

ESRP PAINTING CONTEST 2023 : "MY NEW SCHOOL: MY PRIDE"



Winners with the (from L-R standing) judges of the contest, Mr. OKUBO Akimitsu, Chief Representative of JICA Nepal, Ms. Pramila Devi Shakya Bajracharya, Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science & Technology and Mr. Ana Prasad Neupane, Project Director, CLPIU.

To facilitate the conducive learning environment for the school students, JICA Nepal Office and Central Level Project Implementation Unit (CLPIU) / Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST) organized a painting contest amongst the 274 schools reconstructed by the Emergency School Reconstruction Project (ESRP) in Nov-Dec 2023 aiming to engage school students in painting activity with a dedicated theme - "My New School: My Pride".

Altogether 120 schools participated in the contest, with an active participation of more

than 1000 school students in two categories - basic and secondary level. The final artworks were judged in different dimensions by professional artists, Project Director of CLPIU and Chief Representative of JICA Nepal.

The first-round screening process led to selection of top 20 finalists from both the categories – Basic (Grade1-8) and Secondary (Grade 9-12).

The final judgment too ended on a happy note with enthusiastic and excited judges who witnessed immense talent and creativity of

students come alive in the form of beautiful artworks.

JICA Nepal organized an official ceremony in Kathmandu to honor the winners from each category on 28 February 2024. The winners (1st, 2nd, 3rd positions) were awarded gifts and certificates from Mr. OKUBO Akimitsu, Chief Representative of JICA Nepal, Ms. Pramila Devi Shakya Bajracharya, Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science & Technology and Mr. Ana Prasad Neupane, Project Director, CLPIU.

Ms. Bajracharya, Secretary MoEST during the event stated that, "Opportunities as such, in context to this painting competition or any other activities come very rarely in a student's life. I am delighted to know that large numbers of students participated in this contest irrespective of their age, gender, and location. I suggest all participants to continue their efforts in fulfilling one's passion and thank JICA Nepal Office and CLPIU for organizing this event."

Similarly, Chief Representative of JICA Nepal said "JICA Nepal through this kind of competition anticipates contribution to education services and promotion of talent and skills of the students not only restricted to their academics but also in extracurricular activities which could play a major role in shaping their career."

THE LIST OF WINNERS IS AS FOLLOWS.

Positions	Basic	Secondary
1st	Raghav Rai, Shree Bal Jyoti Secondary School, Makwanpur	Aavash Chandra Shrestha, Pragati Sikshyasadan Secondary School, Lalitpur
2nd	Mahendra Magar, Siddhartha Secondary School, Makwanpur	Chhiring Gole, Bachaladevi Secondary School, Dhading
3rd	Abhinav Ghimire, Shree Kalidevi Secondary School, Lalitpur	-Silen Waiba, Shree Bal Jyoti Secondary School, Makwanpur -Bikash Tamang, Shree Parwatikunda HSS, Rasuwa
Consolation Prize winners	1. Laxmi Pariyar, Shree Janashakti Secondary School, Gorkha 2. Supriya Moktan, Shree Bageshwori Secondary School, Makwanpur 3. Bishal Tamang, Shree Dharmodaya Secondary School, Gorkha	1. Amrita BK, Shree Bhairave Secondary School, Nuwakot 2. Kabi Budha, Patan Secondary School, Lalitpur



Mr. Raghav Rai - 1st position winner (Basic Category)
Shree Baljyoti Secondary School, Makwanpur

I am very happy to be a part of this contest and even happier to have secured the first position. I am glad that my efforts have been appreciated and awarded.

My artwork was very simple where I tried to show how happy we are as students to have well-built school building structures, where we feel safe, secure, and taken care of. I was pleasantly surprised that it caught the attention of the judges as they appreciated the simplicity.

Painting is my hobby that I like to engage myself in during my free time, but this contest has encouraged me to take this activity seriously. Thank you for igniting such passion in my life. Also thank you for all the wonderful gifts, I will cherish them forever.



Mr. Avash Chandra Shrestha - 1st position winner (Secondary Category)
Pragati Sikshya Sadan Secondary School, Lalitpur

When I heard about the painting contest initially, I was hesitant to participate as I wasn't sure about myself. I was nervous during the process of finalizing my artwork, however the progression was challenging and a good learning experience for me and was quite confident I would be selected amongst the top position winners.

My artwork depicted the transitions that our school infrastructures witnessed before and during the Nepal Earthquake 2015 and the present day where we are enjoying the new facilities in our new school buildings.

This has been a truly fulfilling experience. I am grateful for the opportunity provided by JICA Nepal and for the support and encouragement of my parents, teachers, and school.

Amidst the two days event, the winners also visited Patan Secondary School, Patan Durbar Square and Radio Nepal in Singhadurbar on 27 February 2024 as part of their excursion in Kathmandu (accompanied by their schoolteachers, guardians/parents and JICA Nepal officials).

After the earthquake of April 2015, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) initiated the Emergency School Reconstruction Project (ESRP) to rebuild schools damaged by the disaster which were expected to serve as potential

regional hubs for improving the quality of education. Total 274 disaster resilient schools with 765 blocks and over 4700 rooms were built by ESRP in Gorkha, Dhading, Nuwakot, Makwanpur, Rasuwa and Lalitpur Districts, based on the earthquake-resistant type design guidelines under principle of "Build Back Better". The Project was implemented by Central Level Project Implementation Unit (CLPIU)/ Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST). The construction of all 274 schools was completed in April 2023.



Students posing with the school officials of Patan Secondary School, one of the schools reconstructed through JICA's Emergency School Reconstruction Project (ESRP) in 2021.



Students participation from Shree Mahankalidevi Secondary School, Lalitpur



Students observe the ongoing reconstruction works at the Degu Taleju Temple in Patan Durbar Square which is supported by the Government of Japan.



Students at work in Sulakshana Secondary School, Nuwakot



Students in Patan Durbar Square

Heartiest Congratulations to all the winners who were entitled to prizes, certificates and many more! Huge gratitude towards CLPIU/MoEST, all concerned EDCUs and participating schools for making this event successful.

Let's continue to celebrate the boundless creativity of our youth as they paint a brighter future!



Radio Nepal Studio was constructed through JICA's Grant Aid Project in 1982



Students observing the Studio Room and its functions inside Radio Nepal.

JICA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF NEPAL (JAAN) COMPLETES 50 GLORIOUS YEARS IN NEPAL!



From L-R His Excellency Mr. KIKUTA Yutaka , Chief Secretary of GoN Mr. Baikuntha Aryal, Rt. Honorable President Mr. Ram Chandra Poudel, JAAN President Mr. Ram Chandra Bhusal and JICA Nepal Chief Representative Mr. OKUBO Akimitsu

JICA Alumni Association of Nepal (JAAN) celebrated its 50th anniversary amidst a special ceremony in Kathmandu on 25th February 2024. To commemorate the occasion, JAAN organized an International Seminar on “Human Resources Development for the Nation Building: Best Practices, Challenges and Lessons Learned from Japan” as well.

JAAN’s milestone marks fifty years of remarkable dedication and contribution to socio-economic development of Nepal as well as strengthening relationship between Japan and Nepal.

Rt. Honorable President Mr. Ram Chandra POUDEL graced the golden jubilee ceremony as the Chief Guest. During the ceremony, Chief Secretary of Government of Nepal Dr. Baikuntha Aryal, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal Mr. Yutaka Kikuta, JICA Nepal’s Representative Mr. Akimitsu Okubo, President of Japan Nepal Society Mr.

Mitsuaki Kojima and JAAN President Dr Ram Chandra Bhusal highlighted on the dimensions of Nepal-Japan relations.

The event was also attended by executive members of JICA Alumni Associations from SAARC nations.

“Human resources are the greatest asset of Nepal. It is, however, necessary to build up these valuable resources through education and training, so that they can be effectively mobilized in the country’s nation building efforts. Therefore, development of human resources is one of the most important pillars of JICA’s purposes, and JICA has been continuously providing Nepali citizens with opportunities for study and training in Japan.”- stated Chief Representative of JICA Nepal Mr. OKUBO Akimitsu during the ceremony.

50th Anniversary of JAAN served as a moment of reflection on the past achievements and assured to continue its collaborative efforts in promoting Nepal’s nation building endeavor.

JAAN’s tireless contributions in the past 5 decades is highly acknowledged by the people of Japan. JAAN was also awarded the Japanese Foreign Minister’s Commendation for Japanese Fiscal Year 2023.

JICA CHAIR DISCUSSION ON “ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND PRACTICES IN NEPAL AND JAPAN”

JICA Nepal office organized “JICA Chair” academic symposium in collaboration with the Centre for Nepal and Asian Studies (CNAS), Tribhuvan University (TU) on 30 and 31 January 2024 with gross 100 participants, calling on Prof. Hiroyuki Itami, Business Management Scholar, Hitotsubashi University, Japan. The theme of the seminar was “Economic Development Policies and Practices in Nepal and Japan”, referring to the various changes in economic and developmental

activities over the years. Prof. Itami delivered key lecture on Japanese-Style Management behind Japan’s Economic Growth. His presentation emphasized on theory of ‘Peoplism’, human oriented principle for organizing economic activities in a corporate setting from the experiences of Japan. Following his lecture, the symposium provided an opportunity to discuss what is needed for economic development in Nepal, taking consideration of social value including

cultural, geological, and social condition, and so on. From the Nepali side, mainly represented by Moderator/Speaker of the discussion, Prof. Mrigendra Bahadur KARKI, Executive Director, CNAS TU, suggested that economic development in Nepal should be comprehended as one of factor of integrated development including social economic welfare. In one hand, the symposium this year discussed widely on the positive implications of Japanese experiences and principles of management,

in the other hand, Nepalese values and accumulations should be taken in consideration for customizing development models. Various interactive sessions during the symposium led to productive discussions amongst the panelists and the audience who successfully developed new insights through sharing Nepalese and Japanese experiences.

(Reference)

'JICA Chair' is an initiative of Japan International Cooperation Agency

launched with an objective to develop future leaders in developing countries. JICA Chair is organized in JICA partner countries in collaboration with the leading universities to strengthen existing research and education programs as well as becoming a starting point to new initiatives. JICA Chair's activities include intensive lectures conducted by leading professors and lecturers dispatched from Japan to disseminate Japan's development experiences in various fields such as

politics, economics, public administration, law, and others. The first symposium of 'JICA Chair' in Nepal was organized last year in Feb 2023 focusing on "Politics in Nepal and Japan: Political Parties and Periodic Elections".

Organizing such events on annual basis, JICA Nepal aims to continue academic fruitful dialogue between Japan and Nepal through similar extensive interaction sessions in the future.

JICA in History

ENHANCING COMMUNITY MEDIATION FOR A PEACEFUL SOCIETY

Strengthening Community Mediation Capacity for Peaceful, and Harmonious Society Project (COMCAP) was implemented in two phases between 2010 to 2018 with the technical cooperation support of JICA. The Project's primary purpose was to enhance capacity and mechanisms for dispute management through introduction and institutionalization of community mediation. Increasing access to justice of the vulnerable sects of society such as the poor, women and marginalized people was another crucial purpose.

Traditional dispute resolution methods became less effective and frequent petty disputes in the community sometimes escalated into conflicts. Thus, it was necessary to establish Community Mediation (CM) as a method of dispute resolution between the parties to reach a consensus. The project demonstrated that the CM was beneficial for justice, peace and harmony in society and produced a conducive environment for local development initiatives. Further, the project aimed to support the government in institutionalizing CM as one of the basic services by the local level, enhancing their capacity and delivery mechanism of CM and expanding its impact nationwide by developing training guidelines, manuals other necessary documents.

The project supported establishing Community Mediation Centers in different Rural and Urban Municipalities of Sindhuli, Mahottari, Dhanusha, Morang and Tanahun districts. So far 1,121 Community Mediation Centers are established throughout the country and have resolved more than 20,000 disputes through the collective efforts of various Developing partners, INGOs, NGOs and COMCAP. The Project also supports to prepare CMC operation procedures, Training Manuals and Hand Book for Community Mediation.

Community Mediation today is recognized as an effective way for dispute management at the community level and local government operation Act 2017 has given these responsibilities to the local judicial committees.



Inauguration of community mediation center in Dhanusha



Street Drama to explain community mediation process in Mahottari

NEW VOLUNTEER ARRIVAL IN NEPAL

Ms. KONDO Airi arrived in Nepal on January 25, 2024, as the new Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) to work in the vegetable growing area of Siddhalek Rural Municipality, Bungchung, Dhading.

JICA's JOCV program was temporarily halted in 2020 due to COVID-19 but

resumed after a gap of 3 years in July 2023 last year.

Altogether 1,437 JOCVs have contributed to Nepal's development in the last 53 years.

JICA assures that more volunteers will be coming to Nepal in the following months.



Ms. KONDO in JICA Nepal office with Mr. OKUBO Akimitsu, Chief Representative of JICA Nepal

Article

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN JAPAN



Relay practice with buckets

JICA Partnership Program's (JPP) implementing organization Plus Arts conducted Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Training in Japan from Oct 25 – Nov 3, 2023. The total participants for the training consisted of 6 teachers from various schools in Lalitpur, one secretary from Lalitpur Municipality, and 2 staff from a local Non-Governmental Organization



Practice for evacuation during fire/smoke.

(NGO). As a JICA Nepal staff, I accompanied the participants and observed the education and training procedure and how they would adapt the Japanese techniques for localizing into the Nepali context once they returned to Nepal. The training included visits to various DRR-related facilities such as the Sakai DRR Center, Higashinada

Fire Station, Nojima Fault Museum, and Yokohama DRR Center. The participants experienced practices for earthquake simulators, smoke evacuation exercises, fire extinguisher practices, bucket relays, etc. The different methods of training were very beneficial for the participants as they could understand and learn the immediate measures to undertake in case of emergencies such as earthquakes, fires, floods, etc. The teachers who participated in the training are confident in transferring the learnings to their school students as the methods are very effective, and students can easily understand the DRR knowledge. After returning to Nepal, one of the participants, Ms. Abha Duwal Awale, principal of Bhasara Secondary School in Lalitpur, organized a DRR program in Feb 2024 for the local community from ward no. 19 of Lalitpur. Mr. Chiribabu Maharjan,

Mayor of Lalitpur, partially attended the program. Similarly, Ms. Pushpa Prajapati Twanabasu, principal of Himalayan Glory School in Bhaktapur, organized a DRR drill within the school using knowledge shared in the session by teachers who visited Japan. Students enjoyed using local materials for DRR games. Ms. Pushpa stated, "I believe sharing knowledge and experience gives someone the opportunity to gain new ideas, which may save another person's life." The training proved significant, especially for participants who organized a debriefing session in Nepal for other beneficiaries who could not participate in the Japan Training. The knowledge and experience sharing of Japan Training contributes to deepening knowledge on how to help each other within the community during a disaster and improving all beneficiary's life skills in an emergency.

Ms. Yuka Timilsina
NGO Desk Coordinator



Fire extinguishers practice.

THIRD COUNTRY TRAINING REFLECTION



Opportunity to learn from experience and similar context provides us with wider insight to frame our policy and programs in the field. A similar opportunity was provided to explore the practical approaches and methodologies for sustainable forest and watershed management interventions through Technical Cooperation *Project on Climate Change Adaptation through Sustainable Forest Management in Nepal*, supported by JICA. The Project aims to strengthen institutional capacities of Ministry of Forest and Environment (MOFE) at federal and Ministry of Industry Tourism Forest and Environment (MOITF) at Gandaki Province.

As a part of the Project third country training in India particularly in Delhi and Uttarakhand was organized to capacitate the field level officers largely from District Forest Offices (DFO) and Soil and Water Shed Management Office (SWMO) of Gandaki province to implement the project activities efficiently. Specifically, the training

was intended to discuss among likeminded institutions in India and explore possible measures to improve and scale up forest & watershed interventions in Nepal to achieve the policy goals set by Nepal's National Adaptation Plan.

The third country visit was significant to learn and observe practical approaches in coping the contemporary global issue of climate change through sustainable forest and watershed management. Some concise reflection on the training that could greatly benefit likeminded stakeholders and agencies:

REFLECTION AND LEARNINGS

Training Design

The training modality as reflected in Fig. 1 included National and State-level policy discussion followed by field observation and on-site talk with stakeholders and communities. It provided good opportunity to understand the entire cycle of policy

formulation process and implementation in the field. Daily reflection by participants enhanced the experience allowing them for comparisons with Nepal's context and better preparation for the next day's discussion.

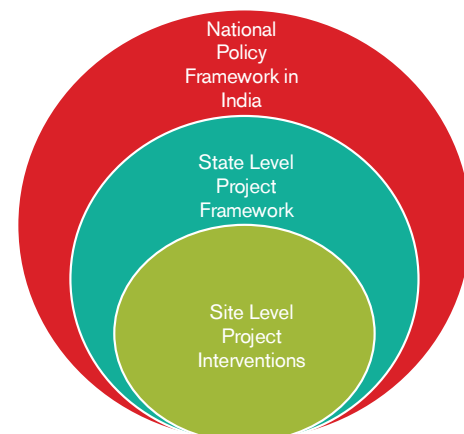


Fig. 1 Training Modality

SALIENT OBSERVATIONS (SECTORAL PHENOMENON & POLICY INTERVENTIONS)

- The Evolution of Forest Management including policy interventions in India is almost similar to Nepal. Both countries initiated forest management interventions with a conservation approach in the early 1990s, followed by joint forest management and eventually shifting towards sustainable forest management practices. This sectoral progression in India resembles the phenomenon observed in Nepal. Participatory community forestry program of Nepal is globally recognized as a successful case in community forestry program.
- JICA interventions in India have been substantial since 1990s even remaining as one of the largest donors in Natural Resource Management at present. JICA’s interventions in Nepal also have been substantial to support to Forest and Natural Management Sector in line with the sectoral phenomenon. Table 1 shows chronology of support of JICA in forestry and water shed management.

Year	Project/Important Events
1991-1994	Forestry Extension Project
1994-1999	Community Development and Forest/Watershed Conservation Project (CDFWCP) Phase I
	Greenery Promotion Cooperation Project (GPCP) Phase I
1995-1998	Development Study on Integrated Watershed Management in the Western Hills of Nepal
1999-2004	CDFWCP Phase II and GPCP Phase II
2000 March	Project site of Phase I attacked by Maoist
2000 August	Phase out of GPCP Phase II
2002	Term of VDC, Ward representative expires
2004-2005	CDFWCP Phase II- Follow-up (F/U)
2004-	Expansion of SABIHAA Model by DSCWM
2009-2014	Participatory Watershed Management and local Governance Project (PWMLGP)

Table 1: Forestry Sector Development in Nepal & chronology of JICA support

- During the policy dialogue, it was observed that adequate policy interventions in India are guided by strong regulatory work plans, standards in field implementation. Specific Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management are in place which facilitate effective operation and monitoring.
- Some interesting facts noted during discussion:
 - To meet the national target to reach 33% of total forest areas by 2030 Government of India (GOI) (currently 24.62% as per India State Forest Report 2021) has given due priority in compensatory agro-forestry, private forestry, tree plantation outside forest area as such.
 - 90% of the woods in India come from private and trees outside of the forest areas.
 - National Flagship Species Conservation Projects like Project Tiger, Cheetah, Ganges Dolphin, Snow Leopard, One Horn Rhino etc are regular annual projects which contribute in gradual augmentation of the endangered wildlife.
 - Combination of JICA’s ODA loan and TCP in Natural Resource Management (NRM) sector has contributed significantly in strengthening physical infrastructure and institutional capacity which can be lesson learnt to Nepal’s case.

REFLECTION FROM FIELD AND COMMUNITY INTERACTION

- Like in Nepal, Invasive Alien Plant Species (IAPS) has been identified as one of the major problems in forest management and biodiversity conservation in India as well. GoI has adopted mechanical, biological and chemical control majors for management of IAPS.
- Double wall check-dam with steel frame and filling mud (DWCDs) is a new technology in soil erosion control in India. According to the field engineer, this technology is adopted from Japan and estimated to be approximately 30% more cost-effective than the conventional concrete wall check dams. Before deciding on this technology thorough analysis of 30 years of climatic data spanning 100 recurrent years was made. It was recognized that consistent documentation of



data and inventory systems would help introduce innovative technology as per local need and contexts.

- Plantation survival is one of the major challenges in India, as it is in Nepal. However, the plantation standard has clearly defined the survival percentage from 0 to 10 years. The plantation data base and monitoring system in India are well-maintained, which could be noteworthy for Nepal to adopt.
- Livelihood support to Self Help Groups (SHG) which are groups of women, is similar to Nepal but approach to reach/prioritize community was observed different. In the JICA TCP project site in India, selection of the community was based on 'interest based approach. While in Nepal 'need based/ right based approach' with mandatory requirement of inclusion of marginalized is widely practice in project activities.
- JICA India's combined support of ODA loan and TCP to GOI supported in different aspects of value chain (capacity, business plan, value addition facilities, marketing support, convergence with other government programs/schemes), crop and livestock insurance. These are important risk buffering tool to the farmers or SHG contributing in sustaining the project activities. Such practice is good lesson for Nepal and can be incorporated.

Overall

Out of 20 JICA Global Agenda, # 16 is related to Climate Change. Hence, knowledge and exposure for such global agenda helps in future planning of JICA project in CC Sector. Integrated scheme of JICA TCP and ODA Loan Project was very interesting to learn. It gives opportunity to explore more on applicability of such scheme (extending to DRR, Water Supply sector etc) in Nepalese context.

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