

"TOGETHER IN RESILIENCE, JICA'S COMMITMENT TO NEPAL'S FUTURE" MARKING 10 YEARS SINCE THE 2015 EARTHQUAKE



Rt. Honorable Prime Minister of Nepal Mr. Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli and Mr. Shohei Hara, JICA's Senior Vice President meeting at the Gorkha Earthquake 10th Anniversary Commemoration event organized by the Government of Nepal at the Dharahara in Kathmandu.

25th April 2025 marked 10 years since the devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal. On this solemn anniversary, JICA extends its deepest condolences to all who lost loved ones and stands in solidarity with those who were affected. Commemorating the event, JICA would also like to recall its associations with the Government of Nepal (GoN) and Nepali people throughout the reconstruction journey.

Immediately after the earthquake, the Government of Japan and JICA provided emergency relief to affected people. After that, JICA provided assistance to Government of Nepal for recovery and reconstruction based on the principle of Build Back Better (BBB).

Over the past decade, JICA has proudly partnered with the GoN and its people in the spirit of Build Back Better—supporting recovery, reconstruction, and resilience across housing, schools, cultural heritage, infrastructure, livelihoods, and disaster preparedness.

Geographically, JICA's assistance focused on the Kathmandu Valley as well as the two severely affected districts – Gorkha and Sindhupalchowk. JICA's assistance for earthquake recovery has been successfully completed. Now JICA has gradually shifted its focus from recovery and reconstruction works to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) with the learnings from the rehabilitation works as well as the result of risk assessment.

As we reflect on this journey, Mr. Shohei Hara, JICA's Senior Vice President, who was in Kathmandu to attend commemorative events organized by National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) and Lalitpur Metropolitan City (LMC) shared that, "Kathmandu suffered extensive damages due to the earthquake as I saw in the photos and videos. Ten years on from the Gorkha earthquake, the city and people's lives have changed significantly, and I can see the progress now. However, we must not forget the importance of always being prepared."



School Children visiting the JICA booth at the Gorkha Earthquake 10th Anniversary Commemoration event organized by Lalitpur Metropolitan City at Patan Durbar Square.

JICA believes that disaster risk can be reduced through Pre-disaster Investment and the concept of Build Back Better. Strengthening overall DRR governance and increasing investment in DRR is the way forward for the development of

resilient Nepal. With the completion of the reconstruction phase, JICA's focus now shifts to long-term capacity building and disaster risk reduction—investing in a safer, stronger future for Nepal.



Mr. Shohei Hara, JICA's Senior Vice President delivering his remarks at the Gorkha Earthquake 10th Anniversary Commemoration event organized by Lalitpur Metropolitan City at Patan Durbar Square.

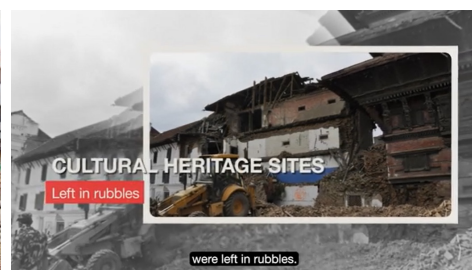
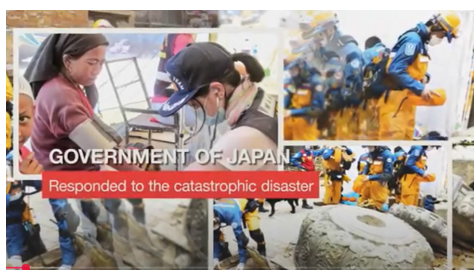


Rt. Honorable Prime Minister of Nepal Mr. Khadga Sharma Prasad Oli's visit to the JICA booth at the Gorkha Earthquake 10th Anniversary Commemoration event organized by the Government of Nepal at the Dharahara in Kathmandu.

JICA Video

This video showcases the various efforts and achievements that have taken place in the last ten years since earthquake, highlighting Government of Japan and JICA's efforts.

Rebuilding Resilient Nepal - YouTube



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NfOwSKnc>

“SONAE AREBA UREI NASHI-Better safe than sorry Preparing to protect lives from future disasters

On 25 April 2015, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal's Gorkha district, causing widespread devastation. Ten years have passed since this tragic event, which claimed many lives and destroyed countless homes. JICA extends its deepest condolences to all those affected by the disaster. We also express our deep respect for the efforts of the people of Nepal, who have worked tirelessly to rebuild despite the difficult circumstances.



Shohei Hara,
Senior Vice President, Japan
International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

SONAE AREBA UREI NASHI -Better safe than sorry

There is a phrase often used in Japan when pondering upon disaster prevention. It means that if you are always prepared for something adverse to happen, you do not need to worry when it actually does. This includes living in earthquake-resistant buildings, discussing evacuation procedures with your family, and preparing necessary items for emergencies in advance. In Japan, people are always prepared for disasters that might strike any time. Japan has also experienced numerous major earthquakes. I myself experienced the intense shaking in Tokyo during the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake in 2011 and was particularly shocked by the extent of the damage caused by the tsunami in the Tohoku region. At that time, JICA mobilized its various resources to provide assistance to the affected areas. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude once again for the support we received from the Nepali community in Japan and the people of Nepal during the reconstruction efforts following the earthquake. Each time, we have learnt lessons from disasters and passed them down the future generations. In order to

be “prepared” for the next disaster, Japan has introduced strengthened disaster-resilience infrastructure such as schools, hospitals and residential buildings, to promote disaster risk prevention and reduction.

Build Back Better and JICA's support

Immediately after the Gorkha earthquake, JICA has been providing seamless support for recovery and reconstruction to the people in Nepal based on the concept of “Build Back Better” to prepare for future disaster. JICA provided the Japanese ODA Loans for the reconstruction of earthquake-resistant houses and educational facilities for people affected by the earthquake through the Emergency School Reconstruction Project (ESRP) and the Emergency Housing Reconstruction Project (EHRP). While these projects intended to rebuild stronger and more earthquake-resistant buildings, they also focused on bringing smiles again to the people who live and study there. Under the ESRP, 274 schools were rebuilt using design and structural guidelines developed using Japan's experience. At the same time, clean toilets and hand-washing facilities were installed, and chemistry labs and computer rooms were newly constructed to provide new educational opportunities for children.

The EHRP provided technical and financial assistance to the Government of Nepal to rebuild 80,000 earthquake-damaged houses to earthquake-resistant standards. Another milestone support of JICA was in reconstruction of major hospitals such as Paropakar Maternity and Women's Hospital, and Bir Hospital as well as bridges

and water supply facilities under grant assistance of Japanese ODA. In addition to the above-mentioned financial support, the Nepal Earthquake Recovery and econstruction Project has provided technical assistance to rebuild the lives of victims through livelihood training programs such as vegetable cultivation, production of quality seeds, and goat breeding.



Children playing in their newly reconstructed school in Gorkha.

JICA together with the Government of Nepal is currently working to promote the earthquake-resistant building standards. No matter where you live or who you are, everyone wishes to protect their family. Buildings or house meeting the earthquake resistance standards provides confidence and promise for the future that “this house will protect you and your family”. JICA's technical cooperation, the Project for Promotion of Nepal National Building Code Compliance for Safer Building Construction, is revising the Earthquake Resistance Standard (NBC105) by reviewing building construction procedures and providing training to engineers for better management of design and construction of the buildings. These efforts are all part of the Build Back Better initiative, which helps to strengthen the capacity to prepare for disasters at multiple

levels - institutional, building and community - and thereby improving the resilience of Nepalese society.

Preparing to protect lives from future disasters

I am delighted to be visiting Nepal this year, on the 10th anniversary of the Gorkha earthquake, and to meet all those who have worked so hard for recovery and reconstruction. Immediately after the earthquake, Kathmandu also suffered extensive damage. I saw photos and videos of the destruction of temples in Durbar Square, the world heritage sites. Ten years on from the Gorkha earthquake, the city and people's lives have changed significantly, and I could see significant progress. However, we must not forget the importance of always being prepared. It is estimated that spending one dollar for disaster preparedness before a disaster strike can reduce the cost of recovery and reconstruction by approximately \$15 (UNDRR, The Human Cost of Disasters 2000-2019). Therefore, disaster preparedness is not a cost, but an important investment in protecting lives from future disasters.

Nepal is a region that suffers not only from earthquakes but also landslides and floods. Japan also frequently experiences disasters. From the past experience, Japan has accumulated knowledge and developed technology to prepare for future risk. JICA will continue to share our experience and knowledge and support institutional, regional and infrastructure-level disaster preparedness capabilities, and work together to build a disaster resilient society in Nepal. JICA will continue to accompany Nepal in this journey,

IMPROVEMENT OF TRAUMA AND EMERGENCY CENTER IN DHULIKHEL HOSPITAL, SET TO TRANSFORM EMERGENCY HEALTH CARE IN NEPAL



The Government of Japan and the Government of Nepal are advancing their partnership in healthcare development with the improvement of Trauma and Emergency Center in Dhulikhel Hospital, Kavrepalanchowk.

On May 16, 2025, JICA further pledged an additional 573 million yen in grant aid to the "Project for the Improvement of Dhulikhel Hospital Trauma and Emergency Center". This project is being implemented under a bilateral agreement signed in October 2023, through which the Government of Japan extended grant assistance of up to 3.296 billion Japanese yen. After the additional grant the total contribution is now over 3.869 billion yen (approximately NPR 3.5 billion).

The Exchange of Notes was signed for the additional amount by Finance Secretary Mr. Ghanashyam Upadhaya and Japanese Ambassador H.E. Mr. MAEDA Toru and the Amendment to the Grant Agreement for the project signed by Mr. Dhani Ram Sharma, Joint Secretary, IECCD, Ministry of Finance and Mr. MATSUZAKI Mizuki, Chief Representative of JICA Nepal, witnessed by Honorable. Deputy Prime Minister & Finance

Minister Mr. Bishnu Poudel and Honorable Ms. IKUINA Akiko Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, Japan.

Simultaneously, the foundation stone laying ceremony of the project was held on May 28, 2025 in Dhulikhel Municipality, Kavre.

The foundation stone was officially laid by the Right Honorable Prime Minister Mr. K.P. Sharma Oli, who attended the event as Chief Guest. Also present were Minister for Health and Population Hon. Mr. Pradip Paudel, Health Secretary Dr. Bikash Devkota, Mayor of Dhulikhel Municipality Mr. Ashok Kumar Byanju, Deputy Chief of Missions and Charge d' Affair a.i. of the Embassy of Japan, Kathmandu Mr. TAMURA Takahiro, Executive Director of Dhulikhel Hospital Dr. Ram Kantha Makaju Shrestha, Chief Representative of JICA Nepal Mr. MATSUZAKI Mizuki, and other senior officials.

In his address, Prime Minister Oli expressed heartfelt appreciation to the Government of Japan and JICA for their generous and continued support. He emphasized that the new center will significantly enhance emergency and

trauma care services at Dhulikhel Hospital, contributing to improved healthcare delivery and broader social development in Nepal.

Nepal faces a growing demand for emergency medical services due to a rise in road traffic accidents and other injuries—which nearly doubled nationwide between 2016 and 2021—as well as an increase in non-communicable diseases such as stroke and heart conditions linked to changing lifestyles. Currently, Dhulikhel



Rt. Honorable Prime Minister Mr. Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli presenting Token of appreciation to Mr. MATSUZAKI Mizuki, Chief Representative of JICA Nepal.

Hospital, one of Nepal's leading tertiary care centers at sub-national level, lacks sufficient infrastructure and equipment to manage the growing caseload.



The new Trauma and Emergency Center will address these challenges by constructing:

- Emergency rooms
- Operating theaters
- Intensive Care Units (ICU)
- Outpatient consultation rooms and so on.
- Procuring and installing advanced medical equipment, including MRI, CT scan, C-arm, X-ray machines, and sterilizers.

This comprehensive upgrade will enable the hospital to respond more effectively to trauma cases and critical emergencies.

JICA Nepal's Chief Representative, Mr. MATSUZAKI Mizuki, reaffirmed JICA's commitment to supporting Nepal in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being). He highlighted Japan's role as a longstanding and reliable development partner to Nepal, dedicated to strengthening bilateral ties and improving the lives of Nepali citizens through enhanced healthcare systems.

Brief News

SPECIAL LECTURE ON HIGHER EDUCATION BY JICA AND TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY



JICA Nepal in collaboration with the Faculty of Education, Tribhuvan University (TU) organised a special lecture program by Dr. KAYASHIMA Nobuko, JICA Senior Research Advisor, on June 2, 2025.

This event proved to be a unique opportunity to delve into Japan's experiences in higher education and explore future collaborations between Nepal and Japan.

Dr. KAYASHIMA shared her invaluable insights, focusing on best practices, challenges, and opportunities in higher education. This talk program was designed to foster an exchange of ideas

and knowledge, contributing to the strengthening of educational ties between the two nations.

The event hosted approximately 50 esteemed guests, including former Vice Chancellors of TU and Nepal Open University, Dean of the Faculty of Education, Campus Chiefs and faculty members from TU, alongside Chief Representative, JICA Education Experts and officials from JICA Nepal Office. This diverse group of participants ensured rich and engaging discussion.

The event ensured meaningful dialogue that could help shape the future of higher education in Nepal and beyond.

JICA's commitment to education in Nepal is unwavering, from enhancing classroom quality to launching the Project for the Improvement of Basic School Education (IBSE) as well as reconstruction of schools that were damaged by the 2023 earthquake in Western Nepal through the Emergency School Reconstruction Project. JICA is dedicated to supporting the Government of Nepal, local governments, and schools in improving learning outcomes and enhancing school environment. Moreover, JICA focuses to transfer knowledge and explore future partnerships across the sector.



JPP'S MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH INITIATIVE IN POKHARA TO CONCLUDE IN 2025



The Project for the Continuum of Care for Maternal and Child Health in Pokhara, under the JICA Partnership Program (JPP) concluded in June 2025. Initiated in 2015, Citizen's Association for Nepal Exchange (CIANE) based in Komagane Municipality, Nagano Prefecture, Japan, has been working to advance maternal and child healthcare services at Miterishishu Hospital as its project base, locally known as Komagane Hospital or Miteri Hospital, in Pokhara through its three phases. Since 2001, Komagane Municipality and Pokhara Metropolitan City have been maintaining a sister city relationship. Prior to the launch of JPP in 2015, CIANE had already supported Pokhara's maternal and child healthcare sector by assisting ambulances and medical equipment.

On May 21, 2025, the project closing ceremony of the JPP was held in Pokhara, attended by the Provincial Health Minister, former Mayor of Pokhara, executives from CIANE, its counterpart organization, Pokhara-Komagane Citizen's Association for Friendship (PKCAF), JICA representatives, and project stakeholders. During the ceremony, project staff gave presentations on the activities and achievements of the project. Additionally,



executives from the CIANE gifted knitted hats and other items made by Komagane citizens to the Miteri Hospital.

Here is brief history of the JPP.

Phase I Maternal and Child Health Project for Safe and Secure Delivery (March 2015 - March 2017)

The first phase focused on raising awareness about the importance of antenatal and postnatal care, improving patient-centered care and training for healthcare workers to reduce maternal and infant mortality rates. This phase conducted capacity building for many FCHV (Female Community Health Volunteer).

Phase II Sustainable Maternal and Child Health Project in the Northern Area of Pokhara (June 2017 - May 2021)

The second phase expanded the project's reach to the northern areas of Pokhara, emphasizing sustainability and community engagement to maintain healthcare improvements long-term.

Phase III Project for Continuum of Care for Maternal and Child Health in Pokhara (January 2023 - June 2025)

The third phase introduced "Maternal and Child Health Handbook" as an innovative approach to support the Nepal government's strategy to improve continuum of care in maternal and child health. These handbooks, distributed

to pregnant women, attending regular health checkup at Miteri Hospital, have improved healthcare visit rates and increased awareness of bodily changes during pregnancy and fetal development. This initiative has also contributed to broader public awareness campaigns and improved the quality of care provided by healthcare professionals.

During the JPP, maternal breast care for supporting effective breastfeeding was introduced by CIANE. Japanese expert trained nurses to learn breast massage in the Miteri Hospital. Finally, the hospital has launched a dedicated breast care and counseling unit (BCCU), and breast care training implemented through the project has become an official training program under the Gandaki Province Health Department.

Previously overlooked, breast care is now recognized for its vital role in promoting postpartum breastfeeding support.



As the project concluded, it leaves a lasting impact on Pokhara's healthcare landscape. The collaboration between Komagane citizens and Pokhara citizens has not only strengthened international ties but also brought significant improvements to maternal and child health services in the region. This initiative serves as a model for future international cooperation projects aimed at enhancing healthcare services globally.

STRENGTHENING LEGAL FOUNDATIONS: JICA SUPPORTS CIVIL CODE IMPLEMENTATION IN NEPAL

On April 16, 2025, a Record of Discussion was officially signed for JICA's new Technical Cooperation project: "Project for Enhancing Implementation of the National Civil Code."

Led by the National Judicial Academy (NJA), in collaboration with the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs and JICA, this 3-year project aims to help legal professionals across Nepal fully understand and apply the National Civil Code — a vital tool for protecting private rights in society.

This partnership builds on last year's successful development of Civil Code resource materials on family law. Now, efforts expand to cover the full Code, with support from Japanese legal experts adding an international perspective.



By improving legal understanding and implementation, this initiative boosts confidence among Nepali citizens.

JICA is honored to stand with Nepal in building a stronger, more accessible legal system for all.

Background:

The National Civil Code was drafted by Task Force formed by the government with JICA's technical support, and it was enacted by the parliament in 2017. Enforcement of the new Civil Code and

other 4 codes since 2018 not only amends the current Nepali National law & Muluki Ain which was established in 1853 to adjust to the change of the times, but also introduces new legal concepts and systems in accordance with international context.

JICA established the Advisory Group in 2009, comprised of jurists, to support in the drafting process of the Civil Code. Likewise, this Advisory Group also worked together with NJA to elaborate the resource material.

The New Civil Code provides regulations that are closely related to people's daily lives and economic activities as it includes family law, property law, law relating to persons and provisions relating to contracts.

JICA in History

PROJECT FOR STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF COURT FOR EXPEDITIOUS AND RELIABLE DISPUTE SETTLEMENT (SCC PROJECT) - 2013 TO 2018



Mediation Centre , Dang

The SCC Project was implemented between 2013 -2018 with the Supreme Court to enhance the capacity of case management and mediation in courts and improve the courts' function for better access to justice. The project's objective was to establish the foundation to improve the court's function for promoting expeditious and reliable dispute settlement. The project aimed at enhancing the Case Management and Court Referred Mediation in Nepal.

Supreme Court, with the support of SCC project produced the Case Management Guideline and disseminated all over in 77 district courts. The drafting of

Case Management Guidelines proved instrumental for strengthening the judicial system in Nepal. The Guideline covers the entire trial procedure in district courts, from registering a case to disposing of it. There are not only laws, but also rules, relevant precedents, and even clues and principles in the Guideline. Each phase of the procedure is explained in detail; so that it helps officials in district courts smoothly process a case, settle timely and ensure access to justice to the public. The Guideline helps to understand the court procedure especially for Judges, court officials and lawyers.



Mediation Centre , Dhulikhel



Court Room

The project also constructed mediation centers in the model district courts in Kavrepalanchowk, Dhanusha and Dang to promote the court referred mediation. As these mediation centers were effective in the court's overall performance, Supreme Court has adopted mediation center in their new infrastructure construction. Besides strengthening the court-referred mediation, JICA also supported community mediation.

JICA's continuous support to Supreme Court has helped establish harmonious society in Nepal by ensuring access to justice for all public.

BRIDGING CULTURES, BUILDING FUTURES: WELCOMING JICA VOLUNTEERS TO NEPAL (APRIL 2025 BATCH)

On 16 April 2025 JICA Nepal welcomed 8 new JICA volunteers to Nepal.

With fresh energy and diverse expertise, these dedicated individuals are ready to make a meaningful impact across communities throughout the country.

Their arrival marks the beginning of exciting, innovative projects focused on sustainable development and enriching everyday lives. After completing their local language training in Kathmandu, the volunteers will

be dispatched to their respective host organizations, where they'll begin their journey alongside Nepali counterparts.

We not only wish for their safety and good health, but also hope their time in Nepal fosters deep mutual understanding and strong friendships at the grassroots level.

Over the past 55 years, 1,457 volunteers have contributed to Nepal's development—and the journey continues!



JICA Volunteers upon their arrival at the Tribhuvan International Airport in Nepal.

STRENGTHENING ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE: KICK-OFF FOR NEW TECHNICAL COOPERATION ON LANDSLIDE COUNTERMEASURES

The first Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) meeting for the "Project for Capacity Building for Countermeasures against Disaster and Landslide on Major Highways (CAD&LMH)" was held on March 12, 2025, at the Department of Roads (DOR).

The meeting was chaired by the Director General of DOR and attended by approximately 35 participants from the Government of Nepal, JICA Expert Team and JICA.

The meeting commenced with an overview of the project's background and implementation structure, highlighting the roles and responsibilities of the JCC, presented by DOR. This was followed by a presentation from Mr. Robinson Shrestha, Team Leader of the JICA Expert Team from CTI Engineering International Co., Ltd. His presentation detailed the project's key outputs, implementation policies for planned activities, and progress made to date. It also outlined the project's main goal: "To improve road traffic safety and connectivity through appropriate landslide countermeasures."

Over the course of three years, the project aims to contribute to the long-term goal of creating safer and more resilient road infrastructure. It will also play a significant role in reducing fatalities caused by landslides and fostering further economic growth in Nepal.



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