

Japan provides over Rs 1B grant

By A Staff Reporter

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Japan has extended a grant assistance of 1.104 billion Japanese yen (equivalent to Rs. 1.013 billion) to the Government of Nepal for the implementation of two different ODA projects.

Shanta Raj Subedi, Secretary at the Ministry of Finance, and Masashi Ogawa, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, signed and exchanged two separate sets of notes on behalf of their respective governments at the Finance Ministry office on Wednesday.

The grant assistance has been provided as part of the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Nepal.

Similarly, at the same time, a separate set of agreements were signed and exchanged between Baikuntha Aryal, Joint Secretary of the International Economic Cooperation and Coordination Division of the Ministry of Finance, and Hiroyasu Tonokawa, Senior Representative of JICA Nepal, on behalf of their respective organisations, for the smooth implementation of the Project for the Improvement of Medical Equipment in Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital.

Under the first set of signed notes, Japan is to extend a total of 350 million Japanese yen (approx Rs. 321 million) to the Government of Nepal for the implementation of the Food Assistance Programme, a press release issued by the Finance Ministry said.

Last year, Nepal was hit by a tragic earthquake, which was followed by natural calamities, including landslides and heavy rain.

The aim of the grant assistance is to help the government procure rice and supply it to the people living in the districts where there is food deficit, said the Finance Ministry.

The Ministry of Supplies will be the executing agency, and Nepal Food Corporation will be responsible for implementing this project.

According to the second set of notes, Japan will extend up to 754 million Japanese yen (equivalent to Rs. 692 million) for the implementation of the Project for Improvement of Medical Equipment in the TUTH.

The objective of this project is to improve the quality and quantity of medical services, including magnetic resonance

imaging (MRIs) and education to be provided by the TUTH through the procurement of medical equipment thereby contributing to the enhancement of medical services and education in Nepal, read the press release.

The project will replace part of the old medical equipment of TUTH and procure new medical equipment. The Ministry of Education will be the executing agency and the TUTH will be responsible for implementing this project.

The project will contribute to enhancing the TUTH's seamless provision of health services as the top referral hospital and improving the preparedness for possible future disasters.

On the occasion, Ambassador Ogawa expressed his firm confidence that the objectives being envisaged by these projects would be achieved, thereby further strengthening the friendly and cooperative relationship between the people of Japan and Nepal.

The Government of Nepal expressed its sincere appreciation to the Government of Japan for this assistance and for the continued support in the socio-economic development of Nepal, the Finance Ministry added.