



## Japan's Assistance for the Improvement of Micro-Hydropower in Western Nepal



*Signing Ceremony for the Project at the Ministry of Finance on April 22, 2014*

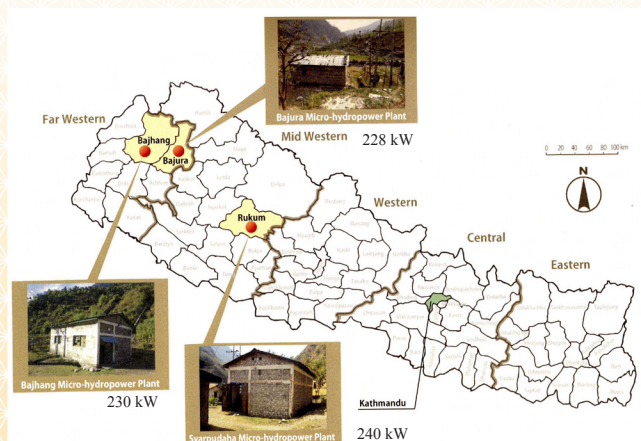
**T**he Government of Japan has decided to extend a Grant Assistance up to ¥1,571,000,000 (approx. NRs.1,475,000,000), to the Government of Nepal, for the execution of the **Project for Micro-Hydropower Improvement in Western Area** in Japan's Fiscal Year 2013.

Under this Grant, the Project will purchase the products and services necessary for the construction of infrastructure and the replacement/installation of new equipment for the improvement of three existing micro-hydropower plants in Bajhang, Bajura and Rukum Districts in Western Nepal. The total installed capacity of these plants will be 698kW (Bajhang 230kW, Bajura 228kW and Syarpudaha, Rukum 240kW).

These three micro-hydropower plants have been supplying electricity to remote villages that are not connected to the national energy grid of Nepal, and have been contributing to strengthening local development activities as well as helping children enhance their study. The infrastructures of these plants, including the power plant and water canals, have already been in operation for more than 25 years and have now exceeded their life-span and are in need

of urgent improvement. Until now, local communities have benefited and it is expected that after the completion of this project more than 6,000 households will directly benefit from an uninterrupted and reliable energy supply.

Japan expects the infrastructures being constructed and equipment being installed for the improvement of these plants will be well maintained and operated effectively with the strong ownership of all stakeholders.



# Parliamentary Foreign Vice-Minister Mr. Kihara Visits Nepal

Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, in charge of the South Asia Region, Mr. Seiji Kihara, was on a two-day visit to Nepal on 7th and 8th May, 2014. During his stay in Kathmandu, he paid courtesy calls to Rt. Honorable President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, Rt. Honorable Prime Minister Mr. Sushil Koirala and Honorable Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Mahendra Pandey.



*Vice-Minister Mr. Kihara pays courtesy call on Prime Minister Sushil Koirala*

They discussed the progress of the constitution writing and consolidation of democracy and also exchanged their views about current political issues, bilateral relations, mutual cooperation, and regional and international interests. On the occasion, Vice-Minister Kihara expressed his commitment that Japan would provide

support to make the upcoming 18th SAARC Summit successful.

On 7th May, Nepali Congress Vice-President Honorable Mr. Ram Chandra Poudel, as former Chairman of Nepal-Japan Parliamentary Friendship Association, hosted a welcome dinner in honor of Mr. Kihara where he met leaders of various political parties and exchanged views on reactivating exchanges between parliament members of Japan and Nepal.

Prior to his departure, Mr. Kihara also inspected the National Tuberculosis Center and the Kathmandu-Bhaktapur Road, which were constructed in 1987 and 2010 respectively under Japanese grant assistance.



## Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects

### ***Project for Strengthening Reproductive Health Services in Jajarkot District***

Signing Ceremony: May 1, 2014

Amount: US\$ 625,657 (approx. NRs. 60,951,504)

Recipient: ADRA Japan

This project, established in February 2012 and aiming for the improvement of neonatal and maternal health, was implemented in Dailekh for the 1st Phase and in Kalikot for the 2nd Phase under the support of Grant Assistance of the Japanese Government. The major elements of the 3rd Phase of this project, which will be implemented in Jajarkot are (1) Improvement of basic infrastructure of health facilities; (2) Strengthening the capacity of health institutions; (3) Training to health service providers; and (4) Awareness raising and promotion of reproductive health.



*Healthy mother and child in Jajarkot*



*Workshop for students to promote hygiene situation in the community in Rupandehi*

### ***Project for Improving Environmental Sanitation of School Children in 4 VDCs of Rupandehi District***

Signing Ceremony: July 22, 2014

Amount: US\$ 232,975 (approx. NRs. 22,367,929)

Recipient: AMDA Multi-sectorial and Integrated Development Services (AMDA-MINDS) Nepal

This grant assistance will be used to implement the project in Kamhariya, Mainahiya, Haati Bangai and Dhamauli VDCs in Rupandehi District, aiming for the improvement of environmental sanitation for school children. The major elements of this project are (1) Improvement of the environmental sanitation in schools; (2) Formation of Child Clubs and their capacity building; (3) Awareness raising and promotion of hygiene in schools; and (4) Improving the environmental sanitation through the cooperation of "Child Clubs" and communities.



# Ambassador Mr. Ogawa Visits ODA Project Sites

Japan has been involved in a wide range of development activities in Nepal, and it has been a privilege for Japan to be a major bilateral donor for nearly half a century. Since 1969, grants from the Government of Japan have been extended constantly and are being utilized mainly for human resources development; agriculture development; economic infrastructure; environmental conservation, and within the social sector. Japan, a close friend and sincere development partner of Nepal, is committed to extend all possible assistance to help Nepal in her endeavors for socio-economic development.

In order to observe and learn more of the current situation of projects being implemented under Japanese Government assistance, and to see those that have been completed, Ambassador Mr. Ogawa recently visited some of the sites.

## Tanahu Hydropower Project

In Tanahu (May 28, 2014)



The JICA expert explained the outline and present situation of the project. A dam is being constructed in the Seti River, which is part of a storage type hydropower project, with a total storage capacity of 295 million M<sup>3</sup>, and the electricity generation capacity will be 140 MW.

## Project for Drinking Water Using River Water and Rain Water Harvesting

In Gorkha (May 28, 2014)



The project started in March 2014. One water tank and a 4.5 meter long pipeline have been completed till date. Under this project, two water pumps and water pump houses, thirty-one distribution tap stands and a total of 8,640 meters of pipeline will be constructed to provide safe drinking water for people in this area.

## Project for Water Supply Facilities in Urban and Semi Urban Centers

In Morang (June 25, 2014)

In this area, water is contaminated with a high turbidity and iron content which is not suitable for drinking purposes. With technical assistance from Japan, it has become the only center in Nepal which distributes clean and safe drinking water that has passed 27- water quality index.



In Jhapa (June 27, 2014)



This water plant supplies clean water to approximately 17,000 people, 12 hours a day in the dry season and 24 hours a day in the rainy season. However, due to rapid urbanization, demand for water has increased; and due to budget constraints they have not been able to meet the demand.

Ambassador Mr. Ogawa remarked that his visit to the sites was useful as he could directly communicate with local people and learn the situation in these areas. Considering the aspirations of the people of Nepal, the Government of Japan has been responding to Nepal's request for sustainable socio-economic development. The feedback gained from the trip will be utilized for planning ODA to Nepal in the future.

## School Visit Program in Baglung and Mustang Districts

**T**he Embassy of Japan, aiming at promoting Japan to the school children residing in remote areas of Nepal, organized School Visit Programs to Baglung and Mustang Districts on May 26 and 27, 2014 respectively.

In Baglung, two programs were organized on the same day; the first program was at Vidya Mandir Higher Secondary School, and the second one was at Dhaulagiri Deaf School. A total of 72 students from Grade 9 and five teaching staffs, who attended the program at Vidya Mandir Higher Secondary School enjoyed the Power -point presentation and were very happy to watch informative videos on Japan, its culture and lifestyle. As for Dhaulagiri Deaf School, 129 deaf students from Class 1-9 and 18 teaching and administrative staffs attended the program. The students, though all of them were deaf, liked the program very much. The program was transcribed in sign language by a teacher from the school.

The next day, similar programs were organized in Mustang District -Yogendra Higher Secondary School in Tukche and Jana Kalyan Lower Secondary School in Syang Village of Marpha VDC. Tukche has sister-village relations with Toga of Japan, and thus this program strengthened the interest towards Japan of all participating students and teachers.



*PowerPoint presentation on Japan-Nepal relations at Dhaulagiri Deaf School, Baglung*

Comparing the school visit programs in the capital and in the remote villages such as those in Mustang and Baglung, students and teachers in the remote schools are more curious about Japan. The schools requested the Embassy to have at least two or three programs in one school. In addition, they requested that each program be longer in the future.

## Orientation for the MEXT Scholarship Recipients 2014

**T**he Government of Japan has awarded MEXT Scholarships to seven students from Nepal (five research students and two undergraduate students) for the Japanese academic year 2014. The Embassy of Japan, in cooperation with JUAAN (Japanese Universities Alumni Association, Nepal), organized a pre-departure orientation for the scholarship grantees in March 2014.

The orientation was designed to provide students with practical advice on a wide range of subjects such as preparing for study; general information about living in Japan; services and facilities available on campus; rules and responsibilities relating to overseas students, and local customs and attitudes.

The students enquired about life in Japan and showed enthusiasm to study there. The JUAAN members shared their experiences of daily life, and explained about how to adjust life in Japan and the way to successfully complete studies. Cultural Secretary, Mr. Kiyohiko Hamada congratulated the students on this challenging endeavor and also expressed his hope that the students would, on their return, make a contribution to the future of Nepal. In order to give students a comprehensive introduction on Japan the Embassy of Japan also screened informative videos.

Until now, many Nepali MEXT Scholarship students have successfully returned to Nepal after obtaining their PhD/Masters Degree in Japan. They are actively working in academia, and government and private sectors, making significant contributions to Nepal as well as to Japan-Nepal relations.



*MEXT Scholarship students with JUAAN members and Cultural Secretary Mr. Hamada (center in, front row)*

# Experience from Teachers' Training Program in Japan

## *Learning language through culture*

**E**very year the Japan Foundation invites overseas teachers of Japanese language to Japan in order to provide them with an opportunity to improve their Japanese language skills and teaching methodology, and at the same time to deepen their knowledge of Japan. Mr. Sunil Narayan Joshi from Patan Japanese Language Institute, who took part in an intensive two month course, shared his experience with us:



*Participants in the program*

“There were altogether 40 Japanese language teachers from 19 countries. The program brought together Japanese language teachers from various countries with different language and cultural backgrounds under one umbrella, binding them with a common language - Japanese. The multi-cultural exchanges we experienced indeed helped us broaden our knowledge and understanding of the wider world.

The classes on Japanese language teaching methods were extremely practical. We learned efficient ways to teach grammar and conversation using picture cards, illustrations, and videos, as well as how to improve the four skills (reading, writing, speaking and listening) of learners. I realized that teaching grammar and theory alone is not sufficient, we should teach in a way to enable students to communicate fluently. Through this training program I learned tips on this important point. In comparison to Japan, teaching materials in Nepal are very limited, but I learned that teaching materials that are instantly available can be utilized to the fullest, if we

use our own knowledge and ideas. In addition to this, discussions, presentations of study trips, and interviews with university students and the general public enabled us to gain a better understanding of Japanese language and culture.

Another wonderful part of the training program was cultural experiences such as tea ceremony, ikebana, calligraphy, and visits to primary and high schools. We enjoyed a home-stay with a Japanese family very much. This helped us experience people and culture first hand, which is better than learning out of books. Furthermore, we were deeply impressed to experience disaster prevention in practice. Awareness of safety measures in Nepal is very poor; I feel I must introduce this not only to Japanese language students but also to the people around me.

All in all, the program was indeed very enlightening and fruitful. Needless to say that I learned many innovative ways of teaching Japanese through classes on teaching methodology. But, at the same time, I learned innumerable things from the cultural perspective. As language and culture are inter-connected, it's very important to understand culture in order to be able to correctly understand and speak a foreign language. In that sense, this program is very well organized. It enabled us to learn teaching methodology and culture together.

Now, I am more confident when teaching the Japanese language. And I am proud of the fulfilling experiences and knowledge I gained from this program.”

## The 33rd Japanese Language Speech Contest

**E**ach year since 1981, the Japanese Language Teachers' Association, Nepal (JALTAN) in cooperation with the Embassy of Japan, and with the support of the Japan Foundation, organizes Japanese Language Speech Contest to encourage Japanese language learners to strive for greater excellence and to enhance the understanding and relationship between Japan and Nepal. This year the 33rd Speech Contest was held in Nepal Administrative Staff College on March 15, 2014. Ambassador Mr. Masashi Ogawa was the chief guest.



*Prize winners in the Speech Contest*

The contest started with brilliant speeches from participants in the 'open' category, all of whom have studied the Japanese language for more than two years. All four participants demonstrated not only excellent ability in the Japanese language, but also a great degree of insight and knowledge of their chosen topics. Designed to showcase their oral communication skills, the contestants in this category do not win any prizes

This was followed by speeches by the intermediate-level junior contestants. Some impressed the audience with their

interesting and well-presented opinions; others with their unique presentation and gestures. Mr. Kiran Maharjan from the Japanese Language and Education Culture Center won the first prize for his outstanding speech entitled 'Washoo'. The 2nd and 3rd prizes were awarded respectively to Ms. Rita Tamang (Nozomi Japanese Language School) and Mr. Madhukar Maharjan (Bishwo Bhasa Campus) for their speeches on 'Women Education in Nepal' and 'Me and My Bicycle'.

After a short interval, the audience enjoyed speeches by the senior contestants. The speeches were all very impressive and it was difficult for the judges to decide the winner. However, the senior first prize eventually went to Ms. Palpasa Shrestha (Japanese Language and Education Culture Center) for her speech on 'The Third Man'. Similarly, Mr. Tashi Sherpa Bajracharya and Mr. Santosh Bajracharya from Bishwo Bhasa Campus bagged the 2nd and 3rd prizes respectively speaking on 'National Costume' and 'What I Learned from Karaoke'.

# On Japan: The World Heritage in Japan

Japan is blessed with such a rich nature and astonishing cultural properties that she holds a considerably high number of sites recognized by UNESCO (United Nations Educational Scientific Cultural Organization) as 'World Heritage Sites'. The main characteristic of the world heritage sites in Japan is that many of them are supported by the country's diverse natural environment and its four seasons climate. Among the sites of historical cultural heritage there are many buildings influenced by the unique sensitivities of the Japanese people and are of dynamic design, and through which we obtain great insight into the roots of the culture.

As of 2014, there are 18 Cultural Heritage Sites in Japan altogether, including Tomioka Silk Mill which was awarded cultural status in June, 2014. Established in 1872 in Gunma Prefecture, this mill symbolizes Japan's industrial

modernization. UNESCO has acknowledged that the mill has universal values in that it helped both modernize the silk industry and popularize silk worldwide.

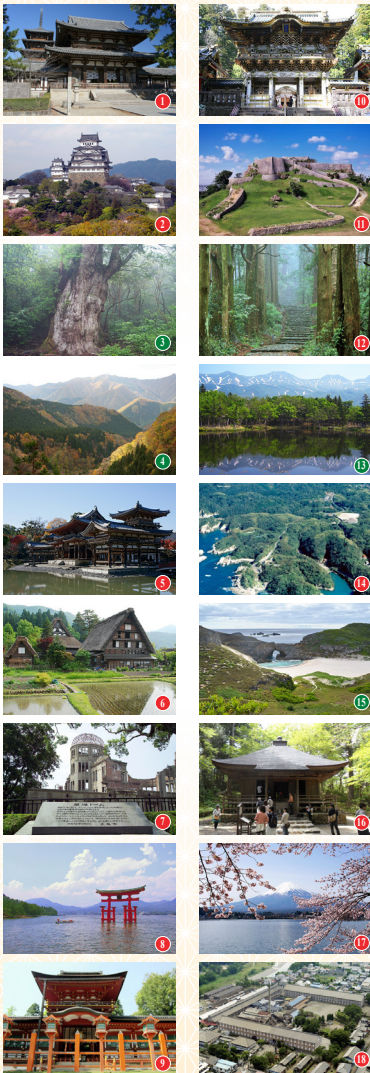
In addition, Japanese cuisine 'Washoku' was added to UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list in December 2013. It is the 22nd Japanese asset to be enlisted on the list, which also includes kabuki, noh, bunraku (puppet theater), etc.

In line with UNESCO's wishes to protect and preserve cultural and natural heritage around the world, considered to be of outstanding universal value to humanity, Japan will pass on this wonderful heritage to future generations and share it with people all over the world.

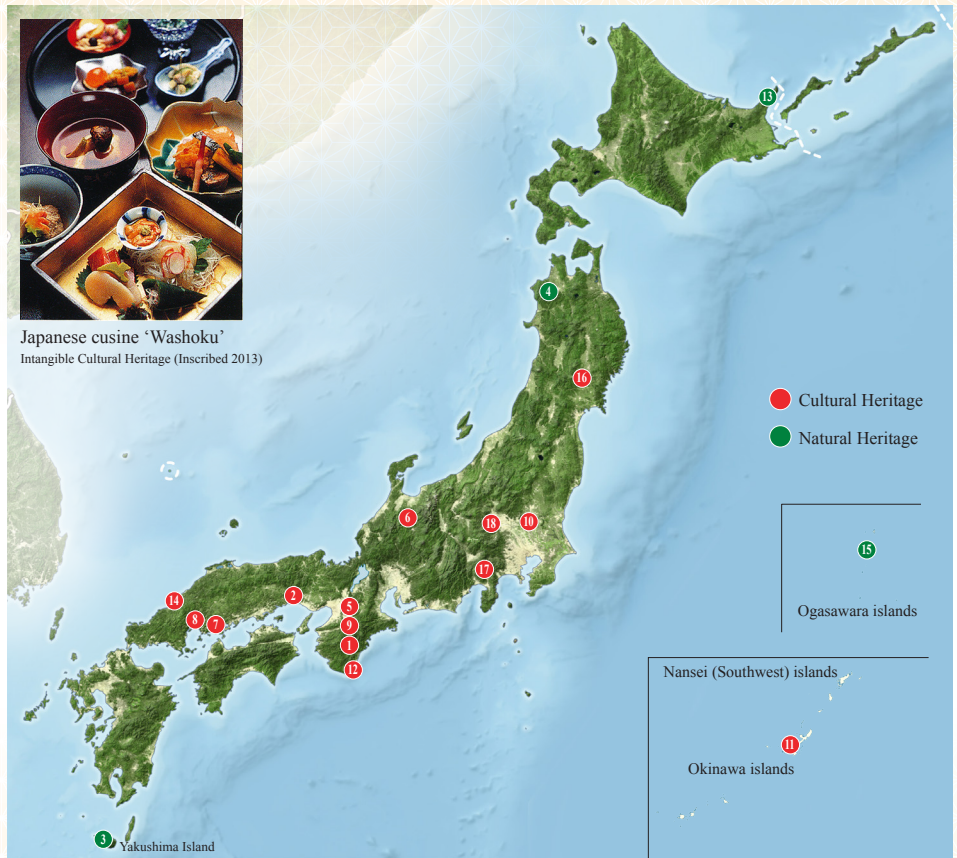
**For more information, please visit:**

<http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/pre2/indepth/scenic/worldheritage/index.html>

<http://www.worldheritagesite.org/countries/japan.html>



Japanese cuisine 'Washoku'  
Intangible Cultural Heritage (Inscribed 2013)



- 1) Buddhist Monuments in the Horyu-ji Area (Inscribed: 1993), 2) Himeji-jo Castle (Inscribed: 1993), 3) Yakushima Island (Inscribed: 1993), 4) Shirakami-sanchi Mountain Range (Inscribed: 1993), 5) Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto (Inscribed: 1994), 6) Historic Villages of Shirakawa-go and Gokayama (Inscribed: 1995), 7) Hiroshima Peace Memorial (Inscribed: 1996), 8) Itsukushima Shinto Shrine (Inscribed: 1996), 9) Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara (Inscribed: 1998)
- 10) Shrines and Temples of Nikko (Inscribed: 1999), 11) Gusuku Sites of the Kingdom of Ryukyu (Inscribed: 2000), 12) Sacred Sites/Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii (Inscribed: 2004), 13) Shiretoko (Inscribed: 2005), 14) Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine (Inscribed: 2007), 15) Ogasawara Islands (Inscribed: 2011), 16) Hiraizumi (Inscribed: 2011), 17) Fujisan, sacred place and source of artistic inspiration (Inscribed: 2013), 18) Tomioka Silk Mill (Inscribed: 2014)

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