



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

April - June 2025

Dear Alumni Members!

Welcome Back!

The quarterly newsletter of NUSAN brings you detailed updates on the activities and engagement of the United States Government (USG) Alumni Network in Nepal. This quarter, we connected with 80 alumni through different events and initiatives. Let's dive in!

Call for Proposal for Alumni Small Grant (ASG) 2025



The Alumni Small Grant (ASG) is a unique funding opportunity for United States Government (USG) exchange alumni. With continued support from the U.S. Embassy in Nepal, this marks the third edition of the ASG program which is administered by NUSAN.

The ASG 2025 grant aims to enhance the professional skills of exchange alumni while supporting U.S. government priorities and policies. Based on these objectives, the thematic areas for ASG 2025 include: combating illegal immigration, creating job opportunities, and enhancing entrepreneurial skills in Nepal.

Exchange alumni from all seven provinces of Nepal were encouraged to apply for this grant. It directly supports projects that include innovative ideas aimed at community development and youth engagement. The ASG is designed to empower alumni to build a strong, active network that promotes regular engagement and meaningful collaboration.

NUSAN Knowledge Series on “AI, Ethics and Policy Landscape in Nepal”



Adv Babu Ram Aryal (USTTI Telecommunication)



Participant Sharing her Knowledge

Advocate Babu Ram Aryal has over a decade of experience in media, technology law, and policy. He currently serves as a Central Committee Member of the Nepal Bar Association, Managing Partner of Delta Law Firm, and a Life Member of NUSAN.

On 30 April 2025, Mr. Aryal shared his expertise & knowledge by facilitating an insightful session on the AI, Ethics, and Policy Landscape in Nepal in the fourth edition of the NUSAN Knowledge Series.

In this session, he highlighted the significance of ethical considerations and legal frameworks to ensure the responsible & inclusive development of AI in Nepal. The session brought together 26 attendees, including young professionals and students. The participants enriched the conversation by sharing their practical experiences with AI tools and technologies, offering valuable real-world perspectives.



Group Photo with Participants

Celebrating Nepali New Year 2082 with USG Alumni



Group Photo with Participants

This Nepali New Year 2082, to deepen connections and foster meaningful relationships among exchange alumni, NUSAN hosted a networking event in collaboration with the United States Government (USG) Exchange Alumni at Level-3, Pulchowk.

A total of 45 USG alumni participated in the event, including 18 women and 27 men from various exchange programs: IVLP, SUSI, PFP, TEA, and sports exchanges. This informal gathering provided an opportunity for networking, partnership, and collaboration within the alumni community while creating unforgettable memories together. Ms. Erica Alon Alexander, (Cultural Affairs Officer - U.S. Embassy Nepal) attended the event and delivered remarks highlighting the significance of alumni in strengthening the Nepal-U.S. relationships and their contributions toward creating a positive impact in society.



Networking with Erica Alon Alexander- Cultural Affairs Officer at U.S. Embassy Nepal



USG Exchange Alumni Networking with each other

NUSAN Meeting with Kirtipur Municipality



Meeting Between NUSAN and Kirtipur Municipality

A key meeting was held recently at Kirtipur Municipality between Mayor Krishna Man Dangol, Pravina Amatya Shrestha, President of the Nepal-U.S. Alumni Network (NUSAN), and NUSAN member Samyananda Bajracharya. The discussion focused on organizing an upcoming event aimed at providing U.S. exchange alumni with an opportunity to explore and appreciate the rich cultural heritage of Kirtipur.

The event, tentatively scheduled for July 2025, seeks to strengthen alumni engagement with Nepal's cultural preservation and community development. NUSAN is actively inviting USG alumni working in cultural, heritage, and tourism sectors to participate and contribute.

Those interested in collaborating or learning more are encouraged to contact NUSAN directly at info@nusan.org. Further updates will be shared with the alumni community in the coming days.

NUSAN Knowledge Series on “Sports Exchange Program Changed My perspective in Life and Leadership”

Ms. Silika Shakya, a Sports Exchange Program Alumni and Project Director at the WeUnited Project, delivered an inspiring session at Innovation Hub Kathmandu, drawing from her impactful journey in promoting girls' football in Nepal. Speaking on the theme “How a Sports Exchange Program Changed My Perspective in Life and Leadership” she captivated participants with her personal experiences and insights.

Ms. Shakya led a dynamic discussion on the power of sports in building self-confidence, leadership, and teamwork. She also shed light on the evolving landscape of sports in Nepal and provided practical guidance on applying for the Sports Visitor Program (SVP), encouraging others to pursue similar transformative opportunities.



Silika Shakya (Sports Exchange Program)



Group Photo with Participants

The session welcomed 18 participants including USG alumni, coaches, athletes, and sports professionals. Attendees actively contributed by sharing their personal journeys in sports, discussing the challenges they had encountered, and reflecting on the strategies they used to overcome them.

Announcement of Alumni Small Grant (ASG) 2025 Winners





ALUMNI SMALL GRANT - 2025

Celebrating the 7 Winners from 7 provinces!

 Basanta Adhikari Koshi Province (IVLP - 2014) "Educating and Empowering Students on the Values of Entrepreneurship and Economic Freedom"	 Asish Thakur Madhesh Province (SUSI - 2015) "Shaping Youths in Entrepreneurship"	 Santona Malakar & Navina Gyawali Bagmati Province (JGSAO-2014) "गुलीको युवा-उज्वालो / Chulo ko Yuwa - Ujyalo"
 Arbab Chaudhary Lumbini Province (IVLP - 2024) "Deukhuri Udhayami Sangam (Deukhuri Entrepreneur Conclave)"	 Bhawana Bhandari & Prakriti Dhakal Gandaki Province (ICEE - 2022) "उठ्ठे शाला: Enhancing Entrepreneurial Acumen"	 Susmita Giri Karnali Province (IVLP - 2023) "Lead with Language: English for Future Entrepreneur"
 Aayush Awasthi & Lal Bahadur Kunwar Sudurpaschim Province (SUSAN - 2024) "From Local to Global: Enabling Rural Producers for E-Commerce Success"		

Alumni Small Grant (ASG) 2025 Winners

On 9 June 2025, the Nepal- U.S. Alumni Network (NUSAN) was pleased to announce the recipients of the Alumni Small Grant (ASG) 2025. This exciting opportunity is designed for U.S. Government (USG) Exchange Alumni to enhance their professional skills while driving meaningful impact in their communities.

This year, we received 35 impressive applications from across all seven provinces of Nepal. For the selection process, NUSAN has created a Subcommittee including the board members of NUSAN and representatives from the U.S. Embassy in Nepal. After a competitive selection process, one winner from each province has been selected to receive funding for their outstanding project ideas.



QR For ASG Detail Information

Alumni Small Grant (ASG) 2025 Orientation and Implementation Session



Following the winner announcement, NUSAN conducted a virtual orientation and implementation session for the recipients of the Alumni Small Grant (ASG) 2025. The session brought together grantees from all seven provinces of Nepal to provide a detailed overview of the grant guidelines, discuss implementation procedures, and address any questions raised by the recipients. The session was both informative and engaging, serving as a collaborative platform for grantees to learn more about each other's projects and to strengthen alumni connections across provinces.

NUSAN Knowledge Series on “Personal and Professional Branding Workshop for Entrepreneurs”



Narottam Aryal (IVLP)



Erica Alon Alexander (Cultural Affairs officer, U.S. Embassy Nepal)

On 26 June 2025, the 6th edition of the NUSAN Knowledge Series was held at Innovation Hub Kathmandu. Mr. Narottam Aryal (IVLP - 2012) Founder/ Principal of King's College facilitated the workshop on the topic: “Personal and Professional Branding Workshop for Entrepreneurs”. The session targeted aspiring entrepreneurs, USG alumni, AWE boot camp participants, and non-alumni members.

Mr. Aryal emphasized the importance of personal branding for professional growth, highlighting the value of creating a brand that truly reflects one's identity. Additionally, Erica Alon Alexander - Cultural Affairs Officer - U.S. Embassy Nepal highlighted the strategic use of social media to build an authentic and impactful digital presence and also talked about the importance of networking for business growth.



Group Photo with Participants

"Best wishes to all ASG grantees for the successful implementation of their projects"



ASG 2025
ALUMNI SMALL GRANT PROGRAM
WINNER

Grantee
Basanta Adhikari
International Visitor Leadership Program - 2014
Koshi Province

Project Name:
Educating and Empowering Students on the Values of Entrepreneurship and Economic Freedom

"By providing a platform to learn the essential entrepreneurial skills to students from government and private schools. The project focuses on empowering and supporting the students to become economically independent."

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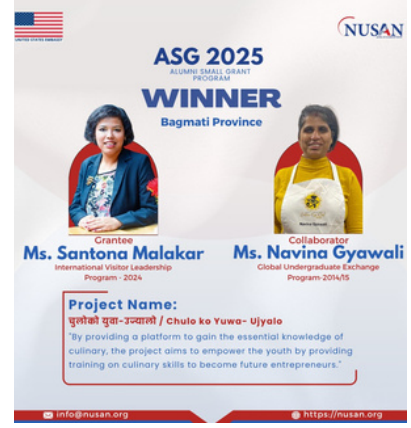
ASG 2025
ALUMNI SMALL GRANT PROGRAM
WINNER

Grantee
Ashish Thakur
Study of the U.S. Institutes - 2015
Madhesh Province

Project Name:
Shaping Youths in Entrepreneurship

"The project aims to empower local youth by transforming traditional family pickle-making skills into a source of income. Through targeted training in packaging, branding, and market readiness, young people from the community will be equipped to turn homemade pickles into sellable, professionally presented products."

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ASG 2025
ALUMNI SMALL GRANT PROGRAM
WINNER

Grantee
Ms. Santona Malakar
International Visitor Leadership Program - 2024

Collaborator
Ms. Navina Gyawali
Global Undergraduate Exchange Program - 2014/15

Project Name:
चुलोको युवा-उद्योग / Chulo ko Yuwa- Udyog

"By providing a platform to gain the essential knowledge of culinary, the project aims to empower the youth by providing training on culinary skills to become future entrepreneurs."

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ASG 2025
ALUMNI SMALL GRANT PROGRAM
WINNER

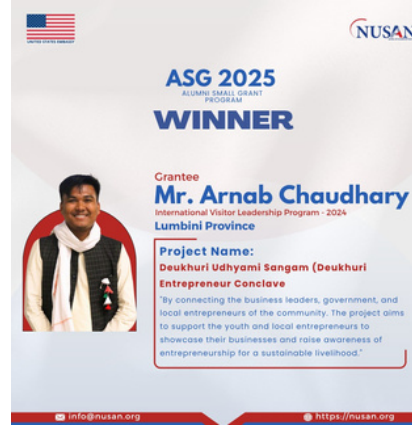
Grantee
Ms. Bhawana Bhandari
Community Engagement Exchange - 2024

Collaborator
Ms. Prakriti Dhakal
Community Engagement Exchange - 2022

Project Name:
उद्यम शाला: Enhancing Entrepreneurial Acumen

"The project aims to formalize and empower youth-led e-commerce ventures through the enhancement of entrepreneurial skills and awareness on low and technology."

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ASG 2025
ALUMNI SMALL GRANT PROGRAM
WINNER

Grantee
Mr. Arnab Chaudhary
International Visitor Leadership Program - 2024
Lumbini Province

Project Name:
Deukhuri Udhayami Sangam (Deukhuri Entrepreneur Conclave)

"By connecting the business leaders, government, and local entrepreneurs of the community. The project aims to support the youth and local entrepreneurs to showcase their businesses and raise awareness of entrepreneurship for a sustainable livelihood."

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ASG 2025
ALUMNI SMALL GRANT PROGRAM
WINNER

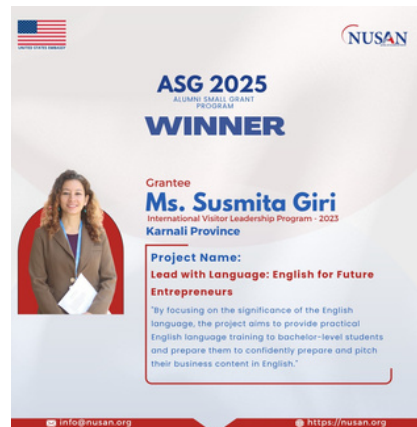
Grantee
Mr. Aayush Awasthi
EMUN - 2024

Collaborator
Mr. Lal Bahadur Kunwar
Hubert Humphrey Fellowship 2018/19

Project Name:
From Local to Global: Enabling Rural Producers for E-Commerce Success

"To foster local entrepreneurial growth, the project focuses on empowering youth through digital literacy. By providing training to use online platforms, the initiative seeks to help them showcase their products and expand their businesses across the nation."

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ASG 2025
ALUMNI SMALL GRANT PROGRAM
WINNER

Grantee
Ms. Susmita Giri
International Visitor Leadership Program - 2023
Karnali Province

Project Name:
Lead with Language: English for Future Entrepreneurs

"By focusing on the significance of the English language, the project aims to provide practical English language training to bachelor-level students and prepare them to confidently prepare and pitch their business content in English."

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Thank you for reading!