



Alliance Française

Katmandou
फ्रान्सेली केन्द्र

General Report

PLANET NEPAL 5

Beat Plastic Pollution!



The largest Arts & Environment festival in Nepal !
at Alliance Française de Katmandou and Lalitpur Metropolitan Garden

November 23rd and 24th, 2018



BACKGROUND

Alliance Française de Katmandou organized the 5th edition of “PLANET NEPAL”, a festival dedicated to environmental issues that gathered more than 1,500 participants!

This year, the main goal of the festival was to eradicate the overuse of plastic products and the pollution that comes with it.

About Planet Nepal



Since 2010, Planet Nepal has aimed to raise awareness of environmental issues such as water, agriculture, sustainable architecture and illegal wildlife trade. This year for the fifth edition, the festival embraces the World Environment Day theme: “Beat Plastic Pollution!”

This multidisciplinary festival gives space to artists and stakeholders who are working and interacting every day with contemporary environmental issues. It aims to create a Nepalese and international community involved on the topic of Waste Management and Recycling throughout artistic activities.

About Alliance Française de Katmandou

Since its creation in 1994, Alliance Française de Katmandou has been providing French language classes within and outside its premises as well as international examinations. It organises cultural events regularly and has a library and a rooftop cafeteria. It also offers translation and interpreting services. Alliance Françaises also differs from cultural organisations in other countries with a particular mission: promoting not only the culture of a country but the “cultural diversity.” In a global world where the ways of life and the ways of thinking tend to standardize, the Alliances Françaises continue to offer a cultural alternative.

Goals of the event

- Increase environmental awareness and engage the audience to take actions
- Create a committed community about environmental issues
- Enhance artistic production on that topic
- Promote an event for everyone and all generations

Friday 23rd November at Alliance Française de Katmandou

On the 23rd, we were honoured to open the Festival on the Alliance Française premises with a speech by his Excellency, the Ambassador of France, François-Xavier Léger. We were pleased to welcome our Partners, Sponsors and Friends to the screening of Everest Green by Jean-Michel Jorda, as well as that of a movie produced by a teacher of Alliance Française, Claire Déniel. Both tackled the issue of plastic pollution in a different yet enlightening way. Two teachers of Alliance Française, Lucie Aswathi and Marion Iacovazzi, also presented special stop-motion movies, produced by the Course Coordinator and made by our younger students taking private classes at the Alliance. The parents were happy to see their children's production, on the theme of Beat Plastic Pollution! All the participants enjoyed some refreshments and debate about waste management.



Saturday 24th November at Lalitpur Metropolitan City

The second day of the Festival started from 10 AM as the crowd started filling in Lalitpur Municipality Garden.

H.E. Mr. François-Xavier Léger and Deputy Mayor of Lalitpur Metropolitan City Mrs. Gita Satyal gave a speech on plastic pollution and the importance of the management of plastic waste.



Environmental discussions and performances: some highlights of the day!

- Panel discussion on “Waste and its potential uses”



The first highlight of the morning was a panel discussion on the topic “Waste and its potential uses”. Among the panelists were Aayushi K.C. (Founder/CEO of Khaalisisi), Anand Suvam (Artist), Niroj Shrestha (Community Learning Center, UNESCO), Sanjeevani Shrestha (Director, Wildlife Conservation Nepal) and the discussion was moderated by Mukesh Shrestha.

Thanks to the discussion, it became clear that Kathmandu Metropolitan City is the largest metropolitan city in the country, and accounts alone for 17% of the total solid waste generated per day from the existing 58 municipalities. Our panelists also underlined that to bring about changes in the environment we need to work on ourselves first. WCN for instance, is trying to bring about behavioural changes by teaching children and by explaining the scientific research in a simpler form to the public.

We need to rethink what we consider to be waste: one man's waste is another man's source of income. All the things people consider waste could actually be a source of business for

'Khaalिसि सathi', in charge of collecting and recycling. The waste we see looks ugly and uncivilized but what is civilized? Is dumping in the ocean civilized? Is exporting the waste to some poor country civilized? In that sense, Nepal is not that far back, when it is clear that developed countries also haven't been able to manage their waste properly. In Nepal, it would be easily possible to segregate into 3 categories: organic, dry and other wastes.

Link to the full panel discussion : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P7gxZR_CnXE

- The Impact of waste and pollution on our health by Dr Yves Prunier



Following was a presentation on the topic 'The impact of waste/pollution on our health' by Dr Yves Prunier. This French Doctor is a member of the National First Aid Association and comes regularly to Nepal. To the public of the festival he has shown the rapid invasion of plastics on our planet for the last fifty years and has explained the different forms of plastics in our environment and the current biological and human problems they trigger. He has given some concrete examples of health problems due to plastics and the keys to anticipate those of tomorrow facing this "chemical cocktail".

- Performance “Let me Breathe” by Solis Performing Arts



Solis Performing Arts gave a special dance performance called “Let me Breathe” in which the effects of air pollution around us were highlighted. *“We release a variety of chemicals into the atmosphere when we burn the fossil fuels we use every day. We breathe air to live and what we breathe has a direct impact on our health. Breathing polluted air puts us at a higher risk for asthma and other respiratory diseases.”* The French dancer and choreographer Alize Biannic is an artist committed to sustainable development. Through her emotional creation, she has shown her sensibility towards air pollution.

Link to the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dSvhtlyYJh0>

- Panel discussion on “How to make Nepal Greener?”



We had another panel discussion on the topic “How to make Nepal Greener?” as people were joining in on the discussion. The panelists for this discussion included Sudan Panthi (National Professional Environmental Officer, World Health Organization), Dinesh Manandhar (Senior WASH Specialist and former advisor for the Asian Development Bank), Shilshila Acharya (Chief Executive Officer, Himalayan Climate Initiative) and Rudra Gautam (Public Works Division Chief, Urban Planning & Development). Shashi Bikram Karki moderated this panel discussion.

Some key points were raised during this very interesting discussion: even though in the Nepalese constitution of 2015, the "*right to live in a healthy environment*" is marked as a fundamental right of people and even though there is law called "*Solid waste management act 2011*", it is clear that the Nepalese society has been suffering from unmanaged waste and air pollution for a long time. It is not affecting only people's health but also the country's economy. To counter this, the World Health Organisation is advising the Nepalese government. This is important as there seems to be a huge lack of sensitivity on waste management among Nepalese people, even

though the government is spending a huge amount of money to reduce pollution. Yet, various campaigns at the citizen level have been launched. In Lalitpur for example, a chain of Lions club is starting an ambitious project "Pollution free Lalitpur 2022". But most of the initiatives are being led by NGOs.

It is interesting to note that the Lalitpur Metropolitan City is launching various environmental programs. Yet, it takes time to change people's behavior.

Daily activities to learn about the environment in a funny yet thought provoking way !

Throughout the day, there was an Art Exhibition, Photo Exhibition and various stalls for children to play and learn all around the venue. Stalls were promoting and providing knowledge on recycling! Memories of the day have been captured by Fun Photo Station, that provided an attraction to the visitors taking various photos with different props.

The exhibition *Rivers of the World* organized by the British Council and led by the contemporary Nepali artist Kailash K Shrestha, offered all participants a great perspective on the question of river pollution. Six schools from Kathmandu and Pokhara worked on the project and produced 12 pieces of artwork in two years that we were proud to exhibit at Planet Nepal 5!



We were also happy to display more art, by artists Anjila Maharjan, Rupesh Man Singh, Hitesh Vaidya and Jagdish Moktan, that was curated by Anand Suvam. A gigantic whale made of plastic bottles as well as a Buddha head, on which cigarettes butts were stuck, were ways for the artists to express the pollution of their countries through powerful and symbolic pieces of art.

As not only professional artists but everyone was to contribute to this event, Alliance Française wished to enable each and everyone of us to be part : hence, a photo contest was organized, on the theme 'Beat Plastic Pollution!', of which the photos were exhibited on the 24th. The photos shed light on different aspects of pollution and got us to apprehend the extent of the problem.



First Prize: Victor Hugo Manjushree Vidhyapeeth

Caption: *Children understood the REUSE, What about you ?*

People's Choice Award: Nipun Prabhakar

Caption: *A view of the post apocalyptic world, beat plastic pollution before it's too late.*

The Festival also offered other immersive experiences: thanks to Wildlife Conservation Nepal, an entire part of the metropolitan garden was dedicated to children. Raising awareness among the younger generation is crucial when it comes to the environment and WCN offered a set of 7 different activities, ranging from a plastic monster to a plastic bed, to small awareness programs. All of those aimed to question our consumption habits through different ways and in the end... offered as much fun for children as for adults!

To raise awareness throughout generations, we were also able to count on UNESCO, Khaalisisi and Himalayan Climate Initiative who proposed different activities such as sorting waste or calculating one's carbon footprint. This helped participants knowing about the problem but also learning about the solutions!

Each and everyone one of us can do a little something for the planet! That was proven by our Partners Jamarko Recycled, Tyre Treasure and Victor Hugo Manjushree Vidyapith school who sold beautiful pieces of handicraft throughout the day. Their items were made of recycled products that would otherwise have been considered as waste... leading us to question : what is waste? isn't it better to reuse it? As well as reduce and recycle it.

After all those diverse and interesting activities and to end the festival on a joyful note, the Nepali folk instrumental band Kutumba gave the audience an amazing performance.

Organic Food by Le Bistrot



Le Bistrot, the French rooftop Restaurant attached to Alliance Française Katmandou, provided food during the whole day with French organic snacks being served: French fries and fresh sandwiches as well as croissants and pain au chocolat. The Bistrot Team also delighted the visitors with various non-alcoholic drinks for the pleasure of children and adults!

Environmental friendly logistics

Thanks to Doko Recycler the waste from the event was properly managed and recycled. Smart Paani provided fresh and filtered drinking water for the whole event in keeping up with the theme of the event no plastic bottles were used.

What feedback to the event?

Thanks to the British Council, we were able to gather and analyse feedback of the public! Out of the 1,300 people who did attend on the 24th, more than the majority of respondents were present with a real interest for the theme: Beat Plastic Pollution! Most of them also state being willing to change their practices and were keen on knowing both about the problem of waste management and about the various solutions that exist.

Thanks to the sociological analysis of our participants, we are also happy to say that we reached an audience that spans across generations and economic sectors.

Thanks to all our Partners and Sponsors, more than 90% said the Festival was good or really good and would definitely recommend it !

Communication

Huge Posters, Pull-ups and Backdrops were displayed both in Alliance Française and on the premises of the Municipality.

Posters and flyers were dispatched all over Lalitpur and Kathmandu. Advertisement was done in our Cultural booklets that are printed to more than 1,500 copies and distributed across the Valley.

We also created an official page on the Alliance française de Katmandou website, dedicated only to the event so that interested persons would have an easy and detailed access to the exciting program of the day ! <http://www.alliancefrancaise.org.np/planet-nepal-5/>

In our social media: daily advertisement of the Facebook event on our official page with more than 6,000 likes. The event was shared by most of our partners and got more than 800 attending / interested.

Schools around Patan were visited to encourage them to attend the event and take part to it through an art contest.

PROGRAM

23 November
at Alliance Française Kathmandu

Movie on Environment by AFK Kids
FRI 23 November | 4:30 PM

Planet Nepal is also a kids festival that gives space to all their skills and abilities.

Our young artists will offer you short screenings and an art creation of recycling plastic. They have a reflection on our world: how to change our environment? cleaning? fighting? detaching? recycling... Please come and take the full measure of our younger generation strength of change.

Cocktail Opening and Movie Screening
FRI 23 November | 5 PM

EVEREST GREEN

Alliance Française de Kathmandou is honored to welcome you for the Opening of the 5th edition of Planet Nepal of which this year's theme is Best Plastic Pollution!

The Festival will be opened by the French Ambassador to Nepal, H.E. Mr François-Xavier Léger with the Director of Alliance Française de Kathmandou, Mlle Nadine Vergneux. We'll enjoy a cocktail together before screening the movie Everest Green and initiate a discussion on waste and its impact in Nepal.

Synopsis
Beyond the Everest adventure hides a tragic environmental and human reality, which starts at 8848 meters above sea level and ends in the open dumps

24 November
at Lalitpur Municipality Office/Garden

From 10 am to 6 pm, come enjoy the whole day activities of discussions, creations, exhibitions and dancing!

Children Corner
SAT 24 November | 10 AM to 6 PM

Alliance Française de Kathmandou and Wildlife Conservation Nepal are pleased to invite you and your children to the Children's corner: let children talk about the environment and discover the importance of waste segregation! Families will be welcomed to find solutions to fight pollution thanks to various art performances and other exciting and amusing activities such as creating a plastic sculpture, face painting, calculating your carbon footprint, watching videos and many other immersive experiences!

Panel Discussion
SAT 24 November | 11 AM to 12:30 PM

Waste and its potentialities
Alliance Française de Kathmandou is happy to bring together artists, representatives from the NGO and Development Sphere who will share with us how plastic and waste can be not only recycled but also reused for lots of different and unsuspected ends ranging from artistic creations to house construction!

Organic Food Stalls
SAT 24 November | 10 AM to 6 PM

All those activities might make you feel hungry! Drop at our organic food stall, organized by The Bistrot, the international food restaurant associated to Alliance Française de Kathmandou! Fill your stomachs with French snacks made with local, fresh and environmentally friendly products!

Presentation
SAT 24 November | 1 PM to 1:30 PM

The impact of waste / Pollution on our health
We know that pollution has lots of harmful impacts on our health, but what are they exactly? And how can we fight them best to protect ourselves and our loved-ones?
Come attend a presentation by a renowned French Doctor and an inspiring Nepali medical student.

Panel Discussion
SAT 24 November | 2:30 PM to 4 PM

How to make Nepal greener?
As recycling is not enough, we also need to take a look at the bigger picture to try and foster sustainable development and make Kathmandu a greener city! Experts from the political but also health sphere will join heads to offer solutions that will benefit the economy as well as the well-being of Nepalis!

Art Exhibition
SAT 24 November | 10 AM to 6 PM

While you wander through the Gardens of Lalitpur Municipality, you'll be able to enjoy immersive and visual arts all linked to our theme: various promising artists (Anita Kulkarni, Anupam Aon Singh, Nilish Mishra, Jugesh Mishra, Anand Sharma, Kuldev K. Shrestha) will be displaying their work offering you a surprising exhibition! What you thought to be useless waste is become stunning art!

Dance Performance
SAT 24 November | Various shows between 10 AM and 6 PM

The French dancer and choreographer Aline Binnic, an artist committed to sustainable development, will be performing along with other dancers an incredible show dedicated to the theme Best Plastic Pollution!

Stalls & Workshops
SAT 24 November | 10 AM to 6 PM

Throughout the day, our committed partners will display their green activities and sustainable products, proving that changing our consumption patterns is possible and can be good for your wallet!

Photo Exhibition & Contest
SAT 24 November | 10 AM to 6 PM

Planet Nepal 5 is also about everyone participating! Raise awareness about the environment while also getting a chance of winning a cash prize! One price will be awarded by a panel of experts while the other will be the people's choice and awarded on the 24th! Alliance Française de Kathmandou is excited to receive all your best photos and to exhibit them on the very day of the Festival! Have your best shot exposed for everyone!

Kutumba
SAT 24 November | 5 PM

Music
After all the activities let's listen to the great band Kutumba who has already toured all over Nepal and abroad, they will perform for the closure of the Festival! Let's end on a positive note and stand all together for the environment!

Press coverage - printed and online



Nepali Times

Friday, June 30

Out and About

PLANET NEPAL 5

Alliance Française de Katmandou organizes the 5th edition of 'PLANET NEPAL', a festival with environmental issues. This year, the festival aims to eradicate the usage of plastic products and the pollution that comes with it. 'PLANET NEPAL' is a festival of different elements like music, photography, and contemporary art. 'Planet Nepal' uses art in different forms to spread awareness about changing environmental conditions in Nepal as well as around the world. The festival will take place on Saturday, November 5 at Lalitpur Metropolitan Office Garden.

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The festival will be opened by the French Ambassador to Nepal, H.E. Mr. Françoise Xavier Legere with the Director of Alliance Française de Katmandou, Ms. Pauline Veignon. We'll enjoy a cocktail together before screening the movie 'Forever Green' and initiate a discussion in waste and its impact to Nepal.

Synopsis

Beyond the Everest adventure hides a tragic environmental and human reality, which starts at 8848 meters above sea level and ends in the open dumps of Kathmandu, the most polluted city in the planet.

From 10 am to 6 pm, come enjoy the whole day activities of discussions, creation, exhibitions and dancing!

Children Corner

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While you wander through the Gardens of Lalitpur Municipality, you'll be able to enjoy immersive and visual arts all linked to our theme: various promising artists (Anuja Maharjan, Rupesh Man Singh, Mihesh Yadava, Jagdish Mehtan, Anand Survan, Kailash K. Shrestha) will be displaying their work offering you a surprising exhibition! What you thought to be useless waste is become stunning art!

Stalls & Workshops

SAT 24 November | 10 AM to 6 PM



Throughout the day, our committed partners will display their green activities and sustainable products, proving that changing our consumption patterns is possible and can be good for your wallet!

ECS - Friday

Planet Nepal 5 - Beat Plastic Pollution!
Alliance française de Katmandou - Contact : 977-1-5009221

5th Planet Nepal takes step to beat plastic pollution

KATHMANDU: One of the stalls at the Lalitpur Metropolitan Office gardens on November 24 included a chart that showed how long common items like plastic bottles and bags take to decompose in the environment. And there was also a heartrending photo of animals affected by plastic waste — a cow with 45 kg of plastic being removed from its stomach. And there were more photos.

Evoking the impacts of the use of plastic, the 5th Planet Nepal event was organised with the theme 'Beat Plastic Pollution'. The one-day event also featured stalls of artwork and photo exhibition from the Planet Nepal 5 Photo Contest among others.

The artworks by young pupils at Alliance Francaise tackled the topic of environment degradation while the photo exhibition included an image of a mountain of plastic waste from the Sisdole Landfill Site against a backdrop of green hills. And the stall by Wildlife Conservation Nepal



Photos: THT

demonstrated the process of turning biodegradable waste into compost.

Visitor Arjun Rajbanshi from Jhapa claims to have found great value in the event. "There is a lot to learn in the various exhibits," he said, "I will surely take this knowledge with me and apply it whenever I can."

The event also featured a number of local sustainable businesses that use waste materials to make recycled products, including Tyre Treasures and Khaalisi.com.

Nepali Bags of Change, which was present at the event, was started only two months ago by XIth grader Sa-jan Jung Kunwar and Ajay BK, and makes stylish backpacks out of discarded jeans and other waste material. "We have started this venture with new thinking and implementation," said Kunwar.

"This is a small step from us to make a change in society," added BK, "We are making these bags from old clothes

which most people throw away. There is little value in our society for recycled products, but these bags are being bought by social work organisations to donate to underprivileged children."

Stalls in the 'Children Corner' were designed to engage children, and included fun activities like face painting, as well as video presentations about the dangers of plastic pollution. Presentations including 'Impact of waste on our health' by French Doctor Yves Prunier, as well as panel discussion on 'Waste and its potential uses' by Aayushi KC from Khaalisi.com, dance and musical performances were part of the event.

Organised by Alliance Francaise de Katmandou every two year since 2010, Planet Nepal aims to raise awareness about environment conservation and to promote artistic engagement on the issue. —HNS

The Himalayan Times

<https://directionkathmandu.com/events/planet-nepal-5-beat-plastic-pollution/>

<http://www.newbusinessage.com/Articles/view/9429>

<http://www.kidssansar.com/listings/planet-nepal-5-beat-plastic-pollution/>

Some more glimpses of the event!



Acknowledgement

Our sincere gratitude to the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy of France in Nepal for their continuous support to Alliance Française de Katmandou. We would also like to thank H.E Mr François-Xavier Léger, Ambassador of France to Nepal, for his involvement and trust to Alliance Française de Katmandou in organizing this 5th Edition of Planet Nepal.

Sincerest thanks to our sponsors:

Nepal Investment Bank Limited for their continuous support since the inception of Alliance Française de Katmandou.

The Embassy of Brazil for its faithful support on many occasions.

Wildlife Conservation Nepal for their continuous support and innovative ideas in organizing a Children's corner.

Our gratitude to all our partners:

Our talented and inspiring artists : Kutumba, Alize Biannic and Solis Performing Arts, Anand Suvam, Kailash Shrestha, Anjila Maharjan, Rupesh Man Singh, Hitesh Vaidya and Jagdish Moktan.

Our Panelists who have provided us new perspectives : Aayushi K.C., Anand Suvam, Niroj Shrestha, Sanjeevani Shrestha, Sudan Panthi, Dinesh Manandhar, Shilshila Acharya, Rudra Gautam.

Our young entrepreneurs and social workers that helped not only to discuss the problem but also to try and find solutions to it: Himalayan Climate Initiative, Khaalिसि, Jamarko, Tyre Treasures, Victor Hugo Manjushree Vidyapith school , UNESCO.

Our logistic partners that helped us create a Festival in accordance to our topic: Smart Paani, Doko, Fun Photo Station, ISS.

Special thanks to our teachers and students for being MC's and volunteering on the Festival, Akash our photographer, and the whole Bistrot team.

Once again, a warm thank you to all the artists, sponsors and partners and the team of Alliance Française de Katmandou, we hope to meet you for the next Planet Nepal Festival ... in 2020!

