

Press Release
For immediate release

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Sano Paila Celebrates its 9th Founding Anniversary with Felicitation Ceremony and Announcing Major Initiatives Throughout 2016.

Sano Paila announces Youth Awareness & Communication Program, Expansion of AFA Community Drug Rehabilitation Center, Strengthening Capacity of Literacy for Nepal & Health Services projects, Establishing a Social Business, and family-based care model for children who are orphans, and other Commemoration activities.

Birgunj, 9 December, 2015 / Magsir 23, 2072 – Sano Paila (A Little Step), a development oriented, non-governmental organization, today commemorated the 9th anniversary of its founding in 2006 with a series of celebration activities throughout the country. Over the course of the next year, underscoring the organization's values and commitments to its members and the wider communities it serves, Sano Paila will host a felicitation ceremony in Birgunj, Janakpur, Kathmandu and Humla to honor the collaboration that is making it all possible for the organization to serve the marginalized and impoverished communities that it works with.

Sano Paila marked its ninth Founding Day with celebrations from its Head Office in Birgunj to regional offices in Janakpur and Kathmandu, also a special ceremony was held in Humla, symbolising Sano Paila's efforts to work across boundaries and bring together people despite differences in a spirit of development. Birgunj event's Chief Guest was Senior Journalist and Analyst Chandra Kishore Jha, and Chairman of Sano Paila Mr. Sudeep Lama presided over the event. Praveen Manandhar, representative from Red Cross and Ganga Wagle from Aasha Milan were among the guests. With participation of children of Bal Kalyan Griha, Aasha Milan and Sano Paila's Children Receiving Transit Home, the event was made more joyous. Sano Paila also released its quarterly newsletter on this Founding Day.

Kathmandu event's Chief Guests were Lalitpur District's CDO Yadav Prasad Koirala and SSP Pitambar Adhikari. Founder & CEO Kanchan Jha shared in the event that Sano Paila intends to initiate a youth and local production focused program in coordination with government and community stakeholders in Kathmandu valley.

Regional Office in Janakpur- Action for Addiction celebrated the Founding Anniversary this morning with local stakeholders. Subash Jha and Santosh Thakur from Ramananda Yuwa Club, local police personnel and community people, along with AFA members marked the event in AFA premises. Ajittam Pandey, Program Coordinator of AFA Janakpur shares, " This is the first Founding Anniversary that the regional office is celebrating. AFA- Janakpur is the first rehabilitation center which is treatment oriented in the district."

In Humla, Sano Paila's reintegration manager Sandeep Sada organised a small

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event with local children, and attendees included Lok Jung Shahi from District Forest Office and DTO Devi Aidi Kul Bahadur Rawat. A local businessman and social activist Gyaljan Lama sponsored the cake.

As part of its 9th anniversary initiative and to reaffirm the organization's essence to think globally and act locally, Sano Paila is launching Youth Awareness & Communication Program (YACP) in Parsa, Bara, Rautahat, Dhanusha & Mahottari Districts from March 2016. As a grassroots initiative, YACP will provide a solid platform for disadvantaged youths to enhance their life through communication skills and contribute to youth empowerment at the community-level. YACP will offer life skills, communication trainings and participatory workshops to youths belonging to vulnerable communities and mobilize them as leaders in their own communities.

Our other initiative is to establish two rehabilitation centers in Makwanpur and Rupandehi districts over the year and to strengthen capacity of existing centers in Birgunj and Janakpur. Likewise, for our Literacy for Nepal and Health Services Center project, Sano Paila will strengthen its capacity to build infrastructure, provide scholarships and establish libraries in villages. Sano Paila in collaboration with local government and line agencies has been working on de-institutionalization to transform children's service to care models that are mostly based in family and community within its "Sunischit Bhwisya- Securing Better Future" program. We have successfully reintegrated 59 out of 64 children with their families, rescued from various children homes under this program.

Sano Paila also plans to announce other major initiatives throughout the year that will continue to build on the organization's history of leadership in community development and advocacy sector. We intend to run mobile health camps and special needs camps under Health Services Center in the coming year.

"As an organization, we are going to use this 9th anniversary year to build on our strengths and to forge exciting new directions, enabling us to be more as a organization – more strategic and creative in our approaches, more evidence-based and rigorous in our implementation- so we can continue to meet the needs of our communities and the nation," said CEO & Founder Kanchan Jha. "This annual activity is always a memorable occasion for all of us, especially our members, staff and volunteers, as it reflects upon implementing Sano Paila's founding philosophy and celebrating its success."

The Sano Paila family extends its sincerest and deepest appreciation to all our partners, friends, supporters and stakeholders for their continuous support and encouragement.

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