

Dr. Ram Kantha Makaju Shrestha, MD
Vice Chancellor, Kathmandu University

(A Biosketch)

Dr. Ram Kantha Makaju Shrestha grew up in Dhulikhel, Nepal, and pursued medical career in Austria. He completed Doctor of Medicine in 1986 from the University of Vienna and further specialized in surgery from Vorarlberg, Austria, in 1994.

Upon the completion of his studies, he chose to leave further professional opportunities in Europe and began working in Nepal to pursue the 'road-less travelled'. In 1993 he founded one of the pioneer community-based hospitals of the country, the Dhulikhel Hospital (DH), with the mission of 'Quality health service to the poor'. With his leadership, the institution which had a very modest beginning became one of the fastest growing health institutions in Nepal. It is now regarded as the state-of-the-art tertiary level hospital and is the nucleus of academic and research activities in health sciences.

In 2012, Dr. Ram was nominated by the prime-ministerial committee to lead Kathmandu University (KU) as the Vice-Chancellor. In his four-year tenure as the Vice-Chancellor, he was appreciated for bringing fundamental changes in the approaches to advance the educational system, especially for his key motto of bringing 'classrooms from campus to the community.'

In January 2017, Dr. Ram was appointed Vice-Chancellor of KU for a second term. Marking the University's completion of 25 years as well as the commencement of his second tenure, he has projected KU Silver Jubilee Initiatives – Vision 2030 as the working guidelines for the University. The Initiatives involve a thrust on Quality, Equity, Impact, Innovation, Identity and Global Engagement.

Dr. Ram has been credited for developing a new generation of young leaders in Nepal, instilled with the vision of 'Quality health service to the poor' and 'Quality education for leadership'. Under his leadership Kathmandu University is collaborating with more than a hundred international organizations and universities in service, academics and research, towards building a world-class academic institution in Nepal.

For his outstanding contribution in the health and development sector in Nepal, he was awarded Gorkha Dakshin Bahu, the highest civilian honor, by late King Birendra in 1997. In the year 2011, he was awarded the Rotary Award for Vocational Excellence, the highest social service award in Nepal. Likewise, in January 2017, he was awarded Honorary Doctor of Education in Educational Administration at Chaing Rai Rajabhat University by The King of Thailand for outstanding efforts in advancing educational sector in Nepal and helping forge global collaborations to advance academic opportunities in Nepal. For his contributions in higher education, he was awarded with Sukirtimaya Rastradeep Award for 2017 by the Rt. Honorable President of Nepal, Mrs. Bidhya Devi Bhandari on 5 September 2018.