

Embassy Celebrated the Accession to the Throne of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan



To celebrate the accession to the Throne of His Majesty Emperor Naruhito, Mr. Masamichi Saigo, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, hosted a reception at his residence in Tahachal, on 28th May, 2019.

The Hon. Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali was Chief Guest at the reception attended by ambassadors, and heads of international organizations in Nepal. Members of Nepal's Federal Parliament and high-rank government officials also attended.

At the reception Ambassador Saigo spoke about the relationship between His Majesty the Emperor and Nepal. He referred that His Majesty the Emperor visited Nepal in 1987, and visited both urban and mountainous areas. He added that this opportunity led His Majesty to develop his ideas for addressing the problems of water in the world. His Majesty has since continued to deliver lectures on

issues related to water and society on various international platforms.

Since His Majesty's accession in May this year, a new era, "Reiwa" commenced in Japan. "Reiwa" means "beautiful harmony", where the expectation is that culture will flourish through hearts and minds of the people coming together in harmony.

Japan's Parliamentary Vice-Minister's Visit to Nepal

Mr. Hideyuki Tanaka, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) of Japan visited Nepal as a three-day official visit from 29th June to 1st July, 2019. During the visit Mr. Tanaka had a meeting with the Hon. Ms. Padma Kumari Aryal, Minister for Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation.

On 29th June, Mr. Tanaka visited a disaster management project site at Dahachowk, supported by the Government of Japan from 1999 to 2004. On the following day, 30th June, he inspected the progress of the recovery of Bungamati, a historical urban settlement on the outskirts of Kathmandu that was damaged by the 2015 earthquake. UN-Habitat is carrying out reconstruction activities at Bungamati under



the Sustainable Tourism and Green Growth for Heritage Settlements of Kathmandu Valley Project.

At Bungamati, Mr. Tanaka was welcomed by the Hon. Mr. Jeevan Khadka (Member of Provincial Parliament), Mr. Chiri Babu Maharjan (Mayor, Lalitpur Metropolitan City), Mr. Prem Prasad Bhattarai (Chief Administrative Officer, Lalitpur

Metropolitan City), Mr. Ambir Raj Shakya (Ward Chief, Lalitpur Metropolitan City-22) and Mr. Padma Sunder Joshi (Habitat Programme Manager, UN-Habitat), where he joined a Heritage Walk Programme.

The Parliamentary Vice-Minister ended his official trip by visiting Patan Durbar Square and Kathmandu Durbar Square.

Japan's Female Parliamentarians Visited Nepal



A delegation of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) of Japan's female parliamentarians, led by Ms. Tomomi Inada, Chief Deputy Secretary-General, LDP and Former Minister of Defense, along with Ms. Fusae Ota, Member of House of Councillors, and Ms. Mio Sugita, Member of House of Representatives, visited Nepal from 29th to 31st August, 2019. On 30th August, they paid a courtesy call to the Right Hon. President Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari, Hon. Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Hon. Mrs. Tham Maya Thapa, Minister for Women, Children and Senior Citizens. At the meetings, discussions were held on the women empowerment issues, promoting international exchange between the women parliamentarians of both countries.



Furthermore, parliamentarians visited Paropakar Maternity and Women's Hospital in Thapathali, which was supported by Japan under the 'Program on Rehabilitation and Recovery from the Nepal Earthquake in 2015' and completed in May, 2019. The delegation also attended the promotional event of the launching the direct flight to Japan

operated by Nepal Airlines and Visit Nepal 2020, co-organized by the Embassy of Japan in Nepal, Nepal Airlines and the Nepal Tourism Board. The Hon. Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Mr. Yogesh Kumar Bhattarai, CEO of Nepal Tourism Board, Mr. Deepak Raj Joshi and country manager of Nepal Airlines Corporation Mr. Santosh Pandey attended the program. Mr. Suraj Vaidya, National coordinator of Visit Nepal 2020 and Ms. Sabina Shakya, Deputy Director of Commercial Department of Nepal Airlines delivered their presentations. The delegation ended their official visit by the direct flight on 31st August, 2019. The direct flights between Kathmandu to Kansai (Osaka) resumed after more than a decade on 29th August, 2019.

Memorandum on 'Specified Skilled Worker' Signed



Ambassador Masamichi Saigo and Mr. Ram Prasad Ghimire, Officiating Secretary of the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security of the Government of Nepal, signed a Memorandum of Cooperation on 25th March for establishing an information partnership to ensure smooth and proper sending and accepting of specified skilled workers in Japan in the presence of Hon. Mr. Gokarna Bista, Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security.

This was required to eliminate malicious intermediary organizations, and to resolve the problems of sending and accepting, and the residence of specified skilled workers in Japan.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan worked to enhance the mutual benefits of both countries through cooperation for ensuring proper operation of the system by cooperating with the relevant ministries and agencies in Japan.



Japan Extended Rs. 4.8 Billion for Improving Pokhara's Water Supply

Ambassador Masamichi Saigo participated in the foundation stone laying ceremony for the Project for Improvement of Water Supply in Pokhara (Kaski) on 11th June 2019. The foundation stone for the project jointly funded by the Government of Nepal and Government of Japan was laid by the Hon'ble. Ms. Bina Magar, Minister for Water Supply. Ms. Yumiko Asakuma, the Chief Representative of JICA Nepal Office also attended the ceremony.

The Government of Japan has provided grant assistance of 4.813 billion Japanese Yen equivalent to NPR 5.834 billion to the Government of Nepal for implementing the project under Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA).



The project will use this grant to build a sedimentation tank, a water treatment plant, reservoirs and overhead tanks, and also rehabilitate and construct water transmission lines and distribution networks. The project will also take soft

components into account for ensuring the supply of quality drinking water to residents of Pokhara. The project will have the capacity to filter 41 million liters of water per day and is expected to be completed by 2021.



Inauguration Ceremony of the Paropakar Maternity and Women's Hospital and Bir Hospital

Nepal's Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister inaugurated two projects completed with aid from the Government of Japan in Kathmandu 12th July 2019.

Japan supported the reconstruction of the Paropakar Maternity and Women's Hospital, and Bir Hospital. These were handed over to the Ministry of Health and Population at ceremonies organized at the premises of the two hospitals.

The new building of the Paropakar Maternity and Women's Hospital was inaugurated by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, Mr. K.P. Sharma Oli. The new building at Bir Hospital was inaugurated by the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Health and Population, Mr. Upendra Yadav. Ambassador Masamichi Saigo and the Chief Representative of JICA Nepal Office, Ms. Yumiko Asakuma, also attended the ceremonies.

The Government of Japan has supported the reconstruction of the hospitals and also the provision of essential medical equipment. The reconstruction work was carried out under Japan's Grant Assistance 'Program for Rehabilitation and Recovery from Nepal Earthquake'.

Japan aims to support the provision of safe and quality health services through the reconstruction of infrastructures. The project was based on the concept of "Build Back Better" for creating a resilient society to cope with future disasters.



The Paropakar Maternity and Women's Hospital's building can provide multiple medical services and also serve educational purposes, whereas the new three storey building at Bir Hospital is to be used for various functions including an ICU and the cardiology department.

The new buildings are equipped with back-up systems that will allow the hospitals to continue operation without

disruption in post-disaster situations. Further, the new buildings also have enhanced functions to ensure seamless flow of obstetric care services.

The new structure of Paropakar Maternity and Women's Hospital is expected to provide effective and efficient services to more women, mothers, and babies. The hospital can also act as a model hospital that combines quality medical services and disaster preparedness, a model that could be adopted by other hospitals as well.

On the occasion, Ambassador Saigo said that the reconstructed Paropakar Maternity and Women's Hospital would provide quality reproductive health services to women, and essential care for mothers and newborns.

He added that Bir Hospital would provide quality health service to the general public, and stressed that Japan would continue to cooperate in the rehabilitation and recovery efforts of Nepal to support Nepal's goal of 'Prosperous Nepal Happy Nepali'.



Japan Extended Rs. 900 Million for Three Projects

Japan has extended grant aid of about 900 million Japanese Yen (NRs.945.6 million) to the Government of Nepal for three separate projects. Ambassador Masamichi Saigo and Mr. Rajan Khanal, Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, Nepal signed and exchanged notes on the assistance in Kathmandu on 22nd July 2019.



Accordingly, Japanese Yen 628 million (NRs. 639.9 million) has been extended for implementing the Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) Phases I and II. The third note was related to assistance of Japanese Yen 300 million (NRs 305.7 million) for the School Sector Development Program (SSDP).

A separate note was signed and exchanged by Ms. Yumiko Asakuma, Chief Representative of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA Nepal), and Mr. Shreekrishna Nepal, Joint Secretary of the International Economic Cooperation and Coordination Division (IECCD) at the Ministry of Finance, for implementing the grants.

"Education is an investment in human capital and the foundation for a nation's sustainable social and economic development," Ambassador Saigo said at the signing ceremony. He added that education would be key to eradicating poverty and assisting Nepal to meet the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

The JDS Project is designed to support human resource development of friendly nations through scholarships for government officials for attending Japanese universities and for strengthening the partnership between recipient countries and Japan.

Sixty government officials are already enrolled at universities in Japan under Phase I of JDS and another 20 are in the process of pursuing higher education under this program. Phase II of JDS will include an infrastructure development component and also doctoral degree program at the request of the Government of Nepal.



Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP)

Health Center in Chaudandigadhi Municipality, Udayapur



Foundation Laying Ceremony: 16th April 2019

Amount: USD 67,944 (NRs 8.0 million)

Recipient: FACT Nepal

Ambassador Masamichi Saigo laid the cornerstone of a health center in Chaudandigadhi Municipality, Udayapur District. Dr. Narayan Khadka, Member of the House of Representatives, also attended the ceremony.

The Project will support construction of a health center in Chaudandigadhi Municipality that will offer medical services to improve maternal and child health in the area, through the provision of vaccinations and regular check-up services. The project is being implemented by FACT Nepal, an organization



that has been working to improve access to health care services in the region since its establishment in 2004. FACT Nepal provides trainings and organizes awareness campaigns on public health, early childhood development education, and income generation for local women in Udayapur District.



Japan Hands over Public Toilet and Improved Facilities to ANFA



Ambassador Masamichi Saigo handed over a public toilet and other facilities at the premises of the All Nepal Football Association (ANFA) Complex, Satdobato, Lalitpur on 30th May 2019.

Mr. Karma Tsering Sherpa, President of ANFA and Mr. Indra Man Tuladhar, CEO of ANFA, also attended the ceremony.

The Government of Japan provided USD 71,581.00 (NRs.7.4 million) to the All Nepal Football Association (ANFA) for a project to build and improve the Satdobato Football Stadium of ANFA under the Grant Assistance for Cultural Grassroots Project (GCGP) of FY 2017.

The grant was used for the renovation of football players' locker rooms and the technical training room with technical director's office, and construction of toilet facilities. The Embassy of Japan believes that the improved facilities will benefit ANFA staff, players and sport lovers.

The project is also expected to contribute towards improving ANFA's training programs for Nepali football players. The Embassy further believes the project will be one good milestone of the bilateral relationship between the two countries.



Handover of Mediation Centers to the Nepal Bar Association

Handover Ceremony: 21st June 2019

Amount: USD 38,388 (NRs 3.9 million)

Recipient: Nepal Bar Association



Ambassador Masamichi Saigo handed over three mediation centers built to increase efficiency of legal assistance at the Patan High Court, and one each at Lalitpur and Bhaktapur District Courts.

In the increasingly populated cities in Nepal, people sometimes have to wait for several months to receive legal services from the courts. The mediation centers that were established next to the courts will offer legal consultations by professional lawyers which means simple civil cases can be solved out of the courts. In this way, both the courts and citizens can benefit from the alternative dispute resolution.

The Nepal Bar Association, established in 1956, has been offering trainings and education on legal matters, and has been carrying out activities to promote justice and human rights, including mediation services.

Rugby World Cup 2019 Promotion: Japan-Nepal Friendly Match



The Embassy of Japan in Kathmandu supported the Nepal Rugby Association to kick off Japan's Rugby World Cup 2019 campaign in Kathmandu on 18th May 2019. We welcomed special guest players from Japan, Mr. Takashi Kikutani, former captain of the Japanese team for the Rugby World Cup 2011, and Ms. Ayumi Inui who won the Asian Championship in 2016.

Veteran rugby players from Nepal and a visiting team from Japan also competed against each other at a friendly match at the Madhyapur Youth Association Sports Ground, Madhyapur, Thimi Municipality.

The Saigo Cup friendly match up was a part of the Kathmandu Rugby Festival's efforts to promote the Rugby World Cup 2019 being held in Japan from September to November this year.

Before the friendly match, Mr. Kikutani and Ms. Inui, taught rugby drills and techniques to Nepal's National Rugby Players and players of other clubs including the Nepal Army. After the rugby drills, a touch rugby tournament was played among students from different schools.

Japanese Artists Talk Program



The Embassy of Japan organized a talk program by well-known Japanese artists at the Embassy Hall on 28th April 2019.

Japanese literary figure Ms. Mariko Hayashi, architect Mr. Kengo Kuma, who designed the main stadium for Tokyo Olympic 2020, and script writer of Japanese TV dramas and movies, Ms. Miho Nakazono, were the speakers at the talk program.

The artists were in Nepal on private visits and spoke about their impressions of Nepal and their current work.

The Embassy invited four Nepali guests to discuss with the Japanese artists. Those invited to participate included Mr. Narayan Wagle, Chief Editor of Kantipur, and novelist; Ms. Sumnima Udas, Executive Director of the Lumbini Museum; Ms. Era Shrestha, NHK stringer, and Mr. Rabindra Maharjan of the Japanese Language Teachers' Association Nepal (JALTAN). More than 90 people attended the talk program.

First Japan-Nepal Medical Conference in Kathmandu



The Japan Graduated Medical Doctors (JaGraM) of JUAAN (Japanese Universities Alumni Association, Nepal) organised the first Japan-Nepal Medical Conference in Kathmandu with support of the Embassy of Japan on 3rd August 2019.

The day-long conference was held at the Embassy Hall where Nepali medical doctors who completed their education in Japan, as MEXT Scholarship students, and now actively work in Nepal, and Japanese academics in medical fields participated. There were 20 individual presentations, followed by panel discussions. Over 80 medical professionals from the two countries joined the day.

The presentation themes were broad from public health to clinical studies included Japan-Nepal tuberculosis elimination, child mortality in Nepal, medical problems among Nepalese residents in Japan, treatment of hepatitis in Nepal, community-based oral health and hygiene education, recent neuro interventional advances in acute ischemic stroke management, Nepal-Japan collaboration for the control of tuberculosis, the role of Nepalese studies in the making of molecular epidemiology of rotavirus, immunohistochemical evaluation of GATA-3, pAKT and Ki-67 in triple negative breast carcinoma, health education in Nagasaki University, pulmonary embolism, public education in Japan and other developed countries, rotavirus infection, and rotavirus vaccine and intussusception.

Ambassador Masamichi Saigo mentioned that Nepali doctors who pursued their education in Japan have been contributing much to the health sector of Nepal. The participants at the conference said that such conferences can offer good opportunity to doctors from Nepal and Japan to exchange experiences and learn from each other.

Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)

The first Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) of 2019 was held at St. Mary's School and D.A.V. School, Jawalakhel on 7th July 2019. There were 3,084 students at 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 this examination.

Teacher Training in Japan

The Embassy of Japan facilitates the invitation of Japanese language teachers for the Japan Foundation's trainings. Ms. Anamika Thapa, from the Topa International Education Center, took part in a short-term course in 2019, along with 36 Japanese language teachers from 26 countries.



Ms. Thapa said "We learnt teaching methods, and had communication based practical classes, as well as having classes on Japanese culture and lifestyle. We also had a home stay program, participated in culture programs, and visited many places in Tokyo and its suburbs. I climbed Mt. Fuji with my friends; which is a precious memory I will treasure for the rest of my life".

The Japan Foundation provides Japanese language training for teachers of the Japanese language from institutes around the world. The trainees typically have more than two years teaching experience and are provided an opportunity to improve their language skills, learn teaching methodologies, and gain a better understanding of Japanese culture and society. The Foundation organizes both short term (2 months) and long term (6 months) trainings.

On Japan

OBON

Obon is one of the most important Japanese traditions. It commemorates one's ancestors. It is believed that during Obon ancestors' spirits come back to their homes to visit their relatives. For the reason, Obon is an important time of family gatherings, and many people return to their hometowns. It is similar to Gaijatra of Nepali culture.

Japanese people clean their houses and ancestor's graves, placed a variety of food offerings such as vegetables and fruits for the spirits of their ancestors in front of a butsudan (Buddhist altar) and temples. Chochin lanterns and flower arrangements are usually placed by the butsudan. At the end of Obon, floating lanterns are put into rivers, lakes and seas in order to guide the spirits back into their world. The customs one followed different from region to region. Also, bon odori (folk dance) is widely practiced on Obon nights. People go to their neighborhood bon odori held in parks, gardens, shrines, or temples, wearing yukata (summer kimono) and dance around a yagura stage.



The Obon week in mid-August is one of Japan's three major holiday seasons (alongside New Year and Golden Week in May), accompanied by intensive domestic and international travel activities and increased accommodation rates. Obon is not a Japanese national holiday, but many people take vacations during this time to visit their families. Therefore, Mid-August is the peak travel season in summer.


Gateway for various information on Japan



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