

## **From the Desk of Editorial Committee**

The year 2015 (2072 BS) has been an indelible year for we Nepali people. A 7.6 Richter scale earthquake on April 25 (epicentre Barpak, Gorkha) and a 6.7 Richter scale aftershock on May 12 shook Nepal and took lives of more than 9,000 people, and injured over 23,000. The quake mainly devastated the central region of Nepal; destroyed more than half a million houses and 7,000 schools and hundreds of public buildings also succumbed to its destructive power. Dozens of heritage sites have turned into heaps of rubbles, and infrastructures have been fractured. It is estimated that the economic value of the lost property is over \$ 7 billion – about one-third of the country's annual GDP. Loss of life and sufferings of the wounded are beyond material damages. We pray the Almighty God for eternal peace of the departed souls and wish for the injured victims' speedy recovery and well-beingness.

A wider-ranged magnanimous response followed in the form of spontaneous helping hands from all nooks and corners within the country and from abroad. The humanitarian support to the victims turned out to be more powerful than the power of all tremors combined – a moment that is most considerable and Nepalese are proud of it. But then, there is an ugly part of the story. It is reported that there has been rampant corruption in the form of misuse of the relief materials and funds; and inhumane activity in the form of child trafficking from the affected areas. It is not surprising – our society is composed of not only haves and have-nots, but of benevolent and corrupt ones as well. Although this is not something that happens within the boundaries of Nepal only but are widespread all over the world – of course with different degrees of prevalence. It's unfortunate that these inhumane and anti-social incidents are taking place in spite of constitutional commitments, provisions in the laws and institutions to fight against them. In different parts of the world, culprits are executed, sent for life imprisonment, and billions of dollars are paid as fines or settlement fees, yet such activities still persist in the society.

What lesson and message it all has for us? What can we do to enhance the benevolence and eliminate corruptions? Probably the 'secular ethics' – the selflessness and compassion - in the words of Dalai Lama; the ethics – the fragrance of wisdom as per Gita; the ethics for which Hazrat Muhammad descended to perfect; and the ethics in the form of integrity and uprightness Jesus commanded among all waiting for Him could be a single sword with double-edge. But alas! It is the topic we preach the most and practise the least. Can we reverse the order – practise more than what we preach? For this to happen appropriate legal and institutional set ups, enforcement of the rule of law, and following the principles of good governance could be the prerequisites, but adhering to the ethical value may be the real solution. Therefore, let us make ethical consideration the acid test of our every decision – be it in private or public life.

Many obstacles have crept in during the publication of this Journal, but we have overcome them, therefore, it is at your hand now. We are committed to bring the next issue in time and apologize for the delay this time. We thank all the paper contributors, well-wishers, the campus chief, teachers, staff, and students for the unconditional support extended to the editorial committee.

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