



# ANNUAL NEPAL AI SCHOOL

## 2024 REPORT



Organized by NAAMII

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# Message from General Chairs



**Alok Khatri**

**Danda Pani Paudel**

The Nepal AI School 2024 was an 11-day program designed to celebrate innovation, foster collaboration, and inspire meaningful growth in the field of AI. We were privileged to host an incredible lineup of speakers, some of whom traveled from across the globe to share their expertise. Their presence demonstrated a collective commitment to advancing AI research and practice in Nepal, where resilience and creativity have always been a driving force.

This event owed its success to the generous support of our sponsors—F1 Soft, Young Innovations, The Asia Foundation, SecurityPal, Fusemachines, and Google—whose belief in our mission enabled us to offer 72 full and partial scholarships and to organize two dynamic hackathon tracks.

Our dedicated organizing team—Ayusha, Mubina, Simran, Anisha, Luna, Jatin, and many others working behind the scenes—worked tirelessly to ensure every detail was handled smoothly, from logistics to participant engagement. Their efforts transformed the school into more than just a gathering; it became a movement embodying progress, resilience, and the bold pursuit of AI excellence.

Throughout those 11 days, participants immersed themselves in workshops, discussions, and collaborative projects to drive innovation. They were encouraged to be curious, forge connections, and embrace new ideas—an approach that led to unexpected discoveries and breakthroughs. As chairs of ANAIS 2024, we are honored to present the report on how the Annual Nepal AI School 2024 inspired a vibrant community, is forging a lasting impact on the future of AI in Nepal.



# Message from Project Coordinator



**Aayusha Shrestha**

AN AIS 2024 was quite an inspirational journey that allowed me to be privileged to witness the zeal and commitment to knowledge sharing that participants tend to have with AI. Our aim was to provide quality education but also to ensure that they have an everlasting experience. Seeing how this initiative touches lives is truly rewarding.

I wish to express my deepest gratitude to our eminent speakers and mentors for their invaluable input, and to our organizing team, student ambassadors, teaching assistants, and partners whose support brought success to this occasion. A special kudos to the participants for committing to learning and pushing themselves throughout this journey.

I am immensely grateful to Mr. Alok Khatri for trusting me with this responsibility and the board members of NAAMII for initiating this incredible program. I hope AN AIS continues inspiring many to come and shape the future of AI in Nepal and beyond.

Looking ahead, I am excited about the continued blossoming of the AI community within Nepal. I hope AN AIS becomes the stage for those wishing to go on to play a meaningful role within the sector of AI. Keep it going onboard! To a future where AI is inclusive, ethical, and impactful.



# Executive Summary

## ► Brief Overview of the Event

The **5th Annual Nepal AI School (ANAS 2024)** was a premier **11-day AI education initiative** organized by the Nepal Applied Mathematics and Informatics Institute for Research (NAAMII). The program was held from December 27, 2024, to January 6, 2025, at Premier International School, Nepal, and it brought together **197 selected participants** from diverse educational and professional backgrounds. The program equipped the participants with expert-led theoretical sessions, hands-on lab work, hackathons, and mentorship opportunities focused on **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** and **Machine Learning (ML)**. Since its inception in 2018, ANAS has gained **international recognition**, attracting **2,250+ applicants from 30+ countries** and featuring **80+ distinguished speakers** in past editions. It serves as a **launchpad for AI talent in developing regions**, connecting participants with global AI communities, research institutions, and industry leaders.

ANAS bridges the AI knowledge gap in developing regions, providing high-quality, research-driven training that enables participants to apply AI across critical fields such as **healthcare, bioinformatics, robotics, and sustainable development**.

This year, ANAS 2024 hosted leading AI researchers and educators from world-renowned institutions, including **the University of Oxford, IIT Delhi, IIT Kanpur, SUNY (South Korea), Nanyang Technological University (Singapore), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, University of Oslo, University of Lausanne, and ETH Zurich**, fostering a rich exchange of global AI knowledge and expertise.





## Goals and Objectives of the Event

- Establish a **hub for AI discourse** by bringing together top global scientists, researchers, and professors to share and discuss cutting-edge advancements in AI.
- 
- Empower students and professionals with the **foundational knowledge through structured learning modules** covering essential mathematics, statistics, programming, and paper-reading skills, necessary to pursue AI research and innovation.
- 
- Deliver a comprehensive overview of **modern AI research trends**, equipping participants with insights into the latest breakthroughs and methodologies.
- 
- **Inspire early-stage researchers** to tackle high-impact AI challenges in computer vision, natural language processing, and medical science that have real-world significance and societal impact.
- 
- Foster an inclusive AI ecosystem by **democratizing access to AI education** and creating opportunities for aspiring researchers from developing countries.
- 
- **Advance AI literacy and expertise** by providing an in-depth understanding of state-of-the-art research in machine learning and artificial intelligence.
- 
- Facilitate **knowledge exchange between veteran and young researchers**, promoting collaboration and innovation.

## Key Highlights



Participants

**197**

Hands on projects

**22**



Female Representation

**25.38%**

Speakers

**20+**



- **197 participants** from diverse nationalities, social contexts, and educational backgrounds, including students, researchers, and professionals, engaged in an immersive AI learning experience.
- **25.38% female participation**, marking progress in gender diversity.
- **Hands-on learning** in foundational and advanced ML topics, equipping participants with real-world AI skills.
- **22 impactful hackathon projects**, 11 startup-driven solutions, and 11 tackling anti-money laundering, demonstrating strong industry potential.
- **20+ expert speakers** from leading global institutions delivered their research and AI insights, enriching the discussions with cutting-edge knowledge and innovative perspectives.
- **Stronger AI community**, fostering lasting networks between participants, mentors, and industry leaders.
- **Widespread media coverage**, amplifying growing AI momentum including **TechPana**, **ICTFrame**, **ICT Samachar**, **Gorkhapatra Online**, **Image Channel**, and **OnlineKhabar**.



## Speakers at ANAIS 2024



**Michael Bronstein**  
University of Oxford, UK



**Ahmed Elhag**  
University of Oxford, UK



**Ashutosh Modi**  
IIT Kanpur, India



**Binod Bhattarai**  
University of Aberdeen,  
UK/ NAAMII



**Bishesh Khanal**  
NAAMII, Nepal



**Chetan Arora**  
IIT Delhi, India



**Danda Pani Paudel**  
INSAIT/ETH Zürich/NAAMII,  
Bulgaria



**Federico Monti**  
Università della Svizzera  
italiana, Switzerland



**François Rameau**  
SUNY, South Korea



**Gilberto Ochoa Ruiz**  
Tecnológico de Monterrey,  
Mexico



**Haitz Sáez de Borde**  
University of Oxford, UK



**Ismaili Ceylan**  
University of Oxford,  
UK

# Speakers at ANAIS 2024



**Kilian Koepsell**  
Caption Health/ GE  
Healthcare, USA



**Manoj Shakya**  
Nanyang Technological  
University (NTU),  
Singapore



**Norliza Noor**  
Universiti Teknologi  
Malaysia, Malaysia



**Sabita Maharjan**  
University of Oslo,  
Norway



**Shaifali Parashar**  
Research Scientist,  
INSA Lyon



**Shiv Ram Dubey**  
IIIT Allahabad, India



**Vijay Prakash Dwivedi**  
NTU, Singapore



**Yash Raj Shrestha**  
University of Lausanne,  
Switzerland



**Dilli Raj Paudel**  
Artificial Intelligence  
group of Wageningen  
University and Researc



**Kamil Adamczewski**  
ETH Zurich



**Vivek Choudhary**  
ITOM, NTU Singapore

# Introduction



## Background of the Annual Nepal AI School

The Annual Nepal AI School (AN AIS) is a unique platform in South Asia that brings together people from all over the world scientists, faculties, and participants for an intensive 11 days of AI lectures, labs, and project works. The course covers depth from the **fundamentals of AI and ML to a wide range of applications and domains, including the frontier of recently developed research ideas and methods.** AN AIS attracts diverse audiences, from senior undergraduates and graduates to PhD students, teaching faculties, and industry professionals.

The primary objective of AN AIS is to equip participants with the **prerequisite fundamentals of mathematics, statistics, programming, and scientific paper reading/writing skills** essential for pursuing a career in AI research. Additionally, the school provides an overview of state-of-the-art research in AI and ML, offering participants exposure to cutting-edge technological advances while inspiring the next generation of AI researchers and practitioners, particularly from developing countries.



## Target Participant Audience

AN AIS brings together a diverse group of learners, from undergraduate and graduate students to PhD candidates, as well as industry professionals, researchers, and faculty members, eager to deepen their understanding of AI. Participants come

## Unique Aspects of the 5th Edition

Compared to previous editions, AN AIS 2024 witnessed:

- A **higher number of applicants**, indicating growing interest in AI education.
- **Improved gender diversity**, following targeted outreach efforts.
- **Expanded industry engagement**, with more mentorship sessions and hackathon support.

Special emphasis on **hands-on, in-person learning**, with nearly all lectures and sessions delivered face-to-face by expert speakers.



## Past Editions and Impact

Over the past **four editions**, ANAIS has achieved the following milestones:

- **Applications:** Attracted over **1,750 applicants**, with 550 participants selected through a rigorous process.
- **Global Representation:** Hosted participants from **30+ countries** and engaged with a network of **60+ distinguished speakers** from leading universities, research labs, and organizations worldwide.
- **Community Engagement:** Provided a collaborative environment for early-stage researchers, including networking events such as group hikes, gala dinners, and discussions.

The previous editions have been highly impactful, drawing experts from institutions like the **National University of Singapore (NUS)**, **IIIT Hyderabad**, **University of Oxford**, **Imperial College London**, **UCL**, and **ETH Zurich**. Notable keynote speakers included **Prof. Angela Yao**, **Prof. C.V. Jawahar**, and **Prof. Michael Bronstein**. These experts shared their insights through lectures, hands-on lab sessions, and scientific paper reading and writing workshops, catering specifically to the needs of participants from developing regions.

AN AIS has also played a pivotal role in democratizing AI by:

- **Bridging Knowledge Gaps:** Addressing key gaps in teaching methodologies with the help of national and international professors who understand the unique educational needs in Nepal.
- **Building an AI Ecosystem:** Inspiring participants to collaborate and innovate within Nepal's emerging AI community.



# First Edition



## FIRST NEPAL WINTER SCHOOL IN AI

ORGANIZED BY

**NAAMII**

The inaugural edition of ANAIS, titled the First Nepal Winter School in AI, was organized by NAAMII and powered by **Ncell** at Prime College, Khusibun, Nayabazar, with support from **Facebook Artificial Intelligence, PyTorch, Mila, HAMS Hospital, Laxmi Group, and GATE College.**

From 502 applicants, **114 participants** were selected, including 26 females and 88 males. Among them, 81 were students. The remaining 33 participants were professionals from leading organizations like **Fusemachines, WiseYak, Leapfrog, Youth Innovations, and Daraz.** Additionally, the program welcomed 17 international participants and 17 from outside Kathmandu Valley.

Notably, 97% of student participants received scholarships, while out-of-valley attendees were provided with travel and lodging grants to ensure accessibility. The event also featured insights from 15 distinguished speakers, enriching the learning experience.

### PROGRAM CHAIRS



Binod Bhattarai



Bishesh Khanal



Dovan Rai



Samrachana Adhikari



Sujaya Neupane



Suresh Manandhar

### SPEAKERS: 15



# Second Edition



## SECOND NEPAL WINTER SCHOOL IN AI

ORGANIZED BY  
**NAAMII**

The second edition of ANAIS, known as the Second Nepal Winter School in AI, was organized by NAAMII at **Gandaki College of Engineering and Science (GCES)**, Lamachaur, Pokhara, Nepal.

This edition received significant support from key partners. **The Ministry of Education, AnyVision, and Prime College** served as gold sponsors, enabling broader access to AI education. **Mila** contributed as a silver sponsor, reinforcing the event's academic excellence. **Laxmi Group** and **GATE College** played a crucial role as logistics partners, while **Khalti** facilitated seamless payment processes.

From 693 applicants, **146 participants** were selected, including students, professionals, and volunteers from diverse academic and industry backgrounds. The program welcomed 36 international participants and 111 from Nepal, and a total of 24 expert speakers enriched the event with their insights, creating an engaging and impactful learning experience.

### PROGRAM CHAIRS



Binod Bhattarai



Bishesh Khanal



Suresh Manandhar

### SPEAKERS: 24



# Third Edition



## THIRD NEPAL WINTER SCHOOL IN AI

ORGANIZED BY  
**NAAMII**

The third edition of ANAIS, titled the Third Nepal Winter School in AI, was hosted by NAAMII at **Khwopa Engineering College**, Libali, Bhaktapur.

From 194 applicants, **97** were selected, including 25 females and 72 males. In addition, 10 volunteers supported the event, and 28 professionals from organizations such as **Fusemachines** and **Khwopa** joined the program. The cohort also featured 8 international participants and 89 participants from Nepal.

The event was made possible by **Islington College and ING Group** as Diamond Sponsors, while **Fusemachines and Redev** supported as Gold Sponsors. **Presidential Business School** and **Khalti** served as the official Logistics and Payment Partner.

The event's knowledge-sharing aspect was enhanced by contributions from 39 expert speakers, offering valuable perspectives across a range of AI-related topics.

### PROGRAM CHAIRS



Binod Bhattarai



Bishesh Khanal



Danda Pani Paudel



Shreyasha Paudel

### SPEAKERS: 39



# Fourth Edition



## FOURTH NEPAL WINTER SCHOOL IN AI

ORGANIZED BY  
**NAAMII**

The fourth edition of ANAIS, titled the Fourth Annual Nepal AI School, was organized by NAAMII in collaboration with **King's College at Pathshala Nepal Foundation**.

From 400 applicants, **119 participants** were selected, including 39 females and 80 males. The program included 16 professionals and 2 international participants. This year, the event was supported by **The Asia Foundation, Himalaya Trading Pvt. Ltd., DIYO.AI, and Google**. 25 expert speakers from around the world contributed their expertise during the event.

### GENERAL CHAIR



Suman Raj Bista

### PROGRAM CO-CHAIRS



Anita Rau



Aashutosh Modi



Binod Bhattarai



Bishesh Khanal



Danda Pani Paudel



Sabita Maharjan

### SPEAKERS: 25



# Fifth Edition



## FIFTH NEPAL WINTER SCHOOL IN AI

ORGANIZED BY

**NAAMII**

The 5th Annual Nepal AI School (ANAIS 2024) has continued the legacy of its predecessors, strengthening the development of an inclusive AI ecosystem in Nepal. This edition has focused on equipping participants with advanced AI concepts and their real-world applications, addressing key challenges in the field.

Held at **Premier International School, ANAIS 2024** has brought together **197 participants** from 450 applicants, including 50 females and 146 males. 157 Students, 4 Academics, 6 Startups, 6 Professionals, 22 Naamii and 10 international participants have contributed to the diverse learning environment. Among them, 28 participants were awarded full scholarships, with 13 males, 15 females, 2 international candidates, and 5 from outside the valley. Additionally, 50 participants received partial scholarships, including 38 males, 12 females, and 8 from outside the valley.

This edition has been supported by **FI Soft** as the Title Sponsor, **Young Innovations** as the Silver Sponsor, and **SecurityPal, Fusemachines, and Google** as General Sponsors. The Hackathon has been supported by **The Asia Foundation, e-Sewa, and Fonepay**, while **Premiere International School** has served as the Venue Partner.

With 22 expert speakers, ANAIS 2024 has provided valuable insights and practical knowledge to participants, reinforcing its role in shaping the future of AI education in Nepal.

### GENERAL CHAIRS



Alok Khatri



Danda Pani Paudel

### PROGRAM CHAIRS



Binod Bhattarai



Bishesh Khanal



Suman Raj Bista

**SPEAKERS: 22**



# Contribution of NAAMII's Research Assistants (RAs)



NAAMII's Research Assistants (RAs) played a crucial role in the successful execution of the 5th Annual Nepal AI School. Their involvement spanned from pre-event planning to mentoring participants throughout the program.

As many RAs had previously attended past editions of the AI school, they were well-versed in its structure and objectives. From the initial stages, they actively contributed to shaping the curriculum, assisting in the selection of pre reading materials, and structuring hands-on lab sessions. They also played a key role in designing both virtual and physical info sessions, ensuring an engaging and effective learning experience.

During virtual and physical information sessions, RAs led discussions on how to kick-start a career in AI research. They shared their experiences, provided guidance on research opportunities, and helped prospective participants understand the significance of AI in academia and industry.

Throughout the event, they facilitated lab sessions, ensuring participants received hands-on experience. Additionally, RAs played a pivotal role in mentoring hackathon participants, offering technical support, and helping teams refine their projects.

Their continued engagement and expertise not only enriched the learning experience for participants but also reinforced NAAMII's mission of fostering a strong AI research community in Nepal.

## NAAMII'S RA LIST

- **Anju Chhetri**
- **Prashant Shrestha**
- **Anubhav Khanal**
- **Sanjay Bhandari**
- **Abhigyan Bhusal**
- **Sanskar Amgain**
- **Pranav Poudel**
- **Prasiddha Bhandari**
- **Mahesh Shakya**
- **Bishad Koju**
- **Sandesh Pokhrel**
- **Prabin Sharma Poudel**
- **Bhabuk Ghimire**
- **Shirshak Acharya**
- **Nishant Luitel**
- **Kanchan Poudel**
- **Safal Thapaliya**
- **Anmol Guragain**

# Pre-Event Planning and Preparation



## Planning Committee and Team Structure

The general committee for the 5th Annual Nepal AI School was formed six months before the event:

### GENERAL CHAIRS



#### Alok Khatri

- Overall Program Coordination
- Promotion and Outreach for Participant Engagement
- Business Development
- Sponsorship and Partner Engagement
- Logistic Planning



#### Danda Pani Paudel

- Agenda Development
- Speaker Engagement
- Coordinating Applicant Evaluation Process

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### PROGRAM CHAIRS



#### Binod Bhattarai

- International Relationships
- International Sponsorships



#### Bishesh Khanal

- Local Sponsorship and Partnerships
- Organizing team mentoring



#### Suman Raj Bista

- Participants logistics
- Leading Selection Committee



## Organizing Committee Formation

The organizing committee for the 5th Annual Nepal AI School was established over a six-month period leading up to the event. Committee members were strategically onboarded, ensuring that each individual brought the necessary expertise and skills to effectively contribute to the planning and successful execution of the event.

### Members



#### Aayusha Shrestha

- Overall Project Coordination



#### Anisha Gyawali

- Stakeholder Communications



#### Anju Chhetri

- Hackathon Design and Management



#### Jatin Bhusal

- Master of Ceremony



#### Mubina KC

- Program Brand and Special Events Management



#### Pampha Shrestha

- Finance Management



#### Smriti Joshi

- Speakers Communications



#### Simran Shakya

- Event Management



#### Luna Manandhar

- Graphic Designer

## Venue Selection

The venue for the **5th Annual Nepal AI School** was secured six months in advance, following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between NAAMII and **Premier International School** on June 25, 2024. The selection of the venue was driven by key factors to ensure a seamless and productive event experience:

- **Lecture Hall/Auditorium:** A fully rainproof, acoustically optimized hall with a capacity for 300 participants, equipped with high-speed internet, a projector, and a reliable backup power system.
- **Breakout Rooms:** Ten fully equipped rooms with high-speed internet, uninterrupted power supply, projectors, and screens, designed to facilitate dynamic group activities and discussions.
- **Internet Connectivity:** A dedicated 200 Mbps internet connection, supported by multiple access points and on-site IT support for uninterrupted connectivity.
- **OC Room:** A dedicated space for ten people, equipped with Wi-Fi, and essential facilities, conveniently located near the lecture hall.
- **Printing Facilities:** A dedicated black-and-white printer for the day-to-day operations of the organizing committee.
- **Restroom Facilities:** Sufficient, clean well-maintained toilets and urinals, with necessary hygiene supplies and separate sections for male/female participants.
- **General Cleanliness:** General upkeep of the venue, including clean surroundings, dust-free windows, and well-monitored hygiene throughout the event space.





## Program Design and Curriculum Development

The **Program Design and Curriculum Development** for the AI School was meticulously planned to provide participants with a well-rounded understanding of machine learning (ML) and artificial intelligence (AI). The curriculum was crafted to cover foundational concepts, advanced techniques, and real-world applications. Over 10 days, the program balanced academic rigor, hands-on learning, and professional development.

### Curriculum Design

The program curriculum was designed to provide a comprehensive exploration of major concepts in AI and ML, spanning both depth and breadth within the fields. The topics balanced a mix of foundational principles, upcoming research, and practical applications in the field to ensure relevance to participants from academic and professional backgrounds.

Key considerations in the academic topics design included:

- **Balanced Depth and Breadth:** The program covered foundational areas such as reinforcement learning, computer vision, and geometric deep learning, while also introducing cutting-edge topics like large language models (LLMs), spectral methods, and 3D reconstruction to offer a comprehensive learning experience.
- **Practical Relevance:** Emphasis was placed on the application of AI in areas such as agriculture, energy, and healthcare to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world challenges.
- **Progressive Learning:** The program followed a gradual learning curve, starting with fundamental concepts and advancing to specialized topics, ensuring participants built their knowledge incrementally.

The program also integrated lab sessions to provide hands-on experience on topics learned at the session, fostering skills in tools and frameworks used in AI research and development.

## **Sessions and Workshop Planning**

The sessions and workshops were thoughtfully planned to maximize participant engagement and learning outcomes. Each session was designed with clear objectives, blending theoretical understanding with interactive and collaborative learning opportunities.

Key aspects of the session and workshop planning included:

### **Lecture Hall and Breakout Sessions**

- Academic sessions were planned to be conducted in a fully equipped lecture hall accommodating up to 300 participants.
- 10 breakout rooms were declared for Hands-on Lab session and smaller, focused discussions plus hackathon work.
- The location of the session was planned to be echo-free, rain-proof, and supported by high-speed internet and an uninterrupted power supply.

### **Hands-on Lab Sessions**

- Two Teaching Assistants (TAs) were assigned to each breakout room to provide support during the lab sessions.
- The lab session topics, aligned with the day's theory and supported by pre-read materials, ensured a connection between theory and practice.

### **Hackathon Strategic Insight Sessions and Professional Development Workshops**

- Two hackathon tracks were defined.
- Strategic insight sessions were planned to guide participants in applying their learnings effectively during the hackathon.
- Workshops on entrepreneurial development, team building, and UI/UX were designed to provide participants with skills beyond technical expertise.

The **Program Design and Curriculum Development** ensured that the AI School not only delivered academic excellence through the curriculum but also invested in inculcating essential entrepreneurial skills like critical thinking, time management, and professional growth among the participants through supplementary talk sessions and hackathons. This holistic approach pushed the participants to go beyond theory, building skills that have the potential to directly impact their professional and entrepreneurial journeys.

## Media Partnerships

- Compiled a media list for effective press outreach.
- Collaborated with local media outlets, such as TechPana OnlineKhabar, and ICTframe for press releases and promotional articles.

## Weekly Webinars

- Hosted weekly webinars for information dissemination, including ANAIS introductions, course content, and insights from professors.

The image displays four rectangular promotional banners for the 5th ANAIS Annual Nepal AI School. Each banner features the ANAIS logo and the text 'ANNUAL NEPAL AI SCHOOL'. The first banner on the left is titled 'REGISTRATION OPEN' and includes a QR code for registration. The second banner in the middle contains a message from the organizers about the format of the sessions. The third banner on the right is titled 'CALLING ALL PAST PARTICIPANTS SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE BE PART OF ANAIS STORY SERIES'. The fourth banner on the far right poses a question: 'Who coined the term Geometric Deep Learning?' with four options: A. Petar Veličković, B. Taco Cohen, C. Michael Bronstein, and D. Demis Hassabis. The banners are set against a dark background.



# GLOBAL AI SCHOOL IN NEPAL



## 11 DAYS OF INTENSIVE LECTURES, LABS AND HACKATHON

Learn AI and Machine Learning through immersive hands-on training led by global experts from both academia and industry.

### ANAINS THROUGH THE YEARS



### LEARN FROM WORLD RENOWNED SCIENTISTS



### OUR SPEAKERS

- Michael Bronstein (University of Oxford, UK)
- Ahmed Elhag (University of Oxford, UK)
- Ashutosh Modi (IIT Kanpur, India)
- Binod Bhattacharai (University of Aberdeen, UK/NAAMII)
- Bishesh Khanal (NAAMII, Nepal)
- Chetan Arora (IIT Delhi, India)
- Dilli Raj Paudel (Wageningen University and Research, Netherlands)
- Danda Pani Paudel (INSAIT, Bulgaria /ETH Zürich/NAAMII)
- Federico Monti (Università della Svizzera italiana, Switzerland)
- François Rameau (SUNY, South Korea/ NAAMII)
- Haitz Sáez de (Ocáriz) Borde (University of Oxford, UK)
- Ismail Ceylan (University of Oxford, UK)
- Kamil Adamczewski (ETH Zürich, Switzerland)
- Kilian Koepsell (Caption Health/ GE Healthcare, USA)
- Manoj Shakya (NTU, Singapore)
- Norliza Noor (Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Malaysia)
- Sabita Maharjan (University of Oslo, Norway)
- Shaifali Parashar (CNRS Research Scientist, France)
- Shiva Ram Dubey (IIT Allahabad, India)
- Vijay Prakash Dwivedi (NTU, Singapore)
- Vivek Choudhary (NTU, Singapore)
- Yash Raj Shrestha (University of Lausanne, Switzerland)

### THEMES AND TOPICS

- Foundations in AI**
  - Unifying view of Deep learning: GDL
  - Neural Networks
- Multi Modal and Generative AI**
  - Foundation Models
  - Large Language Models
  - Computer Vision
- Modern Practices**
  - Low-Resource & Efficient AI
  - Trustworthy AI
- AI Applications**
  - AI in Healthcare, Agriculture and Climate
  - AI in business, Banking and Finance

### VENUE PARTNER



27th Dec 2024- 6th Dec 2025

nepalschool.naamii.org.np

Premier International IB Continuum School

## PHYSICAL OUTREACH

### Community Engagement

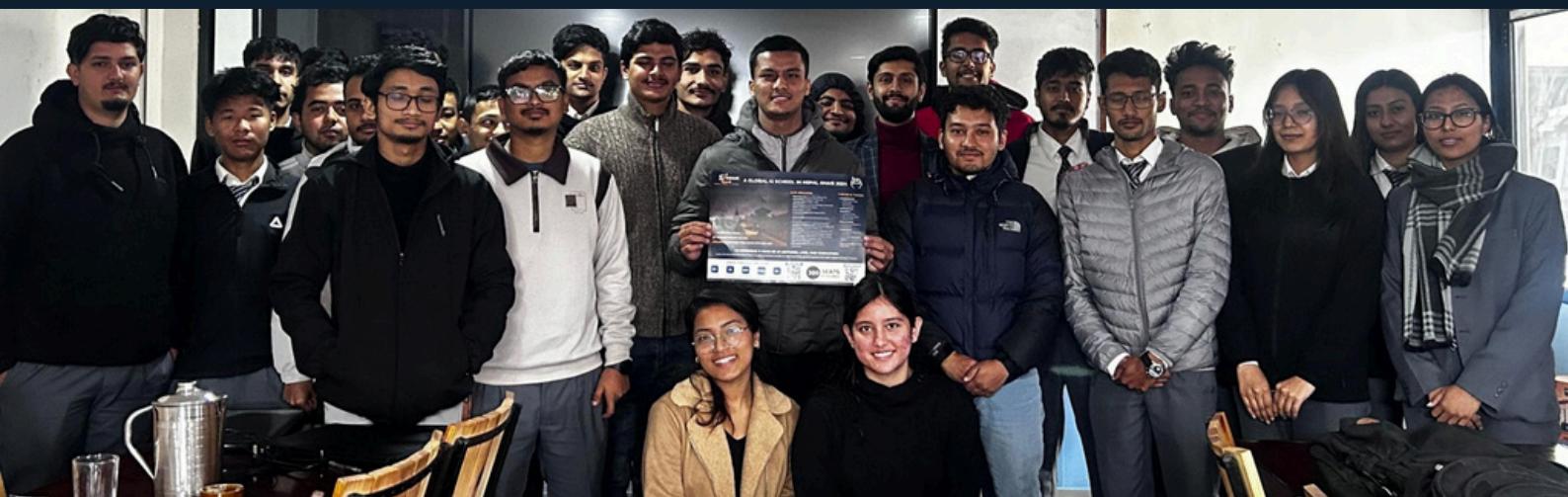
- Distributed promotional materials at **international conferences**, including **MICCAI**, through compact event brochures and handouts.
- Set up an **ANALIS booth at the ICT Awards**, maximizing direct engagement with industry leaders and tech professionals.
- Actively participated in **IT Startup Fest and KU Hackfest**, directly connecting with the target audience of students, entrepreneurs, and AI enthusiasts.
- Engaged with university representatives and industry leaders through **in-person networking events**, increasing the school's visibility and credibility.

### College Outreach

- Reached out to colleges and faculty members to disseminate application information.
- Displayed posters on college notice boards to increase visibility and encourage participation.

### Information Sessions

- Equipped ambassadors with brochures, info session slides, and official NAAMII email permissions for organizing events at colleges.



# Community Partners

Community partners were selected based on the number of students involved in their respective groups and their active engagement in technology and learning. For ANAIS 2024, we collaborated with three key community partners who played a crucial role in promoting the event and increasing engagement:

## LOCUS

LOCUS is a non-profit organization led by undergraduate students from the Electrical, Electronics, and Computer Engineering departments of IOE, Pulchowk Campus. As a community partner, LOCUS helped promote ANAIS 2024 by sharing event details through its network, encouraging participation from students, and endorsing the event among universities and technical communities.



**LOCUS 2025**  
21st National Technological Festival

## Women Leaders in Technology (WLiT)

Women Leaders in Technology (WLiT) is a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering young women to become innovators and leaders in STEAM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics). Their role in ANAIS 2024 included sending event announcements through newsletters and emails, encouraging female participation, and sharing information with their affiliates to increase outreach.



## AWS Cloud Club - Nepal

AWS Cloud Club - Nepal is committed to empowering future leaders with the knowledge, skills, and practical experience necessary to navigate the evolving cloud-centric digital landscape. The AWS Cloud Club CRs played an essential role in promoting ANAIS 2024 by sharing event details through their mailing list and social media, increasing awareness among AWS community members. Additionally, they were responsible for ensuring event mentions in any physical or virtual programs they hosted before or during ANAIS 2024, including displaying an ANAIS standee at physical events.



These community partnerships significantly contributed to the success of ANAIS 2024 by extending its reach, enhancing engagement, and fostering a collaborative learning environment.

# Student Ambassador Selection

## INTRODUCTION

The call for applications for the Student Ambassador (SA) program was announced on September 6, 2023. A total of 39 students from various regions and institutions expressed their interest in the role. The program aimed to select enthusiastic and motivated individuals to represent ANAIS 2024 and promote AI-related activities across their campuses and nearby colleges.

## SELECTION PROCESS AND CRITERIA

The selection process was competitive and thorough, ensuring that only the most qualified candidates were chosen. Out of 39 applicants, 8 students were selected based on the following criteria:

- **Regional Diversity:** Ambassadors were selected from different regions of Nepal, including Far West, Mid-West, East, West, and Kathmandu, to ensure broad representation.
- **Networking and Outreach:** Candidates were evaluated based on their ability to connect with at least five colleges to effectively promote ANAIS 2024.
- **Interest in AI and Technology:** A strong passion for AI and technological advancements was essential for the role.
- **Communication and Leadership Skills:** Candidates were assessed for their ability to lead discussions, engage with students, and communicate effectively.
- **Social Media and Event Management Experience:** Preference was given to those with prior experience in social media promotion and event coordination.

## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The selected Student Ambassadors played a crucial role in promoting ANAIS 2024 and AI-related activities. Their key responsibilities included:

- **Promoting AI Events:** Disseminating information about AI workshops and sessions through digital and physical platforms.

- **Leading Discussions:** Organizing discussions on AI advancements to engage students.
- **Networking and Information Sharing:** Serving as a point of contact for students and faculty, facilitating communication about ANAIS 2024.
- **Driving Social Media Engagement:** Creating and managing campaigns to increase outreach and participation.
- **Collecting Feedback:** Gathering insights from participants to improve future AI events.
- **Facilitating Leave Permissions:** Assisting students in securing up to 11 days of leave for attending ANAIS 2024.
- **Coordinating with the Organizing Team:** Ensuring smooth execution of tasks in alignment with event goals.

## BENEFITS FOR STUDENT AMBASSADORS

The Student Ambassadors gained several advantages through their role, including:

- **Skill Development:** Hands-on experience in event promotion, public speaking, leadership, and networking.
- **Professional Network:** Opportunities to connect with AI professionals, organizers, and like-minded peers.
- **Recognition and Certification:** Official recognition as ANAIS 2024 Student Ambassadors with awarded certificates.
- **Career Opportunities:** Potential internships, job placements, and further involvement in AI initiatives.
- **Personal Growth:** Enhanced confidence, organizational skills, and a deeper understanding of AI advancements, benefiting their academic and professional journeys.

## CONCLUSION

The Student Ambassador successfully encouraged and engaged with students to advocate for AI education in their institutions. Their contributions significantly enhanced the outreach and impact, promoting participation and awareness about the event.

# Student Ambassador AN AIS 2024



**Mukesh Pant**  
Far Western University



**Darshan Lamichane**  
Kathmandu University



**Hikmat Budha Chhetri**  
Mid West University



**Mamata Maharjan**  
Pulchowk Campus



**Sarika Ghimire**  
Prithivi Narayan  
Campus



**Ashutosh Dhungana**  
Khwopa Engineering  
College



**Sujan Nainawasti**  
ERC, TU



**Rishikesh Upadhyay**  
Kantipur Engineering  
College

# Application and Selection Criteria

The application process for ANAIS 2024 was designed to ensure a competitive and merit-based selection of participants. Applicants were required to submit a detailed application form, providing insights into their academic background, technical skills, and motivation for joining the program. The selection criteria were structured to identify individuals with a strong foundation in AI and machine learning, a commitment to learning, and a willingness to contribute to the AI community.

Key evaluation factors included:

- **Academic Background:** Preference was given to students, researchers, and professionals with prior experience or coursework in AI, machine learning, and data science.
- **Technical Skills:** Applicants were assessed based on their programming proficiency, familiarity with AI tools and frameworks, and problem-solving abilities
- **Application Questionnaire:** Candidates were required to articulate their motivation for attending ANAIS 2024 through seven application questions and how they would benefit from a scholarship, if applicable.
- **Commitment to AI Community:** Applicants who demonstrated prior engagement in AI-related activities, projects, research, or community-building efforts were given preference.

## TOTAL APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

A total of 415 applications were received from students, researchers, and professionals across various academic institutions and industries. The high number in applications underscored the growing interest in AI education and research in Nepal and beyond. After a rigorous selection process, 200 participants were chosen to attend ANAIS 2024, including 35 international applicants.

## DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVITY GOALS

Diversity and inclusivity were core priorities in the participant selection process for ANAIS 2024. The program aimed to ensure representation from different regions, institutions, and backgrounds, fostering an inclusive AI learning environment. Key initiatives included:

- **Regional Representation** – Applications were encouraged from participants across Nepal, ensuring the inclusion of individuals from underrepresented areas. To enhance regional diversity, student ambassadors actively promoted the program in their respective regions.
- **Gender Inclusivity** – Special efforts were made to increase female participation in AI education. Outreach programs targeted women in STEM, and priority was given to qualified female applicants. Additionally, ANAIS 2024 provided 10 full scholarships to female participants and collaborated with women-led tech communities such as Women Leaders in Technology (WLiT) to encourage greater female representation.
- **Institutional Diversity** – The program sought participants from a mix of universities, research institutions, and industries to create a multidisciplinary learning experience.



# Collaborations and Partnerships

Collaboration and partnership played a crucial role in the success of our event. By engaging with a diverse set of sponsors, academic institutions, and organizations, we ensured a strong support system for fostering innovation and knowledge exchange.

## SPONSORS AND FUNDING

To make the event successful, financial and in-kind support from sponsors was essential. Our sponsors contributed in various ways, including funding, providing resources, and offering mentorship opportunities. The key sponsors included:

These sponsors not only provided financial backing but also brought industry insights and networking opportunities for participants. Their support enabled us to offer better resources and mentorship.

### TITLE SPONSOR



### SILVER SPONSOR



### VENUE PARTNER



### HACKATHON SPONSORS



### OTHER SPONSORS



These sponsors not only provided financial backing but also brought industry insights and networking opportunities for participants. Their support enabled us to offer better resources and mentorship.

# Logistics and Resource Planning

Effective logistics and resource planning played a crucial role in ensuring the smooth execution of ANAIS 2024. The organizing team meticulously managed accommodation, transportation, equipment, and infrastructure to provide a seamless experience for speakers, participants, and attendees.

## ACCOMMODATION AND TRANSPORTATION FOR SPEAKERS

The accommodation for speakers was arranged based on their arrival schedules and personal preferences. While some of the speakers opted to arrange their own accommodation, the remaining speakers were provided lodging by ANAIS. The team ensured that their stay was comfortable and aligned with their needs throughout the event.

For transportation, a standby van was booked for the entire duration of the event to facilitate seamless mobility. This included airport pickups and drop-offs as well as daily transportation of speakers to and from the venue. A dedicated Organizing Committee (OC) team accompanied the speakers in the van each day to ensure their timely arrival and address any logistical concerns.

## EQUIPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SETUP

The OC team actively worked on the venue setup in the days leading up to the event, ensuring that everything was perfectly arranged for a smooth experience. This included setting up classrooms, testing equipment, and coordinating with venue staff to meet technical and logistical requirements.

To support the smooth functioning of workshops, lectures, and hands-on sessions, the necessary equipment and infrastructure were set up in advance. The venue was equipped with high-speed internet, projectors, microphones, whiteboards, and backup power to facilitate uninterrupted learning and discussions. The team also ensured the availability of technical support to assist speakers and participants with any equipment-related issues.

Additional considerations included the arrangement of seating layouts for different session formats, ensuring accessibility for all attendees, and setting up dedicated spaces for networking and informal discussions.

## SELECTION OF TEACHING ASSISTANT

The selection process of Teaching Assistants (TAs) for the event was meticulous and aimed at ensuring high-quality support for participants during lab sessions and hackathon workshops. TAs were chosen from two primary sources:

- **Pool of Applicants:** Three TAs were selected from a competitive pool of applicants. These individuals demonstrated strong technical expertise, prior teaching or mentoring experience, and a passion for guiding others.
- **NAAMII:** An additional 24 TAs were provided by NAAMII.



# Hackathon Planning

The hackathon was designed to provide participants ample time to form teams and strategize before the competition began.

**Daily Structure:** Each day, a short 30-minute session focused on technical guidance or insights was conducted, followed by 1.5 hours of dedicated hackathon work time.

- Day 1: Hackathon Introduction – Overview, track details, and Q&A.
- Day 2: AI Application Design – Best practices for AI solutions.
- Day 3: Data Engineering – Handling structured & unstructured data.
- Day 4: Entrepreneurial & Team Building – Collaboration strategies.
- Day 5: Startup Development – Turning AI ideas into businesses.
- Day 6: Strategic Insights – Problem-solving & AI model optimization.
- Day 7: UI/UX Design – Creating user-friendly AI applications.
- Day 8: Demo Preparation – Pitching & storytelling techniques.
- Day 9: Demo Day

The two tracks in the hackathon were:

## TRACK 1: STARTUP CHALLENGE

- **Objective:** Develop an AI-driven startup idea addressing Nepal's unique needs.
- **Reward:** Winning teams were offered incubation at NAAMII, where they received mentorship and resources to develop their startup over the following year.

## TRACK 2: LAYERING DETECTION FOR ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING

- **Objective:** Develop solutions to detect layering activities in financial transactions, which is a critical stage in the money laundering process.
- **Reward:** The winning team was given the opportunity for potential hiring at FISoft, one of Nepal's leading financial technology companies.

### STARTUP CHALLENGE SPONSORS



### LAYERING DETECTION FOR ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING SPONSORS



This structured approach ensured that participants had sufficient guidance and time to refine their solutions while promoting innovation and collaboration.

# Pre-Event Engagement

## SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITIES

The pre-event engagement was strategically executed on social media to maintain momentum after the application phase and build excitement right before the event. Engaging content, event reminders, and exclusive sneak peeks were shared across platforms to keep participants informed and motivated. This approach fostered anticipation, ensured high participation rates, and built a strong community atmosphere ahead of ANAIS 2024.

## WORKSHOPS AT COLLEGES

Pre-event workshops were held at colleges to raise awareness. These hands-on sessions provided insights into the event's content and helped generate interest among the student community. We had physical workshops at **15 colleges:**

- Mid-West University
- Kantipur Engineering College
- Himalaya College of Engineering
- Sagarmatha Engineering College
- GCES
- WRC
- Bernhardt college
- Khwopa Engineering College
- Khwopa College of Engineering
- Kathmandu University
- Sagarmatha Engineering College
- IIMS
- Birendra Memorial College
- IOE Purwanchal Campus
- Prime College

## PRESS RELEASES AND NEWS COVERAGE

Press releases were sent to media outlets and tech publications to promote the event. Coverage included interviews with organizers and participants, helping increase visibility and attract attendees, sponsors, and media attention.

# Daily Breakdown of Sessions and Activities

## SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

Each day of ANAIS followed a structured and immersive schedule, ensuring a balance between learning, hands-on practice, and collaboration:

- **9:00 AM - 9:10 AM** – 10-minute opening session by the MC
- **9:10 AM – 10:30 AM** – Lecture
- **10:30 AM – 11:00 AM** – Tea break
- **11:00 AM – 12:00 PM** – Lecture
- **12:00 PM – 1:00 PM** – Lecture
- **1:00 PM – 2:00 PM** – Lunch break
- **2:00 PM – 3:30 PM** – Lab session (8 breakout rooms, 2 teaching assistants per room)
- **3:30 PM – 4:00 PM** – Tea break
- **4:00 PM – 6:00 PM** – Hackathon workshop (8 breakout rooms, 2 teaching assistants per room)

The day wrapped up at 6:00 PM, concluding an intensive yet engaging learning experience.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THEORETICAL SESSIONS

The theoretical sessions, conducted from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, were designed to build a strong foundation in AI, covering key concepts from fundamentals to advanced applications. Delivered by world-renowned professors, the lectures explored cutting-edge research and real-world applications. Each session was complemented by hands-on labs, mentorship, and entrepreneurial workshops to provide a well-rounded learning experience.

### Day 1: Fundamentals & Foundations

- Deep Learning from a Geometric Viewpoint
- Introduction to Geometric Deep Learning (GDL) & Graph Neural Networks (GNNs)
- Introductory Session to ANAIS Hackathon

## **Day 2: Graph Neural Networks & Applications**

- Graph Convolutional Networks (GCN), Graph Attention Networks (GAT), and Message Passing Neural Networks (MPNN)
- Hands-on Lab: GCN, GAT, MPNN
- Mentor Session: Application Design

## **Day 3: Advanced Graph Learning**

- Introduction to Graph Transformers
- Invariant & Equivariant MPNNs
- Mentor Session: Data Engineering

## **Day 4: Self-Supervised & Foundation Models**

- Self-Supervised and Active Learning
- Foundational Models
- Lab: Contrastive Learning
- Mentor Session: Entrepreneurial & Team Building Workshop

## **Day 5: AI in Business & Human-AI Collaboration**

- Vision-Language Models
- Lab: Mixture of Experts (MoE) Transformer
- Mentor Session: Startup & Entrepreneurial Development

## **Day 6:Hike Day**

## **Day 7: 3D Reconstruction & Computer Vision**

- 3D Reconstruction of Rigid and Deformable Objects
- Deep Learning-Based 3D Mapping
- Lab: Contrastive Language-Image Pre-training (CLIP)
- Hackathon Strategy Session

## **Day 8: Optimization & Large Language Models (LLMs)**

- Gradient Descent Optimization for Deep Learning
- Large Language Models (LLMs)
- Lab: Fine-Tuning LLMs
- Mentor Session: UI/UX Design

## Day 9: Reinforcement Learning & AI Safety

- Reinforcement Learning (RL) & RL from Human Feedback (RLHF)
- AI Risks & Safety
- Lab: Machine Learning for Agricultural Modeling
- Hackathon Demo Preparation

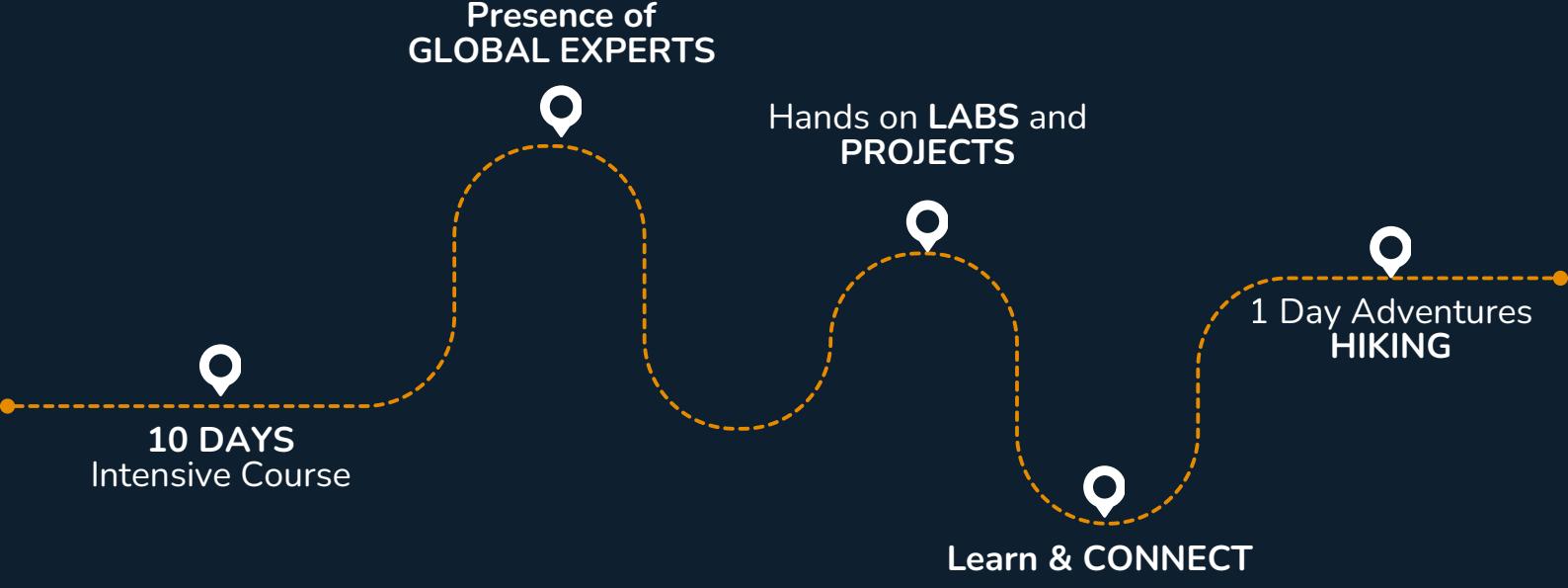
## Day 10: AI for Social Impact

- AI in Agriculture
- Low-Resource & Trustworthy AI in Healthcare
- AI for Energy Informatics
- Hackathon Presentations

## Day 11: Final Sessions & Networking

- AI Applications in Healthcare
- Networking & Closing Session

This structured approach ensured participants gained both theoretical depth and practical expertise.



## WORLD RENOWNED SCIENTISTS IN NEPAL



## LAB SESSIONS

The lab sessions conducted from 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM throughout the eleven days were hands-on and practical. Held in eight breakout rooms, each room was assigned two teaching assistants to provide personalized guidance and support. Key activities included:

- Participants worked in **small groups within their breakout rooms**, promoting teamwork and peer learning.
- Teaching assistants ensured that all participants received **individualized attention** and support.

## HACKATHON WORKSHOPS

The hackathon workshops from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM were conducted in 8 breakout rooms, each supported by 2 teaching assistants. The session was divided into two parts:

**4:00 PM to 4:30 PM:** A structured session where mentors provided guidance, shared best practices, and answered questions.

**4:30 PM to 6:00 PM:** Dedicated work time for teams to focus on their projects, implement ideas, and collaborate.

Key features of the hackathon included:

- Brainstorming ideas, forming teams, and defining project scopes.
- Developing prototypes, integrating technologies, and troubleshooting.
- Finalizing projects, preparing presentations, and showcasing through idea pitches.

The teaching assistants played a crucial role in guiding teams, providing technical expertise, and ensuring smooth progress throughout the hackathon.

# Daily Event Overview



## EVENT DAY 1

### Participant Registration

Participants were warmly welcomed with a registration process that included the distribution of ID cards, hoodies, diaries, and stickers. These materials not only served as essential tools for the event but also helped foster a sense of belonging and excitement among attendees.

### Inauguration Ceremony

The program officially began at 9:00 AM with a captivating opening video and a cultural dance performance, setting a vibrant and energetic tone for the event. The inauguration ceremony marked the official start of ANAIS 2024, an 11-day event dedicated to AI innovation and education.

### Keynote Speech

The keynote speeches were delivered by distinguished speakers who shared their insights and visions for the future of AI:

- **Alok Khatri**, Head of Education Outreach at NAAMII, welcomed participants, speakers, and sponsors, setting an inspiring tone for the event.
- **Bishesh Khanal**, Director and Research Scientist at NAAMII, shared the inception story of NAAMII and emphasized the importance of resilience and innovation in addressing critical challenges.
- **Suresh Gautam**, CEO of ExtensoData, highlighted the need for independent data collection in Nepal and the role of research institutions in building a collaborative, data-driven ecosystem.
- **Pranaya Sthapit** from the Asia Foundation discussed initiatives to strengthen Nepal's data ecosystem and the importance of evidence-based policymaking.
- **Bibhusan Bista**, Executive President of Young Innovations Pvt. Ltd., reflected on the evolution of Nepal's tech ecosystem and the significance of hackathons as problem-solving platforms.

- **Pukar C. Hamal**, Founder and CEO of SecurityPal, inspired the audience with his journey and stressed the need for a long-term vision to shape the future of AI.
- **Pravina Thapa**, Academic Director at Premier International IB Continuum School, addressed the integration of AI into education and the importance of preparing students to shape the future.

The session concluded with a cultural dance performance by Dipika Khatiwada and her team, adding a vibrant touch to the ceremony.

### **Welcome Address**

The welcome address was delivered by Alok Khatri, who greeted participants and set the stage for the event. His speech emphasized the importance of collaboration, innovation, and education in driving AI advancements.

### **Networking Activities**

Following the inauguration ceremony, attendees enjoyed high tea, providing an excellent opportunity for networking and informal discussions among industrial guests, speakers, and sponsors.

### **Overview of the Curriculum and Schedule**

An overview of the 11-day curriculum and schedule was presented, outlining the key sessions, workshops, and activities planned for the event. This helped participants understand the structure of the program and prepare for the days ahead.

### **Lecture Sessions**

At 11:00 AM, Prof. Michael Bronstein, a pioneer in Geometric Deep Learning (GDL), delivered the opening lecture. He shared insights from his groundbreaking work and discussed the evolution of AI, from mastering games to transforming scientific discovery. Prof. Bronstein emphasized the importance of understanding the mathematical principles behind AI and the potential of GDL to revolutionize the field.

The second session, led by Haitz Sáez de (Ocáriz) Borde, focused on the practical applications of GDL. He explained concepts such as geometric priors and strategies to overcome the curse of dimensionality. The session was highly interactive, with participants engaging in thoughtful discussions and posing insightful questions.

## Hackathon Announcement

The day concluded with the announcement of the hackathon, featuring two tracks:

- **Startup Challenge** – Encouraging participants to develop AI-driven startup ideas.
- **Anti-Money Laundering Challenge** – Tackling financial crime using AI.

**Manik Madhikermi** from ExtensoData presented a detailed problem statement on detecting money laundering through complex network analysis. This real-world challenge, supported by industry data, set the stage for innovative solutions to emerge during the hackathon.





## EVENT DAY 2

### Lecture Sessions

On Day 2, **Professor Michael Bronstein** and his team, including **Federico Monti**, **Haitz Sáez de Ocáriz Borde**, and **Ahmed Elhag**, delivered an engaging lecture on Graph Deep Learning (GDL) Preliminaries. They simplified complex AI concepts and explored various Graph Neural Network (GNN) variants like GCNs, GATs, and GraphSAGE. The interactive session saw enthusiastic participation, with attendees asking questions and deepening their understanding.

### Lab Session

A hands-on lab allowed participants to implement and experiment with GCNs, GATs, and MPNNs, solidifying their understanding through practical coding exercises.

### Hackathon

The day ended with a practical **AI Application Design** mentoring session led by **Bijayan Bhattacharai** from **Diyo AI**, bridging theory and real-world implementation. Overall, the day combined foundational knowledge with actionable insights, setting a strong foundation for advanced AI topics.



# EVENT DAY 3

## Lecture Session

Day 3 of ANAIS 2024 marked the conclusion of Professor Michael Bronstein and his team's lecture series on Graph Deep Learning (GDL). The session focused on the future of AI, emphasizing the critical role of data in AI advancements and its potential to unlock the full capabilities of machine learning. The team also explored advanced GDL concepts, building on the foundation laid in earlier sessions. A virtual session by Vijay Prakash Dwivedi explored the significance of Graph Transformers in modern AI systems, explaining their ability to handle long-range dependencies and complex graph structures.

## Lab Session

Participants engaged in a hands-on lab session led by **Federico Monti**, focusing on invariant and equivariant properties in Message Passing Neural Networks (MPNNs). This practical exercise reinforced theoretical concepts.

## Hackathon

The day concluded with a mentor session led by **Lalit BC** from **PlantSat**, who shared innovative applications of AI in agriculture insurance, showcasing how data engineering can drive impactful solutions in real-world domains.

## NYEF Event

Following Day 3, a panel discussion titled "Shaping the Future of Society Through AI: Global Insights and Nepal's Ambition" was held at Hotel Vivanta. The discussion explored the convergence of entrepreneurship and technology through AI, examining its potential to shape society and Nepal's ambitions in this field.

The panel featured Prof. Michael Bronstein and Dr. Bishesh Khanal moderated by Nirdesh Dwa, and the discussion included AI's rapid development, its impact on job dynamics, and how Nepal can leverage AI for global competitiveness. It also emphasized the need for a cultural shift, talent development, and for creating opportunities for AI commercialization to drive innovation in developing regions, including LMICs.





## EVENT DAY 4

### Lecture Session

Day 4 began with a deep dive into Foundation Models, setting the stage for advanced AI exploration. **Dr. Binod Bhattarai** and **Prof. Chetan Arora** led sessions unpacking the core elements of AI's foundation models, explaining their architecture, applications, and transformative potential in the AI landscape. Participants explored these paradigms, understanding how self-supervised and active learning reduce reliance on labeled data and improve model efficiency.

### Lab Session

A hands-on lab allowed participants to experiment with contrastive learning, a technique in self-supervised learning, reinforcing their understanding through practical implementation.

### Hackathon: Entrepreneurial and Team Building Session

Alok Khatri led a session on the "Barbarians to Bureaucrats" framework, providing valuable insights into AI conceptualization, entrepreneurship, and team dynamics, which proved beneficial for participants preparing for hackathon projects.





## EVENT DAY 5

### Lecture Session

**Vivek Choudhary** opened the day with a session on AI-driven industry transformation through human-AI collaboration. He explored how AI is reshaping workflows, decision-making, and innovation across sectors, backed by his team's research in e-commerce, logistics, and human response to feedback. Participants explored the integration of vision and language in AI models, understanding their applications in areas like image captioning, visual question answering, and multimodal learning.

### Lab Session

**Kamil Adamczewski** led a technical talk and lab session on MoE models, a cutting-edge architecture that improves scalability and efficiency in AI systems. Participants gained hands-on experience with this advanced framework.

### Hackathon: Entrepreneurial Development Session

Nirdesh Dwa from Veda App (वेद) shared invaluable insights into Nepal's startup ecosystem. Drawing from his experience, he discussed the opportunities and challenges for entrepreneurs, offering practical advice to navigate the startup journey.



## EVENT DAY 6

Day 6 of ANAIS 2024 provided participants with a refreshing break from the academic schedule through a hike to Champa Devi. The event offered a unique opportunity for participants and speakers to connect in a relaxed setting while enjoying the scenic views of Kathmandu's hills and mountains. Conversations during the hike fostered community, allowing for the exchange of ideas and reflections on personal and professional growth. This break emphasized the importance of balance and provided participants with a fresh perspective on their work and goals.



## EVENT DAY 7

### Lecture Session

Day 7 of ANAIS 2024 featured a lecture by **François Rameau** on the transformative field of Computer Vision, where he highlighted pivotal papers and breakthroughs, particularly in 3D reconstruction. His session provided valuable historical and technical insights into how advancements in Computer Vision are enabling machines to perceive and interact with the world.

Later, **Shaifali Parashar** presented an in-depth exploration of recent developments in Computer Vision, focusing on neural architectures and feature extraction techniques. She also discussed real-world applications, including autonomous vehicles, medical imaging, and augmented reality, illustrating the practical impact of AI in solving complex challenges.

### Lab Session

An in-depth lab session on Vision Language Models was conducted where participants gained hands-on experience with its core techniques for linking images and text in a shared representation space using CLIP (Contrastive Language–Image Pretraining).

### Hackathon: Mentorship Session

The day concluded with a mentorship session led by **Manik Madhikermi** from FlSoft. He provided strategic insights and practical advice to help students prepare for the upcoming hackathon, focusing on teamwork, problem-solving, and innovation.





## EVENT DAY 8

### Lecture Session

The day began with an insightful session by **Dr. Shiv Ram Dubey**, who explored the essential role of optimizers in AI and machine learning. Dr. Dubey provided a comprehensive understanding of the mechanics behind efficient model training, setting a solid foundation for the participants. Following this, **Dr. Ashutosh Modi** presented a session on Large Language Models (LLMs), highlighting their architecture, training processes, and transformative impact on various fields.

### Lab Session

During the lab session, Dr. Modi demonstrated LLMs in a hands-on lab, showing how they generate text, adapt to different inputs, and can be fine-tuned for specific tasks. Participants explored model behavior, biases, and applications for their hackathon projects.

### Hackathon Session: UI/UX Mentor Session

The day featured an engaging UI/UX mentor session by **Ishu Dharel**, which deepened participants' understanding of human-computer interaction (HCI) in AI technologies. The session emphasized the importance of designing intuitive and user-friendly interfaces for AI-driven applications, ensuring that technology is accessible and effective for end-users.





## EVENT DAY 9

### Lecture Session

The day began with a session on Reinforcement Learning (RL) led by **Dr. Manoj Shakya**. He provided participants with a deep dive into this core AI concept, covering the fundamentals of RL, including agents, environments, rewards, and policies. He also introduced key algorithms like Q-learning and Deep Q-Networks (DQN) and explored real-world applications in robotics, gaming, and decision-making systems.

Following this, **Yash Raj Shrestha** led a session on AI-related risks and their ethical and societal challenges. He addressed issues such as bias, privacy concerns, and accountability in AI development, assisted by the team of RAs at NAAMII.

### Lab Session

The Day 9 lab explored the role of AI in agriculture, examining its potential applications and impact on the field.

### Hackathon

The remainder of the day was devoted to intensive hackathon preparation. Participants dedicated their efforts to refining their projects, ensuring the functionality of their solutions, and preparing engaging presentations for Demo Day. Teams collaborated closely to tackle last-minute challenges and make final improvements. The atmosphere was charged with creativity and determination as participants worked diligently towards perfecting their solutions for the final showcase.



## EVENT DAY 10

### Lab Session

**Day 10** was a landmark day, filled with inspiring sessions and groundbreaking events that pushed the boundaries of AI applications.

The day began with **Dilli Paudel**, who explored AI in Agriculture, showcasing how AI can revolutionize farming through crop prediction, disease detection, and resource optimization, offering solutions for sustainable agricultural practices.

Next, **Bishesh Khanal** led a session on Low-Resource AI, highlighting the importance of developing trustworthy and efficient AI systems tailored for resource-constrained environments, ensuring AI solutions are accessible in developing regions.

**Sabita Maharjan** followed with a talk on Energy Informatics, discussing how AI is playing a pivotal role in tackling global energy challenges, from the integration of renewable energy to advancing sustainability in energy systems.

The day concluded with the highly anticipated **Hackathon Pitches**, where **22 teams** presented innovative solutions addressing key challenges, including the **F1Soft Money Laundering Challenge** and **Startup Challenge**. The pitches demonstrated exceptional creativity, technical expertise, and the ability to tackle real-world problems through AI.



## Hackathon

Hosted by **NAAMII** and **Karkhana**, this groundbreaking event engaged **students from grades 6 to 8**, sparking their creativity and interest in AI.

The event featured a range of activities designed to inspire and educate:

- **AI basics and use cases** presented by **Riya Acharya**, giving students a foundational understanding of AI.
- A **Design Thinking session** led by **Pavitra Gautam**, helping students approach problems creatively and collaboratively.

Teams worked hard to present their projects, with the winning team from Navodaya Shishu Sadan addressing the critical issue of **Invasive Species** using AI-driven solutions.





## EVENT DAY 11

### Lecture Session

On the 11th day, **Norliza Mohd Noor** led a session on AI's impact on healthcare, highlighting its role in reshaping medical practices. **Kilian Koepsell** followed with an in-depth exploration of AI's contributions to medical advancements, from diagnostics to personalized treatment, and its significant influence on global health outcomes.

### Hackathon Winner Announcement

The hackathon winners for both tracks were announced, recognizing the creativity, innovation, and dedication of the participants. During the Closing Ceremony, reflections on the growth, learning, and connections fostered throughout the 11 days were shared. Sponsors and organizers were acknowledged for their essential contributions to ANAIS 2024's success. The day concluded with a networking session, "**Connecting AI Dots**," where participants enjoyed food, danced, exchanged stories, and deepened the connections formed throughout the event.

### Winner Details:

- **Startup Challenge:** Team Morpho.sys won for its innovative approach to streamlining project proposal writing for small organizations in Nepal's development sector. This AI-powered system uses Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) and multi-agent systems to significantly reduce the time and effort needed to create high-quality proposals.
- **Anti-Money Laundering Challenge:** Team is named Team HawkEye. They focused on detecting layering activities in money laundering by analyzing large transaction datasets using graph-based methods. Their approach successfully identified the synthetic layering transactions.



# Participant Experience and Testimonials



## TESTIMONIALS FROM PARTICIPANT AND SPEAKERS

"My experience at ANAIS 2024 has been incredible. As a beginner, I found the curriculum and pace to be just right—everything is structured so well. The lectures are engaging, and the professors make learning enjoyable.

The organizers and volunteers have done an amazing job; no matter what you need, you always know exactly who to turn to. Everything is managed seamlessly, from logistics to meals. It has truly been the best experience for me so far."



-Anupama Rai, Full Scholarship Recipient



"This is my second time in Nepal. I first visited in 2019 for the second AI school organized by NAAMII, where I gave a single lecture. Now, I'm back teaching an entire mini-course, and it's incredible to see how much the program has grown.

Looking back, my 2019 trip was one of the best experiences of my life, and returning has only deepened my appreciation for Nepal—the place, the people, and the energy here. It's always hard to say exactly what students take away from a course, but I hear thoughtful and interesting questions, which makes me hopeful. I hope they gain a sense of where to look next and how to go deeper in their learning.

One of the great things about the machine learning field is the wealth of open-source material available, making it easier to get started no matter where you are. It's a global community where you can collaborate virtually without needing to be in any specific place. Just as I do my work in Oxford, I imagine I could do much of it here as well.

NAAMII is helping students in Nepal access these possibilities by exposing them to state-of-the-art research and showing them what's possible. More than just preparing them, it also inspires them to pursue opportunities in this field."



-Michael Bronstein, ANAIS Lecturer



"I'm from South Korea, and what motivated me to join ANAIS was the incredible professors, speakers, and their deep research interests. Their passion for learning and exploration drew me to this program. Over the last three days, I attended Professor Michael's sessions on geometric deep learning and graph neural networks, which were truly eye-opening. I learned so much from him and his team.

The best part of ANAIS has been the speakers and the NAAMII committee. They created an environment where participants and speakers can collaborate, making it easier for me and others to learn directly from researchers. It has been an inspiring experience."



- **Jaemin Cho, International Participant**



"I'm from Budapest, the capital of Hungary. Attending the 5th ANAIS has been an incredible and unparalleled experience. The exceptional quality of the lectures, the wide range of topics covered, and the pioneering research from institutions worldwide made it unlike anything I have ever encountered before. I highly recommend this event to anyone interested in AI - both to witness the remarkable work NAAMII is doing in Nepal and to stay updated on the latest advancements in AI research. I truly miss the inspiring learning environment and the amazing friends I made along the way. I will be back!"



- **Agota Vas, International Participant**



"Hi, my name is Rashika, and I'm a master's student at Pulchowk Engineering College, specializing in data science. I've been really enjoying all the sessions I've participated in, especially the way they are delivered.

One of the things I love most is that every lecture is followed by lab sessions. This hands-on approach makes it much easier to digest the concepts and apply what we've learned. It has been incredibly helpful.

Beyond the learning, I've also loved engaging with the people I've met here. The experience so far has been amazing, and I'm really grateful to be part of it."



- Rashika, ANAIS Participant



"I'm from Kerala, India, and I've really been enjoying the hackathon. The lectures have also been great—clear, engaging, and easy to understand. I first learned about ANAIS through the internet, and I would recommend it 10 out of 10. In academics, learning can often feel slow, but here, you gain expertise at an entirely different pace. ANAIS provides a complete overview of AI, deep learning, and large language models, helping you understand these topics in depth. It has been an incredible learning experience."



- Nawaar Muzzammil, International Participant





## NOTABLE OUTCOMES FROM PARTICIPANTS

Participants showcased impressive projects during the hackathon, including **AI-driven mental health solutions** and innovative **NLP-based applications**. The top two teams from the startup challenge will receive incubation from NAAMII to further develop their ideas.

Incubation at NAAMII will provide essential guidance, resources, and expertise, helping teams refine concepts, develop business models, and scale. Winners from previous hackathon editions have successfully transitioned from prototypes to operational startups, contributing to Nepal's growing tech ecosystem.



# Post-Event Activities



## DISSEMINATION OF RESOURCES AND MATERIALS

All lecture slides, lab notebooks, and event photos were shared with participants to reinforce learning. Additional reading materials and references were provided to encourage further exploration of AI concepts.

## FEEDBACK COLLECTION

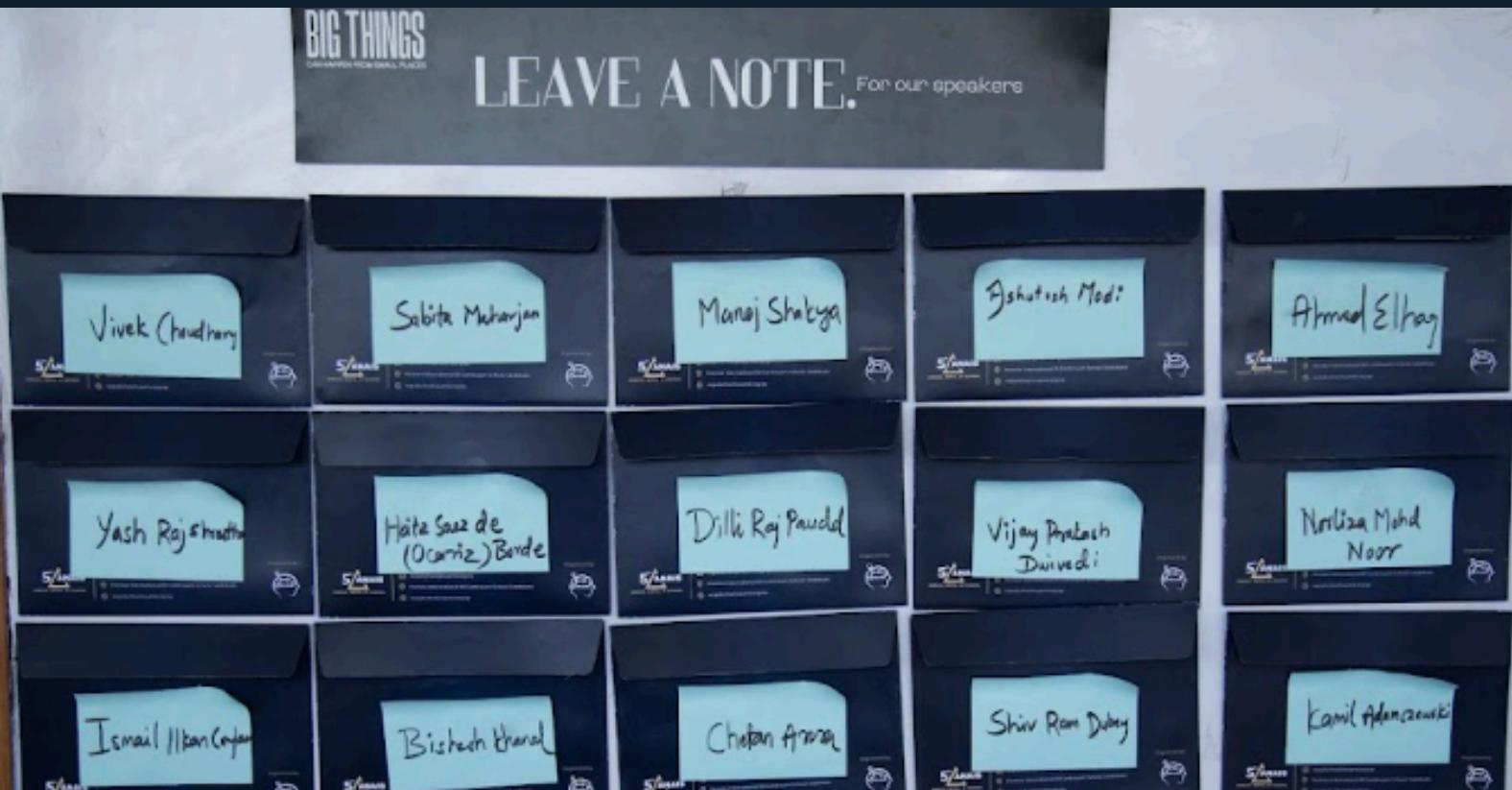
Participants were asked to share their feedback through feedback form. Insights from these responses will help refine future editions of ANAIS, ensuring continuous improvement in content and delivery.

## MEDIA COVERAGE AND SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Social media buzz captured key moments, including expert sessions, participant experiences, and hackathon highlights, engaging a wider audience beyond the event.

## DISTRIBUTION OF CERTIFICATES

Certificates of participation and excellence were awarded to attendees.



# Impact Assessment and Outcomes



## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS AND DIVERSITY METRICS

ANALIS 2024 attracted a distinguished cohort of 197 participants, selected from a highly competitive pool of applicants. Participants included senior undergraduates, graduate students, PhD candidates, working professionals, and faculty members from various institutions and regions.

The event emphasized diversity, with targeted efforts to increase female participation and ensure representation from a wide range of academic and professional backgrounds. The event achieved 25.38% female participation, reflecting significant progress in gender diversity.

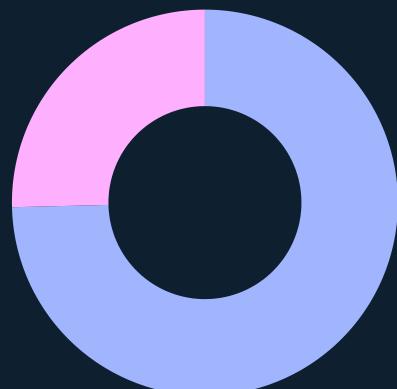
### Gender Diversity

Female

**25.38%**

Male

**74.62%**



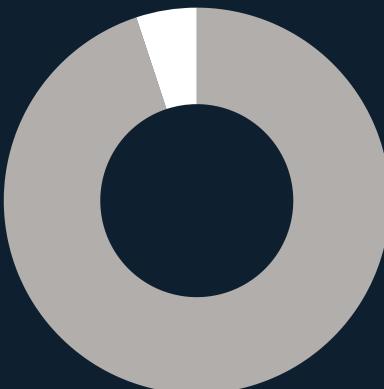
### Geographic Diversity

Countries Represented

**10**

National Students

**187**



# Acknowledgments



## SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

AN AIS 2024 was made possible through the generous support of this year's sponsors and partners. **FlSoft**, as the Title Sponsor, played a pivotal role in bringing the event to life. **Premier International IB Continuum School**, as the Venue Partner, provided an excellent space for learning and collaboration. **Young Innovations**, as the Silver Sponsor, significantly contributed to the event's impact.

The hackathon was supported by **UK International Development**, **The Asia Foundation**, **Data for Development in Nepal**, **eSewa**, and **Fonepay**, whose combined efforts fueled innovation and creativity. Additionally, **Google**, **SecurityPal**, and **Fuse Machines**, as General Sponsors, added immense value to the program. Their collective support and commitment were essential in making AN AIS 2024 a transformative experience for all participants.

## ORGANIZING COMMITTEE AND VOLUNTEERS

The success of AN AIS 2024 was made possible by the dedicated organizing team, whose tireless efforts in planning, coordination, and on-ground support ensured the smooth execution of the event. Their commitment was instrumental in making the event a success.

## SPEAKERS AND MENTORS

We deeply appreciate our **22 renowned speakers and mentors** for sharing their expertise and inspiring the next generation of AI practitioners. Their guidance, mentorship, and interactive sessions added immense value to the program, shaping meaningful learning experiences for all participants.

# Media Coverage

A collection of news articles, blog posts, and social media highlights, showcasing ANAIS 2024's impact and outreach. Includes coverage from tech platforms, institutional websites, and participant testimonials.

Tuesday, 29 March 2018

# गोरखापत्र

E-Paper Old Paper

HOMEPAGE NATIONAL INTERNATIONAL POLITICS PROVINCE PUBLIC SERVICE MEANING THOUGHTS SPORTS TODAY'S NEWS OTHERS

## AI education program underway in Nepal



Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Gorkhapatra Online 1 month ago

Share:

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Kathmandu, December 20. Nepal Applied Mathematics and Informatics Institute has announced the organization of the annual Nepal AI School.

This 11-day educational program will be held from December 12 to 22. The fifth edition of this prestigious program focuses on the foundations and implementation of Artificial Intelligence.

It is South Asia's largest stand-alone platform that brings together scientists, professors, and participants from around the world for in-depth lectures, labs, and project work on AI. It will cover topics and applications ranging from fundamental to advanced ideas and methods.

The program is being organized at Premier International School in Khumaltar, Lalitpur. The program is expected to attract 200 undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD students in computer science and professionals working in the field of AI. Over 550 students from over 40 countries have participated in the program in the past four editions.

According to Director and Research Scientist Bish Khanal, this program is a golden opportunity to learn and interact with the best international experts in South Asia.

Alok Khatri, Head of Education Outreach, said it was an opportunity to learn from world-class experts, participate in practical workshops, and expand your professional network for 11 days.

To make this program a success, partnerships have been secured from partners including F1 Soft, eSeva, FonexPay, UK International Development, Asia Foundation, Data for Development in Nepal, and others.

Teacher dies in road accident

HPV vaccination exceeds target in Syangja

Batuka started to be exported to Europe.

Local level teaching skills to women

Provincial government sets ambulance fares

Awareness on suicide prevention for students

Food festival in Sauraha from today

Google changes the name of the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America

I am committed to buying and owning Gaza: US President Trump

Woman dies of burns

Popular

Finding alternatives to Koshi Barrage

Exports for economic prosperity

Education Act will be enacted soon: Home Minister Lekhak

Safe Transactions Bill passed by the House of Representatives

Vandalism in Aathbiskot Municipality: Non-essential services closed

Teenage girls write to the Prime Minister

Sapkota elected as

The banner features the text "ANAINS 2024" at the top, followed by "ANNUAL NEPAL AI SCHOOL". Below this is a large image of a traditional Nepali temple at night. The text "KATHMANDU, NEPAL" is overlaid on the image. At the bottom, it says "27TH DEC 2024-6TH JAN 2025" and "APPLICATION DEADLINE: FINAL ROUND 25TH NOV, 2024". On the right side, there are sections for "OUR SPEAKERS" (listing speakers like Michael Bronstein, Ahmed Elgammal, Ashutosh Modli, Bilevel Khanal, Chetan Arora, Danda Panigrahi, Federico Girosi, Gilberto Ochoa Ruiz, Hahn Saeid, Hakan Erdogan, Kilian Kundt, Norilia Noor, Shiva Reddy, and Vijay Paliwal), "THEMES & TOPICS" (listing topics like Explainability in AI, Multi Model and Generative AI, Large Language Models, Computer Vision, Model Practices, University of AI, AI in Healthcare, Agriculture and Climate, and AI in Business, Banking and Finance), and a "SPECIAL INVITATION" section.

# Conclusion and Future Plans



## SUMMARY OF THE EVENT'S SUCCESS

AN AIS 2024 saw a total of **197 participants** selected from a highly competitive pool of **450 applicants from 15+ countries**, underscoring the program's ability to attract top talent. By offering a blend of theoretical insights, hands-on lab sessions, and hackathons, the event provided a comprehensive, real-world approach to learning, with participants gaining a deeper understanding of AI and Machine Learning (ML).

The success of AN AIS 2024 can be quantified through key metrics such as **high participation rates, diverse demographic representation, and robust social media** and **online engagement**. With **25.38% female participation**, the event made significant strides toward enhancing gender diversity in AI, aligning with broader efforts to foster inclusivity in the field.

Qualitatively, the event's success was further demonstrated by the high caliber of speakers, including experts from globally renowned institutions such as the **University of Oxford, IIT Kanpur, and ETH Zurich**, who provided participants with invaluable insights into cutting-edge AI research and its real-world applications.

Additionally, the startup challenge and hackathons were key highlights, offering participants the opportunity to showcase innovative AI-driven solutions. This year's successful mentorship initiatives further supported the **development of several promising projects, which received further incubation support**, contributing to the growth of Nepal's AI-driven entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The enthusiastic feedback from attendees affirmed AN AIS's growing impact, solidifying its position in shaping the future of AI education and research.



## PLANS FOR ANAIS 2025

### Closed Residential Event

AN AIS 2025 will be a **fully residential program**, fostering deeper engagement, collaboration, and mentorship in an immersive environment.

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### Strengthening Diversity & Inclusion

AN AIS will **increase female and underrepresented participation** through targeted outreach, mentorship programs, and a diverse lineup of speakers and mentors.

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### Expanding International Participation

We aim to **increase global outreach** by partnering with universities, AI communities, and organizations in pre-event sessions to attract international participants.

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### Broader Course Coverage

The curriculum will feature **advanced AI topics**, industry applications, and specialized tracks to cater to diverse interests and career paths.

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### Pre-Event AI Workshops

Virtual workshops will bridge knowledge gaps, covering foundational ML, deep learning, and hands-on AI applications.

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With these initiatives, AN AIS 2025 will be a more global, inclusive, and impactful AI learning experience.



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