



TAAN Joint Lhosar Cultural Program on February 10

Trekking Agencies' Association of Nepal (TAAN) is organizing TAAN Lhosar Cultural Festival in Kathmandu on February 10.

Lhosar is the New Year festival of different ethnic groups living in 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 and Sherpa will be the major attraction of the event.



The event is expected to see participation of high-ranking government officials, diplomats, representatives of different travel trade entrepreneurs, tourism entrepreneurs, and journalists, among others.

This year TAAN Joint Lhosar Cultural Festival will be held on February 10 at Hotel Annapurna, Durbar Marg, Kathmandu.

Mountain Medicine and Basic First Aid training organized

Trekking Agencies' Association of Nepal (TAAN) organized a two-day 'Mountain Medicine and Basic First Aid Training for Trekking Guides' at its secretariat in Kathmandu on January 24 and 25.

Altogether 30 trekking guides affiliated with different trekking companies participated in the training.

Upcoming Events:

TAAN Lhosar Cultural Festival

Venue : Hotel Annapurna
Date: February 10

2nd TAAN Langtang Marathon 2017

Venue: Langtang
Date: April 25, 2017

International Sagarmatha (Everest) Day

Venue: Kathmandu
Date: May 29

38th TAAN Day

Venue: Kathmandu
Date: May 29

World Environment Day

Venue: Kathmandu
Date: June 5

World Tourism Day

Venue: Kathmandu
Date: September 27

38th Annual General Meeting

Venue: Kathmandu
Date: September-October



Dr Dinesh Dharel and Dr Santosh Timalina conducted the training. Speaking at the closing ceremony, Training & HR Coordinator of TAAN Shital Chandra Dharel said that the training was a part of TAAN's initiatives to produce trained manpower for the trekking sector. "We have been organizing trainings on SEO, photography,

mountain medicine and bird watching, among others, on a regular basis," he added. Similarly, Baburam BK, one of the participants, said he was hopeful that the training would be useful for him while guiding groups to the mountains. "We have learnt some basics about first aid and mountain medicine. We know how to make first aid kit. It would be very helpful for us," he added.

Dr Dinesh Dharel, one of the trainers, said they have tried to attend important issues related to mountain sickness in the training module. "Hope you will prepare first aid kit and take that with you in your next trekking," he added.

TAAN General Secretary Karna Bahadur Lama distributed certificate of participation to all the participants. Speaking at the program, Lama said the participants will now be able to handle mountain sickness issues in the mountains. "I pray nothing happens to you and your clients. But if anything happens, I am sure that you now have some skills to handle the situation," he said, urging the participants to implement what they learnt in the training in practice.

Travel Photography Training concludes

A six-day Travel Photography Training for trekking professionals concluded at the TAAN Secretariat in Maligaun on Friday.

A total of 25 trekking professionals participated in the training which was conducted by Photo Journalists (PJ) Club Nepal. The training covered issues like camera handling, guest lecture, photo discussion, travel photography tips, social media handling (Facebook/Twitter/Instagram), and practical session and discussion on photos, and photo editing.



Speaking on behalf of the participants, Ram Hari Koirala of Shizen Treks Pvt Ltd said the

TAAN Departments

Nepal Promotion & Exhibition

Coordinator
Ngima Ngawa Sherpa

Printing, Publications, Media & Communications

Coordinator
Surya Bahadur Ghimire

Search, Rescue and Crisis Management

Coordinator
Devi Pandey

Sports & Event Management

Coordinator
Ram Prasad Sapkota

Sustainable Tourism & Development

Coordinator
Pemba Sherpa

Human Rights & Trade Union Affairs

Coordinator
Basu Lamsal

TIMS Management

Coordinator
Taranath Lamichhane

Finance Management

Coordinator
Lila Baldav Dahal

Secretariat Management

Coordinator
Mukti Pandey

training was fruitful to all the participants. "We all have camera, but we didn't know how to make proper use of it. Now, we know how to handle a camera and take good pictures," Koirala said, adding that they will now take good pictures of our tourism destinations and promote them through our websites and social media handles.

TAAN General Secretary Karna Bahadur Lama handed over certificate of participation to the trainees. Speaking at the program, Lama said he was hopeful that the training has equipped trekking professionals with needful skills to take good photographs. "I request you to make optimum use of this training to hone your photography skills, take good photographs and use them to promote the country first and then your business," he added. "After completing this training, you can also handle specialized groups that come to Nepal for photography," said Lama.

Similarly, Shital Chandra Dharel, Training & HR Coordinator of TAAN, said TAAN would continue to organize different training to enhance professionalism of human resources involved in trekking sector. "We have already invited applications for 'Mountain Sickness and Basic First Aid' and 'Bird Watching' trainings. More such trainings are in the pipeline," he added.

Dhaulagiri Sanctuary Trail launched

Myagdi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) on January 5 organized a program in Kathmandu to launch the 'Dhaulagiri Sanctuary Trail'.

Different dignitaries, including National Planning Commission Vice Chairman Min Bahadur Shrestha, lawmakers from Myagdi district, Nepal Tourism Board (NTB) CEO Deepak Raj Joshi and Trekking Agencies' Association of Nepal (TAAN) President Chandra Prasad Rijal, jointly launched the map of the new trekking trail.



The trek starts from Jhi and progresses through Ghyasikharka, Phedi Camp and Odar Camp before reaching Dhaulagiri South Base Camp (4055 meters). It then descends Chhari and Dagnam before concluding at Beni – the district headquarters of Myagdi.

Pawan Shakya, a member of the team who explored the trek said, they trail is rich in natural and cultural attractions. "It offers trekkers an opportunity to know about Magar culture, tradition and lifestyle," he added.

Speaking at the program, TAAN President Rijal said that the new trail would offer something new to trekkers as well as pressure on the popular Annapurna Base Camp trail. "We have allocated funds for the route in the Fiscal Year 2016/17. We are hopeful that the route will liked by trekkers as it lies away from motorable roads," Rijal said, drawing the

Village Tourism & Home Stay

Coordinator
Wangchu Sherpa

Destination Research & Promotion

Coordinator
Dambar Adhikari

Internal Relation

Coordinator
Sarita Lama

International Relations

Coordinator
Krishna Man Shrestha

Mountaineering

Coordinator
Dawa Lama Tamang

Welfare & Humanitarian Works

Coordinator
Rudra Jung Adhikari

Human Resources & Training

Coordinator
Shital Chandra Dharel

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attention of the government and the NTB toward the need to develop infrastructure along the trail and market and promote the trail in the international market.

Similarly, NTB CEO Joshi said that the board would help in development of infrastructure and promote the trail in the national and international market. Addressing the program, the lawmakers of Myagdi said that they would lobby with the government to allocate funds for infrastructure development along the trail.

Likewise, NPC Vice Chairman Min Bahadur Shrestha said that the apex policy making of the government would allocate some funds for the trail. "There won't be shortfall of funds. If needed, we can transfer funds from other headings as billions of rupees are lying unspent in government treasury."

TAAN General Secretary Karna Bahadur Lama, Secretary Mukti Pandey and Executive Members Sarita Lama, Pemba Sherpa and Fulee Sherpa, among others were present on the occasion.

Nepal promoted in US, Norway

Two separate delegations of Trekking Agencies' Association of Nepal (TAAN) promoted Nepali tourism products and services in the United States of America (USA) and Norway in the second week of January.

TAAN President Chandra Prasad Rijal led the delegation to Norwegian travel fair Reiselivsmessen Oslo 2017 which was held in Oslo on January 13-15, while TAAN Treasurer Lila Baldab Dahal led the delegation to Washington DC Travel & Adventure Show 2017 which was held in Washington DC, US, on January 14 and 15.



TAAN member companies Himalayan Guides Treks & Expeditions, Himalayan Research Expedition and Sherpa Society Trekking also participated in the Norwegian expo. Similarly, Nepal Tourism Board's Board Director Purna Kunwar and Officer Kundan Sharma were also in the delegation.

Rijal said that the delegation disseminated message in the European market that tourism in Nepal has bounced back after the earthquakes of 2015. "We promoted Nepali adventure

Information about TIMS

Why is TIMS 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

Where to obtain TIMS?

(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

tourism products and services in the European market," he added.

Along with TAAN, Himalayan Planet Adventures, a member company of TAAN, participated in the Washington DC Travel & Adventure Show.

Dahal said that he met leading tour operators participating in the show and apprised them of the present situation in Nepal. "Our main focus was on disseminating the message in the US travel market that Nepalis, after the earthquakes of 2015, have been receiving tourists as usual," he added.

TAAN has been participating in Travel & Adventure Show on a regular basis since 2012, while it is the associations' first participation in Reiselivsmessen Oslo Fair.

Trekking trails exploration, maintenance in TAAN's priority

Trekking Agencies' Association of Nepal (TAAN) has earmarked nearly Rs 100 million for exploration of new trekking trails, and maintenance and infrastructure development in existing trails as well as promotion in domestic and international market.

The annual budget of the association for Fiscal Year 2073/74 presented by Treasurer Lila Baldab Dahal has allocated Rs 8.79 million for development of infrastructure and maintenance as well as promotion of existing trekking trails.



According to Dahal, TAAN has maintained geographical balance while selecting trails for reconstruction, maintenance and infrastructure development. "We have selected trails starting from Kanchanjunga region in eastern Nepal to Api Himal in far-western Nepal," he said, adding that TAAN will build necessary infrastructure, build capacity of local so that they can cater to tourists, and produce promotional collaterals to promote the trails in national and international market," he added.

TIMS Checkposts

DHUNCHE

Debendra Lamsal
9841903483
Bhim Kumar Ghale
9843357299

BESHISAHAR

Mina Gurung
9846192002
Nandaraj Bhatta
9841028159

DHAMPUS

Ramkaji Gurung
9846606507
Monoj Gurung
9846036814

TATOPANI

Shyam Parayar
9846528178

Prem Kumari Bhandari
9847609435

BIREHANTI

Nirupa Gurung
9818058416
Sona Shrestha
9805195871

TAAN has selected 63 trails for maintenance, infrastructure development and promotion. Similarly, TAAN is investing Rs 9 million for exploration of new trekking trails. According to Dahal, TAAN is exploring Lamjung-Dudhpokhari, North Annapurna Base Camp trail from Lete, Sailing-Timal, Gaja Hill (Jogimara-Shaktikhor), Round Ramechhap, and Chatara-Mainamini trails in the current fiscal year.

"The trails have been selected as per the request of the local community," he added. Similarly, TAAN will conduct mapping of Hillary Trails (Ramechhap Cyama Danda to Lete) and Lower Solu.

TAAN has also allocated substantial funds for development programs. Tourism Memorial Park in Timal, setting up mobile washrooms in tourist bus parks, development of cycling trails, installation of solar street lights in Thamel, construction of bridge over Mardi Khola and Khaptad Development Program are some of the programs that TAAN is starting in the current fiscal year.

TAAN is also building weather information centers in major trekking areas, mountaineering school in Dhading, construct porter shelters in Gorkha and implementing trekking trail development program in Api Himal in far-western Nepal and Dhaulagiri Sanctuary, among others.

According to Dahal, TAAN is also building short trekking trails in the rim of Kathmandu Valley. "To begin with, we will develop Thankot-Dahachowk-Ramkot-Sitapaila trail," he added.

TAAN has also kept development of a new trekking trail in Sankhuwasabha in priority. The trail starts from Amrang and passes through Lower Walung, Upper Walung, Ale Danda, Tashijongtar, Eyuwakhola and Mera Base Camp before ending at Makalu Base Camp. "We have allocated Rs 1.6 million for the project," added Dahal.

TAAN is also building porter shelters in Damodar Kunda, Larkya Pass, Kagmara BC and Lumbasumba trekking trails.

Similarly, TAAN is investing substantial amount for tourism marketing and promotion in the international market. It has allocated Rs 2.4 million for US, Rs 640,000 for Russia, Rs 3.2 million for Russia, Rs 2 million for South Asia, Rs 800,000 each for Middle East and Australia and Rs 1.2 million for Asian markets.

TAAN has also set aside Rs 2.4 million to organize cycling competition on Lukla-Salleri-Patale-Okhaldhunga-Sindhuligadhi-Namobuddha-Dhulikhel route. Similarly, Rs 1.2 million has been earmarked to promote Overland Way to Everest (Kavre Namobuddha-Sindhuli-Sindhuligadi- Khotang Halesi-Okhaldhunga-Siddhicharan Park-Okhaldhunga-Salleri-Surke-Chaurikharka-Everest Base Camp)



What they say about Nepal?

'Best Value Destination' to travel in 2017
Lonely Planet

'Top 25 Best Destinations in the World'
World of Wanderlust

Top 10 Best Countries
Rough Guides

'Top Destinations for 2016'
Traveller.Com

'30 Best Countries in the World'
Triphackr.com

'Ten Best Ecotourism Destinations in the World'
World Tourist Attractions

'Top 10 Eco-tourism Destination'
ShermansTravel

'Top 25 Destination in the world'
TripAdvisor

'Best Travel Destinations 2016'
CNTraveller

Tourism important to economy, says PM Dahal

Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal has said that the tourism sector has been playing significant role in country's economy.

Inaugurating the 38th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Trekking Agencies' Association of Nepal (TAAN) in Kathmandu on Friday, Dahal said that the government was committed to help the private sector for development and expansion of Nepali tourism industry. Stating that agriculture, hydropower and tourism are the important sectors of Nepali economy, Dahal said that the government has put these sectors in priority.

On the occasion, PM Dahal handed over letter of appreciation to top three member companies of TAAN – Himalayan Encounters, Royal Mountain Travel Nepal, Highland Excursions – on the basis of issuance of TIMS cards.

Similarly, Dahal presented cash prize of Rs 10,000 and letter of appreciation each to Sunil Sharma, photojournalist of Xinhua news agency, and Mohan Prasad Mainali of Image Nepal travel magazine in recognition of their coverage of Langtang-Gosaikunda Half Marathon that TAAN organized earlier this year to disseminate the message that Langtang-Gosaikunda region is now safe for trekking. Likewise, Prime Minister Dahal presented TAAN Sagarmatha Adventure Tourism Journalism Award to Kedar Dahal of Karobar daily, and TAAN Sagarmatha Pasang Lhamu Award to women mountaineering instructor Pasang

Lhamu Sherpa. The award carries a purse of Rs 25,000 and letter of appreciation each.

Speaking at the program, TAAN President Chandra Prasad Rijal said that TAAN, as the largest tourism association in the country, has a greater role to play in the development of entire tourism



sector not just adventure tourism sector.

Minister of State for Agricultural Development Radhika Tamang, Tourism Secretary Shankar Prasad Adhikari, and Nepal Tourism Board CEO Deepak Raj Joshi, among others, were also present in the program.

Meanwhile, the closed session held earlier on Friday approved the Annual Program Report for Fiscal Year 2072/73 and Annual Program and Activities for Fiscal Year 2073/74 presented by TAAN General Secretary Karna Bahadur Lama, and Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2072/73 and Estimated Income and Expenditure for Fiscal Year 2073/74.

Similarly, it also approved Employees Bylaws and Financial Bylaws of the association. Established in 1979, TAAN has been active in the promotion of adventure tourism sector.

Upcoming Travel Shows

Alpe-Adria Travel & Leisure Fair 2017

Feb 1-4, 2017
Ljubljana, Slovenia

The Outdoor Adventure Show 2017

Feb 24-26, 2017
Toronto, Canada

India Travel Mart (ITM) 2017

Feb 10-12, 2017
Ahmedabad, India

Outbound Travel Market (OTM) 2017

Feb 21-23, 2017
Mumbai, India

Guangzhou Int'l Travel Fair (GITF) 2017

Feb 23-25, 2017
Guangzhou, China

ITB Berlin 2017

March 1-8, 2017
Berlin, Germany

Moscow International Travel & Tourism Exhibition (MITT)

March 14-16, 2017
Moscow, Russia

British Tourism & Travel Show 2017

March 22-23, 2017
Birmingham, UK

