



The 14th
INTERNATIONAL YOUTH
MEDIA SUMMIT
iYMS

Youth + Media:
Champions of a Peaceful, Sustainable World

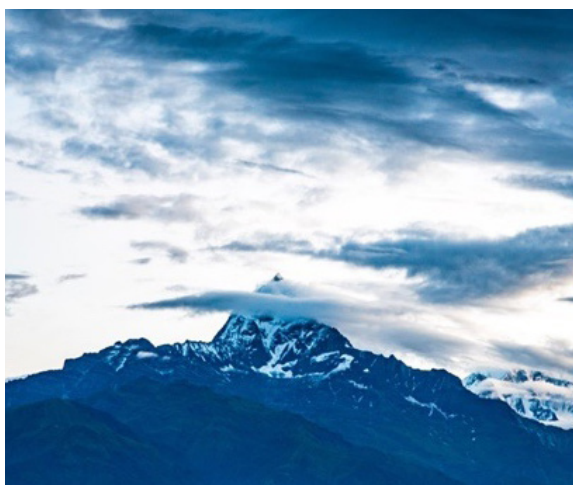
July 26th – August 10th, 2019

Mount Kailash Resort
Pokhara, Nepal

SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

“The IYMS team and the youth delegates are the true measures of peacemakers. Seeing what the youth delegates were able to convey in their 2-minute videos makes me imagine the greatness they will be able to reach in a lifetime.”

– Jane E. Lawson, UNRCPD



2019 was a historic year for the International Youth Media Summit (IYMS). We opened our Asia Regional Center in Kathmandu, led by our new Executive Director, Sapan Hamal. For the 14th Summit, we traveled to Pokhara, Nepal where the Annapurna Mountain Range and Lake Pokhara provided beautiful settings for this year's films. 61 people from 23 countries formed bridges across cultures, joining our world-wide family without borders.

Machapuchare or 'Fish Tail Mountain', viewed from Sarangkot View Point, Pokhara, Nepal.

For the 2019 Summit, we found support from the Nepal Government and the provincial Government of Gandaki, as well as Visit Nepal 2020 and the Film Development Board of Nepal. A record number of UN agencies sponsored our young delegates, including UNESCO, UNICEF, UNRCPD, UNDP, UN Women, and UNFPA. In addition, hundreds of private donors gave through TIME and the Global Giving Campaign to ensure that delegates with passion and vision, from every economic class, could participate with the Summit this year.



Delegates dressed up for Opening Ceremony.

The Seven Issues

IYMS Nepal, our host organization, gathered seven experts for a panel discussion followed by meetings and discussions with the issue groups individually about the innovations they have put into practice. With their mentors, the delegates explored the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals. These discussions provided inspiration for their 7 short films. During our 14 days together, the delegates discovered the power & impact of media to transform attitudes, behaviors and lives.

Discrimination – Environment – Health – Poverty – Violence – Women's Rights – Youth Empowerment



“The workshops on filmmaking and editing, the masterclass on acting and the mentorship sessions with mentors and advisors who are industry experts on film and developmental issues provided me with the ground knowledge, expertise and technical ability needed to tackle the issues and produce contents that will spur action and cause global change.”

– IYMS 2019 Nigerian Youth Delegate



This year we had the privilege of being joined by seven experts for a panel discussion on the seven issues and how they connect to our theme, ‘Youth + Media: Champions for a Sustainable, Peaceful World.’ They spoke about their work and experiences within their fields in relation to the issues as well as the importance of youth getting involved. After the panel they met individually with the groups to discuss more specific challenges, concerns and possible resolutions relating to their specific issue. These meetings inspired and helped our filmmakers develop their story ideas.

Juan Pablo Ramírez-Miranda spoke about his work as Head of Social and Human Sciences at UNESCO Delhi, specifically addressing the SDGs and connecting it to the work and vision of IYMS. **Jane E. Lawson** shared her extensive knowledge and experience of conflict prevention, peacebuilding and disarmament from her work as Regional Peace and Disarmament Education Coordinator for UNRCPD. **Reecha Sharma** spoke about her experiences



being a woman in the Nepali Film Industry, and also about her new campaign bringing sex education to schools across Kathmandu. **Bijay Kumar Thapa** shared his experiences with various sustainable development projects in Nepal, specifically emphasizing the importance of youth’s involvement in these. **Sudip Aryal** spoke about his work with UNDP in Nepal as the Head of Field Office in Gandaki and Province 5. **Maxim Shrestha** talked about the challenges facing Nepal’s environment and what changes we can expect in the future, but also what we can do to help the situation. **Santosh Chhetri** joined the conversations after the panel discussion and helped to develop the narrative and vision of our Health filmmaking team.

We were lucky to have some of these mentors stay with us several days. Together we kept having meaningful discussions and our delegates kept learning from their knowledge and expertise. Reecha Sharma generously offered an Acting Masterclass to our delegates touching on some of the foundational aspects of acting technique. For instance, she stressed the importance of PLAY, which we embraced wholeheartedly.



"Thank you IYMS for proving we can live together without any discrimination."

– IYMS 2019 Afghani Youth Delegate

The delegates started their journey at the airport in Kathmandu; and after exploring that city, there was time for bonding on the eight-hour bus ride to Pokhara. When they stepped off the bus, they were eager to begin their two weeks together, immersed in their mission; to create powerful short movies on the seven issues, film their Declarations for Action, and create Workshop Guides to accompany the films.



Through planning, filming, editing and writing their documents, crews navigated different cultures and artistic sensibilities. The exciting final products reflected the delegates' dedication to their mission, as well as to each other.



“The extraordinary open-mindedness and cooperation of each participant thrills me day by day. This is a great opportunity for anyone to sharpen their diplomacy and film skills with the help of talented and experienced peers.”

– IYMS 2019 Croatian Youth Delegate

The 2019 IYMS was also the stage to launch IYMS Films, a new division to focus on longer projects about our issues. The first film to be produced under IYMS Films, “Pari of Pokhara” is about a young woman who is lured from her home village to become one of the tragic statistics in the global epidemic of human trafficking.

At the heart of IYMS is the idea that passionate and well-crafted media can inspire change in others. In the evenings, delegates would share their work and projects from their home countries in the form of films and interactive media presentations, showing what they are doing in their communities to create sustainable development and a peaceful world.

Ovinuchi Ejiohuo from Nigeria presented his film “Displaced” the story of Bitrus, a father of twelve who was forced to leave his community to live in an Internally Displaced Person’s camp. The film explores insurgency, conflict and violence, and how it affects human life.

<https://youtu.be/pKg7Yc1snXc>

Maya Åkeson Rayner from Sweden premiered the film “Big and Strong” she and brother Liam (delegate IYMS 2018) created. The film combines animation and live action to tell the story of one of the oldest oak trees in Sweden, from its first encounter with humans to the end of its life on earth. It explores the relationship between humans and the natural world throughout the many different eras of man.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UxzsFjWSCTA>



Sohail Khan from Pakistan started a school in his living room at the age of 18. In the evenings he gathered 24 young children who were working to support their families and did not have access to education. He taught them the basics of literacy. Today, Noor-E-Ilm School (which means “Light of Education”) has its own facilities and 125 students attending. Sohail took us along on his seven-year journey to give children in Karachi the benefits of education.

www.fb.com/nooreilm.org/
<https://youtu.be/FlWuHamEXxw>

Sofia Peri from Italy presented Diritti a Colori, a project of the Fondazione Malagutti Onlus. This annual children's arts competition and festival, last year held in Bologna, promotes children's rights. Like the Fondazione, the competition aims to protect children from any form of violence in society and promotes children's right to creative expression. Sofia gave us all handmade bracelets to remind us to promote children's rights and the importance of art.

<http://www.dirittiacolori.it/>



Aye Nilar Kyaw from Myanmar screened her film "Child of the Revolution" about the impact of the civil war in Myanmar on the daughter of a revolutionary. The film documents the challenges the family had to face, hiding, moving and being separated for their safety. The daughter is now teaching other children who have experienced similar traumas.

Aaqib Ali Jafry from Pakistan screened his short film "Dewona" which tells the story of a young man who aspires to be a musician but faces many obstacles from family obligations and societal expectations. Inspired by the breathtaking landscapes of the Hunza Valley and its traditional music, he tells a compelling and hypnotizing story which gives us insights and a better understanding of the lifestyle of this very distinct region in Pakistan.



Kiran Naz from Pakistan gave us a presentation about her country's culture, tradition and peoples. She discussed the role of women in Pakistani society, where the female literacy rate is only 51%. However, girls are breaking barriers and the statistics are headed in the right direction. She herself has educated more than 1,000 women about their basic rights. She truly believes if she can change one person's life, others will follow. She treated us to Pakistani refreshments and henna tattoos.

Kainat Thebo from Pakistan shared two films from her home in the province of Sindh in Pakistan. Being an area still quite isolated from the rest of the world, she shared with us that she was the first woman from her village to get an education. Now she wants to use her filmmaking skills to tell the stories of her people, culture and traditions. She also shared some photos of beautiful landscapes with oceans and sunsets to show some of the magic of her region.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UST8tIK79KY>



Mary Schaffer from the USA shared her knowledge and experience of the film industry in Hollywood. She impressed upon the delegates the importance of not only dedication and hard work, but passion in the pursuit of any career. She shared the story of one of her students, Russell McCoy, who through passion and determination reached the heights of his career as a stereoscopic supervisor. As a special treat, Russell sent a short clip about a project he is working on currently with Peter Jackson, coloring black and white footage from World War I.

https://youtu.be/_cSXfKSRKz4

Tofiq Shaiq and **Maryam Mohammadi** from Afghanistan took us on a virtual ride to their country by screening two short films from their home. One showed the inspiring growth of youth groups in the country and their initiative to build a hopeful future and empower themselves. The other addressed the issue of polio, which despite the existence of vaccines, is still a challenge in Afghanistan. They treated us to saffron tea and almonds, bringing Afghan delights to our taste buds.

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1914088071953734>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WCvQumDpx40>



Giora Rana from Israel took our delegates on a journey exploring and learning about conflict in its different forms. He covered where and how conflict originates, how it develops and what we can do to resolve it on local, national and even international levels. He shared many insightful anecdotes and stories with our delegates, and presented the program he has developed for negotiating to diffuse potentially dangerous situations.

Farhad Ayatollahi from Iran premiered his documentary about the Afghan refugees in Iran. The film showcased the lives of many different Afghan immigrants, the main message being that Iran supports and takes care of the refugees that come there from different parts of the world. He told us about his home town Yazd and how he came to be a filmmaker to influence and hopefully change some people's lives for the better back home.



Antonio Britvar and **Rebeka Čuljak** from Croatia presented the Croatian Film Association's activities, one of them being the Four River Film Festival that takes place in Karlovac, Croatia every year. The festival is a key part of the city's cultural life and is one of the main reasons the Summit will be hosted there next year. All PSAs will be submitted to the festival and hopefully screened on one of the shores of Karlovac's four rivers.

<https://frff.com.hr>

http://hfs.hr/Default_e.aspx

Sharing inspiring, meaningful work that will transform society is only half of the mission of IYMS. Equally important is the creation of an international family, bound together by love and friendship. That is why fun was an essential part of IYMS 2019.



"This Summit has been the best decision I've made in my entire life. So many amazing memories and new friends from all around the world who are all talented, passionate, kind and just wonderful."

– IYMS 2019 Swedish Youth Delegate



The complete presentation of Public Service Films and Declarations for Action created by the delegates of the 14th IYMS in Pokhara, Nepal can be found at:

IYMS Website: www.iyms.org

IYMS Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/iyms.org/>

IYMS YouTube: International Youth Media Summit

IYMS Instagram: [iyms_org](https://www.instagram.com/iyms_org)

“Two weeks in a beautiful city like Pokhara, working with a diverse family, being well taken care of and filming what you believe will bring change in the world; what more could a filmmaker ask for?”

– IYMS 2019 Nepali Youth Delegate

In the past 14 years, we've had over 800 people from 66 countries participate in our IYMS activities. They have overcome many challenges to demonstrate the passion of youth and the power of media to inspire others to create a more just, healthy and peaceful planet.

It is our wish that this example will give you hope and courage for the future.

Namaste!