

Japan's National Day Celebrated

Ambassador Mr. SAIGO Masamichi hosted a Reception at his residence in Tahachal to celebrate the 60th Auspicious Birthday of His Majesty Emperor Naruhito.

The reception on 14th February 2020, was attended by about 350 guests, including the Rt. Hon'ble Vice-President Mr. Nanda Bahadur Pun as the chief guest, Hon'ble Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon'ble Mr. Basanta Kumar Nemwang, Minister for Physical Infrastructure and Transport, Ambassadors and Heads of International Organizations in Nepal, members of the Federal Parliament, and high ranking government officials.

At the reception, Ambassador Saigo said he was pleased to welcome the guests to celebrate the birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan. It was His Majesty's first birthday celebration since enthronement and the start of the new era "Reiwa," meaning "beautiful harmony". He mentioned that the visit by the Right Hon'ble President, Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari



to Japan for attending the ceremonies of the accessions to the throne of His Majesty the Emperor in October 2019 was memorable.

The Emperor of Japan is the symbol of the State and the unity of the people and His Majesty's birthday is celebrated as the National Day of Japan.

Japan's Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Nakayama Visited Nepal

Mr. NAKAYAMA Norihiro, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan was in Nepal on a two-day official visit from 16th to 17th January, 2020. During the visit, Mr. Nakayama paid courtesy calls on the Right Hon'ble President Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari, the Right Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. K P Sharma Oli, and Hon'ble Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Minister for Foreign Affairs.

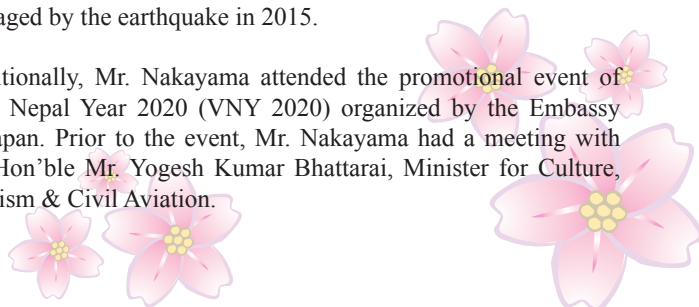
The dignitaries exchanged views of mutual interest. The cordial relations between the two countries, in place since bilateral relations were established in 1956. Recalling the



visit of the Right Hon'ble President Mrs. Bhandari to Japan last October for the ceremonies of the acceleration to the throne of His Majesty the Emperor. Mr. Nakayama said the recent increase of bilateral exchanges between Japan and Nepal will further enhance this long-standing friendly relationship.

Mr. Nakayama visited different project sites supported by Japan, including the Paropakar Maternity and Women's Hospital at Thapathali. This project was supported under the 'Program on Rehabilitation and Recovery from the Nepal Earthquake in 2015 and completed in May 2019. He also visited Tribhuvan International Airport where Japan had a project under "Project for Improvement of Aviation Safety Facilities in Major Airports" to improve the safety and efficiency of air transport in Nepal. Further, Mr. Nakayama made an observation trip to Kathmandu Durbar Square where two Japanese cultural heritage advisors were engaged in reconstructing cultural heritage sites which were damaged by the earthquake in 2015.

Additionally, Mr. Nakayama attended the promotional event of Visit Nepal Year 2020 (VNY 2020) organized by the Embassy of Japan. Prior to the event, Mr. Nakayama had a meeting with the Hon'ble Mr. Yogesh Kumar Bhattarai, Minister for Culture, Tourism & Civil Aviation.



Third Japan-Nepal Political Dialogue

The third Japan-Nepal Political Dialogue between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the two countries was held in Kathmandu on 7th February, 2020. Mr. ISHIKAWA Hiroshi, Director-General, Southeast and Southwest Asian Affairs Department; Mr. Kali Prasad Pokhrel, Joint Secretary, North East Asia Division, and other officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of both countries and from the relevant ministries of the Government of Nepal attended the meeting. Both sides exchanged views on further promoting cooperation between the two countries that has been in place since bilateral relations were established in 1956. The officials also reviewed a wide range of subjects for mutual interest, including global and regional issues.

Foreign ministries of Japan and Nepal agreed on holding such dialogues at the Japan-Nepal Foreign Ministers' Meeting in



October 2014 in Tokyo. The first dialogue was held in Tokyo in March 2015, followed by the second in Kathmandu in June 2016. This third dialogue was conducted in accordance with the Memorandum of Cooperation on conducting bilateral consultations that had been signed during the Japan-Nepal Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Kathmandu on 9th January 2019.

During the official visit, Mr. Ishikawa paid a courtesy call on Hon'ble Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi, Foreign Secretary, and Dr. Rajan Bhattarai, Foreign Affairs Advisor to the Prime Minister. He also inspected the project sites supported by Japan, including the Shree Tika Vidhyashram Secondary School in Sanepa, Lalitpur that had been damaged by the earthquake in 2015. Japan reconstructed three new blocks of the school under the Emergency School Reconstruction Project (ESRP) and had handed them over to the school management in June 2019.



Rehabilitation and Building School Resilience to Disasters in Sindhupalchowk District Phase II



Mr. YOSHIOKA Yuzo, the Deputy Chief of the Mission, of the Embassy of Japan signed a grant contract for Rehabilitating a School and Building School Resilience to Disaster in Sindhupalchowk District (Phase II) with Ms. NAKAJIMA Miho, Team Leader, Program Department, ChildFund Japan. The agreement was signed on 17th December 2019.

The project funded by the Japanese Government involves a grant assistance of USD 860,808.00 (about NPR 97.52 million) and seeks to foster and strengthen the capacity of public schools in Sindhupalchowk District by safeguarding children from natural disasters.

ChildFund Japan, in partnership with Gramin Mahila Srijansil Pariwar, a local partner NGO, will provide multifaceted support to the schools, School Management Committees (SMCs), and government officials by constructing earthquake-resistant classrooms, conducting training on disaster risk reduction and child protection in emergencies, and developing a school safety plans that integrates earthquake drills.



Quality of Education in Quake-affected Areas and Marginalized Communities

Ambassador Saigo signed a grant contract for the Project for Improvement of Quality of Education in Quake-affected Areas and Marginalized Communities with Mr. MIYAKE Takafumi, Country Director, Shanti Volunteer Association (SVA) Nepal on 18th February 2020. The project involves a grant assistance of USD 558,651 (about NPR 63.55 million).

This project aims at improving services provided by community libraries and learning centers in Lalitpur, Solukhumbu, Syangja and Mahottari districts that were affected by the earthquakes in 2015. It will focus on improving the education quality by promoting child-centered learning methods through local subjects. This activity also targets to reach 53 schools in Makawanpur District where the majority of the population is from marginalized communities.

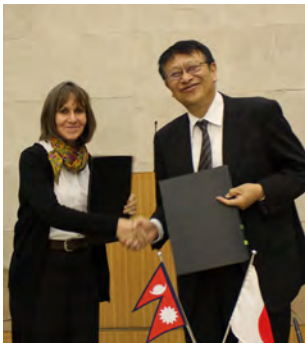




Japan Supports WFP Nepal's School Meals Programme in Nuwakot

The Government of Japan agreed to extend grant assistance of Japanese Yen 352 million (about US\$3.2 million / NPR 364 million) to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) Nepal for implementing the National School Meals Programme in Nuwakot District.

The grant agreement on the project was signed by Ambassador Saigo and Ms. Phillipa Jill Bradford, Representative and Country Director of WFP Nepal in Kathmandu on 20th February 2020.



The funding will go towards improving school infrastructure and strengthening the capacity of local governments and schools that offer school meals to their students. It also seeks to foster sustainability through a homegrown school feeding approach, where local farmers will be supported to produce and supply food to the local schools. Shanti Volunteer Association (SVA), a Japanese NGO, will support the nutrition and education activities to promote healthy behaviors among peers and families.



Assistance for Project to Improve Water Access and Agriculture Income

The Government of Japan provided US dollars 624,770 (about NPR 71.70 million) to Peace Winds Japan under the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects Scheme. The grant agreement for the project for improving water access and agricultural income in Sindhupalchowk District was signed on 27th February 2020 by Mr. Yoshioka, the Deputy Chief of the Mission of the Embassy of Japan, and Ms. YAMAMOTO Yuko, Country Representative, Peace Winds Japan, at the Embassy.



The support will be used to enhance the people's living condition by improving water access and through agriculture based income generation in Sunkoshi and Melamchi Municipalities and Balefi Rural Municipality. The project will build and renovate safe drinking water facilities that were badly affected by the 2015 earthquakes and support agricultural incomes by helping farmers to increase the production and market their produce.



Construction of Life Infrastructure and Technical Skills Training for Improving Livelihood

Ambassador Saigo signed a grant contract for the Construction of Life Infrastructure and Technical Skills Training for Livelihood Improvement of Residents Destroyed by the Earthquake in Sindhupalchowk, Nepal with Mr. INUI Tomoyoshi, Secretary General, the Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA) Japan on 5th March 2020.



The project involves a grant assistance of USD 329,335 (about NPR 38.5 million) and aims to reduce poverty, improve quality of life and sustainable income generation for women in Sangachowkgadi Municipality and Sunkoshi Rural Municipality in Sindhupalchowk District. This would be done by supporting various construction activities such as irrigation water storage tanks, creating value-added dairy products like yogurt, cheese and ice-cream, and through training for sewing and manufacturing sanitary pads. The project is expected to benefit 840 people directly and another 3,000 indirectly.



Water and Sanitation Facilities Construction at Schools in Bardiya District

Ambassador Saigo signed a grant contract on 5th March 2020, for the Water and Sanitation Facility Construction and Hygiene Education Intervention Project for primary and secondary schools in Bardiya District with Mr. Satoshi Koizumi, Executive Director/ CEO, Good Neighbors Japan. The Project is funded by the Japanese Government and involves a grant assistance of USD 442,369 (about NPR 51.7 million).



This project aims to provide WASH facilities and hygiene education at 15 primary and secondary schools in Bardiya. The main activities of this project are building and repairing drinking water supply facilities, constructing gender-friendly toilets, establishing and strengthening school WASH management committees, and providing menstrual hygiene management education.

Japanese NGO Support Projects



Reducing Maternal and Child Health Disparities in Gadhawa Dang

Ambassador Saigo signed a grant contract for US\$ 419,617 (about NPR 47 million) with Ms. OKUDA Kaeko, Acting Country Director of AMDA Multisectoral and Integrated Development Services (AMDA-MINDS) for improving maternal and child health care in Dang District on 22nd January, 2020.

The support made under Japan's Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects Scheme for FY 2019 will be implemented by AMDA-MINDS, an international NGO based in Okayama Japan through its local partner NGO, AMDA Nepal.

One River, One Community for DRR in Chitwan District

The Government of Japan has extended financial assistance of US\$ 442,839 (about NPR. 50.36 million), to SHAPLA NEER - Citizens' Committee in Japan for Overseas Support - under the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects Schemes.

Shapla Neer, an international NGO based in Japan, will work with Nepali partner NGO, Rural Reconstruction Nepal (RRN), to implement the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Strengthening Project in Chitwan District. A grant contract was signed and exchanged between Ambassador Saigo and Ms. KATSUI Hiromi, Country Representative, Shapla Neer Nepal on 5th February, 2020.

Capacity Building on Disaster Risk Reduction KMC

The Government of Japan extended financial assistance of US\$ 314,912 (about NPR 36 million), to Japan International Support Program (JISP). JISP, an international NGO based in Japan, will work with a Nepali partner NGO, National Federation of Youth NGO Nepal, to implement the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Strengthening Project in Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC).

A grant contract on this project was signed and exchanged on 20th February 2020 between Ambassador Saigo and Ms. YOSHIDA Mayumi, Representative Director, JISP.

Improving Pulmonary Health in Bhaktapur District

Ambassador Saigo signed a grant contract for US\$ 388,159 (about NPR 44.5 million) with Ms. MAEDA Noriko, Country Representative of Japan International Medical Technology Foundation (JIMTEF) for implementing a project to improve pulmonary health in Bhaktapur District on 26th February 2020.

The project focuses on managing pulmonary diseases among the people in the Bhaktapur district, where air pollution is a serious issue owing to both smoke from brick production factories and unplanned urbanization.

Improving New Born and Child Health in Banke District

On 4th March 2020, Ambassador Saigo signed a grant contract for US\$ 433,030 (about NPR 50 million) with Ms. ONISHI Yuka, Program Manager of ADRA Japan for implementing a project to improve newborn and child health in Banke District.

The grant assistance is to be used to repair and upgrade two health posts in the district and for installing 48 equipments, including some at the Provincial Hospital.

Livelihood Improvement through Agriculture in Sindhupalchowk District

On 5th March 2020, Ambassador Saigo signed a grant contract for US\$ 546,294 (about NPR. 64 million) with Ms. ATSUTA Noriko, Deputy Director and Country Director of the Japan Asian Association and Asian Friendship Society (JAFA) to implement a project to support livelihood enhancement of earthquake-affected communities in Sindhupalchowk District through agriculture.

The project will focus on building irrigation systems and training local farmers on using the systems and plans to train farmers on growing different fruits and vegetables, such as kiwis, grapes, mangos, etc.

Japanese Film Festival in Kathmandu

The Embassy of Japan organized a Japanese Film Festival in Kathmandu on 28th and 29th February, 2020 with support from the Japanese Language Teachers' Association Nepal (JALTAN). The films covered popular genres such as comedy, historical and contemporary dramas, etc. The festival attracted almost 1,800 people for five screenings.

Regrettably the film festival in Pokhara and at the Embassy Hall in Kathmandu which were scheduled for 13th - 14th and 27th - 28th March, respectively, were cancelled due to the preventive measures of COVID-19 virus.

Lokta Paper Workshop

Ms. TAKAHAMA Hiroko, a Japanese artist who uses Nepali Lokta papers for her paintings, conducted a demonstration and workshop on her painting techniques to the teachers and students of the Japanese Language Teachers' Association Nepal (JALTAN). The workshop was held at the International Language Campus of Tribhuvan University on 24th January, 2020. More than 20 students and Japanese language instructors participated in the program.



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. The GGP 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. The Embassy has continued to provide GGP support to different grassroots organizations for projects seeking to bring about changes at the community level. The following section provides an update on ongoing GGP activities:-



Building a Health Training Center and Emergency Shelter

Signing Ceremony: 22nd January, 2020

Amount: NPR 12.19 million

Recipient: Nona Koirala Smriti Pratisthan

The GGP project will be used for building a health training centre and emergency shelter facility to promote the welfare and security of people in Biratnagar.

Drinking Water Deep Well in Budhanilkantha Municipality

Signing Ceremony: 22nd January, 2020

Amount: US\$ 83,343 (NPR 9.42 million).

Recipient: Aadarsha Nepal

The project will support construction of a deep well and installation of filtration plants for drinking water in Pathivara Community, Budhanilkantha Municipality, Kathmandu District. It will also install 15 tap stands at Shree Pathivara Adharbhut School and in the community.

Hearing Screening Equipment for Infants

Signing Ceremony: 24th January, 2020

Amount: US\$ 82,236 (NPR 9.29 million).

Recipient: B. P. Eye Foundation

The project will support to installation of hearing and screening medical equipment such as Otopscopes, Diagnostic Otoacoustic Emissions (OAEs), Clinical Tympanometer, Diagnostic Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR), Auditory Steady-State Evoked Responses (ASSR), and Loop Hearing as well as other equipment such as a laptop, camera, and LED screen for hearing screening of infants.

The project will also build a soundproof room in five medical facilities, namely at the Hospital for Children; Eye, ENT &

Rehabilitation Services (CHEERS); Siddhi Memorial Hospital; Bajrabarahi Community Hospital; Changunarayan Primary Health Centre, and Bode Maternal and Child Health Clinic.

Handover of Completed Projects:

Rehabilitation Center for Woman with Disabilities

A rehabilitation center for women with disabilities was handed over to the Nepal Disabled Women Association in Budhanilkantha Municipality on 31st January, 2020. The rehabilitation center was built with a GGP grant of US\$ 89,236 (NPR 9.17 million).

Medical Equipment

The Medical Attachè of the Embassy of Japan to Nepal, Dr. SHIMIZU Atsumi handed over medical equipment to Kachanapur and Khaskusma Health Posts in Banke District on 20th February, 2020.

The health posts were built under the New Born and Child Health Project in Banke District and were funded under the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects Scheme. The project was implemented by ADRA Japan, an international NGO, in collaboration with its local partner NGO, ADRA Nepal.

Oxygen Generation System at Dhankuta Hospital

Ambassador Saigo handed over an oxygen generation and distribution system to Dhankuta District Hospital on 27th February, 2020.

The system was built with the grant assistance of USD 88,118 (about NPR 9.66 million) and the system is expected to contribute towards improving the standard of services provided by the hospital.

Emergency Department at Chaurjahari Hospital

On 27th February 2020, the Medical Attaché, Dr. Shimizu, inaugurated an emergency department at Chaurjahari Hospital in West Rukum District. The department was built with a grant assistance of USD 87,755 (approximately NPR 9.8 million).

The project will contribute towards providing effective and appropriate medical responses, and treat more people in a safe and hygienic environment.

Eye Hospital

Ambassador Saigo handed over an eye hospital to the Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh Udayapur in Triyuga Municipality on 28th February, 2020. The project can contribute towards better eye care improvement in hospital service. The hospital was built with the grant assistance of USD 81,192 (NPR about 8.8 million).

Rehabilitation Center for Visually Impaired People

The Deputy Chief of the Mission, Mr. Yoshioka, inaugurated a Rehabilitation Center for Visually Impaired People in Gorkha District on 5th March, 2020.

The center was built with the grant assistance of USD 85,315 (about NPR 8.86 million). The project is expected to contribute towards living standards of visually impaired people in the district and the surrounding areas.

SPORT
FOR
TOMORROW

Rackets for the Nepal Badminton Association

Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Mr. Nakayama handed over badminton rackets to the President of Nepal Badminton Association (NBA), Mr. Ramji Bahadur Shrestha, at a ceremony held at the Embassy on 16th January, 2020. Nepal Olympic Committee President, Mr. Jeevan Ram Shrestha also attended. The ceremony was a kick-off promotion event for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympic Games.

The Nippon Badminton Association in Japan had donated the 80 badminton rackets. The activity was a part of the Japanese Government's "SPORT FOR TOMORROW" scheme. Badminton is one of the most popular sports in Nepal, enjoyed by many people all over the country. The NBA conducts trainings and tournaments for aspiring Nepali players.



“Japanese Cuisine Goodwill Ambassador”



Ambassador Saigo handed over an appointment certificate to Mr. TOMITA Kensei, who was designated as “Japanese Cuisine Goodwill Ambassador” by Japan’s Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) in December 2019. The certificate was handed over on 14th February 2020.

Mr. Tomita opened his Japanese restaurant “Kotetsu” in Kathmandu in April 2006. The appointment is a part of Japan’s MAFF efforts to promote Japanese food and dietary culture, which has taken place since 2015. Designated ambassadors are persons capable of providing appropriate consultations on the promotion of Japanese food and dietary culture.

Japan began promoting food and Japan’s dietary culture after UNESCO listed “WASHOKU” (Japanese food) as an Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Embassy of Japan

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