



We hope you enjoy this edition of *OLE Nepal Newsletter*, a bi-monthly email newsletter from Open Learning Exchange (OLE) Nepal. It provides current news and information about the organisation and its activities and will keep you up to date with OLE Nepal's work to provide high quality education for children in Nepal.

## In-school Trainings

As a follow-up of the training that was recently completed in most districts, trainers visited schools in different districts in May and June to observe how well the newly trained teachers have been able to integrate E-Paati and E-Paath in real classroom teaching. The trainers provided feedback to individual teachers on their performance, clarified confusions that they may have had and discussed ways to deliver effective teaching using the new methodology. The trainers also encouraged collaboration amongst teachers to make the program stronger at each school.

**Doti:** OLE Nepal's Rabi Karmacharya and Ajaya Shrestha were accompanied by WFP's Country Program Coordinator Ms. Pramila Ghimire and Deputy Head of Dadeldhura Sub-office Mr. Ramesh Balayar on the visit to the three new OLPC program schools in Doti from June 12 to 17. The teams spent two days in each school observing laptop-integrated classes conducted by recently trained teachers and giving feedback, clarifying confusions that teachers had about ICT-based teaching-learning practices, and addressing technical and pedagogical issues brought up by them. The team

also updated school servers with latest E-Pustakalaya content, and installed new E-Paath package in all the laptops. The team also met with School Management Committee Chairs in all the schools and emphasized the role of the com-



E-Paati integrated class in session at Mahadev Primary School in Doti

munity in ensuring the safeguarding as well as the proper use of the laptops.

Doti is undoubtedly the most remote amongst our program districts, and hence the most challenging to implement and support the program. However, with strong support from WFP Dadeldhura Sub-office, we believe that we can make laptop-based learning a success in the schools.

## Latest Developments

- » In-school Trainings
- » Laptop Deployment and Training
- » Other Trainings
- » Other News

Open Learning Exchange Nepal  
Tel: +977-1-554-4441, 552-0075  
PO Box 8975, EPC 2394  
Kathmandu, Nepal  
info@olenepal.org

www.olenepal.org  
blog.olenepal.org  
www.pustakalaya.org

**Kapilvastu:** OLE Nepal's trainer, Tika Raj Karki, and technical support staff, Aayoush Raj Onta visited schools in Kapilvastu district from May 2 to 5 to conduct in-school training, and update laptops and server at the school. They visited all the three program schools in the district, namely Pancha Lower-secondary School in Baijalpur, Nepal Rastriya Lower-secondary School in Chauri, and Mahendra Primary School in Taulihawa. They also provided 27 E-Paatis to grade five students of Pancha Lower-secondary School during the trip. OLE Nepal and ETC Tanahu trainers had conducted training at the district from April 5 to April 8.

**E-Paath** is a set of curriculum-based interactive digital learning materials developed by OLE Nepal

**E-Pustakalaya** is OLE Nepal's education-centered digital library consisting of books, reference materials, school wikipedia, etc.

**E-Paati** is the Nepali name for the XO laptops used in OLPC program schools

**Dadeldhura:** OLE Nepal's trainer, Tikaraj Karki, and Dadeldhura District Education Office's OLPC Focal Person, Dharma Singh Ayyer, visited schools in Dadeldhura from June 11 to 18 to conduct in-school training, and update laptops and server at the school. They visited four program schools in the district, namely Selaling Primary School in Budum, Saraswati Primary School in Kapadigaun, Jananta Primary School in Koral, and



Students working on E-Paati

Samaijee Primary School in Haat. Selaling and Saraswati were added

to the program this year. The team also provided bags and chargers to the schools during the trip. OLE Nepal and NCED trainers had conducted training at the district from April 11 to 17.

All the teachers showed keen interest and participated during the integrated teaching. The teachers seemed confident and asked questions without any hesitation. Most of students in the school are comfortable in using E-Paatis.

## LAPTOP DEPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

### Distribution in Kavre

The Department of Education's Director of Planning Mr. Khaga Raj Baral marked the addition of grade five to the OLPC program by distributing laptops at Binayak Bal Lower Secondary School in Badal Gaon, Kavre. At a function organized at the school on May 5, 2011, Mr. Baral lauded the program for promoting quality education in rural schools and pioneering ICT-based education in public schools in the country. He said that support from all stakeholders



DoE's Director Khaga Raj Baral handing laptops to the school principal

is vital for successful implementation and expansion of the program to more schools. Speaking at the function, OLE Nepal's Executive Director Mr. Rabi Karmacharya said that OLPC program schools like Binayak Bal have demonstrated the effectiveness of ICT-based education in improving education quality, and that government should seri-

ously consider using such models to address the problem of quality in our education system. School Management Committee Chair Mr. Chola Bahadur Gautam observed that there has been an increased interest in student learning after the introduction of laptop-based classes at the school in 2009. With all grades from two to six now covered by the program, he reiterated the SMC's commitment to ensure continued success at the school. A student from grade 8, Sudip Neupane thanked OLE Nepal and Department of Education for selecting the school to pilot the OLPC concept, and requested that similar programs be introduced to higher grades as well.

### Deployment and Training in Phaplu, Solu

OLE Nepal in partnership with Himalayan Health and Environment Services Solukhumbu (HHESS) has continued the One Laptop Per Child (OLPC) project at Zeke O'Connor School in Phaplu by adding forty laptops for students in grades five and six. OLE Nepal and WFP had launched the program in grades two to four at the school (previously known as Phaplu Community School). As part of the project, OLE Nepal's trainers conducted a seven-day training from June 11 to 18 on the integration of laptops and digital learning materials in classroom teaching. A total of eleven teachers participated in the training program that prepared teachers on IT literacy, basic trouble-

shooting, classroom management and sitting arrangement, lesson plans that include laptop-based teaching, E-Paath and E-Pustakalaya usage, safety and security of laptops, amongst others. Following the training program, head teacher Mr. Bhim Rai was confident that E-Pustakalaya and E-Paath will bring positive changes in student learning and reading habits. One of the teachers, Manisha Sherpa added that she learned a lot of things from the training that will undoubtedly help her deliver effective lessons.



Students in Phaplu with their new E-Paati

laya usage, safety and security of laptops, amongst others. Following the training program, head teacher Mr. Bhim Rai was confident that E-Pustakalaya and E-Paath will bring positive changes in student learning and reading habits. One of the teachers, Manisha Sherpa added that she learned a lot of things from the training that will undoubtedly help her deliver effective lessons.

### Deployment and Training in Belbas, Tanahu

Rabobank and their clients in cooperation with MeetIn provided 50 laptops to Shree Siddhabeni Lower Secondary School of Belbas, Tanahu district, and partnered with OLE Nepal to implement the program including teacher training, equipment and local network installation, monitoring and support. OLE Nepal provided an initial seven-day

teacher training program from May 15 to 21 for thirteen teachers at the school. The training was conducted jointly by Mr. Govinda Pokharel from Educational Training Center (ETC) Tanahu, and Mr. Tikaraj Karki from OLE Nepal. The training module and content was developed by OLE Nepal to help teachers integrate



Teacher Training in Belbas

ICT in daily classroom teaching. This training module gave special attention to the fact that the laptops will be shared by different classes; hence, teachers have to manage the schedule to maximize the use of laptops by students. A follow up classroom-based training is being planned for August.

## Progressive Education Skill Development Program:

OLE Nepal has launched a specially designed training program for in-service teachers on integrating ICT in regular classroom teaching. The ten-day long training will help build skills to use ICT to implement child-centered classes based on progressive education philosophy. The training will be conducted by OLE Nepal's trainers who have many years of experience in both child-centered teaching and ICT-based education.

The training focuses on the following areas:

- ICT-integrated teaching approach
- Child centered philosophy
- Integrated grade teaching
- Learning Language Arts
- Learning Social Studies
- Learning Science
- Learning Mathematics

Trainings begin in the first and third week of every English month at OLE Nepal office in Sanepa. Schools can also request for training at their location. For more information about the training, please write to [training@olenepal.org](mailto:training@olenepal.org) or visit [www.olenepal.org/training](http://www.olenepal.org/training)

## Dhanusha Training

OLE Nepal's trainer, Tikaraj Karki, and technical support staff, Sandesh Pathak, visited Sri Saraswati Higher Secondary School in Janakpurdham, Dhanusha from May 9 to 11 to conduct in-school training,

## OTHER TRAININGS

and update lap tops and server at the school. OLE Nepal and NCED trainers had conducted training at the school from January 30 to February 5. The program in the school is a shared-model implementation supported by Nepal Library Foundation and POA Foundation.

### ICT Integration Training

OLE Nepal conducted a three-day training on implementing ICT-integrated lessons in classroom teaching to twelve teachers from Rukum, Pachthar, Dhading and Baglung. The teachers hailed from schools that have received computers and connectivity from Win-

source as well as to prepare them to train their colleagues at their respective schools on this new approach to teaching and learning. The first part of the training introduced E-Pustakalaya, E-Paath and other ICT-based digital resources and demonstrated the link between these digital content and the curriculum. This was followed by presentation and discussions on interactive digital content, weekly teaching plans designed to teach Nepali, English and science in grades six to ten. And finally, participating teachers conducted ICT enabled micro-teaching lessons which were observed and reviewed by fellow teachers and OLE Nepal trainers.

The three days of intensive training was very much appreciated by teachers, many of whom vowed to introduce this novel approach to teaching learning in their schools. "The vast reading resources in E-Pustakalaya will change the way that

my students learn since they will have so much learning materials besides regular textbooks at their disposal," said Hari Prasad Regmi, a science teacher from Dhading.

### SchoolTool Training

A two-day training was organized on SchoolTool on June 27 and 28 at OLE Nepal office in Sanepa. Nine teachers from three schools in Lalitpur participated in the training conducted by Abhishek Singh from



OLE Nepal trainers with trained teachers

rock International. OLE Nepal and Winrock International had partnered to develop digital lessons in English, Nepali and science subjects for grades six to ten, and to assist teachers to use the computers to teach the above subjects. The training was held from June 29 to July 1 at Winrock International office in Kathmandu.

The purpose of the training was to enable teachers to teach lessons using ICT as complementary re-

OLE Nepal, with assistance from intern Aman Maharjan.

SchoolTool is a customizable suite of free administrative software for



SchoolTool training in OLE Nepal office

schools. OLE Nepal is piloting the software in three OLPC program schools in Lalitpur, namely, Shringheri, Navajyoti and Siddheswor.

On the first day, the administrative component such as management of school year, teacher and student accounts, class management,

course management, and timetable were introduced to the trainees. On the second day, teaching component's attendance, assignment, grading, resource booking, and calendars were covered. The teachers were very impressed with the usefulness of the software. SchoolTool was also installed in the servers of the three schools during the training.

The usage of the SchoolTool software in these three schools will be closely monitored for effectiveness and problems encountered, and will be deployed to more schools in the coming days.

### Mustang Training

District Education Office, Mustang, organized a three-day refresher training for teachers from the seven OLPC program schools at Ja-

nahit Higher Secondary School in Jomsom from June 27 to 29, 2011. The first two days of the training was conducted by Mr. Girman Thapa, Deputy Director of Regional Education Directorate, Western Region, Pokhara. Mr. Thapa was one of the government trainers involved in OLPC teacher training since 2009. At the invitation of the District Education Officer Mr. Devendra Khanal, OLE Nepal was represented at the training by Mr. Basanta Shrestha. Mr. Shrestha conducted technical sessions that trained teachers on advanced topics such as updating school servers and laptops. He also apprised the 35 participating teachers on the new additions on E-Pustakalaya and E-Paath.

After the training program, Mr. Shrestha paid a support visit to all program schools to check on the network infrastructure and update the servers with latest E-Pustakalaya and E-Paath packages.

## OTHER NEWS

### ICT4D conference in Kathmandu

IFIP WG 9.4 held its 11th annual conference from May 22 to 25 in Kathmandu under the theme, Partners for Development - ICT Actors and Actions. The proceedings at the conference focused around how ICT may foster development in the context of developing countries, with special attention to the role played by multiple actors – public and private, activists and entrepreneurs as well as other kinds of intermediaries.

The conference was attended by scholars, researchers, ICT entrepreneurs, social activists, IT experts, health care champions, and government officials from around the world. Discussions centered around how ICT interventions can promote access to health care, education, commerce, and government services. Various future research possibilities in ICT4D and the role of IFIP WG 9.4 in promoting these possibilities were also addressed.

Delivering his keynote, Magsaysay Award winner and OLE Nepal's Board member Mr. Mahabir Pun shared his experiences of the wireless project that was started from a simple idea of connecting mountain villages to the Internet and how it succeeded in connecting more than 135 remote villages. He emphasized that the project's objective was not simply to connect the villages, but to provide better education and health care services in remote communities through the use of ICT as a medium. He opined that most ICT4D projects fail due to the lack of understanding of the local context and requirements.

Speaking from the panel on "Doing ICT4D", OLE Nepal's Rabi Karmacharya credited much of the success of the organization's ICT in education initiatives to the close attention that was given to addressing the problems faced in the education sector. Instead of treating ICT as a pancea for all the problems that plague our education system, OLE Nepal focused on areas such as quality and access that can be

addressed with ICT, and sought partnership from local and central level institutions for successful implementations in the schools.

### E-Pustakalaya Update

OLE Nepal recently signed an agreement with the British Council to host 'Learn English Kids (LE Kids)' interactive software in the E-Pustakalaya. LE Kids teaches fundamentals of the English language to children and adults through the use of audio visual effects and flash animations. In this regard,



it is similar to OLE Nepal's E-Paath activities, but the scope of LE Kids is not qualified to any curriculum. The partnership has expanded the

reach of LE Kids to nearly 3400 students in 34 schools spread across ten districts in Nepal where OLE Nepal has implemented ICT-integrated classes using the OLPC model. By integrating the LE Kids in the digital library hosted in local servers, schools no longer require Internet connectivity to benefit from these activities.

OLE Nepal has also reached an agreement with Digital Himalaya, a project based at the Department of Social Anthropology at the University of Cambridge, to make digital collection of anthropological information from the Himalayan region available through the E-Pustakalaya. Digital Himalaya's rare collections include books, manuscripts, maps and videos.

## New Round of Evaluation Survey

An important goal of OLE Nepal's OLPC pilot project was to evaluate the relevance of concept and long term impact on students learning

outcome. The evaluation designed and carried out so far involved a rigorous impact evaluation that compared student outcomes in the program schools with the outcomes in a set of control or comparison schools. The comparison schools were similar to the program schools in all respects except for the fact that they did not receive the intervention (ICT-integrated education) received by the program schools.

The evaluation design consisted of 26 program schools and 39 control schools that are spread across six different districts of the country. Two rounds of data have already been collected on more than 6500 students from those 65 public schools. The baseline data were collected in May 2009 by administering English and mathematics tests to all students in grades two, three, four and six in both program and control schools. The same students were given a second round of tests at the end of that academic

year (February 2010). In addition, student, household and teacher surveys were conducted in both rounds.

Currently, a new round of survey has been undertaken to collect school, household and student level information and conduct follow-up tests to assess the impact of the program after two years of exposure. Recognizing that the effect of ICT intervention in learning outcomes of students may take several years to show, OLE Nepal intends to evaluate the project in continuous manner as opposed to a one off evaluation. This round of data collection would provide very useful evidence on the benefits of providing laptop computers loaded with local educational content to students in Nepal. This new round of study is being carried out by Uttam Sharma, a PhD candidate from University of Minnesota with support from the World Bank. The report of the evaluation survey is expected in fall 2011.

## CONGRATULATIONS

### Wedding Bells

Hearty congratulations to Grant Cox and Jordana Chavin who recently tied the knot in Kathmandu. Grant came to Nepal in May 2010 to work with the education content development team at OLE Nepal as part of the Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development (AYAD) program. We wish Grant and Jordana a blissful life together.



### Perfect SLC Result

Congratulations to the Vishwamitra Ganesh High School for securing perfect pass record -- three in distinction, eleven in first division and one in second division -- in last year's School Leaving Certificate (SLC) exams. Vishwamitra Ganesh is one of the two test schools where OLPC program was first launched in April 2008.



Teacher giving orientation to parents in Belbas, Tanahu