



For the Benefit of People and Planet

Asterisk International Services,  
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March 27, 2022; Sunday.

The Global Compact,  
United Nations,  
New York, NY 10017,  
USA.

**RE: Statement of Continued Support for the Global Compact**

Dear Sir/Madam:

I hereby confirm our continued participation and support to the Global Compact initiatives, as Asterisk International Services continues to adopt Global Compact principles deeply intertwined with its daily operations.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Narayan Krishna Kharel", is placed over the Asterisk International Services logo.The logo for Asterisk International Services, featuring the word "ASTERISK" in a bold, black, sans-serif font with a small star icon above the 'I', and "International Services" in a smaller, black, sans-serif font below it.

Narayan Krishna Kharel  
Founder/CEO

# **Asterisk International Services**

UNGC ID 132326  
Member since April 17, 2018

## **Communication on Progress (COP)**

**March 27, 2022**

Asterisk International Services is pleased to confirm its support of the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment, and Anti-Corruption. We have strict guidelines as well as measurement of outcomes in place. In our 2021/22 Corporate Sustainability Report below, we describe our actions to continually improve the integration of the Global Compact and its principles into our business, strategy, culture, and daily operations. We also commit to share this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

# 2021/22 Corporate Sustainability Report

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## About Asterisk International Services

“Asterisk” means something which has further meaning. It signifies that creativity and imagination has no limitation. It also conveys the message that our compassion and care is profound to the People and Planet without the boarder in all direction. Asterisk was established in 2010 as a family run Handicraft Company with the view of promoting the Nepali handicraft industry while providing employment opportunity to the deprived, underprivileged community people, especially women and ethnic groups by making them socially and economically empowered.

Started with few family members and few women artist, currently it has 130 regular employees among which 15 are management staffs and rest are in production line. Among the total 130 human resource, 75% are women. Besides, Asterisk also has 2 local producer groups who supply us with high quality felt and Natural products. The company believes in diversification and therefore has people from various social, religious and ethnic backgrounds from different parts of the country. Our major international markets are America, UK, Canada, Germany, Netherland, Latvia, Japan, Australia, Denmark and many other emerging markets around the world.

Asterisk is committed to quality production and timely delivery. We along with our buyer are working for the sustainable future for the benefit of People and Planet.

## Covid Response, Fighting against Pandemic

The second wave of COVID made problem all over Nepal and on April 26, 2021 the Government of Nepal announced second wave of lock down of Kathmandu and other major places of Nepal as a public health measure to help slow the spread of COVID-19. The second wave of lock down restrictions was is still going on till date and the people of Nepal are afraid of third wave.

Asterisk International Services was prompted to address the situation created by covid and distributed mask, Sanitizer, oximeter to all the employees and their family and other people like health workers, Police, social workers and frontlines.



During 2nd wave of covid Asterisk in collaboration of Buyer, Rotary club of Kathmandu has donated 54 set of Oxygen concentrator to the health post of Kageshwora Manahara Municipality, Bhulmu Village Development Committee and Panchkhal Municipality and various health centers.

Some of our staffs and their family got infected and we rescued them in our car to hospital and saved them risking our own life. We provided them all the necessary stuffs like food, medicine, financial aid etc.

Because of lock down by government for more than 1 months we have fully paid to our workers for whole lockdown period and also supported them with groceries and safety measures. Asterisk also provided mechanical handwash station to the covid hospitals nearby our factory at Kageshwori Manahara.



## Celebrations

Asterisk International services takes special cares of our employees. Time and again, we celebrate different national and international festivals in our office. These festivals help to refresh our staffs and reenergize them. Every year we are celebrating Women's festival ( Teej Celebrations), Annual Picnic , Annual day celebration.

## Protective equipment distribution to workers

We provide protective materials like apron, Gloves, mask, sanitizer on regular basis.

## Financial literacy

Asterisk provide financial awareness to the workers, this year Branch manager of Nic Asia bank shared about the Banking insurance and claim process to the workers who has account on the Nic Asia Bank.

Also Asterisk provided the Initial Public Offering filling Training with the help of Sampanna Capital and Advisory Nepal.



#### **Mindfulness training on International Women's Day**

As we all know that mental health is more necessary than physical health, asterisk provides Anapana Meditation practice as Mindfulness training to the workers. We celebrated women's day with Mindfulness training.



#### **Menstrual Hygiene Management Training in the collaboration with Connection Nepal**

Asterisk also conducted Menstrual Hygiene Management training to all the female staffs in collaboration with connection Nepal.





### **Health Checkup Program**

Asterisk has biannual health checkup program in the office as well as, we distribute free emergencies medicine to our staffs and families. The health check of gynae and general medicine is focused by the doctors.



### **Salary Saving Program**

Asterisk has encouraged the staffs for monthly saving programs to their staffs in women's cooperative and also use financial instruments as per their requirements.



### **Support to differently abled organization like Nepal Spinal Cord Injury Network Nepal, Epsa Nepal, Blind rocks, Disable Service Association**

Asterisk is continuously supporting differently able children and women by providing scholarships and vocational training. We are working with Nepal Spinal cord Injury Network, Epsa Nepal, Blind rocks and Disable service Association.

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### **Our Social Partners**



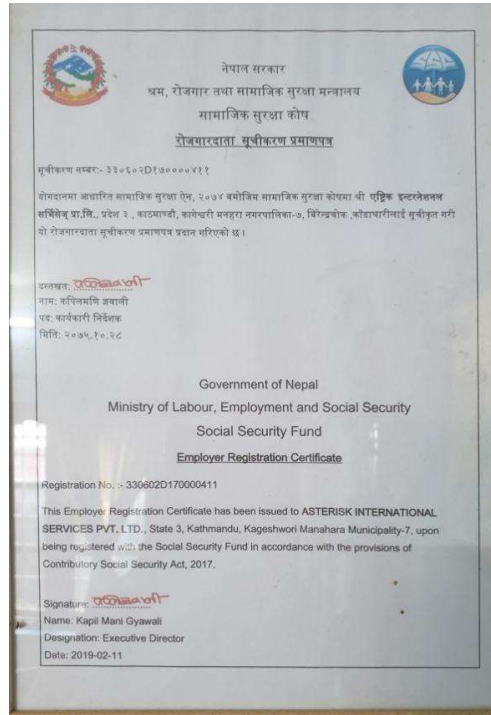
### **Education Scholarship**

Asterisk is supporting children by providing scholarship to 5 students in association with Hoste Hainse every year.

Also we are supporting employees' children for their education every year. Furthermore Asterisk is also supporting Sumala Rai, a differently able girl for her living and education.

### **Social Security Fund**

Listed in Social Security fund initiated by Government from its inception on 2019.



## Occupational health and Safety Training

We also conduct Occupational Health and safety training as per requirement.

## Alms Giving and Moral Motivations

Asterisk organize Alms giving program to the Buddhist Monks to share the earning and cultivate the habits of giving from our workers. Also, the monks inspire us by giving motivation for ethical conduct and responsible business with right livelihood. This will serve as a basic to principle of anti-corruption.

