



The international conference on “FOSS4G-Asia 2021” has been hosted at Kathmandu University by the Department of Geomatics Engineering with support from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering in partnership with the Nepal Academy of Science and Technology and Land Management Training Centre on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2021 with a pre-conference workshop on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

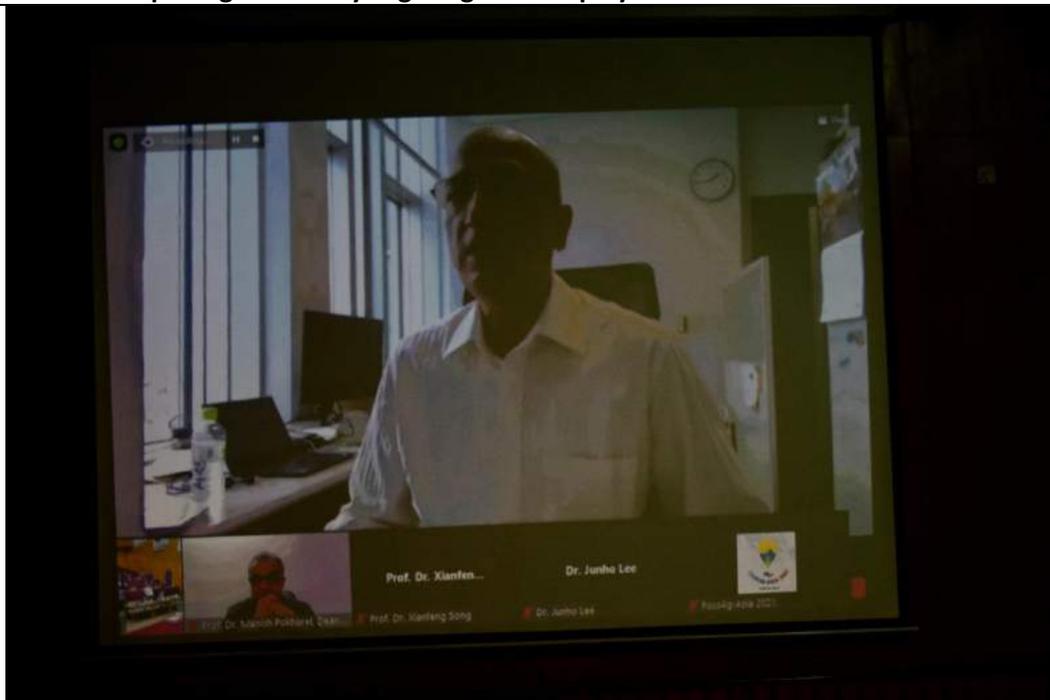
The conference went very special as it has been conducted by adopting the “Hybrid Mode” in this pandemic situation, in which, there is the presence of national delegates and international delegates.

**FOSS4G-Asia 2021** is an international gathering of the Asian Free and Open Source Software for Geoinformatics Community. FOSS4G-Asia 2021 aims to support the global agenda of sustainable development goals including land management and contribute to Artificial Intelligence and IoT by bringing researchers, professionals, developers, students, and other stakeholders in Asia on a common platform.

The conference was coordinated by Dr. Reshma Shrestha, Assistant Professor, Department of Geomatics Engineering, and Mr. Natraj Vaddadi, Executive Director (Centre for Education and Research in Geosciences) with a core team members consisting of Mr. Uma Shankar Panday (Assistant professor, Department of Geomatics Engineering, Kathmandu University)



**Opening Ceremony: Lighting the Lamp by Vice Chancellor of NAST**



**FOSS4G-Asia 2021: Prof. Dr. Venkatesh Raghavan and Prof. Dr. Manish Pokharel (Chairs of the Conference)**



**Opening Ceremony: Lighting the Lamp by Former Minister Er. Ganesh Shah**

The opening ceremony was commenced at Kathmandu University, lightening the lamp by the Honorable Minister Er. Ganesh Shah, former minister of Environment, Science and Technology, Dr Sunil Babu Shrestha, Vice-Chancellor, Nepal Academy of Science and Technology, Prof. Dr Bholu Thapa, Vice-Chancellor, Kathmandu University and Mr Ganesh Prasad Bhatta, Executive Director, Land Management Training Centre followed by opening Remarks from the Conference Chair, Prof. Dr Manish Pokheral, Dean School of Engineering. The inaugural ceremony of the conference was chaired by Prof. Dr Venkatesh Raghavan from Osaka University Japan.

The closing ceremony was chaired by Prof. Dr Manish Pokharel and Mr. Janak Raj Joshi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of land management, cooperatives and poverty alleviation was a Chief Guest. The closing remarks were delivered by Associate Professor, Brijesh Adhikary (Associate Dean and Co-Chair of the conference). The conference coordinator, Mr Natraj Vaddadi presented the technical report of the conference and Finally, Dr, Reshma Shrestha, the Conference coordinator on behalf of Kathmandu University, had given the “vote of thanks”.



**FOSS4G-ASIA 2021: 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021**



**FOSS4G-Asia 2021: 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2021**

There were 230 participants and delegates including both national and international. The international participants are from India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Korea, Japan, China, Germany, France, and Canada. The dignitaries have highlighted the importance of Free and open sources for the geospatial community for societal benefits. This event has remained successful in enhancing the awareness of the importance of FOSS4G in the wider community in Nepal including private organizations and academic sectors. It gave an impression that there is a wider interest in the domain of Free and Open Source Software for Geoinformatics and Land Management.

Seven workshops were carried out during the pre-conference event. Two parallel sessions on Day 1 and three parallel sessions on Day 2, was carried out, under the themes which cover the aspect of spatial land use planning, artificial intelligence for geospatial applications, citizen science, disaster, agriculture, forest, and environment. An encouraging number of scholars have attended the conference onsite as well as virtual rooms, in which 50 scholars had presented their work in the virtual. There were eight keynote speakers from China, Japan, Sri Lanka, India, Korea, and Thailand.

The conference was sponsored by several geospatial organizations. The Platinum sponsors are Gaia3D, ICIMOD: The Gold Sponsors are OSGeo Japan Chapter, OSGeo Korean Chapter, OSGeo Thailand Chapter, FOSS4G-Asia 2018. The Contributors are Aviyaan Consulting (P) Ltd., VidaGIS, CERG, GENESIS Consultancy (P) Ltd., NEST Consultancy Pvt. Ltd, Rajdevi Engineering Consultant Pvt., OSGeo India Chapter.

In nutshell, the enlightening deliberations from the distinguished keynote speakers from different countries and professional backgrounds have greatly benefited the participants of the event. Other technical presentations brought interesting results achieved from the application of FOSS. The learning from this great event will certainly add value to the academic endeavours as well as the professional community and helps in widening the scope of FOSS4G in its academic activities.

The details of the conference can be found here: <https://www.foss4g-asia.org/2020/>