NIKESH BALAMI

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Professional Work Experience

Open Knowledge Nepal (*https://oknp.org/*)   **2017 - Present**

Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer
- Develop and implement the overall strategic plan to advance Open Knowledge Nepal's mission and objectives.
- Design, develop, and oversee programs and projects that promote open data, open knowledge, and transparency.
- Build and maintain relationships with key stakeholders, including government agencies, civil society organizations, academia, and the private sector.
- Identify and secure funding and resources necessary for the organization's operations and activities.
- Oversee the financial management of the organization, including budgeting, accounting, and financial reporting.
- Regularly assess and report on the progress and outcomes of programs and activities.
- Provide mentorship, guidance, and professional development opportunities for staff members.
- Conceptualization and curate open data projects and initiatives to make Nepal's data accessible online perpetually.

Open Government Data Team Lead   **2014 - 2017**
- Organize events and hackathons to mark key international days like Open Data Day, Software Freedom Day, Document Freedom Day, etc.
- Facilitation of the capacity building workshop and training related to data & technology organized by government and non-government entities.

Nepal-US Alumni Network (*https://nusan.org/*)   **2023 - Present**

Secretary
- Develop and implement strategies to engage and involve alumni in network activities and initiatives.
- Foster relationships with key stakeholders, including alumni, partners, and sponsors.
- Represent NUSAN at various forums and events to promote the organization's mission.
- Prepare and maintain comprehensive documentation of NUSAN's activities and achievements.
- Maintain accurate records of meetings, decisions, and organizational activities.

Open Internet Nepal (*https://openinternet.org.np/*)   **2024 - Present**

Chapter Lead and Treasurer
- Design and oversee programs, projects, and activities that align with the chapter's mission.
- Build and maintain relationships with key stakeholders, including government agencies, civil society, and the private sector.
- Oversee the chapter's financial operations, including budgeting, accounting, and reporting.
- Oversee the administration of grants, including tracking expenditures and reporting to funders.

Youth IGF Nepal (*https://yigf.org.np/*)   **2022 - Present**

Founding Member

- Spearheaded the establishment of Youth IGF Nepal, ensuring alignment with the broader IGF objectives.
- Advocate for youth engagement in internet governance at national and international levels.
- Design and organize programs, workshops, and events to educate and involve youth in internet governance issues.
- Identify and secure funding and resources necessary for the organization's operations and activities.

Open Data Charter (*https://opendatacharter.org/*)   **2022 - Present**

Advisory Board Member
- Provide strategic advice to the leadership on the direction and priorities of the Open Data Charter.
- Assist in developing and refining policies and frameworks for open data implementation.
- Monitor the progress and impact of the Open Data Charter's initiatives.
- Assist in identifying and securing funding opportunities and partnerships.

Consultancy Work Experience

Open Knowledge Foundation (*https://okfn.org/***)**   **2022 - 2023**

International Open Data Lead
- Reorganized the Open Data Day 2023 for it to become a truly grassroots-driven, sustainable event, with distributed governance and task allocation.
- Coordinated the administrative tasks of the small grants program, including the formation of an international jury to score and grant the mini-grants.
- Maped regional actors worldwide and reached out to them through mailing lists and other forms of social media.
- Followed up with beneficiaries reporting and promoted their stories both on the ODD website, on OKFN networks, and on the OKFN social media channel.

Regional Community Coordinator   **October - December, 2016**
- Provided ongoing support for community members interested in contributing to the Global Open Data Index 2016.
- Worked with the OKFN team to complete partial Index submissions.
- Helped promote the Global Open Data Index in local language(s) whenever possible.

East-West Management Institute (*https://ewmi.org/***)**   **July - September, 2021**

Research Associate for the Global Data Barometer Project
- Carried out primary desk research for Nepal to locate evidence about each question in the Expert Survey.
- Participated in an online researcher-training session conducted by the Regional Hub and the Global Data Barometer project team.
- Conducted peer review for an assigned country.
- Used the guidance from the research handbook to assess the evidence and respond to scoring scales and assessment questions.

Areas of Expertise

Data Munging & Scrapping, Strategic Management, Project Design, Research Support & Reporting, Writing & Notekeeping, Data Analysis & Visualization

Education

Diploma in Computer Engineering
Acme Engineering College – CTEVT
2010 - 2014

Bachelor in Computer Engineering
Acme Engineering College - Purbanchal University
2015 - 2020

Key Projects

Integrated Data Management System | https://idms.oknp.org/
IDMS is a comprehensive and interoperable digital platform meticulously designed to facilitate seamless inter-governmental data sharing and the efficient dissemination of valuable data in the public domain, adhering to the FAIR principles.

Open Data Nepal | http://opendatanepal.com/
Open Data Nepal is a civil society initiative to make Nepal's data accessible online perpetually. The portal allows users to publish, explore, download, and use data to make their visualizations, apps, and services without any restriction.

Open Data Awareness Program | http://odap.oknp.org/
Open Data Awareness Program aims to raise awareness about the concept and usage of open data to Nepal's digital natives, who are potential future decision-makers in government, civil society, and the private sector.

AskNepal | https://asknepal.info/
AskNepal helps access information about local government, central government, parliament, state-funded schools, universities, hospitals, and other public authorities.

Local Government (LG) Data Fellowship | https://fellowship.oknp.org/
The LG Data Fellowship aims to assist municipal bodies in digitizing their data for improved decision-making. It offers the opportunity to work closely with various personnel in municipalities and other stakeholders.

NepalMap | https://nepalmap.org/
NepalMap is a web app that puts data about Nepal at your fingertips. NepalMap helps users to find and understand data on Nepal easily and will be useful to anyone who seeks to learn more about Nepal via data.

Talks

Topic: Working with Open Data
KU HackFest 2021 organized by the team of Kathmandu University and Kathmandu University Computer Club.

Topic: Grassroots awareness and the impact of Civic Tech in Nepal
2019 Creative Commons Global Summit organized by Creative Commons at Lisbon, Portugal.

Topic: Grassroots awareness and the impact of Civic Tech in Nepal

FOSSASIA Summit 2019 organized by FOSS ASIA at Lifelong Learning Institute, Singapore.

Topic: Connecting Openness
State of the Map Asia 2017 hosted by Kathmandu Living Labs and OSM Community of Nepal at Kathmandu, Nepal.

Topic: Choose Open, Choose Freedom: Open Knowledge Network
Software Freedom Day 2017 organized by Kathmandu University at Dhulikhel, Nepal.

Topic: Open Data and AI
Artificial Intelligence and Its Ecosystem meetup organized by Artificial Intelligence for Development at Kathmandu, Nepal.

Topic: Open Data & AI
Yantra Learning organized by the Robotics Association of Nepal in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Publications

- "*Burn Violence Survivors Nepal (BVS-Nepal) Data Management Manual*", Co-author with Shukadev Amgain, and Sagar Ghimire, published by Open Knowledge Nepal.
- "*Nepal Open Data Index 2015 - White Paper*", published by Open Knowledge Foundation.
- "*Open Data Handbook Nepali Version - Handbook*", published by Open Knowledge Nepal.
- "*Open Data Manual*", published by Open Knowledge Nepal.
- Op-ed on "*Data Can Help Tackle Air Pollution*", Co-author with Sijal Pokharel, published by The Rising Nepal.
- Op-ed on "*Reinvestment in digital literacy*", published by The Kathmandu Post
- Op-ed on "*Lockdown: A Pause To Think About Air Pollution*", Co-author with Sijal Pokharel, published by The Rising Nepal.

Key Work Coverage

- "*Youth in Nepal use data to respond to COVID-19*" by the World Bank.
- "*The future is open by default*" by Open Source For You.
- "*Championing open data movement in Nepal*" by Nepal Institute of Research and Communications (NIRC).

Certification and Training

- "*Data Stewards Academy Executive Education Course*" by Open Data Policy Lab at The GovLab.
- "*Collaborating for Open and Accountable Budgets*" by International Budget Partnership and Freedom Forum.
- "*Gender Data 101 Edition 2.0*" by TechChange.
- "*Gender, Equality, Diversity, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) Training*" by Nepal Participatory Action Network (NEPAN).
- "*TechCamp Kathmandu*", by the U.S. Department of State and Kathmandu Living Labs.

- "*Capacity Development Workshop Open Government Data Sensitization, Gap Assessment and Strategic Planning*" by UNPAN and National Information Commission, Nepal.
- "*National Substantive Training on Open Government Data for Sustainable Development*" by UN DESA and National Information Commission, Nepal.
- "*3-day training for improving research impact*" by Data for Development in Nepal.
- "*Youth Leadership, Open Mapping, and Sustainable Community Development*", a days summer course by Kathmandu Living Labs and the University of California, Davis.
- "*The Active Citizen in a Digital Age*" course by Stanford Online.
- "*Advanced Google Analytics*" course by Google Analytics Academy.
- "*First National Intellectual Property Law & Development Essay Competition - Nepal 2016*" by Uprety & Associates.
- "*CISCO International Conference on Cyber Security and Cyber Law 2015*" by ITSERT-NP.
- "*Intel conference on Financial Inclusion and Payment Systems Security 2015*" by ITSERT-NP.
- "*Open Aid Data Bootcamp 2014*" by The World Bank and Young Innovation.

Award

October 2023, Datasphere Fellow
The Datasphere Initiative Fellowship Program provides an opportunity for graduate students and young professionals to work on novel research and dialogue related to data governance.

August 2022, Climate Action Champions Network Cohort Member
The network aims to harness the potential of the youth in the region by bringing together 100 individuals from the countries of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, over 30 months to discuss and deliberate about creating a climate action vision for South Asia and the Indo-Pacific.

June 2022, OpenMRS Community Management Fellow
Received a fellowship to expand current skills and experience by providing program and operational support to a variety of OpenMRS community initiatives.

July 2019, TechCamp Kathmandu Alumni Member
TechCamp is a U.S. Department of State initiative to connect those who have demonstrated expertise and knowledge working to combat air pollution and promote government transparency in South Asia.

November 2016, Shuttleworth Flash Grant 2016
Given to the social change agents, nominated by Rufus Pollock, Founder and President of Open Knowledge Foundation.

2017 AD, Nominated as a U.S. Embassy Youth Council Nepal
Received a grant to run a community engagement project - I Know My Government from the U.S. Embassy Kathmandu.

Past Involvements

Code for Nepale (*https://codefornepal.org/*** 2017 - 2021**
Project Coordinator

FOSS Nepal Community (*https://wiki.fossnepal.org/***)**   **2018 - 2023**
Executive Member

Artificial Intelligence for Development (*http://ainepal.org/***)**   **2018- 2022**
Co-founder and Team Lead

Mozilla Foundation (*https://foundation.mozilla.org/***)**   **2015 - 2018**
Firefox Student Ambassador & Mozilla Open Leaders

Social Footprints

Linkedin: https://www.linkedin.com/in/nikeshbalami/
Twitter: https://twitter.com/nikeshbalami
GitHub: https://github.com/nikeshbalami

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