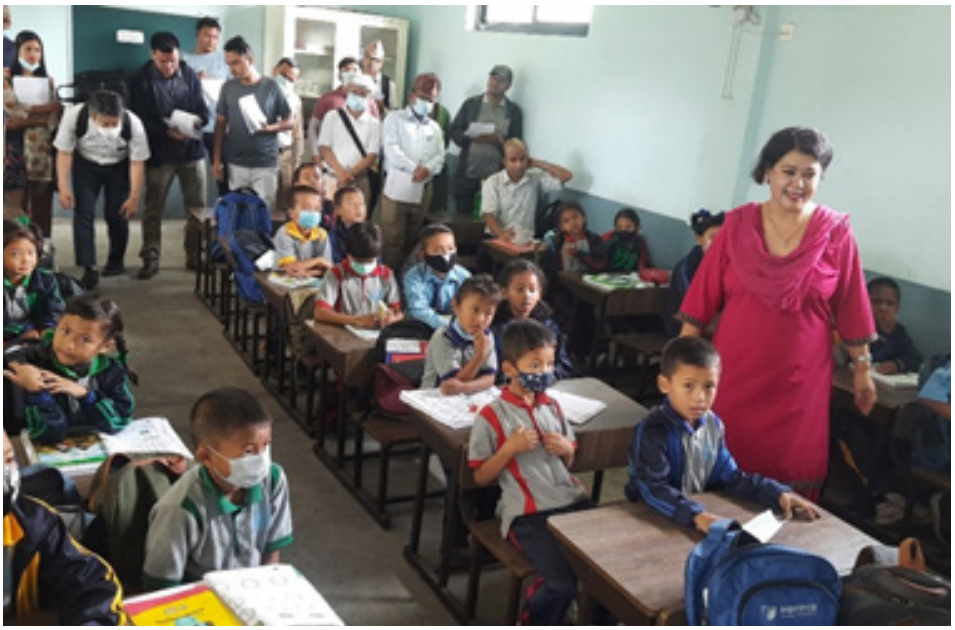
Japan International Cooperation Agency

JICA Nepal Office
Quarterly Newsletter

Vol 91 December 2022

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF SCHOOL EDUCATION IN NEPAL



Lesson study practice undertaken in Adarsha Secondary School in Bhaktapur.

The Project for Improving the Quality of School Education in Nepal (Improving Mathematics Education in Nepal, IMEN) is implemented in Nepal since November 2018 with technical assistance from the Government of Japan up to January 2024. The IMEN project has been working with Curriculum Development Center (CDC) and Center for Education and Human Resource Development (CEHRD) at the central level, and Education Development and Coordination Units (EDCUs) and Local Governments (LGs) in four pilot districts, which are Changunarayan in Bhaktapur, Bandipur in Tanahun, Pipra in Mahottari, and Tatopani in Jumla, at the local level.

The IMEN project aims to improve the mathematics proficiency of students in grade 1-3, through:

i. Developing students' learning materials and teacher's guides for grade 1-3 mathematics,
ii. Developing the professional capacity pf teachers in teaching grade 1-3 mathematics, and
iii. Supporting LGs to improve the quality of education in school.

Some of the activities undertaken by the project for its implementation and promotion are as follows;

TRAINING OF TRAINERS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MATHEMATICS!

The Technical Cooperation Project conducted six days training of trainers (ToT) program in Bhaktapur, Nepal (from June 9 to 14, 2022) on additional training for Teacher Professional Development (TPD) on grade 2 & 3 mathematics as part of project activity. Main objective of the training was to develop trainers to conduct mathematic teachers training at education training Center (ETCs), district and Local Government (LG) levels.

The training was facilitated by officers of Curriculum Development Center (CDC), Center for Education and Human Resource Development (CEHRD) and experts from the IMEN project. There were altogether 23 participants representing Education Development Coordination Unit (EDCU), ETCs and local education units from all the four pilot LGs .

On the final day of the training, a practical example of the lesson study practice was undertaken in Adarsha Secondary School in Bhaktapur. During the practice session, the participant trainers observed an interaction session between a math teacher and students of grade 2 in a normal classroom setting to analyze the system and methods of teaching and the level of understanding of the students. The training was inaugurated by Mr. Dilli Ram Luitel, Deputy Director General on the first day and closed by Mr. Choodamani Paudel, Director General of CEHRD with encouraging and inspiring words and instructions to the participants. JICA Nepal Officials also attended the closing program.

Ongoing training session.

PROJECT FOR IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF SCHOOL EDUCATION IN NEPAL *contd. from page 1*

RADIO JINGLES TO PROMOTE SELF-LEARNING AT HOME FOR EARLY GRADERS!

In order to increase awareness of the important, 4 pilot LGs recently aired radio jingles in local FM stations to promote parents and community's interest in learning at home and early mathematics education.

The radio jingles are prepared with three different scenarios describing how mathematics skills are effective in their daily life targeting the parents, students and teachers respectively. The radio jingles were produced with narrations in different regional languages suitable for different districts. So far, the response has been overwhelming as the contents used in the jingles promotes children's self-learning at home .

Here is the link to the jingles, Please listen to it and enjoy!

JICA IMEN कार्यक्रम र बन्दिपुर गाउँपालिकाको सहकार्य | Bandipur Rural Municipality, Office of the Rural Municipal Executive (https://bandipurmun.gov.np/)

DEVELOPMENT AND DISTRIBUTION OF SELF LEARNING MATERIALS

In response to the prolonged school closure due to the spread of the COVID-19, the IMEN project developed Self Learning Materials (SLM) for distribution to approximately 7600 students in the pilot LGs for continued learning at home.

At the time of distribution from LGs to schools, the aims and purpose of SLM distribution and the roles expected of teachers and parents were explained to the teachers in charge. Later, when the materials were distributed from the schools to the children, some schools invited parents and explained about the materials to promote their understanding. Both children and their guardians were seen to receive the materials with joy. The project will further monitor the actual utilization of the materials.

Children receiving Self Learning Materials distributed to students at Tatopani, Jumla District.

UDAYAPUR CEMENT PROJECT (1987-1995)

Udayapur Cement Industries Limited located at Jaljale in Udayapur District of Nepal is a cement industry run by the Government of Nepal and is the country's largest cement industry. The industry was established on 14, June 1987 with Loan Assistance of 18.7 billion Japanese Yen from the Government of Japan. The factory was designed by Onoda Engineering, Japan and constructed by a consortium of Kawasaki Heavy Industries and Tomen Corporation, Japan.

The factory located in eastern Nepal is producing high-grade quality, 'Gaida' brand cement using high-quality limestone. The factory sold 2.17 million bags of cement in the FY 2020/2021 and is targeting to sell 2.5 million bags in the current fiscal year. The factory has a production capacity of 800 tonnes daily.

Photo Source: Google

KNOWLEDGE CO-CREATION PROGRAM ON UPGRADING THE PRE-SERVICE PRIMARY TEACHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN JAPAN

- Mr. Prem Bhattarai, Director, Centre for Education & Human Resource Development (CEHRD)

JICA Tohoku Center organized the knowledge co-creation program (KCCP) on upgrading the pre-service primary teacher education and training in Hirosaki University, a national university situated in Hirosaki city of Aomori Prefecture in Japan from 17 August to 21 September 2022. A team of 16 participants from the ministries of education and pre-service teacher education and training institutions of 12 developing countries including two officials from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Nepal participated in the training course. Other participating countries were Angola, Cambodia, Georgia, Egypt, Laos, Madagaskar, Mozambique, Namibia, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda and Samoa. The training course was designed to achieve the objective to develop knowledge and skills to improve PRESET in each country and it consisted of the activities of lectures and discussion, visit to public schools and other educational institutions and government offices. Preparation and presentation of inception reports, reports of the lessons learned from the training and the plans of actions for improving PRESET in the participating countries followed by question answer and discussion sessions were also the important component of the course.

After a week of online sessions, the participants moved to the Faculty of Education building of Hirosaki University. Major contents covered in the lectures and discussion sessions in FEHU are as follows:

- Overview of the Japanese school education system
- Teacher education system and policies of Japan
- Overview of the history of education and teacher training in Japan-before & after world war II
- Teacher training courses of HU
- Japanese national curriculum
- Educational administration of Japan
- Pre-service teacher training in Japan
- Lesson study
- Special needs education in Japan
- Environment education
- Health education
- Social education
- Political/Sovereign education

The participants visited an elementary school, a junior high school, a special education school, a secondary level technical and vocational school, teacher training centre, social education facilities and provincial level government offices. They visited Prefectural Board of Education, Prefectural School Education Center and Prefectural Community Education Center of Aomori Prefecture and had discussion and interaction with the officials about working modalities, problems and challenges. They also observed training activities in the teacher training center. As part of social education activities, they had the opportunity to visit Aomori Museum of Art and another famous archaeological site in Aomori.

At the end of a month long training, a brief closing ceremony was organized by the FEHU.

On behalf of the participants I would like to express my sincere gratitude to JICA and Hirosaki University for inviting us to the beautiful land of Japan from different parts of the globe for a common goal: to improve PRESET for teachers and make their life more valuable for the students.

Likewise, I would equally like to thank to all the principals and teachers in schools and, officials from the education offices and hope to build a strong network between the participants and the university professors and lecturers in future too.

"We are returning home with many experiences of the culture and society of Japan and the long-lasting memories of Hirosaki city and Hirosaki University where we spent a few days but learned a lot. From your careful planning, guidance and facilitation to make the program fruitful to us and the care and support you provided in every step of our stay here, we feel that the vision of JICA is not only to 'lead the world with trust' but also to 'lead the world with love and care'. We value the efforts of JICA to achieve the SDG4 of 'providing inclusive, equitable and high-quality education for all' by improving PRESET (and INSET). We express our deepest respect to all the professors. By listening to your lectures, participating in the discussion and observing the ways you guide the learners, we learned how teachers can be developed as professionals and life models with the whole characters who do not just teach but prepare their students for the road ahead. I would like to assure that our learnings and experiences will be best utilized to improve education system in our country.

RIKEN KOGYO INC. LIGHTENES UP NEPAL'S ROADS FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY!

A Japanese company, Riken Kogyo Inc., is currently introducing Luminescence Guidance Technology for Traffic Safety Measures in Nepal under JICA's SDGs Business Model Formulation Survey with the Private Sector.

The line-of-sight guidance technology developed by Riken Kogyo Inc. is running cost free, and it can lighten up roads at night as shown in the picture. Riken Kogyo Inc. did the survey and pilot projects and used their technology on some roads such as Sinduli road, Mugling- Narayanghat road to prove the effectiveness of the technology in Nepal and to contribute to Nepal's future Traffic Safety in January 2020.

Photo of Vertical Line-of-sight guide for road shoulders

TRAINING WORKSHOP ORGANIZED FOR ENGINEERS FROM DEPARTMENT OF ROADS.

A technical training program on Design Manual of Reinforced Continuous Slab Bridge (RCSB) and Workshop for Department of Roads (DOR) engineers was conducted from October 12 to 14, 2022 in Kathmandu. The program was organized by The Project for the Operation and Maintenance of Sindhuli Road Phase 2 (SROM 2) supported by JICA.

There were altogether twenty-four participants from different projects and Mr. Tomokuni Hayakawa (Road Structure Planner), Mr. Ramesh Prasad Koirala (Road Structural Design) and Mr. Shiva Raj Adhikari (Technical Support of Structure Maintenance Management) from JICA Expert Team were the trainers.

Director General (DG) of DOR Mr. Arjun Jung Thapa was the chief guest for the training program which was chaired by Mr. Ram Hari Pokharel, Deputy Director General (DDG) from Development Cooperation Implementation Division (DCID) of DOR.

The main objective of the program was to familiarize the participants with bridge and construction design in Sindhuli Road by disseminating the utility of the manual as well as the explanation of the actual construction work so that better quality RCSB bridges in the near future is facilitated.

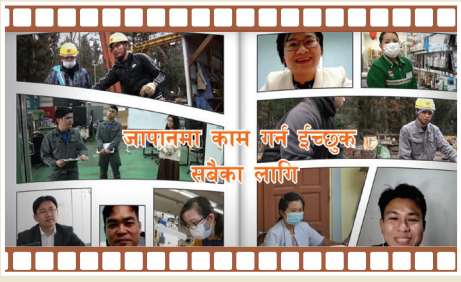
Technical discussion during site visit

The core strength of JICA's cooperation is to involve the counterparts in the project activities and disseminate the learnings for contributing towards technology transfer and capacity strengthening.

WORKING IN JAPAN - DEVELOP YOUR CAREER.

Since 2020, JICA has strengthened its activities to support foreigners who work in Japan. The system for working in Japan is quite complex and difficult to understand. Therefore, this material encourages viewers to understand such system properly to help them choose their own work style, and provides chance to consider their career plan after returning to their home country.

This video provides information for those who want to work in Japan, information on legal status to work in Japan, things to note and how to leverage work experience in Japan. It includes actual voices and experiences of those who have already worked in Japan.



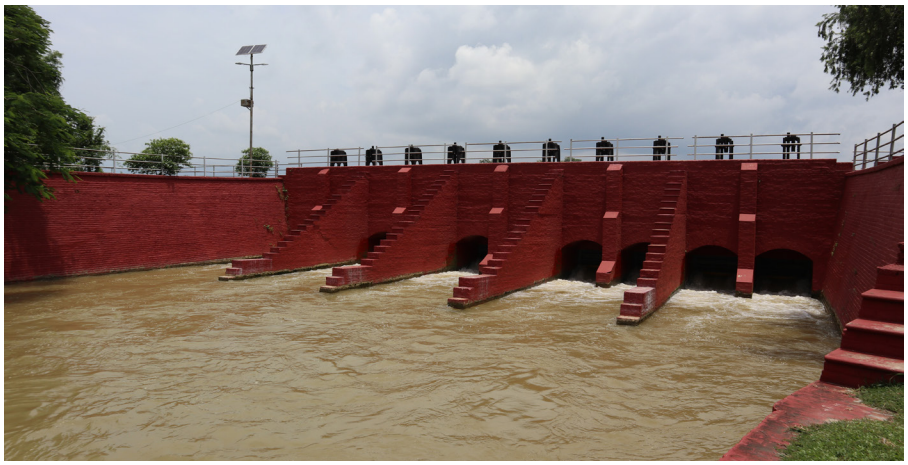
Full version: https://youtu.be/8o7wymXsCL0
Short Version: https://youtu.be/4fL_FU6-Lrk

JICA TO PROVIDE NPR 2.05 BILLION GRANT TO REHABILITATE THE OLDEST IRRIGATION SYSTEM IN NEPAL, CHANDRANAHAR

JICA Nepal and Government of Nepal concluded an agreement on the Grant Aid Project on The Rehabilitation of Irrigation System in Eastern Terai in Nepal on September 21, 2022 where JICA shall extend a grant up to JPY 2.256 billion (approximately NPR 2.05 billion) .

The objective of the Project is to achieve appropriate water distribution in Chandra Nahar Irrigation Scheme by rehabilitating irrigation facilities, thereby contributing to increase agricultural production in the eastern Terai region. The project will be supporting for the rehabilitation of the existing facilities in the target area and keeping the system sustainable through capacity development for management and supervision regarding rehabilitated facilities. The command area of the Chandra Nahar Irrigation System is 11,000 hectors, which directly benefits to 35,000 households for the irrigation facility in the said area.

Chandra Nahar Irrigation System is the oldest irrigation system in Nepal which was designed and constructed between 1923 to 1927 AD by the British Engineers, during then Prime Minister Chandra Samsher Jung Bahadur Rana to irrigate the low lands of Terai region of currently Saptari district's right bank side of Sapta Koshi River. The lunar canal built during the Rana period has been in operation for more than 95 years and currently is in a dilapidated condition and not functioning properly. The malfunctioning is mainly due to aging and lack of periodic operation and maintenance. Thus, the entire system is in urgent need for overall system rehabilitation and further capacity development of its Water User Associations is required in order to maintain the system. The Government of



The Chandra Canal Irrigation System, Saptari

Nepal duly sent a request to the Government of Japan for assistance in the rehabilitation of irrigation facilities in the eastern Terai area.

The Exchange of Notes regarding the assistance was signed between Mr. Krishna Hari Pushkar , Secretary, Ministry of Finance on behalf of the Government of Nepal (GON) and H.E. Mr. KIKUTA Yutaka, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal on behalf of the Government of Japan (GOJ). Similarly, the Grant Agreement was signed between Mr. Ishwori Prasad Aryal, Joint Secretary, International Economic Cooperation Coordination Division (IECCD), Ministry of Finance on behalf of GON and Mr. OKUBO Akimitsu, Chief Representative of JICA Nepal Office on behalf of JICA.

During the signing ceremony, Mr. OKUBO Akimitsu, Chief Representative of JICA Nepal said that, "Through this project we not only aim to rehabilitate the irrigation system and strengthen the capacity of the stakeholders but also preserve the pride and heritage of the first and the oldest irrigation facility in Nepal ".

Another significant historical information associated to this project dates back to 1902 when for the first time eight pioneer Nepalese students went to Japan for higher studies. Amongst them, Mr. Dilli Jung Thapa who studied engineering in Japan, after returning to Nepal lead the team of experts who were fundamental in constructing the Chandra Nahar Irrigation Facility.

In retrospect, this year Nepal is celebrating the 120th anniversary since the first Nepalese students were dispatched to Japan and Japan marks this anniversary as one of "Japan-South Asia Exchange Year".

From Nepal side the Ministry of Energy, Water Resource and Irrigation is the executing agency of the project, which plans to begin construction work from 2023 and end in 2028.

JICA PROVIDES NPR 14 BILLION CONCESSIONAL LOAN FOR RELIABLE POWER NETWORK

FIRST YEN LOAN PROJECT FOR TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT IN NEPAL

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Nepal and the Government of Nepal (GoN) signed a Loan Agreement on the project "Transmission and Distribution System Improvement in Urban Area' of Nepal on September 21, 2022. JICA will extend a Loan up to JPY 15.901 billion (approximately NPR 14.2 billion). This is the first Yen Loan Project for transmission and distribution system in Nepal.

The objective of the Project is to improve the transmission and distribution system in urban areas of Nepal by developing and/or upgrading the existing transmission and /or distribution system, including grid substation and related equipment. Thereby it will contribute to economic growth in Nepal, as well as the achievement of SDGs Goal 7, "Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all".

The Exchange of Notes regarding the assistance was signed between Mr. Krishna Hari Pushkar, Secretary, Ministry of Finance on behalf of the Government of Nepal (GON) and H.E. Mr. KIKUTA Yutaka, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal on behalf of the Government of Japan. Similarly, the Loan Agreement was signed between Mr. Ishwori Prasad Aryal, Joint Secretary, International Economic Cooperation Coordination Division (IECCD), Ministry of Finance on behalf of GON and Mr. OKUBO Akimitsu, Chief Representative of JICA Nepal Office on behalf of JICA. The executing agency is Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA). The project will cater the supply chain of the emergent urban areas of Nepal to provide efficient and reliable power supply and minimize the transmission and distribution losses in the system, responding to the growing power demand in the areas.

The project will be implemented in Bagmati Province (Kathmandu, Lalitpur & Bhaktapur) and Gandaki Province (Pokhara). The electricity consumption has been increasing at the average annual growth rate of approximately 10.5% in Kathmandu valley and 11.7% in Pokhara, respectively during the last five years of period.

In Kathmandu valley, the population growth and commercial activities are increasing day by day therefore the existing infrastructure needs to be immediately strengthened to be able to supply reliable and efficient electricity to the consumers. This project aims to strengthen the supply capacity in the main core areas of Kathmandu valley. Likewise, responding to the increasing amount of energy consumption in Pokhara brought about by the growing population and commercial activities, the project will enhance the capacity of the distribution system in Pokhara valley in order to meet the increasing demand in coming years.

JICA AND CAAN'S NEW TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT TO IMPROVE AIR NAVIGATION SERVICES FOR ENHANCING FLIGHT HANDLING CAPACITY AT TRIBHUVAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN) signed the Record of Discussion (R/D) for a new Technical Cooperation Project on "The Project to Improve Air Navigation Services for Enhancing Flight Handling Capacity at Tribhuvan International Airport" on 22 September 2022.

The Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) is the hub airport for the domestic airport network as well as international flights in Nepal. In 2018, TIA handled 7.2 Million Passengers per annum in total. The number of international passengers has shown a steady increase since 2002, despite a temporary decrease due to the impact of the 2015 earthquake. However, due to COVID, the Air Traffic was again reduced, and in 2021 TIA handled more than 5 million passengers per annum and it is anticipated to increase further.

The project aims to enhance and improve the flight handling capacity of Tribhuvan International Airport. The expected outputs of the project is improvement of Air Traffic Flow Management (ATFM) / Airport Collaborative Decision making (A-CDA) at TIA, for effective use of airspace in Kathmandu Terminal Control Area (TMA) and enhancement of Communication, Navigation and Surveillance (CNS) system for efficiency of TIA operations. CAAN is the implementing agency for this project and the overall project period is three years.

JICA and Japan have been supporting CAAN for safety and efficient management of air traffic in Nepal since 1988. Realizing the importance of navigation, surveillance and communication system after the fatal crash of Thai Airways International Flight 311 on July 31, 1992 that killed all 99 passengers and 14 crew members, the Government of Nepal requested Government of Japan to install the first Radar in Nepal in the year 1996. Apart from Grant Aid and equipment installation JICA has also supported by dispatching different experts and Senior Volunteers and technical cooperation projects on establishment and operation of spare parts management center, and capacity development of operation and maintenance of aviation safety equipment.

JICA HANDS OVER NEWLY CONSTRUCTED MULTI-HAZARD RESILIENT SCHOOL BUILDING IN HETAUDA, MAKWANPUR

The newly reconstructed buildings of Jyoti Secondary School was handed over to the school management committee on 23 September 2022. The school situated in Harnamadi, Hetauda-18, Makwanpur was damaged during the 2015 Gorkha earthquake. Since then the school faced difficulties in managing classrooms and education for the students.

The school infrastructures were jointly inaugurated by Mr. Rajesh Baniya, Deputy Mayor, Hetauda Sub-metropolitan City and Mr. OKUBO Akimitsu, Chief Representative of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Nepal amidst a function held in the school premises today. Mr. Dilli Ram Luitel Project Director of Central Level Project Implementation Unit (CLPIU) was also present during the ceremony.

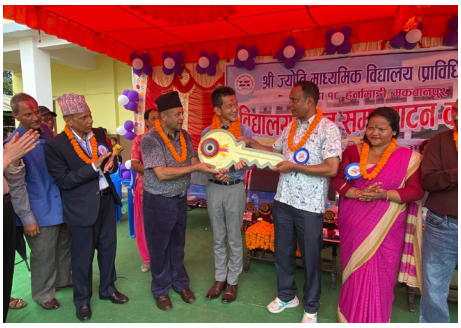
The secondary school established back in 1967 AD (2024 BS) is now operating from Early Childhood Development (ECD) to grade 12 and has nearly 1,186 students. The reconstruction of the school structures started in January 2021 under the Emergency Reconstruction Project (ESRP) supported by JICA. The Project is being implemented by CLPIU - Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST).

The new buildings are reconstructed with multi-hazard resilient structures which are environment, child, 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 are designed to be a "complete school" which provides all the necessary facilities for the education to the students. In the new school blocks, there are classrooms with furniture, electrification, solar back up, playground, footpath pavement, and repair along with maintenance of existing buildings, which are also part of scope of works.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mr. Rajesh Baniya, Deputy Mayor of Hetauda Sub-metropolitan City highlighted on the instrumental role of Government of Japan and JICA Nepal for the reconstruction and completion of the school buildings. He further assured to provide full support from the municipality for any other development endeavors for the school as well as the region.

Similarly, Mr. KIKUTA Yutaka, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal's speech was delivered through a video where he thanked all the students for patiently waiting for seven years since the earthquake in 2015 for the completion of the new buildings. He further stated that this year Nepal is celebrating the 120th anniversary since the first Nepalese students were dispatched to Japan and Japan marks this anniversary as one of "Japan-South Asia Exchange Year". It was in the year 1902 when for the first time eight pioneer Nepalese students went to Japan for higher studies and came back to Nepal contributing immensely towards the nation's development through their work in various sectors. Likewise, he hopes to see all the students studying in this school to play a leading role in improving people to people relationship between Nepal and Japan as well as contributing to the development of Nepal.

Complete view of the school building.



Chief Representative of JICA Nepal handing over the key to the school management.

Mr. Akimitsu OKUBO, Chief Representative of JICA Nepal expressed his contentment in handing over such multi-hazard resilient school facilities. He further stated that although the school infrastructure is now complete the real testimony now lies in appropriate utilization of the building, so that the future of all children is secured. He also requested the school management committee, and school team to give special attention to the operation and maintenance issue of the reconstructed schools.

Emergency School Reconstruction Project (ESRP): Total 274 schools are being built, out of which 273 are completed. 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 "Build Back Better".

JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY NEPAL OFFICE
Lazimpat, Kathmandu, Nepal
450, Kathmandu, Nepal
+977-1-4425636
+977-1-4425658
www.jica.go.jp/nepal/english
www.facebook.com/jicanepal