I am very pleased that Nepal Public Health Foundation is starting to publish e-newsletter to mark its second anniversary. The foundation has made a great stride towards achieving its goal of ensuring Civil Society’s pro-active intervention in public health through numerous activities like hosting Regional Civil Society’s meeting and National workshop on Non-communicable diseases with support from the Ministry of Health& Population and WHO South East Asia Regional Office to assist in national policy formulation on NCD and also national workshop on diarrheal diseases. It is carrying out implementation research on Skilled Birth Attendant utilization in improving Maternal, Newborn and Child health in Nepal under grant from WHO as well as study on District Investment case with grant from UNICEF. It also successfully organized the 6th Annual SEAPHEIN Meeting last November. Further activities have also been implemented and are included inside. I appreciate the hard work put by the concerned staff in this endeavor and hope that the readers will have information on our activities. Feedback from the readers will be highly appreciated for improving this maiden venture.

BADRI RAJ PANDE
Acting Chair (Honorary)
Nepal Public Health Foundation
The Executive Chair Appointed as an Ambassador to China

The Executive Chair of Nepal Public Health Foundation Dr. Mahesh Kumar Maskey has been assigned for new responsibility by the Government of Nepal. Before he left for the new assignment NPHF team organized a Farewell Program where all the partners, well wishers of Nepal Public health Foundation gathered to celebrate the occasion.

Dr. Badri Raj Pande, Vice President joins office as Acting Chair

Dr. Badri Raj Pande joined the Nepal Public Health Foundation from 10th January 2012 as Acting Chair, since Dr. Mahesh Kumar Maskey, Executive Chair at Nepal Public Health Foundation left for his new assignments.

Dr. Badri Raj Pande, Dr. Tirtha Rana and Dr. Gajananda Bhandari Nominated as Scientific Committee Members

Dr. Pande along with Dr. Rana and Bhandari have been nominated as Scientific Committee Members to review the papers submitted for presentation in terms of quality and interest on Second Global Symposium on Health Systems Research: Inclusion and Innovation towards Universal Health Coverage, Beijing, China it will be held on 31 October – 3 November 2012.
1. SEAPHEIN

The 6th Annual South East Asian Public Health Educational Institutional Network (SEAPHEIN) Meeting held on 26-28 November 2011, Kathmandu with the theme “The Role of SEAPHEIN members in strengthening primary health care to improve public health of people in the respected countries” was completed successfully.

Member institution and country presented paper on Challenges of primary health care on the new communication era, new challenges and innovations in primary health care program in urbanized community. Similarly, the role of SEAPHEIN members in teaching, research and strengthening primary health care was discussed.

Another major event was the inauguration of the president elect Prof. Dr. Phitaya Charupoonphol, Dean of the Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University for the year 2011-13. He was elected during 5th Annual SEAPHEIN meeting. Also, Prof. Rajitha Wickremasinghe, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka was unanimously elected as President nominee for the year 2013-15.

2. SBA Project

Nepal Public Health Foundation (NPHF) has been conducting study on “Overcoming Barriers to Scaling Skilled Birth Attendants Utilization in Improving Maternal, Newborn and Child health in Nepal” which is a three year implementation research supported by World Health Organization (WHO), Geneva. This study aims to identify the barriers related to health systems and the barriers related to service users and providers regarding the scaling up of skilled birth attendants. The study attempts to develop an appropriate intervention package and pilot it in low coverage districts to test its effectiveness as well as evaluate its scalability.

The team of NPHF which comprised of Dr. Gajananda Bhandari (Program Director) and Swadesh Gurung (Program Officer) went to Dailekh, likewise, Dr. Suresh Mehata (Program Manager) and Nirmala Sharma (Program Officer) went to Kanchanpur and Mr. Narayan Subedi (Program Manager) and Janak Thapa (Program Manager) visited Bajhang district for dissemination workshop of baseline survey conducted in May, 2011. The district level workshop was conducted with the aim to sensitize the major stakeholders of the district about the major findings obtained from the baseline survey. The workshop was also the platform to discuss about the bottlenecks that prevent the utilization and availability of SBA in the district.

The official establishment of NePHEIN in Nepal and signing MOU between NePHEIN and IndoPHEIN were another important milestone in the history of SEAPHEIN.
With the Completion of District Level Dissemination, The National Level Dissemination Workshop was in place where Dr Gajananda Bhandari made presentation on behalf of NPHF. It highlighted on findings of SBA baseline survey in Bajhang, Dailekh and Kanchanpur; findings of the district level dissemination workshop; and strategies that have been developed by the Foundation to overcome the identified barriers. The central level workshop concluded with development of draft strategies for the intervention package.

3. **Training on Data Management**

NPHF organized a Training Workshop on Quantitative Data Analysis from 12 – 23 September 2011 (26 Bhadra - 6 Ashwin 2068). The First Training Workshop was designed for Public Health graduates, the beginners who are currently involved in research or have just started their research career. The overall aim of this Training Workshop was to equip new and existing researcher with the basic and advance skills of data analysis using statistical software. Similarly the 2nd Training was designed for faculties from medical and public health colleges to enhance the knowledge on statistical data analysis which will further develop their skill to teach/guide students on (7th -18th November 2011).

4. **District Investment Case**

The investment case (IC) for scaling –up Equitable Progress towards MDGs 4& 5 in Nepal aims to have an understanding of the IC to commence work and prepare for the bottleneck workshops. The Investment Case is a method for evidence-based strategic planning and budgeting for Maternal Neonatal Child Health (MNCH) by Prioritising interventions that are known to reduce maternal, neonatal and child mortality.

4.1 **DIC- Training for NPHF staff**

The orientation training on the Investment Case for Scaling-Up Equitable Progress towards MDGs 4 & 5 in Nepal was held on December 13- 19th at New Era Office at Kalopul, Kathmandu. The trainers came mainly from the University of Queensland. Eight participants from NPHF and six participants from New Era were trained. The main aim of the training was to have an understanding of the Investment Case (IC) and to identify data required and its sources, understand bottlenecks analysis, practice facilitating bottleneck discussions and developing strategies and scenarios to reduce mortality.

4.2 **DIC-Field visit for data collection**

Two teams comprising Dr Suresh Mehata, Ms Namita Bohara, and Mr Janak Thapa, Narayan Subedi and Ms Reshma Timsina from Nepal Public Health Foundation went to Dadeldhura and Udayapur respectively. The epidemiological and data related to costing were collected from the district Health Office. Interactions were held with District Health Officer, Statistician and the program focal person.

4.3 **DIC- Bottleneck analysis Workshop at Pokhara**

District Investment Case (DIC) Workshop was held in Pokhara from February 16th-18th, 2012 to identify constraints and also to design strategies to improve MNCH. This was done in coordination and support from the District Health
5. **Consultative meeting on Climate Change Project**

After successful completion of Pilot and Vulnerability Assessment of Public Health and Health Care Systems to Climate Change in Kathmandu Nepal, Nepal Public Health Foundation is now involved in a related project Climate Change and Health which specifically focuses on Climate Change, ARI and Diarrhea. On 19 Jan 2012 a consultative meeting was held to update and brief about the project. Dr. Nihal Singh from WHO Country office Nepal along with various other resource personnel spent considerable time to discuss on the ways forward.

6. **Participation in International Course in Nutrition Research Methods**

Dr. Suresh Mehata (Research Director) and Mr. Narayan Subedi (Program Manager) of NPHF participated in International Course in Nutrition Research Methods training organized by Bangalore/Boston Nutrition Collaborative (BBNC) in St. John’s Research Institute on 9-20th Jan 2012 in Bangalore, India.

The training was comprehensive and included the contents on nutrition ranging from policy to research activities. It also had the contents on research methodology and exposure to the latest technologies used in the field of nutrition research in India.

There were about 40 participants from Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Iran, Uganda and different parts of India. The trainers were from
Harvard University, Tufts University and Cornell University of US and from St. John’s Research Institute, Bangalore, India.

7. Participation in 6th Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network (TEPHINET) Bi - Regional Scientific Conference in Bali, Indonesia

Mr. Narayan Subedi, Program Manager of NPHF participated in 6th TEPHINET Bi - Regional Scientific Conference at the Nusa Dua Convention Center in Bali, Indonesia held on November 8 – 11, 2011. Mr. Subedi presented a paper on Nutrition Epidemiology.

 Altogether there were more than thousand participants from countries from WHO South East Asia and WHO Western Pacific Region. The conference was jointly organized by WHO, Ministry of Health of Indonesia, European Commission and Safetynet (South Asia Field Epidemiology and Technology Network, Inc.).

In addition Dr Gajananda Bhandari, Program Director at NPHF and Dr Suresh Mehata were nominated as abstract reviewer for TEPHINET conference

8. Participation in Stepwise Surveillance Training in Depok, Indonesia

Dr. Gajananda Prakash Bhandari (Program Director) of Nepal Public Health Foundation participated in Stepwise Surveillance Training: Strengthening Non-Communicable Disease Program at National and Sub National Levels in Depok, Indonesia from 14-17, February 2012. The WHO STEPwise approach to Surveillance (STEPS) is a simple, standardized method for collecting, analyzing and disseminating data which has high comparable among members. It is designed for implementation in low- and middle income countries.

Policy maker, field supervisor, primary health care provider, researcher and public health workers participated in the training. It was conducted by SEAPHEIN (South-East Asia Public health Education Institute Network) with the aim to strengthen the capacity of human resources in public health institutions and health care organizations in surveillance area.
9. MEDIA WATCH

Nepal Public Health Foundation conducts regular watch on public health issues published in National Dailies, Magazines and Journals and other publications to make its human resources updated in recent development in public health issues at national and international level. Media watch is followed by regular discussion session after lunch in NPHF discussion room, where they discuss on the topics and the likely actions to address it. Birdflu outbreaks, filaria mass drug administration, newborn care package starting in new districts in Nepal, free health clinics starting in municipalities, women deaths due to Chaupadi, cases of gender based violence with 11 women killed between mid January till February 8 2012 were the news frequently covered in national daily newspapers.

Increasing abortion daunting challenge: the legalization of abortion in 2002 could not do wonders as the practice of aborting female foetus is increasing in government and private hospitals throughout the country. The Kathmandu Post 2nd Feb 2012

Birdflu: Fear of birdflu shuts 22 schools in Bhaktapur. People panicked due to fear of infection. 2nd December 2011 Himalayan Times

Elephantiasis: Anti-filarial campaign flops miserably in Banke district as anti-filarial drugs reported to kill five persons and took other 800 ill. Himalayan Times 7th Feb

MNCH: New born care package to be started in 10 more districts of Nepal to slash neonatal mortality, the program was runned in 25 districts earlier. 25th December 2011 Himalayan Times

Chaupadi: Laxmikumari Buda, 16 years killed in fire in Chaupadi Shed in Achham District. 6th Feb Kantipur Daily

Leprosy: Bhagidal BK discriminated and ostraczed from the community. Leprosy stays even after ERADICATION- Leprosy a chronic infectious disease still remains a threat in 14 districts even two years after government declared that the diseases is eliminated in the country. The government declared the elimination of Leprosy on 19th Jan 2010. Kantipur news 7th Feb

Gender Based Violence: Women’s Rehabilitation Nepal WOREC showed serious concern about the killing of 11 women between mid January till February 8 2012. Himalyan times 9 Feb
STAFF INFORMATION

Dr. Badri Raj Pande
Acting Chair
badripande@gmail.com
bpande@nphfoundation.org

Dr. Gajananda Bhandari
Program Director
gpbhandari@gmail.com
gbhandari@nphfoundation.org

Mr. Narayan Subedi
Program Manager
subedi.narayan@gmail.com
nsubedi@nphfoundation.org

Ms. Ami Maharjan
Admin/ Finance Manager
amimaharjan4@gmail.com
amaharjan@nphfoundation.org

Ms. Namita Bohra
Program Manager
kelirung@gmail.com
nbohra@nphfoundation.org

Mr. Janak Thapa
Program Manager
janakthapa7@gmail.com
jthapa@nphfoundation.org

Ms. Neeva Pradhan
Program Officer
nvpradhan9@gmail.com,
npradhan@nphfoundation.org

Ms. Nirmala Sharma
Program Officer
nimalsg479sharma@gmail.com
nsharma@nphfoundation.org

Ms. Sweekriti Sharma
Program Officer
sweekritis@gmail.com
ssharma@nphfoundation.org

Ms. Bina Katwal
Program Officer
binakatwal123@gmail.com
bkatwal@nphfoundation.org

Ms. Reshma Timsina
Program Officer
reshu247@gmail.com
ntimsina@nphfoundation.org

Ms. Shila Bhandari
Administrative Assistant
shilabh314@gmail.com,
sbhhandari@nphfoundation.org

Mr. Babu Ram Tandon
Accountant
baburam10s@yahoo.com

Mr. Himal Tamang
Driver

Ms. Sabina Khatri
Office Assistant

Mr. Rabin Nepal
Office Assistant
rabinnepal@yahoo.com

101/2 Dhara Margh, Maharajgunj, Kathmandu-4
P.O.Box: 11218
Tel: 977-01-4412787, 4410826, Fax: 977-1-4412870
Website: www.nphfoundation.org