

## Japan's National Day Celebrated

On 15th December, 2017, H.E. Mr. Masashi Ogawa, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, hosted a reception at his residence to celebrate the 84th auspicious birthday of His Majesty, Emperor Akihito.

Four hundred VVIP and VIP guests attended the reception, including the Rt. Honorable Vice-President Nanda Bahadur Pun as Chief Guest; Honorable Ministers of Health, Mr. Deepak Bohara; Youth and Sports, Mr. Rajendra Kumar K.C.; Supplies, Mr. Jayant Chanda; Irrigation, Mr. Sanjay Kumar Gautam; Defense, Mr. Bhimsen Das Pradhan; Information and Communications, Mr. Mohan Bahadur Basnet; Industry, Mr. Sunil Bahadur Thapa; Population and Environment, Ms. Mithila Chaudhary; Honorable State-Minister, Ms. Kamala Devi Sharma; Ambassadors, and Heads of International Organizations in Nepal, members of the Legislature Parliament, and high ranking government officials.



In Japan, the Emperor is the symbol of the state and the unity of the people. His Majesty Emperor Akihito's birthday, 23rd December, is celebrated as the National Day of Japan.

## High Level Election Observation Team Visits Nepal



Japan's Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Honorable Mr. Iwao Horii, visited Nepal to observe the second House of Representatives and the provincial assembly elections on 6th to 8th December, 2017. During his stay in Kathmandu, Mr. Horii paid courtesy calls on the Rt. Honorable President, Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari, and the Honorable Chief Election Commissioner, Mr. Ayodhee Prasad Yadav, and also attended the interaction program for international observers, the diplomatic community in Kathmandu, and development partners.



On 7th December, Parliamentary Vice-Minister Mr. Horii visited several polling stations in Bhaktapur, Lalitpur and Kathmandu, and interacted with local people and election officers.

He also visited the construction site of the Paropakaar Maternity Hospital in Kathmandu. The hospital was severely damaged by 2015 Gorkha earthquake and its reconstruction is being undertaken with the assistance of the Government of Japan. Similarly, he visited the Lalitpur Metropolitan City Office to hold a meeting with the mayor, Mr. Chiri Babu Maharjan. He also visited a counter station before his departure from Kathmandu on 8th December.



## Japanese NGO Project Scheme

### Assistance for Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Chitwan District

The Government of Japan extended financial assistance of US dollars 419,859 (NRs. 43.8 million), to SHAPLA NEER -- Citizens' Committee in Japan for Overseas Support -- under the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects. With this support, Shapla Neer, an international NGO based in Japan, will work with a Nepali partner, Rural Reconstruction Nepal (RRN), to implement the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Strengthening Project. A grant agreement to this effect was signed and exchanged on 21st November, 2017.



#### The project will assist the following:

- (1) Capacity development of local government and communities: Activities will include workshops and knowledge transfer, and facilitation of development of disaster risk management plans for the local disaster management committees.
- (2) Establishment and maintenance of infrastructure: River widening, and the construction of gabions and embankments as well as protection walls and drainage systems will take place.
- (3) DRR education at schools: DRR activities will take place, such as evacuation drills in schools.

### Assistance for Strengthening Disaster Resilience in Doti



On December 27th 2017, The Charge d'Affaires ad interim of Japan to Nepal, Mr. Shinya Machida, signed a grant contract of 735,693 US dollars (approximately NRs. 75 million) with Ms. Naomi Kato, Project Manager of World Vision Japan (WVJ) in Nepal under the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects Scheme of FY 2017.

World Vision Japan, an international NGO based in Japan, together with World Vision International Nepal, will work with a Nepalese partner NGO, Community Development Center (CDC), to implement the project for Community and School Disaster Preparedness and Resilience in Doti District.

This project aims at improving community and school disaster preparedness and resilience in one municipality and four VDCs (currently shifted to one municipality and two rural municipalities) in Doti District. The project will strengthen school and community disaster resilience and build a platform for community and local authorities to work together to promote disaster management activities.

#### The goal will be achieved through the three main activities below.

- (1) Increased Access to Safe Learning Environment (model school development).
- (2) Improved Disaster Risk Management Systems in Schools and Communities.
- (3) Improved Systems and Policy on School Safety through Social Accountability and Advocacy Efforts.



## 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 Human Security Projects (GGP) program. It has provided grant assistance to different grassroots community projects in Nepal, including the following:

### Support to AMDA Hospital in Damak



The GGP provided support to the AMDA Hospital in Damak to construct a building to house its intensive care unit, and for procuring and installing the necessary medical equipment required for the unit. The building was inaugurated on 22nd October, 2017 and the event was attended by the Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, H.E. Mr. Masashi Ogawa.

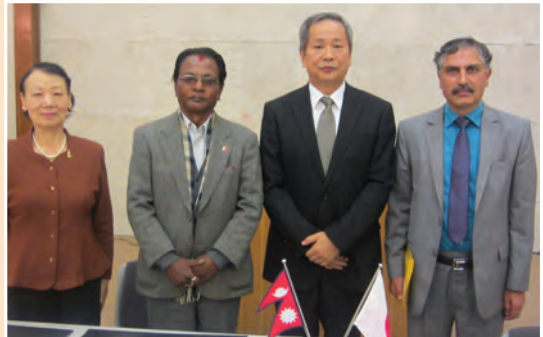
Japan had provided Japanese Yen 9,346,819 (NRs. 9.3 million) under the GGP for this activity. The newly constructed building and equipment -- a ventilator, ABG machine, and X-ray machine -- can assist the hospital to provide services to about two million people in five districts of east Nepal.

### Fire Engine for Damak Municipality



The Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, H.E. Mr. Masashi Ogawa, handed over a fire engine and accessories, including 15 hoses, to the Damak Municipality on 22nd October 2017. The support was provided under the GGP. The Myozai Fire Department in Japan gifted the used fire engine, the hand-over of which was facilitated by the Tokushima-Nepal Friendship Association. The Government of Japan hopes that the equipment can assist towards fighting fires in the area.

### Provide Ophthalmological Equipment to RHESC in Gokarneshwor



A GGP grant contract was signed between the Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, H.E. Mr. Masashi Ogawa, and the Chairman of the Rural Health Education and Service Center (RHESC), Mr. Bal Prasad Shahi, at the Embassy on 11th December, 2017. With a total amount of USD 84,138 (NRs. 8.6 million) this GGP will provide various ophthalmological equipment for diagnosis and surgery, such as an operating microscope, slit lamps, retinoscopes, a phaco emulsification system, etc., which will be installed at RHESC, in Gokarneshwor Municipality.

The ophthalmological equipment can assist the center to offer a wider range of services, including accurate check-ups, surgeries, and eye camps for schools in the suburbs of Kathmandu.

RHESC was established in 1986 with the support of a Japanese nurse, Ms. Masako Yamane, and a Japanese NGO, Japan-Nepal Human Development Association. It has since been providing medical services to people at a low cost.

### Mobile Clinic Car Provided to Phul Kumari Mahato Memorial Hospital in Siraha

The Government of Japan agreed to provide grant assistance of USD 63,043 (NRs. 6.5 million) for a mobile clinic car to the Phul Kumari Mahato Memorial Hospital, located in Siraha District. The grant contract was signed between the Embassy of Japan and the Chairman of the Hospital, Dr. Upendra Mahat, on 13th December, 2017.

The mobile clinic is a specialized car manufactured by a Japanese company, and comes with basic medical equipment



for diagnosis and treatment of patients. It can also be used to transport patients, if needed, to the hospital.



The Phul Kumari Mahato Memorial Hospital was established by Dr. Mahato to commemorate his mother, and is located in the small village of Karjanha. It is the only medical facility in the area, and provides a wide range of medical services, focusing on treatment of local women and children. The mobile clinic will support the expansion of services to cover four districts, namely, Danusha, Siraha, Udayapur and Sindhuli.

## Braille Printers for Blind Students of Nepal



A GGP grant contract was signed between Ambassador, H.E. Masashi Ogawa and the Chairman of the Nepal Association for the Welfare of the Blind (NAWB), Mr. Kumar Thapa, on 18th December 2017. The total amount of grant assistance was USD 82,257 (NRs. 8.4 million) and this project will support the installation of a set of high quality Braille printers. NAWB prints braille text books and distributes them annually to public schools all over Nepal. These books can enable blind or visually impaired students to study alongside other students.

Dr. Lamichhane, who had come to Nepal from Japan to attend the signing ceremony, has earned a doctoral degree from the University of Tokyo, and was also a scholarship student from NAWB. He has mastered both Japanese and English languages and now teaches different subjects, including disability studies and inclusive education, at the University of Tsukuba in Japan. NAWB has been supporting visually impaired students since its establishment in 1992 by providing braille text books, training sessions and scholarships.

## Ambassadorial Certificates of Appreciation Conferred



**H**is Excellency Mr. Masashi Ogawa, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, conferred Ambassadorial Certificates of Appreciation to eight individuals and one organization on 2nd November, 2017. Ambassadorial Certificates of Appreciation are awarded to individuals and organizations that have worked for strengthening the relationship between Japan and Nepal.

### Those who received the certificates in 2017 were:

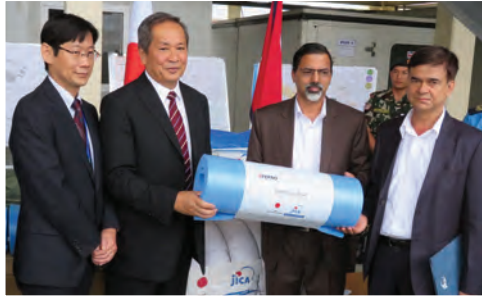
1. Nepal Chamber of Commerce (NCC);
2. Ms. Archana Pradhan, Senior Manager, Patient Care Services Department, Grande International Hospital;
3. Ms. Chie Shrestha, Owner, Cafe and Restaurant U;
4. Ms. Masako Yamane, KAI Therapist, Rural Health Education and Service Center;
5. Ms. Hiroko Iimori, Owner, Hotel Sunset View;
6. Dr. Nobuo (Tokushin) Kasai, Chairman, Lumbini Hotel Kasai;
7. Mr. Kazuo Suganuma, President, Japanese Association in Nepal;
8. Ms. Midori Sakamoto, Japanese Language Teacher & Advisor, Japanese Language Teachers' Association Nepal, and
9. Mr. Yoji Matsuda, President, Megane no Matsuda Co., Ltd.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Ogawa expressed his confidence that the recipients' contributions and cooperation will continue to play a significant role in enhancing the friendly and cordial ties between the two countries, both at the country-to-country and people-to-people levels.

# Japan's Relief Supplies for Flood and Landslide Victims

The Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, H.E. Mr. Masashi Ogawa, handed over emergency relief supplies to the Government of Nepal at a ceremony held at the Tribhuvan International Airport on 23rd August, 2017.

The relief supplies are worth around 25 million Japanese Yen (about NRs. 23.4 million). The first shipment that had arrived at the Tribhuvan International Airport contained 3,000 blankets, 100 plastic sheets, 2,000 sleeping pads, 100 tents, and 10 water tanks, and weighed almost 10.4



tons. The relief materials were part of Japan's response to the damage caused by heavy rainfall in early August 2017 in the southern part of Nepal.

After the signing of the letter of delivery by Mr. Jun Sakuma, Chief Representative, JICA Nepal Office, and Mr. Kedar Neupane, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ambassador handed over the supplies to the Honorable Home Minister, Mr. Janardan Sharma.

## Japanese Karaoke Competition



The Japanese Embassy and Japanese Language Teachers' Association, Nepal (JALTAN) organized a Japanese Language Karaoke Competition at the Army Officers' Club on 25th December, 2017. The Japanese Association in Nepal, the Japanese Universities Alumni Association, Nepal (JUAAN), and the JICA Alumni Association of Nepal (JAAN) supported the competition. The competition is organized annually with aims to introduce Japanese culture to Nepali people. The competition drew a wide range of participants from the general public and Japanese language learners.

The event drew an audience of over 450 people. The participants competed to impress the audience with songs of their choice in both the individual and group sections. Ms. Sonam Sherpa from the Peaceful Education Foundation came first among the 38 contestants.

The Japanese Ambassador to Nepal, H.E. Mr. Masashi Ogawa, attended the event and spoke about the performances, wishing participants luck in their efforts to master the Japanese language and the art of Karaoke.

The Ambassador also used the opportunity to warn prospective students seeking to pursue studies in Japan to avoid middlemen consultancies that could cheat them, adding that there were many legitimate institutions in Nepal that provided the service.



## Japanese Judo Instructors Arrive

A five-member Japanese team from the All Japan Judo Federation (AJJF) arrived in Nepal on 11th September, 2017 to instruct Nepali Judokas in Kathmandu. This program was designed in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan as part of international support measures under the Japanese Government's "SPORT FOR TOMORROW" initiative.

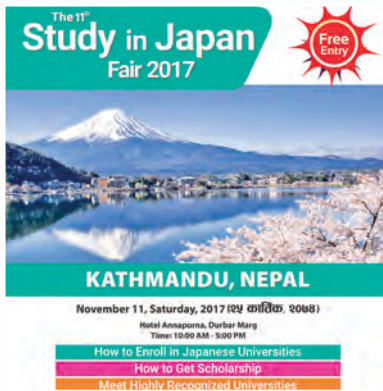


The Japanese Judo team, led by Mr. Gotaro Ogawa, held training sessions at the National Sports Council, Nepal Police Dojo, schools in Kathmandu, and other Judo Dojos. The participants from the Nepal National Team praised the Japanese Government's initiative to support for improvement in Nepali Judo and stressed that such exchanges should continue.

The visiting team also met Nepal's Minister of Youth and Sports, Honorable Mr. Rajendra Kumar K.C., and Mr. Keshab Kumar Bista, Member Secretary of the Nepal Sports Council to discuss future cooperation.



# 11th Study in Japan Fair in Kathmandu



The 11th Study in Japan Fair was held in the Annapurna Hotel on 11th November, 2017. The Fair offered information on study in Japan, scholarship programs, and application procedures for scholarships; selection of universities; entrance examination procedures; university ranking; ways of finding a research adviser, and information on Japanese lifestyle. Some 600 university students and educational administrators attended the Fair.

The Study in Japan Fair is organized every year to promote study in Japan by providing Nepali students and educators with correct information about Japanese higher education and research

so as to help the students choose an appropriate university and achieve their academic pursuits. This year, leading Japanese universities and institutions, namely International University of Japan, Nihon Wellness Sports University, Gakusyuin University, Takushoku University, Teikyo University, Soka University, Nanzan University, and the Educational Institution of Shigakukan Gakuen took part in the Fair. This program was organized by the Embassy of Japan, together with the Japan Student Service Organization (JASSO) and Japanese Universities Alumni Association Nepal (JUAAN).



## Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)

The second Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) of 2017 was held at St. Mary's School, Jawalakhel, on 3rd December. In all, 619 students took the language proficiency exam for Levels N1 to N5. The Japan Foundation offers the 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 JLPT.

## JENESYS Program

Thirteen young men and women from Nepal and a supervisor left for Japan under the JENESYS Program on 25th November, 2017.

The team included two high school and 10 university students who were selected for the Japan-SAARC Network Program of People-to-People Exchange. This was the first batch of students from SAARC countries who were visiting Japan under the government's Japan-East Asia Network of Exchanges of Students and Youths (JENESYS) Program. The delegation returned to Nepal on 6th December.

During their stay in Japan, the Nepali delegation split into two groups and joined other participants from SAARC countries. Besides Tokyo, one group visited Akita Prefecture to the north.



The other group visited Nagasaki City to visit the Nagasaki Peace Park and the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum. Ms. Bibhuti Sharma, a student from the National Law College, told us that she learned many new things and got the opportunity to see the

beauty of Tokyo Metropolitan City and Akita Prefecture. She added that it was a fabulous experience to learn firsthand of the Japanese culture, tradition and lifestyle. She also stressed that these kind of youth exchange programs are a golden opportunity to know each other, in fact she quoted the proverb 'seeing is believing'.

### Embassy of Japan

Tel. 4426680, E-mail: [cultural-emb@km.mofa.go.jp](mailto:cultural-emb@km.mofa.go.jp), URL : <http://www.np.emb-japan.go.jp>