

## Press Release

Government of Japan has agreed to provide a grant assistance of Japanese Yen 300 million, equivalent to NRs. 308 million to the School Sector Development Program (SSDP) of Nepal for the Fiscal Year 2018. The Exchange of Notes, Grant Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding to this effect were signed and exchanged between the Government of Nepal and the Government of Japan at the Ministry of Finance, Kathmandu, today.

The SSDP is a continuation of School Sector Reform Program under the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. The objective of the program is to improve the quality, equitable access and efficiency of basic and secondary education in Nepal. This program, specially, focuses on improved teaching-learning and student learning outcomes, improved equitable access to basic and secondary education and strengthened education system, sector planning, management and governance. Further, this program is being implemented in a more harmonized and coordinated way through Joint Financing Arrangement in a sector wide approach with other Development Partners as well. This is the seven years period program started in the FY 2016/17.

The Exchange of Notes was signed by Mr. Shreekrishna Nepal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance and H.E. Mr. Masamichi SAIGO, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, on behalf of their respective Governments. Similarly, Mr. Nepal, and Mr. Jun Sakuma, Chief Representative, JICA Nepal, signed the Grant Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding.

The Government of Nepal has expressed its appreciation to the Government of Japan for this assistance and its continued support to the socio-economic development of Nepal.

Ministry of Finance  
Singh Durbar, kathmandu  
October 5, 2018  
(Ashoj 19, 2075)