



# Celebrating Open Data Day 2015 in Kathmandu



DeerWalk Complex, Sifal,  
Jaya Bagheshwori Marga, Kathmandu



February 21, 2051



Open Data Day is a day for everyone! It is a gathering of people from around the world in different cities working to write applications, liberate data, create visualizations and publish data analyses using open public data. Across the globe, it celebrates open data policies through numerous events. In 2014, it was celebrated in 117 cities across the world. It provides a unique opportunity for the participants to share their experiences with open data and map, brainstorm for future projects and explore new datasets.

On 21 February, 2015, YoungInnovations and Kathmandu Living Labs in collaboration with Kathmandu Municipality, Office of Member of Parliament Gagan Thapa and other partners celebrated Open Data Day in Nepal to make sure we wouldn't miss out on this international movement. We were surrounded by

enthusiastic people, not just techies, but partners and participants who made every part of the event a grand success. We had talk shows, hackathon and mapathon events that were overwhelmingly attended to.

Open Data Day is not new to Nepal. We have already organized two such events in 2013 and 2014. In 2015, we are glad to have concluded an event even grander in scale and participation. This year's event laid foundation to Open Data driven transparent, accountable and engaged systems in Nepal. We are excited to share stories of the event that successfully continued last year's momentum.

This year's theme of Open Data Day 2015 is Open Data and Mapping for Local Governance and Civic Participation. Last year, through the



## Open Data and Map for Local Governance and Civic Participation

same event it was evident that open data needs to be connected to governance so that we can generate benefits to the public. Since last year, we have worked in that direction and this year, through the event, those activities were shared. Collaboration of government, citizens and stakeholders, led to discussions on Nepal's governance issues through range of programs that took place on that very day.

### Launch of Transparency and Citizen Participation Forum for KMC Ward-7

Open Data Day 2015 saw the website launch of **Transparency and Citizen Participation Forum for KMC Ward-7**. It has been developed jointly by YoungInnovations and Kathmandu



Living Labs. Mapping component of the site has been designed and developed by Kathmandu Living Labs. It OpenStreetMap to present information in visually appealing geospatial context. The website is a platform to incorporate concept of open data in local governance. It provides information on local government services and process, local government resources and activities and data and information [www.model4g.net](http://www.model4g.net) of localized interest to the people. It uses Open Data and OpenStreetMapping to bring these information to the local people. It is an exemplary platform that has used Public Private Partnership approach to make Open Data a reality in Ward-7 of Kathmandu Metropolitan City.



**Hon. Gagan Kumar Thapa, Member of Constituent Assembly of Nepal** officially launched the website and applauded the initiative. He shared his experience working on Open Data and considered transparency in data, integral in the government. He accentuated the role of accountability, efficiency, transparency and citizen participation all for the development of the society. He considered the website launch to be an

exemplary attempt that can be further expanded as a national initiative.



**Mr. Bibhusan Bista, CEO of YoungInnovations**, presented the Open Map and Data Portal for Ward 7- Citizen Participation Forum and explained its features. He included key information that are accessible to the people through the website like services, resources, project information, citizen participation and data.



**Ms. Bimala Koirala, Administrative Chief, KMC Ward 7 Office**, applauded the Launch of the Open Map and Data Portal for Ward 7- Citizen Participation Forum sharing the need of technology in making government activities more efficient. She further emphasized the use of technology and open data to help citizens get immediate and efficient information.

### Celebrating Open Data



**Dr. Swarnim Wagle, Member of National Planning Commission (NPC)** considered

technology to be a potentially revolutionary source for that leap in development. He applauded the concept of Open Data as an important concept to assist citizens be a part of the governmental activities. Government, as the key to informant, has the responsibility of sharing the information. He further discussed three different current initiatives from the government namely, crowd sourcing, mapping and census and opening up the relevant Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) information accentuating government's commitment to making the information transparent.



**Dr. Nama Raj Budhathoki, Executive Director of Kathmandu Living Labs** shared his opinion on Open Data and [OpenStreetMap](http://OpenStreetMap). He considered the link between mapping and monitoring of the activities in the government level, an integral part of development process. He encouraged the people to be an active participant in mapping that can be expanded to include more information about Nepal. He encouraged further attempts to synergize such mapping projects with that of the government for better impact.



**Mr. Naresh Chapagai,**  
**Joint Secretary of**  
**Public Procurement**  
**Monitoring Office**

(PPMO), Government of Nepal shared the experience of working in the government's initiative of making its information transparent by using PPMO portal. He further added that the need to provide public procurement data in a more reusable format to citizens, is making PPMO consider the possibility of implementing Open Contracting standard very soon. He further stressed that such data should be accessed and used by citizens and they need to get involved actively in this process.

## Open Data Hackathon

Continuing previous years' trend, this year, hackathon was organized. A

total of 42 participants divided into **10 teams created apps** on topics revolving around the theme of this year.

## Criminology

Criminology extracts information about various criminal activities and generates statistical reports on the basis of geographical regions so that it helps the general public and local government take necessary action. It helps local government solve and take necessary actions to reduce crime in particular region. It also helps government analyse and implement strict policies to solve the problems.

**Team members:** Joshana Shakya, Bhoj Raj Adhikari, Pooja Jha, Tapan B.K.

**Project Details:** <http://bit.ly/1AwMbLo>

## Missing!

Through this app, the group hopes to track people missing after the civil war of Nepal. District wise mapping of the people who are still missing can be done through the application. The participants hope to make the government aware of their responsibility in finding these missing people.

**Team members:** Jivan Bhnadar, Manish Shrestha, Manoj Khatri, Pravin Shrestha, Utsab Ratna Tuladhar

**Project Details:** <http://t.co/JAW2tXa9zq>

## Nari sakti

This app aims to empower women. It is divided into two parts, women education and women voice. The former aims to educate women in different topics ranging from health to their rights while the latter encourages women to raise their voice if they have stories to share about violence.

**Team members:** Kishor Bikram Oli, Mohan Singh Thagunna, Raju Shrestha

**Project Details:** <http://t.co/g7OLemQakj>

## O-NGO

Open NGO aims to provide information on Non Government Organization that are working on different sectors. It hopes to visualize activities of each NGO. It analyzes the areas of working sector through Open Citizen feedback mechanism. It uses Google maps and charts to present the information. The number of NGOs along with their locations and activities can be selected and traced in Google Maps.



**Team members:** Manish Pandey, Ashok Subedi, Angila Rana, Pusmita Shrestha, Nishan Kumar Aryal

**Project Details:** <http://t.co/qUuF5GH2a4>

## Open Health Nepal

Open Health Nepal makes diseases information accessible to people. It uses Google Maps to give information on the hospitals and also the trend of fatal communicable diseases like HIV and AIDS. Hospital information includes information on name, address and bed counts. It can also include other vital statistics like success rate of hospitals. It aims to further expand the geographical area of impact by including all areas of Nepal.

**Team members:** Bimal Gaire, Sagar Giri, Sameer Koirala

**Project Details:** <http://t.co/yFkCWGCJvy>





## Process

Process is an information sharing website. It provides information on government services and processes that people might be unaware of. Information on any process, for example Citizenship Procedure or immigration process can be obtained through the website. It helps to make the official procedure easier for people.

**Team members:** Sushant Bajracharya, Kriti Nemkul, Labin Ojha

**Project Details:** <http://t.co/KLcD41bYas>

## Health and Sanitation Event Tracker

This app aims to make public aware of the events that are related to health and sanitation. Public Participation is the core to any program success. This app aims to increase public participation and encourage collaboration for better program implementation. Participants can register and participate on the events listed in the website.

**Team members:** Abhishek Gupta, Sanjeev Mainali, Anil Shrestha, Sameer Shrestha

**Project Details:** <http://t.co/r8ViTH5X0G>



density. It aims to promote planning through the information accessed and presented in the application.

**Team members:** Aayush Rijal, Ankit Shrestha, Aashish Manandhar, Dewesh Rauniyar

**Project Details:** <http://t.co/bhMvwR9NrR>

## Tax Visualization

This project is the representation of tax paid by different private institutions, governmental branches and the citizens. The app shows the statistics of taxes paid by local people in every development region throughout the country.

**Team members:** Amit Chaudhary, Kiran Koirala, Bishwas Shrestha, Krishna Sapkota, Ashish Ghimire, Bidur Nepali, Dilli Raj Chalise, Nirajan Thapa, Abiral Poudel

**Project Details:** <http://t.co/d4ciAHnByh>

## Density Index

This app aims to present population density according to geographical distribution. It uses other indices such as forest and agricultural distribution comparing them all to the population

The winner of the hackathon was **Sanitation and Health**. **Nari Shakti** and **Tax Visualization** won the second and third prize respectively.

## Mapathon

Participants were introduced to OpenStreetMap and the work going on in OpenStreetMap. Participants then created accounts in OpenStreetMap and learnt the basics of mapping in OpenStreetMap. 23 participants learnt from experienced instructors who shared the techniques of mapping. Participants were then challenged to map at least 10 Km of road and waterways in Nepal. The participants then mapped transport route to help the Yatayat Project. After lot of desk mapping the participants were sent to the field. The field mapping exercise



was disguised as a treasure hunt activity. They went to field by reading maps, found further instructions to collect map data and then uploaded the map data to OSM after coming back.

At the end of the day the participants learnt about Remote Mapping, Field Mapping, Reading Maps and Navigation skills.

## Talk Shows

Throughout the day, talk shows were simultaneously organized in two venues. Speakers talked about issues that ranged from initiating data revolution in Nepal to promoting



data access all revolving around the theme. They were representatives from organizations currently working on Open Data, data transparency and accountability.

### Sparkling the Data Revolution in Nepal to promoting with Open Data

*Joshua Leslie and Pavitra Rana, Open Nepal*

Through the talk show, the speakers helped define data revolution. They hope to bring revolution for equality through mobile and internet used in sharing data. Data Revolution monitors progress of developmental goal that uses it to hold government accountable. It helps to foster sustainable development and use



technology for change. It helps to sort out large data for better use that helps us increase the volume and type of data available. They also talked about various ways Open Nepal Partnership is working towards catalysing data revolution in Nepal.

### Open Data in the perspective of Entrepreneur

*Mr. Anish Shrestha, Yellow Nepal*

The speaker related Open Data with entrepreneurship. He talked about the ability of Open Data to inspire start up. The information accessed through Open Data can assist in providing personal touch, solving problems, creating benchmarks solutions, expanding offerings of the business

and informing new product ideas.

### Promoting Data access & use for informed decision making

*Mr. Kiran Shakya, ICIMOD*

Mr. Shakya talked about his projects accentuating the use of applications that are important in implementing those projects. He discussed the projects that use technology such as Regional Snow Covering Monitoring, Glacier mapping, Agriculture Monitoring in Nepal, Forest fire monitoring, Disaster information management and Nepal land cover.

### Open Challenges on Dairy Industry

*Mr. Dipesh Khanal, Robotics Association of Nepal*





is basically an advocacy project at the citizen level that seeks to change people's behaviour so that they reject corruption and take measures to combat it. It also seeks to change administration, officials, civil servants, politicians positively in the mission to eliminate corruption.

#### **Importance of open data for improving Local Governance : Experience of CAHURAST-Nepal**

*Mr. Bishnu Pukar Shrestha , CAHURAST Nepal*

Mr. Shrestha talked about three major elements necessary to collect evidence based data and increase advocacy for transparency which are Empowering, Encouraging and Engaging community. He talked about the significance of community integrity building zone, increased collaboration of stakeholders and open data community in order to bring measurable changes in open data.

#### **Role of Youth in promoting good Governance**

*Sarita Bartaula, Youth Initiative*

Ms. Bartaula talked about the significance of engaging youth for

Mr. Khanal spoke around the challenge DCDC 2015 (Dairy maker code + design challenge) 2015). He talked about the importance of technology and its ability to make agricultural information system accessible to the farmers.

#### **Advocacy & Legal Advice Centre**

*Mr.Kamal Pokhrel, Transparency International, Nepal*

ALAC aims to empower citizens to make and pursue corruption related complaints. ALAC or Advocacy, Legal, Advice and Center, translates these concerns of corruption by providing legal advice and assistance to victims and witness of corruption. It works with vulnerable people and individuals who can help them. ALAC

promotion of Good governance. Through their organization, Youth Initiative they aim to incorporate three basic mechanism - inform, empower and involve. They believe in the role of youth in civic leadership, good governance, in peace building, entrepreneurship, gender equality and migration. Ms. Bartaula talked about the significance of youth involvement and focused on its benefits. She shared that youth involvement prepares youth for bigger responsibilities in life.

#### **Experience Sharing of Data Journalism in Nepal**

*Arun Karki and Sunil Dhungana, Center for data journalism in Nepal*

Mr. Karki talked about open data collection, transparency and interactive medium as few means of collection of data for journalism. He added the need to use interactive participation and data presentation for effective data journalism. The role of technology in uniting the citizens for development of the nation is huge.

Mr. Dhungana further added the need to understand Open Data. He talked about the significance of

this understanding among citizens who can freely get and share the information that has to be available to them. He said that there were lots of hindrances in open data collection one major challenge being instability of government. Today government collects enormous data but those data are never easily accessed by citizens. But now the system needs to be changed and the data needs to be accessed to people at any time.

#### **Data Journalism Round Table**

*Gyanu Sharma, Open Nepal*

Mr. Sharma talks about the significance of education in Nepal and informs that the Nepal's education





system is not localized. He suggested a practical approach to teaching that is interactive with the youth and is practical so that the youth can work to get better future for the nation. When it comes to journalists, he suggested that we need to train them so they can access and use data. The discussion on improvement of Open Nepal data portal improvement put forward some important points such as engagement of more users in the portal by giving them the prospect of uploading appropriate user data online and also encouraging discussions on the users' side. The talk ended in an important note that encouraged establishment

of a panel of expert journalists who can fact check government data for accuracy. The need for coalition of journalists to follow up in these activities was believed to be more important now than ever.

#### **Special Feature of a Day: Play on "Kursi Khali Chha"**

*Accountability Lab and Shilpee Theater*

Through the play, issues of accountability, transparency, openness and local governance were brought into question. It showed the malpractices associated with offices and its officials at local level and the



disruptions that citizens have to face because of these practises. It aimed to highlight the negative situation that arises when there is lack of election in a nation and when authorities at local levels are not responsible about their official activities. The play was successful in highlighting the importance of transparency at local level.

## **Initiative Showcasing**

### **Galli Galli**

Galli Galli presented the website [nalibeli.org](http://nalibeli.org) which navigates public

service information that can be used by every citizen in their day to day life.

The website can be accessed by every citizen when s/he requires information on any organization they want to visit. It also assists the process of government activities easier by sharing the requirements online for people to access and use.

### **ICIMOD**

ICIMOD focused on Regional Database System that makes the data they collected as an organization accessible to the public for their use. Through website, [rds.icimod.org](http://rds.icimod.org),



anyone can get information on their projects. They also shared information on **SERVIR-Himalaya** that improves environmental management and climate change responses by helping governments and other stakeholders integrate Earth observation and geospatial technologies into decision making.

### Accountability Lab

Accountability Lab shared their project **Integrity Idol 2015** whose nominations have opened until June 15, 2015. They hope to recognize individuals working in different sectors in Nepal



whose works are exemplary. They also showcased the project **Honesty Oscars 2015**, which is a week-long event that honors groundbreaking organizations, activists and creatives who work hard to make sure the government and organizations they work for are transparent and accountable of their activities by fighting global corruption. A Nepalese representative Saradha Bhusal Jha has been nominated for the category Best Activist in a leading role.

### Kathmandu Living Labs

Kathmandu Living Lab uses OpenStreetMap to make a platform similar to Wikipedia where people can enter the landmarks around themselves. They demonstrated this global project in the context of Nepal.



### Development Check

**Development Check** is a user driven and solution oriented online tool for citizen feedback on the transparency, participation and effectiveness of development projects. **Integrity Action** developed the tool in partnership with our country partners and **YoungInnovations**, developers in Nepal and practitioners in the field of Open Data and the **International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI)**.

### Aidstream

**Aidstream** projects talked about their project and its use in making sure the information given by the local organizations meet the **International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI)** format. It helps to publish the information in IATI registry which is an important step to attaining Open Data.

### VoiceInn

VoiceInn is an interactive telephoning solution where people can use telephone to collect data. It can provide three services namely, vsurvey, vboard and vsupport. Vsurvey conducts survey through voice call, vboard helps to broadcast message to users and vsupport responds to audio queries.







### Youth Initiative

Youth Initiative shared information about their organizations. The organization involves people in projects and mini-projects and make sure the information collected is openly available to people. Through today's event they hope to get feedback on their projects and initiative along with feedback for improvement.

### Transparency and Citizen Engagement Forum

After the launch of the website, a stall was there throughout the day to educate people on how to use the portal and access information of Ward-7. Volunteers educated the concerned citizens on ways they can use the website to make optimum use of it.



### Open Nepal

Open Nepal is a collaborative initiative that is working to promote greater access to, and use of data in for effective development in Nepal. They aim to catalyse a revolution in data sharing and use by building a sustainable and an inclusive information system comprising of data suppliers, infomediaries and data users. It is a collaboration of various organisations - Freedom Forum, NGO Federation of Nepal, YoungInnovations and Development Initiatives.

They showcased a flyer about 'Open Data, the Data Revolution and Open Nepal' and data demand profiles looking at how data can be used for change in different contexts by different actors.



### Bytes from Participants

#### Naresh Chapagin

*Joint Secretary, Public Procurement Monitoring Office (PPMO), Government of nepal*

Government's information is the right of the citizens. Government in itself is not perfect. Transparency is required to monitor government act and to control corruption.

#### Narayan Adhikari

*Country Representative for Accountability Lab*

Open Data Day is a great platform for young people to make apps that can provide data feasibility to public. It is a place that supports

innovation and brainstorming on usability of data.

#### Bibhusan Bista

*CEO, YoungInnovations*

Open Data is philosophy rather than technology which talks about feasibility of data. Data should be accessible to to public for their personal use. It is the idea of taking data to the community so it can be more user friendly.

#### Lava Kafle

*Visitor, Open Data Day*

Open Data Day helped create awareness among the public about the statistical use of data that can be attained by public from government.



Ward-7 portal launch can help people know about ongoing projects in the area. We know that it should be accessible to everyone.

#### Sudeep Uprety

*Representative, HERD.org*

There is a culture of not sharing information from the government side. But it is something that is important in making sure the relationship between government workers and citizens is good. Open Information can reduce our difficulty in following government procedure and it makes the process easy for everyone. Launch of Ward-7 website is revolutionary step for networking and communications backup.

#### Poshan Niraula

*Participant, Mapathon*

Through the event, we had an opportunity to transfer individual geographic knowledge into street mapping that can be accessed and used by everyone. There were enthusiastic participants and instructors and the entire experience helped us learn.

#### Aashish Manandhar

*Participant, Hackathon*

I participated in hackathon last year and learnt a lot. It is grooming me as a developer and this year, I am learning ways to complete my projects under the topic. I strongly believe that it is a great platform to learn and exchange ideas.

#### Suraj Jaiswal

*Volunteer, Open Data Day*

KMC Ward-7 portal can provide government officials necessary information about their locality and can be eye opening in improvement required for that area. All the information when readily available, citizens are enthusiastic about their areas and activities going on. They feel like a part of the activities. It helps create awareness among the people about government activities.

### Related Links

Ward 7 Transparency and Participation Forum

[www.model4g.net](http://www.model4g.net)

ODD 2015 Kathmandu Website  
<http://opennepal.net/odd2015/>

ODD 2015 Kathmandu Pictures  
<http://ow.ly/JltMQ>

ODD 2015 Kathmandu Video  
<http://ow.ly/JlvXB>

## Press coverage

### Ward offices to offer web service

#### Kathmandu Post

### Ward offices to offer web service

- POST REPORT

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KATHMANDU, FEB 21 - With aim of consolidating all information regarding the services provided and projects undertaken by ward offices across the country, a new web portal was announced in the Capital on Saturday.

The [www.model4g.net](http://www.model4g.net), which currently stores all information on Ward no 7 of Kathmandu Metropolitan City, was officially launched in an event marking the International Open Data Day at Deerwalk Complex in Jaya Bageshwori.

Build under the concept of e-governance, the website has stored details on all completed and continuing projects undertaken by the ward along with ward rules, services, statistical data, news, points of interest map and engagement forum.

The website was brought about with joint effort from Kathmandu Living Labs and Young Innovations under the leadership of lawmaker Gagan Kumar Thapa who was elected from Constituency no 4 of Kathmandu.

Speaking on the occasion, lawmaker Thapa highlighted the importance of open data for a working democracy. "Equipping citizens with information on state's matters helps in good governance by assuring transparency and accountability," he said.

Member of the National Planning Commission Swarnim Wagle pointed out three notions that could be taken up by the government in the near future – calling for ideas for pressing issues from the public or crowd-sourcing, integrating census data with maps and making all government data more accessible.

**Posted on:** 2015-02-22 07:10

Open Map and Data Portal launched

## The Himalayan Times

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AFP

Open Map and Data Portal launched

**KATHMANDU:** Open Data Day 2015 was marked by organising various functions in the country on Saturday. On the occasion, Gagan Thapa, a member of Constituent Assembly launched Open Map and Data Portal for Ward 7 of Kathmandu Metropolitan City. The portal allows the ward residents to know what

development activities are taking place and how much resources are being utilised, among others. Thapa said this type of initiative helps maintain efficiency, transparency and involve citizen participation in development of society. Open Data Day is a gathering of citizens in cities around the world to write

applications, liberate data, create visualisations and publish analyses using open public data to show

support for and encourage adoption of open data policies by the government. — HNS





## ORGANIZERS



गगन कुमार थापा  
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काठमाडौं जिल्ला, क्षेत्र नं. ४