

Nepal Investigative Multimedia Journalism Network (NIMJN)

Nepal Journathon on COVID-19

Summary Event Report

Nepal Investigative Multimedia Journalism Network (NIMJN) organized “Nepal Journathon on COVID-19” virtually on February 18, 2021.

Nepal Journathon was a one-day hackathon that brought together journalists, health professionals, coders, designers, tech activists, and developers to find and create long-term solutions to the current challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic response in Nepal.

NIMJN called applications for the event via different social media on 29 December 2020, and till the end of January 2021, a total of 27 applications were received. Some applied in the group, and some individual applications were received, the selection team reviewed all application and divided into five groups. A total of 25 participants connected via email into five groups, the teams started to discuss and work on their idea virtually before the event date.

During the start of the program Dr. Ramu Kharel from Brown University Alpert Medical School and Rajneesh Bhandari, a global multimedia journalist and NIMJN’s Chief Editor highlighted on some of the innovations in health and media sector. They both highlighted on the importance on the collaboration between health professionals, tech activists and journalists to bring effective results.

Participants worked in five different groups; Team Daffe, Team COVID Fighter, Team PARK, Team COVID Help Network and Team Ullus to come up with effective solutions related to the current pandemic facing the country.

Team COVID Fighters (Nished Ghimire, Kalpana Bhattarai, Ashok Gaire, Prabin Giri and Dr. Anjan Tiwari) won the first prize for their COVID Fighter App that will use Bluetooth Low Energy and Decentralized Privacy-Preserving Proximity Tracing system for contact tracing, mask reminder, hand wash reminder and coronavirus detector.

Team Danfe (Dr. Navindra Raj Bista, Dr. Prabhat Adhikari, Phr. Kabin Maleku, Er. Pawan Adhikari and Ms. Amrita Anmol) won the second prize for their idea on solutions for maternal child health, mental health and non-communicable disease during the pandemic using telehealth, tele-medicine, and counseling through government-private sharing approach.

Team Ullus won the third prize for their CCTV (COVID-19 checker, tracker, and vaccination) app, a one stop solution for COVID-19 related issues.

A selection team comprised of Dr. Kharel, Mr. Bhandari and Ms. Sharada Gyawali, a development specialist selected the top three ideas based on feasibility, implementability, innovativeness, importance in the context of Nepal and quality of the presentation. Top three ideas will be awarded Nrs 50,000, Nrs 30,000, and 20,000 respectively.

Other teams: Team PARK presented their idea to provide one platform for all types of business & services focused on the individual service provider, which provides free and easy access to members in the platform to sign in.

And the team COVID Help Network presented 'on call service.com (website and social site) where all the information about blood bank/ blood donor, ambulance service, psychosocial counseling, COVID related news and articles and Treatment and medicine related information like as hospital, medicals were available in one platform.

“It was my first experiences to work with different sector and found this program interesting. Our final product is to support the public to reach to services. So, that the government can support and implement our application for the public betterment,” Dr. Anjan Tiwari from the first prize winning team said.

“Our goal is to bring journalists and other professionals together to find solutions to the pressing issues that the country is going through using innovative tools and technology,” Rajneesh Bhandari said.

The event was supported by the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Studies, Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University, and Humanity United.

Nepali news media covered the Journathon event: <https://thehimalayantimes.com/science-and-tech/covid-fighter-app-wins-2021-nepal-journathon-prize>

<https://english.onlinekhabar.com/journathon-awards-innovative-solutions-for-nepals-pandemic-response.html>

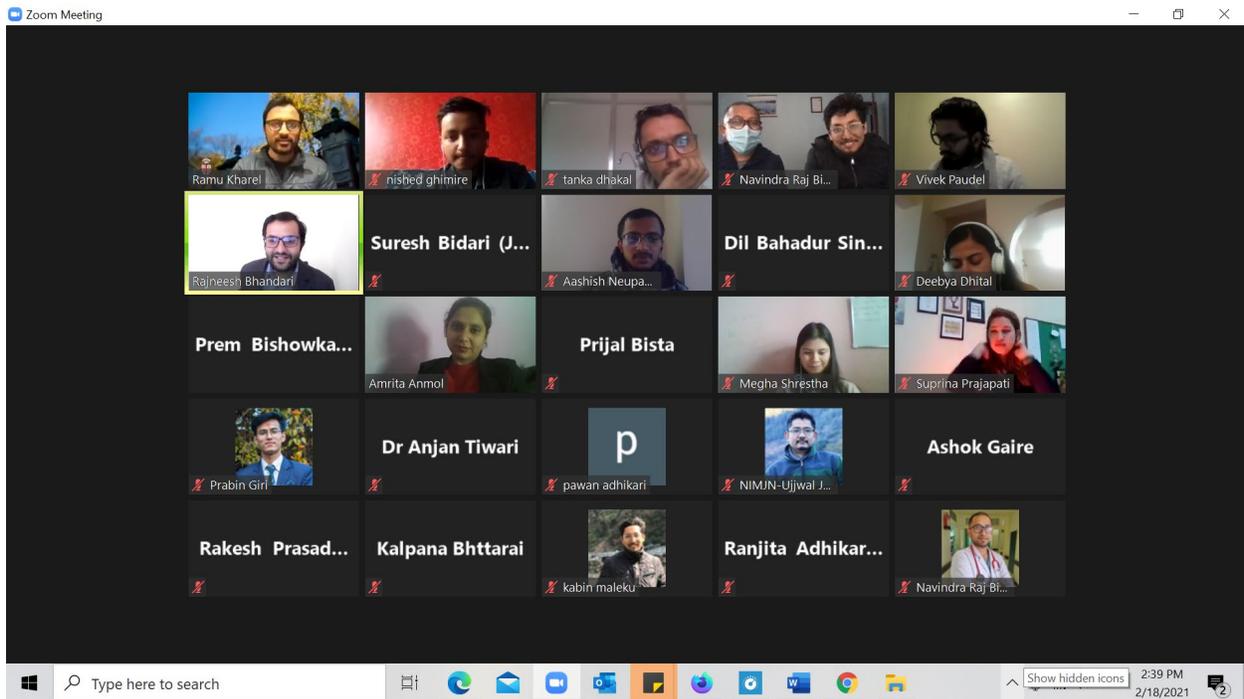
Pictures



Caption: Rajneesh Bhandari, CEO & Chief Editor, NIMJN presenting about 'Media Innovation and COVID-19', in the event on Feb 18, 2021.



Caption: Dr. Ramu Kharel, Brown University Alpert Medical School, Global Emergency Fellow, presenting 'COVID-19 & Innovation' in the event on Feb 18, 2021.



Caption: Participants sharing their experiences in the closing session of the event.