



Japan's 30 Billion Yen (Approximately 26 Billion Nepalese Rupees) Assistance for Rehabilitation and Recovery from the Nepal Earthquake



The Government of Japan (GoJ) has signed an Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan with the Government of Nepal (GoN) for up to 26 billion Japanese Yen (equivalent to approximately 22 billion Nepalese Rupees) of which 14 billion Japanese Yen (equivalent to approximately 12 billion Nepalese Rupees) is for the reconstruction of schools and 12 billion Japanese Yen (equivalent to approximately 10 billion Nepalese Rupees) is for the reconstruction of houses affected by the recent earthquake in Nepal. Similarly, Grant Assistance of 4 billion Japanese Yen (equivalent to approximately 3.5 billion Nepalese Rupees) has been signed and exchanged between the two governments for the "Project on Rehabilitation and Recovery from the Nepal Earthquake." These projects are part of a 32 billion Yen (equivalent to approximately 27 billion Nepalese Rupees) assistance which was announced by GoJ at the "International Conference on Nepal's Reconstruction 2015" on June 25, 2015.

The Exchange of Notes on the projects were signed and exchanged between Mr. Lok Darshan Regmi, Secretary, Ministry of Finance on behalf of GoN, and His Excellency Masashi Ogawa, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal on behalf of GoJ. Amid the function, held at the Ministry of Finance in Singha Durbar, Kathmandu, the Loan Agreements of the projects were signed and exchanged between Mr. Madhu Kumar Marasini, Joint Secretary, International Economic Cooperation Coordination Division, Ministry of Finance, on behalf of GoN, and Mr. Tsutomu Shimizu, Chief Representative of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Nepal on behalf of

JICA. Both the agreements have a 40 year repayment and a 10 year grace period with a 0.01% annual interest condition.

The emergency school reconstruction project will rebuild and retrofit schools in the districts severely affected by the Nepal earthquake by financing the necessary expenses for reconstruction of schools and related facilities, thereby contributing to the improvement of education services and earthquake resilience for sustainable socio-economic growth. Likewise, the emergency housing reconstruction project will restore and improve the living conditions of victims of Nepal earthquake by reconstructing destroyed and damaged houses with an adequate seismic standard, thereby contributing to sustainable socio-economic development in the region with the "Build Back Better" (BBB) concept. As GoN has announced a grant of Rs. 200,000 per house to rebuild damaged houses, JICA provides this loan so that GoN can provide grants to victims. The reconstruction of school buildings and housing will be carried out in 14 districts. JICA will reconstruct school buildings in six districts, namely, Lalitpur, Dhading, Nuwakot, Rasuwa, Gorkha, and Makwanpur and housing in Sindupalchowk and Gorkha, which were the districts most affected by the Nepal earthquake.

Similarly, Grant Assistance will be used for the reconstruction of Paropakar Maternity and Women's Hospital, Bir Hospital, and for the rehabilitation of the water transmission system in Chautara and for bridge construction along the Barhakilo to Barpak road.



Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP)

Japan's Assistance for the Project for the Construction of an Eye Hospital in Bhojpur District



Signing Ceremony: 19th February, 2016

Amount: USD 90,909.00 (equivalent to approximately NPR 9,842,717)

Recipient: Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh, a local NGO based in Kathmandu

This grant assistance provides financial assistance to support the construction of an eye hospital in Taxar, Bhojpur District, an area currently in need of such a facility. The aim is to improve the quality of eye care for the people of Bhojpur. Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh is an NGO established in 1978 that currently provides eye care services across the country through a network of 17 eye hospitals, 59 eye care centers and 28 district branches.

Japanese Assistance for the Project for Improvement of Living Conditions in Kharpachok VDC (2nd Phase)



Signing Ceremony: 24th February, 2016

Amount: USD 274,570.00 (equivalent to approximately NPR 29,845,759)

Recipient: AMDA Multisectoral and Integrated Development Services (AMDA-MINDS)

This grant was provided to AMDA Multisectoral and Integrated Development Services (AMDA-MINDS) under the grant assistance for Japanese NGO projects scheme. AMDA-MINDS is a Japan-based NGO, which provides technical and

financial support to partner agency, SAGUN Nepal, for the implementation of the Improvement of Living Conditions Project in Kharpachok VDC.

The two-year project has been in operation since March 2015, under grant assistance from the Government of Japan, with the aim to improve the living conditions of the people of Kharpachok VDC, Kavrepalanchok District by focusing on livelihoods, water, and health and hygiene. This latest grant assistance will be used for the second phase of the project. The main elements of the second phase are as follows:

- 1) Livelihood improvement
- 2) Improved access to water
- 3) Health and sanitation

Japanese Assistance for Renovation of the Local Community Learning Center for People Vulnerable to Disaster in Changu Narayan Village



Signing Ceremony: 1st March, 2016

Amount: USD 254,083.00 (equivalent to approximately NPR 27,867,823)

Recipient: ICA Japan

This grant assistance is provided to ICA Japan under the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects scheme. ICA Japan is a NGO based in Japan, which provides technical and financial support to its partner agency, ICA Nepal, in implementing the project, "Renovation of the Local Community Learning Center for People Vulnerable to Disaster" in Changu Narayan village.

This grant assistance will be used to renovate the local community-learning center, which was also built by grant assistance from the Japanese Government in 2002. The support is intended to improve and strengthen the lives of those in the community who were affected by the Nepal earthquake. The major elements of this program are:

- 1) Learning center renovation
- 2) Community meeting for restoration
- 3) Psycho-social counseling for children
- 4) Psycho-social counseling for senior citizens
- 5) Skills training for low income women

Japanese Assistance for the Project for the Procurement of Equipment for Restoration and Preservation of Historical Monuments in Patan Durbar Square



Signing Ceremony: 2nd March, 2016

Amount: USD 77,805.00 (equivalent to approximately NPR 8,450,000)

Recipient: Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust (KVPT)

Grant assistance has been provided to the Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust (KVPT), a Nepalese NGO, under the Grant Assistance for Cultural Grassroots Project (GCGP) scheme. Following guidelines outlined by the Department of Archaeology and UNESCO, KVPT will use the grant to procure equipment necessary for the soaring, scaffolding, and fencing of the Krishna Temple, Char Narayan Temple, Visveswora Temple and Manimandap Pati, all located at Patan Durbar Square.

The earthquake that hit Nepal on 25th April, 2015 and its subsequent aftershocks damaged all of the aforementioned structures. As a true friend of Nepal and also as an earthquake-prone country, Japan's response after the earthquake was immediate. Now, Japan is working with the Department of Archaeology to support Nepalese efforts to renovate valuable cultural heritage in the Kathmandu Valley.

Japan's Assistance for the Project for Provision of an Excavator and Truck for Rebuilding Villages in Duguna Gadi VDC in Sindhupalchowk District



Signing Ceremony: 10th March, 2016

Amount: USD 67,936.00 (equivalent to approximately NPR 7,271,869)

Recipient: Federation of Business and Professional Women Nepal (BPW Nepal)

This grant assistance was provided to the Federation of Business and Professional Women, Nepal (BPW Nepal), a local NGO in Kathmandu. BPW Nepal was established in 1975 and is

currently providing direct relief supplies and support in conjunction with the Dwarika Foundation for reconstruction, rehabilitation and restoration in Duguna Gadi VDC.

The Government of Japan has designated financial assistance to fund one excavator and one truck to rebuild villages in Duguna Gadi in Sindhupalchowk District. The aim is to improve roads and transportation for the rebuilding and reconstruction of 14 villages and 222 houses in the district.

Japan's Assistance for the Project for the Construction of a Community Learning Resource Center in Gorkha District



Signing Ceremony: 15th March, 2016

Amount: USD 85,628.00 (equivalent to approximately NPR 9,159,627)

Recipient: Innovative Forum for Community Development (IFCD), a NGO based in Kathmandu

The Government of Japan has extended grant assistance to the Innovative Forum for Community Development (IFCD), a NGO based in Kathmandu. IFCD has been providing educational services such as formal and non-formal education, peace education, life skills, and HIV/AIDS education for more than thirty years. They are experienced in partnerships with other agencies including UNICEF, UNESCO, UNDP, the Ministry of Education and various local NGOs. By request, IFCD has organized numerous participatory education trainings for such agencies.

Japan's Assistance for the Project for the Construction of Hostel for Training Children with Vision and Hearing Impairment



Signing Ceremony: 18th March, 2016

Amount: USD 90,838.00 (equivalent to approximately NPR 9,746,009)

Recipient: B.P. Eye Foundation

The Government of Japan has designated this financial assistance to support the construction of a hostel at the Children's Hospital for Eye ENT and Rehabilitation Services (CHEERS), established by B.P. Eye Foundation. The hostel will be used as a space to provide training to visual and hearing-impaired children so they can enter school.



Japan Approves Counterpart Fund

Based on a request made by the Government of Nepal, the Government of Japan has recently approved the usage of counterpart funds to the sum of one hundred million Nepalese Rupees (NPR 100,000,000) for the implementation of “**The Project for Cooperative Farming, Small Irrigation and Transportation Subsidy on Fertilizers and Improved Seeds in Severely Earthquake Affected Districts of Nepal.**”

The Project was approved in order to rehabilitate and maintain small irrigation infrastructure damaged by the earthquake; to enhance food security for small-farmers; to support poverty alleviation programs, and to give relief from the increased price of chemical fertilizers and seeds in the target areas and improve the agricultural livelihoods of farmers, specifically in the 14 districts most affected by the earthquake.

The Counterpart Fund was established through financial assistance extended by the Government of Japan to increase agriculture production under KR2 (grant assistance for underprivileged farmers). The Government of Nepal has procured fertilizer through this assistance, and sold it in the domestic market to prevent acute shortages and unexpected price hikes. The amount collected from selling the fertilizer was deposited as a counterpart fund. The funds can be used for implementing various social and economic development projects through consultation between the two governments.



Japanese Film Festival in Kathmandu

The Embassy of Japan, in cooperation with the Japanese Language Teachers' Association Nepal (JALTAN), organized a two-day Japanese Film Festival in Kathmandu on 22nd and 23rd January, 2016. The purpose behind the festival was to introduce Japan and its culture to Nepalese people.

The film festival was dedicated to showcasing the finest Japanese films, recognized for their excellence by Japanese as well as international audiences and the Japanese Film Academy. The films covered popular genres such as historical and contemporary dramas, animation, etc. The festival was a great success, attracting almost 2,600 people for the five screenings.

9th Japan Education Fair in Kathmandu

The Embassy of Japan together with the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) and Japanese Universities Alumni Association Nepal (JUAAN) held the Japan Education Fair on 13th February, 2016 at the Yak & Yeti Hotel, Kathmandu. This event is organized every year to promote study in Japan by providing Nepalese 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.

The fair offered face-to-face consultations for students who want to study in Japan and information on scholarship programs, and application procedures for scholarships; selection of universities; entrance examination procedures; university rankings; ways to find a research adviser, and Japanese lifestyle. There was also a chance to listen to general information for studying in Japan by JASSO, and an explanation of the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship by the Embassy of Japan.

This year, leading Japanese universities, namely Tohoku University; Kumamoto University; Osaka University; Shimane University; Yamanashi Gakuin University; Keio University; Waseda University; Teikyo University; Ritsumeikan University, and Nihon Wellness Sports University took part in the fair. Some 920 university students and educational administrators attended the fair.



The 35th Japanese Language Speech Contest

Every year since 1981, the Japanese Language Teachers' Association Nepal (JALTAN), in cooperation with, and with support from the Japan Foundation, has organized a Japanese language speech contest. This year the 35th Japanese Language Speech Contest was organized on 20th February, 2016. In total 18 students, seven in the senior and 11 in the junior group, participated in the contest. The aim of the contest is to provide Japanese language learners with the chance to showcase their language skills in front of their peers, thereby, promoting Japanese language in Nepal.



The contestants showcased a wide range of speeches before the panel of judges and an encouraging audience. This year, Ms. Sunita Lama and Mr. Siyoin Shrestha (Japanese Language and Culture Center, JLECC) came first in the contest in the senior group and junior group, respectively. The contestants were evaluated on their performance, as well as on grammar, delivery, pronunciation, response to questions and attitude.

Japanese Karaoke Competition



On 12th March, 2016, the Embassy of Japan and the Japanese Language Teachers' Association, Nepal (JALTAN) successfully organized a Japanese karaoke competition at the Tribhuvan Army Officers' Club with 33 participants. The competition was jointly supported by JICA Nepal Office; the Japanese Association in Nepal; the Japanese Universities Alumni Association, Nepal (JUAAN); JICA Alumni Association of Nepal (JAAN), and Nepal AOTS Alumni Society (NAAS) annually, and conducted with the purpose of introducing Japanese culture to Nepali people. The competition drew a wide range of participants from the general public and Japanese language learners.

With an audience of more than 750, the auditorium was filled with an atmosphere of energy, enthusiasm and anticipation, with all the participants managing to impress the audience with songs of their choice. Ms. Sunita Thapa Magar from Asian Language Institute stood first in the competition.

Ambassador Mr. Ogawa and Madame Ogawa attended the event and commended on the impressive performances by the participants, expressing best wishes for their future efforts to master the Japanese language.



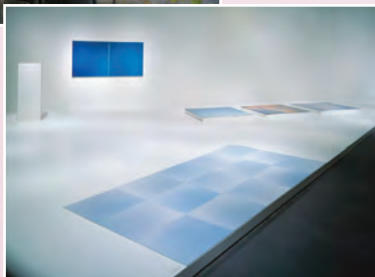
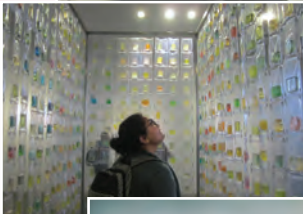
Art Exhibition

Passage to the Future: Art from a New Generation in Japan

The Embassy of Japan and Japan Foundation organized an exhibition entitled "Passage to the Future: Art from a New Generation in Japan" in Kathmandu from 27th February to 8th March 2016, at the Nepal Art Council Gallery, Babarmahal. Honorable Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Mr. Ananda Prasad Pokharel, inaugurated the exhibition.

The exhibition presented paintings, sculptures, installations, photographs, and videos by eleven Japanese artists who responded to and reflected the current state of the world. They took their subject matter from their immediate surroundings and produced works of art that strongly reflected their own personal reality. Their work had a rich visual impact and revealed a strong interest in the process of creating art.

Both the Nepalese and Japanese people share values of contemporary art and traditional culture, and the exhibits in the show were highlights of some of these shared interests. The exhibition allowed viewers to experience the freshness and variety of current Japanese art and, provided an opportunity for renewed thinking and debate about the fundamental appeal and meaning of art. During the 12 days of exhibition, more than 950 art lovers visited the gallery.



On Japan: 60th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Japan and Nepal



This year marks the 60th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Japan and Nepal. To commemorate this joyous occasion, the Government of Japan and various Japan related organizations, will organize various events throughout the year in both countries.

The Embassy of Japan encourages proposals for a wide range of events celebrating the 60th anniversary. Organizers of events endorsed by the Embassy will be entitled to use the official name “the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Nepal” and the logo in all publicity materials including posters, pamphlets, websites, signboards, and banners.

Please visit our Embassy’s official website for the latest information regarding the schedule of events, and event endorsement guidelines.

60th Anniversary Website; <http://www.np.emb-japan.go.jp/60thanniversary.html>

Announcement

Japanese Government MEXT Scholarship for 2017

The Embassy of Japan announces the competition for Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho: MEXT) Scholarships for Nepalese students for the academic year 2017 in the fields of natural sciences, humanities and social sciences.

Program	Qualifications
Research Students	Must be under 35 years of age (as of 1st April, 2017) and have completed at least 16 years of education and secured 70% marks for natural science and 60% for humanities and social sciences in aggregate in all levels of exams.
Undergraduate Students	Must have been born between 2nd April, 1995 & 1st April.*
Specialized Training College	2000 and have secured 75% marks for natural sciences Students in aggregate in SLC and +2 exams.*

*Written Examinations will be held on 9th July, 2016

The field of study must be the same as the applicants’ previous study leading to their final graduation. Applicants need to attest copies of certificates and mark-sheet along with the application.

Application forms are available at http://www.np.emb-japan.go.jp/itprtop_en/index.html

The Embassy will accept completed applications in person at the following times only:

1.	Research Students	May 2 – 6	09:30 – 12:30
2.	Undergraduate Students	June 27 – July 1	09:30 – 12:30
3.	Specialized Training College Students	June 27 – July 1	14:30 – 16:30

There may be minor changes in schedule and guidelines.

For the latest information, visit http://www.np.emb-japan.go.jp/itprtop_en/index.html

Embassy of Japan

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