



**Australia Awards**



## MEDIA RELEASE

### LG Professionals Australia successful in bid to host 2017-2018 Australia Awards Fellowship

18 September, 2017

With the release of the 2018 Australia Awards program by the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon Julie Bishop MP, LG Professionals Australia is pleased to announce its role as a host organisation for municipal professionals from Nepal.

‘We are very pleased to be involved in the Australia Awards Fellowship with our project, Strengthening municipalities in Nepal for facilitating de-centralisation and ensuring better service delivery. It will help build the capacity of local government professionals and elected representatives in Nepal,’ said Ricki Bruhn, National President, LG Professionals Australia.

Local elections were held recently in Nepal for the first time since 1997, and many municipalities created in the last 20 years have been run by appointed professionals.

‘This is an excellent opportunity for Australian practitioners to support the introduction of effective and transparent governance processes that further Nepal’s decentralising democracy. Through this program, our members can contribute directly by equipping visiting fellows with the knowledge, skills and networks they need to be effective local government managers,’ said Ricki.

As part of the fellowship, 15 municipal government professionals from Nepal will travel to Australia for two weeks. Their visit will include four days of training at the Institute for Governance and Policy Analysis at the University of Canberra. The program will cover effective leadership, local level participatory planning, project management and urban management, as well as gender empowerment, disability inclusiveness and disaster preparedness and management. The fellows will also attend a one day conference on local governance: Local Governance in the 21st Century: Structures and Efficiency at Old Parliament House.

‘The visit will feature time with a host Australian council from within our federation to experience the day-to-day operations of local government here. With the guidance of peer mentors, the fellows will gain practical knowledge of our system, and share learnings on-site,’ said Ricki.

Several local government professionals from Australia will also visit Nepal for a week. They will attend a conference run by the Municipal Association of Nepal (MuAN) and spend time in municipalities to share and exchange expertise and knowledge with local government professionals in Nepal.

'LG Professionals Australia enables the local government sector to cohesively engage with the international community to promote international development through local governance. Our approach focuses on strengthening and working with local institutions and local government professionals in-country, and building networks to the local government sector in Australia to share experience and expertise', said Ricki.

#### **About the Australia Awards**

Australia Awards are prestigious international scholarships and fellowships funded by the Australian Government. Australia Awards fellowships build capacity and strengthen partnerships between Australian organisations and partner organisations in eligible developing countries in support of key development and foreign affairs priorities. By providing short-term study, research and professional development opportunities in Australia, mid-career professionals and emerging leaders can tap into Australian expertise, gaining valuable skills and knowledge.

#### **About LG Professionals Australia**

LG Professionals Australia is federation with offices in NSW, QLD, SA, TAS, VIC and WA, and a national office based in Canberra. We are part of an international network that shares expertise and best practice to create the processes and networks to build and foster good local governance, better service delivery and strong, inclusive communities. Our members learn from and experience local government in other countries and broaden their perspective on the possibilities, as well as build networks and collaborate with like-minded peers from around the world. They gain experience in a wider capacity, test their expertise while extending their skills in an international context, and create and influence projects from the ground up. They contribute their knowledge and expertise, to make a real and practical difference to international and developing communities.

For more information visit [www.lgprofessionalsaustralia.org.au](http://www.lgprofessionalsaustralia.org.au)

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