



techJOYnT Hosts Leaders from South Asia Through the DOS Professional Fellows Exchange Program to Share Value of STEM Education

techJOYnT participated in a two-way exchange with Fellows from Bangladesh and Nepal, helping build a network of leaders around the world and forging new relationships that can create positive change in STEM fields.

[techJOYnT Academy](#) recently hosted emerging leaders from Bangladesh and Nepal participating in the [U.S. Department of State's Professional Fellows Program](#), a two-way exchange embracing the power of individuals to find solutions to common challenges like the deficit in STEM education. In total, 200 leaders from more than 45 countries and territories will participate in the Professional Fellows Program this May and June, featuring a short-term assignment with U.S. organizations such as a non-profit organization or business.

During their time at techJOYnT, participants worked alongside American counterparts to learn first-hand how issues in their field are addressed in the United States. At techJOYnT, Pavitra Gautam, Fellow from Nepal, had the opportunity not only to gain insights into how American institutions address complex economic, environmental, political, and social challenges but also to experience first-hand how public and private resources interface for the community good.

Ray Shaik, President and CEO of techJOYnT, said, "Thanks to the program, Fellows like Pavitra returned home with new insight and concrete tools to promote positive change."

By participating in the exchange program, techJOYnT made "efforts toward serving the common good and making the ties between the United States and countries around the world stronger and more enduring," said U.S. Department of State Division Chief, Michael W. Stanton.

As the concluding piece of their fellowships, all 200 participants will travel to Washington, D.C., where they took part in the Professional Fellows Congress, June 4-6, 2014. The Congress marked the culmination of the exchange experience in the United States, providing an opportunity for the Fellows to share best practices and gain key insights into effective leadership models in their respective fields. Among other activities, the Congress includes professional development seminars, post-exchange planning workshops, an Ambassadorial luncheon, and a poster showcase of the participants' work.

A big thanks goes out to the U.S. Department of State and to participating Fellows for making the exchange program possible and worthwhile. Since 2010, more than 1,500 foreign Fellows have come to the United States under the Professional Fellows Program. In return, more than 900 American participants have hosted fellows in the U.S. and have taken part in reciprocal fellowship programs overseas. techJOYnT's Director of Operations, Wes Warner will return from his reciprocal exchange in Bangladesh and Nepal next month.

techJOYnT delivers curriculum to reinforce traditional Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education through 21st century GEAR (Game Design, Electronics, App Development, and Robotics). The organization offers families, students, and mentors the opportunity to learn engineering and entrepreneurship concepts through hands-on robotics and game design projects. Programs are offered at local libraries, community centers, public and private schools, and at [techJOYnT Academy's location](#).



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