

Partnership for Sustainable Development–Nepal

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DAO–KTM,Reg.No.180/059/60GON-SWCAffiliationNo.13981

PSD Connect

2025

Year 20, No. 1, March,

Quarterly Newsletter

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 fourth issue of our 20th 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

As we step into 2025, I'm excited to present the first quarterly edition of PSD Connect for this year. This issue highlights our continued participation in regional and global conferences, along with our impactful work with volunteers and vulnerable communities. Your unwavering support remains the cornerstone of our success. Together, let's embrace new opportunities and further our mission of sustainable development across Nepal."

Progress in the Himalayan Plastic Removal Project

PSD Nepal continues to make remarkable progress in the Himalayan Plastic Removal Project in Langtang, Rasuwa. Our three waste management sites, the Community Recycling Centre in Syafru Besi and segregation sites in Mundu and Kyanjin Gompa, are now fully operational, serving as key hubs for responsible waste management in the region.

A highlight of our initiative, the "1 bottle = 1 NPR" scheme, remains a powerful incentive for local plastic collection, with approximately 40,000 bottles being recycled each month. This initiative not only helps reduce plastic pollution in the fragile Himalayan ecosystem but also encourages community participation in sustainable waste practices.

We visited Himalayan Life Plastic in Pokhara to discuss potential collaboration as a joint group. Our conversation focused on working together to launch an awareness campaign in September 2025 in Langtang, promoting sustainable waste management and environmental conservation.

From NYC to Nepal: A Journey of Teaching and Learning Through Photography

ICE Testimony:

This year, I was fortunate enough to be a part of a rare and unique opportunity that led a group of students and teachers all the way from New York City's Institute of Collaborative Education (ICE), across the world to Nepal. Through this experience, our students became the teachers as they led their own lessons, and embarked on the unpredictable adventure that is both teaching and learning.

Accompanied by two fellow ICE teachers, myself and 13 of our high school students travelled to Nepal as part of the Youth Art Writing and Photography Program (YAWPP). Our primary mission was to share the art of storytelling through photography with students at Luniva Secondary School in Bungmati, Nepal. For two weeks, our students led small groups of Nepali students, ranging from grades five to seven, in exploring the fundamentals and the beauty of photography.

This adventure didn't begin the moment that we stepped off our plane, but many months before. For five months, our students dedicated themselves to learning Nepalese language, customs and culture, all while carefully planning their photography lessons and activities. Our students would not be entering Nepal as visitors, but instead as prepared and confident instructors who had the knowledge they needed to meaningfully connect with the students that they would be teaching.

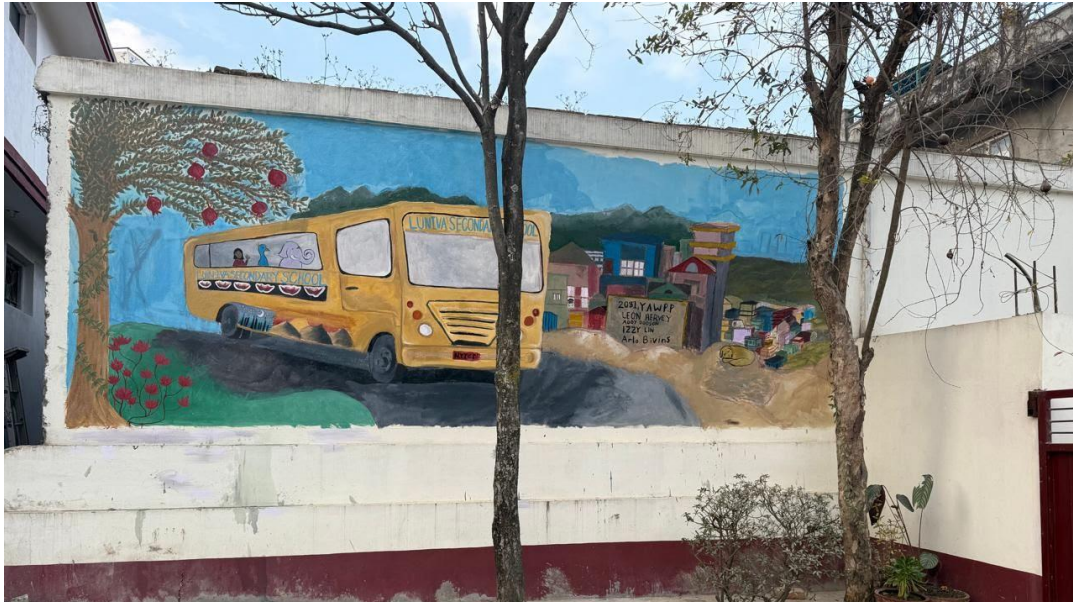
Once in Nepal, it was both rewarding and exhilarating to see our ICE students' lessons come to life. Visiting each of their classrooms, we watched them engage their students in crafting collages, sketching drawings to represent their individual perspectives, learning new photography-related vocabulary, journaling their ideas and experiences, and technically analyzing photographs. Strolling through the school grounds, we would stumble upon active groups of students recording videos, playing games, and learning songs and dances. ICE students not only taught their own lessons, but attended lessons themselves, with topics covering culture, language, and art.

Our students covered more than just photography during their lessons— they emphasized storytelling, connection, and self-expression. Through interview assignments, their students gained deeper insight into the lives of those they interact with daily. They created photo stories, carefully selecting images aligned with themes that reflect their personal



experiences and viewpoints. They also recorded and edited Public Service Announcements, using videography as a tool to shed light on issues that are important both to them personally and within their community.

Our students were not bound to the classroom, or even the school grounds, as they carried out their work. One of the most impactful parts of the program for our ICE students was the scheduled “photo walks.” As an important part of their curriculum, our ICE students explored Bungmati, guided by their Nepali students, capturing photographs. In doing so, they learned about the community through the eyes of the children who live there. In return, they offered these children a new way to tell their own stories through photography. Perhaps one of our most treasured excursions of the trip was our school-wide field trip and picnic with the entire Luniva Secondary School. Our students got to connect with their students outside of the classroom, and everyone shared laughter, dances, and delicious food.



Painting created by ICE students

Nepal in a Snapshot

Teaching was certainly at the heart of this trip. But we couldn't travel all the way to Nepal without exploring this amazing country. As we travelled by bus, our eyes and camera lenses were constantly fixed on the breathtaking landscapes, cityscapes, nature, and architecture surrounding us. In Chitwan, we were enthralled with the area's wildlife, where we witnessed countless deer, monkeys, crocodiles, and rhinoceroses. We canoed, rode elephants, visited sacred sites, and even caught a glimpse of the Kumari, the Living Goddess. We hiked scenic trails and browsed vibrant local markets. Each and every moment offered something novel and refreshing.



ICE students planting (left) and teaching local students (right)

A Picture Is Worth a Thousand Words, an Experience Is Worth More

Inevitably, this journey turned out to be more than just an educational experience. It was a course in collectivism, creativity, and global connection. Our students stepped up as educators, navigating both the obstacles and rewards that come with teaching. They built lasting relationships, became acquainted with an entirely unfamiliar part of the world, and collected a series of stories they are bound to carry with them for the rest of their lives.

As we head back to New York, we bring more than just thousands of photographs and a few souvenirs. We return with memories, lessons, friendships, and a greater appreciation for the impact of education. Through our camera lenses as well as the bonds we made, we saw the world, as well as ourselves, a little differently.



ICE donated a DSLR professional camera, an LCD projector, an interactive smartboard, and a desktop.

The Unforgotten Fund: Supporting Vulnerable Children

PSD Nepal remains committed to supporting vulnerable children through our ongoing partnership with the Unforgotten Fund. This year, we have focused on the well-being of 21 orphaned children and 21 children from waste picker families in Kathmandu and Lalitpur. By providing access to formal education, scholarships, and daily extra classes, we are equipping these children with the skills they need for a brighter future.

Beyond education, we have also invested in essential infrastructure improvements, including clean water systems and proper sanitation facilities, to create a safer and healthier living environment. Additionally, our awareness programs on health, hygiene, and child rights have empowered both children and families with the



knowledge and tools necessary to lead healthier, more informed lives.

Despite these achievements, there is still much work to be done. The success of these programs depends on the generosity of donors who help us extend our reach and impact. Together, we can transform the lives of these children and their families.

If you'd like to contribute to this mission, your support can make a real difference. Please consider donating to help us continue providing education, healthcare, and empowerment to those in need.

[Donate now](#)

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 21 years.

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