

PRESS RELEASE

Embassy of Japan

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Japan Extends Grant for School Sector Development Program

(Kathmandu, 23th July): The Government of Japan has extended grant assistance of up to three hundred million Japanese Yen (¥300,000,000), equivalent to 335 million Nepali Rupees to the Government of Nepal for implementing the School Sector Development Program (SSDP).

His Excellency, Mr. SAIGO Masamichi, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, and Mr. Sishir Kumar Dhungana, Secretary of the Ministry of Finance signed notes to this effect.

Another set of grant agreements for implementing the program were signed by Ms. ASAKUMA Yumiko, Chief Representative of JICA Nepal, and Mr. Shreekrishna Nepal, Joint Secretary, the International Economic Cooperation and Coordination Division of the Ministry of Finance.

Education is an investment in human capital and the foundation of a nation's sustainable social and economic development. The vision of SSDP is to contribute to the development of self-sustainable, competitive, innovative and value oriented citizens for the socio-economic transformation of the nation.

SSDP is considered as an important vessel for Nepal's school education. As such it will produce the needed human resources to elevate Nepal's status from a Least Developed Country by 2022 and reach the status of a middle-income country by 2030. Ambassador SAIGO hopes that the program will improve the equity, quality, efficiency, governance, management and resilience of the education sector.

Ambassador SAIGO would like to point out that the COVID-19 outbreak has made the situation difficult for both countries. The pandemic has had serious impacts on students' learning and well-being. With regard to this, the schools have incorporated innovative technologies (e.g. digital and mobile technologies combined with traditional technologies such as radio and television) in order to provide continuous education. In view of this, Ambassador SAIGO hopes that even during this pandemic, the country will take up the challenge to ensure that children and their education will help to contribute to a more prosperous Nepal in the future.

The Embassy of Japan is confident that the objectives envisaged by the project will be achieved, and will contribute towards further strengthening the relationship, friendship and cooperation between the peoples of Japan and Nepal.

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