



# Volume I

## Humanitarian Herald



### Welcome to ROYM Nepal's Quarterly Bulletin!

ROYM Nepal Newsletter-Issue 1, 2024  
*Empowering Communities, Enhancing Future*

*January to March, 2024*



# Greetings from the heart of Nepal !

As the seasons change, so does our commitment to fostering sustainable development and empowering communities throughout our beautiful country. This quarterly bulletin (January-March, 2024) is brimming with stories of progress, resilience, and hope, all thanks to the tireless efforts of our team and the unwavering support of our partners and friends like you.

## In This Issue

- Updates on our latest community projects
- Insights from the field
- And much more!

Join us as we delve into the remarkable journey of change-makers who are shaping a brighter future for Nepal.



# ROYM Nepal Conducts Climate Change Workshops, *January 31, 2024, Saptari*



In a significant community outreach, ROYM Nepal held a series of workshops in January 2024 to introduce the SAKSHAM Saptari Project to local communities in Saptari. The workshops aimed to educate residents on climate change and discuss the project's objectives and implementation strategies.

The sessions, led by ROYM staff, were instrumental in building rapport with community members and providing them with a comprehensive understanding of climate change and its local impact. The discussions revealed a general lack of awareness about climate change among the participants, highlighting the need for such educational initiatives.

The workshops were attended by 293 participants, with a strong female majority, indicating a positive step towards inclusive community engagement. The orientation proved to be an eye-opener for many, as it underscored the necessity for behavioral change to address climate challenges.

# The World Social Forum 2024: A Convergence for Change *February 9, 2024, Kathmandu*



The World Social Forum (WSF), a beacon for global solidarity, once again united activists, organizations, and individuals from across the globe in Kathmandu. This annual congregation is a testament to the power of collective action and shared vision for addressing the world's most pressing social, economic, and environmental challenges. ROYM Nepal addressed these challenges through community interventions aimed at building resilience and providing disaster preparedness support.



# Riverbank Protection through Nature-Based Solutions, February 9, 2024, Saptari



In early 2024, ROYM Nepal embarked on an ambitious initiative within the SAKSHAM Saptari Project to establish nature-based solutions for riverbank protection. Recognizing the cost-effective and sustainable benefits of such measures, the project focused on addressing riverbank erosion, flooding, and inundation issues.

The planning and preparatory phase began with a collaborative approach, involving coordination with the Palika's Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) section and local ward representatives. On February 9, 2024, a joint feasibility study was conducted, bringing together key stakeholders, including DRR Chief Mr. Rajesh Jha, Chairperson Mr. Munilal Mukhiya, and community members.

During the field visit, Mr. Jha recommended starting the activity upstream and emphasized the necessity of a three-layered plantation approach, or at least two layers, to effectively control soil erosion. The Divisional Forest Office pledged support for the initiative, promising to provide saplings and technical assistance for the plantation efforts.

## Alternative Art Space: A Beacon of Expression at the World Social Forum 2024, February 14, 2024, Kathmandu



The World Social Forum 2024, a symposium of progressive thought and action, was elevated by the vibrant presence of the Alternative Art Space. This creative hub blossomed into a focal point for artistic expression, engaging the minds and hearts of school children and college students alike. From February 8 to 14, Padmakanya Campus Bagbazar became a crucible of creativity. Participants from Freedom Studio, ROYM Nepal, Digo Bikas Institute, and Grassroot Development joined forces to curate a space that not only showcased art but also inspired societal change.

The event was a resounding success, with nearly 400 participants channeling their passion into 142 canvas artworks. These pieces, rich in color and diverse in medium, boldly addressed the 14 thematic areas of the World Social Forum. From environmental degradation to gender violence, from the brain drain in Nepal to the quest for peace and social justice, each artwork served as a poignant narrative of the challenges we face. The artworks struck a chord with the 30,000 visitors, prompting deep reflection and dialogue.

# Intercontinental Youth Forum: Advocates for a Sustainable Future, February 19, 2024, Kathmandu



The 16th edition of the World Social Forum was marked by the Intercontinental Youth Forum, a gathering that transformed Kathmandu into a melting pot of youthful zeal and advocacy from February 17 to 19, 2024. Involvement of ROYM Nepal, in this forum was not just an event; it was a movement, a collective uprising against the status quo of inequality and neoliberalism that has long stifled dreams and erased histories.

The forum's ten sessions and numerous parallel events saw young advocates and activists from around the world unite to challenge and dismantle the structures of inequality, exploitation, and militarization that plague our communities.

The youth stood firm against imperialistic, conservative, capitalist, and fundamentalist powers, advocating for the rights of women, Dalits, the poor, indigenous people, people of color, LGBTQI+ communities, people with disabilities, and all oppressed communities.

They called for an intersectional feminist approach to policies and funding, recognizing the role of men and boys as allies in the fight for gender equality and justice.

The forum's participants urged governments to eliminate inequality, discrimination, and untouchability, and to ensure inclusive, qualitative, and accessible public education and healthcare for all. They advocated for significant investment in mental health services and the protection of digital rights, demanding equitable access to safe online spaces.

The youth insisted on the creation of decent, clean, and just jobs, rejecting exploitation and displacement, and envisioning an economy based on social justice. They resisted false climate solutions and demanded real, people-led initiatives to protect the planet and communities.

The forum called for the restructuring of global power dynamics to foster social justice, economic equality, and sustainable development. It emphasized the need for land, food sovereignty, and housing rights as fundamental human rights.

The youth called for peace, disarmament, and the elimination of nuclear weapons, standing in solidarity with Palestine and condemning the violence by Israel.

In unity, the participants pledged to turn their discussions into tangible actions, mobilizing communities to challenge oppressive systems and advance social justice.

They declared their commitment to a world where dignity, equality, and solidarity reign supreme.



# The World Youth Assembly on Climate Justice: A Movement for Sustainable Change, February 22, 2024, Kathmandu



The World Youth Assembly on Climate Justice transcended the bounds of a mere event to become a movement that galvanized the collective energy, ideas, and passion of the global youth. The involvement of ROYM Nepal, this assembly served as a critical platform for fostering innovative ideas, providing support and guidance, and driving a united effort towards a sustainable and just future.

Youth from various corners of the world convened to share perspectives and strategies to combat climate change and promote a climate justice environment. Young artists' talents, employed diverse forms of expression to communicate the urgent themes of climate justice. A hands-on initiative was taken, where participants took to the World Social Forum area to engage in a cleaning campaign, symbolizing their advocacy for environmental sustainability.

# Janakpur Witnesses Vibrant International Women's Day Rally, March 15, 2024, Janakpur



The city of Janakpur, the heart of Madhesh Province, was awash with color and fervor on March 7, as the Rural Oriented Youth Movement Nepal (ROYM-Nepal) and a coalition of global organizations came together to celebrate International Women's Day.

The event, a collaborative effort featuring partnerships with UNFPA, UNICEF, USAID, Save The Children, UNOPS, INSEC, Pac-Nepal, and World Vision, began its journey at Janka Chowk and made its way to the Sports and Social Development Ministry of Madhesh Province. The rally drew in a crowd of approximately one hundred participants, each one a voice for change.

Team ROYM-Nepal's commitment, marched with a mission to shine a light on the myriad challenges faced by women. Goal was to raise awareness, promote inclusivity, and highlight the continuous efforts needed to achieve gender equality.

Adorned with banners and chanting for empowerment, the marchers represented a diverse cross-section of society. Their unified call for gender equality, an end to violence against women, and equal opportunities for all resonated throughout the city, embodying solidarity and the hope for transformative change.

The day's events culminated with the presentation of an attention letter to the Prime Minister's office, symbolizing the collective plea for action and recognition. This letter, routed through the District Administration Office of Dhanusha, stands as a testament to the unwavering spirit of the rally and its participants.

## **ROYM Nepal's JIBIKA Project Kickstarts in Dhading, March 19, 2024, Dhading**



In March 2024, ROYM Nepal launched the JIBIKA project, marking a significant step towards socio-economic empowerment in Dhading district. The project's introduction and orientation program, held across Neelkantha Municipality and Netrawoti Dobjong Rural Municipality, witnessed the participation of local government officials, community leaders, and women's agencies.

The events, spanning from March 18 to 19, facilitated vital discussions on development priorities and potential project activities. A total of 45 participants engaged in these sessions, which aimed to introduce ROYM Nepal's mission and the JIBIKA project's objectives.

Key outcomes included the identification of potential areas for group formation and project programming, as well as the establishment of connections with local leaders for ongoing coordination. The program also provided insights into traditional cultural practices and current community activities.

With the successful conclusion of the orientation program, ROYM Nepal assured participants that it is poised to empower the communities of Dhading with sustainable development and inclusive growth.

## **Enhanced Livestock Management in Saptari with Comprehensive Training, *March 19, 2024, Saptari***

ROYM Nepal concluded a three-day Livestock Farming training from March 17 to 19, 2024, in the Terai belt of Saptari. The event aimed to address the challenges faced by local farmers in managing their livestock, particularly in the wake of seasonal diseases post-winter.



The training commenced with an introduction to animal husbandry, emphasizing its significance and the unique conditions of livestock farming in the Terai region. Participants were acquainted with various indigenous and exotic breeds of cattle, goats, and buffalo, learning about their distinct characteristics.

The second day focused on the importance of shed improvement and converting animal waste into compost manure. Discussions also covered the identification and management of common livestock diseases and parasites, equipping farmers with the knowledge to care for their animals effectively.

The final day introduced advanced topics such as castration, breeding procedures, and artificial insemination, highlighting their benefits and methodologies. Participants also received general medicines for common ailments, ensuring they are well-prepared to maintain the health of their livestock.

This training marks a significant step towards enhancing the productivity and sustainability of livestock farming in Saptari, empowering farmers with the skills needed for effective animal husbandry.

## **Kitchen Garden Training in Saptari, March 22, 2024, Saptari**

In an effort to promote sustainable living and enhance food security, ROYM Nepal organized a series of Kitchen Garden trainings in Saptari from March 13 to 22, 2024. The one-day sessions, were adapted to the field conditions and successfully conducted for five different groups.



The training introduced 180 participants, predominantly women, to the principles of Bio-intensive farming systems. Emphasizing the importance of multi-cropping and the use of bio-pesticides, the farmers learned to cultivate their kitchen gardens in a more organized and productive manner.

To support the practical application of the training, ROYM Nepal provided mini kits containing five varieties of vegetable seeds to 150 farmers. The support package included Pumpkin, Beans, Lady's Finger/ Okra, Amaranthus, and Chamsur Leafy Vegetable seeds. This initiative aimed to encourage diverse cropping practices and ensure a steady supply of fresh vegetables for their families.

## **Climate Smart Farmers Field School, *March 30, 2024, Saptari***



ROYM Nepal launched the Climate Smart Farmers Field School on March 30, 2024, marking a stride towards sustainable agriculture in the face of climate change.

This innovative program diverges from traditional schooling methods, focusing instead on practical demonstrations that lead to tangible results. It serves as an informal learning hub for elite farmers, equipping them with adaptive and innovative farming techniques to counteract the adverse effects of climate change.

A select group of master farmers, one from each settlement group, was convened to form the core of this learning community. They were meticulously briefed on the school's schedule, curriculum, and objectives. The inaugural gathering at the designated 2 katthas (0.067 ha) plot in Mukhiya Tole set the stage for a series of weekly sessions, where these farmers will continue to meet and learn through the harvest season.

## **Community Climate Change Orientation, March 31, 2024, Saptari**



ROYM Nepal conducted community-level orientations on climate change and its impacts. These sessions were pivotal, as the success of climate initiatives largely depends on community perception and discussion of climate issues. From project initiation to March 2024, 48 orientations were held, engaging 1010 participants from various households. Notably, the majority of participants were female, with 926 women attending alongside 84 men. The orientations addressed the community's experiences with natural calamities, such as erratic rainfall and flooding, and their lack of knowledge on how to effectively respond to these challenges. The sessions emphasized the need for behavioral change and the adoption of new adaptive measures, encapsulated in the motto "Think Globally, Act Locally."

# Addressing Drought with Innovative Solutions, March 31, 2024, Saptari



In a significant move towards sustainable agriculture, ROYM Nepal has successfully installed group-owned tube wells and pump sets in drought-prone regions of Saptari. The project, which took place from March 1, saw the installation of seven units across three strategic locations: Ram Tole, Mukhiya Tole, and Koiladi Tole.

The initiative began with the SAKSHAM Saptari team's development of a guideline to identify the most affected areas. Following this, focused group discussions led to the selection of locations that would ensure maximum land coverage and community benefit. The operation of the pump sets and tube wells was determined according to the guideline, culminating in the installation process.

This project has set a precedent for community-led solutions to environmental challenges, demonstrating ROYM Nepal's commitment to fostering resilience and self-sufficiency among local farmers.



# Commercial Vegetable Farming Training, *March 31, 2024, Saptari*

For Saptari's agricultural community, ROYM Nepal conducted a three-day training on commercial vegetable farming from March 29 to March 31, 2024. The training aimed to empower local farmers with the technical knowledge necessary for maximizing their crop yields and navigating the market effectively.



The training addressed the critical need for technical expertise among farmers engaged in both seasonal and off-seasonal vegetable cultivation. With the region's proximity to major markets in Rajbiraj and Hanumannagar, and a smaller market near the India border, the demand for fresh vegetables presented a ripe opportunity for local farmers. The training sessions were designed to guide them in organized farming practices, introduce off-seasonal cultivation techniques, and provide solutions to common challenges such as selecting the right crop varieties and managing insect pests.

A notable aspect of the event was the participation of 25 local farmers, predominantly women, which reflected a shift in the traditional roles within the Terai community. This change signifies a broader acceptance and involvement of women in agricultural and business activities, challenging the stereotype that confines them to household chores.

Despite the region's susceptibility to early floods and inundation during the rainy season, the training was a resounding success.

The participants, equipped with new skills and knowledge, are expected to disseminate what they have learned within their groups and apply these practices to enhance their farming livelihoods.

## **Support for Riverbed Farming, *March 31, 2024, Saptari***

ROYM Nepal provided essential aid to farmers engaged in riverbed farming in Saptari from March 10 to 31, 2024. A total of 59 farmers received a diverse range of Cucurbits and Bean Seeds, including varieties such as Zucchini, Climbing Pumpkin, Lady's Finger, Bitter Gourd, Cucumber, Bottle Gourd, Sponge Gourd, and Beans. This strategic support is expected to yield significant benefits as the vegetables begin to fruit, offering farmers the opportunity to generate income through market sales.



## **Community Empowerment through JIBIKA Project, *April 2, 2024, Dhading***

From March 26 to April 2, 2024, ROYM-Nepal's JIBIKA project embarked on a transformative journey in the Dhading district. The project's commitment to socio-economic empowerment was brought to life through the formation of 10 dynamic groups across Neelkantha Municipality and Netrawoti Dobjong Rural Municipality, uniting 208 dedicated members from diverse backgrounds.



The JIBIKA project was introduced, aiming to uplift women, Dalits, and ethnic groups through sustainable livelihood opportunities. Platforms were established for marginalized communities to voice their concerns and influence local decision-making. Knowledge and skills were shared to enhance agricultural practices and promote gender equality in farming.

The formation of these groups marked a new chapter in Dhading's journey towards inclusive development. With a focus on enhancing livelihoods and advocating for equitable resource access, ROYM-Nepal nurtured a brighter future for all community members.

## **Resilience Amidst Difficulty: The Story of Shanta Roka**



In Nilkantha-5, Palapali Tole, Dhading lives a 25-year-old Dalit woman named Shanta Roka. Her life shows strong hope and courage, even when times are hard. Shanta, a mother of one child and a resident of Tole for five years, lives with her husband, who works as a driver. They have their own home away from other family members, which sometimes makes Shanta feel lonely.

In her home, where peace should be a constant, the calm is too often broken by violence between husband and wife. These are caused by her husband's struggle with alcohol, which leads him to act harmfully. Their family's financial security is at risk as well. Instead of providing for their needs, he uses the money to feed his addiction, leaving little for anything else. This neglect has put a strain on their daily lives and their future.

She said, "Inside our home, there are arguments because of alcohol. True strength is not always about shouting; it's about the silent promise to look after my child."

This makes it tough to take care of her child's health and schooling. In her community, there's also the issue of too many people having to share one toilet.

She expressed, "Having our own toilet is important. It means we can have our own space. Using the same toilet as everyone else is hard." Expressing about the community, she said, "Our place, Nilkantha-5, is like a family that supports each other. But, when we visit some other advanced areas, there are still old, unfair beliefs about caste that separate us."

She added, "Here there are schools and health centers; they are like a light of hope for us. Yet, the struggle to get rid of poverty is a big challenge."

Shanta has a dream of a safe home without fights and drinking problems. She wants to use her talents in knitting and raising buffalo to make a better life. She thinks that if she could get a buffalo, it would help her economically by selling milk. She is enthusiastic to learn these skills well, and they give her hope that she can take care of herself and her family. She expressed, "Life is hard, but I stay strong. I put my hope into the knitting and livestock farming training, which I will hopefully receive."

Shanta seeks to empower herself. Her goals are clear: to build a toilet for her family, to ensure her children's education, and to fulfill their basic needs through her own efforts.

She expressed, “I imagine my child happy and safe at home. We can’t be sure about hope, but I keep it close, like something that keeps me safe when times are tough.”

Shanta Roka’s story shows the incredible strength of a woman overcoming tough times. Her story is like many others, but it shines as an example of willpower and the effort to be independent. Through her story, we see the toughness in everyone and how hope and never giving up can change things.

## **Nurturing Resilience Amidst Challenge: Momani Devi Ram Case Study**

In the remote village of Tilathi Koiladi Rural Municipality-4, Ram Tole, Saptari, lives Momani Devi Ram, a 42-year-old marginalized woman whose life story reflects the resilience and challenges of many rural women in Nepal. Momani's journey from childhood to adulthood, marked by early marriage, economic hardship, and the impacts of climate change, provides a profound insight into the socio-economic and environmental realities of her community.

She was born and raised in Goethi, a remote village in Saptari, about 8 kilometers east of Rajbiraj. Her childhood was typical of many in rural Nepal, spent grazing livestock and assisting with household chores. Despite her parents' encouragement to pursue education, the distant school and the harsh discipline from teachers led her to drop out.



Reflecting on this period, she said, “My early marriage was a significant turning point in my life. Although it was challenging, it taught me resilience.”

Momani’s family has lived in Tilathi Koiladi, for generations. The family owns their house and primarily relies on agricultural farming and seasonal construction work in both local and major cities like Kathmandu and Pokhara for their livelihood.

She explained, “Economic stability is a constant challenge. Surplus agricultural produce is sold in nearby markets to meet household needs, but during lean seasons, the family depends on loans from local lenders.”

Momani's family comprises six members: her husband, son and daughter-in-law, daughter, and a grandson. The household has remained free from domestic violence and substance abuse, which has fostered a supportive and resilient environment. A significant personal challenge for Momani was her initial inability to conceive. After various treatments and religious rituals, she gave birth to her first child at the age of 25. The responsibilities of raising her children and managing household duties have driven her to work tirelessly.

She shared, "Motherhood brought immense joy but also tremendous responsibility. It pushed me to work harder for a better future for my children."

In her society, access to education and healthcare remains limited due to the distance to the nearest school and health post. Over time, Momani has witnessed significant social changes, especially regarding caste-based discrimination.

She observed, "While untouchability and restrictions on freedom of expression were prevalent during my youth, these issues have considerably diminished. Community functions now see greater cooperation among different castes, although some traditions, like separate food preparation, persist but are gradually changing."

Over the years, Momani has observed the changing climate's adverse effects on agriculture and health. Extreme droughts, flooding, increased pest infestations, and diseases in animals have become more frequent, severely impacting their agricultural productivity.

The family cultivates 10 Kathhas (0.165 acres) of leased land. She noted, "Despite the lease, we treat it as our own, reflecting our deep connection to farming. These environmental challenges have made sustaining our livelihood increasingly difficult."

Momani has participated in various trainings, including informal education, vegetable cultivation, livestock management, and climate change orientation. She is skilled in knitting and weaving, a craft she learned from her elders. Her daughter-in-law also excels in sewing and knitting. They hope to receive support for resources like sewing machines and knitting equipment to enhance their economic opportunities and improve their livelihood.

Five years ago, Momani suffered a severe illness, requiring extensive and costly medical treatment. This period was financially and emotionally taxing for the family. Upon her recovery two years ago, they turned to vegetable farming to sustain themselves.

She explained, “The family maintains hope and resilience by staying calm, working hard, and focusing on their responsibilities. Our collective efforts and faith have helped us navigate through difficult times.”

Momani is actively involved in the Saksham Saptari Project (an ongoing project of ROYM Nepal), which she learned about through initial meetings with ROYM Nepal’s project staff. She has participated in orientations on climate change, vegetable farming, and the use of irrigation techniques like boring and water pumps.

She stated, “The project has significantly raised my awareness about climate change and its impacts and has provided practical solutions to cope with these challenges.”

The Saksham Project has fostered community cooperation through the formation of a women's group. This group has enhanced communication, cooperation, and assistance among members, strengthening community resilience.



Momani appreciates the project's activities. She expressed, “The Saksham project has helped me a lot to sustain living, but I hope for more fundamental support along with the numerous trainings.” Momani Devi Ram's story is a testament to the resilience and adaptability of rural women in Nepal. Her life, marked by early marriage, economic hardships, climate challenges, and social transformation, underscores the importance of targeted interventions and community support for sustainable development. This story of Momani highlights her struggles and triumphs but also calls for continued and enhanced support to uplift the lives of women like her and communities.

## **The Echo of Empowerment: Kulmaya’s Movement in Rural Nepal**

Kulmaya Bishwokarma, a 22-year-old social mobilizer for ROYM Nepal from Khalte Tole in Nilkantha Municipality, Dhading, has become a beacon of hope and change within her community. Born and raised on the rugged terrain of the Dhading district alongside her six siblings, as well as her grandfather, father, and mother, her journey is one of resilience and determination. From a young age, she was acutely aware of the social disparities and challenges faced by women in her locality. Hailing from a family that valued education and community service, Kulmaya's upbringing was steeped in the ethos of empowerment and advocacy. Her parents, both involved in local agriculture, instilled in her the importance of self-sufficiency and the strength of collective action.

Kulmaya's role in the community is not just as a speaker but as a teacher, an educator of rights, and a catalyst for awareness in Nilkantha municipality, Dhading. Her efforts have led to the formation of women's groups in the five toles of Nilkantha, Dhading, including Ramche, Khalte, Pateni, Palpali, and Shyaldanda, where she has played a pivotal role in educating women about their rights and the benefits of agriculture.



Despite her strides, Kulmaya confronts the pervasive shadow of domestic violence, a specter that haunts the nights of Nilkantha. Men, lost to the clutches of alcohol, often unleash their fury upon their wives, leaving scars not just on the skin but the soul of the community.

Kulmaya said, “Domestic violence is a major issue here. Husbands drinking alcohol and quarreling with their wives at night is not uncommon. This isn't just in my community but also in neighboring ones within Nilkantha Municipality.”

She further added, “There’s a lack of responsibility among husbands; they don’t support their families, which is why it's crucial to empower women and make them independent.”

Yet, amidst these trials, Kulmaya remains optimistic. She envisions a future where women are independent, free from the shackles of financial reliance on men. She believes that the root of many domestic conflicts – money – can be eradicated through empowerment and education. Her dream is a society where women are aware of their rights and can lead dignified lives.

She emphasized, “The impact I strive for is significant: women becoming independent, leading their lives without reliance on men, and becoming financially self-sufficient. This will reduce domestic conflicts over money and ensure women are aware of their rights.”

Kulmaya also recognizes the importance of skill development tailored to the community's needs. Through training, awareness, and need identification, she aims to cultivate a ground for growth and self-sufficiency.

She said, “In our community, every woman is capable of crafting her destiny and learning new skills. It’s about awakening the inherent strength within each woman to build a bright future.”

The engagement of stakeholders is pivotal to her mission. Collaboration and consensus among concerned parties are the cornerstones of sustainable change. While she cannot be omnipresent, Kulmaya's faith in effective communication and gradual progress make her determinant.

She articulated, “The strength of our mission lies in the support of every stakeholder.”

Her focus is on the Dalit community, where, with the support of ROYM Nepal, hope has been kindled. The expectations are high, and Kulmaya, along with her team, is committed to uplifting as many women as possible, regardless of their social standing.

She remarked, “Our Dalit sisters are coming back because of lack of awareness. With ROYM Nepal, we are optimistic; we can uplift them.”

The skill enhancement program in agriculture is vital. As per her, by promoting business-based farming of tomatoes, cauliflower, and potatoes and enhancing livestock milk production, the way for economic independence and prosperity can be nurtured.

Kulmaya Bishwokarma's story is about courage and determination. It is a narrative that deserves to be told to inspire and ignite the flames of change across communities far and wide. It serves as the indomitable spirit of the women of Nilkantha Municipality and the relentless pursuit of a better tomorrow.

## **ROYM Nepal Attendees in Various Programs**

Pride Program: Employment and Economic Enhancement in Kathmandu *January 16, 2024, Kathmandu*

ROYM Nepal participated in the Pride Program launch at Rastriya Sabha Griha, an initiative by Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC) to promote employment and skill development. The event, attended by Deputy Mayor Sunita Dangol, highlighted the importance of cybersecurity training for 4,000 individuals in collaboration with EC-Council and GAP Technology.

The goal is to equip 15,000 people with essential skills and create employment opportunities for 5,000 citizens, aiming for zero unemployment within KMC. A ceremonial scholarship was presented to Deputy Mayor Dangol, symbolizing a commitment to education and professional development. The event concluded with an inspiring speech by Mahesh Nepali.

Celebrating the 114th International Women's Day, *March 8, 2024,*  
*Rastriya Sabha Griha*

ROYM Nepal joined the Government of Nepal's Ministry of Women, Children, and Senior Citizens to celebrate the 114th International Women's Day. This year's theme, "Invest in Women: Building a Civilized and Inclusive Society," was championed by Honorable President Ram Chandra Poudel, emphasizing the global call for gender equality. Key highlights included a welcome speech by Suman Raj Aryal, stressing the importance of women's safety, social security, and economic empowerment. A documentary based on "The Public Life of Women: A Feminist Memory" was showcased, with Diwas Raja K.C. from Nepal Picture Library/photo.circle discussing the importance of recognizing women's contributions.

World Youth Assembly on Climate Justice, *February 16, 2024,*  
*Makalu Hall, Bhrikutimandap*

The World Youth Assembly on Climate Justice united diverse voices and organizations in a resolute stance against climate change. Alisha Dhungana led the assembly, emphasizing the urgent need for collective action. International speakers, including Quincy Saul, Limam Boussif, and Sara Manuelli delivered compelling messages on climate justice. Quincy Saul urged individual action, while Limam Boussif highlighted the moral imperative of climate justice. A vibrant flash mob interlude underscored the importance of raising awareness through creative means. Sara Manuelli emphasized the impact of climate change on mountain communities, and Jaldeep, a person with disabilities, advocated for forest conservation through poetry.

As we conclude this edition of our bulletin, we extend our deepest appreciation to each one of you for being an integral part of ROYM Nepal's mission. Your support fuels our endeavors and brings us closer to achieving our collective goals.



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**Thank you for being a part of our journey. Until next time, keep spreading kindness and fostering change!**