Yantra Brings Art, Technology and Science Together

Yantra is organizing events to inject a new energy into the tech and art communities of Nepal.

Yantra began as a venue for young robot-makers to gather, socialize and expand their skills initiated by Robotics Association of Nepal in 2010. Since its inception the Festival has grown with each successive edition. For Yantra 3.0, Robotics Association of Nepal, Karkhana and Siddhartha Arts Foundation’s Education Initiative have collaborated to bring together the arts, technology and science. Yantra 3.0 will take place from 8th to 15th of November, 2014 with four events:

**Event 1: Art + Tech Exhibit (Nov 8 – 15 @Nepal Art Council)**
The festival kicks off with the Art-Tech Exhibition at the Nepal Art Council (8th November). This week-long exhibition is a collaboration between artists and technologists, designed to deepen an understanding of how each works and creates. The eight exhibits emphasize interaction between the audience and the artwork and deal with issues of identity, education, and our shared cultural heritage.

**Event 2: Robotics Competition (Nov 14 @Army Physical Training and Sport Center)**
The National Robotics Competition happens on the 14th of November, at the Army Center in Lagankhel. The competition has three games in which 215 participants will compete. Bridge to Lanka, where participants build a smart phone-controlled robot to help Lord Rama get across the ocean to Lanka. Yantra Racer, where young engineers build intelligent automated robots and race them, Yantra Akhada, where competitors try to knock out each other’s robots out of the ring, like in sumo wrestling.

**Event 3: Speaker Series (Nov 12 @ IOE, Pulchowk)**
In the Speaker Series international experts Masakazu Takasu (TeamLab, Japan) and Tom Igoe (Arduino/New York University, USA) and Dr. Jyoti Tandukar (IOE/Alternative Technologies, Nepal) will present their innovations which lie at the intersection of art and technology. Their presentation will take place on the 12th of November at the Institute of Engineering, Pulchowk.

**Event 4: Workshop for Children (Nov 9 – 13 @Nepal Art Council)**
A workshop on the blending of Art + Technology for children between grades 6 – 8 will run for 5 days of the event. The works produced by the students will become part of the exhibit at NAC.
ORGANISERS

ROBOTICS ASSOCIATION OF NEPAL

Robotics Association of Nepal (RAN) is a non-profit association that provides a platform for students and tech enthusiasts to explore the multidisciplinary field of robotics. RAN has organized annual national level robotics competitions for the last 3 years. Leading up to the event, it provides knowledge of programming and electronics through robotics workshops. These workshops are targeted at college and high school students.

KARKHANA

Karkhana is a for-profit social business with a mission to foster innovation in Nepal. It seeks to make an impact through the education system by creating classes and teaching tools that promote ingenuity while remaining affordable. Karkhana prioritize exploration in the classroom, interdisciplinary approaches, and a culture of experimentation.

SAF EDUCATION INITIATIVE

Siddhartha Art Foundation’s Education Initiative aims to train the next generation of art leaders in Nepal. Through vocational/academic training and by fostering innovative platforms for practical exchanges, SAF hopes to create a pool of skilled human resource for the benefit of Nepal’s contemporary arts, and its visual culture.