

Ground Breaking Ceremony of Melamchi Water Treatment Plant at Sundarijal



On January 31, Ambassador Mr. Ogawa attended the ground breaking program for the construction of the Melamchi Water Treatment Plant (WTP) at Sundarijal. This WTP component of the Melamchi Water Supply Project is going to be constructed under financial assistance of the Government of Japan. For the implementation of this component, Japan agreed, on March 30, 2001, to extend a total of 5.495 billion Japanese yen loan to Nepal. The Project, unfortunately, faced several un-expected circumstances resulting in the considerable delay in its implementation. But finally, now we can start the construction of the Water Treatment Plant after more than a decade long delay.

The Melamchi Water Supply Project is a co-finance project with ADB. It has been recognized as the best long-term solution to a safe drinking water supply for the Kathmandu Valley. This project is to take the water from the Melamchi River to Sundarijal through a water diversion tunnel, which is under construction under financial assistance of ADB. After treating the water by constructing a Water Treatment Plant at Sundarijal, clean and adequate water will be distributed to the Kathmandu Valley. As a sincere development partner of Nepal, Japan decided to be a part of this Project, and is financially engaged on the Water Treatment Plant component.



Inauguration of Sukhkor Bridge and Khurkot Health Post

Ambassador Mr. Ogawa inaugurated the Sukhkor Bridge and Khurkot Health Post on January 23 and 24, respectively which were constructed under Japan's ODA.

Sukhkor Bridge, located in Ramechhap District, is one among a total of 32 river-crossings (bridges) adjoining the Sindhuli Road for the Improvement of Community Access. The objective of this Project is to achieve sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction in the project area.

Khurkot Health Post is located at Khurkot, Bhimeshwor VDC, Sindhuli District. After its full operation, it is expected that not only the people residing in nearby villages but also the people travelling by the Sindhuli Road will be able to receive preventive as well as curative medical attention from this health post.



Khurkot Health Post



Sukhkor Bridge



Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects Scheme

Project for Enhancing Community Capacity in Kharpachok VDC (Phase 1)

Signing: February 21, 2014

Recipient: AMDA-MINDS in cooperation with SAGUN Nepal

Amount: US \$ 1146,096 (or approx. NRs. 14,548,239)

This project aims to promote the formation of neighborhood self-governing bodies and enhance their capacity to analyze and solve practical problems such as poverty, water, and health and hygiene. 'Phase 1' is composed of the following activities:

Formation of neighborhood self-governing bodies

The project will promote the formation of a Community Based Organization, so-called "Activity Group", in each ward to develop human resources. The project will conduct a series of trainings, workshops and study tours in various fields such as practical problem analysis; participatory planning; resource management; effective monitoring, and public relations. As an output of the training, a "3-years vision" will be formulated with the consensus of each Activity Group. Based on this "sub-projects" will be planned, which will be implemented from the second phase/year onwards.

Awareness/ bottom-up training for community people

Based on the issues identified by the project and community, the project will conduct an awareness raising program and bottom-up training for community people. AMDA-MINDS and SAGUN-Nepal will support the Activity Group to conduct an awareness raising program on health and sanitation focusing on school children.

Project for Improving the Living Environment of Communities through Prevention and Pollution Control of the Bagmati River

Signing: February 10, 2014

Recipient: SOMNEED-Nepal

Amount: US \$ 145,532 (or approx. NRs. 14,524,093)

This grant assistance will be used to implement a project in the area of Deshe, Gokarna, -composed of two elements:

Construction of waste water treatment facility managed by local residents

A wastewater treatment facility will be constructed to purify the wastewater utilizing micro-organisms and plants. It has a feature that it is relatively easy to construct and does not require large fund, technology, or energy for operation and maintenance. This feature enables this facility to be managed by local people themselves.

Training for capacity building for local people

Under this Project, local people will learn mechanisms relating to the pollution of the river, and how to check the water quality, along with how to manage the facility. It is also expected there will be some changes in the lifestyle of local people, encouraging them to keep the river clean, as a result of the knowledge gained during the training.

Project for the Prevention and Reduction of Child Labor in Restaurants in the Kathmandu Valley (3rd Phase)

Signing: February 21, 2014

Recipient: Shapla Neer in cooperation with CWIN (Child Workers in Nepal Concerned Centre)

Amount: US \$ 97,547 (or approx. NRs. 9,636,668)

This project, aiming for the reduction and protection of child labour, and an improved environment for child laborers, has been implemented in Kathmandu, Kirtipur and Lalitpur since November 2011. The major elements of the 3rd phase of this project are:

Capacity Building of Municipality Child Protection Committee (MCPC/ Ward Child Protection Committee (WCPC)

MCPCs at the three municipalities were established in 2012 and five WCPCs in Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC) were formed in 2013. As previous years, Shapla Neer continues to support to build their capacities through field monitoring technique development and youth campaign reflection sharing.

Certificate Award

During the field awareness campaign, volunteers and MCPC members will collect commitment papers from restaurant owners stating they will not use child labor. The committed owners will be given a Certificate Award to recognize them as 'child labor free' restaurants and tea shops.

Awareness Raising Campaign/ Workshop with Stakeholders

Shapla Neer plans to organize several meetings and workshops among MCPC; the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare; the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development; like-minded organizations and agencies, and other stakeholders to share MCPC activities. The purpose of the series of activities is to build sustainable opportunities for anti-child labor, child protection and rights issues.

Exhibition: SHARAKU Interpreted by Japan's Contemporary Artists

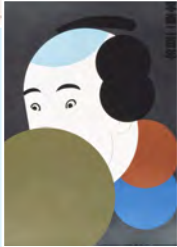


The Embassy of Japan in cooperation with the Japanese Universities Alumni Association, Nepal (JUAAN) and Japanese Language Teachers Association Nepal (JALTAN) organized an Exhibition *SHARAKU: Interpreted by Japan's Contemporary Artists*. Inaugurated by Charge d' Affairs a.i. of Japan, Mr. Shuichi Sakakibara, the exhibition was open to the public from March 1 to 11 at the Embassy Hall, Panipokhari.

The exhibition presented the interpretations of the art of Sharaku by contemporary Japanese graphic designers and artists. It featured artworks including reproductions of Sharaku's most famous bust portraits, and contemporary works inspired by the art of Sharaku in media as diverse as posters, painting, sculpture, photography, ceramics, and prints.

This exhibition was neither an overview of the works by Sharaku, nor a selection of famous examples of ukiyo-e (woodblock print). Rather, it looked at the works of artists today who have been given the same theme to illustrate the connections between the art of ukiyo-e and graphic design in present Japan.

The exhibition was divided into three sections: The Reproduction of Sharaku, Sharaku in Graphic Art and Homage to Sharaku. These unique contemporary interpretations of the art of Sharaku reflect the profound influence that the 18th century ukiyo-e artist continues to exert in Japan today. The exhibition also provided a platform to connect the ukiyo-e tradition with graphic design and contemporary art of Japan.



Sharaku in short....

The famous Edo-period Ukiyo-e artist Toshusai **SHARAKU** was born in Edo (present day Tokyo) in the 18th century, and produced more than 140 paintings within a short span of ten months from May 1794 to February 1795.

A majority of these paintings are of kabuki actors, and some of wrestlers and warriors. Sharaku captured the features and characteristics of his subjects through keen observation, depicting them in an impressionistic fashion ahead of his time. Energy and dynamism are the primary features of Sharaku's portraits, and not idealized beauty. This was not appreciated by the public for very long. Hence, his popularity ended within a year or two, and his works were forgotten.

After more than a hundred years, the German, Julius Kurt, rediscovered this ukiyo-e genius, and this resulted in a re-evaluation of this artist in Japan. His paintings are now scattered across the globe, including the British Museum, the Art Institute of Chicago and the Metropolis Museum of Art in New York. Very few of his works remains in Japan, and only 27 of the bust-portraits remain displayed in the Tokyo National Museum. Today in and outside Japan, Toshusai Sharaku is considered an outstanding portrait artist in art history.



Experiencing Japan through JENESYS 2.0 Program

The JENESYS 2.0 project (Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths) is a new initiative announced by the Government of Japan to further promote people-to-people exchange and build closer relations between Japan and Asian/Oceanian regions. The project also aims to revitalize the Japanese economy through the introduction of Japan's attractions to foreign tourists and consumers by promoting international understanding on the nation's potential strength, attraction and sense of values and "Japan Brand".

Approximately 30,000 youths from the Asian/Oceanian region have the opportunity to participate in the program. Under the supervision of the SAARC Secretariat, in total about 1,250 youths from SAARC countries are invited to Japan. This year a total of 75 youths (university students, high school students, Japanese language learners), including five supervisors from Nepal, took part in the program from February 9 to 18.

The Nepali participants remarked that although it was a short term visit, the program was arranged in such an organized way that they had a wonderful opportunity to explore and discover various aspects of Japan's potential. Here is a summary of the report presented by the participants:



Participants in JENESYS Program

Technology: As one can tell, Japan is the world's leading country in the technology and research field. But when we visited factories and companies, and we actually saw how they work, we were lost for words. The factories were in fact operated by a very limited number of workers and the majority of work was carried out by robots! Another important and interesting thing we learnt is that they are developing new ideas to manufacture products that save energy and emit zero carbon dioxide. This is really something we all should learn from to be environmentally friendly.

Eco-friendly environment: It is unbelievable to see how Japan is really into protecting and promoting nature to suit and sustain their daily lives in both the cities and the countryside. The most important practices we learnt from Japan are how to keep the environment more comfortable to live in, and water resource management. During our stay in Japan we visited the Water Reclamation Center. It not only treats wastewater and returns that water to the rivers

and the sea, but also supplies the treated water for toilets in buildings. In addition to this, regarding waste management, the 3R (reduce, reuse and recycle) process was awesome.

Tourist attraction: Japan holds a unique blend of traditional and modern values with buildings, temples and friendly people with unique culture and norms within society. Visitors can really enjoy Japanese historical sites with their history and culture and, at the same time, glimpse the future through technological developments.

Culture: We also experienced wonderful cultural activities such as wearing kimono, ikebana (the art of flower arrangement), tea ceremony, craft art, dancing etc. Experiencing these ancient activities helped us realize the richness of Japanese culture. Home stay was one of the best experiences we had. We had first hand experience of Japanese culture. Their politeness, warmth and hospitality will remain in our hearts forever!

Japan, as we have experienced and explored, is a unique country with a balance of the tradition and the modernization. It is a country we all should learn from. This experience is something we will always cherish throughout our lives. Most of all, we were very fortunate to make new friends with the Japanese students and host families. This will indeed strengthen our long term relationship with Japan.

7th Japan Education Fair

The Embassy of Japan in Nepal, Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) and Japanese Universities Alumni Association, Nepal (JUAAN) successfully organized the 7th Japan Education Fair for the students of Nepal on February 15 at Thapathali Trade Tower Business Center.

From beginning till end, each stall was crowded with visiting students, their parents and teachers. It provided a great opportunity for them to have face-to-face consultations with faculty members and university staff regarding all aspects of study and life in Japan such as application requirements, admission processes and guidelines, scholarships/financial aid, and so on. There was also a chance to listen to presentations given by representatives from each university and Japanese language school, watch video presentations for studying in Japan by JASSO, and receive an explanation of the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship by the Embassy of Japan.

This year, leading Japanese universities namely Osaka University, Hiroshima University, Kyushu University and the University of Tokushima, and two Japanese language institutes, namely, Yokohama International Education Academy and I.C. Nagoya Japanese Language School took part in the Fair.



Japanese Film Festival in Kathmandu and Pokhara

The Embassy of Japan in cooperation with the Japanese Language Teachers' Association Nepal (JALTAN), organized a three-day Film Festival in Kathmandu from January 24-26 and a one-day film festival in Pokhara on February 1. The purpose behind the festivals was to introduce Japan and its culture to Nepalese people.

The film festivals were dedicated to showcase the finest Japanese films that have been recognized for excellence by Japanese as well as international audiences and the Japanese Film Academy. The films covered popular genres such as historical, contemporary dramas, comedies, animation films etc. The festival was a great success. In Kathmandu it attracted 2,200 people for seven screenings and attracted 1,500 people for three screenings in Pokhara. The festival attracted people from different walks of life who genuinely enjoyed the film shows.

Japanese Film Festival



Kathmandu • Pokhara

On Japan: Japanese Graduation and Entrance Ceremony

Graduation Ceremony

Since the Japanese school year starts in April and ends in March, March is the graduation season. The graduation ceremony is one of the highlights of the year and it is an event for the entire school.

The graduating students, younger students and families of the graduating students all attend the ceremony in which the school principal hands out graduation certificates. At most schools, the ceremony also includes a farewell address by a representative of the younger classes and a return address on behalf of the graduating class. The ceremony often ends with farewell songs. Two long-time standards are *Hotaru no Hikari* (Auld Lang Syne) and *Aogeba Totoshi* (Song of Gratitude). Afterwards, the graduating students and their families bid farewell to each other and the teachers and take photos.



Graduation ceremony



New student preparing to attend entrance ceremony

School Entrance Ceremony

The school entrance ceremony is held in early April all over Japan. The ceremony is usually held in the school gym. The older students and parents take their seats first and welcome and cheer up the new students with applause as they march into the room.

The ceremony begins with the opening remarks of the principal. The class teachers are then introduced and one of the older students make a welcoming address. This is followed by a new student's speech on behalf of his or her class. Then the new students are led to their classrooms by their teachers. Textbooks are handed out and commemorative photos are taken on a class-by-class basis.

Announcement of Scholarship for 2015

The Embassy of Japan announces the competition for **Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho: MEXT) Scholarships** for Nepali students for the academic year 2015 in the fields of Natural Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences.

Program

1. Research Students

Qualifications

Must be under 35 years of age (as of April 1, 2015) and have completed at least 16 years of education (15 years is also accepted if the undergraduate course is designed for only 3 years) and secured 70% marks for Natural Sciences and 60% for Humanities and Social Sciences in average in all levels of exams.

2. Undergraduate Students and 3. Specialized Training College Students

Must have been born between April 2, 1993 and April 1, 1998 and have secured 75% marks for Natural Sciences and 65% for Humanities and Social Sciences in average in SLC and Plus 2 exams. Deserving students waiting the results for Class XII exams are also eligible to apply.

Written examinations will be held on July 12.

The field of study must be the same as the applicants' previous study leading to their final graduation. Applicants need to attach attested copies of certificates and mark-sheets along with the application.

Application forms are available at www.np.emb-japan.go.jp. The Embassy will accept completed applications in person at the following times only:

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|---|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Research Students: | May 5-9 | 09:30-12:30 hrs |
| 2. Undergraduate Students: | June 30-July 4 | 09:30-12:30 hrs |
| 3. Specialized Training College Students: | June 30-July 4 | 14:30-16:30 hrs |

No charges will be levied in connection with application processing.

Embassy of Japan

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