

JICA PRESIDENT DR. TANAKA AKIHIKO VISITS NEPAL, REINFORCING A STRONG PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Dr. TANAKA Akihiko, President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), visited Nepal from 26 to 29 July 2026, reaffirming Japan's continued commitment to supporting Nepal's development aspirations and strengthening the longstanding partnership between the two countries.

Notably, Dr. Tanaka's previous visit to Nepal took place in 2015, shortly after the devastating Gorkha Earthquake, when Japan stood alongside Nepal in its recovery and reconstruction efforts. His return more than a decade later provided an opportunity to witness Nepal's remarkable progress in rebuilding and advancing its development agenda.

The visit by Dr. Tanaka took place at a pivotal moment in Nepal's development trajectory. Focusing on infrastructure development, economic transformation, and improved public welfare, Nepal is entering a critical phase in the pursuit of sustainable and inclusive growth.

Against this backdrop, Dr. Tanaka's visit underscores the enduring partnership between Nepal and Japan and highlights JICA's important role in supporting Nepal's



Dr. Tanaka shared his remarks during the Inaugural ceremony of Nagdhunga Tunnel on 27 July 2026.

development priorities. The visit provided an opportunity to further strengthen bilateral cooperation and identify new areas of collaboration that can contribute to the country's long-term prosperity, resilience, and social progress.

Dr. Tanaka's visit holds particular significance as 2026 marks the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Nepal and Japan. Built on decades of mutual trust, friendship, and cooperation,

the partnership has delivered transformative results across various sectors. His visit not only celebrated these achievements but also underscored a shared commitment to deepening cooperation and building a more resilient, prosperous, and sustainable future for both nations.

During his visit, Dr. Tanaka held meetings with Hon. Dr. Swamim Wagle, Minister of Finance, Hon. Mr. Biraj Bhakta Shrestha, Minister for Energy, Water Resources and

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Irrigation and Hon. Mr. Sunil Lamsal, Minister for Infrastructure Development. The discussions focused on strengthening cooperation in key development sectors, reviewing ongoing initiatives, and exploring new opportunities for future collaboration aligned with Nepal's national priorities.

Dr. Tanaka also attended the signing ceremony of the Grant Agreement for the Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) at the Ministry of Finance. The agreement reaffirmed the shared commitment of the Governments of Nepal and Japan to enhancing the capacity of Nepal's civil service through advanced education, leadership development, and professional training.

A major highlight of the visit was his participation in the inauguration ceremony of the Nagdhunga Tunnel Construction Project on 27 July 2026. As Nepal's first road tunnel, the project represents a historic milestone in the country's infrastructure development. The tunnel is expected to significantly improve connectivity between the Kathmandu Valley, Pokhara, western Nepal, and the Indian border, contributing to safer, faster, and more efficient transportation while supporting economic growth and regional integration.

Dr. Tanaka also visited Patan Secondary School, which was reconstructed under JICA's Emergency School Reconstruction Project following the destruction caused by the 2015 Gorkha Earthquake. During the visit, he interacted with students and teachers, observed the activities of Japanese Overseas Cooperation Volunteers serving at the school, and toured the newly rebuilt

facilities. The visit highlighted the lasting impact of Nepal-Japan cooperation in the education sector and its contribution to creating a safer and more conducive learning environment for future generations.

Dr. Tanaka toured the JICA-supported civil aviation safety facilities at Tribhuvan International Airport and observed the proposed site for the new Air Traffic Control Tower. On the occasion, the Director General of the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN), Mr. Mukesh Dangol, highly appreciated JICA's support for the installation of radar systems at TIA and Bhattedanda as well as its efforts in building the capacity of CAAN and TIA staff, describing it as vital and transformative cooperation for the development of Nepal's aviation sector.

Reflecting on Nepal's development journey, Dr. Tanaka expressed his admiration for the country's progress and resilience. He noted that it was inspiring to witness Nepal moving forward with confidence while investing in infrastructure and human capital that support long-term growth and sustainable development. He further reaffirmed JICA's commitment to supporting Nepal's development priorities and conveyed his best wishes for the continued prosperity of the Nepalese people.

As a longstanding and trusted development partner, JICA has played a significant role in Nepal's infrastructure, education, health, and disaster resilience sectors. Dr. Tanaka's visit therefore symbolizes not only the achievements of past cooperation but also a shared commitment to building a stronger and more prosperous future for both nations.



JICA President Dr. TANAKA Akihiko and Hon. Finance Minister, Dr. Swarnim Wagle with officials from Ministry of Finance, Embassy of Japan and JICA held a discussion on Tuesday 28 July 2026.



President Tanaka being greeted by students and teachers of Patan Secondary School upon his visit.

NAGDHUNGA TUNNEL PROJECT MARKS COMPLETION, USHERING IN A NEW ERA OF TRANSPORT CONNECTIVITY IN NEPAL



The commemorative plaque unveiled during the Inauguration ceremony.

The Nagdhunga Tunnel Project, Nepal's first road tunnel project, celebrated its official inauguration on 27 July 2026 with a commemorative ceremony attended by distinguished representatives from the Government of Nepal, the Government of Japan and JICA.

During the ceremony, the ribbon cutting was jointly carried out by the Honorable Minister Mr. Sunil Lamsal, H.E. Mr. MAEDA Toru, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal and Dr. TANAKA Akihiko, President of JICA, marking a significant milestone in Nepal's infrastructure development journey.

The 2.68-kilometer Nagdhunga Tunnel is set to transform travel along one of Nepal's busiest transportation corridors, significantly improving connectivity between Kathmandu Valley and other key regions of the country.

Developed with the support of a Japanese ODA Loan provided through JICA amounting to approximately 22,336 billion Japanese Yen, the project commenced construction in November 2019. As Nepal's first highway tunnel, the project represents a landmark achievement in modern infrastructure development and engineering innovation.

The tunnel is expected to reduce travel time across the Nagdhunga section to less than one-third of the current duration, making transportation faster, safer, and more efficient for both passengers and freight vehicles. In addition to easing traffic congestion, the project is anticipated to make travel safer by avoiding landslide prone areas, reducing fuel consumption, lower vehicle operating costs, and contribute to the reduction of air pollution.

Designed with international safety standards, the tunnel includes a dedicated parallel evacuation tunnel equipped with emergency routes, ventilation systems, jet fans, lighting and communication system, all of which will be monitored from the control room to ensure the safety of road users during emergencies.

Beyond its physical infrastructure, the Nagdhunga Tunnel Project represents a significant achievement in capacity building and technology transfer. For the first time in Nepal, local technical personnel and workers were extensively involved in the construction of a highway tunnel, providing valuable hands-on experience and strengthening national expertise in tunnel engineering and construction. The project therefore serves as an important model for future tunnel development projects in Nepal.

The completion of the Nagdhunga Tunnel Project contributes directly to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, reinforcing Japan's continued commitment to supporting Nepal's sustainable economic growth and infrastructure modernization.

JICA President Dr. TANAKA Akihiko during the ceremony stated "The Nagdhunga Tunnel is a project of historic significance. For many years, the idea of constructing a road tunnel was an aspiration shared by many people in Nepal. Today, that aspiration has finally become a reality. I would like to congratulate everyone involved in this project. I sincerely hope that the Nagdhunga Tunnel will serve the people of Nepal for generations to come, contributing to safer mobility, sustainable economic growth, and greater national resilience."

The project further strengthens the longstanding partnership between Nepal and Japan. Through JICA's cooperation, several transformative infrastructure projects have been realized in Nepal, including the 160 kms BP Highway (Sindhuli Road), the 9.1 kms Kathmandu–Bhaktapur Road Improvement Project, and numerous bridge construction projects across the Kathmandu Valley and rural regions. The Nagdhunga Tunnel now joins these achievements as a symbol of the two countries' enduring friendship and collaboration.

As Nepal prepares to commence operations of the tunnel, the Nagdhunga Tunnel stands as a world-class infrastructure achievement that will enhance mobility, improve road safety, boost economic activity, and support the nation's continued development for generations to come.



Honorable Minister for Infrastructure Development Mr. Sunil Lamsal, H.E. Mr. MAEDA Toru, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal and Dr. TANAKA Akihiko, President of JICA posing with other officials at the Western portal of the Tunnel.

NAGDHUNGA TUNNEL FUN RUN & WALK 2026: CELEBRATION OF A HISTORIC MILESTONE IN NEPAL-JAPAN FRIENDSHIP

The Department of Roads (DOR) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) jointly organized the Nagdhunga Tunnel Fun Run & Walk 2026 on 18 July 2026, a special pre-opening event to commemorate the completion of the Nagdhunga Tunnel Project, a landmark infrastructure initiative supported through the Government of Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA).

To celebrate the important milestone, DOR and JICA jointly organized the Nagdhunga Tunnel Fun Run & Walk 2026 as a unique pre-opening event inside the tunnel before it was officially opened to vehicular traffic. The event provided participants with a rare opportunity to experience Nepal's newest tunnel infrastructure firsthand while fostering public awareness and a sense of ownership of this nationally significant asset.

In addition, the event was designed not only as a commemorative activity but also as a platform to promote road and tunnel safety. Participants were introduced to key tunnel safety features, proper tunnel usage practices, emergency response systems, and essential safety instructions that will support the safe operation of the tunnel once it becomes fully operational. Through this initiative, the organizers hope to enhance public understanding of tunnel infrastructure and encourage responsible behavior among future road users.



Mr. MATSUZAKI Mizuki, Chief Representative, JICA Nepal Office, Mr. Balkrishna Acharya, Mayor, Dhunibeshi Municipality, Mr. Ghanashyam Giri, Mayor, Chandragiri Municipality, Olympian Mr. Baikuntha Manandhar and Mr. Sushil Babu Dhakal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Infrastructure Development during the event.

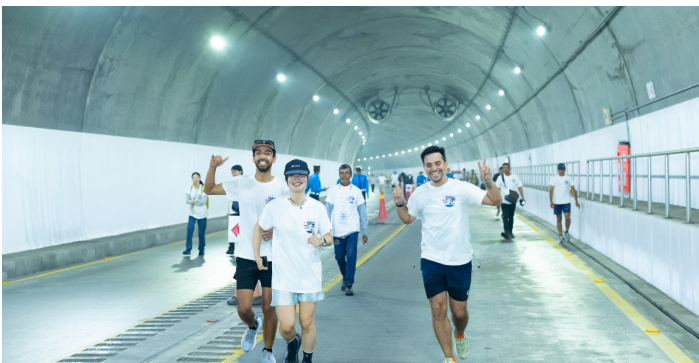
The organizers were honored to welcome Mr. Baikuntha Manandhar, Nepal's legendary marathon runner and national marathon record holder, as the Special Guest of the event. His participation added significance to the celebration of this historic occasion.

More than 400 invited participants joined the event, including government officials, representatives from the Embassy of Japan and JICA, local government representatives, professional and veteran runners, school students, Japanese

volunteers, project experts, media personnel, and other stakeholders.

The Fun Run & Walk served not only as a celebration of a major infrastructure achievement but also as a recognition of the people-to-people ties and collaborative efforts that made the project possible.

The Nagdhunga Tunnel Fun Run & Walk 2026 provided participants with a memorable experience while marking the beginning of a new chapter in Nepal's transportation infrastructure.



LAUNCH OF THE INTEGRATED MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH HANDBOOK PILOT IMPLEMENTATION IN GANDAKI AND LUMBINI PROVINCES

The Ministry of Health and Food Safety, Gandaki and Lumbini Province Governments, and JICA successfully launched the Integrated Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Handbook Initiative's Pilot Implementation respectively on 20 July 2026 in Gandaki Province and 22 July 2026 in Lumbini Province.

The launch events were held under the guardianship of provincial ministers for Health, Mr Laxman Bahadur Pandey in Gandaki Province and Mr Ramjee Prasad Ghimire in Lumbini province, health secretaries with participation of different level stakeholders such as federal Ministry of Health and Food Safety, Department of Health Services, Provincial and Local Governments' representatives, health workers, Female Community Health Volunteers, local mothers, and Development Partners.

During the events, Dr Gauri Pradhan Shrestha, Maternal and Newborn Health (MNH) Section Chief of Family Welfare Division and Project Manager, shared the progress updates and pilot implementation plan.

The first MCH Handbooks were symbolically handed over to pregnant women, and essential maternal and child health equipment was officially handed over to the provinces by JICA.

Mr. MATSUZAKI Mizuki, Chief Representative of JICA Nepal



Office, and Ms Keiko Osaki, Senior Advisor of Health at JICA Headquarters, expressed their hope that the MCH Handbook will become a trusted companion for mothers, children, and families across Nepal, supporting their lives and brighter futures.

The project's pilot implementation in Gandaki and Lumbini Provinces started from August 2026.

A transformative 4-year initiative, "Project for Improving Continuum of Care for Mothers and Children through the utilization of MCH Handbook," is a project implemented by the Ministry of Health and Population in partnership with JICA.

The project introduces an integrated MCH Handbook to ensure high-quality, continuous care for mothers and children which is developed under the leadership of the Family Welfare Division with support from UNICEF and JICA. This collaborative effort marks a significant step toward improving health outcomes nationwide.

BRIDGING CULTURES, BUILDING FUTURES: WELCOMING JICA VOLUNTEERS TO NEPAL

On 27 July 2026 JICA Nepal welcomed 2 new Japan Overseas Cooperation 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.



SERVING COMMUNITIES, STRENGTHENING BONDS

NINE JICA VOLUNTEERS CONCLUDE THEIR ASSIGNMENT IN NEPAL



On August 4, 2026, JICA Nepal proudly bid farewell to nine Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) who completed their two-year service in communities across Nepal. Through their dedication, compassion, and expertise, the volunteers worked alongside local people in agriculture, traffic safety, disaster risk reduction and education, helping to strengthen livelihoods and build resilient communities.

Far beyond sharing technical knowledge, they created lasting bonds of friendship and mutual understanding between Nepal and Japan. Their efforts inspired hope, empowered individuals, and contributed to sustainable development at the grassroots level.

As Nepal and Japan celebrate the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations in 2026, the volunteers' contributions stand as a powerful symbol of cooperation and goodwill. Though their assignments have ended, the impact of their work will continue to be felt for years to come.

JICA Nepal extends its sincere appreciation to the volunteers for their invaluable service and wishes them success in their future endeavors.

Since its launch in 1970, the JICA Volunteer Program has brought 1,468 volunteers to Nepal, supporting the nation's development through a spirit of learning, partnership, and service.

JICA SUPPORTS INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING OF THE WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



Officials from the Water Supply and Sewerage Sector, JICA Nepal, Water Supply and Sewerage Management (DWSSM) and Pokhara Metropolitan City (PMC) at the ceremony.

On 26 June 2026, JICA Nepal and the Ministry of Infrastructure Development (MOID) signed a Record of Discussions (R/D) for the “Project for Capacity Development for Sustainable Wastewater Management.” The technical cooperation project agreement was signed by Mr. Madhav Prasad Adhikari, Joint Secretary of the Water Supply and Sewerage Sector, and Mr. MATSUZAKI Mizuki, Chief Representative of JICA Nepal. Mr. Kamal Raj Shrestha, Director General of Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management (DWSSM) and Mr. Mukti Ram Aryal, Chief Administration Officer of Pokhara Metropolitan City (PMC), were also the cosigners.

The project aims to strengthen the institutional capacity of DWSSM to lead waste water development by piloting activities such as installation of Johkasou on-site treatment plant in Pokhara Metropolitan City (PMC). It intends to establish sustainable implementation mechanisms in wastewater and fecal sludge management and promote best practices

by showcasing PMC's experience to other cities.

The initiative also supports climate change mitigation and adaptation by improving

sanitation and wastewater systems. Aligned with JICA's Clean City Initiative, it promotes environmental protection and public health. The project duration is three years (36 months).



The technical cooperation project agreement was exchanged between Mr. Mukti Ram Aryal, Chief Administration Officer of Pokhara Metropolitan City (PMC) and Mr. MATSUZAKI Mizuki, Chief Representative of JICA Nepal.

FELICITATIONS OF JICA NEPAL STAFF

A special highlight of JICA President Dr. TANAKA Akihiko during his visit to Nepal between 26-29 July 2026 was the recognition of three senior National Staff members who have made outstanding and long-term contributions to JICA Nepal.

Dr. Tanaka felicitated them for their unwavering commitment, exemplary leadership, and tireless efforts throughout their careers. Their dedication has not only contributed significantly to the success of JICA's programs in Nepal but has also left a lasting legacy in strengthening Nepal-Japan relations and supporting the country's development journey.



Ms. Kalpana Rana Shah (35 years of service.)

Her unwavering commitment, deep institutional knowledge, and tireless efforts have left an enduring mark on both the organization and the many people whose lives have been touched.



Mr. Krishna Prasad Lamsal (20 years of service.)

His outstanding achievements through professionalism, dedication, and tireless commitment, and steadfast service have left an enduring legacy within the JICA Nepal Office.



Mr. Hera Kaji Maharjan (26 years of service.)

His steadfast service, leadership, and dedication have been invaluable to the smooth functioning of the office.

Likewise, Mr. Chhabu Karki, Administrative Manager of the JICA Nepal Office, was honored with the prestigious Mimosa Award by JICA Headquarters on May 7, 2023. This recognition celebrates his significant contribution to increasing female participation in JICA's Knowledge Co-Creation Programs.

Over the years, JICA has trained more than 6,000 Nepali professionals from Government of Nepal across diverse sectors, including agriculture, health, education, governance, and infrastructure. Encouragingly, female participation has reached 38.55%, reflecting steady progress toward inclusive and quality development.



Mr. Chhabu Karki, Administrative Manager of JICA Nepal Office receiving the Mimosa Award certificate from JICA Nepal Chief Representative Mr. MATSUZAKI Mizuki.

A JOURNEY FROM LEARNING UNDER THE TREES TO PURSUING A PHD: THE LASTING IMPACT OF JAPANESE SUPPORT IN NEPAL



Shree Laxmi Narayan Secondary School, Kavrepalanchowk

Mr. Tirtha Man Lama, currently pursuing an MPhil-PhD in Journalism and Mass Communication at Tribhuvan University, began his educational journey in a very different setting, studying under pine trees and in temple courtyards in a remote village where classrooms did not exist. His story reflects the power of determination, community support, and the lasting impact of cooperation between Nepal and Japan.

Born and raised in a remote village in Kavrepalanchok District, Mr. Lama grew up at a time when educational opportunities were severely limited. He attended Shree Laxmi Narayan Secondary School, one of the first secondary schools in the region. During his early years, classrooms did not exist. Students attended lessons on grassy fields, beneath pine trees, and in temple courtyards. During the monsoon season,

classes were frequently disrupted by rain, while cold winters and strong winds made learning difficult. For nearly six years, the open sky served as their classroom.

Despite these challenges, the local community remained committed to education. Through voluntary labor, villagers constructed a small school building. However, the school still lacked adequate classrooms, toilets, drinking water, and other basic facilities.

A turning point came when JICA's Technical Cooperation Project, the School and Community Health Project (SCHP), selected the school for support. Mr. Lama vividly remembers the excitement when Japanese representatives visited the village by helicopter, attracting crowds from surrounding communities. Shortly afterward, construction of a new school building began.

The project transformed the learning environment by providing new classrooms, separate toilets for boys and girls, and access to clean drinking water. It did more than simply construct buildings. It created a safe and supportive environment where students could focus on their studies, attend school regularly, and pursue their ambitions with greater confidence. Beyond infrastructure development, the initiative extended support to neighboring schools and introduced community development programs focused on health education, environmental awareness, nutrition, adult literacy, women's empowerment, and improved agricultural practices.

For Mr. Lama, these improvements were life-changing. "Without the support provided

through the JICA project, my educational journey would have been very different. The improved learning environment gave me not only better facilities but also the confidence to dream bigger and continue my studies,” he reflects.

The support that helped create opportunities during his childhood continues to inspire and guide him throughout his academic journey.

Today, as a doctoral scholar at Tribhuvan University, Mr. Lama continues to appreciate the enduring connection between Nepal and Japan. His admiration deepened when he discovered that one of his professors was Mr. Hiroyuki Taira, a senior Japanese JICA Volunteer teaching journalism, photography, and media studies at the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication.

For Mr. Lama, this was a full-circle moment. Meeting Mr. Hiroyuki Taira was especially meaningful. Decades after benefiting from a JICA-supported project as a schoolboy, he found himself learning from a Japanese JICA Volunteer at the university level. It was a powerful reminder of how international cooperation can positively influence lives across generations.

Looking ahead, Mr. Lama aspires to become an Assistant Professor at Tribhuvan University, where he hopes to share knowledge, mentor future generations, and contribute to Nepal's development through education and research.

From studying beneath trees in a remote village to pursuing a doctoral degree at Nepal's leading university, Mr. Lama's

journey demonstrates what becomes possible when determination meets opportunity. His story stands as a powerful example of the enduring partnership between Nepal and Japan and of how investments in education can transform not only individual lives but also entire communities.

Through hard work, perseverance, and the support of dedicated partners such as the people of Japan and JICA, dreams that once seemed impossible can become reality. Mr. Lama's experience reminds us that education has the power to change lives, uplift communities, and build a brighter future for nations.



Mr. Tirtha Man Lama(left) and Mr. Hiroyuki Taira (right)

JICA EXTENDS SCHOLARSHIP FOR GOVERNMENTAL OFFICIALS THROUGH GRANT ASSISTANCE IN “THE PROJECT FOR HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP (JDS)”

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Government of Nepal (GoN) signed the Grant Agreement for “The Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS)” for Fiscal Year 2026 on 28 July 2026. The agreement, valued at four hundred and ten million Japanese Yen (JPY410,000,000), was signed today, reaffirming the commitment of both governments to enhancing the capacity of Nepal's civil service through advanced education. The government of Japan (GoJ) has been providing this scholarship continuously since 2016.

The agreement ceremony was held in the presence of Honorable Finance Minister Dr. Swarnim Wagle and President of JICA Dr. TANAKA Akihiko who is currently visiting Nepal.

Each year, the scholarship offers 20 seats for a two-year master's degree program

(since 2016) and 2 seats for a three-year Doctoral level program (since 2019) in the reputed universities of Japan. These scholarships enable participants to study at prestigious Japanese universities, enhancing their expertise in fields such as judiciary, economic policy etc., while also expanding their global professional networks. Since 2016, 231 civil servants have been awarded scholarships through the JDS Grant Aid program.

The JDS program aims to bolster the administrative capacities of young and promising civil servants with advanced skills to become future leaders. The scholarship recipients are expected to contribute



The Exchange of Notes regarding the assistance was signed by Dr. Ghanashyam Upadhaya, Secretary, the Ministry of Finance on behalf of the GoN and His Excellency Mr. MAEDA Toru, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal on behalf of the GoJ. Similarly, the Grant Agreement was signed by Dr. Dhani Ram Sharma, Joint Secretary, International Economic Relations Division (IERD), the Ministry of Finance on behalf of GoN and Mr. MATSUZAKI Mizuki, Chief Representative of JICA Nepal Office.

Hon. Finance Minister, Dr. Swarnim Wagle and JICA President Dr. TANAKA Akihiko seen in the background.

significantly to Nepal's social and economic development in the new federal structure by actively engaging in national policy formulation and implementation of social and economic development policies when they complete the program and return to their home country.

During the occasion, President of JICA Dr. TANAKA Akihiko, emphasized JICA's commitment to strengthen human resource in Nepal and further stated “It is my great pleasure to witness the signing of the

Grant Agreement for the Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS), which reflects the strong and enduring partnership between Japan and Nepal. Through this program, we are investing in Nepal's future leaders by providing opportunities for advanced education and professional development in Japan. I am confident that JDS scholars will play an important role in advancing Nepal's social and economic development and further strengthening the friendship between our two countries.”

JICA'S JDS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SENDS 22 NEPALESE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO LEADING JAPANESE UNIVERSITIES



JDS fellows during their pre-departure orientation. Representatives from JICA Nepal Office, Japan Alumni Association Nepal (JAAN), and JDS Alumni Association Nepal (JDSAAN) provided valuable insights into life in Japan, Japan's support for Nepal, and the roles the fellows can play upon their return.

On August 11, 2026, a new cohort of 22 JDS Fellows departed for Japan to begin their academic journey at some of the country's most prestigious universities. The group comprises 20 master's degree participants and 2 doctoral participants who have undergone extensive preparation to pursue advanced studies in fields vital to Nepal's development.

Beyond their academic endeavors, the fellows are expected to serve as goodwill ambassadors, strengthening the long-standing friendship and cooperation between Nepal and Japan.

The Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) program was introduced in Nepal in 2016 and aims to enhance the professional capacity of government officials, enabling them to contribute more effectively to addressing Nepal's development challenges.

Since its inception, the JDS program has awarded scholarships to 231 government officials. Upon returning to Nepal, the fellows are expected to play a key role in advancing the country's social and economic development.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to all JDS Fellows for a rewarding and successful experience in Japan.

JAPAN AND JICA SUPPORT NEPAL'S FLOOD-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES WITH EMERGENCY RELIEF GOODS

In response to the devastating floods that struck Rasuwa, Nuwakot and the surrounding areas on 26 August 2026, the Government of Japan has extended emergency humanitarian assistance to support affected communities. The emergency relief goods arrived in Nepal on Wednesday 02 Sep 2026 and were officially handed over during a ceremony attended by representatives of both governments and JICA Nepal.

Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, H.E. Mr. MAEDA Toru, handed over emergency relief goods to the Hon'ble Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation, Mr. Mahabir Pun, during a ceremony held at the Humanitarian

Staging Area of Tribhuvan International Airport on 02 Sep 2026. On the occasion, a Letter of Delivery and Acceptance was exchanged between Mr. MATSUZAKI Mizuki, Chief Representative of the JICA Nepal Office, and the Hon'ble Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation, Mr. Mahabir Pun.

The assistance package includes blankets, plastic sheets, sleeping pads, tents, and portable jerry cans, weighing almost 9.3 tons for the affected communities.

JICA Nepal anticipates that the Government of Nepal coordinates with the relevant stakeholders to ensure the timely and

proper distribution of these goods to the affected communities.

During the ceremony, Hon'ble Minister Mr. Mahabir Pun thanked the Government of Japan and JICA Nepal for this immediate support in times of crisis.

JICA Nepal sincerely hopes that these emergency relief goods will help alleviate the hardships faced by those affected by the disaster. It also hopes that recovery and reconstruction efforts in the affected areas will progress steadily, enabling the victims to resume their normal and peaceful lives as soon as possible.



Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, H.E. Mr. MAEDA Toru, hand over emergency relief goods to the Hon'ble Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation, Mr. Mahabir Pun.



Letter of Delivery and Acceptance exchange between Mr. MATSUZAKI Mizuki, Chief Representative of the JICA Nepal Office, and the Hon'ble Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation, Mr. Mahabir Pun.



JICA Nepal stands in solidarity with the people of Nepal following the devastating floods in Rasuwa, Nuwakot, and surrounding areas. We are deeply saddened by the loss of lives, displacement, and destruction caused by this tragedy. Our heartfelt condolences go to the bereaved families, and our thoughts and prayers are with all those affected during this difficult time.



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