July 21, 2021

Dear Keshav Tiwari,

We are pleased to officially welcome you to the NASA International Space Apps Challenge community as the Local Lead of the all-virtual Space Apps 2021 in Thimphu, Bhutan. Since the inception of Space Apps in 2012, we have relied on leaders like you to bring each year's Space Apps hackathon to communities worldwide, and that is no different for this all-virtual environment.

As you know, the International Space Apps Challenge, set for October 2-3, 2021, is a hackathon inviting a global community of technologists, citizen scientists, students, engineers, artists, and others to come together and build project solutions to challenges using NASA's open data. Space Apps 2020 welcomed 26,000+ participants from 251 locations in 140+ countries, producing thousands of projects in response to Earth Science challenge statements written by NASA. In May 2020, the Space Apps COVID-19 Challenge, in collaboration with space agencies ESA, JAXA, CSA, and CNES, was our first all-virtual hackathon welcoming 15,000+ participants in 150 countries to create 1,300+ impactful solutions. This year, with your work as a Local Lead, we are eager to see what is in store.

Experts from across NASA will carefully craft challenges for this year's teams to address. Your efforts to nurture a volunteer community of solvers will help us approach these challenges with fresh perspectives and innovative solutions. We look forward to engaging with you and your local participants as we gear up for this year's event.

If you have any questions, please reach out to me at bridgette@spaceappschallenge.org

Bridgette Johnson
Global Community Manager
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