

The Ambassador of Israel to Nepal at Janaki Medical College: A Glimpse

Satyam Prakash* 

*Department of Biochemistry, Janaki Medical College, Tribhuvan University, Nepal

After more than a decade of teaching at Janaki Medical College, I am again interested in scripting my words as a gift in honour to His Excellency Mr. Hanan Goder Goldberger, Ambassador of Israel to Nepal, who has accepted an invitation to attend a welcome ceremony and orientation class of medical and nursing students at Janaki Medical College Teaching Hospital (JMCTH) on 28 December, 2021. The JMCTH was established in December 1999 in Ramdaiya Bhawadi, a rural area of Janakpur city, and is accredited by the Institute of Medicine, Tribhuvan University, Nepal Medical Council, Nepal Nursing Council, and the Ministry of Education to provide academic programs in MBBS, MD, nursing, and various paramedical courses, as well as healthcare services. It has established itself as one of Tribhuvan University's most prestigious medical college [1].

Our college has organized and sponsored a variety of events, but the welcome ceremony and orientation class for the MBBS 16th batch was the most memorable and noteworthy since its beginning. On this special day, we were privileged to receive His Excellency Ambassador Hanan Goder Goldberger as chief guest at Janaki Medical College. The waiting period ended as he entered the college premises. On this momentous occasion, medical College was decked out in festive decorations and all of us greeted His Excellency Ambassador Goder with warm heart at the Auditorium hall, JMCTH, Ramdaiya, Bhawadi. The hall was packed with a crowd of basic and clinical medical science professors, nursing faculties, students, non-teaching personnel, the media, the

Higher dignitaries of the college, as well as the special security arrangement forces.



College authorities and students welcoming His Excellency Mr. Hanan Goder Goldberger, Ambassador of Israel to Nepal at Janaki Medical College, Ramdaiya, Bhawadi

His Excellency, the Ambassador of Israel to Nepal, inaugurated the function with 'Paanas Batti' lamp lighting in the Auditorium hall. The program was formally started with the national anthem of Nepal, and then he delivered a lecture session on "Progress and Prosperity in Israel", starting with "Shalom and Namaste" and, emphasized the cordial relations between Israel and Nepal since 1960.

He remembered the courageous and wise decision of the first democratically elected Prime Minister of Nepal, BP Koirala, to establish diplomatic relations with Israel. He highlighted healthcare facilities and water technologies in Israel and also promoted the



Lamp lighting ceremony by Ambassador Hanan Goder during the welcome ceremony

"Learn and Earn" program, which has helped in promoting modern farming systems in Nepal. Further, he explained how Israel is supporting Nepal in human capacity building through various training programs and the opening of Israel's sky for Nepali migrant workers in the care-giving sector.

During his speech, I became convinced that he appreciates natural beauty and was impressed when he spoke well of the similarities between two small countries that boast the highest point on Earth "Sagarmatha" and the lowest point "the Dead Sea", as well as several lovely tourist destinations.

He reminisced about his wonderful experiences of Nepal and praised medical and nursing students for their noble profession that benefits society. Throughout the session, he was fond of expounding on Nepal's beautiful identity as the Shangrila of legend, the land of the Yeti and the Yak, Hindu gods and goddesses, religions cultural diversity, faiths, and tradition of different regions of Nepal.

In the middle of his speech, I overjoyed his wonderful Nepali tone reflecting that Nepal touches him from the heart, and I was touched for him. He was interacting and connecting with everyone in the auditorium. His kind personality, positive attitude, communication skill, ability to



Ambassador Goder delivering his lecture session at auditorium hall of Janaki Medical College, Ramdaiya

converse with individuals of all ages and backgrounds, and natural sense of inquiry were impressive and remarkable. Janaki Medical College presented Ambassador with a token of memory, and during his session, he also presented our chairman with a token of love and memory, 'Shalom,' representing relations for peace and harmony. His speech was graceful and ice-breaking, reflecting the reality that he was simultaneously representing Israel and Nepal.



Ambassador Goder presenting Token of Love and Memory to the honourable Chairman of Janaki Medical College

In the ceremony, Prof. Dr. Ram Prasad Upreti, Director of International Relations unveiled a book on First Aid, and made an announcement indicating that the college has begun collaborating with Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel. It would continue in the future with other international institutions and the healthcare industries worldwide.

Following this initiative, JMCTH and MAHSA University, Malaysia issued a joint press statement stating that JMC is fortunate to have partnered and agreed to collaborate in areas of mutual interest, including faculty exchange programs and teaching learning activities, student exchange programs between the two institutions, mutual research collaboration, technology transfer for super speciality hospital facilities, educational excursions, and other training programs [1].



Director of International relations highlighting international collaborations and unveiling the book on 'First Aid' during ceremony. Collaborations with other health institutions throughout the world will develop not only the healthcare partnership, but also the relationship with many nations; propelling Janaki Medical College to a new level of international importance in this modern era of medical science as highlighted by Director of International Relations. The special guest Mr. Bandhu Prasad Bastola, Chief District Officer of Dhanusha, acknowledged Janaki Medical

College's commitment to healthcare services and academic competence in medicine. He also congratulated the newcomers on their academic accomplishments at medical college and encouraged them to devote their lives to serving humanity. On the same day, Ambassador Hanan Goder unveiled the "H.E. Mr. Hanan Goder Goldberger Building" at Janaki Medical College teaching hospital in Ramdaiya, Bhawadi at Madhesh Pradesh, Nepal which will be named after him.



The Chairman of Janaki Medical College, the Israeli Ambassador to Nepal, and the Director of International Relations during unveiling the Hanan Goder Goldberger Building at Ramdaiya, Bhawadi

The welcoming program was delighted by student cultural activities, particularly the Jhijhiya Dance, which represents the culture of Madhesh.



Students performing on Jhijhiya Dance during the welcome ceremony

Slow dances by the Ambassador and the International Director added to the excitement and flavor of the welcome ceremony. For a while, I was surprised to see them getting ready for TikTok. Their candor brought a different example of their excellence and adaptability.

The flags of Israel, with a blue hexagram on a white background, and Nepal, with a white moon and sun on a crimson background, with a dark blue colour, stood together in front of the most remarkable and beautiful stone constructions created as "Long Live Nepal-Israel Friendship" memorials on the college grounds.



Director of International Relations, Ambassador Goder and managing director at Stone landmarks in JMC premises for 'Long live Nepal-Israel Friendship'

While standing near stone landmarks, Ambassador Goder highlighted the symbolic importance of national flags, explaining that they represent the cold of the Himalayas, the heat of the lowlands, the calmness and purity of the Nepalese, and the color blue in Israel's flag represents God's glory, purity, and Gevurah. Apart from that, Instagram was stuck on the ground, and was widely followed and liked. That was a selfie spot for all the attendees at the welcome ceremony that day. The Janaki Mandir of Janakpurdham existed in imagination of Ambassador Goder as a place of pilgrimage, devotion, and meditation in his mind. The Janaki

Temple in Janakpurdham, which is located at the birthplace of Goddess Sita, consort of Lord Rama, is one of Hinduism's holiest sites in the world. The temple architecture is from a later period, but it has a distinct style that combines classical and neo-classical design elements with fortification elements in a unique natural setting. The Janaki Temple's sacred significance necessitates its ongoing preservation and maintenance [2]. On the same day, Ambassador's schedule was to visit Janaki Temple and participate in a cleanliness campaign organized by Janaki Medical College.



Ambassador Goder and representatives of Janaki Medical College during cleanliness campaign at Janaki Mandir, Janakpurdham

His Excellency Ambassador, CDO of Dhanusha District with team members from the medical college and Janakpurdham Municipality participated in the cleanliness campaign organized by Janaki medical college at Janaki Mandir under the slogan "Haamro Janakpur, Saffa Janakpur" to meet the dream slogan of Chief Minister of Madhesh Pradesh, Mohammad Lalbabu Raut, "Clean Madhesh, Prosperous Province" [3] to realize the desire of the route of development and prosperity in this province [4]. The Ambassador as well as college officials were interviewed by the media who were covering the ceremony. A

delicious feast was organized for the guests attending this program at Ramdaiya, Bhawadi college premises at the end of the day.

The day of 28 December, 2021 was a memorable event, more than an academic occasion at Janaki Medical College. At this moment, it would be truly unfair if I miss to praise the outstanding leadership of our Honourable Chairman, Om Prasad Pandey, young and enthusiastic Managing Director, Sriprasert Pandey towards their excellent vision and countless efforts towards maintaining the high dignity of Janaki Medical College. Moreover, the

program would not have been successful without the positive contributions of an evergreen veteran personality, Prof. Dr. Ram Prasad Upreti, a gentle and thoughtful personality, Dr. Jitendra K. Singh, and the energetic Basic Science coordinator, Dr. Lokeshwar Chaurasia, as well as the active administrative team of Mr. Vijay K. Yadav and Mr. Pankaj Yadav. To me, and to most of the others, this was a truly historic occasion, I feel very proud to associate myself with different activities with lots of enthusiasm and affection towards the progress and development at Janaki Medical College.

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*Correspondence:

Dr. Satyam Prakash
Department of Biochemistry, Janaki Medical College,
Tribhuvan University, Nepal
E-mail: sprakashy2424@gmail.com
ORCID: [0000-0002-3894-7123](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3894-7123)

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