

Partnership for Sustainable Development – Nepal

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PSD Connect

A Quarterly Newsletter

Year 19, No.4, December 2024

The PSD Connect is a quarterly e-newsletter published by the Partnership for Sustainable Development (PSD) Nepal to inform all their partners, ex-volunteers and supporters about our activities and news. PSD Nepal is a non-profit social development organization dedicated to the alleviation of poverty of Children and youth of rural Nepal. For more information please visit www.psdnepal.org.



MESSAGE FROM the EDITOR

Namaste Friends!

With great pleasure we present you our quarterly newsletter. Please read our newsletter Issue 4 from year 2024, designed to keep you updated on PSD and the activities, successes and future plans! Any questions and/ or comments regarding the newsletter or about PSD-Nepal are more than welcome. Please forward this newsletter to all the friends who have worked with us and help to raise our profile. We are looking for some news from you all also; please send us any news or materials which we can publish in our next issue. We heartily welcome your views, comments, and queries regarding the work of PSD-Nepal and/or regarding the improvement of the newsletter! You can send us an email to info@psdnepal.org or call us at (9771)-4411648

Bishnu H. Bhatta

Latest PSD Nepal News

As we wrap up an incredible year, I'm excited to present the final quarterly edition of *PSD Connect* for 2024. This issue showcases our participation in regional and global conferences, as well as our impactful work with volunteers and vulnerable communities. Your unwavering support remains the cornerstone of our success. Together, let's continue creating opportunities and advancing sustainable development across Nepal.

Parvat Manthan Regional Conclave in Delhi

On December 3rd and 4th, 2024, our Executive Director, **Mr. Bishnu Bhatta**, attended the *Parvat Manthan Regional Conclave* held at the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi as a **Delegate**. Organized by the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), the conclave provided a vital platform to address pressing challenges in Himalayan hill states, focusing on integrated water resource management, equitable sanitation, decentralized waste management, and climate resilience. As a delegate, Mr. Bhatta contributed to discussions on innovative solutions for the sustainable development of mountain settlements, sharing PSD Nepal's impactful projects and achievements with fellow participants. His insights emphasized the need for collaboration, resource optimization, and community engagement to create climate-resilient and inclusive environments in the Himalayan region.

ICA Asia-Pacific Regional Conference

From November 26th to 28th, 2024, PSD Nepal participated in the *ICA Asia-Pacific Regional Conference (APRC)* held in Kathmandu. Organized by ICA Asia-Pacific and Imagine Nepal, the conference focused on **climate emergencies, meaningful engagement for well-being, and social innovations for community transformation**.

Our Executive Director **Bishnu Bhatta**, along with team members **Suvekshya Sitaula, Shushila Khadka, and Binod Lamichhane**, and Gayetri Rimal participated in discussions on addressing climate challenges, fostering well-being in communities, and exploring social innovations for sustainable development. The conference provided valuable insights into how these themes can drive positive change and enhance resilience across the region.

PSD Nepal's participation in the conference helped further its commitment to collaborative efforts for creating inclusive and sustainable solutions in the face of pressing global challenges.



Bond University Volunteer Program: Empowering Local Communities

In August 2024, **16 students from Bond University** on the Gold Coast traveled from Australia to Nepal for three weeks of volunteering at **Bigyan Basic School** and **Mahendra Lila Higher Secondary School**. This immersive experience was not only about contributing to the schools' infrastructure but also fostering personal growth, global citizenship, and long-lasting relationships with the local community.

At **Bigyan Basic School**, volunteers worked on clearing overgrown grass, paving the courtyard, and creating a safe play area for the children. They also used the soil from the courtyard to plant a flower garden, promoting environmental care and respect among the students. Additionally, the team removed weeds and cleaned up the school grounds, making it a more inviting and functional space for the children.

At **Mahendra Lila High School**, volunteers focused on enhancing the school's infrastructure. They successfully rendered and painted buildings, creating a welcoming and vibrant environment for students. This transformation was particularly important to the School Board, as they wanted the students to feel proud of their learning space.

The legacy of the Bond University volunteer team is also reflected in the practical contributions they made. **Bigyan Basic School** received waste bins, soccer equipment, and whiteboard markers, while **Mahendra Lila High School** benefited from new waste and sanitary bins, a volleyball net, and additional whiteboards. These improvements continue to support the schools' daily operations and contribute to a cleaner, more organized environment for the students.

While the physical work was important, the trip also aimed to foster personal growth. Volunteers were challenged by stepping outside their comfort zones, building strong interpersonal communication, and embracing a new cultural environment. Through these experiences, participants developed resilience and self-regulation, skills that are crucial for both personal development and future careers.

Volunteer's testimony or reflection:

- *If you want to do something that creates a direct impact in the everyday life of a stranger, you have to do this. Sometimes we can't see the effect of our actions, but watching a group of children play in a weed free yard or high-schoolers take 1% more pride in the presentation of their school means we did our job.*
- *It is an incredible opportunity to learn the values and practices of a culture that very different to our own. The beauty of the country and its people can help you apply a new lens to your life back home.*
- *It is truly a life changing opportunity. The people you meet and connections built within the group are ones that you will maintain for life.*

The Unforgotten Fund: Supporting Vulnerable Children

PSD Nepal has been dedicated to supporting vulnerable children through our ongoing partnership with the *Unforgotten Fund*. This year, we've focused on the well-being of 21 orphaned children and 21 children from waste picker families in Kathmandu and Lalitpur. We have provided these children with access to formal education, scholarships, and daily extra classes, helping them build the skills needed for a brighter future. We've also prioritized crucial infrastructure improvements, including clean water systems and proper sanitation facilities, to enhance their living conditions and ensure they thrive in a safe environment.

In addition to these initiatives, we have conducted awareness programs on health, hygiene, and child rights, empowering both children and families with the knowledge and tools they need to lead healthier, more informed lives.

However, our work is far from over. We rely on the continued support of generous donors to keep these programs running and to reach even more children in need. Together, we can make a lasting impact in the lives of these children and their families.

If you'd like to be a part of this important mission, **your support can make a real difference**. Please consider donating to help us continue providing education, health, and empowerment to these children.



PSD Nepal – what does the future hold?

What is the role of PSD in Nepal? What can be done to raise the profile of PSD? How can the strategic goals of PSD be achieved in a way which satisfies the mandate of the organisation - a 'partnership' for development, done in a sustainable way, marrying together the economy, the environment, and society. Pursuing the vision of a Nepali society where all citizens achieve their full potential. Forging partnerships and linking communities that have resources and opportunities to be invested - capital, human, and material resources. The clear goals of PSD are to improve access to quality education. To boost the level of healthcare and sanitation in Nepal. And to spread and share the knowledge and resources necessary to live in a sustainable fashion. This last part is the cornerstone for me - living and breathing

sustainability, through entrepreneurship and social enterprise, by leveraging resources for local communities, and helping the poorest and most vulnerable communities in Nepal.

Website and Social Media:

PSD Nepal is proud of our website and social media platforms - please visit them on the links below;

www.psdnepal.org

www.facebook.com/psdnepalktm/

www.twitter.com/psd_nepal/

www.instagram.com/psd_nepal/

As friends of PSD, we welcome your comments and feedback on the website. Get in touch - info@psdnepal.org

Vote of Thanks

On behalf of the entire team at PSD Nepal, we extend our heartfelt thanks to all our donors, volunteers, partners, and supporters who have made a significant impact through their generosity, time, and commitment. Your unwavering support has helped us reach our goals and empower vulnerable communities. We deeply appreciate the trust and collaboration from the communities we serve, and we look forward to continuing this journey together in 2025 to create lasting change and build a brighter, more sustainable future. Thank you for being a vital part of our mission.

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