

JOCV ACTIVITIES

A PLEASING JOURNEY OF SOLIDARITY



Ms. Kimiyo NISHIDA (Community Development) presenting her activities performed in Dhulikhel Hospital to tour participants.

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) program was founded in 1965 as part of JICA's grass root level technical cooperation. The major objectives of this program are to contribute to the socioeconomic development of the recipient countries, strengthening friendship and mutual understanding, and giving back to the Japanese society the output of volunteer activity experience.

Having said that, JOCV program in Nepal started in 1970 and so far more than 1,300 volunteers have been assigned to various fields across the country. Currently about 50 volunteers are stationed at 13 districts in fields such as agriculture, community development, education including sports, youth activity, sanitation and health, etc. Among them, volunteers in agriculture have a long history and so far have achieved significant result in collaboration with experts in this sector. For instance they have contributed in

introducing junar (sweet oranges) in Ramechhap, rainbow trout in Rasuwa and Nuwakot, Tofu, varieties of mushrooms and Japanese Permissions etc.

In order to help improve the livelihood of people, JICA volunteers adapt themselves to the local life in Nepal by speaking local languages, eating local food, and working together with the local counterparts. It is therefore certain that such efforts by the volunteers have promoted cultural exchanges and mutual understanding between the two countries at large.

JICA Volunteer's contribution is immense in Nepal's development process. Hundreds of volunteers have in the past worked in Nepal and many more are here currently to uplift the life of rural people. Many other Japanese volunteers remain loyal to Nepal supporting various causes and Nepalese people remain forever indebted to their continuous support.

This is why JICA volunteers and their exemplary work are extremely prominent in most parts in Nepal especially in the rural areas. These outstanding volunteers have successfully managed to win hearts of the local people at large with their enduring contribution. In order to observe activities regarding some of our volunteers since last 2 years, a study tour was planned during Dec 2016 where senior officials from the Government of Nepal were invited to participate. The trip included visits to mainly health and education sectors.

A total of 5 volunteers have been serving in Dhulikhel Hospital in Kavre District and District Public Health Office in Sindhuli. Their area of expertise includes Community Development, Mid Wife, Occupational Therapist, Public Health Nurse and a Nutritionist.



Ms. Kanako KON (Public Health Nurse) demonstrating her work during her tenure in District Health Office in Sindhuli



THREE
Nagdhunga Tunnel Construction Project.



FOUR
Community mediators boost social harmony in Nepal's villages



FIVE
Sindhuli Road Corridor Commercial Agriculture Promotion Project (SRCCAP)



EIGHT
News in Brief : Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of Cultural Heritage.

JOCV Activities ...contd from pg 1

Each of these volunteers is highly committed and are partaking their skills and knowledge with the counterparts and also with other members of the community such as women, children, nursing students through extensive awareness and outreach activities. Besides the health institution that they are assigned in, they also travel in fields to educate and spread awareness regarding improvement in healthcare activities, better nutrition techniques and food habits, proper sanitation and hygiene, practices for better living and development issues etc. The assignment of these workers is significant in introducing new methods in the institution in terms of skills exchange in maternity health and childcare, medical security, physiotherapy for patients with disabilities, counseling on specific matters, guidance on proper nutrition etc.

On our visit to the community school Kamala Higher Secondary in Sindhuli District, we observed work of one of

our volunteers where the involvement included improving basic education techniques, providing better exposure to enhance understanding of students along with organizing workshops on safety measures.

The tour thus strengthened the credibility of volunteers and commitment towards their work. It further justified the sole intention of improving lives of local people by furnishing them with skills that will only reap benefits for them during their lifetime. Since all the activities witnessed were successful in terms of generating progressive outcomes, such initiatives were encouraged for implementation in other communities as well to establish sustainable development work. The various activities undertaken by volunteers benefitted not only the local residents but also the associated organizations in terms of exchange of experience and enriched information.

Lastly, the assistance provided to

Nepalese people and its society by the Japanese volunteers have aided in prospering various sectors be it agriculture, health, education, technology, community development, sports, infrastructure, transportation etc. and have contributed in socio economic development. It has facilitated the transition and development in Nepali society where volunteers endorse the role of cultural ambassadors, paving way for enhanced relations between Japan and Nepal.



Ms. Hikaru MIYAHARA (Primary School Education Teacher) tutoring physical activities to students in Kamala Higher Secondary School in Sindhuli District

JICA IN HISTORY

JICA'S COOPERATION IN IMPROVEMENT OF MEDIA SECTOR – RADIO NEPAL

S.No	Duration	Project Name	Type
1	Nov. 2010 - Oct. 2013	The Project for Promoting Peace Building and Democratization through the Capacity Development of The Media Sector in Nepal. 1. Draft of the revised media policy, acts, regulations and guidelines were formulated by Ministry of Information & Communication. 2. The function of Radio Nepal as Public Broadcasting Institution was enhanced as two high powered FM relay stations in Simbhanjyag and Chamere Hill in Surkhet were established.	Technical Cooperation
2	2006	The Project for Improvement of Short Wave and Medium Wave Radio Broadcasting Stations. Project Outputs: • Broadcasting services to all people in Nepal through renovation of transmitting facilities of Short Wave (SW) and Medium Wave (MW) transmitting stations and procurement and renewal of transmitting equipment. Project Effectiveness: • The population coverage area of MW broadcasting expanded from 48 % to 75%. • Promotion of economic and industrial activities. • Improved Lifestyle and living standard due to availability of information concerning health and hygiene, education, agriculture and social welfare which also lead to poverty reduction in remote areas. • Increased certified primary school teachers through enhanced teacher training system using radio broadcasting	Grant Aid-937 million Japanese yen
3	1988	The Project for Expansion and Development of the Medium Wave Radio Broadcasting Network Phase I & II.	Grant Aid-1.46 billion Japanese Yen
4	1981	The project for the improvement and development of medium wave radio broadcasting network.	Grant Aid-1.95 billion Japanese Yen

CONSTRUCTION OF NEPAL'S FIRST TUNNEL CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS EFFICIENT TRADE NETWORK



Nepal is currently facing challenges managing its traffic system. Vehicle registrations in Nepal have more than doubled in the last five years exerting pressure on the existing road infrastructure. 80% of area in Nepal is mountainous and most popular travel mode is through roads.

Since Nepal is a landlocked country, about 60% of its imports and exports are traded with neighboring India. The trading of goods and services is carried through the Indian border in Birgunj which pass through Narayngadh, Mugling and Naagdhunga until it arrives in Kathmandu. However, the development and maintenance of these roads seem to deteriorate due to excessive increase in the amount of freight and passengers. About 15 kilometers from Kathmandu along the route is Nagdhunga Pass (elevation from 800 to 1,500 meters) with a grade exceeding 10 percent which is the major bottleneck of the said route with steep incline of over 10% and tight turns which results in frequent traffic jams and accidents.

The ODA loan project of JICA for the Naagdhunga Tunnel Construction aims to improve smooth pass and road condition around Nagdhunga thereby contributing to a smooth transportation network and traffic

flow between Kathmandu and other principal cities/areas in Nepal. The tunnel construction is also expected to improve the trading of goods for the vehicular movement for commercial activities thus contributing to local socioeconomic development. The commencement of this tunnel project is the first of its kind in Nepal where the highway will have two lanes, 2.5 kilometers each in length which is expected to reduce the time to clear Nagdhunga Pass to one-third of the current time (currently 30 minutes when heading east and 20 minutes when heading west). The project will be completed upon the commercial opening in August 2022.

Amidst a function held at the Ministry of Finance in Singha Durbar, Kathmandu the Loan Agreement of the project was signed and exchanged between Mr. Baikuntha Aryal, Joint Secretary, International Economic Cooperation Coordination Division (IECCD), Ministry of Finance on behalf of GoN and Mr. Jun Sakuma, Chief Representative of JICA Nepal.

The Japanese ODA (Official Development Assistance) is providing loan up to 16.636 billion yen for the construction of Nagdhunga Tunnel Project with the condition of 40 years repayment and 10 years grace period with an annual interest of 0.01%.

TANAHU HYDROPOWER PROJECT

Tanahu Hydropower Project (THP) is situated on the Seti River near Damauli bazaar of Tanahu district. The objective of the project is to provide stable power supply and cope with the increasing demand of power by constructing storage – type hydropower plant of 140 MW. Once constructed, it will contribute to the improvement of civil life, economic development of the country and to climate change. The project is co-financed by JICA, ADB, EIB, the Government of Nepal and NEA. JICA effectuated the loan on Sept. 25, 2015 and has committed an amount of 15.137 million yen.

This Hydropower has a 140 m high Concrete Gravity Dam with a crest length of 175 m. The project will have two generators of the capacity 70 MW and an underground powerhouse measuring 27 m width, 46 m height and 97 length. The generated electricity will be evacuated by 37 km 220 kV double circuit transmission line to Bharatpur substation and to the existing network. The project will also distribute electricity locally through its rural electrification component where there will be two 33/11 kV substations at Dharampani and Majhikot distributing power to 17 VDCs. The project will be capable of supplying peak power for minimum of 6 hours daily. The project is expected to start by Oct. 2017 and is expected to complete in 5 years.

The project is implemented by Tanahu Hydropower Limited, a subsidiary company of Nepal Electricity Authority established in 2012. The Project Supervision Consultant for the project in Lahmeyer International in association with Manitoba Hydro. International, Canada.

RECIPIENT OF JICA PRESIDENT AWARD FOR EFFORTS TO RESTORE AND REBUILD NEPAL POST-EARTHQUAKE

In the process of reconstruction post-earthquake which occurred in 2015, JICA Nepal facilitated advanced search and rescue through immediate medical support and established a strong EQ recovery team to undertake emergency response, restoration and reconstruction works. Also JICA Nepal mobilized assistance through investigation team at the disaster site, applied intelligence and physical strength through relevant departments in office. Acknowledging these enduring efforts JICA Nepal Office won the Prize for 2016.



JICA Nepal Office Team with the Award

COMMUNITY MEDIATORS BOOST SOCIAL HARMONY IN NEPAL'S VILLAGES

Mr. Bikash Sangraula reporting from Sitalpati, Nepal for Kyodo News. Article published on Dec 27, 2016.

A pig that wandered off its sty and feasted on food grains in the neighborhood resulted in four years of enmity between two neighbors in Sitalpati, an impoverished village in Sindhuli district, about a 100-kilometer drive east of Kathmandu. A year ago, community mediator Benuka Thapa, 60, stepped in. Using skills she learned at a training camp organized by Japan International Cooperation Agency's community mediation project, she and two other local mediators listened to the disputants, both women in their late 40s.

Discussions were held to ascertain the quantity of food grains that the pig possibly gobbled up and the amount that its owner should offer in compensation. "Eventually, the other party to the dispute agreed that it was unlikely the pig consumed a large amount of her food grains. She forfeited her claim for compensation after the pig's owner agreed to confine her pig to the sty to prevent it from wandering off again," Thapa said.

The neighbors have been friends ever since. In nearby Jhangajholi Ratmati village, a 62-year-old woman suffered violence from her 67-year-old husband, a retired postman and a regular drinker and gambler, for years. Tired of daily abuse, she was about to seek police help when locals suggested she try community mediation.

Here too, three mediators were appointed, one each chosen by the husband and the wife and the third representing the Village Development Committee. "We resolved the problem in a day," said Uddab Raj Giri, a VDC official who mediated the dispute. "The husband no longer drinks or gambles or beats up his wife."

While mediation to resolve local disputes isn't a new concept in Nepal, the traditional local bodies called Panchayat practiced a zero-sum method that almost always left the punished side embittered and vengeful. Panchayat meetings to resolve disputes were invariably chaired by a male elder, whose decision was final. In such setups, nepotism was rife. "What we are practicing is different," said Nirmala Kumari Shrestha, 42, a trained community mediator residing in Jhangajholi Ratmati village. "The resolution we reach at is acceptable to both disputants. There is no winner or loser," she added.

To help Nepal repair the social fabric ravaged by a 10-year Maoist insurgency that ended in 2006, aid groups started training community mediators from as early as 2001.

Although a relatively late entrant to the scene, JICA's Project for Strengthening Community Mediation Capacity for Peaceful and Harmonious Society that was launched in 2010 stands out because it convinced the government to incorporate community mediation as an essential service to be delivered by government. "From the very beginning, we implemented the project in coordination with the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development," said Dilli Poudel, the project's monitoring and evaluation officer.

By 2014, the ministry was convinced that presence of trained local mediators not only strengthened peace but also facilitated the implementation of development activities in villages. Bandhu Prasad Bastola, a ministry official, said dispute resolution by community mediators has been seen to be swift and acceptable to disputants because, unlike courts that rely on evidence, community mediators are locals who can reach the heart of the matter. Also, community mediation doesn't cost anything and is therefore especially useful to the poor. "We found that villages where community mediation is effectively implemented do not have disputes that reach the police or courts," Bastola said.

Encouraged by this, the government is moving ahead with incorporating community mediation in the list of basic services to be delivered by local government -- village development committees and municipalities. The JICA-funded project has trained 350 community mediators so far, of which 33 percent are women. They have resolved 646 disputes. The trainings have also helped empower women, who are often victims of abuses. "After I became a mediator, my standing in the society went up," said Shrestha of Jhangajholi Ratmati village. "People come to me seeking my help to resolve disputes. People know me," said the farmer and mother of two.

—Kyodo

COMMUNITY MEDIATION CENTERS LAUNCHED IN DHANUSHA DISTRICT



Opening Event in Yadukuwa VDC

Nepal is multicultural, multi-ethnic, multi-lingual and geographically diverse country with people belonging to different castes and ethnic groups. Especially through the recent democratization process, it is more important to respect different cultures and social norms, which makes difficult to share common values in societies. That is why there are more different thoughts and perception which create minor disputes among people in the societies and sometimes escalate to political and religious conflicts.

The Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD) of the Government of Nepal, with support of JICA, has been

operating "The Strengthening Community Mediation Capacity for Peaceful and Harmonious Society (COMCAP) Project" since 2010 and currently is implementing its phase II which started in 2015.

Community Mediation Centers were formally opened in 3 different VDC (Village Development Committee) of Dhanusha district - Baghchauda, Paudeshwar and Yadukuwa with an aim to create peaceful and harmonious society to benefit the locals of the mentioned VDCs. Prior to the opening of these centers, the project provided 8 days basic training in Hetauda City regarding community mediation to the selected community mediators. During the opening event of the centers, various officials -VDC secretaries, local level political leaders, social mobilisers, teachers and local residents were invited to grace the ceremony. Social Development Officer from DDC (District Development Committee) Dhanusha, Ms. Namrata Dhungel officially inaugurated the

centers amidst formal inauguration ceremonies. All the invited dignitaries and speakers highly appreciated JICA's assistance.

In the opening program, representatives from JICA Nepal office highlighted the importance of dispute resolution at the community level as well as the empowerment of and the access to justice to the women, poor and marginalized people in Nepal. COMCAP phase II also assists MoFALD to prepare policy and guidelines for rolling out community mediation program nationwide. Opening of the community mediation centers is a part of its second phase to pilot the new guidelines which is at cabinet of the Government of Nepal for its endorsement.



Inauguration Event in Baghchauda VDC

SINDHULI ROAD CORRIDOR COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE PROMOTION PROJECT (SRCCAP)

“Grow to Sell”

Construction of the Sindhuli Road commenced in 1996 as a grant aid project through Government of Japan. Upon its completion in 2015 the 160km BP highway was handed over to the government of Nepal. While large economic returns are expected from Sindhuli Road as an arterial road of national level, the prospective impacts and benefits looked bleak for the residents along the Sindhuli Road Corridor (SRC), for e.g. people commuting through the highway may only use it as a convenient road facility with little or none benefits for the residents.

Both governments from Nepal and Japan further discussed on ensuring and developing opportunities to reap maximum advantages for improving the livelihoods of the local residents. This substantial requisite eventually gave rise to Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Nepal and JICA to reach an agreement on carrying out “the Project for the Master Plan Study on High Value Agriculture Extension and Promotion in SRC (SRCAMP)” in 2010, and the project was launched in June 2011.

- SRCAMP was conducted for 3 years (2011-2014) to support the



Farm Land in Sindhuli

formulation of Government M/P to promote agriculture commercialization through High Value Commodities (HVCs) in the hill/mountain areas.

- After the completion of SRCAMP another significant project SRCCAP: Sindhuli Road Corridor Commercial Agriculture Promotion Project was launched in 2015 which will last until 2019.

SRC-CAP project was launched to bring about positive effects, including economic revitalization of the less developed area and their livelihood in areas along the Sindhuli Road namely Kavrepalanchowk, Dolakha, Ramechhap and Sindhuli Districts. The project aims to develop the value chain of high value agricultural products (Vegetables) at the area along the Sindhuli road, and to bring the profit

to the concerned people. The total estimated project budget is around 5 million USD.

Overall Goal: Agricultural income of the farm households in the Sindhuli Road Corridor (SRC) area is increased through agricultural commercialization.

Project Purpose: Develop Value-chain for high value commodities (HVC's) to bring stakeholders profit along SRC.

Presented below are few examples of the positive transformation brought about since the implementation of the project to the local farmers/residents of Sindhuli road.

BHIMESHWOR VDC, SINDHULI

Mr. Ramesh Khadka a vegetable trader operating in Sindhuligadi market was one among other traders to participate in the first matching forum meeting held with producer groups in Sindhuli district where producers from Bhimeswor VDC also participated. This area lacked reliable market for their vegetables produce despite previous on and off sales in Sindhuli.

Three months post the matching forum meeting, there seems to be behavior shift in terms of trading of the

vegetables produced by the local farmers. Earlier the person responsible for facilitating sales-Mr. Ramesh didn't seem too keen to cooperate with the local farmers in terms of buying and selling of the products also didn't pay them on time. However, now he buys their products irrespective of quantity amount and also makes payment within 3 days. The producers are glad they don't have to roam around the market to sell their produce instead can rely on one person and the new system to enhance their business. Producers think that this improvement could be due to the witness and involvement of DADO

Bhimeshwar VDC, Sindhuli ...contd from pg 5

(District Agriculture Department Office) and project which facilitated the matching forum and market survey.

RAMECHAP -FULASI GROUP: (INTERVIEW ON 5 JULY 2016 WITH MR. BIDUR CHAUHAN AND CHAIRPERSON MR NARAYAN THAPA)

Innovative market intervention strategies such as planned production, large number of output and seeking buyers and creating demand of the products of SRC-CAP project have increased producers' confidence to apply 'Grow to sell' method of vegetables.

Earlier there used to be very less number of producers around 4-5 only who were indulged in selling the vegetables limited to Manthali only. However the number seems to have increased in the 6-8 months after this project intervention.

Currently, all 25 members have agreed to grow tomato for rainy season and nearly 20 producers have managed required logistics for the same.

Chairperson of the area Mr. Narayan Thapa is highly credited and trusted member in the district and have been instrumental in enhancing the sales of the product in the market both in small and large numbers. Producers are also satisfied with the new marketing system establishment where the number of buyers for the product is increasing on a daily basis in and around Manthali. More than 25 % of the vegetables are now sold in Chrikot and Tamakoshi market and all this was possible due to the better accessibility of road and transportation in the Sindhuli road.

EXPERIENCE SHARING ON TRAINING AND DEMONSTRATION FARM AND ACHIEVEMENT

A workshop on Experience Sharing of "Training and Demonstration Farm and Achievement" was organized today on 14th December 2016 in Kathmandu. In the workshop, Dr. Saroj Pokhrel, Secretary of the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Mr. Jun Sakuma, Chief Representative of JICA Nepal jointly launched the "Working Procedure on Training and Demonstration Farm: Establishment and Operation". Ministry of Agricultural Development plans to implement the training and demonstration activities in its annual plan in all the 75 districts here onwards.

Prepared as part of JICA's assistance to the Government of Nepal, Ministry of Agricultural Development worked towards the implementation of Follow-up Cooperation on Agricultural Training and Extension Improvement Project

(F/C_ATEIP). This Working Procedure was developed based on experience, best practices and lessons learned. The implementation of this follow-up cooperation project in 5 hilly districts of the central development region namely Dhading, Makwanpur, Nuwakot, Rasuwa and Sindhupalchowk began from October 2015 to December 2016. The F/C_ATEIP was implemented by the Department of Agriculture through NARMA Consultancy Private Limited; a national private firm specialized in agricultural development. The F/C_ATEIP has successfully established 34 T/D (Training and Demonstration) Farms in 5 districts spread throughout the targeted districts. More than 100 JT/JTAs (Junior Technician and Junior Technician Assistant) have participated in this scheme as top priority in their regular activities/duties.

The F/C_ATEIP is the one year extension of the previous Agricultural Training and Extension Improvement Project (ATEIP) which was implemented in aforementioned 5 districts from 2004 to 2009 with assistance of JICA for improving farmers' livelihoods by reforming Nepal's agricultural service delivery system. The overall objective of the ATEIP was to revitalize the core essence of ATEIP outcomes so as to ensure the sustainability of ATEIP model. This project is acknowledged for (a) introducing new extension system which include several innovations such as T/D farms and E/M (Extension and Model) farmers in Nepalese national extension system and (b) strengthening the capacity of the JT/JTAs and DADO (District Agriculture Development Office) officials through improvements in agricultural and managerial skills through practical training.

COUNTERPART TRAINING PROGRAM ON MARKET-ORIENTED HORTICULTURE PRODUCTION

"Counterpart training program on Market-oriented Horticulture production" in Japan was held from 17th to 27th October 2016. The training program was conducted at Nagoya city and the Chita region in Aichi prefecture where agriculture industry is more active than other place. The main purpose of the training program was to observe and understand various market-oriented agricultural examples in Japan and to apply them to SRC-CAP (Sindhuli Road Corridor Commercial Agriculture Promotion Project) activities or other extension activities in Nepal. In the first half of the training program, the officers of Tokai Regional Agricultural Administration Office of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and

Fisheries and Local Agriculture Administration Office gave some lectures to the trainees for understanding the agricultural policy of Japan and their activities for producers. Trainees also visited the wholesale market of Nagoya City and retail shops to know how the agricultural products are distributed and sold to the consumer. In the second half, participants visited the producers and JA (Japanese Agricultural Cooperatives) in order to understand advantages of the collaborative work. Various officials from the Ministry of Agricultural Development, Department of Agriculture and District Agriculture Development offices participated in the training program.

THREE DECADES OF ATTACHMENT WITH JICA NEPAL

Japan is a close friend of Nepal and a highly dedicated development partner as well. It has been extending its support to the Government of Nepal in order to achieve sustainable economic development by alleviating poverty since 1969. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Nepal is working as an ODA implementation agency and the government of Japan has been providing development assistance to Nepal through JICA.

I have been associated with JICA Nepal since last three decades. Initially, when I worked as a Nepali Counterpart for three JOCV's (Japanese Overseas Cooperation Volunteers) in District Agriculture Development Office (DADO), Tanahun, I got a very good impression how JOCVs work with community people at grass root level and transfer Japanese technologies for agriculture development. I was surprised how their simple technology and input brought excellent and sustainable results. Not only in agriculture, the SV/JOVCs contributed a lot for road construction, health, education, communication etc. and supported to uplift the life of Nepalese people. I supervised few JOCVs who worked under JICA Alumni Association of Nepal (JAAN), I then noticed the sincerity they demonstrated towards their work was commendable.

In early 1997, I was nominated by JICA Nepal and Government of Nepal for ten months counterpart training to Ehime Prefectural Government Office, Japan. During my training period I learnt various technologies from Japan. Upon my request, training institution in Japan recommended me for my higher study in Ehime University, Japan. As a result, I completed my higher study (Master and Doctorate) from Japan in agriculture. In addition to this, I was appointed as a Goodwill Ambassador from Ehime Prefecture, Japan during my JICA training period for strengthening good relation between Nepal and Japan. During my long stay in Japan I was highly impressed with JICA's work and its programs; as a result I developed immense respect towards JICA, the Japanese



Orange harvesting for Lab experiment in EHIME, Japan (Dec 1997)

government officials, university faculty members and Japanese community.

I enrolled with JAAN to become its life member after I returned to Nepal in 2004. Since then I have worked closely with JICA for more than nine years as an Executive Committee Member and the General Secretary of JAAN. My further relation with JICA from April, 2016 is as the President of its only sister organization JAAN. Thus I have been working closely with JICA as its Volunteers Counterpart JAAN Executive, Short Term Project's Team Leader/Advisor/Coordinator etc. before I left for Japan in 1997 and also after my return in 2004. With varied roles undertaken with JICA, participants like me are always encouraged to work towards strengthening good relation between Nepal and Japan and contributing in nation building.



DR. RAM CHANDRA BHUSAL
President
JICA Alumni Association of Nepal (JAAN)

JICA's support in Nepal is highly evident in the agricultural sector. Japanese introduced new forms of farming such as junar in Sindhuli and Ramechhap, coffee in Syangja and trout fish in Rasuwa and Nuwakot. JICA introduced water melon, Japanese persimmon, pear, strawberry, kiwi fruits, tofu, and mushroom by implementing various projects. All these products aim to uplift the life of poor people in Nepal and Nepalese farmers have thus benefitted through production of these fruits and vegetable both in terms of innovative farming as well as in commercial purpose. So, cooperation of Japan in Nepalese agriculture sector is pertinent as per the need of farmers for sustainable agriculture development, enhanced food security and income generation activities.

Japan always considers its human resources as the most prized possession and always focuses on moral, practical and quality education. JICA therefore also lends its support to Nepal by sending many Nepalese young people to Japan for various training every year for capacity building and skill development.

Finally, I would like to mention that JICA's cooperation in Nepal mainly in the agriculture development, health, education, human resource development and infrastructure sector is highly valued. As a JICA Trainee, graduate student from Japan and the current head of its alumni (JAAN) I thank JICA Nepal, Japan and its people for providing unconditional support to Nepal. JAAN is a very active Alumni of JICA with strong human resource networking in Nepal and all JAAN members play a vital role in nation building and always aspire to strengthen good relations between Nepal and Japan as Goodwill Ambassadors.

RECONSTRUCTION & REHABILITATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE



Aganche Temple

The Gorkha Earthquake in 2015 directly affected many of the cultural heritage sites including many World Heritages monuments of Nepal. To restore cultural values as well as revitalize Nepal as a popular cultural tourist destination, JICA decided to assign a Cultural Heritage Advisor to the Department of Archaeology (DoA) under Japan's Technical Cooperation (T/C). The cooperation is expected to enhance the overall capacity of the Department of Archaeology from administrative and technical perspectives to effectively implement reconstruction and rehabilitation activities of cultural heritage sites of Nepal.

Considering the above goal, JICA has dispatched a "Cultural Heritage Advisor (Reconstruction Technique)" to Department of Archaeology (DOA) from 26th December, 2016. The advisor, Mr. Tadatsugu Tai, was working in Wakayama prefecture and enthusiastically working for maintenance and reconstruction of cultural heritages in Japan.

JICA focuses on the reconstruction of "Aganche Mandir" and "Mahadev (Shiva) Temple" in Hanuman Dhoka Durbar Square and "Degu Talle Temple" in Patan Durbar Square. Mr. Tai provides technical advice to DOA and the Government of Nepal and utilizes counterpart fund of Japan for the reconstruction of these heritages.

Mr. Tai emphasizes that supporting capacity development of Nepalese cultural heritage conservators is most important for sustainable management of cultural heritages in Nepal.

GRANT AGREEMENT FOR IMPROVEMENT OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT IN TUTH

Government of Japan and Government of Nepal signed Bilateral Agreement regarding Project for Improvement of Medical Equipment in Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital (TUTH) amidst a function on 28th Dec 2016. According to the agreement Government of Japan is extending a grant assistance of seven hundred fifty four million yen (754,000,000) about NPR 692.9 million for the implementation of the project.

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Nepal, Exchange of Notes (E/N) for the project was signed between His Excellency Mr. Masashi Ogawa, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, and Dr. Shanta Raj Subedi, Secretary, Ministry of Finance, on behalf of their respective Governments at the Ministry of Finance in Signhadurbar, Kathmandu. On the same occasion, the Grant Agreements for the projects were signed and exchanged between Mr. Baikuntha Aryal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance, on behalf of the Government of Nepal and Mr. Hiroyasu Tonokawa, Senior Representative of JICA Nepal, on behalf of Japan International Cooperation Agency.

The improvement of medical equipment for TUTH project aims to enhance the quality and quantity of medical services and education provided by TUTH. Procurement and installation of equipment, renovation works and technical assistance for maintenance of the equipment will be the main scope of the project. The Project will replace a part of exhausted/old medical equipment of TUTH and procure new medical equipment that a top referral hospital should own. The Project also works for building reinforcement, waterproofing and rehabilitation for the installation of some of the procured equipment.

The project period will be 12.5 months from the date of implementation. The Project intends to improve the lives of Nepalese population through provision of enhanced medical services in the country. JICA and TUTH have a long history of cooperation. JICA supported in the construction of Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital (TUTH), nursing college and dormitory between 1980's and 90's through Grant-Aid Projects. Also, JICA's technical assistance included training for TUTH physicians in Japan. Through its medical education projects (1990-1994), JICA contributed in improving the quality of medical and nursing education.

JICA NEPAL COMPLETES ITS 1ST PUBLIC FACILITY RECONSTRUCTION BUILDING

The newly constructed Thokarpa VDC building in Sindhupalchowk District, inaugurated by Mr. Jun Sakuma, Chief Representative of JICA Nepal Office was duly handed over to the VDC officials amidst a formal ceremony on 21st Dec 2016. The VDC building was reconstructed by JICA through its "Project on Rehabilitation and Recovery from Nepal Earthquake". This is the first public facility completion out of numerous JICA's public facility reconstruction efforts.

The total investment for the project is NPR 9 million and the project took exactly 8 months for completion since its commencement in March 2016.



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