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23rd Annual General Meeting



The annual activities of FTGN being presented by Mr. Kamal Narayan Shrestha, Secretary

The 23rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on 17th January 2020. The AGM commenced with welcome remarks from Mr. Chitra Bahadur K.C., Chairperson; he shared the highlights of FTGN’s achievements acknowledging the activities undertaken for promotion of fair trade movement in Nepal, networking, partnership and overall business performance of the members

for the upliftment of socio-economic conditions of the producers and artisans.

The AGM endorsed the annual progress report of FTGN for the financial year 2075/76, presented by Mr. Kamal Narayan Shrestha, Secretary, FTGN; the audited financial report for the year 2075/76, and the budget for the year 2076/77 was also endorsed by the AGM, Ms. Revita Shrestha, Treasurer of FTGN presented and proposed the documents. The meeting was ended with vote of thanks by Mr. Kamal Narayan Shrestha, Secretary.



Group photo with members, executive members and secretariat

World Fair Trade Day 2020

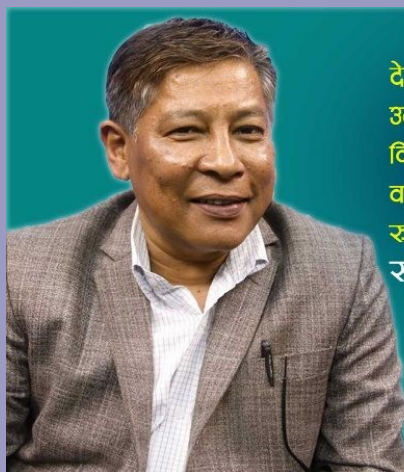


Executive members planting tree saplings at Ashadeep Nepal

This year, Fair Trade Group Nepal was not able to celebrate the World Fair Trade Day 2020 in a grand way as we had been doing with rallies and events all these years due to the pandemic spread and Nationwide Lock down. Despite the situation, we galvanize tree plantation in the premises of Ashadeep Nepal, a pioneering mental health organization located in Sundarijal, Kathmandu. Chairperson along with member of Executive Committee, Advisors planted over 100 saplings on 9th May 2020. Residents of Ashadeep were also provided with Lunch on the day.

Majority of FTG Nepal's members export Fair Trade handicrafts, agro food and non-timber forest products which amounted to over 1 billion rupees last year. However, economic shock due to Covid-19 pandemic resulted in significant decrease in export this year. Likewise, lack of raw materials in market, continued lock-down has halted, limited the production putting SMEs in verge of collapse. And this puts livelihood of thousands of marginalized producers, farmers across the country in jeopardy. Thus, FTG Nepal advocated for stimulus package and promotion of local market that would support their business and their workforce and submitted an Appeal to the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies and Ministry of Finance. Chairperson Mr. K.C. shared on the challenges that Fair Trade organizations/ SMEs are facing and support that would enable to recover through article, interview.

Also, followed by this, on the occasion, several engaging posts on Digital Platforms like Facebook, Twitter and Instagram were created to promote Fair Trade products and to reflect our solidarity.



देशको अर्थतन्त्रलाई जोगाउन स्थानिय उत्पादन तथा स्थानिय बजार प्रवर्धनको विकल्प छैन। त्यसका लागि आगामी ३ वर्ष विशेष औद्योगिक विकास वर्षको रुपमा घोषणा गर्दै 'स्वदेशी उत्पादन, स्वदेशी उपभोग' मा जोड दिनुपर्छ।

चित्र बहादुर केसी

अध्यक्ष, स्वच्छ व्यवसायी समूह नेपाल

The link to the article- <https://www.covid19.jagaranmedia.org.np/07/05/2020/1994/?fbclid=IwAR3ZmNrrLcBvSHeO5yUQP54AEw0jxOzZqLn7SSyZpKZ7suoAQIhEpe69FU;>

https://everestdainik.com/2020/05/324071/?fbclid=IwAR2vrqFkH8twb7DnbxZjX_scy8HYnfulI1GjiX9JQDOVQxoQTN3el-1f9eg

https://www.osnepal.com/905289?fbclid=IwAR3BKzPchii2__bcpR5sj4-c_hE7ALIHjGIS1tdLOGTJBakJDCnbMTb-NJY

Link to the interview- <https://www.facebook.com/radiosagarmatha.nefej/videos/28969031204051771>, <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1iNpkoYJ1MUneVPIHIBqP4QZHU6h-SBYN>

Link to the interview in Rupantaran Program- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7A4ak4c35XU&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2smeRasrDxjObE_JEHISjNVOrd3XJv9GwmDYYbDJ37PNih_ZrqoLKT2Bw

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7A4ak4c35XU&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2smeRasrDxjObE_JEHISjNVOrd3XJv9GwmDYYbDJ37PNih_ZrqoLKT2Bw

Proposal and Report Writing Skill Development Workshop



Group photo after the second day of the workshop

Proposal and Report Writing Skill Development Workshop was organized from 23-24 January, 2020 in Kathmandu. The objective of the workshop was to support the member organizations in developing necessary skills like developing tools for identifying fundraising opportunities; analyzing problem using situation, problem and objective analysis; developing project design and monitoring/ evaluation plan; writing a basic proposal with associated reports etc. Ms. Dibya Karki- Program Development Manager, Mr. Prem Bahadur Rana- Program Development Advisor and Mr. Narendra Rokaya- Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist from CECI Nepal, Husna Sarwar, Program Development Advisor/ CECI Uniterra Volunteer at FTG Nepal and FTG Nepal facilitated the workshop. A total of 12 participants from 10 member organizations participated in the workshop.

The workshop was supported by CECI Nepal.

Immediate Relief Support in response to COVID-19



FTGN provided immediate food relief support to various organizations

In response to COVID-19 pandemic spread, Immediate Relief (food) Support was provided to orphans, senior citizens, people with disability, leprosy affected people, people with psychotic disorders and neurotic disorders sheltered in:

- Disable Service Centre, Tarkeshwar, Kathmandu
- Entire Power in Social Action-Nepal (EPSA-Nepal) , Tarkeshwar, Kathmandu
- Ashadeep Nepal, Sundarijal, Kathmandu
- Jana Uddhar Sewa Samiti, Kalopool, Kathmandu
- Kumbeshwar Technical School Orphanage Home, Kumbeshwar, Lalitpur
- New Sadle Shelter Home for leprosy affected, Kapan, Kathmandu
- Children Nepal Shelter Home for Orphans, Pokhara

Rice, pulses, grams, vegetable oil etc provided to feed for at least a month will be support to over 100 vulnerable people sheltered in these organizations. Some of the organizations also engage these vulnerable individuals in skill development and employment.

National Seminar on “Attaining Sustainable Development Goals 2030 through Fair Trade”

Fair Trade Innovates! National Seminar on “Attaining Sustainable Development Goals 2030 through Fair Trade”, a program to initiate policy dialogue with stakeholders on attaining SDG 2030 through advocacy of Fair Trade and integrating Fair Trade governed women & youth friendly policies and practices into local and national policies, plans was held on February 26, 2020. The program was inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister Paarbhat Gurung, Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen of Nepal.



Hon'ble Minister Paarbhat Gurung, Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen of Nepal offering remarks

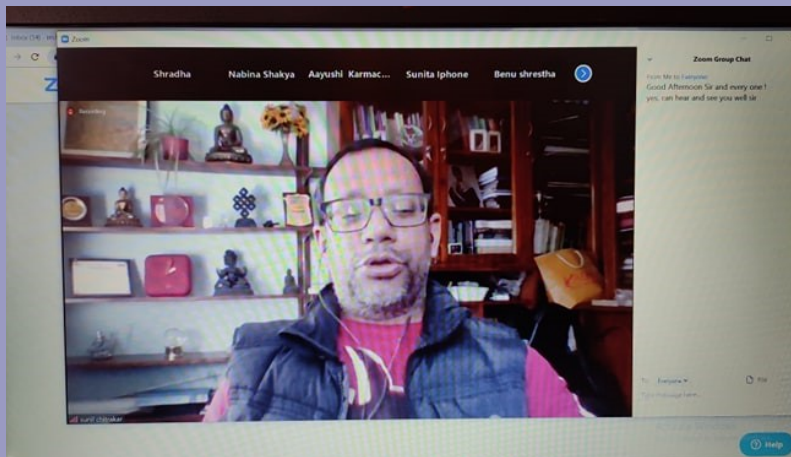
Hon'ble Minister Gurung said that it is important to embrace private sector in order to bring economic revolution and shared his commitment to include FTG Nepal as a stakeholder in women economic empowerment programs and consultations on the Organization Bill 2076. Secretary Aryal said that Government is committed to facilitate dialogues, meetings for policy intervention and requested FTG Nepal come up with specific areas for policy intervention.

The position paper was prepared and presented by Dr. Sanjay Prasad Gorkhali, Visiting Faculty, School of Management-Tribhuvan University. Discussion on the paper was chaired by Mr. Baikuntha Aryal, Secretary of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Suppliers of Nepal and Panelists included Dr. Kushum Shakya, Head of the Central Department of Economics, Tribhuvan University; Dr. Sunil Chitrakar, Vice Chairperson of FTG Nepal and Secretary, Asia Representative at the WFTO Global.

The program was participated by over 80 representing from government and its line agencies, trade and business communities, commodity associations, development partners, academics, media, producers, farmers etc. The program was supported by IM Swedish Development Partner.

Virtual Sessions

Virtual Session on Creative Thinking - An Approach of Creative Thinking and Problem Solving

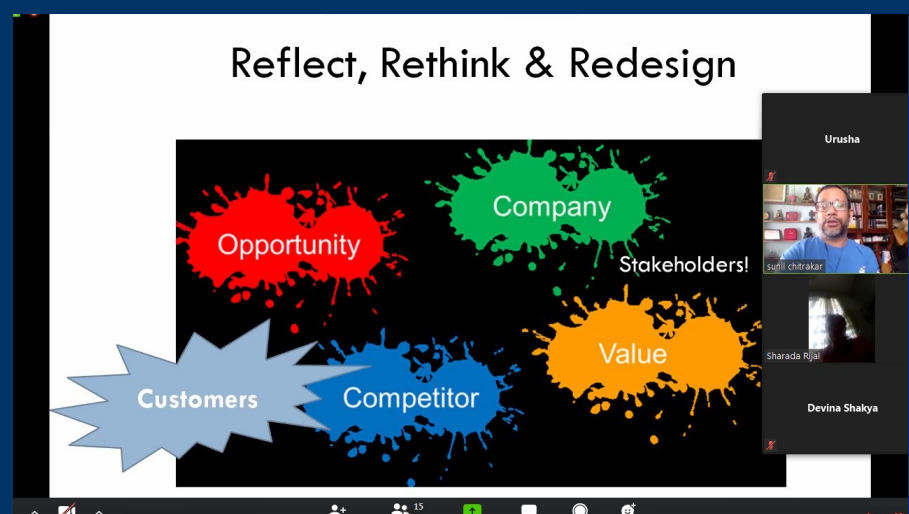


Virtual Sessions on Creative Thinking - An Approach of Creative Thinking and Problem Solving was organized on March 30 and April 9, 2020. The sessions were conducted by Dr. Sunil Chitrakar, Vice Chairperson, FTG Nepal and Asia Representative and Secretary, WFTO.

The sessions focused on thought provoking approaches of creative thinking and problem solving and addressed issues on how social Innovators use these tools to identify issues, opportunities and come up with solutions.

Virtual Session on Global Market Change

With the objective to understand the current Global Market scenario and trends and the marketing strategies post COVID-19, Fair Trade Group Nepal organized a virtual session on Global Market Change on April 17, 2020. The session was facilitated by Dr. Sunil Chitrakar, Vice-chairperson, FTGN and Secretariat and Asia Representative at WFTO.



Awards and Recognition



Manaram Himalayan Handicraft Pvt. Ltd. receiving award from the Honorable Prime Minister Mr. KP Oli

- Our member organization, Manaram Himalayan Handicraft Pvt. Ltd. has been honored with the ‘Commercially Important Award’ in the category of the Highest Agricultural Products Exporter Award (prioritized by Commercial Policy, 2072 BS and Nepal Trade Integrated Strategy, 2073 BS), amidst a special Program organized by Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies on 11th February 2020 (Magh 28, 2076).

Staff Movement

- Ms. Aayushi Karmacharya was appointed as Business Development Officer from February 3, 2020
- Mr. Sudip DC was appointed as Finance and Admin Manager from June 25, 2020.
- Mr. Dipak Desai resigned from the position of Finance and Admin Manager.

Norec Exchange Program



Fair Trade Group Nepal in partnership with ECO-TA Fair Trade Limited has been implementing Norec Exchange Program entitled “Nepal Bangladesh Exchange Program” since October 2019. The project is financed by Norec (Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation) which is a Norwegian governmental body financing two-way mutual personnel exchange between companies and organizations in Norway and in the global South -countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

For the first round of exchange, two participants from each consortium bodies were exchanged.

FTG Nepal participant Mr. Sajal Hajara Paswan from New SADLE was placed at Shishu Polli Plus (Sreepur Village Trade Ltd), Bangladesh and Ms. Namrata Shahi from Sana Hastakala placed at Prokritee, Bangladesh. Meanwhile, ECOTA participants Ms. Roksana Eaty Akter from Prokritee had been placed at Sana Hastakala, Nepal and Mr. MD Ahad Hossin from Golden Jute Product had been placed at Association for Craft Producers in Nepal. Due to the pandemic spread, the participants have been repatriated back home. Until Mid-October 2020 participants will engage in online modeled activities and other support activities from their home countries.

The project prioritizes on the skills transfer and capacity building which provided the context for understanding what is expected to achieve at the end of the intervention. Both partners being consortium of fair trading organization is established with shared goals to improve the lives of the producers through the integration of Fair Trade practice and promotion.

The project has been implemented with the expected outcomes that will result to Enhanced awareness about the Fair Trade movement for advocacy to raise awareness and common voice on trade injustices and imbalances of power in the conventional trade structures and for equitable trade through institutional development; Enhanced productivity of FT member organizations in better product production, design and diversification through enhanced skills and knowledge; Enhanced capacity on marketing on Fair Trade (FT) products by improved skills on management of retail FT outlet, FT Business Incubation Centre (FT-BIC) and increased outsourcing linkages.



Enhancing Livelihood Resilience through Fair Trade

Publication of Policy Brief and Position Paper for Fair Trade Advocacy

Policy Brief

on Fair Trade Practice in Nepal: MSEs (Medium and Small Scale Enterprise) and Pro-poor in Nepal

ROAD BY WALKING:

Mainstreaming Excluded and Marginalized in to Inclusive Economic Orientation, Practice and Growth Towards Inclusive Nepal

Position Paper has been conceptualized on 'Policy Reformation Process in the sector of Medium and Small Scale Enterprise and Mind Set Changes occurred after the reformation applied in Nepal and its positive impacts in the sector of SMEs. Continuous, 4 decades after Panchayat Period have been mapped and validated in this paper. The comprehensive development of MSE sector can be better understood in the context of its value chain only. The value-chain model of Michael Porter puts the total value-chain in perspective – in which supply (in-bound), processing and marketing (out-bound) are primarily responsible for increasing the value chain, whereas, human resource development, credit facility and technology transfer are the necessary support services. Mindset change Pattern for Policy Reform Process

The effective strengthening of such a value chain and its promotion in correct perspective is provisional to favorable policies and legislations and institutionalization of the MSE promotion mechanism, which, in effect, is possible with positive mindset of the government in general, and toward this MSE sector in particular. It would not be wrong to predict that the policy reform process in any sector

in particular. It would not be wrong to predict that the policy reform process in any sector development will by and large be guided by the change in the mindset of the government in its core. The country has experienced major political and socio-economic change since the early 1990s. Understanding the mindset change of the government is to examine the changes in policy regulatory structures in four stages – the Panchayat period and in the 1980s, the transitional period of the 1990s and the trend of reformation and reforms taking place or being considered-Liberalization, and after the promulgation of new Nepalese constitution-2072. This mindset in general reflects fast changes especially in the onset of globalization and the country's adoption of economic reforms since the early 1980s, which rapidly accelerated in the 1990s. It is important to examine the reform process in the MSE sector policies in the light of this mindset change. The change in mindset has been reflected with the latest constitutional and other policy updates made in the sector of SMEs; and socially excluded and marginalized pro-poor.

Policy Brief "ROAD BY WALKING: Mainstreaming Excluded and Marginalized in to Inclusive Economic Orientation, Practice and Growth Towards Inclusive Nepal" has been developed for advocacy of Fair Trade, women and youth friendly policies at local, provincial and federal level. The document attempts to identify policy level issues and gaps at local, provincial and federal level to integrate Fair Trade, women and youth friendly policies in the existing policies and plans for increased social and economic inclusion of women, youth from marginalized and vulnerable groups.

Likewise, position paper "Fair Trade and Agenda 2030" has been developed which aims to signify the relevance of Fair Trade in attaining SDGs in Nepal by analyzing its po-

tential in attaining different SDGs. This paper has been prepared as an indicative document in generating awareness and concern towards significance of Fair Trade in sustainable development. These documents have been developed with support of IM Swedish Development Partner.

Project Implementation and Technical support visit

Project Implementation and Technical support visit was carried out by Project Manager and Program Officer in Kapilbastu and Dang from March 16 to 21, 2020. The main objective of visit was to coordinate with relevant government stakeholders for conducting the Skilled based training.

Bijayanagar Rural Municipality, Sivaraj Municipality of Kapilbastu district and Rapti Rural Municipality, Gadawa Rural Municipality and Narti community forest of Dang district were visited.



Meeting with producer groups of Bijayanagar to discuss on further plans

Udhyamshala

Trade and Export Promotion Center (TEPC) Project



Meeting with farmers, local representatives and other stakeholders in Lamjung

Field visit to Lamjung was carried out from March 2-4, 2020 during which the proposed plans were shared with farmers cultivating large cardamom and local representatives and stakeholders. Several meetings have been conducted with member organizations and other stakeholders in alignment with the main agenda of setting up and running Design Center, Trade Facilitation Unit and Export House; through which the project aims to promote export by engaging producers, farmers, SMEs, youth and advocate for Fair Trade Practices in supply chain.

Social Creatinnovation Bootcamp



Photo with students/participants of the bootcamp at Quest International College

Social Creatinnovation Bootcamp was organized from 5-7 February, 2020 at Quest International College, Gwarko, Lalitpur. This Program aimed to educate dedicated leaders for society and nation with “glocal” (global-local) perspectives; educate self-motivated and competent leaders MBA equipped with capacity to construct balanced and sustainable development; enlighten creative and transformative leaders equipped with social problem solving capabilities through holistic education. Dr. Sunil Chitrakar, Vice-Chairperson, Fair Trade Group Nepal and Dr. Jeetendra Dangol, Faculty of Management, School of Management at Tribhuvan University (SOMTU) facilitated the workshop. A total of 28 MBA students from Quest International College participated in the workshop.



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