



# Federation of Business & Professional Women Nepal

FBPWN *Newsbulletin*

Volume 2 (May 2009)

## Message from the President

Dear BPW Members,

Let me wish you a very Happy, Healthy and Successful year. May this year bring more achievement to BPW. May we work with full zeal to better the lives of women who did not get opportunities.



The last year we achieved some landmarks. We received two awards from International BPW, one for Advocacy and one for Skill development. This was due to all the good work done by you members of all the chapters. Congratulation! Please go on!

A few of us attended the congress in Mexico and my term as Regional Coordinator for Asia Pacific was over. I now

can fully devote my time in working in Nepal.

We have two major projects running one "Poverty Reduction through socio-economic Activities" the other a totally new concept working with an International partner funded by the European Union. This project is to upgrade the skills of women into Micro Credit and then into Macro. The women will be small and medium sized entrepreneurs. The training for these women will be starting soon.

With the new changes, we in BPW need to work harder and face the challenges as well as reach more and more women. Women can do wonders!

May we survive the world economic crisis and strive ahead.

Wishing you all the very best.

Regard,  
Ambica Shrestha

## Executive Body & Board Meetings

Currently, FBPWN has 13 executive board members viz. President, Vice Presidents – 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, General Secretary, Joint Secretary, Treasurer and 6 executive members. Executive board meetings are held regularly once a month, but due to some unavoidable circumstances, only 11 meetings were held from 1<sup>st</sup> Baisakh 2065 – 31<sup>st</sup> Chaitra

2065 (13<sup>th</sup> April 2008 – 13<sup>th</sup> April 2009). The agendas are discussed and then the decisions and policies are passed through these meetings. The executive board is also the policy making body of the organization.

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## Activities of Chapters

### BPW Kathmandu Annual Activity Report – 2008

1. Empowerment of dalit/disadvantaged women through women rights, political/legal rights and livelihood project implemented.
2. Four month Functional Literacy program was launched for the dalit women in ward no. 7, where dalits were dominant population.
3. 3 days basic training on the following subject was taken place: a. Leadership and communication skill development.



*Incense making training*

- b. Group formation, operation of women's group.
- c. Saving habits development and use of credits.
- D. Team building and working in group.
- e. Cooperative

concept, history and importance of cooperative movement, cooperative development, management and operation. e. Social awareness on women's rights/issues

4. The women group from ward no. 7, 8, and 9 started saving Rs. 50/- as decided by the group meeting from July/August 2008 and deposited in the account.
5. Interaction workshop was held with women groups of

Setidevi VDC.

6. 3 days Cooperatives Development and

Strengthening training.



*Pickle making training.*

7. 3 days workshop on HR, women's legal/political right awareness was organized for 6 wards of Setidevi.
8. Food processing and preservation, washing soap/detergent, incense, candle making, pickle making 3 days training for all 6 wards.
9. After skill training partial seed money amounting Rs. 25,000/- deposited in group account of ward no. 5 and 4.
10. Annual General Meeting was held on 06/5/3/6.
11. International membership renewed.
12. Members contributed to the three-H fund.
13. Second batch of 3 months Capacity building for Professional Excellency Training was conducted.
14. Celebrated International Women's Day, a seminar was jointly organized by FBPWN/KBPW with the theme "Financing for gender equality" and "women's proportionate participation in restructuring the State" and "End violence against women."

### BPW Patan Activities January - August 2008

#### *Performance in Micro Finance*

Number of Centers	54
Number of Groups	337
Number of Members	1,685
Group Saving	26,22,971.00
Individual Saving	11,78,421.00
Center Fund	13,46,398.00
Loan/ Investment (Cumulative)	3,55,21,966.00
Outstanding Loan	1,05,42,189.00

Annual Center Chief Assembly: BPW Patan organized Annual Center Chiefs Assembly on Marga 29, 2064 to review the micro finance program and discussed the problems and found out the solutions there in. On that Occasion BPW Patan awarded certificate of appreciation to Shree Mahalaxmi Mahila Bikash Kendra (Center number 23) for its exemplary performance in center management.

#### *National/International participation in Trainings/Workshop and Seminars*

1. Manager Mrs. Sahani Shrestha participated in Practical

- Accounting Management Training Program for five days (2064/08/18-22) organized by RMDC Kathmandu.
2. Vice President Mrs. Meena Karna participated in IDP Leadership in Training the Facilitator Program for three days (Feb 21-23 2008) in New York, USA organized by UN. She also participated in CSW52 session in New York from Feb25 to March 7 2008.
  3. President Mrs. Urmila Shrestha, Secretary Mrs. Chandani Vaidya and Members Mrs. Moon Singh and Mrs. Veena Pokharel participated in Micro Finance Summit which was held in Hotel Hyatt Kathmandu from Feb 14-16 2008 organized by Center for Micro Finance.
  4. Secretary Mrs. Chandani Vaidya took part in the Residential Workshop in the field of "Women and the Constitution" for five days (2064/10/20-24) organized by CEDPA Nepal in Park Village Budhanilkantha, Kathmandu.
  5. President Mrs. Urmila Shrestha attended Review Workshop of the Micro Finance Institutes of Partners' Organization from 2065/1/30-2/2 organized by RMDC.

**BPW Thimi:**  
**Activities January – August 2008**

Business and Professional Women Thimi is engaged in tailoring training including other regular programs.



BPW Thimi conducted basic tailoring training class for the girls in Madhyapur, Thimi. Total of 18 girls had participated in the training. The training was given by Purnima Prajapati, executive member of BPW Thimi. The training was conducted from 15<sup>th</sup> April 2008 and was of three months duration.

**BPW Birgunj:**  
**Activities January – August 2008**

Under the project "Poverty reduction through socio-economic activities" for 2008, the classes was delayed by

one week because of the continuous festival season. The literacy class has been completed in all four sites. The targeted women are very much interested in learning and enjoyed the class. Awareness trainings such as health, environment and social awareness has also been completed, so the women got to know a lot about health and hygiene and society. As a part of skill training, candle and incense making training has been completed in all targeted areas. The sewing cutting training was conducted on Bhadra 30 -



*Mr. Eric Besner, Leger Foundation visiting Birgunj*

31, 2065 in Nagardha and Padhmole with 10 -12 women. The women are very happy that they got the skills so that they could earn their living. And for micro-credit, BPW Birgunj planned to invest Rs. 2000/- as seed money for each saving groups and there are 10 groups in total. For the better followup for the saving groups, we have collected the information about the family's income source, their house and land's ownership and about where the money can be invested for better income etc. The project in a whole has been implemented with better output for this year.

**BPW Biratnagar:**  
**Activities January – August 2008**

"Poverty reduction through socio-economic activities" has been implemented in 4 wards of Morang District viz. Ghinaghat, Baijanathpur Jhapa, Sambhaha and Amahi. We selected these sites as the women here were under poverty line because of illiteracy, lack of awareness about health and hygiene, laws and rights, unemployment, domestic violence etc. Baseline survey was conducted in these sites, with the help of questionnaire to know what the situation of the villages is and what would be useful there. Total 120 women, 30 from each wards were selected with the objective of uplifting their social and economic status.

Our first step was to train the teachers who could teach the illiterate women. 8 women were chosen for TOT and were



*Candle making training*

taught the tricks to teach Naya Goreto I and II. Then from April 2008, the literacy classes were started. While the women were learning how to read and write, we thought it would be better if we could give them training on social awareness, health and hygiene and environment. They were taught the awareness about community development, gender and gender equality law, leadership development, self-dependency and human rights. Plus the importance of Vitamins, nutrition and malnutrition, safe motherhood, first aid, home medicines, water cleaning methods, water borne diseases, reuse of water, vaccination, HIV Aids, bad effects of plastic use on environment and importance of environment. The step further was to uplift their economic status by giving them skills so that they could earn for their living and for their families. 4-day skill training such as candle and dhoop making started in August 2008. The 4 day Sewing Cutting training is being given to the women since 2061 by BPW Biratnagar. One day interaction programme was organized by BPW Biratnagar where Dr. Dilli Devi Shakya and Ms. Laxmi Keshari Manandhar, from FBPWN evaluated and interacted about the programme. While looking back into the activities of one year, we are content that at least 120 women who were under poverty line, now can raise voice for their rights and can make their living on their own. Hopefully, we can work for more women next year.

### **BPW Ramechhap Activities January – August 2008**

Ramechhap BPW, from its establishment period, has been conducting various programmes. It has been working on women related issues, such as awareness raising, skill training, forming women co-operatives group, community infrastructure development and these works has set our chapter as a role model organization for other Government and non-government organizations.

### **Activities:**

1. Published informative wall magazines in 3 primary schools through the project “We Can.”
2. Elocution in 3 primary schools about women violence.
3. Street drama at Manthali against women violence.
4. Hoarding Board- 2 hoarding boards are being displayed against women violence in the market centers.
5. The 16-days programme against women violence was held with the joint effort of INSEC.
6. An interaction programme about the current scenario of human right was held at Manthali in association with Advocacy Forum.
7. A peace rally was taken out along with Human right peace community.
8. A Candle lighting ceremony was organized to celebrate Human Right day.
9. 10 groups of women farmer were formed and group activities are being conducted.
10. 190 families from 182 houses are benefited.
11. A training was organized about seasonal and unseasonal vegetables for those 10 groups and seeds of the vegetables were distributed.
12. A 3-meter long irrigation tunnel is in the final stage of completion.

### **BPW Pokhara Activities January – August 2008**

BPW Germany invited Ms. Laxmi Gurung, Coordinator of BPW Pokhara to visit Germany from 2065.2.17 till 2065.3.6. Ms. Laxmi Gurung thanked BPW Germany for the invitation and BPW Pokhara wished her nice journey. The computer literacy training is being conducted on a regular basis and till now 80 women have been graduated and 23 women are taking classes now. The life member Ms. Ras Kumari Gurung, on returning from USA donated Rs. 10,000/- to BPW Pokhara. Ms. Anar Bhari, Treasurer participated the inauguration program of Muktinath Development Bank on 2065.2.24. In joint effort of BPW Pokhara and Richmond Fellowship, one day programme was organized with Mother’s Group against Drug trafficking. We discussed the idea of women telecenter with country manager Dr. Rohit Nepali of M.S.B. K Nepal where importance of computer literacy for every member of Pokhara chapter was also discussed. On 2065.3.28, we organized a discussion programme on establishment of telecenter with some distinguished guests. We celebrated 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting with an interaction programme on “Women involved in service and business.” On Children’s day, we distributed sweets and clothes to the children of Child Care Center opened by FBPWN in Pokhara Industrial District.

## Participation in National/International Events

1. Dr. Dilli Devi Shakya, Vice President visited Birgunj along with Eric Besner of Leger Foundation from October 16-18, 2008.
2. Mrs. Ambica Shrestha, President and Mrs. Shanta Sharma, Treasurer participated in XXVI International Congress of International Federation of Business and Professional Women, Mexico City, Mexico from 28 – 31, 2008.
3. Mrs. Subarna Prajapati, Executive Member participated in “Workshop on Strengthening the management on Non-Bank Financial Institution Catering to Farmers and Rural based Agribusiness” in Bali, Indonesia from November 17-21, 2008.
4. Mrs. Ambica Shrestha, Dr. Dilli Devi Shakya, Mrs. Urmila Shrestha, Executive member visited Birgunj from March 3-7, 2008 and Dr. Dilli Devi Shakya and Mrs. Urmila Shrestha visited Biratnagar from March 19 -24, 2008 for Monitoring and Evaluation of project “Poverty Reduction through Socio-economic Activities.”
5. Mrs. Laxmi Keshari Manandhar, General Secretary participated in 53<sup>rd</sup> meeting (Conference) of Commission on Status of Women with a theme “Equal partnership of men’s and women’s responsibilities” and sub themes 1. Stop Violence against women and 2. HIV Aids, in New York, USA from March 2 – 13, 2008.

## Felicitation and Best Wishes:

FBPWN is very proud to announce that its member achieved some remarkable recognition this year:

1. Mrs. Kamallesh Lata Rajbhandari, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President awarded with Outstanding contribution in Science and Technology Particularly in Agriculture Sector.
2. Mrs. Shanta Sharma, Treasurer nominated as member in management committee of Kitini Higher Secondary School, Godavari and in the executive body of Nepal Charkha Pracharak Gandhi Tulsi Smarak Mahaguthi,

Gothatar in the year 2066.

3. Mrs. Anjana Tamrakar, Treasurer of BPW Kathmandu awarded with National Best Women Entrepreneur 2065 and Best Small Cottage Entrepreneur for 2009.
4. Ms. Dibya Laxmi Bajracharya, Executive member BPW Kathmandu awarded with Senior Scientist on the 26<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Nepal Association of Science and Technology.

We wish all good luck in their future endeavours.

## जानी राख्नु पर्ने कुराहरू:

वेद ४ प्रकारका छन् :

१. ऋग्वेद २. यजुर्वेद ३. सामवेद ४. अथर्ववेद

पुराण १८ प्रकारको हुन्छ :

१. ब्रम्ह पुराण २. विष्णु पुराण ३. शिव पुराण ४. लिंग पुराण ५. गरुड पुराण ६. नारद पुराण ७. भागवत पुराण ८. अग्नि पुराण ९. स्कंद पुराण १०. भवित्व पुराण ११. ब्रम्हा वैवर्त पुराण १२. वामन पुराण १३. मार्कण्डेय पुराण १४. वराह पुराण १५. भरत पुराण १६. कर्म पुराण १७. ब्रम्हाण पुराण १८. पदम पुराण

१२ महिनामा ६ ऋतु हुन्छन् :

१. वसन्त ऋतु - चैत्र वैशाख
२. ग्रीष्म ऋतु - जेष्ठ असार
३. वर्षा ऋतु - श्रावण भाद्र
४. शरद ऋतु - आश्विन कार्तिक

५. हेमन्त ऋतु - मंसिर पुस

६. शिशिर ऋतु - माघ फाल्गुण

नवग्रह अनुसार नवरत्न पहिरन :

ग्रह	रत्न	
१. सुर्य	माणिक	Ruby
२. चन्द्र	मोति	Pearl
३. मंगल	मुगा	Coral
४. बुध	पन्ना	Emerald
५. गुरु	पुष्पराज	Topaz
६. शुक्र	हिरा	Diamond
७. शनि	नीलम	Sapphire
८. राहु	गोमेद	Zircon
९. केतु	वैयुर्य	Cat's eye

संकलनकर्ता: शान्ता शर्मा, कोषाध्यक्ष

## The XXVI BPW International Congress Power to Make a Difference, Mexico city, Mexico

**B**PW International Congress is held every 3 year in different cities around the world. The XXV BPW International Congress was held in Luzerne city, Switzerland where it was decided that XXVI BPW International Congress will be organized in Mexico City, Mexico with a theme “Power to make a Difference “ from 24th to 28th October, 2008.

Mrs. Ambica Shrestha, President FBPWN, I Santa Sharma, Treasurer, FBPWN and Mrs. Ganga Adhikari, member Kathmandu BPW represented BPW Nepal at the 26th BPW International Congress. I was the lucky enough to receive funding support from International Aid fund from South Asia region. I got economic support of Euro 1000.00 from the aid. Mrs. Ambica Shrestha, also being member of IBPW’S Executive Board, left to Mexico City on 20<sup>th</sup> October from Mexico City. The conference was organized at the 5 Star Gran Melia Mexico Reforma Hotel from 24<sup>th</sup> October from 8am. The programs like presentations, business and plenary session were being run parallel at the same time from 8am to 5pm, so it was difficult for the participants to attend every programs. We were bound to miss the programs.

The participants form counties from different parts of the world like America, Canada, China, Korea, Finland, Iotian America, Thailand, Africa, Mexico, Arch State, Australia, Italy, Pakistan, Haiti, European Countries, Taiwan, Switzerland, Germany, Japan, New Zealand were present at the International Congress. The attraction were the delegacies from UN, UNICEF, FAO etc, and past president of BPW International Sylvia Perry, Attony Ruegg, Dr. Yvetteswan.



The program started with registration and regional conference on 24<sup>th</sup> October and there was Grand Opening Ceremony of the Congress in the afternoon at the old Government Office with music and entertainment. Every participant representing their county with their country’s flags entered the hall. Our president, Mrs. Ambica Shrestha, also entered the hall with flag of Nepal. She looked so young and enthusiastic with our flag in her hand. There

was Presidential Party, but we had nothing but water.

On 24<sup>th</sup> October, many resolutions were passed at the congress like constitution of BPW International, By laws which can be found on

[www.bpwinternational.org](http://www.bpwinternational.org). on the same day, the XXVII Congress meeting venue was decided as Helesinki, Finland.

From 26<sup>th</sup> October, in Mexico City, the local time had been adjusted to minus one hour which was notified in our program manual. But we reached the hotel one hour earlier as we were unaware about the time adjustment. That day only, we got some refreshments such as tea, coffee and cookies from the organizers. In spite of member’s registration fee of US\$ 460, we were surprised to see that there were no food offered not even refreshments in previous days.



*Second award*

The winners of The Power to Make a Difference Awards in different categoris such as leadership, advocacy and action had already been announced earlier though email. We have been awarded second prize in Power to make a difference through Advocacy and third prize in Power to make a difference through Action nomination Skill training.

I had presentation on Power to make a difference through Action Nomination Skill Training on 26<sup>th</sup> October and our President, Mrs. Ambica Shrestha had presentation on 27<sup>th</sup> October on Power to make a difference through Advocacy. Our projects were highly recognized and appreciated after our presentations.



*Third award*

The Award ceremony along with Gala Dinner started at 7 pm on the same day at Government Ex-convent of San Hippolitto with dance and entertainment. We all danced in the same tune. The second prize for Power to make a difference through Advocacy was handed over to Ambica Madam and I and Mrs. Ganga Adhikari received jointly the third prize for Power to make a difference through action nomination skill training. It was already 11 pm when the programme was over and it was very scary moment for us to return to our hotel when it was almost 12 am. We couldn’t afford to stay in 5 star hotel and it was very disappointing that there was no security for us who had to live outside the hotel. I would not be exaggerating if I said the management of the Mexico Conference was weak.

27<sup>th</sup> October was the voting day. The voting delegates had to stay from 8:30 to 5 pm with a remote control inside the hall. The voting right delegates are fixed according to the number of members which states:

500 or less members-	3 delegates
501-1000 members-	4 delegates



1001-2000 members- 5 delegates  
 2001-3000 members- 6 delegates

Plus one additional delegate for every additional 3000 members upto maximum of 12. This made three of us voting delegates.

The busiest day of the seminar was the last day ie 28<sup>th</sup> of October which was the election day. The new executive Board or 2008-2011 was to be formed. It was easier and was not time consuming as it was electronic voting. The result was announced within one hour according to which the new executive board is as follows:

1. President Elizabeth Benham, New York, USA
2. First Vice President Gabriella Canonica, Switzerland
3. Second Vice President Freda Miriklis, Australia
4. Executive Secretary Dr Jean Murray, Australia
5. Finance Director Sujey Albert, New York, USA

It is really sad that we had to miss the grand Farewell Fiesta Dinner from 20-24 hrs as we were only two ladies and had to reach our hotel as early as possible. On 29<sup>th</sup> Ambica Madam had to attend the executive board meeting so we went for half day museum visit and also did some shopping for the first time during our trip. We went for sightseeing around Mexico City on the last day. The pyramids were the highlights of the city along with old palaces. We ended Mexico trip with some sweet and some bitter experiences. On 31<sup>st</sup> October, we flew to our destinations separately.

*Mrs. Shanta Sharma, Treasurer*

“ग्राम भ्यूदयाद् देशो भ्यूदय”  
 गाँउको उन्नतिबाट देशको समृद्धि  
 संभव छ ।

## FBPWN's Projects

*Mrs. Babita Rana, Project Director*

### 1. Business Service Centre (BSC)

The Business Service Centre (BSC) is a four year project of The Federation of Business and Professional Women of Nepal (FBPWN) with the technical assistance of the Italian Association for Women in Development (AIDOS). The BSC project launched in February 2008 is co-financed by the European Commission (EC).

The Project aims to enhance women's active role in the labour market through the upgrading of existing micro enterprises run by women into more viable, self-sustainable and growth -oriented businesses and through the creation of new ones. By doing so, the Project intends to contribute to mitigate the poverty affecting Nepalese families by enhancing women's capacity to organize their labour in an economically feasible way.

The BSC covers the following areas: FBPWN's Kathmandu, Patan and Thimi Chapters, Kirtipur Municipality and Nuwakot District. The Project targets disadvantaged, poor women (between the age group 18-50 years) who are residents in the target areas. Preference will be given to female heads of household and family breadwinners and those already involved in business activities or intended to start an entrepreneurial activity.

The BSC acts as a counselling / training / business

development centre to support women's led subsistence income generating activities to become more viable, and profitable. The BSC is managed by a technical team including: a Director, a Training Coordinator, a Marketing Officer, a Business Counsellor/Credit Officer, and two Local Promoters. The BSC Team is trained by AIDOS outsourced international experts in the field of enterprise development, marketing and communication and Product Design and Development and it is supported on-the-job by the International Project Manager (AIDOS) and the National Project Manager (FBPWN).

The BSC provide existing and potential women's MSEs in the Project target areas with an integrated package of business development services (BDS) including: entrepreneurship orientation, business management training, technical skills training, product design and development (PD&D), facilitation to access micro and small credits, follow-up and business counselling, marketing assistance, and business networking. The BSC will also offer, on a contractual basis, technical assistance and capacity building services for organisations involved in local socio-economic development. The BSC is established as a donor-funded development cooperation Project. However, the Project will work to define an appropriate sustainability strategy to establish the BSC as a permanent centre of excellence for the promotion of women's entrepreneurship in Nepal.

## 2. Poverty Reduction through Socio-economic Activities

*Dr. Dilli Devi Shakya*

*1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President and Project Coordinator*

Federation of Business and Professional Women Nepal (FBPWN) has always been working towards empowering women socioeconomically and leadership potential at all levels. FBPWN has been working on several projects that help girls, children and women mostly in the urban area. Since the year 2002 FBPWN has been helping village women under the project “Poverty Reduction through Socio-economic Activities” supported by Leger Foundation, Canada. Poverty exists more serious in hills and terai of Nepal because of deep rooted male dominated traditions which is one of the main factors. The target women beneficiaries are illiterate disadvantage groups. The package of project activities includes functional literacy, skill trainings, and awareness trainings in social, political/legal, gender equality/equity, environment, health/hygiene and saving credit so that they can run small business.

In the year 2002 to 2005, the project had been implemented in Village Development communities, (VDCs) of Chapali Bhadrakali of Kathmandu, Saibu Bhaisepati of Patan and Sirutar of Bhaktapur districts. The target beneficiaries are illiterate disadvantage women farmers and they are small farm holders. The project activities designed for these farmer women include mainly agricultural skill trainings covering organic composting, soil types, crop diseases pesticides use and health hazard, bio pesticides, off season vegetables and quality seeds besides literacy.

### **Year 2007 to 2010**

In the year 2007 to 2010 the project has been implemented in Katahari, Baijanathpur and Tankisinwai VDCs of Biratnagar, Morang district and Udaipur Ghurmi, Nagarhada and Bairiya Birta VDCs of Birjung, Parsa district through BPW Biratnagar and BPW Birjung chapters of the Federation respectively. The target beneficiaries of terai are very poor, illiterate disadvantage landless women of heterogenic ethnicity. The landless terai women are very poor and they are mostly laborers in agricultural. The scenarios observed in villages of terai are quite different from the villages of periphery of Kathmandu valley where they have their own land. So instead of agriculture training, other skill trainings like incense sticks and candle making and sewing cutting have been provided along with literacy, awareness programs and capacity building. The literacy, skill trainings and micro credit are the important components of the project activities.

### **Impact of project or change**

The target women of sixteen villages have already completed various trainings by the year 2008. The overall changes are remarkable. They became literate and are happy that they can read and write simple numerical. They feel proud that they are now self confident and can share their opinion with their family and community. They have become health conscious. In villages, wives are blamed if they gave the birth of girl child only. Now they came to know that the birth of a girl is not only the defect of wife alone it might be due to her husband. Skill trainings have



*Woman wearing self-tailored clothe*

helped them to be able to make small income generation. They are able to do small business. Some women beneficiaries are saying that their husbands are eventually found supportive. Some of them have been hired by other NGOS as the trainers for making candles and incense sticks trainings. Some are running home based tailoring. They are happy and satisfied to be with BPW activities. They used to say to their village community that BPW is different. Target women beneficiaries of the year 2007 and 2008, have already started group saving and utilizing revolving loans to run small family business. This project has been helping empower women socially and economically.

## **International Women’s Day**

Federation of Business and Professional Women Nepal celebrates International Women’s Day every year organizing various programmes. This year too FBPWN celebrated 99<sup>th</sup> International Women’s Day with a theme “Men and Women unite to end violence against Women and Girls” on March 8, 2009.

The highlights of the programme were the rally and an Interaction and Get together programme. FBPWN and it’s chapters participated the rally organized by National Women’s Commission. The huge rally with participation of different other organization started at 11 am from Bhrikuti Mandap circling Shahid Gate, New Road, Bhotahity, Ratnapark and back to Khula Manch where the mass was addressed by our Prime Minister Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal, Prachanda. After the rally, we all came back to Buddhangar where we had Interaction and Get together programme.

The programme started at 2 pm. Our president, Mrs. Ambica Shrestha presented roses to all the members, which symbolizes friendship and harmony followed by the introductory session. The importance of Women’s day and women empowerment was highlighted by the president. Then the floor was opened for the discussion. After the discussion, all the participants enjoyed the lunch.