

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT SINCE DECADES!



Officials from Embassy of Japan and JICA Nepal with the staff members of Paropakar Maternity and Women's Hospital in Thapathali.

BACKGROUND

Both public and private sectors provide health care services in Nepal. Nepal has made significant progress on health indicators over the past several decades. The impressive achievement in health indicators was the result of globalization in health including economic development via-a-viz strengthening of primary (mostly peripheral) health care (PHC) system particularly through investments to establish the health care infrastructures and capacity building. Aligning with the globalization of health and the factors affecting global burden of diseases, Nepal echoes the progressive increase in life

expectancy, changes in diseases patterns, including the current impact of COVID-19. At the community level, nearly 50,000 Female Community Health Volunteers are mobilized throughout the country. Significant progress has been achieved by such a vast network of PHC in Nepal, a lot of which are reflected in the sustainable development goal indicators [2]. Nevertheless, some improvements in health care can be witnessed where Nepal has made steady progress in improving the overall health outcomes. Particularly, an impressive progress has been on child survival and maternal health. Simultaneously, Nepal also expanded public health services

to remote areas of the country, increasing people's access to health care services.

Nepal faced a massive burden from coronavirus disease COVID-19. The first case of COVID-19 in Nepal was reported on 24 January 2020. Since then, the number of cases continue to increase which has greatly affected the health care system in Nepal. As of 15 August 2022, there were 993,459 total confirmed cases, 976,083 recovered cases, 11,989 deaths, and 5387 active cases [Source: Ministry of Health and Population]. Providing quality health care during the COVID-19 pandemic has been challenging

² http://dohs.gov.np/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/PHC_Rev_country-Experience.pdf. 2021. Accessed 24 Oct 2021.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT SINCE DECADES! *contd. from page 1*

compared to any other developed countries. In the context of Nepal, factors such as poverty, illiteracy, lack of infrastructure, shortage of health care professionals, attitude towards medical professionals, security concerns of health care professionals, health insurance policies, geographic distribution, culture, governmental policies, and physical barriers also directly affect health care services being provided [10,11]

Some of the key challenges and problems in health sector are - lack of quality health services due to lack of standard medical equipment's and trained health workers especially in remote health facilities. Nevertheless, the Constitution of Nepal guarantees every citizen the right to equality, social justice and freedom from social discrimination. It includes the fundamental right to free basic health services from the state and equal access to health services for all.

JICA'S ASSISTANCE

To address the issues and challenges faced by Government of Nepal in improving the health care facilities in Nepal, JICA has been contributing immensely since decades towards achieving the national goals set periodically such as five year plans, MDGs, SDGs and health sector strategic plans. JICA has had a long history of support both hardware (through Grant Aid) to improve health facilities and medical equipment especially in referral hospitals and software (through Technical Support) to develop human resources about Tuberculosis, school health, and primary health care in the health sector since 1970s. JICA assisted in improving school health, addressing improvement of malnutrition in partnership with the Nepal government.

The aim of JICA's support in the health sector is to improve access to basic health services of school children, disease prevention, and to improve parents and community through school-aged children. JICA's assistance to this program is mainly grass-root cooperation through the dispatch

of Japanese volunteers and by implementing several projects in cooperation with Japanese NGOs and local NGOs.

JICA puts continuous support on quality health services through improvement of medical equipment and health facilities. Presenting below are the significant contribution made by JICA in collaboration with various health organizations:

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL (TUTH), MAHARAJGUNJ



The TUTH hospital was built with Grant Aid from Government of Japan in 1982. Since then, JICA Nepal and TUTH share glorious 40 years of collaboration and today the hospital is considered the number one health service provider with the best facilities and resources in the country. TUTH is a pioneer institution providing best care to needy patients through integrated clinical services, medical and nursing education and research programs. Emergency medical care, rehabilitation and counselling services provided by the hospital during and after disasters such as devastating earthquake of 2015 and current COVID-19 epidemic have been remarkable. Enhancing capacity of the hospital by expanding the dedicated beds including Intensive Care Units (ICUs) and human resources to timely respond to COVID-19 pandemic are some of the achievements made by the hospital in the last few years. JICA and TUTH together in recent times have successfully completed projects under Japanese Grant Aid and Technical Cooperation schemes that focuses

for the improvement of medical equipment with the provision of number of modern medical equipment along with training programs.

KANTI CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, MAHARAJGUNJ

Japanese cooperation to Kanti Children's hospital started from 1973 by dispatching two Volunteers (a midwife and a nurse) through Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV). Nearly 30 volunteers were dispatched at Kanti Children's Hospital. In 1983, basic medical equipment which helped to establish the hospital's first Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) was donated in relation with JOCV activities.

Further, Japanese Grant Aid was provided in 1986 for expansion of some key facilities of the hospital which covered renovation of clinical buildings, wards and medical equipment and also improvement of many areas like Casualty Department, Operation theaters, Central Sterilization System, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit/Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, X-ray department, urgent clinical test room and Pathology department. An oxygen plant was also installed with numbers of physical facilities improvements.

In order to meet increasing demand of patients for a quality service, specialized pediatric training and health care services, Government of Nepal requested Government of Japan for Grant Aid for expansion of the Kanti Children's Hospital in the year 1993.

Kanti Children's Hospital is the only public Children's Hospital in Nepal as referral centre and practical training facilities on pediatrics from teaching hospital.

As result of different Japanese projects, the hospital is able to provide specialized and quality health services to more number of patients until today.

¹⁰ <https://doi.org/10.1017/dmp.2020.172>.

¹¹ <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>. 2021. Accessed 31 Jan 2021.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT SINCE DECADES! *contd. from page 2*

NATIONAL TUBERCULOSIS CENTER AT THIMI, BHAKTAPUR AND REGIONAL TUBERCULOSIS CENTER AT POKHARA

Both the centers were constructed in 1987 under Grant Assistance of the Government of Japan upon request of the Government of Nepal.

Besides, JICA also supported three other Technical Cooperation Projects between 1987 to 2005.

JICA's cooperation intended to strengthen the activities of National Tuberculosis Program through various functions, such as

- Planning of TB Control measures on nationwide scale
- Development and deployment of trained human resource
- Procurement and distribution of equipment and drugs
- Surveillance and guidance in administration
- Implementation of NTP in a systematic way through conduction of regular supervision, monitoring and research on tuberculosis
- Collection and analysis of epidemiological data
- Up gradation of bacteriological laboratory to perform culture and sensitivity testing

- Out-patient Department which also serves as national Referral Clinic
- Provision of Health Education to TB patients and
- Maintain cooperation and coordination with National and International NGOs partners.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES – BIR HOSPITAL, KATHMANDU

The Government of Japan supported project on reconstruction of Bir Hospital. The reconstruction work of Bir hospital that came into operation from July 2019 falls under Japan's Grant Assistance 'Program for Rehabilitation and Recovery from Nepal Earthquake' which also includes the provision of essential medical equipment. The new 3-storey building of Bir Hospital is meant for various functions including ICU, gastrology, nephrology and cardiology departments. The new buildings are equipped with different back-up systems that will allow the hospital to continue its operations without disruption in post-disaster emergencies. Furthermore, compared to the old building, various functionalities have been enhanced, so that a seamless flow of obstetric care can be provided. Through reconstruction of these infrastructures, Japan aims to support the provision of safe and quality health services to the public in Nepal. The project was based

on the concept of "Build Back Better" for creating a resilient society to cope with future disasters.

PAROPAKAR MATERNITY AND WOMEN'S HOSPITAL (PMWH), THAPATHALI

The Government of Japan supported project on reconstruction of PMWH. The Government of Japan supported the reconstruction of the Hospital along with the provision of essential medical equipment. The reconstruction work falls under Japan's Grant Assistance 'Program for Rehabilitation and Recovery from Nepal Earthquake' and stands as a symbol of friendship between Japan and Nepal.

The new structures of PMWH provides effective and efficient services to women, mothers, and babies receiving standard medical facilities combined with quality medical services including diagnosis and treatment, preservice trainings and disaster preparedness, a model that should be adopted by other hospitals as well. The new buildings are equipped with different back-up systems that will allow the hospitals to continue its operations without disruption in post-disaster emergencies. The Paropakar Maternity and Women's Hospital building is used for multiple medical services and educational purposes.

MAHARAJGUNJ NURSING CAMPUS

Maharajgunj Nursing Campus, Institute of Medicine under Tribhuvan University, is a pioneer Nursing Campus in Nepal established in the year 1956 A.D. as a school of nursing under the Directorate of Health Services, Ministry of Health.

JICA extended its support through Grant Aid for building new infrastructures for the Campus in 1984 and completed the construction in 1986. The building includes academic, administrative and hostel blocks.

The campus boasts of producing nursing and midwifery workforce to meet the universal health coverage reaching to sustainable development goals with highest level of academic excellence in Nepal.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT SINCE DECADES! *contd. from page 3*

Besides, JICA's technical cooperation to the Ministry of Education Science and Technology (MoEST), Ministry of Health, and Population (MoHP) for implementation of the School Health and Nutrition Project (2008-2012) contributed to improve health and nutrition status of school-aged children in target districts (Sindhupalchowk and Syangja). This project also helped towards institutionalization of the National School Health and Nutrition Strategy (NSHNS).

DELEGATION VISIT SUMMARY

Recently on July 05, 2022, a delegation of officials from Embassy of Japan and JICA Nepal visited Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital (TUTH), Bir Hospital/National Academy of Medical Sciences (NAMS) and Paropakar Maternity and Women's Hospital (PMWH). The delegation team

was led by Mr. TAMURA Takahiro, Charge d'Affaires ad interim of Japan to Nepal, Embassy of Japan and Mr. OKUBO Akimitsu, Chief Representative of JICA Nepal.

The primary objective of the visit was to observe and monitor the situation, observation of the facilities and utilization of medical equipment provided under Japanese grant aid. Alongside, the team also interacted and discussed various issues regarding cooperation and functionalities of the hospital services with the concerned hospital authorities.

The visit proved beneficial as the team witnessed the actual scenarios of the hospital and how the facilities are managed. As a result, JICA hopes to consider the expansion of its assistance by strengthening

quality health services with qualified health workers in areas where JICA has provided its support.

WAY FORWARD

A new Grant Aid project "Project for the Improvement of Medical Equipment in Advanced Public Hospitals" is currently being implemented in eight advanced hospitals in Nepal. The project aims to strengthen the diagnosis and treatment systems for non-communicable diseases (NCDs) through procurement of medical equipment for all the eight public hospitals, thereby contributing to improvement of the quality of medical services in Nepal.

Besides, JICA has further plans to formulate new cooperation projects in the health sector in the near future.

JICA in History (Between 1988-Present)

IN FOND MEMORY OF ALL THOSE, WE LOST IN THE TRAGIC 1992 THAI AIR CRASH IN KATHMANDU



Surveillance Radar at Bhattedanda (Photo Courtesy: Mr. NAKAMURA Toshitaka/JICA)

Thai Airways International Flight 311 left from Bangkok, Thailand's Don Mueang International Airport to Kathmandu, Nepal's Tribhuvan International Airport on Friday, 31 July 1992. Unfortunately, the flight crashed

on its approach to Kathmandu killing all 99 passengers and 14 crewmembers on board. It has been 30 years since the tragic incident.

JICA Nepal would like to remember all those on board and extend its deepest condolences to the bereaved family members on the 30th anniversary of the fatal crash. JICA lost some of its valuable members too in the accident, until date the loss has been irreparable.

JICA and Japan have been supporting Civil Aviation Authority Nepal (CAAN) for safety and efficient management of air traffic in Nepal since 1988. Realizing the importance of navigation, surveillance and communication system after the fatal crash, the Government of Nepal requested Government of Japan to install the first Radar in Nepal in the year 1996. JICA has also supported by dispatching Experts and Senior Volunteers in various areas to CAAN and supported establishment and

operation of spare parts management center, and capacity development of operation and maintenance of aviation safety equipment.

A new Monopulse Secondary Surveillance Radar at Bhattedanda, installed under Japanese Grant Aid Project, came into operation in January 2018 replacing the old Radar system in TIA, which is enhancing the aviation safety and strengthening the air transport capacity.

Air safety is one of the priority sectors of JICA's cooperation in Nepal. JICA endeavors hopes to further strengthen the aviation services in Nepal. JICA strongly believes that all its cooperation in aviation sector will contribute to improve safety and further strengthen the existing cordial friendship and cooperation between Japan and Nepal.

ROAD SAFETY AWARENESS FOR SCHOOL TEACHERS IN SINDHULI !

The Department of Roads and the JICA Expert Team on the Technical Cooperation Project "Operation and Maintenance of Sindhuli Road Phase 2" organized road safety awareness training sessions at Bhakundebesi on June 3, 2022 and at Sindhulimadi on June 5, 2022. The knowledge dissemination training included knowledge and attitude test to teachers on road behavior through self-administered questionnaire and delivered presentation on road conditions and road safety status of Nepal, introductions on BP highway, road traffic accident problem, the safer use practice and precaution measures to be taken on road and traffic signs and signals.

In the training session at Sindhulimadi on June 5, 2022, the Mayor of Kamalamai Municipality, Sindhuli district, Mr. Upendra

Kumar Pokhrel was the Chief Guest of the seminar. The training was facilitated by various professionals mainly by Mr. SHINKAI Hiroki, Chief Advisor of the Project and Mr. Bindu S. Rana, former project director and JICA Expert Team Coordinator, representatives from the Nepal Traffic Police, and Project Directors and Officials from Roads Board Nepal and Divisional Engineer from Department of Roads.

The total number of participants were more than 50, primarily consisting of representatives and teachers from schools in Bhakundebesi and Sindhuli Bazar of Sindhuli district. The training program was conducted with precautions against COVID-19.

This training program aims to internalize the learnings of the teachers and further

disseminate the message of road safety to the students, parents as well as the public.

The organizers expect that this program will play a positive role in identifying the core issues of road accidents and devising ways in ensuring road safety.



Mr. SHINKAI Hiroki (left), Chief advisor and Mr. Bindu S. Rana (right), former project director and JICA Expert Team member from the Project for the Operation and Maintenance of the Sindhuli Road Phase 2 during their presentation.

HIGH LEVEL DISCUSSION ON CIVIL CODE REFORM



Participants comprising of judges, lawyers, government attorneys, ministry of law, Nepal law commission, legal institutions and officials from JICA during the seminar.

It has been almost 5 years that the new codes on civil and criminal laws were passed by the parliament. Supplementing to the glorious history of Muluki Ain, Muluki Civil Code and Muluki Criminal Code along with Civil and Criminal Procedure Codes and Sentencing and Execution Act has changed the paradigm of Nepalese legal system by addressing various new issues in addition to the current prevailing laws. In its 4 years of implementation, various discussions have been carried out on the daily use of the codes and its further development. Laws are dynamic and it keeps on growing according to the needs of society;

to promote the further development of the National Civil Code and discuss its current shortcomings and way forward ahead, JICA jointly co organized 2 days hybrid seminar titled "High Level Discussion on Civil Code Reform" from 27-18 June 2022 at Ministry of Law Justice and Parliamentary Affairs (MoLJPA).

JICA together with MoLJPA discussed with the stakeholders on current status of implementation of Civil Code and its shortcomings. The hybrid seminar was graced with presence of Hon. Minister, Secretary, all Jt. Secretaries, Under Secretaries and Section Officers of MoLJPA,

Registrar of Supreme Court, Judges from High Court and District Court, Secretary and law officers from Office of Prime Minister and Council of Ministers, President and members from Nepal Bar Association, Secretary and officers of Nepal Law Commission, Professors from Law colleges, Government Attorneys, representatives from National Judicial Academy.

The discussions were carried out on first day by presentation made from MoLJPA highlighting shortcomings of the code in few issues related to family law property and tort provisions. On second day the professors from JICA Advisory Group and UNAFEI presented few issues which needs discussion and which has room for reform. Various issues related to Family Law, Tort Law, Law of contract and Private International Laws were discussed. Comments were collected from all stakeholders who highlighted the current status of implementation of the Civil Code and where the issues and difficulties are in the practice and implementation. The way forward and need for timely reform in the code for effective service delivery to general public was proposed.

JICA SCHOLARSHIP FOR YOUNG GOVERNMENTAL OFFICIALS THROUGH "THE PROJECT FOR HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP (JDS)"

JDS 2023



THE PROJECT FOR HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP BY JAPANESE

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APPLICATION DEADLINE
September 26th, 2022

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Online Promotion Webinars
Fri, August 26th
(With JDS Staff)

Fri, September 2nd
(For MOFA only)

Mon, September 5th
(With Research Plan Expert)

Thu, September 8th
(For Female only)

Sat, September 10th
(With your Family)

Mon, September 12th
(With JDS Staff)

Applicants (Master's Degree Program) should be/have

- Nepali nationals.
- between the ages of 25 and 40 as of April 1st, 2023.
- a Bachelor's degree.
- at least 3 years of work experience in Civil Service at the time of applications.
- gazetted civil servants governed by Civil Service Act of Nepal, currently employed in all ministries, agencies under ministries, constitutional bodies, other institutions and authorities, and courts.
- or civil servants (Level 7 and above) originally recruited by the federal government and deputed/adjusted to 7 provincial and 753 local governments.
- a strong will to work for the development of Nepal after their return home.
- in good health.
- English language proficiency sufficiently fluent for studying in Japan.

Doctoral Course also Available!
Age limit up to 45
Contact JDS Project Office or
visit our website
for more information

Application guidelines & forms
and
Further Information
JDS PROJECT OFFICE
Reges. Ground Floor, Trade Tower, Thapathali, Kathmandu
Phone: 99400 87868 / 99400 77544
Email: jdsproject@jica21.com
Website: https://scholarship.jica21.com/
Facebook: www.facebook.com/nepal.jica21

JICA and the Government of Nepal signed a Grant Agreement on assistance for "The Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS)" for the Fiscal Year 2022 amounting to Japanese Yen 376 million (Equivalent to NPR 350 million) on July 26, 2022.

The Exchange of Notes regarding the assistance was signed between Mr. Madhu Kumar Marasini, Secretary, Ministry of Finance on behalf of the Government of Nepal (GON) and Mr. TAMURA Takahiro, Charge d'Affaires ad interim of Japan to Nepal, Embassy of Japan, Kathmandu on behalf of the Government of Japan (GOJ). Similarly, the Grant Agreement was signed between Mr. Ishwori Prasad Aryal, Joint Secretary, International Economic Cooperation Coordination Division (IECCD), Ministry of Finance on behalf of GON and Ms. TANAKA Tomoko, Senior Representative of JICA Nepal Office on behalf of JICA.

With the signing of G/A, JICA will offer 22 scholarships to the Civil Servants of Nepal to study in graduate schools of renowned Japanese Universities. The selected participants enhance their expertise in respective professional areas ranging widely from judicial, economic policy, industrialization to infrastructure sectors, and develop broad network at the global level.

The objectives of the JDS is to strengthen the government's administrative capacities in Nepal for the young and capable government employees who are expected to engage in formulating and implementing social and economic development plans and thus play leadership roles to contribute to the development of Nepal. This agreement expects to expand and enhance the foundation for bilateral relations between Japan and Nepal by means of accepting students from Nepal in Japanese Universities as overseas students.

Government of Japan has been providing this scholarship since 2016. Until now, 100 civil servants have graduated from Japanese universities and spread across key ministries of Nepal building a strong alumni network. At present, 43 civil servants are undertaking Master's and PhD courses in prestigious Japanese universities.

Ms. TANAKA Tomoko, Senior Representative of JICA Nepal stated that, "We are hopeful all the scholars will contribute to the development process of Nepal and will be the bridge between Nepal and Japan once they come back after completing their education in Japan.

This year, 2022, is the 120th anniversary of International Student Exchange between Nepal and Japan. Nepal is celebrating the 120th anniversary in the year 2022 since the first Nepalese students were dispatched to Japan and Japan marks this anniversary as one of "Japan-South Asia Exchange Year". Commemorating this occasion, JICA Nepal Office would like to encourage prospective candidates to seize the opportunity of enrolling oneself for this scholarship not only to receive high-quality education from the various excellent universities, but also to experience Japanese culture and deepen their understanding on people of Japan."

DELEGATES FROM NEPAL VISIT DIFFERENT UNIVERSITIES IN JAPAN!



(From L to R) Mr. Chandra Shekhar GOIT, Assistant Prof., Graduate School of Science and Engineering, SAITO Masato, Graduate School of Science and Engineering, Dr. Madhav Prasad Sedhain (JDS), Mr. Dilli Raj Lekhak (MOF), Mr. Narayan Prasad Aryal (MOFAGA), Prof. MATSUMOTO Yasunao, Graduate School of Science and Engineering, Mr. Lok Bahadur Thapa (MOFA) at the Saitama University.

A three member delegates comprising of Mr. Lok Bahadur Thapa, Joint Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Narayan Prasad Aryal, Joint Secretary of Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration and Mr.

Dilli Raj Lekhak, Under Secretary of Ministry of Finance visited Japan from June 9th to 18th to monitor and interact with JDS fellows studying in Japan and host universities. They met Professors from Saitama University, Waseda University and Ritsumeikan University; and discussed about the university faculties and performances of JDS fellows.

The visiting delegates also met with the State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. ODAWARA Kiyoshi and officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, JICA Headquarter and Embassy of Nepal in Japan. During the meeting, they discussed about the human resource future needs for the ministries of Nepal and ways to strengthen the effectiveness of JDS project thereby contributing to the bilateral relationship between the two countries through JDS fellowship.

Japan International Cooperation Agency is supporting "The Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS)" to enhance the capacity of young government officials to tackle the development challenges of Nepal since 2016. Currently, JDS offers 20 Masters' (2 years) and 2 Ph.D. (3 years) seats in the prestigious universities of Japan.

JICA NEPAL HANDS OVER EQUIPMENT TO SUPPORT IRRIGATION SYSTEM IN KANKAI, JHAPA



JICA Nepal handed over Mini Back-Hoe, Tractor and Land Leveler to Kankai Irrigation Management Office (KIMO), Jhapa for supporting the irrigated agriculture in Kankai irrigation system during the month of June and July 2022.

This support is part of JICA's technical cooperation project "Project for Promotion

of Irrigated Agriculture in Terai Plains (2019-2025)". The project aims to improve water management and irrigation facilities' maintenance by the collaboration between three tiers of government in Nepal and Water Users Associations, and promote irrigated farming focusing on market-oriented agriculture.

The agreed project would contribute to the stable food supply throughout Nepal and strengthen competitiveness of farming, which extends to the economic growth of Nepal by replication of better-irrigated agriculture model in other potential irrigation system in Nepal.



JICA COMMENCES FIVE YEARS PROJECT ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION THROUGH SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

JICA Nepal and Ministry of Forest and Environment (MOFE) concluded an agreement on the Technical Cooperation Project on Climate Change Adaptation through Sustainable Forest Management in Nepal on 14 June 2022. The Record of Discussion (R/D) was signed between Dr. Pem Narayan Kandel, Secretary, Ministry of Forest and Environment and Mr. OKUBO Akimitsu, Chief Representative, JICA Nepal in their respective offices.

The five years Project intends to strengthen institutional capacities of government entities responsible for accelerating climate change adaptation through sustainable forest management at national and local levels. At the federal level, the project aims to strengthen capacity of Ministry of Forest and Environment (MOFE) to roll out the policy and priorities on climate change adaptation. At the province level Ministry of Forest Environment and Soil Conservation (MOFESC) in Gandaki province is expected to enhance its capacity to

supervise the actions on climate change through sustainable forest management led by both Division Forest Office (DFOs) and Soil and Watershed Management Office (SWMOs) in close coordination with the local government.

The project consists of two major outputs; i) policy implementations on climate change adaptation through sustainable forest management and ii) demonstration on community's forest based adaptation activities.

Although JICA has been supporting in forestry sector of Nepal since 1990s through forestry extension program, community development and forest & watershed management conservation programs, participatory watershed management and local governance programs as such to name a major few, this is the first project to be directly implemented under climate change adaptation practices.

JICA COLLABORATES WITH INVESTMENT BOARD NEPAL FOR THE INSTANT DIGITAL PAYMENT PLATFORM PROJECT



Signing and exchange of the MoU between Mr. Sushil Bhatta , CEO of OIBN and Mr. OKUBO Akimitsu, Chief Representative of JICA Nepal.

JICA Nepal signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Office of the Investment Board of Nepal (OIBN) for the Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) Feasibility Study of Instant Digital Payment Platform Project (IDPPP) on June 23, 2022. The agreement was signed between Mr. Sushil Bhatta , CEO of OIBN and Mr. OKUBO Akimitsu, Chief Representative of JICA Nepal.

This is the first project in Nepal through the Private Sector Investment and Financing

(PSIF) where JICA will be supporting the introduction of fund settlement infrastructure between individuals and banks via the Internet in Nepal. In addition, the payment system will be efficient, open (interoperability among different systems), convenient, affordable and secured.

JICA's support in this sector will be significant as most countries are progressing towards improving financial access with the introduction of digital currencies. In the beginning, JICA will support preliminary survey to investigate the situation/performance of local finance, IT (information technology) and legalities in Nepal

To support the Government's vision, JICA began discussion with OIBN since early 2020. With the

introduction of IDPPP; Nepal can decrease cash circulation whereby the financial institutions can save millions of rupees due to the cross-border payment and printing of the hard currency.

On October 2019, the Government of Nepal devised the Digital Nepal Framework and this project expects to achieve 11 out of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations which would help contribute Nepal's graduation to the middle income country.



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