



Japan's State Minister of the Environment Visits Nepal

The Japanese State Minister of the Environment, Hon'ble Mr. Tadahiko Ito, visited Nepal on 18th and 19th July 2017. Mr. Ito is also the Vice President of the Japan-Nepal Parliamentary Friendship League. During his stay in Kathmandu, Mr. Ito paid courtesy calls on the Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister, Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba, Hon'ble Mr. Ram Chandra Poudel, Senior Leader of the Nepali Congress and President of the Nepal Japan Parliamentary Friendship Association, Dr. Govinda Raj Pokharel, CEO, Nepal Reconstruction Authority, and Hon'ble Mr. Nabindra Raj Joshi, former Minister of Industry.



On 19th July, State Minister Mr. Ito inspected the ongoing reconstruction through the Japanese Government assistance at Shree Path Pradarsak Secondary School in Lalitpur. The State Minister also visited historical and cultural sites in Kathmandu Durbar Square which were damaged by the Gorkha earthquake. Likewise, he visited the earthquake damaged villages of Khokana and Bungamati. The State Minister also attended the plenary session of "Stakeholders' Meeting on Disaster Waste Management Following an Earthquake in Nepal", organized by the Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan in Kathmandu.

Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Visits Nepal



Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon'ble Mr. Kiyoshi Odawara visited Nepal on 11th and 12th July 2017. During his stay in Kathmandu, Mr. Odawara paid courtesy calls on the Rt. Hon'ble

Ms. Bidya Devi Bhandari, President, Rt. Hon'ble Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba, Prime Minister and Hon'ble Mr. Krishna Bahadur Mahara, DPM and Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Vice-Minister Mr. Odawara also inspected Shree Path Pradarsak Secondary School in Lalitpur and visited earthquake damaged cultural heritage sites in Patan.

Members of the House of Representatives of Japan Visit Kathmandu



Members of the Japan's House of Representatives, Ms. Yuko Nakagawa and Ms. Hinako Takahashi, together with four Japanese entrepreneurs, came on an official visit to Nepal from 26th to 28th July 2017. The MPs are members of the Japan-Nepal Parliamentary Friendship League. During

the visit, they called on the Rt. Hon'ble Ms. Bidhya Devi Bhandari, President, Hon'ble Mr. Ram Chandra Poudel, Senior Leader of Nepali Congress and President of the Nepal-Japan Parliamentary Friendship Association, and Hon'ble Mr. Nabindra Raj Joshi, former Minister of Industry.

They also met Ms. Bhawani Rana, President of the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) and visited Kanti Children's Hospital, Patan Durbar Square, and Kathmandu Durbar Square.



Japan Extends Scholarships to Nepal Government Officers

Japan has agreed to provide Grant Assistance worth about 282 million Japanese Yen (about NRs. 257 million) to the Government of Nepal as scholarships to support the capacity enhancement of government officials.

His Excellency Mr. Masashi Ogawa, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, and Mr. Shanta Raj Subedi, Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, signed and exchanged a set of notes to the effect on behalf of their respective governments on 7th July 2017. The support will be used for implementing the Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) Scheme in Japan's Fiscal Year 2017.

Similarly, Mr. Jun Sakuma, Chief Representative of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and Mr. Baikuntha Aryal, Joint Secretary of the International Cooperation and Coordination Division of the Ministry of Finance, also signed and exchanged a Grant Agreement for the implementation of the scholarship program.

The scheme will support 20 Nepalese government officers who have been selected through a strict process to pursue their Master's degree studies in Japan. This is the second batch of Nepalese officials to be trained under the JDS. One of JDS fellow, Ms. Gita Ghimire, an officer from the National Planning Commission, told us that she is very enthusiastic about studying in Japan where she will study economic policy at Hiroshima University. Due to depart for Japan on 31st August, she hopes after completion of her two year course she will work in the field of policy making and economic advisory in Nepal. The first batch also consisted of 20 officers enrolled in this scheme.



The JDS Grant is designed to support human asset development of friendly nations through accepting highly capable, energetic, and young government officials in Japanese universities as JDS fellows. These officials are then expected to engage in formulation and implementation of socio-economic development plans and programs, and are also expected to be future leaders or engines for development in their respective countries. Another objective of the JDS Scheme is to strengthen partnerships between recipient countries and Japan by utilizing human relation chains to address future global needs.

For further information about the JDS, please visit <http://jds-scholarship.org/country/nepal/>



Japan Extends Grant Aid for Implementing the School Sector Development Program



The Government of Japan extended grant assistance of up to 300 million Japanese Yen (about NRs. 280 million) to the Government of Nepal for the School Sector Development Program (SSDP).

On 15th August, 2017, H.E. Mr. Masashi OGAWA, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, and Mr. Shanta Raj Subedi, Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, signed and exchanged a set of notes to the effect on behalf of their respective governments. Another set of grant agreements for implementing the program were signed by Mr. Jun Sakuma, Chief Representative of JICA Nepal, and Mr. Baikuntha Aryal, Joint Secretary of the International Economic Cooperation and Coordination Division of the Ministry of Finance.

In addition to this support, Japan has been assisting Nepal through various programs in education to support Nepal's efforts to attain sustainable socio-economic growth. The Government of Japan has been implementing the Emergency School Reconstruction Project for rebuilding and retrofitting schools in the districts severely affected by the 2015 earthquake.



Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects (GGP)

Japan has continued to provide Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects (GGP) to different grassroots organizations in Nepal for support for projects to bring about changes at the community level. The GGP program 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.

New GGP Agreements:

Care Home for Mentally Challenged Children, Kavre

The Government of Japan agreed to provide a grant assistance of USD 83,270 (NRs. 8.8 million) to Samaj Sewa Samuha (SSS), an NGO in Kavrepalanchok District, to build a care home for mentally disabled children. The care home will have four dormitories, two for boys and two for girls, a dining hall, kitchen, and an administrative room. The project is expected to offer the children a hygienic and comfortable living environment and also ease the burden on parents who are currently caring for the children on their own. The project agreement was signed on 16th March, 2017.

Community Center, Baneshwor

A grant assistance to the Ganesh Man Singh Foundation, a Nepalese NGO in Kathmandu, will support the construction of a community center in Baneshwor. It will be used to provide training on income generation and also serve as a venue for carrying out awareness programs on public health and government services. This involves a grant of USD 78,268 (NRs. 8.3 million) and an agreement to that effect was signed on 23rd March, 2017.

Cornerstone Laying Ceremony (GGP Projects):

Care Home in Kavre District

The cornerstone laying ceremony for the construction site of the care home in Kharelthok VDC was held on 3rd May 2017. Mr. Shinya Machida, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of Japan, participated in the ceremony, along with members of the recipient organization, Samaj Sewa Samuha (SSS). This project will be implemented through financial assistance of US Dollar 83,270, (approximately Rs. 8.8 million), and accommodate 30 children who are mentally challenged. The current rehabilitation center provides daily assistance and educational opportunities to 20 mentally challenged children.

Training Center in Udayapur District

H.E. Mr. Masashi Ogawa, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, laid the cornerstone of a training center for women's cooperatives in Belaka Municipality (formerly Thokсила and Rampur VDCs), Udayapur District on 5th August 2017. The training center provides space for various training programs such as



vegetable farming, animal husbandry, bee keeping, and handicraft making, and also provides accommodation to trainees coming from remote rural regions. This project will be implemented through financial assistance of USD 80,532 (NRs. 8.6 million).

Handover of Ambulances

H. E. Mr. Masashi Ogawa, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, handed over eight ambulances to the Nepal Red Cross Society on 5th July 2017. The ambulances were procured at a cost of USD 90,440 (NRs. 9.8 million). The project under the GGP provides ambulances for use in Pyuthan, Gulmi, Udayapur, Morang, Jajarkot, Rautahat, Dhankuta, and Khotang Districts.





Hand over of Ski Equipment to Nepal Ski Association

H.E. Mr. Masashi Ogawa, Ambassador of Japan, handed over ski equipment to Mr. Jeevan Ram Shrestha, President of the Nepal Ski Association on 13th July 2017.

The equipment came as a donation to Nepal from the Ski Association of Japan (SAJ) and includes 12 pairs of skis, six pairs of ski boots and six sets of ski wear. The donation of ski equipment was provided under the Japanese Government's "SPORT FOR TOMORROW" scheme.

Although skiing is a popular winter sport in Japan, North America and Europe, it is not widely done in Nepal. However, the Nepal Ski Association has been training about 15 skiers, and two athletes - one in cross-country skiing and one in Alpine skiing, and there are plans to participate in the upcoming Winter Olympics.



For further information about "SFT", please visit <http://www.sports4tomorrow.jp/about/>

Five Nepal Football Coaches Training in Japan

*T*he Government of Japan invited a team of five Nepalese football coaches to Japan under the "SPORT FOR TOMORROW (SFT)" scheme, from 13th to 18th June. The training was intended to help enhance the techniques and management skills of the participants for supporting Nepal's efforts to upgrade its football capabilities in international competitions.

Since 2016, the Japan Football Association (JFA) has dispatched a national football coach, Mr. Koji Gyotoku, and a technical director, Mr. Chiaki Takeda to assist and upgrade the Nepal football team. This cooperation has helped improve the team, resulting in them being more successful in regional tournaments.

Nepal National Football Team visits Japan



A 30-member Nepal national football team left for Japan for a 10-day visit under the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and with the cooperation of the Japan Football Association on 11th August 2017. The invitation aimed at deepening friendly relations among the youth of the disaster prone countries, through not only friendly games, but through learning about Japanese disaster management and prevention technologies. The invitation was designed based on the memory of the devastating Gorkha earthquake and the resulting reconstruction work.

Besides visiting disaster prevention centers and experiencing Japanese culture, the visiting football team played friendly games with Gamba Osaka U-23, Kwansai Gakuin University, Amities Sports Club, Hannan University, and Vissel Kobe.

Japanese Language Speech Contest



A Japanese Language Speech Contest was organized by the Japanese Language Teachers' Association (JALTAN), in cooperation with the Embassy of Japan, and with support from the Japan Foundation on 25th March 2017. This speech contest has been organized annually since 1981.

This year the 36th speech contest was held in Yellow Pagoda Hotel in Kathmandu. The aim of the contest is to provide Japanese language learners with an opportunity to show their language skills to a wider audience. This activity also contributes towards promoting Japanese language in Nepal.

There were four participants in the senior group and eleven participants in the junior group. Ms. Pratiksha Gautam (Bishwo Bhasa Campus) came first in the contest in the senior group and Ms. Manju Maharjan (Japanese Language and Educational Culture Center) was judged best speaker in the junior group. The contestants were evaluated on their performance, as well as on grammar, delivery, pronunciation, response to questions and general stage presence.

Teacher Training in Japan



The embassy of Japan facilitates the invitation of overseas Japanese language teachers by the Japan Foundation every year. The scheme aims to foster better understanding of language and culture among citizens of different countries. The Foundation carries out two types of teacher trainings: short term (2 months) and long term (6 months). The trainings provide participants with an opportunity to improve Japanese language skills and teaching methodology, and to deepen their knowledge of Japan.

Mr. Rabindra Maharjan from Nozomi Japanese Language School, Kathmandu, took part in an intensive six months course and shared his experience with us:

“There were 55 Japanese language teachers altogether from 34 countries,” states Mr Maharajan. “The main themes we learned during the training were intensive Japanese language classes, special classes on Japanese culture, education and history, home stay program, experiencing culture programs and study tours.”

Japanese Traditional Performing Arts in Kathmandu

A group of Japanese traditional performing artists - Omiyamae Local Performing Artists, based at the Kasuga Shrine in Sugunami City, Tokyo organized a performance at the Embassy Hall in Kathmandu on 4th August 2017. This program was organized with the support of the Japanese Embassy of Nepal and Arts Council Tokyo.

A total of 90 people, both Japanese and Nepalese, came along to enjoy the program. The Japanese traditional dance and music program was highly appreciated by all the audience. At the program, the artists performed Shinzen-mai (traditional dance related to the Shinto religion), Matsuri-bayashi (festival musical performance), Shishi-mai and Daikoku-mai (lion dance). The audience enjoyed their performance and Japanese culture.



Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)

The Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) was held at St. Mary's School, Jawalakhel on 2nd July 2017. There were 294 students who took the proficiency exam in levels N1 to N5. The Japan Foundation offers the JLPT twice a year in July and December, in Japan and in over 60 countries around the world.

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

Japanese TV Programs on NTV

The Japan Foundation has provided a variety of the Japanese television programs (dramas, animations, documentaries and feature films) to Nepal Television (NTV) with the idea of introducing overseas viewers to the diverse aspects of Japanese culture and society from the traditional to modern. Japan also provides these programs to other countries.

In 2017, NTV telecast the following TV programs:

- 1) Legend of Ninja
- 2) World Natural Heritage Areas in Japan
- 3) The Children's Message of the Devastating Earthquake to the Next Millennium
- 4) Astro Boy

Please visit the Embassy website for details of the Japanese programs shown on NTV.

<http://www.np.emb-japan.go.jp/files/000274362.pdf>



Japan Resource Center (JRC)



The Embassy of Japan takes pleasure in informing that the Japan Resource Center (JRC) is open for its members in order to disseminate updated information on Japan.

Interested scholars, students and friends of Japan are most welcomed to become members (member fee is free, required ID and photo for registration) of the Resource Center. The information regarding study in Japan, Japanese language learning materials and books are available. The Center opens from 9.30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (lunch-break 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm) Monday to Friday, except holidays designated by the Embassy of Japan.

MEXT Scholarship Students Leave for Japan

Students under the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship for 2017 left for Japan in April 2017. Five Nepali students for this year in April secession were selected to study in Japan. Four are in the research category: Mr. Khem Gyanwali (going to Tokyo University), Mr. Jaya Nepal (Tokyo University), Mr. Biplab K.C. (Kyushu University), Mr. Subodh Nepal (Nara Institute of Science and Technology), and one, Mr. Yaman Singh Shrestha (Osaka University), is an undergraduate.

Members of the Japanese Universities Alumni Association, Nepal (JUAAN) supported to conduct an orientation and consultation program for the students at the Embassy Hall before their departure for Japan.



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