Name: Mr. Birendra Raj Pokharel

President - National Federation of the Disabled-Nepal
Convener - DAISY Nepal Foundation
Vice Chair - DPI Asia Pacific
Chair - DPI South Asia
Member - National Development Forum under Planning Commission in Nepal
-Special Education Council under Ministry of Education
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It was 1993, when Mr. Pokharel lost both eyesight due to bilateral optic atrophy at the age of 26, he already had completed Masters Degree in statistics in Distinction. As there was no cure, he transformed the challenges of Visual Disability as an opportunity to be involved in the disability movement and committed himself for promoting and protecting the rights of Persons With Disabilities.

He initially came closer with the community of Visual Disability and later in 2002 he got involved in International level joining advance level computer course in the International human Resource Center for Disabled (IHRDC), India, from where, he was nominated for participating the 11th World Conference of 'International Council for the Education of Visually Impaired People' (ICEVI) in the Netherlands in 2002. He could learn so many practices in the global context during the entire conference, which he tried to adopt in Nepal in different forums. He participated training on 'Technical Aid for Visually Disabled People' in Japan in early 2003. Consequently he got closer in the cross-disabilities network and involved in 'National Federation of the Disabled-Nepal' (NFD-N) and successfully accomplished the 'Capacity Building Training/seminar for PWDs in Asia Pacific region' convened in Kathmandu, Nepal in February 2004 as principal secretariat, where he came more closer with the Disabled Peoples' International and many Disabled leaders of Asia-Pacific Region.

From 2004, he has been elected as President of NFDN and continuing. . Consequently, he joined 1st leadership training conducted by DPI-Korea in South Korea. As a president of Member National Assembly of DPIAP, he participated the 9th Regional Assembly in Thailand and got elected Regional Council Member in April 2005 and participated 7th DPI World Assembly convened in South Korea in September 2007. In September 2005, he participated in the Capacity Building Training Seminar for Self-Help Organization on Disability (CBSHOD) in Pakistan as speaker. In January 2006, he presented the paper in the 2nd Asian DeafBlind Conference convened in Dhaka, Bangladesh. In March 2006, he had successfully participated in the regional workshop on Legal Advocacy for the Defense of Disabled People in Bangkok. He participated in the Advance International training on Human Rights and Disability convened by The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) in Stockholm, Sweden from 8th May to 19th May, 2006 and extended long term cooperation of DPI Nepal with Disabled Peoples Organization Denmark (DPOD). In June 2010, he got elected Vice Chair of DPIAP and Chair Person of South Asia. He presented the paper on Universal Periodic Review and roles of Agents of Change Towards the Establishment of the Regional Decade on the effective implementation of CRPD.

He deserves highest appreciation for his incredible work on promoting Disability movement and for adopting Digital Accessible Information SYstem (DAISY) in Nepal. He has presently been involved in several National and International forums both in Governmental as well as Non-Governmental agencies such as: Central President- National Federation of the Disabled-Nepal (DPI-Nepal), Member- National Development Council, National Planning Commission, Member- Disabled Service National Coordination Committee, Chairperson- STARF-Nepal, Chairperson of Pragati Shiksha Sadan Secondary School. He is being involved as a resource person in several training/Workshops concerning Disability in National and International level.

During the Peoples movement in April 2006, he mobilized countrywide network of Disability and played vital role not only for accelerating the agitation but also deserved worldwide support and appreciation through Disabled Peoples' International and its global network for better intervention in the peace process through several collaboration and networking. In the present Constitution drafting process, he has been invited as expert in disability Rights by several sub committee under Constitutional Assembly. He has translated the "Convention on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities" (CRPD in Nepali Language and developed the DAISY DTB in the same version. While working in the Disabled community as a professional, he realized prominent lacking in relevant research in Disability issue, so he has been conducting Research for Ph. D. in Tribhuwan University, Department of Rural Development in the topic: Roles of Self-Help Organisation in Disability for inclusion in decision making levels for sustainable development.

He has written "End users handbook for Production and playback of DAISY Digital Books, handbook to facilitate CRPD ratification and other books concerning Disabilities and hundreds of articles in magazine and News papers.

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