

NAMUNA MACHHINDRA SECONDARY SCHOOL, LALITPUR: THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW BUILDING IS COMPLETED AND HANDED BACK TO THE SCHOOL



Rt. Honorable PM Deuba handing over the certificate of appreciation to Ms. Yumiko Asakuma, Chief Representative of JICA Nepal

The newly reconstructed buildings of Namuna Machhindra Secondary School –also a Resource Class based Integrated School for Children with Visual Impairments in Nepal was handed over to the school management committee on Sep 15, 2021. The school situated in Lagankhel, Lalitpur was damaged by 2015 Gorkha earthquake. Since then the school faced difficulties in managing classrooms and education for the students.

The school infrastructures were jointly inaugurated by Rt. Honorable Prime Minister of Nepal Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba, Mr. Sushil Gyewali, Chief Executive Officer of National Reconstruction Authority (NRA), Mr.

Chiri Babu Maharjan, Mayor of the Lalitpur Metropolitan City, Mr. Yutaka Kikuta, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal and Ms. Yumiko Asakuma, Chief Representative of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Nepal amidst a function held in the school premises.

The secondary school was established back in 2008 BS (1952 AD) and now have nearly 500 students from ECD to grade 10 including 37 students with Visual Impairments. The reconstruction of the facilities initiated in November 2019 under the Emergency School Reconstruction Project (ESRP) supported by JICA. The Project is being implemented by Central Level Project Implementation Unit-Education of NRA. The new buildings

were reconstructed with multi-hazard resilient structures which are environment, child, and gender and disable friendly to provide improved learning environment for the students based on the concept of Build Back Better (BBB) which increases resilience not only physically but also socially. The reconstructed buildings were also designed to be a “complete school” which provides all the necessary facilities for the education to the students. In the new school, there are classrooms with furniture for Early Childhood Development (ECD) to grade 10, science laboratories, a resource classroom, separate hostel rooms for boys and girls, kitchen and dining hall for the students with visual impairment, office rooms for head teacher and teachers, separate toilets for girls and boys with water supply in each floor of the academic and hostel block, also handwashing facilities, tactile pavement, and handrails are set in the hostel block.

Speaking at the handover and inauguration ceremony, Rt. Honorable Mr. Deuba, prime minister of Nepal, appreciated the generous and valuable support of the Government of Japan not only in Education sector but also in different sectors. He thanked to all stakeholders for close collaboration and efforts for completion of the really inclusive school reconstruction.

HANDOVER OF NAMUNA MACHHINDRA SECONDARY SCHOOL *contd from page 1*

Ms. Pampha Bhusal, the Minister for Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation and Mr. Sushil Gyewali, the Chief Executive Officer of National Reconstruction Authority, and Mr. Chiri Babu Maharjan, Mayor of Lalitpur Metropolitan City also highlighted the importance of reconstruction with adopting Build Back Better approach after the devastating earthquake. They also thanked to the Government of Japan for the great support.

In speech of Mr. Yukata Kikuta, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal which was delivered by Ms. Yumiko Asakuma, Chief Representative of JICA Nepal, he congratulated the completion of this work together with Japan and Nepal. He expressed the respect for the teachers and students for this school. Also, he emphasized that the traditional Japanese spirit of caring others, which is reflecting to the concept of design with reduced

steps, braille blocks and handrails for differently-abled students.

Ms. Yumiko Asakuma, also expressed pleasure to handover such multi-hazard resilient school facilities with universal design, and expectation for JICA's contribution to quality education. She also hopes periodic maintenance and effective utilization of the provided facilities.

Emergency School Reconstruction Project (ESRP): Total 274 schools are being built, out of which 229 are completed and 45 are under construction. The total cost for the project is JPY 14 billion (about NPR 12.7 billion) to support the reconstruction of disaster resilient schools in Gorkha, Dhading, Nuwakot, Makwanpur, Rasuwa and Lalitpur Districts, based on the earthquake-resistant type design guidelines formulated by JICA under the principle of "BBB".



Newly constructed School Building of Namuna Machhindra Secondary School, Lalitpur.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR YOUNG PROSPECTIVE GOVERNMENTAL OFFICIALS THROUGH "THE PROJECT FOR HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (JDS) 2021/22".

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) will provide scholarship for young prospective governmental officials through "The Project for Human Resource Development Strategy (JDS)".

On July 12 2021, JICA and the Government of Nepal signed to conclude Grant Agreement on Grant Assistance for "The Project for Human Resource Development Strategy (JDS)" for FY2021/2022, which amounts up to Japanese Yen 356,000,000.

JDS is the scholarship program which drives human resource development and contributes to resolving development challenges. This project focuses especially on young government officials who are expected to lead the country in navigating development as the future leaders in Nepal. Obtaining Master's or Doctor's degree in Japanese higher educational institutions, the selected participants enhance their expertise in respective professional areas ranging widely from judicial sectors, economic

policy, industrialization, to infrastructure, and develop broad network at the global level. The project enables the young leaders to catalyse development agenda back in Nepal.

Having been started since 2016, JDS has built its wide alumni network amounting to more than 122 across key ministries. Every year, 20 to 22 candidates are selected on competitive basis and obtain excellent opportunities in reputed Japanese Universities.

JICA TO SUPPORT MITIGATION OF TRAFFIC CONGESTION AND PROMOTION OF ROAD SAFETY IN KATHMANDU VALLEY.

Traffic congestion in the morning and evening rush hours are common sights in Kathmandu Valley. Moreover, population growth in Kathmandu Valley is expected to cause more severe traffic congestion and to increase traffic accidents in future. Hence, it is essential to mitigate traffic congestion and promote road safety.

On October 27, 2021, the Record of Discussions (R/D) for a new technical cooperation project, “the Project

for Introduction of Urban Transport Management in Kathmandu Valley” was signed between Mr. Keshab Kumar Sharma, Joint Secretary of Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport and Ms. Yumiko Asakuma, Chief Representative of JICA Nepal office.

The new technical cooperation project will support to mitigate traffic congestion and create better condition for promoting road safety by developing an urban transport management plan mainly in the field of

road traffic. Also, the project will enhance the capacity for intersection improvement through several pilot projects at the intersections in Kathmandu. Further, the project will target at improvement of traffic signal operation and management and implementation of traffic safety campaigns.

The project is scheduled to start in February 2022 (tentative) and various activities will be implemented until August 2025.

NEED FOR GOOD SEEDS FOR RICE PRODUCTION!

JICA to support Strengthening of Seed Production, Supply and Quality Control System in Nepal through its Technical Cooperation Project

JICA signed Record of Discussions with the Government of Nepal for the technical cooperation project “Strengthening Seed Production, Supply and Quality Control System Project” on December 3, 2021. The implementation period of the project is for 5 years (2022 March to 2027 March) and the Executing agency is Seed Quality Control Center (SQCC), Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MOALD), Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC), and Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperatives (MoLMAC) of province No.1.

The project shall be implemented in Province 1, mainly Jhapa, Morang, Sunasari and Udayapur districts. The purpose of the project is “to strengthen Rice seed production, supply and quality control system” to improve productivity of rice by means of dissemination of quality improved seeds in Province No.1 and to Strengthen the implementation of the rice seed production, supply and quality control system in Nepal.

Rice is fundamental crop of Nepali agriculture. Everyone eats it, and farmers gain income out of it. In order to make crop tasty,

nutritious, and productive, the most important factor remains the quality of rice seeds.

Even though rice farming contributes around 15 % of the National GDP of Nepal, there is still possibility to increase its yield therefore usage of improved Seed and increasing the replacement rate of seed are the key.

According to the statistic, seed replacement rate of rice in Nepal is around 20% now, therefore, Nepal Government has the strategy to raise the percentage to 25 percent. And it is estimated that the use of improved seeds with good quality will increase its yield by 15%. However, there are several processes before farmers can use the improved seeds with good quality, it is necessary to improve of the quality of the system and capacity to produce the quality seed in Nepal. In this context, holistic support for improving seed production was requested to JICA.

The Project is expected to contribute for sustainable social and economic development of Nepal during and after the implementation period of the project.

SINDHULI ROAD



BP Highway

(B.P. HIGHWAY) Sindhuli Road is an alternative National Highway to connect Kathmandu, capital 'city of Nepal, to mid and Eastern Terai. It is 160 km long, and is open for public use since March 2015 AD. The highway passes through Mahabharat range with numerous hairpin curves. As the Road is built

in steep terrain and fragile ecology, technologies like shotcrete, geotech, are used to strengthen and stabilize the road surface.

The highway was set to be constructed in 1958 AD during the tenure of then prime minister B. P. Koirala, but due to

political change in 1960 the project remained in limbo for 37 yrs. It was only after the political change of 1990s the project get rejuvenated

The road construction was commenced in 1995 AD with the grant assistance of the Government of Japan, and it is the largest grant assistance of its kind provided by Japanese Government all over the world. With the completion of this road it has eased the travel from Kathmandu to Bardibas, and now it is just 5 hrs drive. It has opened the door to numerous possibilities and helped to boost the life style of the people residing in the surrounding areas. It not only connects to Mid Hill Highway; east west highway but also to the other road connectivity to Mid and Eastern Mid Hill Road of Sindhuli District. In this context, this road is seen as a most promising task to open the doors to other development possibilities making itself a road network hub.

VEHICULAR EXHAUST EMISSIONS ARE MAJOR CAUSES OF THE AIR POLLUTION IN THE KATHMANDU VALLEY



Seeing from the sky over Kathmandu Valley, it is found that the Kathmandu Valley is covered with air pollutants even though the air is clear at high altitudes.
Photo by Ms. Yukiko Fukusaki

As part of JICA project, Ms. Yukiko Fukusaki in Yokohama Environmental Science Research Institute conducted the research "Investigation of Air Pollutants Related to the Vehicular Exhaust Emissions in the Kathmandu

Valley, Nepal" and published results on a research journal "Atmosphere".

The research measured the levels of major gaseous air pollutants in the Kathmandu Valley during the winter to investigate the impact of vehicular emissions and the contribution of gaseous air pollutants to secondary pollutants. In the results, the research discovered the most common gaseous pollutants were gasoline components, which were emitted more frequently by engine combustion than gasoline evaporation. Analyzing the results further, it was discovered that most

vehicles lacked a well-maintained catalyst. The research indicated that strategies for regulating gasoline vehicle exhaust emissions are critical for controlling the photochemical smog in the Kathmandu Valley.

"Investigation of Air Pollutants Related to the Vehicular Exhaust Emissions in the Kathmandu Valley, Nepal"

By Yukiko Fukusaki, Yokohama Environmental Science Research Institute

Published on "Atmosphere"
<https://www.mdpi.com/2073-4433/12/10/1322>

“STRENGTHENING OF COMMUNITY HEALTH SYSTEM FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONTROL (A) UNDER JICA KNOWLEDGE CO-CREATION PROGRAM (KCCP)”



MS. ROSHANI TUITUI

Campus Chief, Bir Hospital Nursing Campus
Chief Nursing Administrator, Bir Hospital

INTRODUCTION

I was fortunate to participate in professional development program “Strengthening of community health system for infectious disease control (A) under JICA Knowledge co-creation program (KCCP)” from 21st June to 13th August, 2021. This was a great opportunity provided to me hence I would like to thank Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP), Nepal for selecting me and one of my colleague from Nursing and Social Security Division (NSSD). This training gives great platform to interact and share experience from many countries including Japan especially of Okinawa. I learned many things though through virtual platform although I prefer the physical training setting more .

EXPERIENCE ABOUT THE TRAINING AND VIRTUAL COURSE

I was very excited as I got selected by MoHP for this training because NSSD committed to implement infection prevention and control (IPC) program in all health facilities. Our team was involved in preparation of IPC guideline for COVID and drafting of National Action Plan on Anti-Microbial Resistance. Similarly, we already completed three months in-depth training for nurses working in public and private hospital on IPC with knowledge, skill and behavior modification. The topic of training clearly stated that strengthening of community health system for infectious disease control will help the activities of our

division and even of Nepal so I am very much excited to start and continue knowledge co-creation. The beauty of virtual platform is that we can learn new thing as well as complete our daily tasks too. The course is well designed with self paced, intermittent face to face interaction and development/implementation of action plan. The self paced course is very enthusiastic as there are well explained slides by expert and additional video on related areas too. We can observe the module and learn in our convenient time. The facilitators are very keen, patience and cooperative.

LEARNING FROM TRAINING

I learned many things from this training course, most of which cannot be expressed in words. Among the 38 courses, the most important for me are community nursing program in Okinawa, Naha quarantine service, prevention and management of tuberculosis, malaria and other infectious diseases in simple and practical ways, prevention and control of emerging and re-emerging diseases, epidemiological transition and GIS in public health, vector surveillance, prevention and management of NTD and VPD including many others.

The foremost important prevention and management of NTD and VPD including many others.

- We need to be consistent and dedicated at work for successful implementation of public health measures.
- Community engagement is a major weapon.
- Political commitment is must.
- Continue monitoring is key to goal achievement.
- Very important to identify and implement simple and specific task.

IMPLICATION IN NEPAL

- We need to strengthen school health nursing program especially in relation to prevention and control of infectious diseases through child to child, child to parent and child to community program, which we already implemented in many schools through school nurses. The concept I learned from this training helped us and got different pictorial AV aids too.

"STRENGTHENING OF COMMUNITY HEALTH SYSTEM..." contd from page 5

- I have coordinated with the director of Nepal Tuberculosis Center to develop and use mini book for TB patients.
- Suggest concerned personnel to improve quarantine center.
- Coordinate with EDCD to incorporate the most useful activities in malaria, and other infectious disease control program.

POSITIVE ASPECTS OF TRAINING

- Self paced learning with elaborative online interaction
- In-depth knowledge shared on various infectious diseases including NTD, emerging and re-emerging diseases.
- Experience sharing latest technology especially on isolation, quarantine for COVID 19 including vaccination management and live experience sharing among representative of different countries.
- Linkage from history, knowledge, experience sharing and details about latest technology.
- Very supportive and dedicated faculty team of JICA Okinawa.

- Situation based action plan and follow up for implementation.
- Practical session for GIS mapping

TIPS FOR BETTERMENT OF TRAINING IN FUTURE

- Better to have more frequent face to face interaction and provide opportunity to share country experiences.
- Observation visit in Okinawa especially to gain insightful on PHN program, TB and malaria control, control of emerging and re-emerging with NTD too for all participants.
The PHN program is in rudimentary phase and it will be excellent if we got opportunity to visit Okinawa or have exchange of PHN, to have insightful learning on different aspect of program,, which helps to succeed and roll out this program throughout the country.
- Follow up monitoring from JICA country office on progress/implementation of action plan.

JICA'S NEW PROJECT TO IMPROVE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM IN URBAN CITIES OF NEPAL



Training in Pokhara

On 15th November 2021, JICA and Ministry of Water Supply (MOWS), Nepal Water Supply Corporation (NWSC) signed an agreement on Technical Cooperation Project to improve water supply system in urban cities of the country.

The project will improve the accessibility of safe water and satisfaction of customer services. Activities will be primarily piloted in the Pokhara branch targeting the sizable water supply facilities of 45 MLD WTP under verge of completion.

Despite bearing responsibility as public utility to provide water supply service to 23 major cities of Nepal, NWSC continues to suffer a meagre service delivery capacity. The project will improve operation and maintenance capacity, tariff collection capacity, human resource development capacity to name a major few components of the project.

Nepal has target to meet national SDG goal to provide 90% household with access to piped water supply by 2030. Such technical assistance intends to increase service delivery of urban towns to materialize the set national target.



Pokhara Water Treatment Plant (under construction)

“KNOWLEDGE CO-CREATION TOWARD COMMUNITY RESILIENCE”



Training Completion Certificate awarded to each participants from JICA Nepal Office

On November 19th 2021, 16 participants from Nepali central ministries such as NRA, NDRRMA and MoFAGA and 4 pilot municipalities Chautara Sangachokgadi and Helambu from Sindhupalchowk and Palungtar

and Barpak Sulikot from Gorkha have completed JICA's five-day-training program “Knowledge Co-Creation Program on Participatory Rural Recovery”.

The participants learned how to consolidate Community Resilience against disasters with a focus on participatory process at the community level.

The lecturers from Japanese governmental agency, municipalities Higashi-Matsushima City and Minami-Aso Municipality, and CSOs, who

experienced the Great Earthquake in 2011 as public servants, showed us insights such as the importance of involvement of community people including vulnerable groups in planning, disaster response, recovering.

JICA believe that inclusive participatory processes will contribute to Building Back Better (#BBB) communities against future disaster shocks. We will work together from the community to policy level as Nepal's partner who can share experiences with each other.



Active Participation from Gorkha!



Active Participation from Helambu!

JPP PROJECT INITIATED TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF LOW-COST GABION EMBANKMENT AND RIVER DISASTER PREVENTION

Kochi University commences the “Project for Support to Develop Low-cost Gabion Embankment and River Disaster Prevention with Local Partners” near Khar river, Birdi ward no. 9, Palungtar Municipality, Gorkha in coordination with its local partner NGO Green Innovative Research Center (GIRC). This project will be implemented from August, 2021 to August, 2024 (3 years). This project aims to share low-cost, durable Japanese gabion technology and promote plans with the locals of Gorkha District to reduce

the impact of river-related disasters. The purpose of the project primarily is to protect human life and basic livelihoods of the local residents from frequent floods, improving living environments and reducing poverty. Prior to this project, Kochi university had implemented the “Project for Penetration in Nepal of Local Adaptation-Based Gabion Techniques Serving both Disaster Management and Environmental Protection” in Dhading from Feb, 2016 to Feb, 2019. JICA will fully support this project through the JICA Partnership Program (JPP).



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