



Kathmandu University School of Education, KUSOED

## NEWSLETTER

KUSOED Transforming Education and Society

Year 1, Issue 2, February 2015

*1<sup>st</sup> of February, 2015*

**PhD Meeting Held:** A meeting of PhD scholars was held to share their progress on their studies and possible supports from KUSOED faculties. In the meeting Dr. Bal Chandra Luitel, Associate Dean, clarified the expectations of KUSOED from PhD scholars.

*2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2015*

**NORHED Review Meeting Held:** A meeting of senior faculties was held to manage an upcoming workshop of NORHED QUANTICT PROJECT. Dr. Laxman Gnawali shared a tentative program schedule in the meeting. The meeting decided the roles and responsibilities of KUSOED's faculties for the successful implementation of the workshop.

**Proposal Defended:** Mr. Shree Prasad Devkota, a student of MPhil in Development Studies defended his proposal on 'Education of ten years armed conflict victims: An ethnographic study.'

*3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2015*

**Entrance Result Published:** KUSOED published the result of entrance examinations 2015, Feb. Batch for MPhil Programs in Educational Leadership, Development Studies, Mathematics Education and English Language Education. Twenty four candidates in Educational Leadership, fourteen candidates in Development Studies, eight candidates in Mathematics Education and thirteen candidates in English Language Education were eligible for admission to the programs respectively.

**Proposal Defended:** Mr. Prabin Raj Gautam, a student of PhD in Development Studies defended his proposal on 'The role of entrepreneurial orientation on higher secondary school: A study of private higher secondary schools of Kathmandu Valley.'

*4<sup>th</sup> February, 2015*

**KUSOED Welcomed Prof. Paul Ernest:** KUSOED welcomed Prof. Paul Ernest, one of the chairs of Mathematics Education Fair and International Symposium 2015. In the welcome program, Dr. Bal Chandra Luitel, Associate Dean, introduced him to KUSOED's faculties and highlighted his contributions to mathematics education. He is a Professor of Mathematics at University of Exeter, UK. KUSOED has also invited Professor Daniel Clark Orey from Universidade Federal De Ouro Preto, Brazil to chair the symposium.

*6<sup>th</sup> of February, 2015*

**Mathematics Education Fair and International Symposium Held:** KUSOED and ABI, Nepal jointly organized a two-day Mathematics Education Fair and International Symposium 2015 at Hattiban Complex. The

fair was inaugurated by Prof. Dr. Parasar Koirala, Chairman of University Grants Commission, Nepal. He was invited as a chief guest of the program. The program was chaired by Prof. Dr. Mahesh Baskota, Dean, of KUSOED/KUSOA. Prof. Dr. Ram Kantha Makaju Shrestha, Vice Chancellor, Kathmandu University, Prof. Dr. Bhola Thapa, Registrar, Kathmandu University and Dr. Bal Chandra Luitel, Associate Dean of the School of Education delivered their speeches on the program highlighting the importance of mathematics education. More than 30 schools of Kathmandu valley and five schools out of the valley participated in the program.

**End Semester Exam Started:** The End Semester Examination of the first and third semesters' students of M Ed programs started.

*8<sup>th</sup> of February, 2015*

**Workshop Held:** KUSOED organized a one-day workshop on 'The Status of Curriculum Modulation of Master's Course for Distance Learning'. The main purpose of the workshop was to share the progress of self learning material of distance learning. The workshop was chaired by Dr. Bal Chandra Luitel, Associate Dean. In the workshop, Dr. Luitel highlighted the overall progress made on SLM of KUSOED for distance learning. Five groups (Maths, English, Education, ICTs, and Gender) presented their reports. Prof. Ellen Carm, Project Coordinator, North and Prof. Leinky Ogrim commented in order to shape the curriculum modulation of master's course for distance learning. Dr. Gnawali, Coordinator of NORHED Project, KU concluded the workshop.

**Dissertation Defended:** Mr. Chudamani Devkota, a student of MPhil in Educational Leadership defended his dissertation on 'Use of positive reinforcement in classroom instruction: Teachers' perceptions and responses.'

*12<sup>th</sup> of February, 2015*

**Workshop Held:** A joint workshop of core people of TU and KU of NORHED Project was held in the Hotel Summit at Kupandole in order to share the progress of activities under NORHED Project in both the universities. In the workshop five groups: Mathematics, English, Sustainable Development, ICT and Gender presented their progress of action research project.

*13<sup>th</sup> of February 2015*

**Meeting Held:** A meeting of KUSOED's staff was held to discuss emerging issues of NORHED Project. The meeting decided to build a team of three people in order to drive the project as par the expectation of the project.

*22<sup>nd</sup> of February 2015*

**Meeting Held:** A meeting of KUSOED's academic and administrative staff was held to share the overall activities of NORHED Project. Dr. Laxman Gnawali presented a project paper including, project title and goal, intended outcomes, major interventions/ activities, budgeting, activities completed. The main purpose of the meeting was to get the meaning into across of projects' focus in order to align the activity as per the project's expectation. The meeting concluded that the project's focus was to develop capacity of educators, design online and distance curricula for Med program and infrastructure development.

*25<sup>th</sup> of February 2015*

**Orientation Program Held:** An orientation program for in-house and visiting faculty was held for Spring Semester 2015. Dr. Bal Chandra Luitel, Associate Dean shared the expectations of KUSOED from faculty to enhance restructuring attributes of graduates. He also shared structure of a course plan, online courseware, tentative format of continuous assessment, areas to be focused in the course and students' grading system in the program.

27<sup>th</sup> February 2015

**Paper in a book published:** Recently one PhD student Laxman Acharya has published one paper in a book published by Sage. The book presents nine chapters on Governance, Development and Conflict and under four different areas. Out of 9 chapters, 3 chapters are written based on Nepal's experience. They are:

1. Rituals of Democracy and Development in Nepal by David N. Gellner
2. Negotiating a Dual governance System during the Conflict in Nepal by Natalie Hicks
3. Economic Growth to Conflict Mitigation: Changing Aid Strategies of Nepal's Donors by Laxman Acharya

The chapter on aid strategy of Nepal's donors comes with five main conclusions.

1. With the lack of a proper aid management system and transparency, foreign aid administration has been chaotic with presence of a large crowd of donors.
2. Foreign aid in Nepal has never been able to achieve its set goals. Foreign aid was begun in the 1950s with the goal of economic and political stability. But despite a regular inflow of millions of dollars for more than half a century, with the Maoist insurgency the country has become most unstable, politically as well as economically.
3. Nepal's donors are continuously changing their aid strategies. Economic growth strategy of 1950s has been changed into conflict mitigation strategy in post 2000 era.
4. Now, the donors have understood that poverty, inequality and failure of past governments to address the socio-economic conditions are the root cause of conflict and they are trying to address the root cause. However, it remains to be seen how these strategies will be implemented in reality.
5. There is a danger that donors and the government will lose what progress has been achieved in recent years after the Maoist party becomes grounded in mainstream politics. There is a danger that donors will understand Nepal as a post-conflict country and shift their engagement towards implementing the current (and deeply flawed) post- conflict reconstruction paradigm. Nepal would be better served if donors were to redouble their efforts to address the extant conflict issues across the country.

