

Ambassador Kikuta's Message



Namaste, it is my pleasure to introduce myself to you. I am KIKUTA Yutaka, the new Ambassador of Japan to Nepal. I arrived here on March 7th, 2021, as successor to Ambassador Saigo Masamichi.

Although I am a new ambassador to Nepal, I already have some personal history with this beautiful country. I still remember my visit here as Director of the Southwest Asia Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, at that time there were beautiful flowers on the jacaranda trees in full bloom within the Valley. In 2005, I welcomed the then Crown Prince Paras and Crown Princess Himani to EXPO 2005 AICHI JAPAN. While I was serving as Deputy Chief of Mission of Japanese Embassy in India, I felt at my residence in New Delhi the tremor of the Nepal earthquake in 2015.

There is a long and deep history between Japan and Nepal, namely through people's friendship and various exchanges, all started with the visit of a Japanese monk, KAWAGUCHI Ekai to Kathmandu in 1899. Japan and Nepal established official diplomatic relations in 1956, and we have been strengthening our relationship as true friends since then. I am aware that high-level exchanges between the two countries have been quite active; that the Rt. Hon. President Mrs. Bhandari visited Japan and the Foreign Ministers from both countries travelled to see each other recently. Moreover, it is also memorable to mention that next year, 2022, is the 120th anniversary since the first eight Nepali students were dispatched to Japan for their studies.

Regarding economic issues, we welcome Nepal to participate in EXPO 2025 OSAKA, KANSAI, JAPAN. I look forward to this very much, knowing that Nepal will show its prosperity and happiness to the world on this special occasion. In order to support Nepal's economic development, the Government of Japan has been extending various assistance for a long time, including projects for the recovery from the earthquake. Personally speaking, I am originally from Fukushima Prefecture, in which we had the Great East Japan Earthquake ten years ago, and which was again hit by a severe earthquake last month. From such experience of my own, I think I understand better than any others how Nepali people have been trying hard to restore their lives to normal, overcoming difficulties caused by the earthquake in 2015.

Above all, I feel very honored and fortunate to be posted to this country, with people who love Japan and where Sagarmatha lies, along with various other attractions and charms of the nation. It is my duty to work humbly and sincerely to succeed my predecessors' efforts. Last year, many of us faced unprecedented hardship due to the COVID-19 outbreak all over the world. Nepal was not the exception. I believe, however, good people of Nepal will never give up and will overcome challenges whatever they are. I am looking forward to working with the Nepal Government and friends, and to brightening our great friendship for future generations to come.

KIKUTA Yutaka

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan



The Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation: Dr. Narato

On February 11th 2021, former Ambassador Saigo Masamichi awarded the Foreign Minister's Commendation to Dr. NARATO Kenjiro for his contributions to support medical services in Nepal.

Dr. Narato is an experienced Japanese family doctor who has been working for community-based medical services in Hokkaido, Japan. He visited Nepal in 2005 as a Member of the NGO Japan Overseas Christian Medical Cooperative (JOCS) and started working at Chaurjahari village in West Rukum District. At that time Chaurjahari had a population approximately 5,000 and the hospital had only about 30 beds. With Dr. Narato's continuous efforts, the hospital now has 60 beds and is able to provide services to 65,000 patients annually.

After his retirement from JOCS in 2011, Dr. Narato worked with a Japanese NGO, DOSANKO Community Health International

as its representative in Nepal. He has been actively involved in introducing public health programs, fund-raising for the medical sector, and educating medical and healthcare professionals. He contributed immediately after the Gorkha Earthquake in Nepal in 2015, and still supports the education of children who were orphaned by the earthquake.

Two years ago in February 2019, Dr. Narato attended a ceremony to lay the cornerstone for the construction of an Emergency Department building at Chaurjahari Hospital, which was funded under the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) of the Japanese Government. The Human Development and Community Services, a local NGO that runs the hospital, was the beneficiary of the grant.

Dr. Narato's contribution has been significant in promoting mutual understanding between Japan and Nepal, and his generous support to medical and health professionals, as well as students of both countries, is highly appreciated.

“Japanese Cuisine Goodwill Ambassador”



On February 24th 2021, former Ambassador Saigo handed a certificate of appointment to Mr. TAKADA Hideaki who was designated as a “Japanese Cuisine Goodwill Ambassador” by Japan’s Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) in January 2021.

Mr. Takada established Maharjan International in Kathmandu in 2012 as a company specialized in Japanese sake and food. Maharjan International imports and retails a wide range of Japanese sake and food to both Nepalese people and foreigners in Nepal. He has been making contribution for expanding the Japanese culinary experiences in Nepal.

The appointment is part of Japan’s MAFF efforts to promote Japanese food abroad since 2015. Japanese Cuisine Goodwill ambassadors are appointed to provide appropriate consultations on the promotion of Japanese food and culinary culture.

The Ministry strengthened the efforts to promote food and Japan’s dietary culture after UNESCO listed “WASHOKU” (Japanese food) as an Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Japan Extends Assistance to WFP Nepal

The Government of Japan has agreed to extend grant assistance of Japanese Yen 364 million (about US\$3.47 million / NRs.405 million) to the United Nations World Food Programme (UN WFP) Nepal for implementing the Mother and Child Health and Nutrition Programme in five vulnerable districts of Provinces 1 and 2.



(photo credit to WFP)

Former Ambassador Saigo and Ms. Susan Jane Pearce, Representative and Country Director of WFP Nepal a.i., signed a grant contract in Kathmandu on February 19th, 2021.

At the signing, Ambassador Saigo said the grant will improve the health and nutrition of children and young mothers in Jhapa, Morang, and Sunsari districts of Province 1, and Saptari and Siraha districts of Province 2, which are prone to extreme weather events and other climate change-linked disasters. “This partnership between the Japanese Government, the Government of Nepal, and WFP has the potential to improve the health and nutrition of 19,000 children aged 6 to 23 months and 49,700 pregnant and breastfeeding mothers through specialized nutritious food, while 25,000 households will benefit from the establishment of Community Food Banks equipped with food storage facilities,” he added.

In her address, Ms. Susan Jane Pearce thanked the Government of Japan for the generous support.



Japanese Government and NGO Take Hands to Assist Nepal

The “Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects” is a scheme in which Government of Japan provides funds for economic and social development projects by working with NGOs. It is a core scheme to proceed with partnerships between the Government of Japan and Japanese NGOs.



(Projects implemented in the past)

As a dedicated development partner and a close friend of Nepal, Japan has been extending varieties of socio-economic cooperation projects for the different communities in Nepal. Recent implemented projects are:

Education and Disaster Resilience

Assistance for Disaster Risk Reduction Project in Chitwan

The Government of Japan has extended US dollars 707,953 (about NRs 82.6 million), to Shapla Neer - Citizens’ Committee in Japan for Overseas Support. Shapla Neer, an international NGO based in Japan, by working with a Nepali partner NGO, Rural Reconstruction Nepal (RRN).

The grant assistance will be used to strengthen community resilience to disasters in Madi Municipality, a flood prone area of Chitwan District. The project will coordinate closely with local government, stakeholders and community members to achieve the goals.

A grant contract relating to the project was signed and exchanged on February 5th, 2021 by former Ambassador Saigo and Ms. KATSUI Hiromi, Country Representative, Shapla Neer Nepal Office, at the Embassy of Japan in Nepal.

School Rehabilitation and Disaster Prevention Training in Sindhupalchowk

The Government of Japan assists US dollars 641,800 (about NRs. 74.4 million), for ChildFund Japan, an international NGO, who will work with a Nepali partner NGO, TUKI Association Sunkoshi (TUKI) and Gramin Mahila Srijansil Pariwar (GMSP), to implement the rehabilitation of a school and provide disaster prevention training in Sindhupalchowk District.

This project is now in its second year. It plans to rebuild a school in Raktakali, which was built with assistance from JICA in 1990. It also aims to conduct disaster prevention training, make School Safety Plans, and provide disaster prevention education seminar to teachers.

A grant contract for this project was signed and exchanged on February 17th, 2021 by former Ambassador Saigo and Mr. TAKITA Hiroyuki, Project Manager, ChildFund Japan Nepal Office.

Assistance for Improving Maternal and Child Health in Dang

This project is now in its third year and has plans to build and equip four Outreach Clinics and four Community Health Units, which were surveyed and designed in the first year. In addition, AMDA-MINDS will provide training to build the capacity of staffs at the health facility to improve the quality of services, aiming to enhance knowledge and understanding of local people on the prevention of premature infant deaths.

On February 24th, 2021, former Ambassador Saigo signed a grant contract for US\$ 406,730 (about NRs. 47 million) with Ms. OKUDA Kaeko, Acting Country Director of AMDA Multisectoral and Integrated Development Services (AMDA-MINDS) for improving maternal and child health care in Dang District.

Community Libraries & Learning Centers for Quake-affected Areas and Marginalized Communities

This project, now in its second year, aims at improving services provided by community libraries and learning centers in Makawanpur, Lalitpur, Solukhumbu, Syangja and Sunsari districts. It will also provide teaching methods and install library corners at 53 schools in Makawanpur district to improve the learning environment.

The Government of Japan has extended US dollars 877,008 (about NRs. 102.82 million), to Shanti Volunteer Association. Shanti Volunteer Association, a Japanese NGO based in Tokyo, will work with Nepali partner NGOs Samunat Nepal and READ Nepal, and targeted local communities, to improve library and learning center services in four districts and to provide improved teaching methods. A grant contract for this project was signed and exchanged on March 1st, 2021 by Mr. YOSHIOKA, Counsellor of Embassy of Japan and Mr. MIYAKE Takafumi, Country Director, Shanti Volunteer Association Nepal Office.

Health

Water and Sanitation Facilities and Hygiene Education for Schools in Mugu

The main activities of this project are to construct and repair drinking water supply facilities, construct gender-friendly toilets, establish and strengthen school WASH management committees, and provide menstrual hygiene management education. Combining all these activities, this project improves access to safe water and gender equality in education.

The Government of Japan has extended US dollars 865,034 (about NRs. 101.13 million), to Good Neighbors. Good Neighbors Japan

will work with Good Neighbors Nepal, Shree Karnali Poverty Abatement & Development Forum, and Village Development Committees in Mugu District, and aims at improving the water hygiene environment at public elementary and junior high schools in Mugu District.

A grant contract for this project was signed and exchanged on March 9th, 2021 by Mr. Yoshioka and Ms. SATO Makiko, Good Neighbors Japan.

Improvement of New Born and Child Health Care in Banke

The grant will be used to repair and upgrade five Health Posts and one Primary Health Care Center in the district, and for installing medical equipment at 48 health facilities, including at the Bheri Federal Hospital. The project also organizes trainings and seminars for health service providers in coordination with Lumbini Province, the Health Office, Banke, and local government units.

Mr. Yoshioka, signed a grant contract on March 9th, 2021, for US\$ 448,618 (about NRs 52 million) with Ms. ONISHI Yuka, Project Manager of ADRA Japan, for implementing a project to improve newborn and child health in Banke District.

Agriculture

Assistance for Livelihood through Agriculture in Sindhupalchowk

The project will support earthquake-affected communities in Sindhupalchowk District to enhance livelihoods through agriculture. Mr. Yoshioka, signed a grant contract for US\$ 453,368 (about NRs. 53 million) with Ms. NAKAJIMA Ayaka, Country Representative of the Japan Asian Association and Asian Friendship Society (JAFS) on March 9th, 2021.

The project focuses on building irrigation and life water systems, and training local farmers on using the systems. JAFS will also support the establishment of agricultural cooperatives to help farmers to collaborate with each other to add value to their products.

Social Welfare

Assistance for Child Labor Reduction Project in Makwanpur

The Government of Japan has extended US dollars 265,576 (approximately NRs. 30.85 million), to SHAPLA NEER – Citizens' Committee in Japan for Overseas Support. SHAPLA NEER Japan will work with a Nepali partner NGO, Child Workers in Nepal Concerned Center (CWIN-Nepal), to reduce child labor through strengthening the child protection mechanism in Makwanpur District.

A grant contract for this project was signed and exchanged on March 15th, 2021 by Mr. Yoshioka and Ms. KATSUI Hiromi, Country Representative, SHAPLA NEER Nepal Office, at the Embassy of Japan in Nepal.



Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP)

The Japanese Government provides non-refundable financial assistance under the Grant assistance for Grassroots Projects (GGP) program. This is to support NGOs, hospitals, primary schools, research institutions, and other non-profit organizations to support community level socio-economic development projects of the country.

The Embassy has been continued to provide GGP support for various grassroots organizations to make changes for the people from the community level. Following are the update of ongoing GGP activities:-

Health

Installing Blood Bank with the Nepal Red Cross Society

The project will support installation of medical equipment including refrigerators, a component preparation set, an automated blood grouping machine, microscope, micro pipette, electric

balance, incubator, needle disposal unit, deep freezer, and uninterrupted power supply (UPS).

Mr. Yoshioka, Counsellor, signed a grant contract on January 6th, 2021, with Mr. Madan Raj Chataut, President of the Nepal Red Cross Society, Dadeldhura District Chapter, for installing equipment at Dadeldhura Blood Bank. The project involves a grant of USD 56,364 (approximately NPR 6.58 million).



Assistance for Hospital Treating Severe Burns in Kathmandu

The project will support the installation of medical equipment, including two ventilators and micrografting equipment. The project is funding a grant amount of USD 90,550 (about NPR 10.57 million).

On January 20th, 2021, Mr. Yoshioka, signed a grant contract with Dr. Santosh Bikram Bhandari, Medical Director of Sushma Koirala Memorial Hospital, for installing medical equipment for treating patients with severe burns in Kathmandu District.

Sanitary Napkin Making Machine to Assist Women in Birgunj

The project involves a grant of about NPR 4 million and it will support many poor women to access sanitary napkins at low cost, and contribute towards improving their personal hygiene.

Mr. Yoshioka, signed a grant contract on January 22nd, 2021 with Mr. Damodar Prasad Yadav, Chairperson of the Centre for Health and Environment Conservation (CHEC) Nepal, for installing a machine for making sanitary napkins to support the hygiene of poor women in Birgunj Municipality.

Education

Building Vocational Training Center in Darchula

The project is funded with a grant amount of USD 82,953 (about NPR 9.68 million). The project aims to develop skills and increase employment opportunities. The vocational training center will provide a proper environment to deliver trainings related to both.

Mr. Yoshioka, signed a grant contract on January 20th, 2021 with Mr. Keshab Raj Bist, Principal of Shree Latinath Secondary School, for constructing a Vocational Training Center in Darchula District.

Building a Training Center and Emergency Shelter in Rautahat

Mr. Yoshioka, signed a grant contract on January 22nd, 2021 with the Community Development Center to build a training center and emergency shelter in Rautahat District. The construction is expected to cost approximately NPR 9.15 million.

The Community Development Center was established in 1998 and has been providing trainings related to disaster prevention, vocational training, and that aim to support education of children in the district.

New Classrooms for Secondary School in Jhapa

On January 27th, 2021, Mr. Yoshioka signed a grant contract with Mr. Khagendra Bahadur Lamjel, Principal of Shree Laxmi Narayan Secondary School, for building classrooms in Jhapa District. The grant amounts to approximately NPR 13.8 million.

Shree Laxmi Narayan Secondary School, was established in 1967 as a public school and offers schooling from early child development level to the 12th grade. The project is expected to support better education for children of the community that do not currently have enough educational facilities.

Agriculture School Building Handed Over in Gulmi

A school building for specialized courses in agriculture at the Shree Nepal Rastriya Tribhuvan Secondary School, Gulmi District, was handed over to the school on March 3rd, 2021. Mr. MIYAMOTO, First Secretary attended the ceremony as an Embassy representative.

The school has planned a curricula of specialized courses in agriculture offering full-time courses for students of Grades 9 and 10. The courses are designed to include subjects such as animal husbandry, seri-culture, farm land management, and agricultural processing.

My Experience and Learnings during a JENESYS Visit (Jenesys 2018)

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Japan for providing me with the exciting and wonderful trip to Japan. I had a great time in Japan and discovered a lot of things about Japan and the people.

Japanese people are time-conscious and punctuality is the vital factor in Japan. The Japanese people possess all the good qualities a person should possess such as respect, kindness, politeness and friendliness etc. This is something I admired a lot when I was with my host family for the homestay, in the shops during the evenings, checking in at the terminals and at the places I visited.

I was delighted to explore lots of positive and inspiring aspects of Japan like the way Japan has rebuilt itself from devastating and traumatic experiences during World War II. Tokyo, Nagasaki and Isahaya are similar in housing all sorts of modern, advanced and scientific facilities an individual requires to sustain his/her life.

The health system in Japan is totally based and practiced on a preventive approach. There is an inter-sectoral approach between all the existing Ministries and stakeholders working for the development and betterment of the country. The environment was

clean, green, attractive, fascinating and healthy. I got a golden opportunity to learn about Japanese society, its history, economy, diplomatic relations and culture as well. The Peace Park and museum in Nagasaki gave me the realisation as to why nuclear war is not an answer ever.

I am continuously fascinated by how the Japanese incorporate western aspects to life while still maintaining their ancient traditions. JENESYS 2018 built my capacity and inspired me to contribute to my nation in any way that I can. Besides, I also found this program to be a great opportunity to share ideas and knowledge and ultimately built a strong pillar for future friendship and co-operation. In a nutshell, I found this visit a milestone for expanding the realms of my knowledge and promoting mutual trust with Japan.

Rakesh Yadav

Graduate Student of Institute of Medicine
Tribhuvan University



Introducing Japanese Manga: Naruto sheer determination didn't let me give up

"I'm not gonna run away, I never go back on my word! That's my nindo; my ninja way." This inspirational line is from Naruto Uzumaki who made a great impact on my life. For me, Naruto is more than just an anime character. It may sound weird but I know people who know about Naruto will feel the same way as I do.

Not having enough self-confidence has always been one of my weaknesses. It was incredibly hard for me to express my feelings and my thoughts. "What if I'm wrong?" This voice of self-doubt in my head had held me back from speaking up, trying new things and doing the things that I believe in. I was lost not knowing what to do in my life anymore. But after watching Naruto, I started to view my life from a positive perspective. During his entire story he never stopped believing in himself. No matter how bad things get he never gives up. His determination to never back down has really inspired me a lot.

Naruto motivated me to learn the Japanese language. Many people including my family and my friends doubted my decision. But,



instead of second guessing, I decided to believe in myself. At that time I felt like I had finally found what I wanted to do with my life. While I was learning the language, I got a chance to participate in a speech contest. At that time I doubted myself thinking, "Would I be able to overcome my fear and give a speech in front of so many people?" I thought to myself if I don't take this challenge I will never be able to grow

up. Watching Naruto made me realize that living in my comfort zone would not allow me to grow as a human. Even though I was not able to give my best performance, I was happy thinking that I tried instead of giving up. These small changes started to make a big difference in my life. Moreover, participating in cultural events and volunteer activities boosted my self-confidence. On the other hand, I saw so many students quitting the language saying it was getting difficult for them to learn it. When reaching an advanced level I became the only student from my semester to continue language study. At that moment, I felt a little bit lonely. But, on the contrary, I kept thinking to myself no matter what happens I definitely will not quit this language. It's been two years since I completed the course and I am satisfied with the work I am doing now.

Watching Naruto, I learned believing in yourself and your abilities is key to achieving success in life. He taught me that it doesn't matter from where you start, you can always change your destiny. Rebuilding a life from scratch is not an easy task and it requires a lot of courage, confidence, resilience and hard work. But "NEVER GIVE UP."

Ms. Yuneeta Singh

Japanese language teacher

Studied at Bishwo Bhasa Campus, TU



Moving Forward – 10 Years on from the Great East Japan Earthquake

On March 11th, 2011, many lives were lost in the Great East Japan Earthquake. We appreciate the heartfelt condolences we received then, and now, from all over the world. Ten years on, reconstruction works have been progressing in the affected areas of Tohoku Region, aiming to restore people's lives. We would like to give you an update on developments.

Short movies have been produced to show the recovery from the earthquake, and introduce the landscape and charms of the Tohoku Region and are available from the Reconstruction Agencies website, given here.

<https://www.reconstruction.go.jp/10year/en/>

One of the affected areas, Fukushima Prefecture, has been facing on-going challenges. Many people in the community



Tohoku Before After (photo credit : NTV News (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tPHPE4L2IRU>) and available from the Embassy website (https://www.np.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/11_000001_00432.html))

It was broadcasted in Nepal based on an online interviews with Japanese government and local government officials.



Iwate Tsunami Memorial Museum (photo credit to Reconstruction Agency)

have been recovering from difficulties caused by the earthquake and are trying to create a “new Fukushima.” They wish to invite you to learn more about the towns and cities in this region, and hope you will enjoy learning of the region’s rich natural environment and delicious food products. It should be noted, Japan has the most strict standards in the world regarding radioactive substances in food. Despite the nuclear power plant accident caused by the earthquake, the safety of Japanese food products is guaranteed, as its quality and taste.

We hope you enjoy learning about Japanese food and cuisine from this region along with the beauty of Japanese nature and interesting traditional and popular culture. If you have a chance to visit Japan soon, you can enjoy these things first hand!

And finally, the evacuation orders caused by the nuclear power plant accident have been lifted in most areas and a number of people have returned to their homes. There has been steady progress in the development of infrastructure such as the Joban Expressway and JR Joban Line, and there are now initiatives to develop new industries such as renewable energy, to revitalize the region.


(Source: Reconstruction Agency: Status of Reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Reconstruction Efforts, September 2020)



Fukushima Pride (photo credit to Fukushima Prefectural Government)
<http://www.pref.fukushima.lg.jp/site/portal-english/>

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