

**10th
Anniversary Celebration July 3 & 4, 2009**



**Empowering Women of Nepal
&
3 Sisters Adventure Trekking (Pvt.) Ltd**

DAY 1

3 Sisters Adventure Trekking company, a private business, and Empowering Women of Nepal (EWN), a sister NGO of 3 Sisters Adventure, have been involved with tourism for more than ten years. EWN's main objective is to educate and provide practical skills to interested Nepali women who want to become trekking guides. 3 Sisters Adventure Trekking employ EWN trainees for job placement after completion of a month female trekking guide training.

To date, 700 women from 40 districts have successfully graduated from EWN's female trekking guide training. Advanced courses, such as rock-climbing and ice climbing are also offered to female guides and assistant guides. Currently, 3 Sisters Adventure employ over 80 trainees during season time.

On the 10th Anniversary of 3 Sisters Adventure Trekking and EWN, these organizations hosted the first ever-Nepali women's cycle race. This was organized on July 3, 2009. A total of 23 participants from EWN took part in this 12-kilometer race. All participants received t-shirts with 3 Sisters logo. Mr. Nabraj Dhakal, (DIGP - Deputy Inspector General of Police) was invited as chief guest for the inauguration.



Ms. Sunita Gurung from Nawalparasi placed first with a record of 31 minutes, Ms. Sunita Gurung from Pokhara placed second with a record of 32 minutes, and Ms. Saraswati BK from Pokhara placed third with a record of 33 minutes. All winners received medals and cash in the amount of NPR 5000, 3000, and 2000. All participants as well some locals enjoyed the cycle race. We would like to thank Baharahi Club, Siddhartha Club, Traffic Police, and all our staff for their contributions in making this event a great success.



The same day from 2pm-5pm, an interaction program was carried out at Nepal Tourism Board, regarding “Challenges and Opportunities of Women in Tourism.” Ms. Rita Gurung, a guide from 3 Sisters Adventure was the master of ceremony and Mr. Bachuram Tiwari was the chief guest for the program. Ms. Dicky K. Chhetri presented a brief power point on 3 Sisters Adventure and



EWN’s work for the last ten years. Two female trekking guides, Ms. Renuka Karki and Ms. Uma Bastola, presented papers regarding “Challenges and Opportunities of Women in Tourism in Nepal.” Following this, Ms. Sita Maya Rai shared her experiences of her seven years work, guiding people in the Himalayas. Ms. Januka Rai also shared her experiences about her ice-climbing training.

In the meantime, Ms. Sangita Nepali, Ms. Saru Karki, Ms. Kalpana Upreti, and Ms. Saraswati BK, entertained the crowd with a superb cultural performance. Finally, the closing speech was delivered by Ms. Lucky K. Chhetri. Lucky summarized the work of 3 Sisters Adventure and EWN’s from its inception to date. In her speech she acknowledged all guests, staff, and clients from all over the world for their unconditional love and support helping them to carry out their work.



DAY 2

Next day, the closing program started at 11am and it was conducted at Nepal Tourism Board. Ms. Bijaya K. Chhetri was the master of ceremony and Mr. Giridhar Dhakal, (Tourism Officer) was the Chief Guest for second day program. Ms. Mana Kunwar Rai gave a welcome speech in English. Mr. Dhan Bahadur Thakuri (President of Rural Community Development Society RCDS, EWN's local partner NGO in Jumla) informed the audience about the work of EWN on sustainable tourism development in West Nepal. Ms. Shantikala Rai also shared her six years of trekking experiences. Ms. Nirmala Rai made the audience laugh with her humorous poems. Our children, Ms. Nima Gurung, Ms. Sarita Shahi, Ms. Sakchema Thakuri, Ms. Rabina Shahi, Ms. Urmila Thapa, and Ms. Sameeksha Khadka left us all in awe with their cultural dance performance.



After this, our staff Mr. Indra Rai, Mr. Raju Rai, Ms. Nirma Rai, Ms. Laxmi Sunwar, and Ms. Januka Rai sang a beautiful cultural group song. Mr. Ramji Pokhrel from Prithivi Narayan Campus presented a map route of West Nepal to develop tourism in that area. This project was solely founded by EWN.

On this day, 3 Sisters Adventure and EWN distributed monetary awards to five staff, Mr. Nar Bahadur Rai, Ms. Gauri Nepali, Ms. Nirma Rai, Ms. Chandra Rai, and Ms. Sita Maya Rai for their dedication and contribution. In addition, Ms. Binu Pun, daughter of one of our senior guide was recognized for her academic excellence for passing the national board exam with first division. 26 female staff received graduation certificates and 12 received appreciation certificates.



Mr. Giridhar Dhakal (Tourism Officer) congratulated 3 Sisters and EWN for their contribution to Tourism. Furthermore, he stated that 3 Sisters and EWN should take pride for their achievements for carrying out projects and programs that even the Nepali government could not do.

Mr. Bachuram Tiwari (President of Pokhara Tourism Council) made a point by saying that 3 Sisters and EWN have created a safe environment for women to learn and work within Nepal, instead of going abroad.

Mr. Nil Kantha Sharma (President of Sambad Nepal) announced that men and women are equal and that women should not feel inferior, but rather be brave and strong.

Mr. Basu Tripathi (Former member of Nepal Tourism Board) expressed his good wishes to 3 Sisters Adventure and EWN for giving voice to many Nepali women. He also addressed some of the difficulties that female guides faced during trekking and suggested he would work on this issue in collaboration with other organizations.



Ms. Lucky K. Chhetri (one of the founders of 3 Sisters Adventure and EWN), once again expressed her deepest gratitude and thanked all organizations, volunteers, guests, clients, and most importantly all staff for their generous support through thick and thin to help achieve 3 Sisters Adventure and EWN's Mission for the last ten years.

Our staff Mr. Aman Singh, Ms. Sunita Gurung, Ms. Saraswati B.K, Ms. Danu Gurung, and Ms. Dhan Maya Gurung closed the event with a cultural song.



In the evening, a grand dinner party was organized by 3 Sisters Adventure and EWN for all staff, clients, and local guests. Over 200 people attended the event, which continued until 11pm with cultural music and dance. Both days were very successful. It was a wonderful event and we look forward to reaching out to more people in need and to provide quality services to our clients.

