

From the President

Hello, Fellow Fulbrighters and friends of FAAN! I wish you a very happy and prosperous new year 2055.

I am happy that our Association is now conducting Talk Programs regularly. For the past four months we have been able to organise Talk Programs on various topics and issues. I am extremely grateful to those Fulbrighters who have given their presentations and/or have participated in the Talk Programs so far. I would like to request other Fulbrighters, too, to come forward with papers, informal talks or with anything they want to share with us.

FAAN is now definitely moving ahead to fulfill its objective in bringing the scattered Fulbrighters together. These monthly Talk Programs have enabled FAAN to provide a forum where Fulbrighters get together to know each other and share their views and experiences. Moreover, by meeting every month FAAN members have started developing a sense of belongingness.

Finally, in the process of expansion of FAAN, may I request you, fellow Fulbrighters and well-wishers of FAAN, to join FAAN and contribute in whatever way you can, towards fulfilling the aims and achieving the objectives of this Association.

Shasnyat

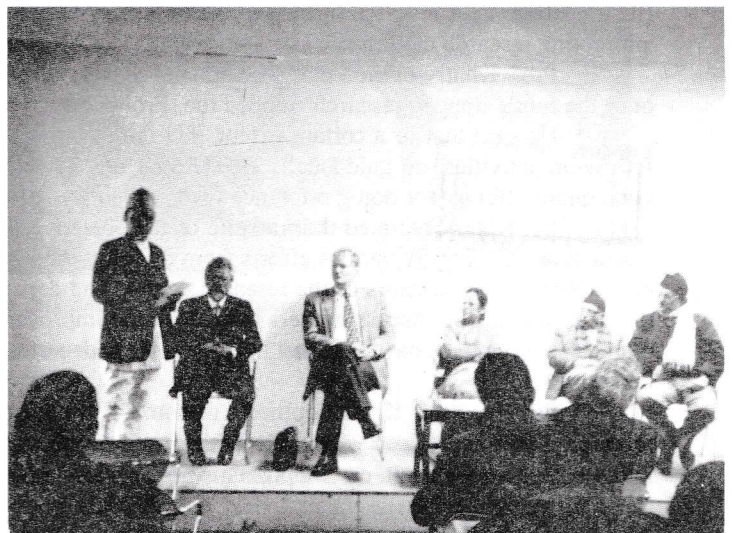


FAAN president introducing the Executive Members at the General Body Meeting of FAAN

FAAN General Assembly

The General Assembly of Fulbright Association of Nepal was held at US Education Foundation Auditorium on 5 January 1998. FAAN president Prof. Shanti Basnyat chaired the assembly. About 30 Fulbrighters attended the annual meeting. General Secretary Mr. Ram Ashish Giri and Treasurer Mr. Ram Bhakta Amatya presented their annual report and financial report respectively. Various issues such as home visit program, monthly events, fund raising, etc. were discussed.

Home Visit Program- It was decided that the home visit program, which aims at developing the cultural awareness of the host as well as the visitor, was a welcome proposal, and FAAN should prepare an annual program for the visit and implement it at once. Many Fulbrighters volunteered their names as hosts for the program.



FAAN Treasurer presenting annual financial report

Monthly Events- It was proposed in the meeting that FAAN should organise a talk program/ workshop on a monthly basis. It should develop a proposal and contact various agencies for the funding of such programs.

Fulbrighters' Profile- Fulbrighters are the richest and the most highly trained human resource of the nation. They have, in addition to their regular contribution in their respective professions, a lot to offer in other areas of development. However, because of the lack of proper networking and knowledge of their whereabouts, the Fulbrighters mostly remain unknown. It was proposed that FAAN should prepare and bring out a profile of the Fulbrighters with their expertise and recent affiliation. Also, Fulbrighters should be provided a forum where they can share their expertise and experience.

Other Activities- It was suggested that FAAN like any other NGOs should develop proposals on research, training, and development and contact various governmental and non-governmental agencies for funding. In order to work in this line FAAN members should meet more frequently.

Dr. Penny Walker (USEF) suggested that a larger number of FAAN members should be meeting more frequently instead of just the executive members and should be involved in making decisions about programs, planning and other FAAN activities.

FAAN Monthly Events

In keeping with the decision of the General Body, FAAN has been organizing Talk Programs for the past few months.



Prof. Khatri delivering his talk

1. FAAN organized a talk program on "Research in Tribhuvan University" on 9 March 1998 at the USEF/Nepal Auditorium at Gyaneshwor. Prof Prem Khatri, Executive Director of CNAS was the speaker. Some 20 Fulbrighters working in various aspects of development participated in this program.

Highlights of Dr. Khatri's talk:

Speaking on the topic "Research at T. U. : A Brief Anatomy of State-of-the-Art", Professor Khatri began by saying 'teaching and research are two wheels of higher education.' But the sad state of affairs is that the existing reality at T.U. does not conform to this statement.

Going back to the history of TU, he reiterated that research was neglected during the formative period of TU. But sometime later research institutes like CEDA, CNAS RECAST and CERID were established with the objective of 'promoting research culture at TU.'

Prof. Khatri opined that 'research survived and thrived at the Centres as long as there were 'milch cows'. But once the funds stopped research stopped too. Prof. Khatri regrets that the research centres never became sustainable.

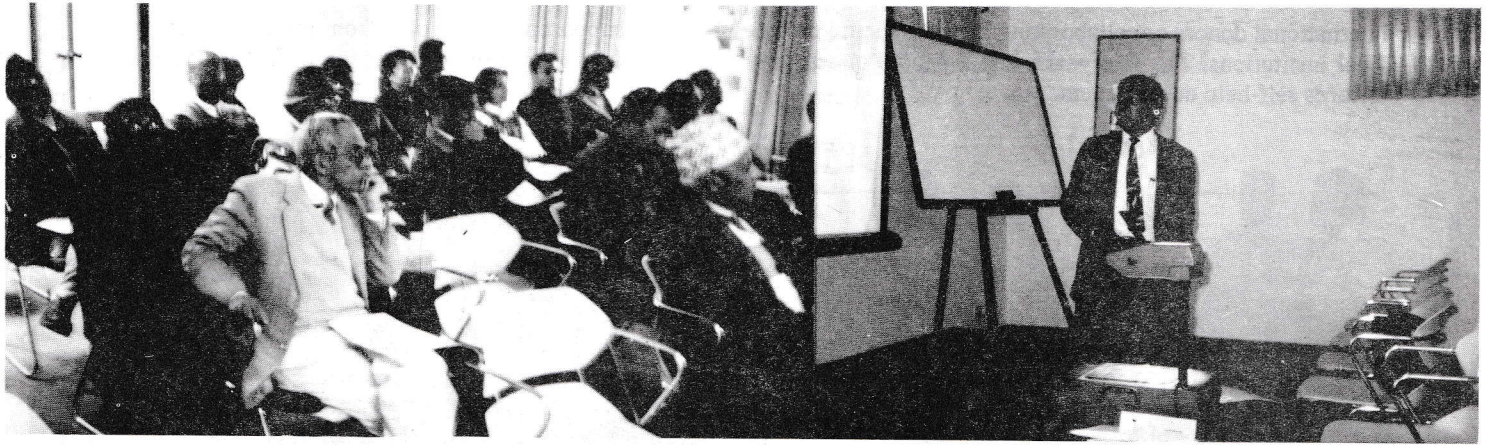
He said that to a certain extent, TU is responsible for the present state of the research centres- there are no follow-up activities, no guidance from TU after the establishment of the centres. Moreover, TU has not provided any good quality library for doing reference work which is the foundation of any type of research.

Dr. Khatri regreted that in spite of the objectives being clearly stated there is no integration of teaching and research at TU. Despite various efforts from different directors, including himself, to bring teaching and research under one umbrella; the directors of the research centres and department heads remain at arms length. They have never come together to plan and discuss matters relating to the improvement of the quality of teaching and research. Consequently, many departments have remained 'teaching only' departments. A few have established research units in their own departments.

Finally, Prof. Khatri opined 'research without publication is lame' as dissemination of the results of the research is an integral part of any research. However, in spite of the present state of affairs, everything is not lost ! Dr. Khatri concluded his talk on an optimistic note.

2. A talk program on "Holistic Development" was organized by FAAN on April 7, 1998 at USEF/N auditorium at Gyaneshwor. Dr. Ram Prakash Yadav representative of Winrock International was the speaker. About 25 Fulbrighters attended the talk program.

Dr. Yadav gave an introduction to Winrock International and highlighted some of the programs such as research, training, community based activities, etc. the organization is engaged in. After the introduction he presented the talk on 'Holistic Development' and its various issues related with the approach.



Dr. Yadav at his presentation, the attentive audience

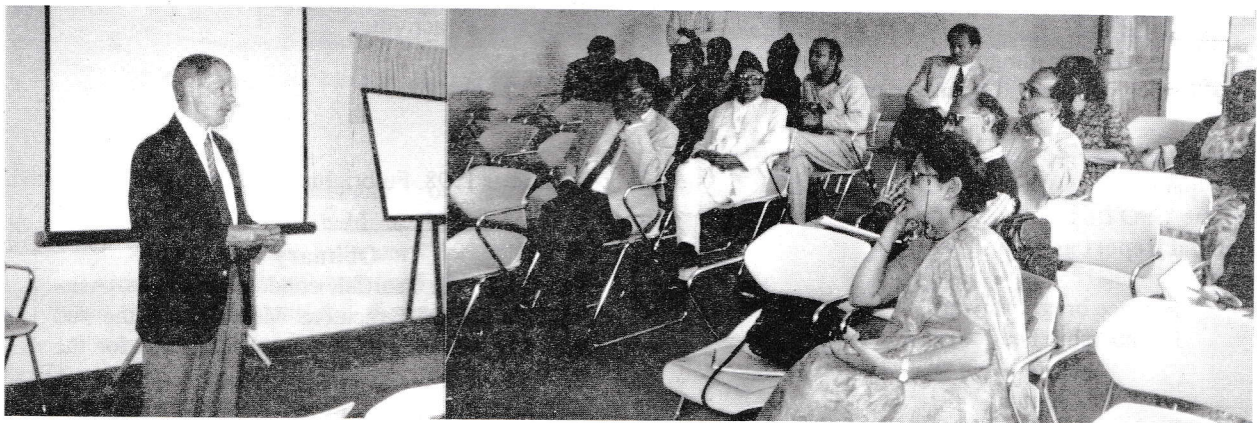
3. Prof. Kevin McCrohan of George Mason University, USA conducted a talk program organized by FAAN on "Barriers to Informal Market Integration into the Formal Economy" on 4 May 1998. Prof. McCrohan was a senior Fulbright scholar at Kathmandu University. He left for his home country on May 29, 1998.

Dr. McCrohan first presented a number of definitions of informal economic activity, he then talked about the advantages and disadvantages of these activities in both developed and developing countries.

Discussing why it is important for a country to measure and harness this informal economic activity he said, "in both developed and developing countries unmeasured and untaxed economy activity leads to untrustworthy micro and macro economic statistics. Again, if some small-scale entrepreneurs become successful and remain in the informal economy both tax revenues and an engine of economic and employment growth are lost."

Finally, talking about the barriers to integration of informal economic activity into formal economy in general and Nepal in particular, the speaker observed that the chief barriers are corruption, social structure, administrative and taxation issues and infrastructure. Referring to the situation in Nepal he added, "while corruption and inefficiencies in government are hardly unique to Nepal, I must admit that I have never encountered such a pervasive belief in corruption of the system." According to Dr. McCrohan the next important barrier on almost equal footing with the perception of corruption is the social system in Nepal.

Dr. McCrohan concluded his talk by saying, "it does not appear to me that the best tax policy and most sophisticated infrastructure will be of great value in the face of significant corruption and a social structure and attitudes that are inimical to economic development."



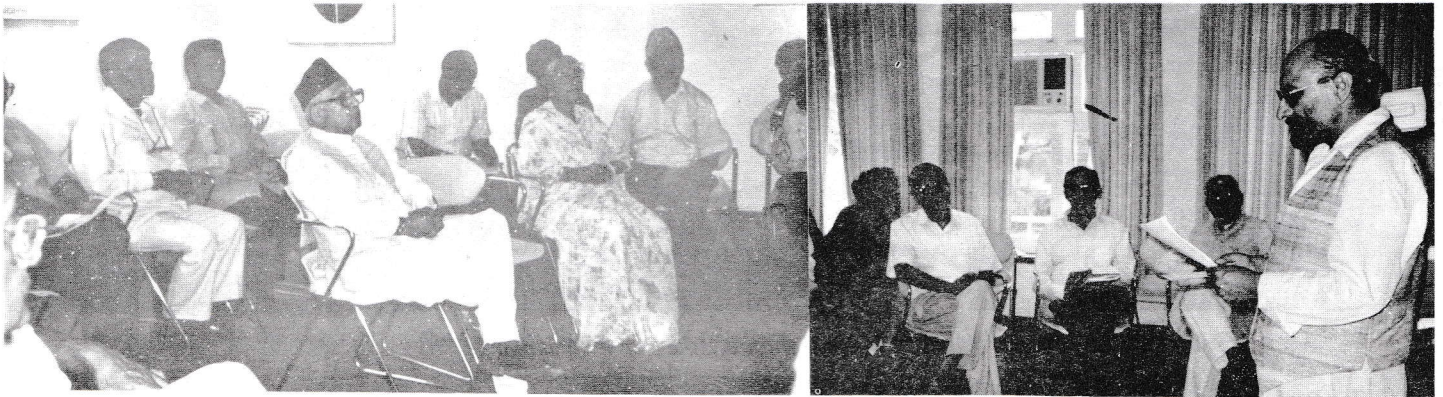
Dr. McCrohan presenting his talk amidst the Fulbrighters

4. Dr. Poorna Kanta Adhikary, a free-lance consultant spoke on the topic "Rural Development and Decentralization" on June 1, 1998. Some 20 Fulbrighters attended the program.

Extracts from Dr. Adhikary's Talk.

Dr. Adhikary defined development as an act of synergism between technocracy and humanistic political activism which is translated into their spontaneous participation. This synergism is being currently tested in Lamjung. Lamjung is providing a model which perhaps can be replicated elsewhere in Nepal. Consensus among all political forces, application of participatory approach to systematic planning, respect to nature and human culture in resource management, use of appropriate technology and equity in benefit sharing and ownership of development programs have been observed in preparing five years plan in Lamjung. The guiding principles of the model have been: people are the focus of development and their community based organisations (CBDOs) are responsible to act for it; role of governmental, non-governmental, financial, private and professional institutions is to support CBDOs directly; The VDC/DDC as people's elected constitutional body is to act as a facilitator or coordinator; and the national and

international donors or collaborating partners should provide necessary support indirectly only from the background via local institutions. The five years plan prepared under these principles has a purpose to orient the people of Lamjung towards self-help development.



Dr. Adhikary presenting his talk, Fulbrighters listening attentively

Home visit Program

FAAN is soon going to launch a Home Visit Program for the American Fulbrighters in Nepal. The program includes (a) a day visit program to the family in which the visitor stays with the family during the day and / or over night (b) weekend program in which the visitor spends two nights with the family and (c) a weeklong program. During festivals or vacations, the visitor is invited to stay in the family for a week. Fulbrighters interested to host such programs are requested to give details such as their (i) names (ii) types of programs they are interested in (iii) preferred date (iv) restriction if any (no smoking, vegetarian etc) and (v) their contact address and phone number. Please send these details to FAAN, GPO Box No. 58, Kathmandu or call 417485 (Prof. Basnyat) 226639 (Mrs. S. K. Tuladhar)

Attention Fellow Fulbrighters !

If there is any news or message regarding promotion; educational visit, appointment, etc. FAAN will be pleased to publish it in the next issue of FAAN Newsletter. Please leave your news / message at USEF/ N or contact us at 417485/ 249396 or 490116.

Gratitude

We would like to thank the following institutions and individual for their help / support.

- * Dr. Phillip Hoffman, Director, USIS, for his support.
- * USEF/N for housing FAAN and letting us use their space for FAAN activities and for providing us with refreshments for our monthly events.
- * Sahayogi Press, Tripureshwor for printing this Newsletter free of charge.

Fulbrighter's Profile

FAAN plans to bring out a profile of Fulbrighters by the end of November 1998. Fulbrighters are requested to send their details to GPO Box No.58, Kathmandu or Call 417485/ 490116

Financial Report as of June 1, 1998

Income		
Balance broght forward		32063.62
Membership Fee		
- Life		13850.00
- Annual		2250.00
Interest earned		4855.00
	Total	53018.62
Expenses		15949.00
	Balance	37069.62

FAAN Life Members

SN	Life Members	Fulbright Year
47	Dr. Kevin McCrohan	1997
48	Dr. Dambar Narayan Yadav	1963

Special Life Member

10. Mr. Basu Deo Kafle

Obituary

We express our heartfelt condolance to Ms. Asha Basnyat, FAAN Executive Member, on the sad demise of her mother. We pray for peace for the departed soul.

Membership Renewal Notice

FAAN annual members are requested to renew their membership for 1998 as their membership expired in March. For new membership or renewals, please contact any Executive Member or call Prof. Basnyat (417485), Mr. Gimire (249396), Mr. Giri (490116), Dr. Napit (270144) or USEF/N- 410041

FULBRIGHT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF NEPAL
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Phone: 417485 (President), 249396 (Vice President), 490116 (General Secretary), 270144 (Secretary)