

**The New Leadership in Nepal – an adventurous but exciting balance of power!**

Dear Members, Namaste!

In the last few months we witnessed very exciting and surprising developments in the political landscape of Nepal, the most fundamental being the transition of the worlds only Hindu monarchy into the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal. Soon after, we were puzzled with the Constituent Assembly electing **Dr. Ram Baran Yadav**, a former physician with an NC party booklet, as the first President of Nepal. On August 18, the very same election body finally empowered **Pushpa Kamal Dahal**, a graduate in agricultural science and former Maoist rebel leader, better known as Prachanda, as the new Prime Minister of the country. It will be very interesting to see on how this balance of power between the two major rival organizations of the past decade will work for the sake of the nation and its people.

Although the President is primarily the ceremonial head of state, he still plays an important role in the transitional political system in Nepal. The President has the duty to protect the interim constitution whereas the Prime Minister has to take the oath of office from the President and also submit the resignation to him. In addition, the President is the

supreme commander of the Nepal army. Finally, the Constituent Assembly is the interim legislature and its main task is to write the new constitution.

The new Prime Minister must have the confidence of a simple majority of the Constituent Assembly. If the new government is going to be stable, the Prime Minister will dominate the political system and the President's role will mainly be a ceremonial one. However, if



*Dr. Ram Baran Yadav  
President*

*Pushpa Kamal Dahal (Prachanda)  
Prime Minister*

there are problems to establish a stable government due to constantly changing political alliances in the Constituent Assembly, the President could play a more active role in the search of an alternative arrangement.

**Women reflections on Naya Nepal**

As for this edition, the Namaskar team is proud to be able to share with you, dear Members, the views and dreams of four CA representatives, all influencing women leaders of various parties. We were very lucky to have the chance to

interview these distinguished personalities and would like to invite you to read their reflections on the opportunities and challenges of the so-called "Naya Nepal". Naya Nepal stands for all the revolutionary changes that we witnessed in the recent past, but also for the hopes and expectations that the people of Nepal now have for their personal and the nation's future.

**Hearty Welcome**

I would kindly like to warmly welcome almost 20 new members since the beginning of 2008 and hope that you all find many new friends in the Swiss-Nepalese Society. Your participation in the organization's activities is of course highly appreciated. Furthermore, I am happy to announce a significant reinforcement of our board: Sara Elmer and

Edi Ochsner have joined the team. Please find short portraits with a brief description of their responsibilities on the very last page of this Namaskar newsletter.

On behalf of the entire SNS board I would like to wish you and your families peace-, joy, and colorful Dhasain and Dipawali festivals.

*Dhasami ra Dipawali ko lagi  
Tapaiharu sabbai-lai subbha  
kamana beкта gardhachu.*

**Markus Ruckstuhl,  
18 August 2008.  
President Swiss-Nepalese Society.**

**You may joke about anything except about a person's caste.**