



## TAAN Lhosar Cultural Program 2016 on February 19

**TAAN LHOSAR CULTURAL PROGRAM 2016**

**Venue:** Hyatt Regency Kathmandu, Bouddha  
**Date:** 19th Feb. 2016, **Time:** 5:30 PM Onwards

NRs. 1999/-

Trekking Agencies' Association of Nepal (TAAN) is organizing TAAN Lhosar Culture Program 2016 in Kathmandu on February 19.

Tej Bahadur Gurung, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of TAAN and coordinator of TAAN Lhosar Cultural Program 2016, the association is organizing the festival in Hyatt Regency Kathmandu to make it more managed and entertaining. "There will be cultural programs of Gurungs, Tamangs and Sherpas as well as different entertainment programs and other fun-filled events," he said, adding, "There will be a buffet dinner where tourism entrepreneurs can enjoy the evening with their friends and families."

TAAN is also giving away attractive door prizes to lucky participants.

Last year, TAAN had organized Joint Lhosar Program in the streets of Thamel.

Lhosar is a New Year program of different ethnic groups. Though Gurungs, Tamangs and Sherpas celebrate Lhosar on different dates, TAAN has been celebrating the festival as a joint program of different communities.

### Upcoming Events:

#### TAAN Lhosar Cultural Festival

Venue : Hyatt Regency  
Date: February 19

#### International Sagarmatha (Everest) Day

Venue: Kathmandu  
Date: May 29

#### 38<sup>th</sup> TAAN Day

Venue: Kathmandu  
Date: May 29

#### World Environment Day

Venue: Kathmandu  
Date: June 5

#### World Tourism Day

Venue: Kathmandu  
Date: September 27

#### 38<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

Venue: Kathmandu  
Date: September-October

### **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

## **TAAN wraps up earthquake relief project**

Trekking Agencies' Association of Nepal (TAAN) has wrapped up its earthquake relief project initiated in partnership with United Nations World Food Program (WFP).

A team of TAAN distributed final payment of the project to around 2,700 workers who carried corrugated zinc sheets to the earthquake-hit families of Lapa in Dhading district. They carried the corrugated sheets from Arkhet and Munchet of Gorkha. The workers were distributed wages for four and half days.



TAAN President Chandra Prasad Dahal, 1st Vice President Tej Bahadur Gurung, who is also the coordinator of the earthquake relief project, Executive Member Surya Bahadur Ghimire and TAAN CEO Ganga Sagar Pant were in the team.

In partnership with DDC, TAAN rehabilitated trails, distributed food grains, and corrugated zinc sheets in Tipling, Ri, Lapa, Jharlang, Sertung VDCs of Dhading district as part of the earthquake relief program.

## **TAAN felicitates UAAA President**

Trekking Agencies' Association of Nepal (TAAN) organized a dinner reception in Kathmandu on Friday in honor of the President of Union of Asian Alpine Associations Dr In-Jeong Lee.

Trekking Agencies' Association of Nepal (TAAN) organized a dinner reception in Kathmandu on Friday in honor of the President of Union of Asian Alpine Associations Dr In-Jeong Lee.

At the program, TAAN honored Dr Lee with Letter of Appreciation in recognition of his credible efforts and inspirational leadership to protect mountain environment, mountain communities and mountain diversities of the world.

"Himalayan countries like Nepal are the most vulnerable to the climate change and we believe such a responsible organization like UAAA will consistently provide successful leadership to address the challenges," reads the Letter of Felicitation.



Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Ananda Prasad Pokharel presented the Letter of Felicitation to Dr Lee. Minister Pokharel also presented Letter of Felicitation, posthumously, to South Korean adventurer Park Young-Seok – the first man in the world to climb all 14 eight-thousanders and Seven Summits, and trek to both poles. He went missing while opening a new climbing route in Mt Annapurna in 2011.

Minister Pokharel presented the Letter of Felicitation to Park's wife. He also presented Token of Love, on behalf of TAAN, to Choe Yong Jin, ambassador of South Korea to Nepal.

Speaking at the program, TAAN General Secretary Karna Bahadur Lama said TAAN's relationship with UAAA began two years ago when TAAN former President Ramesh Dhamala visited UAAA assembly held in Tokyo in 2014. "Last year also, our former president visited UAAA assembly held in Seoul where TAAN was granted 'observer member' status," he added. "Nepal, which lies in the lap of the Himalayas, needs to enhance cooperation with UAAA for effective development and promotion of tourism in mountain areas. UAAA's support is crucial for us in fighting the impacts of climate change and global warming in our country."

Similarly, UAAA President Dr Lee thanked TAAN for the wonderful program and said his association was keen to work with TAAN.

Likewise, Minister Pokharel said UAAA's support would be crucial for Nepal to fight the impacts of climate change and global warming. Stating that Nepal has been failing to exploit its tourism potential to the fullest, he said efforts are being made to promote Lumbini – the birthplace of Buddha – as the pilgrimage destination.

Delivering his vote of thanks, TAAN President Chandra Prasad Rijal said TAAN was keen to work with UAAA and learn from its expertise in mountain areas.

Sadhuram Sapkota, officiating secretary of tourism ministry; Govinda Bahadur Karki, director general of Department of Tourism; Nepal Tourism Board (NTB) board members Ghanendra Shrestha and Rajendra Sapkota; former President of TAAN Sitaram Sapkota; and representatives of different associations were present at the program.

## **Bird watching training for trekking guides organized**

Trekking Agencies' Association of Nepal (TAAN) recently organized a two-day 'Bird Watching Training for Trekking Guides'.

The training was organized by TAAN with technical support of Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN). Altogether 30 trekking guides associated with TAAN member agencies participated in the training.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Karna Bahadur Lama, general secretary of TAAN, said the training was organized to enhance professionalism of trekking workers. "As bird



### **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

watching is a specialized activity, we are hopeful that the training will enable our trekking guides to handle specialized groups," Lama said. "We will continue to organize different trainings and skills enrichment programs for trekking entrepreneurs and trekking guides in the future as well."

Similarly, Dr Narendra Man Babu Pradhan, CEO of BCN, said BCN was happy to partner with TAAN to impact bird watching skills and techniques on trekking guides. "But training alone won't help bird watching is all about passion," he said. "I am hopeful that the training will be fruitful to you."

Likewise, Shital Chandra Dharel, coordinator of Training & Human Resources Department of TAAN, said TAAN will organize different training programs to enrich professionalism of trekking entrepreneurs as well as workers employed by its member agencies.

The training had sessions on Status and Importance of Nepal's Birds, Eco tourism & Opportunity of Bird Watching Tourism in Nepal, Bird Identification Techniques, Code of Conduct for Bird Watchers, Bird Watching Sites in Nepal and Government Rules & Regulations. Similarly, the participants were also taken on a half-day bird watching trip to Shivapuri forest.

TAAN President Chandra Prasad Rijal handed over certificates to the participants. Addressing the participating trekking guides, Rijal requested the participating trekking guides to implement in practice what they learnt in the training.

## TAAN delegation meets Prime Minister Oli

A delegation of Trekking Agencies' Association of Nepal (TAAN) led by President Chandra Prasad Rijal paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sharma Oli at the latter's residence in Baluwatar on Thursday.

Office-bearers and executive committee members greeted PM Oli with bouquets, khadas and token of love. On the occasion, President Rijal briefed PM Oli of the activities being carried out by TAAN and its role in the development of adventure tourism in the country.

TAAN also handed over a 24-point memorandum to PM Oli, drawing the latter's attention toward different problems that Nepali tourism industry, particularly the adventure tourism sector, is facing. Among others, TAAN requested PM Oli to make necessary direction for effective implementation of new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Nepal Tourism Board (NTB) and TAAN for effective implementation of Trekkers' Information Management System (TIMS).

Similarly, it also urged the government to gradually open restricted areas for foreign trekkers so that locals there can get due benefits from tourism. It also requested PM Oli to take necessary initiative for lowering permit fee to Upper Dolpa and Upper Mustang to US\$



## 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

100 per person per 10 days.

Stating that imposition of VAT was making Nepali tourism products and services expensive compared to competing markets, the delegation suggested that the government impose a maximum of 3 percent VAT on transactions of tourism entrepreneurs.

Responding to the delegation, PM Oli said he would make needful directions after studying the demands.

## TAAN Pokhara explores new trail

A team of Trekking Agencies' Association of Nepal (TAAN) Western Regional Association Pokhara has explored a new trekking trail that starts from Kushma of Parbat and ends at Baskharka of Myagdi district.

A 17-member team led by Narayan Sapkota, former president of TAAN Pokhara, started the exploration with a drive to Kushma from Pokhara. From Kushma, the walk started toward Banau (2150 meters) through Ghumti, Bagaicha, Bhatebari, Dhakdhake and Sidhali.

There is a possibility of promoting home-stay tourism in Banau, according to the exploration team. The village offers magnificent views of Tukucho Peak, Lamjung Himal, Dhaulagiri Range and Annapurna Range.

On the second day, the team reached Falamedanda via Haljur and Taaregaun. The team reached Mohare Danda (3200 meters), which is a fabulous spot to watch sunrise and sunset, on the third day.

Similarly on the fourth day, team walked toward Ramche and Bhirkateri before ending trek at Baskharka.



From Baskharka, jeeps are available to Beni -- the district headquarters of Myagdi. From Myagdi, buses to Pokhara are available at Baskharka. The team also organized interaction with local stakeholders on different villages along the trail. The discussions centered on tourism potentials in the respective villages and the possibility of developing home-stay facilities there, according to the team.

The trek can be completed in five to seven days, according to the exploration team. Altitude ranges from 820 meters and climbs up to 3,200 meters. One can enjoy see different animal and birds like Blue Sheep, Danfe -- the national bird of Nepal, Munal (pheasants) as well, rhododendron forest, sheep farms and hot springs, among others.

TAAN Pokhara President Ram Chandra Sharma, office-bearers and executive members of TAAN Pokhara, trekking entrepreneurs based in Pokhara as well as media persons were in the team.

## TIMS Checkposts

### DHUNCHE

Debendra Lamsal  
9841903483  
Bhim Kumar Ghale  
9843357299

### CHISAPANI

Sadhuram K.C  
9741002982  
Jagdish Acharaya  
9860863656

### BESHISAHAR

Mina Gurung  
9846192002  
Nandaraj Bhatta  
9841028159

### DHAMPUS

Ramkaji Gurung  
9846606507  
Monoj Gurung  
9846036814

### TATOPANI

the  
the  
Shyam Parayar  
9846528178

### JOMSOM

Ambar Nepali  
9847682145  
Binod Nepali  
9849368045

### BIRETHANTI

Nirupa Gurung  
9818058416  
Sona Shrestha  
9805195871