JICA Volunteer’s contribution is immense in Nepal’s development process. Hundreds of volunteers in the past have worked in Nepal and many more are here currently to facilitate the development process through technology and skill transfer. Many Japanese volunteers remain loyal to Nepal supporting various causes even after they complete their assignment 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.

Each of these volunteers is highly committed and are partaking their skills and knowledge with the fellow workers and also with other members of the community such as women, children, locals through extensive marketing and outreach activities. 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.

In order to observe activities regarding some of our volunteers since last 2 years, a study tour was organized inviting esteemed officials from the Government and media sector. The two days trip to Ramechhap & Sindhuli included visits to various sectors such as community development, education, agriculture etc.

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 benefits not only the local residents but also the associated organizations in terms of exchange of experience and enriched information.

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, 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.

Presented below are some of the JOCV activities observed during the tour;

All the participants in Kamalamai Municipality office with JOCV Ms. Sawaki, March 2020.
Sindhuli Study Tour 2020  ...contd from pg 1

Ms. Teruko SAWADA showing vegetables in the model farm

Manthali Municipality, Ramechhap

1. Water Supply Engineering, Manthali Municipality: Mr. Chisho SHIMIZU working in Manthali Municipality in the field of Water Supply Engineering demonstrated the Leakage sound Detection Technology through Detection Bar to all the participants. He also explained his involvement in field research and working with water consumers’ group in Manthali Municipality. He further shared his experience of visits to Tansen and Ilam in the similar sector and how it helped him gain knowledge about water supply system in Nepal. He further announced his action plan to visit other sites of water supply and sharing of technical inputs to prevent leakage and errors of water supply connections.

Mr. Dilli Adhikari, Civil Engineer in the Manthali Municipality further stressed Mr. Shimizu’s contribution in the water supply sector and how the techniques used have proven beneficial in detecting and reducing the leakages in the area and the possibility if its implementation in other affected areas.

2. Vegetable Growing, Agriculture Knowledge Centre Ramechhap: Ms. Teruko SAWADA working in the Agriculture Knowledge Centre made a brief presentation of her activities to all participants where she explained about the development of model farm in the office and periodic orientation to the farmers along with practical training. She also explained how she has been promoting methods of commercial farming to all the farmers. Currently she is promoting farming for potatoes, tomatoes, green vegetables etc. She also explained how she is exploring possibility areas to expand her cooperation. Ms. Sawada showed the participants the model farm developed by her and presented examples of the farming methods.

3. Primary School Education, Shree Chandeshwari Secondary School, Gothpani: Ms. Hiroko NAKAMURA has been teaching as primary school teacher in Shree Chandeshwari Secondary School, Gothpani. She has focused teaching mathematics to primary level students. Furthermore, she is teaching art, music, physical education and introduction of Japanese Language and Japanese culture to the students. Her specialty is to teach in the practical and interesting way. Gothpani is remote area and it is difficult to commute there during monsoon period. Therefore, she teaches the primary level students in Manthali Secondary School, Manthali at monsoon period and holiday period in Shree Chandeshwari Secondary School, Gothpani. She made brief presentation regarding her activities to all the participants.

Mr. Keshav Raj Sapkota, Principal of the Manthali SS and Mr. Principal of Chandeshwari SS appreciated Ms. Nakamura’s dedication and contribution to the school and its students. They further stated how her gentle nature and behavior made her popular amongst the students as well as the local community.

Mr. Dinesh Acharya, Agriculture Knowledge Chief informed all the participants regarding Ms. Sawada’s performance mainly comprising of introduction of new techniques mostly used in Japan in the farming sector and further stressed on the benefits of these techniques in future.

Kamalamai Municipality, Sindhuli

4. Community Development: Ms. Sakura SAWAKI primarily has been focusing on social inclusion in public service delivery for socially weak people to get access to the service by Government of Nepal. For example, she prepared the information leaflet for disability identification certificate awareness to spread information regarding usage of disability ID cards for local community people in Sindhuli. Furthermore, she has been focusing her activities to facilitate the public service delivery mainly for senior citizens. She also informed how she in cooperation with volunteers from Australia worked together to create awareness regarding waste management in Sindhuli District where her work included frequent field visits, visit to local communities and meetings with locals and office staffs. She also informed about the periodic cleaning campaigns organized in the area in coordination with municipality staffs.

Mr. Sagar Kumar Dhakal, Senior Program Officer in the municipality office who closely worked with Ms. Sawaki praised her work and informed how her involvement in the office work improved efficiency of management in organizing various campaigns to raise awareness.

Mr. Purushottam Subedi, Chief Administration Officer closed the session by thanking Ms. Sawaki for her contribution and mentioned several JOCV Volunteers who in the past worked in the District.
The participants in the tour were also taken to the Local Cooperative office producing Lollipop and other food items. Visit to the local factory was organized alongside to display the products produced through involvement of local women in the Sindhuli Area. The factory in the past and currently is supported by JOCV volunteers in order to market their products in the local market as well as Kathmandu. Ms. Bimala Thapa Chairperson of the factory gave a short presentation of the products and their work modality and explained how JOCV supported the organization in marketing and promoting the products helping them in income generation as well.

Mr. Tek Bahadur Khatri, Under Secretary of Ministry of Finance International Economic Coordination and Cooperation Department presented his feedback regarding the JOCV activities. Besides, appreciating and acknowledging the volunteer’s contribution he explained how this cooperation could benefit both the societies in the long run. He further requested all the participants from government offices to encourage, motivate all the working volunteers, and work closely with them. He said, “This association is a very good learning experience for us Nepalese as well so that in future we are well equipped to conduct various activities on our own. Thus, it is very necessary we closely observe JOCV’s activities and understand their working modalities”.

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 1,500 volunteers have been assigned to various fields across the country. Currently about 50 volunteers are stationed at 18 districts in fields such as agriculture, community development, education including youth activity, sanitation and health, etc.

The total amount of Grant Aid was 3,559 million Yen and the project period lasted between 1994-1997. The project aimed to enhance the safety of aircraft operation in Kathmandu airport and to promote the constant development of the air transport network in Nepal to further contribute to the overall political and economic development and promotion of tourism.

Needless to say the project has achieved its goals and continues to provide service as anticipated.

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.

Chief Executive Officer of National Reconstruction Authority Mr. Sushil Gyewali and Ms. Yumiko Asakuma, Chief Representative of JICA Nepal jointly inaugurated the newly reconstructed buildings with four blocks (Two academic blocks, one practical block and one toilet block). JICA is reconstructing almost 49 schools in Dadhing


Secretary of National Reconstruction Authority Mr. Shivahari Sharma and Ms. Yumiko Asakuma, Chief Representative of JICA Nepal jointly inaugurated the newly reconstructed buildings with three blocks (One academic block, one practical block and one toilet block). JICA is reconstructing almost 57 schools in Nuwakot.

Recently the Government of Japan agreed to extend grant assistance of 352 million Japanese Yen to the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) Nepal to implement the National School Meals Program in Nuwakot District.

The newly constructed buildings are built under Emergency School Reconstruction Project (ESRP). Central Level Project Implementation Unit under National Reconstruction Authority is implementing the Project with support from Japanese ODA loan assistance.

The old school buildings were severely damaged during the earthquake in 2015 and since then had faced difficulties in managing the classrooms and education for the students. The new buildings are constructed with multihazard resilient structures, which are environment, child, gender and disable friendly and is expected to provide improved learning environment for the students.
First of all I would like to thank JICA and Government of Japan for providing Nepal this opportunity to let two delegates from Nepal participate in one of the very successful program of JICA, Comprehensive DRR.

It was a great experience for us as an official working on DRR, to explore Japan’s practice on DRR from different perspectives. The course was a good mixture of all necessary ingredients with such varieties in the modules. It ranged from theoretical perspectives to practical aspects, national level to local level and policies to practices. We went from live workshops of preserved disaster museum to experiencing 72 hours survival, Earthquake Memorial Day participation and participation in International DRR forum to community drills. From Kaeru Caravan to Japanese cultural events, cabinet offices to Takatori community, Fukuoka, Asakura City to Tokyo, Kane River preparedness to recovery so on. The gender issues, disaster statistics, heavy rain damage control and Sabo dam prevention gave us a great knowledge. And the most crucial part would be the first hand experience on know-how of every innovations and development activities undertaking in the backdrop of its resilience with respect to disaster risk management.

I made some interesting observations from governance angle which were quite inspiring and possible for us to replicate as well. The encouragement from government side to the private sector to participate in the meeting organized at cabinet office and providing platform to share their products to international delegates was one of the good practices for engaging private sector in government initiatives. I was quite amazed when most of the private sector started their presentation with glimpse of SDG and SFDRR goals and their product contributing to sustainable development and resilience. If we compare this, we are way behind educating the private sector on DRR, though government of Nepal has started partnership with private sector on certain DRR activities.

Japan, itself is an open university for any DRR practitioner, to learn and experience disaster risk governance, risk reduction and management. In every wall, streets in the public places and public utility we find all forms of basic information that are needed to use the service available. Do’s and Don’ts are displayed at public places and in every commercial and residential area at certain intervals to safeguard people. There is enough information to protect the people from the type of disaster which a particular place is exposed to. Nepal is also putting efforts for replicating some of these practices by identifying 84 open spaces within Kathamandu Valley that were used as a temporary shelters in the aftermath of 2015 Nepal earthquake. However, these sites still need to be managed properly with minimum infrastructure as per humanitarian need.

Japan and Nepal has a long history of strong friendship. Japan has played an instrumental role in supporting DRRM in Nepal including number of infrastructure development works and in the sector of health and education. The tunnel technology being introduced in Nepal uses Japanese technology. Technologies such as the ‘Sabo Dam’ (concept primarily used in managing floods and water scarcity in the Kulekhani Watershed System) that has been replicated across many rivers of Nepal, including the highway rivers is one of the classic example of technical support via Japan. We had the opportunity to observe the Sabo Dams near Kobe City, by the engineers and technical people working on it during the course. It is providing technical support in institutionalizing National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority at its early stage after its establishment.

The best of all is Japan itself and the Japanese people. How they have been contributing to the world with innovative technologies to make human life more comfortable. I now have a very good impression of the Japanese people. They were always humble to us. Their honesty and supporting nature will always be in our memories and their discipline and punctuality will be something that I would want to incorporate in my own life. We had the opportunity of being present in the Japanese Cultural night event where we were able to observe some of the traditional events, participate in games and enjoy the Japanese cuisine as well. Preserving the historic culture, norms and values, carrying it with new generations along with holding the identity as a synonym of development is appreciable.

As a government official, my seven weeks stay in Japan starting 6 January, 2020 was delightful. Experiencing DRR management and observing development has broadened my lens in applying DRR in Nepal more comprehensively. The renowned and experienced facilitators at Japan were very impressive. They helped us to understand the crucial aspects of DRR in a simplified manner. This experience alongside Japanese colleagues and participants from round the globe was very informative to exchange and understand the DRR and governance practice of different countries.

For me personally, it was a great honor and privilege to be present at DRR Plan in the August gathering of honorable MPs of Japanese Parliament. I would like to thank the organizers and facilitators for providing me that opportunity and selecting my DRR Plan to be presented. Their feedback and suggestions were quite encouraging as they were well aware about the project and activities conducted in Nepal because of a long history of the partnership and friendship between Japan and Nepal.

Lastly, I would like to thank the team of JICA Nepal and Japan for all the support in making our training successful. The care and support of the staff, service of cafeteria and the ambience of JICA Kansai and JICA Tokyo were at par. Due to these cooperation and friendly gesture we never felt like we were away from home. Last but not the least, the support from Sasaoka San of JICA, her team including Arakida San and other teams of ADRC were also very commendable to make this event a grand success.

I would like to call it a DRR experience rather than limiting it to a defined course. Thank you for all the support and coordination to make this program a successful one.

DOMO ARIGATO GOZAIMASU
Tulsi Prasad Dahal
Under Secretary,
Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration
Government of Nepal (GoN) has set a national target to achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water and adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all by 2030 aligning with goal 6 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The national target assumes to achieve 90% of improved piped water supply system, 95% of household with improved sanitation facilities and 90% of urban household connected to sewer systems by the year 2030 to name a few major targets.

On the other hand, present scenario is far behind the target. Data shows only 19% of the total population is served with treated drinking water; only 51.6% of household is connected to piped water supply and less than 60% household using improved sanitation facilities. Similarly, GoN allocation of national budget for WASH services is only 3% of total annual budget, which is far less to meet the set SDG national targets. Further, bottleneck is lack of data of the basic WASH facilities and service delivery situation particularly in the changed context of federalization. Adequate data and baseline information of the WASH situation is the pre requisite to identify gaps, needs, and priority to formulate programs and allocate resources in order to achieve the set SDG national target.

With this hindsight, JICA Nepal is conducting baseline Data Collection Survey on Water Supply and Sanitation Facilities Management to support GoN to address the gap of ‘data need’ and to pave way to identify needful interventions that could be considered by GoN as well as development partners to better address the national SDG target.

JICA has been providing seamless support to GoN in WASH sector since 1970s through several assistance schemes. In light with the national SDG target, JICA is devising strategic approach to focus on the support in large and urban areas that would significantly increase the improved service delivery of water and sanitation sector and significantly contribute in meeting the SDG indicators. Aligning with the strategic approach, the Data Collection survey was also conducted in large Metropolitan and Sub-Metropolitan cities of the country in two phases. The first phase of the Survey concluded in six bigger cities viz. Pokhara, Birgunj, Janakpur, Kathmandu, Butwal and Hetauda in November 2019 and second phase survey in the remaining cities are ongoing.

Survey of the six cities reflects overall situation of the WASH facilities of the respective city including population projection, water and sanitation service coverage, water quality situation, institutional mechanism as such including recommended plan for improvement to better achieve the national SDG target. Some major policy recommendation of the Survey includes:

- Improvement of household connection ratio is significantly important for achieving SDG 6.1.1 (proportion of population using safely managed drinking water service) hence interventions should emphasize on improvement of water supply services in the bigger cities.
- Appropriate operation and maintenance of the existing facilities as well as distribution, water quality management is the priority issue of urban water utilities. Hence, technical interventions should be commenced to enhance the performance.
- With Local Governance Operation Act under implementation, Local Governments have to establish the water supply management system for whole city area. Also, Local Governments are urgently required to establish the implementation system for water environment management as well as wastewater management, together with capacities for planning, design, and regulating the sewerage system.
- Several small scale WUSCs in the cities needs to be integrated with larger water supply utilities for effective service delivery particularly in urban areas.
- Generated wastewater is almost equal to water consumption, thus waste water management shall be equally prioritized along with water supply programs.
- It is high time to introduce sewerage in high population density areas and to develop on site sanitation in less dense area. Sewerage and waste water management shall be done after preparing master plan particularly in large cities. Also it is inevitable to introduce regulation, local ordinance to manage the sewerage and on site sanitation by the Local Governments.

According to the recommendation, Ministry of Water Supply, has requested the government of Japan to formulate sewerage master plan in Pokhara city as well as technical assistance project for urban water utilities. With several ongoing and pipeline programs, JICA intends to continue seamless support to GoN on WASH sector particularly targeting the large cities and fulfilling the indicator of goal six of the SDG. (Data Collection Survey report is easily accessible in the website of JICA Library)

Prepared by Bidhya Pokhrel, Sr. Program Officer, JICA Nepal

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**DATA COLLECTION SURVEY CONDUCTED IN WASH SECTOR**

A PART OF THE SEAMLESS COOPERATION TO SUPPORT GON’S TARGET ON GOAL 6 OF THE SDG

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2 WASH Financing in Nepal 2019/20, Context: Sanitation and Water SDGs (WaterAid, 2019)
Central Bureau of Statistics publishes the National Economic Census 2018 report by Annual Sales, Profit and Loss of Entities

The Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) conducted the first ever National Economic Census 2018 with the technical support from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The reference date of the census operation was April 14, 2018 which covered all fixed and movable establishments that existed in Nepal. CBS has earlier published the National Reports regarding the number of establishments by industry; size of persons engaged in these establishments and disintegrated data up to provincial and district level.

On May 5, 2020, CBS further published the National Economic Census date focusing on Annual sales, profit and loss. The data shows the Annual sales of Nepal came out to be NRs. 2,916 billion in Nepali fiscal year 2074. Manufacturing was the largest section with NRs. 674 billions accounting for 23.1 % followed by Wholesale and retail trade with NRs. 601 billions accounting for 20.6%.

For gross annual profit and loss per entity by size of persons engaged, the largest group with Rs. 140 billion profit (16.4%). Subsequently, only one person engaged accounted for Rs. 56 billions profit (6.5%).

Looking at the annual sales per entity by size of persons engaged, 500 to 999 persons engaged was the largest group with Rs. 2,629 million per entity followed by 1000 person engaged and over is with 2,019 million. One person engaged was the smallest group with Rs. 441 thousand per entity. For gross annual profit and loss per entity by size of persons engaged, again 500 to 999 persons engaged was the largest group with Rs. 531 millions per entity. One person engaged was the smallest group with Rs. 162 thousand per entity.

In the category of annual sales per person engaged by size of persons engaged in each entity, 500 to 999 persons engaged was the largest group with Rs. 3,974 thousands per person engaged followed by 100 to 499 person engaged with Rs. 2,281 thousands. Two persons engaged was the smallest group with Rs. 389 thousands. For gross annual profit and loss per person engaged by size of person engaged in each entity, again 500 to 999 person engaged was the largest group with Rs. 802 thousand. Two person engaged came out to be the smallest group with Rs. 134 thousands.

It was found that larger number of persons engaged in entities resulted into high gross annual sales and profits in comparison to small number of persons engaged in entities with a few exceptions. A detail of this report is now available in the official website of Central Bureau of Statistics.

For more information, please see the Central Bureau of Statistics website; https://cbs.gov.np/economic-census/
5 YEARS OF JICA’S EQ RECOVERY SUPPORT

On 25 April 2015, a devastating earthquake of magnitude 7.8 struck Nepal with its epicentre in the Gorkha district. Followed by a major aftershock of magnitude 7.3 on 12 May 2015, the earthquake caused tremendous impacts on various aspects of the Nepalese society. Since immediately after the earthquake, JICA Nepal has been providing assistance for the Government of Nepal (GoN) in earthquake reconstruction and recovery based on the core principle of Build Back Better (BBB) – one of the four priority actions in the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction. JICA’s BBB-based reconstruction and recovery support has covered various sectors, such as housing and school reconstruction, cultural heritage, infrastructure reconstruction and so on.

Almost five years have passed since the earthquake, and significant progress has been made in many reconstruction sectors. As for JICA’s assistance, reconstruction of all major public infrastructure and buildings was completed by early 2019. This includes construction of 5 bridges to improve connectivity of the remote epicenter regions of Gorkha, rehabilitation of the water system for Chautara in Sindhupalchowk, and reconstruction of 2 public hospitals in Kathmandu. Also twenty other local public facilities such as ward offices, agriculture-related offices and storage facilities, community training centers and so on.

Housing reconstruction in 2 focus districts – Gorkha and Sindhupalchowk – has achieved a remarkable progress of about 90% completion rate (as of Feb 2020), with 51,000 completed houses out of the total 56,920 beneficiaries in the JICA supported areas. Further, JICA is also supporting reconstruction of 236 schools in 6 districts – Lalitpur, Makwanpur, Dhading, Nawakot, Rasuwa and Gorkha. As of Feb 2020, 178 schools have been reconstructed.

Majority of JICA’s reconstruction and recovery assistance is supposed to be winding down within the next 1-2 years, paving ways to long-term capacity development support in Disaster Risk Reduction.

JICA Nepal Office have developed a promotional video to showcase various achievements and progress in earthquake reconstruction and recovery, and to highlight how JICA’s assistance has contributed in realizing BBB in Nepal.

The YOUTUBE links and the QR Code of the videos available on page 6.

PROJECT COMPLETION SEMINAR - SINDHULI ROAD CORRIDOR COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE PROMOTION PROJECT (SRC-CAP)

SRC-CAP Project organized a Project Completion Seminar to share its learning and experiences among the stakeholders including Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock Development (MOALD), Department of Agriculture (DOA), Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperative (MOLMAC) of Bagmati Province, Agriculture Knowledge Centre (AKC), Donor Partners, Local Governments and representatives of various farmers group who are part of the SRC-CAP project, attended the seminar.

Dr. Rajendra Mishra, Joint Secretary of MOALD thanked to the JICA for this Technical Cooperation and committed to replicate the approach through government mechanism. Besides, he also highlighted major learning from the project, such as; 1) Developing independent farmers and providing continuous motivating 2) Provision of minimum subsidy and target for the market led farming

Ms. Nire Dhal Pandey, Director General, Department of Agriculture appreciated the JICA cooperation and expressed that this contribution motivated medium level farmers to adopt the Small Horticulture Empowerment & promotion (SHEP) approach. It encouraged farmers to carry out market survey before they produce vegetables. She further committed to replicate the SRC-CAP approach from the DOA.

Mr. Kentaro Yokota, Senior Representative of JICA Nepal Office thanked to the government of Nepal especially MOALD, MOLMAC and Local Governments for their hard work to complete the project successfully. He expected that all the stakeholders would work to replicate it in other parts of the local governments and province.

The SRC-CAP was launched in 2015 for 5 years. The purpose of the project is to develop value-chain for high value commodities to reap profit for stakeholders along the Sindhuli Corridor.

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