



## Japan's Foreign Minister Taro Kono Visited Nepal

On 9th January 2019, Mr. Taro Kono, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, visited Nepal as a two-day official visit. During his visit, Minister Kono held a bilateral meeting with the Honorable Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Minister for Foreign of Nepal. Minister Gyawali expressed his welcome to Minister Kono and stated that this was the second meeting in two months between the two ministers. Mr. Gyawali explained that Japan has been an important partner to Nepal, and expressed deep gratitude for Japan's support thus far.

In response, Mr. Kono stated that he was happy to visit Nepal and meet the Honorable Minister as soon after Mr. Gyawali's visit to Japan in November last year. Mr. Kono noted that his visit to Nepal was the first time by a Japanese Foreign Minister in approximately seven years, and conveyed his intention to support the economic development of Nepal. Japan and Nepal agreed to bolster cooperation in areas including infrastructure building, investment, connectivity, tourism, culture, foreign employment, and energy.

After the meeting, a signing ceremony and exchange of notes took place regarding the amendment to the schedule to the Air Services Agreement between the Government of Japan and the Government of the Kingdom of Nepal (the Japan-Nepal Air Services Agreement). Additionally, a signing ceremony for a Memorandum of Cooperation on conducting bilateral consultations took place.

Japan and Nepal have agreed to revise the Air Service Agreement signed between the two countries in 1993. The signing and Exchange of Notes in this regard will pave the way for the operation of direct flights between the two countries.

At the joint press briefing after the meeting, Mr. Gyawali said Nepal and Japan enjoy close, cordial, and cooperative relations, and Nepal attaches great importance to its ties with Japan. Japan is one of the



major development partners, as well as one of the largest source countries of investment and tourists in Nepal.

Mr. Gyawali also thanked the Government of Japan for including Nepal as a source country for labor, and shared that an agreement should be reached to conclude a Memorandum of Cooperation in this regard as soon as possible.

Issues discussed at the bilateral meeting were various bilateral cooperations for the implementation of projects in Nepal on infrastructure building, connectivity and energy. The Japanese investment possibilities in priority sectors of Nepal and active participation of Japanese investors and entrepreneurs for the Nepal Investment Summit in March 2019 were also discussed.

According to Mr. Gyawali, Nepal also stressed the need of joint efforts for tourism promotion of Nepal in Japan in order to make the Visit Nepal Year 2020 successful. The two sides mentioned the importance of high-level visits for strengthening bilateral relations further.

On the occasion, Mr. Kono expressed confidence that Japan and Nepal would soon be linked through air services, which would contribute to promote more Japanese tourists visiting to Nepal and increase opportunities of trade and commerce between the two countries.

On 10th January, Mr. Kono paid a courtesy call on the Rt. Honorable President Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari and the Rt. Honorable Prime Minister Mr. K P Sharma Oli at the latter's office. During the courtesy call, various aspects of Japan-Nepal bilateral relations, and various regional and global issues were discussed.

## A Delegation from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan

A delegation from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of Japan visited Nepal from 22nd to 25th January, 2019. The delegation was headed by Mr. Takami Nakada, Deputy Director-General for International Affairs, Minister's Secretariat, MAFF. Approximately 20 officials attended, including officers from MAFF, Japanese experts and business persons.



The MAFF delegation met concerned Ministers and business persons of Nepal, visited agriculture sites and facilities. They also

held the "Nepal-Japan Business Sharing and Networking Meeting 2019" on 24th January at Hotel Himalaya, Lalitpur.

The objectives of the visit were: (1) to explore the possibility of research cooperation to improve agricultural productivity of Nepal; to create higher value, quality, and recognition for regional food resources, and to improve the investment and business environment; (2) to contribute for the

development of agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and the food industry of Nepal, and to promote business expansion of Japanese agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and food industry to these sections in Nepal.



## Assistance to WFP Nepal for Karnali Province

**T**he Government of Japan has decided to extend an assistance of five hundred thousand US dollars (USD 500,000) for executing the activities of the World Food Program (WFP), Nepal. This is aimed to support the ongoing Mother and Child Health Nutrition (MCHN) Programme, to improve the nutritional status of pregnant and lactating women, and that of children, who live in five remote districts of Karnali Province.

The Government of Japan has extended this assistance to WFP Nepal to continue its efforts to reduce food insecurity, by reducing the number of chronic under-nourished children to 15 percent by 2030. It will also help significantly to improve health and nutrition services during pregnancy and childbirth, and also improve the monitoring of children's growth and nutrition counseling in 128 health facilities at the municipal level.



## Japanese NGO Projects Scheme



### Assistance for Strengthening Disaster Resilience in Doti

**Signing Ceremony:** 21st December, 2018

**Amount:** USD783,543 (NRs 90 million)

**Recipient:** World Vision Japan (WVJ)

World Vision Japan, an International NGO based in Japan, together with World Vision International Nepal, will work with Nepali partner NGO, Community Development Center (CDC), to implement the Project for Community to increase and improve safe learning environment and school safety and School Disaster Preparedness and Resilience in Doti District.

### Improving Water Access in Sindhupalchowk

**Signing Ceremony:** 14th February, 2019

**Amount:** USD265,744 (NRs 30 million)

**Recipient:** Peace Winds Japan (PWJ)

This grant assistance will be used to rehabilitate water supply facilities in Sunkoshi Municipality of Sindhupalchowk that were affected by the earthquakes in 2015. The project aims to improve access to water for people affected by the earthquakes and to contribute to the reconstruction in the area. PWJ will work with Nepali partner NGO, the Institution for Suitable Actions for Prosperity (ISAP).

### Assistance for Reducing Maternal and Child Health Disparities

**Signing Ceremony:** 15th February, 2019

**Amount:** USD217,065 (NRs 24 million)

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

The grant assistance will be used to construct eight health clinics, to install medical equipment in four health posts, and to provide trainings to develop the capacity of local government officials, medical staff, and local citizens for the betterment of the health sector. The project especially focuses on a socio-economically disadvantaged area in Gadhawa Rural Municipality in Dang District.

### Strengthening the Resilience of Earthquake Affected Schools

**Signing Ceremony:** 15th February, 2019

**Amount:** USD599,216 (NRs 63 million)

**Recipient:** Shanti Volunteer Association (SVA)

SVA has already reconstructed six schools in Nuwakot and Rasuwa Districts in the past two years. This is the third year of the project and the grant assistance will be used to reconstruct two schools in Nuwakot District and one school in Rasuwa District. The reconstruction has been implemented respecting the standards of the Ministry of Education and National Reconstruction Committee, in order to ensure quality and earthquake resistance.

### Improvement of Pulmonary Health in Bhaktapur

**Signing Ceremony:** 27th February, 2019

**Amount:** USD411,233 (NRs 46 million)

**Recipient:** Japan International Medical Technology Foundation (JIMTEF)

The project especially focuses on the measuring methods of pulmonary diseases among the local people in Bhaktapur District. Air pollution is a serious issue in this district as it is one of the biggest brick producing regions in the country, as well as being on the periphery of an urban area.

### Improvement of Child Health Care in Banke

**Signing Ceremony:** 27th February, 2019

**Amount:** USD589,035 (NRs 66 million)

**Recipient:** ADRA Japan

The grant assistance will be used to repair and upgrade two Health Posts in the district. Also, medical equipment will be installed in 48 medical facilities, including the Provincial Hospital. The project will further be extended to provide trainings and seminars to a large number of medical staff in close coordination with the District Health Office.

## Improvement of Agriculture and Marketing in Kavrepalanchok

**Signing Ceremony:** 27th February, 2019

**Amount:** USD168,159 (NRs 19 million)

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

The first and second year of the three-year consecutive project focused on construction/repair of irrigation systems and trainings of local farmers for the utilization of organic and local fertilizers. During the final year the project aims to strengthen the capacity of agricultural cooperatives and to establish a marketing system to increase income generation.

## Livelihood Improvement through Agriculture

**Signing Ceremony:** 1st March, 2019

**Amount:** USD434,832 (NRs 49 million)

**Recipient:** Japan Asian Association and Asian Friendship Society (JAFS)

The project focuses on construction of irrigation systems and trainings for local farmers in Sindhupalchowk District. In addition, JAFS will support the establishment of agricultural cooperatives so that farmers can work together in order to improve the added value of their products. At the same time, the project provides opportunities to learn how to grow a variety of fruits and vegetables, such as kiwis, grapes, mangos etc. which can bring more profit to local farmers.



## Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP)



The Government of Japan has been implementing Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) through the Embassy of Japan since 1992. GGP projects largely aim to support local efforts for development in collaboration with stakeholders. The Embassy of Japan has extended support for the following GGP projects:-



### Classrooms for Shree Basdev Das School

**Signing Ceremony:** 27th December, 2018

**Amount:** USD 87,685 (NRs 9.5 million)

**Recipient:** Bikash Foundation

The project will support the construction of new classrooms for the students of Class 1 to Class 3 of Basdev Primary School in Dhanusha District. Currently, the school has 425 students from Early Child Development level to Class 6. Due to the limited numbers of classrooms, some classrooms accommodate 60-120 students in one room.

### Construction of an Eye Hospital

**Signing Ceremony:** 28th December, 2018

**Amount:** USD 81,192 (NRs 8.8 million)

**Recipient:** Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh Udayapur

The GGP grant will be used to construct an eye hospital in Triyuga Municipality, Udayapur District, an area that currently has no specialized eye hospital. The aim is to improve the quality of optometry medical care for the people of Udayapur and surrounding areas.

### Latest Mammography Machine to Nepal Cancer Care Foundation

**Signing Ceremony:** 28th December, 2018

**Amount:** USD 75,869 (NRs 8.2 million)

**Recipient:** Nepal Cancer Care Foundation

The Project for the Provision of Medical Equipment to the Nepal Cancer Care Foundation in Satdobato, Lalitpur Metropolitan City is a specialized hospital for women's cancer and has been offering treatment to more than 4,000 patients each year. The hospital also organizes free cancer screening in remote areas. The medical equipment will be used to provide free regular check-ups for women.

### Care Home for HIV/AIDS Affected Women and Children

**Signing Ceremony:** 4th January, 2019

**Amount:** USD 68,677 (NRs 7.5 million)

**Recipient:** Shakti Milan Samaj

The grant will support the construction of a care home that accommodates women and children. This care home will not only be a place to live, but it will become a "warm home" for women and children who have been rejected by their families and neighbors due to the disease. The care home will have a spacious garden where they can grow flowers and vegetables for their income generation. Additionally, it will supply necessary care for HIV/AIDS affected visitors from all over the country, who seek assistance.

### Hand Over Latest Diagnostic Devices

**Handed Over Ceremony:** 10th January, 2019

**Amount:** USD 84,551 (NRs 8.7 million)

**Recipient:** International Concern Center

The spouse of the Japanese Ambassador to Nepal, Mrs. Eriko Saigo, handed over the latest diagnostic devices to the Nepal Cancer Hospital and Research Centre in Lalitpur District.

The project supports the installation of state-of-the-art equipment, such as a portable ultrasound with an echocardiography (ECG) machine for diagnosis, diagnostic devices for pancreatic duodenum cancer (ERCP), and a bronchoscope for diagnosis of lung cancer.

### Construction of a Maternity and Children's Clinic

**Signing Ceremony:** 1st February, 2019

**Amount:** USD 84,277 (NRs 9.2 million)

**Recipient:** Suryodaya Municipality

The grant will be used to construct a Maternity and Children's Clinic in Fikkal of Suryodaya Municipality as, at the moment, this area lacks this facility. The project aims to improve the quality of medical services for the people of Fikkal and neighborhood areas.



## Hand Over of Technical Machinery

**Handed Over Ceremony:** 4th February, 2019

**Amount:** USD 75,167 (NRs 7.7 million)

**Recipient:** Manmohan Memorial Polytechnic

The project supported the installation of high quality technical machines such as total stations, digital theodolites, a universal testing machine, air and oil circuit breakers, and a micro-hydro model. The technical equipment will enable students to acquire practical engineering knowledge and skills to conduct their research and experiments.

## Hand Over Braille Printers

**Handed Over Ceremony:** 8th February, 2019

**Amount:** USD 82,257 (NRs 8.4 million)

**Recipient:** Nepal Association for the Welfare of the Blind (NAWB)

The project supports the installation of high quality Braille printers in order to enhance the printing capacity and efficiency of Braille textbooks for visually impaired students. The new equipment has improved printing speed and volume, enabling the organization to produce and deliver Braille textbooks on time.

## Health Center in Udayapur

**Signing Ceremony:** 14th February, 2019

**Amount:** USD 67,944 (NRs 8.0 million)

**Recipient:** Female Awareness Campaign Team Nepal (FACT Nepal)

The GGP grant will be used to construct a Health Center with an emergency department in Chaudandigadi Municipality, Udayapur District. Currently the Municipality runs a small Health Post in the area in a rented residential house. The Health Post has two small rooms and there is no facility to ensure a hygienic and safe environment for medical treatment.

## Agricultural Processing Center for Coffee Beans

**Signing Ceremony:** 22nd February, 2019

**Amount:** USD 68,185 (NRs 7.7 million)

**Recipient:** Association for Rural Social Welfare - Nepal (ARSOW Nepal)

The grant will be used for the Project for the Construction of an Agricultural Processing Center in Kavrepalanchowk District. The project will support the construction of one pulping center to clean the coffee beans, and one processing center for roasting and packaging the resulting beans. Currently, raw coffee beans are transported to Kathmandu and sold there.

## Foundation Laying Ceremony at Chaurjahari Hospital

**Foundation Laying Ceremony:** 27th February, 2019

**Amount:** USD 87,755 (NRs 9.5 million)

**Recipient:** Human Development and Community Services

The Medical Attaché of the Embassy of Japan to Nepal, Dr. Atsumi Shimizu, participated in a foundation laying ceremony for the construction of an emergency department building for Chaurjahari Hospital in West Rukum District on 27th February 2019. Dr. Kenjiro Narato, a Japanese family doctor who has been supporting the Chaurjahari Hospital, also participated and wished for the smooth start and success of the project.

## Agriculture and Livestock Training Center

**Signing Ceremony:** 28th February, 2019

**Amount:** USD 85,189 (NRs 9.6 million)

**Recipient:** Love Green Nepal

Ambassador Saigo signed a grant contract with Ms. Amira Dali, President of Love Green Nepal for the project for the Construction of an Agriculture and Livestock Training Center in Kavrepalanchok District. Love Green Nepal was established in 1991 with the aim of contributing to the betterment of low income people living in rural communities.

## Upgrading a Women's Handicraft and Mithila Art Center

**Signing Ceremony:** 1st March, 2019

**Amount:** USD 64,664 (NRs 7.3 million)

**Recipient:** Janakpur Women's Development Center

The Project for the Repair of the Janakpur Women's Development Center, in Janakpur, Dhanusha District will support the repair of the center where women make handicrafts in the traditional Mithila art designs, a specialty

art of the area. Since 1991, the Janakpur Women's Development Center has been contributing to provide income generation and empowerment to Dalit women and minority groups in the area.

## Excavator for Tukche Village

**Signing Ceremony:** 5th March, 2019

**Amount:** USD 82,553 (NRs 9.3 million)

**Recipient:** Ward No.1, Thasang Rural Municipality

An Excavator for Tukche Village will be provided under the GGP agreement. The excavator will be used to help prevent erosion and as an emergency and temporary counter-measure.

## Ambulance for Laligurans Municipality

**Signing Ceremony:** 8th March, 2019

**Amount:** USD 71,883 (NRs 8.1 million)

**Recipient:** Laligurans Municipality, Tehrathum

With the support of this grant assistance, an ambulance will be installed at a Health Center in Laligurans Municipality.

## Classrooms for Shree Mahendra Secondary School

**Signing Ceremony:** 8th March, 2019

**Amount:** USD 81,465 (NRs 9.2 million)

**Recipient:** Shree Mahendra Secondary School, Khalanga, Dadeldhura

The project will support the construction of new classrooms for the students of Class Six to Twelve. With the objective of improving the learning space, eight classrooms will be built, creating a more comfortable and safe learning environment.

## Oxygen Generation and Distribution System for Hospital

**Signing Ceremony:** 11th March, 2019

**Amount:** USD 88,118 (NRs 9.9 million)

**Recipient:** District Hospital in Dhankuta

The project will support the installation of an oxygen generation and distribution system inside the premise of the hospital. The system enables patients to obtain oxygen from a mask connected to a pipeline on the wall of each treatment/ operation room.

## Classrooms for Specialized Courses in Agriculture

**Signing Ceremony:** 11th March, 2019

**Amount:** USD 78,671 (NRs 8.8 million)

**Recipient:** Shree Nepal Rastriya Tribhuwan Secondary School, Gulmi

The project will support the construction of one school building where students from Grades 9 to 10 can learn practical knowledge about agriculture and its management.

## Embankment along the Kali Gandaki River Bank

**Handover Ceremony:** 13th March, 2019

**Amount:** USD 90,596 (NRs 9.2 million)

**Recipient:** Ward No.2, Gharapjhong Village Municipality

The project supported the construction of a 420 meter long embankment along the bank of the Kali Gandaki to prevent erosion of adjacent land.

## Agricultural Facilities in Bhutanese Camps

**Signing Ceremony:** 15th March, 2019

**Amount:** USD 70,245 (NRs 8.1 million)

**Recipient:** Lutheran World Federation (LWF)

The Project for the Installation for Agricultural Facilities in Bhutanese Camps at Beldangi and Sanischare in Jhapa and local community.

## Children's Home in Nuwakot

**Inauguration Ceremony:** 19th March, 2019

**Amount:** USD 81,729 (NRs 8.9 million)

**Recipient:** Smile Nepal

The Project for the Construction of a Children's Home in Samundra Devi Khola, Nuwakot District, where unaccompanied children will be secured with basic needs such as food, accommodation and daily care.

## Exhibition of NETSuke



**F**rom 18th to 31st January 2019, the Embassy of Japan and the Japan Foundation organized the “Exhibition of Netsuke: Contemporary Wood-Carved Craft” at the Japanese Embassy Hall, Kathmandu. Ambassador Masamichi Saigo inaugurated the exhibition on the first day with some 80 guests. Famous Nepali sculptor Mr. Gopal Kalapremi Shrestha reviewed the exhibition and gave a talk about the similarities of Japanese and Nepali contemporary art.

“Netsuke”, are Japanese miniature-art pieces. Historically, they were used as a kind of toggle by gentlemen who suspended their tobacco pouches, pipes, purses, writing implements, and other items of daily use on a silk cord passed behind their obi (sash). These hanging objects are called sagemono. These could also be considered fashionable jewelry and amulets.

The exhibits are one of the collections of the Japan Foundation’s touring exhibitions. This exhibition focused on contemporary netsuke, consisting of 65 masterpieces of 46 artists. Their work has a rich visual impact and reveals a strong interest in the process of carving. The exhibition allowed viewers to experience the freshness and variety of traditional and current Japanese miniature art and, provided an opportunity to renew and think about the fundamental attraction and meaning of miniature art. During the 14-days of exhibition, about 1,800 art lovers visited the hall.

## JENESYS 2018 2nd Batch Visited Japan



**A** team of thirteen young men and women related to the health field visited Japan under the JENESYS program from 21st to 29th January, 2019.

During their stay in Japan, the Nepali delegation joined other participants from SAARC countries. The student team observed various health related sectors and historical places in Tokyo and Nagasaki, the working youth team had a chance to visit Miyagi prefecture. One of the student participants, Mr. Rakesh Yadav, told us that he found this program a great opportunity to share ideas and knowledge, which ultimately builds a strong pillar for future friendship and co-operation with Japan.

## Japanese Language Speech Contest



**O**n 9th February, 2019, the 38th All Nepal 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. Since 1981 this speech contest has been organized annually. This year the contest was held at Indreni Foodland in Kathmandu. The aim of the contest is to provide Japanese language learners with the chance to show their language skills to a wider audience. This activity also contributes to promote the Japanese language study in Nepal.

There were five participants for the senior group and eleven participants for the junior group. Ms. Sujita Ale Magar (Japanese Language and Educational Culture Center) came first in the contest in the senior group and Ms. Asmita Shrestha (Peaceful Educational Foundation) was judged best speaker in the junior group. The French Ambassador to Nepal, H.E. Mr. François-Xavier Leger, participated as a guest speaker for the program.

## Japanese Film Festival in Kathmandu and Pokhara



**T**he Embassy of Japan, in cooperation with the Japanese Language Teachers’ Association Nepal (JALTAN), organized a two-day Japanese Film Festival in Pokhara on 15th and 16th March and in Kathmandu on 22th and 23rd and 29th and 30th March in Embassy Hall. The film festival was dedicated to showcase the finest Japanese films that have been recognized for excellence by Japanese as well as international audiences. The film shows at Pokhara and at the Embassy were also co-organized by the Japan Foundation.

The films covered popular genres such as historical and contemporary dramas, animation, comedies, etc. The festival attracted almost 700 people for four screenings in Pokhara and 1,600 people for five screenings in Kathmandu and 325 people in Embassy hall.

# MEXT Scholarship Students Orientation Program

**O**n 2nd April 2019, six Nepali under-graduate and research students, namely, Mr. Shirish Hachhethu (Tokyo Institute of Technology), Mr. Shashwot Paudel (University of Tokyo), Mr. Abhishek Singh Basnet (Nagoya University), Mr. Saurabh Agrawal (Kyoto University), Ms. Rejina Shrestha (University of Tokyo) and Mr. Samrat Thapa (Osaka University) departed to Japan for their studies.

The orientation program for these six students under the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship for 2018 was held at the Embassy of Japan on 1st March 2019. Members of the Japanese Universities Alumni Association, Nepal (JUAAN) conducted the orientation and consulted with the students prior to their departure.



## Announcement: Japanese Government MEXT Scholarship for 2020

**T**he Embassy of Japan announces the competition for Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho: MEXT) Scholarships for Nepalese students for the academic year 2020 in the fields of Natural Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences.

Program	Qualifications
1. Research Student	Must be under 35 years of age (as of April 1, 2020) and have completed at least 16 years of education (15 years is also accepted if the undergraduate course is designed for only 3 years) and secured 70% marks for Natural Sciences and 60% for Humanities and Social Sciences in average in all levels of exams.
2. Undergraduate Student and 3. Specialized Training College Student	Must born between April 2, 1995 and April 1, 2003 and have secured 75% marks for Natural Sciences and 65% for Humanities and Social Sciences in average in SLC and Plus 2 exams. Deserving students waiting the results for Class XII exams are also eligible to apply.  *Written Examinations will be held on July 20.

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

1.	Research Students	May 13 –17	09:30 – 12:30
2.	Undergraduate Students	July 8 – 12	09:30 – 12:30
3.	Specialized Training College Students	July 8 – 12	14:30 – 16:30

The field of study must be the same as the applicants' previous study leading to their final graduation. Applicants need to submit copies of the certificates and mark-sheets along with the application. Application forms will be available at: [http://www.np.emb-japan.go.jp/itprtop\\_en/index.html](http://www.np.emb-japan.go.jp/itprtop_en/index.html)


*Gateway for various information on Japan*



*Website: <https://web-japan.org/index.html>*

### Embassy of Japan

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