

ANTA - Meeting Minutes

Date: November 22, 2008, 1:00 PM (CST)

Meeting was called to order at 1.00 PM through conference call. There were 12 Members of BOD, and 2 Members.

Attendees:

Ratan Jha, Binod Shah, Ram Shah, Divita Mehta, Mukesh Singh, Lalit Jha, Satendra Shah, Ritesh Chaudhary, Himanshu Shekhar, Mamta Singh, Bijay Raut, Binay Kant Chaudhary, Rajesh Shah and Amit Shah.

Points that were discussed are:

1. Global Umbrella Organization
2. ANTA Convention
3. Financial update
4. Update about NRN Day in Janakpur and the One Laptop Per Child (OLPC) program.

1. Global umbrella Organization:

We discussed about why we want to have Umbrella Organization and who wants to take a lead on that.

Ratan Jha updated that other organizations all over the world want ANTA USA to take a lead of Global Umbrella Organization.

Divita Mehta said that this is great idea to have Global Umbrella Organization for interaction between all madhesi. This will organize and create better interaction among all madhesi around the world.

Binod Shah said madhesi want to connect with each other. He added that madhesi need something through globalization. He also proposed an ad hoc committee for global organization which will make rule and process for the organization.

Ram Sah suggested we should make co-ordination committee rather than ad hoc committee for global organization because ad hoc committee seems too complicated and requires more tasks.

Mukesh Shing advised one or two members from our ANTA USA to represent in the coordination committee.

Our President, Ratan Jha will send the name of representatives from our side.

All the members attending the meeting agreed on the proposals.

2. ANTA Convention

We have committee for ANTA Convention. The members of the committee are as follows:

Ratan Jha, Ram Sah, Ritesh Chaudhary and Bijay Raut.

Proposed Date: Memorial Weekend 2009

Proposed Options: **(a) California along with ANA Convention 2009, or**

(b) California or New York during Memorial Weekend 2009.

Ratan Jha commented that time has come to conduct ANTA Convention with our own identity – at selected place and time. He also added that ANA and AINMA Convention have same story i.e. they started with a small group and got bigger and better over time. Mukesh Shing asked all of us if we should have our own ANTA Convention 2009.

A vote was conducted in which 12 of the attending members voted for **Option (b)** above, while 2 attending members voted for **Option (a)** above.

3. Financial update:

Lalit Jha has already sent email regarding 2006 financial activities. Binay Kant Chaudary request 2007 financial activity. Lalit Jha will send the update.

4. NRN Day in Janakpur and the OLPC program:

Dr. Ram Sah and Ratan Jha interacted with many local Madheshi lawmakers, intellectuals, journalists and religious leaders and discussed the role Pravashi Madheshi can play to transform Nepal. Aditya Jha, Ram Sah and Ratan Jha hosted an authentic Maithil dinner which was attended by approx. 500 people including NRN delegates from some 25 countries. An ANTA interaction program was hosted where Aditya Jha ji extensively talked about his One Laptop Per Child project (OLPC) in presence of Mr. Mahanath Thakur, Leader of TMLP, and intellectuals and journalists of Janakpur. OLPC was launched in Janakpur with initial donation of 85 laptops to the students of Sarswati

High School. Aditya ji plans to bring additional 3000 laptops to the children of Janakpur and the vicinity.

Aditya ji has requested ANTA to actively this Project through fund-raising among its members.

Ratan Jha will further update about OLPC program through email.

5. Fund Raising Initiative.

Realizing that ANTA is sort of funds it was discussed on how ANTA can and should raise funds. Ritesh suggested a deadline based approach for this. It was concluded that Divita being the fund raising committee leader would discuss with the fund raising committee members and would come up with fund raising ideas and initiative.

Thanks,

Satendra Shah

General Secretary

ANTA (www.terai.org)