

PRESS RELEASE

Embassy of Japan

P.O. Box 264, Kathmandu

JEINF No. 37-2019

22nd July 2019

Japan Extends Grant Aid for the Scholarships to Government Officers and for the Implementation of the School Sector Development Program

His Excellency, Mr. Masamichi SAIGO, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, and Mr. Rajan Khanal, Secretary of the Ministry of Finance of the Government of Nepal have signed and exchanged three sets of Notes today on behalf of their respective governments. These Notes are for extending Japan's Grant Assistance up to two hundred and fifty million Japanese Yen (¥250,000,000), or equivalent to 254.7 million Nepali Rupees and three hundred and seventy eight million Japanese Yen (¥378,000,000), or equivalent to 385.2 million Nepali Rupees for the implementation of JDS Phase I and Phase II respectively. The third note relates to assistance of three hundred million Japanese Yen (¥300,000,000), or equivalent to 305.7 million Nepali Rupees for the implementation of the School Sector Development Program (SSDP).

Ms. Yumiko ASAKUMA, Chief Representative of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA Nepal), and Mr. Shreekrishna Nepal, Joint Secretary of the International Economic Cooperation and Coordination Division (IECCD) of the Ministry of Finance, have also signed and exchanged a Grant Agreement for the implementation of this Scheme.

The JDS Project Grant is designed to support human resource development of friendly nations through accepting highly capable, energetic, and young government officials into Japanese universities and strengthening the partnership between recipient countries and Japan by utilizing human relation chains to address future global needs. Phase I of JDS is in the final completion stage under which sixty Nepali government officers have already been dispatched while twenty are in the process of pursuing their studies in Japanese universities. In the meantime, Phase II of JDS is in the implementation process with the addition of an infrastructure development component and doctoral degree program as per the request of the Government of Nepal.

Japan has also been assisting in the implementation of the School Sector Development Program (SSDP) from 2016.

H.E. Mr. Saigo said that education was an investment in human capital and the foundation for a nation's sustainable social and economic development. He also stressed that through education the cycle of poverty could be eradicated in the long term. SSDP is considered as an important vessel to enable Nepal to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to become a middle-income country by 2030. H.E. Saigo hoped that the SSDP would improve the quality of education, school management and institutional capacity and the access to education for children in marginalized communities, based on SDGs policy "No one left behind".

The Embassy of Japan expresses its firm belief that the objectives being envisaged by above Projects will be achieved, thereby further strengthening the existing cordial relationship of friendship and cooperation between the people of Japan and Nepal.

Embassy of Japan in Nepal

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