

My Experience with APNG: A Camp Report

Experience Asia Pacific, Experience APNG

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**By Amrita Khakurel
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The news of the selection was exhilarating. It was wonderful being selected as one of the fellow for 9th APNG camp, a camp dedicated to the advancement of networking infrastructure in Asia pacific region and for the research & development of all associated enabling technologies.

Then, the wait really began.....and finally, it was the dawn of 24 August, the day to leave for Xi'an, China where the camp was going to be held.

26 August, 2007:

A day before the camp. My first experience abroad. Excitement – excitement of seeing new places, making new friends.

I, along with my other friends who had already arrived, went for sight seeing tour along with APAN members. We visited famous places in Xi'an like Museum of Terracotta Warriors and Horses, Banpo village remains, Wild Goose pagoda. Getting an opportunity to see the places that hold such historic values was an awesome experience.

27 August, 2007:

The beginning of APNG camp. Meeting of people from many countries of Asia pacific region. The camp started with “Digital Archive” workshop in Sheraton Xi'an where I got to know about the importance and technological methodology of digital archiving for preserving of scientific, artistic and cultural digital contents. It was very interesting to know about different projects –Digital Bayon, Digital Monuments, China-US Million Book Digital Library through AP seniors. It gave an insight and inspired me to start such project in Nepal as well.

In the evening, APNG camp members gathered in the Silk Road hotel for welcome drink and dinner. Then started team building activities – formation of different work groups and assignment of tasks to the groups for building upon co-ordination and co-operation among its members. It was fun (singing and performing in groups) and learning (we had to present on the given topic later) experience. The activities showed how APNG is strengthening the bonds between the countries of Asia pacific region for its overall development through technological advancement by creating linkages between people of different countries and by sharing of knowledge among them.

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28 August, 2007:

The camp-day was opened by Xiaohui Shi, our camp chair followed by the introduction to APNG by Tommy Matsumoto, our APNG chair.

Presentations by different professors, sponsors for APNG and working group chairs were the highlights of the day.

In the evening was grand APAN reception.

29 August, 2007:

The day for the fellow presentations. I came to learn about various technological developments going around in different countries through these presentations. These gave me ideas on what needs to be done in Nepal for bridging the digital divide and information gap as well as for better utilization of technology for socio-economic development and disaster management.

Regarding my presentation, on implementation of e-learning, participants were curious enough and queried about different activities regarding e-learning in Nepal. Besides, they provided me later with suggestions to overcome the problems in Nepal.

In the working group discussions, we analyzed the status, challenges and potential of internet culture and blog in our countries and came up with relevant recommendations.

“Learning and enjoyment,” that’s the way of life at APNG. Then came much awaited Custom party, where all the participants wore dress that represented their country. Participants of each countries performed .Great performance everybody ☺.I, along with my other friends from Nepal, sang a Nepali song.

Lastly, there was certificate distribution from our ever energetic Camp Chair, Tommy Matsumoto.

30 August, 2007:

Last day of the camp. The Live-E project workshop was very much interactive and interesting. The credit goes to Masato Yamanouchi, Akihiro Sugiyama, and Hideya Ochiai. Presentation from different groups on different aspects of Xian – transportation, food, entertainment etc. gave more knowledge about Xi’an.

At the end, there was dinner where everybody was involved in socializing – talking, taking photos, exchanging e-mails etc.

Overall, the camp was a great success with participants from 12 countries and was an exciting learning as well as knowledge sharing experience for me. I look forward to returning to the camp next year and would like to build more

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upon the knowledge and experience that I have gained from the 9th APNG camp. I would be delighted to exchange my ideas, knowledge and perspectives in the forth coming camps. Cheers APNG.

**Submitted By: Amrita Khakurel
Nepal**