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Visit of State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Minoru Kiuchi Participates in the International Conference on Nepal's Reconstruction 2015 (ICNR)



State Minister with PM Koirala



State Minister with Finance Minister Mahat



State Minister addressing ICNR



Observation of earthquake affected area

Hon'ble Mr. Minoru Kiuchi, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, visited Nepal to attend the International Conference on Nepal's Reconstruction 2015 (ICNR), held in Kathmandu on 25th June, as the representative of the Government of Japan. The Government of Nepal hosted a one-day International Conference on Nepal's Reconstruction that aimed at bringing together high dignitaries from her neighboring countries, other friendly countries, and development partners, in the spirit of solidarity and partnership to address the massive reconstruction challenges.

In his speech, State Minister Kiuchi said that Japan would provide as much cooperation as possible in rebuilding Nepal. Recalling that the people of Nepal had provided 5,000 blankets to Japanese people during the earthquake and tsunami disaster four years ago, he expressed that the people of Japan and Government of Japan were always with, and eager to help, the people of Nepal. He announced Japan would provide assistance of 260 million USD, mainly to build earthquake resistant schools, housing and community infrastructure. He also said that Japan was ready to carry out as much support as possible in order to realize more resilient recovery in Nepal.

During his stay in Kathmandu, State Minister Kiuchi paid courtesy calls on the Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister Sushil Koirala; Hon'ble Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mahendra Bahadur Pandey, and Hon'ble Minister for Finance, Ram Sharan Mahat. During the visit, State Minister Kiuchi exchanged views on initiatives for firmly establishing democracy, including reconstructing in Nepal, and on the promulgating of the new constitution. He also visited the earthquake affected UNESCO designated World Heritage Sites of Kathmandu Durbar Square, Swayambhunath and Patan Durbar Square. In addition, he visited Kathmandu's most earthquake-damaged residential areas of Gongabu and Balaju.



Japan's Assistance to Nepal during the Earthquake



Japan's Emergency Assistance

After the earthquake on 25th April, the Government of Japan immediately announced Emergency Grant Aid and Emergency Relief Goods to Nepal and dispatched the Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) Rescue Team and Medical Teams to Nepal to conduct rescue and medical operations in response to the request from the Government of Nepal. The Emergency Assistance from Japan was as follows:-

1. *Emergency Grant Aid (amounting to 14 million USD)*
2. *Emergency Relief Goods (tents and blankets worth 2 million USD)*
3. *Dispatch of Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) Teams*

(a) Urban Search and Rescue Team

The Urban Search and Rescue Team arrived in Kathmandu on 27th April with emergency relief goods. The team comprised of more than 70 evacuation specialists from the National Police Agency, Fire Department and JICA. The rescue team carried out search and rescue operations in the most damaged areas of Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Sankhu. The Rescue Team returned to Japan on 9th May.

(b) Medical Team

The first batch of the JDR Medical Team (46 members) was operational in Kathmandu from 9th April to 9th May. They built a field hospital at Bahrabise of Sindhupalchowk District from 1st May. The team comprised of eight doctors, 15 nurses, and two pharmacists, as well as mechanical and technical staff. The treatment camp was equipped with an x-ray machine, surgical equipments and essential medicines brought from Japan. The medical camp performed basic treatment services including orthopedic surgeries to a total of 920 patients.

The second batch of the JDR Medical Team (34 members) was operating from 7th May to 20th May. The team comprised of six doctors, 12 nurses, two pharmacists, and mechanical and technical staffs. They continuously carried out treatment activities in Bahrabise Hospital and on the outskirts of Kathmandu.

(c) Japan Self-Defense Force Units

The Japanese Self-Defense Force (Medical Unit) of 114 members was operating from 29th April to 22nd May in Kathmandu. This team provided medical assistance such as treatment and examination of the people who were affected by the disaster and living in temporary camps at Chuchhepati, Ratnapark and Narayanhiti Palace Museum premises in Kathmandu city. The Self-Defense Force medical team provided medical service to more than 2,900 patients at these three sites.

4. Emergency Humanitarian Assistance through Japanese NGOs.

Japan's Assistance to Nepal for Recovery and Reconstruction from the Earthquake

In light of urgent recovery and reconstruction needs, Japan will provide the following support based on the concept of “Build Back Better (BBB)” which was adopted at the 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai, Japan in March 2015.

1. *Sharing Knowledge and Technologies from Japan by Dispatching Experts*

- Starting early May, a series of JICA study teams have been dispatched in order to survey needs related to recovery and reconstruction.
- In mid-May, three experts from the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism were dispatched to offer their extensive knowledge to the National Planning Commission and other relevant Nepalese authorities.
- On 25th May, Japan hosted a “BBB” workshop in Kathmandu to introduce Japan’s technologies and achievement in the field of disaster risk reduction.
- On 24th and 25th June, near the Donors Conference venue at the Soaltee Hotel, a demonstration of earthquake resistance houses using local materials was introduced by JICA. The similar demonstration site was built at TU Pulchowk Campus.
- On 10th July, JICA had the seminar on “Realization of Built Back Better Reconstruction of Nepal and JICA’s Seamless Cooperation”.

2. *Focus Areas of Support*

- Rebuilding of schools: As schools play important role as shelters during disasters, Japan will support the formulation of an earthquake-resistant construction guideline for schools.
- Reconstruction of earthquake resistant houses: Japan will support the formulation of guidelines for low-cost earthquake resistant houses and develop the models of these houses utilizing local materials and technologies.
- Developing resilient community infrastructure: Japan will provide assistance in restoring earthquake resilient public facilities such as local government buildings and hospitals, as well as community infrastructure such as roads and bridges in rural areas.

3. *Financial Assistance*

- In order to support Nepal’s reconstruction through “Build Back Better”, Japan intends to provide assistance of around 32 billion Yen (approximately 260 million USD), mainly in the education (reconstruction of schools), housing, and public facilities sectors of Nepal.



Japan's Support for “Build Back Better (BBB)” in Nepal’s Education Sector



Signing ceremony

The Government of Japan extended a grant assistance of 300,000,000 Japanese Yen (equivalent to 249,900,000 Nepalese Rupees), to the Government of Nepal for the implementation of the School Sector Reform Program (SSRP). Two separate notes are signed and exchanged on July 10, 2015 between His Excellency Mr. Masashi Ogawa, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, and Mr. Suman Prasad Sharma, Secretary, Minister of Finance.

The Government of Japan has supported Nepal in the education sector since 1994. Over the past decade, the grant extended were for the construction of classrooms and provision of other facilities. Nine thousand five hundred (9,500) classrooms were constructed, and other facility provided.

On the occasion of the Note signing, Ambassador Ogawa expressed his firm expectation that the grant extended would be contributing in a time when the country is facing great damage and loss to the education sector. He expressed his assurance of Japan’s willingness to support Nepal’s efforts in the post-disaster recovery and reconstruction based on the concept “Build Back Better (BBB)” as well as in accelerating the sustainable development.



Sindhuli Road Handed over to Nepal

On 3rd July 2015, Japan handed over the Sindhuli Road, or B.P. Highway, to the Government of Nepal. It took two decades to complete the construction of the road, which connects Dhulikhel on the Araniko Highway and Bardibas on the East-West Highway. The Government of Japan adopted environment, topography and eco-friendly technology while constructing this road.

The 160 kilometer road was constructed at the cost of 25 billion Japanese Yen, one of the largest Japanese Grant Aid Projects. The road was constructed with the aim of linking the capital with the Terai Region by a short route, which has helped improve the lives of residents in Sindhuli, Kavrepalanchowk, Ramechhap and Mahottari Districts. The local residents are happy to have a road which has helped increase their livelihood. Local farmers are now able to take crops, vegetables and other consumables to the markets and generate income. This road may be taken as a milestone for the socio-economic development of the entire region and its neighboring districts.

The inauguration program was attended by Prime Minister Sushil Koirala, Ambassador Masashi Ogawa, and Minister for Physical Infrastructure and Transport Bimalendra Nidhi. Firstly, the ribbon cutting ceremony was held at a special gate, involving the above three dignitaries, and NPC Vice Chairman, Govind Raj Pokharel, Secretary of Physical Infrastructure and Transport, Tulashi Prasad Sitaula, and JICA Chief Representative, Tsutomu Shimizu.

Secondly, the memorial monument was unveiled by Mr. Koirala and Mr. Ogawa. Both national flags and the message that this road was constructed with Japanese Grant Aid and is the symbol of friendship between the two countries are engraved on this



Tape cutting ceremony

monument. Prime Minister Sushil Koirala thanked the Government of Japan for constructing the Sindhuli Road which was also a priority for the Government of Nepal. He said that connectivity by road contributes not only to the overall socio-economic development of the road corridor region, but also remote hilly regions gain benefit from this road. Prime Minister Koirala urged the Government of Japan to support the maintenance and improvement of this road. Minister for Physical Infrastructure and Transport, Bimalendra Nidhi said that this road will be a milestone for economic development in Nepal, however it took a long time and faced too many difficulties during construction. He also said that a technical team would be formed to make the road more safe and durable.

Mr. Masashi Ogawa, Ambassador of Japan, who inaugurated the road with the Prime Minister, said that the Sindhuli Road is an excellent example of the close friendship between Japan and Nepal. He expressed his gratitude to all the people who engaged in this, one of the largest Grant Aid Projects from Japan. He also stated that during the construction of this road many difficulties were faced and it is not too much to say that the best Japanese engineering technologies were concentrated in this road. He also stressed that this road would play a significant role in strengthening the cordial friendship between the two countries. Furthermore, the Government of Japan would extend its possible support in building infrastructure in Nepal in the future, too.





Ambassador Attends Foundation Laying Ceremony of Community Hall in Rautahat

On 8th July 2015, Ambassador Ogawa attended the foundation laying ceremony of a Community Hall in Rautahat District. The Japanese Government's grant assistance of 99,020 USD will be used to construct a Community Hall which will accommodate around 200 people in Ganga Pipra VDC of Rautahat District. This Hall will enable the people in four VDC's, namely Ganga Pipra, Pipra Bhalohiya, Pacharukhi, and Masari, to have a space for people's meetings and cultural programs.

The project is implemented by the Rautahat Development Trust (RDT). RDT is planning to conduct health, literacy, and income generation trainings and awareness programs to local women in this Community Hall.

Ambassador Ogawa was warmly welcomed by former Prime Minister, Madhav Kumar Nepal; Chief Patron of RDT; the President and other officials of RDT, as well as hundreds of local people who attended the ceremony. The ceremony was conducted through a Hindu ritual which included laying the foundation stone. Ambassador Ogawa stated that the Community Hall would be constructed as a safe and substantial building which would be used as an evacuation center during any emergency period. He also said that the project would help increase social harmony and assist in women's empowerment to foster regional development and also strengthen the friendly relation between Japan and Nepal at the people's level.



Foundation laying ceremony

Hand Over of Medical Equipment to Damauli Hospital

On 14th July 2015, Ambassador Ogawa handed over medical equipment to Damauli Hospital. The equipment amounts to 96,721 USD and includes an ECG machine and USG machine for new wards in Damauli Hospital. Mr. Ram Chandra Poudel, Vice President of Nepali Congress; Mr. Hariraj Kandel, Chairman of Damauli Hospital Development Committee, and Dr. Bibek Kumar Lal, Superintendent of Damauli Hospital, also attended the handover ceremony.

Damauli Hospital is situated at the Prithvi Highway which connects Kathmandu and Pokhara. Patients from Tanahun and surrounding districts visit this hospital. As the number of patients often exceeds the capacity of the hospital, it is expected that the equipment will improve the quality of medical services provided to local people.



Handover ceremony

Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)



Students attending JLPT Exam

On 5th July 2015, the JLPT was held at St. Mary's School where 327 students took the language proficiency exam in Levels N1 to N5. The Japan Foundation offers the JLPT twice a year in July and December, both inside Japan and in more than 60 countries around the world. In Nepal, the Japanese Language Teachers' Association, Nepal (JALTAN) together with the Embassy of Japan, conduct the JLPT.

The 34th Japanese Language Speech Contest

Every year since 1981, the Japanese Language Teachers' Association Nepal (JALTAN), in cooperation with the Embassy of Japan, and with support from the Japan Foundation, has organized a Japanese language speech contest. This year the 34th Japanese language Speech Contest was organized on 28th March, 2015. The aim of the contest was to provide Japanese Language learners with the chance to showcase their language skills in front of their peers, thereby, promoting Japanese language in Nepal.

The contestants showcased a wide range of speeches before the panel of judges and an encouraging audience. This year, Mr. Asish Basnet (Bishwo Bhasa Campus) stood first in the contest in the senior group and Mr. Bikash Thapa (Patan Japanese Language Institute) stood first in the junior group. The contestants were evaluated on their performance, as well as on grammar, delivery, pronunciation, response to questions and attitude.



A participant delivering his speech



Prize winners in the Speech Contest

On Japan: World Heritage

『The Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution』

The 39th Session of the World Heritage Committee held in Bonn, Germany, adopted a decision to inscribe the “Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution: Iron and Steel, Shipbuilding and Coal Mining” on the World Heritage List.

The site encompasses a series of twenty three component parts, mainly located in the southwest of Japan. This property was highly valued as a series of heritage sites that played central roles in Japan’s industrialization. It bears testimony to the rapid industrialization of the country from the middle of the 19th century to the early 20th century (1850s through 1910), through the development of the steel industry, shipbuilding, and coal mining. The site illustrates the process by which feudal Japan sought technology transfer from Europe and America from the middle of the 19th century and how this technology was adapted to the country’s needs and social traditions. The site testifies to what is considered to be the first successful transfer of Western industrialization to a non-Western nation.

The World Heritage Sites developed during the rapid Industrial transformation in the Bakumatsu and Meiji periods (1853 - 1912), comprise 23 component sites in southwest Japan. They are spread out over the towns and cities of Hagi, Kagoshima, Nirayama, Kamaishi, Saga, Nagasaki, Miike and Yawata.



Miike Port (c) Omuta City

List of 23 Component Parts

Area	Site	Component Part
Hagi	Hagi Proto-industrial Heritage	Hagi Reverberatory Furnace Ebisugahana Shipyard OhitayamaTatara Iron Works Hagi Castle Town Shokasonjuku Academy
Kagoshima	Shuseikan	Shuseikan Terayama Charcoal Kiln Sekiyoshi Sluice Gate of Yoshino Leat
Nirayama	Nirayama Reverberatory Furnaces	Nirayama Reverberatory Furnaces
Kamaishi	Hashino Iron Mining and Smelting Site	Hashino Iron Mining and Smelting Site
Saga	Mietsu Naval Dock	Mietsu Naval Dock
Nagasaki	Nagasaki Shipyard	Kosuge Slip Dock Mitsubishi No. 3 Dry Dock Mitsubishi Giant Cantilever Crane Mitsubishi Former Pattern Shop Mitsubishi Senshokaku Guest House
		Takashima Coal Mine Takashima Coal Mine
		Hashima Coal Mine Hashima Coal Mine Glover House and Office Glover House and Office
Miike	Miike Coal Mine and Miike Port	Miike Coal Mine and Miike Port
	Misumi West Port	Misumi West Port
Yawata	The imperial Steel Works, Japan	The imperial Steel Works, Japan Onga River Pumping Station



Mitsubishi Giant Cantilever Crane (c) National Congress of Industrial Heritage



Repair Shop Yawata Steel Works (c) National Congress of Industrial Heritage



Hashima Coal Mine (c) Nagasaki City

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