Dear All,

We are pleased to welcome you to the 33rd edition of the Open Nepal newsletter! This issue shares five case studies on the use of data by government in Nepal, details of a new online portal for disaggregated data in Nepal, and news on DataShift’s Gender Thematic Forum that was held at the end of 2016. It also invites you to join us for Open Data Day 2017!

Look out for more frequent updates on the latest news, stories and happenings about the open development community in Nepal on our Twitter and Facebook below.

Facebook  Twitter  Website

From the Open Nepal blog...

Save the Date for 4 March, 2017-It’s Open Data Day 2017!

It’s our favourite time of the year! Kathmandu Open Data Day will be celebrated on March 4th together with a pre-event Hackathon on 25th February. Open data day is being celebrated for the fifth time in Nepal and this year promises to be better than ever. There will be a panel discussion, lightening talks, hackathon awards, and lots of innovation, networking and collaboration. We are excited to welcome you all to be part of this international celebration! Learn more!
NepalMap: Opening up data on Nepal

NepalMap uses data from the Central Bureau of Statistics, and other official sources, to create user-friendly data visualizations of key demographic issues. Importantly it allows people to download the constituent data in open format, including in CSV, Excel, GeoJSON and KML formats. This has effectively opened up government data in Nepal on a range of topics and disaggregated data at the District, Municipality and Village Development Committee level. Learn more!

Exploring civil society data and citizen-generated data on gender issues in Nepal

Gender Thematic Forum was hosted in Kathmandu on 9 November by DataShift together with Tewa, Nepal NGO Federation and Beyond Beijing Committee Nepal. The forum brought together a range of actors within Nepal working on gender issues, to explore what data is currently available on this topic from civil society, citizen-generated data projects and official data sources. It aimed to identify opportunities and challenges for using civil society and citizen-generated data in particular to support the monitoring of progress against SDG 5 which aims to “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”. Read more...

The use of data by government actors in Nepal to solve development problems

As Nepal aspires to graduate from a Least Development Country by 2022 and successfully implement the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, the use of data by decision-makers is key to address poverty, transparency, accountability and other socio-economic issues. But, what do we know about whether data is actually being used by Nepal’s development decision makers? To deepen our understanding on this we have interviewed government and non-government actors in Nepal and shared lessons through these five case studies. Learn more!
Announcing 2017 International Open Data Day Mini Grants

SPARC (the organizer and host of OpenCon) is supporting Open Research Data activities this Open Data Day through mini-grants for events around the world. This year, there are four categories to the grant – Open Research Data, Open Contracting and tracking public money flows, Open Data for Environment and Open Data for Human Rights. **Application open until February 13, 2017.**

[Learn more](#)

Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team Announces Microgrants Programme

Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team (HOT) have launched a [Microgrants programme](#) to enable organisations to get involved in open mapping for development. They are looking to provide up to ten microgrants between $2,000 - $5,000 USD. The goal of this programme is to enable local communities to use OpenStreetMap for their projects, and to increase skills, capacity and experience. **Application open until 12 March. Apply online!**

Call for Civil Society Participation in the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is convening the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) 2017 in Bangkok on **29 to 31 March, 2017** on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and as a preparatory event for the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) to be held in July 2017 in New York. [Learn more](#) and [apply online](#).

Civil Society Scholar Awards

[Open Society](#) announces the Civil Society Scholar Awards (CSSA) that support international academic mobility to enable doctoral students and university faculty to access resources that enrich socially engaged research and critical scholarship in their home country or region. Its open also for Nepal. **Application deadline is March 31, 2017.** [Check out the eligibility criteria and apply](#).

Nomination Opens for the Integrity Idol Nepal 2017

Nomination for Nepal’s Integrity Idol 2017 is now open. You can nominate your favourite and honest civil servants. Forms are available on their [website](#).

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**Events...**

Young Innovations as part of Open Nepal consortium is hosting Open Data Day 2017 for the fifth consecutive year in Nepal. The planning for the event is currently in progress. Please watch [this space](#) to catch up on the latest updates!
NGO Federation of Nepal hosted a two-day workshop on SDG Goal in Kathmandu. The main objective of this workshop was to enhance the knowledge of CSOs on SDG 16 and to develop an advocacy plan for effective implementation of SDG 16 in the country. Learn more!

Green “IT MEET 2017”, an ICT event was organized by Kathmandu University Computer Club (KUCC) and Department of Computer Science and Engineering with an aim to empower youths to promote their technical talent that will ultimately produce a technically reinforced society. Learn more!

Public Procurement Monitoring Office (PPMO) hosted a workshop on Procurement Transparency in Nepal through Open Data Management as part of a project ‘Public Procurement Transparency Initiative in Nepal’ (PPTIN) that PPMO is implementing in collaboration with the Open Contracting Partnership. Learn more!

Open Nepal partner Development Initiatives hosted a number of sessions at the UN World Data Forum in South Africa, including the main plenary on “Counting people to make them count” and breakout sessions on sustainable data infrastructures and community-based data collection. Learn more!

Nepal Administrative Staff College and Accountability Lab Nepal convened ‘Integrity Summit’ where government officials from different organizations shared their experiences and insights of promoting integrity in Nepal's public sector. Learn more!

Accountability Lab Nepal hosted its third season of Integrity Idol Nepal, a public event to celebrate the most honest civil servant who will be awarded with the title of ‘Integrity Idol of Nepal’. Nominations had been called and the top five candidates were selected based on their sincerity towards the service. Learn more!

Check out our new data sets!
Open Nepal Data Portal currently houses 311 datasets on various thematic topics which are sourced from the online publications of Nepali government agencies and multilaterals, and published in open format that allows reuse and redistribution of these datasets. The new datasets are related to the recent Nepal Earthquake. These data in open format can be downloaded to use, reuse, and redistribute. Watch this space to get updates on new releases!
We would love to hear from you about any of the following:

- **Examples of past and future potential (open) data use** - How you have used data or open data in your work? Do you have any planned accountability-related projects that could benefit from our help to increase the availability, accessibility and skills capacity to use open data? Do you have an infographic that you would like to share?

- **Availability and accessibility of (open) data** – What data would really help your work? Are there any datasets that you would particularly like to see on the Open Data Portal? Do you have data to share that we can help to make open?

- **Building the community** – Please let us know of any news, case studies, resources or upcoming events relevant to the open data / data revolution / access to information agenda so that we can share them to build a community of knowledge, collaboration and synergy around these issues.

We look forwards to hearing from you!

Open Nepal is an initiative to promote more effective development through the increased use of data and information. We aim to catalyze a revolution in data sharing and use – building an inclusive information system in Nepal, supported by a dynamic community of stakeholders,

Contact us at info@opennepal.net

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