



## National Day to Mark the Birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan

**T**he Embassy of Japan in Nepal celebrated the auspicious 62nd birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan on 23rd February 2022.

It is the 4th year of the Reiwa Era in Japan which commenced with the accession of His Majesty the Emperor. In October 2019, the Right Honorable Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari, President of Nepal, visited Japan to attend the Ceremonies of the Accession to the Throne of the Emperor. Japan was honored to have President Bhandari at this landmark event for Japanese society and history.

Last year, both Japan and Nepal received new Prime Ministers and Cabinets. In Nepal, the Right Honorable Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba took office as Prime Minister, and in Japan, H. E. Mr. KISHIDA Fumio succeeded to the position as Prime Minister. We believe that the new governments will continue to work to strengthen the long friendship and bilateral relations between the two countries.

Nepal and Japan established official diplomatic relations in 1956 but the history of relationships between the two countries goes back more than a century. It began with the first visit of a Japanese Buddhist monk, KAWAGUCHI Ekai, to Kathmandu in 1899.

The COVID-19 outbreak has made it difficult for the Embassy to organize people-to-people exchanges as it used to do in various fields, including high-level visits. However, even in these challenging times, five Nepali athletes (swimming, Judo, athletics, and shooting) were able to participate in the Tokyo Olympic Games and one athlete (Taekwondo) in the Paralympic Games last summer. These events were important markers in the history of Nepali sports.

Japan has designated 2022 as the Japan-Southwest Asia Exchange Year, which will be the focus of its international relations.

The year 2022 also marks the 120th anniversary since the first eight Nepali students were dispatched to Japan for higher studies. We would also like to celebrate this milestone year with the Nepali people. Therefore, we, the Embassy of Japan, will organize and support several events this year to further enhance bilateral exchanges between Nepal and Japan, including those to commemorate the 120th Anniversary of International Student Exchanges.

## Video message from Japan's Foreign Minister

**H.E. Mr. HAYASHI Yoshimasa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, delivered a video message on the auspicious occasion of the Birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan. The message is reproduced below:**



**I**would like to extend my sincere congratulations to His Majesty the Emperor of Japan on his 62nd birthday today.

Despite the prolonged ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic, His Majesty the Emperor and Her Majesty the Empress have prioritized contact with the people of Japan by participating in a variety of online events. In addition to online interactions, His Majesty met in person with 35 incoming ambassadors to Japan to accept their credentials and received farewell courtesy visits from many ambassadors who left Japan last year. Furthermore, His Majesty also held an audience for distinguished guests from 11 countries visiting Japan to attend the opening ceremony of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for His Majesty's contributions to deepen and enrich the friendship and goodwill between Japan and other countries and areas.



## *Video message from Japan's Foreign Minister*

At present, the international community is confronted with epoch-making changes. We need to address a wide range of issues, in particular the crisis caused by the spread of COVID-19 and ongoing challenges to the universal values and international order that have until now underpinned the peace and prosperity of the international community.

From the aforementioned perspectives and based on the world's trust in Japan that has been fostered through the efforts of past generations of the Japanese people, we will open a new frontier of Japanese diplomacy with a balanced and stable posture and a high level of readiness, underpinned by three determinations: the determination to fully defend universal values; the determination to fully safeguard the peace and stability of Japan, and the

determination to contribute to humankind and take on a leadership role in the international community.

On the topic of new developments, last year brought an important change for Her Imperial Highness Princess Aiko, who celebrated her coming of age in December – a joyous occasion for Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress and other Members of the Imperial Family, as well as the people of Japan.

I would like to close my speech by offering my heartfelt prayers and wishes for His Majesty's continued good health, and the prosperity of the Imperial Court, as well as the good health of everyone watching this video. Thank you. ■



## **Japan Provides 10 Billion Yen for Nepal's Economic Growth and Resilience**

The Government of Japan has extended loan assistance of up to 10 billion Japanese Yen (approximately NRs. 10.4 billion) to the Government of Nepal as a Policy Loan for Economic Growth and Resilience. Ambassador of Japan to Nepal KIKUTA Yutaka, and Mr. Madhu Kumar Marasini, Secretary, Ministry of Finance, signed notes on the loan assistance on 25th January, 2022. Another set of Loan Agreements for implementing the project was signed by Ms. ASAKUMA Yumiko, Chief Representative of JICA Nepal, and Mr. Ishwori Prasad Aryal, Joint Secretary, the International Economic Cooperation and Coordination Division at the Ministry of Finance.

This loan assistance aims to support the Government of Nepal in its reform program through co-financing with the Nepal Programmatic Fiscal Policy for Growth, Recovery and Resilience Development Policy Financing by the International Development Association (IDA).

The COVID-19 pandemic has badly affected the hard-earned development gains of Nepal. The outbreak hit almost every sector of the Nepali economy. In particular,



the entire service sector, including tourism, aviation, and hospitality businesses, have been hit hard by the outbreak.

After signing the notes, Ambassador KIKUTA said, "The Government of Japan has provided multifaceted support to Nepal to prevent and control the COVID-19 pandemic."

Japan provided vaccines, medical equipment, and training to tackle COVID-19 in Nepal, contributing greatly to the health care system even after the pandemic. Our next decision was providing financial support for economic stabilization and development of Nepal as a whole.

"I hope that this support will be effectively utilized to realize post-COVID-19 economic recovery and social resilience," Ambassador KIKUTA added.

The Embassy of Japan is committed to extending all possible assistance to Nepal to support its nation building endeavors and for strengthening the friendly relationship between the peoples of Japan and Nepal.

## Ambassador KIKUTA Commits to Continued Support for Fighting COVID-19 to Minister Khatiwada

Ambassador KIKUTA paid a courtesy call on the Hon. Minister for Health and Population, Mr. Birodh Khatiwada, at the Ministry of Health and Population in Ramshahpath on 6th January, 2022.

At the meeting, Ambassador KIKUTA congratulated Minister Khatiwada for his appointment and stated that Japan would continue to cooperate with Nepal to fight against COVID-19, while also continuing cooperation for the socio-economic development of Nepal and enhancement of the relationship between the two countries.

During the meeting, Minister Khatiwada mentioned the long history of cooperation between Japan and Nepal and the importance of bilateral relationship as well as multilateral cooperation, such as that with COVAX.

The Minister expressed gratitude for the contributions made by Japan to Nepal, including the last year's donation



of 1.6 million doses of Japanese-made AstraZeneca vaccines and other assistance projects in the health sector for reducing poverty and improving the quality of life.

Ambassador KIKUTA pointed out that smooth implementation of the vaccination campaign is imminent and is one of the most important matters for Nepal with regards to the emergence of the new Omicron variant.

He also informed the Minister of Japan's multiple approaches to help Nepal in the fight against COVID-19, which includes the contribution of Japan to UNICEF's cold-chain facility.

He added that Japan would donate nine walk-in refrigerators to UNICEF for the storage of vaccines.

These refrigerators are easy to move and install and come at a lower cost compared to roll-in refrigerators and will facilitate transportation of the vaccines even to remote areas. Thus, benefitting all people of Nepal.



## Japan's Assistance for Improvement of Water Supply in Biratnagar

~ Safe water for 100,000 people ~

The Government of Japan extended grant assistance of up to two billion, five hundred and forty-one million Japanese Yen (¥ 2,541,000,000 approximately NRs. 2.7 billion) to the Government of Nepal for the implementation of the Project for the Improvement of Water Supply in Biratnagar.

Ambassador KIKUTA and Mr. Madhu Kumar Marasini, Secretary at the Ministry of Finance, signed notes for the support on 10th March 2022. Another Grant Agreement for project implementation was signed by Mr. OKUBO Akimitsu, Chief Representative of JICA Nepal, and Mr. Ishwori Prasad Aryal, Joint Secretary, the International Economic Cooperation and Coordination Division at the Ministry of Finance.



This project aims to enhance the living standard for the people of Biratnagar Metropolitan City by renovating and expanding the water supply facilities, thereby broadening the water supply area.

At present, many people in Biratnagar depend on shallow wells to get water for daily household use and have been facing shortages of safe drinking water. The project will contribute to improving access to a stable supply of water for about 100,000 people by constructing new deep wells and water purification facilities. It will also renovate some of the existing facilities.

After signing the notes to operationalize the support, Ambassador KIKUTA said, "The Government of Japan has been providing multifaceted assistance for the betterment of living standards of Nepali citizens".



He added that Japan had extended multiple types of support, including timely vaccine delivery to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19.

Likewise, Japan also extended financial support for economic stabilization and development of post-COVID-19 Nepal in January.

Ambassador KIKUTA added, “This time, our assistance is for providing safe water which is of vital importance for human life,” and expressed hope that the support will be effectively utilized to upgrade the living standards of people in Biratnagar.



## 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 continued to provide GGP support for various grassroots organizations to make changes for the people at the community level. Following are the update of ongoing GGP activities:-

### *Handover of Completed Projects:-*

#### Health Post in Rolpa District

A newly-built Health Training Center and Emergency Shelter was handed over to the Rolpa Municipality in Rolpa District on 27th March 2022. The new building has been built with grant assistance of USD 80,375.

On the occasion, Ambassador KIKUTA sent a congratulatory message, appreciating the efforts of all who worked together with the Embassy to complete the project and hoped that the health post would become a community asset and serve the local people during and after the time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This health post is an important medical service center in the community and provides free medical services. The old building had nearly collapsed and therefore had to be rebuilt to ensure the continuity of health care in the community.



#### Health Center in Udayapur District



Ambassador KIKUTA handed over a newly-built health center to the Female Awareness Campaign Team Nepal in Chaudandigadhi Municipality, Udayapur district on 4th April, 2022. In the handover ceremony, Hon. Dr. Narayan Khadka, Minister for Foreign Affairs also attended.

The new building has been built with the support of USD 67,944 under the GGP of the Japanese Government. This health center is an essential medical service center in the area. Previously, the health post was administrated in a rented residential house, which did not have enough space and facilities to provide appropriate medical services. Therefore, a new facility had to be constructed to ensure continuity of health care.

## Medical Equipment to Meri Stop Community Hospital in Kailali District



Ambassador KIKUTA signed a grant contract on 9th February, 2022, with Mr. Lalmani Joshi, Director of Meri Stop Community Service Center Nepal, for installing medical equipment at the Service Center's community hospital in Kailali District.

The project is funded under the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) of the Japanese Government and involves a grant of USD 107,532 (approximately NRs. 12.72 million). The project will support the installation of medical equipment at the hospital, including an electrocardiogram (ECG), cardiac monitor, C-Arm machine, ultrasonography (USG) machine, endoscopy machine, operating theater table, operating theater lights, electrolyte analyzer, x-ray, computed radiography (CR) system, immunoassay analyzer, and generator.

Meri Stop Community Hospital has been offering a wide range of medical services, including gynecology, orthopedics and family planning services. However, due to the lack of medical equipment, it had been difficult for the hospital to diagnose diseases and provide timely treatment.

## Medical Equipment to Kathmandu Cancer Center in Bhaktapur District



Ambassador KIKUTA signed a grant contract of USD 74,033 (approximately NRs. 8.75 million) with Dr. Anjani Kumar Jha, Chairman of Kathmandu Cancer Center for installing medical equipment at the Center on 16th February 2022. The Center is in Bhaktapur District.

The project will support the installation of medical equipment, including operating theater lights with camera and monitor and a high-performance operating table that can be adjusted in various ways according to the needs of the surgery. Kathmandu Cancer Center has been providing consultations and treatment to cancer patients but was unable to handle complex surgeries owing to the lack of medical equipment.

The Embassy of Japan believes the project will support the Center to respond to the high demand for better medical services for cancer patients and to improve its specialized cancer treatment through the installation of high-performance equipment. It also believes that the support will contribute towards further enhancing the friendship between the peoples of Japan and Nepal.



## Japan and UNICEF Join Hands to Strengthen Vaccine Cold Chain in Nepal

**This critical support will help Nepal deploy vaccines, including those against COVID-19, throughout the nation**

The Government of Japan provided grant assistance to strengthen the vaccine cold chain system in Nepal through the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Under the grant agreed on 31st January 2022, Japan provided high-quality facilities such as nine walk-in-coolers, 38 solar-driven vaccine refrigerators, 1,109 long-range vaccine carriers and 53 cold boxes to ensure effective COVID-19 vaccination rollout in Nepal. These facilities have been delivered sequentially throughout Nepal since last year and the delivery of all equipment was completed on 30th January this year. The grant also supports human resource development for operation and maintenance of cold chain equipment as well as monitoring for effective management of routine and COVID-19 vaccines by UNICEF.

"Nepal is currently experiencing the third wave of COVID-19, being the Omicron variant, which makes the vaccine drive one of the top priorities for the Government of Nepal," said Ambassador KIKUTA at an event related to the grant.



"Appropriate vaccine storage is crucial in the vaccine campaign and this grant aims to massively increase the capacity for storage and distribution of vaccines across the country," he added.

The walk-in-coolers can be transported and can be installed relatively quickly and inexpensively. Similarly, the solar-driven refrigerators help tackle storage issues faced by regions with unstable electricity, and the carriers and boxes enable vaccine distribution to communities unreachable by a vehicle.

"We are grateful to the Government of Japan for its continued support to Nepal in critical efforts to safely and effectively deliver and store vaccines across the country, particularly at a time when Nepal is battling high numbers of COVID-19 infections during the current wave," said Ms. Elke Wisch, UNICEF Representative in Nepal.

"The cold chain equipment provided through Japan's generous support will not only support the Government of Nepal's current COVID-19 vaccination drive, but also reinforce critical routine immunization services to protect children against main childhood diseases," she added.

## Webinar on Disaster Reduction and Fostering a Culture of Disaster Reduction



This year marks the 120th Anniversary of International Student Exchanges between Japan and Nepal. On this occasion, the Embassy of Japan organized a webinar on 22nd March, 2022 on the theme “For Build Back Better and the Development with Disaster Resilience - finding hints from disaster reduction culture in Japan”.

Prof. NISHIKAWA Satoru, Disaster Mitigation Research Center of Nagoya University, delivered a presentation on “Institutional Development of Disaster Reduction and Fostering a Culture of Disaster Reduction”. He shared the historical data of disasters caused by floods, landslides and earthquakes



and Japan’s response to overcome disasters. He stressed the necessity to address the vulnerability of Nepal to the similar disaster, and hoped that Nepal can learn much from Japan to address natural disasters.

Guest speakers Ms. Anita Niraula, Joint Secretary at the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA), and Mr. EHARA Yoshiki, Senior Representative of JICA Nepal Office, spoke about Nepal’s development of disaster resilience and Japan’s cooperation towards recovery from the 2015 Gorkha earthquake. Almost 60 people from various fields participated in the webinar.

## MEXT Scholarship Announcement

The Embassy of Japan announces the competition for Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarships for Nepali students for the academic year 2023 in the fields of Natural Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences.

Program	Qualifications
1. Research Students	Must be under 35 years of age (as of April 1, '23) and have completed at least 16 years of education and secured 70% marks (CGPA: 3.1) for Natural Sciences and 60% (CGPA: 2.5) for Humanities and Social Sciences in average in all levels of exams.
2. Undergraduate Students and 3. Specialized Training College Students	Must have been born between April 2, 1998 and April 1, 2006 and have secured at least 75% marks (CGPA: 3.5) for Natural Sciences and 65% marks (CGPA: 2.9) for Humanities and Social Sciences individually in SLC and Plus 2 exams. <b>*Written examinations will be held on July 9th.</b>

The field of study must be the same as the applicants’ previous study leading to their final graduation. Notarized copies of the academic transcripts and Nepali citizenship need to be submitted along with the application.

Application forms are available at <https://www.np.emb-japan.go.jp>.

Please send the completed applications to [education@km.mofa.go.jp](mailto:education@km.mofa.go.jp) by the deadline given below.

1	Research Students	May 6, 2022	17:00 hrs
2	Undergraduate Students	July 01, 2022	17:00 hrs
3	Specialized Training College Students	July 01, 2022	17:00 hrs

### Embassy of Japan

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