



## **Experiences of Nepali Team during Visit of Heroldsberg and HNO-Klinik, Erlangen on invitation of CoIN, Germany.**

**Date of Visit:** 2nd to 7th of July, 2023

**Team:** Dr. Rabindra B Pradhananga and Dr. Ameena Pradhananga  
Mr. S.L. Karna and Ms. Kiran Karna  
Mr. Kabi Raj Khanal and Ms. Bindu Khanal

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### **Summary:**

The Nepali team from Cochlear Implant Nepal Group (CING) felt honoured with the hospitality of the team from CoIN e.V. Germany. The visit was facilitated by the chairman of CoIN, Mr. Heinrich Ferschmann. It was great experience for the team to share knowledge, skill and practice on the field of Implantation Otology with Germany CI team. Overall the visit helped the Nepali team to know the differences in the field of Cochlear Implant Program between developed and developing country. The way out to solve the common problems in this field was also discussed.

### **Introduction:**

Nepal is a beautiful small (with area of 147,557 km<sup>2</sup>) land-locked Himalayan country in South Asia. Though Nepal has made significant progress in poverty reduction, around 9% of the population is still below the international poverty line (US\$1.90 per person per day), with almost 32% of the population living on between US\$ 1.90 and US\$3.20 per person per day. The prevalence of disabling hearing impairment in South Asia is 4.4 - 8.8%. In Nepal the prevalence of Deaf is 8.6% of total population (according to the National Population and Housing Census 2021).

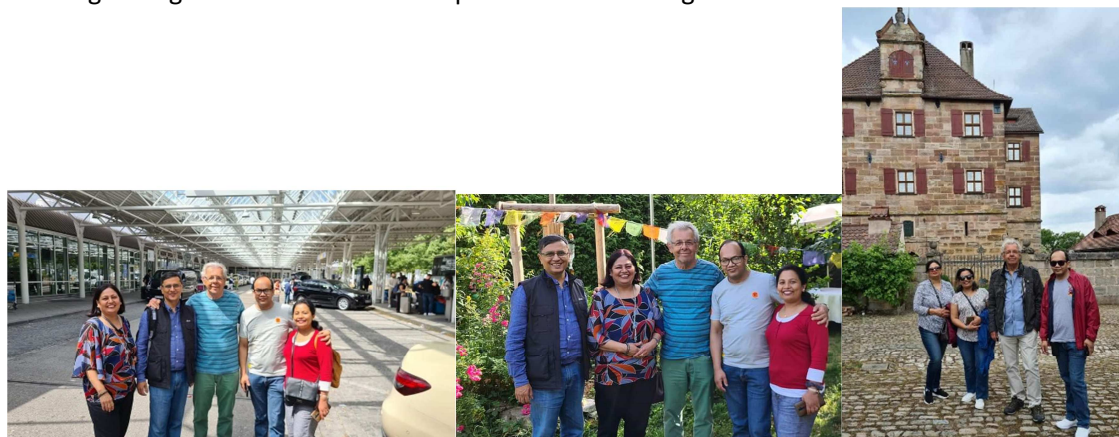
Hearing impairment is particularly serious in children because it can lead to delayed speech development, communication difficulties and slow educational progress. In developing countries, children with hearing loss and deafness rarely receive schooling, resulting in a much higher unemployment rate later in adulthood. The solution for those children and for people who have severe hearing loss from inner-ear damage who are no longer helped by using hearing aids is "Cochlear Implant". The technology is too expensive and most of the families are unable to use it due to economic constraint, though it changes the life of a deaf child.

Though the cochlear implant service was initiated in Nepal in 2004, much counted number of children were benefited. "Cochlear Implantate in Nepal (CoIN e.v.)", a charity project for deaf children in Nepal, a non-profit organization was officially registered in Finance Office, Erlangen in 2010. Cochlear Implant Nepal group (CING); NGO, officially registered with Nepal Government on April 12, 2013 started to work together with CoIN from 2013. The friendship between the members of CING and CoIN became stronger as the time passed. CING got an opportunity to welcome CoIN members in Kathmandu three times before. CoIN was also eagerly waiting to welcome CING team in Germany which was fulfilled on this visit. The team felt honoured and pleased with the hospitality of CoIN team.

#### **Arrival at Munich and Heroldsberg visit**

On arrival to the Munich airport, the team was curious about the visit. The team was too happy on seeing known face, Mr. Heinrich Ferschmann at the airport to welcome the Nepali team. Mr. Heinrich along with his son, Mr. Martin were ready with a vehicle to take the team to Heroldsberg. After a long drive the team was welcomed by his family with delicious food in homely environment. The team was gratitude with Mrs. Ingrid, who had managed homely environment away from the home. The Rotes RoB Restaurant, booked for the accommodation for the team, was clean, spacious and homely with good breakfast and other prompt services.

On the next morning the host team had organized for sightseeing tour across Heroldsberg. CING team were exhilarated with clean environment, various castles, museum, river side, churches, old buildings and gardens. The team was spellbound with the guide who had taken around Heroldsberg.



#### **Presentation of Dr. Rabindra B Pradhananga at HNO-Klinik**

There was a fixed schedule for the Presentation by Dr. Rabindra B Pradhananga at HNO-Klinik, Erlangen on 3rd of July at 4:00 pm. The team was driven to the hospital by CoIN team, specially Mr. Heinrich, Ms Lucia and Mr. Bernhard. The team members were unknown with the hospital team and the participants in the presentation. One of the doctors of HNO-Klinik welcomed the team and arranged audio-visual for the presentation. Dr. Rabindra had presented about Nepal, CI Program in Nepal and results of CoIN supported CI recipients. The presentation was appreciated by all the listeners. Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Heinrich Iro, Prof. Dr. Dr. Ulrich Hoppe and Prof. Dr. med. J Hornung along with other doctors, Nursing staffs, audiologists and therapists also attended the presentation. A lot of experiences was exchanged and a healthy discussion was carried out after the presentation.



### Observation of Surgery in Operation Theatre

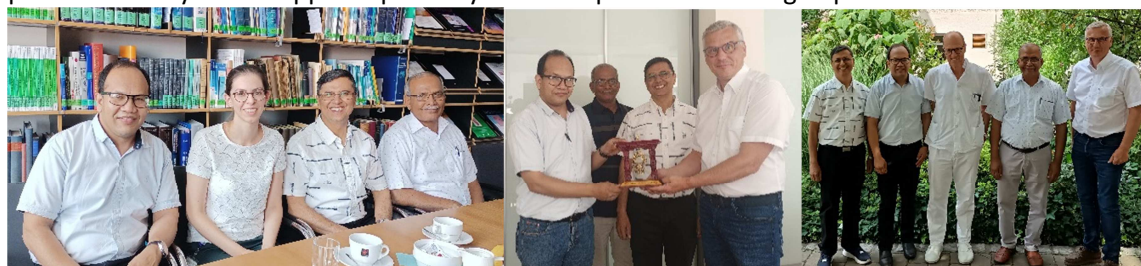
The team was gladly received by Operation Theater team on 4th of July morning. The operation theatre is well equipped with latest technologies and all the theatres were running simultaneously. The team was supposed to observe implantation surgery by Prof. Hornung. After the first ear surgery, there was a Cochlear Implant surgery on an adult for a single sided deafness. Prof. Hornung is very keen to teach and demonstrate the surgery. The team had an opportunity to observe OSIA implantation too. The surgical technique and time taken for the surgery were similar to that in Nepal. According to the team, Nepali people choose cheaper implants due to financial issue and also due to not coverage under insurance in Nepal whereas, in Germany, people select the latest version of implants which are expensive too. In Nepal, for Bone conduction device, Bone-bridge is being used frequently than OSIA implant. The technology in Germany is also superior to Nepal. 3D camera with monitor, High speed burr, X-ray service, Operating table and even the networking system are of latest technologies.

On the second day of surgery observation, Prof. Hornung had posted one 8 months child and one adult for Cochlear Implant. The team had observed both the surgeries with full interest. During the time between two surgeries, the team had good discussion regarding the problems of CI program in Nepal and Germany.



### Presentation of Prof. Dr. Dr. Ulrich Hoppe

On the third day of the visit, after the observation of CI surgery, the team was met by a beautiful journalist to ask the team regarding the experiences in Germany and differences in CI field in Nepal and Germany. Had Photo session with Prof. Iro and Prof. Hoppe. The team with full interest attended a presentation by Prof. Hoppe on pathway of development of hearing Implantation services in Germany.



### Observation of Switch on, mapping and therapy

One of the member of the team Mr. Kabi Raj Khanal who is dedicatedly involved in habilitation therapy in Nepal got an opportunity to observe the therapy session with Ms. Cynthia, chief of the



speech therapy. The team missed to observe Switch-on of the CI as the appointment of the child was cancelled due to some reason. The well managed rooms equipped with necessary items for switch on and mapping and Therapy were observed. Two room concept for mapping / therapy and observation by the relatives was well appreciable. The team had observed mapping sessions staying at room for observation separated with one way glass from the main room and established with necessary mike/ sound system.

### **Visit to Kaiser-Bräu**

After half day observation of mapping session, the team was scheduled to visit Kaiser Brau, the largest brewery in the district of Nurnberg, Germany. The main owner of the factory made a tour with the team explaining all the details of the factory. In addition to pils and wheat, the company offers the dark Veldensteiner Landbier. The brewery also offers a Kellerbier and Zwickelbier. The team felt honoured with the owner knowing that one of the CI recipient Nepali child is sponsored by him. The team enjoyed the visit to Kaiser Bräu.



### **Warm Hospitality**

The team enjoyed on regular reception dinner organised by Mr. Heinrich and his family, by CoIN board members, by CICERO, HNO-Klinik, by Mr. Bernhard and family. Taking care of spouses and sightseeing around old cities and shopping also made the team contented. The team was grateful to Ms. Monika, Ms. Lucia, Ms. Ingrid and Mrs. Bernhard on taking care of spouses. The team could not forget fresh Cheery by Ms. Monika.



### **Conclusion**

The team experienced joyous on CoIN invited visit to Nurnberg, Erlangen, Germany. The team also had great opportunity to learn various concepts in the field of Cochlear Implant. There was good friendship development with the HNO-Klinik team. There is life long memorable snaps in the mind of every members of the team. The team is very much grateful with Mr. Heinrich, his family, CoIN members and HNO-Klinik team.

**Recommendation**

Continuation of two way friendship in the future  
Supporting each other in exchanging knowledge and skill  
Getting regular support for CI program in Nepal

