

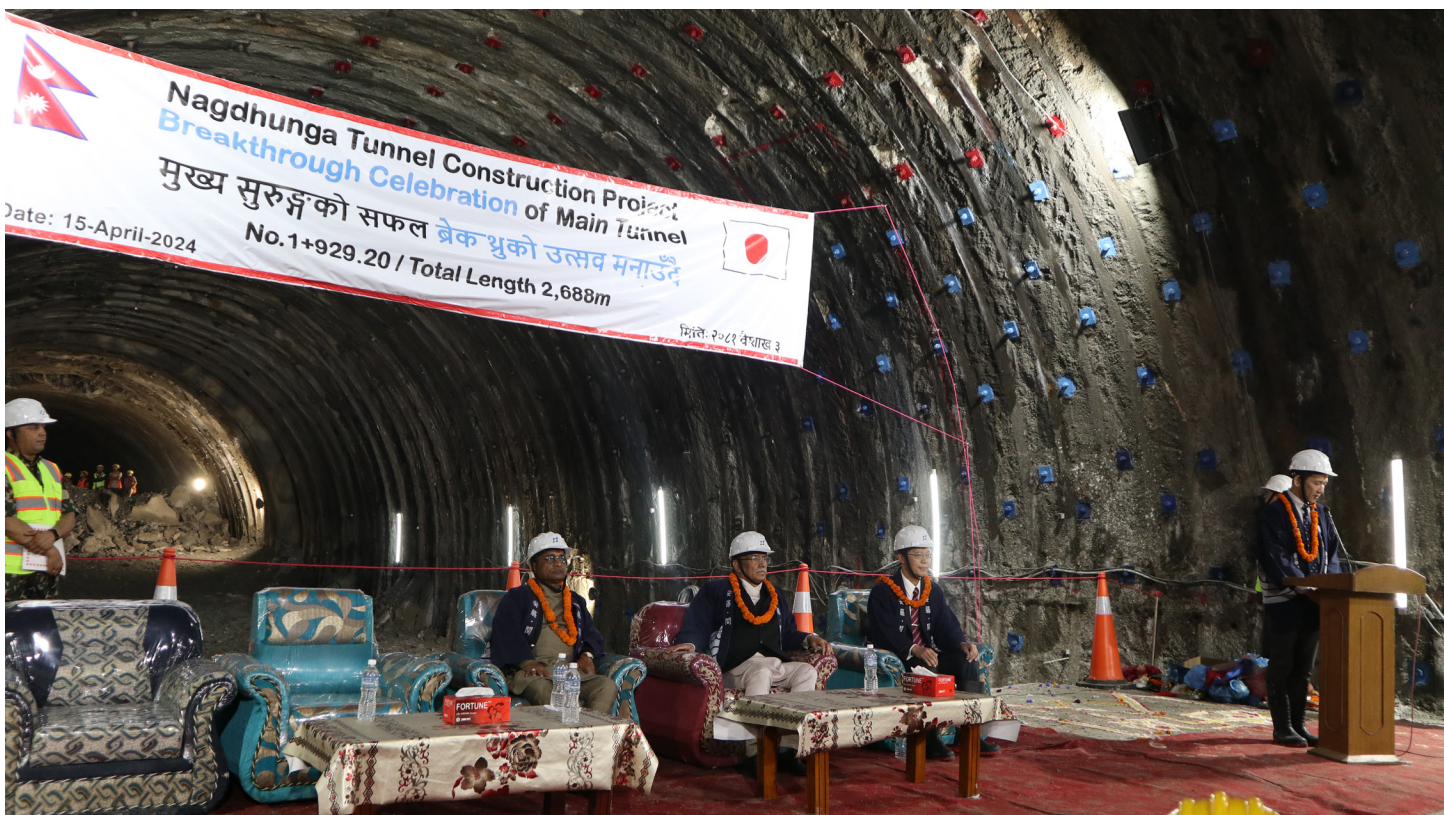
## BREAKTHROUGH OF THE NAGDHUNGA TUNNEL!





'Nagdhunga Tunnel Construction Project', one of milestone projects in Nepal successfully concluded the breakthrough of the main tunnel on 15th April 2024.

Nagdhunga Tunnel will be the country's first modern mountain road tunnel that aims to improve the road condition around Nagdhunga pass, thereby contributing to achieve the smooth transportation network and improve commercial activities between Kathmandu and other principal areas in Nepal. This tunnel, having two lanes with a total length of 2.69 km, is expected to ease the traffic jam along Nagdhunga-Naubise road section once it comes into operation. Likewise, it will also save time and reduce traffic accidents as well as air pollution by easing traffic congestion. After the breakthrough, it will take almost one more year to complete the entire construction and thereafter tunnel operation.







The breakthrough ceremony of the tunnel was carried out in the presence of Rt. Honorable Prime Minister Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', Honorable Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Physical Infrastructure and Transport Mr. Raghuraj Mahaseth, His Excellency Ambassador of Japan to Nepal Mr. KIKUTA Yutaka, Chief Representative of JICA Nepal Mr. OKUBO Akimitsu and officials from

Department of Roads, Embassy of Japan, Consultant team (Nippon Koei), Contractor (Ando Hazama Corporation) and JICA Nepal. Along with its breakthrough, the Nagdhunga tunnel also witnesses a 'breakthrough' in terms of enhancing Nepali efficiency as this is the first time Nepalese manpower has been mobilized in the construction works of a highway tunnel.

The project is exemplary in terms of knowledge transfer for highway tunnel construction. The construction of the tunnel began in November 2019. Nagdhunga Tunnel is being developed with the concessional loan assistance of JICA amounting to Japanese Yen 16.63 billion.



## NEPAL SHELTER FORUM: FROM RECOVERY TO RESILIENCE

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) organized Nepal Shelter Forum 2024 from 7-8 May 2024 with the theme “From Recovery to Resilience: Localizing National Policies and Frameworks for Multi Hazard Resilience”. The two-day-conference is a continuation of the last year’s Nepal Shelter Forum and was organized with the objective of improving collaboration and sharing learnings among stakeholders in the Nepal for multi-hazard resilience.

JICA Nepal Office participated in the Session ‘Integrated Approaches for recovery and reconstruction of Housing and Settlements’ where Mr. Gaurav Panthi shared key approaches like Build Back Better (BBB), mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) with reconstruction, capacity building, community participation, etc., used by JICA for integrated recovery and resilience based on the experience of JICA’s support after the 2015 Gorkha Earthquake. JICA integrated various schemes like Technical Cooperation, Grant Assistance and Concessional Loan to support the recovery and reconstruction. JICA’s contribution was unique in a sense that parallel implementation of recovery and reconstruction projects as well as risk analysis and DRR projects were conducted. Mr. Panthi highlighted Community

Gaurav Panthi,  
Program Officer, JICA Nepal



Mobilization Program of the Emergency Housing reconstruction Project which had integrated participatory approach that resulted in jobs creation at community level.

The session tried to come up with better understanding of integrated approach to recovery and provide important suggestions to NDRRMA for future recovery works.

## SENIOR JICA VOLUNTEERS ARRIVE IN NEPAL

Two Senior Volunteers, Mr. OHASHI Yoichi and Mr. INOUE Masato, arrived in Nepal on Tuesday 23 April 2024.

Mr. OHASHI is assigned in the Fishery Research Station in Begnas, Kaski under Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development where he will work for the improvement and development of fisheries and aquaculture activities.

Meanwhile, Mr. INOUE is an Agro-Marketing expert, and he will join the Nepal Agricultural Co-operative Central Federation Ltd. (NACCFL) in Dhobighat, Lalitpur under Ministry of Land

Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation. He will be coordinating with the member farmers of NACCFL for the promotion and development of agricultural products.

Mr. OHASHI and Mr. INOUE will be in Nepal for two years until April 2026. Their experiences and knowledge will serve as a great asset to the organizations they will join, thus contributing immensely to the respective sectors.

All together, 1,438 JOCVs have contributed to Nepal's development in the last 53 years.



## JICA in History

## IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF PUBLIC SERVICES

### REHABILITATION AND RECOVERY FROM NEPAL EARTHQUAKE (RRNE) GRANT AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION (2015-2019)

The Project on Rehabilitation & Recovery from Nepal Earthquake (RRNE) was launched only two months after the 2015 earthquake and provided multi-dimensional support for Nepal and its people. Three regions; Gorkha, Sindhupalchowk, and the Kathmandu Valley were targeted for re-construction and rehabilitation of infrastructures.

JICA's Quick Impact Projects (QIPs), which were a part of RRNE, played a vital role in the immediate recovery of Gorkha and Sindhupalchowk districts by reconstructing government buildings, bridges, health posts and hospitals. Altogether 22 priority public facilities were built in Gorkha and Sindhupalchowk.

Through JICA's grant assistance, the reconstruction of Bir Hospital and Paropakar Maternity & Women's



People Walking across bridge in Gorkha

Hospital in Kathmandu was completed in the year 2019. Similarly, Ampipal Hospital in Palungtar and five bridges



Paropakar Maternity and Women's hospital in Thapathali, Kathmandu



Palungtar Police Station in Gorkha.

were constructed in Gorkha, and the water supply system for Chautara, Sindhupalchowk was rehabilitated.



## JICA COMMITTED TO TRANSFORMING INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT SECTOR DEVELOPMENT IN NEPAL

"Now is the time to introduce appropriate Mass Transit mode in the valley considering recent population increase and economic growth", expresses Mr. TSUJI Hideo, JICA expert at the Nepal Investment Summit 2024.

Mr. TSUJI, JICA expert team leader for Urban Transport Planning participated in a session for "Transforming Infrastructure and Transport" chaired by Minister of Physical Infrastructure and Transport. The session also included panelists from government, academia, and private sector, discussed the importance of attracting private investment for further transport development and economic growth, mentioning the crucial role of policy framework and its careful

coordination in attracting efficient investment. In this regards, Mr. Tsuji also introduced JICA's new technical cooperation for formulating Urban Transport Masterplan of Kathmandu Valley.

The third edition of the two days Nepal Investment Summit 2024 began on



Mr. TSUJI receiving token of appreciation from Mr. Raghubir Mahaseth, Minister of Physical Infrastructure and Transport.

Sunday 28 April 2024 with an aspiration of attracting investment in the high potential areas of the country.

According to the Investment Board Nepal (IBN), the Summit witnessed over 1600 prospective foreign investors from more than 55 countries.



Mr. TSUJI Hideo as one of the panelists during the session.

## JICA'S SUPPORT FOR IMPROVING BASIC SCHOOL EDUCATION



On 20th Mar 2024, the Record of Discussions (R/D) for a new technical cooperation project (TCP), "The Project for the Improvement of Basic School Education" was signed between Mr. Ima Narayan Shrestha, Joint Secretary of Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, and Mr. OKUBO Akimitsu, Chief Representative of JICA Nepal office.

Based on the R/D, the Project will commence from June 2024 for its 5 years' duration.

This new TCP will work to strengthen Early Grade Math Curriculum implementation through Teacher Professional Development activities so that learning outcomes of students at basic level are improved.

Prior to this project, JICA's "Project for Improving Math Education in Nepal" (IMEN), implemented between November 2018 to January 2024, developed students' math workbooks and teachers' guides for early grade from 1 to 3 and strengthened the educational support system at 4 local governments. Through the teacher training, activation of school activities and capacity building of local governments, students' academic skills of math at the pilot schools have shown significant improvement compared with those at non-pilot schools.

To scale up the impact from the previous project, the new project will be implemented in 7 provinces, specially focusing on 7 districts, namely Sankhuwasabha (Koshi), Saptari (Madhesh), Dhading (Bagmati), Syangja (Gandaki), Kapilvastu (Lumbini), Dailekh (Karnali), and Kanchanpur (Sudhupachim). Blended modes of face to face and virtual mode of trainings will be devised to reach more teachers to facilitate foundational proficiency in math for students.

## MEMORABLE VISIT TO JAPAN

*Mr. Sandesh Shrestha,*  
Joint Government Attorney, District Government Attorney Office,  
Kathmandu



My name is Sandesh Shrestha and am currently working as a Joint Attorney of Nepal Government under the Office of Attorney General. I have been involved in the criminal justice system of Nepal from the last 14 years.

I got an opportunity to participate in the program entitled Criminal Justice Response to Vulnerable Groups (e.g., Reoffenders, Female and Child Victims) Towards Inclusive Society jointly in March 2023 for 2 weeks along with my colleague Ms. Bina Dahal. The program was organized by JICA and United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI). There were 17 participants from 11 countries. The training program was mainly comprised of presentations, lectures, discussion, observation, visits, and exercises. Each participant made a presentation which was very much informative, where everyone got an opportunity to know about different legal system and the practice on the related topics.

'Rehabilitation and Social Reintegration of Offenders with Substance Use Disorders in Nepal; Problems and Prospects' was my presentation where I shared experiences, problems and prospects on the rehabilitation and reintegration of the offenders with substance use disorders. Lectures delivered from professors of UNAFEI, and other experts were very informative and clear which enhanced our knowledge in the given area. We also got an opportunity to visit the Community Centre, Ministry of justice and one of the Prison situated in Tokyo which deepened our understanding on the community-based treatment, parole, probation, rehabilitation for offenders with substance use disorders. The discussed course was very relevant in our context. Most importantly I was impressed with the involvement of community and local level government for the reintegration and rehabilitation of the drugs users. I am now convinced that it is not only

the responsibility of the government but also the involvement of community is necessary to combat the fight against drugs use. The knowledge and experiences gained by the program will be very useful for our institution.

After returning to Nepal, I discussed and shared my experience with our other seniors and colleagues so that good ideas and practices we learned could be appropriately implemented here as well. As we are in the phase of implementing our new law specifically on rehabilitation, parole, and probation we need continuous discussion, experiences sharing and support from JICA and UNAFEI.

Recently the Government of Nepal has also issued the parole and probation policy and we have started its implementation.

To conclude my thoughts, my first visit to Japan was very memorable in many aspects. The discipline and punctuality of the Japanese people is praiseworthy. The hospitality they offered was brilliant, and the beauty of Japan was mesmerizing. On this note, I would like to thank JICA for this wonderful experience.





## STUDY TOUR FOR KAMIINA AGRICULTURE HIGH SCHOOL FROM NAGANO PREFECTURE, JAPAN

JICA Nepal Office warmly welcomed participants/officials of the study tour from Kamiina Agriculture High School and Nagano Prefecture on Mar 12, 2024. They visited Nepal in collaboration with Shinshu University's JICA Partnership Program

(JPP) and Nagano Prefecture's glocal (global + local) education scheme. During their tour, they learnt about JICA schemes including Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) program. Likewise, they visited Pokhara to meet

students from the three target schools of JPP in Mustang, Chitwan and Kavre and exchanged information on their research projects. In Pokhara, they also had an opportunity to observe various Nepalese cultural programs.



Briefing session for participants in JICA Nepal Office



Students from Nepal interacting with the participants from Kamiina Agriculture High School



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