



**AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY
KATHMANDU**

21 JANUARY 2011

**AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY ASSISTANCE TO
NEPAL ASSOCIATION OF THE BLIND**

On 21 January 2011, Deputy Head of Mission at the Australian Embassy, Damien Dunn, handed over a Tactile Graphic Embosser Printer, computers and generator to the Nepal Association of the Blind (NAB).

Under its Direct Aid Program, the Australian Embassy has provided NPR 1,955,000 in 2010-11 (equivalent to A\$ 28,600) to the NAB for “Strengthening of Education Support for the Blind and Partially Sighted People in Nepal” program.

Through this support, the NAB has developed and launched a Nepali language text-to-speech software package. The NAB plans to prepare braille text books for primary level students using a graphic braille embosser printer to print braille pictures. The NAB is also preparing audio textbooks for college level courses in the humanities and education streams and has provided computer training to visually impaired people.

In 2010-11, the Australian Embassy’s Direct Aid Program funded ten projects worth NPR 11.4 million in the sectors of disability, health and sanitation, infrastructure and human rights.

The Australian Government’s Official Development Assistance to Nepal for financial year 2010-2011 is AUD 18.44 million.

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