

# Happy 2066 to all of You

Markus Ruckstuhl 22. April 2009  
President Swiss-Nepalese Society

**Dear Members, Namaste!**

On behalf of all board members of the Swiss-Nepalese Society let me extend cordial greetings and best wishes to you and your families for a very happy, healthy, successful and prosperous New Year 2066, Bikram Sambat.

I sincerely hope you all started the New Year with a most enjoyable party together with your family and friends. Personally I should not miss the opportunity to express my sincere thanks to our friends of the Nepali JSS Switzerland for organizing a wonderful New Year's Eve event in Aarau.

## **Progress on the Constitution Making Process**

As part of the ongoing process for drafting a new constitution, 40 teams of Constituent Assembly (CA) members visited all districts of the country to collect public opinion and suggestions based on a rather extensive and complex questionnaire. CA members discussed in this large scale participatory approach with people and representatives of all walks of life on how to draft an inclusive constitution, in order to get the ordinary citizens buy-in for the new constitution.

Along the overall positive feedback on this unique approach, concerns were raised whether the questionnaires were too difficult and extensive. Observers seriously doubted whether a majority of both the interviewees and the interviewees



fully comprehend the content of the forms due to language as well as the sheer complexity of the matter. We all are very curious on the analysis of the feedbacks yet to be published. Find more background information about the entire process compiled by Bishnu Bhusal on pages 4-5.

## **Very Dry Winter affects Agriculture and Business**

The winter monsoon season this year was very dry, badly affecting almost all winter crops like wheat, barley and legumes. It remains to be seen to what level humanitarian support will be needed to avoid food shortages in the hill areas. The missing rainfalls also caused very many devastating wildfires and most obviously an accentuation of the energy supply situation as many of the water reservoirs had a record low water level. Let's hope that the summer monsoon will be ab-

undant and help to ease the situation.

Up to 16 hours of load-shedding per day have badly hampered the Nepali economy – an effect that probably even outpaced the effect of the global economic crisis. A temporary relieve of this situation can be expected for the coming summer months but similar problems must be anticipated for the next winter period, even if the 2009 summer monsoon rainfalls will be extensive. Dr. PK Adhikary shares with you on page 6-8 his interesting thoughts on the future energy situation with a special focus on the hydropower potential.

Last but not least, I am very much looking forward to welcoming all of you at the upcoming General Assembly that is taking place on 20 June 2009 at the Helferei in Zurich downtown (see invitation in the inserts to this Namaskar).