



ANNUAL REPORT

2017-2018

Freedom Forum

1. Introduction

1.1 Brief Introduction to Organization:

Freedom Forum is an independent, non-governmental and not-for-profit civil society organization working for the cause of democracy and human rights focused on press freedom, freedom of expression and right to information in Nepal. Incepted in 2005, FF has emerged as a prominent national organization in promoting access to information, freedom of expression and open development through dialogue, research, training, public advocacy and campaign and programme execution. The organization is also working on the issues of open governance/open data, public finance management, budget/aid transparency and political and parliamentary accountability and electoral reform based on its on-hand experience and learning. Adding new dimension to its regular activities, FF initiated Gender monitoring of nepali media contents since last year. The Forum has brought out numerous books, research journals, newsletters, periodic reports and policy papers on different dimensions of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), open development agenda and their effects, impacts and development.

This is a purely social organization registered with the District Administration Office of Kathmandu (Regd.127/062/063) and the Social Welfare Council (Affiliation No.18518) of Nepal. Its head office is in Kathmandu, Nepal. FF has different contact offices and representatives in regional and district sites to coordinate programs at local level. It has 11 member Board of Directors, 30 general members, 16 staffs. FF's General Assembly is held every year.

1.2 Major Objectives:

The key objectives of the organization are

- a) Protection and promotion of freedom expression and information
- b) Promotion and development of professional journalism
- c) Defending journalists, Right to Information activists and freedom of expression practitioners
- d) Promotion, protection and practice of the right to information
- e) Promotion of human rights and democratic norms and values
- f) Research/study, civic monitoring, oversight, education and advocacy for the guarantee of free and fair elections

- g) Promotion of the use of media, Right to Information, Open Data and Public Financial Management (PFM) tools to support the movement and campaign for social justice and development of disadvantaged people
- h) Contribution to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through exchange of ideas, experience and learning at national and international level being focused on attaining the targets of Goal 16
- i) Affiliation and participation in regional and global networks related to transparency, right to information, freedom of expression, free and professional press, civic engagement and Open Government Part
- j) Undertake action research and study to draw evidences for advocacy in its core areas of works.
- k) Monitor, research and lobby for gender inclusive media

1.3 About the Report:

This is an annual report containing major activities and achievements accomplished by FF during a year-long period spanning from **July 16, 2017 to July 16, 2018**. The primary objective of the report is to disclose overall core and partnership activities, learning, and outcomes of the organizational initiatives and demonstrate its track record and competence to execute ideas aligning the key themes of the organization. The report is expected to serve as a well-documentation of the key efforts of the organization to attain its objectives and a consolidated contribution FF made to the country's national development objective.

Information contained in this report have been widely extracted from the newsletters, project documents, project reports, press releases, website updates, meetings and discussion notes, media coverage and sharing on social media.

2. Major Activities and Accomplishments:

FF carried out several activities to promote its core values with support of funding partners. The partnership information and major activities undertaken by FF during the period are presented in a following manner.

2.1 Partnership Projects executed :

Partnership program refers project and intervention executed in collaboration with different funding agencies. This year FF worked in partnership with following international organizations.

A. Open Budget Survey 2017

Duration: June 2016 to 2018

Funding Agency: International Budget Partnership (IBP)

Project Site: National Budget System of the country

Project Nature: Research and Advocacy

Financial Grant: NRs. 1000000/-

B. Enabling Conducive Atmosphere for Free Safe and Inclusive Media in Nepal (ECAFSIM)- No News Is Bad News

Duration: January- December 2018

Funding Agency: Free Press Unlimited (FPU)

Project Site: Kathmandu and Nawalparasi

Financial grant: NRs. 11229300/-

C. Enable Environment for Media law Reforms and Improved RTI Practice (EEMIR) (CS:MAP)

Duration: January 2017 to June 2019

Funding Agency: FHI 360

Project Site: Kathmandu

Financial grant: NRs. 14653286/-

D. Support to Enable Environment for Free, Accountable and Sustainable Media in Nepal (SEFAS)- No News Is Bad News

Duration: January 2017 to December 2017

Funding Agency: Free Press Unlimited (FPU)

Project Site: Kathmandu

Financial grant: NRs. 9816900/-

E. Sustainable use of Technology for Public Sector Accountability in Nepal (SUSASAN)

Duration: April 17, 2017 to March 30, 2020

Funding Agency: Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI)

Project Site: Sindhupalchowk, Lalitpur, Dadeldhura, Achham, Kailali and Bajhang

Financial grant: NRs. 16447001/24

F. One Day Workshop on Right to Information & Open Government

Duration: February 23 to March 31 2018

Funding Agency: The Asia Foundation

Project Site: Kathmandu

Financial grant: NRs. 882739/-

G. Campaign and Advocacy on Digital Issue

Duration: July 16 to November 30 2017

Funding Agency: International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX)

Project Site: Kathmandu

Financial grant: NRS. 986654/-

2.2. Thematic Activities accomplished:

2.2.1 Democracy: Our activities are focused to promote democratic principles, norms, values and standards and to strengthen democratic structures and to foster democratic culture in Nepal. Activities carried out during this year under this theme are as follows:

A. Dialogue on democracy marks Int'l Democracy Day

Freedom Forum organized a dialogue on “*Challenges and way out for Democracy in Nepal*” in Kathmandu on 15 September marking the International Democracy Day. The program was aimed at seeking views on the challenges to whet debate on Democracy in Nepal. The program was attended by 37 participants representing various sectors as media, academic, politics, law, among others. The program was held as part of the activity of the project EEMIR CS:MAP supported by FHI 360.

(For details, please click [here](#))

B. Call to advance OGP for responsive governance

Various stakeholders underlined the need for the country to join Open Government Partnership (OGP) — a global movement promoting the values of transparency, accountability, participation and technological innovation at an interaction program ‘Open Government Partnership: Status and Way Forward’ organized by the Good Governance Committee of the Legislature-Parliament with support from UNDP on August 30, 2017.

As many as 60 participants including parliamentarians, CSO representatives, media, academia and tech scientists provided their inputs to the theme of open government partnership.

(For details, please click [here](#))

C. Citizen-State Engagement

FF developed radio PSA under the Sustainable use of Technology for Public Sector Accountability in Nepal (SUSASAN) project. The PSA was broadcast through Radio Nepal from November to December 2017. Similarly, Knowledge Aptitude and Practice (KAP) Survey was conducted in project locations Sindhupalchok, Lalitpur, Kailali, Dadeldhura, Achham and Bajhang districts in order to identify Knowledge, Practice, and Attitude on Citizen-State Engagement in democratic citizenry process, decision making and leadership at local government.

2.2.2 Freedom of Expression: Among the major accomplishments made by FF for the consolidation and strengthening of freedom of expression and of press are constant lobby and advocacy for policy reform on media sector, public awareness, drawing up Agenda for Change (AFC) as a long-term plan for the enhancement of freedom of expression in line with international standard.

Specific activities carried out under this theme are:-

A. Roundtable discussion on 'National Broadcasting Sector and Establishment of National Broadcasting Authority'

Freedom Forum organized discussion among concerned stakeholders on 'National Broadcasting Sector and Establishment of National Broadcasting Authority' in Kathmandu on August 6, 2017. The program was organized with an objective to bring forth the voices on the relevance of National Broadcasting Authority in Nepal which was the issue unheard for long.

(For details, please refer [here](#))

B. Freedom Forum engages in first Internet Governance Forum in Nepal; open, secure, safe internet stressed

Freedom Forum engaged actively in the two-day Internet Governance Forum held in Kathmandu from 18 August to 19, 2017. Throughout the mega event, Freedom Forum

participated in different sessions as moderators, speakers and active listeners and debater, so that the issues around the internet ecosystem were propelled and the participants agitated to whet discussions.

(For details, please refer [here](#))

D. FF Shows Concern on OMOD with Parliamentarians

Freedom Forum reviewed the directive from the time MOIC floated the proposal as 'Online Media Operation and Management Directive' to which FF showed serious concern noting that it was faulty and discouraging to right to freedom of expression and internet-based media. With regard to this, FF prepared a study report on OMOD 2017, and also engaged in a way to file Writ petition in Supreme Court dated February 17, 2017 stating the fact that the ground for the OMOD is unconstitutional and it restricts the practice of freedom of expression via internet platform in Nepal. Although the writ was registered, hearing date has not been fixed yet.

(For details, please refer [here](#))

E. Report on Impact of Flood in Nepali Media released

Freedom Forum releases a report on media status during flood. Data have shown that Nepali media is unsafe from natural disasters hence, time has come for the stakeholders concerned to mull how media can be kept safe during the floods and inundations especially in southern plains of the country.

(Full report available [here](#))

F. Media Missions

Freedom Forum conducted three media mission in Province No. 1 and 2. In province 2, the mission met the stakeholders including journalists in four major districts as Saptari, Siraha, Dhanusha and Mahottari to monitor the overall status of press freedom, freedom of expression and journalist' safety.(Full report available [here](#))

Likewise, in province 1 media mission was conducted in Morang and Sunsari districts. Report is available [here](#) .

G. Discussion on Sustainable Development Goal 16.10 (1 and 2)

Freedom Forum held the discussion on October 11, 2018 where the government officials realized the issues of safety of journalists and access to information of SDG Goal 16.10 were ignored while developing national baseline and targets. The realization came at a

dialogue program titled 'Collaboration for Realizing SDGs Goal 16.10' that brought together diverse stakeholders ranging from Chief Information Commissioner, government officials, CSO representatives, media fraternity, freedom of expression and access to information activists.

(For details, please click [here](#))

H. Interaction program on "Freedom of Expression and Media Policy and Law"

Freedom Forum held the interaction program on 16 October, gathering different stakeholders, including media fraternity, regarding different policy documents and laws relating to freedom of expression endorsed and passed by the government. The main document FF brought to discussion comprises National Mass Communication Policy (NMCP) 2016, Online Media Operation Directive (OMOD) 2017, Bill on Civil & Criminal Code, and Section 47 of Electronic Transaction Act 2008.

(For details, please click [here](#))

I. End Impunity Day marked in a grand manner across Nepal

Freedom Forum organized 10 programs- one each in three universities and one each in seven provinces- to mark the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists. FF gathered over 350 persons, representing media, academia, victims' families, research, human rights defenders, legal practitioners, political representation, and right to information campaign, attorneys, local administration and security agency. During the programs, the participants raised univocal voice that those involved in the crimes committed against journalists over times must be brought to book to address impunity relating to it.

(For details, please click [here](#))

J. Stakeholders discuss Freedom of Expression Online and Digital Safety

Freedom Forum organized a '**Seminar on Freedom of Expression on Internet and Internet/Digital Safety**' on November 16, 2017 in Kathmandu. The program gathered stakeholders from diverse sectors including media, academia, schools, law, Ministry of Education, Curriculum Development Center and other line agencies.

(For details, please click [here](#))

K. 34 journalists trained on public interest reporting

Freedom Forum trained 34 journalists on public interest reporting by organizing 5-day training in two phases- first in Sindhupalchowk from November 17 to 21, and second in Nuwakot from December 16 to 20 2017.

(For details, please click [here](#))

L. FF produces documentary on Nepal's killed journalists, urges for addressing impunity

Freedom Forum has produced a documentary about the journalists who were killed and made disappeared in the two decades from the beginning of armed conflict in February 1996 to 2016. FF study recorded that 24 journalists were killed, while some went disappeared in Nepal during this period.

(To watch the documentary, please click [here](#))

N. Freedom Forum publishes Annual Media Report 2017

Freedom Forum has published annual media report featuring major incidents of press freedom violations, media policy updates and monitoring result of Nepali media contents from January to December 2017. FF recorded a total of 66 press freedom violations during this passing year 2017, which is a sharp rise compared to the previous year, 2016. Only 25 incidents were recorded in 2016.

(See full report [here](#))

O. FF submitted policy documents to State Minister

Freedom Forum has submitted different resource [documents](#) related to media law and policies to newly appointed State Minister of Communication and Information Technology, Mr. Gokul Prasad Baskota on 9th April, 2018 with the objective of facilitating Mr. Baskota in making policy decisions in the field of information, communication and freedom of expression in the changed context.

(For details, please click [here](#))

P. World Press Freedom Day celebration

Freedom Forum in collaboration with FNJ and UNESCO organized a discussion program where stakeholders from different sectors such as media experts, advocates and government dignitaries including Nepal Police officials were present. The discussion program became a platform to present separate annual [press freedom monitoring reports](#) prepared by FNJ and FF and South Asia Press Freedom Report prepared by

International Federation of Journalists (IFJ). The chief guest of the program was Honorable Acting Chief Justice Dipak Raj Joshi.

(For details, please click [here](#))

Q. FF submits review on Province 4 proposed Mass Communication policy to Minister Chuman

Freedom Forum submitted review report to the Province 4 Internal Affairs and Law Ministry on 24th June 2018 with the objective of facilitating the Ministry in making policy decisions in the field of information, communication and freedom of expression in the changed context.

(See the review report [here](#))

R. Review on Public Interest Reporting by Journalist

FF organized an orientation entitled, 'Review on Public Interest Reporting by Journalist' on 29 June, a total of 20 participants attended the program where 7 were females. They were orientated to encourage the reporters for strengthening investigative reporting.

(For details, please click [here](#))

2.2.3 Right to Information and Open data:- FF organized various campaigns, trainings and discussion programs under this theme during this year.

A. Three-day residential RTI training at Provinces

Freedom Forum conducted three-day residential training workshops on Right to Information (RTI) for Public Information Officers (PIO) at different places of CSCs districts as mentioned by USAID. A total of 134 Information Officers including 10 females participated in the training organized under the project "Civil Society Mutual Accountability Project (CS: MAP)", supported by USAID and implemented by FHI360.

B. RTI Nepal App:

Freedom Forum has launched a 'Right to Information (RTI) Nepal Mobile App', first of its kind from the civil society organization in Nepal. The android app, an integrated package on several dimensions of RTI- from principles to practice-, is aimed at making public and the media persons aware on use of RTI and its benefit for contributing to the good governance endeavor in the country.

The application can be downloaded in any android mobile from play store.

C. National Workshop on RTI and Open Government Data

Freedom Forum conducted a day-long national workshop on “Promoting right to information and open government data in federal Nepal” in the capital city Kathmandu on March 23. It was organized with the support of The Asia Foundation. Bringing together 90 plus participants from the right to information and open data community, including the government agencies- Office of the Prime Minister, Central Bureau of Statistics, National Information Commission, civil society, research and academia the workshop witnessed presentations on different aspects of RTI and open data practices and challenges, sharing of experiences and underscored the collaboration among the multi-stakeholders to expand the regime of RTI and open government data for the transparency.

(For details, please click [here](#))

D. Open Data Initiative Mapping

FF also conducted ODI mapping to map three types of ODI- a) Government (line ministries and local government units at the rural municipality, municipality and sub-metropolitan levels) initiatives, b) CSOs initiatives as intermediaries, and c) individual initiatives (RTI activists, journaist, scholar, researchers, etc.) in six districts of Nepal with focus on public sector data that can help promote responsive, inclusive and accountable governance as well as policies and procedures that facilitate open data practices at federal and local governments.

2.2.4 Public Finance Management: Under this theme, FF conducts two activities contributing to the transparent budgeting processes with civic engagement.

A. Open Budget Survey:

The Open Budget Survey 2017 report was produced by International Budget Partnership (IBP) enclosing status of budget transparency of various countries including Nepal. For Nepal, the study was carried out by Freedom Forum. According to the Open Budget Survey (OBS) global report launched today, Nepal increased its budget openness score to 52 from 24 in 2015.

(For details, please click [here](#))

2.2.5 Gender Justice in Media: FF continues to monitor Nepali media contents through gender perspectives. This year monitoring was expanded at provincial level, monitoring 21 major provincial dailies from seven provinces.

Specific activities carried out are as follows:

A. Reports on Gender content monitoring published along with info graphics:

Four reports each of online/ print media and provincial media of every three months were published during a year period and disseminated through website, social media and various formal and informal meetings.

(All the reports are available [here](#))

B. Men's March on Women's Day; Sanitary Pads Distributed to Men to Make Them Aware on Women's Health, Rights

Breaking the traditional approach, more than 20 organizations including Freedom Forum and NEFEJ this year (March 8) gathered 400 plus men and organized a men-only march named 'Men for Women' where the men were distributed sanitary pads used by women during their monthly cycle. There were neither lectures nor the presentation of working papers, but the sanitary pads prodding males to realize the biological phenomenon of women and the cooperation men could extend for their health and rights.

(For details, please click [here](#))

C. Interface meetings on women's presence in Nepali Media:

During this period, two interface meetings with journalists, media editors and other stakeholders and one with only female journalists were organized. The program was organized with the objective of sharing FF's report relating to gender presence in Nepali print media and garnering views from the editors, journalists, rights advocates and policy makers.

D. Visit to media houses:

FF also visited some media houses to know how they received the report (monitoring of media contents on women's representation) it produced and disseminated to them. Editors of the media houses, of which newspapers and online portals FF studied, were also asked to provide feedback and recommendation of the study. The meetings were useful to know whether their media had realized the little representation of women.

E. Orientation workshop for Stringers held

Freedom Forum held a 3-day Orientation Workshop on Freedom of Expression and Gender Content Monitoring from April 1-3, 2018 in Kathmandu. The workshop was organized with aim to orient its representative from seven provinces on monitoring of media contents through gender perspectives and sensitize them on broader areas of

Freedom of Expression, Right to Information, Internet Freedom, Human Rights protection and impunity against journalist. Bikram Niraula (Province 1), Rajan Singh (Province 2), Ram Mani Dahal and Ashok Dahal (Province 3), Rajan Upadhyay (Province 4), Sudeep Gautam (Province 5) and Laxmi Bhandari (Province 6) were the participants at the orientation. The workshop held in capital city included two- day gender content monitoring workshop and one-day orientation on Freedom of Expression.

(For detail, please click [here](#))

2.2.6 Policy Reviews: FF also reviews national policies through FoE perspectives with its background on advocacy on issues of freedom of expression and information. This year FF reviewed and disseminated the papers on various policies/ acts drafted at national and provincial levels in Nepal under the project EEMIR- CS:MAP and ECAFSIM.

A. FF draws Ministry's attention on draft bill of proposed Mass Communication Act- 2018

Freedom Forum submitted a 24-point attention letter to the Ministry of Information and Communications on 9 February, showing concern over the draft bill of proposed "Mass Communication Act, 2018". The letter was submitted to MoIC's Secretary, Kedar Bahadur Adhikari.

(See the full letter [here](#))

B. FF submits review on Province 4 proposed Mass Communication policy to Minister Chuman

Freedom Forum has submitted review report on Province 4 proposed Mass-Communication policy and submitted it to the Province 4 Internal Affairs and Law Ministry on 24th June 2018 with the objective of facilitating the Ministry in making policy decisions in the field of information, communication and freedom of expression in the changed context. Freedom Forum representative for Province 4 Rajan Upadhyay personally submitted the review report to Minister of Internal Affairs and Law for Province 4 Hari Bahadur Chuman. The review also was disseminated to Ministries and other concerned authorities.

(For details, please click [here](#))

2.3 FF Publications:

Besides several programs implemented in partnership with funding agencies, FF's published several policy reviews, reports, books and drafts this year.

A. ANNUAL MEDIA REPORT 2017

As a regular and core activity of the organization, FF publishes an annual media report of media monitoring including press freedom violation cases, developing issues of internet as new media, FoE related laws/ policies and gender balance in media.

Some highlights of the report:

- A total of 66 press freedom violations were recorded where 230 media persons were affected. Kathmandu district alone witnessed the highest number of violation- 22.
- Categorically mentioning, there were 16 incidents of attack, 9 threats and death threats combined, 11 manhandles and 13 arrest/detention and 11 obstruction along with two incidents of seizure and one of vandalism at the media house.
- As in the past, numerous incidents saw the involvement of police persons, government employees.
- Internet penetration has reached to 62.89% where it was 52.7% last year.
- Although there is a significant growth of internet penetration propelling the flow of information, the accessibility is waiting due attention to bring on board the marginalized people to bridge the digital divide.
- The families of the journalists who became conflict victims are desperately waiting for justice. No noticeable efforts have been made from State side to this regard.

(For full report, please click [here](#))

B. MAY 3 REPORT 2018: This report is prepared by Freedom Forum on World Press Freedom Day encasing cases of press freedom violations, freedom of expression, media policy and impunity watch during the period of a year (May 2017 to April 2018).

Major highlights:

- Among all, Province No 3 recorded the highest number of violations (29), where Kathmandu district alone witnessed 25 incidents. Province No 3 is followed by Province No 4 with the violations numbering 11. Similarly, Province No 2 witnessed 8 violations, while Province No 5 and 7 shared equal number of violations- 6 each. Province No 1 and Karnali Pradesh (Province 6) also had equal number of violations 3 each.
- Mainly government employees, political party cadres and security staffs are involved in the press freedom violations.

- Most of the violations occurred while journalists were covering public interest issues, irregularities and corruption, political demonstration, elections and vote count, bribe and smuggling.
- The hassles between court and media remain prominent this year as well. Filing contempt of court case against the media house and journalist for the published news content had garnered opposing views from media fraternity that put judiciary in controversy and also somehow affected the notion of press freedom.

(For full report, please click [here](#))

C. GENDER CONTENT MONITORING REPORT: This report is prepared every three months on the basis of content monitoring of nine main nepali broadsheets (Kantipur, The Kathmandu Post, The Himalayan Times, Nagarik, Republica, Gorkhapatra, The Rising Nepal, Naya patrika and Annapurna Post) and six nepali online news portals (Setopati, Ratopati, Lokaantar, Pahilopost, Onlinekhabar and Baahrakhari).

Major highlights from the recent report of June 2018:

- 21.2% of the articles in Op-Ed pages are by female; while main news of online and print dailies revealed 18.2% and 8.8% female byline respectively.
- Women as news sources are found decreasing these three months with 9.3% in print media and 10.4% in online.
- Highest number of female in bylines (31) and sources (137) from print media are found in the news on social/ legal and political/ governmental issues respectively, while those for online media are 11 bylines in economic and 14 sources in social/ legal news.
- The report in contrary to the previous mentions more women as new sources in political news.
- Data show one among every 3 news stories is about Nepal's government and politics, and economic news covers second highest (19.7%) space in the main news of online portals whereas, social and legal news come second in print media.

D. NEWSLETTERS: FF published four issues of newsletters during the year. All the issues highlighted the activities carried out by the organization. It mainly covers media monitoring reports, policy/ impunity watch, RTI campaigns and other collaborative approaches. Those issues are also uploaded on the website and made public.

(To download the newsletters, please click [here](#) .)

FF also published two different booklets on Freedom of expression and digital safety.

2.4. FF celebration:

i. This year's **International Democracy Day** was marked organizing a discussion program entitled 'Challenges and way out for Democracy in Nepal' on September 15, 2017.

ii. FF organized 10 programs- one each in three universities and one each in seven provinces- to mark the '**International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists.**'

iii. **International Women's Day:** FF in collaboration with NEFEJ organized Men 4 Women March on March 8 from Maitighar Mandala to Ratnapark where sanitary pads were distributed to the participating men.

iv. **World Press Freedom Day** - FF marked the World Press Freedom Day-2018 by releasing the May 3 report, screening a documentary prepared on the Slain journalists and participating in early morning rally in Kathmandu on May 3.

2.5 FF Participation:

- Executive Chief Mr. Taranath been Dahal has honored with the **Sastikadevi Right to Information National Award** in recognition to his significant role on promotion of RTI.
- Executive Chief Mr. Taranath been Dahal was also honored with the **Freedom Fighter Award** on July 12, 2018 carrying a purse of RS. 22,222/-.
- Executive Chief Mr. Taranath Dahal, Media Monitoring Officer Narayan Ghimire and Gender Monitoring Officer Nanu Maiya Khadka participated in Asia partner meeting organized by Free Press unlimited in Negombo, Sri Lanka from January 8-12, 2018.
- Planning and Policy Advisor Mr. Krishna Sapkota participated in regional dialogue on Climate resilient growth and development program organized by UNDP Bangkok, Thailand from February 20-22, 2018.
- Executive Chief Mr. Taranath Dahal also participated in a program themed 'Women and Right to Access to Information: Inform Women transform Lives' held from February 14 to 15 at Atlanta, USA.

- General Secretary Mr. Dharmendra Jha participated in South Asia Media Talk and Orissa Media Awards Distribution program on February 28 in Bhubaneswar, India.
- Executive Board member Mr. Bipul Pokhrel was elected to the post of Vice-Chairman of the Federation of Nepali Journalists (FNJ).
- Executive Chief Mr. Taranath Dahal participated in the regional workshop on RTI organized by World Bank and South Asia Pacific from October 3-4, 2017. He also participated in the Regional Expert Meeting on RTI held in Bangladesh from October 25-27, 2017.
- Executive Chief Mr. Taranath Dahal, Media Monitoring Officer Narayan Ghimire attended Free Press Live program organized by Free press Unlimited in Netherlands from October 31 to November 2, 2017.

2.6. FF's visibility: Most of the activities of FF have been covered in national media through print and online news channels. FF also regularly updates its activities, press releases, incident news on its website (www.freedomforum.org.np & www.nepalpressfreedom.org) and social media pages (facebook and twitter).

3. Institutional Development:

During the activities under various projects, capacity of the organizational staffs was also enhanced through several orientations, field activities and their immense participation in the programs. Staffs were also sensitized on the core issues of Freedom Forum through involvement in various programs in and out-house. Similarly, financial staff was also strengthened through orientation and application of newly developed and advanced accounting software and methodologies during interaction with donor organizations.

Annexes:

Annexes of the report are as specified below:

1. Five-year strategic priorities, plans and program areas of FF
2. Consolidated Audit Report 2016-17
3. Media coverage on FF activities.
4. Photographs.

PHOTO GALLERY

1. Executive Chief Taranath Dahal honored with 'Freedom Fighter Award'



2 Review on Public Interest Reporting by Journalists



3 Gen. Secy Dharmendra Jha training Information Officers on RTI and its provisions



4 Interface with Female only Journalists



5 Review on Province 4 proposed Mass Communication policy submitted to Minister Hari Bdr Chuman



6 RTI Training in Bhaktapur



7 Celebration of World Press Freedom Day 2018



8 PIOs training in Dang



9 Gender and FOE Monitoring orientation to Stringers



10 Executive Chief awarded 'Shastika Basnet RTI Award'



11 Panelists at National Workshop for promoting RTI and Open data in Nepal



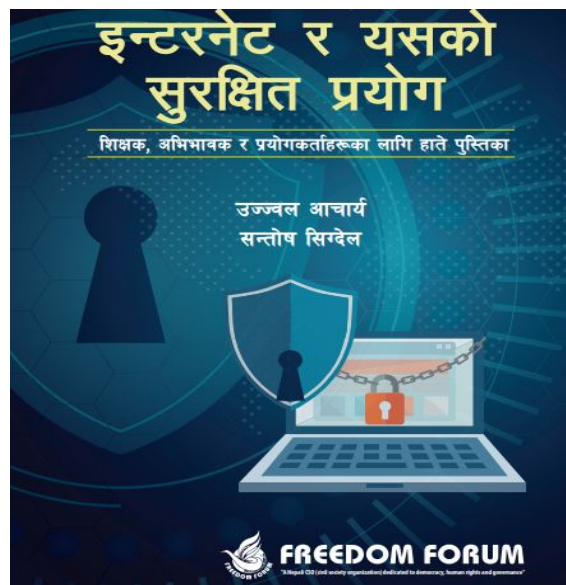
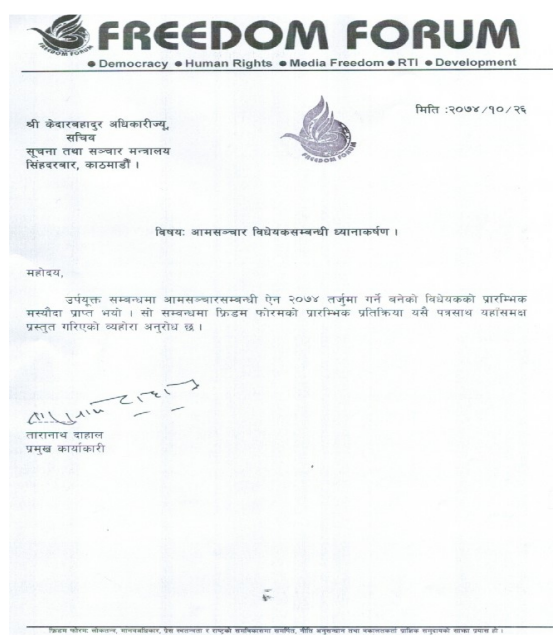
12 Men's March for Women in International Women's Day 2018



13 Cover of the Booklet



14 Letter to MOCIT on Mass Communication Bill



15 Still from the Documentary on Slain journalists



16 Gen.Secy Dharmendra Jha mentoring PIRT participants



17 Participants during an Interface at Kathmandu



18 MOE's Hari Lamshal addressing Seminar on FoE and Digital Safety



19 Experts during a discussion program on FoE and Mass Communication Policy



20 Chief Information Officer Krishna Hari Baskota at a program on SDG



21 Discussion program on Democracy Day



22 Discussion Program on National Broadcasting Authority



23 RTI application filed at 753 local levels



24 Program on Open Government Partnership



25 FNJ Vice-Chairman Bipul Pokharel felicitated



26. Panelists at Nepal Internet Governance Forum 2017



27. Media Mission at Province 2



28. Media Mission at Province 1



29. End Impunit Day Celebration in Province 7

