

104 International Women's Day Celebration in Nepalese Embassy Ottawa 9th March 2014

On the initiation of NRN Canada, International Women's Day was celebrated in the Embassy of Nepal by Nepalese community on 9th of March 2014 on the initiation of NRN . Approximately 40 participants attended the program. The program was celebrated with great enthusiasm and interaction among the participants. The special guest was the Mrs Rita Poudyal (Acting Embassdor's spouse). Acting Embassdor Hon. Dilip Kumar Poudyal sent his best wishes for the participants on this occasion.

The program was inaugurated by Ms. Radha Basnyat welcoming all the participants wishing Happy International Women's Day and appreciating their participation in the program. She started with with general background of International Women's Day and its importance for uniting the women all around the world. She also highlighted on women's struggle and oppression from the beginning for women's rights and freedom. At the same time she briefly introduced the NRNA Women International Coordination Committee's activities around the globe. And Dr. Sara Chhetri from NRN/NCC board highlighted on the role and activities of NRN Canada women and children committee's activities since the initiation of NRN/WCC in 2009.

The program was conducted on the chairmanship of Dr. Ishara Mahat, who welcomed all the participants and requested introduction of each participant. She introduced the agenda for discussion during the celebration of International Women's Day. The following agenda were discussed among the participants;

- a) Adjustment of new comers in multicultural environment of Canada
- b) Problems and challenges faced by women at global
- c) Networking and support for grass-root organizations in Nepal
- d) Role of NRN/ICC women forum for global development
- e) Creation of Women's Forum and its goal

Dr. Mahat opened the floor for the discussion of the agenda as above. The major issues that came up during the discussion were;

- a) Update the statistics of Nepalese population in Canada in order to build the network at national level,
- b) Creation of strong support system as a safety net to help each other among Nepalese community: Views were expressed that lack of community support system restricted the opportunity for women to be employed in local job market,
- c) Build outreach programs to access the information and resources for the newcomers,
- d) Develop new strategies to help resolve the challenges of women in Canada that have been barriers for women's empowerment,
- e) Build the strategies to help the marginalized women in Nepal by conducting various outreach programs such as health camps, fundraising event and education and awareness programs,

- f) Develop partnership with Nepalese embassy and other organizations to help build the network,

During the interaction program the need of Women's Forum was voiced by Ms. Radha Basnyat who had been attempting to create NRN Women Forum in Ottawa since last three years. With the enthusiastic agreements of the participants NRN Women's Forum Ottawa was finally established. The role and functions of this Forum will be developed by the executive committee which is under operation at this point. The participants voted for the following participants to represent the Forum;

1. Grishma Dahal
2. Reshma Dahal
3. Sawadee Adhikari
4. Ava Satyal
5. Sabina Baniya
6. Archana Dhakal
7. Mary Wiles
8. Srijana Thapa
9. Radha Basnyat
10. Dr. Sara Chhetri
11. Soyoung Bhattarai
12. Prakriti Kharel
13. Dr. Ishara Mahat

The acting executive forum has agreed to meet every month to process the functioning of the forum and to build its legal status.

Finally the women's forum Ottawa expresses its appreciation and acknowledgment for the continuous support provided by the Embassy of Nepal for the celebration of International Women's Day.

Dr. Mahat closed the ceremony thanking all the participants for their active participation and interaction for making this program a success.