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President Bidhya Devi Bhandari's Visit to Japan

Rt. Honorable President Mrs. Bidhya Devi Bhandari visited Japan to participate in the Ceremonies of the Accession to the Throne. His Majesty the Emperor Naruhito ascended to the Throne on 22nd October 2019, at the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor at the seiden, congratulated by world leaders and royal families.



Emperor Naruhito ascended the throne in May and the Ceremonies of the Accession to the Throne were held in October. The entire ritual is known as "Sokui no Rei" in Japanese.

On 21st October, President Bhandari held a meeting with Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan. Prime Minister Abe stated that Nepal's sustainable development is important for peace and stability in the region as a whole. He also welcomed the resumption of direct flights between Osaka and Kathmandu this year after 12 years, expressing his expectation towards the Visit Nepal 2020, as well as Japan would promote human resources from Nepal in smooth and appropriate manners. President Bhandari stated that she was honored to attend the historic Ceremony of the Enthronement of the Emperor and appreciated the enormous support from Japan to Nepal. She expressed her gratitude for the provision of technology and knowledge from Japan will contribute to Nepal's economic development.

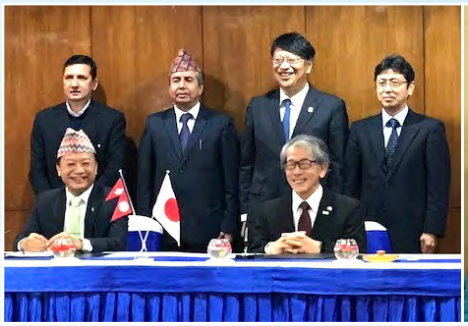
Japanese Delegation for Agriculture and Business Visited Nepal

From 10th to 16th November, a 25-member delegation led by Mr. Takami Nakada, Deputy Director-General for International Affairs, Minister's Secretariat, from Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) visited Nepal. The delegation, including agricultural experts and business persons, visited here to research about agriculture, trade & investment environment of Nepal.

The delegation organized a "Public-Private Joint Forum on Private Investment, Inter-governmental Cooperation and Acceptance of Human Resources between Nepal and Japan" on 13th November at Alfa House Banquet, Baneshwor, in Kathmandu. Additionally, Dr. Masaru Iwanaga, President of the Japan International Research Centre for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS), and Dr. Tek Bahadur Gurung, Acting Executive Director of the Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC), signed and exchanged a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Comprehensive Research Cooperation between the two countries.

The objectives of the visit were to explore about research topics for the better agricultural environment and investment opportunities in Nepal by Japanese agriculture and food-related companies. The aim of the investments would be to make contributions to various cooperative activities and/or joint research between government agencies of the two countries for enhancing productivity of agricultural products. Moreover it is planned to explore possibilities for Nepali workers in agriculture, food and beverage production, and the food service industry under the new residency status "Specified Skilled Worker".

The delegation held meetings with high-level Nepali Government officials and business persons and also visited sites of agriculture and supportive facilities. This delegation first visited Nepal in January 2019.





2019 Autumn Conferment of Japanese Decorations on Foreign Nationals

The Government of Japan announced the foreign recipients of the 2019 Autumn Imperial Decorations on 3rd November. Former Ambassador of Nepal to Japan, Mr. Narayan Prasad Arjal, is among this year's foreign recipients and, in recognition of his contributions towards strengthening the relationship between Japan and Nepal, he received the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star.

Mr. Arjal, who is now 86 years old and served as Ambassador of Nepal to Japan from 1985 to 1991, contributed to the promotion of friendly relations between Japan and Nepal by strengthening economic cooperation with Japan in medicine, infrastructure, and other areas. Moreover, he also helped in connecting the Royal Family of Nepal and the Imperial Family of Japan, as well as local municipalities of both countries. Additionally, he made contributions to the Nepali Pavilion at the Tsukuba Expo of Science and Technology in 1985 and at the Osaka Expo of the International Garden and Greenery in 1990.

Japanese decorations are conferred upon foreigners twice a year, on 29th April and 3rd November, concurrently with the conferment of decorations and medals to Japanese nationals. The Order of the Rising Sun is bestowed upon individuals of merit in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the nation or public. This Order is also conferred upon foreign nationals who have made notable contributions to the promotion of relations between Japan and other countries in such areas as politics and diplomacy, research and education, medicine and social welfare, economy and industry, and culture and sports.

Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP)

The Government of Japan has been implementing Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) through the Embassy of Japan since 1992. The GGP provides non-refundable financial assistance to NGOs, hospitals, primary schools, research institutions, and other non-profit organizations to support community level socio-economic development projects. The Embassy has continued to provide GGP support to different grassroots organizations for projects seeking to bring about changes at the community level. The following section provides an update on ongoing GGP activities:-

Building a School Lunch Preparation Center in Budhanilkantha

Signing Ceremony: 24th September 2019

Amount: NRs 9.5 million

Recipient: Food for Life Nepal

Ambassador Masamichi Saigo signed a grant contract to build a School Lunch Preparation Center in Budhanilkantha Municipality in Kathmandu District.

Food for Life Nepal was established in 2015 with the aim to provide midday meals for children of public schools in Budhanilkantha Municipality and does not have enough kitchen space to prepare school lunches for all the children in need. The project will enable Food for Life Nepal to provide midday meals to a larger number of students in and around Budhanilkantha Municipality.

Rehabilitation Center for Muscular Dystrophy Sufferers

Signing Ceremony: 24th September 2019

Amount: NRs 10.39 million

Recipient: Muscular Dystrophy Foundation-Nepal (MDF-Nepal)

Ambassador Saigo signed a grant contract to build a rehabilitation center for people with muscular dystrophy in Kathmandu District.

MDF-Nepal was established in 2003 by parents who lost their children to muscular dystrophy. At present MDF-Nepal does not have enough space for rehabilitating patients and the project will enable it to provide more effective services to the patients.

Construction of a Children's Home in Humla District

Signing Ceremony: 26th September 2019

Amount: NRs 13.5 million

Recipient: Rural Empowerment and Development Initiative, Humla (READI, Humla)

Ambassador Saigo signed a grant contract for the construction of a Children's Home in Humla District. The project will support the construction of a new children's home to accommodate up to 30 orphans and children in difficult situations within Humla District. The project is expected to assist children in difficult situations and aims to contribute to poverty reduction and to improve the quality of life for children in the district.

Medical Equipment for Community Hospital in Godawari Municipality, Kailali District

Signing Ceremony: 26th September 2019

Amount: NRs. 12.7 million

Recipient: Sudur Paschimanchal Samudayik Aspattal

Ambassador Saigo signed a grant contract to install medical equipment at the Community Hospital, Godawari Municipality, Kailali District.

The project will support installation of medical equipment such as patient monitors, electrocardiogram (ECG) machines, microscopes, a chemiluminescence immunoassay (CLIA) machine, ICU beds, an X-ray with computedradiography (CR) systems, and video endoscopy at the community hospital.

Construction of a Childbirth Center in Dang District

Signing Ceremony: 27th September 2019

Amount: NRs 10.03 million

Recipient: Family Planning Association of Nepal (FPAN)

Ambassador Saigo signed a grant contract for the construction of a Childbirth Center in Dang District. The project will support the construction of a new childbirth center and installation of medical equipment at the Health Clinic in Ghorahi Municipality.

New Classrooms at Shree Praja Pragati Basic School in Makwanpur District

Signing Ceremony: 1st October 2019

Amount: NRs 9.2 million

Recipient: Shree Praja Pragati Basic School

The Deputy Chief of Mission, Mr. Yuzo Yoshioka, signed a grant contract for building new classrooms with the Shree Praja Pragati Basic School at Raksirang Rural Municipality in Makwanpur District.

More than 50 percent of students attending the school are from the Chepang community; the remaining from other indigenous communities. The project is expected to support better education for children of communities that previously had limited access to educational facilities.

New Hostel at Shree Lekali Basiphant Secondary School in Makwanpur District

Signing Ceremony: 1st October 2019

Amount: NRs 10.09 million

Recipient: Shree Lekali Basiphant Secondary School

The Deputy Chief of Mission, Mr. Yoshioka, signed a grant contract for building a new hostel with Shree Lekali Basiphant Secondary School in Makwanpur District.

Many children in the area take two hours each way to travel to school, a total of four hours of travelling each day. It unfavorably affects on their studies and the drop-out rate is relatively high compared to other areas. Therefore, the project is expected to also reduce the drop-out rate in the school.

Hand-over of Medical Equipment

Handover Ceremony: 17th September 2019

Amount: NRs 8.5 million

Recipient: Labourer, Women and Child Welfare Council

An official of the Embassy of Japan handed over medical equipment to the Labourer, Women and Child Welfare Council in Bhaktapur. The equipment includes an X-ray, ultrasound, computer radiography (CR) machine, and electrocardiogram (ECG) machine, among others.

Hand-over of Agricultural Facilities in Bhutanese Camps and Neighboring Communities

Handover Ceremony: 18th October 2019

Amount: NRs 8.1 million

Recipient: Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Nepal

Ambassador Saigo, handed over agricultural facilities to two Bhutanese camps and their neighboring communities. The facilities include green houses, drip irrigation systems, and shallow tube wells.

The Project for the Installation for Agricultural Facilities in Bhutanese Camps and Neighboring Communities is managed by the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Nepal. LWF Nepal was established in 1984 to meet humanitarian and development needs of the poor, oppressed and vulnerable people living in poverty and in vulnerable conditions. LWF Nepal has been working for the Bhutanese refugees since 1991 through funding support from international organization such as UNHCR.

Hand-over of School Building in Myagdi District

Handover Ceremony: 18th October 2019

Amount: NRs 9.07 million

Recipient: Shree Deurali Basic School

An official of the Embassy of Japan handed over a newly constructed school building to Shree Deurali Basic School in Myagdi District.

The school has about 200 students, from pre-primary level to Grade 8 who previously studied in three buildings, two of which had become vulnerable because of poor maintenance. This new two-storied building has capacity to accommodate all eight grades and is a part of the Japanese Government's efforts to support safe schooling in Nepal.

Hand-over of Excavator to Tukche Village

Handover Ceremony: 19th October 2019

Amount: NRs 9.3 million

Recipient: Ward No.1 Office of Thasang Rural Municipality

An official of the Embassy of Japan handed over an excavator valued at about NPR 9.3 million to Ward No. 1, Tukche Village, Thasang Rural Municipality, in Mustang District.

Tukche Village is located on the banks of the Kali Gandaki River and the people there have to deal with large volumes of water from snowmelt that erodes the river banks. The village is prone to erosion and in the past people have lost their fields and have had to relocate because of the inability to tame flood water.







Mountaineer Mr. Takeuchi's Talk Program



The Embassy of Japan organized a talk program by a well-known Japanese professional mountaineer, Mr. Hirotaka Takeuchi, at the Embassy Hall on 29th November 2019. Mr. Takeuchi is so far, the only Japanese national successfully scaled all 14 peaks over 8,000 meters. He shared his experience with the audience and stressed that future generations must adopt a "can-do" spirit of Mr. Naomi Uemura.

In 1970, world renowned adventurer Mr. Naomi Uemura became the first Japanese to scale Mt. Everest. The coming year 2020 marks the 50th anniversary and golden jubilee of Mr. Uemura's achievement. Mr. Takeuchi explained that various programs are planned to be held in both countries to celebrate this achievement. More than 50 people attend the program on the day.

Japanese Calligraphy Workshop



The Embassy of Japan conducted a Calligraphy Class at the office of the Japanese Language Teachers' Association (JALTAN) on 12th November 2019. Ms. Makiko Takaki, a calligraphy instructor from Japan shared her skills with Japanese language students at the International Languages Campus of Tribhuvan University. More than 20 students and Japanese language instructors participated in the program.

Japanese calligraphy (Shodo) is one of the most popular fine arts of Japan. Calligraphical works are appreciated as much as paintings. Japanese calligraphy also possesses a philosophical sense. In the simplest understanding, calligraphy is an art to write beautifully: the master creates a work of art through brushes and ink on paper. This transfers harmony and beauty.

Traditional Japanese Paintings Exhibition



Ambassador Masamichi Saigo welcomed guests for the "Traditional Japanese Paintings" exhibition at the Japanese Embassy Hall, Kathmandu on 22nd November 2019. On the opening day we had more than 70 guests, including 11 ambassadors, Japanese language teachers and students also Nepali artists. Dr. Claire Cuccio, an educator and independent scholar of Japanese studies gave a live review of the exhibition based on her professional knowledge of Japanese art and paintings. The Embassy run the exhibition from 22nd November to 6th December 2019.



The exhibition featured works by Dr. Toshimichi Okumura, with Nepali artists "origami" artworks. Dr. Okumura's works used various wooden-boards, these distinct features which lead viewers to the world of traditional Japanese paintings. Using wood as a "canvas", Dr. Okumurua poured his knowledge and techniques of traditional Japanese painting methods, which make his art more original. His works are on various themes from nature, countryside life and Japanese culture, including architecture. Dr. Okumura took his Ph.D. in Architecture and has Master in the Preservation of Culture Heritage Studies. Currently he is working in Nepal as the JICA Expert, Culture Heritage Advisor at the Department of Archaeology, Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation.

"Origami", the paper fold artworks, Nepali artists, Ms. Yamuna Shrestha and Mr. Saugat Rajbhandari showcased their beautiful origami 3D art works. Origami workshops by two artists were held for local students. More than 400 students participated and learned about Japanese origami art. The exhibition attracted visitors to enjoy traditional Japanese paintings and origami art. During the 14-day of exhibition, about 800 art lovers visited our embassy hall.

Japanese Karaoke Competition in Kathmandu



The 12th Japanese Language Karaoke Competition was held at the Nepal Academy Hall on 9th November 2019. The competition was jointly organized by the Embassy of Japan and the Japanese Language Teachers' Association, Nepal (JALTAN). The competition is held annually, and is aimed to introduce Japanese culture and language to Nepali people. This competition was jointly supported by the Japanese Association in Nepal; the Japanese Universities Alumni Association, Nepal (JUAAN); the JICA Alumni Association of Nepal (JAAN), and sponsor companies. Their kind involvement is highly appreciated.

There were more than 450 audience in the hall on the day. The participants competed to impress them with Japanese songs of their choice both individual and group sections. Mr. Anikesh Rai from the Japanese Language & Education and Culture Centre (JLECC) came the first among the 18 contestants.

Exploring the Land of the Rising Sun



This year Mr. Ghanashyam Khadka from Kantipur Daily, joined the invitation program by the Japanese Government. He visited Japan from 2nd September for a week and here is his memories regarding the visit.

"For a person with interest in foreign affairs and global political dynamics, I got a new insight on the relations among nations in the East Asia through a brief visit to the National Museum and of Territory and Sovereignty which is located at the heart of Tokyo city. The officers at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were kind enough to enhance my knowledge on the engagement of Japan with other countries of South Asia including Nepal.

Riding bullet train was another pleasure which covered the distance between Tokyo and Hiroshima for me. With natural flow of tears, I peeped into the darkest time of the human history during my visit at the Peace Memorial. And, with the sleigh of relief, I roamed around the blooming city of Hiroshima raised from the ashes of history. From there, I went to Kobe and saw the rebuilt city from the dust of earthquake.

Seeing the epitome of development and growth of the nation, hard work and humbleness of the people and the marvelously applied technology in every walk of the life, I spent all the days of my week in Japan. Many days have passed since I came back from the country of the rising Sun. But, every memory stays fresh as if it has just happened. I am grateful to the Embassy of Japan for providing this wonderful opportunity to explore the most resilient country of the world."

Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)

The second Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) of 2019 was held at St. Mary's School and D.A.V. School, Jawalakhel on 1st December 2019. There were 3,368 students sat for the proficiency test for Levels N1 to N5.

Japan Visit Experience



Every year the Japan Foundation invites outstanding students and teachers of the Japanese language from universities, colleges, and educational institutions abroad to visit Japan so that they can deepen their knowledge of Japanese language, society, and culture for the purpose of further encouragement of their study.

In the field of outstanding students, Mr. Mikesh Maharjan from Ajisai Japanese Language Institute took part this year. The outstanding students from 46 countries gathered at the Japan Foundation Kansai Center for two weeks.

In the 'Sakura (JF Nihogo) Network Invitation Program', two teachers from Bishwo Bhasa Campus, Tribhuvan University, namely, Mr. Purna Kaji Prajapati and Ms. Binu Shrestha, and a student, Ms. Yunita Singh, visited Japan for one month. Participants from the universities of five different countries were invited to Japan.



Rugby World Cup 2019 Promotional Event

On 28th September 2019, Ambassador Saigo hosted a Rugby World Cup 2019 Promotional Event, with diplomatic corps which participate in the Rugby World Cup to watch the match live. More than 30 rugby-fan diplomats gathered on this occasion. Japan defeated Ireland 19-12 in the tough competition match held at Ecopa Stadium in Shizuoka Prefecture, Japan.





Matsumoto City Kathmandu City Sisterhood 30th Anniversary



On 13th November 2019, Kathmandu Metropolitan City organized "Friendly Judo and Kendo Competitions" at the Multipurpose Martial Art Centre, Nayabazar, Kathmandu. The winners of the senior and junior class tournament received trophies from Matsumoto City. At the program, the Vice-President of Matsumoto Kendo Association, Mr. Ushida, and his wife performed a Kendo demonstration game.

A 21-member delegation from Matsumoto City, Japan headed by its Deputy Mayor, Mr. Aoki Tusbota, visited Kathmandu to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the establishment of the Sister City Relations between Matsumoto City and Kathmandu Metropolitan City. Mayor Tsubota handed over 60 Kendo 'Shinai' (bamboo-sword) and 10 sets of Judo uniforms to Kathmandu Mayor, Mr. Bidhya Sundar Shakya.





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