

# **PRESS RELEASE**

## **Embassy of Japan**

P.O. Box 264, Kathmandu

<http://www.np.emb-japan.go.jp>

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### **Japan Constructs an Agricultural Processing Center for Coffee Beans in Kavrepalanchowk District**

(Kathmandu: February 22): The Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, H. E. Mr. Masamichi Saigo, signed a grant contract for the construction of an agricultural processing center for coffee production in Temal Municipality, Kavrepalanchowk District. The grant contract was signed between the Embassy of Japan and Mr. Jit Ram Lama, Chairperson of the Association for Rural Social Welfare - Nepal (ARSOW Nepal).

The Project for the Construction of an Agricultural Processing Center in Kavrepalanchowk District is funded under the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) of the Japanese Government. The total grant assistance is USD 68,185 (approximately NPR 7.7 million).

The project will support the construction of one pulping center to clean the coffee beans, and one processing center for roasting and packaging the resulting beans. Currently, raw coffee beans are transported to Kathmandu and sold there. However, raw coffee beans have low value, so local farmers do not obtain much profit. This project was planned to improve this situation and generate income for the local farmers.

In order to ensure the technical side, a Japanese company, Colorbath Inc. (former IGC Japan) that has been supporting the growing of coffee trees, will further assist the processing and marketing of the coffee beans.

The pulping and processing centers will be equipped with quality equipment such as a roaster, pulping machine, and grader. In this way, the efficient and hygienic processing of the beans is assured and, thus, the production of high-quality coffee beans. The coffee beans will be exported abroad, starting in Japan, in order to promote Nepali coffee.

The Embassy of Japan expects this project will improve the lives of local farmers in Kavrepalanchowk District and also promote a product grown in the Himalayas. The Embassy also hopes the assistance will further strengthen the bilateral relationship between Japan and Nepal.

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