

JICA Nepal Office



Gopal Gurung

Associate Program Manager

After serving as an NGO staff member in the field for almost seven years, Gopal Gurung joined JICA Nepal in 2004 hoping to do more work on policy issues while providing more help for the people.

Now he is in charge of the Central Governance and Energy sector at JICA. In the central governance sector, he has two legal projects assigned to him: drafting the Civil Code and discussing it with stakeholders across Nepal; and ‘The Project for Strengthening the Capacity of Court for Expedient and Reliable Dispute Settlement.’

“In Nepal, cases are often delayed and the case adjudication rate is low. Therefore we are implementing this project with the Supreme Court of Nepal to improve the Court capacity to expedite the cases as well as to conclude them on time to protect the rights of the people,” Gopal explains.

In the long history of JICA’s cooperation in Nepal, cooperation in the legal field is relatively new. JICA started legal projects after the second political movement in 2006, when Nepal’s Constituent Assembly launched to draft the Constitution. Nepal’s major political agenda then was to create

more jobs, prosperity and establish the rights of the people. “To ensure that the new Constitution will not hinder the economy, we implemented the State Building Program, in which we organized interactions between stakeholders to establish a common perception to pursue economic growth. I invited influential participants from both central and local levels. They eagerly discussed the growth agenda and I assessed them,” says Gopal.

It was also important to make a tangible contribution to the people, so that JICA further assisted the Government of Nepal in drafting the Civil Code. “Once it is approved by the government, it will replace ‘Muluki Ain,’ a 150 year-old code of laws in Nepal. I hope the new Civil Code will benefit the people.”

Besides legal fields, JICA also assists various fields in Nepal from hydropower and drinking water to earthquake resilience. Looking toward the future, Gopal says “I would like to support JICA for offering assistance in line with Nepal’s policies. My long term goal is to see Nepal become a middle income country and it is my great pleasure to contribute to that.”