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PSD Connect
Quarterly Newsletter

Year 19, No. 3, September, 2024

PSD Connect, a quarterly e-newsletter by the Partnership for Sustainable Development (PSD) Nepal, keeps our partners, former volunteers, and long-term supporters updated on our activities and news. As a non-profit focused on alleviating poverty among Nepal's rural youth and children, we're driven by a mission of sustainable development. For more details, please visit our website: www.psdnepal.org



MESSAGE FROM the EDITOR

Namaste, friends!

We are delighted to present the third issue of our 19th year, our latest quarterly newsletter with you. This newsletter brings you closer to PSD Nepal's world, showcasing our initiatives, projects, and future plans. We eagerly anticipate your questions, comments, and insights. Feel free to share this newsletter and spread the word about our efforts. Your feedback is invaluable to us! Reach out at psdnepal@gmail.com or call (+977)-9841285379

Warm regards,
Bishnu H. Bhatta

Latest PSD Nepal News



Honoring the Legacy of Samuel Gregory Johns

This September, we reflect on the enduring impact of Samuel Gregory Johns, a visionary whose life was devoted to environmental conservation and community development. Samuel was born on January 7, 1990, in Redhill, Surrey. An exceptionally talented individual, he graduated with top honors in Geography from Oxford University, where he earned the prestigious AJ Herbertson Prize for his dissertation. He furthered his studies with a Master's in Human Geography at the University of British Columbia, focusing on making modern identity.

In 2017, Samuel and Bishnu Bhatt founded PSD Plastics, a social enterprise that transformed waste management in the Langtang Valley. Through this initiative, we established a circular economy model that significantly reduced environmental pollution by focusing on recycling and upcycling plastic waste. Samuel, known affectionately as "Plastic Shyam," was deeply connected with the local communities in Langtang, where his fluency in Nepali and his dedication to their well-being made him a beloved figure.

Beyond his environmental work, Samuel was actively involved in mentoring and leadership through his Christian faith. He contributed to the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students(IFES) Graduate Impact, where he developed strategies, wrote teaching materials, and led discussions for young professionals across Eastern Europe.

Samuel's life was a testament to the power of passion and purpose. His impact continues to resonate through the projects he spearheaded, the communities he empowered, and the countless lives he touched. In his honor, PSD Nepal is proud to announce the establishment of the Samuel Memorial House in Kyanjin Gumpa. This facility will serve as a dynamic resource center, offering workshops, training, and events centered on waste management, recycling, environmental conservation, wildlife protection, and cultural preservation.

A Personal Reflection from Bishnu Bhatta: I met Sam in 2009 when he came to volunteer with us. From that very first meeting, I knew we were destined to achieve great things together. My passion for community development and his fervor for environmental conservation created a synergy that gave birth to PSD Plastics, our sister project focusing on Langtang National Park from 2017. Sam's dedication to this project was unwavering. He traveled to Nepal twice a year, tirelessly working to improve the lives of the people in the Langtang Valley and beyond.

Our journey together took us to incredible heights, quite literally. We scaled the peaks of Kyanjin, at 3800 meters, collecting tons of plastic bottles polluting the pristine landscapes. These efforts culminated in the transfer of waste to a recycling center in Pokhara, where we upcycled products from the collected materials. Through Sam's enthusiasm and relentless efforts, we established several waste segregation centers in the valley, with more in the pipeline.

Sam was not just a colleague; he was a friend, a mentor, and an inspiration. His positivity was infectious, his work ethic was unparalleled. Despite being younger than me, I learned invaluable lessons from him. His ability to speak Nepali fluently and his deep love for our country endeared him to everyone he met. The local people affectionately called him 'Plastic Shyam' a nickname that symbolizes his commitment to making our world a cleaner, better place. Sam's impact on the Langtang Valley and its people is immeasurable. His work brought hope and tangible improvements to the marginalized communities we served. His legacy is a testament to what can be achieved when passion meets purpose.

Even though Sam is no longer with us, his spirit will continue to guide us. I am committed to carrying forward the work we started together, ensuring that our Himalayan waste management projects flourish in his memory. His influence will forever be a part of my life and the lives of all those he touched.

Rest in peace, my dear friend. Your journey on this earth may have ended, but your spirit and your impact will live on. We will miss you deeply, but we are eternally grateful for the time we had with you.

Progress in the Himalayan Plastic Removal Project

This quarter, PSD Nepal has continued its efforts in the Himalayan Plastic Removal Project in Langtang Rasuwa. Our three waste management sites—Community Recycling Centre in Syafru Besi, and segregation sites in Mundu and Kyanjin Gompa—are now fully operational. The "1 bottle = 1 NPR" scheme remains a driving force in local plastic collection efforts, with approximately 40,000 bottles being recycled monthly. These initiatives not only reduce environmental pollution but also engage the community in sustainable practices, furthering our mission of environmental stewardship.



Additionally, a Fulbright student from Cornell University has joined us in Nepal for a 10-month research initiative focused on solid waste management. During her time here, she is working closely with us. Her research will take place in three districts, one of which is Rasuwa, where our project site is located.

Bond University Students Transform Gorkha School

In a remarkable display of international collaboration, 16 students from Bond University, alongside 3 Nepali counterparts, have made a significant impact on a local school in Gorkha District. The team's efforts went far beyond traditional educational support, focusing on comprehensive school renovation and improvement. They constructed a new playground, enhancing recreational opportunities for the students. The school's surroundings were upgraded with block paving, creating a safer and more appealing environment. Additionally, the group undertook the task of painting and plastering the school walls, giving the



building a fresh and welcoming appearance.

The volunteers didn't stop at physical improvements. They also engaged in extracurricular activities (ECA) teaching, bringing new perspectives and skills to the local students. The project extended to gardening initiatives, adding a touch of green to the school grounds. This multifaceted approach not only improved the school's infrastructure but also enriched the educational experience for Gorkha's students, fostering a more conducive learning environment.



Cross-Continental Conservation in Baglung

From July to August 2024, PSD Nepal partnered with the World Challenge Program, UK, to lead an inspiring plantation project in Bhimapokhara, Baglung. Six groups of students and teachers from various UK schools worked alongside local communities, planting approximately 1,250 seedlings including walnuts, Sichuan peppers, avocados, and lemons. This collaborative effort aimed to revitalize barren lands and promote sustainable environmental practices in the region.

Beyond planting trees, the project fostered cultural exchange and community engagement. Volunteers participated in traditional Nepali cooking classes and cultural programs, creating lasting connections between international participants and residents. This initiative not only contributes to reforestation and soil conservation but also supports local agriculture and nutrition through the introduction of fruit-bearing trees. As these seedlings grow, they symbolize our shared commitment to a sustainable future for Nepal.



Mud Day Celebration

On June 29th, 2024, Panchkhal in Nepal's Kavre district buzzed with excitement for the 16th International Mud Day, organized by PSD-Nepal and Bold Park Community School from Australia. This year's event connected 90 children with nature and cultural heritage through mud play and traditional activities. Highlights included mud football, tug-of-war, and mud art, all held in a rice paddy field transformed into a muddy playground. Participants enjoyed traditional meals and received books, uniforms, and sports equipment. The event fostered community spirit and appreciation for Nepal's environment, and PSD-Nepal plans to expand the initiative in 2025, incorporating educational components on climate change and sustainable agriculture. The success of Mud Day underscores the impact of international collaboration in enriching children's lives and celebrating cultural traditions.



Empowering Vulnerable Children: Updates from The Unforgotten Fund Project

Our commitment to vulnerable children remains unwavering. This quarter, the Unforgotten Fund Project has continued to provide essential educational support, health services, and career counseling to 42 children in Lalitpur and

Kathmandu. During the visit, Mr. Bishnu Bhatta, Director of PSD Nepal, distributed stationery and sports items to the children along with providing them with necessary nutritional support. Additionally, medical professionals conducted general health check-ups, consultations and provided medical services to address specific health concerns.

As we look ahead to this quarter of the year, PSD Nepal remains committed to our vision of creating a brighter, more equitable future for all Nepali citizens. Through our continued efforts in environmental conservation, public health, and community development, we strive to build a sustainable and resilient Nepal.



Vote of Thanks

PSD Nepal extends heartfelt thanks to all our volunteers, supporters, and partners who have contributed to our projects and programs over the years. Your dedication and support have been instrumental in our journey towards sustainable development. We are elated to share that the PSD team has accommodated 1,675+ volunteers in 20 years.

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