



# राष्ट्रिय सांकेतिक भाषा दोभाषे संघ-नेपाल

National Association of the Sign Language Interpreters Nepal (NASLI-NEPAL)

A National Organization Affiliated to World Association of Sign Language Interpreters (WASLI)

Kathmandu, Nepal.

Ref. No: 89



Date: 28/09/2024

Dear Masao Watanabe,  
President, National Research Association for Sign Language Interpreters  
Japan.

## Sub: Submission of Report of WASLI Asia Interpreter Meeting 2024.

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the National Association of Sign Language Interpreters Nepal (NASLI-Nepal), I would like to express our deepest gratitude for the financial support of 300 USD extended to our interpreter to attend the WASLI Asia Interpreter Meeting 2024 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia held from 15th to 18th August 2024. Your generous support made it possible for Nepal to be represented at this important gathering of sign language interpreters across Asia, and we are pleased to submit our report on the experiences and insights gained from the conference.

The meeting proved to be an excellent platform for knowledge-sharing, fostering professional growth, and addressing the challenges faced by interpreters in developing countries. We greatly appreciate NRASLI's commitment to supporting such initiatives, which significantly benefit interpreters from across Asia, particularly those from countries like Nepal where resources are limited.

We kindly request your continued support in the future, as we strive to enhance the development and capacity-building of Nepalese sign language interpreters. The sustained support of organizations like NRASLI is vital for our growth and for improving interpreting services in our region.

Once again, thank you for your invaluable support, and we look forward to continued collaboration.

Sincerely,

.....  
Santoshi Ghimire  
Vice-President

**REPORT  
ON  
WASLI ASIA INTERPRETERS MEETING 2024**



**SEPTEMBER 28, 2024**  
**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS NEPAL (NASLI-NEPAL)**  
Kathmandu, Nepal

## WASLI Asia Interpreters' Meeting Report 2024

**Event Title:** WASLI Asia Interpreters' Meeting 2024

**Date:** August 15-18, 2024

**Location:** Santica Premiere Hotel, Yogyakarta, Indonesia



**Submitted to:**  
NRASLI  
Japan.



**Submitted by:**  
NASLI-Nepal  
Nepal

Date: 28 September, 2024

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# 1. Introduction

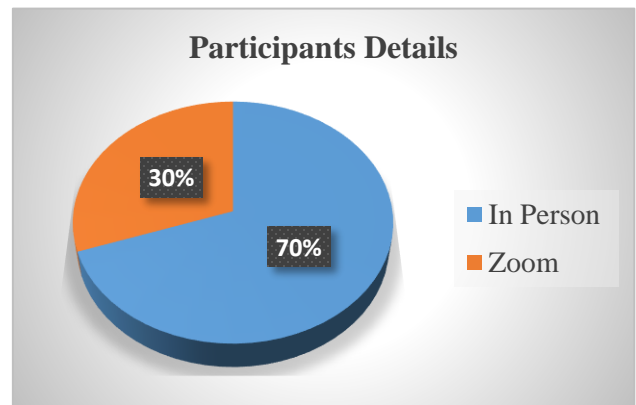
The National Association of the Sign Language Interpreters Nepal (NASLI-Nepal) is a leading organization dedicated to the development and promotion of sign language interpretation in Nepal. Established to uphold the highest standards of interpreting services, NASLI-Nepal is committed to the professional growth of its members through continuous training and advocacy. The association works closely with the deaf community to ensure that communication is accessible and effective, making a significant impact on the inclusion of deaf individuals in all areas of society. NASLI-Nepal also works towards raising awareness about the importance of sign language interpretation in bridging communication gaps between the deaf and hearing communities. It aims to ensure that deaf individuals have access to quality interpretation services in various settings, including education, healthcare, and legal environments.

## 2. Introduction about the event

The WASLI Asia Interpreters' Meeting, held from August 15th to 18th, 2024, at the Santica Premiere Hotel in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, brought together sign language interpreters from across Asia. This significant event not only facilitated discussions among interpreters but also fostered connections with the WFD Regional Secretariat for Asia and the WFD Youth Section. The meeting provided an invaluable opportunity to network, share experiences, and collaborate on strategies to enhance the professional landscape of sign language interpretation in the region.

### 2.1 About the event

The WASLI Asia Meeting 2024, were significant event for the interpreter community, which was took place on August 15th and 18th in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, was a pivotal event for sign language interpreters across the Asian continent. This gathering enhanced the skills, knowledge, and professional development of interpreters through a series of workshops, discussions, and networking opportunities. By bringing together experienced interpreters, trainers, and stakeholders, the meeting facilitated the exchange of best practices, innovative techniques, and collaborative strategies to improved interpreting services. Additionally, the event provided a platform for addressing regional challenges, fostering cultural exchange, and strengthening the community of sign language interpreters. Participation in the WASLI Asia Meeting was expected to drive forward the quality and accessibility of interpretation services, benefiting both interpreters and the broader deaf community in Asia.



## 3. Program Objectives

The Main Objectives of the WASLI ASIA Interpreters Meeting 2024 were to provide interpreters with the opportunity to meet other interpreters from different Asian countries, and to exchange experiences, languages, and cultures. Participants learned about international issues with tolerance and appreciation for all cultures. From the Asian region, 46 sign language interpreters were attended in person and 20 at the zoom in this event. These meetings provided invaluable opportunities for networking with international counterparts, sharing knowledge and best practices, and enhancing the skills and competencies of our delegates through exposure to global standards. After participation in these events, our delegates were able

to establish international networks, share and learn innovative approaches, enhance personal and professional skills, and promote cultural diversity and understanding among the deaf and sign language interpreter communities.

The objectives of the WASLI Asia Interpreters' Meeting were as follows:

1. **Networking and Collaboration:** To provide a platform for sign language interpreters across Asia to connect, collaborate, and share best practices.
2. **Professional Development:** To enhance the skills and knowledge of interpreters through sessions focused on training, certification systems, and the social status of interpreters in various countries.
3. **Strategic Planning/Way forward:** To discuss challenges and develop strategies for the advancement of sign language interpretation within the region, with a focus on building sustainable interpreter organizations.
4. **Engagement:** To foster relationships between interpreters encouraging international learning and collaboration.

## 4. Summary of Events

### **Day 1: August 15, 2024**

**Arrival and Registration:** Participants arrived at the venue, completed registration, and checked into the hotel.

At the meantime, Participants attended a social event at d'kaliurang resort, where the WASLI and WFD delegates met with the WFDYS participants. This event encouraged Ordinary Members (OM) and Youth Members (YOM) to connect, fostering a sense of community among interpreters and youth.



*Figure 1 NASLI NEPAL Delegates*

### **Day 2: August 16, 2024**

#### *Figure 2 WASLI ASIA Interpreters Meeting banner*

The event was started with the welcome speech by Noriko Miyazawa, WASLI Asia Regional Representative, welcomed participants to the meeting. Then after video message, Dr. Christopher Stone, President of the World Association of the Sign Language Interpreters (WASLI), shared a video message extending his best wishes for the meeting.

#### **Session 1:**

Discussion on WFD/WASLI Accredited IS Interpreters, presented by Mr. Juan Carlos Druetta (ISAAB Member from Argentina) via Zoom, focused on the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) and World Association of the Sign Language Interpreters (WASLI) accreditation process and his personal experiences of interpreters. This session was moderated by Ms. Noriko Miyazawa.



## Session 2:

Sharing on training and qualification systems for sign language interpreters, with presentations from, Philippines, South Korea and Japan. The session moderated by Lucy Lim, Malaysia.

**Mr. John Xandre Baliza (Philippines):** John gave a paper presentation on the topic of Pioneering an Interpreting Education Program in the Philippines, Filipino Sign Language Law (2018), and curriculum development. It more focused on sign language interpreter training system and how they struggled to achieve the Filipino Sign Language Law, as well as Interpreting Education Program.



Attending the session on "Pioneering an Interpreting Education Program in the Philippines," Filipino Sign Language Law (2018), and curriculum development highlights the challenges and successes of establishing interpreting education programs tailored to the linguistic and cultural needs of the Deaf community in the Philippines. It underscores the significance of the Filipino Sign Language Law in promoting FSL as the national sign language and ensuring access to education and government services for the Deaf. The session also emphasized the importance of a collaborative approach to curriculum development, integrating FSL, Deaf culture, and practical experience to create a comprehensive and effective training program for interpreters.

**Mr. Hyoung Geoun (South Korea):** Mr. Hyoung, shared on the Training and certification systems for sign language interpreters in South Korea, including the Deaf Interpreter Education and Certification System.

Attending the session on training and certification systems for sign language interpreters in South Korea, I learned about the structured approach the country has taken to develop and implement these systems. I gained insights into how South Korea has established rigorous training programs that ensure interpreters are well-equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to meet the needs of the Deaf community. The



session also highlighted the Deaf Interpreter Education and Certification System, which specifically focuses on empowering Deaf individuals to become certified interpreters, thus fostering a more inclusive and representative interpreting profession. This approach in South Korea serves as a valuable model for other countries looking to enhance their sign language interpreting services.

**Mrs. Yasko Honobe, Japanese Association of Sign Language Interpreters (JASLI-Japan):** Training programs, SLI certification, and the social status of interpreters in Japan.



In the session on training programs, SLI certification, and the social status of interpreters in Japan, we learned about the comprehensive training pathways available for sign language interpreters in the country and how these programs are designed to uphold high standards of professionalism. The discussion provided insights into the certification process, which ensures that interpreters meet strict criteria before entering the field. Additionally, we learned about the

evolving social status of interpreters in Japan, where there is growing recognition of their essential role in facilitating communication for the Deaf community, contributing to their increasing professional respect and integration into various sectors of society.

### **Day 3: August 17, 2024**

**Session 3:** Sharing on setting up interpreter organizations, with presentations from:

Mrs. Lucy Lim, President of the Interpreters and Translators Association for Selangor and Kuala Lumpur Deaf Community (JUPEBIM).

Dr. Renu Rameshan, President of the Association of Sign Language Interpreters India. Establishment and challenges faced by the Indian Association of Sign Language Interpreters.



Mr. Phiter Angdika, General Secretary of the Indonesian Association of Sign Language Interpreters (AJBI).

This session was moderated by Dinesh Shrestha (Nepal), who led a discussion on the challenges of encouraging interpreter membership, policy development, and setting up interpreter organizations. And more focused on question and answer with the panel members.

**Mrs. Lim**, presented on the topic of the Setting up an Interpreter Organization - Malaysia. Including, Introduction of JUPEBIM, membership criteria, vision and mission of the organization, program and activities of JUPEBIM, their challenges.

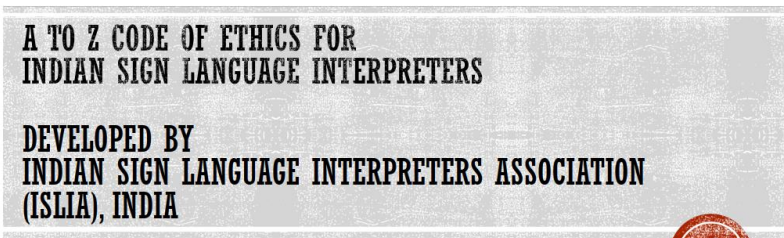
We learned about the process of setting up an interpreter organization in Malaysia, focusing on the establishment of JUPEBIM. The session introduced JUPEBIM's membership criteria, outlining the standards and qualifications required for interpreters to join. We explored the organization's vision and mission, which are centered on advancing the profession and supporting the Deaf community. The discussion also covered JUPEBIM's various programs and activities aimed at professional development and community engagement. Additionally, we learned about the challenges the organization faces, such as resource limitations and the need for greater recognition and support within the broader community.

**Mr. Phiter** presented Setting up an Interpreter Organization in Indonesia, including their experiences, challenges.

After the session with Mr. Phiter Angdika, General Secretary of the Indonesian Association of Sign Language Interpreters (AJBI), we learned about the ongoing efforts to establish a professional certification body in Indonesia and the challenges of raising awareness about sign language interpretation across the country. AJBI, being a newly established organization, is seeking to gain knowledge from international counterparts to strengthen its foundation. The presentation emphasized the need for greater support, resources, and recognition to overcome the challenges they face in building a robust and effective interpreter community in Indonesia.

**Dr. Renu**, President of the Association of Sign Language Interpreters India, we learned about the establishment of the Indian Association of Sign Language Interpreters and the significant challenges they faced in the process. The session highlighted the hurdles of gaining recognition for the profession, the need for standardized training and certification, and the struggle for adequate resources and support from both government and private sectors. Additionally, we gained insights into the efforts being made to strengthen the organization and enhance the status of sign language interpreters across India, emphasizing the importance of advocacy and collaboration within the community.

At the mean time Monica Punjabi Verma, President of ISLIA, presented the A to Z Code of Ethics for Indian Sign Language Interpreters, developed by ISLIA and shared her experience with the WASLI Asian Interpreters. This is a detailed set of ethics considering most of Indian background and experiences of Interpreters, Clients and Stakeholders.



Presented by:  
Monica Punjabi Verma  
President ISLIA  
17/08/2024 – WASLI Asia Meet, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

**Session 4:** Discussion on the way forward for sign language interpreters in Asia, moderated by Mr. John Xandre Baliza (Philippines). Participants were divided into regional groups (South Asia, East Asia, Southeast Asia, and Online) to identify interpreting challenges and propose activities for WASLI Asia. Each group presented their findings, followed by a response and closing remarks from WASLI Asia.



## August 18, 2024

### The Way Forward

This session primarily focus on setting the future direction for interpreting services in the region. It began with the WASLI Asia Report, presented by Dr. Anthony, WASLI Asia Regional Representative, outlining key updates and insights.

Following the questions, participants divided into four groups based on geographic regions:

- South Asia
- East Asia
- South East Asia
- Online Group (for virtual attendees)

Each group engaged in discussions centered on the different questions which was provided by the moderator, such as, interpreting challenges and needs specific to their region that must be addressed urgently. This collaborative discussion will provide a platform for identifying immediate priorities and shared concerns across the region. And the session concluded with group presentations, where each group shares their findings. Such as, Interpreter curriculum, training package, license, ethics, and unaffordable registration fees for the participation of the WASLI event, and also suggested to meet frequently WASLI Asian interpreters for the sharing experiences and best practices. Conference followed by a closing segment to summarize key take away and next steps for advancing the profession in Asia. This structure ensures a focus on both the report and collaborative group discussions aimed at addressing challenges in interpreting.

### **Final day:**

Social Event was conducted. The event concluded with a cultural tour of Yogyakarta, including visits to the Keraton Palace and other local attractions, providing a relaxing and enriching end to the meeting. Most of the WFD, WFDYS, WASLI-ASIA participants joined the social event.

## 5. Positive Impact and Benefits

The WASLI Asia Interpreters' Meeting had a profound impact on the participating delegates, particularly those from Nepal. The event facilitated international networking, collaboration, and the sharing of best practices among interpreters from various Asian countries. The knowledge and experiences gained during the meeting will be invaluable in promoting and advancing the interpreting profession in Nepal. The Nepalese delegates are committed to sharing these insights with the broader interpreter community in Nepal, contributing to the professional development of their peers. The meeting also provided a golden opportunity to build relationships with Asian leaders, bringing back valuable ideas related to interpreting development that can be implemented in Nepal.

Attending the WASLI Asia Interpreters' Meeting had a profoundly positive impact, especially for developing countries like Nepal. The event provided a valuable opportunity to learn new insights and techniques in the field of interpretation, which are crucial for advancing the profession in our region.

As a Nepali delegate, I had the golden opportunity to moderate a session on an international platform. This experience not only helped to build my confidence but also allowed me to showcase Nepal's progress in sign language interpretation to a global audience.

The meeting also served as an excellent networking opportunity, enabling us to connect with professionals, organizations, and experts from across Asia and beyond. These new connections are vital for future collaboration and sharing of resources, knowledge, and best practices.

Furthermore, the meeting fostered a sense of professional growth and development, as it exposed us to innovative ideas, practices, and solutions to address challenges that interpreters in developing countries like Nepal face. This exchange of knowledge and experiences is instrumental in shaping the future of interpretation services in Nepal, and it inspires us to raise awareness, promote inclusivity, and improve the quality of interpreting services.

In conclusion, participating in this event has significantly boosted our confidence, strengthened our networks, and provided us with new tools to address the pressing challenges in the field of interpretation, making it a highly beneficial experience for our country.

## 6. Key Learnings from Participation in the WASLI Asia Interpreters' Meeting 2024

### 1. Enhanced Networking and Collaboration:

- The meeting provided a platform for interpreters across Asia to connect and collaborate. Building these networks is crucial for sharing knowledge, best practices, and innovative techniques that can improve sign language interpreting services in the region.
- Delegates from various countries formed relationships that will support future regional and international collaboration, promoting the growth of the interpreting profession across Asia.

### 2. Training and Certification Systems:

- Presentations from countries like the Philippines, South Korea, and Japan highlighted the importance of structured training programs and certification systems for interpreters.
- Learning about these systems gave insight into how countries are establishing rigorous standards for sign language interpreters, which helps elevate the profession and ensures that interpreters are well-equipped to serve the Deaf community.

### 3. Setting up Interpreter Organizations:

- Various challenges and success stories were shared by countries such as India, Malaysia, and Indonesia regarding the establishment of interpreter organizations.

### 4. Advocacy for Interpreter Development:

- The importance of raising awareness about the role of sign language interpreters and promoting their inclusion in various sectors, including education, healthcare, and legal services, was emphasized.
- Learning about legislative efforts, such as the Filipino Sign Language Law, demonstrated the power of advocacy in improving access to interpreting services for Deaf communities.

### 5. Interpreting Challenges in Asia:

- Discussions in regional groups identified key challenges faced by interpreters, such as the lack of formalized training, unaffordable registration fees for events, and the need for a comprehensive curriculum.
- Participants also proposed potential activities and strategies to address these challenges, including creating regional frameworks for training and certification and increasing the frequency of WASLI Asia meetings to share knowledge and experiences.

#### 6. Cultural and Linguistic Exchange:

- The event highlighted the rich diversity of languages, cultures, and interpreting methods in Asia. Exposure to different interpreting environments allowed participants to appreciate various approaches to interpretation, enriching their own practices.

#### 7. Moderating and Leadership Experience:

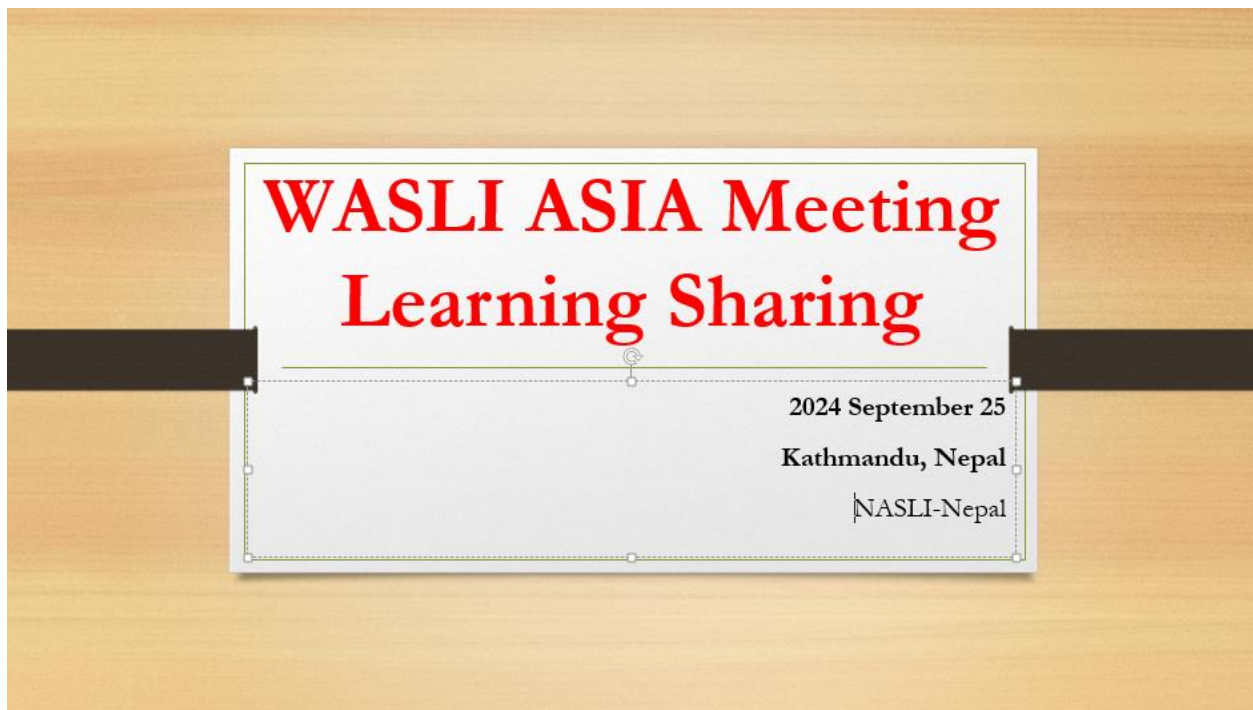
- Nepal's participation included moderating a session, which provided valuable leadership experience. This role helped showcase Nepal's progress in the interpreting field and build confidence in representing the country on an international platform.

#### 8. Increased Confidence and Professional Growth:

- The meeting fostered personal and professional development, enabling participants to gain new tools to address challenges in their respective countries. It also boosted confidence, especially for interpreters from developing countries like Nepal, who can now apply these insights to improve interpreting services in their own regions.

The participation in the WASLI Asia Interpreters' Meeting 2024 was a critical learning experience, equipping attendees with the knowledge, networks, and strategies to advance the interpreting profession and promote inclusivity for the Deaf community in Asia.

## 7. Learning and Sharing from WASLI ASIA Meeting 2024



The WASLI Asia Interpreter Meeting 2024 learning-sharing program was successfully conducted on 25th September 2024 in Kathmandu, Nepal, with active participation from members of the National Association of Sign Language Interpreters Nepal (NASLI-Nepal). This event provided a valuable platform for interpreters to exchange knowledge, experiences, and best practices in the field of sign language interpretation, fostering greater collaboration and professional growth within the region. The meeting emphasized the importance of improving interpretation standards and highlighted the ongoing challenges and opportunities faced by interpreters across Asia.

## 8. Conclusion and Acknowledgment

The WASLI Asia Meeting 2024 was a remarkable event that brought together sign language interpreters from across Asia, fostering collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and professional growth. The discussions, presentations, and group activities provided invaluable insights into the current challenges and opportunities in the field of sign language interpretation in the region. For Nepal, this meeting was a significant platform to showcase our progress and learn from the experiences of other countries.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thank you to the Nepalese Association of Sign Language Interpreters (NRASLI) for their generous support in covering the registration fees for one representative of the Nepalese delegation. This support was instrumental in ensuring our participation and contributing to the event's success. We sincerely hope that this kind of support will continue in the future, as it is vital for the ongoing professional development of interpreters across Asia.

Such initiatives are not only empowering individual interpreters but are also building a stronger, more unified community of interpreters, dedicated to improving the standards of service and promoting inclusivity for the Deaf community.

Thank you once again for your support, and we look forward to future opportunities to collaborate for the growth and development of sign language interpretation in Asia.

## 9. Our National Delegates

1. Santoshi Ghimire - Vice-President, NASLI-Nepal
2. Dinesh Shrestha - Advisor, NASLI-Nepal
3. Prakash Maharjan - Secretary, NASLI-Nepal



Figure 3 NASLI Delegates with WASLI ASIA RR

## 10. Annexes:

### 10.1 Participants List:

Names and countries of participants (both physical and virtual)

#### In Person participants details

SN	Country	In-Person	Remarks
1	Vietnam	1	
2	Malaysia	9	
3	Philippines	4	
4	Indonesia	11	
5	Singapore	3	
6	Thailand	2	
7	Taiwan	1	
8	China	1	
9	Hong Kong	1	
10	Japan	2	
11	Korea	1	
12	Macau	2	
13	Nepal	3	
14	India	4	
15	Sri Lanka	1	
<b>Total</b>		<b>46</b>	
1	Deaf Interpreter	10	
2	Hearing Interpreter	36	

#### Online participants

SN	Country	Online	Remarks
1	Japan	5	
2	Indonesia	5	
3	Singapore	2	
4	Malaysia	7	
5	India	1	
<b>Total</b>		<b>20</b>	
1	Deaf Interpreter	5	
2	Hearing Interpreter	15	

10.2 Photos:



Group photo of the WASLI ASIA Interpreters meeting participants



WFD, WFDYS, WASLI ASIA Nepalese delegates at the closing ceremony



Nepalese delegates Mr. Dinesh Shrestha Moderating the WASLI ASIA Session 3



**"WASLI ASIA Interpreters Meeting 2024"**  
**EXPERIENCE SHARING PROGRAM**  
**(सिकाई अनुभव साझेदारी कार्यक्रम)**

स्थान: पेन्सन वासना होटल, डिल्लीबजार, काठमाडौं।  
(Venue: Pension Vasana Hotel, Dillibazar, Kathmandu)  
मिति: २०८१ असोज ९ गते (25<sup>th</sup> September, 2024)

**आयोजक (Organizer)**



राष्ट्रिय लक्षिकृत भाषा दोसरो रास केन्द्र  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS - NEPAL

Some Pictures form the learning experience sharing program.





Some Pictures form the learning experience sharing program.



\*Thank You! धन्यवाद ! ありがとう\*