



Japan's National Day Celebrated

Ambassador of Japan to Nepal Masamichi Saigo hosted a reception at his residence to celebrate the 85th auspicious birthday of His Majesty, Emperor Akihito on 7 December 2018.

About 400 guests including senior officials of the Government of Nepal attended the reception. Among the guest at the reception were Rt. Honorable Vice-President Mr. Nanda Bahadur Pun as Chief Guest; Honorable Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali; resident Ambassadors of various countries and heads of international organizations in Nepal; members of the Federal Parliament, and high ranking government officials.

The Emperor is the symbol of the nation and national unity in Japan and therefore the birthday of the His Majesty the Emperor is celebrated as the National Day. January 2019 marks the Thirtieth Anniversary of his Majesty the Emperor's Accession to the Throne.



Nepal's Minister of Foreign Affairs Visited Japan

Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal visited Japan on a five-day official visit starting 17 November 2018. During the visit, Minister Gyawali held bilateral talks with his Japanese counterpart, Minister Taro Kono, in Tokyo on 19 November. Both leaders expressed their satisfaction over the excellent state of bilateral relations between the two countries and expressed their commitment to further deepen and expand bilateral cooperation for mutual benefit.

Minister Kono said that both countries had maintained traditionally friendly relations since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1956. He also welcomed the election in Nepal under the new Constitution promulgated in September 2015 as part of the process to complete the peace and democratization processes. Mr. Kono also highlighted Japan's assistance for the consolidation of democracy in Nepal through improvements of its legal systems and support for human resource development.

He expressed Japan's continuing willingness to support Nepal's efforts considering in line with the government's vision "Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali" and its efforts towards transitioning to a middle-income country. Minister Kono said he hoped Japan's economic cooperation would contribute to nation-building in Nepal and broaden the basis of the friendly relations between the two countries.



In a response speech, Minister Gyawali expressed his gratitude for the invitation and warm hospitality extended by Japan adding that Nepal will develop steadily under the new Constitution and appreciated the support provided by Japan. He stressed the importance that Nepal attaches to agriculture, hydroelectric power generation, tourism, infrastructure development, and human resource development. Mr. Gyawali said there was need for exchange of high level visits to further strengthen the bilateral relations and also hoped to expand the people-to-people exchanges through increased tourism facilitated by direct flights, and the promotion of exchanges in sports.

During his visit, Minister Gyawali discussed with Japan's Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Mr. Takamori Yoshikawa and thanked the Government of Japan for its assistance to Nepali agriculture and also requested further support in modernization, market development, and value chain development in the sector. Mr. Gyawali also had a meeting with Mr. Toshihiro Nikai, President of the Japan-Nepal Parliamentary Friendship League, and the Secretary General of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). He also had an opportunity to meet with the President of JICA, Dr. Shinichi Kitaoka.



Japan Extends Food Assistance Program to Nepal

The Government of Japan has agreed to extend Grant Assistance of 350 million Japanese Yen, equivalent to about Rs. 356 million to the Government of Nepal for implementing the Food Assistance Program in Japan's Fiscal Year 2018. The Assistance aims to support the Government of Nepal to implement the assistance program to ensure food security to the Nepali people.



Notes were signed and exchanged on 19 November 2018 by Ambassador Masamichi Saigo and Her Excellency, Ms. Prativa Rana, Ambassador of Nepal to Japan on behalf of their respective governments in Tokyo, Japan. Foreign Ministers of Japan and Nepal, Honorable Mr. Taro Kono and Honorable Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali were present at the signing ceremony.

Japan Hands Over Rice to Nepal



Ambassador Saigo handed over rice provided under Japan's Food Aid (KR) to Nepal in Japanese Fiscal Year 2016 to the Government of Nepal at a function held at the Nepal Food Corporation on 10 September 2018. Mr. Chandra Kumar Ghimire, Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Commerce & Supplies; Mr. Yogendra Gauchan, General Manager, Nepal Food Corporation; and other senior government officials attended the event.

The Government of Japan had extended a grant assistance of 350 million Japanese Yen, equivalent to Rs. 321 million to the Government of Nepal to procure rice in Japan's Fiscal Year 2016. The money was used to procure 5,174 metric tons of rice under Food Aid 2016.



Medical Equipment to TUTH Handed Over

Japan handed over medical equipment worth 754 million Japanese Yen, equivalent to Rs. 693 million to the Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital (TUTH) on 24 September 2018. The fund was provided as a grant assistance by the Government of Japan in Fiscal Year 2016 and was implemented by JICA.

Ambassador Saigo handed over medical equipment to Honorable Mr. Giriraj Mani Pokhrel, Minister for Education, Science and Technology.

The Government of Japan has been supporting the improvement of the TUTH facilities since 1992 to assist the hospital meet increasing patient demand. The support included replacing and providing additional equipment such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), X-Ray imaging equipment, endoscope and sterilizer. Japan also supported the renovation of the floor and waterproofing of the roof to assist the hospital to deliver health services.



Prof. Dr. Tirth Raj Khaniya, Vice Chancellor of Tribhuvan University; Prof. Dr. Jagdish Prasad Agrawal, Dean, IOM; Prof. Mandira Onta, Executive Director of TUTH; Prof. Dr. Deepak Prakash Mahara, Former Executive Director of TUTH; Mr. Jun Sakuma, former Chief Representative of JICA, and other distinguished guests attended the hand-over ceremony.



Government of Japan Hands Over Five Newly Reconstructed Bridges

The Government of Japan handed over five bridges in Gorkha District to the Government of Nepal at a ceremony on 3 December 2018. Honorable Minister for Physical Infrastructure and Transport, Mr. Raghubir Mahaseth, was the Chief Guest at the ceremony that was also attended by Ambassador Saigo and the newly appointed Chief Representative of JICA Nepal Office, Ms. Yumiko Asakuma. The five bridges were built on the Barhakilo-Barpak road.

In December 2015, the two governments had signed an agreement for Japanese grant assistance for major infrastructure reconstruction and rehabilitation, including three bridges in Gorkha that were damaged by the earthquake.

The sub-project on bridge construction along the Barhakilo-Barpak Road was one of three sub-projects under the umbrella grant the “Program for Rehabilitation and Recovery from the Nepal Earthquake.” This sub-project of 930 million Japanese Yen was undertaken to support speedy reconstruction and



recovery in earthquake affected areas by ensuring all-season, reliable access to the northern parts of Gorkha District.

The construction of the three pre-stressed concrete bridges by the grant sub-project – Daraudi Khola Bridge, Ghatte Khola Bridge, and Rangrung Khola Bridge – was completed in July 2018. In addition, two

bridges – Khahare Khola Bridge and Jhyalla Khola Bridge – were also built by another JICA technical cooperation project on Rehabilitation and Recovery from the Nepal Earthquake.

The bridges have benefitted local residents by improving access -- many fondly call the new bridges “Japanese bridges.” The Government of Japan believes that the bridges will help expedite recovery in the surrounding communities and also remain as a strong symbol of friendship between the two nations.



Japan Extends Grant Aid for Rehabilitation of the Sindhuli Road

The Government of Japan has extended grant assistance of up to 1,047 million Japanese Yen, equivalent to Rs. 1,085 million to the Government of Nepal for the Rehabilitation of the Sindhuli Road that was affected by the 2015 Earthquake. Ambassador Saigo and Dr. Rajan Khanal, Secretary, Ministry of Finance signed notes to this effect at the ministry on 25 October 2018.

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



Speaking at the event Ambassador Saigo said that the earthquakes of 2015 had damaged the Sindhuli Road soon after it had opened up to regular traffic. He added that Japan is planning to bring about full-scale recovery of five of 20 sections of the road that was damaged by the earthquakes. He said that the selected road sections require reinforcement measures with Japanese technology that the grant assistance will cover.

The 160km road links the mid- and eastern-Terai regions with Kathmandu and also provides easy access to public services, such as schools and hospitals, for people living in villages along the road corridor. The road also supports industries in agriculture, construction, and tourism.



Japan Extends Grant Aid for the Implementation of the School Sector Development Program



The Government of Japan has extended grant assistance of up to 300 million Japanese Yen, equivalent to Rs. 308 million to the Government of Nepal for the School Sector Development Program (SSDP). Ambassador Saigo and Mr. Shreekrishna Nepal, Joint Secretary at the International Economic Cooperation Coordination Division (IECCD) of the Ministry of Finance, signed notes to this effect at the ministry on 5 October 2018.

Another set of grant agreements for implementing the program were signed by Mr. Sakuma, former Chief Representative of JICA Nepal, and Mr. Shreekrishna Nepal, Joint Secretary at the IECCD.

The SSDP has been in implementation from 2016 and aims to consolidate gains from previous reform programs by continuing crucial reforms needed in school education through a sector wide approach. In addition to this, Japan has also been assisting Nepal through various programs in education to support the country's efforts to attain sustainable socio-economic growth.



Japanese NGO Project Scheme Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Strengthening Project, Chitwan



The Government of Japan is extending financial assistance of US\$ 378,309, equivalent to about Rs. 43.9 million to Shapla Neer - Citizens' Committee in Japan - for Overseas Support under the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects Scheme. Shapla Neer, an international NGO based in Japan, will work with a Nepali partner NGO, Rural Reconstruction Nepal (RRN), to implement the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Strengthening Project in Chitwan District.

A grant contract relating to this project was signed and exchanged on 16 November 2018 by Ambassador Saigo and Ms. Hiromi Katsui, Country Representative, Shapla Neer Nepal Office, at the Embassy of Japan in Nepal.

This grant assistance will be used to implement a project in Madi Municipality, a flood prone area, Lothar VDC, now known as Rapti Municipality, a landslide prone area in Chitwan District. This project aims to strengthen community resilience to disasters and will have the following components:

- Capacity development of local government and communities;
- Establishment and maintenance of infrastructure, and
- DRR education at schools.



Rehabilitation of a Disaster Resilience School, Sindhupalchowk



Ambassador Saigo and Mr. Koji Matsuura, Deputy Executive Director, ChildFund Japan, signed and exchanged a grant agreement at the Embassy of Japan on 27 November 2018. Under the grant, the Government of Japan is extending financial assistance of US\$ 431,181, equivalent to about Rs. 49 million to ChildFund Japan under the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects Scheme.

ChildFund Japan, an international NGO based in Japan, will work with a Nepali partner NGO, Tuki Sunkoshi Association (Tuki), to implement the project "Rehabilitation of a School and Building School Resilience to Disaster in Sindhupalchowk" district

This grant will be used in Sunkoshi Municipality, Sindhupalchowk and has the following components:

1) Rehabilitation of Janajagriti Secondary School

- Build a school building with six rooms based on the Nepal Government School Building Policy, including earthquake-proof precautions, and
- Set up water fountains accompanied with filter-attached server.

2) Capacity Building of the School Management Committee

- Support the School Disaster Risk Reduction/Prevention Plan based on child rights;
- Raise awareness of child protection in an emergency, and
- Support emergency training under their School Disaster Risk Reduction/Prevention Plan.



Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP)



The Japanese Government 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 under the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects (GGP) Program. It has been provided grant assistance to different grassroots community projects in Nepal. Some of those projects

Reconstruction of an Earthquake-Affected School, Gorkha



Ambassador Saigo laid the cornerstone of a school building for Shree Akala Secondary School in Palungtar, Gorkha District on 5 September 2018. Former Prime Minister Dr.

Baburam Bhattarai had also attended the ceremony. The reconstruction of classrooms for the Shree Akala Secondary School will be done at about US\$90,760 (about Rs. 9.4 million).

Shree Akala Secondary School was established in 1973 and has about 800 students who study in Grades 1 to 12. The 2015 earthquake had destroyed four buildings out of five at the school and the project will support the reconstruction of one two-storey school building that will have eight classrooms.

Inauguration of School Building in Rubi Valley, Dhading

The Government of Japan extended financial assistance of US\$ 90,909 (about Rs. 9.2 million) to a local NGO, HEED Nepal that was used the fund to reconstruct a damaged school building. This financial assistance is in addition to the earthquake recovery support that Japan has provided to the Government of Nepal.

Ambassador Saigo inaugurated a building on 12 December 2018, at the Shree Chyamradevi Secondary School in Dhading District that had been damaged by the 2015 earthquake. The school is the sole educational institution in Rubi Valley Rural Municipality and has 407 students from the Early Childhood Development level to grade 10.

Hand-over of Mobile Clinic Car to Phul Kumari Mahato Memorial Hospital



Ambassador Saigo handed over a mobile clinic to the Phul Kumari Mahato Memorial Hospital in Siraha District on 11 September 2018. Upendra Mahato, Chairman of the Hospital, and Mr. Tadaharu Miyakoshi, a representative from Toy Factory, the Japanese

company that supplied the mobile clinic vehicle also attended the handover ceremony. The total grant assistance for the hospital was US\$ 63,043 (about Rs. 6.4 million).

The mobile clinic is a specialized car manufactured by Toy Factory and comes with basic medical equipment for diagnosis and treatment. It can also be used for transporting patients, much like an ambulance and all parts are made in Japan. Toy Factory, a Japanese van-type vehicle manufacturer, and Toy Factory International, a supplier of special purpose vehicles, will provide continuous technical assistance for the maintenance of the mobile clinic.

Emergency Department for Chaurjahari Hospital, Rukum

Ambassador Saigo signed a grant contract for the construction of an emergency department building for Chaurjahari Hospital, in West Rukum District on 14 December 2018. The grant contract was signed between the Embassy of Japan and Mr. Milan Adhikari, Chairman of Human Development and Community Services, a local NGO that runs the hospital.

The project for building an Emergency Department at the Chaurjahari Hospital in West Rukum District will be supported by a grant assistance of US\$ 87,755 (about Rs. 9.5 million). The project is expected to enable the hospital to treat patients in a safe and hygienic environment and assist doctors to provide more effective and appropriate medical response.

**JLPT
2018**
日本語能力試験
JLPT Japanese Language Proficiency Test

Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)

The second Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) of 2018 was held at St. Mary's School and D.A.V. School, Jawalakhel on 2 December 2018. There were 2,467 students taking the language proficiency exam for Levels N1 to N5. The Japan Foundation offers JLPT twice a year - in July and December -- both in Japan and in more than 60 countries around the world.

In Nepal, the Japanese Language Teachers' Association, Nepal (JALTAN) and the Embassy of Japan conduct the test.

Japanese Karaoke Competition



The Embassy of Japan and the Japanese Language Teachers' Association, Nepal (JALTAN) organized the 11th Japanese Language Karaoke Competition at the Army Officers' Club, Tundikhel, in Kathmandu, on 29 September 2018. The annual competition is aimed at introducing Japanese culture and language to the Nepali people and attracts people with broad interests, including the general public and Japanese language students.

The Japanese Association in Nepal; the Japanese Universities Alumni Association, Nepal (JUAAN); Nepal AOTS Alumni Association (NAAS); the JICA Alumni Association of Nepal (JAAN), and sponsoring companies supported the event.

The participants competed to impress about 530 people with Japanese songs of their choice in the individual and group sections. Mr. Saroj Napit from the Japanese Language & Education Culture Centre (JLECC) stood first among the 18 contestants.

Ambassador Saigo attended the event and spoke about the performances and wished the competitors luck in their future Japanese language studies. He also encouraged them to learn more about Japan and hoped their language skills would be of use for further studies.

The 12th Study in Japan Fair in Kathmandu

This year's Study in Japan Fair was held at the Hotel Himalaya on 24 November 2018. It aimed to provide Nepali students and educational institutions accurate information about study in Japan by sharing information on university selection, entrance examinations, application processes and Japanese culture. The Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO), Japanese Universities Alumni Association, Nepal (JUAAN) and Embassy of Japan in Nepal had jointly organized the event.



In 2017, Nepali students ranked 3rd among the foreign students in Japan, with their number reaching 267,042, and the number of students has been increasing every year. Nepali students are studying at universities, professional institutions, and language schools all over Japan. This year, the University of Tsukuba, Takushoku University, and Teikyo University participated in this Fair, which was attended by more than 400 students and administrators.

Rugby World Cup Trophy in Nepal



The Rugby World Cup Trophy was displayed at the Official Residence of the Ambassador of Japan, Tahachal, on 7 December 2018. The Trophy was on a Nepal tour from 6-9 December 2018. Japan is holding the Rugby World Cup 2019.



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