IAWRT NEPAL CHAPTER REPORT
2017-18

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IAWRT Nepal

International Association of Women in Radio and Television (IAWRT) Nepal is a not for profit making organization, which is one of the chapters of IAWRT International, a global organization formed by professional women working in the electronics and allied media. IAWRT Nepal was formed in December 2006 and received its charter on October 2007 at the IAWRT 32nd Biennial Conference held in Nairobi, Kenya. It has 32 active members from televisions, radios, and communication backgrounds. It provides opportunities and contributes towards the development of women in broadcasting by exchanging experiences, professional and technical knowledge as well as offering trainings and workshops.

**Mission:** to strengthen women’s views and values in the media.

**Vision:** to advance women journalist in leadership roles.

**Full Board**

President
Montessori Rajbhandary

Vice-president
Mallika Bhattarai

Secretary
Mandira Raut

Treasurer
Chanda Bista

Member
Sailaja Singh

Member
Sangita Thapa

Member
Nitu Pandit

Member
Anusha Poudel

Member
Neeta Sapkota
HIGHLIGHTS

- PINKATHON Kathmandu
  February, 2017

- IAWRT Women Film Festival
  10 April 2017

- AGM And New Board
  2017-2019

- Film Making Training
  16 November, 2018

- Creative writing Training
  April 19, 2018

- Story Telling Workshop
  July 29, 2018
Pinkathon
Kathmandu

Kathmandu Pinkathon was the first International Pinkathon jointly organized by Leisure Port and Shivam Holiday Group Pvt. Ltd. in association with the Athletics Association of Nepal. This was a run only for women in the category of 3 km, 5 km, 10 km, and 21 km. The event was held at the Dashratha Stadium on 24th February 2017 from 7 am to 10 am. The presence of Pinkathon creator, model and actor, Man Milind Soman made this event a big attraction. Nepalese celebrities from various walks of life, namely sports, glamour, business, social work, etc., joined in solidarity with this run for women empowerment. A huge crowd of young women made the run of a big excitement and a successful one.

IAWRT Nepal was the supporter and one of the media campaign for the event. IAWRT Nepal also took a lead to organize free health check up of breast cancer at the event.
Women Film Festival

IAWRT Nepal and IAWRT India chapter collaboratively organised Women’s Film Festival in April 10, 2017. The event was held in Nepal Tourism Board (NTB). The associate partners of this one-day film festival were Oscar International College (College of film studies), UN Women, Shivam Group, Sancharika Samuha and NTB. Utsah Nepal was the registration partner for the event. The event showcased ten films, conducted two panel discussions followed by interactions with the film directors/ producers, senior media personalities and women activists.

A total of 10 long and short films were showcased. Such films were Velvet Revolution by Nupur Basu; Butte Jama (Nepal) by Kala Sangroula; Memory of a Heart (India) by Tribeney Rai; Radio Melamchi 107.2 (Nepal) by Rajeela Shrestha and Ghar Studio Hai (India) by Hansa Thapliyal; Slider (Japan) by Maki Satake and Harikatha Prasanga (India); Hum Tum Ek Kamre Mein Band Ho by artists Agents of Ishq etc.

The Film Festival brought an overwhelming excitement to the women film producers and directors as they got opportunities to communicate and build networks with internationally well-known media personalities, film producers/directors from India and Nepal.
Annual General Meeting

IAWRT Nepal Chapter successfully conducted Annual General Meeting 2017 under the Chairmanship of Anupa Shrestha, IAWRT Nepal President on 1st November 2017.

One of the main agendas of the AGM was to form a new board and the new board formed with nine members led by the President Montessori Rajbhandari. Full Board is as below:

1. President- Montessori Rajbhandari
2. Vice-President: Mallika Bhattarai
3. Secretary Mandira Raut
4. Treasurer Chanda Bista
5. B. Member: Nitu Pandit
6. B. Member- Shailaza Singh
7. B. Member- Anusha Poudyal
8. B. Member- Nita Sapkota
9. B. Member: Sangita Pant Thapa

New Board with immediate President
Film Making Sharing Workshop

On November 16, 2017, IAWRT Nepal organized one day interactive session on Film Making. Gerda Larsson, Director at Giving Wings Foundation and Futura Foundation and Nadia shared about the journalist and film making experience (both independent and TV) in the context of ideas, research, production, post production with a focus on women/gender empowerment issues. They also shared information about film making resources, funding possibilities especially for women specific projects. A total of 15 women journalist working with the leading Television Channels and Radios participated in the Interaction Session where they got in depth knowledge about the film making process and selection of contents. They also knew about the challenges women film makers should face while in the field and getting funds. The session was very interactive.
Activities in 2018

Creative Writing Training

On July 19, 2018, IAWRT Nepal organized one day training in creative writing. The specific objective of the training was to enhance the knowledge on writing in the media and was more focused on the techniques of making the story short and interesting and the target participants were IAWRT members and women from electronic and allied media. Dr. Archana Thapa, an internationally reknowned writer, creator conducted the session, where she taught techniques of developing stories and making them interesting, informative and simple. The training was followed by individual writing, presentation as well as group work. Apparently the participants learned skills of different types of writing for different purposes such as for online news, social media, blog, paper and news reporting.
Story Telling Training/Workshop

Many Women Journalists even today, despite being good writers and working in Media, lack storytelling skills; and it has created a communication barrier between sender and receiver. In order to address this barrier and teach them the process of creating story and communication techniques, IAWRT Nepal Chapter conducted a one day Story Telling Training to IAWRT members and women journalist on 27 July 2018. The training was delivered by Ms. Neeta Shapkota, Board Member of IAWRT Nepal Chapter. She taught them important and significant techniques of storytelling to make any story more clear and impactful to the audience. She stressed the best stories are those which create a central question, make curiosity, build tension, have ups and downs; have climax; answer the central question; and tell the universal truth. Besides, the story must be educational; understandable; and attractive.

Participants from various TV, Radio, Newspaper and Online media were present at the training. Ms. Montessori Rajbhandari, President, IAWRT Nepal Chapter facilitated the interaction session. The training was followed by the documentary presentation and story recitation.
**Award**

**Neeta Shapkota**, Board Member of IAWRT Nepal received a National Award from the Ministry of Education, Nepal Government for the outstanding contribution to "Educational Journalism" on the 13th of July 2018.

**Shangita Thapa Panta** is awarded with the national award for outstanding contributing in program production the Nepal Television, only the Government owned TV Channel in Nepal.

**Appointed as a Leader**

Nitu Pandit, an active IAWRT Board Member, has been unanimously selected as Chairperson of Sancharika Samuha Nepal from the seventh general convention. Shanchariya Samuha is a pioneer forum of women journalists and communicators in Nepal which works to safeguard the rights of women journalists in particular and women in general.
Upcoming Event for 2018

- Film Making Competition among Nepalese Women
- Film Festival
- Exposure Visit