

## JICA CHAIR FOR DISCUSSION ON "POLITICS IN NEPAL AND JAPAN: POLITICAL PARTIES AND PERIODIC ELECTIONS"

### WHAT IS JICA CHAIR' ?

'JICA Chair' is an initiative of Japan International Cooperation Agency launched with an objective to develop future leaders of 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.

JICA Chair's activities include (1) short intensive lectures conducted by lecturers dispatched from Japan, on Japan's development experiences in the fields of politics, economics, public administration, law and others, (2) joint research activities, and (3) providing research and education opportunities in Japan for young researchers. JICA will also provide reference materials for Japanese studies and research and education opportunities to faculty members of universities who wish to establish or strengthen courses or programs of Japanese studies.

### JICA CHAIR IN NEPAL

JICA Nepal co-hosted two days (6-7 Feb 2023) 'JICA Chair' academic seminar together with Tribhuvan University (TU), Centre for Nepal and Asian Studies (CNAS). The theme for the seminar was



*Prof. IOKIBE Kaoru addressing the seminar.*

"Politics in Nepal and Japan: Political Parties and Periodic Elections," referring to the various changes in political and social settings. Similarly, the seminar also focused on history of politics, transition of party politics and lessons learnt through the process in Japan.

The keynote speaker for the 'JICA Chair' seminar in Nepal was Prof. IOKIBE Kaoru from University of Tokyo who is an expert on Political and Diplomatic History of Japan. His lecture illustrated the development of the pre-WW2 and post-WW2 Japanese party politics in response to issues of violence, corruption, and policy inefficiency. Prof. IOKIBE also shed light on the modern political system and the coalition between political parties in Japan to maximize efficiency and support economic growth.

Prof. IOKIBE also acknowledged the transition of political system in Nepal as he observed the two days seminar which included intensive discussion amongst the participants which comprised of TU

professors, scholars, students, media personnel etc. Prof. IOKIBE stated he was impressed with the enthusiasm and commitment of all the attendees and commented on the importance of discourse in academia on politics.

The Moderator/Speaker for the event was Prof. Dr. Mrigendra Bahadur KARKI, Executive Director, CNAS (TU), and his topic for the speech was "Political Process in Nepal: Political Parties, Elections and Economic Development." The primary objective of his speech was to discuss strengths and constraints of economic growth in several types of governments.

Vice Chancellor of Tribhuvan University Prof. Dr. Dharma Kanta Banskota was the Chief Guest during the session who reiterated the relevance of such symposium in Nepal. During his opening speech he highlighted on the long history of Nepal-Japan relationship and contributions of Japan in Nepal's development drive. He also emphasized on the vitality of

## JICA CHAIR FOR DISCUSSION ON “POLITICS IN NEPAL AND JAPAN: POLITICAL PARTIES AND PERIODIC ELECTIONS”

*contd. from page 1*

academic collaborations between TU and other foreign universities and how events such as JICA Chair could help promote the idea of knowledge sharing and information dissemination amongst the students of Nepal. He highly appreciated and acknowledged Professor IOKIBE's presence in TU and how this event could help promote internationalization of TU.

The round table discussion during the seminar highlighted on the “Political Parties, the New Federal Parliament and Economic Prosperity of Nepal in Relations to Japanese Economic Development”, that included participation of Professors from TU and media personnel. Topics such as philosophy, theory, and practices of political coalitions in context to Nepal and Japan were discussed.



*Prof. IOKIBE and Prof. Dr. Mrigendra Bahadur KARKI at the symposium.*

Additionally, there was also an interaction session where the students from TU presented their issue papers which highlighted firstly on the need for the government of Nepal to take initiatives to provide suitable voting access for senior citizens to ensuring open and inclusivity for all age groups. Another theme was regarding the challenges faced by handicapped voters

during election events in Nepal and the means to ease their accessibility.

### WAY FORWARD

The first initiative of 'JICA Chair' in Nepal was a success, leading to productive discussions amongst the panelists and the audience (students) who could develop new insights through sharing of Nepali and Japanese experiences. The CNAS plans to publish a journal based on the research paper of the students and outputs of JICA Chair discussions.

Organizing this event, JICA Nepal aims to continue academic dialogue between Japan and Nepal through similar extensive interaction sessions in the future.

- Ms. Brinda Singh  
Public Relation Officer  
JICA Nepal

## JICA in History (2015-2019)

### SINDHULI ROAD CORRIDOR COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE PROMOTION PROJECT (SRCCAP)



SRCCAP was implemented in the Sindhuli Road Corridor (SRC), one of the major highways (B.P highway) in the mid hills constructed with Grant Assistance from the Government of Japan (GoJ).

The project was launched with a master plan in 2015 to further improve the livelihood status of people living along this road and for economic revitalization of marginalized people.

The overall aim of the project was to increase agricultural income of the farm households in the SRC area through agricultural commercialization by creating value-chains for high value commodities (HVC's).

Some major outputs of the project are as follows:

- Established farming system for producing marketable products amongst the producer groups.
- Developed capacity of the producer groups to sustain marketing of the saleable products.
- Enhanced skills and capacity of Department of Agriculture (DOA) / District Agriculture Development Office (DADO) for implementation and coordination of agricultural commercialization promotion.

## LAUNCHING AN IMPACT INVESTMENT PROMOTION PROJECT IN NEPAL, "DOLMA IMPACT FUND II" (PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT FINANCE)

SUPPORTING INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, EMPLOYMENT CREATION, AND RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT THROUGH INVESTMENT IN DOLMA IMPACT FUND II



Investee Company: Hospital Expansion Project



Investee Project: Small Scale Hydropower Project (for illustrative purposes)

On December 19, JICA signed a 10 million USD investment agreement with Dolma Impact Fund II (DIF II), a Private Equity (PE) fund managed by Dolma Fund Management. JICA's investment will be mainly utilized for equity investment in healthcare companies, IT/Digital companies, and renewable energy projects in Nepal. JICA is co-investing alongside Development Financial Institutions (DFIs) including the Dutch entrepreneurial development bank, British International Investment, the UK's development finance institution and impact investors including Swedfund, the Swedish development finance institution, the International Finance Corporation (IFC), and the United States International Development Finance Corporation (DFC). JICA's investment is a part of the final close of DIF II, which is composing the fund corpus to 71.96 million USD.

Although Nepal experienced a temporary economic downturn due to the earthquake in 2015, the economy has revived since then and the country is now expected to graduate from the Least Developed Countries (LDC) category by 2026. However, Nepal is facing the challenge of a hollowing out of industry caused by

the increased number of migrant workers, which in turn is due to the lack of promising domestic industries and job opportunities in Nepal. Therefore, the fosterage of promising industries such as healthcare and the IT/digital sector is urgently needed in socio-economic development of Nepal. Regardless of such constrains in some areas, Nepal has a geo-topo graphic advantage, being blessed with abundant water resources and potential in economic viability of hydropower generation, estimated at around 42,000 MW. Hence, Nepal is expected to expand its renewable generation capacity to contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in South Asia.

Dolma Fund Management manages impact investment funds which promote industrial development, employment creation, and renewable energy development by investing in healthcare companies, IT/ Digital companies, and renewable energy projects, mainly in Nepal, as well as by offering technical assistance to investee companies. In addition, they contribute to the development of the stock market and private equity fund market in Nepal as a leading fund manager dedicated to the country. Furthermore, DIF II will invest in

consideration of gender perspectives. This project, therefore, will contribute to SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) Goals 5 (Gender equality), 7 (Affordable and clean energy), and 8 (Decent work and economic growth).

JICA has been supporting Nepal's industrial development, renewable energy promotion, and investment-climate improvement through several technical and financial projects so far. We will continue offering our support to Nepal by creating a synergy between the existing projects and DIF II's activities.

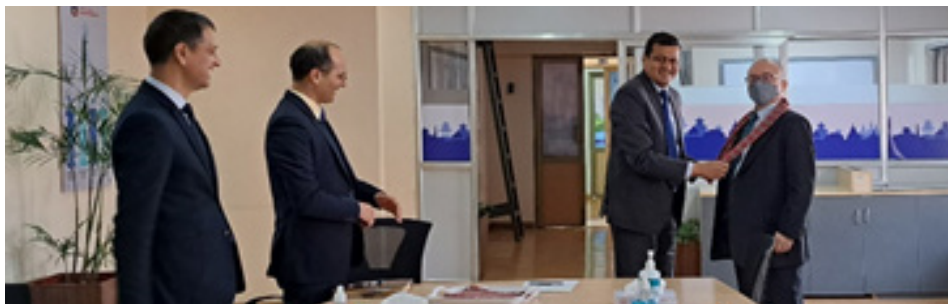


Investee Company: Digital Logistics Promotion Project

## JICA TO STRENGTHEN PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT IN NEPAL

JICA Nepal intends to make trade, investment, and industrial development, dynamic in collaboration with the Government of Nepal. As one of the key inputs to the sector, JICA Foreign Investment Advisor is assigned at the Office of the Investment Board of Nepal (OIBN) since February 2023.

The purpose of Foreign Investment Advisor is to strengthen the capacity and function of related stakeholders to facilitate Foreign Direct Investment for the economic development in Nepal by promoting an investment-friendly environment, mobilizing, and managing domestic as well as foreign investments. The advisor is expected to activate the private sector through trade and investment promotion and human resource development of sector affiliates along with facilitating companies including Japanese to invest in Nepal for sustainable industrial development.



Mr. Sushil Bhatta, CEO of OIBN welcoming Mr. Mishima in the OIBN office

Mr. MISHIMA KAZUO, Expert in Foreign Investment serves as an Advisor to the Office of the Investment Board of Nepal (OIBN). Mr. Mishima will mainly work with OIBN for 2 years (Feb 2023 - Jan 2025) and will advise and support OIBN to strengthen the capacity and function to promote foreign direct investment in Nepal and information transmission to potential investors including Japanese, those who are willing to expand their business in Nepal.

Mr. Mishima possess rich experience of private sector development in the past. He also served as an associate Professor of Macro Development Economy in Kobe University, Japan and as lecturers in some universities in Japan.

JICA further expects much more opportunities to be enlarged in dialogues through Mr. Mishima and the team to develop the private sector in Nepal in the means of promotion of trade and foreign Investment.

## ON THE JOB TRAINING (OJT) FOR CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT OF KUKL MEMBERS

JICA's technical cooperation project "Project on Capacity Development of KUKL to Improve Overall Water Supply Service in Kathmandu Valley", organized On-the-Job (OJT) training and Training of Trainers (ToT) for Kathmandu Upatyaka Khanepani Limited (KUKL) staff members/engineers from 07 to 24 Feb 2023. Altogether 21 participants from different branches of KUKL were part of the OJT and 8 participants for the ToT which took place in Sundarijal Water Treatment Plant (WTP) site in Sundarijal.

The training comprised of topics that would develop, facilitate, and elevate the technical capacities of the participants for operating the advanced water treatment facilities situated in Sundarijal WTP, the training, as one among several OJTs envisioned in the Project, focused on proper operation and effective utilization of the water treatment plants developed under Melamchi water supply project. Automated functioning of the WTP, SCADA system, mini

hydro plant as such are some of the salient features of the Sundarijal WTP constructed under concessional Japanese ODA loan.

Mr. OSAKA Shinichi, JICA expert on Operation & Maintenance of WTPs conducted the OJT both in theory and with practical /live examples at the Sundarijal WTP site.

"I am receiving such kind of training for the first time and so far, it has been an eye opener as I am learning new technical concepts altogether. The automated system here in Sundarijal WTP is completely new and different from other WTP facilities in Kathmandu. I hope to further utilize these skills to efficiently handle my work." - responds a KUKL participant.

JICA has been continuously working to strengthen the water supply management capacity of KUKL with the aim of improving



the water services in Kathmandu valley. In addition, JICA has been consistently supporting Government of Nepal in effort to increasing access and improving quality of drinking water to achieve national targets aligned with the goal number six of global Sustainable Development Goals.

Construction of the highly anticipated Sundarijal WTP that purifies water of 170million liter per day (MLD) of which 85 MLD WTP was constructed with support from JICA.

## “DEVELOPMENT OF NEPAL IS ALWAYS A PRIORITY FOR JICA”

*Dr. Junichi YAMADA, Executive Senior Vice President of JICA*

The Executive Senior Vice President of JICA Dr. Junichi YAMADA (Ph. D.) was on a 3 days visit to Kathmandu, Nepal from 04 to 07 December 2022.

During his visit to Nepal, he held talks with the high level officials of the Government of Nepal and discussed on the future JICA cooperation policy to Nepal. Additionally, he also observed the activities of JICA supported projects namely Sindhuli Road and Nagdhunga Tunnel Construction Project.

Upon his visit to Nepal, Dr. YAMADA stated that, “I always longed to visit Nepal and am delighted to finally come here this time. My brief visit to Nepal has been very fruitful. I got an opportunity to travel through the Sindhuli Road built by Japanese cooperation and also witnessed the progress made in the construction works of Nagdhunga Tunnel. I was impressed that Sindhuli Road, the construction of which started in 1996, is well utilized and provides good facility to people. I also had chances to meet some of the high level officials from various ministries for discussing future opportunities of co-partnership between Nepal and Japan for prospective development projects. I see a lot of potential to expand Official Development Assistance (ODA) in Nepal significantly for infrastructure projects with Loan assistance to cater to the need of the Nepalese people. ”

Dr. YAMADA's association with JICA dates back to April 1982 when he joined the OECF (one of the predecessor organizations of JICA) as an employee. He holds substantial experience related to ODA loan projects especially in countries such as the Philippines, Indonesia and India. He has been dispatched in JICA Offices in Myanmar and Malaysia, and has held the posts of Director General of the Middle East and Europe Department, Director General of Operations Strategy Department, and Senior Vice President successively, prior to his current position.



JICA has implemented various cooperation projects, especially in the areas of social and economic infrastructure development, disaster resilience and poverty reduction. Dr. Yamada's mission in Nepal therefore is significant in enhancing future cooperation in Nepal for developing pioneering projects aimed to contribute to the economic growth of the country.

## JICA HANDS OVER THE NEWLY CONSTRUCTED SCHOOL BUILDING IN DEVIGHAT, NUWAKOT



Complete view of the reconstructed buildings.

The newly reconstructed buildings of Shree Shahid Jagat Prakash Jung Shah Sanskrit Secondary School was handed over to the school management committee on February 2nd, 2023. The school situated in Bidur-5, Devighat, Nuwakot was damaged during the 2015 Gorkha earthquake. Since then, the school faced difficulties in managing classrooms and education for the students.

The school infrastructures were jointly inaugurated by Mr. Arjun Narsingh KC, Parliament Member and Ms. Tanaka Tomoko, Senior Representative of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Nepal amidst a function held in the school premises today.

Mr. Dilli Ram Luintel Project Director of Central Level Project Implementation Unit (CLPIU), Rajindra Bikram Singh Thakuri, Chief of District Coordination Committee, Mr. Kiran Thapa, Chief District Officer, were also present during the ceremony.

The reconstruction of the school structures is part of the Emergency School Reconstruction Project (ESRP) supported by JICA. The Project is being implemented by CLPIU - Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST).

The school with 518 students is reconstructed with multi-hazard resilient structures which are child, gender and disable friendly to provide improved learning environment for the students based on the concept of Build Back Better (BBB) which increases resilience not only physically but also socially. The 6 new school blocks consist of 17 classrooms equipped with furniture's, 1 laboratory,



Ms. TANAKA Tomoko receiving the certificate of appreciation from school officials

3 early childhood development centers, separate toilet blocks for boys & girls, solar back up, playground, main entrance gate, boundary fences and footpath pavement.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Chief Guest Mr. Arjun Narasingh KC highlighted on the instrumental role of Government of Japan and JICA Nepal for the reconstruction and completion of the school buildings. He also expressed expectations for similar cooperation in the future.

Similarly, Mr. KIKUTA Yutaka, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal's speech was delivered through a video where he congratulated the school for the new buildings and thanked the Government of Nepal and the project team for completing the reconstruction. He further stated that since this school promotes diversity by accepting students from all over Nepal, he hopes to see increase in number of students gradually and that the school facilities are well utilized by all the students. Likewise, he anticipates seeing all the students studying in this school to play a leading role in improving people to people relationship between Nepal and Japan as well as contributing to the development of Nepal.

Ms. TANAKA Tomoko, Senior Representative of JICA Nepal expressed her contentment in handing over such multi-hazard resilient school facilities. She further stated that although the school infrastructure is now complete the real testimony now lies in appropriate utilization of the building, so that the future of all children is secured. She also requested the school management committee, and school team to give special attention to the operation and maintenance issue of the reconstructed schools. Besides this school, JICA have supported the reconstruction of 72 other schools in Nuwakot.

**EMERGENCY SCHOOL RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT (ESRP): TOTAL 274 SCHOOLS ARE BEING BUILT, OUT OF WHICH 273 ARE COMPLETED AND REMAINING 1 IS TARGETED TO BE COMPLETE BY APRIL 2023. THE TOTAL COST FOR THE PROJECT IS JPY 14 BILLION (ABOUT NPR 14 BILLION) TO SUPPORT THE RECONSTRUCTION OF DISASTER RESILIENT SCHOOLS IN GORKHA, DHADING, NUWAKOT, MAKWANPUR, RASUWA AND LALITPUR DISTRICTS, BASED ON THE EARTHQUAKE-RESISTANT TYPE DESIGN GUIDELINES FORMULATED BY JICA UNDER THE PRINCIPLE OF "BUILD BACK BETTER".**

## JICA TO SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR ELEVATING INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS

On 01 December 2022, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a Record of Discussions with the Government of Nepal in Kathmandu for the 'Project on Career Development and Entrepreneurship Support Program for International Migrants', a technical cooperation project.

This project will be implemented for Career Development and Entrepreneurship Support Program of the returnee migrants from Japan aiming at enhancing their information access and developing their capacity so that the industrial development of Nepal can be promoted. The project adopts a demand-driven approach that supports returnee migrants who want

**"WE CANNOT AND SHOULD NOT STOP PEOPLE FROM MIGRATION. WE HAVE TO GIVE THEM A BETTER LIFE AT HOME. MIGRATION IS A PROCESS, NOT A PROBLEM."**

*- William L. Swing, former Director-General of the International Organization for Migration.*

to acquire skills and competencies and further implement their acquired knowledge for establishing a productive business/career in Nepal eventually contributing to the economic development of Nepal. The project intends to fulfill

SDGs Goal 8 "Decent Work & Economic Growth."

The project plans to appoint mentors who continuously provide training to the returnees recipients for enhancing their capacity in career planning and entrepreneurship throughout the migration flow (pre-migration, while-in Japan and after returning).


The total period of the project is 5 years (2023-2027) and the Implementing Agency for the project is Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security (MoLESS), Department of Foreign Employment (DoFE) and Foreign Employment Board (FEB).




### JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY NEPAL OFFICE


Lazimpat, Kathmandu, Nepal

 450, Kathmandu, Nepal

 +977-1-4425636

 +977-1-4425658

 [www.jica.go.jp/nepal/english](http://www.jica.go.jp/nepal/english)

 [www.facebook.com/jicanepal](https://www.facebook.com/jicanepal)