



A REPORT ON YOUTHDAY CELEBRATION 2023

Green Skills for Youth: Towards a Sustainable World

Report by:
Nepal Development Initiatives

EVENT OVERVIEW

Nepal Development Initiatives (NEDI), driven by its unwavering mission to foster a just, equitable, self-sustaining, and prosperous society, embarked on an inspiring journey. In partnership with IM Swedish, NEDI united with a diverse consortium of organizations including the National Youth Council, Youth Initiative (YI), Catalyst 2030, Good Shepherd International Foundation, and Cosmic International College. Together, they orchestrated a series of impactful events with around 100 participants, that marked National Youth Day 2023 in Nepal, with a profound focus on youth engagement and their pivotal role in shaping the nation's destiny.

The overarching purpose of this collaborative initiative was to create an inclusive and supportive platform for Nepal's youth. It aimed to empower them to actively participate in shaping their country's future by sharing their ideas, harnessing resources efficiently, and co-creating solutions that not only elevate the quality of life for all citizens but also propel the nation towards achieving its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This visionary endeavor sought to tap into the boundless potential, creativity, and determination of Nepal's young generation, setting the stage for a brighter and more prosperous future.



PLANTATION, CLEANING CAMPAIGN, ENVIRONMENT, AND CLIMATE AWARENESS

Recognizing the pressing environmental issues in Nepal, the event at the Pashupati temple addressed pollution, deforestation, and climate awareness. Participants engaged in an extensive cleaning campaign, diligently removing plastic waste and tending to overgrown vegetation. The subsequent tree plantation phase was marked by meticulous preparation and proper planting techniques. The event culminated in a climate awareness discussion, emphasizing the importance of individual contributions and the need for collective action.



Despite challenges posed by crowded religious seasons and unanticipated rainfall, the event's success highlighted the unwavering dedication of youth participants and Nepal's commitment to environmental preservation.



SCHOOLING ON SOCIAL NORMS AND VALUES



The "Schooling on Social Norms and Values" program for Grade 12 students at Cosmic International Academy provided an invaluable opportunity to delve into the intricacies of societal behaviors and ethical decision-making. Facilitated by Mr. Santosh Maharjan, the program commenced with a comprehensive introduction to social norms and values, emphasizing their pivotal role in upholding social order. Engaging in thought-provoking group discussions, students actively analyzed various social norms and their implications. During student presentations, participants expressed their aspirations, activities, and societal perceptions, highlighting their dedication to positive change. The program achieved profound objectives, equipping students with a deeper understanding of the role of social norms and values, enhancing ethical reasoning skills, and preparing them to be agents of positive societal transformation.

YOUTH DIALOGUE ON UPCOMING 16TH NATIONAL PLAN AND REVIEW OF 15TH NATIONAL PLAN



The event was designed to resonate with the global commitment to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. One of its pivotal components was the "Youth Dialogue on Upcoming 16th National Plan," providing a platform for young people to engage actively in shaping national development. Notable speakers, including Mr. Ganga Bahadur Gautam and Alisha Dhungana, set the stage for discussions by emphasizing the organization's dedication to youth empowerment. Mr. Yaddhunath Acharya and Santosh Maharjan provided a comprehensive review of the 15th National Plan, highlighting significant progress made in various sectors while underscoring the importance of inclusive growth and environmental sustainability. The Executive Vice President of the National Youth Council, Mr. Surendra Basnet, shared the council's history and the vital role it plays in youth development and representation. Anil Neupane, the policy advisor of the Association of International NGOs in Nepal (AIN), elaborated on key issues such as youth empowerment, quality education, and social inclusion. The event also addressed the critical issue of inadequate attention to mental health challenges faced by youth, as emphasized by Mr. Narayan Giri of the Social Welfare Council (SWC). Mr. Ram Subedi, the president of NGO Federation Nepal, highlighted the federation's focus on employment, entrepreneurship, skill development, and education in the upcoming 16th national plan. Arjun Bhattra, President of Nepal Development Initiative (NEDI), emphasized the importance of healthcare, education, employment opportunities, and trust in the government system to tackle youth migration and unemployment. This event successfully brought together key stakeholders, experts, and young leaders to discuss pressing issues and commit to a more inclusive and comprehensive national plan.

YOUTH CLIMATE JUSTICE MARCH:



The Youth Climate Justice March in 2023 stood as a powerful testament to the urgency of addressing climate change and the vital role of youth in this endeavor. Organized against the backdrop of the Pashupati temple, a world heritage site, the event aimed to raise public awareness about climate change's intricacies and the imperative of equitable responses to environmental challenges. Distinguished personalities, including Honourable Minister Dig Bahadur Limbu, Executive Vice President of National Youth Council Surendra Basnet, Ambassador of the European Union Nona Deprez, and United Nations Representative Yan Yong Yong, lent their support to the cause. Their presence underscored the significance of youth-led initiatives in combating climate change. The event inspired participants to continue their climate advocacy and emphasized the importance of grassroots initiatives in driving change.

These events collectively showcase Nepal's proactive efforts to empower its youth, raise awareness on critical issues, and promote sustainable development and environmental conservation.

