

THE RISING NEPAL

ALL BE HAPPY, ALL BE WELL

Equality campaigns need consolidation

BY A STAFF REPORTER

Kathmandu, Sept. 2

Supreme Court Justice Sapana Pradhan Malla said that non-discrimination and equality movements are still facing challenges like capacity building, networking and bringing new faces into the field.

Speaking at the programme named 'Convening to Celebrate our Journeys - The Legacy of Accountability' organised by International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAP) in collaboration with Partners for Law in Development, India, Forum for Women Law and Development and Women's Fund Asia, Justice Malla said that there were several achievements regarding the implementation of Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Recalling her experience as a lawyer, she said that the 11th amendment to the Civil Code following the order of the Supreme Court of Nepal was an

important achievement to ensure women's rights to property, particularly property of inheritance.

It was an example of executing CEDAW in the context of Nepal, she said.

Shanthi Dairiam, founder, IWRAP Asia Pacific, said her book 'Promoting the Equality of Women: IWRAP Asia Pacific Journey', which was launched recently, portrays history, ideas, struggles and achievements of women's movements in the region. Shanthi, a rights activist, has contributed a lot in executing the provisions of CEDAW in the region.

Sharing her personal experience of inequality, she states in her book that her parents believed in educating both son and daughter equally, but not as equals. "While my brother was encouraged to take up engineering, I was encouraged to take up English literature. This being seen as something of a refinement, the luxury a girl could afford."

The organiser hosted a two-day programme named 'Convening to Celebrate our Journey - The Legacy of Accountability' in Kathmandu.