

**RESTLESS
DEVELOPMENT**
POWERED BY YOUNG PEOPLE

Nepal

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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Alumni Celebration Event

Restless Development Nepal hosted an Alumni Celebration event on 4th January at Bougainvilla Events, Tripureshwor, Kathmandu. We organized this event following the recommendations advanced in the Alumni Engagement Guideline 2019. It aimed to bring together Restless Development Alumni from across all programs and offer them a quality experience of reuniting as a community and sharing their experiences, as well as offer them the opportunity to continue learning on topics that are of vital importance in the present day to their personal and professional growth.

Re-unite, Learn, Grow

Under the theme “Re-unite, learn, and grow”, we conducted workshops on ‘Youth & Entrepreneurship’ and ‘Youth Engagement in Federalism and Volunteer Experience’. These sessions were designed to give the participants a chance to critically think and discuss about their volunteer experience with Restless Development. The stress was on the concept of change that the experience as a whole brought to them as young people. The workshops were facilitated by Ravindra Shakya, ex country director of Restless Development, Sanam Chitrakar - Entrepreneur and Social Activist (Youth and Entrepreneurship) and Arjun Bhattarai - Development Consultant and Social Activist (Youth Engagement in Federalism).



“I learned how community people’s negative attitude can be changed into a positive one by respecting their cultural values and making them realize what could improve their practices for the better” - Sangita

We also awarded ICS volunteer returnees with certificates, appreciating their efforts and hard-work on stage. The event was attended by 118 alumni: 93 former volunteers and 25 former staff or guests invited for the occasion. The event was a huge success and alumni have shown interest in having such events regularly in the future.



“This was a highly successful event and I think we must continue annually”- Volunteer

Youth Take the Lead

Youth Take the Lead (YTL), in partnership with the Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation (NOREC), is an exchange program focusing on enhancing the youth leadership across three Restless Development Hubs: Nepal, Tanzania and South Africa. For 3 months, volunteers from each respective country moved to one of the other placements to work and learn.

Participants from Nepal, Manish Shakya and Inuja Pradhan were hosted by Tanzanian Hub and South African Hub respectively from September to November, 2019. Here is a brief highlight of their YTL journey; their experiences, learning and impacts they made.

Meet our NOREC returnees



“Traveling to different places and getting to interact with people you’ve never met before, getting to interact in other languages you’ve never heard before, it’s a big challenge for me but I was ready to accept the challenge.” - Inuja Pradhan

Inuja shares that she was excited to be placed in South Africa, because she knew it would be a chance to learn outside of her comfort zone. She worked directly in the field with two local, youth-led, partner CSOs to build their capacity and develop their relationship with Restless Development South Africa. She also worked directly with young people by organizing events and training related to HIV/AIDS and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). She believes that Working with her Youth Take the Lead supervisor and local partners helped her gain professional skills like networking, public speaking and communication. She hopes to ultimately, become a role model for young girls and women in her community and inspire them to continue to pursue their own education and embrace new opportunities.



“I could learn from the activities that are going on in other countries and share them when I’m back in Nepal.” - Manish Shakya

Manish admits that in the beginning, he was worried about his limited experience working with programmes, however, local Alumni Advisory Board members quickly became his support system and he successfully worked with Restless Development alumni and local Civil Society Organizations for impactful projects. Manish surveyed 54 alumni members and collected feedback about how alumni engagement activities could be improved in the future, and contributed to some of Restless Development Tanzania’s programme unit activities during his exchange, developing and leading training on financial literacy, pitching and team building to 30 alumni members during Employability Skills Training. Now that he’s confident that he can step outside his finance background, he hopes to continue contributing in both programming and finance, using the knowledge he gained while he was abroad.

Change in Nepal's Leadership

Despite the looming pandemic situation, something new was happening at Nepal hub – Nepal Hub underwent a change in leadership. The hub bid farewell to the Mr. Ravindra Shakya who had successfully guided the organization for many years. Mrs. Kaajal Pradhan, who has been with the organization for many years in different positions, undertook the responsibility of the hub director. Despite the grim situation around the globe due to COVID 19 pandemic, the recent change has brought fresh excitement for everyone associated with the organization. Nepal hub believes that with this efficient, competent and professional leadership, the organization will achieve greater success and be able to guide, empower and inspire young people not only in Nepal but around the world.



ICS in Communities



111 national and international volunteers as a part of ICS Q20, started their placement from 7th and 14th February 2020 respectively. Though the placement was abruptly halted due to COVID-19 pandemic, the volunteers were able to engage in various communities activities during their placement such as an orientation about saving management; IT classes for students in schools; awareness on women empowerment; awareness raising event on safe motherhood; and COVID-19 awareness programs.

