

## Press Release

The Chief Guest Honorable Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Prithvi Subba Gurung inaugurated the Central Annual General Meeting on 12 September 2007 at Hotel Yak and Yeti, Kathmandu, Nepal. Mr. Deebas Bickram Shah, General Secretary welcomed all the guests present in the program and highlighted the activities of NMA.

The Chief Guest awarded the "**Dr. Harka Parbatiya Puraskar**" - an award and a Medal, established in memory of former Chief Advisor, first State Minister for Tourism, renowned geographer, geologist, artist, versatile intellectual, tourism legendary late Dr. Harka Gurung to renowned Mountain legendary a living encyclopedia **Ms. Elizabeth Hawley** in recognition of her invaluable, incomparable and exemplary contribution in maintaining chronological development of mountaineering history of Himalaya. Ms. Hawley expressed her sincere gratitude towards Nepal Mountaineering Association and committed her active involvement in tourism field.

NMA President Mr. Ang Tshering Sherpa announced NMA Award "**Kumar Khadga Bikram Adventurous Award 2007**"-A **Golden Ice Axe** established in memory of founder President late Kumar Khadga Bikram Shah will be awarded to **Ms. Meagen McGrath**, an aerospace engineer with the Canadian Air Force. She risked her life to rescue a female Nepali climber Ms. Usha Bista, who had fallen sick on the way to the summit of Mount Everest on 21 May 2007. Ms. Bista was suffering from cerebral edema and barely conscious at an altitude of 8,300m when she was first found by Ms. McGrath. NMA honors her courage in rescuing the life of Nepali female. NMA President Ang Tshering Sherpa thanked all those who involved for the rescued of Ms. Usha Bista specially Mr. Dave Hagen of USA, Lhakpa Rita Sherpa of Nepal.

Another award "**Dawa Norbu Mountain Tourism Journalism Award 2007**" established in memory of late President Dawa Norbu Sherpa is awarded to **Mr. Bhola Rana**, a renowned journalist for his continuous contribution in mountain tourism field. Mr. Rana is a reputed senior Tourism based writer. He is actively involved in the promotion of Mountain Tourism through the print and electronic media since long back.

The Chief Guest awarded letter of appreciation to the top ten trekking agencies who issued highest number of permit from Nepal Mountaineering Association.

The Chief Guest, Hon'ble Minister encouraged NMA to involve in the development of Mountain tourism, conservation of mountain environment and rescue activities in the Nepal Himalaya. He also congratulate for the success of the Central Annual General Meeting of NMA.

In the closing remarks, NMA Vice President Mr. Zimba Zangbu Sherpa, thanked the Chief Guests and other guests for their gracious presence in the function.

Ang Tshering Sherpa  
President, Nepal Mountaineering Association

13 September 2007