

## Press Release

MahaKumbha 2017, Fourth Annual National Debating Championships, Concludes

KATHMANDU, Dec 29th, 2017

MahaKumbha 2017, fourth annual national schools debating championships, concluded on 25th December with Team St. Xavier's A and Team St Xavier's C winning the first prizes for Open and Novice categories respectively. They beat Team Rato Bangala School and Antaratam A in the respective finals to lift the champions' trophies.

Top 35 best speakers selected from this championship have been shortlisted to form a national debate team that will represent Nepal in World Schools Debate Championships (WSDC) to be held in Croatia in July, 2018.

The five-day-long tournament was held at National Secondary School, Balkumari, Lalitpur, by Debate Network Nepal with support from UNDP Nepal, in association with National SS/ Kathmandu Model College and in cooperation with Students For Liberty (Nepal). Likewise, the tournament was further supported by Nepal Television, Glocal Khabar, Motif Language and Abroad Studies, Classic Tech, Gaja Raj Joshi Trust, Noble Treks and Eagle Vision IT.

The theme of the tournament was sustainable development goals (SDGs) and liberty. Debaters discussed on various topics to identify sustainable solutions to various moral and policy-based issues related to SDGs. The objective of the tournament was to provide a platform to young debaters and enhance their critical thinking and debating skills.

Tournament convenor, Shripa Pradhan said, "It is a pleasure to see around a hundred budding debaters put forward their opinion and discuss important issues around the globe. Debate tournaments like MahaKumbha support young debaters acquire essential skills that help them grow as an intellectual and sensible individual."

The chief-adjudicators of the tournament were Pawan Adhikari and Nishma Gautam from Nepal, and Parth Maniktala from India with Adel Mostaque Ahmed from Bangladesh as the advisor. Avani Adhikari from Rato Bangala School and Pradeep Ghimire grabbed best speaker and best adjudicator award respectively.