



DEBATE NETWORK NEPAL

DEBATE NETWORK NEPAL (DNN)

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PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL TEAM TO REPRESENT NEPAL AT WORLD SCHOOLS DEBATING CHAMPIONSHIP

Kathmandu

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Nepali national schools debate team is all set to represent Nepal in the upcoming World Schools Debate Championship (WSDC) beginning next week in Stuttgart, Germany. WSDC is world's largest and most prestigious school level debate championship with 56 nations coming together to debate on social, moral and political issues in Worlds Schools Style format.

The team comprises of five debaters Aakash Pant, Abhaya Gauchan, Alaukik Nath Pant, Avash Byanjankar and Simran Thapa; team manager/ judge Pradeep Ghimire; team manager/coach Shailesh Lamichhane and three other judges Nishma Gautam, Raj Kharel and Poshan Khanal.

Debate Network Nepal (DNN), the national debate organization had announced the team a couple of months ago and since then the members have undergone intense preparatory camps. To facilitate the preparation, DNN invited former world champion Ratib Ali from Bangladesh and former worlds finalist Keiran James Bunn and Sophia Cameron-Christie from New Zealand to help the team prepare better.

Nepal made its first appearance in Doha 2010 followed by Scotland 2011. Debating movement started becoming more organized from the year 2014 in Nepal and thus its third participation in Singapore 2015 Championship saw Nepal's ranking improve significantly. Currently, Nepal is in 42nd rank out of 56 nations participating. DNN Chair and Team Manager Pradeep Ghimire, who is hopeful about Nepal at least making it to the elimination round, says, "We have screened out a very strong team and the preparations has been like never before."

The head coach of the team, also cofounder of DNN, Rishab Krishna Shrestha observes the team as very motivated as final preparations is underway. Nepal will take on nations such as defending champion Singapore, Denmark, New Zealand and Bangladesh in the group stage. Four out of eight group stage rounds are prepared rounds and motions are about Obama's foreign policy's success, moral obligation to donate after meeting basic needs, tech giants needing to drop patent rights and nations needing to approve free trade agreements through referendum.

The team members were selected through a national team screening that followed 2nd National WSDC Debate Championship, MahaKumbha 2016. Debate Network Nepal has been voluntarily coordinating the process. Unlike many other nations where institutions or governments fund the participation, Nepali delegations are still having to fund such participations on their own due to government's indifference.

In world schools, three debaters represent each team on stage and each debater delivers an eight minutes long speech. Towards the end of the debate, one among the first two debaters from both sides comes to conclude the hour long debate with reply speeches. They get an hour to prepare during the impromptu rounds. Motions, or topics, appear from a variety of ranges. The motion for this year's finale has been set as "This House believes that states should be allowed to pay other states to relocate and settle refugees."

The team is leaving for Germany 17th July for a seventeen days' trip where the team is also looking forward to a lot of learning, networking and fun.