



# Breakfast Chatter



**Rotary Club of Kathmandu Mid-Town**  
District 3292, Club 26776, Chartered 08 Nov. 1989

September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008

Weekly Bulletin

Vol. 8 of '08/'09

## Speaker of the Week

**Mr. Govinda Gajurel** (hosted by PP Rtn. Gopal)

## Calendar

Date	Theme
Sept. 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Mr. Govinda Gajurel</b> , Executive Director, Manmohan Memorial Polytechnic, Biratnagar will speak on vocational training.
Sept. 8 <sup>th</sup>	International Literacy Day
Sept. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Club Assembly
Sept. 19 <sup>th</sup>	No Friday meeting.
Sept. 21 <sup>st</sup>	Brunch meeting. Former Mid-Towner <b>Rtn. Larry Meek</b> and 20 members of his present Rotary Club will be in Nepal. Let us plan to welcome them with typical Nepali hospitality! (details to follow)

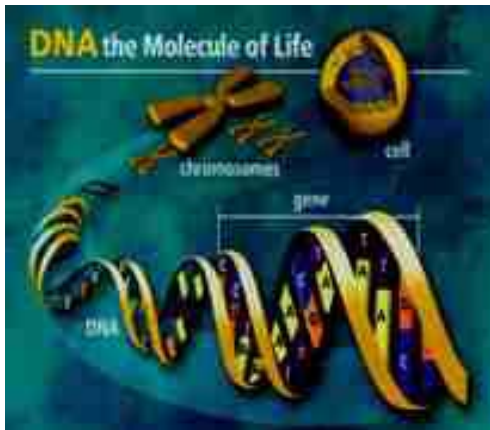
## International Literacy Day



### International Literacy Day

8 September

Literacy is a cause for celebration since there are now close to four billion literate people in the world. However, literacy for all – children, youth and adults - is still an unaccomplished goal and an ever moving target. A combination of ambitious goals, insufficient and parallel efforts, inadequate resources, and strategies, and continued underestimation of the magnitude and complexity of the task accounts for this unmet goal. Lessons learnt over recent decades show that meeting the goal of universal literacy calls not only for more effective efforts but also for renewed political will and for doing things differently at all levels - locally, nationally and internationally.

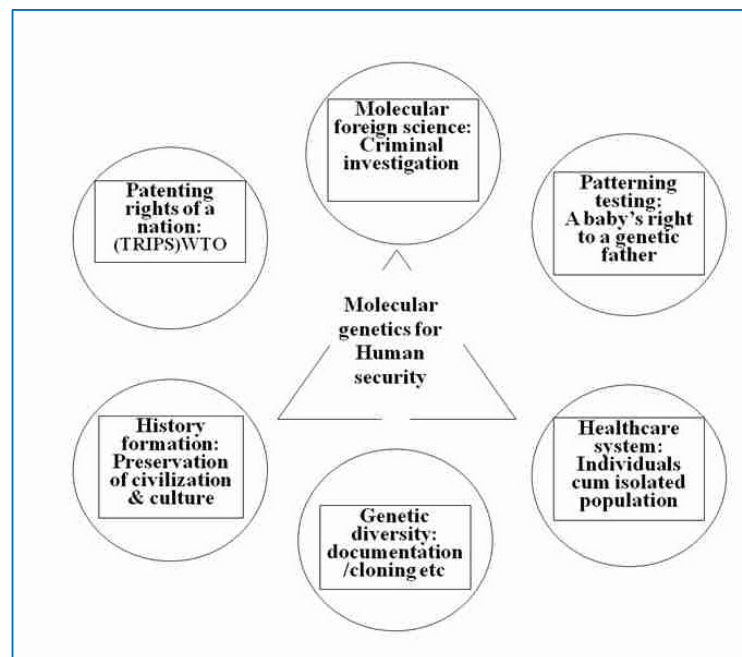


Prof. Nanda Bahadur Singh is an assistant professor at the Central Department of Zoology and Environmental Science, Tribhuvan University (T.U.). Last Friday he spoke to Mid-Town on some of the work he has done and continues to do ethnogenetics and ethnobiology of six Nepalese indigenous populations. Prof. Singh is mapping the DNA signature of these ethnic groups and has so far revealed four 'novel' DNA signatures.

Nepal is an interesting place to carry out work in ethno-biology because its history and difficult terrain has kept different ethnic

groups apart for hundreds of years so that their genetic markers have remained intact and unique. The aim of his work is to shed light on the genetic adaptation, origin, historical migration, admixture as well as genetic relationship among Nepalese ethnic groups. His work uses sequencing and genotyping to genetic markers as well as to picture out the infectious ethnobiology of the isolated groups based on viral serology.

His work shows that these various groups are distinct not only



culturally and linguistically but also at the very fundamental level of the genome.

The many uses of DNA testing are outlined in the figure above.

Prof. Singh also finds time for social work and over the past 20 year has found many ways to be of service to the community; he is presently Secretary of the Rotary Club of Jawalakhel.



**What are Rotaracts?** Rotaract is one of a series of youth programmes created by Rotary International, which focuses on the development of young adults as leaders in their communities and workplaces by training and community service, locally and worldwide. Rotaract was founded in 1968 by Rotary International, a worldwide association of service-minded business and professional leaders. Today there are more than 7,500 Rotary-sponsored Rotaract Clubs in some 156 countries around the world, with over 173,000 members.

"Rotaract" stands for "Rotary in Action".



Most Rotaract activities take place at the club level. Rotaract clubs hold formal meetings, usually every two weeks, which feature speakers, special outings, social activities, discussions or visits to other clubs. Club members get together on designated days for service project work, social events, or professional and/or leadership development workshops. The purpose of Rotaract is to provide an opportunity for young men and women to enhance the knowledge and skills that will assist them in personal development, to address the physical and social

needs of their communities, and to promote better relations between all people worldwide through a framework of friendship and service.



Every year an awards ceremony is held to honor Rotaract Clubs that have distinguished themselves in a number of categories. On Saturday Aug. 23, 2008 our Mid-Town Rotaracts again did us proud by winning an outstanding number of trophies and awards in a number of categories including: The Mid-Town Rotaracts have received the following Rotaract District Awards 2007-09:



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## Health Camp Held

Rtn. Pradeep Man Vaidya, PP Patan West, has informed that on Aug. 29th: Sarvanga Nursing Home and Advance Polyclinic, both owned by Rotarians, organised a FREE HEALTH CAMP in collaboration with a leading hospital in eastern India: AMRI Hospitals, Kolkata. Five prominent doctors from Calcutta provide free consultation on appointment. On the following day these doctors also presented a lecture on preventative health care.

## Mid-Town Humour



*"They're harmless when they're alone, but get a bunch of them together with a research grant and watch out."*

Please send information/suggestions/photos for the next volume to:

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