

December 15, 2013 Sunday

NASeA Emergency Meeting (5th) Minute

Participants: Dr. Ram Chandra Baral, President; Bimal Nepal, Executive Vice President; Shailendra Bajracharya, Vice President; Bala Ghimire, Treasurer; Dr. Tilak B. Shrestha, General Secretary; Ambika Lohani Sharma, Joint Secretary; Members: Bidya Gurung, Bishu Sapkota, Choodamani Khanal, Dr. Dilip Panthee, Dipendra Lamichhane, Janak Baral, Krishna Shrestha, Dr. Nar Kaji Gurung, Dr. Nita Thapa, Pravin Paudel, Dr. Samar Paija, Dr. Shankar Parajuli, Udhav Karki.

Chairman of the Meeting: Dr. Ram C. Baral, President

Minutes Taker: Dr. Tilak Shrestha, General Secretary

Fifth Executive Committee emergency meeting agenda: Discussion about IT Chair.  
(The minute is the summary version. The taped version is also available.)

Dr. Ram Baral, President – NASeA, opened the meeting and welcomed all. President emphasized the need of meetings to be participated in due manner. He also assured that every member will have opportunity to speak and it will be in the proper alphabetical order. He emphasized on each speaker to be civil and professional. He encouraged to seek constructive solutions, and reminded our goal of making our NASeA quantitatively and qualitatively better.

Dr. Tilak Shrestha, General Secretary, reminded that we are all volunteers working for the common good of our community and NASeA. If there have been any misunderstandings then we can solve them through discussions within the spirit of togetherness.

Dr. Ram Baral: We all appreciate very well that Shailendra Bajracharya Jee has worked to develop our IT section. The fact of his contribution is not in dispute. On the contrary it is well appreciated by executive members. However, the current concern is that he is already assuming a very critical responsibility of VP of NASeA and thus it will be a reasonable adjustment in an organization to provide another person the responsibility of IT lead. It is also to note that our second meeting indicated to free members of executive committee with added responsibility from sub-committee responsibilities. On this context, we thought of bringing another IT expert to the sub-committee.

Shailendra Bajracharya, Vice President: It seems we have unnecessary misunderstandings and have to call this emergency meeting. I do appreciate I am being trusted with new responsibility, but I still like to work in the IT section. I have been working in the information \ IT section since 1998, when Hari Dhungana was President of NASeA. I have devoted Tan\Man\Dhan in this project. Since, I am still interested, I do not see why I should not be allowed to continue to lead the IT section.

Tilak Shrestha: The second meeting gives direction and suggests priority only, but it does not preclude the VP to work as IT lead.

Dr. Ram Baral: Let me state that I am merely asking all our members to be cognizant of our bylaws and its aim. Let me also emphasize that it is baseless to mention `nepotism' on the

contrary to our organization's goal to involve as many family as possible. Family is our community and the strength. Let me also remind that it is a voluntary contribution to our community.

Shailendra Bajracharya: I am merely pointing at the possibility of misunderstanding the bylaws. Our bylaws do not preclude me from working as IT lead. Also our second meeting expressed only opinion, not a decision. I am of the opinion, that if there is problem in the correct interpretation of the bylaws, then it can be clarified or amended in the general NAsEA meeting.

Janak Baral: Let's remember 'Sewa' volunteer work is a 'Dharma' merit. Let's use more hand than mouth, i.e. more work than talk. In this Kali Yuga, we have to be extra careful in working together and avoid unnecessary frictions among ourselves. Let's reflect on the 'Shanti' peace mantra.

Bala Ghimire: Namaste to all. Let's remember that we are all volunteers. Let's also not send E-mails to all and keep it within our Executive committee. We had a few IT glitches in our last convention. Thus, it is good to have more IT experts joining in.

Bidya Gurung: Yes, Let's be careful on sending E-mails to all. Let's work together for NAsEA. By the way, I got 12 new life members for NAsEA.

Dr. Nar Gurung: Yes, there are too many E-mails and some time I cannot respond to all. Let's discuss the 3 proposals given in the letter by secretary, make a decision, and close the chapter. Let's work together without insulting any. Let's bring good working culture to the organization, and prevent from unhealthy culture. Let's be peaceful and move on. Let's forgive and forget. Let's also meet in person, not only through telephone, to have better person rapport and personal connections.

Dipendra Lamichhane: I agree with Nar Gurung. If we need more IT people, I know a few and can request them to extend their contributions.

Bimal Nepal: Seasons Greeting to President and all friends. Let us always be cognizant to the aim of NAsEA. Let us look it from the higher purpose and forget the small issues. Let me apologize for any mistakes I have done, knowingly or otherwise. Let us remember that we are a team, i.e. if President loses, then we all loose. In my opinion, let Shailendra led the IT, and let Rubi, Bishu and other interested experts join in the team.

Bishu Sapkota: I proposed Rubi Baral as per his interests and expertise. Let new blood also contribute. Let Rubi lead the IT team and let Shailendra jee remain a member. In the second meeting it was the general opinion. We may vote on the issue to make decision. I am also an IT trained person and can lead the IT team.

Krishna Shrestha: Let's be brotherly. Let's remember our goal of making NAsEA the best organization. Let's learn from Nelson Mandela. Let's bring in as many people as possible in IT section.

Ambika Sharma: Thanks to the President and all NAsEA EC members. Let's keep in mind our mandate. If we have disagreement among ourselves on our fourth EC meeting's decision about Rubi jee's position as IT Chair, I suggest bringing a third person as IT chair. Let's keep 'Mahanata' and 'Tyaag' in our mind.

Tilak Shrestha: As I wrote before, in my opinion Shailendra Jee has worked for many years as the IT person and knows its detail. Thus let him lead. Let others like Rubi Jee, Bishu Jee or Ambika Jee join in. Let Shailendra Jee train and develop the IT leadership. We always want experienced person to guide the new blood \ expert \ leaderships.

Shailendra Bajracharya: I never asked for reward for my services. I also have never stopped anybody interested to work with us. We had Avi Malla and Suman Silwal worked in IT section before I did. Let new people join in. They are most welcome. But it is not practical to eliminate all the personnel and new comer lead the team.

Dr. Ram Baral: Thanks to all the good advices and opinion. Let me summarize the opinions expressed.

1. Let's not send excessive E-mails to all.
2. We all respect Shailendra Jee and appreciate his contributions in the IT section.
3. Any harsh remarks are regretted.
4. Let's see if we can agree without putting it to vote.

Nar Gurung: Thanks to President. All our old hand and new blood must work together for good of NAsEA. Let us think of our organization, not individual. In my opinion, let Shailendra jee lead the IT team, and other interested experts join in the team.

Bidya Gurung, Shankar Parajuli, Ambika Sharma, Janak Baral: Namaste to all. There seems to be controversy. One way to solve is to bring in a third person to lead the IT team.

Choodamani Khanal: We cannot forget contribution of Shailendra Jee, and I do support opinion expressed by Nar Gurung Jee. It is win and win to all of us.

Dr. Ram Baral: Let's make it by a consensus ('Sarba Sammati'), not by voting. It is good for our organization and work environment.

Shailendra Bajracharya: The IT section covers large areas like PayPal etc. It needs experts with institutional memory. Let us join in together. I am ready to train new comers. Let Ambika Jee, Rubi Jee and any others interested join in.

*(Tilak Shrestha needed to run off. Ambika Sharma Jee took over the minute writing part.)*

Dr. Nita Thapa – I want to propose Ambika jee as an IT committee chair. I don't want to support the controversial person Shailendra jee or Rubi jee as they are the subject of this controversy. Please don't use unprofessional words such as "L" word. I am not satisfied with Shailendra jee's emails.

Dr. Shankar Parajuli – Since there are already controversies, a new person needs to be the IT chair. Shailendra jee should help the new person.

Dr. Dilip Panthee – the main purpose of the meeting is to solve the controversy, so let's solve it for the whole 2 years. I propose new person either Bishu jee or Ambika jee. Let's not take it as a personal victory. Let's go to the third party.

Bishu Sapkota- I also accept what earlier persons said. Let's bring Ambika jee as an IT Chair. She can balance the situation. Regarding PayPal and content, I can help Ambika jee. I strongly support Ambika jee.

*Then, the discussion continued longer. There were various opinions provided by Udhav Karki, Dr. Ram Baral, Bidhya Gurung, Bimal Nepal, Janak Baral, Shailendra bajracharya, Dr. Shankar Parajuli, and Bala Ghimire. All these details are in the electronically taped record. We have archived if necessary for the future.*

Dr. Ram Baral : Let me summarize, the majority of the EC members want the new person Ambika jee for the position of IT chair. I would like to ask Ambika jee for her opinion.

Shailendra Bajracharya: I object....

Bala Ghimire – Shailendra jee, you can put a note of decent.

Ambika Lohani: Today, we are debating in order to come to a consensus. I already expressed my suggestion. Let a new person come forward to lead the IT committee. I agree with Janak Baral jee. I have nothing to take or give. I have no personal gain by this, however, if the EC members select me for the IT chair, I am ready to take the position and take NAsEA to the next level. Also Ambika jee expressed her grievance discontent with Shailendra jee's remarks which is in the discussion tape.

Dr. Ram Baral: Let me remind all of us, I am one of the members of Ad Hoc Committee who saved and revived NAsEA in 2009/2010. I am aware of what is best interest of NAsEA. Thus, please support me to work for the sake of the NAsEA. Let me put forward a proposal to Ambika jee and ask her to give her opinion.

Ambika Lohani: I already mention before, IT needs to be led by a new leader. I am not talking about myself here. Since Shailendra jee and Rubi jee have been controversial figures in this matter, a third IT person would be a good fit for this position.

Bimal Nepal: Shailendra jee, Rubi jee and Ambika jee join Dr. Baral and let Dr. Baral lead the IT team.

Dr. Ram Baral: I do not want to make this situation any worse by voting. At the same time, I cannot deny the decision made by majority of EC either. However, in order to solve this problem, I humbly request Ambika jee to reconsider and let Shailendra jee lead the IT and work with him.

Ambika Lohani: This issue is not about me. I would like to ask you both, the President and VP, if you could join hand in hand and work together to move NAsEA forward in this conflicting situation. If you can do this, I do not want to be an obstacle.

Bala Ghimire: Shailendra jee needs to apologize for sending out emails outside EC, sending emails using unprofessional words and diverting EC's time from their prime agenda. While respecting Bimal jee's idea, if Shailendra jee apologizes for all his wrong doings, let him lead the IT and work with Ambika jee and Rubi jee.

Dr. Ram Baral: Shailendra jee, do you apologize for all your wrong doings?

Shailendra Bajracharya: I apologize for sending out those emails outside the EC members, and I am also very sorry to all the EC members for wasting your valuable time and downgrading NAsEA's image in the community.

Dr. Ram Baral: Rubi Baral has sent us a message saying that he does not want to work in this conflicting situation and resigned from the IT chair as appointed by the fourth EC meeting.

It is a welcoming gesture that Shailendra jee apologized for his missteps. We need to make a permanent solution here going up and beyond. Let's now come to the conclusion. I also apologize on behalf of Shailendra jee as a President of NAsEA. I now humbly request Ambika jee to join and let Shailendra jee to lead IT.

I applauded Ambika jee for her decision to sacrifice her absolute and bona fide right for the best of NAsEA only. I salute Ambika jee and let you all know that this committee decides Shailendra jee including Ambika jee, Rubi jee in the IT committee in order to protect our NAsEA and its highest integrity. This is a decision going beyond the majority's wish. However, it is a must for us to supersede and stand for NAsEA to protect it. Nonetheless, as a President, I welcome all opinions and suggestions including disagreeing ones but I don't want to see further conflict for the sake of conflict. I now adjourn the meeting.

**Meeting adjourned by President Dr. Ram Baral:**

Dr. Ram Baral: It has been longest meeting so far. Congratulations to all. Let me adjourn the meeting. Thanks to all.