

## 2020 Virtual WITSA Global ICT Excellence Awards

### Digital Opportunity/Inclusion Award

Award #1: Individuals, academic institutions, corporations, or NGOs

**Nominee: Ncell Axiata Limited**

#### About Ncell

Ncell Axiata Limited (Previously Ncell Private Limited) is the first private mobile service provider operating in Nepal for the past 17 years. The company is committed to building the best-in-class mobile network experience, connecting some of the remotest areas of Nepal with digital communication offerings.

Ncell was first incorporated as 'Mero Mobile' in 2004. Four years later, it was acquired by Telia Company (previously known as TeliaSonera Group of Sweden) and rebranded as 'Ncell' in 2010. On 12 April 2016, Ncell became part of Axiata Group Berhad, one of leading telecommunications groups in Asia in pursuit of its vision to be The Next Generation Digital Champion by 2024.

Ncell converted into a public limited company, and also changed its name to 'Ncell Axiata Limited' on 3 August 2020. As a subsidiary of Axiata Group, and a long-term investor in Nepal, Ncell is constantly working towards its goals of connecting every Nepali through its network, providing high quality modern services to consistently create better value for its customers and partners.

Contributing to the vision of Digital Nepal and development of the country's economy and infrastructure, Ncell is contributing in building best in class networks and communication services to people living across Nepal, and operates the widest 4G network in the country fulfilling the national need of high-speed mobile broadband and creating new opportunities for the people of Nepal taking the country towards a brighter digital future.

As one of the country's largest taxpayers, Ncell have contributed NPR 242 billion in taxes as of FY 2076/77 since inception. The company has also invested more than NPR 1.42 billion under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives including in focus area—education, environment and health, supporting the government in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

#### REASONS FOR NOMINATION:

In line with the Digital Nepal vision of the Government of Nepal that aims to enable government/community run schools to be equipped with hi-tech digital IT lab, Ncell focus has been to support education infrastructure in government/community schools. To live up to this vision, Ncell has set up modern digital labs in 60 community schools across Nepal most touching the remotest part of Nepal that lacks access to digital facilities.

This project is being rolled out in collaboration with Ministry of Information and Communications Technology (MoCIT) and Nepal Telecommunications Authority (NTA). Under this infrastructural support, we have equipped each of selected 60 community schools with 24 set of latest desktops, projectors, CC Camera, multi-functional printer/fax scanner among other essential equipment that makes it a complete modern digital computer lab. In few schools that are yet to get connected with national grid, we have installed solar power for operation of the lab.

Apart from the physical set up of the computer labs, we have also provided a 3-day digital literacy classes to faculty members of respective 60 schools post completion of the lab installation. The training manual for teachers was duly approved by NTA for the needful. Also, under this program, we plan to extend the digital literacy training via this computer labs to community people as well. The main objective of this program is to expand the access of digital service to more and more people and via this project we aim to

benefit more than 30K students across the country directly with access to quality education and digital learning experience.

For this project, we have followed Ministry of Communication & Information Technology (MoCIT) prepared Working Procedure for the Establishment & Management of IT Lab, 2075 for the effective utilization of ICT for enhancing quality Education. This project aims to make teaching methods qualitative and competitive and increase access to IT in community schools, contributing towards reducing digital divide in usages of IT.

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION:** Please send any supporting information to the address above, including information from candidate (i.e. excerpt from program description, web site print-out, press release, etc.)

**1. Ncell Sustainability Report**

[https://webapi.ncell.axiata.com/upload/SustainabilityReport/Sustainability\\_and\\_National\\_Contribution\\_Report\\_for\\_FY\\_2019\\_2020.pdf](https://webapi.ncell.axiata.com/upload/SustainabilityReport/Sustainability_and_National_Contribution_Report_for_FY_2019_2020.pdf)

**2. Ncell Website**

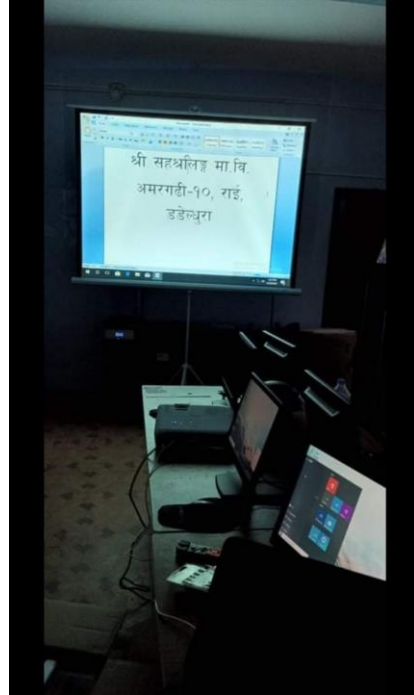
<https://www.ncell.axiata.com/en/about/sustainability/csr/education>

**3. Photos**









**NOMINEE CONTACT INFORMATION** (for award follow up and coordination)

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