



# JICA VOLUNTEER PROGRAM IN NEPAL



# INTRODUCTION

## ***What is JICA Volunteer Program ?***

JICA Volunteer Program is one of the Technical Cooperation Schemes of Japan operated as part of its Official Development Assistance (ODA). JICA Volunteer Program dispatches enthusiastic Japanese who wish to participate in various activities assigned in developing countries, who possess skills, knowledge and experiences and can accommodate with the local situation.

JICA Volunteer Program expects volunteers to live among the people of the country where they are dispatched and to pursue their activities at the grass-root level, enabling people to ascertain development needs from the view point of those living there. JICA Volunteers work with the grass-root level people to contribute towards the respective country's socio-economic development and making effective use of their abilities, skills, knowledge and experiences. This has always been the essence of JICA Volunteer Program since its inception. In Nepal, JICA Volunteer Program has reached 50 years largely due to the efforts of volunteers themselves, local officials and people of Nepal who worked with them and people of Japan who supported the program.

JICA Volunteers are generally dispatched for two years, in various fields from education and health, nursing, agricultural and rural development, local government and community empowerment, transportation and infrastructure, urban environment, private sector development, social activation, sports and so on.

## ***Objectives of JICA Volunteer Program:***

- \* To contribute towards the socio-economic development and reconstruction of developing countries and regions
- \* To strengthen friendship and mutual understanding between developing countries, regions, and Japan
- \* To give back to the Japanese society the outcome of volunteer-activity experience

## ***Types of JICA Volunteers***

### ***- Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs)***

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) are dispatched to work and live with local communities and stakeholders for two-year service. The objective of this scheme is to assist in the socio-economic development utilizing activeness and passion of Japanese volunteers as well as promote mutual understanding and strengthen friendship between Nepal and Japan at the grass-root level.

### ***- Senior Volunteers (SVs)***

Senior Volunteers (SVs) are Japanese volunteers who are motivated by the volunteering spirit and possess practical knowledge and technical skills backed up by their own abundant working experiences (normally over 15 years). SVs are assigned to wide range of fields. The objective of this scheme is to utilize accumulated rich experience of Japanese nationals with their successful careers in various fields for the development of developing countries.



*Checking the leakage of water pipe, Mr. Chisho Shimizu*

## ***Brief History of JICA Volunteers in Nepal***

The first batch of JICA Volunteers were dispatched to Nepal during September 1970. The areas of JICA Volunteer Program in Nepal span different sectors and a diverse range of sub-sectors, including agriculture, forestry and fisheries, repair and maintenance, environment education, community development, youth activity, civil engineering, sanitation, health, education, and culture, as well as planning and administration.

As of June 2021, a total of 1,436 JICA Volunteers have worked in Nepal. Widely recognized as a program of Japan International Cooperation Agency, volunteer activities have not only earned high acclaim from Nepal but also received increased praise in Japan. The past five decades of JICA Volunteer Program in Nepal have been devoted to the sharing of rich experience at the grass-root level for Nepal's nation building endeavor through the "Learning by Doing" approach.

Each year, JICA Volunteers who are eager to make use of their skills and experiences acquired in Japan are sent to Nepal. They work in different areas of expertise to take part in various fields across the country and help improve the livelihood of Nepali people.



*Giving the presentation to women's group, Ms. Akari Yoshida*

## ***Why JICA Volunteers are accepted in Nepal ?***

The reasons JICA Volunteers have been continuing more than fifty years lie in their specific skills as below.

1. JICA Volunteers can speak Nepali Language. Therefore, they can work immediately after going to their assigned places.
2. JICA Volunteers accommodate well with the locals at the grass-root level because of their socio-cultural knowledge.
3. JICA Volunteers are hard working and punctual.
4. JICA Volunteers are technically sound in their specialized field.
5. JICA Volunteers help to connect the different organizations with the local community through their activities, which make the social bond stronger.



*Teaching how to count by using abacus, Ms. Yuko Sekito*

# CONTRIBUTION OF VOLUNTEERS IN DIFFERENT SECTORS

## As Livelihood Facilitators

### *Agriculture / Rural Development*

- \* To improve the administrative system
- \* To help reduce poverty in rural areas
- \* To raise the living standard through stable food production
- \* To provide assistance for agriculture cooperative association

In a country where about 65 percent of people are engaged in agriculture, development in this field is indispensable to reduce poverty and improve the living standard of people in rural areas. JICA has a long history of dispatching volunteers in the agriculture and rural development sectors. In 1970, three members from the first batch of JICA Volunteers to Nepal were dispatched in the Rapti Agriculture Experiment Farm of Chitwan District. Since then, hundreds of volunteers have worked hard to provide technical assistance and support to agricultural activities, cooperative associations, and organizations. The target and future focus of JICA Volunteer Program in Agriculture and Rural Development is to contribute to 'increasing opportunities for earning agricultural income' by producing cash crops, livestock, and forest products; 'enhancing food security assurance' by stabilizing food production; and 'strengthening administrative and farmers organizations' through development of human resources and empowerment. Some of the contributions of JICA Volunteers in this sector are tunnel-farming system that successfully introduced off-season vegetables, regular food items such as tofu, miso, soya, rainbow trout fish, junar(sweet orange), mushroom, persimmon, pear, etc. JICA Volunteers are thus facilitating livelihoods by focusing on sustainable capacity development of the farmers.



*Teaching farmers how to grow vegetables, Ms. Hitomi Hizume*



*Teaching farmers how to grow rice, Ms. Hitomi Hizume*

# As Change Makers

## Local Government and Community Empowerment (Gender/Social Inclusion)

- \* To enhance, empower communities and rural citizens from gender and social inclusion perspective
- \* To support the socially vulnerable and excluded people (disadvantage women, internally displaced people, street children, etc.)

JICA Volunteers dispatched under the 'Local Government and Community Empowerment Program' are currently providing assistance for the socially marginalized people and communities. JICA Volunteers are assigned to address needs and issues of women, persons with disabilities as well as socially vulnerable people and to reflect their plight and development at the central ministries and policy making level. Among the approaches of this program, JICA Volunteers pursue empowerment of local people at the grass-root level by 'strengthening the capacity of the socially vulnerable people and providing balanced assistance to them and developing rural community from perspectives of the gender mainstreaming and social inclusion' through which they contribute to building a democratized country. JICA Volunteers assigned to this program have a common target i.e. to understand and fulfill the needs at the grass-root level through various activities and to bring fruitful changes in their lives. Typical examples of such activities are introducing new technical knowledge in the Women Skill Development Project (WSDP), reinforcing social activities in Women Cooperatives, etc. Thus, JICA Volunteers act as change agents for the empowerment of disadvantaged people and contribute to the removal of social and economic disparity of Nepal.



Playing bocce game, Ms. Akiko Asami



Helping the patient to get up through occupational therapy, Ms. Ayaka Nakazawa

## As Economic Growth Boosters

### Transportation and Infrastructure/Urban Environment

- \* To improve air traffic control management and international airport passenger service
- \* To help follow traffic rules in the Kathmandu Valley
- \* To build public awareness for solid waste management
- \* To create public awareness on disaster prevention
- \* To support alternative energy development and use of solar energy

In order to expand economic opportunities, it is necessary to develop infrastructure including transport and business environment. JICA Volunteers previously have been dispatched to improve air traffic control radio maintenance and airport passenger service at Tribhuvan International Airport, and Traffic management and Road safety in the Kathmandu Valley. Private Sector development poses another important challenge to driving economic growth. To create employment through activation of local industry, JICA assists in improving the business environment including small and medium enterprises (SMEs) development, policy and rules, customs, and financial sector. JICA Volunteers have been engaged in vocational training such as IT instructor, computer technology, textile design, etc. JICA Volunteers thus are boosting sustainable economic growth through helping infrastructure and institutional development.



Assisting traffic management, Ms. Ayumi Ohashi



Checking the leakage of water pipe, Mr. Tomohiro Minami

Environmental pollution caused by rapidly developing urban areas and natural disasters act as hindrances to the development of infrastructure in Nepal. JICA Volunteers have been contributing towards the battle against these urban environmental issues by spreading environmental awareness, developing human resources, and encouraging traffic education. The target of environmental education by JICA Volunteers is to help implement waste control programs in addition to giving technical support to these programs. They will also focus on taking disaster-prevention measures including mitigation of risk and damage resulted from the earthquake, flood, and landslide disasters, and enhancing adjustability to the global climate change. JICA Volunteers in Nepal are playing their parts at the grass-root level to activate the society for secure and clean country.



Participants of Clean City Conference organized by JICA Volunteers, **Mr. Atsushi Takahashi, Mr. Yusuke Kawajiri, Ms. Chizuru Matsuura, Ms. Fumie Tanaka**

## Private Sector Development

- \* To promote campaigns focused on right choice of the locally available products
- \* To enhance self-reliance and creativity within the local community
- \* To develop network for Marketing & Promotion

Private Sector development has been included as a new entry in JICA's new assistance strategy, as it consists of very important role to drive economic growth, especially, it aims to improve the business environment for the growth of local enterprises in secondary and tertiary industries, as well as the promotion of direct inward investment. Today JICA Volunteers are involved in the field of promotion of One Village One Product (OVOP) with Federation of Nepal Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FNCCI) an umbrella organization of the Nepalese private sector to launch OVOP in Nepal, promotion of agro tourism at the local level, and SME's and network of marketing at the district level.



Giving tips of marketing in collection centre, **Mr. Hidetaka Ishikawa**

## As Dream Weavers

### Education and Health

- \* To improve quality of education
- \* To foster children's aspiration for learning
- \* To support for developing teaching techniques/materials/training and provide field assistance
- \* To enhance medical and nursing care services
- \* To train officials and strengthen primary health care system in local level
- \* To improve maternal and child health care in regional, district and VDC levels

More than 100 JOCVs have been dispatched to the education sector in Nepal since 1980s. Most of them were individually dispatched as Science and Math teachers at the secondary level. Since 2004, however, the focus has shifted to elementary education or early childhood development to support Nepal Government's Education for All (EFA) program. JICA Volunteers have worked all over Nepal in the education sector and have helped foster dreams and hopes of young students. These students in turn have grown up to be successful teachers, entrepreneurs and professionals.



Teaching health care to the students, **Ms. Nanae Ishizawa**

In 1971, the first JICA Nurse Volunteer was dispatched to Kalimati Tuberculosis Hospital in Kathmandu. Since then, about 200 JICA Volunteers related to the field of health and medical care have followed in her footsteps. Their main mission is to enhance the service of core hospitals, strengthen urban type primary health care, improve local health care and take measures against infectious diseases. The focus now is to dispatch JICA Volunteers to rural areas so as to act as care takers providing high quality health care services and facilities to the poor and socially excluded people.



Teaching ICT Education to the students, **Ms. Akiko Yamamoto**

# As Cultural Messengers

## Social Activation

- \* Culture exchange through people to people interaction at the grass-root level
- \* Transforming attitude of Nepali youth towards positive social activities
- \* Promote international co-operation
- \* To promote sports culture by supporting sports for all, trainings for trainers and sports for persons with disabilities "PWD's"

JICA Volunteers act as messengers by sharing the Japanese culture and sports with young aspirants of Nepal. As a result, many of them have become sports representatives of Nepal. This act of cooperation is peculiar to JICA Volunteer Program and has contributed to activate the society of Nepal by channeling impressionable minds of Nepali youth into positive social activities. JICA Volunteers working in this sector focus on areas such as sports including Volleyball coach for national team, Japanese language, cultural exchange, etc. One of the remarkable contributions of JICA Volunteers in this sector is the introduction of Judo and Karate to Nepal, who also provided training for self-defense to the Nepal Police Force. The result of South Asian Federation Games in 2016 reflects the contribution of JICA Volunteers in the sports field. The players were awarded medals in Judo. Similarly, support for persons with disabilities in sports is also an active part of social activation.



Teaching techniques of boccia game,  
Ms. Akiko Asami

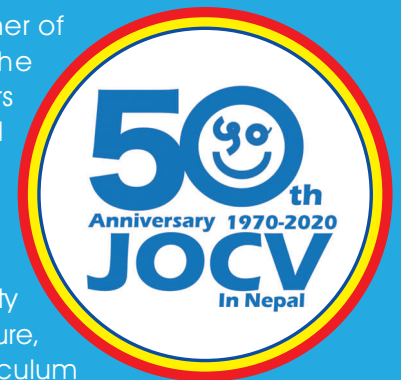
# 50 YEARS OF JICA VOLUNTEERS IN NEPAL

Japan, being a century-old close friend and reliable development partner of Nepal, has been extending various forms of cooperation through the government of Japan and JICA. The Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) program is one of the JICA's citizenship program which was founded in 1965 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan for the purpose of providing official technical assistance program to developing nations. JOCV program was launched in Nepal on February 02, 1970 as the eleventh host country.

Since then, JICA Volunteers have been dispatched on the request of the priority sector and areas of host countries in various fields and areas such as Agriculture, Livestock Development, Science Math Teachers, Physical Education, Curriculum Development, Public Health Nurse, to improve Health care system, Nursing Education, Sports for tomorrow, Women Empowerment, Community Development, Forestry, Fisheries, Vocational Education, Assistance and Education for Persons with Disabilities (PWD's) and so on.

Some of the Examples of outstanding collaboration between Nepal & Japan which have influenced socio-economic daily lives of Nepalese people are those who have introduced simple, effective and sustainable skills and technology in Nepal, Tomiyasu Raddish (Kakani), Junar (Sindhuli, Ramechhap), Persimmon (Kirtipur), Rainbow Trout (Trishui), varieties of mushrooms (Kanya, Button and Shitake), introduction of Artificial Insemination (AI) Technology for cattle and production of Rabbits Vaccine, introduction of Judo, Karate, Kendo and Boccia game in Nepal are some notable examples. Besides, there are lots of information booklets, catalogues and handouts published in significant sectors widely used by both sides as a tool to understand sectoral approaches.

A well-known fact by now, for the last five decades JICA Volunteers have been contributing their resources such as skills, knowledge which are simple, effective and sustainable technology for Nepal's Nation building endeavor. We sincerely hope that the scope of our partnership program will expand further with innovative, effective and sustainable manners in the days to come.



# VOLUNTEERS' ACTIVITIES IN NEPAL

## Ms. Fumika Hino (Environment Education)

Ms. Fumika Hino was dispatched to Kathmandu Metropolitan City Office to work as an Environment Education volunteer from July 2016 to July 2018. Her area of focus was mainly maintenance of cleanliness in school areas. During her tenure, she visited many schools and applied Japanese system of judging the hygiene and sanitation. She provided ranking to many schools by giving star in terms of the standard of sanitation, hygiene and cleanliness maintenance of school area. She even awarded those schools who were outstanding in these areas because of which many schools were motivated to keep their school clean.

Her work was highly recognized and thus was honored by the Mayor of Kathmandu Metropolitan City Office and was appreciated with certificate. Since then, upon request of the Mayor her techniques are adopted and replicated in many schools.



*JICA Volunteer receiving the Certificate of Appreciation from the Mayor of Kathmandu Metropolitan City Office, Ms. Fumika Hino*

## Mr. Koji Harada (Soil and Fertilizer)



*Sharing the knowledge of agricultural development to local farmers, Mr. Koji Harada*

Mr. Koji Harada was dispatched to then District Agriculture Development Office and now Agriculture Knowledge Centre, Kavre to work as Soil and Fertilizer volunteer from June 2016 to June 2018. He has 11 years of experience in the field of Agriculture in Japan.

He provided different kinds of trainings to the farmers in Kavre district mainly sharing Japanese techniques of farming. Later, he also undertook research work jointly with commercial farmers in order to experiment various method to increase the productivity of vegetable farming.

He specially focussed his research on tomato farming. He also published a booklet on the usage of pesticides and the ways to make local fertilizer "Bokashi" by using local products. He was very popular in the district mainly amongst the farmer groups. Some commercial farmers are still following the technique taught by Mr. Harada.



## Mr. Tomohiro Minami (Water Supply Engineer)



*Demonstration on how to connect the water pipe,  
Mr. Tomohiro Minami*

Mr. Tomohiro Minami was dispatched to Water Supply and Sanitation Division Office (WSSDO) Tansen to work as Water Supply Engineer from January 2018 to January 2020. He is graduated from the Department of Civil Engineering, National Institute of Technology, Kagoshima College, Japan.

Palpa is one of the historical cities of Nepal. However, the city suffered from water scarcity problem. In order to overcome this problem, WSSDO requested JICA's support through assignment of its volunteer. Hence, Mr. Minami was appointed for designing rural and urban water supply system, quality control and quality assurance of water supply in Palpa.

Mr. Minami also designed the distribution map of water supply in Tansen with support of his counterpart in WSSDO. The distribution map proved very effective in determining the demand and supply of water in Palpa.

In addition, he also made a device using Japanese technology that could detect water leakage which was a remarkable achievement in order to save water in those areas. Officials of WSSDO and other stakeholders were very impressed with Mr. Minami's contributions and later his technology was replicated in other districts as well.

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## Ms. Makiko Sato (Community Development)

Ms. Makiko Sato was dispatched to District Coordination Committee to work as a Community Development volunteer from July 2017 to July 2019. Her areas of work included empowering women in Sindhuli area who worked for Saugat Lollipop Udyog.

The Saugat Lollipop Udyog in Sindhuli were involved in making Lollipop since long period hence the popularity of Lollipop from this area was pretty high in making the Lollipop most resourceful brand of Sindhuli. Ms. Sato further capitalized this popularity to market the product in Kathmandu as well with support from other JICA Volunteers.

The marketing of Lollipop helped the Udyog earn good income resulting in win-win situation for all the members as well as the district. Lots of women involved in the cooperative have become successfully self-sustainable which also helped the Udyog earn an award as the best cooperative.



*Demonstrating the lollipop (milk candy) making process,  
Ms. Makiko Sato*

## Ms. Aya Iwasa (PC Instructor)

Ms. Aya Iwasa worked in Shree Janabal Secondary School, Marpha, Mustang to work as PC instructor from January 2018 to January 2020. Ms. Iwasa taught the students and the teachers how to use the computer, from the basic level of the computer education. With her guidance, the students and the teachers benefitted in computer education and ICT education as Government of Nepal has been emphasizing the importance of ICT education from lower secondary level. Furthermore, she also supported in hardware and the maintenance of the computers in the school. She put priority to transfer her knowledge to local computer teachers. The school and the local community were happy with the activities of Ms. Iwasa.



*Teaching the students Computer Education, Ms. Aya Iwasa*

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## Mr. Toshihiro Mitsumaru (Goal Keeper Coach)



*Organizing practical workshop to goal keepers, Mr. Toshihiro Mitsumaru*

Mr. Toshihiro Mitsumaru was dispatched to All Nepal Football Association (ANFA), Kathmandu to work as Goal Keeper Coach from July 2018 to July 2020. Mr. Mitsumaru organized workshops for the goal keepers. Especially, he coached the national level team goal keepers with Japanese techniques. His continuous effort was reflected in Nepali national football team such as it generated good results in South Asian Games and World Cup Selection Games. ANFA was satisfied with his activities. However, he had to return to Japan in the end of March 2020 due to Covid-19 pandemic.

## Ms. Akiko Asami (Boccia Coach)



*JICA Volunteer umpiring the boccia game, Ms. Akiko Asami*

Ms. Akiko Asami was dispatched to National Sports Council Nepal, Nepal Boccia Association for the Disabled, Kathmandu to work as Boccia Coach in the of Assistance and Education for Persons with Disabilities from July 2017 to March 2019. Ms. Asami's enriched experience in disability field contributed to work effectively in the promotion of Boccia game. She worked proactively in different schools and organizations in three districts of Kathmandu valley to promote and spread the knowledge of Boccia game. After her activities, many schools, organizations and other people came to know about Boccia game. Furthermore, she also shared her knowledge for making Boccia balls.

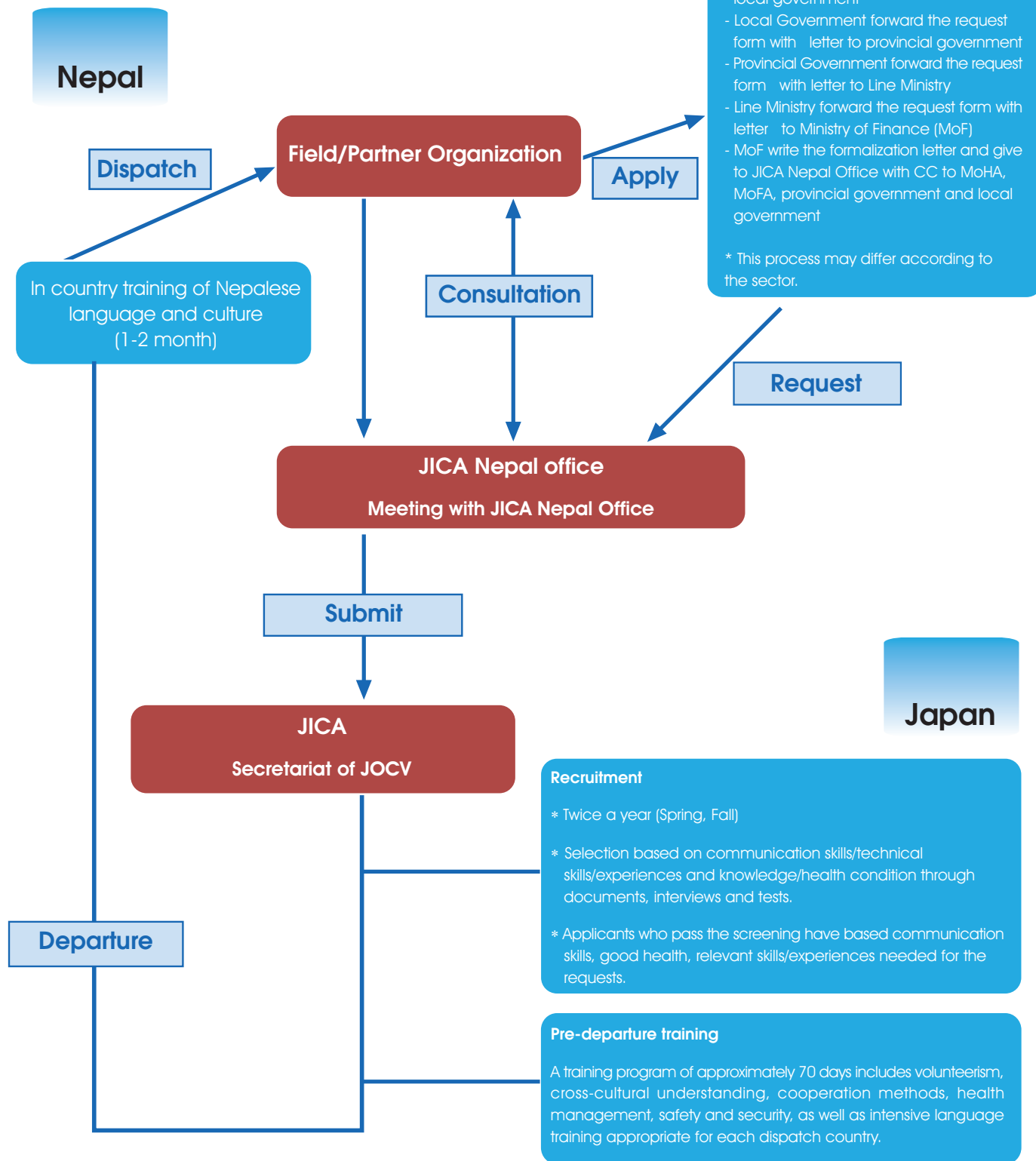
## Mr. Taiki Kato (Physical Education)

Mr. Taiki Kato was dispatched to National Sports Council Nepal, National School of Gymnastics Federation Nepal, Kathmandu to work as Gymnastic Coach in field of Physical Education from July 2017 to July 2019. Mr. Kato introduced the importance of gymnastics in several schools in Kathmandu and Lalitpur. He taught several simple and effective techniques of gymnastics to the school children, women and senior people of the community. The school and community people were happy with his activities. Some community people are regularizing the gymnastics until today. His activities helped to promote physical education and good health.



*Teaching gymnastics to the students, Mr. Taiki Kato*

# REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS (PROCESS CHART)



For more details on JICA Volunteer Program, please contact the address below.



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