



Commons Photographers User Group Board meeting notes – November 4, 2023

Agenda items

1. Review of our tenure's work
2. [Partnership updates with Maithili Wikimedian User Group](#)
3. WikiWomen Camp / Commons conference
4. Partnership updates with Wiki Loves Folklore
5. Partnership with Camera Companies for workshops
6. Official email ID of CPUG @ Wikimedia.org ([Ref.](#))
7. Other Social media account
8. User Group Board Election
9. Personal note by Frank

Board members present

- Ailura
- Shreya
- Suyash
- Irvin
- Frank
- Bright

#1 Review of our tenure's work

Partnership work and overall activity in India and in the Philippines was strong. Representation in regions around the world has improved. We were visible at Wikimania and the photo walk was great. We also created some enthusiasm at

the WikiWomenCamp. A good number of people joined our group during the past two years.

However, one member criticized that the board was disconnected from the members; Irvin proposes to have more presence on the ground going forward by creating the role of “Regional Ambassador”. Ailura suggests a better way would be to increase our presence and visibility on Commons. Suyash proposes that the user group gets more involved in international Wikimedia-related decision-making processes. He also would like to see more “branding events” and visibility on social media platforms in order to draw new people to Wikimedia Commons. Bright suggests that a photo competition organized by our user group would be helpful with regard to being more visible.

#2 Partnership updates

Suyash and Shreya started partnership work with the Maithili Wikimedian User Group. They met in person for a workshop and a discussion. The Maithili UG is interested in hosting local photography events and in partnering with us. Bijay is a member of both user groups and is willing to give a presentation about travel photography in Nepal in early 2024.

#3 WikiWomen Camp / Commons conference in the Philippines

Shreya represented our group at WikiWomen Camp and reports that very good conversations took place. Irvin points out that a local Commons conference will happen in the Philippines in the second half of December; he is the conference director. This will be the first ever local Commons conference. Bright highlights that we should have more events like the upcoming one in the Philippines. There are all kinds of conferences around the globe about other Wikimedia projects, but Commons doesn't have anything like that.

#4 Wiki Loves Folklore

Suyash has been approached by the international Wiki Loves Folklore team; they asked him whether our group could support their event. Darwin is the point person. The event organizers are looking for local Ambassadors.

#5 Partnerships with camera manufacturers

Suyash would like to reach out to two camera manufacturers (Canon and Nikon).

#6 Official email

Another user group has received a ...@wikimedia.org email address, but Suyash doesn't know how. Ailura will investigate whether a cpug@wikimedia.at email address would be possible. Frank is willing to provide domains that he registered earlier if someone is willing to manage them and pay for them going forward. Suyash will reach out to the other user group and ask them about the process for getting access to a ...@wikimedia.org email address.

#7 Social media

Suyash reports that we're on Facebook and on Instagram. He asks for volunteers who're willing to manage the Instagram account.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CommonsPhotographersUG>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/commonsphotographers/>

#8 Board election

Frederick from Goa volunteered to supervise the board election; Ailura is not happy about the fact that he changed the rules (especially about having several board members in the same position). She tried to get in touch with him but didn't succeed. The nomination phase closes on November 9th (in five days from now). Ailura isn't sure how to proceed; she suggests extending the nomination phase. Suyash points out that Frederick hasn't been onboarded.

Going forward, we will try an election where people don't apply for a specific position; instead, the board members who get elected will decide among themselves who will serve in which role. Suyash asks how the two advisors (who are supposed to support the new board) will be selected.

Among the board members present today, only Ailura plans to run for the next board. She suggests sending another message to our members that the nomination phase will be extended until November 16; voting will start on

November 17. Suyash will talk to Frederick about next steps. Ailura suggests staggered terms (3 board members for one year; 3 board members for two years); Frederick will be the decision-maker.

#9 Personal note by Frank

Frank thanks the other board members for the work over the past two years. He has been involved with the user group for seven years now and will be less active on Commons going forward. He will still be available for questions and wishes the user group all the best for the future.

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