



50th Annual Function and International Seminar Report

JICA Alumni Association of Nepal (JAAN)



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Few Words

JICA Alumni Association of Nepal (JAAN) has been contributing to strengthening cordial relations between Nepal and Japan through its several activities for a long time. Among such activities, JAAN in collaboration with JICA Nepal and JICA Alumni Associations' Forum of SAARC Countries (JAAFSC) has organized an International Seminar on Human Resource Development for the Nation Building and published a Special Issue of Milan magazine on the same theme of the seminar. Government of Japan and JICA is investing a lot in human resource development in Japan and also supporting to other countries in the world including SAARC region. The crux of the outstanding development of Japan is their well-trained, dedicated, and sincere human resources. So, we organized the seminar on "Human Resource Development for the Nation Building: Best Practices, Challenges and Lessons Learned from Japan" this time. There were three paper presenters, three panelists and five beneficiaries who shared their knowledge and experience in this seminar. This International Seminar was organized along with JAAN Golden Jubilee program followed by Japanese and Nepalese cultural program.

Rt. Honorable President of Nepal Mr. Ram Chandra Poudel graced the Golden Jubilee ceremony as the Chief Guest. Other special guests in this program were Chief Secretary of Government of Nepal, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, JICA Nepal's Chief Representative, President of Japan Nepal Society, Former Ministers, Honorable Members of Parliament, Government Secretaries, high officials from the government of Nepal, Embassy of Japan, JICA Nepal and so on. The event was also attended by distinguished dignitaries from Japan, SAARC nations as well as members of various social groups in Nepal.

50th Anniversary of JAAN served as a moment of reflection on the past achievements and assured to continue its collaborative efforts in promoting Nepal's nation building endeavor. JAAN's tireless contributions in the past five decades is highly acknowledged by the people of Japan. JAAN was also awarded the Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation for Japanese Fiscal Year 2023. All the speakers in the program highlighted on the dimensions of Nepal-Japan relations and appreciated the contribution of JAAN on the promotion of Nepal Japan relation.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Rt. Honorable President of Nepal Mr. Ram Chandra Poudel for his kind presence in the program as the Chief Guest and valuable words for Nepal Japan relation promotion. Also, I am very thankful to all distinguished guests, participants and JAAN members for their kind participation and cooperation to make this event historic, special and successful.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to this report preparation team members Mr. Kedar Paudel, Vice-president, JAAN; Dr. Kiran Rupakhetee, Secretary, JAAN; Ms. Apekshya Bhusal and Salina Dolmo Lama (both are Life Members of JAAN). Similarly, my sincere thanks to Dr. Rakesh Kothari, IT Expert who has been supporting us throughout.

I hope this report will be useful to know in detail about the international seminar theme mentioned above. JAAN is hopeful to receive continuous support from all the concerned in its activities to further strengthen the friendly and harmonious relations between Nepal and Japan in the future.

Thank you.

Dr. Ram Chandra Bhusal
President, JAAN
Secretary General, JAAFSC

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

JICA Alumni Association of Nepal celebrated its 50th Golden Jubilee commemoration function and organized an International Seminar. The Chief Guest, Rt. Honorable President of Nepal, Mr. Ram Chandra Poudel, inaugurated the event, and released the 50th Golden Jubilee issue of the Milan magazine. The opening session celebrated JAAN's 50 years of dedication, highlighted the enduring Nepal-Japan friendship, and set the stage for insightful discussions on human resource development and socio-economic cooperation. The event was also graced by the presence of Dr. Baikuntha Aryal, Chief Secretary, Government of Nepal; H. E. Yutaka Kikuta, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal; Mr. Akimitsu Okubo, Chief Representative of JICA Nepal and Mr. Mitsuaki Kojima, President of Japan Nepal Society (JNS). Among other participants were Secretaries of government of Nepal, high officials from the Embassy of Japan, JICA Nepal, JNS, past presidents of JAAN, presidents and representatives of JAA South Asia, JAAN members and families, media and other guests.

The International Seminar on “Human Resource Development for Nation Building: Best Practices, Challenges and Lesson Learned from Japan” organized by the JICA Alumni Association of Nepal (JAAN) aimed to provide a platform for discussing interventions, best practices, challenges, and lessons learned from Japan. The objective included bringing JAAFSC and JICA Alumni members together to analyze the current state of human resource development, share best practices, and appraise JICA's support in the region. The seminar sought to contribute to regional cooperation, strengthen ties between South Asian countries and Japan, and facilitate knowledge exchange on issues.

The seminar featured insightful paper presentation focused on human resource development and sustainable capacity building. Prof. Dr. Khadga KC, International Relation Department (IRD), Tribhuvan University explored Japan's historical foundation for nation-building, emphasizing visionary leadership and economic nationalism as crucial lesson for developing nations. Prof. Dr. O. P. Dewal, President of JAA India and JAAFSC, highlighted Japan's role in Human Resource Development, highlighting the use of ICTs and JICA's support in enhancing educational facilities at the Indira Gandhi National Open University. Dr. Kiran Rupakhtee, Joint Secretary, Government of Nepal presented on Japan's contributions to Nepal's sustainable development, emphasizing the importance of learning from Japan in various critical areas. The presentations collectively underscored the significance of Japan's continued support in shaping the socio-economic development of countries in the SAARC region.

The insightful paper presentations and guided panel discussions shed light on Japan's instrumental role in enhancing the human resources of the nation, contributing to their socio-economic development. Japan's aid and supported projects have not only enhanced the skillsets of the individuals but have also catalyzed broader efforts in utilizing these enhanced human resources in various sectors critical to their overall development. Whether through educational advancements, technological transfers, or inclusive initiatives, the consensus among the presenters was that Japan's aid has laid the groundwork for sustainable human resource development.

The enlightening guided panel discussion witnessed three esteemed panelists - Mr. Dawa Penjor, President of JICA Alumni Association of Bhutan; Dr. Anjan Shakya, Former Ambassador of Nepal to Israel and Mr. Akimitsu Okubo, Chief Representative of JICA Nepal sharing profound insights on Japan/JICA's collaborations in South Asian countries. Mr. Penjor highlighted on Bhutan's positive experience due to JICA's crucial role in education, healthcare and cultural exchange, with a call for continued strategic partnerships post-Bhutan's graduation to a middle-income country. Dr. Shakya proposed strategic utilization of Japanese assistance, emphasizing comprehensive needs assessments, policy alignment, and collaboration with stakeholders to optimize developmental impact. She lauded JAAN's efforts and suggested collaborative projects, policy dialogues, and joint public diplomacy campaigns for diplomatic strengthening. Mr. Okubo emphasized Japan's post-war development, presenting JICA's contribution to basic mathematics education in Nepal and urging patience and long-term focus for human resource development. Assessing JDS scholarship impacts, he highlighted success stories of alumni contributing significantly to policy formulation and national development in Nepal. Collectively, the discussion accentuated the transformative potential of education, collaboration, and strategic planning in Japan's contributions to South Asian development.

The experiences shared by the five farmer beneficiaries underscores the transformative impact of education and training in Japan on Nepal's agricultural practices. These individuals, hailing from diverse regions and engaged in various agricultural ventures, have successfully applied lessons learned from Japanese institutions and experts. Their shared emphasis on quality production, effective management, and the integration of modern technologies highlights the broad spectrum of knowledge acquired from Japan. Additionally, their commitment to sharing this knowledge within their communities, and aspiration for expansion and innovation underscore the broader impact of human resource development in agriculture.

The International Seminar concluded with an engaging open floor discussion and responses from the paper presenters. The closure of the technical session featured remarks from JAA Presidents and Representative of Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka, each expressing gratitude and acknowledging the significance of human resource development in nation building. There is a collective call to Japan/JICA for continued and strengthened support. The seminar provided a platform not only to reflect on past achievements but also to chart a course for future endeavors, ensuring that the enhanced human resources continue to be instrumental in the holistic development of the respective nations. The relationships forged and knowledge shared during this event should serve as a foundation for ongoing collaboration, strategic partnerships and further initiatives that will contribute to the continued success and growth of the region. The international community looks forward to Japan's continued leadership and support in the realm of human resource development, fostering a brighter and more interconnected future for all involved nations. The International Seminar was moderated by Mr. Kedar Paudel, Vice President of JAAN.

The final part of the program, the cultural celebration, commemorating the 50-year friendship between Nepal and Japan was a resounding success, marked by a diverse array of traditions and performances. Ms. Apekshya Bhusal and Ms. Miki Enomoto provided insights on the event which showcased both Japanese and Nepalese cultural programs. From the symbolic Kagamibiraki ceremony signifying new beginnings to the captivating displays of Kendo and Nepali dances like Chariya and Jhyaure, the program exemplified the rich traditions shared between the two nations. The cake-cutting ceremony marking the 50th anniversary of JAAN's establishment served as a poignant reminder of the enduring partnership between the two countries. With certificates of appreciation presented by JICA Chief Mr. Akimitsu Okubu and JAAN President Dr. Ram Chandra Bhusal, the event concluded on a high note of unity and cultural harmony, reinforcing the importance of mutual understanding and appreciation through cultural exchange.

BACKGROUND

JICA Alumni Association of Nepal (JAAN) is a non-political, non-profit forum and a sister organization of JICA, Nepal. It was established in 1973 and JAAN has been registered in the District Administration Office, Kathmandu as a non-profit organization. It has its office building located in Balkhu, Kathmandu. The purposes of establishing the organization are to mutually exchange knowledge, foster harmony, cultivate affinity, and develop mutual understanding among the members. Similarly, it aims to update and exchange the knowledge and skills acquired in Japan among the members. Furthermore, it aims to promote friendship and mutual understanding between Japan and Nepal.

This Alumni has professionals as members from all sectors except the Nepal Army. Currently, there are more than 1100 members including nearly 600 life members. Participants who complete the training, study, and visit from Japan under the JICA program become eligible to get the JAAN's membership. Honorary membership is awarded to all Ambassadors of Japan to Nepal and JICA Chief Representatives. More than 50 JAAN members are government secretaries and about 90 percent of members are government officials. So, the JAAN has very strong network with the government of Nepal and other many organizations in Nepal and Japan. JAAN members are working for strengthening good relationship between Nepal and Japan.

JAAN conducts several activities regularly every year as per its objectives. Among other many activities, JAAN has been conducting pre-departure orientation to JICA participants who go to Japan for training, visit and study under JICA program for the last 25 years. JICA has provided this responsibility to JAAN since 1998. Similarly, Government of Nepal, Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security has given the responsibility to JAAN to conduct JITCO Trainee's Basic Japanese Language and Culture Test Examination. As an opportunity and trust of the government to JAAN, it has been conducting this examination for JITCO Trainees for the last 13 years. Thus, JAAN has been supporting to the JICA Nepal and Government of Nepal for the considerable period of time by successfully conducting own responsibility and delivering qualitative services in a sustainable way.

JICA Alumni Associations of South Asian countries has formed a common platform of the region named JICA Alumni Associations' Forum of SAARC Countries (JAAFSC). Establishment of JAAFSC in 2008 was a milestone in the history of cooperation between Japan and countries in South Asia. JAAFSC was established to lay the foundation for a non-political

forum to foster mutual understanding, cooperation, and for strengthening friendship between the members of JICA Alumni Associations of South Asian countries and Japan. It is also a common platform to participate in different development activities and to share the experience and best practices for better regional integration and cooperation.

The first meeting of JAAFSC was held on Dhaka from 17 to 19 July 2008. An Ad hoc Committee was formed. The second meeting was conducted in Kathmandu on March 16, 2009. The Kathmandu meeting approved its Charter and continued the tenure of Ad hoc Committee of JAAFSC for two years. However, for few years this forum was not active as desired, and revival of the forum was required. In 2017, JICA Alumni Association of Bangladesh (JAAB) and JICA Alumni Association of Nepal (JAAN) jointly took initiative for its revival, and all Alumni extended their cooperation to conduct the SAARC Regional Meeting in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The third Executive Committee Meeting of JAAFSC held from October 27 to 28, 2017 in Dhaka decided to revive JAAFSC and amended its Charter and took various decisions including shifting of its Secretariat from Dhaka, Bangladesh to Kathmandu, Nepal, and election of new Executive for two years term (2017 to 2019) under the Presidentship of JAAB, Dr. Md. Mozammel Haque Khan. President of JAAN, Dr. Ram Chandra Bhusal was elected as the Secretary General. The Dhaka meeting was attended by all seven member JAAFSC alumni. Immediately after their election, the newly elected Executive Committee had planned to activate itself around common interests and benefits of SAARC countries along with efforts to further cement ties between the countries of South Asia and Japan.

Promptly after the Dhaka meeting, the Secretary General of JAAFSC, Dr. Bhusal, visited JICA Head Office, Tokyo in early November 2017 and had a meeting with the Director General and other high officials of the South Asia Department in the JICA Head Quarter to brief the alumni activities and JAAFSC Dhaka meeting. After the decision of Dhaka meeting, the JAAFSC Secretariat was established in JAAN Office building in Balkhu, Kathmandu, and the Secretariat Office was inaugurated by Mr. Jun Sakuma, then Chief Representative of JICA Nepal. After establishing the JAAFSC Secretariat in Kathmandu, in 2017, its annual meeting, periodic Executive Committee election, both virtual and physical seminars are conducting regularly.

CONTRIBUTION OF JAPAN IN HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

In retrospect, Japan's journey from a development assistance recipient to donor is exemplary and without parallel. In the immediate aftermath of World War II, Japan was a major recipient of U.S. and other international assistance. Less than a decade later, in 1954, it became a donor in the Asia-Pacific region for the first time. By 1989, Japan became the number one donor of overseas development assistance (ODA). At present, it is the major contributor to the Asian Development Bank, a leading member of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC), and the world's fifth largest bilateral donor.

Japan has remained the closest development partner for all countries in South Asia for the last six decades or so. The government of Japan through JICA has been contributing to the development endeavors of numerous developing and the least developed countries including all countries in South Asia. Such contributions have been in various sectors of development including major support in Human Resource Development.

The government of Japan has been supporting different countries in South Asia. Japan has been implementing a variety of support for SAARC Member States which make efforts for the Human Resource Development in South Asia for the last so many years. Such support directly or indirectly has meant the capacity building of the government machinery and people in the SAARC region.

RATIONALE OF REGIONAL SEMINAR

JICA Alumni Associations' Forum of SAARC Countries (JAAFSC) was established to foster mutual understanding, cooperation, and friendship between the members of JICA Alumni Associations of SAARC Countries and Japan. It was also established as a common platform to participate in different development activities and share the experience for better regional integration. The objective behind the establishment of JAAFSC is to maintain, develop and extend relationships to foster mutual understanding, cooperation and strengthen friendship among the ex-participants of JICA-sponsored programs in the SAARC region. Most importantly, it also intends to contribute towards strengthening of friendly ties and cooperation in different areas of development activities between participating countries in the SAARC region and Japan. The JAAFSC intends to work as a catalyst for regional prosperity as regional cooperation among the JICA Alumni of participating countries of South Asia which is mutually beneficial, desirable and necessary for promoting the welfare and improving the quality of life of the people of the region.

During October 27-29, 2017, an "International Seminar on the Role of JICA in Socio-Economic Development of the SAARC Countries" was organized by the JICA Alumni Association of Bangladesh and JAAFSC. Similarly, JAAN had organized an International Seminar on "Natural Disaster in South Asia: Interventions, Best Practices, and Challenges" in SAARC countries during December 6 - 8, 2019 in Kathmandu in collaboration with JAAFSC. Likewise, JAAFSC in collaboration with JICA Alumni Association of Nepal (JAAN), JICA Alumni Association of Bhutan (JAAB) and JICA Alumni Association of India (JAAI) conducted few other seminars on contemporary issues both virtually and physically.

JAAFSC has planned to activate itself in common interests and benefits of SAARC countries along with efforts to further cement ties between countries of South Asia and Japan. Moreover, it aims at creating a platform where various issues of mutual concern of countries of South Asia can be discussed with the sharing of prevailing best practices. As a continuation of the Dhaka and Kathmandu International Seminar, the JAAN in collaboration with JICA Nepal and JAAFSC organized an International Seminar on **"Human Resource Development for the Nation Building - Best Practices, Challenges and Lessons Learned from Japan"**.

There is a famous saying that "nation building starts from human resource development". Support for human resource development is one of the important pillars of Japan's assistance. Assistance for human resource development does not only encompass the fostering of personnel who will directly contribute to the development of developing countries: it also plays

a major role in enhancing bilateral relationships by promoting mutual understanding through person-to-person exchanges and establishing personal relations among leaders in various sectors including youths who will lead the future of the developing countries. Assistance for human resource development is also an extremely important factor in strengthening the ownership of developing countries, which is one of the fundamental principles of Japan's ODA. Since Human Resource Development, remained one of the major recurring phenomena in South Asia, it will be worthwhile to initiate a debate at the regional level regarding the dimensions and efforts that have been underway. It will also be meaningful if member states of SAARC countries share their best practices. Also, JICA's support of Human Resource Development in SAARC countries and lessons learned from Japan on Human Resource Development was shared in the International Seminar. This event by JAAFSC and JAAN benefits the people and government of SAARC Countries.



OBJECTIVES OF THE SEMINAR

The major objective of regional seminar was to bring issues of “**Human Resource Development for the Nation Building: Best Practices, Challenges and Lessons Learned from Japan**” into the forefront among JAAFSC and JICA Alumni officials, academia, government officials and common people of South Asian countries. The specific objectives in this regard were as follows:

- To bring officials of JAAFSC and members of JICA Alumni Associations of SAARC countries into a platform to discuss the issue of “Human Resource Development for the Nation Building
- To share the Interventions, Best Practices, Challenges and Lessons Learned from Japan
- To appraise the current situation of various dimensions of Human Resource Development in South Asia
- To critically analyze the current measures that have been adopted towards Human Resource Development and associated challenges
- To share the prevailing best practices related to Human Resource Development
- To share about the JICA support on interventions related to Human Resource Development and Socio-economic Development in South Asia and its impact and
- To share the findings of the regional seminar with governments of South Asian countries through their respective JICA Alumni Associations and also with JICA offices in those countries for necessary interventions that have to be carried out in the future.

SESSIONS IN DETAIL

The seminar was organized on 25th February 2024, held at The Everest Hotel, Baneshowr, Kathmandu. The seminar consisted of the inauguration of the 50th Annual Function and the felicitation of dignitaries and guests. It was followed by a technical session where dignitaries presented papers, participated in guided panel discussions and farmers and beneficiaries shared their experiences. The day ended with a cultural exchange program. *The Program Schedule is at Annex 1.*

Opening Session

Dr. Kiran Rupakhetee, Secretary of JAAN, opened the program by briefly touching on the objectives of the program and outlining the vision of JAAN, Japan-Nepal cooperation, and Japan-South Asia cooperation. A documentary video was presented highlighting the activities of JAAN and the areas in which Japan has extended support in Nepal, mainly in human resource development, health, education, and income generation sectors. Rt. Honorable President of Nepal, Mr. Ram Chandra Poudel was the Chief Guest. Following the national anthem of Nepal to mark the opening of the program, seat-taking ceremony commenced. It was followed by Dr. Ram Chandra Bhusal, President of JAAN chairing the inaugural session of the program.

Welcoming Address by Mr. Kedar Paudel

Mr. Kedar Paudel, Vice-president of JAAN, delivered the welcome speech on behalf of JAAN. He extended a warm welcome to all and expressed immense joy and pride in welcoming attendees to the Golden Jubilee Celebration of JAAN. He said that JAAN is "highly obliged to Rt. Honorable President of Nepal, Mr. Ram Chandra Poudel, Japanese Ambassador to Nepal, and JICA's Chief Representative, and others for giving their valuable time and ensuring their presence in the program to celebrate the 50th Golden Jubilee of JAAN." The distinguished presence of the Rt. Honorable President of Nepal was particularly honored, inspiring a renewed commitment to national development and strengthening Nepal-Japan relations. He announced that eminent experts from the SAARC region, Japan and Nepal are making presentations at the seminar and expressed the hope that they would all be very insightful in terms of understanding the best practices, lessons learned, challenges, and the contribution of Japan in the Human Resource Development for the Nation Building for countries in the SAARC region. Paudel shed light on the long historical relationship between Nepal and Japan. The Golden Jubilee was seen as a reminder of the shared commitment to excellence, innovation, and

community, with a hope for continued success in the next 50 years. *His full speech is in Annex 2.*

Program Inauguration by Rt. Honorable President

Rt. Honorable President of the Government of Nepal, Ram Chandra Poudel, the Chief Guest of the program, formally inaugurated the program by lighting *panas*, a traditional Nepali light.

Highlighting the Activities of JAAN by Ms. Shanti Laxmi Shakya

Ms. Shanti Laxmi Shakya, General Secretary of JAAN, delivered a short speech acknowledging JAAN's role in fostering the friendship between Nepal and Japan through various activities. She outlined the organization's initiatives such as the international seminars, cultural exchange programs, community development projects, and support during natural disasters in both Japan and Nepal. JAAN's significant contributions were acknowledged through awards from the Government of Japan, and the Golden Jubilee Celebration were marked by the planting and establishment of Sakura Garden. The members' roles in key positions contributing to Nepal-Japan relations and nation-building were highlighted, concluding with gratitude to all dignitaries for their support. *Her full speech is in Annex 2.*

Release of Milan by Rt. Honorable President

The 50th Golden Jubilee Issue of the Milan magazine, the annual publication of JAAN was released by the Chief Guest, Rt. Honorable President of Nepal. The article writers of the 50th issue of the Milan magazine were also handed an appreciation letter by Dr. Baikuntha Aryal, Chief Secretary and H.E. Yutaka Kikuta Ambassador of Japan to Nepal. On the Golden Jubilee occasion, JAAN also felicitated the Chief Secretary, Chairperson of the National Inclusion Commission, JAAN Past Presidents, and Chairperson of Godawari Municipality - Ward Number 5.

Address with Congratulatory Message

Address by Mr. Mitsuaki Kojima, President of Japan Nepal Society (JNS)

Mr. Mitsuaki Kojima, President of Japan Nepal Society (JNS), Tokyo and Former Ambassador addressed the program by expressing a great pleasure and honor in attending JAAN's Golden Jubilee celebration. Acknowledging the importance both governments attach to JAAN's contributions over the past 50 years, Mr. Kojima highlighted JAAN as an organization of Nepali members who enhanced their abilities through Japan's technical cooperation scheme. Drawing attention to JAAN's significant role during the 2015 earthquake, he commended JAAN's relief

efforts and subsequent contributions to the reconstruction stage in Lele. The Japan Nepal Society in collaboration with JAAN, expressed plans to undertake projects promoting high-quality vegetable farming to increase income for farm households in Nepal aiming to boost trade among SAARC countries. Mr. Kojima emphasized the value of JAAN members as human assets contributing to socio-economic development and fostering friendly relations between Japan and Nepal. The importance of well-trained human resources for Nepal's development and the relevance of the international seminar in capacity building were underscored, concluding the best wishes for the success of JAAN's Golden Jubilee event. *His full speech is in Annex 2.*

Address by Mr. Akimitsu Okubo, Chief Representative of JICA Nepal

Mr. Akimitsu Okubo, Chief Representative of JICA Nepal extended his heartfelt congratulations to all the distinguished JAAN members on the occasion of the JAAN's Golden Jubilee, marking 50 years of dedication to Nepal's socio-economic development and strengthening the Japan-Nepal relationship. As a co-organizer of the event representing JICA Nepal, Mr. Okubo expressed gratitude to Rt. Honorable President Mr. Ram Chandra Poudel for his gracious presence. JAAN's contributions over five decades in developing human resources in Nepal's development process were applauded and expressed JICA's continuous efforts in providing study and training opportunities in Japan. He expressed his belief that people-to-people relationships form the foundation for closer ties between Japan and Nepal. He was delighted about the gathering of JAAFSC member countries and extended his best wished for the delightful stay and success in Kathmandu. Mr. Okubo concluded with the hope that the Golden Jubilee has served as a moment of reflection and inspiration for the future cooperation in Japan-Nepal relations, expressing anticipation for continued collaborative efforts in promoting Nepal's nation-building. *His full speech is in Annex 2.*

Address by H. E. Mr. Yutaka Kikuta, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal

H. E. Mr. Yutaka Kikuta, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal expressed his great happiness at being invited to the 50th Anniversary Celebration of JAAN, acknowledging the presence of the Rt. Honorable President of Nepal, Mr. Ram Chandra Poudel, Chief Secretary, Dr. Aryal, and all distinguished guests. Special recognition was given to the President for receiving the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette in 2020 for promoting stronger relations between Japan and Nepal. Mr. Kikuta expressed sincere gratitude to all the JAAN members for their ongoing efforts in fostering friendly relations. JAAN is commended for its significant contribution to mutual understanding and friendship, earning the Foreign Minister's Commendation for 2023. The Ambassador highlighted the essential objective of Japan's technical cooperation and

human resource development, emphasizing JAAN's role in embodying this for the past 50 years. Japan's assistance to Nepal is characterized as an investment for Nepal's future, and JAAN's knowledge, experience, and people-to-people network are seen as invaluable assets. Looking ahead to Nepal's graduation from LDC status in 2026 and the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Nepal and Japan, the Ambassador underscored the increasing importance of strengthening relations and the essential role JAAN plays as a bridge. He expressed best wishes for JAAN's further success and prosperity, hoping for deeper friendship between the people of Japan and Nepal. Congratulations were extended to all participants on the momentous occasion. *His full speech is in Annex 2.*

Address by Dr. Baikuntha Aryal, Chief Secretary of the Government of Nepal

Dr. Baikuntha Aryal, Chief Secretary of the Government of Nepal expressed his sincere gratitude to the JICA Alumni Association of Nepal (JAAN) for the invitation to the 50th Golden Jubilee Function and congratulated JAAN on this occasion. He expressed his recognition of the everlasting cordial relations between Nepal and Japan and the acknowledged the substantial contributions of Japan to Nepal's development across various sectors. He praised Japan not only as a benevolent friend but also as a reliable companion for Nepal's sustainable development. Dr. Aryal acknowledged Japan's support in technical human resource development, education, health, communication, road construction, and infrastructure development. He sincerely appreciated the contributions of the Government of Japan, the Embassy of Japan in Nepal, JICA Nepal, and JAAN. As a life member of JAAN, Dr. Aryal commits to continued efforts in community development and strengthening the friendship between Nepal and Japan. He assures that the Government of Nepal will duly appreciate such commendable actions of all other JAAN members as well. Dr. Aryal hopes for continued support of financial resources and technical support from the Government of Japan to achieve sustainable development goals. He wished JAAN the success of the program and hopes that JAAN will continue its commitment to Nepal's development, contributing to the further elevation of the cordial relationship between Nepal and Japan. *His full speech is in Annex 2.*

Address by Rt. Honorable Mr. Ram Chandra Poudel, President of Nepal

Rt. Honorable Mr. Ram Chandra Poudel, President of Nepal expressed his pleasure in participating in the 50th Annual Function of JAAN and extended heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to the JAAN family. He acknowledged the longstanding harmonious relations between Nepal and Japan and praised Japan's exemplary progress in science, technology, economics, and overall human development. He highlighted the selfless support of Japan in Nepal's development and characterized Japan as a benevolent friend and companion for

Nepal's sustainable development. He valued Japan's contribution across various sectors such as technical human resource development, hydroelectricity, education, health, communication, road construction, and infrastructure development. He recognized Japan's role in supporting Nepal during the COVID-19 pandemic. He also commended JAAN's contributions over the past six decades in bridging Nepal-Japan relations and applying knowledge and skills to Nepal's development. President also acknowledged the members of JAAN for their vital role in strengthening the friendship between Nepal and Japan and maximizing achievements from the Government of Japan. He expressed his confidence in the Government of Nepal's appreciation for JAAN's work and wished success for this program. He urged JAAN to remain committed to Nepal's development, contributing to the further strengthening of the relationship between Nepal and Japan. *His full speech is in Annex 2.*

Address by Dr. Ram Chandra Bhusal, President of JAAN

Dr. Ram Chandra Bhusal, President of JAAN in his Vote of Thanks expressed gratitude for the esteemed presence of the Rt. Honorable President of the Government of Nepal, emphasizing the significance of his attendance in strengthening Japan-Nepal friendship on the momentous occasion of the 50th anniversary of JAAN. The planting of Japan's national flower Sakura at the President's Residence during JAAN's Golden Jubilee symbolizes a gesture of appreciation. He also mentioned about the President's goodwill and sincere commitment to the friendship of Japan and Nepal. He extended his gratitude to the Government of Japan, Embassy of Japan, JICA Nepal, and the Japan Nepal Society for their unwavering support in various sectors over the past six decades. Dr. Bhusal also gave special recognition to the current president of Japan Nepal Society (JNS), Mr. Mitsuaki Kojima, and JAAN members for playing crucial roles in the nation-building. He thanked all the stakeholders for their continuous support and contribution for JAAN for its work to be recognized and awarded by the Embassy of Japan. He closed the opening session by thanking all present to celebrate the 50th Golden Jubilee year of JAAN. *His full speech is in Annex 2.*

Technical Session: International Seminar

Part 1: Paper Presentation

The first part of the International Seminar was chaired by Dr. Baikuntha Aryal, Chief Secretary of the Government of Nepal. He is also a Life Member of JAAN. The paper presentation session was moderated by Mr. Kedar Paudel, Vice President of JAAN. A total of three presenters presented their papers in this session.

1. Human Resource Development for the Nation - Building in Japan: Best Practices and Lesson Learned for Developing Countries - Prof. Dr. Khadga K.C., IRD, Tribhuvan University

Dr. Khadga discussed about human resource development in Japan, focusing on the best practices and lessons learned for developing countries. It covered the historical background of Japan, emphasizing the Meiji Era as the foundation of nation-building through human resources development. The presentation highlighted the following lessons learned:

- Visionary leaders with sincerity and integrity can drive prosperity and create an egalitarian society
- A generation of political, bureaucratic, and academic leaders must be truthful and devoted to their nation for stability and prosperity
- Economic nationalism has a greater impact on political-economic development than politically manufactured nationalism
- Knowledge is a source of power and prioritizing human resource development is crucial for nation-building
- Societal values must be compatible with new institutions for successful development
- Implementing models of human resource development from successful nations can aid in national progress

The paper concluded by mentioning examples of countries like Nepal, Malaysia and Singapore implementing the Japanese Model of human resource development. *Detailed of his presentation is at Annex 5.*

2. Contribution of Government of Japan for the Nation Building of Countries in the SAARC Region through Human Resource Development - Prof. Dr. O. P. Dewal, President, JICA Alumni Association of India (JAAI)/ JICA Alumni Associations' Forum of SAARC Countries (JAAFSC)

Dr. Dewal presented about Human Resource Development, the role of Japan in Human Resource Development and the impact and benefits of the Japanese aid. He highlights about

the two pivotal hubs for human resource development, education and training. The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has been using various ICTs extensively; such as radio, television, interactive radio counselling, broadcast-based videoconferencing, Google Classroom, Google Meet, Facebook, WhatsApp, YouTube, etc.; in supplementary and complementary modes, in addition to printed self-learning materials. The use of digital online resources like social media, MOOCs, and OERs mixed with traditional broadcasting channels paved the way for skill-oriented human resources development. Dr. Dewal elaborated about Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) coming forward in a big way to upgrade the production facilities at IGNOU. The paper touched on three Grant-in Aid projects of JICA transformed Electronic Media Production Centre (EMPC) of IGNOU, into a state-of-the-art facility for the production and broadcast of educational audio-video materials. It became a national resource center that helped and trained many academics and media professionals from across the country. The paper concluded that IGNOU has adopted a judicious mix of online and broadcast media, for the delivery of its Academic Programs. *Detailed of his presentation is at Annex 5.*

3. Support of Government of Japan in the Sustainable Development of Nepal through Capacity Development: Learnings and Challenges - Dr. Kiran Rupakhetee, Joint Secretary, Government of Nepal

Dr. Kiran Rupakhetee's paper highlights the Nepal-Japan relations, Technical Assistance from Japan (JICA) to Nepal, Contribution of Japanese ODA in achieving SDGs, Nepal-Japan Cooperation in Human Resources and Capacity Development, Nepal's Period Plan and SDG, Learning for Nepal and the challenges. The Nepal-Japan relations focus on economic cooperation and Japan is the most trusted development partner to support Nepal's socio-economic development in becoming a middle-income country. The three pillars of Japanese ODA as per JICA's rolling plan for Nepal, are Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction, Disaster Prevention and Climate Change Measures, and Enhancement of Governance and Democratization. Each pillar contributes to specific SDGs ensuring a comprehensive and sustainable approach to development. The paper also discusses the five significant areas of Japanese support in Nepal which include education, road transportation, earthquake reconstruction, urban development, and agriculture and supporting in fulfilling the SDG. Dr. Rupakhetee urged the Japanese government to increase their inflow of Japanese Aid in Nepal considering the implementation of the 16th plan. The paper emphasized on Japan's crucial role in human resources and capacity development in Nepal, and the opportunities it provides for government employees to pursue Master's and PhD degrees (JDS) to strengthen to administration of the government. In this scheme, Dr. Rupakhetee spoke about the two priority areas: social and economic infrastructure and mechanism development, and governance

enhancement and basic framework development. He also urged the Nepalese citizen living and working in Japan who are the assets of the country, to return back to the country and best utilize their knowledge, skills, and experience. Dr. Rupakhetee also highlighted Japan's assistance in supporting returnee migrants through projects focused on entrepreneurship support, industrial human resource development, and career development.

In conclusion, Dr. Rupakhetee highlighted the significance of Japan's support in shaping Nepal's development trajectory and emphasized the need to learn from Japan regarding their robust domestic resource mobilization, management of senior citizens, enhanced quality of education, promotion of innovation, and prudent use of resources for sustained growth. He ended his paper presentation by quoting Mother Teresa "I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things." *Detailed of his presentation is at Annex 5.*

Part 2: Guided Panel Discussion

In a thought-provoking and insightful guided panel discussion, three distinguished individuals shared their perspectives on the contributions and collaborations between Japan/JICA and countries in South Asia. The Guided Panel Discussion was moderated by Mr. Kedar Paudel, Vice President of JAAN. The Panelists were Mr. Dawa Penjor, President of JICA Alumni Association of Bhutan (JAAB), Dr. Anjan Shakya, Former Ambassador of Nepal to Israel, and Mr. Akimitsu Okubo, Chief Representative of JICA Nepal. The panel discussion provided valuable insights on collaborative development efforts and the transformative impact of human resource development initiatives.

Questions to Mr. Dawa Penjor, President of JICA Alumni Association of Bhutan (JAAB)

1. What is the experience of Bhutan regarding the contribution of the Government of Japan/JICA in the development of Bhutan through the human resource development?

Mr. Penjor responded by outlining Bhutan's positive experience with the contributions of the Government of Japan and JICA in human resource development. He mentioned that JICA's support is evident through educational programs, scholarships, and capacity-building initiatives, particularly in fields crucial for Bhutan's socio-economic progress. He shed light on the collaborations that extended to healthcare emphasizing on the infrastructure development and professional training to enhance the country's health system. JICA implemented human resource development through short and long-term training programs, fostering an exchange of knowledge and cultural understanding. He expressed that the success of these initiatives relied on the collaborative efforts of both countries, aligning with Bhutan's development philosophy of Gross National Happiness.

He also mentioned that participants returning from Japan are energized and motivated, and contribute to positive changes in their organizations and daily lives, reflecting the lasting impact of Japan's support on Bhutan's development.

2. How would you like Japan/JICA to help Bhutan in future in her development endeavors?

Mr. Penjor responded by contemplating the future of Japan/JICA's role in Bhutan's development endeavors. He acknowledged that with Bhutan's graduation to the Middle-Income Country Group, traditional grant aid may gradually diminish. He recognized this shift which could be instrumental in the transition of Japan/JICA from conventional aid to strategic partnerships, trade relationships and collaborative initiatives that align with the evolving needs and priorities of both nations. He emphasized that it is important to foster continued cooperation and support from Japan, given the historical success of numerous projects and the enduring person-to-person relationship. Bhutan, being landlocked with limited resources and high import dependence, Mr. Penjor anticipates and values ongoing support in various forms to sustain Bhutan's development progress.

Questions to Dr. Anjan Shakya, Former Ambassador of Nepal to Israel

1. Considering the fact that Government of Japan/JICA has been outstandingly contributing in the development endeavor of countries in South Asia including Nepal for a longer period of time, how countries should strategize themselves to better utilize the Japanese assistance with their own resources?

Dr. Shakya highlighted that, considering the prolonged and impactful contribution of the Government of Japan/ JICA in South Asian countries, including Nepal, nations should strategically enhance the utilization of Japanese assistance in conjunction with their own resources. She emphasized key strategies, including conducting comprehensive needs assessments, formulating long-term development plans aligned with national goals, collaborating with various stakeholders, prioritizing capacity building initiatives, ensuring policy alignment, and establishing robust monitoring mechanisms. Dr. Shakya underscored the importance of leveraging Japanese expertise and technology transfer initiatives to enhance local skills and capabilities. In the context of Nepal, she specifically emphasized addressing challenges in the agriculture sector, particularly in the production and access to fertilizers. Dr. Shakya proposed the establishment of a fertilizer plant through Japan's ODA loan, aligning with Nepal's potential and existing infrastructure. She called for collaboration between the Japanese and Nepalese

governments, facilitated by organizations like JAAN, to emphasize the transformative impact such initiatives can have on economic upliftment, job creation, and poverty alleviation. These strategies, as mentioned by Dr. Shakya, collectively aim to optimize the impact of Japanese assistance, fostering sustainable and reliant development in the region.

2. How can JAAN and JAAFSC contribute in the nation building by strengthening diplomatic ties between their countries and Japan?

Dr. Shakya acknowledged JAAN's significant contributions and commended the association for its dedicated work in enhancing the diplomatic relations between Nepal and Japan. She expressed admiration for JAAN's role in introducing Japanese technology in agriculture and believed that they have the potential to achieve even greater milestones in the future. Dr. Shakya outlined several ways in which JAAN and JAADSC could contribute to nation-building and strengthen diplomatic ties:

- Collaborate on Joint Development Projects: Dr. Shakya suggested that the associations could engage in joint development projects to address common challenges and promote collective problem-solving, fostering mutual growth
- Promote Mutual Growth through Policy Dialogues: She emphasized the importance of policy dialogues, leadership development through exchange programs, and encouraging the exchange of knowledge and ideas to enhance cross-cultural understanding and showcase Japanese technological advancements
- Launch Joint Public Diplomacy Campaigns: Dr. Shakya proposed the initiation of joint public diplomacy campaigns to promote positive perceptions of each other's countries
- Organize Networking Events: She suggested organizing networking events that bring together alumni, government officials, diplomats, and business leaders, and engage young professionals, students, and women, facilitating effective communication and potential economic collaboration.

Dr. Shakya highlighted the exemplary efforts of JAAN in agriculture domains in Lele and Sindhupalchok districts, showcasing the potential for study visit programs in such areas. She emphasized that both JAAN and JAAFSC can build networks within SAARC

countries, actively engage in various activities to enhance diplomatic ties, promote cross-cultural understanding, and contribute to sustainable development in collaboration with Japan. Through collective advocacy, these associations can play a crucial role in promoting international cooperation and contributing to nation-building efforts.

Questions to Mr. Akimitsu Okubo, Chief Representative of JICA Nepal

1. How has human resource development contributed Japan in its overall development? How do you want to share the Japanese experience with other countries in the SAARC Region?

Mr. Okubo responded to the question by emphasizing that his comments reflect personal views, not official opinion of JICA. He discussed Japan's post World War II development, highlighting the two key factors: the strong foundation of basic education and the transfer of human resources from the electronic sector in the army to the private sector. Dr. Hiroyuki Itami's insights noted that Japan, currently, lags in IT human resource development, emphasizing the need to invest more in individuals who can utilize the existing IT knowledge.

Regarding sharing Japanese experience, Mr. Okubo provided an example of JICA's cooperation in Nepal's education system, focusing on basic mathematics education. He expressed JICA's commitment to contributing to human resource development through projects spanning basic to technical education in various South Asian countries. Drawing on Japan's experience, he provided an analogy of "education" being the essential "soil" for human development, and the correct cultivation necessary for plant growth. Mr. Okubo stressed the importance of using lessons from Japan's experience to develop human resources in line with contemporary needs, while also noting that soil preparation is a gradual process requiring patience and a focus on long-term outcomes.

2. How do you assess the contribution of the human resources trained and educated in Japan under JICA scholarship in their respective countries, particularly in Nepal?

In evaluating the contribution of human resources trained and educated in Japan under JICA scholarships, with a specific focus on the JDS program in Nepal, Mr. Okubo provided detailed insights. From 2016 to 2019, a minimum of 20 participants, and from 2020 to 2023, a maximum of 22 participants, undertook Master's and PhD degree programs in Japan. The impact assessment highlighted several key outcomes:

- All 100 returned fellows with master's degrees from Japanese graduate schools have been working in the same or higher positions after studying in Japan
- 34% of returnees have been promoted, including one to the rank of secretary and four to the rank of joint secretary
- Contributions to policy formulation, strengthening of the functions of their place of employment, strengthening of bilateral relations (85%), and contributions to the establishment of international academic networks were confirmed
- 49.2% of returnees responded in the survey for returning fellows who contributed to policy formulation, seven cases of laws and regulations, 17 cases of policies and four cases of development plans, three cases of standard operating procedures, etc. identified good practices in the contribution of JDS fellows in the formulation of national policies, laws and regulations, and national plans.

Notable Examples:

1. Mr. Uttam Regmi - Section Officer at the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers (2016-2018), Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, International Christian University
2. Mr. Rajaram Dahal- Under Secretary, Ministry of Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs (2016-2018), Kyushu University Graduate School of Law.

These examples illustrate the tangible impact of JDS fellows in key governmental positions, contributing to policy formulation, fostering bilateral relations, and showcasing the effectiveness of JICA scholarships in elevating human resources in Nepal.

In conclusion, the guided panel discussion featuring these three distinguished panelists provided valuable insights into the multifaceted aspects of Japan's contribution to human resource development in South Asia. Collectively, the panelists emphasized the enduring importance of education, collaboration, and strategic planning in leveraging Japanese assistance for sustainable development in Bhutan, Nepal and the broader South Asian region.

Part 3: Experience Sharing of Farmers/Beneficiaries

Five farmer beneficiaries who received the opportunity to receive education and training in Japan or in Nepal through JICA Nepal and different Japanese and Nepali institutions were invited to share their experience and lessons learned that were applied in their business ventures in Nepal. Their experiences highlight the diverse and innovative agricultural practices that play a pivotal role in shaping the human resources in the agriculture practice of Nepal.

Experience Sharing by Mr. Sher Bahadur Tamang

Mr. Sher Bahadur Tamang, a 52-year-old farmer from Okhreni, Ramechhap, has been running a successful citrus fruit (Junar) nursery business spanning across 15 ropani of land since 2055 B.S. He acquired this valuable skill through training from “Tarkari Kheti Falful Bagaicha Byabasthapan”, and Nursery Management training from the National Center for Fruit Development in Kirtipur and Sindhuli. Further enhancing his knowledge, he participated in a 15-day training supported by JICA Nepal in Japan in 2012, where he learned rainwater harvesting for irrigation, emphasizing quality fruit production, and using poly bags for quality seedlings. While expressing satisfaction with his current business and income, Mr. Sher Bahadur aims to expand his venture by focusing on storage, preservation, market management, labeling, packaging, and the production of liquid products. He encourages fellow farmers to tailor their produce to their environment, prioritize quality, and seek guidance if needed. Mr. Sher Bahadur’s plans include international exports with support from relevant stakeholders. *Detailed of his information and experience is at Annex 3.*

Experience Sharing by Mr. Shambhu Tamang

Mr. Shambhu Tamang, a 60-year-old citrus (Junar) fruit nursery entrepreneur from Sunapati Rural Municipality-02, Ramechhap, has been successfully running his citrus garden in 30 ropani of land since 2042 B.S. He gained knowledge and skills through training facilitated by JICA in coordination with the Nepal Government in Kavrepalanchok. Applying his learnings, Mr. Shambhu focuses on citrus gardens and nursery management, also sharing his knowledge with farmers from various districts who have established their gardens. Expressing his satisfaction with his current endeavors, Mr. Shambhu emphasized the importance of farmers learning about market management for their products and being self-reliant. He expressed a willingness to adopt new technologies related to citrus and encouraged other farmers to stay informed. His plans involve continued sharing of knowledge and expansion of his gardens. *Detailed of his information and experience is at Annex 3.*

Experience Sharing by Mr. Lal Bahadur Lama

Mr. Lal Bahadur Lama, a 52-year-old entrepreneur from Kakani Rural Municipality, Ward Number 4, Nuwakot, has been engaged in trout farming for the past 17 years on an 8 ropani farm with 18 ponds. He learned about trout farming from Dr. Tek Bahadur Gurung, who gained knowledge in Japan. Mr. Lal Bahadur expressed his desire to further enhance his knowledge of Japanese Trout Farming technology. Currently, more than half of his fish is sold on the farm, while the rest is distributed to hotels and restaurants in his area. Mr. Lal Bahadur encourages fellow farmers in Nepal to work hard within the country, emphasizing the potential for satisfaction and good income. Satisfied with his current work and income, Mr. Lal Bahadur plans to continue and expand his trout farms in the future. *Detailed of his information and experience is at Annex 3.*

Experience Sharing by Mr. Ishwor Nepal

Mr. Ishwor Nepal, a 30-year-old entrepreneur from Balefi Rural Municipality, Ward Number 4, Sindhupalchok, has been involved in vegetable and livestock farming on a 15 ropani area for nearly three years. He gained valuable knowledge about commercial agriculture through the Japanese project “Project for Improving Water Access and Agriculture Income”, jointly implemented by Peace Winds Japan and Institution for Suitable Actions for Prosperity (ISAP). During a 15-day training and exposure visit to Japan in September 2023, Ishwor learned about soil loosening, preservation of soil quality, and the utilization of wastage for compost manure, which he has applied since then in his practice. Although he expresses the need for technologies and machinery suitable for his land topography, Mr. Ishwor acknowledges the challenges of replicating all learned methods due to differences in land characteristics and associated costs. He emphasizes the importance of soil quality preservation and honesty learned from Japanese farmers. While not fully satisfied with his current work and income, Ishwor plans to integrate modern technologies to reduce human effort in vegetable production, aiming to increase overall production and income in the future. *Detailed of his information and experience is at Annex 3.*

Experience Sharing by Mr. Lakshin Gurung

Mr. Lakshin Gurung, a 63-year-old entrepreneur from Bhurjungkhola, Kaski, has been successfully operating Gandaki Rainbow Trout Farm for the last fourteen years. His fish farming business spans 80 ropani and produces an annual yield of 30/35 tons which is much less compared to the market demand. Mr. Lakshin acquired his expertise through the guidance of a Japanese Volunteer and the National Research Institute of Fisheries Science. In 2019, he further honed his skills during a month-long training in Japan. He implemented three key

methods/technologies learned: focusing on quality fish feeds, effective management, and providing quality service. Expressing high satisfaction with his work and income, Mr. Lakshin emphasizes the importance of farmers concentrating on quality fish feeds and effective management. He envisions extending the farm by opening multiple branches and exploring export opportunities, showcasing the positive market situation for his Rainbow Trout products. *Detailed of his information and experience is at Annex 3.*

These farmers have not only cultivated crops but also cultivated knowledge from Japanese experts and institutions, elevating their agricultural practices. These agricultural practices, rooted in Japanese expertise are crucial for the human resource development of Nepal. The farmers equipped with advanced techniques and ideas, not only enhance their businesses but also become invaluable resources in their communities, sharing knowledge and skills. The ripple effect of such human resource development is significant, contributing to sustainable agricultural practices, economic growth, and community empowerment.

Part 4: Open Floor Discussion & Response by Paper Presenters

During the open floor discussion, questions were asked by the member audience to the three distinguished paper presenters.

Prof. Dr. Khadga KC was asked questions ranging from monarchy in Japan and Nepal, World War II to human resource development in Nepal. When asked about the positive impact of monarchy on development in Japan and Nepal, Dr. KC highlighted that comparing the effects of monarchy in Japan and Nepal is challenging. While Japan had leaders who made lasting sacrifices, he expressed skepticism about such leadership in Nepal, commending the farmers present rather than the past country's monarch leaders. Dr. KC also touched on historical aspects, mentioning Meiji leaders sending students to the USA and Germany, emphasizing the importance of Western education and the vision of human resource development. However, he also applauded Nepali monarchs like King Tribhuvan who selected qualified individuals for bureaucracy in the 1950s and 60s as commendable in foreign policy and diplomacy. He emphasized how the Japanese values of "sekinin" which means a sense of responsibility and a Japanese work ethic contributed largely to human resource development in Japan contrary to the opposite values in South Asian countries.

Dr. Kiran Rupakhetee was asked questions surrounding the plans of the government in providing access to education for the visually impaired population of the country. He commended the work of Dr. Birendra Pokhrel, a visually impaired member and a non-state actor who has been in the efforts to transfer knowledge and technology for the visually impaired

in Nepal from Japan. Dr. Rupakhetee mentioned the efforts of the government of Nepal to explore collaboration with non-governmental agencies and the civil society sector in its 16th plan. The idea of working together and requesting support from JICA for a collaborative plan and scheme was proposed, highlighting the importance of joint efforts to address the needs of visually impaired individuals.

Closure of Technical Session

Remarks by Mr. Dawa Penjor, JAA President of Bhutan

The President of JAAB commended the presenters for their excellent presentations, acknowledging the valuable research and information shared. He emphasized the significance of gaining knowledge not only in their respective educational field but also in the Japanese ways of preserving culture, language, and tradition. Drawing attention to the impact of modern society and social media on cultural erosion, he highlighted the importance of learning from Japan's example in maintaining and passing on traditions, discipline, and cultural values to the younger generation. The president stressed that experiences in Japan should contribute to preserving the identity and security of the home country, encouraging individuals who go to Japan to bring back and apply the lessons learned from Japanese culture to their societies.

Remarks by Dr. O.P. Dewal, JAA President of India

The president of JAAI commended the well-organized function and expressed gratitude for the presence of the Rt. Honorable President of Nepal. He expressed hope that the JAAFSC would continue to enhance its significance and engage in more meaningful activities in the future.

Remarks by Dr. Fathimath Shara Shareed, JAA Representative of Maldives

In her remarks, the spokesperson from the JICA Alumni Society of the Maldives expressed gratitude to the JAAFSC Secretariat, JAAN and committee members for hosting the seminar in Kathmandu. She highlighted the beauty of the Maldives, acknowledging the challenges faced by the island nations in its developmental stage. Emphasizing the role of NGOs in bridging societal gaps, especially for individuals with special needs, she thanked JICA for its support and commitment. The spokesperson underscored the need for catching up in technology, modern medicine, infrastructure, and education, expressing hope for a strengthened partnership with JICA. Recognizing the power of dialogue, she expressed faith in the pivotal decisions to be made during the seminar. She also congratulated JAAN on its Golden Jubilee, praising the infectious spirit of its members and anticipating great achievements in the future.

In conclusion, she wished success to the seminar and thanked everyone for the opportunity to be present in Nepal.

Remarks by Mr. I. Pathiratne, JAA President of Sri Lanka

In a short presentation, the President of JAA Sri Lanka expressed his appreciation for the marvelous program organized by JAAN under the leadership of Dr. Bhusal. Highlighting the establishment of JAA Sri Lanka in 1972 and the collaboration with JICA, he detailed various humanitarian projects conducted in Sri Lanka including seminars for school children, health camps for pregnant mothers, distribution of stationaries for underprivileged students, computer lab refurbishment, and tree planting campaigns, and livelihood programs for prisoners. The president also mentioned religious ceremonies to commemorate the birthday of the HM Emperor of Japan.

Remarks by Dr. Baikuntha Aryal, Chairperson

The chairperson of the session, Dr. Baikuntha Aryal, Chief Secretary, GoN and Life Member of JAAN, expressed his gratitude for being invited to chair the technical international seminar session, acknowledging the presence of distinguished panelists, participants, JAAN members and other personalities. Despite having to leave the program early due to a busy schedule, the chairperson apologized and conveyed anticipation for an exciting session with experienced and knowledgeable paper presenter and panelists. The hope was to gain valuable insights during the paper presentation and panel discussion on utilizing and developing human resources for nation-building. The chairperson expressed interest in discussing future policies based on the insights from the farmer's experiences and wished success for the entire program.

Token of Love Distribution

After the handing over of Token of Love to the paper presenters and panelists of the international seminar by the President of JAAN and Secretary General of JAAFSC, Dr. Ram Chandra Bhusal presented token of Love to farmer-beneficiaries, and to JICA Alumni Association of Bhutan, India, Maldives, and Sri Lanka. A token of Love was also presented to Dr. Baikuntha Aryal, the chairperson of the session, and the moderator of the International Seminar, Mr. Kedar Paudel who is the Vice President of JAAN. The Former Ambassador of Japan to Nepal Mr. Kojima who is also the President of Japan Nepal Society, was presented with a Token of Love.

Vote of Thanks by Dr. Ram Chandra Bhusal, Secretary General JAAFSC and President of JAAN

Secretary General of JAAFSC and President of JAAN Dr. Ram Chandra Bhusal extended a vote of thanks, expressing his sincere gratitude to all participants, panelists, chairperson, and supporters of the seminar. Acknowledging the limited resources of the volunteer organization, JAAN, Dr. Bhusal highlighted the pride in having qualified members, a strong network, good governance, and reliable commitment. He extended his appreciation to the Chief Secretary of the Government of Nepal, Dr. Baikuntha Aryal, for chairing the session, as well as to the paper presenters, Prof. Dr. Khadga KC, Prof. Dr. O. P. Dewal, and Dr. Kiran Rupakhetee for their informative presentations. Gratitude was also expressed to panelists, Mr. Akimitsu Okubo, Dr. Anjan Shakya and Mr. Dawa Penjor. Dr. Bhusal also thanked the farmer beneficiaries for sharing their experiences, emphasizing the impact of Japanese technology transfer at the grass root level.

Dr. Bhusal conveyed his special thanks to JICA Alumni Presidents and Representatives from Bhutan, India, Maldives, and Sri-Lanka, high officials from the Embassy of Japan, and JICA Nepal. He also thanked the attendees, media friends, JAAN members, and executive members for their participation and support.

He expressed his gratitude to key contributors who played a pivotal roles in the success of the seminar. Special recognition was given to JAAN Vice President, Mr. Kedar Paudel, and JAAN Secretary, Dr. Kiran Rupakhetee, for their unwavering commitment and tireless efforts throughout the seminar preparations. The logistics team led by General Secretary, Ms. Shanti Laxmi Shakya and Treasurer, Ms. Biva Kalika Malla Shrestha, along with other executive committee team members, were acknowledged for their support. For the seminar reporting preparation, gratitude was extended to JAAN Life Members Ms. Apkeshya Bhusal and Ms. Salina Dolmo Lama, both young members of JAAN. Dr. Rakesh Kothari, an IT Expert also acknowledge by Dr. Bhusal for providing technical support throughout the preparation. The publication of JAAN's annual magazine, Milan, was made possible by the dedication of article writers who contributed valuable and insightful pieces. Sincere thanks was expressed by Dr. Bhusal to all individuals directly or indirectly involved in making the international seminar a success.

Dr. Bhusal invited all the participants to enjoy the cultural program, Japanese alcohol and join the cake-cutting ceremony to celebrate the 50th anniversary of JAAN.

Cultural Program

The program concluded with a cultural celebration aimed at commemorating the 50-year friendship between Nepal and Japan. Ms. Apekshya Bhusal provided an overview of the program structure, which included displays of both Japanese and Nepalese cultural traditions. Ms. Miki Enomoto, currently serving in Lele as a JOCV, shared insights into the Japanese cultural segment.

The ceremony commenced with Kagamibiraki, signifying the 'breaking of the mirror,' a sacred practice symbolizing the beginning of new ventures. Originating from an ancient tradition where the fourth Tokugawa shogun broke a sake barrel to mark victory, this ritual now represents fresh beginnings and significant life transitions.

Following Kagamibiraki, a demonstration of Kendo, a traditional Japanese martial art rooted in swordsmanship, captivated the audience. Led by performers, including JICA Chief, Mr. Akimitsu Okubo, the display highlighted the evolution of Kendo from a means of defeating opponents to a path of personal and mental development.

Then, the Nepali cultural segment showcased the country's diversity through captivating dance forms such as Chariya, Kauda, Newari, and Jhyaure, captivating the audience's attention.

The event culminated with a cake-cutting ceremony marking the 50th anniversary of JAAN's establishment. All cultural program participants received certificates of appreciation from JAAN President, Dr. Ram Chandra Bhusal.

In a fitting conclusion, all participants joined together on the dance floor, swaying to the beat of a Tamang Selo, celebrating unity and cultural harmony.

Overall, the event served as a joyous testament to the enduring friendship between Nepal and Japan, fostering mutual understanding and appreciation through cultural exchange.

CONCLUSION

The International Seminar on “Human Resource Development for Nation Building: Best Practices, Challenges, and Lessons Learned from Japan” organized by JICA Alumni Association of Nepal (JAAN) stands as a resounding success. The event commemorating JAAN’s 50th Anniversary, brought together experts, dignitaries from across South Asian region, farmers and other guests to discuss and celebrate the profound impact of Japan’s support on human resource development in the SAARC region. The presence of the Rt. Honorable President of Nepal, Mr. Ram Chandra Poudel added a significant value to the program and provided a ground for the Nepal-Japan relation to become even stronger.

The insightful paper presentations and guided panel discussions shed light on Japan’s instrumental role in enhancing the human resource of the nation, contributing to their socio-economic development. Japan’s aid and supported projects have not only enhanced the skillsets of the individuals but have also catalyzed broader efforts in utilizing these enhanced human resources in various sectors critical to their overall development. Whether through educational advancements, technological transfers, or inclusive initiatives, the consensus among the presenters was that Japan’s aid has laid the groundwork for sustainable human resource development. The experience shared by farmers further underscored the tangible benefits derived from Japanese institutions and experts, contributing to sustainable agricultural practices and community empowerment.

The International Seminar provided a dynamic exchange of ideas, enriching the dialogue on human resource development and socio-economic cooperation. As the nations continue their efforts to harness the potential of their augmented human resources, there is a shared sentiment of appreciation for Japan’s unwavering and unconditional support. The discussions during the seminar served as a testament to the transformative impact of Japan’s aid, with a collective acknowledgment that ongoing collaboration and support will further propel these countries toward comprehensive and sustained development.

The seminar served as a crucial platform for fostering regional cooperation, strengthening ties between South Asian countries and Japan, and facilitating knowledge exchange. As the seminar concludes successfully, it is evident that Japan’s unconditional support has played a pivotal role in shaping the socio-economic development of nations in the SAARC region. There is a collective call to Japan/JICA for continued and strengthened support. The seminar provided a platform not only to reflect on past achievements but also to chart a course for future endeavors, ensuring that the enhanced human resources continue to be instrumental in the holistic development of the respective nations. The relationships forged and knowledge shared

during this event should serve as a foundation for ongoing collaboration, strategic partnerships, and further initiatives that will contribute to the continued success and growth of the region. The international community looks forward to Japan's continued leadership and support in the realm of human resource development, fostering a brighter and more interconnected future for all involved nations.

Some photos of three sessions and other information are attached in Annex 4.

ANNEX 1: PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Program Schedule

Date February 25, 2024

Venue The Everest Hotel, Baneshowr, Kathmandu

8:00 - 9:00 AM Registration of Participants and Guests/ Welcome Coffee and Breakfast

MC: Dr. Kiran Rupakhetee, Secretary, JAAN (Joint Secretary, Govt. of Nepal)

Part 1 - Opening Session

- 9:10 Arrival of Special Guests
JAAN Activity Video Display
- 9:30 Arrival of Chief Guest, Rt. Honorable Mr. Ram Chandra Poudel, President of Nepal
- 9:30 National Anthem
- 9:30 Seating of Dignitaries on the Dias
- 9:35 Chief Guest- Rt. Honorable Mr. Ram Chandra Poudel, President of Nepal
- 9:35 Chairpersonship - Dr. Ram Chandra Bhusal, President, JAAN
- 9:35 Welcome Address by Mr. Kedar Paudel, Vice President, JAAN
- 9:40 Inauguration of 50th Annual Function and International Seminar by the Chief Guest
- 9:45 Highlight of JAAN Activities by Ms. Shanti Laxmi Shakya, General Secretary, JAAN
- 9:50 Inauguration of 50th Issues of Milan Magazine, Handover of Appreciation Letter to Article Writers of 50th Issue of Milan Magazine by the Chief Guest/Special Guests Felicitation to Chief Secretary, Chairperson of National Inclusion Commission, JAAN Past Presidents, Godawari Municipality- Ward No. 5,
- 10:10 Address with Congratulatory Message by
- 10:10 Mr. Mitsuaki Kojima, President of Japan Nepal Society, Tokyo (Former Ambassador)
- 10:15 Mr. Akimitsu Okubo, Chief Representative, JICA Nepal
- 10:20 H.E. Yutaka Kikuta, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal
- 10:25 Dr. Baikuntha Aryal, Chief Secretary, Government of Nepal
- 10:35 Chief Guest, Rt. Honorable Mr. Ram Chandra Poudel, President of Nepal
Vote of Thanks with Remarks, Dr. Ram Chandra Bhusal, President, JAAN
Closing of the Opening Session and Departure of the Chief Guest and Special Guests

11:00-11:30 Tea Break

Part 2: Technical Session

Chairpersonship: Dr. Baikuntha Aryal, Chief Secretary, Government of Nepal, Life Member, JAAN

Moderator: Mr. Kedar Paudel, Vice- President, JAAN

- 11:35 Human Resource Development for the Nation Building in Japan: Best Practices and Lesson Learned for Developing Countries - Prof. Dr. Khadga KC, IRD, Tribhuvan University (TU)
- 11:50 Contribution of Government of Japan for the Nation Building of Countries in the SAARC Region through Human Resource Development - Prof. Dr. O. P. Dewal, President, JICA Alumni Association of India (JAAI)/JICA Alumni Associations' Forum of SAARC Countries (JAAFSC)
- 12:05 Support of Government of Japan in the Sustainable Development of Nepal through Capacity Development: Learnings and Challenges - Dr. Kiran Rupakhetee, Joint Secretary, Government of Nepal
- 12:20 - 2:00 Guided Panel Discussion, Experience Sharing, Discussion and Closure of Technical Session
- 12:20 - 12:50 Guided Panel Discussion
- Mr. Dawa Penjor, President, JICA Alumni Association of Bhutan (JAAB)
 - Dr. Anjan Shakya, Former Ambassador of Nepal to Israel
 - Mr. Akimitsu Okubo, Chief Representative, JICA Nepal
- 12:50 - 13:10 Experience Sharing
- Mr. Sher Bahadur Tamang, Junar Farmer, Okhrenei, Ramechhap
 - Mr. Lal Bahadur Lama, Trout Fish Farmer, Kakani, Nuwakot
 - Mr. Shambhu Tamang, Fruit Nursery Farmer, Sunapati, Ramechhap
 - Mr. Ishwor Nepal, Vegetable Farmer, Balefi, Sindhupalchok
 - Mr. Lachhin Gurung, Gandaki Rainbow Trout Farm, Bhurjung Khola, Pokhara
- 13:10 - 13:25 Floor Discussion and Response by Paper Presenters
- 13:25 - 13:55 Closure of Technical Session
- Remarks by JAA Presidents of Bhutan, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka (five minutes each)
 - Closing of the Seminar Session with Remarks: **By Chairperson**

- Distribution of Token of love to paper presenters, panelists, farmer beneficiaries, JAA presidents and representatives, and chairpersons and moderators.

- Vote of Thanks with Remarks: Secretary General JAAFSC and President JAAN

14:00 - 15:00	Lunch Break
Part 3	Cultural Program
15:00 - 16:45	Cultural Program
16:45 - 17:15	Tea/Coffee, Cake Cutting Ceremony

ANNEX 2: SPEECHES

2.1. *Mr. Kedar Paudel, Vice President, JAAN*

Chief Guest Rt. Hon. President of Nepal Ram Chandra Poudel, Chairperson of this Function, Chief Secretary of the Government of Nepal, His Excellency the Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, President of Japan Nepal Society, Tokyo, Chief Representative of JICA Nepal Office, Chairpersons of Constitutional Bodies, Former Foreign Minister and Members of Parliament, Present and former Secretaries of the Government of Nepal, Presidents and Representatives of JICA Alumni Association of Bhutan, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka, Special Invitees and guests, JAAN members and their spouses, Media friends, Gentle Ladies and gentlemen!

It is with immense joy and pride I would like to welcome you to this Golden Jubilee Celebration of the JICA Alumni Association of Nepal (JAAN). We are truly honored to have the distinguished presence of our Head of the state as a Chief Guest. We are highly obliged to him for accepting our invitation. On this momentous occasion on behalf of JAAN and my own, I would like to welcome Rt. Hon. President of Nepal at this function.

Today, we gather here to commemorate 50 glorious years of excellence camaraderie, and share achievements. As we reflect on the past, let us acknowledge the dedicated individuals whose hard work and vision laid the foundation for this remarkable journey. Thanks to our esteemed members, and predecessors for making this incredible association, one of the best amongst 123 JICA Alumni Associations in 103 countries of the world.

Furthermore, we are here to extend our cordial gratitude and thanks to the former Right Hon. Vice President of Nepal, former Prime Ministers, Chief Justices, Speakers of the House, hon. Ministers, Japanese Ambassadors, Chief JICA Representatives, Government Ministries and high ranking officials, and all other institutions for their participation in our various programs.

Our alumni have not only excelled in their respective fields but have also contributed significantly to the society. JAAN has actively engaged with other JICA Alumni Associations of our neighboring countries under the umbrella of JICA Alumni Associations' Forum of SAARSC Countries. Presidents and representatives of those Alumni are also present here.

On this momentous occasion, we are truly honored to have the distinguished presence of our chief guest, Rt. Honorable President of Nepal. This presence adds a special significance and historical value to our celebration. We are highly grateful to Rt. Honorable President. It has inspired us to be more committed to our works of national development and to further enhancing Nepal Japan's cordial relationship.

This Golden Jubilee serve as a reminder of our shared commitment to excellence, innovation, and community. May our association continue to thrive, and may the next 50 years be filled with even greater accomplishments. Lastly, once again, I would like to extend warm welcome to Rt. Hon. President, Hon. Minister, His excellency and everyone present here. Thank you and Namaste.

2.2. Ms. Shanti Laxmi Shakya, General Secretary, JAAN

Greetings and Welcome! Chief Guest Rt. Honorable President of Nepal Ram Chandra Poudel, Chairperson of this Function, Chief Secretary of the Government of Nepal, His Excellency the Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, President of Japan Nepal Society, Tokyo, Chief Representative of JICA Nepal Office, Chairpersons of Constitutional Bodies, Former Foreign Minister and Members of Parliament, Present and former Secretaries of the Government of Nepal, Presidents and Representatives of JICA Alumni Association of Bhutan, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka, Special Invitees and guests, JAAN members and their spouses, Media friends, Gentle Ladies and gentlemen!

I would like to present the activities of JAAN. JAAN is a non-political, non-profitable organization. JAAN's members are professionals who completed the training, study, and visit from Japan under the JICA program. JAAN promotes friendship and mutual understanding between Nepal and contributes to strengthening cordial relations between Nepal and Japan through several activities. The Right Honorable Vice-president of Nepal, Prime Minister of Nepal, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and Speaker of the House of Representatives has remained the chief guest of the Annual Function of JAAN. This year, JAAN is proud to have The Right Honorable President of Nepal as the Chief Guest.

JAAN organizes national and international level seminars on contemporary issues. The theme of this year's international seminar is "Human Resource Development for the Nation Building - Best Practices, Challenges and Lessons Learned from Japan". Various experts from the SAARC region will be participating in this event. JAAN organizes Cultural Exchange programs to bring together JAAN members and their families and the Japanese Community in Nepal. New Year and Dashain Festival are celebrated to strengthen the relationship between the two countries. JAAN organizes the pre-departure orientation program for the first-time participants of JICA before their departure to Japan. Welcome and Farewell program for the newly appointed His Excellency Ambassador of Japan to Nepal and the outgoing Ambassador respectively.

JAAN organizes excursion visits annually for JAAN members and community people to Japan/JICA-funded projects and its community development areas. JAAN works in the sectors

of education, primary health and nutrition, income generation, environment protection, community development, women empowerment, and social development-related works at the community level in Lalitpur and Sindhupalchok districts.

At this ceremony, we also have a program to present a letter of appreciation to the local community who has supported the Community Development Programs of JAAN and helped to improve the friendly relations between Japan and Nepal.

JAAN plays an important role during natural disasters in Japan and Nepal. JAAN supported the victims of the Japanese earthquake and tsunami in Japan in March 2011, while Japan Nepal Society, Tokyo supported the earthquake victims of April 2015 through JAAN in Nepal.

JAAN publishes its regular publication MILAN magazine every year disseminating and sharing scholarly ideas and articles on various aspects of Japan-Nepal relationships, lessons learned from Japan, and financial support from Japan to Nepal. JAAN has been taking responsibility for 13 years to conduct the Japanese Language and Culture Test Examination for the participants of JITCO trainees.

The government of Japan has awarded the Foreign Minister's Commendation to JAAN, in recognition of its significant contributions over the years to the development of mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and Nepal. Similarly, the Embassy of Japan to Nepal provided the "Ambassador Award" to JAAN in 2012. This kind of support received from the Japanese government has made JAAN very happy and encouraged JAAN to work harder to strengthen Nepal-Japan friendly relations.

JAAN has been conducting several activities on the occasion of its Golden Jubilee Year. On this occasion, Sakura trees were planted by the Rt. Honorable President of Nepal at his official residence. Sakura Garden was established during this occasion at Lele of Godawari Municipality under Lalitpur District with the participation of H. E. Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, JICA Chief Representative, Distinguished Guests, and JAAN members.

JAAN members strive to strengthen the relationship between the two countries by becoming a bridge of friendship between Nepal and Japan. During the 2022 general election in Nepal, the President of JAAN, along with the executive committee, had the chance to meet with the State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Senior Executive Vice President of JICA Headquarter, Tokyo. JAAFSC is an umbrella Association of JICA Alumni in SAARC countries. Its secretariat is established in the JAAN Office, Kathmandu.

JAAN's President Dr. Ram Chandra Bhusal is the present Secretary General of JAAFSC and has been serving as the Secretary General since October 2017. He has been playing a central role to maintaining coordination between the Parent Organization, the Embassy of Japan, JICA Nepal, the Government of Nepal, JAAN members, the local community, JICA alumni of SAARC countries, and JICA Headquarters.

The current president of JAAN has been leading JAAN for a very long time and due to his leadership and commitment, the programs and activities of JAAN have increased along with its quality. They have also been successful in reaching the community and strengthening the relationship between the two countries.

The current working committee of JAAN is working to maintain good corporate governance, conduct all programs of JAAN according to established methods and approved statutes, and make JAAN a friendly bridge between the government of Nepal and Japan and the people of Nepal and Japan. As a result of this, JAAN has succeeded in establishing itself as the best alumni among more than 100 JICA Alumni Associations around the world. The members of JAAN are playing an important role in strengthening Nepal-Japan relations and nation-building from their respective places and regions and this role will certainly continue in the coming days.

JAAN members hold important positions such as Chairpersons of some Constitutional Bodies, Chief Secretaries, Judges, Secretaries, Joint Secretaries, and high-level responsibilities in various governmental and non-governmental organizations and have contributed to the nation-building and promotion of Nepal-Japan friendship. I express my gratitude to all the dignitaries who have supported JAAN. Thank you

***2.3. Mr. Mitsuaki Kojima, Former Ambassador, President, Japan Nepal Society
(Public Interest Organization approved by the Cabinet, Japan)***

Right Honorable President Mr. Ram Chandra Poudel, Excellency Ambassador Kikuta, Esteemed Members of the Federal Lower House, Distinguished Guests and Participants from SAARC countries, Fellow members, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure & honor to attend this memorable event to celebrate the JAAN's Golden Jubilee today. The very presence of the Right Honorable President and Ambassador of Japan shows the importance both Governments attach to the JAAN's contribution to the Society, and also to the bilateral relations for the past 50 years.

JAAN, the abbreviation of JICA Alumni Association of Nepal, is an organization of Nepali members who brushed up and upgraded their respective abilities through Japan's Technical

Cooperation scheme. The JAAN members continue to keep active engagement with the Nepali society in their respective positions and areas in the Government or organizations they belong to. To show an example of their achievements in collaboration with our Japan Nepal Society, in April, 2015, when the mega Earthquake hit Nepal, we quickly undertook to open emergency relief fund and collect donations from well-wishing Japanese public. I asked President Ram C. Bhusal of JAAN whether they could carry out relief activities for affected Nepali people by providing them with necessary goods, temporary learning facilities and food, etc. He accepted the task and promptly started to provide relief aid to the affected people beautifully. Also at the subsequent reconstruction stage, they helped farm households in Lele, where over 90 % of houses collapsed, by tomato farming with a view to building houses there. It took time, but we hope most of them have houses by now. Moreover, they still have additional income from tomato farming to support their living. JAAN bridged the goodwill of Japanese people with needy people in Nepal.

With that experience in mind, the Japan Nepal Society, in close cooperation with JAAN, would like to carry out projects through which farm households could increase their income by promoting high-quality vegetable farming and related agribusiness in Nepal. India and some other SARC countries could be good markets for such high-quality vegetables made in Nepal. It is hoped that trade among SAARC countries will be much more open and active to their mutual benefit. By doing so, SAARC will become more influential in the world.

In this respect, I personally feel that the JAAN members are human assets for Japan as well as for Nepal in their contribution to the socio-economic development here in Nepal and keeping friendly relations with Japan.

Nepal, as a developing country, needs further development in basic social and economic infrastructure. But without such well-trained human resources, it is difficult to plan, implement, and manage such projects effectively. After all, it is human powers which guide and build the nation for better future. In this sense, this international seminar is very relevant in capacity building. I wish a great success of the JAAN's Golden Jubilee event.

2.4. Mr. Akimitsu Okubo, Chief Representative, JICA Nepal

Chief Guest for the occasion, Rt. Honorable Ram Chandra Poudel, President of Nepal, Chairman of today's program, Dr. Ram Chandra Bhusal, President of JAAN, Honorable Head of the constitutional bodies, Guest of Honor Dr. Baikuntha Aryal, Chief Secretary, Guest of Honor H.E. Mr. Yutaka Kikuta Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, Special Guest Mr. Mitsuaki Kojima, President, Japan Nepal Society, Tokyo, (Former Japanese Ambassador to Nepal), Special guest Prof. Dr. O. P Dewal, Chairperson, JICA Alumni Associations Forum of SAARC

Countries (JAAFSC) and President of JICA Alumni Association of India (JAAI). President and Representatives of JICA Alumni Associations of SAARC Countries, Representatives from various organizations, Media community, Ladies, and gentlemen!

Namaskar, first of all, I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations to all distinguished JAAN members on the auspicious occasion of JICA Alumni Association's Golden Jubilee, which is the 50th Anniversary of JAAN. This milestone marks fifty years of remarkable dedication and contribution to the socio-economic development of Nepal as well as the relationship strengthened between Japan and Nepal.

Taking this opportunity, as a co-organizer of today's event and on behalf of JICA Nepal, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Rt. Honorable President Mr. Ram Chandra Poudel, for his gracious presence today, despite all his busy schedules.

Over the past five decades, JAAN comprising of all the JICA training returnees have maintained a cordial relationship between Japan and Nepal through various activities such as organizing seminar on various issues, organizing study and excursion visit on JICA supported projects, orientation for JICA participants' and exchange of cultural programs of Japan and Nepal and publishing of their annual magazine 'Milan' and so on. Through these untiring endeavors, JAAN has been contributing to the development of human resources in Nepal in close cooperation with JICA.

Needless to mention that, human resources are the greatest asset of Nepal. It is necessary to build up these valuable resources through education and training, so that they can be effectively mobilized in the country's nation building efforts. Therefore, development of human resources is one of the most important pillars of JICA's purposes, and JICA has been continuously providing Nepali citizens with opportunities for study and training in Japan.

I strongly believe that people-to-people relationships are the foundation of closer ties between Japan and Nepal for better and improved cooperation. I am also delighted to know that the JAAFSC member countries have gathered today for the 50th Anniversary of JAAN in Nepal and plan to hold JAAFSC AGM in Kathmandu. I extend my best wishes for a delightful stay in Nepal for all JAAFSC delegates from SAARC countries and wish the JAAFSC AGM a great success.

Lastly, I wish this 50th Anniversary will serve as a moment of reflection on the past achievements and as inspiration for the future cooperation for Japan Nepal relations and I look forward to continuing our commitments for collaborative efforts in promoting Nepal's nation building. Thank you all for your kind attention. Dhanyabad.

2.5. H. E. Mr. Yutaka Kikuta, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal,

Right Honorable Mr. Ram Chandra Poudel, President of Nepal; Dr. Baikuntha Aryal, Chief Secretary, Government of Nepal; His Excellency Mr. Mitsuaki Kojima, President of Japan-Nepal Society and Former Ambassador to Nepal; Mr. Akimitsu Okubo, Chief Representative of JICA Nepal Office; Dr. Ram Chandra Bhusal, President of JAAN; Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to be invited to the 50th Anniversary Celebration of JAAN (Golden Jubilee) today along with the Right Honorable President of Nepal Mr. Ram Chandra Poudel, Chief Secretary Dr. Aryal, and all the distinguished guests. In particular, it gives me a great honor to be here with the Right Honorable President Mr. Poudel, who has been awarded 2020 the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette for promoting the strengthening of relations between Japan and Nepal. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude and respect to all of JAAN members for your ongoing efforts to promote friendly relations between Japan and Nepal.

As you all know, JAAN was established in 1973 as an alumni association of Nepali trainees and students who received various trainings and academic education in Japan under the JICA program. JAAN has been highly appreciated for its great contribution to the development of mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and Nepal over the past half century and was awarded the Foreign Minister's Commendation for 2023. I clearly remember that I hosted the handover ceremony for the members of JAAN at my official residence on December 22 last year. I am very grateful to JAAN for the role it has played in strengthening relations between Japan and Nepal since its establishment.

The most essential objective of Japan's technical cooperation and human resource development assistance is to enable those recipients of programs to bring back the knowledge and experience gained in Japan and make the best use of it to contribute to the development of their own country. It is no exaggeration to say that JAAN is an organization that has embodied this for the past 50 years. While the presence of Nepali people in Japan is increasing, I would like to point out that Japan's assistance to Nepal is not a charity but an investment for Nepal's future. The knowledge, experience, and people-to-people network of JAAN, now in its 50th year, is an invaluable asset for Nepal. JAAN has been able to leverage its strong network and excellent leadership to grow into a great organization that has an important role to play in Nepal's development. I believe that it will be steadily passed on to the next generation who will contribute to the economic and social development of Nepal with more advanced quality.

The year 2026 is when Nepal graduates from LDC status and also is the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Nepal and Japan. Strengthening relations between the two countries will become more important than ever, and the role of JAAN as a bridge between Japan and Nepal will become more essential.

To conclude, I would like to express my best wishes for the further success and prosperity of JAAN, and I earnestly hope that the friendship between the people of Japan and Nepal will deepen further. My sincere congratulations to you all today. Thank you very much

2.6. Dr. Baikuntha Aryal, Chief Secretary, Government of Nepal

Rt. Honorable President of Nepal, Mr. Ram Chandra Poudel, Dr. Ram Chandra Bhusal, President of JAAN; H. E Mr. Yutaka Kikuta, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, Mr. Akimitsu Okubo, Chief Representative, JICA Nepal, Mr. Mitsuaki Kojima, president of Japan Nepal Society and former ambassador of Japan to Nepal, Distinguished delegates from JICA Alumni Associations of Bhutan, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka, Chairpersons of Constitutional Bodies, JAAN members and their spouses, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and gentlemen! Namaste!

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to JICA Alumni Association Nepal (JAAN) for giving me this opportunity by inviting me to the 50th annual function of this JICA Alumni Association Nepal (JAAN). Also, I would like to congratulate the JAAN family on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of JAAN. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the JAAN family for giving me the opportunity to be felicitated by the Rt. honorable president.

Nepal and Japan have traditionally had cordial relations for a long period of time. Nepal highly values the contribution made by the Japanese government in the development of Nepal. Japan, the most prosperous democratic country in Asia, not only in the field of science and technology but also in the economic and social fields as well as in the overall human resource development, has been incomparable and exemplary. Japan is always providing unconditional support in Nepal's development efforts. In that sense, Japan is not only a benevolent friend of Nepal, but also a companion for Nepal's sustainable and reliable development. Nepal highly values the contribution made by Japan in the fields of technical human resource development, education, health, communication, road construction, fruits, vegetables, fisheries and other infrastructure development.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the contribution made by the Government of Japan, the Embassy of Japan in Nepal and JICA Nepal Office in the development initiatives of Nepal. For the past six decades, the JICA Alumni Association Nepal (JAAN) has been making

a significant contribution in strengthening the Nepal-Japan relationship and applying the knowledge, skills and technology learned in Japan to the development of Nepal. This association is also doing community development activities to raise the standard of living of the people in rural areas. As a life member of JAAN, I want to assure you that such efforts will be continued. All the members of this association are expected to always play an important role in making the friendship between Nepal and Japan even stronger and achieving maximum achievements from the support of the Japanese government to Nepal. I would like to assure that the Nepalese government will always properly appreciate such commendable actions.

To achieve the sustainable development goals, the proposed 16th plan and sectorial policies and strategies as well as the commitments expressed by Nepal at the international level and the rights guaranteed by the constitution, there is a need for sufficient financial resources and technical support. Nepal hopes and expects the Japanese government to support and contribute to fulfill these goals.

In the end, I would like to wish for the success of the program, and hope that the JAAN will always be committed to the development of Nepal while continuing to take the cordial relationship between Nepal and Japan to a higher and stronger level and help to strengthen the harmonious relationship between Nepal and Japan.

2.7. Rt. Honorable Ram Chandra Poudel, President of Nepal

Chairman of the Ceremony, His Excellency Japanese Ambassador to Nepal, President of Japan Nepal Society, Ladies and gentlemen present!

First of all, it is my pleasure to participate in the 50th annual function of JICA Alumni Association of Nepal (JAAN). On this occasion of the 50th anniversary celebration, I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations and best wishes to the JAAN family.

Nepal and Japan have had harmonious relations for a very long time. Japan, a prosperous democratic country in Asia, has made exemplary progress not only in the field of science and technology, but also in economic, social, and overall human development. Japan has always provided selfless support to Nepal's development efforts.

In that sense, Japan is a benevolent friend of Nepal as well as a companion for the sustainable and reliable development of Nepal. Nepal has always highly valued the contribution made by Japan in the fields of technical human resource development, hydroelectricity, education, health, communication, road construction, fruits, vegetables, fisheries, and other infrastructure development.

After the political changes in the country, progress is also being made in social, economic, cultural and other areas of development in Nepal. In this process, the cooperation and goodwill of the Japanese government will be important for us in the future as in the past.

I would like to acknowledge the goodwill and support shown by the Japanese government in making the peace process of Nepal successful and creating a federal democratic republic constitution through the Constituent Assembly. Japan's support to Nepal during the control of the COVID-19 pandemic is remarkable. Remembering the generosity I received from Japanese friends when I visited Japan a few years ago and the high honor given to me by the Japanese government only last year, I express my gratitude to the Japanese people and the Japanese government.

For the past six decades, the contribution of the JICA Alumni Association of Nepal (JAAN) in bridging the Nepal-Japan relationship and applying the knowledge, skills, and technology learned in Japan to the development of Nepal has been commendable. I am happy to know that JAAN is doing community development work to raise the standard of living of the people in rural areas. It is necessary to expand such work to more rural areas.

The members of JAAN play an important role in making the friendship between Nepal and Japan even closer and stronger and achieving maximum achievements from the support of the Japanese government to Nepal. I am confident that the Nepalese government appreciates such work of JAAN.

In the end, I wish for the success of the program and wish the best for this organization to always be committed to the development of Nepal and continue to make the relationship between Nepal and Japan even stronger. Jay Nepal

2.8. Dr. Ram Chandra Bhusal, President, JAAN

Greetings and Welcome! Chief Guest Rt. Hon. President of Nepal Ram Chandra Poudel, Chief Secretary of the Government of Nepal, His Excellency the Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, President of Japan Nepal Society, Tokyo, Chief Representative of JICA Nepal Office, Chairperson of National Inclusion Commission, Former Foreign Minister and Members of Parliament, Present and former Secretaries of the Government of Nepal, Presidents and Representatives of JICA Alumni Association of Bhutan, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka, Special Invitees and guests, Article Writers of Milan Magazine, Media friends, JAAN members and their spouses, Gentle Ladies and gentlemen.

We are encouraged by the presence of the honorable Chief Guest, the President of the Government of Nepal. His presence today will make the Japan-Nepal friendship even stronger. Last year, the Honorable President was honored “Order of The Rising Sun” presented by the Government of Japan; we JAAN family are delighted to have him as the Chief Guest On the occasion of JAAN’s Golden Jubilee, we planted 32 Japan’s national flower Sakura on September 12, 2023, in Rt. Honorable President’s Residence, Sheetal Niwas.

We highly appreciate the goodwill of the Honorable President towards JAAN and his sincere importance to the friendship between Nepal and Japan. For this, on behalf of JAAN, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Honorable President. The relationship between the two countries is special also because of the selection of Japan to send eight students for their studies in 1902 and the continued immigration of Nepalese students to Japan for their studies.

Japan has supported Nepal in sustainable development programs. The Japanese pears, persimmon, shitake mushrooms, tofu, trout fish, strawberries, Sindhuli, and Ramechhap's junar (citrus fruit and oranges) that we find in the market today have been propagated and developed with the help of Japan. We will hear the experiences of the farmers/businessmen involved in this seminar session about how this has helped to improve Nepal's agricultural development and the living standards of local communities.

On behalf of the members of JAAN, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Government of Japan through His Excellency the Ambassador of Nepal to Japan, for the continuous support that Japan has given to Nepal in the fields of agricultural development, education, health, infrastructure, etc. for the past six decades. The Embassy of Japan and JICA Nepal have been supporting every program of JAAN. I would like to express my gratitude to the Japanese Embassy and JICA Nepal. I would like to thank the Japan Nepal Society for its assistance to the earthquake victims through JAAN and its support in running the community development program.

The Current President of Japan Nepal Society and Former Ambassador of Japan to Nepal Mr. Mitsuaki Kojima came from Japan to Nepal yesterday to participate in the program today. Even during his short stay in Nepal, he will have separate courtesy meetings with the Honorable President, Honorable Prime Minister, Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs, former Foreign Ministers, and other distinguished personalities to talk about harmonious relations and matters of mutual interests between the two countries. This has been arranged and coordinated by JAAN.

The Japanese government through JICA has been providing great support to the global workforce for a long time and every year a large number of people working in the Nepalese

government and other sectors are sent to Japan for short-term skills training. We feel proud that the present Chief Secretary of the Government of Nepal, the secretaries of various ministries, various governmental and non-governmental organizations, and social organizations are members of JAAN. JAAN's Life members are serving as presidents of important constitutional commissions. I extend my hearty congratulations and best wishes to all of them. JAAN members have studied and received training in various areas from Japan and are currently playing important roles in nation-building and strengthening Nepal-Japan relations from their respective places and regions.

Today, we have organized an international seminar on the topic of Human Resource Development, which is an important area of support from the Japanese government. In the seminar, there will be a presentation and discussion by experts about Japan's support to the SAARC region and Nepal for Human Resource Development, its impact, and what the countries of the SAARC region should learn from Japan.

This year's Milan magazine is a special issue on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee. This issue includes the articles of SAARC region and Japan's ambassadors, interviews of the Ambassador of Japan to Nepal and the Nepali Ambassador to Japan, the list of JAAN's Executive committee from the past 50 years to now, the profile of JAAN's current presidents, etc. We have prepared a video covering 50 years of JAAN's history and its activities and presented it at the beginning of the program.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the members of the editorial board who have worked continuously for the publication of this year's MILAN, all who helped to make JAAN's video, as well as the article writers, and I sincerely request for their continued support in the coming years. I would like to thank all the government, non-government, and foreign employment-related enterprises who have advertised in the MILAN magazine and expect this kind of support in the coming years as well.

The Government of Nepal has also given JAAN the important responsibility of conducting the Japanese language and culture skills (JITCO) exams for workers going to Japan under the JITCO program, and for the past 13 years, JAAN has been fulfilling this responsibility and trust given by the Nepal Government with efficiency. We are grateful to the Government of Nepal and will be ready to support the Government of Nepal if we are given this kind of responsibility and role in the future as well.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Honorable President, Members of Parliament, Chief Secretary, His Excellency the Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, President of the Japan Nepal Society, Head of JICA Nepal, Secretary of the Government of Nepal for giving their

valuable time to attend today's program. Also, I would like to express my gratitude to the high-ranking officials of the Embassy of Japan and JICA Nepal who accepted our invitation and are present here.

Similarly, I express my gratitude to the former ministers of the Nepal government, former ambassadors, leaders, and representatives from various organizations. Today, we have honored the former presidents of JAAN, appreciating the remarkable contribution they have made since the establishment of JAAN. I express my gratitude for the contribution made by them during their tenure. The progress of the JAAN has been possible with the support and goodwill of all the members of the JAAN and today they are present with their families in this ceremony.

Today's program is attended by JICA alumni members and experts from various fields from Japan, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka etc. I want to thank everyone for their presence today. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the journalists who have played a significant role in strengthening the relationship between Nepal and Japan by regularly publishing and broadcasting JAAN's activities. I request their continued support in the future as well.

The team members of the current Executive Committee of JAAN have always made significant contributions to make the program successful, for this, I would like to thank the entire team. JAAN's office staff also played an important role in making the program successful, I would like to thank them. Expressing my gratitude to all the organizations and dignitaries who have supported every program of JAAN, I would like to express my sincere thanks once again to all dignitaries including the special guests present here.

Now this session of the program is officially over and I sincerely request everyone to participate in the seminar session and cultural program after this.

Thank you

ANNEX 3: BENEFICIARY DETAIL

1	Farmer's Name	Lal Bahadur Lama
2	Age	52
3	Address	Kakani Rural Municipality, Ward Number 4, Nuwakot
4	Type of agri-business/business/entrepreneur	Trout Farming
5	Business/Farm Area	8 ropani (4069.92 sq metres), 18 Ponds
6	When did you start the business?	2007 A, 17 years
7	Where and how did you learn about it?	Mr. Tek Bahadur Gurung who is from Godawari Fish Center, went to Japan to learn about Trout Farming, and from him I received the opportunity to learn.
8	When did you go to the training/visit in Japan and how long did you stay there?	N/A
9	List three methods/technologies that you learned in Japan and applied in your practice.	N/A
10	Do you require any additional technologies/services?	I want to learn more about this technology in Japan.
11	What is the situation of the market for your products?	More than half of the fish is sold in the farm, while other half is sold to hotels and restaurants.
12	How did you find the methods/technologies learned in Japan? What suggestions/advice do you want to give to other farmers/businesspersons according to your experience?	I would like to suggest my fellow farmers in Nepal to work hard in our own country instead of migrating to Gulf countries. If we can work hard here, we can live happily with our families and earn a good amount of income.
13	How satisfied are you from your current work and income from it? What are your future plans about continuing this work?	I am very satisfied with my work and income. I want to continue doing this.

1	Farmer's Name	Sher Bahadur Tamang
2	Age	52
3	Address	Ramechhap, 6, Okhrene
4	Type of agri-business/business/entrepreneur	Nursery of Citrus Fruit (Junar)
5	Business Area	15 Ropani (7631.1 sq m)
6	When did you start the business?	2055 B.S
7	Where and how did you learn about it?	Received training from "Tarkari Kheti falful Bagaicha Byabasthapan", and Nursery Management Training from National Center for Fruit Development, Kirtipur and Sindhuli. Along with the training supported by JICA Nepal in Japan.
8	When did you go to the training/visit in Japan and how long did you stay there?	January 13, 2012 - January 27 2012 (15 days)
9	List three methods/technologies that you learned in Japan and applied in your practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In areas where there is a lack of irrigation, rainwater harvesting is done to collect and manage ample water for irrigation. - Focus on the best quality production of the fruits, this year the fruits from the farm have been presented as the best in quality in the whole district. - Use of poly bags and transfer of quality seedlings to grow quality fruits; transfer of knowledge to other farmers
10	Do you require any additional technologies/services?	Require training on storage, preservation, and market management of products according to international standards, labeling, packaging, and production of liquid products such as juice and wine along with its business management.
11	What is the situation of the market for your products?	Very good at present but all farmers should be able to distribute quality products in the market
12	How did you find the methods/technologies learned in Japan? What suggestions/advices do you want to give to other farmers/businesspersons according to your experience?	Farmers should produce fruits, vegetables, or livestock according to their environment. We should focus on producing quality products, and creating employment opportunities. If anybody requires any kind of suggestions or guidance regarding citrus fruits, please contact me.
13	How satisfied are you from your current work and income from it? What are your future plans about continuing this work?	I am very satisfied with my business. I plan to focus on labelling, packaging, storing, and processing of quality products and with the support and help from relevant stakeholders, export the products internationally.

1	Farmer's Name	Lakshin Gurung (Gandaki Rainbow Trout Farm)
2	Age	63
3	Address	Bhurjungkhola, Kaski
4	Type of agri-business/business/entrepreneur	Rainbow Trout Fish Farming
5	Business Area	Annual 30/35 tonne, 80 ropani (40,699.2 sq metres)
6	When did you start the business?	2009 AD, 14 years
7	Where and how did you learn about it?	Japanese Volunteer and National Research Institute of Fisheries Science
8	When did you go to the training/visit in Japan and how long did you stay there?	2019, 27 February to 28 March
9	List three methods/technologies that you learned in Japan and applied in your practice.	Quality fish feeds Effective Management Quality Service
10	Do you require any additional technologies/services?	Farming of Japanese Salmon
11	What is the situation of the market for your products?	Very good
12	How did you find the methods/technologies learned in Japan? What suggestions/advices do you want to give to other farmers/businesspersons according to your experience?	Farmers should focus on quality fish feeds and effective management.
13	How satisfied are you from your current work and income from it? What are your future plans about continuing this work?	I am very satisfied with this work. My goal is to continue this work and extend the farm by opening several branches along with its export.

1	Farmer's Name	Shambhu Tamang
2	Age	60
3	Address	Sunapati Rural Municipality-02, Ramechhap
4	Type of agri-business/business/entrepreneur	Citrus Fruit Nursery (Junar)
5	Business Area	30 ropani (15262.2 sq m)
6	When did you start the business?	2042 BS
7	Where and how did you learn about it?	JICA
8	When did you go to the training/visit in Japan and how long did you stay there?	Learned in Kavrepalanchok in coordination with Nepal Government and JICA Nepal
9	List three methods/technologies that you learned in Japan and applied in your practice.	- Citrus garden and nursery - transfer of knowledge to other farmers from many districts who have established their own gardens
10	Do you require any additional technologies/services?	If there are new technologies about Junar, I would like to learn about them.
11	What is the situation of the market for your products?	Market is good at the moment.
12	How did you find the methods/technologies learned in Japan? What suggestions/advices do you want to give to other farmers/businesspersons according to your experience?	Each farmer should learn market management for their products. They should not be dependent on any other organization or project.
13	How satisfied are you from your current work and income from it? What are your future plans about continuing this work?	Very satisfied with the income and business.

1	Farmer's Name	Ishowor Nepal
2	Age	30
3	Address	Balefi Rural Municipality, Ward Number 4, Sindhupalchok
4	Type of agri-business/business/entrepreneur	Vegetable and Livestock farming
5	Business Area	7,631.1 sq meter
6	When did you start the business?	2021 AD, Almost 3 years
7	Where and how did you learn about it?	Learned through Japanese project "Project for Improving Water Access and Agriculture Income" jointly implemented by Peace Winds Japan and ISAP. I was part of several technical trainings and exposure visit focused on vegetable production and marketing.
8	When did you go to the training/visit in Japan and how long did you stay there?	2023, 10 th September to 25 th September, 15 days
9	List three methods/technologies that you learned in Japan and applied in your practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil loosening • Preservation of soil quality • Utilization of wastage to make compost manure
10	Do you require any additional technologies/services?	Farmers need technologies and machineries that are suitable for their land topography
11	What is the situation of the market for your products?	There is a market for vegetable. As a farmer, we need to provide vegetable to traders as per their demand to keep up with the market.
12	How did you find the methods/technologies learned in Japan? What suggestions/advices do you want to give to other farmers/businesspersons according to your experience?	All the technologies learned in Japan are not replicable in my place due to land topography and cost associated with it. The emphasis Japanese farmers give to soil quality preservation and honesty they possess, these two are the major learning for me.
13	How satisfied are you from your current work and income from it? What are your future plans about continuing this work?	Currently, I am not fully satisfied. But with use of modern technologies I plan to cut down human effort on vegetable production to increase my production and increase overall income.

ANNEX 4: GALLERY



Rt. Honorable President Mr. Ram Chandra Poudel inaugurating the program.



Welcome by Mr. Kedar Poudel, Vice-President, JAAN



Briefing of JAAN activities by Ms. Shanti Laxmi Shakya, General Secretary, JAAN



Release of the 50th Milan Magazine by Rt. Honorable President of Nepal



Distinguished guests and participants in the 50th Annual Function Program





Felicitation of Chief Secretary and JAAN Past Presidents



Foreign Delegates in the Annual Function and International Seminar



Appreciation Letter presented to 50th Milan Magazine Article Writers



Appreciation Letter presented to 50th Milan Magazine Article Writers



Appreciation Letter presented to 50th Milan Magazine Article Writers



Appreciation Letter presented to 50th Milan Magazine Article Writers



Distinguished Guests and Participants in the Annual Function Program



Mr. Mitsuaki Kojima, President of Japan Nepal Society addressing the function.



H. E. Mr. Yutaka Kikuta, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal addressing the function.



Dr. Baikuntha Aryal, Chief Secretary, Government of Nepal (JAAN Life Member) addressing the function.



Dr. Ram Chandra Bhusal, President, JAAN delivering Vote of Thanks in the function.



Rt. Honorable Mr. Ram Chandra Poudel, President of Nepal addressing the function as the Chief Guest.



Token of Love presented by the President of JAAN, Dr. Ram Chandra Bhusal to Rt. Honorable Mr. Ram Chandra Poudel, President of Nepal



International Seminar Chaired by Dr. Baikuntha Aryal, Chief Secretary, GoN, Moderated by Mr. Kedar Poudel, Vice-President, JAAN. Panelists from Left: Mr. Dawa Penjor, President JAAB, Dr. Anjan Shakya, Former Ambassador of Nepal to Israel, Mr. Akimitsu Okubo, Chief Representative, JICA Nepal, Dr. Baikuntha Aryal, Chief Secretary, GoN, Mr. Kedar Poudel, Vice-President, JAAN, Paper Presenters: Dr. Kiran Rupakhetee, Joint Secretary, GoN, Prof. Dr. Khadga K.C., IRD, TU, and Prof. Dr. O.P. Dewal, President JAAI & JAAFSC.



Distinguished guests and participants during the international seminar.



Prof. Dr. Khadga K.C. during his paper presentation.



Prof. Dr. O. P. Dewal and Dr. Kiran Rupakhete during their presentations.



JICA Alumni Presidents and Representatives from SAARC region delivering their remarks during the International Seminar.





JAAAN Executive Committee Members, Paper Presenters, Panelists, Distinguished Guests, and participants during the seminar.



Token of Love



Dr. Ram Chandra Bhusal, JAAN President presenting Token of Love to all paper presenters, panelists, and Alumni Presidents/ Representatives from JICA Alumni Association of SAARC Countries, and beneficiaries after the seminar.



Dr. Ram Chandra Bhusal, JAAN President presenting Token of Love to all paper presenters, panelists, and Alumni Presidents/ Representatives from JICA Alumni Association of SAARC Countries, and beneficiaries after the seminar.





Dr. Ram Chandra Bhusal, JAAN President presenting Token of Love to all paper presenters, panelists, and Alumni Presidents/ Representatives from JICA Alumni Association of SAARC Countries, and beneficiaries after the seminar.



Dr. Ram Chandra Bhusal, JAAN President presenting Token of Love to Mr. Kedar Poudel, Moderator of the Seminar and Vice-President of JAAN.

Cultural Program



Ms. Apekshya Bhusal, Life Member of JAAN, and Ms. Miki Enomoto, JOCV JICA facilitating the cultural program.



Japanese Cultural Program



Nepalese Cultural Program



Nepalese Cultural Program



JAAN Team with Cultural Program Team after the program.



Celebration of 50th Annual Function (Golden Jubilee) of JAAN in cake cutting ceremony

ANNEX 5: TECHNICAL SESSION PRESENTATIONS

5.1. Human Resource Development for the Nation Building in Japan: Best Practices and Lessons Learned for Developing Countries by Prof. Dr. Khadga K.C.

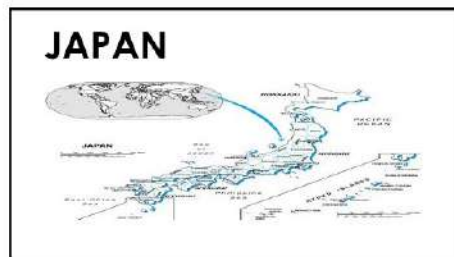
25-Mar-24

**Human Resource
Development for the Nation
Building in Japan: Best
Practices and Lesson Learned
for Developing Countries**
Khadga K.C., Tribhuvan University

A Presentation at a Seminar Organized by
JICA Alumni Association of Nepal (JAAN)
80th Annual Function (Golden Jubilee) & International Seminar, Sunday
February 26, 2024

OUTLINE

- BACKGROUND
- TERAKOYA
- MEIJI ERA
- LESSONS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
- REFERENCES



BACKGROUND

- Japan has long had one of the world's most distinctive and sophisticated cultures, and today it is the third largest economy of the world, standing at or near the forefront of many of the great advances of human civilizations.
- Japan's chief natural assets are its plentiful rainfall and temperate climate, which encourages an energetic way of life.
- Making full use of this abundant water, the Japanese, during the past two millennia, have laboriously constructed an intricate system of channels to convert wherever possible every piece of cultivable land into irrigated rice paddies.

CONT'D..

- Japan's location cannot be considered to have been any great asset, particularly in early times.
- It lies at the extreme eastern edge of the Asian-European "ancient world" of high civilization, considerably farther out to sea than the British Isles on its western edge.
- Japan was no crossroads of world trade but lay at the veritable end of the earth, the most isolated of all the major countries that enjoyed a high civilization in pre-modern times.
- External influences for long came to it slowly and only as filtered through the nearby continental lands of China and Korean peninsula.

Cont'd..

- Japanese has largely been following Shintoin(Koyal religion) and Buddhism promoted in Edo Era and practicing loosely by majority common folks even today.
- Even though Fukuzawa Yukichi(Samurao Scholar during Meiji Era) tried to de-establish that Japan was not influenced by Confucian values and Japanese civilization was not a variation of Chinese civilization.
- However, many scholars like Nitobe Inazo in a Samurai discussed on BUSHIDO (Eight virtues of Samurai, largely derived from Confucian values which is kind of foundation even for modern Japanese values : work ethic, loyal to mother or nation(Bilal piety), rule-abidness, sense of responsibility, dignity of labor , courage, benevolent or mercy rectitude for justice, patience, sincerity and integrity, honor, character and self-control(GAMAN)).

TERAKOYA and PRE-MODERN EDUCATION TRADITION

- The above-mentioned pre-modern values, and a long tradition of human resource –led modernization and development particularly led by MEIJI RULERS made possible the earliest modernization of Japan since after 1867 which is often known as a famous cliché. JAPAN IS THE BEST EXAMPLE OF BLENDING BETWEEN WESTERN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH JAPANESE TRADITION, ETHICS AND VALUES
- TERAKOYAs were private literacy classes that were actively operated during the EDO period (17th to 19th centuries) in Japan.
- Anybody could attend, regardless of social status, and nationwide expansion of TERAKOYA contributed to a high literacy rate in Japan even before the introduction of the modern educational system.

Cont`d..

- Before the Tokugawa years members of aristocracy, the Buddhist priesthood, and the upper classes reaches of the warrior class has access to private tutors, but most Japanese did not.
- Early rulers made little effort to change this, but by Genroku period, Tsunayoshi, the fifth Shogun, styled himself a Confucian sage and Buddhist ruler and did everything he could, by precept, and example, to encourage learning as the central element of the arts of peace.

Meiji Era: Foundation of Nation Building

- Japan's present education system was established immediately after the end of Second World War, as a part of post ward democratization project under the occupation force(1945-1952).
- However, it was the Meiji rulers who envisioned the nation building through human resources development.
- One of the areas that the Meiji administration(after 1867) aflame with the ardor of its youth centralized its energy upon was western culture and particularly western technological culture.

Cont`d...

- It was the for the purpose of absorbing this technical knowledge that many young Japanese were sent to abroad to study in Europe and America (especially to Germany for industrial and automobile engineering and likewise to the USA).
- The first group of students, 37 in all, crossed the sea in 1870 and they were surprisingly young.
- The majority were in their teens or 20's, were charged with the heavy responsibility of serving as mediums to feed the completely new nutritional elements from foreign culture into Japan.

Cont`d..

- Yet, despite the many hardships, the Japanese students who studied abroad played an important role in building Meiji Japan.
- The Meiji Government made a daring and brilliant investment in human resources when it sent its young people aboard.
- The first generation of Japanese graduates with Western training made it possible for 47 imperial and national universities to be established throughout 47 prefectures in Japan, including Tokyo, Kyoto, Kyushu, Osaka, Hiroshima, and Nagasaki.
- They also led to establish mega-industries in the railway, shipbuilding, and automobile sectors, including Toyota, Nisan, and Honda, etc.

Taisho Democracy, Militarization and Post-War Era Japan

- With the Foundation of feudal values(Bushido, Terakoya) and the introduction of modern western science and technology during Meiji Era Japan could achieve industrialization and modernization and became one of the representative world power from the Oriental societies from 1867-1927 (Meiji to Taisho Era).
- The rather sudden shift from the liberalizing trends of "Taisho democracy" during the 1920's to the imperial expansion, militarism and ultra-nationalism of the 1930's has often dominated the discussion of modern Japanese historians.

25-Mar-24

Cont`d..

- It seemed that naturally authoritarian and militaristic characteristics of the Japanese people finally reemerged after a period of apparently successful but actually superficial westernization.
- Owing to the strong military and oligarchic values ingrained in the ruling elites of Japan, the country eventually entered the war after 1939 and lost it in 1945 with significant losses in both human life and material infrastructure built during the Meiji restoration.

Cont`d..

- Notwithstanding the numerous issues that Japan faced following the devastating effects of the war (1939–1945) and the occupation (1945–52), the nation saw remarkable economic growth; in fact, in less than ten years, in the late 1950s, her economy surpassed all others in the world.
- Surprise at its ability to restore its shattered economy during the early post war years had given place to a half-condescending admiration of the Japanese miracle and this in turn to a realization that the country was indeed becoming a major economic force.

Cont`d..

- Consequently, Japan did not suddenly become a global economic powerhouse; rather, it took centuries for Japan to invest in the development of its human resources, a strong work ethic, and ingrained values—discussed as Bushido and beyond.
- Japan, a resource-poor nation, has able to become an economic powerhouse, politically and socially stable, in large part because of its homogenous societal composition, compatible work ethics, and—above all—its unwavering commitment to human resource development, which dates back to the feudal era.
- In particular, the high standards of integrity and sincerity of Meiji leaders and educated youth who returned home after studying in the West

LESSONS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

- **If a resource-poor nation has visionary leaders with the same level of sincerity and integrity as Japan did during the Meiji period, she can also achieve prosperity and create an egalitarian society.**
- **In order to establish stability and prosperity in a nation, at least a generation of political, bureaucratic, and academic leaders must be truthful and devoted to their nation.**
- Politically manufactured nationalism is much less significant than economic nationalism, as the latter has a greater impact on our political-economic underdevelopment.

Cont`d..

- The idea that “knowledge is the source of power” helped Japan prioritize nation building through human resource development, but we continue to undermine knowledge as a source of power, in contrast to the predominate paradigm that “POWER CAN EVEN GENERATE KNOWLEDGE.”
- The creation of new institutions, such as constitutional legal provisions, alone cannot alter human behavior on its own because societal values must be compatible, which we have mainly found to be incompatible.
- As a result, neither a democratic culture nor a stable and prosperous socio-economic situation have been established in Nepal to date.

Cont`d..

- In light of this, at least Rana Prime Minister Dev Shamsher decided to send eight Nepali students to study in Japan in 1902 after hearing the esteemed Japanese Buddhist Ekai Kawaguchi speak.
- Prime Minister Chandra Shamsher, who succeeded his elder brother Dev Shamsher, implemented to send 8 Nepali Students to Japan under their first ever the look-east policy.
- In this context, Malaysian PM Mahathir and Singaporean PM Lee Kwan had fully implemented the look-east policy to develop their nations using the Japanese model of human resource development in 1960s.

5.2. Contribution of Japan for Human Resource Development: Enhancing Educational Capabilities in India by Prof. Dr. O. P. Dewal

25-Mar-24

Contribution of Japan for Human Resource Development: Enhancing Educational Capabilities in India

DR. O. P. DEWAL
President, JAAI and JAAFSC
New Delhi, INDIA

Human Resource Development

- What is HR ?
- Let us consider an Example.....

What is HRD ?

- At Haneda Airport in Tokyo...
- An Airbus 350 collided with a Coast Guard Plane
- All 379 passengers and crew onboard survived
- A classic example of evacuation

What is HRD ?

HRD is "the process of increasing the knowledge, the skills, and the capacities of all the people in a society.

Role of Japan in HRD

- Various Schemes, Projects, Training Programmes, Scholarships are being offered through JICA
- SAARC Countries in South Asian Region are specifically benefitted by these Schemes/ Projects

Indira Gandhi National Open University

- Established in 1985
- Open and Distance Learning (ODL)
- Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)
- Use of Multiple Media
- Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER)

25-Mar-24

Indira Gandhi National Open University

- Academic Programs on offer : 281
- Students on Roll : 3.4 Million
- School of studies: 21
- Regional Centres: 67
- Learner Support centres: 2140
- Degrees/Diplomas/Certificates awarded: 2,91,588

Open and Distance learning

- Self learning material (Text)
- Audio programs
- Video programs
- Radio and TV
- Teleconferencing
- Online Content

CONVERGENCE OF...

- Communication
- Broadcasting
- Computers
- Content

Communication Division

- Created in the year 1987
- Audio and video Program production
- Electronic Field Production units (EFP)
- Low band U-matic Video editing unit
- Audio studio with editing facility

Communication Division



JICA Grant in Aid

- First Grant in Aid (1989-90)
- "Improvement of Educational Technology Facilities of IGNOU"
- Project Value: 110 Million Yen
- HI- Band (SP) Video recording systems

25-Mar-24

JICA Grant in Aid

- Second Grant in Aid (1993-95)
- "Improvement of Educational Media Production Facilities" of IGNOU
- Project Value: 2.2 Billion Yen.
- Betacam SP Video recording
- Digital Audio Tape

JICA Grant in Aid

- Two video studios with multi camera set up (175 SQ. mtr. 215 SQ. mtr. floor size)
- Two Audio studios with DAT recorders
- Five Nos. of the Betacam video editing suits
- Audio/Video duplication facility
- Post production with Tele-cine and Dubbing studio

Electronic Media Production Centre



JICA Grant in Aid

- Third Grant in Aid (2010-13)
- "Strengthening of Electronic Media Production Centre in IGNOU"
- Project Value : 78.7 Million Yen.
- XDeam Video recording systems
- High Definition Format

Virtual studio



Impact / Benefit

- Three grant schemes by the Government of Japan through JICA have been an unqualified success
- IGNOU emerged as a leader in the effective use of modern communication technologies for distance education.

25-Mar-24

Impact / Benefit

- IGNOU was awarded **A++** rating from National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) in 2021




Thank You.....

opdewal@gmail.com

5.3. Support of Government of Japan in the Sustainable Development of Nepal through Capacity Development: Learnings and Challenges by Dr. Kiran Rupakhete

25-Mar-24

Support of Government of Japan in the Sustainable Development of Nepal through Capacity Development: Learnings and Challenges



Dr. Kiran Rupakhete
Joint Secretary, Government of Nepal
Secretary, JAAN
Acknowledges the contribution of IIM, Patna, AC for her contribution

February 25, 2024


Presentation Content

- ✓ Nepal – Japan Relations
- ✓ Technical Assistance from Japan (JICA) to Nepal
- ✓ Contribution of Japanese ODA in achieving SDGs
- ✓ Nepal -Japan Cooperation in Human Resources and Capacity Development
- ✓ Nepal's Periodic Plan and SDG
- ✓ Learnings for Nepal
- ✓ Challenges

**JICA Alumni Association of Nepal (JAAN)
Community Development Centre**



**JAAN is Striving Towards Nation Building and Strengthening
Nepal-Japan Relations**



"No matter how hard the past,
you can always begin again."
-Buddha

Japanese Mantra Makes JAAN Working Hard

**Beginning is
easy -
Continuing is
hard.**

**Japanese
Proverb**

5

Nepal – Japan Relations

- ✓ Nepal and Japan **established diplomatic relations in 1956.**
- ✓ **Nepal-Japan economic relation** - important aspects of overall **bilateral relations and dimensions of Nepal's foreign aid policy and diplomacy**
- ✓ Japan's economic support to Nepal is an **ideal** in the history of foreign aid and diplomacy.
- ✓ Japan has been supporting in the **socio-economic development of Nepal since 1969.**
- ✓ **Japanese loan assistance and grant assistance** started in Nepal since 1969 and 1970 onwards respectively.

Nepal – Japan Relations (Continued...)

- ✓ Japanese assistance to Nepal encompasses a wide range of domains - **Health, Education, Transport, Infrastructure development, Disaster risk management, Climate Change, Poverty reduction, Governance and Democratization.**
- ✓ Japan's aid to the development of **Human Resources, and Economic Infrastructures and economic and technical support in social sector** are instrumental in Nepal.
- ✓ **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) office - established in Nepal in 1978** - has been playing a very significant role in the socio-economic development of Nepal.

Nepal – Japan Relations (Continued...)

- ✓ Nepal has set a target of **graduating from LDC status by 2026, becoming a middle income country by 2036, and shifting to a developed country by 2043** – with the advancement in economy and reducing disparities.
- ✓ Japan's development assistance to Nepal contributes to the **further promotion of good bilateral relations between the two countries**, and also has a significance in achieving SDGs.
- ✓ **Japan's Country Development Cooperation Policy for Nepal** (September 2021) has emphasized the basic policy of Japanese ODA – **assistance for a balanced and sustainable economic growth aiming at Nepal's graduation from the LDC status.**

Three Pillars of Cooperation Identified for Japanese ODA and their Contribution in Achieving SDGs

- ✓ According to JICA's rolling plan for Nepal, **three pillars of cooperation** have been identified for Japanese ODA, i.e.
- (1) **Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction;**
- (2) **Disaster Prevention and Climate Change Measures; and**
- (3) **Enhancement of Governance and Democratization.**




Three Pillars of Cooperation Identified for Japanese ODA and their Contribution in Achieving SDGs(Contd..)

- (1) **Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction**
- **Major components:**
 1. Development of transport infrastructure, social service infrastructure and improvement of power and energy supplies – **Contribute to sustainable economic development (Linked with SDGs 1, 3, 4, 7, 9)**
 2. Increase the productivity of agricultural sector - **Contribute to SDG 2**
 3. Improve access to healthcare - **Contribute to SDG 3**
 4. Elevate educational standards - **Contribute to SDG 4**
 5. Support on water supplies and sanitation – **Contribute to SDG 3 and 6**
 6. Improvement of the investment environment, system reform, and **human resource development - Contribute to SDG 8, 9**

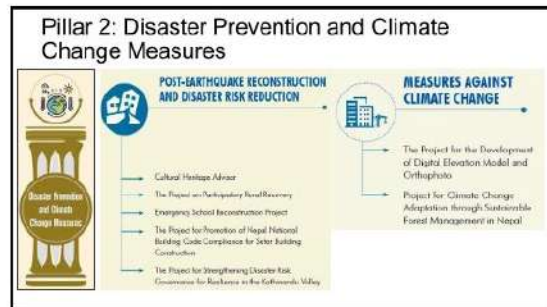
Three Pillars of Cooperation Identified for Japanese ODA and their Contribution in Achieving SDGs(Continued...)

- (2) **Disaster Prevention and Climate Change Measures - Contribute to SDG 13, 15**
- **Major components:**
 1. Support for measures against climate change, including sustainable development of forest resources.
- (3) **Enhancement of Governance and Democratization - Contribute to SDG 16, 17**
- **Major components:**
 1. Support for improving governance capacity of federal and local governments, and enhances **the capacity and human resources of communities.**

JICA'S Overall Contribution in NEPAL - Snapshot



(Source: OUTLINE OF COOPERATION IN NEPAL, JICA, January 2023)



Five Significant Areas of Japanese Support

- ✓ Japan has provided major support to Nepal in **five significant areas** i.e.
 - (1) Education;
 - (2) Road Transportation;
 - (3) Earthquake Reconstruction;
 - (4) Urban Development; and
 - (5) Agriculture
- ✓ In addition, Japan has been supporting Nepal in **other sectors** viz. **Health, Drinking Water, Local Development, Peace & reconstruction, Planning & Statistics and Energy/Hydropower**
- **Assistance from Japan is contributory for Nepal to meet SDGs**

25-Mar-24

S.N.	Fiscal Year	Agreement Amount (US\$)	Disbursement Amount (US\$)
1	2016/17	219,949,168	77,652,833
2	2017/18	16,536,604	106,207,039
3	2018/19	22,248,869	110,502,190
4	2019/20	20,683,396	72,612,032
5	2020/21	2,820,504	32,977,147

(Source: Government of Nepal, Ministry of Finance, 2022 Nepal Development Partner Profile Book)

Fiscal Year	Total Foreign Aid (in 1000 US\$)	Total Japanese Aid (Grant + Loan) (in 1000 US\$)	% of Japanese Aid to total Aid
2012/13	11219.4	9528.3	81.5
2013/14	14289.0	5285.5	37.1
2014/15	15031.9	4904.4	33.2
2015/16	16457.1	1746.6	10.5
2016/17	16189.0	2864.6	17.9
2017/18	17622.9	8264.1	47.3
2018/19	10797.4	7080.3	37.7
2019/20	14354.3	5328.2	37
2020/21	15885.5	2822.2	17.7
2021/22	18912.4	1404.6	7.3
Total	155720	46986	27.5

(Source: Dhakal, C. P. (2022). Contribution of Japanese aid to the development process of Nepal. International Research Journal of IJAC, 3(3), 73-81.)

SN	Name of Project/Program	Project/Program Period	Total Amount (US\$ in ,000)
1	Project for Improving the Quality of School Education	January 2019 – January 2024	5,408
2	Project for promotion of Irrigated Agriculture in Terai	January 2019 – July 2024	4,186
3	Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS)	January 2020 – December 2023	2,816
4	Project for Climate Change Adaptation through sustainable forest management in Nepal, Gandaki Basin	June 2022 – June 2027	3,360

(Source: GoN, Ministry of Finance (May 2023) Statement of Technical and Other Assistance FY 2023/24)

SN	Name of Project/Program	Project/Program Period	Total Amount (US\$ in ,000)
5	Project for the Introduction of Urban Transport Management in Kathmandu Valley	March 2022 – October 2025	3,461
6	Transport Planning Advisor	March 2022 – March 2025	338
7	Project Capacity Development of Kathmandu Upatyaka Khanepani Limited to improve overall water supply service in Kathmandu Valley	February 2018 – January 2024	2,670
8	Project Capacity Development of Nepal Water Supply Corporation (NWSC) to improve overall water supply service in Urban Cities	April 2022 – March 2026	1,335

(Source: GoN, Ministry of Finance (May 2023) Statement of Technical and Other Assistance FY 2023/24)

Nepal -Japan Cooperation in Human Resources and Capacity Development

- ✓ Japan has played important role in the development of human resources of Nepal.
- ✓ The Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) to Nepal started from Japanese fiscal year 2015.
- ✓ **Objective of JDS.** Strengthen the government's administrative capacities by providing opportunities to government employees to obtain Master's and PhD degrees who are expected to engage in **formulating and implementing social and economic development plans.**

Nepal -Japan Cooperation in Human Resources and Capacity Development (Continued...)

- ✓ Each year, the scholarship offers 20 seats for two-year Master's degree course and 2 seats for three-year Doctoral level course (since 2019) to in the reputed universities of Japan.
- ✓ As of January 2023, 100 civil servants of GoN have graduated from the Japanese Universities.
- ✓ JDS program consists of **two priority areas** and sub-components:
 1. **Social and economic infrastructure and mechanism development.**
 2. **Governance enhancement and basic framework development for democracy.**

Priority Areas and Sub-Components of JDS Program for 2019-2022

Priority Area	Development Issues (Component)
1. Social and economic infrastructure and mechanism development which directly lead to economic growth and the improvement of national livelihoods.	1.1 Economic Policy
	1.2 Industrial Development Policy
	1.3 Infrastructure Development
2. Governance enhancement and basic framework development for democracy	2.1 Development of Human Resource and Administrative Capacity of Civil Servants
	2.2 Building of International Relations
	2.3 Improvement of Legal and Judicial System

(Source: Outline of cooperation in Nepal, JICA, January 2023)

Nepal - Japan Cooperation in Human Resources and Capacity Development (Continued...)

- ✓ Government of Japan has agreed to provide a grant assistance of **JPY 376 million** (approximately equivalent to NRs 350 million) to the Government of Nepal for implementation of the Project for Human Resource Development (JDS) in the year 2022/23. (Source: Press release of GoN, Ministry of Finance, 26 July 2022)
- ✓ JICA and the Government of Nepal signed a Grant Agreement on assistance (worth: JPY 424,000,000) for the JDS Project for the Fiscal Year 2024. (Source: <https://www.jica.go.jp/english/overseas/nepal/information/press/2023/20230712.html>)

Number of Mid- to Long-term Nepali Residents in Japan (by Residence Status)

- ✓ Japan is a pioneer country in providing education and employment opportunity to the foreign nationals including Nepalese citizen.

Status of Residence	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/ International Services	2,048	3,278	5,426	8,541	12,203	15,581
Business Manager	865	1,133	1,392	1,531	1,588	1,708
Skilled Labour	10,134	12,480	12,706	12,547	12,879	12,524
Specified Skilled Worker	0	0	0	0	16	130
Designated Activities	3,223	4,171	5,005	4,078	2,839	2,932
Technical Intern Trainee	0	0	81	133	183	118
Student	20,278	22,967	27,101	28,987	29,417	23,118

(Source: GoN, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security (MoLESS), Nepal Labour Migration Report 2022)

Employment opportunities in Japan

- ✓ Number of Labour Issues Approval of Nepalese citizen for Japan is in increasing trend, which proves that Japan has been providing better employment opportunities for foreign countries including Nepal.
- ✓ New Labour Approvals issued in Fiscal Year 2021/22 for Japan Based on Occupation;

Occupation	Number
Scaffolding	126
Office/Administrative/Associate Professionals	193
Professionals	227
Managers	29
Caregiver/Au pair/Nursing Aide	261
Chef/Cook	626
Others	29

Japan has a contributory role in remittance inflow in Nepal;
 Total remittance amount of NPR 22.87 (in billion) (2.2% share of total remittance received in Nepal) in first four months of FY 2019/20 was from Japan

(Source: GoN, MoLESS, Nepal Labour Migration Report 2022)

Opportunities Provided by Japan to Nepalese Returnee Migrants – in Employment and Capacity Strengthening

- ✓ JICA (on 1 Dec. 2022) signed a Record of Discussions with the Government of Nepal for the five years' project entitled 'Project on Career Development and Entrepreneurship Support Program for International Migrants' 2023-2027.
- ✓ Project aimed at career development through mentorship, enhancing returnee migrants' information access on employment and entrepreneurship, and their capacity development that can contribute in the industrial development of Nepal.
- ✓ Project included three types of programs i.e. (1) Entrepreneurship Support Program, (2) Industrial Human Resource Development Program, and (3) Career Development Program - to promote employment and entrepreneurship.

Nepal's Periodic Plan and SDGs

- ✓ Nepal's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals has been reiterated in key policy documents i.e. 15th Periodic Plan and the Long-Term Vision 2100. Such commitment will be there in the forthcoming 16th Plan
- ✓ Approach paper of 16th Periodic Plan with the vision of 'Governance, Social Justice and Prosperity' have explicitly mentioned about human resource management, quality, equitable and workable education; and creating opportunities for dignified labour/work, productive and inclusive employment.

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Learnings for Nepal

- Develop policies and plan focusing on **youths' engagement in the self-entrepreneurship** in countries.
- Emphasize on creating **conducive and optimal employment opportunities** based on the education status and skills.
- Expand the **coverage of Social Security in equitable way** with respect to geographical variation, wealth quintile and Human Development Index – in terms of occupying and engaging low skilled and less educated human resource.
- Ensure robust management of senior citizens.
- use of domestic resources prudently and effectively.
- Enhance quality of education and make it employment oriented
- Promote innovation among students.
- The key to success of any nation is its investment on human resources development

Learnings for Nepal (Continued...)

✓ Major Features to be Learnt From Japan

1. Discipline
2. Politeness and humbleness
3. **Workaholic/Hard working with Punctuality, Commitment and Devotion**
4. **Unconditional support to needy countries including Nepal**
5. "A friend in need is a friend indeed"
6. Notion that entails "**nation comes first and it is above all**".

Challenges

- ✓ Realization of SDGs demand huge amount of resources and domestic resources have not been optimally mobilized.
- ✓ The coherence, cooperation and coordination among sub-national governments have remained a challenge to ensure different interventions meant for SDGs/15th Plan (Proposed 16th Plan).
- ✓ **Less entrepreneurship opportunities** further challenged with the financial crisis.
- ✓ **Increasing trend of abroad migration** for higher education and employment.
- ✓ Russia-Ukraine war has put lots of pressure on Nepal to mobilize international support.
- ✓ Post-Covid-19 Pandemic has resulted in long-lasting impact putting Nepal in a pressure as international supports have become more competitive including JICA Support.
- ✓ Inadequate Robustness of the Nepalese development administration
- ✓ Increasing investment in health and education sectors

Let's Work Together Think Globally Act Locally

"I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things"

• Mother Teresa

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**Our Tiny Steps will be a
Great Contribution to
the Society**

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