



INFOJAPAN

Embassy of Japan in Nepal

Vol. 40, March 2015



Japan Extends Assistance to WFP Nepal for Mid-Western Nepal

The Government of Japan has agreed to extend assistance of 500,000 US Dollars for executing the activities of the World Food Program (WFP), Nepal in Japan's Fiscal Year 2014. The fund will be utilized to retain Emergency Food Assistance for Flood-Affected People in Mid-Western Nepal.

Mainly four districts, Banke, Bardia, Surkhet and Dang of Mid-Western Development Region, along with the various districts of other regions, were badly affected due to the flood and landslide caused by the torrential monsoon rainfall in August last year. This resulted in loss of many lives, as well as missing, seriously injured and displaced persons. As these four (4) districts are prominent areas for agro production, especially paddy, maize, lentils and vegetables, the flood has caused heavy damages in these districts.

This assistance is expected to be vital not only in providing relief and help but also continuing its efforts to address flood-induced issues, such as the continuation of food supplies, re-construction of bridges, roads, schools etc.



Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects

Japanese Assistance for the Project for Improving the Living Environment of Communities through Prevention and Pollution Control of the Bagmati River by Local Communities in Kathmandu (2nd Phase)

The government of Japan has decided to extend financial assistance of 125,013 US Dollars (equivalent to NRs. 12,432,542) to SOMNEED, an NGO based in Japan, which will provide technical and financial support to SOMNEED-Nepal.

This project aims for the reduction of contamination of the Bagmati River through the construction of water treatment systems in three different communities of Gokarna. This facility purifies the wastewater utilizing micro-organisms and plants, and can be relatively easy constructed. In February 2014, the 1st phase of the three year project was implemented in Deshe Village.

The grant assistance provided this time will be used to implement the 2nd phase of the project in Basnet Gaun,

Gokarna Municipality. This phase will be composed of three elements:

- 1) Construction of a Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Facility
- 2) Capacity Building Training for Local People
- 3) Training of Trainers

Through training, the participants will learn mechanisms related to river pollution, ways to check water quality and ways to manage the facility. The training is expected to bring changes in the lifestyle of local people, encouraging them to keep the river clean. Raising awareness among individuals on how to dispose waste and treat wastewater properly and establish a system which effectively controls and prevents pollution of Bagmati.



Training program



Bagmati River observation training



Polluted water refinery plant

Japanese Assistance for the Project for the Improvement of Living Conditions in Kharpachok VDC, Kavrepalanchok District

The Government of Japan provided 239,299 US Dollars (equivalent to NRs. 23,791,106) to AMDA Multisectoral and Integrated Development Services (AMDA-MINDS), an NGO based in Japan, which will provide technical and financial support to partner agency, SAGUN Nepal, to implement the project.

A Grant Contract relating to this project was signed on March 3rd between Mr. Masashi OGAWA, Ambassador of Japan and Ms. Chiho MATSUMOTO, Country Director, AMDA-MINDS Nepal Office. This grant assistance will be used to implement a project at Kharpachok VDC in Kavrepalanchok District, aiming for the improvement of people's living conditions such as livelihood,



water, and health and hygiene. The major elements of this project are:-

- 1) Agriculture Livelihood Training
- 2) Improvement of Water Facilities
- 3) Health and Sanitation

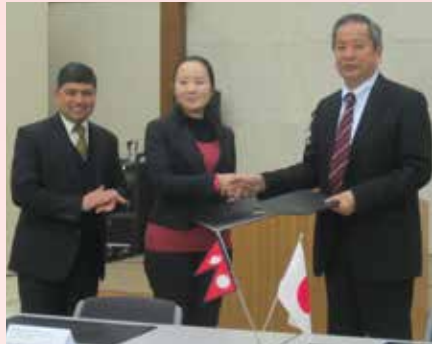
Ambassador Ogawa stressed that conducting agriculture, health and hygiene trainings, and hold awareness-raising events to the community people is the most effective activity. By which they can solve problems and improve their living standard by themselves, which is the base of sustainable rural development.

Japan's Assistance for the Project for Training & Campaign for Earthquake Non-structural Mitigation in the Kathmandu Valley

The Government of Japan has extended assistance of 102,473 US Dollars (equivalent to NRs. 10,187,865) to Shapla Neer – Citizen's Committee in Japan for Overseas Support, an NGO based in Japan and working with Nepalese partner agency, the National Society for Earthquake Technology-Nepal (NSET) to implement the project.

A Grant Contract relating to this project was signed and exchanged on March 4th between Mr. Masashi OGAWA, Ambassador of Japan, and Ms. Maki MIYAHARA, Country Representative of Shapla Neer - Nepal Office.

This project, aiming for the mitigation and prevention of damage in case of earthquakes, will be implemented in Kathmandu Metropolitan City and Lalitpur Sub-Metropolitan



City. The major elements of this project are as follow:-

- 1) Media Campaign for Earthquake Disaster Prevention Messages
- 2) Training Program for Community Leaders
- 3) House-to-house Visits
- 4) Disaster Risk Reduction Workshops for Women

Ambassador Ogawa said that the mitigation of human suffering caused by an earthquake depends on how people act when an earthquake occurs and undertake their own earthquake preparedness at the individual level. He also assured that the Government of Japan is also a member of the Consortium and supports Nepal in taking action to implement long-term disaster risk reduction plans.



Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GHP)

Japan's Assistance for the Project for the Installation of Drinking Water Facility in Barahachhetra VDC, Sunsari District

Signing Ceremony: February 16th

Amount: 90,313 US Dollars (equivalent to NRs. 8,956,340)

Recipient: Kankalini Multipurpose Service Center

This grant assistance will be used to construct drinking water facility in Barahachhetra VDC Ward 5, Sunsari District. It is planned to construct a deep well with an electromotive pump, one reservoir tank, forty-five distribution tap stands, and a total of 4,520 meters of pipe line to provide safe drinking water stably to around 1,500 people.

Japan's Assistance for the Project for the Construction of a Girls' Hostel at Janata Higher Secondary School in Siraha District

Signing Ceremony: February 20th

Amount: 99,468 US Dollars (equivalent to NRs. 9,887,119)

Recipient: Love Green Nepal

This grant assistance will be used to construct a two-storey Girls' Hostel at Janata Higher Secondary School, which was established by the local community in Navarajpur VDC of Siraha District. Love Green Nepal has been partnered with Japanese NGOs and donors for more than 20 years and has sent various members of staff to Japan for training. With these experiences, they will introduce aspects of the Japanese education system and hostel management to the hostel.

Japan's Assistance for the Project for Improvement of Medical Equipment in Damauli Hospital

Signing Ceremony: March 13th

Amount: 96,721 US Dollars (equivalent to NRs. 9,590,854)

Recipient: Damauli Hospital

The Government of Japan will support to provide, through this Assistance, medical equipment such as an ECG machine and USG machine for this new wards of Damauli Hospital. Damauli Hospital is situated on the Prithvi Highway which connects Kathmandu and Pokhara. Many patients visit this hospital not only from Tanahun District but also from other districts. Due to this fact, the number of patients sometimes exceeds the capacity of the hospital. Therefore, the Government of Nepal has constructed a new ward at Damauli Hospital, which will open soon. It is expected that this equipment will improve the quality of medical services provided to local people.

Japan's Assistance for the Project for the Construction of a Community Hall in Rautahat District

Signing Ceremony: March 17th

Amount: 99,020 US Dollars (equivalent to NRs. 9,818,823)

Recipient: Rautahat Development Trust

This grant assistance will be used to construct a Community Hall that holds 200 people in Ganga Pipra VDC,

Rautahat District. This will enable people in four VDCs, namely, Ganga Pipra, Pipra Bhalohiya, Pacharukhi, and Matsari to have a space for people's meetings or cultural programs, regardless of religion or caste. Rautahat Development Trust is planning to conduct health, literacy education, and income generation trainings and awareness programs for local women who have problems in terms of health, economics and social awareness.

Japan's Assistance for the Project for the Improvement of a Community Road in Ilam District

Signing Ceremony: March 23rd

Amount: 99,588 US Dollars (equivalent to NRs. 9,978,717)

Recipient: Clean and Green Nepal

This grant assistance will be used to improve a community road, of 2 km in length, in Sakhejung VDC of Ilam District. Due to landslides and floods during the monsoon, this community road is often closed to traffic. With this grant assistance, this road will become an 'all-weather' road. With the improvement of the community road, the people of Sakhejung, Shantidanda and Sangrumba VDCs, approximately 10,000 people in total, will have year-round access to markets and the local hospital. It is therefore expected that the lives of people will improve with this reliable, all-season access to the city and markets.

Japan Confers "the Medal with Red Ribbon" to a Nepali Youth



A Nepali youth, Anuj Raj Karki, living in Japan, has been conferred with "the medal with Red Ribbon" by Japanese government on January 13th, 2015 and Prime Minister Abe bestowed on him a letter of appreciation on January 23rd, 2015.

Mr. Karki bestowed upon individuals of merit, in recognition of their national or public service, and in honor of their distinguished accomplishment in various areas of society. In Japan, "the medal with Red Ribbon" is awarded to individuals who have risked their own lives to save others.

A Japanese lady unexpectedly fell from the railway platform at a station in Tokyo in May 2014. After she fell off, Mr. Karki immediately jumped down onto the railway line and saved her life, despite a high possibility of tragedy while performing the rescue. Mr. Karki is highly respected in Japan for his praiseworthy rescue work which put his life at high risk.

It is hoped that such acts of selfless courage may help in further promoting the mutual friendship between the two countries at the grassroots level.

Experience Japan through the JENESYS Program

The JENESYS 2.0 program (Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youth) aims to promote interest as well as awareness and understanding of Japan and Japanese values within the young generation. Laying a foundation for better mutual understanding and friendship, strengthening diplomatic relations by fostering participants as cultural ambassadors, and revitalizing Japanese regional areas through internationalization, are goals of the JENESYS 2.0 program. 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, including "Cool Japan".

The JENESYS 2.0 program was announced by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe during his stay in Jakarta on January 8th, 2013 as a continuation of the original JENESYS program carried out from 2007 to 2012, and as one of the important foreign policies of Japan.

Approximately 35,000 youths (middle school, high school and college students) from 41 countries throughout the Asian/ Oceanian Region and North America qualify to participate in the program.

This year a total of eight youths (Japanese language learners), including one supervisor from Nepal, took part in the program from December 1st to 9th, 2014.

The Nepali participants remarked that, although it was a short 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. Below is a summary of the report presented by the participants:

Culture:

"Sightseeing of cultural heritage sites in Kyoto was very memorable for us. There are also old temples and cultural heritage sites in Nepal, but preservation of the monuments in Nepal is not sufficient. Japanese people have a big attachment to their traditional culture and cultural heritage. This time we visited Kinkakuji Temple in Kyoto, and we were lost for words because of its beauty and preservation. The home stay was one of the best ways to experience Japanese culture. The politeness and hospitality of the host family will remain in our hearts forever. We also experienced wonderful cultural activities such as a tea ceremony; dancing; crafts and arts; traditional dyeing (yuzen-zome), etc. "Yuzenzome" is a dyeing process of multi-colored designs invented during the period 1688 – 1704, by Yuzensai Miyazaki, painter of designs for folding fans in Kyoto. Experiencing these activities helped us realize the richness of the Japanese culture. Most of all, we are very fortunate to have made new friends with Japanese students and host families."

Technology:

"Everybody knows that Japan is the world's leading country in the technology and research field. The fusion of technology in daily life is one of the interesting aspects of Japanese society. We can say the merits of science and technology have been developed and integrated well into everyday life. For example, the transport system is well planned and runs on time. When we visited the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation, "MIRAikan", we were just amazed to see the technology of Japan."

Tourist Attractions:

"Japan offers a very wide range of attractions for the tourist, from historical and cultural treasures to modern and futuristic sights. It holds a unique combination of traditional and modern values in its infrastructure and daily life. Friendly and warm hearted people, with unique culture and norms, attracts more foreigners to Japan. Most of Japan's major cities offer an efficient public transportation network, and are connected with each other by the "shinkansen", the Japanese bullet train. Foreigners can really enjoy Japanese historical sites with their history and culture. In addition, Japanese cuisine is one of Japan's greatest attractions. A great variety of both Japanese cuisine and food from around the world can be enjoyed in Japan."



Japan Education Fair



The Embassy of Japan, together with the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO), and Japanese Universities Alumni Association Nepal (JUAAN), held the Japan Education Fair on February 7th, 2015 at the Everest Hotel, Baneshwor. This Fair is organized every year to promote study in Japan by providing Nepalese students and educators with correct information about Japanese higher education and research so as to help the students choose an appropriate university and achieve their academic goals.

The Fair offered information on study in Japan; scholarship programs and application procedures for scholarships; selection of university; entrance examination procedures; university ranking; ways to find a research adviser, and an insight to Japanese lifestyle. Some 1,350 university students and educational administrators attended the Fair.

This year, leading Japanese universities, namely Hiroshima University, Kumamoto University, Kyoto University, Osaka University, Shibaura Institute of Technology, Tohoku University and Waseda University took part in the Fair.

Japanese Language Teachers' Seminar

On February 19th and 21st, 2015 the Japanese Language Teachers' Association Nepal (JALTAN), in cooperation with the Embassy of Japan, conducted a Japanese Language teachers' seminar in the Embassy Hall, Kathmandu and in the Pokhara Japanese Language Culture Center, Pokhara. The instructor was Ms. Murakami, Language Advisor of the Japan Foundation Office in New Delhi.

The Seminar focused mainly on effective ways to teach verb structures, reading comprehension sentences and conversation techniques in the Japanese language. Sixty seven Japanese language teachers from Kathmandu and thirty eight from Pokhara attended the seminar and learned innovative and easy methods of teaching Japanese. The participating teachers responded that the seminar was very fruitful and beneficial for Japanese language teachers in Nepal.



Japanese Film Festival in Pokhara and Kathmandu



The Embassy of Japan in cooperation with the Japanese Language Teachers' Association Nepal (JALTAN), organized film festivals in Pokhara and Kathmandu on January 30th and 31st and February 27th and 28th, 2015, respectively. 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. Japanese films are paced differently and significant messages are delivered through unspoken context of communication. We strived to make our selections reflect this eloquent Japanese style. The films covered popular genres such as historical and contemporary dramas, comedies, and animation films. The festival was a great success - in Pokhara it attracted 1,000 people over three screenings and attracted 2,100 people over four screenings in Kathmandu. Post-screening surveys indicated people genuinely enjoyed the films.



On Japan: Hina-matsuri and Children's Day

Hina-matsuri

The 3rd of March is "hinamatsuri" (Dolls Festival) in Japan. It is also called "Momo-no-Sekku" (Peach Blossom Festival) and this day is to pray for the growth and happiness of young girls. Most families with girls display "hinaningyo" (special dolls for hinamatsuri) on stands featuring dolls dressed in ancient court costumes, and dedicate peach blossoms to them. Peach blossoms, symbolizing a happy marriage, are an indispensable decoration for this festival. There are also some special dishes for the festival: special colored diamond shaped rice cakes "hishimochi", rice crackers "hina-arare", and sweet white rice wine "sirozake", are offered. Relatives and friends of daughters are invited to the home to celebrate.

The tradition began during the Edo period (1603 - 1868), as a way of warding off evil spirits, with the dolls acting as a good charm. Even today, people in some parts of the country release paper dolls into rivers at the end of the festival, praying that the dolls will carry away sickness and bad fortune.

Families generally start to display the dolls around mid-February and put them away immediately after the festival. This is because superstition says that leaving the dolls out past March 4th will result in the late marriage of the daughter.

Children's Day

The traditional name of this day is "Tango-no-sekku" (a seasonal festival). This is a festival to pray for the health and courage of boys, and families with sons celebrate this day by flying "koinobori" (carp streamers). The streamers decorate the skies of Japan from April through early May in honor of Children's Day, celebrated on May 5th. People decorate their houses with samurai armor and warrior dolls, and eat seasoned rice cooked in bamboo leaves and sticky rice balls filled with red bean paste. In olden times on this day people would drive away evil spirits using iris leaves.

The carp streamers are flown above the roofs of the houses by the sons. The biggest koinobori is for the fathers, next biggest for the mother, and so on, ranging down to the smallest for the youngest son. This holiday also became a day to pray for boys to grow up brave and strong. In Japan, carps are known to be strong fish that can leap up waterfalls. The koinobori symbolizes the parent's wish for their sons to be as strong as the carp.



Announcement: Japanese Government MEXT Scholarship for 2016

The Embassy of Japan announces the competition for Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho: MEXT) Scholarship for Nepali student for the academic year 2016 in the fields of Natural Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences.

Program	Qualifications
1. Research Students	Must be under 35 years of age (as of April 1 st , 2016) and have completed at least 16 years of education and secured 70% marks for Natural Science and 60% for Humanities and Social Sciences in aggregate in all levels of exams.
2. Undergraduate Students and 3. Specialized Training College Students	Must have been born between April 2 nd , 1994 & April 1 st , 1999 and have secured 75% marks for Natural Sciences and 65% for Humanities and Social Sciences in aggregate in SLC and +2 exams.

Written examination will be held on July 11th 2015.

The field of study must be the same as the applicants' previous study leading to their final graduation. Applicants need to attested copies of certificates and mark-sheet 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 time only:

1. Research Students:	May 1, 5 - 8	09:30 – 12:30
2. Undergraduate Students:	June 29 – July 3	09:30 – 12:30
3. Specialized Training College Students:	June 29 – July 3	14:30 – 16:30

There might be minor changes in schedule and guidelines. For latest information, visit www.np.emb-japan.go.jp

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