We are delighted to circulate this first quarterly e-bulletin to all of you with the update of Pro Public activities, i.e. January to March 2019. This bulletin briefly provides information about the organization and its ongoing projects, activities carried out during the quarter. We feel happy that as per the need of nation Pro Public has focused its activities in the area of peace building and conflict transformation, and enhancing governance through policy advocacy and public interest litigation.

Recognition, love and trust that Pro Public has earned at the national and international levels in the last almost three decades owes to its committed, skilled and professional team of staffs, advisors, past and present board members, life/general members, development partners and other well-wishers whose support, guidance and supervision have always encouraged us to move on to the right direction where Pro Public proudly stands today.

I would like to take an opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to all national and international partners for their esteemed supports for the implementation of different activities. Similarly, Pro Public would like to express its gratitude especially to the local government and federal government for their collaboration and support in the implementation of different project activities at the local level. Last but not least, Pro Public would like to appreciate for the hard work of staff members for the successful implementation of the activities and efforts made by them to bring out this bulletin. So, I would like to invite you to read about the work about Pro Public and we hope these few pages will inspire you to join us in our journey.

We look forward to hearing your comments and suggestions on the bulletin for the further improvement.

- Sr. Advocate Mr. Prakash Mani Sharma
Executive Chair

---

Background

Pro Public, a non-profit, a non-governmental organization dedicated to the cause of public interest, was founded in 1991 by a consortium of environmental lawyers, journalists, economists, engineers, consumers and women rights activists. It raises voice against corruption, red tapism and irregularities and makes the government bodies aware of their duties and responsibilities. Its focus in over the years has been on good governance, conflict transformation and peace building, protection of natural and cultural heritage, environmental justice, pollution control, gender justice and consumer protection. Pro Public has consistently succeeded in creating government accountability in Nepal through media campaigns, advocacy, capacity building, negotiation, correspondence and public interest litigation.

Mission

Play the role of a social change agent to empower the Nepalese people through research, advocacy, litigation and capacity building.

Vision

Nepalese people's basic rights are guaranteed through social, economic, environmental and political justice.

Objectives

- To act as watchdog in the areas of environment conservation, consumer rights, women rights and child welfare and litigation.
- To increase peace and social harmony in the Nepalese societies through implementing different tools, i.e.
mediation, dialogue, Non-Violence Communication (NVC), Restorative Dialogue (RD) and so forth, of peace building and conflict transformation.

To increase government and private sector accountability and transparency through good governance advocacy and judicial activities.

To conduct research aimed at solving contemporary public interest issues.

To enhance the capacities of local and grassroots organizations through training, seminars, workshops and other means of information dissemination.

Annual General Meeting of Pro Public

Pro Pubic organized the 27th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on January 5, 2019 in Kathmandu participating total 29 members of the organization. At the AGM, the annual progress report and financial audit report (fiscal year 2075/76) were approved after presenting and discussing among the members. Similarly, integrated projected budget and programs for the fiscal year 2076/77 were also presented, discussed and endorsed from the AGM. The new executive committee of nine members was continued unanimously for the next three year tenures as per the constitution of Pro Public.

List of New Executive Committee:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Senior Advocate Mr. Prakash Mani Sharma</td>
<td>Executive Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Dr. Nirmala KC</td>
<td>Vice-Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Advocate Mr. Bishnu Prasad Pokhrel</td>
<td>General Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sr. Advocate Ms. Rama Pant Kharel</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Mr. Dhiraj Pokhrel</td>
<td>Joint-Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Dr. Bhogendra Jha</td>
<td>Executive Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Advocate Ms. Kabita Basnet Pandey</td>
<td>Executive Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Ms. Urmila Joshi</td>
<td>Executive Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Advocate Mr. Basant Prasad Adhikari</td>
<td>Executive Member</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scholarships

With an objective to provide scholarship to so called lower caste girl students for pursuing higher studies (10+2), Pro Public has established a small fund from its own resources since 1998. The scholarships of NRs. 1000.00 per month are being provided to two girl students scoring the highest marks in Secondary Education Examination (SEE) annually. Similarly, Pro Public also provides scholarship to the children of Community Mediators of Dhanusha and Sarlahi to pursue their higher studies (10+2). Total NRs. 30,000.00 is provided to each two districts every year from which the selected students, based on their high score studied from the community school receive the scholarship. The names and details of the students who received the scholarship from Pro Public in the year 2075 are presented as follows.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Names</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Ms. Prathana BK</td>
<td>Tikapur-7 Baidi</td>
<td>2075/76 &amp; 076/77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Ms. Lalita Kumari Das</td>
<td>Lahan, Doddana, Siraha</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Mr. Ajit Kumar Shah</td>
<td>Dhanusha</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Ms. Sristi Lama</td>
<td>Dhausha</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Ms. Angita Shah</td>
<td>Sarlahi-Brahamanpuri</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Ms. Kajol Shah</td>
<td>Sarlahi-Brahamanpuri</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Ms. Anisha Kumari ray</td>
<td>Barathawa- Sarlahi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Ms. Punam Kumari Mahato</td>
<td>Barathawa- Sarlahi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Mr. Purushottam Das-</td>
<td>Gadoit- Sarlahi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Mr. Rohan Kumar Mishra</td>
<td>Barathawa- Sarlahi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Mr. Ravi Kumar Pandit</td>
<td>Ramnagar- Sarlahi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Mr. Subodh Dahal</td>
<td>-Bagmati Sarlahi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Mr. Sanjip Kumar kushwa</td>
<td>Bagmati- Sarlahi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>Mr. Manoj Raj Hussain</td>
<td>Haripurwa Sarlahi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Vehicle Donation**

Pro Public donated its one used vehicle, Ba 5 Cha: 5175, to Baba Tal and Chure Protection and Promotion Committee, Siraha which has protected watershed area and protected and manage nice lake by signing an agreement between Pro Public and the Committee that aims of promoting the eco - tourism and economic activities so that the committee can work more in the protection and promotion of environment of Chhure area which is lifeline for the people of Tarai.

**Building Construction**

Pro Public feels proud to inform our readers and well-wishers that the four stories official building of Pro Public is under construction in Kuleswore, Kathmandu with its own resources, mostly from the members and staff contribution for long. It is expected to finish the construction works and shift the office in its own building by the end of the July 2019.

**Staff Turnover**

Pro Public recruited two staff members, i.e. Ms. Ajita Pokhrel as Local Professional for its Civil Peace Service Program (CPSP) and Mr. Saroj Bhusal, Project Coordinator for Enacting Dialogue Project.
experimentation with the design and facilitation of holistic education sessions.

Similarly, Mr. Babu Ram Poudel, Deputy Executive Director of Pro Public joined a Round Table Meeting on Capacity Development for Better Local Governance organized by Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA), India from March 21 to 23, 2019 in collaboration of Login Association. The meeting was focused to share the approaches and activities carried out by the KILA for the capacity building of selected and elected people in the local governance units of Kerala, India. The meeting helped to generate the ideas that how the institutions can build the capacity of the local governance and contribute to enhance their services to be delivered to the ordinary citizens.

1. Dialogue Facilitation and Mediation for Strengthening Peace and Social Harmony

Pro Public takes as an essential part for the capacity building of the members and staff members. In this context, during the period of January to March 2019, Sr. Advocate Mr. Prakash Mani Sharma, Executive Chair and Ms. Ajita Pokhrel, Local Professional with the support of Civil Peace Service of GIZ were provided an opportunity to participate in a Training on Mindful & Participatory Facilitation for Empowerment organized by the GAIA Education from 27th February to 13 March, 2019 at in Bonok, of Thailand. This training helped them to gain knowledge, skills and attitudes of empowerment through experiential learning and hands-on application in a safe space. In addition flourish in a dynamic balance of mindfulness practice and open experimentation with the design and facilitation of holistic education sessions.

Introduction of the Running Projects

Currently, Pro Public is implementing three projects, i.e. Dialogue Facilitation and Mediation for Strengthening Peace and Social Harmony; EnActing Dialogue-Storytelling for Promoting Social Cohesion in the Communities of Nepal and Civil Peace Service Program (CPSP) that are presented in brief below separately.

1. Dialogue Facilitation and Mediation for Strengthening Peace and Social Harmony

This project aims to bridge dividers and create connectors by bringing down social barriers to interact through a process of dialogue and mediation between different political parties, caste, ethnic groups, faith groups, Terai (Madhesi) and Hills (Pahadee) communities of Nepal. The project is based on the idea that fostering a collaboration with relevant stakeholders through combining the means of dialogue and mediation will be effective in creating a safe environment for trust building, mutualunderstanding, resolving conflicts, and avoiding violent communications. This project is being implemented in four communities, Lahan municipality of Siraha, Shivaraj Municipality of Kapilvastu, Nepalgunj Metro-polition city of Banke and Tikapur municipality of Kailali with the financial support of Robert Bosch Stiftung – Germany from August 2018.
2. EnActing Dialogue-Storytelling for Promoting Social Cohesion in the Communities of Nepal

EnActing Dialogue aims to promote social cohesion which is one of the key elements of peace building and inter-community faith in the current scenario in Nepal as a growing feeling/sense of the Madhesi and the Pahadi and Tharu and the Pahadi people for last few years. Based on the experience of last three years’ of project implementation of the EnActing Dialogue on healing & reconciliation with CSSP, Berlin, Germany, now, Pro Public has implemented independently this project to promote inter-community cohesion and harmony through Playback Theatre in Bateshwar of Dhanusha, Bardibas of Mahottari and Tulsipur of Dang with the support of ifa, Germany from September 2018.

3. Civil Peace Service Program (CPSP) - GIZ

GIZ/Civil Peace Service has been providing technical support for Pro Public from June 2011 onwards, with the objective of strengthening and expanding the peace building and conflict transformation activities. For this purpose, currently three positions have been provided, International Peace Advisor, Senior Local Professional and Local Professional.

The partnership between CPS/GIZ and Pro Public aims to promote a harmonious and peaceful society in Nepal by helping to strengthen Pro Public’s ongoing program related to peace building and conflict transformation through Nonviolent Communication (NVC) and Restorative Dialogue. The focus of the work is also strengthening of capacities of provincial and local governments and relevant stakeholders in the field of NVC, mediation and dialogue.

Project Launching and Advisory Committee Meeting

EnActing dialogue project organized its project launching and advisory committee meeting in the Bardibas Municipality of Mahottari and Bateshwar Rural Municipality of Dhanusha on March 11, 2019 and in Tulsipur sub-metropolitan city of Dang on March 15, 2019. The meeting was organized with the objectives of introducing the activities under project for the knowledge and understanding of the local authorities, stakeholders and the beneficiaries in the project communities. Advisory committees in each project communities were also reformed. A short presentation about the project goals, activities and expected results as well as lessons learned from the last year’s intervention, followed by a screening of the documentary on EnActing dialogue, was presented by Mr. Saroj Bhushal and Jhabindra Adhikari and queries from the participants were addressed.

The meetings were organized in the convener ship of the Mayors, Mr. Bidur Karki, Mayor of Bardibas Municipality, Mr. Dambar Bahadur Raut Chhetri, Mayor of Bateshwar Rural Municipality and
Mr. Ghanshyam Pandey, Mayor of Tulsipur Sub-Metropolitan city in respective municipalities. All the heads of the respective municipalities welcomed the project and expressed their commitment for the support during the implementation of the project. The ward chair and representatives of different wards, political party leaders, representatives from the civil society organizations, women and other marginalized communities, intellectuals, media persons and so forth (24 in Bardibas, 24 in Bateshwar and 37 in Tulsipur) attended the meetings. All relevant key stakeholders in all the project communities warmly welcomed the project and expressed their willingness to extend their support for the successful implementation of the project activities.

**Capacity Building**

**Training on Dialogue Facilitation and Mediation**

The second rounds of Dialogue Facilitation & Mediation training, one of the major activities of the project, was organized for 40 Dialogue Facilitators (DFs), 10 DFs from each project location – Lahan of Siraha, Shivaraj of Kapilvastu, Nepalgunj of Banke and Tikapur of Kailali, and Mediators in Palpa that was taken place from March 27 to April 2, 2019. The main objective of the second rounds of the training was to deepen the knowledge and skills of the DFs on dialogue facilitation and mediation and also share their experiences, learning, and challenges they faced during the engagement as DFs after the training received in the last week of the November 2018. This training was focused to transfer the skills and theoretical/practical knowledge related to dialogue facilitation and mediation, especially seven steps of dialogue and the other contents of mediation including seven steps of mediation practices.

The training was facilitated by the Advocate Ms. Kabita Panedy and Ms. Shova Regmi, Mediation Trainer and Mr. Babu Ram Poudel, Program Manager (Trainer of Dialogue and Mediation) of the project. Total five Co-facilitators were engaged those were previously trained and engaged by the Pro Public in the previous Dialogue Facilitation and Mediation interventions in various communities.

**Training on Conflict Resolution and Mediation**

Pro Public facilitated two rounds of four days long training on conflict resolution and mediation in two rounds, i.e., from January 7 to 10 and January 12 to 15, 2019 with the support of MOTT MACDONALD. The objective of the training was to strengthen the capacity of the Judicial Committee members and staff to enhance their understanding about their roles and
responsibilities, specifically in relation to conflict resolution, knowledge and skills on community mediation, and GESI issues in relation to political empowerment and conflict resolution including collaborative leadership. Thus, the training aimed to do this through mediation, as well as focusing on the roles and responsibilities of Judicial Committees. Altogether 60, 32 in the first round and 28 in the second round, participants attended the two rounds. The participants were from Ajajirkt, Dharche, & Chumnubri of Gorkha, Ganga jamuna and Gajuri of Dhading, Khaniyabas of Dhading, Shivapuri of Dupcheswor and Tadi of Nuwakot and Uttargaya of Rasuwa.

Refresher Training on Community Mediation

Pro Public technically supported a three day long refresher training on community mediation organized by the Gaidakot municipality of East Nawalparasi that was taken place from March 16 to 18, 2019. The objective of the training was to refresh the knowledge and skills of the mediators on mediation and also sharing their learning and experiences they have gained each other. Advocate Ms. Kabita Pandey and Mr. Babu Ram Poudel, National Trainer on Community Mediation, facilitated the training. Total 28 participants from different wards of Gaidakot Municipality attended the training.

Dialogues

Social Dialogues

The dialogue meetings of total 40 Social Dialogue Groups (SDGs), 10 SDGs in each four project communities, i.e. Lahan of Siraha, Shivaraj of Kapilvastu, Nepalgunj of Banke and Tikapur of Kailali, were convened during the period of January to March 2019. Total members in these 40 groups are 400, 10 in each 40 groups. Out of 400 members of SDGs, participation was ensured from the political parties (Nepali Congress (NC), Communist Party Nepal Maoist Center (CPN-MC), Communist Party Nepal, United Marxist, Leninist (CPN-UML), Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RJP); Rashtriya Janmorcha, Federal Socialist Forum Nepal (FSFN); Rashtriya Janmorcha-Nepal( JP-Nepal), Nayashakti, Janmukti Morcha, Deshbhakta Ganatantrik Morcha, neutral/religious Group), cast and ethnicity (Brahmin/Chhetri, Dalit, Janajati, and others); Madheshi, Pahadi and Tharu; and, religion (Hindu and Muslim, Buddhist). There numbers are presented in graph as follows. The trained Dialogue Facilitators (DFs) facilitated the dialogue sessions and the mentors provided their back stopping before and during the dialogue meetings.
Community Dialogues

Pro Public organized a Community Dialogue on Child Marriage and Dowry System, in all the four project communities, Lahan of Siraha, Shivaraj of Kapilvastu, Nepalgunj of Banke and Tikapur of Kailali which is one of the burning social problems in Nepal, especially in the Terai region. This problem has been one of the causes to create the unrest in the communities. In the dialogue elected representatives of the respective communities were as the panelists and the other key stakeholders, including women, representatives from marginalized groups and victims were participated. An overview presentation was made and two short documentaries were screened on Child Marriage and Dowry System in the beginning of the dialogue. Later, many queries were raised regarding the planning, budgeting and implementation to be facilitated from the local government that were address by the panelists of the session. Similarly, many suggestions for the future interventions, pains and experiences were shared by the participants. More than 200 participants attended in the dialogue in these four communities. At the end of the dialogue, separate Declaration Letters, in all the four communities were issued signing by the panelists and all the participants attended the dialogue. These signed declaration letters are put on the wall of the office building of the respective municipalities of all the four project locations for the public access.

Theatre Lab and Theatre Dialogue Event

Pro Public organized a two day first Theatre Lab and Theatre Dialogue event successfully on March 24 & 25, 2019 in Kathmandu. The objective of the event was to provide the platform to improve the practical understanding of Theatre Trainers as an artist and internalize compatible attitude of working with the Playback Theatre approach (self-realization and reasoning, acknowledging, active and empathetic listening) through experience sharing as well as organization of the performance as an artist. The Theatre Lab was organized in Manjari Theatre in Gaurighat, Kathmandu on the first day where the trainers reviewed & discussed in the theoretical aspect of the Playback Theatre and also made practice on its different steps and prepare for the next day event. The Theatre Dialogue event organized in Sisneri of Lalitpur on the second day of the event. Theatre Trainers, as an artists, facilitated
Monitoring and Supervision Visit

Monitoring and supervision visit of different activities under different program is one of the regular activities of Pro Public. During the quarter, monitoring visits, under the Dialogue Facilitation and Mediation Project, were made by the Executive Chair of Pro Public, Sr. Advocate Mr. Prakash Mani Sharma observing a Social Dialogue Group meeting in Shivaraj of Kapilvastu.

and performed in the dialogue that helped the team in self-realization and teamwork which will be applicable during the Refresher Training that is going to be organized in Mahottari/Dhanusha and Dang in the month of April 2019. More than 100 participants attended the Theater Dialogue event facilitated by six theatre artists.

Kapivastu; Tikapur of Nepalgunj and Nepalgunj of Banke; and Lahan/Siraha respectively. During the monitoring and supervision visits, the dialogue meetings were observed and DFs were guided and made feedback. The DFs and mentors were observed in terms of their knowledge and skills they have used in facilitating the dialogues, participation and impressions of SDGs members and so forth. The discussions were also made with the members of the SDGs to know about their impressions and they were found happy and interested to continue the meetings. Hearing their voices it was realized that the dialogue has been effective to bring them together to build the relationship and collaboration.

Public Interest Litigation

SC issues interim order against KMC’s plan to demolish Bag Durbar

Pro Public filed a writ petition on 2nd October 2018 at the Supreme Court (SC) on against the Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC’s) decision to demolish the historic building. Pro Public asked an interim order to immediately stop the KMC’s preparations to demolish Bag Durbar. In the writ, the Pro Public also demanded the apex court to issue order to protect all the historic palaces of different eras, including Lichhavi, Malla, Rana and Shah.

The Supreme Court has issued an interim order, directing the Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC) not to demolish the historic Bag Durbar that suffered damage in the earthquake of April 25, 2015. The court asked defendants to not carry out any kind of construction works and protect the Durbar, which has historical and archaeological importance, in its existing form until the final verdict.
Senior advocates Prakash Mani Sharma, Dinesh Tripathi, Rama Panta Kharel and applicant Sanjay Adhikari had pleaded the case on behalf of petitioner. The petitioners have demanded that the Rana-era palace should be protected since it was a public property and should be handed over from one generation to another.

Heritage conservationists have claimed that the permission letter issued by the Department of Archaeology to Kathmandu Metropolitan City to demolish the palace was guided by a malicious intent. They have argued that there is no need to demolish Bag Durbar for reconstruction since it could be retrofitted.

Advocacy

Advocacy is a one of the major and priority areas of Pro Public. During the first quarter of the year 2019 Pro Public met and discussed with the representatives of National Planning Commission and sent the letters by highlighting the importance of Infrastructure for Peace (I4P) at local level and the need for budget allocation from the federal government for the establishment of the same.
Upcoming Activities (April to June, 2019)

Pro Public has planned the following activities under the following different projects for the next quarter, April to June 2019.

**Dialogue Facilitation and Mediation for Strengthening Peace and Social Harmony**
- Third rounds of the training on Dialogue Facilitation and Mediation
- Continue of Social Dialogue Groups Meetings
- Organization of Community Dialogues
- Organization of Community Envisioning

**Enacting Dialogue**
- Refresher Training for Dialogue Facilitating (DF) artists
- Multiplication of Theatre Dialogue events in the communities
- Monitoring/Mentoring visits
- Theatre Lab and Theatre Dialogue event in Kathmandu

**Regional and International Networking**
- Member, Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (ELAW), 1995
- Founder Member of South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), 1995
- Member, Friends of the Earth International (FoEI), 2001
- Member Alliance for Ministries and Infrastructures for Peace (APAMIP), 2014
- Initiator of Asia-Pacific Alliance for Ministries and Infrastructures for Peace (APAMIP), 2014
- Local Governance Initiative and Network (LOGIN) Association 2019