JICA volunteers are making a difference all across Nepal at least in a small way. Syangja, around 80 km far away from Pokhara, is among very few districts where six Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) are working at present. The six JOCVs (in pictures) are donating their time, energy and skills to build better communities. They are: Ayaka Sano, Tribhuvan Adarsha Higher Secondary School (Primary School Education); Yuko Izumi, District Education Office (Youth Activities); Ai Inamoto, Walling Municipality (Community Development); Asahi Kawazoe, Coffee Cooperative Federation (Community Development); Rizuki Nishi, District Development Committee (Community Development); and Fumi Yanagita, District Women Development Office (Community Development). They share their valuable skills and knowledge with local people. JICA deploys two categories of volunteers—JOCV and Senior Volunteers (SV). Founded in 1965, the volunteer program is one of JICA’s development aid schemes in which JOCVs and SVs make use of their skills and experience to promote progressive change of the local communities.
On June 29, a three-member Nepali team left for a short trip to Japan to participate in a seminar entitled ‘Accelerating the Disbursement of Japanese ODA Loan in South Asia Region’. This program was very important for us too, as Nepal is receiving second largest Japanese assistance for Tanahu Hydropower Project after Melamchi Drinking Water Project about 12 years before.

The composition of the team was one member each from Ministry of Finance, Tanahu Hydropower Limited and JICA Nepal Office. We were lucky enough to have a person from JICA Nepal as a participant who had already stayed in Japan for three years and her presence put our mind at ease. The day we landed in the Narita Airport in Tokyo, a little new freshness of Japanese neat and cleanliness gave us respite despite the long and tiring air travel.

The main objectives of the seminar were, in general, developing an understanding among the officials from South Asia about the Japanese working procedures so that future projects will go ahead smoothly. Enhancing the disbursement of ODA loans in the region is crucial for JICA since this part of the world is one of the largest areas for its investment. Helping the region in achieving the development objectives with Japanese assistance more smoothly can be also the idea behind it.

Japanese assistance through ODA loans for a long time helped a number of countries especially from the developing/underdeveloped world. The participants were from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The general objectives of the seminar can be summarized as following.

- Increasing the level of understanding of key officials of the recipient countries about the procedures of obtaining, administrating and repaying the ODA loans.
- Enhancing the overall disbursement of Japanese ODA loan to meet their JICA’s investment target according to the commitment in reality.
- Facilitating the implementation of each JICA funded projects in the region which justifies the reason for investing in a particular project.
- Providing an insight into how JICA funds are obtained, and how timely disbursement is made as per the commitment.
- Letting the officials know how common discrepancies occur and they can be omitted.

We got a good impression as a whole during the training session by the Japanese trainers, experts, facilitators and others training center staffs.

The officials from JICA Headquarters were too good enough and cooperative. However, some of the trainers were a bit confused at times and the presentation didn’t go well with their skills of handling a big seminar like that. They were in some cases not quite commanding in the subject and friendly as much an international trainer is ought to be. Due to the lack of little smiles on the faces and straight forward manner of coming to and going from the seminar halls showed their limited direction deliverance. Most of the Japanese we met, saw, and came across with were seemingly different from what we could see in the rest part of the world. That showed whether they are more serious in their work than their life to some extent.

There were generally the people from all different sectors in the whole South Asia region where Japanese ODA loan is extended. The meeting would have been more fruitful had those who worked on the presentations presented their papers and a little time was spared to the participants to discuss the common problems. The training duration was somehow alright but the very limited Question & Answer session left many of the participants disappointed and not willing to ask any question afterwards.

The training would be more fruitful in the days to come if the comments made by the participants are incorporated and designed accordingly. The realistic targets of disbursements set by JICA and the appropriate facilitation will help them meet them. For the recipients like us too, it will be more beneficial to have attractive projects and timely meeting of the procedural submission of requirements. The common efforts by the both of the parties as the lender and the borrower would be mutually significant for the growth and togetherness in prosperity.

(Mr Niraula is Section Officer at International Economic Cooperation Coordination Division, Ministry of Finance)
A joint Terminal Evaluation of Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion project (GeMSIP) was completed successfully in September with various findings. The team consisted of 10 members—3 from the Government of Nepal (GoN) side and 7 from the JICA. The main objectives of the evaluation were to confirm the progress of the project, to assess the project based on the five criteria (ie relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability), to make recommendations and to obtain lessons learned from the project.

The purpose of the 5-year-project—from February 2009 to January 2014—is to strengthen the GESI (Gender Equality and Social Inclusion) responsive local development processes in Nepal. The main counterparts of the projects are the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD), Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare (MoWCSW) and the Department of Women and Children (DWC) at the central level. Likewise, the District Development Committees (DDC) and Women and Children Offices (WCO) play important role at the district level. The project conducted various capacity development activities including the sub-project implementation in the target VDCs/ municipalities in Syangja and Morang districts. During the Terminal Evaluation, 389 sub-projects (250 in Syangja and 139 in Morang) were implemented, which accounts for 35% of the total sub-projects. The process-oriented and learning-by-doing approach adopted by the project has significantly contributed to raising awareness and changing behavior of the stakeholders to promote GESI. This approach was effective in promoting people’s participation in the decision making processes of development, and improving their capacity. The intensive facilitation by assigning two facilitators in each target VDC/municipality has helped the community people, particularly women and socially excluded groups, get access to information and participate in planning and implementing sub-projects. The project has succeeded in making the decision-making process more GESI responsive, participatory and transparent by various interventions and continuous support in the Pilot Project.

Since the members of GESI IC (Implementation Committee), including the district-level counterparts of the DDCs and WCOs in Syangja and Morang, have been actively involved in the Pilot Project, the level of their awareness and understanding of how to promote the GESI responsive local development has been increased.

The GESI Policy and other related guidelines developed or revised by the MoFALD and other organizations as well as the strong policy commitment of the GoN to the implement the GESI Policy contributed to the project’s high degree of relevance, impact and the sustainability in the policy aspect. The LGCDP’s efforts and initiatives will also contribute to the achievement of the overall goal.

However, some challenges have still remained toward achieving the project purpose, and internalizing and sustaining the project’s effects. Although the project has produced the significant outcomes through the pilot project in the target VDCs/municipalities, most of the district- and central-level counterparts emphasized that the intensive support and intervention in the small areas would not be able to serve as an applicable model to non-pilot VDCs/ municipalities and other districts. Hence, the project is continuously making efforts to develop the strategies for internalization and dissemination of the project’s achievement for enhancing sustainability.
Learning from WASMIP

The Department of Water Supply and Sewerage (DWSS) commenced the Water Supply Management Improvement Project (WASMIP), a technical cooperation project for water supply improvement in semi urban areas of Jhapa and Morang district, with support from JICA. The project aimed at developing technical support system of DWSS to WUSCs through WSSDO. The project also aimed at improving service delivery of 17 WUSCs of two districts, including three WUSCs (Gauradaha and Dhulabari of Jhapa and Mangadh of Morang) that were supported by Japan ODA Grant to construct water treatment facilities.

After implementing the activities for three years and nine months starting January 2010, the project has achieved significant outputs. Development of Small and Medium Sized Water Supply Support Model and Management Model, and commencement of activities (such as Maintenance Inspection, Monitoring and Evaluation as such) envisaged in the models as the Department's annual program are major achievements of the project, to name a few.

Small and Medium Sized Water Supply Support Model, as one of the substantial outputs, envisions the situation where DWSS has well-established system to provide technical and financial support to WUSCs. The Support Model thus provides guideline for DWSS/WSSDO on how to support WUSCs for their organizational, technical and financial capacity development required for sustained service. To realize the support need, three activities have been started by DWSS in project districts in support with Japanese experts' team:

Maintenance Inspection: Maintenance Inspection is carried out by Maintenance Inspection Team (MIT) comprises of engineers of WSSDOs and manager of WUSCs. It makes site visit to respective water supply scheme four times a year to aware WUSCs on preventive maintenance, to check evaluation indicators and support WUSCs solving the problems of water supply system by themselves on the site.

Management Advisory: Management Advisory Team (MAT) includes experts on management, technical and financial areas either from DWSS or WSSDOs or outsourced. The team assists WUSCs on formulation of business plan, checks implementation status of the plan and its indicators, and makes suggestion for improvement of operation and management accordingly. MAT visits WUSCs site for business planning once a year.

Monitoring & Evaluation: Monitory & Evaluation is conducted by Monitoring Evaluation Team(MET) once a year that comprises members from DWSS, RMSO, WSSDOs and WUSC. The team reconfirms and evaluates the technical and management capacity of WUSCs. Based on the M& E report DWSS enforces the improvement of management capability or efficiency of WUSCs. Liaison Conference among WSSDOs and WUSCs are organized to present the findings of the M&E. DWSS is working to provide incentive and award for the WUSCs evaluated high.

Similarly, Small and Medium Sized Water Supply Management Model is targeted at WUSCs. It helps WUSCs to set up their goal for short, medium and long period of time and plan to achieve that goal. Implementation of Business Plan and Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) are the core tools to achieve the goal. Accordingly, self-monitoring of the water supply system by following performance indicator and annual monitoring and evaluation by DWSS is done to follow up progress.

The concept envisaged in the Support and Management Model has been practiced in 17 WUSCs of Jhapa and Morang that has brought up effective operation of the WUSC scheme and efficient management along with increased coordination between WUSCs and WSSDOs.

Hence, the learning of the project has been acknowledged as successful example to enhance self-sustainability of WUSCs. Considering the project as a successful pilot project, the Joint Coordination Committee led by the Director General of DWSS expressed commitment to continue such activities even after the project completes.
Civil Firefighting Corps the need of the hour

- Nobuyoshi Furuichi

"I recognized that the situation of firefighting of this country is still in the last century, as fire brigades are only waiting a fire playing card"

Nobody knows when earthquakes come. Earthquakes do not kill people. It’s buildings that kill people during an earthquake. Narrow roads and alleyways which cannot be used for evacuation, falling bricks, narrow and complicated passes, spreading fire from eaves to eaves, many combustible materials in the traditional building, lack of water to extinguish fire, falling debris disturbing fire engines to come to the fire site and no facility with neighbors to extinguish fire. This is the situation of Patan, a world heritage site. Unfortunately, such situation will occur during earthquakes and fires.

I am working every day just in the middle of such a dangerous place with many people living there. I was dispatched to Lalitpur Sub-metropolitan City as a JICA senior volunteer in disaster management field June last year. After my posting, I immediately started a research project “Patan Darbar Area Fire Service Strength Reinforcement Plan” and I had completed the research.

However, during the research process I recognized that civil firefighting abilities should be reinforced than the reinforcement of facilities of the public fire stations for a big disaster caused by an earthquake and a fire.

The best solution is to establish CFC (Civil Firefighting Corps). It is most useful plan for mitigation disaster, so many countries have CFC. I know that it takes time to establish CFC. However, if we do not make the first step, we cannot achieve anything.

I am working on the publicity for the establishment of CFC and the project making for the base of CFC as the pilot plant.

On the other hand, I recognized that the situation of firefighting of this country is still in the last century, as fire brigades are only waiting a fire playing card. The system for fire is still “treatment care” not “preventive care”. They are like as a just sitting doctor waiting for a patient at hospital.

Now I am drafting a “Five-year Plan of Fire Service of Lalitpur City” with Lalitpur Fire station. This plan mentions how to reinforce the ability of the fire station activity on the policy “preventive care”. And in the mean time I am making publicity leaflets for “preventive care” to public people living in Patan. Those activities are two wheels of innovation of the policy from “waiting” to “positive action”.

(Mr Furuichi is Senior Volunteer of JICA)
Cleaning road

A road clean-up program was jointly organized by JICA volunteers and Kathmandu Metropolitan City at Kalanki chowk in Kathmandu on September 11. Thirty-four JICA volunteers—4 Senior Volunteers and 30 Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers—were among 170 persons who took part in the program. The other participants were KMC staff, students of Janapath Secondary School and Ribs School, members of Kalanki Youth Club and university students as well as traffic police personnel. Masayuki Tokuda, who is working at Kathmandu Metropolitan City in the field of environmental education, was the coordinator of cleaning program.
Contract Signing of Melamchi Water Treatment Plant

The contract agreement for Water Treatment Plant was signed between Melamchi Water Supply Development Board and VA Tech Wabag Limited-Pratibha Industries Ltd JV at the Ministry of Urban Development on July 10. The Water Treatment Plant is one of the components of the Melamchi Water Supply Project that is being supported by JICA ODA loan. The signing of the agreement observed presence of Minister of Urban Development, Chief Secretary, Secretaries of other relevant ministries, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, JICA Chief Representative, other government officials and media persons.

Contract agreement for tunnel construction, which is another significant component of the project funded by ADB, was also concluded on 15th July 2013. The Melamchi Water Supply Project envisages to bring 170 MLD water from Melamchi river to Sundarijal through 27 km long tunnel, and distribute to Kathmandu citizens after treating the water at the JICA funded Water Treatment Plant. The expected capacity of Water Treatment Plant is 85 MLD.

With signing of both of the contracts, hope of the Kathmanduities to receive abundant drinking water from Melamchi Project by mid of 2016 has been amplified.

Handover of Manohara Water Treatment System

Completion ceremony of the project entitled “The Follow up Cooperation for the Project for Improvement of Kathmandu Water Supply Facilities” was held on August 15, 2013. The facilities rehabilitated under the cooperation were handed over to Government of Nepal. Joint Secretary of Ministry of Urban Development Mr. Abadh Kishore Mishra and Chief Representative of JICA Nepal, Mr. Tsutomu Shimizu jointly launched the rehabilitated intake facilities.

The original project was completed in 2004 in three phases. First Phase included constructions of Intake facilities of Manohara, transmission pipeline and Manohara Water Treatment Plant. Second Phase included sedimentation tank of the Water Treatment Plant, and elevated reservoirs at Minbhawan and Singha Durbar, and transmission pipelines from WTP to Minbhawan. The Third Phase consisted of the expansion of water reservoir of Shainbu scheme and the construction of transmission pipeline from Shainbu to Jhamsikhel, Lalitpur.

The Manohara scheme carries significance in different aspects. Firstly, it is the only system in Nepal from where safe and hygienic water is served to three municipalities of Kathmandu namely Madhyapur Thimi, Bhaktapur and south eastern part of Kathmandu valley. Secondly, from this system water can be pumped to Mahankal Chaur reservoir by just changing the suitable pump.

The designed yield of Manohara Intake and water treatment plant is 20 MLD. However the designed yield could not be achieved from the intake by water treatment plant for the past few years. Several factors like changes of river bed conditions, waste water from sand washing plant nearby as such resulted in decrease of yield.

To address the problem, JICA and Government of Nepal initiated the Follow Up Cooperation in September 2010, main component of which is the rehabilitation of the four dug wells and intake facilities supported under Japan ODA. After the rehabilitation, water volume from four wells has increased and meets the designed capacity of 20 MLD of the plant in rainy season.
JICA training organized for government officials in Japan during July-September 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training title</th>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Number of participants</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>End Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Waterworks Engineering</td>
<td>Ministry of Urban Development</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3 July</td>
<td>18 Sept</td>
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<tr>
<td>Digital Video Production for Dissemination and Enlightenment</td>
<td>Ministry of Information and Communications</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>30 Oct</td>
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<td>Eco-tourism for Sustainable Use of Natural &amp; Cultural Resources</td>
<td>Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation</td>
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<td>3 Sept</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Participation, Consensus Building and Resettlement in Public Works</td>
<td>Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport and Ministry of Urban Development</td>
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<td>23 July</td>
<td>24 Aug</td>
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<td>Planning of Agricultural Policy</td>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture Development</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>28 July</td>
<td>9 Aug</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improving Capability in Producing Official Statistics Relating to MDGs Indicators</td>
<td>Central Bureau Statistics</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>22 Aug</td>
<td>21 Sep</td>
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<td>Criminal Justice (Focus on Investigation, Prosecution, Adjudication International Cooperation)</td>
<td>Attorney General Office</td>
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<td>18 Aug</td>
<td>21 Dec</td>
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<td>Various Forest Conservation with Community Participation</td>
<td>Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation</td>
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<td>Competition Law &amp; Policy-Establishing &amp; Strengthening a Foundation for Market Economy</td>
<td>Ministry of Commerce and Supply</td>
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<td>13 Aug</td>
<td>16 Nov</td>
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<td>Rural Development for Small-Scale Farmers through Agricultural Cooperation Activity in Asia (B)</td>
<td>Ministry of Cooperative and Poverty Alleviation</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>28 Aug</td>
<td>28 Sept</td>
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<td>Development of Victim Assistance System for Victims of War &amp; Armed Conflicts</td>
<td>Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>24 Sept</td>
<td>24 Oct</td>
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<td>Project Management in Infrastructure Development for Civil Engineerings</td>
<td>Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport &amp; Department of Road</td>
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<td>17 Sept</td>
<td>16 Nov</td>
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<td>South Asia Quality Improvement of Primary Science Education</td>
<td>Ministry of Energy</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>21 Aug</td>
<td>23 Oct</td>
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Ongoing JICA Missions in Nepal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Number of Experts</th>
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<tr>
<td>Follow Up Cooperation for Kathmandu Water Supply Facility Improvement Project</td>
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