

## **Press Release**

### **Japan Extends Scholarships to the Officer of Government of Nepal**

The Government of Japan agreed to provide a grant assistance of JPY 356 million equivalent to NRs 386 million to the Government of Nepal for implementing the Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) Project in the Fiscal Year 2021/22.

Mr. Sishir Kumar Dhungana, Finance Secretary and H.E. Mr. KIKUTA Yutaka, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal have signed and exchanged the notes on behalf of their respective Governments. Similarly, grant agreements of this effect was signed by Mr. Dhani Ram Sharma, Joint Secretary, the International Economic Cooperation and Coordination Division of the Ministry of Finance and Ms. ASAKUMA Yumiko, Chief Representative of JICA Nepal.

This grant will be utilized to administer the scholarship program, including for payment of the university tuition fee, living allowances, settlement allowances, insurances and other basic allowances as well as supply of educational materials. This scholarship provides opportunity of pursuing two years' Master's Degree and three years PhD courses to young Nepalese civil servants who are academically sound and are motivated to be engaged in Nepal's socio economic development after completion of the study in Japan.

The Government of Japan has been providing such scholarship grant to the Government of Nepal in a phase-wise manner. This grant will be spent to implement the second year of phase two (2020-2023). Under this scholarship, altogether 22 candidates (20 for master's degrees and 2 for PhD degree) will pursue their degrees in various Japanese Universities. To date, eighty civil servants have already completed and returned to Nepal after completing their Master's Degree during phase one (2016-2019) of this project.

During the signing ceremony, Secretary Dhungana opined that this scholarship would be instrumental in developing human capacity in Nepalese public service. He further stated that scholars will be able to acquire not only academic degree but also get exposure to the advanced level of development, and will be enriched by the cultural and developmental aspect of Japan. Similarly, H.E. Yutaka expected that the graduates will contribute to Nepal's socio economic development and expressed his confidence that the objectives envisaged by the project will be achieved and contribute towards further strengthening the bilateral relationship and cooperation between the peoples of Japan and Nepal.

The Government of Nepal expresses its sincere appreciation to the Government of Japan for its invariable support in socioeconomic and human resources development of Nepal.

12 July 2021 (2078/03/28)  
Ministry of Finance,  
Singh Durbar, Kathmandu.