong support. I am very happy and thankful for accepting me and showing confidence that you believed I will be able to serve TAAN as the next General Secretary.

I earnestly hope that every people who are involved in tourism industry will grow up knowing that TAAN is working hard to build a better future with them and for them. As General Secretary, I will embrace their hopes and hear their appeals. I am an optimist, and hopeful about the future of our Tourism Industry. Let us work together for TAAN that can deliver more and better for tourism industry.

Thank you

**Ang Pemba Sherpa**

*General Secretary*



Dear Members,

Namaste and warm greetings.

TAAN E-Newsletter Vol - I, Year XIV is the activity report of the Executive Committee (2017-2019) after the handover ceremony concluded. The publication compiles programs and activities of this executive committee during the two months.

Media & Communication itself is very sensitive; we have kept our effort as best. I would be grateful if you would provide any feedbacks which will be very appreciable to work on future days.

**Gopal Shrestha**

*Coordinator*

**Media & Communication Department**

# TAAN 39<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting and Election Concluded

## TAAN Executive Committee

**Nava Raj Dahal**

*President*

Nepal Environmental  
Trek & Expedition

**Chandra Prasad Rijal**

*Immediate Past President*

See-Nepal Travel &  
Adventure

**Khum Bahadur Subedi**

*Senior Vice President*

Unique Adventure  
International

**Jeeban Thapa Magar**

*First Vice President*

Nepal Adventure Team  
Pvt. Ltd

**Nilhari Bastola**

*"Nilam"*

*Second Vice President*

Asian Heritage Treks &  
Expedition.

**Ang Pemba Sherpa  
(Gole)**

*General Secretary*

White Himalayas Treks  
Pvt. Ltd.

**Sujan Lamichhane**

*Secretary*

Serene Himalayas  
Treks & Expedition.

**Ram Krishna**

**Timalsina**

*Treasurer*

Himalayan Scenery  
Treks & Expedition.

**Tara Rana**

*Joint Treasurer*

Destination Himalaya  
Treks & Expedition

**Ritu Gyamdan**

*Executive Member*

Nepal Female Guide



The 39<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of Trekking Agencies' Association of Nepal (TAAN) has elected a new executive committee with Nava Raj Dahal as the president.

Similarly, Khum Bahadur Subedi has been elected the Senior Vice-President, Jeeban Thapa Magar the First Vice-President, Nil Hari Bastola the Second Vice-President, Ang Pemba Sherpa the General Secretary, Sujan Lamichhane the Secretary, Ram Krishna Timilsina the Treasurer and Tara Rana the Joint Treasurer of TAAN.

The newly-elected working committee members include Ritu Gyamdan, Rabindra Adhikari, Rajan Prasad Kapri, Gopal Shrestha, Jeevan Lama, Baburam Gurung, Suk Bahadur Lama, Sher Bahadur Pariyar and Janga Bahadur Lama.

Tourism Secretary Maheshwor Neupane was the chief guest at the event and he inaugurated the AGM. Speaking at the program, Neupane said that TAAN is playing a vital role to foster trekking business in Nepal and Tourism Ministry will

approach TAAN to illuminate the issues regarding trekking business. He was hopeful that the tourism tax collection dispute in the Khumbu region would be resolved soon. He was referring to the decision to collect Rs.2,000 per tourist as tourism tax by the Khumbu Pasang Lhamu Rural Municipality.

TAAN President Chandra Prasad Rijal requested the government to introduce 'No trekking without company and guide' rule in the country in order to discourage illegal operation of trekking business by unauthorized individual and groups.

The closed session of TAAN endorsed the Annual Progress Report and Proposed Policy and Programs presented by General Secretary Karna Bahadur Lama. Similarly, it endorsed Annual Financial Report and Estimated Financial Expenditure was presented by Treasurer Lila Baldab Dahal 'Kaka'.





# TAAN and ICIMOD Collaboratively Launched Kanchenjunga Spice Garden Tourism Trial and Mobile Apps

Trekking Agencies' Association of Nepal (TAAN) and International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) has collaborated and organized an Action Research on Promoting Innovative Livelihood through ICT Assisted Tourism Project in Taplejung.

Kanchenjunga Spice Garden Tourism Trial and Mobile Apps were launched on November 17, 2017 at Nepal Tourism Board (NTB). Tourism Secretary, Maheshwor Neupane was the Chief Guest of the program. Kanchenjunga Spice Garden Tourism

Trial has been launched by Maheshwor Neupane and Mobile Apps by Nepal Tourism Board (NTB) CEO, Deepak Raj Joshi.

TAAN General Secretary Karna Lama welcomed entire guest of the program. He said that "TAAN and ICIMOD have collaboratively worked together to complete the project." This project benefits not only the locals but business as well which leads in prosperity of nation's economy. He added.

Dr. Anu Kumari Lama, Tourism Specialist of ICIMOD gave presentation about the project. She said – 'This project helps to diversify the livelihood of the locals by integrating agriculture and tourism by using technology. This newly developed tourism product is an associate tourism trail within the existing trail of Pathibhara Pilgrimage trail, Kanchenjunga Base Camp Trekking, Lumba Sumba Adventure trekking, Tinjure-

Milkey- Jaljale Rhododendron Trail and other many more cultural and natural heritage trails of Taplejung District.'



Chief Guest, Neupane was captivated to know about newly developed tourism product. He said "Strategy must be developed to enhance digital platform for tourism promotion. Information providing apps, videos and other requirements must be propagated through digital marketing for tourism promotion."

Speaking at the program ICIMOD Counselor, Bachhu N. Shrestha said that the purpose of the action research is to increase access to and enhance livelihood opportunities of the marginalized mountain communities of Taplejung area via ICT assisted tourism product.

Product Development Manger of Wolfmatrix, Suman Humagain presented the detailed information about the mobile apps. He said that the apps has been developed by focusing niche market i.e. Taplejung which is accessible in offline as well. The mobile apps covers information like destination, activities, communication, travel and access.

Closing the program, TAAN President Chandra Prasad Rijal thanked ICIMOD, Wolf Matrix, NTB, ECDF for their joint effort and support to complete the project successfully.

TAAN executive members along with other guest from different tourism associations were present at the launching program.



**Jeevan Lama**  
Executive Member  
Lhaso Adventure

**Rabindra Adhikari**  
Executive Member  
Adventure Discovery  
Treks & Expedition

**Gopal Shrestha**  
Executive Member  
Higher Limits Trek &  
Expedition Pvt. Ltd.

**Baburam Gurung**  
Executive Member  
Advent Himalaya Treks

**Janga Bahadur Lama**  
Executive Member  
Firante Treks &  
Expedition

**Rajan Prasad Kapri**  
Executive Member  
Vista Adventure Nepal  
Pvt. Ltd.

**Suk Bahadur Lama**  
Executive Member  
Trek into Thin Air Pvt.  
Ltd.

**Sher Bahadur Pariyar**  
Executive Member  
Nepal Reisen Treks

**Dolma Tsering  
Tamang Sherpa**  
Executive Member  
Trekker Nepal Pvt. Ltd.

**Ram Bahadur Khadka**  
Executive Member  
Subline Trails Pvt. Ltd.

**Mahesh Kumar  
Budha**  
Executive Member  
Joy Treks & Expedition  
Pvt.Ltd.

**P. K. Sherpa**  
Executive Member  
Uno Travel and  
Adventure Pvt. Ltd.



# TAAN Conducted Handover Ceremony to New Executive Team

A handover ceremony took place between the former acting TAAN President Chandra Prasad Rijal and the newly elected President Navaraj Dahal at TAAN Secretariat, Maligaun on November 20, 2017.

The newly elected team, Navaraj Dahal as President, Khum Bahadur Subedi as Senior Vice President, Jeeban Thapa Magar as First Vice- President, Nilhari Bastola as Second Vice- President, Ang Pemba Sherpa as General Secretary, Sujan Lamichhane as Secretary, Ram Krishna Timalsina as Treasurer, Tara Rana as Joint- Treasurer along with entire executive member Jeevan Lama, Rabindra Adhikari, Gopal Shrestha, Baburam Gurung, Janga Bahadur Lama, Rajan Prashad Kapri, Shuk Bahadur Lama and Sher Bahadur Pariyar were welcomed by former acting TAAN General Secretary Karna Bahadur Lama.

Karna Lama welcoming every individual present in the program shared his experiences during their two years term in office. He said “opportunities are all around us, we just have to be aware of them and grasp it by both hands.” He made sure to all new executive team of TAAN that outgoing executive team will support them in upcoming days as well and made them aware about their role being very important for the promotion and development of trekking business.



TAAN new president Navaraj Dahal along with all newly elected team took an oath to carry out their responsibilities in an effective way and not involve against the policies of the organization.

Chandra Rijal felicitated and congratulated Navaraj Dahal as 18th TAAN President by endeavoring bouquet and flower garland and handed over the keys. Similarly Karna Bahadur Lama handed the minutes over to Ang Pemba Sherpa and Krishna Man



Shrestha handed all the financial documents over to Ram Krishna Timalsina.

TAAN new President Navaraj Dahal thanked all the outgoing team, all member agencies, journalist and staffs of TAAN for their felicitations and anticipates their support in forthcoming days. He said that member agencies of TAAN have kept



high hopes from them so, they as a new team will work to uplift the trekking business of Nepal.”

Closing the ceremony, Chandra Prasad Rijal said he will remain as the past president on behalf of all outgoing team and will act as a brick to build up the pillar to reinforce tourism sector. In our two years of tenure, we have gone through the best what we can to achieve the organizational goal. He added.

Past President of TAAN, former Acting executive members of TAAN along with President of different tourism associations were present at the ceremony.



- Chandra Bahadur Gurung**  
*Executive Member*  
Himalaya Guide Nepal
- Surya Bahadur Bhetwal**  
*Executive Member*  
New Era Holidays Treks & Expedition
- Deepak Raj Adhikari**  
*Executive Member*  
TAAN Western Regional Association

## TAAN Departments

- Nepal Promotion & Exhibition**  
Jeevan Lama  
*Coordinator*
- Printing & Publication**  
Surya Bahadur Bhetwal  
*Coordinator*
- Search, Rescue & Crisis Management**  
Rabindra Adhikari  
*Coordinator*
- Sports & Event Management**  
Ritu Gyamdan  
*Coordinator*
- Sustainable tourism & development**  
Sher Bahadur Pariyar  
*Coordinator*
- Human Right & Trade Union Affairs**  
Janga Bahadur Lama  
*Coordinator*
- TIMS Management**  
Rajan Prasad Kapri  
*Coordinator*
- Finance Management**  
Ram Krishna Timalsina  
*Coordinator*
- Secretariat Management**  
Ang Pemba Sherpa  
*Coordinator*
- Village Tourism & Homestay**  
Tara Rana  
*Coordinator*
- Destination Research and Promotion**  
Suk Bahadur Lama  
*Coordinator*

# TAAN Delegation meets with the Conservation officer of Shivapuri National Park

Trekking Agencies' Association of Nepal (TAAN) delegation meets with Conservation Officer Mr. Kamal Jung Kunwar of Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park Office at Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Babarmahal, Ktm on December 1, 2017. The major agenda of discussion was regarding 'Double Entrance Fee' provision inside park



and requirement of compulsory 'Local Nature Guides' while trekking inside the area.

The Officer Kunwar said that 'the double entrance fee system and compulsivity of local guide has always been followed. He also added that the system will help the local economy, creates an employment opportunities for the youths and also trekkers will get chance to know about local culture and place deeply because local guide have full knowledge about local places and cultures.

Mr. Nabaraj Dahal President of TAAN requested Chief Kunwar to consider about the matter that double fee being inappropriate for the trekkers. The meeting ended with the conclusion by requesting ministry and others concern division to take into account about double fees system which is creating problems for the trekkers, entrepreneurs and also finding out the proper solution.

## TAAN delegation meets DG of Department of Immigration

A delegation of Trekking Agencies' Association of Nepal (TAAN) led by the President Nava Raj Dahal call a meeting with Director General of Department of Immigration Deepak Kafle on December 5, 2017. The President Dahal and the team introduced themselves to the DG and had discussion regarding the obstacles facing in tourism business. President Dahal handed the letter over to the DG Kafle which includes major four agendas.



The major agendas discussed were:

- ◆ To grant permit to trekkers by presenting a copy of passport.
- ◆ To make the copy of TAAN Membership certificate mandatory and demand companies' document in yearly basis.
- ◆ To reduce the extensive payment system.
- ◆ To collect permit fees from the department meanwhile bank are closed.

TAAN delegation vaunted all the issues, difficulties and complications confronted by tourism entrepreneurs to the DG Kafle.

TAAN being one of the foremost tourism associations of Nepal, the delegation appealed Mr. Kafle to make TAAN's

membership document as a recommendation to grant Visa and Permit to their clients in an easy going way.

DG Kafle congratulated and wished the President Dahal and the whole team for their successful tenure at TAAN. Speaking at the meeting Kafle showed a positive response in all the discussions and assured to bring forceful changes in near future.

**He also enlightened to be reachable in any moment through the number 9851140006.**

**Internal Relation**  
Department & Tourism  
Entrepreneur Forum  
Khum Bahadur Subedi  
Coordinator

**International Relation**  
Sujan Lamichhane  
Coordinator

**Mountaineering & Environment**  
P. K. Sherpa  
Coordinator

**Welfare & Humanitarian**  
Chandra Bahadur Gurung  
Coordinator

**Human Resource & Training**  
Ram Bahadur Khadka  
Coordinator

**Media & Communication**  
Gopal Shrestha  
Coordinator

**Project**  
Jeeban Thapa Magar  
Coordinator

**Trekking Trail Monitoring & Maintenance**  
Baburam Gurung  
Coordinator

**Tourism Education, Training, Health Hygiene & Awareness**  
Nilhari Bastola "Nilam"  
Coordinator

**Culture, Art & Language Conservation**  
Mahes Kumar Budha  
Coordinator

**Women Empowerment in Tourism**  
Dolma Tsering Tamang Sherpa  
Coordinator



# TAAN Conducted Certificate Distribution Ceremony of a 3 –Day Training Workshop on Mountain Security and First Aid

A certificate distribution ceremony of a 3-Day Training Workshop on Mountain Security and First Aid was held at Nepal Tourism Board, Kathmandu on December 14, 2017. His Excellency Mr. Arnaud Champy, the Deputy Chief of the Mission, Acting Ambassador of Embassy of France in Kathmandu was the Chief Guest at the ceremony and Mr. Khum Bahadur Subedi, TAAN Senior Vice President was the Chairman of the ceremony.



Senior Vice President Mr. Subedi and General Secretary Mr. Pemba handed over the token of love and TAAN's activity of the year to His Excellency Mr. Arnaud Champy. Similarly, TAAN CEO Mr. Mahat also provided him the certificate of honor for the 1st edition of the training.

A total of 32 trekking professionals participated in the training. The workshop has been supported by Embassy of France in Kathmandu – La France au Népal. The technical supporters are Alliance Française Kathmandu, Société Française de Médecine de Catastrophe (SFMC), Association Nationale des Instructeurs et Moniteurs de Secourisme (ANIMS) and Secours En Montagne France.

Mr. Yves Prunier (Chief Trainer), Ms. Sonia, Ms. Betty, Mr. Cedric, Mr. Christian Rey are the trainers from France whereas Mr. Franck Sommaro is the trainer from Italy.

TAAN General Secretary Ang Pemba Sherpa welcomed all the guest, trainers, journalist and trainees. He welcomed everyone in the 2nd edition of workshop of the year. He also showed his gratitude towards Ice Himalaya for their co-ordination to successfully complete the training which is very important to be safe during trekking and expedition. TAAN will be organizing these kinds of workshops and training in near future as well. He added.

Christian Rey, representing all trainers said that they are really glad to provide training to all participants which will help to tackle the uncertainties during their trekking.

Milan Regmi, a trainee thanked TAAN for providing them an opportunity to get the training which was one of the helpful and esteemed trainings of their life. "We got to learn many new things and assure to implement it in near future when required." He added.

TAAN Senior Vice President, Khum Bahadur Subedi felicitated the trainers with kadas and certificate of appreciation for their valuable support and contribution. Similarly, TAAN First Vice President Jeeban Thapa Magar felicitated Ice Himalaya President Mr. Maurice Duchene with certificate of honor in recognition of his special contribution in the promotion of tourism in Nepal and also congratulates him on completing 100th Trekking in Nepal.

His Excellency Mr. Arnaud Champy congratulated TAAN for successfully completing 2nd edition of training. He said "there are lives threaten dangers in mountains so, this training will definitely make a difference if any incident occurs. Trekking professionals and their clients breathe between life and death during their trekking period. Hence, this training will be an asset to implement what

they've learned during their training". Concluding the ceremony, Mr. Subedi thanked all the trainers, Embassy of France in Kathmandu – La France au Népal, Alliance Française Kathmandu, SFMC, ANIMS and Secours En Montagne France for their vital role to successfully complete the training. He also congratulated all the participants and assured them about the training being helpful in their trekking period.

Former TAAN General Secretary Karna Bahadur Lama also the Honory member of Ice Himalaya, Rajendra Bahadur Lama President of Nepal Canyoning Association (NCA) along with all executive members of TAAN were present at the program.



There was also a cake cutting ceremony for celebrating success of the training.



## (For group trekkers)

- ◆ TIMS Counter at TAAN Secretariat, Maligaun. (Opening hours 10 am till 5 pm)
- ◆ TIMS Counter at Satghumti, Thamel (Opening hours 7 am till 6 pm. Saturdays and public holidays: 10 am to 12:30 pm)
- ◆ TIMS Counter at TAAN Pokhara Secretariat

## (For FITs)

- ◆ Nepal Tourism Board, Bhrikuti Mandap
- ◆ Nepal Tourism Board, Pokhara

# TAAN NOMINATES SIX NEW BAORD MEMBERS

TAAN Executive Members nominated Ms. Dolma Tsering Tamang Sherpa M.D of Trekker Nepal Pvt. Ltd, MR. Ram Bahadur Khadka M.D of Sublime Trails Pvt. Ltd, Mr. P. K. Sherpa M.D of Uno Travel and Adventure Pvt. Ltd, Mahesh Kumar Budha M.D of Joy Treks & Expedition, Mr. Chandra Bahadur Gurung M.D of Himalaya Guide Nepal Pvt.Ltd. and Mr. Surya Bahadur Bhetwal C.E.O of New Era Holidays Treks and Expedition Pvt. Ltd.



Information  
about TIMS

## Why TIMS is Necessary ?

- ◆ To maintain database of trekkers.
- ◆ To trace location of trekkers during emergencies
- ◆ To ensure safety and security of trekkers
- ◆ To discourage illegal operation of trekking business by unauthorized groups

## TAAN Team meets DG of Department of Tourism

A delegation of Trekking Agencies' Association of Nepal (TAAN) on December 22 met with the Director General of Department of Tourism (DOT) Dinesh Bhattacharya. TAAN President Nava Raj Dahal along with all executive members had an introductory program with the DG.

Speaking in the meeting, TAAN President Dahal made the DG aware about the problems that TAAN member agencies have been facing while illegal operation of trekking is in practice which directly affects trekking business houses. While independent trekkers are going trekking without guides and porters, many mishaps are happening due to which the news is flowing as if Nepal is unsafe for trekking. This leads to disturb the Nepalese tourism. He appealed the DG to revise the time period of the trekking as the trekking days are getting shorter. He also made the DG aware about inappropriate double permit. The delegation also voiced upon the illegal charges charged by hotels and lodges during the stay.



Responding to the Delegation, DG Bhattacharya said we must make plans and policies which must go for long run and showed a positive feedback on discussion held. Talking about trekking illegal operation, he suggested the trekking agencies to uphold the channel with travel agencies and make trekking package. At last he congratulated all the newly elected executive members and wished them for their successful tenure in the office.

## TAAN Felicitates House of Representative, Solukhumbu District

Trekking Agencies' Association of Nepal (TAAN) felicitated and welcomed Hem Kumar Rai (Suarbir) House of Representative, Solukhumbu on December 24, 2017. TAAN President Nava Raj Dahal congratulated Rai for being newly elected representative member of Solukhumbu and felicitated him for his victory with bouquet and khadas.

President Dahal stated Solukhumbu as one of the popular destination for trekking. He said to Mr. Rai – “We hope you will support us until our tenure exists in the organization and we will also cooperate with you and do whatever we can. We circulated to make TIMS mandatory but the locals of Khumbu Pasang Lamu Rural Municipality closed the TIMS check post the next day and again started to collect entry fee worth \$20 per tourist, due to which member agencies are not satisfied. Tourists are also not convinced and facing difficulties due to these kinds of illegal charges and suggest implementing one door system. Similarly, talking about hotel and lodges also not serving their best quality in return of charges they are charging. He appealed Mr. Rai for his effort to restart the TIMS counter at Khumbu Pasang Rural Municipality.



TAAN General Secretary Ang Pemba Sherpa let Mr. Rai to know about the double entry fee taking system at Everest National Park and Khumbu Pasang Lamu Rural Municipality which is a kind of illegal action. He hoped that Mr. Rai will support them for operation of TIMS and lastly wished for Rai's successful tenure.

Hem Kumar Rai (Suarbir) House of Representative, Solukhumbu was very privileged for the cordial felicitation and welcome. He contented upon closing the TIMS check post and assured to go through details and endeavor to undertake possible actions to work out on the reestablish TIMS check post. Saying that effective management and continue effort will definitely lead to positive solution of problem; he committed to clear up the issues of TIMS at Khumbu rural municipality.



# TAAN Delegation Hold Meeting with MoCTCA Secretary

A delegation of Trekking Agencies' Association of Nepal (TAAN) led by its president Nava Raj Dahal, on December 24, 2017, held a meeting with Secretary of Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Mr. Maheswor Neupane and disclosed the problems and obstacles faced by the Nepali tourism industry in general and the trekking sector in particular.

TAAN Executive Committee gave a brief introduction about themselves and spoke about the different issues confronted by its member agencies. TAAN President Mr Nava Raj Dahal voiced over illegal trekking operations which are resulting in the forms of accidents like missing, death, harassments and so on. He also apprised of the issues of expensive and double permit fees; requesting secretary Neupane to review policies regarding appropriate charges of permit fees including that of controlled and directed areas in northern zone of Nepal.



TAAN delegation also appealed to secretary Neupane for making obligatory provision that promotes the system of taking guides and porter compulsorily. Presenting a Letter of Memorandum (LoM) TAAN president expressed positive note on getting full support from ministry and also assured them of full support on the part of private sector. The two-hour long meeting look into the issues and agendas of this sector; with possible recommendations for smooth service delivery at immigration, availability of money exchange facility therein, smart airport management system among others.

Meanwhile, the delegation also spoke about current issues of TIMS and requested to help for effective implementation of TIMS. The meeting also delved into the topic of rescue operation and deliberated on healthy tourism practice by ending all malpractices such as unwanted chopper-rescue, overcharge cases and alarming insurance issues as reported from the market.



Senior Vice President Mr. Khum Bahadur Subedi also focused on the agendas of safe tourism and opined on to resume awarding certificates to mountaineering support staff upon successful ascend. General Secretary Mr. Ang Pemba Sherpa also highlighted the issues of garbage, a common problem faced by the industry and stressed on to bring new provision of 'Environment Protection Fund' replacing garbage disposal deposit. TAAN Treasurer Mr Ramkrishna Timalisina, EC members Gopal Shrestha, Jeevan Lama, Rajan Kapri among others shared their experiences and underlined numerous problems facing at the airport from arrival to departure.

Joint Secretary Mr Ghanashyam Upadhyay also briefed the secretary of his works and policy making efforts in his period at MoCTCA. Secretary Mr Maheshwor Neupane considered the appeal a very genuine one and was very positive towards making Nepalese tourism better in future days. He requested the entire team of TAAN to bring any ideas and plans to demoralize the illegal trekking operation thus ending all forms of malpractices reported from the market. He assured to support private sector on par with government plans and policies. 'Existing uncertainly of TIMS will be sorted out at once' he said. He clearly stated that in line with the spirit of constitution local bodies can tax, however, it is too early to decide unilaterally at a time other laws are still in progress.

Mr Neupane urged TAAN to galvanize efforts from private sector that alone glorify nation with smart tourism practices. Lastly, Mr. Neupane wished present executive committee a successful tenure and a prolific period.

TAAN CEO Mr Tek Bahadur Mahat, Media Officer Subina Manandhar and photographer Pemba Sherpa were also present at the meeting.

## TAAN delegation presents common issues to GM faced at TIA

A delegation of Trekking Agencies' Association of Nepal (TAAN) led by its President Nava Raj Dahal, on December 28, 2017 met with the General Manager of Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA), Upadhyay. There was a short program among the delegation and

TAAN President Dahal handed over a memorandum to General Manager and apprised him of the problems that member agencies were facing while and seeing off guests at the country's international airport.

President Dahal said- "Our member agencies are facing difficulties after the airport scrapped the Golden Gate entry pass. our member companies are unable to see off their guests." He thus, requested the airport management to reintroduce Golden Gate entry pass to ensure smooth entry of tourism entrepreneurs at the airport so that they can welcome and see off their clients without any hassle.

Mr. Dahal also drew the attention towards pass issuance for irrelevant person, who sometimes tries to grab bags and show inconsequential behavior that leads inconvenience for tourist as well as diplomats. "First impression is last impression" saying this, Mr. Dahal requested the GM to take appropriate actions.

The delegation disclosed the fact about immoral conduct of taxi drivers towards the tourist and appealed airport management for strong security. They also expressed the issue of Private Travel Company inside TIA which is a peril for the member agencies that sometimes take off their guest by discounting the price of the trekking package.

TAAN General Secretary Ang Pemba Sherpa highlighted the difficulty while sending cargoes to different domestic destinations. "Staffers of our member agencies aren't allowed to enter into the check-in area while delivering cargoes at the airlines' counters. Our cargoes remain unattended when airlines cancel their flight. This is creating difficulties to our member agencies," he said, urging the airport management to address the issue.

TAAN Executive Member, Gopal Shrestha raised his voice over the harassment tourist are being faced due to some irrelevant people who ask for unnecessary and extreme amount as a tips during the arrival. 'They sometimes also ask Rs. 500 for a call that the client has made' he added. At last he said 'if these activities will be continuing in future days, tourists will definitely have a negative message as Nepal being engaged in a fraud operation.

Similarly, TAAN Secretary Sujan Lamichhane stated that some impertinent public smoke at no-smoking zone, this activity makes a negative note towards visitors. He added "Some trekking companies stay at Taxi counter and approach the tourist for trekking through their company, as a result, other respective company will lose client."

TAAN CEO Tek Mahat highlighted keeping a banner of Trekker's Information Management System (TIMS) that encourage trekkers to through a registered trekking company.

Responding to the delegation, GM Upadhyay said that the passes are issued only for concerned people whenever required. Talking about the issue regarding taxi drivers, he assured to make the security more strong and take forceful charges for culprits.

Upadhyaya, answered about private travel agency kept as a facility for the visitors as sometimes, they can face problems during ticket cancellation and so on. He said that travel agency is required inside airport for facilitating the tourist.

He also clinched upon shifting the arrivals and minimizing crowd in near future. As there will be a walk of 100 to 150 meter in arrival, TAAN could keep an information board. He presented an example about a thief of Peru who was caught at TIA and made us known about the high security of airport.

Therefore, he showed a positive response towards the issues raised and said to illuminate and complain the problems being faced.

Along with President Dahal, 2nd Vice- President Nil Hari Bastola, General Secretary Ang Pemba Sherpa, Secretary Sujan Lamichhane, Executive members P.K Sherpa, Surya Bhetwal, Jeevan Lama, Rajan Kapri, Ram Bahadur Khadka, Gopal Shrestha, Rabindra Adhikari and Mahesh Budha Magar as well as TAAN CEO Tek Bahadur Mahat, Media Officer Subina Manandhar and Photographer Pemba Sherpa were also present in the delegation.



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## TAAN delegation pays a visit out of courtesy to Member Secretary of NTNC

On January 2, 2018, a delegation of Trekking Agencies' Association of Nepal (TAAN) representatives held meeting with Mr. Govinda Gajurel, the Member Secretary of National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC).

The TAAN delegation, which was headed by the President Nava Raj Dahal had a brief introduction. Drawing the latter's attention towards different problems that TAAN's member agencies are facing, President Dahal handed over a two – point memorandum to the Member Secretary Gajurel.

Discussion during the meeting included rules pertaining to fee collection, as defined in the Protected Area Management Regulation BS 2053 (in Schedule 1), 13% VAT (Value Added Tax) compliance attached to the existing fee from December 23, 2017 at Annapurna, Manaslu and Gaurishankar Conservation Area. The delegation stated the problem faced by the member companies due to 13% VAT consent that was implemented without notifying them. As all the entire tourism business houses sell their package prior excluding 13% VAT.

The delegation requested NTNC to hold up or repeal 13% VAT verdict, if not Nepalese tourism will have a negative impact in market, that probably will make Nepal difficult to compete with other neighboring countries like India, Malaysia, Singapore, Bhutan and others where VAT is not charged for touristic region” they added.

Similarly, TAAN emphasized on opening hours of National Park & Conservation entry fee counter during Saturday and other public holidays.

Likewise, the delegation underlined upon the charges of double entry fees to trekkers. They also highlighted upon the trekkers of Annapurna Circuit who suffers from High Altitude Sickness and snowfall, cannot trek through Thorong La Pass and change their destination to Poon Hill or any other places of Annapurna Region. So, the delegation requested to give entry for the trekkers from the same ACAP Permit.

Gopal Shrestha, TAAN Executive Member said that information regarding VAT must be circulated in a systematic way which will facilitate trekking business houses to keep an update in their websites. He voiced over the problem faced by trekking companies to make permit during season time while there is more queue. So, he appealed Mr. Govinda to look after the provision for issuing urgent permits.

Suk Bahadur Lama, TAAN Executive Member requested to introduce online permit payment system that will help in systematic and proper management.

Similarly, Baburam Gurung TAAN Executive Member articulated about limited capacity of hotels and high charges for foods at Annapurna Base Camp. So, he requested if possible more hotels must be constructed according to the flow of tourist.

Deepak Kumar, Executive Director of NTNC also agreed upon limited capacity and said the territory being government's property, permission was not granted to build hotels. He assured that hotels will be constructed in near future and increase the capacity of rooms along with the standardized price.

Member Secretary Gajurel showed very positive response towards the delegation. Talking about immediate implementation of 13% VAT compliance, he responded as Office of Auditor General advanced almost 5 crore rupees to NTNC. “As a result, we had no option rather implementing 13% VAT”.

“ We will inform the staffs of National Park & Conservation entry fee counter about the opening hours on Saturday and public holiday” he assured. He said that there will be an increment of conservation permit as national park permit has increased from Rs. 2000- 3000. But, he ensured TAAN that it will not increase immediately.

He said they will have an internal discussion about double entry fee system and definitely implement it very soon. Saying about the capacity build up, CAMC are provided technical advice by NTNC for expanding infrastructures according the flow of tourist.

NTNC Executive Director Deepak Kumar Singh, Finance officer Gyanendra Shah, Senior Finance officer Ramesh Kumar Singh and Administration officer Santa Bahadur Shrestha were also present at the meeting.



# TAAN Conducts TIMS Interaction Program

Trekking Agencies' Association of Nepal (TAAN) organized an interaction program regarding issues of Trekkers Information Management System (TIMS) on December 20, 2017 at Hotel Shanker, Kathmandu. The main purpose of the interaction program was to get suggestion and advise from past executive members and other different members from Tourism Association regarding issues of TIMS.



## TAAN pays courtesy call on C.E.O of NTB

On January 7, 2018, Trekking Agencies' Association of Nepal (TAAN) delegation pays a courtesy call on Nepal Tourism Board (NTB) C.E.O. Mr. Deepak Raj Joshi. The delegation led by President Nava Raj Dahal had a brief introduction with the C.E.O Joshi.

President Dahal notified about the deep relationship between TAAN and NTB since a long time. TAAN's objective being promoting mountain tourism, NTB and TAAN are working together in a mutual understanding to promote the Nepalese Tourism. The delegation appreciated the support of NTB for joint activities like Travel Fairs.

Discussion on the meeting included the issues of Trekker's Information Management System (TIMS). They raised the voice upon check post at Langtang and Khumbu Pasang Rural Municipality to re-open the TIMS check post. Another discussion was upon TIMS fund which is freeze at NTB. The delegation requested NTB to release the funds for the welfare of trekking workers who were victims due to the different disasters.

The delegation also stated about the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between TAAN and NTB which was signed earlier. They appealed NTB if possible to review the MoU or sign a new agreement on operation of TIMS. As TIMS 's fund has been classified as worker's welfare fund and Joint-fund, the delegation requested NTB to support TAAN for organizing programs like Joint Losar Cultural Program, constructing porter shelter at Dharmashala, maintenance of trekking trails and International Travel Mart in Nepal.

NTB C.E.O. Deepak Raj Joshi had a positive response towards addressing the issues raised by the delegation mainly releasing the freeze amount of TIMS for the welfare of workers who were victims of different disasters and mishaps. He assured that the TIMS fund must be utilized for constructing porter shelter, trekking trail maintenance and rescue.

Nepal being popular for adventure specially trekking, TAAN is the organization to flourish. Saying about MoU which was signed at the beginning, the fund was divided as 33% for TAAN, 33% for NTB and remaining 33% as a joint – fund. The second MoU included the division of fund as 30 % for TAAN, 30% for NTB and remaining 10 % for worker's welfare. He said.

C.E.O. Joshi has prioritized TAAN to bring innovative programs like Technical Mart focusing adventure tourism, which will facilitate tourism entrepreneur through linking Nepal with other different countries for the promotion of Nepalese tourism.

President Nava Raj Dahal, Senior Vice- President Khum Bahadur Subedi, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice -President Jeeban Thapa Magar, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice- President Nil Hari Bastola, General Secretary Ang Pemba Sherpa, Secretary Sujan



Lamichhane, Treasurer Ram Krishna Timalisina along with Executive Members Suk Bahadur Lama, Jeevan Lama, Mahesh Kumar Budha, Dolma Tsering Tamang Sherpa, Gopal Shrestha, Ritu Gyamdan, P. K. Shrepa and C.E.O. Tek Bahadur Mahat, Media Officer Subina Manandhar and Photographer Pemba Sherpa were present in the delegation.



# TAAN Congratulates Member of Province Assembly, Sindhupalchok District

Trekking Agencies' Association of Nepal (TAAN) congratulated and welcomed Member of Legislative Assembly, Sindhupalchok District, Province ( Pradesh no.) – 1 and constituency ( Chhetra no.) – 2 'kha' Mr. Nima Lama on January 8, 2018. Mr Kancha Lama and Pemba Lama were also welcomed by TAAN.



Mr. Lama was very proud to be the Past Executive Member of TAAN. He said about the role of TAAN for generating employment opportunity as well as contributing for national economy. He suggested TAAN to carry out more revenue generation programs in near future. He also assured TAAN for his support to explore new trekking destinations, promoting village and home stay tourism.

“Nowadays, people are always ready to travel and explore new things; they are more attracted towards adventure tourism such as – trekking, climbing, rafting, bungee and so on.” Therefore, he was more focused on promoting Nepalese tourism. He lastly cinched on his responsibility and contribution from his side and was positive towards helping TAAN and tourism industry to flourish.

TAAN President Nava Raj Dahal welcomed Mr. Lama and felicitated him with khada and bouquet on behalf of all executive members and trekking companies. “Mr. Nima Lama, also the past executive member of TAAN and M.D of Charity Expedition Nepal Pvt. Ltd. is one of the well known and successful tourism entrepreneurs” he said.

Sindhupalchok, itself being a popular tourism destination of Nepal, there are more trekking trails that must be explored and promoted. President Dahal assured Mr. Lama for the possible support required for increasing number of tourist in the district. He also made Mr. Lama aware about the problems faced by trekking business

President Nava Raj Dahal, Senior President Khum Bahadur Subedi, General Secretary Ang Pemba Shrepa, Secretary Sujan Lamicchane, Treasurer Ramkrishna Timalisina, Joint Treasurer Tara Rana, Executive Members Sher Bahadur Pariyar, Ritu

Nima Lama, Member of Legislative Assembly showed his gratitude towards TAAN for



their courteous felicitation. He stated that he has been working in the tourism industry since the development of 'Responsible Tourism'. Rather selecting tourism as a profession, he had a genuine interest on it as tourism being the beautiful profession to interact and explore nature. He also showed concerned for uplifting the living standard of local people by generating employment opportunities through tourism development and promotion.

Gyamdan, Baburam Gurung, Jeevan Lama, Suk Bahadur Lama, Gopal Shrestha, Surya Bahadur Bhetwal along with C.E.O Tek Bahadur Mahat, Media Officer Subina Manandhar and Photographer Pemba Sherpa were also present on the program.

# TIMS Department Formed

As part of Trekking Agencies' Association of Nepal (TAAN) ongoing initiative to streamline and manage Trekkers' Information Management System (TIMS), a new TIMS Department was formed on January 16, 2018. Mr. Rajan Prashad Kapri has been nominated the committee's Coordinator along with other five members: Indra Bhatta, Samika Budathoki, Nuru Chhepal Sherpa, Ram Khadka and Rabindra Adhikari.



On behalf of TIMS Department, TIMS Coordinator Mr. Rajan Prashad Kapri hosted a meeting at TAAN Secretariat which was participated by executive members of TAAN. Speaking on the ceremony, TAAN President Mr. Nava Raj Dahal congratulated the newly formed TIMS Department members with khadas and batches and wished the new department for their successful term in office. He stated that all departments within TAAN are equally important including TIMS department.

"TIMS is being implemented to discourage illegal trekking operation as well as for the welfare of trekking workers. TIMS must be operated for the benefit and promotion of trekking industry. He also assured that the new executive committee of TAAN will work towards releasing the TIMS revenue from Nepal Tourism Board.

Similarly, TAAN General Secretary, Mr. Ang Pemba Sherpa requested the new team of TIMS department to work in an effective way and also drew attention to the immediate re-opening of the TIMS check post at Khumbu Pasang Rural Municipality and Langtang.

Tara Nath Lamichane (Dinesh), Past Executive Member and TIMS Coordinator highlighted on the activities during his term at office and called upon

reviewing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between TAAN and NTB regarding TIMS. He further emphasized the need for the operation of TIMS through yet-to-be-implemented online software. He also informed that the necessary documents relating to TIMS expenditure had been previously submitted to NTB.

Commenting on the issues of TIMS check post at Kumbu Pasang Rural Municipality and Langtang, TAAN Treasurer Mr. Ram Krishna Timalina, asked the new TIMS Department team to raise awareness about the importance of TIMS. Krishna Kumar Aryal, the erstwhile board Member of NTB, suggested TAAN to design software to conduct TIMS online. "I am positive that NTB and TAAN would find a way to settle the disputes regarding TIMS. New plans should be formulated in order to utilize TIMS budget in an effective way that would be beneficial for both trekking business and trekking workers. "

Concluding the meeting, President Nava Raj Dahal once again assured that the future activities of TAAN will facilitate trekking business.

२०१८ जी "स को ची लो" लोसारको मुल उपनख्यया  
ट्रेकिङ एजेन्सीज् एसोसिएसन अफ नेपाल (टाएन) द्वारा  
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**संयुक्त लोसार कार्यक्रम**

सम्यक नं. २६९९

**लोसार कार्यक्रम**

मिति: २०१८ माघ २६ गते आईतवार  
Date: 11 February, 2018  
समय: अपराह्न ३:०० बजे  
स्थान: होटल रेजन्सी (Hyatt Regency), चौड, दुस्मान

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ENTRY

TAAN Joint-Lho sar Tickets are now available in the market. We hope you will participate and will make the event as a successful tourism product.



# TAAN to organize Joint- Lhosar Cultural Program with a zest

Trekking Agencies' Association of Nepal (TAAN) is organizing Joint –Lhosar Cultural Program on February 11, 2018 at hotel Hyatt Regency. TAAN has been organizing this event since long time.

TAAN Joint- Lhosar is a joint celebration of New Year of different ethnic communities of Nepal i.e. Sherpa, Gurung, Tamang, Hyolmo and so on.

Lhosar is the New Year festival of different ethnic groups living in the mountain and hill areas of the country. Though these groups celebrate Lhosar on different dates, TAAN has been organizing a cultural and fun-filled event every year to celebrate the festival. Cultural performance of different ethnic groups mainly Gurung, Tamang, Sherpa and Hyolmo will be the major attraction of the event along with performance of popular Nepalese artist.

TAAN is planning for making the event a huge success as a tourism product where high-ranking government officials, diplomats, representatives of different travel trade entrepreneurs, tourism entrepreneurs will also be the participants of event.

The major objective to organize this event is to preserve Nepal's timeless culture and tradition having friendly and brotherhood relationship among tourism entrepreneur. This event will definitely help to promote adventure tourism as well as Nepal's culture and tradition.

The event is going to be organize under the supervision of Ritu Gyamdan Tamang, the coordinator of Sports and Event Department. Along with her, Ranjan Raj Bhandari is the co-coordinator and other members are Baburam Gurung, Suk Bahadur Gurung, P. K. Sherpa, Gopal Shrestha, Jeevan Hyolmo, Surya Bahadur Bhetwal, Pasang Sherpa (Chhelhamu) and Dolma Tsering Tamang Sherpa.

Gopal Shrestha, Coordinator of Media & Communication department said that TAAN will organize an official press meet targeting TAAN Joint- Loshar Cultural event.



## We wish you Happy Lhosar !

  


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ट्रेकिङ एजेन्सीज् एसोसिएसन अफ नेपाल (टान) द्वारा  
आयोजना हुन गइरहेको

### संयुक्त ल्होसार कार्यक्रम

**कार्यक्रम**  
मिति: २०७४ माघ २८ गते आईतबार  
समय: अपरान्ह ३:०० बजे  
स्थान: होटल हायत (Hyatt Regency), बौद्ध, दुसाल

सम्पर्क नं.  
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राष्ट्रिय कलाकारहरुको बेजोड प्रस्तुतिको साथमा साँझ ९-१२ बजे सम्म डि जे सेसन रहने छ ।

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