

The official monthly newsletter of the KIOCH and KPALS

K-PULSE

APR -2024 - V3 Heartbeats of Change, Chronicle of Care



Kathmandu Institute of Child Health - KIOCH

K-PALS: KIOCH Partners of America.

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An Act of Compassion:

Nepalese
Government's Free
Healthcare Initiative

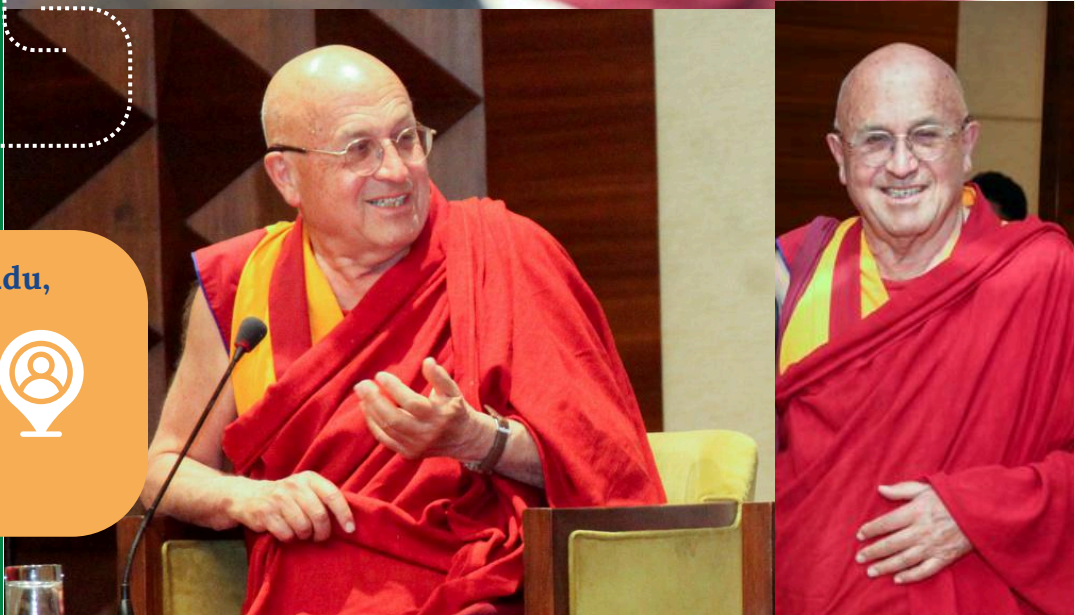
Meet Dipendra
Khadka

Donor Update

Get a Glimpse: KIOCH
Kathmandu children's
Hospital



If you're in Damak or Kathmandu,
please stop by to meet our
wonderful team. They'll be
delighted to show you the
progress of your contribution.



➤ AN ACT OF COMPASSION:

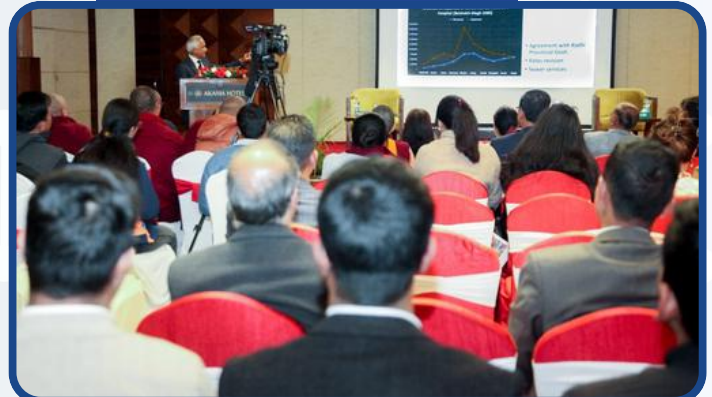
INSPIRING TALK EVENT HOSTED BY KIOCH AND KARUNA SHECHEN

On March 7, 2024, the Kathmandu Institute of Child Health (KIOCH) collaborated with Karuna Shechen to host an enlightening talk event titled '**An Act of Compassion**'.

The event drew a crowd of KIOCH's supporters and philanthropists eager to engage with our keynote speaker.

A standout moment of the evening was the keynote address delivered by Dr. Matthieu Ricard, a revered ordained Buddhist monk and globally acclaimed author. Dr. Ricard's profound reflections on altruism, animal rights, happiness, and wisdom resonated deeply with the audience. His exceptional humanitarian efforts, recognized with the French National Order of Merit, underscored his unwavering dedication to fostering positive change.

The event concluded with closing remarks from KIOCH's esteemed board member, Prof. Dr. Ramesh Kanta Adhikari, leaving attendees inspired and reaffirming KIOCH and Karuna Shechen's shared commitment to promoting compassion and kindness in our communities.



▶ NEPALESE GOVERNMENT'S FREE HEALTHCARE INITIATIVE:

KIOCH-DAMAK CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL'S VITAL ROLE IN PEDIATRIC TREATMENT PROGRAMS



A Child Specialist at KIOCH-Damak Children's Hospital, is seen in the photo examining a child who visited the hospital with their parents.

In the month of Falgun, **approximately 209 children received admission and treatment free of charge under the "Less than 10 years free treatment program,"** organized by the Nepalese government. This program aimed to alleviate the financial burden on parents by providing essential healthcare services to young patients in need.

A significant portion of these children, accounting for around 50%, came from the Jhapa district, while the remainder came from neighboring districts such as Morang, Illam, and Pachthar. The program primarily targeted children requiring specialized care in the NICU/PICU units, ensuring that families facing economic challenges could access crucial medical assistance without financial strain.

This initiative not only reflects the government's commitment to ensuring the well-being of Nepal's future generations but also highlights the invaluable contributions of healthcare institutions like KIOCH-Damak Children's Hospital. As an integral part of this endeavor, KIOCH-Damak Children's Hospital played a pivotal role in providing comprehensive care to these young patients, underscoring its dedication to serving the community and improving pediatric healthcare outcomes across the region.

STAFF CORNER: MEET DIPENDRA KHADKA

FROM SAHID GANGALAL HEART CENTER TO KIOCH:

A JOURNEY OF LEARNING AND COMMITMENT TO AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE



Dipendra Khadka
Project Coordinator

Working at the Sahid Gangalal Heart Center, the first specialized center for cardiac care in Nepal for almost a quarter of a decade in different capacities, starting from the assistant level to the chief of administration, gave abundant amount of learning in terms of possibilities and also gaps in the health care system of the country. Working closely with Prof. Dr. Bhagawan Koirala instilled, in me, a character of being transparent, accountable and proactive. It was a great opportunity to understand the requirement of specialized health care services both from the demand side and supply side perspective. The program of free care for certain cardiac cases for the specified age groups proved that health care can be made affordable and accessible

with small commitment from the state side which, otherwise, would be a far dream for the people from lower economic quintile and from remote locations.

I take it as an opportunity to be associated with KIOCH which aims to provide accessible and affordable healthcare to all children of Nepal. With my experience in the Sahid Gangalal Heart Center and my academic qualification of Master's in Public Administration and M. Phil. in Management, I think, I can be a contributing member of the team. The not-for-profit model is the main essence of the project. Investment in profit making ventures is easier to avail but that creates a compulsion to generate more revenue thus higher user fees. Accumulating financial support from different strata of the society demands extra effort but that is the core to make the services affordable. On behalf of the team, I bestow my sincere gratitude to all who directly or indirectly are part of this mission and urge all to join hands to establish a hassle free health care system for the children which will, in turn, contribute to the peace and harmony of the nation.

RECENT SUCCESS STORY

AAYUSHMAN'S JOURNEY: FINDING CARE AND COMFORT AT KIOCH DAMAK

Meet Aayushman Khadka, a resilient one-year-old from Jhapa, whose recent battle with tonsillitis led him to the care of KIOCH-Damak Children's Hospital. Despite his tender age, Aayushman faced his health challenge head-on, supported by the dedicated medical staff at KIOCH Damak. His journey through treatment underscored the hospital's commitment to providing accessible and affordable healthcare to all, with Aayushman's mother commending the cost-effective services and exceptional care provided. Their experience exemplifies KIOCH Damak's mission to ensure that every child receives the quality healthcare they deserve, regardless of their background or circumstances.



DONOR UPDATES

➤ **K-PALS CONTRIBUTES \$60,000 TO KIOCH**

Central to our mission is a firm commitment to the health and welfare of children. This year, we've reached a significant landmark in our efforts, with the successful distribution of \$60,000 in raised funds to the Kathmandu Institute of Child Health (KIOCH) in Nepal.

This financial assistance is a testament to the generosity of our donors like you, whose faith and dedication to improving children's healthcare in Nepal are crucial. ***The K-PALS team is actively involved in academic pursuits, research initiatives, and policy-making processes with a focus on long-term objectives.***

As we commemorate this achievement, we want to express our sincere thanks for your constant support and confidence in our mission. Together, we are making strides toward ensuring that every child has access to the best possible healthcare.

➤ **SOALTEE HOTEL LTD. STEPS UP WITH GENEROUS DONATION TO KIOCH-KATHMANDU CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL**

In a remarkable display of corporate social responsibility (CSR), Soaltee Hotel Ltd. has once again extended its support to the construction of KIOCH-Kathmandu Children's Hospital. Adding to their previous donation of NPR 5 million, Soaltee Hotel Ltd. has **contributed an additional NPR 2.5 million** towards this noble cause.

The KIOCH family expresses deep gratitude for this generous gesture, recognizing the invaluable impact it will have on advancing pediatric healthcare in Nepal. Such partnerships highlight the collective commitment to providing quality medical services to children in need.



A GLIMPSE INTO THE ONGOING CONSTRUCTION OF EAST BLOCK AT KIOCH-KATHMANDU CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

KIOCH-KATHMANDU CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

In our monthly newsletters, we provide updates on the construction progress of KIOCH-Kathmandu Children's Hospital, highlighting milestones achieved and significant strides made.




Rapid Progress: We're pleased to announce the completion of final inspection works for rebar and materials, with raft concrete casting scheduled. The visible transformation reflects the collective dedication of our team.

Continuous Work: Our team works tirelessly every day to realize our mission of establishing a state-of-the-art facility for pediatric healthcare. Your unwavering support propels us forward in this noble endeavor.

Stay tuned for further updates as we progress towards the completion of KIOCH-Kathmandu Children's Hospital. Your support makes a positive impact on the lives of children in Nepal. Thank you for being part of this meaningful journey.







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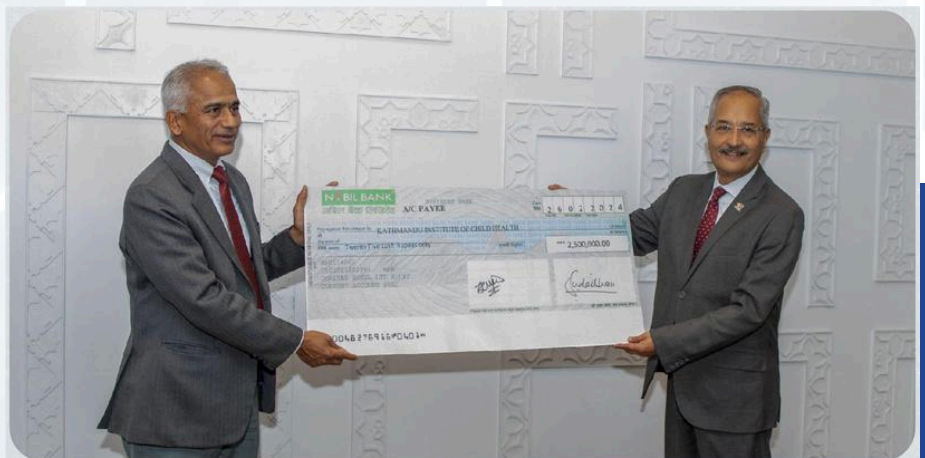


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PRERANA epitomizes a joint endeavor focused on elevating pediatric healthcare and research by facilitating educational exchange and research collaborations among pediatricians and residents in both Nepal and the USA.  

➤ **EXCITING UPDATES FROM K-PALS PHILANTHROPY COUNCIL!**

WE'RE THRILLED TO SHARE SOME EXCITING UPDATES FROM OUR RECENT VISITS TO KIOCH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL IN NEPAL!



KIOCH-Kathmandu Children's Hospital:

Our committee chair, Som Gurung, had the opportunity to visit the KIOCH-Kathmandu Children's Hospital and witness firsthand the progress of the main hospital building and the clinical and research building construction.

The newly built clinical and research facility will house research labs, meeting rooms, administration offices, and will soon open its doors for the public in the outpatient department (OPD). The main hospital building is also rapidly under construction.

It was inspiring to meet with the dedicated Nepal team, including Anu, Monika, Pratikshya, Mandar, and others, who are working tirelessly to make this vision a reality.



Expansion to Pokhara:

In addition to the Kathmandu visit, our committee chair, Som Gurung, also traveled to Pokhara alongside Dr. Bhagawan Koirala to meet with potential team members and stakeholders. The aim is to establish a strong KIOCH team in Pokhara, expanding our reach and impact to serve even more children in that region.

These visits underscore our commitment to advancing pediatric healthcare in Nepal and to work towards our mission of providing quality healthcare to every child.

If you're in Damak or Kathmandu, please stop by to meet our wonderful team. They'll be delighted to show you the progress of your contribution.