

A Report On



Co-organised by

Embassy of Nepal, United Kingdom
Society of Nepalese Engineers in UK (SONEUK)
Pasa Puchah Guthi UK (PPGUK) London
Nepalese Doctors' Association UK (NDAUK)
Britain-Nepal Chamber of Commerce (BNCC)
Non-Resident Nepali Association UK (NRNAUK)

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Table of Contents

Section I FORMAL ADDRESS

Introduction		3
Address 1	<i>HE Lokdarshan Regmi, Embassy of Nepal</i>	4
Address 2	<i>Mr Sanyukta Shrestha, Society of Nepalese Engineers in UK</i>	5
Address 3	<i>Ms Rukmani Manandhar, Pasa Puchah Guthi UK London</i>	6
Address 4	<i>Dr Ramesh Khoju, Nepalese Doctors' Association UK</i>	7
Address 5	<i>Dr Kapil Rijal, Britain-Nepal Chamber of Commerce</i>	8
Address 6	<i>Ms Poonam Gurung, Non-Resident Nepali Association UK</i>	
Address 7	<i>Ms Rojina Pradhan Rai, Non-Resident Nepali Association UK</i>	9

Section II DISCUSSION

Introduction		10
Discussant 1	<i>Ms Sumana Shrestha, CovidAlliance4Nepal</i>	11
Discussant 2	<i>Prof Padam Simkhada, University of Huddersfield</i>	12
Discussant 3	<i>Mr Biraj Bhatta, Britain-Nepal Chamber of Commerce</i>	13
Discussant 4	<i>Ananda Mishra, CovidAlliance4Nepal</i>	14
Discussant 5	<i>Andrew Sparkes, Former UK Ambassador to Nepal</i>	15
Discussant 6	<i>Dr Sudan Raj Panthi, World Health Organization</i>	16
Discussant 7	<i>Dr Raju Kharel, CovidAlliance4Nepal</i>	17
Discussant 8	<i>Col. Nick Hinton, Britain-Nepal NGO Network</i>	18

Section III ANNEXES

Annex I	List of Participants	20
Annex II	List of Organisers	21



Section I

FORMAL ADDRESS

Introduction

Six co-organising Nepalese institutions and organisations from the United Kingdom introduced the audience with the relevant past experiences, current capacities, and future plans towards helping Nepal fight with the 2nd wave of COVID-19 pandemic.

The session was facilitated by Dr Bidur Ghimire, General Secretary, SONEUK



Address 1

HE Lokdarshan Regmi
The Ambassador,
Embassy of Nepal, United Kingdom

The 2nd wave of COVID-19 virus with new variants has created an unprecedented crisis in Nepal. As of 10th May 2021, a total of 4,669 deaths and 4,39,658 infections have been recorded.

Few measures taken by the Government of Nepal are:

Lockdown,
Government hospitals transformed into covid hospitals,
Additional temporary hospitals constructed,
Private hospitals designated

There is an acute shortage of oxygen, beds, medical equipment, medicine and other logistics. Two oxygen plants are installed with UK support in Nepal Police Hospital in Kathmandu. UK government is considering support for Nepal.

Most urgent medical supplies are:

ICU ventilators with accessories
Oxygen cylinders
Oxygen concentrators
Mobile oxygen plants
Multifunctional ICU bed
PCR test kits
PPE sets

Embassy of Nepal is ready to coordinate with those who can send these supplies.

Embassy of Nepal can communicate and coordinate for:

Customs exemptions,
Ensuring the receipt as targeted in Nepal,
Charter flights details with Ministry of Civil Aviation.



Address 2

Mr Sanyukta Shrestha

Chairperson.

Society of Nepalese Engineers in UK (SONEUK)

SONEUK is interested in and has a history of technological contributions to Nepal. It has been building its capacity to support Nepal.

During the 1st wave of COVID-19 in Nepal, SONEUK raised more than £10K towards manufacture of PPE through National Innovation Centre (NIC) in Nepal.

As a preparation towards helping Nepal with the 2nd wave, SONEUK wants to work together with other organizations for a bigger impact.

By nature, every pandemic arises cycles of blame. SONEUK hence urges to encourage *positivity* in an unprecedented situation like this.

Those countries who handled the pandemic better, did it collectively rather than separately. SONEUK urges for inter-organizational unity to handle this pandemic better in Nepal.

The objective of this urgent seminar is to document all information shared by participating organizations about their experience and plans so we can help each other better.

SONEUK aims to prepare a documentation of all discussions carried out in the seminar so that it can be circulated to all organisations in the UK in order to learn from the discussions and presentations.



Address 3

Ms Rukmani Manandhar

President,

Pasa Puchah Guthi UK (PPGUK) London

Established 21 years ago, PPGUK London has a history of handling crisis in Nepal, which it has proved during 2015 earthquake in a remarkable way. PPGUK London's strength is its ground-level deployment of people and distribution channel for aids.

PPGUK London is open to work together with other groups and explore mechanisms to support Nepal. PPGUK looks forward to collecting information and ideas from the seminar to make effective plans.

PPGUK London emphasises on the fact that the impact of COVID is not the same on all different communities alike. We should direct our attention towards marginalised and backward communities for instance.



Address 4

Dr Ramesh Khoju

President,

Nepalese Doctors' Association UK (NDAUK)

Established 35 years ago, NDAUK is one of the oldest Nepalese organisations in the UK and has been actively running useful seminars during the lockdown. NDAUK has done fundraising for CCMC's isolations centre in Samakhushi, to help with oxygen supply but fortunately the 1st wave was soon under control in Nepal.

NDAUK has now resumed the fundraising with Health Exchange Nepal (UK) and installed oxygen pipelines in Nepal worth £20K. In the 2nd wave, oxygen supply for treatment is the main problem in Nepal.

People have been dying due to lack of oxygen supply. Based on the learnings from NDAUK's meeting with Nepal Medical Council, oxygen is the main problem.

NDAUK with Alliance of Nepali Medical Diaspora's Fight against 2nd Wave of COVID 19 (initiated by America Nepal Medical Foundation) are aiming for oxygen plant installation. It has raised around 300,000 USD. Each plant costs 100,000 USD.

Vendors in Nepal are planning to get from France for 10 plants worth 10 crores. This should be available in a few weeks' time.

NDAUK has been supplying oxygen concentrators through HExN (Health Exchange Nepal) to peripheral hospitals in Nepal.

It can be a better idea to fundraise from UK and order from Oman.

It is a good idea for SONEUK to help NIC, and NDAUK is also in contact with them.

We should all lobby for UK Government to support Nepal.



Address 5

Dr Kapil Rijal

President,
Britain-Nepal Chamber of Commerce (BNCC)

BNCC is an association that facilitates information to start up business in Nepal.

BNCC President Dr Rijal reported following factual observations and assessments from Nepal.

There is no ICU bed anywhere in Nepal, and not even oxygen.

8,520 new cases today, 203 deaths, 16,822 new active patients, total 4,669 deaths so far.

Oxygen supply has been identified as the main cause of death.

Daily 8K cylinder supplied, demand is 15K - almost double.

130-140 bed hospital has reduced their capacity to 60-70 beds due to lack of oxygen supply.

In this rate, by July, we will need 50,000 cylinders per day.

There are eight plants and one of the big plants broke down just yesterday.

72,000 cylinders lying idle in Nepal without refill, need oxygen plants to fill them.

An oxygen plant costs 80-90K GBP. Plants will take more than 15 days for transportation and installation.

Stop raising small funds, collect it together and channelise through the embassy to establish plants and get cylinders to Nepal.

We need to lobby with the government and ask UK to send surplus vaccines to Nepal.



Addresses 6 & 7

Ms Poonam Gurung

President, Non-Resident Nepali Association UK (NRNAUK)

Ms Rojina Pradhan Rai

Vice-President, Non-Resident Nepali Association UK

Assisted by NRNAUK, a total of 229 Nepalese people were repatriated from the UK to Nepal through Nepal embassy during 1st wave of COVID-19.

NRNAUK have been in touch with all Nepalese councillors to lobby for vaccines for Nepal.

The ambassador of Nepal has appointed NRNAUK to work with all Nepalese organisations in order to help Nepal.

NRNUK has a list of all requirements in Nepal, and we need to have one-door policy to make a bigger impact.

NRNAUK plans to send 50 oxygen concentrators to impacted places in Nepal, for which we will meet this evening with all organisations.



Section II

DISCUSSION

Introduction

Representatives of various other organisations participated in this session to share their experience, observations, and ideas. The participants ranged from groundworkers, professionals and diplomats related to Nepal and the UK.

The session was facilitated by Mr Ojesh Singh, President,
Pasa Puchah Guthi UK (Board of Trustees)



Discussant 1

Ms Sumana Shrestha
CovidAlliance4Nepal (CA4N)

CA4N is a group of various professionals from private and NGO sectors including tourism, medical and journalism.

The biggest need is of data. Generate as much data as possible.

There is oxygen shortage, but it is difficult to pinpoint where the problem is in the supply chain due to lack of data.

A plane full of oxygen plants, concentrators, CPAP, PPE, everything is needed.

Timeline is very crucial because receiving help by August will be too late.

Plant needs electricity. Concentrators needs additional operational cost. Generators are needed.

Alliance is training medical staff and equipment operators.

Food team is fighting with hunger. Food distribution is also not allowed everywhere.



Discussant 2

Prof Padam Simkhada
University of Huddersfield

Lot of focus is on the capital but the problem is all over the country.

In micro level, Nepal is much worse than India now. Per million, Nepal has 304 new cases as compared to 240 in India 240.

Nepal has 45.1% positivity rate as compared to 22.2% in India.

Death rate in Nepal is 5.3 per million whereas that in India is 2.9 per million (8-15th May 2021).

Predicted total death in India is 1 million by 1st Aug 2021. Nepal has 4K+ death till now but it could be 50K by end of Aug if there is no immediate action.

Oxygen and Drug supply is crucial now.

Hoarding oxygen is not helping and supply chain management needs to be scientific.

Lobbying for vaccine is a must.

It is not an issue of money but of management to make use of window period for preparation between the waves of the pandemic.

Unified response to pandemic is important.



Discussant 3

Biraj Bhatta
General Secretary,
BNCC

There are cargo flights going to Nepal so its logistically possible to send.

We can prioritise if medical staff or equipment are present.



Discussant 4

Ananda Mishra
CovidAlliance4Nepal

Oxygen cylinders and concentrators were not being enough.

10 Oxygen plants' installation from France is booked.

We started do fundraising for plants that are portable and consume simple power.

We need to figure out priority regions in Nepal where these plants could go.



Discussant 5

Andrew Sparkes

*Former Ambassador to Nepal
Chairman, Britain-Nepal Society*

150,000-200,000 Nepalis living in the UK should write to their MPs, which will eventually make a difference.

They should copy the well-informed letter drafted by Britain-Nepal Academic Council and create their own letters.

The important thing is the volume of letters saying the same thing, and not whether any letter gets replied.



Discussant 6

Dr Sudan Raj Panthi
Nepal National Director,
World Health Organization

Two types of vaccines, Covishield (Indian) and Varosel (Chinese) are introduced in Nepal.

500,000 frontliners were the first target group. A total of 440,000 were vaccinated.

360,000 have been vaccinated to dose with 2nd vaccine.

2nd target group, population of 1.3 million people could get 1st vaccine, but they do not know when they will get their 2nd vaccine i.e., Covishield (it has to be the same as the first).

Age group 60-65 are totally missing for both vaccines, Covishield and Varosel.

Death rate for age below 40 is very high and there is no vaccine for them.

Oxygen may not be needed after a week, but the priority could change after that.

We need vaccine. 98% people in Nepal haven't had vaccine.

If you can help to bring some Fizer (which is suitable for 12-18 years' age group) to Nepal, it will be a big help. Even a small quantity of Fizer is still useful.



Discussant 7

Dr Ramu Kharel

Emergency Medical Profession / CovidAlliance4Nepal

Oxygen is the number 1 priority for this week, but it may not be so in a week or two.

We do not have capacity for Fizer in Nepal, but we do have capacity for Madorna.

Astrezenica is the number 1 priority as the best suited vaccine for Nepal.

As per the experience on the ground, the topmost priority are as follows:

Oxygen,
Vaccine, and
Testing.



Discussant 8

Col. Nick Hinton

Chairman,

Britain-Nepal NGO Network (BRANNGO)

The most effective way will be to mobilise all members of Nepalese organisations. They should all individually write to their MPs and lobby UK government to help Nepal.

Gurkha engineers helped Nepal with reconstruction after earthquake. They can help Nepal with putting up hospitals and a royal aircraft should be deployed to get all materials to Nepal that people are gathering in the UK.



Section III

ANNEXES

Annex I Participants

Annex II Contact of organisers



*Annexe I***List of Participants**

	Name	Organisation
1	HE Lokdarshan Regmi	Embassy
2	Roshan Khanal	Embassy
3	Col. Ratna Bahadur Godhar	Embassy
4	Mr Ram Babu Nepal	Embassy
5	Sanyukta Shrestha	SONEUK/PPGUK
6	Narad Bhandari	SONEUK
7	Dr. Bidur Ghimire	SONEUK
8	Dr. Roshan Bhattarai	SONEUK
9	Rashmi Rana	SONEUK
10	Hari Nepal	SONEUK
11	Bishal Rana	SONEUK
12	Prabin Limbu	SONEUK
13	Megha Paudyal	SONEUK
14	Priyanka Regmi	SONEUK
15	Ravi Chandra Koirala	SONEUK
16	Shailendra Shrestha	SONEUK
17	Ghanashyam Paudyal	SONEUK
18	Krishna Kishore Shrestha	SONEUK
19	Dr. Birendra Shrestha	SONEUK
20	Prof Keshav Dahal	SONEUK
21	Subodh Timilsina	SONEUK
22	Krishna Chakhun	SONEUK/PPGUK
23	Bijaya Bajracharya	SONEUK/PPGUK
24	Rajesh Pathak	SONEUK
25	Dr. Kul Marahatta	SONEUK
26	Sachida Chaturbedi	SONEUK
27	Prof Hom Nath Dhakal	SONEUK
28	Dr. Keshab Bhattarai	SONEUK
29	Raj Ghale	SONEUK
30	Rukmani Manandhar	PPGUK
31	Sandeep Shrestha	PPGUK



32	Pranisha Shakya	PPGUK
33	Sabita Manandhar	PPGUK
34	Ojesh Singh	PPGUK
35	Sushil Prajapati	PPGUK
36	Dr. Sachetan Tuladhar	PPGUK
37	Madhav Shrestha	PPGUK
38	Janaki Kayastha	PPGUK
39	Vijay Dangol	PPGUK
40	Keshab Shrestha	PPGUK
41	Yadav Shrestha	PPGUK
42	Mahanta Shrestha	PPGUK
43	Balmukund Prasad Joshi	PPGUK
44	Shashi Manandhar	PPGUK
45	Arjun Pradhan	PPGUK
46	Amrit Sthapit	PPGUK
47	Madhusudan Kayastha	PPGUK
48	Padma Shrestha	PPGUK
49	Dr. Lochan Manandhar	PPGUK/NDAUK
50	Dr. Ramesh Khoju	NDAUK
51	Dr. Shambhu Acharya	NDAUK
52	Dr. Kamal Aryal	NDAUK
53	Dr. Satyan Rajbhandari	NDAUK
54	Dr. K P Karn	NDAUK
55	Dr. Kopila Sampang Rai	NDAUK
56	Dr. Sunil Jha	NDAUK/NRNA
57	Shibaji Shrestha	BMF
58	Dr. Kapil Rijal	BNCC
59	Biraj Bhatta	BNCC
60	Santosh Mandal	BNCC
61	Poonam Gurung	NRNAUK
62	Rojina Pradhan Rai	NRNAUK
63	Prof Padam Simkhada	BNAC
64	Dr. Krishna Adhikari	BNAC
65	Prof David Gellner	BNAC/PPGUK
66	Prof Michael Hutt	BNAC



67	Dr. Stefanie Lotter	BNAC
68	Dr. Uma Pradhan	BNAC
69	Dr. Punam Yadav	BNAC
70	Dr. Tejendra Phereli	BNAC
71	Prof Surya Subedi QC	BNAC
72	Dr. Jeevan Sharma	BNAC
73	Binod Bikash Simkhada	NNAUK
74	Rashmita Darlami	NNAUK/PPGUK
75	Dr. Sudan Raj Panthi	WHO
76	Pawan Karki	ADB
77	Jib Belbase	Councillor
78	Jagannath Sharma	Councillor
79	Nem Thapa Magar	Councillor
80	Alex Crawford	Councillor
81	Deepesh Shakya	NIS
82	Hari Krishna Neupane	FoNIC
83	Pawan Kandel	Merging NepSoc
84	Samir Gurung	Merging NepSoc
85	Bishnu Gaire	Merging NepSoc
86	Priyanka Acharya	Merging NepSoc
87	Andrew Sparkes CMG	Former Ambassador
88	Col. Nick Hinton	BRANNGO
89	Sumana Shrestha	CA4N
90	Monika Shrestha	CA4N
91	Ananda Mishra	CA4N
92	Dr. Ramu Kharel	CA4N
93	Kritika Lamsal	media
94	Subina Shrestha	media
95	Navin Khadka	media
96	Bhagirath Yogi	media



Annexe II

List of Organisers

1. Embassy of Nepal, United Kingdom
Email: eon@nepembassy.org.uk
URL: www.nepembassy.org.uk
2. Society of Nepalese Engineers in UK (SONEUK)
Email: info@soneuk.org
URL: www.soneuk.org
3. Pasa Puchah Guthi UK (PPGUK) London
Email: info@ppguk.org
URL: www.ppguk.org
4. Nepalese Doctors' Association UK (NDAUK)
Email: chairman@ndauk.org.uk
URL: www.ndauk.org.uk
5. Britain-Nepal Chamber of Commerce (BNCC)
Email: info@bncc.org.uk
URL: www.bncc.org.uk
6. Non-Resident Nepali Association UK (NRNAUK)
Email: info.nccuk.nrna.org
URL: www.nccuk.nrna.org

Video recording of the seminar can be viewed here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NJyo1sD3Euo>

